

Brubacher's Restaurant & Bakery

Location: Ethel, Ontario

Year built: 1906

THE SITE WHERE BRUBACHER'S Restaurant & Bakery stands was once part of John Cober's farm. Cober came to Grey Township in 1872 and established a steam sawmill and carriage factory west of John Street. He made wagons, carriages, buggies, sleighs and cutters, becoming known for his Cober cart. By 1893, he had moved premises to Lot 1, 34 Cober Survey, east of Reserve Street where he did custom planing, matching and moulding, and made a "common-sense" clothes dryer. In 1901, he left Ethel for work at the J.D. Ronald foundry in Brussels.

The building changed hands a couple of times before it was purchased by George Krauter in 1906. Krauter built a store from salvaged materials from the dismantled wagon and carriage factory. He operated a hardware and tinware business here, and moved the broom factory he had in Cranbrook into the upper floor. George moved to Brussels in 1912 and the business went to his brother, John, who leased to Charles Cleaver. George returned to take up the hardware business again in 1917.

David Dunbar bought the property in 1923. He and his sons, Lloyd and George, operated a grocery store and post office here for many years.

The buildings were torn down in 1972. The aroma of fresh bread and wholesome cooking now draws visitors and hungry folk from miles around to Mervin and Adeline Brubacher's Restaurant & Bakery.



The George Krauter hardware and tinware store plus broom factory, c. 1906.



The original store building with additions—a grocery was here for many years, from 1923 to 1958, beginning with the Dunbar Store.
