

## **ORANGE HALL, 2029 MAIN STREET, FORESTER'S FALLS, ONTARIO**

This was originally the site of the Temperance Hall, built in 1880.

On February 6, 1856, the first Orangemen of this Lodge met in an Orange Hall made of logs on the farm later owned by Garfield Broome and this marked the beginning of this Lodge, which made great expansions in the years to follow.

The first 12th of July celebration was held in Beachburg in 1857 and the Orangement of Forester's Falls walked to Beachburg for this celebration and had dinner on their arrival there. The first Guy Fawkes Day (The Gunpowder Plot) on November 5th was held at Oliver Foresters. The first banner came from Belfast, Ireland in 1883 only costing the sum of \$40.00 plus \$11.80. At the present time it would cost many times that amount.

In August 1888, plans were made to build a new hall on a lot purchased from Mannie Maxam in Forester's Falls Village on the back of the same lot where the present Orange Hall now stands. This hall was a good building at that time with a large room upstairs and a community hall downstairs on the ground floor. There was no basement. At one period around the late 1920's or early 1930's when the school could not accommodate all the pupils the hall was used for one of the classrooms of the school, for a couple of years.

According to records the cost of this hall in actual cash was \$3,000, the balance made-up by free labor. As time passed, however, it became apparent that there was a need for a larger hall, it being a fast growing community and a new hall was erected in 1935 on the street on the same lot as the former hall. This hall was larger than the old hall with a basement underneath, community hall on the main level and a large room upstairs. Much free labor was also donated in the building of this hall. The Women's Institute was also instrumental in providing much financial assistance.

Many Orange celebrations were held in Forester's Falls during the years since its inauguration. A notable celebration was held in 1956 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1856. At one time there were sixty members on the roll.

The Orange Hall still stands but has been sold into private ownership.

