

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 173

MARCH 2010

## Ship's Company of Penetanguishene to Build 1812 Gunboat Replica



The Ship's Company of Penetanguishene is a non-profit volunteer organization which was incorporated through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society in 2001. Since that time, the group has dedicated itself to the preservation of traditional seamanship skills and the sharing of early 19th century Canadian maritime heritage. In only eight years, the Company has built three small sailing vessels that have become a familiar sight on the waters of Georgian Bay and at various community events. For example, in 2009, the Ship's Company transported *HMS Badger*, a 36-foot replica gunboat, to Halifax to participate in the 250th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Royal Naval dockyard and the "Tall Ships Nova Scotia" festival. The Company has also been very active in a variety of local community events and the presentation of maritime heritage including the 9-Mile Portage Heritage Festival at historic Fort Willow and the "Wasaga Under Siege" re-enactment at Nancy Island Heritage Site in Wasaga Beach, during which crew members donned period costumes.

Looking towards the future, The Ship's Company of Penetanguishene has proposed to produce a replica 27-foot War of 1812 gunboat in celebration of its 200th anniversary. This boat, unlike the *HMS Badger*, would be specifically designed for

quick and easy rigging and de-rigging, allowing it to be transported by trailer to a large number of events and destinations throughout the Great Lakes area. To date, the Company has already acquired a suitable hull, an important first step in the shipbuilding process. Recently, the Province of Ontario named The County of Simcoe as one of six regions in Ontario identified as historically significant to the commemoration of the War of 1812 (the other five are: Sault Ste. Marie, Windsor/Chatham, Toronto, the St. Lawrence and the Niagara region). As such, major events will be planned in the area and will present the Ship's Company with many opportunities for community outreach, allowing it to be more visible and more effective in celebrating our province's rich maritime history.

For further information or to become a member of The Ship's Company of Penetanguishene and become involved in this project, contact [hmsbadger@csolve.net](mailto:hmsbadger@csolve.net) or visit [www.shipscompany.ca](http://www.shipscompany.ca).

**Pictured above** (left to right) is the fleet of Ship's Company: *HMS Badger*, a 36' replica of a War of 1812 British Royal Navy Gunboat; *HMS Kingfisher*, a replica of a ship-to-shore transport; and *HMS Revenge*, a replica of a 14' naval skiff.

*Photo Credit: Ship's Company of Penetanguishene.*

## The OHS Welcomes New Minister of Tourism and Culture

The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) would like to offer a warm welcome to Ontario's new Minister of Tourism and Culture, The Honourable Michael Chan, MPP (Markham-Unionville). Mr. Chan was first elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on February 8, 2007. Mr. Chan has served as Minister of Revenue and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. On January 18, 2010, he was appointed Minister of Tourism and Culture. The OHS welcomes Mr. Chan and looks forward to working with him and his Ministry.



**The Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture.**

*Photo Office of Michael Chan*

## [www.1812history.com](http://www.1812history.com) – Your Primary Source for the War of 1812

In 2012, the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 will begin. The history of this conflict is full of many gripping stories that define the character of the burgeoning nations of Canada and the United States, the strength of the British Empire and the resolve of the First Nations. The website, [www.1812history.com](http://www.1812history.com), has been created to make the primary source material from this era freely accessible.

During the years leading up to this important event, expert researchers, tourist organizations, students and the general populace will display heightened interest in the material culture from this era. Since the Niagara Peninsula was a major theatre of war during the conflict, Brock University, six Niagara area heritage institutions

(Niagara Historical Society & Museum, City of Niagara Falls Museums, Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, Grimsby Museum, Jordan Historical Museum and RiverBrink Art Museum), the District School Board of Niagara and Our Ontario have partnered to digitize the many unique and significant artifacts and records relating to this era, making them available via [www.1812history.com](http://www.1812history.com).

*1812 History* will allow visitors to connect with the hundreds of documents, artifacts and special resources the partner organizations have acquired over the past 100 years.

The purpose of this project is to create a website that is inclusive

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## The 2010 Annual General Meeting and Honours & Awards Ceremony of The Ontario Historical Society

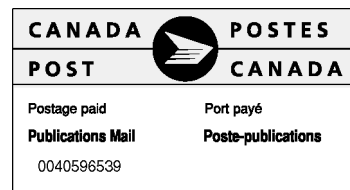
Keynote address: **Dr. Dorothy Duncan**, author & historian  
*From Forests to Farmsteads to Fields to a Neighbourhood Garden: Our ancestors' one mile diet*

**Saturday 12 June 2010 :: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

North York Civic Centre, 5100 Yonge St. Toronto

*Reception to follow at the historic John McKenzie House*

*The Ontario Historical Society*  
34 Parkview Avenue  
Willowdale, Ontario  
M2N 3Y2



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THE  
ONTARIO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



34 PARKVIEW AVE.  
WILLOWDALE  
ONTARIO  
M2N 3Y2

[www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

## President's Report

**Ken Turner, President**  
[ken.turner@sympatico.ca](mailto:ken.turner@sympatico.ca)

I am pleased to report that in 2009 the Society achieved a small surplus and eliminated its debt. Fiscal prudence and financial discipline have prevailed. On February 20th, at the first OHS Board meeting of 2010, the Directors also approved a balanced budget for this coming fiscal year.

I would like to thank all those individuals who donated their

time, skills and financial resources in 2009 to the OHS. Financial donations to the Society in 2009 were double what they were the previous year. We could not have achieved our fiscal targets without the generous support of our donors and volunteers.

I would like to especially thank our small staff for all their long hours and hard work. They continue to carry a very heavy workload while launching and implementing new programmes and services. Our

## Executive Director's Report

**Rob Leverty, Executive Director**  
[rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

In 2009, the OHS incorporated through affiliation nine historical organizations which are now separate, independent not-for-profit corporations in the Province of Ontario. Incorporating nine organizations in one year is a landmark, a new record in the Society's history.

I am very pleased to report that on February 20, 2010, the OHS Board of Directors incorporated two more historical groups – The Powassan & Area Historical Society and Les amis du Musée du Moulin à fleur (Sudbury). Congratulations to these newly incorporated not-for-profit organizations and all their dedicated and devoted volunteers. This is very exciting news.

The last historical organization that OHS incorporated in 2009 was The Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City (see article, page 6). Therefore, the last three not-for-profit organizations incorporated by OHS have all been from northern Ontario. This is also exciting news.

Furthermore, since April 2008, the OHS has incorporated 17 new non-profit corporations across Ontario, bringing the OHS total to 324 affiliated societies. As citizens of Ontario who are interested in preserving and promoting Ontario's history – this is tremendous news – for all of us!

Our membership is growing very rapidly. Many historical organizations, museums, natural heritage groups that have incorporated independently of the OHS have also joined the Society in the last

staff has elevated the Society to an even higher level of performance and success.

Recently some of our members have been honoured for their dedication to preserving and promoting Ontario's history. I would like to congratulate Dorothy Brown and Mabel Goode who were given Life Achievement Awards by the Newcastle Historical Society for their incredible devotion and

years of volunteer service to their local society. I would also like to acknowledge OHS members Dr. Frederick Henry Armstrong; Harry Barrett; Dr. R.B. (Rae) Fleming; Edith and Geoff Geduld and Paula Niall who were 2009 Recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement. Congratulations to all of you!



**On Sunday, January 24th, the OHS had a display and book table at the marketplace during The Ontario Black History Society's 2010 Annual Kick-Off Brunch Launching February as Black History Month. This very successful event was held at the Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto. The OHS petition supporting Bill 149 - The Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act, 2009 was also very popular and was signed by many people including (pictured above left to right), Laverne J. Coker-Ellis, John Miller and Pat Winn.** *Photo Rob Leverty*

at the OBHS' Annual Brunch. We sold many of our publications and OHS made new friends and saw old ones. My colleague Andrea and I also attended the Toronto launch of the photo exhibit *On the Road North* at Union Station in Toronto. Thanks again to OBHS for inviting us to these excellent public events.

Congratulations to the Ontario Jewish Archives and its Director, Dr. Ellen Scheinberg, for launching *Ontario's Small Jewish Communities*. The OHS was honoured to be a partner for this important historical initiative and it was a great privilege for me to represent the OHS and speak at the launch of this virtual exhibit at the Lipa Green Centre for Jewish Community Services in Toronto. The link for the exhibit is <http://www.ontariojewisharchives.org/osjc.html>.

Finally, my colleague Christina and I would like to thank the Ontario Heritage Trust for inviting us to a reception to welcome The Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture. We were able to speak with the new Minister and also his Deputy Minister, Drew Fagan, and left both of them information packages about the OHS. We look forward to working with Minister Chan and his staff in resolving the many challenges facing the heritage community in Ontario.

volunteers across Ontario who donate their time and skills to serve on the Boards of Directors of our member organizations. If your organization would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would like to congratulate the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) for all their hard work in celebrating Black History Month. This year the OHS had a book table



**The Ontario's Small Jewish Communities Exhibit was made possible thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, involving partnerships with the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario and the OHS. Pictured above (right to left): Dr. Salsberg Ezrin presenting the Trillium plaque to Dr. Ellen Scheinberg and Brooky Robins from the Ontario Jewish Archives. On the far left is Mr. Monte Kwinter, MPP (York Centre).** *Photo Michael Rajzman*

and give the Society a more powerful voice on behalf of the public interest.

Since launching the insurance programme in April 2008, I have reviewed and approved seventy-eight member organizations which have applied for General Liability Insurance and/or Directors and Officers Liability Insurance. This new OHS initiative has been very popular, enabling and protecting

**In 2009, the OHS worked with the following historical organizations and heritage institutions.**

Elgin Historical Society; Portland Historical Society; Unionville Historical Society; Unionville Villagers' Association; Bruce Mines Historical Society; The Ontario Black History Society, Toronto; Head of the Lake Historical Society, Hamilton; City of Toronto Clean and Beautiful Programme; Waterloo Historical Society, Cambridge; Thornhill Heritage Foundation; King Township Historical Society; Ontario Heritage Connection; Ontario Genealogical Society; SilverShoe Historical Society, Clearview Township; Ottawa Museums Network & Ottawa Heritage Council; United Empire Loyalists, Bay of Quinte; The OPP Museum, Orillia; Friends of The OPP Museum; Markham Historical Society; Weston Heritage Conservation District; Niagara Escarpment Foundation; Parkview Community Garden, Willowdale; Milton Historical Society; Toronto Postcard Club; Grey-Bruce Black History Workshop; York Pioneer and Historical Society; Sturgeon River House Museum; Ontario Parks – Marten River; Voyageur Heritage Network; Sunderland and District Historical Society; Ontario Museum Association; Gurd and Area Historical Corporation; Doors Open Toronto; Friends of CAMH Archives, Toronto; North York Historical Society; Friends of Chrysler's Battlefield, Prescott; Grey County Historical Society; Fenelon Falls Museum; Ship's Company of Penetanguishene; Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery, Peterborough; Glencoe Historical Society; Culinary Historians of Ontario; Accessibility Directorate of Ontario; Les amis du Musée du Moulin à fleur, Sudbury; Heritage Toronto "Willowdale Walk"; Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society; Thamesville District Historical Society; United Empire Loyalists, London and Western Ontario; Kawartha Heritage; Buxton Historical Society; Credit Valley Heritage Society; Northern Ontario Railway Museum, Capreol; Victoria County Historical Society; Beach Lighthouse Canal Group, Hamilton; Old Mill Heritage Centre, Kagawong; Mindemoya Heritage Centre; Greater City of Sudbury Heritage Museums; Simcoe County Historical Association; Michael's Bay Historical Society, Tehkummah; Grand Erie Education Archives, Watford; Kirkfield and District Historical Society; Canadian Friends Historical Association; Norfolk Historical Society; Friends of the Rideau; Rideau Waterway Co-ordinating Association; Chiefswood Board of Trustees, Ohsweken; Ontario Jewish Genealogical Society; Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee, Grey County; Point Albino Light Station, Fort Erie; Newcastle Historical Society; Sudbury Police Museum; North Bay Historical Society and Museum; Friends of Educational Archives and Heritage Centre, Hamilton; Ontario Association of Professional Archaeologists; Simcoe County Museum, Mining; Canadian Royal Heritage Trust; Association of Professional Archaeologists; Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City; Ontario Heritage Trust; Heritage Canada; Kingston Historical Society; Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society; Italian-Canadian Historical Association; Mattawa Historical Society and Museum; Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society; Women's Canadian Historical Society; South Mississauga Historical Society; Espanola Historical Society; Citizens for Riverdale Hospital, Toronto; Ontario Jewish Archives; Wallaston Heritage; Manvers Township Historical Society; Barrie Historical Society; Thamesville Historical Society; Powassan & Area Historical Society and Association des Volontaires du Musée.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sheila Berzitis

D'Arcy Boulton

Patricia Bromley

Deborah Brooker

Nicole Darbyson

Peter Fitzpatrick

Audrey Fox

Ian Hundley

Lower Burial  
Ground Restoration Society

Midhurst Historical Society

Mississauga South  
Historical Society

Musee du Moulin Fleur

Powassan & Area  
Historical Society

Brooky Robins

St. John's Presbyterian  
Church, Bradford

Smith Ennismore  
Lakefield Museum

Sharolyn Vettese

Bill Williams

## DONORS

Mary Jane Asselstine

Margaret Banks

Glenn Bonnetta

Fred Bradley

The Estate of  
Dr. Jean Burnet, for the  
Cemetery Defence Fund

David Cramm

Dorothy Duncan

Dundurn Press Ltd.

Geoff and Edith Geduld

Thomas McIlwraith

The Estate of Eber Pollard

Shirley Reeves

Brooky Robins

John Sheehan

Roger Thomas

## Across The Province

This new year brings many anniversaries and much to celebrate in the heritage community. The Museum on the Boyne in Alliston is celebrating fifty years of service to the community with a series of special exhibits; Heritage Mississauga is also celebrating fifty years with special events and programmes all year long; The Town of Prescott is celebrating its 200th anniversary, while the Grenville County Historical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Many of our members will remember that in 1985, when the Grenville County Society and the North York Historical Society were both celebrating 25 years, they exchanged visits and artifacts for special exhibits that highlighted the Humberstone Potteries as the Humberstone family operated potteries in both areas in the 19th century. They also exchanged time capsules, and we wonder what treasures they contained? The Streetsville Historical Society will celebrate 40 years on April 8 with Rob Leverty, OHS Executive Director as guest speaker (905.615.4861 for details). It was 30 years ago that the historic Brubacher House on the campus of the University of Waterloo was restored. This 1,000 acre campus was developed on eight different farms and the preservation of the House, typical of Waterloo architecture, was the dream of Lorna Bergey and J. Winfield Fretz, combined with support from the Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario and the Waterloo Region Heritage Foundation. Congratulations to all these organizations, institutions and their hard working volunteers!

The Pickering Museum Village Foundation is looking for new volunteers. This successful fundraising volunteer organization has partnered with the City of Pickering to fund the reconstruction of an 1830s schoolhouse, create a programme centre and restore a historic temperance hotel. Duties

include: monthly meetings, some bingos and assisting at one major event. Those interested may please contact: Pat Dunnill, [pat.dunnill@sympatico.ca](mailto:pat.dunnill@sympatico.ca) or 905.839.4672.

The Tweedsmuir History books, compiled by dedicated members of the Women's Institutes are a rich source of local history. Joy Trimble, President of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and Don Hinchley, President of the Ontario Genealogical Society, signed an agreement in November to digitize and place online these rural treasures. The project will take at least three years, and we will keep you up to date as it develops.

The Barrie Historical Society has the unique opportunity to establish a Heritage Centre Museum in the Grey & Simcoe Foresters Armoury, 36 Mulcaster Street in Barrie. They need support in this endeavour and if you can assist, or wish to donate: 705.728.3825.

Sir John A. Macdonald was not forgotten (despite his death almost 120 years ago) as many historical societies, heritage groups and museums celebrated his birthday in January with gala dinners and special programmes, including the Manitoba Historical Society in Winnipeg, the Kingston Historical Society and the Orillia Museum of Art and History.

You will remember the opening of the new Lucan Area Heritage and Donnelly Museum, located at 171 Main Street in Lucan a few months ago? On May 6 a large collection of Donnelly-related artifacts and archives donated by Ray Fazakas, a retired Hamilton lawyer, will be on exhibit. This collection highlights the life and times of the family and the community and is appraised at \$250,000. For details: Curator Laura Garner, [www.donnelymuseum.com](http://www.donnelymuseum.com).

As well as the treasures at Lucan, there is a wealth of exhibits and events to tempt you across the province as you plan your vacations and make your travel plans,

now that spring is just around the corner. Here are just a few:

\* April 7, Governor Simcoe Branch, United Empire Loyalists' Assoc. hosts a Pot Luck Supper at Montgomery Inn, 416.469.0851;

\* April 15, Brampton Historical Society hosts Cory Trepanier speaking on "The Arctic Project", [bramptonhistoricalsociety.com](http://bramptonhistoricalsociety.com);

\* Until April 25, Grimsby Museum hosts the exhibit "Egypt, Gift of the Nile" 905.945.5292;

\* April 25 Heritage House Museum and Smiths Falls Historical Society hosts Dorothy Duncan speaking on "Canadians at Table: Food, Fellowship and Folklore", 613.283.8560;

\* April 27, Scarborough Historical Society hosts Fawne-Stratford Deval speaking on "Genealogy", 416.282.2710;

\* April 27, Orillia Museum of Art and History is sponsoring a Bus Tour to the Toronto Distillery District and expert heritage tour with Dr. Sally Gibson, 705.326.2159;

\* May 6, Simcoe County Museum sponsors "Night at the Museum Gala" when museum staff and guest curators reveal the stories of mysterious artifacts from the Museum's collection in a game of "Fact or Fiction", 705.728.3721;

\* May 15, Waterloo Historical Society hosts Marie Voisin discussing her new book *William Scott and his Extended Family* 519.883.1448;

\* June 3, Historical Society of Ottawa is sponsoring a bus excursion to Kingston, and lunch in the Senior Staff Mess, 613.729.0579;

\* June 12, Streetsville Historical Society is sponsoring a Spring Tour to Casa Loma, 905.814.5958;

\* June 26, Wellington County Museum will host Summer Thyme Herb and Garden Fair, 519.846.0916 ext. 221.

Now for a little advance planning! The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada has announced their 2010 Conference, "Beyond the Mountains", will be presented by the Pacific Region Branches in Vernon, British Columbia, June 3 to 6. For further information: 613.228.9311 or your local branch of the Association.



Train Conductor Thomas Reynolds, who escaped from a partially-submerged car, rescued twelve passengers by repeatedly going back through the icy waters to the car. For his heroic efforts, Conductor Reynolds was awarded the Albert Medal for Bravery, the first in Canada.

Darcy and Myril Lynn Brason-Lediatt, volunteer researchers for Timber Village Museum in Blind River, have compiled and published a 140-page book of newspaper articles of this tragedy, complete with photographs, charts, tables

and an index of names of those mentioned in the articles.

Copies of the book have been placed in libraries between Sault Ste. Marie and Renfrew, and the book is available for purchase at Timber Village Museum in Blind River; the Sault Ste. Marie Museum; The Massey Area Museum; and Discovery North Bay. In addition, copies may be purchased from Nickel Belt Rails in Sudbury and *The Manitoulin Expositor* in Little Current. For more information, contact Darcy Brason-Lediatt at 705.942.0870.

## Museum News

### Museum Focus: The Voyageur Heritage Network Part One of Three

Linda Kelly, Museums Committee  
lmack@xplornet.com

Some twenty-five years ago, a small group of museum leaders under the leadership of North Bay Museum curator Pam Handley formed a museum network under the Ontario Museums Association banner. The purpose of the group was the sharing of ideas involving the marketing, promotion, and professional development of workers, of more museums within the North Bay, Sudbury and Parry Sound area of Northern Ontario. The Network's founder very quickly realized the importance of being incorporated and the **Voyageur Heritage Network (VHN)** was established.

The mandate of this non-profit corporation is to support and offer services to museums and other-charitable organizations of arts, heritage and culture by acting as repositories for artifacts, and by advancing education by providing seminars and workshops to other charitable organizations as well as to the public in general topics related to arts, heritage and culture.

The present geographical boundaries of Voyageur are limited to the following provincial districts: Parry Sound, Sudbury and Algoma - Manitoulin. The Voyageur's business and activities are controlled by a Board of 12 members who meet regularly during the year and hold two annual general meetings. From a group of less than 10 workers, the Network has progressed to approximately thirty institutional members and 10 individual members. The VHN has enjoyed a long-standing working relationship with The Ontario Historical Society, which will continue at the spring meeting in Marten River, on May 1, 2010.

The Voyageur Heritage Network's spring meeting will be held on May 1, 2010, at the Marten River Provincial Park Logging Camp & Museum.

#### The Marten River Provincial Park Logging Camp & Museum Marten River, Ontario

You can almost hear those long-ago shouts of "Timber!!!" and feel the ground quake with the weight of those massive falling pines when you visit this replica 19th century logging camp located in Marten River Provincial Park.

Buildings including a camp office, cookery, bunkhouse, meat house, scaler's shack, stable, hay barn and blacksmith's shop are replicas of the winter camps that were scattered throughout this area during the early 1900s. Hundreds of artifacts within the buildings are all original and a number of larger logging artifacts are on display along an outdoor trail at the camp. These include a water tanker, a pointer boat, various logging sleighs, a crazy wheel, roller, square timber, and Otaco snow plough.

"The Winter Camp", an award-winning short film which depicts life in 19th century lumber camps, was filmed here in 1985 and is shown as part of every Logging Camp tour.

#### Assignack Historical Sites (3) Manitowaning, Ontario

##### Site 1 Assignack Museum

The museum is located in the town's original lock-up and jailer's home, built between 1878 and 1883. The stone building houses a diverse collection of artifacts which portray the area's history from the 1830s to the present. The Assignack Museum also features a pioneer

home, school, blacksmith shop and driving shed. The museum has a well-equipped research and is open daily June 1 to September 30.

##### Site 2 S.S. Norisle Heritage Park

The S.S. *Norisle*, a 200' vessel that served as a ferry for many years is currently being refurbished with the hopes of plying the waters around Manitoulin Island, once again. More can be learned of this effort by visiting [www.norisle.com](http://www.norisle.com).

The Manitoulin Roller Mills, built c. 1885, is a large 3-storey gist mill which houses a number of agricultural displays as well as its original milling equipment. Adjacent to the mill is its warehouse, now used as a summer theatre and for pictorial displays of the area's history.

##### Site 3 St. Paul's Anglican Church

This, the oldest church building in Northern Ontario, was constructed in 1845 and is surrounded by a cemetery with stones dating back to the 1860s. Directly behind the church is the Manitowaning Lighthouse, built in 1886.

#### Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah Sheguiandah, Ontario

Located on Highway 6 on Manitoulin Island, the Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah has an eclectic collection including prehistoric tools, household furnishings and what is known locally as the Roosevelt plane. A main exhibition area, a gallery space with changing exhibitions, and a collection of outbuildings make up the Centennial Museum. Within walking distance of a hiking trail and featuring a walking tour through the old village of Sheguiandah past Batman's Mill and the Lewis Creek, the eight-acre park features barbecues and picnic tables. Wheel chair accessible and a treat for your eyes, hours can be spent in this delightful area. Open March to October.

#### Callander Bay Heritage Museum & Alex Dufresne Gallery Callander, Ontario

Dr. Allan Roy Dafeo, world-famous country doctor to the

Dionne quintuplets, lived and practiced in the building that now houses this museum from 1914 to 1943. The museum's collection includes Dr. Dafeo's original dispensary and outlines the life of this well-known doctor. Besides telling the story of the Dionne quintuplets' doctor, the museum features Callander's history of shipping, logging, the first barber shop, and has a collection of Red Cross Nursing artifacts and records which will delight any history enthusiast.

The Alex Dufresne Gallery, named in honour of Alex Dufresne, founder and first Chair of the Board of the Callander Bay Heritage Museum features six exhibitions each year that highlight the talents of local artists.

#### Central Manitoulin Historical Society Mindemoya, Ontario

The time period displayed in the Mindemoya Pioneer Museum is from the arrival of Caucasian Pioneers to the end of the oxen/horse drawn era. The site includes a log home and furnishings, blacksmith shop, barn and equipment, horse and cattle stable, logging tools, ice-harvesting tools, milk processing and butter-making equipment. This fully volunteer museum is open from the last week of June until the end of August.

#### Commanda General Store Museum Commanda, Ontario

This unique example of late 19th century Victorian commercial architecture is alive and a hive of activity. The Museum, with its counters, flooring and goods from 1885 to 1934, features displays changed throughout the season for your constant interest. The focus of this building, erected in 1885, is Commanda's central location on the Old Rousseau-Nipissing settlers' route which continues today as the central location for visitors to the whole region. The Artisans' Shop features a wide array of goods produced by local artisans.

**Museum Focus: VHN  
Continues in the April Issue  
of the OHS Bulletin...**

the democracy and the country in which they live. This is not a matter of choice for students or parents. It is a matter of citizen responsibility. For governments to refuse to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to understand their citizenship by understanding their history is quite simply irresponsible. I most happily and enthusiastically join in the support of your campaign to have a mandatory Canadian history course included at the grade 12 level."

With this kind of support from distinguished Canadians we are hopeful that our campaign will succeed. Yet just as important is the support from all concerned citizens, so we would also like to thank all of the individuals who signed our petition and sent letters of support. It meant the world to the students to know that so many people supported their petition.

It was logistically impossible for the students to send petition forms to every interested organization, so we decided that it would

be more efficient to provide an online opportunity to sign the petition. Please visit our website, [www.canadianhistorylive.com](http://www.canadianhistorylive.com), to access the online petition.

We need the support of every citizen of Ontario troubled by the fact that students graduate with little understanding of the history of their own country. This is a dangerous situation for a nation as diverse as Canada. How can we expect high school graduates to understand their own country and to participate as active, informed citizens if they lack even a rudimentary knowledge of their own history? How can Canadians have a collective identity if they lack a collective memory?

**Editor's Note:** Joe Stafford, in addition to serving on the OHS Board of Directors, is a Governor-General Award-winning secondary school history teacher whose students will be contributing to the *Youth Corner* in forthcoming *OHS Bulletins*.

## Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor  
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Heritage Family Day visitors to the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) and to the OHS showed much interest in Bill 149 and many signed the petition. Private Members' bills progress slowly through the Legislature and we are still awaiting the review by the Standing Committee on General Government. Meanwhile, it is important to continue to contact your MPP, with copies to the Premier and to Jim Brownell, MPP, so that they are aware of the concerns. These may be sent by regular mail or e-mailed.

Anyone who would like a copy of the OHS petition should e-mail the Society at [ohs@ontariohistorical-society.ca](mailto:ohs@ontariohistorical-society.ca). Petitions may be signed once only. All citizens of Ontario are urged to sign in order to make their voice heard, and to share with their families and friends.

Congratulations are also due to the Town of Oakville. In the past year, fifty very old tombstones were restored in Oakville's seven historic cemeteries. This is the first part of the town's monument resto-

ration project. A survey has identified tombstones which are in need of stabilization and preservation.

In North Bay, the project to clean up and restore Terrace Lawn Cemetery has been successfully completed. Friends of the cemetery contributed money for necessary supplies and equipment. Local residents pitched in with donations of topsoil, etc; and, with their hard work, have succeeded in refurbishing the cemetery. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to accomplish this!

Cobourg Union Cemetery has opened an "eco-friendly" burial ground. The area adjacent to the existing cemetery does not permit tombstones or vaults. Family members may plant native wild flowers or a shrub at the grave. Eco-burials and environmental funerals may be custom-designed and caskets must be biodegradable.

Vandalism has been reported in Marston Cemetery in Norfolk. Many early tombstones cannot be repaired. The damage in this unregistered cemetery was in excess of \$20,000 and was not covered by insurance.

The tombstones that marked the

location of the Matthew Davis Family Burial Ground in Elizabethtown, Grenville County, have been razed. Evidence of heavy equipment suggests this was done deliberately. This small cemetery, while unregistered, has been well-documented. It has been suggested that since the tombstones no longer exist this cannot be considered a cemetery but it remains the burial location of the Matthew Davis family despite the removal of the tombstones.

Thirty-five tombstones were badly damaged at Evergreen Cemetery in Harwich Township, Kent County. Many of these cannot be repaired as they were made of marble or limestone.

At Greenwood Cemetery in Waterford, Norfolk County vandals toppled 19 tombstones in October. The cemetery board had just spent money upgrading the cemetery and repairing damage which occurred during a storm in August.

Last September fifty-seven tombstones were toppled at Mount Evergreen Cemetery, north of Trenton. It was suggested that boredom was the cause. Mischief and vandalism increases when students are bored. Unfortunately, vandalism is not always childish pranks and boredom is not an excuse. In recent years, organized crime has led to stolen statuary, copper name plaques and

floral vases. Vandalism is devastating for families of the deceased. In the case of early tombstones, particularly, it is a part of history that can never be replaced. The cost to families and custodians of cemeteries cannot be estimated.

Ann O'Reilly, of the London & Middlesex Branch, OGS, reports that Gladstone Cemetery in Thames Centre was rededicated. Many will recall that in October 2007 the municipality's employees dismantled the cairn and dumped the headstones in a landfill. This was disheartening for descendants and there was a public outcry far and wide as this was reported on television across southern Ontario and in the U.S. The Mayor apologized for this mishap at the rededication service.

The council and staff worked with an advisory committee to research and prepare the new granite monument. This monument lists the names and dates of the 62 Gladstone residents who were buried in the cemetery. A laser-etched granite marker lies flat in front of the stone and is etched with photographs of the original stones prior to the dismantling. Pieces of the original stones have been assembled. Sadly, these are just pieces of larger stones that were in the original cairn, and at least two have been placed upside down.

### A Pioneer Cemetery is Reborn

Carolyn McCulloch, Guest Writer  
pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca

Once in a while, a true community effort happens, the effect of which strengthens the spirits of everyone around. In this particular case, some very hard work, a vision and lots of determination on the part of two community organizations, a municipality and neighbourhood volunteers produced startling results.

An abandoned and neglected pioneer cemetery in a subdivision within the hamlet of Cloyne in Eastern Ontario is the setting for this work of art. In the fall of 2006, the Land O' Lakes Garden Club was looking for a project which would be of some assistance to the community. An enthusiastic Garden Club member and the immediate neighbour of the cemetery, Mary Kelly, suggested that a rejuvenation of the cemetery would make a worthwhile project.

The wheels were set in motion. A team of Garden Club members designed the restoration and then paid a visit to the offices of the municipality of North Frontenac, which has jurisdiction over the cemetery. Both staff and members of council were convinced to be partners in the cleanup; their first move was to make an application to the Community Foundation of Greater Kingston for a grant to help with the costs. By April of 2007, word came that the application had been successful; work could begin!

One of the North Frontenac councillors, Lonnie Watkins, who was also head of the Cemetery Taskforce, immediately volunteered time and equipment to take down trees, chip up brush for mulch, and spread topsoil. Neighbours and many Garden Club volunteers were



Cloyne celebrates 150 years: The community lovingly restored the abandoned cemetery where original founding pioneers were interred. Pictured (left to right): Rev. Judith Evenden, Land O' Lakes Emmanuel United Church; Mary Kelly, Land O' Lakes Garden Club; Eileen Flieler and Margaret Axford, The Cloyne and District Historical Society.

Photo Carol Morrow

drawn into the project, pulling out weeds, hacking down raspberry canes and moving rocks around. Gradually, with the help of tractors and husbands, pathways and flowerbeds were established. All that summer and fall, volunteers donated and installed plants, shrubs and grasses; weeds were kept at bay; mulch found its way over everything. Chaos and destruction gave way to order and beauty.

This area had been a cemetery since the mid-1800s. Eventually, as a larger plot of land outside the village was established as a burial ground, the Pioneer Cemetery was no longer used. In the 1940s, loggers were given permission to cut the large pines which towered over the graves. Without realizing or caring that they had a cemetery within their logging limits, they ran roughshod over the whole place. Out of approximately 80, only two headstones and two wooden crosses,

unidentified, survived. Needless to say, the two stones became the centrepiece of the reconstruction and the crosses were given to the local museum for preservation.

As if this plot of land had not withstood enough abuse, it had also been in the path of two brutal storms, the latter in 2002 when a microburst hit Cloyne, uprooting and snapping off many 200-year-old pines. Following the storm, some cleanup efforts were very helpful, but still the cemetery was left on its own until the Garden Club began the rejuvenation.

It became clear to those doing the cemetery restoration that a plaque was needed which would honour the people who had been buried here. The research abilities of the Cloyne and District Historical Society now came into play. Using death registrations from the former Methodist, now United Church, a small committee searched for

"place of burial" listings of Cloyne or Barrie Township. It was then a matter of double-checking those listings against two other cemeteries in the immediate area; by a process of elimination, forty-one names emerged as burials in the Pioneer Cemetery. Local wisdom says that there were approximately 80 people buried there, but a fire in the church parsonage in the mid 1890s burned some records, making a definitive list impossible. Someday, through more research, the remaining names may be discovered, but for now they are a mystery. A decision was made to go ahead and put these names on a plaque in the cemetery.

In August of 2009, an ecumenical service was held to rededicate the cemetery. The gardens looked beautiful, the plaque was installed, and the day's thunderstorm stopped about an hour before the service began. Conducted by the United Church minister, Rev. Judith Evenden, the service of soft music, dedications from all the other churches in the area, and words of thanks from local politicians brought a powerful feeling of peace to this once troubled ground.

This is a tremendous achievement for all the parties involved; and a testament to the strength, determination and co-operation of the community.

#### DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND!

The resources of the OHS are constantly challenged as we try to defend the cemeteries that are threatened across the province. We can't do it alone. All donations will receive a tax receipt.

## Exhibits, Events and Notices

### History of Logging in 19th Century Ontario

Saturday, May 1st, 2010 – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Logging Camp, Marten River Provincial Park  
2680 Hwy 11 North, Marten River

This special workshop is co-sponsored by The Marten River Provincial Park, The Voyageur Heritage Network, and the OHS

Registration: \$15 including lectures and tour by April 23rd.  
info@visitamuseum.com or 705.753.4716 to register.

### MAY 14 to MAY 16 2010 Ontario Genealogical Society Conference: Essentials, Innovations & Delights

Conference 2010 offers a content-rich program packed with practical lectures about familiar and unfamiliar topics, including case studies. extensive marketplace available Doubletree by Hilton at Toronto Airport, 655 Dixon Rd. Visit [www.ogs.on.ca/conference](http://www.ogs.on.ca/conference) for more information and to register.

### MAY 27 to MAY 30 Three Museum Booksale

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Friends of the OPP Museum,

the Orillia Museum of Art and History and the Stephen Leacock Museum, with all proceeds going to the three museums. May 27 to 28: OPP General Headquarters, 777 Memorial Drive, Orillia; May 28-30: Orillia Museum of Art and History, 30 Peter St. S., Orillia.

### MAY 29 and MAY 30 Doors Open Toronto

Visit dozens of culturally significant buildings across Toronto that are normally closed to the public, including the OHS' John McKenzie House. Open times vary, visit [www.toronto.ca/doorsopen](http://www.toronto.ca/doorsopen) for more information.

## OHS Welcomes New Affiliate: Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City

### George Lefebvre, Guest Writer shasonje@ontera.net

There is nothing like revisiting the past to re-awaken one's appreciation for it. An opportune time to revisit the past is the celebration of a birthday or anniversary – and that was the occasion in Elk Lake this past year.

In celebrating its 100th year of incorporation in 2009, the Township of James/Elk Lake had ample opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate its colourful history. Founded in 1909 as a result of silver being found in the immediate area, it grew dramatically as the primary supply point for another silver find in nearby Gowganda. One aspect of such celebrations is a re-awakening of appreciation for events of historical significance within a community, and Elk Lake displayed a renaissance of its origins in many respects.

Prominent in early Elk Lake, originally called "Elk City", was its founder: the legendary Canadian boxer, war hero, author and municipal leader, Jack Munroe. Mr. Munroe at one time challenged for the heavyweight boxing title of the world and even won an unsanctioned fight against then-champion James Jeffries. Following this, he made his way to Elk Lake and founded the community where he is still fondly and proudly remembered as the city's first mayor. Leaving Elk Lake, he made his way to the Porcupine mining camp where his heroism is recognized as being instrumental in saving numerous lives and property during a devastating fire there in 1911.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Jack Munroe, accompanied by his faithful Scottish collie, Bobby Burns, was among the original enlistees

in the service of his Country in 1914 when he travelled to Ottawa and joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. True to form, he was among the first Canadians to set foot on French soil, but, his war service was cut short when a sniper's bullet pierced his right shoulder in June of 1915. This wound permanently immobilized his famous right hand and arm but Jack Munroe and Bobby Burns returned to a cabin behind Cobalt where, using his left hand, he penned a classic book on the First World War entitled, *Mopping Up*.

Jack Munroe's contributions were a vibrant part of the 100th anniversary celebration, with a local park being named in his memory, and a group of performers, the Cape Breton Stage Company, travelling to Elk Lake and putting on two performances of, "With a Strong Hand, the Jack Munroe Story". Simultaneously, local efforts to get some long overdue recognition for the feats of Jack Munroe determined that most awards of prestige cannot be granted posthumously.

Undeterred, Terry Fiset, now our new President, spearheaded an effort to create both an award and a group in memory of the community's founder. This has resulted in the founding of the "Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City" which has now proudly achieved affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society. In turn, the local society has created the "Order of the North" in honour of the contributions of Jack Munroe to the North. The Order will be awarded to other nominees, both living and deceased, who will be reviewed by the Nomination Review Committee for consideration.

Those vested with the Order will have a sketched reproduction

## Ontario History

### The War of 1812 – Call for Articles

### Spring 2010 Preview

The editors of *Ontario History* would like to hear from scholars interested in contributing articles to a special edition of the journal on the subject of Ontario and The War of 1812. The edition, not unexpectedly, will come out in 2012.

Expressions of interest and an abstract of the proposed article can be sent before May 31, 2010 either to the guest editor Clare Dale (clare.dale@carleton.ca) or to Thorold Tronrud, general editor, (foxlort@tbaytel.net).

To add an *Ontario History* subscription to your membership, please kindly email members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca today!

### SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Do you have an exhibit, event or story that you would like to publicize in the *OHS Bulletin*? If you have a submission, send it to:

Editor, *OHS Bulletin*,  
izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

The *OHS Bulletin* reserves the right to edit all submissions. Good quality, high resolution images are always welcome.

Scheduled for the Spring 2010 issue are the following articles: *Dead Man's Gun: True Crime at the Canadian War Museum, 1945-1946* by Andrew Burtch; *"Milking the Consumer" Consumer dissatisfaction and regulatory intervention in the Ontario milk industry during the Great Depression* by Andrew Ebejer; *Fields of Engagement: Baseball in Rural Ontario, 1870-1925* by Ben Robinson; *Balancing Wilderness Protection and Economic Development: The Politics of Planning for Atikaki, 1972-1983* by George Warecki; *An Introduction to Charles A. Cooke within the Context of Aboriginal Identity* by Timothy C. Winegard; *"A most industrious and far-seeing Mohawk scholar": Charles A. Cooke (Thawennensere), Civil Servant, Amateur Anthropologist, Performer, and Writer* by Brendan F.R. Edwards; and *"In the Interest of the Indians": The Department of Indian Affairs, Charles Cooke and the recruitment of Native Men in Southern Ontario for the Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1916* by Katharine McGowan.



On March 8th, The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry officially opened the Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City's (JMHSEC) very impressive display and exhibit at the 2010 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's International Convention and Trade & Mining Investment Show in Toronto. Minister Gravelle is seen here holding the original key for Elk Lake (City) presented in February 1913 by the citizens of Elk Lake to Jake Englehart, Chairman, Temiskaming and Northern Railway, on completion of the Elk Lake Branch. Seen here (left to right) are George Lefebvre, Secretary, JMHSEC; Michael Gravelle MPP Thunder Bay-Superior North; Terry Fiset, President, JMHSEC, and Jeff Barton, Vice-President, JMHSEC.

As the former highly respected Liberal Culture Critic (1996-99), Michael Gravelle understands the vital role a local historical society plays in building a sustainable community and preserving history for future generations. The OHS appreciates Michael's continued support for local historical organizations like JMHSEC, one of our newest affiliated societies in northern Ontario.

Photo Rob Leverty

of themselves completed by area artist Dean Dubois. It will then be framed and hung on the Wall of Honour at the Elk Lake Eco Centre as a lasting tribute to those individuals.

The Society has embarked on other ambitious efforts which include pursuing the production of a film documentary about the life of Jack Munroe. They are also working with noted sculptor, Ernie Fauvelle, as they aspire to have a statue of Mr. Munroe and Bobby Burns erected in the Jack Munroe

Memorial Park that was created in his honour in Elk Lake in 2009. Further, working with military historian Norm Christie of Ottawa, the society is having local author Dorothy Farmiloe's book, *The Legend of Jack Munroe*, reprinted.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about, joining, or donating to, the Jack Munroe Historical Society of Elk City, they can be reached at P.O. Box 10, Elk Lake, P0J 1G0; 706.678.2237; or jackmunroe2009@yahoo.ca.

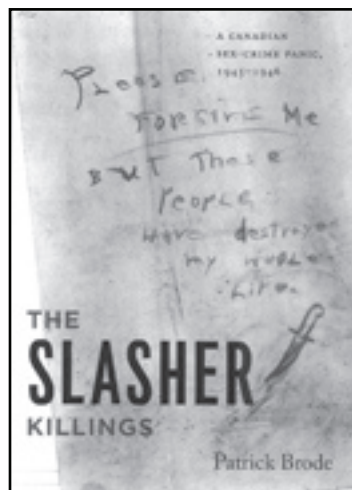
## From The Bookshelf

### Chris and Pat Raible, Editors raible@georgian.net

### WINTER WONDERLAND

*Let It Snow: Keeping Canada's Winter Sports Alive.* Darryl Humber & William Humber. Foreword by Mayor Hazel McCallion. Dundurn Press. 182 pages. Illustrations. \$24.99 softbound.

From the days Canadians discovered snowshoeing, to the steely resolve of curlers on outdoor rinks, to the present day in which youngsters and their parents wake early in the cold and dark for 5 a.m. hockey practices, sports are the way we revel in the winter, say the Humberes. They present an admiring review of winter activities illustrated by fine archival photographs: sledding, snowshoeing, curling, skating, skate sailing, lacrosse, even horseracing, and, of course, hockey – played on backyard rinks as well as professional arenas. Winter is Canada's splendid season, the authors say, but they sound a warning note that climate change will wreak long-term havoc. They conclude, "In the future ... the Olympics will depend on artificial indoor environments ... and Canadians looking to recall those days of snow and ice and winter frost will have to visit a climate-controlled entertainment emporium for a last reminder of what once defined them."



### CRIME AND PANIC

*The Slasher Killings: A Canadian Sex-Crime Panic, 1945-1946.* Patrick Brode. Wayne State University Press. 229 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound.

World War II was finally over and along with the rest of Canada, Windsor, Ontario, celebrated in style. Then, in July and August of 1945 the city was rocked by a

series of knifings and murders – brutal and seemingly random. Panic ensued. The police seemed incapable of catching the perpetrator, fanning a vicious press campaign that targeted all who did not belong: drifters, the unemployed, racial minorities, and finally and very explicitly those with "deviant sexualities" – to be gay and visible was to invite public vilification, a possible jail term, or a violent assault, says Brode. An editorial in the *Star* summed up the panic: "This Fiend Must Be Caught". Both the OPP and the RCMP were brought in to help, and in time a suspect was arrested and brought to trial. The subject matter is obviously grisly, but Brode writes with such a balanced and indeed factual style that the book fascinates rather than appalls. He quotes from police investigation records, press reports, and trial transcripts. Brode, himself a lawyer and author of five books on the history of law in Canada, is particularly adept at catching the drama of the courtroom scenes.

### SURVIVING STRUCTURES

*Abandoned Ontario: Abandoned Buildings of Ontario Book One.* Bruce R. Brigham. Abandoned Ontario. 204 pages. Illustrations. \$45.00 softbound.

Who among us has not travelled by some derelict house, wondered about its past, and wished we dared stop and explore it. Photographer Brigham has for some years been doing just that – and taking pictures of what he found. Some seem suddenly to have been abandoned, furnishings and other possessions left behind, all left victim to passing time and changing seasons. Others are totally barren, save subtle clues of their former residents. Some, Brigham reports, seem still to house spirits who never left – or perhaps returned. These pages are packed with images – of whole buildings, of architectural details, of weather damage, of human history. This first volume – of dwellings in Grey, Simcoe and Dufferin Counties and Peel Region – will be treasured by all who appreciate surviving artifacts of earlier eras. Evidence of the past is ever present. We need only to pause a moment, to stop and look and listen.

### NEEDING DOUGH

*Breadwinning Daughters: Young Working Women in a Depression-Era City, 1929-1939.* Katrina Srigley. University of

Toronto Press. 206 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

The Great Depression left few Canadian families untouched. Srigley here considers the implications of a time when young women often had better chances of paid employment than their brothers or fathers. Her study was inspired by her own grandmother, who, as a young woman, left school to help support her unemployed father and two brothers. When "men's" work was disappearing, women continued to have viable wage-earning options in textile manufacturing, office work, domestic service, teaching, and nursing. Srigley's grandmother was not alone. Srigley has found and interviewed more than eighty women who lived and worked in Toronto during the 1930s. She tells their workplace stories, but also how and with whom they spent their leisure time, how they dressed, what they thought. These were hard times, but the book's many delightful photographs show lots of smiles too.

### COPING STRATEGIES

*Respectable Citizens: Gender, Family, and Unemployment in Ontario's Great Depression.* Lara Campbell. University of Toronto Press. 280 pages. Illustrations. \$65.00 hardbound. \$29.95 softbound.

This is another thoughtful study of how families managed in the Great Depression (the book is dedicated to Campbell's grand mothers). Campbell sheds new light on the resources and strategies used to cope with the hardships of eviction, foreclosure, bankruptcy, desertion, and domestic violence all too often brought on by unemployment. Even for those still employed there was a general and overwhelming dread of job loss. By 1932, lack of work was a threat to practically every working-class family in Ontario, and many skilled working-class and middle-class families had also exhausted their assets. Like Srigley, Campbell affirms the role of women who "made do" in a variety of ways: cooking economically, shopping and budgeting carefully, and taking on formal and informal work to earn money. Children, too, could and did contribute their labour. Campbell also discusses the way that grassroots organization and individual protest helped redefine the social and economic rights of citizenship, significantly influencing post-Second World War welfare legislation.

### PAST TIMES NOT FORGOTTEN

Two communities – both now

part of the City of Toronto, each with its own history, its own stories – are the subject of two neatly designed (in a small, landscape format) and attractively produced booklets. For those who have links to the areas, they are indeed works to be cherished.

*Our Danforth: one hundred years of memories.* Lorne S. Miller. The Nisbet Lodge McClintock Manor Foundation. 172 pages. Illustrations. \$25.00 Softbound.

What is now called the Danforth was once Todmorden, Playter Estates, Danforth Village and part of Riverdale. Its roots stretch back to 1803 and Asa Danforth's first road running east from old York. The memories of more than thirty of its long-time residents are artfully intermingled by author-editor Lorne Miller into a single narrative of growing up and living in the area.

*Our Don Mills: a community memoir.* Lorne S. Miller. Better Living Health and Community Services Don Mills Residents Inc. 172 pages. Illustrations. \$25.00 softbound.

Don Mills was a planned post-World War II community with roots less old but just as deep. Once again, Miller draws on the shared memories of many residents, shopkeepers, business people and community leaders to weave a tapestry that tells the town's tale.

### LOCAL HISTORY

*Calabogie: Timber, Trains & Tourists.* Irene Robillard. General Store Publishing House. 176 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Who has heard of Calabogie? Lots of people, apparently. Calabogie Lake, in the Ottawa valley at the southeast end of Renfrew County, with its mix of bays and points, draws tourists in every season of the year. But most do not know Calabogie's history. Here it is lovingly presented. The story begins with the prized square-cut timber floated down the Madawaska River. Soon settlers were supplying the lumber companies with hay, oats, pork, and vegetables.

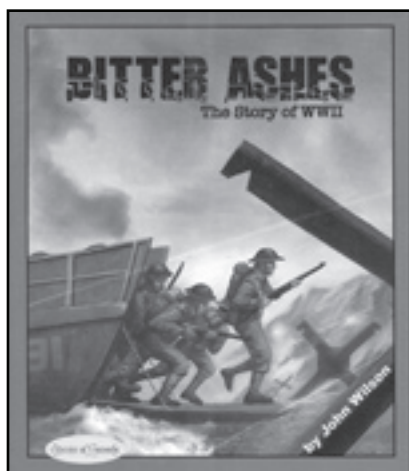
### BOOKSHELF CONT'D, PAGE 8...

Please Note: More extensive reviews of a number of books relating to the history of our province are published in each issue of Ontario History, published by The Ontario Historical Society.

The prices of books referred to on this page may or may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

<p><b>Sir Sandford Fleming</b> <i>His Early Diaries, 1845-1853</i> by Jean Murray Cole</p> <p>65 b&amp;w archival illustrations, maps, appendices, bibliography, notes, index \$30.00 hardcover</p> <p>The surveyor, inventor and railway builder's early life is revealed in his diaries written when he was an 18-year-old leaving his family home in Scotland for Canada.</p> <p> <b>DUNDURN</b> www.dundurn.com</p>	<p><b>Tecumseh</b> <i>Shooting Star, Crouching Panther</i> by Jim Poling Sr.</p> <p>12 b&amp;w archival illustrations, bibliography, index \$19.99 paperback</p> <p>Poling's research, combined with his journalistic attention to detail, and skilled story weaving, creates a biography that is vivid and accessible. Shawnee war chief Tecumseh dedicated his life to countering U.S. expansion and preserving a place for Aboriginal peoples.</p>	<p><b>JIM POLING SR.</b> <b>TECUMSEH</b> SHOOTING STAR, CROUCHING PANTHER</p> <p>Available from your favourite bookseller.</p>
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Robillard has done her research and chronicles the past two hundred years of life around the lake – from the timber era, the coming of the K & P railway, the creation of the village of Calabogie, the damming of the waters for hydro-electric power, and the construction of the first lodges and resorts. She says Calabogie continues to be a vibrant community, with much to offer present-day settlers as well as tourists. Lots of photographs, newspaper clippings, tables and maps inform the text.



WAR!

***Bitter Ashes: The Story of WWII.* John Wilson. Napoleon Publishing. 96 pages. Illustrations. \$20.95 hardbound.**

This fine book for young people (ages 12+, say the publishers) leads the reader through the build-up to the war and through its aftermath, as well as dealing in some detail with the war itself. For its comparatively short length, it is remarkably complete, with its clear and concise text, its sidebars, maps, and many photographs. Wilson covers the war in Europe and the Far East, the Atlantic and the Pacific, as well as on the home front. He does not hesitate to show the devastation as well as the devotion, the bravado as well as the bravery. Canada's vital and significant contribution to the war effort is noted, as is its shameful treatment of its Japanese Canadian citizens. *Bitter Ashes* is

a companion to *Desperate Glory: The Story of WWI*.

#### HISTORY MYSTERIES

Almost all of the books reviewed on these "From the Bookshelf" pages are works of fact rather than fiction. Be they local histories, academic studies, biographies, family memories, wartime tales, or children's stories, the intent of all of them is to stimulate thought and relate information. A few may be "fictionalized," that is, enhanced by the author's literary imagination to make them accessible to modern readers, but the intent of all is education, perhaps inspiration, rather than entertainment.

Occasionally, however, works of fiction are submitted for review. Such a work is noticed for Bulletin readers only if its tale is realistically set in a period in this province's past and if the historical aspects are in themselves substantive, quite apart from the literary merit of the work.

Three such books, not only fiction but mystery, are described here. The primary purpose of each is to intrigue the reader with a "who dunnit?" – or, in one case, a "why dunnit?" – but they each evidence extensive and convincing research and relate historical information along with their narratives. Not only do they spin good yarns, they weave durable material.

***Duel: A Dramatization of the Duel Between Robert Lyon and John Wilson, Perth, Upper Canada, June 13, 1833.* David Mulholland. General Store Publishing House. 132 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.**

The text is a meandering written report, penned on paper fifty years after the fact by an eyewitness to the infamous Perth duel. Many details of early Perth, and historical facts about dueling, are tied in to the story. The author's literary purpose is to tell what really happened.

***On the Head of a Pin.* Janet Kellough. Dundurn Press. 345 pages. \$11.99 softbound.**

A circuit-riding Methodist minister, working in eastern Upper Canada in the era just following the 1837 Rebellion, attempts to track down and identify his daughter's murderer, a serial killer. The strongly held religious convictions and political differences of the central characters, all caught up in the turmoils of the time, are very much a part of the story.

***On a Darkling Plain: A Lost Villages Mystery.* Maggie Wheeler. General Store Publishing House. 256 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.**

The body of a man murdered fifty years ago, when houses and towns along the river were being moved or demolished to make way for locks on the new St. Lawrence Seaway, is discovered today. The key character, Farran Mackenzie, has known danger and murder before (this is the final volume of a series, but each story stands alone). The narrative not only bounces back to Old Iroquois in the 1950s, some of the pieces of the mystery date back to the War of 1812.

#### DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS

**Abandoned Ontario,**  
c/o Bruce Brigham,  
Box 3, Badjeros, ON N0C 1A0  
www.abandonedontario.ca

**Better Living Health and Community Services Don Mills Residents Inc.**  
875 Don Mills Road, Unit 7,  
Don Mills ON M3C 1V9.

**Dundurn Group,** 3 Church St.,  
Suite. 500, Toronto, ON  
M5E 1M2 www.dundurn.com

**General Store Publishing House,**  
1 Main St, Burnstown, ON  
K0J 1G0. publisher@gsph.com

**Napoleon Publishing Rendezvous Press,**  
178 Willowdale Ave., Suite 201,  
Toronto, ON M2N 4Y8.  
www.napoleonpublishing.com

**Nisbet Lodge McClintock Manor Fdn,**  
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Toronto ON  
M4K 3S7.

**University of Toronto Press,**  
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Suite 700,  
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M4Y 2W8.

**Wayne State University Press,**  
Canadian  
Distributor:  
Scholarly Book  
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sbookscan.com

...FROM 1812, PAGE 1

to every historical collection in the Niagara area and beyond. It is recognized that a project devoted singularly to the War itself would exclude other repositories from the undertaking by the nature of their collections. Not all heritage institutions have military artifacts. However, this project will be looking more broadly at the time period in an effort to better understand the daily social, economic and political lives of the inhabitants of Upper Canada as well as the details of the War itself. Items such as contemporary newspapers, business ledgers, letters, school notebooks, clothing and commercial products will be available for study among the articles of war. This open approach will thus accommodate other repositories as these more common materials are readily available. Plus, it will strengthen the research value of the website as it will provide visitors with a greater understanding of this time period.

The project, made possible by funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian Culture Online Strategy, allowed Brock University to hire two technicians to scan, photograph and upload the hundreds of items in the partner organizations' collections, providing a comprehensive snapshot of the daily social, economic and political lives of the inhabitants of Upper Canada as well as the details of the war itself. The technicians scanned over 1,000 items and have managed over 10,000 image files. A web technician was also hired to design the front end of the website.

Under the direction of the Social Science Curriculum Consultant, the District School Board of Niagara has provided a teacher to develop educational resources using the digitized collection to teach students about this pivotal moment in our nation's history.

The project worked with Our Ontario to make the content discoverable by a global audience. They provide an online discovery portal that is available to any heritage and cultural organization wishing to contribute to the 1812 History website. Their platform provides flexibility and the software required for metadata and searching capabilities on the website. This open approach is intended to accommodate other repositories that may wish to participate in the project in the future. Details for participating can be found on the website.

For more information, contact David Sharron, Head, Special Collections and Archives, James A. Gibson Library, Brock University, 905.688.5550 ext. 3264; or dsharron@brocku.ca. www.1812history.com

#### Robert J. Burns, Ph.D. Heritage Resources Consultant

- Historical Research and Analysis
- Home and Property History
- Corporate and Advertising History
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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

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