



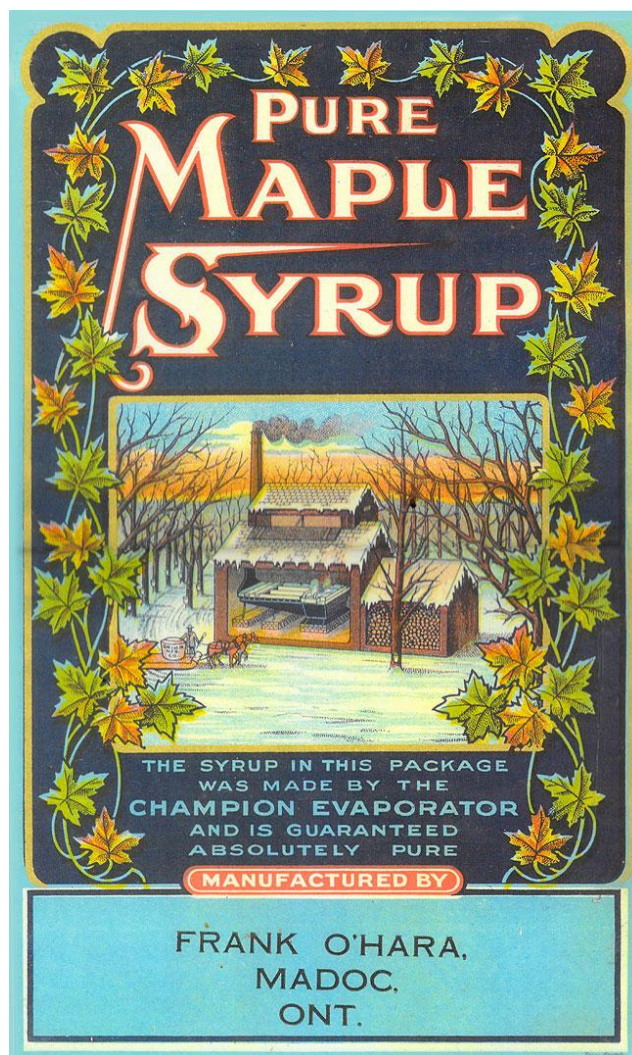
# O'HARA MILL HOMESTEAD

## SUGAR SHACK



### Backgrounder on our Sugar Shack: How it came to be

For some years, there had been many requests to have a sugar shack to represent the making of maple syrup at the homestead.



### The Story of Maple Syrup at O'Hara Mill Homestead and our "shack":

The production of Maple Syrup was a part of most homesteads in Eastern Ontario in the 1800s. For the O'Hara Family, this was very much the case. Indeed, Frank O'Hara had his own label for the product he produced. A copy of this label has been found as far away as Picton Ontario.

To capture this part of homestead life, a sugar shack has been built to reflect the type that would have been used. It was inspired to some degree by an old photo that shows maple syrup production at O'Hara.

The Sugar Shack was inspired by a couple of items that are found at O'Hara. The first is an old photo of what is believed to be taken at O'Hara in the 19th century. It shows the large cast-iron pots boiling down the sap which was a first step in the process.



In the background is a wooden "shed" with steam rising from it. This is where the sap from the kettles was "finished" by boiling it down further in a large flat "finishing" pan. The pan was placed on a stone arch that housed the fire.

If you go for a walk on the Lois Wishart trail at O'Hara, you may come across the remains of the foundation for a "stone arch" from days gone by, pictured here. It is just off the trail.





**The “new” O’Hara Mill Homestead Sugar Shack  
October 2015**

**EXTERIOR OF THE SUGAR SHACK**



**The Sugar Shack Interior showing the Finishing Pan**



Interior of the Sugar Shack: The steel chimney was donated by Mrs Ramsey of Queensborough. It was originally used in a Sugar Shack of days long past. It also shows the finishing pan that was donated by Duane Davis sitting on the recreated stone arch.

**Sugar Shack Interior showing the vent and chimney.**



The vent was for the steam from the sap to escape while the chimney was for smoke from the fires in the stone arch.



**The chimney in its original location in the spring of 2015.**



**Interior of the Sugar Shack looking out the window into the sugar bush.**

