

BULMER'S GLEN

By Robert Williamson

Our incomparable escarpment vistas and waterfalls have attracted entrepreneurs like: Carpenter's Lunch at Albion Falls and the George Summers Theatre and refreshment stand at the Mountain Brow Park's Wentworth Street Incline Railway. They prospered in the first half of the last century. So too did the Mountain View Hotel and Park with its roller-skating pavilion and Bulmer's ice cream parlour at the head of the former James Street Incline. There was even a popular dance pavilion and the City View Snack Bar run by the Almas family in Mountain Drive Park at Upper Gage and Concession Street. Recently I uncovered some rare old photographs of another refreshment counter just west of our usual Hamilton Mountain focus at Bulmer's Glen.

Mr. Bulmer took advantage of a former rest area for horse-drawn wagons halfway up Highway 2 where Main Street West becomes Ancaster's Wilson Street. There was a water trough, a large shaded parking area and most importantly a short trail to the base of Tiffany Falls. Bulmer liked the site so much that he built a cottage and a refreshment stand on a shelf of land overlooking the valley, hence the name Bulmer's Glen.

Concession Stand. Edith attended Binkley School in West Hamilton, a long and lonely walk down the hill, especially past the White Chapel Cemetery.

The late Jim Green of the Ancaster Township Historical Society believed that Mr. Bulmer was the same C.D. Bulmer who opened an ice cream and lunch concession circa 1900 that became the Lookout Inn at the head of the James Street Incline Railway (Southam Park) in 1923. There would appear to be some analogy in that concept.



Photo by Robert Williamson

Today, both the Lookout Inn and Bulmer's Glen Concession Stand are gone. Even the cottage burned down. All that is left is the fireplace (far right) where Edith hung her Christmas stocking. Now the scene overlooks the empty glen and Highway 2.



Photos courtesy Ancaster Township Historical Society

Edith Barlow (nee) Hepworth, volunteers at Ancaster's Fieldcote Memorial Museum. Born in 1936, she remembers that her family lived in the Bulmer cottage. Her father worked at the Longwood Road Westinghouse plant. Her mother, Hazel and her aunt ran the Bulmer's Glen



Bulmer cottage, ATHS Archive

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