

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 191

APRIL 2014

OHS Dons Hard Hat, Seeks Donations to Re-Roof the John McKenzie House

The Ontario Historical Society needs your help to replace the roof at the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale.

In the November issue of the *OHS Bulletin*, we published a special double issue commemorating the 100th anniversary of the John McKenzie House and Site, and readers read about the challenges faced and the obstacles overcome when we made the historic site our headquarters in 1993.

At that time, the OHS worked with the residents of Willowdale and with people across Ontario to stop the demolition of the historic buildings. The community's response was tremendous, and the OHS raised \$485,000 to restore the site to its former grandeur.

Donations poured in from more than 1,000 individuals, organizations and corporations.

The community took great pride in providing financial support to restore the John McKenzie House and site – and today we are asking for your support once again for this vital initiative to install a new roof.

Please donate by visiting ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/jm-house and selecting the "Donate Now" button; by mailing a cheque payable to the John McKenzie House Roof Fund to: The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2; or by calling toll-free 1.866.955.2755. All donations will receive a charitable tax receipt.

"Up Close and Personal" with Canadian Historian Donald Smith

Professor Emeritus and Author Visits
Historic Campground Site in Willowdale

Andrea Izzo

izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

With snow banks piled high and a prominent morning sun reflecting brightly in the snow, our footsteps crunched through North York's wooded East Don Parkland as we searched for a human story and a historical sense of place.

Located three kilometres east of Yonge Street and steps away from Cummer Avenue (named after Jacob Cummer, well-remembered for settling the Willowdale area in the late eighteenth century) is the site of a not-so-well remembered episode in Canadian history that saw a fascinating interchange of cultures.

On a cold but sunny February afternoon, the OHS had the pleasure of meeting with Canadian history author and professor emeritus of history with the University of Calgary, Donald B. Smith. His recently published *Mississauga Portraits: Ojibwe Voices from Nineteenth-Century Canada* includes a reference to a spot he had never before visited. Rob and I accompanied Smith there as he eagerly trekked into the wooded area, seemingly unaware of the cold wind that forced my hands into my pockets and my chin into my scarf.

Smith wanted to catch a glimpse of the exact location of a June 1828 "marathon" Methodist campground meeting. Several hundred Anishinaabeg [Ojibwe] travelled from across southern Ontario to hear future Chief of the Mississaugas of the Credit, Peter Jones, or Kahkewaquonaby (1802-

1856), speak. They were joined by several hundred non-Aboriginal settlers.

Jones was an important Mississauga missionary and chief who fought to strike a peaceful partnership between his people and newcomers to Upper Canada. Soon after adopting the Methodist faith, Jones sought to act as a bridge between cultures. In his missionary work he travelled to First Nations communities across southern Ontario – from along the Thames to the St. Lawrence River, from the north shore of Lake Ontario



Photo: Andrea Izzo

In February, the OHS accompanied Canadian historian and author Donald Smith (left) on a site visit in North York to research an early nineteenth century campground meeting that occurred between the Rev. Peter Jones, a Methodist Anishinabe missionary and several hundred Anishinaabeg people from across southern Ontario. Pictured with Dr. Smith is OHS executive director Rob Levery. Donald Smith has also been a long-time member of OHS and subscriber to *Ontario History* for over forty years.

Mark Your Calendars!

126th Annual General Meeting
and Awards Ceremony
of The Ontario Historical Society

in partnership with
O'Connor House

Saturday, June 14, 2014

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Historic O'Connor House
50 Rowena Drive, North York



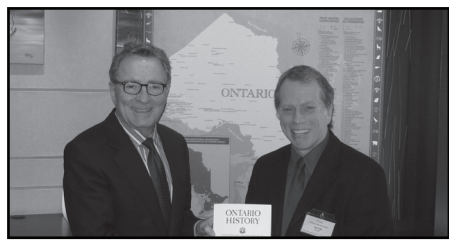
O'Connor House

Featuring guest speaker Tony Wagner, Chair, O'Connor House:
**"The Inside Story: The struggle to preserve and
restore the historic O'Connor House"**

free parking available | includes tour and light refreshments
RSVP by June 2nd: ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca or 416.226.9011
visit www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/agm and www.oconnorhouse.ca

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President's Report

Dr. Brad Rudachyk, President
 president@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

As I write this, we are in the midst of Black History Month and about to mark Heritage Family Day. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the event hosted at John McKenzie House in honour of our members, donors, volunteers and friends.

While looking at this year's invitation, I began to wonder what The Ontario Historical Society would look like without our members, donors, volunteers and friends.

Frankly, it would not look like anything. The Society simply could not continue to exist. What a terrific loss.

Currently, the OHS has a membership of more than 350 not-for-profit historical corporations – all of which received their incorporation through affiliation with us. We continue to grow at a record

pace. Last year, we incorporated twelve new organizations; thus far in 2014, we've added an additional three. Moreover, the Society has a membership of a further 557 historical organizations, museums and academic institutions, not including individuals.

All of our members, right across the province and beyond, are supported by our outstanding, resourceful and dedicated staff of Rob, Christina, Andrea, Heather and Alison. Neither could we do what we do without them. Thank you.

Supporting them are our volunteers. We began recording our annual volunteer hours back in 2010. That year, they totalled 8,460. This rose to 8,563 the next year and shot up to 9,100 hours in 2012. This past year, they came in at 8,900.

That's a total of more than 35,000 hours in just four years.

Calculating a person year at 35

hours per week for 50 weeks, each year totals 20 person years of volunteer support. Put another way, if we were to calculate the dollar value at its most modest level – that of Ontario's minimum wage in those years (\$10.25) – those 35,000 hours would be worth \$358,750! Of course, this grossly underestimates the real value, as a good number of those hours were donated by top-notch professionals.

Be that as it may, each of those volunteer hours is priceless in carrying out the broad mandate of your Society from the people who help with rentals, to those who make *Ontario History* the envy of provincial historical societies right across the country, and to our entirely volunteer board of directors.

To all of our volunteers, members, donors and friends: thank you for your continuing interest in and support of the OHS. We do it for you, and could not possibly do so without you.

As we move into our next 125 years, let's take a moment to reflect of what has been accomplished and what yet remains to be done.

Tribute to Robert "Bob" Crawford

1948-2013

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
 rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Canada has lost a dedicated champion of family history and cemetery preservation. OHS was saddened by the sudden, unexpected death of Robert "Bob" Crawford late last year.

Bob was a long-time member, donor and close friend of the OHS. Since 2004, he served with distinction on the board of directors of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS), including as president, past president and secretary. Bob was also past president of the Halton-Peel Branch of the OGS.

It was in those capacities that I had the great pleasure of working closely with Bob for nine years in the struggle to prevent the relocation of our historic cemeteries for private interests. He had a deep understanding of the constant challenges and threats to Ontario's cemeteries. Bob was generous with his time and wisdom. Always a gracious mentor, OHS will remember Bob for his incredible integrity, quiet passion and warm smile. He was a giant man with a giant heart.

By 2004, both OGS and OHS could no longer afford to hire lawyers for our cemetery battles, so Bob and I acted as agents for our respective organizations.

Together, we prepared our legal cases for the public interest, coached our witnesses, introduced evidence, conducted cross-examinations and gave final arguments at tribunal hearings. We worked as a tag team, sometimes playing in rotation 'good cop, bad cop,' for a united voice in the defense of our historic cemeteries.

Since 2010, we also worked together on behalf of OHS and OGS to register the over 1,500 unreg-

istered cemeteries across the province so that all cemeteries in Ontario are treated equally and have the same legal rights. This legacy project is unfinished. There is still much work to be done. Bob and I never for once doubted that there existed tremendous obstacles and resistance to this initiative – Bob, the work goes on and the cause endures. We are now more determined than ever to successfully complete this historic project.

Just as OHS and OGS are sister organizations, Bob and I were like brothers. I remain deeply saddened by his departure, leaving us far, far too soon.

Bob Crawford dedicated his life to making Ontario a more decent



The late Bob Crawford (right), in June 2006, then President, Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) and Agent, representing OGS with Rob Leverty (left), Agent, representing the OHS and Jesse Kugler, then Student-at-Law, Queen's University, Kingston, pictured at the Licence Appeal Tribunal in Toronto after arguing the legal case against the Province of Ontario's Motion to deny the right of OHS/OGS to an appeal hearing of the Registrar's (Cemeteries Act) order to relocate St. Alban's Anglican Church Cemetery for private real estate development. The Tribunal ruled decisively against the Province, upholding the legal right of both societies to a public hearing on the public interest.

and civilized society for all of us. OHS sends its condolences and best wishes to his family and our friends at the OGS.

"Rebellion Remembrances": an 1837 Rebellion Workshop
 Presented by The Ontario Historical Society and The Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Historical Society present:

Featuring speakers: John Carter, Chris Raible,
 Dorothy Duncan, Darryl Withrow

Saturday May 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tec-We-Gwill Women's Institute Hall, 4380 10th Line, Bradford
 \$35.00 per person, includes hot lunch, coffee and snacks

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
 416.226.9011 or ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SINCE DECEMBER 2013

Heidi Bohaker
 Terri Bonna
 Nicole Brousseau
 Charlie Carman
 Paul Carroll
 Jill Colyer
 Kayla Jonas Galvin
 Art Harvey
 Heritage Grey Highlands
 Tony Hine
 Audrey Karlos
 Scott Kennedy
 Renee Lehn
 Astoria Luzzi
 Greg Marlatt
 Bob Martindale
 Marjorie McLeod
 Barbara McPhail
 James Rohrer
 Patricia Russell
 St. Andrew's Cemetery
 Richard Unterman
 Edwin Wand
 Tyler Wentzell
 Donna Williams

THANK YOU DONORS!

*N.B. list does not include
 125th Anniversary Fund donors*

Fred Armstrong
 Isobel Bolitho
 R.T.A. Bolitho
 Heather Broadbent
 Dennis Brodie
 Arthur Bullen
 Steven & Diane Clendenan
 June Dafoe
 The Estate of Ruth E. Day
 Sidney Down
 Dorothy Duncan
 Naresh Khosla
 Rob Leverty, in memory
 of Dennis Pollock and
 Bob Crawford
 Richard Lucas
 Sharon O'Shea
 Flora Ann Paterson
 Marjorie Stuart
 V.N. Styrm
 Roger Thomas

Across the Province

The New Year was ushered in with many celebrations in Ontario communities, including Hogmanay with traditional Scottish food, beverages and music at Willowdale's Gibson House Museum, Toronto's Mackenzie House, and Peterborough's Hutchison House Museum. The St. Andrew's Society of Toronto, the Kingston Historical Society and the History Committee of the Orillia Museum hosted tributes to Sir John A. Macdonald, while the Beaverton, Thorah, Eldon Historical Society and Mackenzie House remembered Robbie Burns with good food and fine Scottish poetry and music.

Congratulations to the many organizations, institutions and businesses celebrating anniversaries, including: Martin's Flowers, West Toronto Junction's oldest business, which has served the area for 115 years; the Mississauga South Historical Society (formerly the South Peel Historical Society) celebrates 50 years; the Seventh Town Historical Society, 45 years; Toronto's First Post Office (TFPO), 30 years; and Tyrconnell Heritage Society, 20 years. TFPO, like many other heritage projects, was made possible by the dedication of volunteers. In the case of TFPO, Judy and Sheldon Godfrey and a small group of public-spirited, historically-minded citizens incorporated as the Town of York Historical Society through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society.

Lt. Col. John McCrae, author of "In Flanders Fields" will be recognized in both Guelph and Ottawa with statues created by Ruth Abernethy to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the time-honoured poem. The Guelph statue will be unveiled in front of the Guelph Civic Museum in June 2015 and the Ottawa unveiling will be May 3rd, 2015, complete with a parade, a 100-soldier honour guard and a 21-gun salute. For more information, contact: inquiries@guelphhistoricalsociety.ca.

Readers will recall that in our last issue, we reported on the passing of the late Bruce Krug of Chesley. As 2013 drew to a close, details of his estate confirmed a long list of bequests exceeding \$3 million, which largely benefited countless Bruce county organizations. Among others, the beneficiaries included the County of Bruce Museum and Archives, the Bruce County Historical Society, the Bruce County Genealogical Society, the Tom Thompson Memorial Art Gallery and the Bruce Trail Conservancy. Mister Krug's generosity corresponded with his broad interests and long established concerns.

Do you have memories or stories about the Romani people camping near Mimico Creek in the Islington area of Etobicoke? If you do, please contact Denise Harris, who is preparing a walking tour of the area: 416.621.6006.

Fans of *Murdoch Mysteries* may have recognized the South Simcoe Railway Heritage Corporation at work in the episode "Midnight

Train to Kingston" that aired on CBC in December. In addition to their work in television and other special requests, the hardworking volunteers run several "special trains" throughout the year: 905.936.5815.

Make note! Heritage Canada Foundation has adopted a new name: Heritage Canada The National Trust. Last fall, OHS attended the national organization's conference, and continues to sit on its National Council of Provincial and Territorial Heritage Organization.

The Cobourg and District Historical Society honoured the memory of Cath Oberholtzer, author of *Dream Catchers: Legend, Lore and Artifacts*, by creating an award to be given to a graduating student from each of Cobourg's high schools. Congratulations to three exceptional students: Holly Hoffman Glover, CDCI West; Dina Tourlas, CDCI East; and Kian Sabzevari, St. Mary's Catholic High School.

Congratulations also to Bernice Cunningham for winning the Lifetime Achievement Award from Heritage Mississauga for her dedication to the betterment of the Town of Streetsville over the past 25 years.

There have been many new books launched recently including: *Celebrating 75 Years of Burlington* by Craig Richie: 905.637.6400; *Point Anne: History of a Cement Factory Village* by Vern Whalen: 613.962.1110; and *We Worship the Lord in Simcoe County Churches* by Eileen Murdoch: www.barriehistorical.com.

The Chatham-Kent Public Library has recently digitized a collection of over 75 Chatham, Wallaceburg and Kent County city directories dating back to the 1870s. These directories are great resources for genealogists and historians, and can be accessed at <http://vitacollections.ca/ckpl/search>.

As spring approaches, Ontario's historical societies and heritage organizations are presenting a variety of programmes, exhibits and events. Here is a sample:

Until September 30: Exhibit "The Art of War" hosted by the Niagara Historical Society and Museum: 905.468.3912.

May 5: "Rail to Hen and Chickens Harbour" with Rick Leswick, author and railway historian, hosted by the Collingwood and District Historical Society at the Leisure Time Club, Minnesota St., Collingwood at 7 p.m.: historicalspeakingcdhs.ca.

May 21: "The Deadly Hunt's Mills Fire of March 3, 1934" with Jim Fitzgerald hosted by London and Middlesex Historical Society at the Old Courthouse, 399 Ridout St. N., London at 7:30 p.m.: 226.663.6270.

April 30 and May 28: Progressive Euchre Nights at the Leslie Log House, hosted by Streetsville Historical Society: Register 905.826.7198.

See more events on the OHS's heritage events calendar online: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



Photo Jacob Israelson

The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS, hold up a copy of the March 1994 special issue of *Ontario History* entitled *Nineteenth-Century Wikwemikong: The Foundation of a Community and an Exploration of its Peoples*. The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is providing funding towards the reprinting of the publication for Manitoulin Island-based Wiikwe-aapkaak Gabiziwebak Society, which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in October 2012.

Incorporation Continues in 2014

At its February meeting, the OHS board of directors approved for incorporation three additional not-for-profit heritage organizations:

The Sharon Burying Ground Association aims to own, maintain, protect and restore a historic cemetery designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and promote the history of the Children of Peace through cooperative ventures with Sharon Temple NHS.

Essex Armoured Soldiers Museum brings together individuals interested in the history, vehicles and artifacts pertaining to the Essex Regiment (tank), the Windsor Regiment (RCAC), the Canadian Armoured Corps and the Royal Canadian Armored Corps throughout its history and service.

Canadian Lighthouses of Lake Superior is a newly founded umbrella organization headquartered in Thunder Bay. It is dedicated to preserving, restoring, maintaining and promoting fifteen historic lighthouses located along 800 km of the rugged north shoreline of the Lake Superior.

Through a provincial Act passed in 1899, the OHS has the authority to incorporate not-for-profit heritage organizations as separate legal entities in the Province of Ontario. Since 2009, the OHS has incorporated 61 such organizations province-wide.

Congratulations to these three groups who are dedicated to preserving and promoting Ontario's local history!

Learn more at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/incorporation.

John McKenzie House Survives 2013 Ice Storm!



Photo Rob Leverty

On December 21, 2013, Toronto was hit by a severe ice storm; that evening the historic John McKenzie House lost its electricity. On the following day, Willowdale looked akin to a war zone, with fallen trees and power lines blocking many of the neighbourhood streets. At the time, we did not know that the OHS's headquarters would be without hydro for another six days.

By Monday morning, the temperature in the house was rapidly dropping and it was decided in consultation with Copperhead Mechanical's master plumber Dino Orsini that we should shut off the main water valve into the house, open the taps and put plumbers

anti-freeze in all of the toilets and sinks.

At 7:30 a.m. the next day – still with no hydro – it was decided that we had no other option but to drain the boilers, the 27 historic radiators (pictured above) and all of the connecting pipes throughout the three-storey house. Dino immediately sent his best plumbers to complete the mission. Seen here after completing six hours of hard work in a very cold house are Copperhead Mechanical's Mike Klement (left) and Shane Conlon. Tremendous work, guys!

On December 28, as soon as hydro was restored, Dino sent a crew of plumbers and boiler mechanics to restart the hot water heating system at the John McKenzie House.

A potential nightmare of unthinkable damage – including burst pipes, radiators and flooding to our headquarters – was averted thanks to the services of skilled and talented individuals who also appreciate historic buildings. We are deeply grateful for the loyalty, outstanding work and incredible customer service of Dino and the crews from Copperhead Mechanical during this extended emergency.

History and Stories Bring Community Together in Remembrance

Volunteer committee commemorates most destructive storm in Great Lakes history

Kathy Pletsch, Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee
kpletsch@ezlink.ca

On November 9th, 2013, a group of people huddled together on the bluffs of Goderich, braving strong northwesterly winds blowing off Lake Huron. Though many families were represented, a single bond tied them all together. Exactly one hundred years ago to the day, the Great Lakes Storm of 1913 had claimed the lives of some of their ancestors. This gathering was just one of many that were planned and organized by the volunteer Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee (GLS 1913) to preserve and commemorate this important chapter in Ontario history.

This maritime disaster, often referred to as the White Hurricane, occurred in 1913 when, for three days, several storm systems collided over the Great Lakes, causing twelve ships to founder with all hands lost, dozens of other freighters destroyed or damaged significantly, and many smaller boats adversely affected. The deaths of over 250 mariners were recorded and dozens of bodies washed ashore along Lake Huron from north of Kincardine to Sarnia. Some were identified and carried home to be buried in their local communities, but many were respectfully laid to rest in nearby communities by individuals living along the Lake Huron shore. The majority of bodies were never recovered.

Over the past century, the Port of Goderich has remembered these sailors with an annual mariners' service. Recently, two local captains thought the anniversary of the Storm should be commemorated, and began planning a special event. This event grew and grew to include a series of weekly presentations throughout autumn 2013



The creative design of Keith Homan was brought to life by artisan blacksmith James Wallace. The monument represents a 1913-era laker in distress.

at the Huron County Museum and Historic Gaol, the placing of a wreath on the wreck of the *Wexford* seven miles off shore near Grand Bend, art exhibits, several theatre productions and a three-day weekend of events. The GLS 1913 Remembrance Committee met regularly, planning events that looked at our collective past while also focusing on the future of the Great Lakes' industry and tourism.

The historical component affected all parts of our remembrance planning. The souls lost during the Storm were always present in our thoughts, and we sought to locate living descendants of any of the

deceased. Letters were written to communities along Lakes Huron and Erie and Georgian Bay on both sides of the Canadian-American border. Soon, people who had read the letters or had found the website (www.1913storm.ca) or Facebook page were responding with enthusiasm.

People came forward to tell about their relatives at various meetings across Ontario and Michigan – it was not long before we had located almost 50 descendants, all of whom were eager to share stories of their grandfathers, great-grandfathers or granduncles. We marvelled at how they had kept their histories alive through storytelling and other artistic endeavours. We gathered their information, completed additional research and wrote an article about each ancestor, collating

them into a new book, *Dear Ella*.

A score of events were planned for the second weekend of November 2013, several of which were created specifically for the descendants. Also held was an unveiling of a new permanent monument to commemorate the centenary of the Great Lakes Storm, with special time set aside for the descendants to pay tribute to their ancestors. Reverend Allan Livingstone spoke eloquently as he blessed the event and afterwards we enjoyed a bus tour highlighting points of interest that pertained to the storm.

In the evening, a musical gathering brought the group back

together. We enjoyed an unforgettable evening of storytelling, an excellent photo presentation, and the original music and songs of committee chair Captain David MacAdam. The songs ranged from sea shanties to hauntingly beautiful melodies. Truly, we heard the "Echoes in the Wind."

The following day, a luncheon was hosted by the committee in the historic Park House (1830s), an ideal venue as it overlooks the harbour and would have been a welcoming spot for the sailors coming to port over 100 years ago. This was yet another opportunity for the descendants to share their stories. It was memorable to watch and listen as the descendants of the captain of the ship, James Carruthers, spent time with the first mate of the same ship. Descendants of the *Wexford's* captain, the wheelsman and crew members shared stories and a few tears, and contact information was exchanged.

The weekend culminated in a splendid memorial service at Knox Presbyterian Church. The original hymns and service from 1913 were used, and the prayers and readings were spoken by all the clergymen in town. After the service, the weekend was concluded with a particularly poignant ceremony at the grave of the Unknown Sailor in the Maitland Cemetery.

The weekend was the largest gathering of descendants of the mariners of the Great Lakes Storm of 1913 ever assembled. Each participant has since expressed how meaningful it was to share the same experience with others and to be able to pay tribute to their ancestors. The threads of our ancestors' lives are woven into our own lives now. We will never forget them and will treasure our memories of the Great Lakes Storm of 1913 weekend in Goderich.

We continue to hear from "new" descendants of other mariners of the Great Lakes Storm and will record their stories. Please contact us if you have a story to share!

Wainfleet Historical Society: 30 Years of History

Janet Hodgkins, President
Wainfleet Historical Society
janiecooperwilson@yahoo.ca

Wainfleet's Loyal Orange Lodge (c. 1890) was placed on the market in 1983, thirty-one years ago. A group of citizens who were concerned that a piece of Wainfleet history could be lost forever petitioned the township council to purchase the building for use as a museum. The township declined. Although the group had failed to save the Orange Lodge, these eight Wainfleeters did succeed in forming a new organization, the Wainfleet Historical Society (WHS). The eight founding members were Ken and Bernice Dayboll, Dave and Jasmine Kitchen, Frank and Joan Sabo, and Allan and Betty Dayboll.

Then OHS executive director Dorothy Duncan spoke at the WHS's founding meeting at the Schwoob Community Centre.

A year later, in 1984, the group rescued from demolition the Neff-Morgan Cabin, one of Wainfleet's oldest houses. The cabin had been moved from Wainfleet to Chipewewa Park in nearby Welland. When the group asked the City of Welland to donate the cabin back to Wainfleet, the City agreed, and the WHS had its first building.

The cabin was in poor condition – whitewashed and covered in graffiti, with rotten logs and a roof in disrepair – and needed a great deal of work. Volunteers, under the direction of Bob Shoalts, dismantled the house log by log, and carefully re-assembled it. They replaced the roof and some of the logs, and painstakingly scrubbed off the whitewash and graffiti. The Neff-Morgan Cabin was the first building in what was to become the Marshville Heritage Park.

The Wainfleet Historical Society then turned to the Ontario Historical Society and, in 1986, affiliated

with OHS and became an incorporated not-for-profit organization.

The restitution of the log house was soon followed by the restoration of a barn that was used to house the Dean Sawmill and the Palco Blacksmith Shop, both of which had been offered to the WHS. Relocating and refurbishing these buildings took many hours of volunteer labour.

Proud of their work, the group decided to hold a festival to showcase their efforts. Hoping to attract 1,000 visitors, the organizers were elated to welcome 5,000 attendees, and the Marshville Heritage Festival was born. Today, it is held annually on Labour Day weekend and attracts 20,000 visitors.

As the years passed, the Marshville Heritage Village continued to grow in size. Added to the village was a school, church, general store and meeting hall. Soon after came a garage, carpenter shop and more houses. Today, the village contains 18 buildings. In 2000, for business reasons, the Marshville Heritage Festival separated from the WHS.

The two organizations now have a close interdependent relationship. WHS members volunteer at

the annual Festival, at the school tours, and at Christmas in the Village. The Festival allows the Wainfleet Historical Society free use of the Patrons of Industry Hall for its meetings.

Today, the WHS continues to undertake a variety of projects and other activities. A book, *The Chronicles of Wainfleet: 200 Years of History*, was published by the Society in 1992 after four years of research. Since 1986, the Society has produced and sold an annual calendar featuring pictures from Wainfleet's past. Members attend heritage events to give demonstrations of daily tasks in bygone days at events such as school heritage fairs.

Every September, WHS provides prize money for the collectibles category at the Wainfleet Fall Fair and members don historic attire to walk in the fair parade.

Every June, the WHS presents history graduation awards to seven students in grades 8 and 12 from local schools.

Members meet monthly, host an

"Wainfleet" cont'd page 5 ...

Museum News

Dr. John Carter

OHS Museums Committee
drjohncarter@bell.net

MUSEUM MILESTONES

There are many community museums throughout Ontario that are owned and/or operated by non-profit organizations like historical societies, but the cumulative total is unclear. Heather Anderson and I continue to compile a list of such museums for the OHS Museums Committee; thus far we have documented 154, and trust that there are more to record. One of these sites, the Arthur Child Heritage Museum, is highlighted in this issue of Museum News. In the

next issue, a municipal museum, the Dufferin County Museums and Archives will be featured.

It is always nice to report an update on past stories. In a previous column, Mike Baker, curator of the Elgin County Museum, provided information about the travelling Kist exhibit. I commented on the paucity of such resources, and am glad to be able to inform you that the Museum Strathroy-Caradoc also has a travelling exhibit for you to consider. Entitled "The Life and Legacy of Sir Arthur Currie," this display can now be featured at your site. For additional details, contact currie@strathroy-caradoc.ca.

Congratulations to the Friends of

the Brockville Museum, recently awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to fund their Open Drawers project, aimed at digitizing their museum collection. The Friends incorporated through affiliation with OHS in June 1993. Learn more: www.brockville-museum.com.

192. That's the total number of years worked by six long-serving museum staff who are leaving the profession. In December, Pat Zimmer retired as curator of the Aylmer-Malahide Museum after 36 years. In February, Dorette Carter retired after 13 years as director of the Art Gallery of Northumberland. For the previous 23 years she was curator at Century Village, the Welland Museum and the Thunder Bay Historical Museum. After a 34-year career with Parks Canada, Kim St.

Claire, formerly Kim Seeward-Hannam, has retired and moved to Victoria, B.C. with her husband. Valerie Buckie, who was curator at the Park House in Amherstburg for the past 33 years, retired in December. The South Western Ontario Heritage Council and staff from the John R. Park Homestead held a farewell party for Valerie in January. Others departing from the Ontario museum scene are Dr. Susan Burke, who was director of the Joseph Schneider Haus for 33 years, and Pam Woolner, who served in various capacities at the Meaford Museum for 20 years. Thank you for your dedicated service and contributions to the Ontario museum sector. To each and every one of you, I wish all the best in the future.

Please email me to share museum-related news or stories!



Arthur Child Heritage Museum Ready for Another Busy Season

1000 Islands museum introduces new interactive exhibit space

Linda Mainse, Executive Director
Arthur Child Heritage Museum
ivillage@cogeco.net

It is always a welcome opportunity to write about one's passion and so this article allows me, as executive director of a small museum in Gananoque, to share mine!

It's true what they say about special things coming in small packages – such is the case with the Arthur Child Heritage Museum of the 1000 Islands. The museum building was opened in 1995 as the centrepiece of the Historic 1000 Islands Village, a tourist destination set in a beautiful park-like setting on the shores of the St. Lawrence River.

The museum is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to creating exhibits, maintaining an archival collection, and collecting and preserving artifacts that interpret the unique history of the 1000 Islands region.

In earlier years, the site was home to the 1000 Islands Railway; today the building's architecture, both inside and out, reflects the magnificence and quaintness of the Victorian cottages built on the Islands in the late nineteenth century.

The journey from 1995 to 2013 has been rich in challenges and rewards, as is the case with any new business undertaking. Although we are called a museum we do not, in fact, meet the litmus

test of Ontario museum standards because we do not own a collection of artifacts. Rather, we act as custodians of the Town of Gananoque's collection, which was stored away many years ago when the former museum of the day closed its doors. In 2008, after having much of that collection properly catalogued and stabilized, we requested that our museum be made its custodians to ensure its future integrity and to be able to once again promote the rich heritage of the region and its community. Each year since then, we have developed themed exhibits that have allowed our residents and visitors alike to experience our local history.

The museum recently undertook a three-year exhibit plan, which allowed us to move back in time each year in fifty-year increments, beginning in 2010 with the time period from 1895 to 1945. The plan concluded in 2012-3, the beginning of the celebrations for bicentennial of the War of 1812. Featuring the five decades between 1790 and 1840, this exhibit covered the War of 1812, the Raid on Gananoque and the founding of the Town in 1792 by Joel Stone, a soon-to-be colonel in the Leeds Militia.

In 2013 we added a travelling exhibit created by the Canadian War Museum called "One War: Four Perspectives." In addition, a local collector of 1812 military memorabilia offered us his ex-

tensive collection for the season. Then, serendipitously, we became the happy hosts of a collection of ten paintings created by an art guild in Edmunston, New Brunswick, commemorating the trek of the 104th Foot Regiment from New Brunswick to Kingston between February and April 1813.

As the years have passed, we have moved slowly but surely from deficit to surplus. The Town of Gananoque is one of our key partners and through the fostering of additional partners, donors and members, along with grants and enthusiastic annual fundraising by our board of directors, we are, at last, in a position where we can begin to bring to life some of our long-imagined visions.

This past year the board turned its energy and focus toward the creation of a riverboat wheelhouse in the tower overlooking the river, which is a wonderful architectural element of the building. For many years we have imagined it outfitted as a fully interactive wheelhouse that would educate and entertain guests of all ages as they learned about the history of boats of the St. Lawrence and the Islands that make up our part of the river, and

actually experience the feeling of piloting a boat through the islands.

Our fundraising goal is extremely ambitious, but thanks to some patience, persistence and a lot of hard work, our target is within sight! A production company is putting the final touches on the technology and software programs that will transform hours of filming on three different boats into an opportunity for our visitors to actually *feel* the river. With renovation to the space set to begin early in 2014, we plan to launch the wheelhouse when we open for our 20th season on May 3, 2014.

It is our privilege each season to welcome over 20,000 visitors from all corners of the world to our museum, to Gananoque, and to Canada. This year we have added a full-time Program Coordinator to our staff with the goal of extending our season in both directions by developing curriculum-based programs for schools as well as other learning and program opportunities for all ages. Visit our new website at www.1000islandsheritagemuseum.com to experience the Arthur Child Heritage Museum, and come visit us this summer!

'Wainfleet' from page 4

annual old-fashioned picnic each July, and hold a special Christmas event.

At present, the WHS is spearheading a campaign to erect a cenotaph in Wainfleet to honour the township's brave men and women who have served Canada in war and in peace.

This year, the Wainfleet Historical Society annual picnic celebrated its thirty year anniversary. Rob

Leverly, executive director of the OHS, attended the festivities and presented a certificate, while WHS presented a donation to the OHS's 125th anniversary digitization fundraiser. Two of Wainfleet's young citizens, Katie and Nathan Katch, provided musical entertainment. The two remaining founding members of the WHS, Ken Day-boll and Jasmine Kitchen, were on hand for the cutting of the birthday cake. Congratulations WHS on 30 years of history!

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

At last, after a 15-year struggle, the Hatt and Cooley descendants can breathe a sigh of relief! Richard Hatt and Shaune Copeman-Botosh (Cooley) signed a disposition of agreement with a developer in January for the preservation of the **Cooley-Hatt Cemetery**. The two lots that encompass the cemetery will be ceded to the City of Hamilton for perpetual care as a pioneer cemetery.

The developer has plans to make this site a focal point of a new subdivision with fencing, trees, walkways, new sodding and two parking spots for visitors.

In 1794, Preserved Cooley donated a portion of his farm as a burial ground for the use of his family and neighbors; this may have been Ancaster's first cemetery. Its first burial was of Daniel Cooley, died 12 June 1794, son of Preserved and Mary Cooley. It is believed that many burials occurred at this site up until 1821, and archaeological assessments have confirmed 100 shafts. Preserved Cooley and his wife, Mary, died in 1816. The Cooleys were United Empire Loyalists.

Richard Hatt was born in London, England, in 1769. He immigrated to Upper Canada in 1792 and married Mary Cooley in 1799. They had nine children. In 1800, Richard Hatt established a milling complex at Dundas Mills which later included a distillery, potashery, general store, sawmills, a coopers, houses and storehouses.

He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1800. In 1812 he became the editor of the *Upper Canada Phoenix* when he purchased Joseph Willcock's printing press. During the War of 1812, Hatt was a Major in the 5th Lincoln Militia and was wounded at the Battle of Lundy's Lane. In 1817, he was elected a member of the House of Assembly for Halton in a by-election. Richard Hatt died from complications due to his war wounds on 26 September 1819 and was buried in the Cooley-Hatt Cemetery.

The Cooley and Hatt descendants have worked tirelessly and steadily to preserve this important burial ground – and it was not an easy task, as they took on politicians and developers, petitioned Queen's Park and participated in Ontario Municipal Board hearings. They will still have to be vigilant.

Members will recall that in 2010, the OHS launched a petition to protest the demolition of the cemetery; it received enormous support from thousands of citizens from over 296 municipalities.

A re-dedication and family reunion will be held later this year. The Cooleys and Hatts can be proud of their ancestors. Rick Hatt and his family are to be commended for all their efforts to preserve the burial site of their ancestors.

Well done!

In the August issue of the *Bulletin*, I referred to Captain John Moberly as James Moberly. John Moberly was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, of English parentage and married Mary Fock, daughter of General Fock of the Russian Imperial Service in 1825. In 1834, Captain



Photo Courtesy: Hayter-Walden Publications

A special ceremony was held in the Municipality of Plympton-Wyoming to honour all the victims of the Great Lakes Storm of 1913, the unknown sailor who perished nearby and the history of Errol Cemetery. Pictured at the dedication of the new stone monument erected in the historic cemetery is (left to right) Lonny Napper, Mayor, Plympton-Wyoming; Rev. Kim Metelka, Christ Anglican Church, Camlachie, and Don Poland, President, Plympton-Wyoming Historical Society, which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on October 19, 2013.

Moberly was appointed Admiral and had control of the Penetanguishene Naval Yard. He was the major fundraiser for the building of St. James on-the-Lines Anglican Church and directed veterans of the War of 1812 who helped to construct the church. He was buried in the churchyard in 1848. A commemorative plaque has been placed in the church. Several of Captain John Moberly's children were prominent community members in Simcoe County.

A committee under the Township of Rideau Lakes has been formed to assist in the restoration of the **Presbyterian Cemetery** in Newboro. This is the burial location of many members of the Royal Sappers and Miners, a special construction corps, the 7th and 15th Companies, of the British Army, which was sent to Canada in 1827 to help build the Rideau

Canal. Compromising of 160 skilled craftsman and labourers, it built military structures and locks in Bytown, now Ottawa. In 1829, the 7th Company was transferred to assist in building the canal near Newboro or what was known as the "Isthmus." In 1831, 71 were discharged in Canada and many settled along the canal as lockmasters. *The History of the Royal Sappers and Miners* indicates that 37 were discharged at the Isthmus. The Rideau Canal was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2007. The Presbyterian Cemetery is a registered cemetery administered by the Township of Rideau Lakes, which has fully endorsed the restoration project. The committee is seeking funding for this project. For information, contact Joan Wright, 373 Little Rideau Lake Road, RR1, Portland, ON K0G 1V0.

'Smith' from page 1

to Lake Simcoe and Rice Lake, to Lakes Huron and Superior. A close friend of Egerton Ryerson, he became Canada's first Aboriginal Methodist minister in 1833.

Jones is also the focus of the first chapter in Smith's *Mississauga Portraits*.

Smith strives to connect all his research and writing to a historical sense of place: "It's all about the site; it gives the story a sense of place, a visualization that encapsulates a moment in history." But more important to the Calgary resident is the human story and the living personal connection, "I want to have a human being, face to face," he exclaims, "archaeology, historical summary – these are great, but they're not enough."

As Smith points out in his book, "Anishinabe" translated into English means "human being" and here in this cold North York park, he is in search of a human experience that took place nearly two hundred years ago. He is intrigued by the curiosity that compelled parties of Anishinaabeg people to travel from as far away as Lake Simcoe to hear and see this compelling Methodist preacher, with hundreds of non-Aboriginal settlers.

No plaques or markers exist to mark this historic site, but as we milled about the wood, forming

historical hypotheses, we came across a City of Toronto Works Department employee who was clearing some fallen brush. "It's a beautiful place to work," he mused. "The guys were just saying how it would be a perfect spot to have a barbecue."

"How fitting," I thought, connecting a modern-day barbecue gathering to an early nineteenth-century campground.

We decided that a low-lying flat section of land where the Don River forks was the most likely spot for the historic meeting. "There is definitely a sense of spirituality to this place," added OHS executive director Rob Leverty.

Fast forward to a warmer setting at a nearby restaurant, Smith continued to point out the importance of human beings within historical narratives. Speaking with such enthusiasm, he did not even pause for a moment to look at the menu. When the waiter arrived to take our orders, an unprepared Smith graciously and with ease cracked a joke to break the ice.

After ordering, Don produced a copy of Mark Abley's *Conversations with a Dead Man: The Legacy of Duncan Campbell Scott* and praised Abley's style of writing and his ability to bring to life a human story within the context of sound historical research and analysis.

As we nibbled our food and

chatted, Smith jotted notes on a small notepad. "My smartphone," he joked, "I am a man of the '50s – the 1850s – with much more in common with Jacob Cummer than one might expect."

Last June, the OHS helped to launch *Mississauga Portraits* at its annual general meeting held at the Mississaugas of the New Credit Cultural Centre in Hagersville, Ontario. The event was well attended and Smith spoke alongside his colleague and friend Allan Sherwin, author of *Bridging Two Peoples: Chief Peter E. Jones, 1843–1909*. Together, the two delivered an address deeply rooted in truly human stories woven together with a historical sense of place – "the land," a concept so pertinent to First Nations history.

Smith's book recreates the lives of eight historically important and interesting Ojibwe figures – seven of whom have never before received biographical treatment. It adds a human face and a personal connection to the existing historiography. Its first chapter, based on the relationship between Peter Jones and Egerton Ryerson, Smith points out, "deals with a major

universal theme: the power of friendship."

Smith has decided to donate all proceeds from that book to the Sacred Feathers Scholarship in Native Studies at the University of Toronto, which is awarded based on financial need and with preference to students in the Aboriginal Studies program.

His forthcoming project seeks to examine non-Aboriginal perspectives on Canada's First Nations between 1867 and 2017.

And so, through our meeting that February morning, a human story did emerge – a personal connection with a respected "retired" professor, who is hardly retiring, with whom it was a distinct pleasure to sit down and chat.

Editor's Note: Donald Smith's *Mississauga Portraits: Ojibwe Voices from Nineteenth-Century Canada* was published in 2013 by the University of Toronto Press. This article was written using information from Smith's *Mississauga Portraits* and his *Sacred Feathers: The Reverend Peter Jones, 2nd Ed.* (University of Toronto Press, 2013). Learn more at www.utpress.utoronto.ca.

Special Offer from Heritage Canada

Members should expect a special notice in the mail from **Heritage Canada: The National Trust** that offers members of the OHS a discounted membership with Heritage Canada (**30% off**).

From The Bookshelf

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
ccomac5702@rogers.com

Aside from heading to warmer climates – and who among us hardy Ontarians isn't sorely tempted at this moment – there is no better escape from unrelenting winter than between the covers of a good book. This issue's selections keep us in Ontario, but the time-travel that is such a lovely part of historical reading provides plenty with which to inform and amuse ourselves while we tough it out until spring.

WAR AND REMEMBRANCE

In light of its bicentennial, the War of 1812 continues to inspire creative approaches that take the story so much deeper than the "mere matter of marching" that some Americans concluded would suffice to capture the vulnerable British North American colonies. That the books considered in this section range from historical fiction through scholarly analysis to family stories amply demonstrates this, as does the fact that three of the four are sequels. Also increasingly coming into focus, however, are the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada that took place as the trying 1830s drew to a close, as witnessed in the second volume McLaughlin's *Patriot War* series. Bringing us into the twentieth century, we have an inspirational and very personal recounting of one man's experience in a Nazi prison camp, as told to us by another of our admirable Second World War veterans.

Flying Officer Ike Hewitt, P.O.W.: War Memories

Harry B. Barrett, *Who Did It Club*, 2013. 198 pp. \$25 incl. shipping; order: H. B. Barrett, P.O. Box 29, Port Dover, ON N0A 1N0

The Tide of War: The 1814 Invasions of Upper Canada

Richard Feltoe. Dundurn, 2013. Paper: 159 pp. \$20 dundurn.com

And All Their Glory Past: Fort Erie, Plattsburg and the Final Battles in the North, 1814

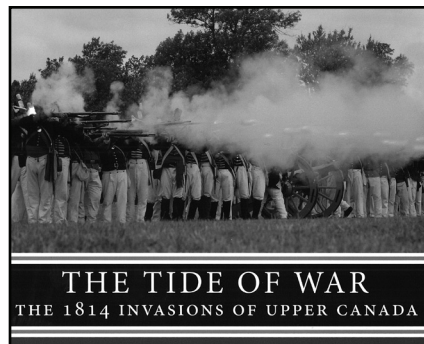
Donald E. Graves. Robin Brass Studio, 2013. Paper: 440 pp. \$25. www.robinbrassstudio.com

The Patriot War Along the Michigan-Canada Border: Raiders and Rebels

Shaun J. McLaughlin. The History Press. Paper: 189 pp. \$20. www.historypress.net

Harry B. Barrett has taken on an impressive task in editing the memoirs of Flying Officer Ike Hewitt, and in particular his ordeal as a prisoner of war; the result is one that readers of this wonderful volume will greatly appreciate. A Second World War veteran himself, the author undertook this project with the support of the Port Dover Who Did It Club, whose community service mandate emphasizes the cause of veterans. His goal was to transcribe and "fill out" an earlier CD recording of Ike Hewitt's story. Born in northern England in 1916, Hewitt emigrated to the Port Dover area with his father, step-mother and two half-sisters in 1929, on the eve of the

Great Depression. Hoping to take up one of the homesteads promised to English families by the Canadian government, thirteen-year-old Ike and his father were obliged to work, often for little more than room and board. Enlisting in the Royal Canadian Air Force in June 1940, he was soon deployed to the North Sea, where he trained as a wireless air gunner and was promoted to Sergeant. His fateful mission in December 1941 was a daylight raid on three German battleships in the port of Brest. His plane was shot down and he was wounded, but he managed, with a parachute in flames, to land in the piercing cold waters of the Bay of Biscay. After six hours, he was picked up by the Germans, subjected to prolonged and intense interrogation, and transported to the first in a series of horrendous camps. He ultimately spent 1,236 days in captivity. With the assistance of Hewitt's daughter, who shared his detailed war log, many photographs and other mementoes of life before, during and after the war, Barrett has put together this profoundly affecting story of one unknown Canadian hero and his sacrifices to safeguard democracy and the personal liberties of future generations. We need more such stories written, and we need to read them, so that Ike Hewitt, Harry B. Barrett and so many others are acknowledged as they deserve to be.



The latest in Richard Feltoe's concise but comprehensive series for Dundurn, *The Tide of War* takes readers to the first half of 1814 and thus toward the war's culmination. At this point, the costs in personnel, property and machinery were mounting terribly, and both sides were intent to bring about decisive victory by intensifying their commitment of troops and armaments, "upping the ante," as Feltoe describes it in his second chapter. Deftly, he takes us through that "winter of discontent," with the battle at Oswego (May 5-6), and the American invasion at Fort Erie, leaving the story at the Chippewa River in July – where, as the author writes, "a nasty surprise" awaited the confident American Major General Brown (to be taken up in the final vol., *The Crucible of War*). As always, there are vital charts and maps to indicate battalion movements, and a clear narrative of events and circumstances for a very complicated stage of the war.

Like Feltoe, Donald Graves has dedicated his research to uncovering the complexity of causes, events and outcomes that constituted the War of 1812. And *All Their Glory Past* is the long-awaited final volume of his acclaimed "Forgotten Soldiers" trilogy. Here Graves

considers the last major northern battles, effectively taking up the story where Feltoe leaves off and carrying it through the watershed summer and autumn of 1814. His discussion of the bloody 53-day siege of Fort Erie shows how American success in withstanding the British was ultimately undermined by anxiety about the oncoming winter, prompting the strategic decision to remove the troops from the Canadian side of the Niagara River – effectively marking the end of fighting on Canadian territory. The land and naval battle at Plattsburgh, New York, is similarly examined in careful and thorough detail, and with due attention to its effects on the war's final outcome. Graves is particularly adept at illuminating the military leadership on both sides, astutely allowing for both the expertise and also the weaknesses of British and Americans alike as they fought toward a high-stakes victory that only one could claim.

Award-winning novelist Shaun McLaughlin demonstrates his narrative skills in his latest exploration of the integral borderland elements of the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada. *The Patriot War Along the Michigan-Canada Border* is the sequel to his first historical study on the subject, *The Patriot War Along the New York-Canada Border* (2012). The borderland focus provides a unique perspective by demonstrating how these colonial uprisings were not as narrow and "local" as often assumed, in that neighbouring Americans were also ideologically keen to see Canadians endowed with the democratic liberties that they upheld – even if it took acts of aggression against the non-threatening colonies in order to realize the objective that they shared with the rebels. Upper Canada was, in fact, attacked 13 times during the year between December 1838 and December 1839, the undeclared "patriot war" of the title. Many of the rebels in what is now southwestern Ontario took part in the American attack when they fled across the border to escape arrest and treason charges. The book's particular strength is found in McLaughlin's biographical approach that brings to life the formative experiences, the politics, the ideas and the objectives of the rebels, whom he follows into their punitive, and often fatal, exile to Tasmania.

The Land Between: Encounters on the Edge of the Canadian Shield

Thomas F. McIlwraith, Ed. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2013. Paper: 167 pp. \$30. fitzhenry.ca

Playing Through: The History of the Barrie Country Club, 1913-2013

B.E.S. Rudachyk. In House Print & Graphics, 2013. Hardcover: 144 pp. \$40. Order: 705.728.4802 office@barriecountryclub.com

"The Land Between," with its wonderfully mythological connotations, exists in our very real and distinctive geography as an "ecotone" in the space where the Canadian Shield meets the Great Lakes Lowlands. While most Ontarians have a sense of both the Shield and

the Lowlands, how many are aware that the overlapping of these two ecological regions – encompassing much of Haliburton – signifies a distinctive environment boasting "one of the highest biodiversity in Ontario." In this remarkable space, stretching roughly 240 kilometres from Georgian Bay to the edge of the Frontenac Arch, northern and southern life-forms have been interrelating for millennia. Former *Ontario History* book review editor McIlwraith generated this immensely readable collection of essays, photographs, maps and other illustrations, which includes a free interactive Land Between app for devices that use geo-positioning to help readers situate themselves in the environment. The Land Between Circle has also produced a three-part DVD documentary series, originally shown on TVO to accompany the book. The essays themselves cross disciplines and approaches but are strongly connected by the historical – as well as the natural, environmental, geographic, social, cultural, and personal. Each contribution is informed by scholarship and expertise, but also by subjective, personal encounters with The Land Between. This is a beautiful and timely book, as well as a cause very much deserving of our support.

Brad Rudachyk is also well-known to members and *Bulletin* readers as our dedicated OHS President. In his alternate identity, Dr. Rudachyk is a history professor and scholar who specializes in local history, specifically that of Barrie and region. The most recent of his many publications in this subject area is this lavishly illustrated and entertaining century history of the Barrie Country Club. As the author explains in his prefatory remarks, this book is a "ground-floor history" of the Club, that traces its development during the first tumultuous century of its existence, highlighting the changes and continuities that were met with a resilience and resourcefulness captured in the golfing concept of "playing through." The lively narrative is interspersed with reproduced newspaper excerpts from various moments in its history, many of these illustrating prevailing ideas about golf as "the queen of sport," and consequently the understandings of class, gender, "race," recreation and morality that also prevailed at any given moment. More than just a chronicle of one elite club and its members, this book is an impressive social history that demonstrates how recreation is about so much more than just passing the time. An added bonus is the fact that most of the photos are colour shots of distinctly summer-time activities – balm for the wintry soul.

'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.

ONTARIO FOLK

Honour compels me to disclose that, as a social historian by training and inclination, I am especially drawn to the stories of ordinary people who are the integral bits and pieces that make up our shared history. But I also hold the view that most of us are quite simply drawn to this sort of "history of us." People past and present, big and small, mighty and marginal, real and imagined, are featured in the fiction, memoir, biography and scholarly analysis considered here.

Stowaway in the White Hurricane

Barbara Aggerholm. The Brucedale Press, 2013. Paper: 116 pp. \$15. brucedalepress.ca

Breadwinning Daughters: Young Working Women in a Depression-Era City, 1929-39

Katrina Srigley. University of Toronto Press, 2013. Paper: 206 pp. \$26. utpress.utoronto.ca

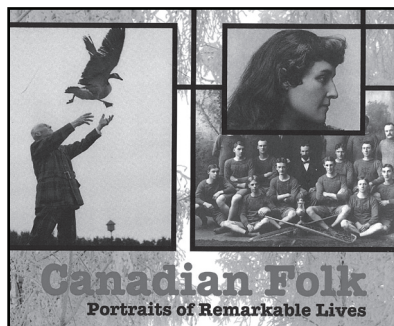
Canadian Folk: Portraits of Remarkable Lives

Peter Unwin. Dundurn, 2013. Paper: 272 pp. \$22. dundurn.com

In *Stowaway in the White Hurricane*, journalist Barbara Aggerholm has penned an engaging piece of historical fiction aimed, as its teenage protagonist suggests, at the Young Adult category of readers. Like many books in that category, however, it should not be left solely for that audience to enjoy. The novel commemorates the Great Lakes Storm, the so-called "White Hurricane" that took a startling 256 lives and caused millions of dollars in damage when it struck in November 1913. The central storyline concerns the feisty sixteen-year-old Lucy Clark, the stowaway of the title, who hides aboard the *J. S. McConnell* where her father is wheelsman. The harrowing trip from Cleveland to Kincardine is entirely fictional, but the details about shipboard life and work, and the terrible storm and its aftermath show evidence of careful historical research, as a glance at *A Centennial Tribute to the Great Lakes Storm* will indicate. This is a

lively approach to Ontario history for readers of all ages.

Katrina Srigley's monograph *Breadwinning Daughters* is the most recent recipient of OHS's Alison Prentice book award for women's history. Srigley's use of oral history is the book's shining feature. The more than 80 interviews with women who recall their lives at home, at work, at play, and at times in confrontation with prevailing moral regulations – often transcribed into law – make this discussion of the Great Depression experiences of "ordinary" young Canadians particularly evocative. The Depression imprinted on Canadians for generations to come, and remains an important part of our collective memory. Srigley's study effectively demonstrates that the young women who were especially marginalized in a deep and prolonged employment crisis that was interpreted as a crisis of male breadwinners were, in fact, key to the survival of many Toronto families, across customary class, "racial," cultural and gender boundaries.



Although Unwin's book refers to "Canadian" folk, the often-amazing and amusing stories found within are mostly about Ontarians, or people who spent significant time in the province. Unwin's sympathetic and compelling short biographies run the gamut from such recognizable historic figures as artist Paul Kane, poet Pauline Johnson, long distance runner Tom Longboat, and conservationists Jack Miner and Grey Owl, to lesser-knowns such as the "cheese poet" James McIntyre and the "fire king" J.R. Booth. What ultimately characterizes these Canadians, famous and not – so famous, with their different historical moments and different personal backgrounds, is what the author describes as their

"noticeable inability to sit still." In this intriguing collection of lives, interspersed with brief essays on such topics as duelling, lacrosse, trees and freak shows – all of them serving as context for life stories – Unwin does much to address his own stated fear that "increasingly, we don't know them at all."

Mississauga Portraits: Ojibwe Voices from Nineteenth-Century Canada

Donald B. Smith. University of Toronto Press, 2013. Paper: 496 pp. www.utpress.utoronto.ca

The Nature of Empires and the Empires of Nature: Indigenous Peoples and the Great Lakes Environment

Karl S. Hele, ed. Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2013. Hardcover: 372 pp. www.wlupress.ca.

Smith returns to the places and people of his earlier biography of Mississauga Chief and Methodist Minister Peter Jones with this collection of life stories drawn from the rich history of the Ojibwe, or Anishinabe people (Mississaugas). Despite the ongoing efforts of Jones and his uncle, Joseph Sawyer, whose story is recounted in chapter 2, the Mississaugas were unable to secure their Credit Reserve territory, and were obliged to relocate near the Six Nations Reserve on the Grand River, which they called New Credit. The first chapter focuses on the final weeks of the Chief's life, highlighting his intense meetings with his long-time friend, Egerton Ryerson, the eminent Methodist clergyman best known as champion, and architect, of Ontario's progressive-minded public school system. The remaining chapters each detail the lives of important members of the Mississauga community, who, in addition to their heritage and dedication to justice for their people, shared a devotion to Methodism. A number of the men were themselves Ministers, and Peter Jones' influence figures strongly in several stories. Particularly fascinating is the story of George Copway; though largely unknown today, he was, as Smith demonstrates, a "literary celebrity" in mid-nineteenth century North

America, renowned for his best-selling autobiography, already in its eighth printing within a year of its publication in 1847. What we see, ultimately, are individuals who strove to preserve, protect and strengthen the heritage, status, and rights of their people while also embracing the European customs – including Christianity – that were personally meaningful to them as individuals and as Indigenous peoples. The culmination of forty years of research, this book is both deeply researched and also very readable, adding much to the multi-faceted history of the First Nations of this province, especially those who, like its subjects, effectively chose to straddle two not-necessarily mutually-respectful worlds.

This expansive collection of historical essays edited by Concordia University professor and Director of First Peoples Studies Karl S. Hele is presented within an impressive interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary ecological framework. The binding focus is nonetheless historical, emphasizing the Imperial mandate behind initial European contact and exploration: put simply, French and English alike were intent on environmental exploitation, which necessitated the exploitation of the Great Lakes' original inhabitants. The authors – from varying perspectives in 15 individual contributions – are particularly and rightly concerned with the ramifications of this eco-imperialism for the Indigenous peoples whom it so affected, and continues to affect. The editor grew up in the Garden River First Nation community of Anishinaabeg; he comes to this complex subject through personal experience of the "displays of power both subtle and overt" characterizing First Nations life in the border-straddling Great Lakes region. The individual contributions were originally conference papers responding to John MacKenzie's groundbreaking study, *Empires of Nature and the Nature of Empires* (1997), and MacKenzie here offers a thoughtful and important "Meditation on Environmental History" as an opening chapter. Although very much a scholarly anthology of recent approaches to the subject, this is a must-read for any interested in Ontario's inextricable environmental and Indigenous histories.

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

Spring 2014 issue copy deadline: **Friday, May 16, 2014.**

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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.

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

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