



Elva Reid

Orono/Kendal

*Champion for land conservation,
supporter of local writers and artists*

I grew up north of Newtonville, between the 3rd and 4th concession, on Reid Road. My family had been in that area since the early 1800's.

My relatives were the Brimacombe family. Aunt Florence used to tell me stories. Her father used to light fires around the barn at night to keep the wolves at bay. And here, I can open the windows and hear that cacophony of sound, and it so connects me in another way to where I live. This forest behind me is the Kendal Crown Lands, and it's about 900 acres. We can thank Premier John Robarts for that. He worked to preserve green spaces in Ontario. Much

of that land came from my father's land.

If you lose your local connection to family, it all starts to fall apart. Add to that the demise of actual cemeteries and newspapers and other physical pieces of history, and you really start to lose the ability to find your own histories.

I lived a year in Europe, in 1963-64. The evidence of the war was still everywhere. And, I realized how fortunate I was, simply by right of birth. That year changed how I live my life. It made my life focus on giving back to community and country.

