

PERKINSFIELD



Gas Pumps at the corner of Balm Beach Road and County Road 6

In the 1850s due to severe famine in their homeland Irish immigrants began settling in the Perkinsfield area, around Concessions 11, 12 and 13. Early family names include Delvin, Hayes, Johnston, McMuarry, O'Reilly, Wynne, Campbell, Greer, Rutherford and Rankin. Around the same time a wave of immigrants from Quebec also began arriving in the area around Concession 8 and 9. The third wave settled in 1860 around Concession 10, where the center of the village is currently. These early family names include Asselin, Laforge, Fournier and Lalonde. Most of the Irish families moved again further south around Phelpston or engaged in other trades. The remaining French had to master all trades, taking on the roles of lumbermen, builders, hunters, fishermen and farmers. The village was originally known as St. Patrick, named for the church that was established in 1870. When the railway arrived in 1879, a train station was built just east of the village on the property of lumberman Augustus Perkins. From that name, the railway company derived the name of Perkinsfield for their train station. In 1909 the Federal Post Office Department changed the village name to Perkinsfield.

By 1890 Perkinsfield had a population listed as 200, with mail arriving daily by train, a school, church, general store, blacksmith and two sawmills. The village has always been closely connected to the cottagers that began to arrive in the early twentieth century by train. Local farmers provided fresh food for these cottagers, while local carpenters helped construct their cottages.