

Walton General Store

Location: 83004 Brussels Line, Walton, Ontario

Year built: 1900

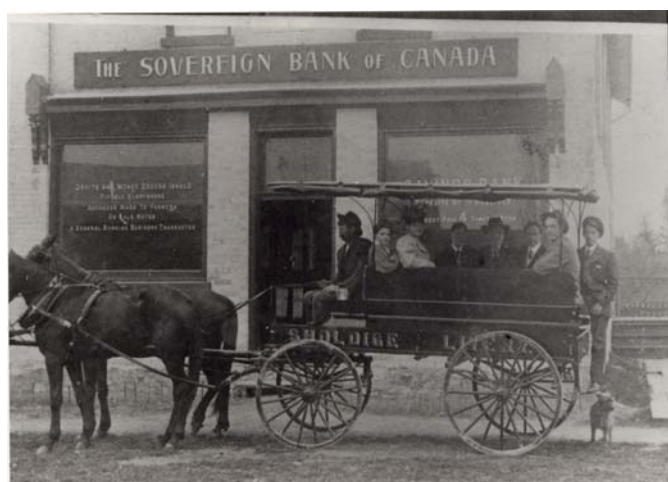
THIS TWO-STOREY WHITE BRICK building was built by the AOUW, the Ancient Order of United Workmen No. 305. The AOUW in Walton was organized by George Patterson who was district master. They met twice a month when first begun in 1888, in the Orange Hall. By 1897, plans were under way to build their own hall and they bought part of Lot 2 from George McKim for \$75. Although the building was built in 1900, their grand opening with 200 guests treated to an oyster supper, was not held until 1904.



The AOUW used the second floor of the building and rented the ground-floor space to various organizations. The building acted as a kind of town hall for a time. Dances, banquets, a medicine show, travelling groups presenting plays, Christmas concerts, bazaars, political meetings, Red Cross activities, Women's Institute meetings and box socials were all held here.

In 1906 the Sovereign Bank leased the lower space and installed a vault. At that time, the Sovereign Bank was the 6th largest bank in Canada and this was the 5th branch to be opened.

A jewellery store operated by Dennis Blake occupied the south part of the lower floor sometime before 1911. A barbershop was also there at some point. In 1934, Douglas Ennis opened a general store in the lower floor. By 1938, Ennis had purchased the property and converted the upper storey into an apartment where he and his family lived. The building has continued as a general store since then.



The Sholdice Livery in front of the Sovereign Bank.
