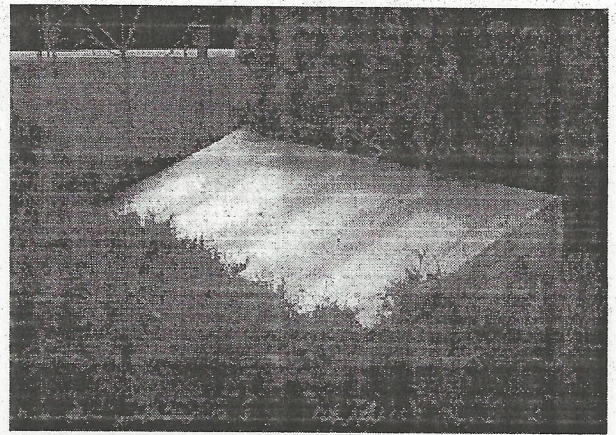


For Your Information **Durham Road Cemetery**

When the white settlers arrived in Priceville they began to force the older black residents out. These residents usually went to Collingwood and Owen Sound. Most black families in the 1850's couldn't afford to send their children to high school for better education. Some blacks moved to Oro and Collingwood from Grey County. There are descendants of these early settlers still in Collingwood today. The grandparents of today's Sheffield and the Wilson families worked on the boats that travelled the Great Lakes out of Collingwood.

It is difficult to identify past black families because many of the cemeteries in the original Grey County communities were destroyed. Farmers ploughing dug up some and one cemetery was paved over by Grey County Road #114. The Durham Road Cemetery was dug up and the graves were ploughed over in 1933. Much of the local history has been learned from stories passed down by generations of both black and white families.

In late the 1990's descendants of families buried in the Durham Road Cemetery fought the local government to have the graves found and the cemetery re-established. In 1992 Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor Lincoln Alexander dedicated this site to the early black settlers and the Ontario Government recognized it as a heritage site. The Black people are hoping that the Pioneer Cemetery will be the sixth stop on the Ontario Black Heritage Tour.



Markers recovered at the site of the original Durham Road cemetery.

