

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 190

DECEMBER 2013

## Access Beyond the Ramp Part 6: Transportation and Access

Coach company alters bus route  
to service heritage village

**John Rae**  
thepenguin@rogers.com

**Editor's Note:** John Rae has been an OHS volunteer since 2008. He also serves on the Inclusive Design Advisory Council for the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

In his previous five articles for the *OHS Bulletin*, John has examined a variety of museum access issues. In the following article, he discusses the importance of transportation as an "access" issue, not just for persons with disabilities, but for all patrons who do not drive.

Imagine you have discovered what sounds like a fascinating heritage village, and have decided to spend a pleasant Sunday afternoon in the country when you suddenly realize that, as a blind person, you cannot get there. Until recently, this was the reality facing prospective patrons who wished to visit Westfield Heritage Village, and who do not or cannot drive.

Westfield Heritage Village, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in June, was founded by Brantford secondary school teachers Golden MacDonell and Glenn Kilmer. The village first opened in 1964 with seven historic buildings that had been relocated from surrounding communities, reconstructed on site and furnished with artifacts donated by local families. Fifty years on, the village has grown to encompass nearly



Photo Lisa Hunter

Providing tactile access to artifacts can help museum collections "come alive" for patrons who are blind. Pictured right is John Rae examining an historic type set with a museum volunteer at Westfield Heritage Village's print shop.

Read John Rae's article series  
**Access Beyond the Ramp**  
[www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/accessibility](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/accessibility)

forty heritage structures, ranging from the 1790s through to the early 20th century. These buildings are staffed by costumed interpreters who demonstrate aspects of daily life in early Ontario.

Today, Westfield has a variety of thriving public and school programs, and benefits from the participation of a dedicated group of nearly 400 volunteers. In addition to its architectural holdings, the site cares for a collection of nearly 25,000 artifacts.

"Westfield is a very special place for visitors of all ages," says Lisa Hunter, Westfield's Program

**'Access' cont'd page 4 ...**

## Lieutenant Governor of Ontario Recognizes OHS Milestone

Honorary Patron of the OHS hosts  
reception to celebrate 125th anniversary

**Editor's Note:** On November 5, 2013, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario hosted a reception at Queen's Park to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of The Ontario Historical Society. The event was well attended and coincided with the showing of the portrait exhibit *About Face: Celebrated Ontarians Then and Now*. Photographs of the event are available on the OHS website. The following text is a copy of the speech delivered by His Honour David C. Onley.

"Mr. Rudachyk, Mr. Leverty, members and friends of the OHS:

I am delighted to welcome you on this happy occasion!

The Ontario Historical Society has enjoyed the patronage of our lieutenant governors since its very beginning.

So it gives me great pleasure to invite you here, to mark the 125th anniversary of Ontario's

pre-eminent historical society.

Today, we have invited all the past presidents [of the OHS]. And one by one, each will go upstairs to the Music Room to record reminiscences about the OHS through the years.

As a former broadcaster, I am impressed that the OHS is embracing new media, to better serve and expand its membership. Your enhanced website does that job well.

Even the venerable journal *Ontario History* will be going digital, to bring our province's stories to a wider audience.

That anniversary project is an ambitious one, as the journal has been going since 1899

and includes a treasure trove of articles, written by a "who's who" of Ontario historians.

On behalf of all Ontarians, I wish you success with ventures like these, as the OHS rises to the



Photo Office of the Lieutenant Governor

**'Speech' cont'd page 2 ...**

## Nominate Excellence in Your Heritage Community

OHS accepting nominations for  
annual heritage awards until January 6, 2014

Do you know of a volunteer or professional working tirelessly to preserve and promote your local history?

Are you inspired by an excellent program, service, or exhibit offered by a local heritage organization, museum or other institution?

Have you recently come across a book on Ontario's history that stands out to you above the rest?

Recognize excellence in your heritage community today. Visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/awards) or call 1.866.955.2755 to learn how.

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The Ontario  
Historical  
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1888

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# President's Report

**Dr. Brad Rudachyk, President**  
 president@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The year 2013 has been one of significant milestones for The Ontario Historical Society. Not only did the Society celebrate its 125th anniversary, it also marked the centennial of the John McKenzie House and the delivery of our very first webinar. We continue to grow. At present, the OHS encompasses over 830 affiliated societies, member organizations and member institutions throughout the entire province. Our membership is open to and inclusive of all. Moreover, the Society is debt-free and continues to operate with a small surplus. Currently, John McKenzie House holds all of the paperback issues of *Ontario History* and its predecessor, *Papers and Records*. This treasure trove dates from 1899 and comprises over 325 issues containing more than 2,000 articles written by some of the province's greatest historians. Today, this great gift of the past is all but inaccessible.

Earlier this year, to mark our 125th anniversary, the Society began a major fundraising drive to raise \$125,000 to digitize this significant resource with the ultimate goal of making it available online. This is a big goal for a big job. However, the Society is committed to getting it done. It will require hardware and software

equal to the task, as well as the personnel to oversee it.

When completed, this 125th anniversary project will not only preserve this great legacy of Ontario scholarship in the present but will ensure its accessibility in the future. This is a project worthy of this special anniversary. We are making steady progress towards achieving our fundraising goal, but much remains to be done. All donations are and will be greatly appreciated and will be accompanied by a tax receipt. To those who have already contributed, thank you so very much.

On November 5th, The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Ruth Ann Onley hosted a reception at Queen's Park to mark our 125th anniversary. It was a grand day and we were made most welcome.

The Lieutenant Governor is the Society's honorary patron, and his very kind words, along with photographs of the day, are included in this number of the *OHS Bulletin*. It was a fitting way to cap a busy and exciting year. Our sincere thanks are tendered to His Honour and Mrs. Onley for their gracious generosity.

As you read this, you will be well into the holiday season. On behalf of your board of directors and staff, may I extend my heartiest season's greetings and best wishes for 2014!



Photo Dukát Photos

After bringing greetings on behalf of the OHS, Dr. Rudachyk presented to His Honour a certificate of recognition that reads:

"The Ontario Historical Society presents to The Honourable David C. Onley, 28th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and honorary patron of the OHS, this certificate of achievement in recognition of your dedication to public service and, in particular, to making Ontario's history and heritage more accessible to all of its citizens."

## Executive Director's Report

**Rob Leverty, Executive Director**  
 rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I am pleased to report that in 2013, the OHS continued to broaden its base across Ontario, attracting new members from every part of the province and from every discipline of the heritage field.

Throughout the year, OHS staff responded to constant requests from our fellow citizens to establish not-for-profit corporations through affiliation; the Society continued to achieve meaningful results by empowering Ontarians to legally organize and exercise

their democratic rights in their ongoing battles to save the province's local history. This has resulted in the expansion of Ontario's heritage community, and an increase in OHS's membership and our services to it.

This year, the OHS held incorporation meetings in Algonquin Highlands, Camlachie, St. Thomas, Windsor, Ottawa, Penetanguishene, Toronto, Thorold, Owen Sound, Flesherton and Silver Mountain (see page 5).

These meetings led to the successful incorporation of twelve historical organizations.



Photo Dukát Photos

Members of The Ontario Historical Society board of directors pose with The Honourable David C. Onley and Her Honour Mrs. Ruth Ann Onley during a celebratory reception at Queen's Park. The event was hosted by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

### "Speech" from page 1

challenge of reinventing itself, in light of the new opportunities of this digital age.

That flexibility is likely the reason for the Society's amazing longevity. Not only have you preserved our past, but you've found ways to bring it alive for each succeeding generation.

The writer Henry James once said: "It takes an endless amount of history to make even a little tradition."

Fortunately, both the OHS and this vice-regal office do a lot to encourage that tradition-building process here in Ontario.

One of our most recent projects, is the exhibition you see on these walls – also available on my website. It celebrates extraordinary Ontarians, down through the years.

In the dining room, we start by showing historical figures like Alexander Graham Bell and Mohawk poet Pauline Johnson, who were contemporaries of the founders of the OHS.

As the chronology continues, we show our contemporaries – for example, author Alice Munro, this year's Nobel Laureate for Literature. Like the work of the OHS, her insightful writing shines a penetrating light on Ontario's rural roots.

There are so many ways to celebrate our history.

The OHS certainly takes a comprehensive approach in helping Ontarians to honour and treasure our past.

I am thrilled that the OHS has been promoting accessibility, to ensure that Ontario's historical resources are available to all people, including those with disabilities.

I am told that the OHS *Accessible Heritage Tool Kit* helps many organizations to chart a viable course towards fully accessible facilities, programs, exhibitions and services.

Think of the enrichment that will bring to countless lives!

As Patron of the OHS, I encourage you to embrace these initiatives and explore further possibilities. As a life-long history buff, I'm encouraged when I see your work thriving.

As the representative of Her Majesty The Queen in Ontario, I congratulate the members and friends of The Ontario Historical Society as we celebrate this 125th anniversary.

I especially thank the board of directors, past presidents, and past and present staff and volunteers for all that you have done to preserve and present Ontario's historical legacy.

May that legacy be valued for generations to come! Thank you."

Congratulations to:

- Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild
- Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society
- Glengarry Pioneer Museum
- Penetanguishene Historical Society
- Friends of Educational Archives Serving Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk Counties
- The Friends of the Beaverdams Church
- The Community Waterfront Heritage Centre (Owen Sound)
- Toronto Branch The Monarchist League of Canada
- Friends of the South Grey Museum
- Les Amis Duff-Bâby (Friends of the Duff-Bâby Mansion)
- The 100th Regiment Historical Society
- Plympton-Wyoming Historical Society

Over the past 24 months, the OHS incorporated 24 new affiliated societies and, over the past five years, that number surged to

58. 95% of these groups are based outside of the City of Toronto.

The OHS insurance programme, which enables and protects volunteers serving on the boards of directors of our member organizations, has also remained popular.

To date, 79 historical organizations have purchased Directors and Officers with Liability Insurance policies underwritten at a limit of \$2 million each. 86 organizations have General Liability Insurance policies with liability limits of at least \$2 million and 35 have purchased coverage for contents and property.

Our peer-reviewed scholarly journal *Ontario History*, its editor Dr. Tory Tronrud and book review editor Dr. Ron Stagg continue to impress! In the two issues published this year, nine new articles and sixteen book reviews were published. Thank you also to the authors and peer-reviewers for

"Report" cont'd page 8 ...

## Across the Province

As we embark into a new year, there are many anniversaries to remember and celebrate, including: New Toronto incorporated as a village 100 years ago; the Toronto Field Naturalists celebrate 90 years; Halton Region has turned 40; and the Tweed and Area Historical Society celebrates 25 years. Congratulations!

The Victoria County Historical Society has announced a major step forward in turning the former Lindsay Jail into the heritage hub of the Kawartha Lakes. The Ontario Trillium Foundation is providing a two-year \$144,500 grant to promote local heritage and to hire manager Dave Wesley to keep history alive in the Old Gaol Museum. Information: 705.324.3404.

Congratulations to The Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation on the opening of the new heritage exhibit building at the Banting Homestead Heritage Park in Alliston on November 9. This was a double celebration, the 92nd Anniversary of the discovery of insulin and World Diabetes Day. For information or to make a donation: 705.434.1867.

Denise Harris recently received the 2013 Jean Hibbert Memorial Award from the Etobicoke Historical Society in recognition of her dedication to the preservation of historic buildings and her many educational programmes over the years, including heritage tours, lectures and much more. Well done, Denise!

The Simcoe County Historical Association will once again offer the Andrew Hunter Award for historical research on Simcoe County by postsecondary students. Essay entries must be postmarked by April 21. For more details: [www.simcoecountyhistory.ca](http://www.simcoecountyhistory.ca).

The 1921 Canadian census, taken June 1, 1921, is now available online at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

The Family History Centre in

Petawawa is now open Tuesday evenings between 6:30 and 9:00 p.m. Contact Judy Thomas at 613.687.2967 for a booking.

A group of concerned citizens seeks volunteers to "Help Save the Nottawasaga Lighthouse." Contact [michael.king@sympatico.ca](mailto:michael.king@sympatico.ca).

Several publications that may be of interest to our readers include: *Innisfil Veterans: Their Lives and Memories*, published by Innisfil Historical Society, [www.innisfilhistorical.ca](http://www.innisfilhistorical.ca); *A Century of Houses: Prescott 1800-1900*, by Sandra Robertson, Grenville County Historical Society, 613.925.0489; *To Be Continued: A Short History of The Historical Society of Ottawa*, by Dave Mullington, The Historical Society of Ottawa: 613.236.7166.

We say "Farewell" as the Last Post has sounded in recent months for many members, supporters and donors of local historical societies, including: Rosemarie Blackwood and Peter Stokes, Niagara Historical Society and Museum; Mary Gilbert and Bea Byrne, Esquesing Historical Society; Mary Picknell and Paul Smith, South Norwich Historical Society; Roy Bonisteel and Reverend J. William Lamb, Hastings County Historical Society; Frank Streek, Lennox and Addington Historical Society; John Boughen, Port Hope and District Historical Society; Joyce Hazel Smith (McCumber), Sir Guy Carleton Branch, U.E.L.; Gordon Smithson, Kingston Historical Society; Libby and David Bate, Peterborough Historical Society; Art Howey, Ontario Archaeology Society; Dr. Edwin J. Hunt and Mollie Christie, York Pioneer and Historical Society;

Marnie Delaney, Etobicoke Historical Society; Bob Crawford, Ontario Genealogical Society; and Bruce Krug and Christine Welsh, Bruce County Historical Society.

As always, our historical organizations and institutions are busy planning interesting and exciting events and programmes for the new year. Here are just a few:

**February 1 and 2:** Lake Scugog Historical Society, "The Antique and Nostalgia Show and Sale," Port Perry Arena, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: 905.985.0936.

**February 5:** Eva Stachniak will speak on "Catherine the Great of Russia," Swansea Historical Society, Swansea Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.: 647.859.3901.

**February 28:** Professor Shawn Graham speaking on "Archaeology and Heritage of Chats Falls on the Ottawa," Historical Society of Ottawa: 613.729.0579.

**April 1:** Ken Edwards presents "Railways Stations in Wellington County," Guelph Historical Society, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 7.30 p.m.: [blouclark@rlproyalcity.com](mailto:blouclark@rlproyalcity.com).

**April 2:** Governor Simcoe Branch, U.E.L. hosts their Annual Potluck Supper at Montgomery's Inn, Dundas Street and Islington Avenue, Toronto, at 6 p.m.: 416.921.7756.



Photo Joelle Claudon

Congratulations Dalkeith Historical Society (DHS)! Scotiabank matched funds from DHS's Classy Cabaret ticket sales in the amount of \$3000.00! Pictured above are members of DHS with representatives of the bank. DHS incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2011.

## Remembering Bruce Krug

1919-2013

### Barry Penhale

Natural Heritage Books  
[barry@naturalheritagebooks.com](mailto:barry@naturalheritagebooks.com)

Bruce Krug was a man worth knowing. Although physically a bigger person than most others of his generation, it was Bruce's voracious appetite for life, insatiable curiosity, and lifelong generous support of both Ontario's environment and history for which the esteemed native of Chesley will best be remembered.

Like other provincial personalities of prominence, Krug, over his long lifetime, attracted a considerable following made up of loyal admirers. Truth be known, Bruce's means were only exceeded by his unlimited kindness and generosity. An example of this, which came late in his life, was his personal

donation of \$100,000 to the Chesley Medical Clinic Expansion Project. Krug's financial support of Bruce and Grey County museums and historical societies is also well known. In 1990, the Bruce County Historical Society recognized his assistance and dedication by appointing him a lifetime honorary vice-president.

A keen interest in local and national history led Krug in many different directions. As a result, he built up many valuable collections consisting of rare books, stamps, postcards and a sizeable array of other objects related to pioneer days. An enthusiastic photographer, his fondness for old barns resulted in countless images of a way of life fast eroding.

When it came to the history of Bruce and Grey Counties,

Bruce Krug never tired of rural outings during which his driver and nephew Jim Siegrist absorbed fascinating history lessons from his much-loved mentor. These trips continued even after Bruce entered a nursing home.

The son of the late Christian and Mary Hauser, Bruce was the last surviving member of a noted family that, in their time, employed over 600 Grey-Bruce men and women in their factory, sawmill and forests. During the 1980s, when many competing Ontario-based furniture factories closed, the Krug Bros. Furniture Manufacturing business soldiered on, making it to 1987, one year after its centennial. In 2002, the remarkable Krug family story was published under the title *A Century of Excellence*. Written by Howard Krug and edited by well-known Bruce Peninsula writer Ruth Cathcart, the comprehensive and generously illustrated book was designed by Derek Chung and published by Natural Heritage Books.

## WELCOME New MEMBERS!

*SINCE NOVEMBER 2013*

100th Regiment  
Historical Society

Sheryl Adelkind

Les Amis Duff-Bâby

The Community  
Waterfront Heritage Centre

Peter Davis

Detweiler Meetinghouse Inc.

The Friends of  
The Beaverdams Church

Friends of  
The South Grey Museum

Audrey Karlos

Renee Lehnee

Rebecca MacAlpine

Mark McCrady

David More

Plympton-Wyoming  
Historical Society

Toronto Branch The Monarchist  
League of Canada

## THANK YOU DONORS!

*N.B. list does not include  
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Elaine Campbell

Diane Clendenan

Joy Davis

Jane Errington

Audrey Karlos

Richard McQuade

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Marjorie Stuart

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Bill Warnick

It has often been said that Bruce Krug lived in the shadow of his older brother Howard, but any serious study of their relationship would suggest a special bond and much in common between the two. Re-establishing the Bluebird population in the northern part of the Bruce Peninsula remains, according to some, their finest achievement. Others, however, believe that Bruce and Howard, both pioneers in reforestation, made their greatest contribution to Ontario by gifting to the then Federation of Ontario Naturalists the Kinghurst Tract, their unrivalled 600 acres of old growth forest.

Be the gifts small or substantial, "giving back" was always the Krug way and no one did it better than the late Bruce Krug. He will be greatly missed.

# Museum News

## Dr. John Carter

OHS Museums Committee  
drjohncarter@bell.net

## Museum Milestones

Accessing free travelling exhibits for use in Ontario community museums is indeed difficult. However, I've found one for you! If you have Scottish emigration history in your area, be sure to read Mike Baker's article on the Kist exhibit below – an especially attractive option for small museums.

In November, I had the pleasure of bringing greetings from the OHS to the Dufferin County Museum and Archives (DCMA) during their Silver Anniversary celebration. It has been 25 years since Dufferin County Council became directly involved in the operation of this site – one of my favourites.

The Amherstburg Historic Sites Association celebrated the 40th

anniversary of the Park House Museum on November 27th. The entrepreneurial Park family is remembered and interpreted at both the Park House and the John R. Park Homestead.

Congratulations to the DCMA and the Park House for these achievements and their longevity.

The Arthur Child Heritage Museum in Gananoque has developed a new website: [www.1000islandsheritagemuseum.com](http://www.1000islandsheritagemuseum.com). Read about upcoming exhibits and events. This museum will be featured in an upcoming "Museum Milestones" column, so stay tuned.

Another very useful Eastern Ontario resource you should be aware of is the *Thousand Islands Life Magazine*. This monthly online publication features amazing photographs and articles about the Thousand Islands, and stories come from both sides of the border. Edi-

tor Susan Smith and her faithful group of volunteers produce a wonderful free source of information every month.

For those interested in the events of the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion in the Western District (now Essex and Lambton Counties and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent): two relevant publications have recently been issued. The Essex County Historical Society has published Sandy Antal's *The Patriot War of 1838*. Contact Windsor's Community Museum for more information about this booklet. Shaun J. McLaughlan's *The Patriot War Along the Michigan-Canada Border* is a more substantial work on this topic,

published by The History Press: [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net). Finally, Georgian College in Barrie has recently started to offer a one-year, three-semester Museum and Gallery Studies certificate program. Contact co-ordinator Gary Evans at [gary.evans@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:gary.evans@georgiancollege.ca) for information about this new PD opportunity.

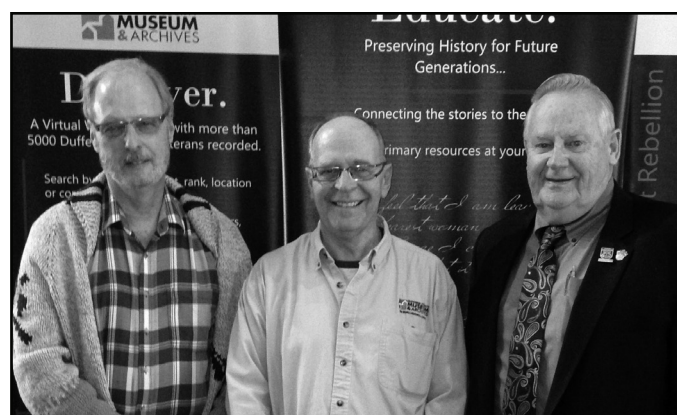


Photo Nanci Malek DCMA

The OHS attended and brought greetings at the Dufferin County Museum and Archives (DCMA) 25th anniversary celebration. Pictured (from left) is OHS board member Dr. John Carter with DCMA curator Wayne Townsend and DCMA board chair John Oosterhof.

published by The History Press: [www.historypress.net](http://www.historypress.net).

Finally, Georgian College in Barrie has recently started to offer a one-year, three-semester Museum and Gallery Studies certificate program. Contact co-ordinator Gary Evans at [gary.evans@georgiancollege.ca](mailto:gary.evans@georgiancollege.ca) for information about this new PD opportunity.

## Scottish "Kist" is Still Travelling

Museum exhibit available for loan

## Mike Baker

Curator, Elgin County Museum  
[mbaker@elgin-county.on.ca](mailto:mbaker@elgin-county.on.ca)

The Elgin County Museum recently hosted *The Emigrant's Kist*, a touring exhibition from the National Museum of Scotland, which provides an overview of the "Scottish Diaspora" that saw thousands of Scots emigrate in the 18th and 19th centuries to new homes all over the world. Its centrepiece was a kist, an example of the large wooden trunk into which went all those possessions deemed essential to starting a new life overseas. Examples of typical utensils such as bone forks and spoons, keepsakes such as jewellery and pictures, and the all-important Gaelic Bible were included in the show. One of the more interesting features of the exhibit is a series of floor-mounted interpretive panels listing the hundreds of communities founded by Scots all around the world. Several Elgin County communities appeared on the panels as the earliest immigration to Elgin was composed of Highland Scots, mainly from Argyllshire.

One of the main reasons for hosting the exhibition was the

opportunity it presented to connect with the current generation of descendants of the area's early Scottish settlers. While many of these families had donated artifacts dating from the settlement period, others still retained pieces brought to the County by their forebearers. Portraits of the first two generations were still hanging in many farmhouses in the Scottish districts and even a few Kists were offered on loan when we called around to various homes. The final installation included a large number of loans as well as permanent collection pieces related to the early families. The news coverage exhibit marketed and highlighted the connections the museum made with the descendants of the Scottish settlers. The museum obtained several of the loaned artifacts as donations to the permanent collection following the close of the show.

Hosting the kist proved a great opportunity to develop new programming to reach segments of the community that might not otherwise visit the museum. A group of Scottish Country dancers performed at the opening with live accompaniment. The Settlement



Photo Elgin County Museum

The centrepiece for *The Emigrant's Kist* touring exhibit – pictured here on display at the Elgin County Museum – is a kist, a large wooden trunk into which went all possessions deemed essential to starting a new life overseas for Scottish emigrants.

Studies section of our curriculum-based school program was greatly enhanced by the presence of new and different artifacts from the settlement period. Finally, the Local Knox Presbyterian Church loaned a series of tartan banners used each year in their Kirkin' of the Tartan Ceremony honouring the early families that founded the church and whose descendants were still among the members. The museum and the church were able to cross-promote the event and the exhibit to the two memberships.

In 2010, at the end of its tour, the National Museum of Scotland began to look for a home in Ontario for the exhibition. With the help of then Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Museum Advisor John Carter, the Elgin County Museum was selected. The museum continues to lend the show to other com-

munity museums, most recently to The Museum on the Boyne in 2011. It packs nicely into two 4' x 4' x 6' crates on wheels that fit comfortably in a regular cargo van. There is no associated fee; museums need to assume only the cost of transporting the exhibition to and from St. Thomas, Ontario. Interested museums are encouraged to contact Elgin County Museum curator Mike Baker at 519.631.1460 ext. 159.

## Auld Lang Syne:

Remembering the Scottish Heritage of Windsor and Essex

an exhibit at the Windsor Community Museum  
On until August 30, 2014

[windsorcommunitymuseum.com](http://windsorcommunitymuseum.com)

## "Access" from page 1

Coordinator. "There is so much to see and do here. In addition to our Sunday and holiday Monday programming, we offer a wide range of special events throughout the year."

"We want Westfield to be accessible to everyone," adds Hunter.

Dustin Galer, a graduate student studying disability issues within the context of Canadian labour history, is one of Westfield's many active volunteers.

"I believe it is important to share the history of people with disabilities in addition to dealing with the

practical aspects of increasing accessibility to heritage sites," says Galer. "What I did not expect was the level of interest and engagement by the staff at Westfield who responded enthusiastically to my ideas about increasing the site's accessibility and improving the programming to reflect Ontario's histories of disability," he added.

Over the past year, an accessibility committee has been reviewing Westfield's facilities and programs to find new ways to ensure they can be enjoyed by all. In addition to reducing physical barriers, the committee is working to provide alternative interpretive formats,

including large print, multiple language and audio guides.

One of Westfield's challenges is that it is situated in a rural area between Kitchener and Hamilton and, until recently, access was restricted to private automobiles and charter bus services. The committee submitted a carefully prepared proposal to Coach Canada in the hope of convincing them to slightly divert their route to include service to Westfield during regular operating hours, and the company responded positively.

The program is currently undergoing a start-up phase, and will be fully operational in the spring

of 2014, providing transportation to and from Westfield along the Hamilton-Kitchener route during times when Westfield is open to the public. While the committee couched its proposal in the language of business, the ultimate goal was increased access for all people regardless of ability. This should be a win-win result for both Coach Canada and patrons who wish to visit Westfield, and this work could serve as an example to other sites located in rural areas.

For further information about Westfield Heritage Village: call 1.800.883.0104 or visit [www.conservationhamilton.ca](http://www.conservationhamilton.ca).

# Brown Family Monument Dedicated

Historic Ontario village of Port Ryerse pays tribute to its African-Canadian roots



Photo Rob Leverty

Descendants of the Brown family and members of the Port Ryerse community gathered to dedicate The Brown Family Monument in memory of the contributions of these early African-Canadian settlers. Rob Leverty, OHS Executive Director, delivered a keynote address and spoke in support of Ontario's black history, and the preservation and commemoration of its burial grounds.

## Janie Cooper-Wilson

SilverShoe Historical Society  
janiecooperwilson@yahoo.ca

Direct descendants, dignitaries and friends gathered together in a small Norfolk County village this past spring in order to pay tribute to the contributions made by its African-Canadian settlers. Individuals travelled from all over Ontario and the border states to attend a memorial dedication at Port Ryerse's United Empire Loyalist (U.E.L.) Anglican Memorial Church (built in 1869) on Sunday, April 7, 2013. The Brown Family Monument – an impressive stone fixture, beautiful in its simplicity – is nestled among the tombstones of the community's earliest U.E.L. settlers and War of 1812 soldiers.

The church bell rang out from the newly renovated bell tower, signalling the assembly to retire to the historic U.E.L. churchyard for the unveiling ceremony, which featured performances by direct Brown family descendants Grace Brown and Georgina Cole. Tears of joy were shed in a touching moment when Rev. Bouwmeester blessed the monument and the spirits of those early African-Canadian settlers who had lain in unmarked graves for so many generations and who were now finally acknowledged by the community they so dearly loved.

Guest speakers included OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty, Norfolk County representative Councillor John Wells, Historian Janie Cooper-Wilson, and organizers Jack Addison and Ross Cole.

The quaint historic village of Port Ryerse is located west of Port Dover and sits high on a hill overlooking the north shore of Lake Erie. It is a small community imbued with history dating back to the early beginning of our illustrious province. Village founding father Loyalist Samuel Ryerse (1752-1812) arrived in 1795 at the mouth of Young's Creek in Woodhouse Township.

The Ryerse family had originally lived on a farm located in the heart of Manhattan, New York, on land later occupied by the World Trade Center.

Samuel's brother, Joseph Ryerson (1761-1854), followed in

1798. Historians will be familiar with Joseph's youngest son, the Rev. Adolphus Egerton Ryerson, acknowledged founder of Ontario's public school system and for whom Ryerson University is named.

Together, Samuel and Joseph established a thriving and vibrant port community. Unfortunately, all that was built was soon lost; the village was razed by the Americans during the War of 1812. Yet, like the phoenix of ancient mythology, the community rose from smouldering ashes and later played a role in the Upper Canadian Rebellion of 1837-38.

The story of the prominent and influential Ryerse/Ryerson family is intertwined with that of the Brown family, which has traced its roots back to the United States in the early 1850s, following ratification of the Fugitive Slave Act. Colonel Samuel Ryerse's youngest son, Major Edward Powers Ryerse (1800-1882), was destined to become the emancipator of the Brown family patriarch, Charles Brown.

Charles Brown was conveyed to Niagara-on-the Lake, Upper Canada, as a slave fighter to be pitted against all challengers. The slave's exceptional physical prowess and skill provided his American masters with an opportunity for lucrative financial gain. As fate would have it, Edward Powers Ryerse happened to be in attendance to witness one such bloody spectacle.

Fully cognizant of Upper Canada's laws, Ryerse shared the abolitionist mindset of family friend Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe. Simcoe's edict of 1793 had made illegal any further importation of slaves into Canada. As such, Ryerse took it upon himself to inform Brown that, henceforth, he was legally a free man. Brown travelled back to Port Ryerse under Major Ryerse's protection and was given employment as a caulker at the Port Ryerse docks, where he implemented his superior skills as a pugilist to serve the best interests of his benefactor and his new community by keeping order among raucous dock workers and ships' crews.

Although many aspects of Charles Brown's life remain elusive, extensive research conducted

# Rare 1881 Canadian Atlas For Sale

Peterborough Historical Society fundraiser made possible through generous donation

Thanks to a generous donation from one of its members, the Peterborough Historical Society (PHS) has come into possession of a very good copy of the 1881 *First Edition of the Illustrated Atlas of the County of Victoria* bound with the *Illustrated Atlas of the Dominion of Canada*, with authentic and complete maps of all the provinces, the Northwest Territories and the Island of Newfoundland. Also included are maps of Europe, Asia, North and South America, and the United States. There are 103 full- and double-page colour maps, and a few more in black and white.

PHS is now offering this attractive antiquarian atlas for sale with proceeds going toward the work of the non-profit organization.

The atlas was published by H. Belden & Company of Toronto, and engraved and lithographed by Rolph, Smith & Company. It contains several hundred cameo portraits of national figures such as Sir John A. Macdonald, and lo-

cally prominent people, as well as views of country properties, town layouts and street plans.

The book was prepared under the direction of author D. MacDonald. The large folio (46cm x 38cm) is in black, half morocco over complementary pebbled cloth, with gilt titles on the front cover and spine. Some minor repairs to the binding including the spine have been skillfully and attractively done.

The sale of this rare atlas is being handled through Trillium Antiquarian Books of Peterborough. Full details are outlined on their website [trilliumbooks.ca](http://trilliumbooks.ca) (enter "Macdonald" in search bar).

The Peterborough Historical Society, established in 1897, incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 1977. It owns and operates the Hutchinson House Living History Museum. Built in 1837 and once home to Sir Sanford Fleming, it is one of the oldest limestone houses in Peterborough.

## Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society Plants Roots During Busy Inaugural Year

Northern Ontario-based organization establishes strong online presence

A new historical society established in a small northwestern Ontario community is producing results that can be described as anything but small!

The Silver Mountain and Area Historical Society (SMHS) was formed in October 2012 and incorporated through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society shortly thereafter.

"The SMHS has been making an impact by raising the awareness of local residents of the unique and storied history of our area. Many people were not even aware of the history right in their backyard and, if they were, it was often based on rumours and old stories. There

seems to be a genuine desire to see the history of the area preserved and promoted," commented SMHS Co-President Dave Battistel.

Its inaugural year has been an incredibly active one, in which the SMHS established a volunteer board of directors, created a new logo, and launched a new website [www.silvermountainhs.ca](http://www.silvermountainhs.ca), a new blog at [www.silvermountainhs.com](http://www.silvermountainhs.com), as well as a Facebook page and a Twitter feed (@SilverMtnHS).

SMHS also participated in the 15th Annual Thunder Bay Home and Garden Show, hosted a largely successful History Day event at its

'SMHS' cont'd page 8 ...

by local resident Jack Addison and Kitchener's Ross Cole has recently revealed several interesting facts. For example, when Brown became eligible for a government land grant, he built his homestead on the hill overlooking the present-day Church where he was subsequently interred. He was a contributor to the Memorial Church Building Fund in 1870 and to the salary of the church's minister in 1879. The sons and grandsons of Charles and Annie Brown were all industrious and skilled tradesmen who were committed to the betterment of their African-Canadian brethren

and fellow active Church members. Albert Brown was the last member of this highly respected African-Canadian family to reside in Port Ryerse; he died in 1971 in nearby Simcoe at the age of 92.

The memorial and gathering event proved a fitting testament to one African-Canadian family's personal journey – representative of the respect, dedication and commitment of this small community's efforts to preserve its collective history and to acknowledge the presence and contributions of its African-Canadian citizens.

## Cemetery News

**Marjorie Stuart, Editor**  
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

A proposed settlement has been reached in a class action lawsuit involving Orillia's Huronia Regional Centre. Originally known as the Hospital for the Feeble-Minded, or the Ontario Hospital School, it was in operation between 1876 and 2009. The public has been made aware of the total disrespect for the former residents of the facility and the heartache of their families. The death records indicate 4,246 former residents died between 1876 and 1971; an estimated 2,000 people were interred on the grounds, 1,400 of which in unmarked or numbered graves. The cemetery, which was managed by the Ontario government, has been poorly maintained and at one point many markers were removed and later placed in a memorial. The burial register was also badly managed. The Government has pledged to establish a death registry, but it is believed this will not be made public. Unfortunately most of what will be included in this registry will be based on the poorly kept records of the institution.

The **Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery** in Etobicoke, which was also administered by the Ontario government, was rescued by a small group headed by Ed Janiszewski about ten years ago in partnership with the Psychiatric Survivors Archives of Toronto. The property was completely overgrown and few knew this was the burial site of 1,511 people who

had been residents of the hospital between 1890 and 1974. The small group worked hard to clean up the cemetery and successfully petitioned the Ontario government to provide permanent upkeep. Today, it is extremely well maintained and descendants of those interred there now visit and take part in memorial events. The group worked to locate and restore the burial records and is now in regular contact with descendants.

Over the past couple of months we have received messages of concern for many Ontario cemeteries.

Coldwater Road in Orillia is due to be widened. There are four marked graves located very close to the property line of the registered **St. Michael's Cemetery**, also known as **Church of the Guardian Angels Cemetery**.

In Uxbridge, the **Thomas Foster Mausoleum** is in need of \$1 million in repairs. Foster, former mayor of Toronto and Member of Parliament, built his Taj Mahal-inspired crypt and left \$80,000 for its upkeep. When he died in 1945, he was interred with his family. Since then, all of the money has been spent and the municipality can no longer afford the upkeep, much less the needed repairs. The copper-domed building's features include stained glass windows, gold lettering, bronze doors and beautiful mosaics. This is a registered cemetery.

Descendants of the Stephens Family of Newmarket are concerned that unmarked graves discovered outside of the fenced area of the registered cemetery

will be disturbed during possible widening of Bayview Avenue.

There are nine known registered cemeteries located within or adjacent to the proposed Pickering Airport. Descendants are concerned as to the fate of these burial grounds.

Descendants have attempted to find out what happened to the cremated remains of their family members interred in a small chapel at the former Camp Artaban, an Anglican Camp near Ancaster. The interment site was plaqued. The property was sold to the Hamilton Conservation Authority and the chapel was used for weddings for some time. Permission to visit the site of the chapel has been denied.

A detailed list of Unregistered Cemeteries for Grey, Haldimand and Haliburton Counties was recently submitted to the Ontario Registrar of Cemeteries. The OGS/OHS Cemetery Registration Committee was dismayed to learn that no cemeteries have been registered since January 2012.

The OGS/OHS Cemetery Registration Committee is looking for GPS information for Ontario cemeteries. We would be grateful if our readers took readings at the main gate of cemeteries and forwarded them to marjstuart@sympatico.ca.

There is some good news!

**Highland Creek Wesleyan Cemetery** in Scarborough has been sold to The Highland Creek Community Association. A recent visitor reported the cemetery was very well maintained.

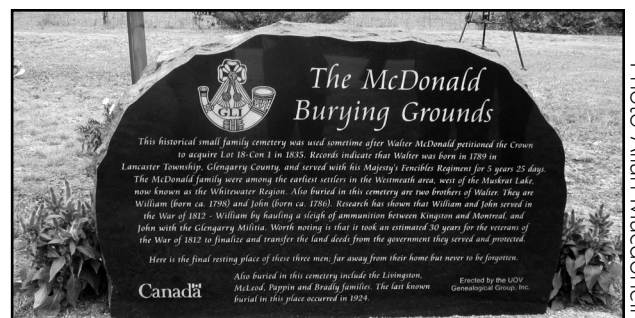


Photo Allan Macdonnell

The OHS recently attended the unveiling of a new monument that marks the long-forgotten burial place of three War of 1812 veterans. "Three Brothers, War of 1812 Veterans Buried in Forgotten Cemetery" was first reported in the Summer 2013 edition of the *OHS Bulletin*.

Congratulations to the new owner of property in the Havelock area. He has undertaken to maintain two unmarked burial grounds, **Ben's Burying Ground**, which is registered, and the unregistered **Munro Cemetery**.

Descendants of the Stormont County's Cameron family are making plans to restore the **Cameron Cemetery**. The family originally settled there in the late 1700s and many of the first and second generations were interred on the family property. This is a daunting task and the family needs a great deal of guidance to restore this 200-year-old registered cemetery.

A family in Bruce County alerted us to the story of Bimadashka. With the help of an OGS member and the Saugeen First Nation, her burial site was located near Sauble Beach. Bimadashka was a young Caucasian girl who was lost in the bush and found by a Chippewa hunting party. She was raised by the Chippewa and eventually became the wife of Metta Wanash, a hereditary chief of the Chippewa. Her long-forgotten burial site is overgrown and in need of maintenance.

## Youth Corner

### Undergraduate Student of History Investigates 19th Century Cornwall Burials

Project inspired by historic House of Refuge

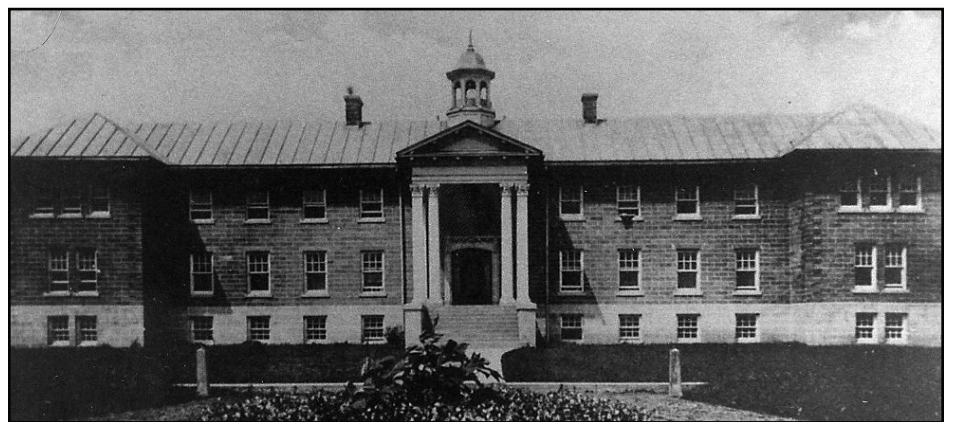
**Editor's Note:** The following article was authored by Sara Lauzon, a 23-year-old undergraduate student of history at the University of Ottawa. On weekends, as well as this past summer, she works at the Cornwall Community Museum in the Wood House. As a hobby, she likes to research and write about Cornwall's local history. Details of her endeavours (past and present) can be found at [www.saraloveshistory.com](http://www.saraloveshistory.com).

The historic building that currently houses Cornwall's Heartwood Nursing Home once served as the town's House of Industry and Refuge. Between 1913 and 1952, the facility housed the chronically ill and the homeless. I drop by Heartwood on a regular basis because it has been my mother's workplace for 23 years – my entire life. Thinking back, I can't help but smile at how

fascinated I was by the big old establishment – even from an early age. Little did I know this property would steal my heart away and leave me wanting to know more about its history.

In the summer of 2012 I worked for Heritage Cornwall, which has a mandate to preserve the integrity of the city's architectural history. Along with the specific research tasks I was assigned, I would also assist members of the public who visited the heritage archives. During my lunch break, I would often browse random books from the archive shelves. It was here that I found a photocopy of the original register of Cornwall's House of Refuge. I was immediately drawn to the register, and the people listed there, because of my lifelong connection to the building.

I spent many hours browsing the register of 906 names – some of the inscriptions share more details



Constructed in June 1913, Cornwall's historic House of Refuge celebrated its centennial this June, and was part of the inspiration for Sara Lauzon's research project. The building is not designated as a historic site.

about the inmates than others. I was saddened when an inmate's record simply had the word "died" beside their name along with a date.

Curious to know more about the building, aside from those who once called the House of Refuge "home," I pulled out Heritage Cornwall's file on the property. When I discovered that "the grounds were used to bury inmates," I was devastated. Having often visited the property, I knew there were no plaques or memorials dedicated to any of the people interred there. This, I decided, is where my journey will begin.

I soon learned that when the building was expanded in the late 1990s, graves were moved from the property to local cemeteries but, to date, I have found little information on these re-interments.

In October 2012, I began researching the inmates one by one and copied out every name by hand, adding additional information as it became available. Of the 906 inmates, I have researched 163 names, of which 44 were reported as buried on site.

One of my favourite quotes by T.S. Eliot is: "We don't actually fear death, we fear that no one will notice our absence, that we will disappear without a trace." My overall objective is to ensure that the inmates of Cornwall's House of Refuge will not slip off the pages of history, that they will not "disappear without a trace." Once I have finished researching, I hope to have a plaque placed on the property, listing the names of all those who were buried on site.

# From The Bookshelf

**Dr. Cynthia Comacchio**  
ccomac5702@rogers.com

This issue's offerings share a strong sense of the historic interactions of people and place, humans and the environment, whether natural or built. Any one of the works – or several – discussed briefly here would also make thoughtful gifts, in this gifting season, for Ontario history aficionados, or those who might well be encouraged along that rewarding path in the new year nearly upon us! Best wishes to all!

## TIME, PLACE AND SPACE: HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

Attributed to the inimitable William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest serving Prime Minister, the maxim that our country is blessed with an abundance of geography and not enough history is well-known, at least among historians [see French, below]. It stands to reason, then, that our historiography has been influenced by geographers since the earliest days of scholarly writing in Canada; more recently, interest in environmental history has brought their perspectives into historical study more than ever before, as the following books indicate.

### Wind, Water, Barley & Wine: The Nature of Prince Edward County

Orland French. Wallbridge House Publishing, 2013. Hardcover; 160 pp. \$40. wallbridgehouse.com

### From Meteorite Impact to Constellation City: A Historical Geography of Greater Sudbury

Oiva W. Saarinen. Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2013. Paper; 404 pp. \$40. wlupress.wlu.ca

### Willowdale: Yesterday's Farms, Today's Legacy

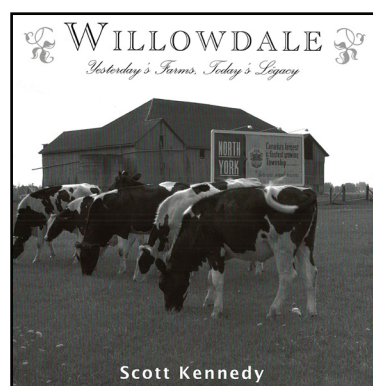
Scott Kennedy. Dundurn, 2013. Paper; 192 pp. \$30. dundurn.com

Meticulously researched and beautifully produced, the essence of *Wind, Water, Barley & Wine: The Nature of Prince Edward County* is effectively captured in its title. This work by veteran Ontario historian and journalist Orland French is informed by the interdisciplinary insights offered by geologists and geographers, notably Dr. Dugald Carmichael of Queen's University. In a compelling narrative, the author demonstrates how 'geology shapes our lives; "more precisely, where Prince Edward County

is concerned, how wind, water, barley and wine have shaped its historical development from its colonial origins to our own day." The 'nature' that he discusses is understood in its dual meaning, in terms of both the county's 'character' and its natural environment. In an introduction that reads as a loving tribute to what he deems "the Promised Land," renowned popular historian Peter C. Newman, a professed 'Prince Edward County groupie,' declares that Prince Edward County alone, among the province's 23 counties, can claim to be 'not merely a municipal appellation, but a way of life.' This book is wonderfully illustrated with over 250 maps, photographs and drawings that, together with an engaging chronicle tracing its natural and social history, makes for a delightful foray into the ways in which history and geography are entwined in the making of society and culture, both locally and nationally.

Oiva Saarinen, emeritus Professor of geography at Laurentian University, is an established scholar of Ontario's north. His second major monograph on the Sudbury region is a masterful consideration that spans some billions of years of history. The story commences, as his title indicates, with the "Sudbury event" that he describes as "a geological phenomenon of gigantic proportions involving... the collision of two worlds and a violent release of energy." From that point roughly 1.85 billion years ago, in 15 comprehensive chapters featuring highlights of the Greater Sudbury region's geographic and historical evolution, Saarinen capably takes us through First Nations history, 17th century European contact and colonization, early resource development, the coming of the railways and hence industrialization, helped along enormously by the American and European entrepreneurs who successfully – and ruthlessly – exploited its mineral wealth. By the time of its official founding in 1883, Sudbury was already on its way to becoming a company town, as the International Nickel Company [INCO] established its long-held monopoly. He does not neglect the "people" of this place, presenting the stories of the largely immigrant workforce, labour organization, and the rise of the Mine Mill Union, the most civically engaged of the city's social orga-

nizations, and one that looked out for its workers through the postwar affluence until the "bust" of the late 20th century. Saarinen's later chapters discuss the grim process of that deindustrialization. Chapter 14, "Healing the Landscape," brings readers back again to the relationship of human beings and the environment and particularly to the ways in which exploitation of the earth for immediate material gain has had deep and abiding consequences. Yet Saarinen's conclusion is far from dire, generally supporting optimistic contemporary projections about a regional economy poised, in the words of one economist, to "outperform the province" over the next decade.



Scott Kennedy's *Willowdale* reminds us that what is now seen experienced as a bustling urban neighbourhood integral to the Toronto experience was, not that long ago, a small, enclosed rural community centred on hard-working farm families. A Willowdale native, Kennedy affectionately recounts their stories, and those of such celebrity residents as Mazo de la Roche, the famous—and famously eccentric—author of the Whiteoaks of Jalna and its successors, about the travails of a fictitious wealthy family living on an estate called Jalna. Her own home, Windrush Hills, was located at Bayview and Steeles. As befitting the OHS's 125th anniversary, the closing chapter chronicles the history of John McKenzie House, the Society's beloved headquarters. Built in 1913 as part of a new subdivision on the McKenzie family's extensive farm acreage, the property was again slated for redevelopment in 1988, placed on the city's demolition list, left to deteriorate for five years, and then, in a last-minute reprieve, it was leased to OHS and carefully restored under the direction of former executive director Dorothy Duncan. In breezy chapters sketching the stories of main characters and their stakes in the community, well-illustrated in photographs, this is a clearly-written account of Willowdale's rural legacy that takes readers to its urban present.

## From a Horse-Drawn Hearse to Studebakers, Packards and Cadillacs: Dreisinger Funeral Vehicles

Marion Roes. 2013. Paper; 85 pp. mlroes@sympatico.ca

## Rails Across Ontario: Exploring Ontario's Railway Heritage

Rob Brown. Dundurn, 2013. Paper; 216 pp. \$30. dundurn.com

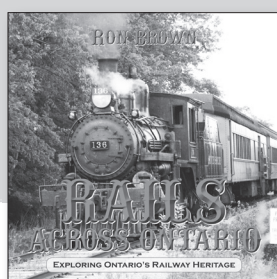
Long active in Waterloo Region historical associations and projects, Marion Roes has produced an engaging history that draws very much on her own family stories. The Dreisinger Funeral Home was established by her great-grandfather, Christian Dreisinger, in Elmira in 1905. Clearly enterprising as well as resourceful, he soon expanded his undertaking business into a sideline selling furniture. The dual enterprise was kept up by his grandchildren, divided into two locations only in 1977; the furniture store operated until 2006. Inspired by her love of local history and her fortuitous possession of the furniture and funeral records and photographs, the author has put together a fascinating illustrated account. Although she focuses on the vehicles, this is also the history of a family business and a glimpse into the culture and ritual of funeral practices that constitute an important – if much overlooked – part of our larger social history.

Both geographer and avid traveller, Ron Brown's exploration of Ontario's railway heritage is a thorough, carefully researched account of the coming of the Railway Age to the mid-nineteenth century colony that would become Ontario in 1867. From the first steam train, the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway (1853), the province's vast and disparate terrain was quickly conquered – or at least made 'passable' – by dedicated investment and quick construction of railway lines well into the twentieth century. Brown takes the concept of 'rail heritage' expansively, taking his story deeper than the construction of the network to con-

## 'Bookshelf' cont'd page 8 ...

**Editor's Note:** The prices of books may or may not include shipping or taxes. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

How do we select books to be reviewed? Our criteria are simple: we review all recently published books relating to the history of this province that are sent to us by publishers, authors, and readers. To submit a book to be reviewed, forward a copy to: "From the Bookshelf," 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2.

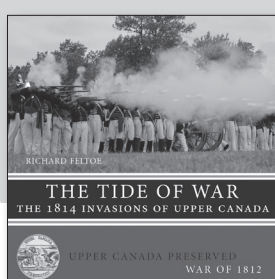


### RAILS ACROSS ONTARIO Exploring Ontario's Railway Heritage

by Ron Brown  
216 pages | \$29.99 TP | includes 60 b&w illustrations

For the first time, train buffs and history lovers have a book that explores the heritage of Ontario's

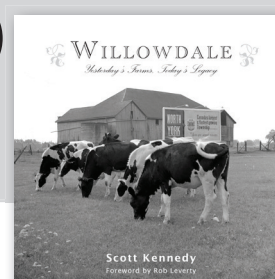
railways, from its oldest stations to its highest bridges, glamorous hotels (and some not-so-glamorous ones), scenic and historic train rides, rail trails, and sagging old ghost towns.



### THE TIDE OF WAR The 1814 Invasions of Upper Canada

by Richard Feltoe  
160 pages | \$19.99 TP | includes 42 b&w illustrations, 20 maps, sidebars, notes & index

By early 1814, a new threat was looming across the Niagara River, as a vastly improved American army prepared for a new invasion attempt. *The Tide of War* recounts the first six months of the calamitous and crucial year's campaigning on the "Northern frontier" and the fight to control Upper Canada.



### WILLOWDALE Yesterday's Farms, Today's Legacy

by Scott Kennedy  
192 pages | \$30 TP | includes 65 b&w illustrations, 2 maps, bibliography & index

In 1855, Willowdale post office opened in Jacob Cummer's store on Yonge Street. Today it is a bustling

urban environment. Scott Kennedy recounts the notable stories of what happened in between and who was there as Willowdale evolved into a modern community.

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sider such significant related topics as the building of the bridges, stations and hotels, roundhouses, water towers and coal chutes, as well as the lives of the 'railway men,' which as he notes, is also very much the story of their wives and families. Narrowing the 'heritage' definition to its understanding as commemoration, he also discusses the railway museums, the 'living heritage' of tourist trains and rail trips, the conversion of abandoned rail lines into heritage walking trails, and even the railway murals. This is an entertaining and lively book for historians and rail enthusiasts of all stripes.

## 'SMHS' from page 6

headquarters, the historic Silver Mountain Station, and presented at the Northshore Historic Assembly (a bi-annual gathering of all the historical societies from Thunder Bay to Duluth, Minnesota).

SMHS is a non-profit organization committed to preserving the history of the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway (PAD&W), and the Silver Mountain Station and surrounding areas. Its mandate includes the promotion of the railway, as well as the preservation of



This circa 1910 photograph of the Silver Mountain Station shows the station at a time when it was a stop along the Canadian North Railway-North Lake Branch and Dorothea Mitchell was the stationmistress. Today it is the last remaining station on the PAD&W line.

# 80 for 80: Celebrating Eighty Years of the ACO

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) is celebrating its 80th anniversary with the publication of *80 for 80: Celebrating Eighty Years of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario*. The illustrated book documents eighty among the hundreds of buildings and structures across Ontario that ACO has had a hand in saving since it first rescued the Barnum House in 1933.

The book is a fascinating compendium of heritage architecture and history, which range from

modest pre-Confederation homes to an endangered mid-Century modern chapel. It includes residential buildings, bridges, cultural heritage landscapes, a commercial block and a heritage cemetery.

Volunteers have no pockets – only passion and deep caring for the community they love. There is little public funding available for heritage protection, and volunteers

## 'Report' from page 2

their outstanding scholarly work.

In 2011, the Government of Ontario requested that the OHS and the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) identify the exact locations of approximately 1,500 unregistered cemeteries in Ontario in order for the Province to register them. In 2012, we submitted lists of cemeteries that have not been officially registered in the Districts and Counties of Algoma, Brant, Bruce, Carleton, Cochrane, Dundas and Durham.

I am happy to report that in 2013 the two societies officially submitted to the Ontario Government lists of unregistered cemeteries in the Counties of Elgin, Essex, Frontenac, Glengarry and Haldimand. Thanks to all the OHS and OGS volunteers who are working tirelessly on this challenging historic initiative. It is in the public interest that all cemeteries be registered to ensure that they enjoy the same legal status and will be treated equally. In the coming year, OHS and OGS will continue to honour their public commitments on this important principle and are determined to complete this project as soon as possible.

I strongly believe that in order to survive, the Society must continue to prudently innovate and modernize in this rapidly changing digital age. This is why last March we launched a new project, Strengthening Ontario's

Heritage Network, to enable the Society to develop and build new ways to deliver our programs and services.

For example, because of increased workloads, higher travel costs and a lack of human resources, the Society simply could not offer the number of workshops it used to conduct in communities. That is why we

**DUNDURN Welcomes Book Proposals**  
on historical topics from OHS members.  
Visit [dundurn.com](http://dundurn.com) for submission

have stepped up to shape their communities. These volunteers have dedicated countless hours of their time to initiatives to save buildings that are as unique as the buildings themselves. Their stories are also featured in *80 for 80*.

The book is full colour, perfect-bound and contains 174 pages. It can be ordered for \$30 at [www.arconserv.ca](http://www.arconserv.ca).

launched in September a series of webinars for members and the general public. This year we delivered three webinars on the topics of online promotion of built heritage, museums and historical organizations using social media, and teaching history for museum and classroom educators. Thank you to Building Stories, The Historical Thinking Project, and Kim Pittaway for their expertise!

As a result of these webinars, the Society has added hundreds of new contacts to its mailing list, and added new educational resources and attracted new audiences to its website and social media pages.

As part of our digital transformation, OHS reached another milestone this year by launching an electronic index of all the articles and book reviews that the Society has published in *Ontario History* since 1899. This index provides instant, universal access to a treasure of diverse scholarship on Ontario's past and is available at [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index).

I am thrilled that our initiative to complete a heritage conservation easement to protect the John McKenzie House, milk house, stable, coach house, and surrounding lands (park and community gardens) in perpetuity was finalized this year. As the former Restoration Manager (1993-1998) and as someone who asked our members to trust us by donating their money, expertise and time to help restore and maintain these buildings, I now believe that OHS has done whatever is legally possible to protect these valuable heritage assets from inappropriate development and destructive interests.

The strength and credibility of the OHS rests on earning the support and enthusiasm of our members, subscribers, donors, volunteers and partners. Together, we move forward, continuing to build a more diverse and effective community-based movement for Ontario's history.

It remains a great honour and indeed an incredible privilege to work on your behalf. Good health and my warmest regards to all of you in 2014!

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of The Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

Spring 2014 issue copy deadline: February 7th, 2014.

Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from the *OHS Bulletin*, (issue & date) published by The Ontario Historical Society." All photo credits and bylines must be retained.

Views expressed by contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the OHS. The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Types of membership in the Society are: Individual \$40; Youth \$20; Senior \$35; Institution/Organization \$45; Life \$500.

Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS's biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$22 per year; member organizations,

institutions and non-member individuals for \$31.50; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$42. Membership inquiries should be directed to Christina Perfetto at [members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

Inquiries about submissions and advertising: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, [izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

*Cemetery News* Editor: Marjorie Stuart; *From the Bookshelf* Editor: Dr. Cynthia Comacchio; Printer: Harmony Printing **ISSN 0714-6736**

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