

Leckie-Hoy House

Location: 62 Dunedin Drive, Brussels, Ontario
Year built: c. 1877

THE LECKIE-HOY HOUSE is a fine example of Queen Anne Revival design. It was built for John A. Leckie, the first Reeve of Brussels, who purchased the land in 1876. The house remains largely unchanged since it was built. Some of the features of the Queen Anne Revival style of architecture to note in this house are the tower, the verandah, the fan-shaped corner brackets, and the variety of windows—a Palladian window in the front gable, the semi-circular window in the centre gable and the large circular window.



A beautiful Queen Anne Revival home.

It is unclear exactly when the house was built. It may have been built for Leckie as early as 1877 or as late as 1910. The house is triple-brick construction. Limestone used in the foundation was quarried from the Maitland River which flows behind the house. The house is adorned with stained glass windows and solid oak woodwork throughout. The tower added to the stature of the house.

The cottage located beside the house was once a part of the property. There was also a tennis court on the property.

The house was bought by Dr. Donald S. McRae in 1946 and became known locally as the “McRae House.” The family lived in the home until 1985.

John A. Leckie was born in Lanark County in 1835. At age 19, he moved with his family to Grey Township. In 1856, he built a store in Cranbrook. Leckie then moved to Ainleyville where he embarked on the grain and produce trade. In 1861, John Leckie established the first grain and produce dealership in the village, providing the means to market the region's early wheat crops by team to the Lake Huron and Buffalo Railway station at Seaforth. Belden notes, in the 1879 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Huron, Ontario*, that Leckie was also a real estate agent and the manager of the Brussels agency of the Exchange Bank of Canada.

Leckie was commissioned a Justice of the Peace in 1862. He was elected the Reeve of Grey Township from 1865 to 1873. During his tenure as Reeve, he worked hard to persuade the Wellington, Grey & Bruce division of the Great Western Railway to build a line through Ainleyville in 1872. When a

In 1906, Leckie introduced the idea of a Carnegie library for the village. He served as a member of the library board and was involved with the negotiations between the board and Carnegie's secretary, James Bertram for the \$6,500 grant to build a library. *(See the story about the Brussels Carnegie Public Library.)*

The current owners of the house are Charles Hoy and Alison Wainwright.



line was built and the station was named Brussels, the village name and post office were also officially changed with its incorporation in 1873. Leckie was elected the first Reeve that same year and served in this capacity for many years. In 1875, he was elected the Warden of Huron County.