



Sam Neilly
Gilford November 2001

They are looking at a map of Gilford and are starting at the north end of Gilford. A family name Pamem and Tom Nesbitt. Sam's father Louis Neilly built that house and his sister Isabell and brother Lou were born in that house. The next house is his grandfather Samuel Neilly's house. The rest of his family and his brother Scott, Carey, Bill and himself were born in that house. They then go west from the railway track. The Neilly house is number 3 on their map. Up farther on the map is Frank Steele's house and is the father of K Russell. His great grandson Ed Russell lives there now. Further up the road is the old Gilford School on SS #16. Now there was nothing west of the school. They start on the South side.

Sam tells him to draw in a house on the corner there and that was Jerry Pryke's house. There's another old house near that owned by Anne Doolittle and she was a Spinstress. Anne used to walk down the railroad tracks and pick wild strawberries according to Sam. Then there was a large vacant area near Pryke. Opposite Frank Steele's there was a house #8 and it was the George Nesbitt house but that was built in the early 30s or 40s and Sam can't remember who had the house there before that. Then there's the general store owned by Bill Blaine. Sam tells George to draw George Doolittle's house on the map. It was his aunt that lived there too. Then Sam tells him about the original town hall burn down by a grass fire because the railroad used to burn the grass.

Banner image from the Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library Local History Collection depicting cars lining Holland Street East. ID Number 3696. <http://www.ibidnet.ca/details.php?IDnum=3696>