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MONSTER BINGO
\$1,000 MUST GO!
Thursday August 28 Kinmount Arena
Doors Open 5:30 p.m.
Games Start 7:00 p.m.

Side Roads of Kinmount: Irondale

The next community east of Furnace Falls is Irondale. It was founded where the Monck Road crossed the Irondale River on its way east towards Bancroft. The first settlers arrived in 1873 as soon as the Monck Road was built through the area. The old Monck Road followed the east bank of the Irondale River and only crossed the River at the Devil's Gap. The south-east section of Snowdon Township was not very suitable farmland, but some good lots could be found in the valley of the Irondale River. Any surplus produce could be sold to the many lumber companies operating in the area. Employment in the bush was always an option. A handful of early bush farmers clustered along the Monck Road. Peter Barr was likely the first true settler, arriving in 1873. In 1874 he became the first post master of the newly opened Devil's Creek post office, situated in Barr's general store on lot 31 in the 5th concession of Snowdon Township.

The situation changed dramatically in the late 1870s with the discovery of iron ore deposits in the vicinity. While Furnace Falls was the hub of the initial strike, the attention eventually shifted north to Irondale under the guidance of Charles J. Pusey. An American mining speculator, Pusey bought out the holdings of William Mytes and the Snowdon Iron Ore Company. Pusey had the area carefully surveyed and found several larger ore deposits closer to Irondale. He changed the course of the old Monck Road from its original course east of the Irondale River to the present course west of the River. A bridge was built at Furnace Falls to accommodate the new road. The old road was turned into a service trail for his several mines. Pusey also built an extension to the IB&O Railway from Furnace Falls into Devil's Creek. And finally, he surveyed a townsite on lot 27 in the 5th concession of Snowdon and named the new site Irondale, in honour of...well you guessed it! The new hamlet of Irondale was born with high expectations. The iron mines were expected to provide a big economic lift. And the arrival of the new railway was simply gravy to the whole scheme. Daniel Armstrong opened the Devil's Creek Hotel in 1879 in anticipation of the boom. The hotel burned in 1884, but was immediately rebuilt. It was soon joined by another hotel, another general store run by a Mr. Martin, a blacksmith and several dwellings. The arrival of the IB&O in 1884 grew Irondale to its zenith when it contained 2 hotels, 2 stores & a blacksmithy.

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\$1,000 Reward offered for blueprints of the Donald Chemical Plant. For more information on the project or about the blueprints visit www.buildingbetween.ca or contact Berman at 705-457-4838 or email TLB@TheLandbetween.ca.

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