

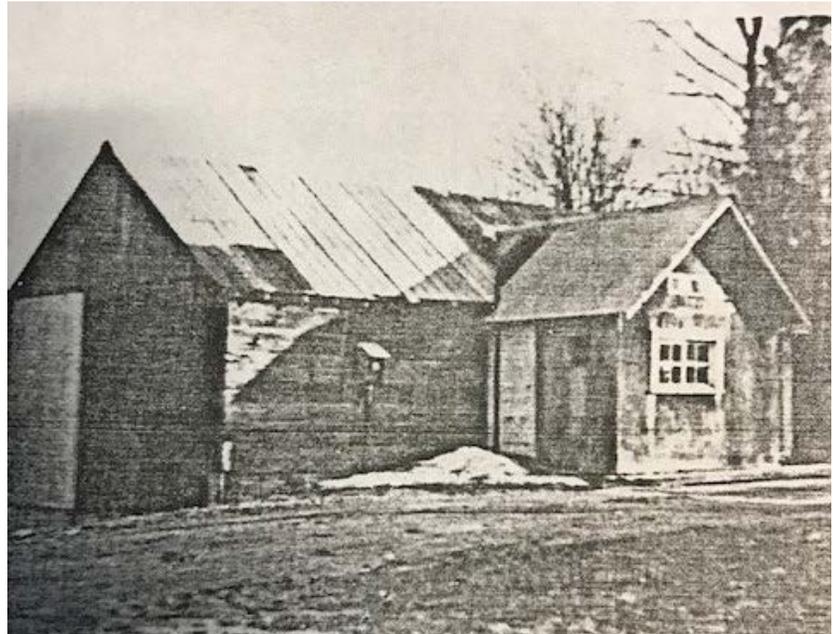
Heritage Committee member and Anten Mills resident, Joan Gannon provided history of the Anten Mills Community Centre that is exhibited in the hall on display boards. This information will assist in providing historical context for the Heritage Evaluation. Below is a summary of the key points provided.

First Anten Mills School

1875-1892

In 1875, a frame building looking somewhat like a shed, housed approximately 90 pupils and was the first Anten Mills School. This building lasted until 1892, when a new one was built.

In the early years, only the bare necessities were offered. There were no indoor conveniences. Consequently, little people suffered many embarrassing accidents by waiting too long to avoid the winter cold of the outhouse. The only water supply was a hand-pump in the school yard.



Anten Mills was a thriving community at this time. A mill, owned and operated by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Tennant drew population here. That eventually swelled the school enrolment and created a new name for the village, derived from the names of the owners of the mill. The village was formerly called “Hendrie” after Mr. Hendrie, the contractor who built the first section of the railway which passed through Anten Mills.

When the new brick school was built in 1891, the former school building was used for a wood-shed and was then moved to Priest’s Sand and Gravel Pit.

Second Anten Mills School 1892-1967

The present Anten Mills School was built about 1891. Mr. Charles Anderson owned the property the school was built on and also donated the lumber. Mr. Anderson owned a mill in Anten Mills at that time, which was behind Priest’s home in the ravine.

Mr. Batterick, Anderson’s carpenter, built the school. Mr. M. Coughlin who was on the school board at that time said it could be built for \$1500.00 (that was the price). The brick sold then for \$3.00 per thousand. The trees around the yard were planted 2 years after reforestry opened in this area about 1925.

Up to the time this brick school was built, Apto and Anten Mills were under one set of trustees. Miss Cronan was the last teacher in the old school and the first teacher in the new school.



- The wages at that time \$112.00 per year
- Caretaking \$0.75 per month
- Insurance \$4.00 per year
- Fuel \$20.00 per year

Teachers

Miss Cronan	Mr. Ferguson	Mr. Deitman
Mr. Moore	Miss Kelly	Mr. Carson
Mr. Lucas	Miss McDermott	Miss Quantz
Mr. Vulmer	Miss Brooks	Miss Watson (Mrs. Knapp)
Mr. Maddon	Miss Murray	Mrs. Metcalfe
Miss Elrick	Miss Grey	Miss Irish
Miss Shire	Miss Zuinlan	Mrs. Knapp
Miss Waterman	Miss Matthews	Miss Robb (Mrs. Perc. Muir)
Miss Elacott	Miss Crowe	Mrs. Flora Muir
Miss Harrison	Miss McDonald	Miss Patterson
Norine Haight		

Timeline of Events

- 1936** The bell house and eaves trough were built on the school. Also a new shingle (wood) roof by Mr. Hugh Swenton was put on.
- 1937** The partition was erected at the back of the school for toilets and cloakrooms.
- 1940** Electricity was installed by the late Mr. F. Parry.
- 1944** All grade 8 students who passed into grade 9 were moved to Minesing Continuation School.
- 1949** The school was insulated by Nelson Insulating Company.
- 1952** Water was piped into the school.
- 1964** The foundation was built under the school. A gas furnace and flush toilets were installed.
- 1967** In January the school was closed and the children were transported to Minesing Central School.



Once a year, the school was lit up with gasoline lamps, loaned by two of the parents. That was the night of the school concert. From the moment you stepped inside the doors, the Christmas spirit was evident. Homemade decorations adorned the huge spruce. There were green boughs in every window. The organ had been moved from the church basement, the benches too – and every bench was filled! There were people standing.

“The Anten Mills school house still stands, after some 93 years of service to the citizens of its area. It serves its community still – only now in a new capacity. The blackboards have been removed, new flush toilets installed and a new sign hung upon its entrance. It is now the ‘Anten Mills Community Centre’. It houses activities of interest for both old and young.”

Norine (Haight) Park, former teacher



Anten Mills Public School—S. S. No. 11, Vinton, and No. 14, Elm, 1940-1941. Back row (l. to r.): In Jones, Vyrle Priest, Dorothy Fleming, Doris Tracy, Doris (Wilson) Knapp, teacher, Tom Campbell, John Newton, Norman Haskin, Delbert Priest. Middle row (l. to r.): Anne Bracciale, Jean Campbell, Rose Bracciale, Rita Newton, Edith Cox, Marion Cox, Francis Bracciale, Ogden Cole, Douglas Jones, Jack Scott. Front row (l. to r.): Alvin Carson, Dick Patterson, Ross Cole, Roger Cole, Percy Cole.

1940-41



This was Stella (Robb) Abair's class in 1936-37. Back row (l. to r.): George Cox, Alvin Cox, Melville Priest, Eileen Fleming, Veta Bracciale, Elton Richardson, Walter Fleming, Laddie Wilson, Goren Cox, Grace Cole, Stella Robb (teacher), Arthur Cox, Delbert Priest. Middle row (l. to r.): Doris Tracy, Mervia Bracciale, Grace Fleming, Inez Easton, Dorothy Fleming, Francis Bracciale, Marion Cox, Rose Bracciale, Rita Newton, Edith Cox. Front row (l. to r.): Alvin Carson, Jack Scott, Donald Wilson, Vyrle Priest, John Newton, Billy Haight, Freddy Wilson, Tom Campbell, Gilbert Haight.

1936-37



Anten Mills School in 1963 (enrollment down somewhat). Back row (l. to r.): Norinne Park (teacher), Veronica Howden, Diane Cole, Charles Wilson, Andy Bowness, Barry Wayne Cole, Wayne Wilson, Bill Priest. Front row (l. to r.): Warren Easton, Ricky Northup, Clair Cox, Gerry Beacock, Laurie Tullock, Gordon Wilson, Jim Beacock and Blair Skinner.

1963



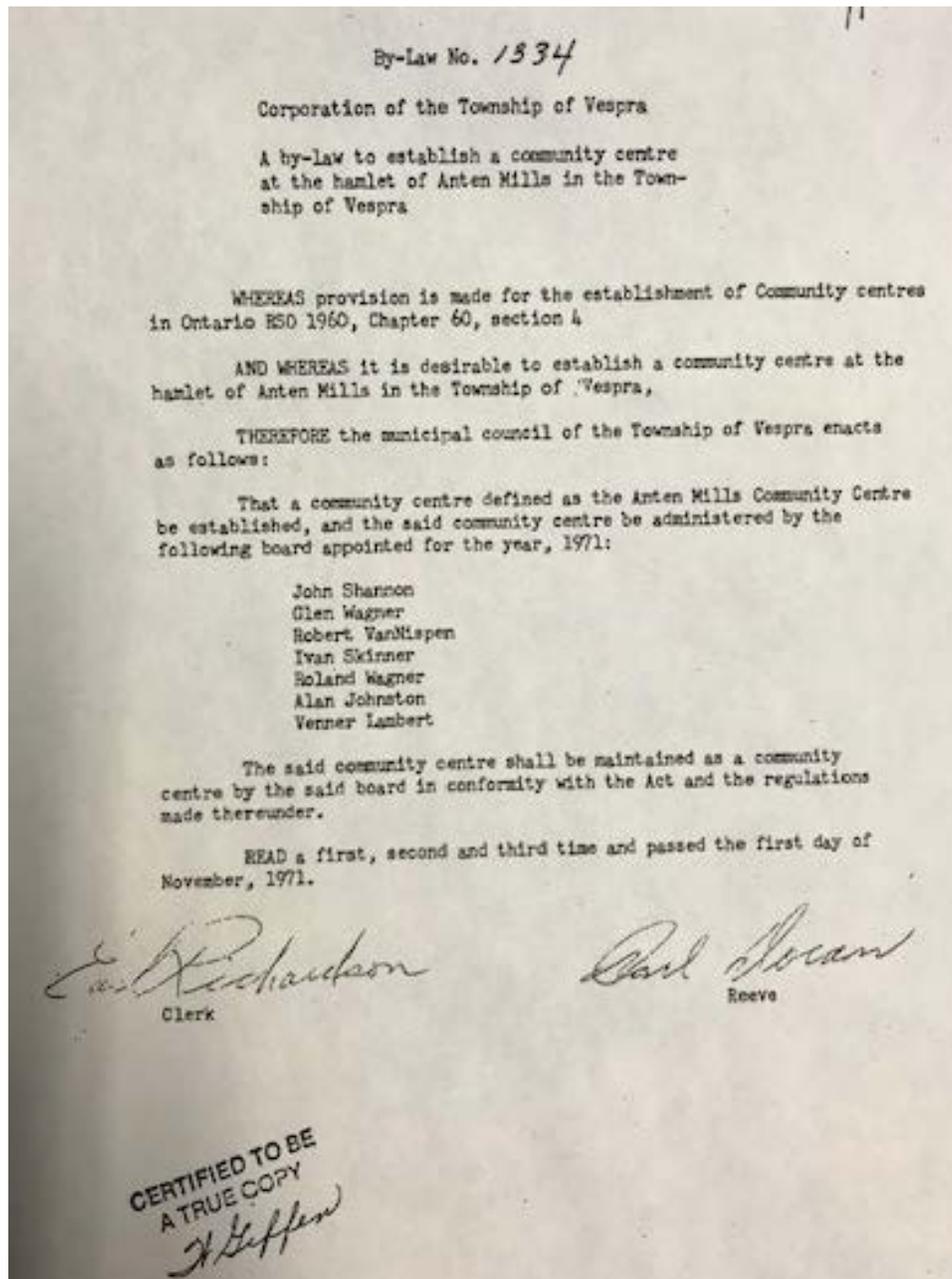
Anten Mills School—1957. Back row (l. to r.): Catherine Patterson (teacher), Marie Baverstock, Pat Miller, Pat Priest, Gary Baverstock, Larry Easton, Bob Baverstock, Allan Cameron, John Knapp. Middle row (l. to r.): Diane Cole, Janice Knapp, Wayne Baverstock, Damon Miles, Don McCrae, Don Cameron, Laurie Knapp, David Madill. Front row (l. to r.): Pat Baverstock, Ken Baverstock, Charles Wilson, Garry Priest, Douglas Simpson, Allan Wilson, Brian Kenuell, Ron Simpson.

1957

Establishment of Anten Mills Community Centre

The Anten Mills Community Centre was established through Vespra Township By-law No. 1334 in 1971. The first Board members were:

John Shannon	Roland Wagner
Glen Wagner	Alan Johnston
Robert VanNispen	Venner Lambert
Ivan Skinner	



In November 1972, the Simcoe County Board of Education officially conveyed the land and the school to the Township of Vespra for the purpose of using it as a community centre.

THIS INDENTURE, made in duplicate the 16th day of November, A.D., 1972.
IN PURSUANCE OF THE SHORT FORMS OF CONVEYANCES ACT:

BETWEEN:

THE SIMCOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION,
a corporation incorporated under Part III of the Secondary Schools and Boards of Education Act, being R.S.O. 1970, Chapter 425,
hereinafter called the GRANTOR
OF THE FIRST PART,

-and-

EARL RICHARDSON, of the City of Barrie,
in the County of Simcoe, Clerk-Treasurer,
hereinafter called the GRANTEE
OF THE SECOND PART,

-and-

THE SIMCOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION and
THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF VESPRE,
hereinafter called the PARTIES
OF THE THIRD PART.

WHEREAS the Grantor is the successor to the Trustees of Public Union Number 14 School Section Flos and Vespra.
AND WHEREAS the Township has agreed to acquire the hereinafter described lands for the purposes of establishing a Community Centre.
WITNESSETH that in consideration of other valuable consideration and the sum of ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR of Lawful money of Canada now paid by the said grantee to the said Grantor (the receipt is hereby acknowledged) and it the said grantor DOTH GRANT unto the said grantee in fee simple
ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises, situate, lying and being in the Township of Vespra, in the County of Simcoe, more particularly described as follows:
FIRSTLY: Being composed of all of Lots 10, 11, 12 and 13, as shown on a Plan registered in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of the County of Simcoe as Number 352.
SECONDLY: Being composed of part of Lot 1, in the Seventh Concession of the said Township of Vespra, more particularly described as follows:
COMMENCING at an iron bar planted at the South-west angle of Lot 10 of Registered Plan 352;
THENCE South 33 degrees, 32 minutes, 15 seconds East, 165 feet to an iron bar;

CERTIFIED TO BE
A TRUE COPY
A. L. Luffen

- 2 -

THENCE North 56 degrees, 40 minutes, 15 seconds East, 261.89 feet to an iron bar;
THENCE North 33 degrees, 32 minutes, 15 seconds West, 165 feet to a point being also the South-east angle of Lot 13, Plan 352;
THENCE Westerly along the Southerly limit of Lots 13, 12, 11 and 10 of Registered Plan 352 to the place of commencement.

- 3 -

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD unto the said Grantee, unto the use of The Corporation of the Township of Vespra so long as the said lands hereindescribed are required and actually used by The Corporation of the Township of Vespra, its successors, and assigns, for the purpose of a Community Centre and unto the use of The Simcoe County Board of Education in fee simple thereafter.

SUBJECT NEVERTHELESS to the reservations, limitations, provisos and conditions expressed in the original grant there-of from the Crown and in any statute vesting title in either or both of the cestuis que use or either of them.

The said Grantor covenants with the said Grantee that the said Grantor has the right to convey the said lands to the said Grantee notwithstanding any act of the said Grantor.
And the said Grantee shall have quiet possession of the lands free from all encumbrances,
And the said Grantor covenants with the said Grantee that the Grantor will execute such further assurances of the said lands as may be requisite.
And the said Grantor covenants with the said Grantee that the said Grantor has done no act to encumber the said lands.
The said Grantor releases to the said Grantee all its claims upon the said lands except only its rights under the habendum contained herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Grantor has hereunto caused to be affixed its corporate seal under the hands of its proper officers duly authorized in that behalf.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED
IN THE PRESENCE OF

THE SIMCOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Per:
William Kay
SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS AND TREASURER
J. B. Shultz
SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Anten Mills Community Centre

Excerpts written by Edna Shannon from “A History of Vespra Township” book, published in 1987

In the fall of 1971, it was suggested by John Shannon, a new resident of Anten Mills, that there should be a rink for the children to skate on in the winter.

The little red schoolhouse had been re-opened for the use of a grade 5 class, but it was rumoured that it would be closing in the near future. Permission was granted to hold a meeting in the school to find out what support could be expected to plan for a skating rink. This meeting was held on October 17, with 18 interested people present. A second meeting was called for October 27, and a representative of Vespra Council, Venner Lambert, attended. The group was advised to elect an executive and present it to the council for approval with the intention of organizing a community centre.

The skating rink was the first project and this required money and work. A canvass was made of 91 homes for donations. Three Barrie building companies also made donations. A draw was held which helped the cause greatly. Oscar Anderson was approached to drill a well; this he consented to do and completed the job without cost. The plumbing details were supervised by Percy Muir. The lumber for the rink was purchased from Cashway Lumber Co., which donated half the cost. Robert Thorne looked after the electrical work for the light poles, which were donated by Lorne Wilson.

Through the efforts of George Breedon, Wayne Cameron of Elmvale brought his equipment to level the ground and the rink began to take shape. Lorne Howden welded the goal posts from pipe supplied, and heavy duty hose was donated by the Shell Oil Co. Four old-timers were among those who helped John Shannon build the change house; they were Gilbert Haight Sr., Percy Muir, Walter Fare and Roy Miles. This building has since been replaced by a block building.

Snow removal was a problem, but, with the help of Del Priest and Glen Wagner and the boys from Security Camp and others, the rink was always cleared. The flooding for the first few years was looked after by John Shannon and Roy Miles.

The opening of the rink took place on January 29, 1972 with a large turnout. Reeve Alan Johnston officiated in cutting the ribbon. Broom ball and hockey were enjoyed, followed by a skating party and bonfire in the evening. Everyone enjoyed the increased activity which the rink provided. This was the nucleus for winter carnivals to follow, in future years, with floats and costumes.

An application was made to the School Board, through Earl Richardson, Clerk Vespra Township, that the Committee be granted priority when the school closed. This was recognized in late 1972 and the property was transferred to the Township. The organization was officially registered with the government as the Anten Mills Community Centre.

The grounds are made up of two lots from Lawrence Scott's subdivision, the school grounds and a lot on the west side of the school grounds donated by Mrs. Evelyen Alden, and Church St. (This was a street included in the original plan but was never opened up).

In 1972, a set of swings was purchased for the playground, followed in 1973, by a slide and two picnic tables. In 1974, new ball park bleachers were built by Ivan Skinner and helpers. In 1975, a new backstop for the ball diamond was purchased. That same year a great deal of controversy arose when light standards were purchased by the executive, to be erected around the ball park. The executive under President Everett Beacock, had obtained the approval of the Township for this and had raised considerable money for the purchase of the lights, but when criticism arose as to what effect this would have on our small community, a special meeting was called.

A large crowd heard Councillor Venner Lambert explain that it would be the Township Ball Park for the use of all teams and a charge would be made to use it. This information put a new light on the subject and much opposition was voiced by those living on adjacent properties. It was finally decided to have a vote by ballot. Adjacent residents would have three votes, another group two votes, and those farther out one vote. These ballots were hand delivered to every property owner and returned to the Community Centre on May 7, 1975, between 2 and 8 p.m. The result of the vote was against the lights by a large majority and they were eventually sold to the Township of Vespra at a loss. This created quite a problem for the executive, who had worked so hard for this cause, but they handled it to everyone's satisfaction.

Summer activities over the years have included ball games in intermediate, junior, pee-wee and tyke categories, also a girls' team which did very well. Day camp was held several years, with the pond at George Breedon's campground used for swimming. In 1983, a Fun Day was organized to round out the summer and proved very popular. Ball games, races, horseshoe pitching, barbecue and street dance were some of the things planned. This has been repeated each year since in September.

Anten Mills' version of the Grey Cup has taken place on several occasions. The football game between the married and single men created much amusement for the spectators. Sandy Proctor and Roy Williamson were among the first referees, with Charlie Williamson calling the play by play from his perch on the platform. This was followed in the evening by a dance and the choosing of Miss Grey Cup.

The first such event had Mike Dunphy as disc jockey and Bob Shook acted as MC. They managed to keep everyone on their feet. When the contestants for the "Beauty" contest were announced, four entrants paraded around the floor; 'Glenda' Wagner, 'Teddy' Patterson, 'Evelyn' Beacock and 'Glenna' Young. Each received thunderous applause for their sportsmanship.

With the Wagner subdivision and many new families in the area, interest in the community has increased. Glen Wagner donated the funds for the playground equipment in the park. Many beautiful homes were built.

The Euchre Club was formed many years ago and continues to function each year between November and April. It attracts many local area people to the weekly games held each Monday at 8 p.m. at the Centre. This group recently put a new ceiling in the hall and refinished the floor.

The Social Club involving the younger ladies has been active in many ways: organizing flea markets, bake sales and so on. The club furnished the hall with new dishes and cutlery and also put vinyl flooring in the lower hall.

The Strawberry Supper in late June, has been a popular fundraiser and a great way to meet your neighbour. This is another project undertaken by the Social Club.

Cubs and Beavers meet on Tuesday evening at the Community Centre. These groups are for boys from 5 to 11 years of age. The boys enjoy this early evening activity.

As the name implies it is hoped that the Community Centre will indeed be the centre of this community, where everyone, both young and old, will feel welcome and enjoy the activities.

Current Activities at the Community Centre

Provided by Joan Gannon

The hall has been used and continues to be used by the community for many years. In the past we have had strawberry suppers, dances and Christmas parties to name but a few. It is still used for community baby and wedding showers and occasionally for funeral wakes and receptions.

The Community Recreation Association has a weekly euchre party, and in the Spring an Easter Egg Eggstravanganza, early fall a Fall Family Fun Day, a Halloween party and the Christmas in the Village weekend with tree lighting and Santa Claus. While on hold right now, the Association had organized monthly Family Games Night. In addition to all that, there are religious services usually twice a year. The hall has also been used for training and adult recreation programs.