

Access Beyond the Ramp Part Four: Expand Your Horizons: Multi-Sensory Tours and the AGO

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Editor's Note: In his first three articles for the *OHS Bulletin* (Dec. 2008, 2009 and 2010), John Rae examined a variety of access issues for heritage organizations and institutions. In the following article, he discusses the value of expanding your horizons by taking multi-sensory tours, not just for persons who are blind, but for all patrons. John, an OHS member and volunteer, has recently been appointed to the newly created Inclusive Design Advisory Council to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg.

The visual arts are often assumed to require sight for both creation and appreciation. So how might facilities—especially art galleries—make your collections come alive for persons who are blind or have significant vision loss?

The Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) is an organization that is offering a range of tactile and multi-sensory tours.

"But multi-sensory tours aren't just for gallery visitors who cannot see," said Doris Van Den Brekel, the AGO's Program Coordinator, Gallery Guides, Education and Public Programming, "they are

intended for everyone."

"These tours challenge the visitor to look beyond vision and use all their senses to gain a deeper appreciation of what the AGO offers," adds Van Den Brekel.

A typical multi-sensory tour at the Art Gallery of Ontario lasts 60 to 90 minutes with two Gallery guides and involves up to 10 visitors. The first such tour that I took included the smells of dried lavender or cloves contained in snuff bottles from the Thomson collection; verbal discussion of

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Reading and Remembrance 2011: Peacekeeping and Peacemaking

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In 2005, the Year of the Veteran, Angie Littlefield and Mary Cook launched Reading and Remembrance, a program that offers free online bilingual Remembrance Day and Veterans' Week resources for educators, parents and researchers. The goal of this program is to foster a better understanding of Canada's Remembrance history, while encouraging literacy in readings that emphasize equality, diversity, local history and national pride. Each year, ten ready-to-use lessons are researched and added to the website. For example, last year's theme was Homeland Stories, featuring history lessons of local importance and flavour. That theme engaged over 100,000 student participants!

2011's theme is Peacekeeping and Peacemaking, focusing on Canada's role as a moderator in international conflicts. Peacekeeping and Peacemaking lesson plans include:

- From Winning the War to Winning the Peace: the aftermath of WWII

- The Suez Crisis: the birth of "traditional peacekeeping" and Canada's emerging identity

- The Korean Conflict: warring and peacekeeping 1950-1957

- Deter, Detect, Defend: NORAD and the DEW Line

- Soldiers killed on duty and the Izzy doll

- Soldiers from afar with their Canadian hearts

- Down to one: Canada's presence in Cyprus 1964-2011

- This One's for the Girls

- Afghanistan: beyond the fighting

- The soldier, the diplomat and the journalist: perspectives on peacemaking in the 21st century.

By visiting www.readingandremembrance.ca, teachers are able



to view, download and print these lesson plans for free! Also available are an additional 30 "Minutes" which are shorter features, many of which are available in both English and French. Furthermore, participants are not limited to following the 2011 theme. They are invited to select past themes that coincide best with their needs; over 60 lesson plans and hundreds of "Minutes" are available.

Teachers and educators are encouraged to register their classrooms so that their school or class may be added to the participant "Honour Roll" list. Already in early October 2011, over 125 schools across Ontario were registered. The interest in mostly Ontario-based materials that stand alone to supplement the curriculum is growing rapidly!

Also important to note is that Reading and Remembrance is not limited to Remembrance Day and Veterans' Week; the website remains open and free year-round. Dozens of lessons that tie in to other themes, for example: Women's History Month (female spies, pilots, Silver Cross mothers, war brides etc.) or Black History Month (profiling Black Canadian soldiers and artists) are available to enrich the curriculum at any time during the school year.

The OHS would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support of Ontario Power Generation, without which this program could not succeed and continue to grow.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Ontario Historical Society, in partnership with the Waterloo Historical Society and Waterloo Region Museum is pleased to announce its

2012 Conference and Honours and Awards Ceremony

in celebration of the centennial of the Waterloo Historical Society and the inaugural season of Waterloo Region Museum

June 8 and 9, 2012 | Waterloo Region Museum

More information to follow!

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The Ontario
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President's Report

Dr. Brad Rudachyk, President
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My wife, Karen, and I had the good fortune to cycle around Lake Simcoe this summer. Our plan was to bike as close to the lake as possible and to take in as many historic sites as we could along the way.

We began our zero-emission journey from our home in Barrie on a bright and promising day in late July. Our longest and most challenging daily ride was the 70 km leg between Barrie and Bradford.

We enjoyed a leisurely jaunt through Innisfil and West Gwillimbury, taking in as many lake views as we could, arriving in Bradford ready for refreshment in just over five hours, including time off for rest, photos and lunch.

Day two dawned muggy, humid and grey. Our goal was Keswick with lots of time to visit Sharon Temple National Historic Site. Sharon Temple is one of those places that many in Central Ontario intend to visit. Certainly, we have driven by it countless times but never found the time to stop in. Built between 1825 and 1832 by David Willson and the Children of Peace, this bright, airy place of worship remains as awe-inspiring today as it must have been in the early nineteenth-century. With lovely treed grounds and a collec-

tion of period buildings, it remains a calm, and calming, oasis in our busy work-a-day world. Drop by; you will be glad you did.

We were greeted by heavy rain on day three. Bikes and rain don't mix. Undaunted and hopeful we left Keswick in a slight drizzle only to see it escalate from a refreshing shower to seething downpour. Despite the liquid sunshine, we checked out Roches Point, once proposed by Lt-Gov Sir Peregrine Maitland to be the capital of Upper Canada. The residents of York begged to differ and the matter was let slide after Maitland's departure in 1828. The rain also cut short our visit to the lovely stone Christ Anglican Church and its churchyard.

The weather eventually broke and we were able to spend a delightful two-and-a-half hours at Georgina Pioneer Village. Officially opened in 1975, the site continues to develop with the ongoing support of the Georgina Historical Society, the Georgian Heritage Committee and the Town of Georgina. It features a wide array of buildings from humble log cabins to the refinement of Sutton's Noble House; from the humble blacksmith's shop to Sutton's railway station. The village is well-laid out and the buildings are filled with artifacts. We certainly enjoyed our visit.

We were greeted the next morning by a clear bright sky and the promise of a hot day at the beach at Sibbald Point Provincial Park. After a quick toot to Jackson's Point Harbour, we crossed the designated Mossington Bridge, built in 1912. Of course, no visit to Sibbald Point would be complete without spending some time at St. George's Anglican Church and its churchyard, the last resting place of Stephen Leacock and Mazo de la Roche. This typical English country church was built between 1876 and 1877 as a memorial to Susan Mein Sibbald, from whom Sibbald Point takes its name, and replaced the original 1839 wooden church. We would have loved to linger but Eildon Hall and the beach beckoned.

The Province of Ontario acquired the 500-acre lakeside es-



The Beaverton River Museum, owned and operated by the Beaverton-Thorah-Eldon Historical Society (OHS affiliate since 1977) features a c. 1850 settler log cabin, pictured above. Visit www.btehs.com for more information.

Photo Dr. Brad Rudachyk

tate of the Sibbald family in 1956, opening Sibbald Point Provincial Park the following year. While most visitors come for the recreational opportunities afforded by the park, not to be missed is Eildon Hall Museum. Filled with art, artifacts, and period furnishings, the building's grace and elegance have transcended time. One can only imagine the impact of its imported

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Executive Director's Report

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
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I am very pleased to report that on Saturday, October 1st, the OHS Board of Directors incorporated 3 more historical organizations in 2011 as not-for-profit corporations in the Province of Ontario. Congratulations to all our fellow citizens who have worked diligently in their communities to establish and incorporate the following three historical organizations: The Kennebec and District Historical Society; The Montgomery's Inn Museum INNovators and The Society for the Preservation of the Samuel Bechtel Burial Ground.

In 2009, the OHS established a new milestone for itself by incorporating 9 historical organizations in one year. In 2010, the Society achieved a new landmark for incorporating through affiliation 11 historical organizations. So far this year, the Society has incorporated 12 non-profit corporations. This breaks all previous OHS records as we respond to the rising tide of applications from all across Ontario to incorporate historical organizations dedicated to preserving and promoting some aspect of Ontario's history.

In August we launched our new online Ontario Heritage Directory, which features over 1,600 entries linking the province's heritage organizations, institutions, historic sites, First Nations and Municipal Heritage Committees. This database resource aims to keep Ontario's heritage commu-

nity connected while highlighting War of 1812-1814 bicentennial events. The Directory has already generated tremendous feedback and thanks to its community of users, over 500 updates and additions! I encourage our members to make use of this new online service and share it with their friends and colleagues.

The OHS insurance programme also continues to attract new applications. Since June, 14 member organizations have applied for the OHS insurance programme. Any historical organization in Ontario that is a non-profit corporation and a member of the OHS "in good standing" is eligible to apply for General Liability Insurance; Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and/or coverage for Property and Contents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 1.866.955.2755 toll free or e-mail: rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Growing up in Ontario, the only time I ever heard of tornadoes was "Dorothy in Kansas." Regrettably, it seems tornadoes now terrorize parts of Ontario each year. Goderich is one of our latest victims and the damage to its built and natural heritage is appalling. One of our sister provincial organizations, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, has established a Goderich Heritage Restoration Fund to assist in assessing and restoring heritage buildings damaged by the tornado in Goderich. For further information, please contact: www.arconserv.ca or tel: 1.877.264.8937.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lamine Baldé
Ryan Bradley
Dylan Burrows
Caledon
Heritage Foundation
Jolene DeCew Giesbrecht
Every House Tells a Story
Darrell Force
Forest History
Society of Ontario
Fort York Foundation
Friends of
Fort York and Garrison
Laura Garner
Ruth Hess
Stav Kassaris
Kennebec and District
Historical Society
Emily Lada
Annette & Samantha Lee
Michel Legault
Cheryl Merigold
Adrian & Suanne Miedema
Timothy Mikkelsen
Montgomery's Inn
Museum INNovators
North Bay Municipal
Heritage Committee
Gerry Patey
Presqu'île Provincial Park
The Society for the Pres-
ervation of the Samuel
Bechtel Burial Ground
Dr Allan Sherwin
Silverview Community
Association
Dr Elaine Sta Mina

DONORS

Carmela Andraos
Evelyn Babineau
Chris Bagley
Gyuszi Berki
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Dr Margaret Derry
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Torrance Henderson
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Miedema
Cheryl Merigold
Donna Moore
Sharon O'Shea
Garry Peters
Dennis Pollock
Elizabeth Ruth
Redelmeier
H Marie Smibert
B H Snitman
James Stanley
Marjorie Stuart
Margaret Surtees
Brenda Whitlock
Sherman Zavitz

Congratulations to the City of Ottawa on the new City of Ottawa Archives building, located at Woodroffe Avenue and Tallwood in the former Nepean Centrepont neighbourhood. This is the first newly constructed heritage facility built by the City of Ottawa as all earlier archives and museums occupy renovated or repurposed buildings. For further information: www.ottawa.ca/archives.

The Millbrook & Cavan Historical Society members are pleased with their new quarters adjacent to the Voyageur Canoe Company and are busy unpacking, settling in and looking for volunteers: 705.932.2720.

The Association of Manitoba Museums is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2012, and is looking for suggestions on how to commemorate this milestone. Ideas? Call toll free: 1.866.747.9323.

Plans to memorialize Lord Stanley and the most famous trophy in North America took a major step closer to becoming a reality when the National Capital Commission approved the idea and earmarked a site for it at Rideau Street and Colonel By Drive in Ottawa. For further information: information@sirr hockey.org.

Congratulations to Samantha Curran, who graduated in June from Glengarry District High School in Alexandria, winner of the 2011 Glengarry Historical Society Prize for History, including a cash award of \$250. Well done Samantha and members of the Society!

Congratulations also to OHS member Charles Garrad, who was recently named the 2011 Wyandotte Nation Honouree by Wyandotte Nation, Oklahoma, at their Pow-Wow on September 10th.

The heritage community was saddened to learn earlier this year of the passing of Charles William Shaver, known to the world as "Bud", and a devoted advocate not only to preserving and presenting the history of Haileybury but to The Ontario Historical Society and its membership across Ontario. His accomplishments were legion: Member of Town Council, instrumental in forming the Township Fire Department and serving as Chief, founder and Chairman of the Haileybury Heritage Museum. One of the innovative, popular and successful fundraisers for the museum has been held annually in August called The Bakeless Bake Sale! No cooking, baking or fussing, just cheque writing and opening your mail to find a tax receipt. Think about it!

Merrickville lost an author, historian, teacher, volunteer, award winner and true friend in July with the passing of Alice Hughes, whose family arrived in Wolford Township seven generations ago. Alice was a co-founder of the Lanark County Genealogical Society and honoured the group with her attendance in 2006 when the 25th anniversary was celebrated. Our sympathy goes out to her family, friends and colleagues.

The Thunder Bay Historical

Museum Society has announced three new publications in the Gift Shop: *Italians of Fort William's East End, 1907-1969*, by Roy Piovesana, *Titanic: The Great Lakes Connections*, by Chris Kohl, and *Labour at the Lakehead: Ethnicity, Socialism, and Politics, 1900-1935*, by Michel S. Beaulieu. Further information and costs: 807.623.0801.

As historical societies, museums and heritage groups prepare for a busy fall season, we bring a sampling of the programmes, projects, lectures and activities for your consideration. Please contact your local organizations and institutions to find out what is going on just around the corner from where you live and what we have missed!

October 24: "How on Earth Will I Ever Read That?: Decoding Handwritten Documents" with speaker Cheryl Moote, sponsored by Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society at Memorial Hall, North York Centre, Willowdale, at 7:30 p.m.: 416.733.2608.

October 26: Mary Mason will tell the story of growing up in Toronto's Deer Park area and read from her book "The Well Tempered Listener" at the Northern District Library, 7:30 p.m. hosted by the North Toronto Historical Society: 416.483.8475.

October 28: Edward Bebee will present "Lemonade from Lemons: The Rideau Corridor and the Rideau Canal" hosted by The Historical Society of Ottawa at 1 p.m. at the Routhier Community Centre: 613.741.7838.

October 30: Attend if you dare! A Monster Mash from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ball's Falls Conservation Area in the Niagara Peninsula. Monstrous Games, Howlarious Crafts and Spine Tingling Treats for children aged 6 to 10 years. Register by October 24 by calling 905.562.5235, ext. 26.

November 3: "Great Canadian Love Stories" presented by author Cheryl MacDonald, hosted by The Lundy's Lane Historical Society at the Niagara Falls Public Library at 7:30 p.m.

November 4: Festival of Banners Gala and Silent Auction, hosted by the Orillia Museum of Art & History, 6:30 to 9 p.m.: 705.326.2159.

November 5: "Moments of Remembrance" with Dr. Helen Douglas, hosted by the Lanark County Genealogical Society at 7:30 p.m. at Archives Lanark, Drummond Centre: 613.793.6335. Wear red!!

November 25: Fanshawe Pioneer Village hosts a Dickens' Christmas Dinner. Spend an evening with the author himself, visiting the colonies on the eve of his 200th birthday. Tickets and reservations: 519.457.1296.

November 30: The Oxford Historical Society joins the Woodstock Public Library at the Library at 7:30 p.m. to host Pauline Kok describing her experiences in a Japanese POW camp: 519.421.1700.

December 4: Enjoy a Christmas Sugarplum Tea hosted by the Bonnechere Museum in Eganville: 613.628.1000.

Forest History Society of Ontario joins The Ontario Historical Society

Ken Armson, President, FHSO
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Ontario's forests have been around for several thousands of years, and from the time of the first peoples following the retreat of the last ice age to the present, Ontarians have been increasingly dependent on them. Our forests have been a part of life, initially by providing food and shelter, and then progressively as an economic source of resources until our present recognition of the spectrum of values they represent. It seems strange, therefore, that a realization of their historical significance by the formation of the Forest History Society of Ontario (FHSO) did not occur until two years ago.

One of the reasons for this late start was the major changes which have been occurring in the forest sector during the past decade—particularly in the forest industry and in the province's dealings with Crown forests. It became apparent that with the closing of segments of the pulp and paper industry, valuable records of woodlands going back for almost a century in some cases were in danger of being lost. There are also many smaller collections of historical importance that are relatively unknown.

The mission of the FHSO is "to further the knowledge, understanding and preservation of Ontario's forest history." There are many ways in which this can be achieved and initially with two projects FHSO is focusing on the identification and archival preservation of records and materials. To do this, it has begun a documentation of relevant collections and facilitated, where possible, placing them in appropriate existing archives. A second project is the cataloguing of publications dealing with all aspects of Ontario's forest history. Obviously, these are continuing projects and are updated online: www.ontarioforesthstory.ca.

Another objective relates to the

encouragement and recognition of forest history, important in an ever-increasing urban population. In the past, many communities had a direct connection with the forest, but this has declined over the years. With it has come either ignorance or misunderstanding about the contribution that forests have played in the past and now contribute to our overall well-being. In order to provide information to the public, the FHSO publishes a biannual newsletter *Forestory* (spring and fall). Each issue contains articles on a wide range of topics and is available on our website or from our office. As an institutional member of The Ontario Historical Society, FHSO looks forward to



The OHS recently attended the launch of OHS member Dr. John Bacher's (left) *Two Billion Trees and Counting, the Legacy of Edmund Zavitz* (Dundurn). Pictured beside Mr. Bacher is Kenneth Armson, President, FHSO.

working with local heritage and historical groups and museums to further interest in forest history. For example, this summer it supported the Port Rowan and South Walsingham Local Heritage Association in the erection of a memorial and the naming of the Edmund J. Zavitz Forest at St. Williams in Norfolk County. Although the FHSO's membership is not large, it is distributed well across Ontario and it encourages its members to work with local communities in their historical endeavours.



The OHS recently had an opportunity to present Dyan Cross with the 2010 Huguenot Society of Canada Award for her book *The Underground Railroad: The Long Journey to Freedom in Canada* (James Lorimer & Co.). Pictured right is Sandy Crawley, Executive Director, Professional Writers Association of Canada. Congratulations Ms. Cross!

OHS Accepting Honours & Awards Nominations!

Enclosed in your copy of the *Bulletin* is a Nomination Form for the 2011 OHS Honours and Awards.

Nominate organizations, institutions, volunteers and authors across 15 categories by January 6, 2012.

Visit our website to print or download extra copies.
For more info: 416.226.9011 or izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Museum News



Pictured above, left to right, are Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum (CCHM) volunteers Grace Willmott, Elaine Scott, Lorraine Garside, Wanda Frost and Wendy Hough along with CCHM Student Interpreter Chris Gleaside outside the CCHM's newest museum addition, a fully accessible washroom made possible by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum receives Accessibility Grant

Wayne Scott, Curator, CCHM
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The Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum (CCHM) is a not-for-profit corporation governed by an elected Board of Directors located on a 6.5-acre park-like setting along the historic Coldwater River. Its mandate is to promote, collect and retain the history of Coldwater and surrounding areas between 1830 and 1950.

In c. 1830, Archibald Woodrow immigrated to Canada from his birthplace home in Islay, Northern Scotland. Archibald, his wife Catherine and their infant daughter settled on a small piece of land in what is today known as Coldwater, located within the Township of Severn.

Here, Archibald constructed a small log cabin with an attic and a large stone fireplace hearth. By the mid-1860s his family had grown and a single room was insufficient, so Archibald constructed a two-storey addition. Archibald's children numbered 10 upon his death in 1875. His home remains on the original foundation and is a fine example of an early Canadian

homestead. The museum also has an extensive collection of Canadiana memorabilia and vintage farm machinery.

Over the years, the museum has grown with the addition of several outbuildings, donated from the Coldwater village and neighbouring farms. A 250-metre river trail with heritage gardens was recently opened, and the museum is proud to announce the recent opening of a fully accessible washroom complete with a new drilled well and septic system.

Between 2010 and 2011, CCHM was fortunate in obtaining a Handicapped Accessibility Grant from Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and a grant for a new drilled well with septic from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Museum acknowledges the support of several local businesses, volunteers, members and specifically the support of The Ontario Historical Society.

CCHM is now able to offer a wider service to many more people from this community. For more information about the Museum, please visit www.coldwaterheritagemuseum.com

Fulfilling a Dream: Laying the Foundation for the Mossley Museum and Archives

Alison Warwick, President, MPHCS
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In 2011 the Mossley Post Heritage and Citizenship Society (MPHCS) applied for a Museum and Technology Fund grant from Ontario's Ministry of Tourism and Culture and received \$12,000 in funding to create an inventory of the hundreds of artifacts and as many as thousands of documents, books, medals, photographs, pamphlets, textiles and more that had gradually accumulated in Mossley's former General Store and Post Office, established in 1865. The search for an archivist who would not be overwhelmed by the project would be a challenge. Although most archivists work in institutional or academic archives, the Society's membership wanted someone with not only experience, but a creative imagination to lay the foundations for what would one day become Mossley's Museum and Archives, a valuable community resource in historical and social terms.

For the diverse groups and individuals who came in contact with the former Mossley General Store and Post Office, there was no such thing as a 'quick trip to the store' because most products were measured, weighed and then carefully wrapped. It was normal for customers to charge their purchases—for this was a small, tight-knit community where people knew one another and a man's word was his bond. Often customers would arrange to pay by trading or bartering eggs, homemade butter, home woven goods, quilts, meat, fish or poultry. Sometimes men worked for the owner of the General Store as payment for the goods and services. Materials sold in the General Store reflected peoples' wants and needs and also provided insight into the wider social and national aspirations of the era. Mossley's General Store and Post Office were also central to the rural area because they served as

meeting places for members of the community. Here, people learned about barn raisings, births, deaths, recreational and church functions, marriages, quilting bees and countless other events or circumstances that shaped the lives of the men, women and children in the area. People also encountered new ideas about household management, health care, new agricultural technologies and much more.

In May 2011, Alison Warwick, President, MPHCS, heard about the work of Dr. Inge Sanmiya who, more than a decade ago, had created the museum and archives for London's Western Fair Association. Inge had worked from the ground up on that project and had written her PhD thesis with a focus on the Western Fair Association. She came to a meeting later in May where she had an opportunity to view the artifacts on display. It was obvious to everyone at the meeting that Inge had an innate love of "dusty old documents and artifacts." At a second meeting of the MPHCS Inge spoke about her past archival projects. Her enthusiasm for the Society's proposal to create an accessible historical resource was infectious. Since then, Inge has already created an inventory of the Society's artifacts and is now beginning to assemble, sort, label and identify the thousands of documents and what Inge refers to as "historical treasure." As Project Manager, Inge Sanmiya has also developed policies for both the acquisition of artifacts and documents as well as the loan of these materials for display purposes. Buoyed by this enthusiasm, MPHCS members have now begun to think of this project as the foundation for a future Museum and Archives, which will be accessible to a wide audience.

For more information, please visit www.mossleyheritagesociety.com. The MPHCS incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in March 1989.

Youth Corner

Carson Murphy, Student Writer
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Editor's Note: In the Summer 2011 Issue of the *OHS Bulletin*, Youth Corner explored a new high school level course offering developed by educator Rose Fine-Meyer of OISE called "Archives and Local History." Below, Carson Murphy, a student of history and recent high school graduate, interviews Ms Fine-Meyer.

Brief Biography

Rose Fine-Meyer, University of Toronto Instructor, author, doctoral candidate and recipient of the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History in 2007. Rose is currently completing her dissertation in history education at the

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. Rose is currently completing her dissertation in history education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. She is the Graduate Student Program Coordinator for The History Education Network (THEN/HiER) and Coordinator of HerStories Cafe, a Toronto women's history free monthly talk series (herstoriescafe.ca) and recent nominee for Heritage Toronto's Community Heritage Award. To reach Rose, please e-mail herstoriescafe@gmail.com.

What inspired you to create such a course?

My inspiration came from working in an exceptionally professional and creative history department in

a secondary school in the west end of Toronto in which the head of the Department, Mel Greif, an award-winning teacher, had created a series of projects that brought the school and the community together. What was striking was the way in which the work taking place within many of our history classrooms flowed out into the school community through specific collaborative research projects that directly involved community groups and professionals. I decided that community links with history students were so important that it should be developed into a course. History is more than a series of facts and events that took place long ago. History students need to engage in what historians do—research work within various communities, inside and outside of the classroom—in order to seek out what took place in the past and why. Teaching that engages students in their commu-

nity works because it effectively draws students into 'doing history' and thinking historically – it engages students in good pedagogical practice in ways that are meaningful to students, parents, schools and communities. By engaging in collaborative research projects with professionals and community groups, students can better understand the work of historians and as well as their past and its link to the present. The Archives and Local History course does this.

Has it been a continual work in progress? How long did it take to develop it? What were some of the challenges you met when developing this course?

I began work on this course in the early 2000s as I worked on other supplementary history ma-

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Cemetery News

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DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND!

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

Further to our good news story in the last edition the *OHS Bulletin* we have received a letter from the Registrar of Cemeteries. He has perused the list of unregistered cemeteries that was presented to the Honourable John Gerretsen, Minister of Consumer Services in May. He requires additional information which will further identify the 1,535 unregistered cemeteries. This will be forwarded to the Registrar in the coming months. Hopefully the Ministry staff will proceed quickly with the registration process.

More good news! Anishnawbe Health Toronto has rejected an offer of surplus land from Build Toronto. It was discovered that the area was part of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Cemetery. The cemetery was established c. 1822 and was closed to further burials c. 1857. It was the burial site of an untold number of Irish typhus victims in 1847. They were hastily interred in unmarked trenches. The rejection of the burial site is in keeping with aboriginal beliefs. It is ironic that the same respect is not extended to aboriginal sites. It is hoped

that a suitable site for the much-needed health centre will be found quickly.

Still more good news, and congratulations to Janis and Ted McCahill! They have done extensive research on the pioneer cemeteries of Forest. Working with the Chief Administration Officer for Lambton Shores it was determined that the cemeteries were not formally abandoned as prescribed by the *Cemeteries Act*. The cost of exhumation and relocation would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The location of these cemeteries will be shown on the official records of the municipality including the Official Plan. This will ensure these sites will not be disturbed through redevelopment. In addition, the Old Anglican Church Cemetery, the Bradley Cemetery and the Roman Catholic Burial Ground will be suitably marked with a memorial plaque.

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terials for schools, as a history teacher in a secondary school, in my graduate studies at the University of Toronto and in the many field trips we took with our history classes. I created and wrote several books in Canadian history: a Canadian Heritage Collection that engaged me with local stories, my work with the history of Canadian women, where many of the narratives appear in private collections, and my graduate work at the University of Toronto that focused on Canadian immigration history and history education that connected me further to work in local community archives. I developed an idea for a local history course and approached Tim Gauntley, who was the Instructional Leader of the Interdisciplinary Studies department of the Toronto District School Board who supported my work by funding my course summer writing. I took two summers to write the course and to place it into the Ontario Curriculum Planner. The most difficult part was to input the course into the curriculum planner. I needed support for that, and the challenges of ensuring that all course expectations were included. The course can be accessed online through the Interdisciplinary Studies department of the Ontario Ministry of Education (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/interdisciplinary.html.) ID-C4UI Archives and Local History is a grade 12 university level course, available for all secondary students in the province of Ontario.

The biggest challenge confront-

ing the course is that many teachers have faced barriers by administrators and other teachers who are hesitant in introducing new courses. I have spoken about the course materials at a wide range of conferences, and across the country, but I need to find better ways to communicate with school Principals to demonstrate how the Archives and Local History course benefits the entire school community. Furthermore, the task of creating a book or website of all the course materials remains; I hope to complete this in the near future.

As well, I have been working with a colleague in Indigenous Studies at Trent University to create a course outline that would better reflect the needs of Aboriginal communities. That is an ongoing project. I think the success of this course involves input from a range of history communities, professionals and academics, and needs to be continually changing to reflect new discoveries, materials and historical perspectives. As such, I am open to teacher/community suggestions. My dream is to have a provincial conference with teachers from all regions of the province bringing together research projects they developed throughout the year with their students and school communities—a celebration of the significance of local history—and an opportunity to inspire students and make the meaning and importance of history visible to all members of a school community. Communities, as well as individual students, need to be shown how and why history matters. Teaching the Archives and Local History would do this.

A team of archaeologists working with ground penetrating radar checked the Henson Burial Ground and the adjacent British American Institution Cemetery in Dresden. This was to determine the location of existing burials and prepare maps for future burials. The Henson Burial Ground is available for descendants of Josiah Henson.

Preparation work for a new bridge over the Credit River has revealed several burial sites of the Mississaugas. The Mississauga First Nations Council will review these discoveries to determine their final resting place.

An archaeological dig took place in Amherstburg to determine the number of burials at St. Jean the Baptiste School. This was the site of a pioneer cemetery.

Recently charges of mischief were dismissed for two teenagers and a twelve-year-old child in Napanee. The trio had done extensive damage in Shannonville Riverview Cemetery. These young people are involved with a police-administered diversion program that involves community service and other responsibilities. Campbell Monuments and the Belleville Cemetery donated a crew to repair the tombstones. Some were over 100 years old.

A notice to close a part of Christ Church Cathedral Cemetery in Ottawa has been received. A project to integrate the Cathedral, Lauder Hall and Roper House with new residential and commercial buildings has been proposed.

Photo Andrea Izzo



Trinity Theatre has forged a partnership with the OHS as they embark on their newest project: Building Bridges. Trinity is developing peer leadership with multicultural youth from high density recent immigrant communities, addressing social integration issues involved in becoming a Canadian citizen. With Canada Summer Jobs 2011 funding, Trinity hired summer students from Marc Garneau CI in Thorncliffe Park, North Albion CI in Rexdale and Lester B Pearson CI in Malvern to create a team that explored the social, environmental, historical and political aspects of Canadian society. On July 21st, the OHS gave a workshop for the students pictured above, who are now back in their respective schools carrying out their own workshops in Civics and ESL classes on the role youth can play in building an integrated and socially cohesive society.

'Access' from page 1

several pieces of art augmented by a musical component, and the opportunity to touch a number of items like Henry Moore's "Reclining Woman."

An additional component of these tours is often a discussion of how the artist created the work being described, e.g. "perspective," which shows how an artist constructs a painting on a canvas. Through the use of cut-out sections of board, a landscape was divided into sections to show the different layers of a painting.

Valentina Gal of AEBC's Toronto chapter commented, "I didn't realize how complicated the idea of depth and perspective is as it is experienced by seeing people. The overlays they made that show how the artist starts by painting the horizon and then adding background and then moving forward... and so on were fabulous. It is the best example of a teaching tool that I've seen in a long while."

Multi-sensory tours also expand the horizons of Gallery guides. Jessica Duarte, who leads many of these tours at the AGO, is passionate about them as both challenging and very fulfilling. She says, "It's the simple ex-

ercise of looking at art by means of all my senses, and engaging in thorough discussions with visitors about this experience, that opens my mind to its various levels of meaning. This approach enriches our overall guiding skills, and challenges us to be more creative and to constantly think outside the box.

Duarte adds, "The fulfilling part of multi-sensory tours comes from the emotional and intellectual reward of making a small difference in people's lives through art, and discovering deeper ways of appreciating art and human understanding. Emotionally, nothing fills me with more satisfaction than experiencing the discovery of a work of art, like a sculpture, alongside a visitor that reaches out to touch the work and upon first contact has a smile on his/her face and a sparkle in his/her eyes."

Multi-sensory tours at the AGO normally take place on the first Thursday and Sunday of the month. For further information, or to book one of these inspiring opportunities, contact Doris Van Den Brekel at 416.979.6660 ext. 268.

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Exhibits, Events and Notices

OCTOBER 22

Leslie McCurdy Performances

Hosted by the Owen Sound Emancipation Festival, "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman" and "Things my Fore-Sisters Saw," 7:00 p.m., Roxy Theatre, Owen Sound. Tickets \$29.95, purchased at www.roxytheatre.ca. More info at www.emancipation.ca or 519.376.9684.

NOVEMBER 2-4

OMA Annual Conference

"Innovation Rooted in Community" will be held in Kitchener. Register at www.museumsontario.com, by e-mailing conference@museumsontario.com or by calling 416.348.8672.

NOVEMBER 2

Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations

The Governor Simcoe Branch of the UELAC hosts Dorothy Duncan to speak on her most recent book. St. David's Anglican Church, 49 Donlands Ave. (at Danforth), 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 16

Who won the War of 1812?

Grimsby Historical Society hosts Parks Canada's Bicentennial Coordinator Ron Dale at 7:30 p.m. www.grimsbyhistoricalsociety.ca

JANUARY 29, 2012

OBHS Kick-Off Brunch

Ontario Black History Society's Annual event kicking off Black History Month. Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex, Toronto. 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. \$75/\$85 tickets, Marketplace available. More info: www.blackhistorysociety.ca or 416.867.9420

Want to Read More? Several additional articles can be found online at:

OHS Bulletin Online: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

'President' from page 2

refinement in the dreary backwoods of the Upper Canada of the 1830s. This would have been my preferred style of "Roughing It in the Bush."

The next day, rain again threatened our travels to Beaverton, where we stopped in at the Beaver River Museum operated by the Beaverton-Thorah-Eldon Historical Society. Our enthusiastic tour guide, Vanessa, conducted us through the stone jail, square timber log cabin, and one-and-a-half-storey brick home. All were lovingly cared for and well-presented. It never ceases to amaze me what our dedicated volunteers do and accomplish in the preservation and presentation of our Province's history and heritage. Without all of their largely unheralded efforts we would be so much the poorer.

Day six was sunny, windy and hot. We faced a 20-kph headwind as we struck out for historic Orillia. I really hate having to pedal down hills. We spent some quality time at the Trent-Severn Waterway before arriving at the Atherley narrows with its ancient fish weirs ready for a rest.

The following day we biked around Orillia, enjoyed Couchiching Park with its grand, if contro-

versial, Champlain Monument, and took in a relaxing boat cruise – so much for our zero-emission tour. Sadly, time did not permit visits to Stephen Leacock Museum, the Orillia Museum of Art and History, or the OPP Museum. Too many sites, not enough time.

As luck would have it, our last day was also our most inclement. We waited until 2 pm before heading home to Barrie. We had hoped to stick close to the lake, but opted for the direct route of the Oro-Medonte Rail Trail. As it was, it rained on us through Hawkestone. We were not much in the mood to savour this easy and quiet ride. The great thing about rail trails is that trains don't like hills.

So, there you have it. That's how we spent our summer vacation – eight days and seven nights 'round storied Lake Simcoe by bike. We thoroughly enjoyed our journey. We met some terrific people, ate way too much good food, and toured a goodly number of captivating historic and heritage sites.

Our Lake Simcoe Circle Tour only served to confirm what I already knew about the pride, enthusiasm, and dedication of all those involved in preserving and sharing the history and heritage of our great Province. To all of you, thank you. Keep it up. Let us know how we can help you continue to do what you do so well.

OHS Welcomes New Affiliated Society: Dalkeith Historical Society



Photo
Dalkeith Historical Society

Members of the Dalkeith Historical Society (DHS), newly incorporated by the OHS on June 4, 2011, met with OHS Executive Director Rob Levery and the Mayor and Township Council of North Glengarry prior to a public incorporation meeting held at the Dalkeith Public Library on May 25th.

Frances Fraser, President, DHS
dalkeith1794@gmail.com

Five years ago, two people sat down at a library table to discuss how to best keep the heritage of the Dalkeith community alive. Now, in 2011, this little village of some fifty houses and drawing on a surrounding rural community of approximately 1,000 people is celebrating an exciting anniversary—its bicentennial year.

The Dalkeith Historical Society (DHS), with the help of Heritage Canada and the town's special events planner, raised enough money to celebrate this bicentennial, hosting several events throughout the year. Its first event had participants aged between 3 and 83—a Canoe Run in partnership with the Vankleek Hill Canoeists on the local river on which the community first started. With near-ideal weather and water conditions, the successful day closed with a picnic and caught the attention of the local media.

The DHS then decided to become a legal entity and invited Rob Levery, Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society to visit from Toronto in preparation to become incorporated as a non-profit organization. Excited by Rob's visit, the DHS prepared a meet and greet, a tour of the local historic sites, a pot luck dinner attended by the township council and, finally, a public incorporation meeting. Here, Mr. Levery explained the significance of incorporating and shared some positive examples of OHS affiliation in the recent past. With Rob's help, the DHS officially incorporated in the Province of Ontario on June 4, 2011.

Following incorporation, the DHS unveiled a plaque commem-

orating Dalkeith's 200th anniversary. Set on a 4000-pound stone, the plaque honoured the founding Robertson family and on hand to unveil it were sixth-generation descendants along with Jean Marc Lalonde, MPP. The unveiling was followed by a reception and speeches about the community's interesting history and despite less than ideal weather, the event was well attended. The following day, DHS hosted a house and garden tour visiting five local properties. The weather held throughout and the concluding reception was well attended.

The highlight of Dalkeith's bicentennial year was the four-day festival held in July. At first, the DHS was apprehensive about hosting such a large event, but with proper outreach and the help of local residents, it turned out to be a successful and energetic four days. The opening night saw a pictorial display of 200 years of history, held at the local library with live music provided by the talented local MacLeod School of Fiddling. The second evening saw Chief Top talk about life in the area before the arrival of settlers. The third day hosted an all day and night festival with various musical acts, displays of arts and crafts and various other events. The fourth and final day was quieter—a picnic in the park.

In November, the DHS is hosting an art auction featuring three donated paintings by local artists. The funds raised will help support DHS's efforts to obtain the historic St. Paul's Chapel. Other fundraisers have included a heritage cookbook, a heritage souvenir booklet and a Dalkeith logo t-shirt. Please visit www.acorn2011.com to learn more and to support these fundraisers.

Dundurn welcomes book proposals on historical topics from OHS members. Visit dundurn.com for submission guidelines.

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Goderich Heritage Restoration Fund | www.arconserv.ca



WANT MORE EVENT INFO?

The OHS now has a member-editable online events calendar at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
Please bookmark the site and check for heritage events in your area!

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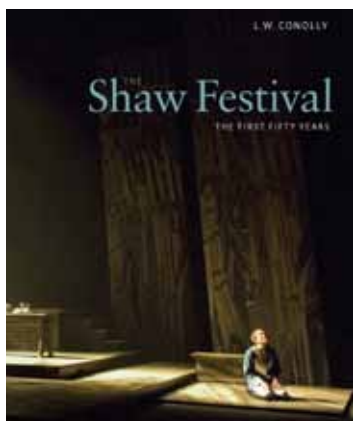
From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
chrisraible1@gmail.com
pat.raible@gmail.com

SUNNYBROOK

***Sunnybrook Hospital: Our Veterans' Legacy of Care, a Photographic Journey through the Decades.* Edited by Dr. Peeter A. Poldre. Dundurn. 166 pages. Illustrations. \$50 hardbound.**

Alice M. Kilgour gave her family farm to the City of Toronto in 1928 for use as a public park. Then, in 1943, ownership of Sunnybrook Park was transferred to the Canadian Department of Veterans Affairs. On Remembrance Day 1943, the first sod was turned for a brand new veterans' hospital, and in 1948 Sunnybrook's doors were opened. This fine large-format picture album tells the Sunnybrook story from its earliest days to the present. It pays tribute to the dedicated health professionals, staff, Red Cross volunteers and, most fittingly, to the many, many veterans who were so lovingly and expertly cared for. Together they have set a remarkable standard in all fields of care, teaching and research. Sunnybrook's exemplary standard is today apparent in its expanded role as it serves a wider community. This fine book would make a most welcome gift for any who have worked, volunteered, or been cared for at Sunnybrook.



SALUTE TO SHAW

***The Shaw Festival: The First Fifty Years.* L. W. Conolly. Oxford University Press. 312 pages. Illustrations. \$50 hardbound.**

On a hot, humid night in June 1962, four amateur actors sat on stools in Niagara-on-the-Lake's courthouse for their first performance of *Don Juan in Hell*. It was not an auspicious beginning, and the reviews were mixed, to say the least. However, a beginning it was, and the Shaw Festival over the next fifty years would develop from its amateurish debut to become one of the world's leading repertory companies. (Nowadays it

runs each year for seven months in four theatres, with some eight hundred performances attracting over a quarter of a million patrons from all over the world.) This outstanding photographic tribute celebrates Shaw's remarkable success story—and the success it has brought to a revitalized Niagara-on-the-Lake. Splendid colour photographs celebrate its many productions, which are listed year-by-year in an appendix. Many of the actors are Canadian icons, also seen in productions elsewhere. What happy memories this fine book will bring back to Festival theatregoers and to all who celebrate Ontario's cultural history.

"LAND BETWEEN"

***North of Superior: An Illustrated History of Northwestern Ontario.* Michel S. Beaulieu & Chris Southcott. James Lorimer. 126 pages. Illustrations. \$35 softbound.**

Save for odd references to places like Red Lake or Attawapiskat, for many of us the northwestern part of Ontario is an area of which we are barely aware. Its three districts—Thunder Bay, Rainy River, Kenora—compose a vast land mass larger than most countries, a region and its people central to Canada's geography and history. Yet it has been largely neglected by historians. With this concise yet comprehensive volume, two Lakehead University professors attempt to fill the void in our understanding. Chapter headings together summarize its scope: "Original Peoples to 1671," "Traders and Adventurers, 1671-1821," "The Sway from the Bay, 1821-1889," "The Rise of New Ontario," "Radicals and Resource Developers: A Region on the Brink, 1919-1945," "The Modern North, 1945-1985," and "Northwestern Ontario Since the 1980s." Like many a Lorimer-published book, the work is neatly designed and fully illustrated.

WORLD WAR I

***Hell in Flanders Fields: Canadians at the Second Battle of Ypres.* George H. Cassar. Dundurn. 424 pages. Illustrations and maps. \$36 hardbound.**

Here is the horrendous tale of a single battle told in meticulous detail. The author's own comment, near the end of his full narrative, provides an appropriate summary: "Yet when everything has been said and done, it remains true that the principal reason for the German failure had been the presence of three Canadian brigades composed

of men accustomed to civilian life—lawyers, college professors, graduates, lumberjacks, labourers, farmers and clerks—and who, in thousands of cases, had never handled a gun before rallying to their country's call. During the crucial first three days of the battle, these ill-equipped and untried amateur soldiers had held the vital left flank ... against superior artillery and many times their numbers, and had not broken even under the horrible surprise of poison gas."

GO TO JAIL!

***Prisons, Asylums, and the Public: Institutional Visiting in the Nineteenth Century.* Janet Miron. University of Toronto Press. 254 pages. Illustrations. \$60 hardbound, \$28 softbound.**

Historic jails and prisons continue to intrigue—witness the fine books by Ron Brown and the never-ending stream of visitors to our little stone police jail here in Creemore. Of course, there are no inmates in these jails today, except for those visitors who are "locked up" for long enough to have their pictures taken. What is surprising, perhaps, is that visiting prisons and asylums with their inmates in residence was a popular pastime for our nineteenth century forbears. In this fascinating though scholarly book, Janet Miron explains that the practice of prison- and asylum-visiting—a sort of institutional tourism—was commonplace. She provides eye-opening insights as to why people would want to visit prisons and why and how officials promoted asylum tourism to the general public. In letters, diaries and articles, some of these thousands of visitors described in detail the interiors, inmates, and therapeutic and reformative practices they encountered.

DEALING WITH DEATH

***A Better Place: Death and Burial in Nineteenth-Century Ontario.* Susan Smart. Dundurn. 208 pages. Illustrations. \$19 softbound.**

Funeral rituals, strong religious convictions and a belief in the afterlife helped ease the grief of our nineteenth century forbears, says Susan Smart in this thoughtful book. She describes 19th century Ontario death and burial practices, which in the course of the century evolved from the usual simple celebration of life into the elaborate etiquette-driven Victorian funeral. In the early days, the dead might be buried in a rough wooden coffin, interred in a special spot on the pioneer farm or in a church graveyard. Later, public, non-denominational cemeteries served growing communities. As the population increased and people

lived in closer proximity, funeral practices became more elaborate. Mourning etiquette dictated how the bereaved should behave, and funeral processions were expected. "The number of carriages following the coffin would be counted and commented on as evidence of the high regard held for the deceased." Undertakers took on the roles that families and neighbours had once performed, and this trend led to the development of funeral homes and morticians. Smart, an active genealogist, adds a helpful section with practical advice for family historians looking for death and burial records.



POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

***Canadian Symbols of Authority: Maces, Chains, and Rods of Office.* Corinna A.W. Pike & Christopher McCreery. Dundurn. 360 pages. Illustrations. \$60 hardbound.**

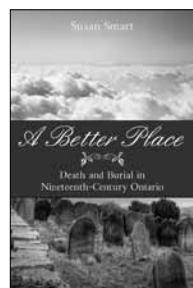
Here are the parliamentary maces, rods, batons, badges and chains of office used at various levels of government in Canada. Dignified, authoritative, ceremonial—and artistically stunning—they are part of Canada's rich and diverse heraldic and artistic heritage. The authors point out: "We have one of the longest histories of functioning and evolving democratic institutions in the world ... embodying a tradition that is as rich and diverse as the people of Canada." With its fine photographs and informative text, this book celebrates and explains the various symbols of authority. (Here, for example, is

'Bookshelf' cont'd page 8...

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

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

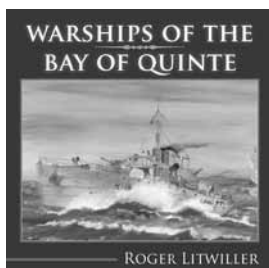
How do we select books to be reviewed? Our criteria are simple: we review all recently published books relating to the history of this province that are sent to us by publishers, authors or readers. To submit a book to be reviewed, forward a copy to: From the Bookshelf, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale,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



A BETTER PLACE
Death and Burial in Nineteenth-Century Ontario
by Susan Smart

208 pages | \$19.99 paperback | 40 b&w illustrations, notes, timeline, glossary, bibliography

The notion that funeral rituals, strong religious beliefs, and a firm conviction that death is a beginning and not an end is highlighted here. An understanding of changing burial rites, many of which might seem strange to us today, is invaluable for the family historian.



WARSHIPS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

by Roger Litwiller

240 pages | \$28 paperback | 100 b&w illustrations, maps, bibliography, notes

This is the story of six of Canada's warships. These histories give a unique account of the small ships that were the backbone of the Canadian Navy during the Second World War and the Cold War.



REVISITING "OUR FOREST HOME"
The Immigrant Letters of Frances Stewart
edited by Jodi Lee Aoki

288 pages | \$35 hardcover | 25 b&w illustrations, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index

Frances Stewart arrived in Upper Canada from Ireland in 1822, settling with her family and servants in Douro Township on the shore of the Otonabee River in 1823. Spanning three-quarters of a century, her letters represent the pioneer immigrant experience in the Peterborough area.



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an explanation of the office of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, which dates from 1361.) The authors give in detail the history of our Upper Canada/Ontario mace – our first was a simple wooden affair commissioned by Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe for the opening of Upper Canada's first parliament. Several new (and much more elaborate) maces have been made over the years. Our current Ontario mace, made in 1867, was updated in 1901 upon the accession of Edward VII and then altered again in 2008 with the addition of two diamonds from a mine located on the traditional lands of the Attawapiskat First Nation.

HABITAT, HERITAGE AND HISTORY

The Ordinary People of Essex: Environment, Culture, and Economy on the Frontier of Upper Canada. John Clarke. McGill-Queen's University Press. 738 pages. Illustrations, maps and tables. \$135 hardbound.

When the land that is now Essex County was acquired by treaty in 1792, British authorities set about organizing it – surveying and dividing it so that it could be deeded and cultivated – “waste” land put to use. Here, in extraordinary detail, is an analysis of what was done and how it was done. The activity of the early settlers, the author fully demonstrates, in selecting land and cultivating land, “was not random but purposeful,” though it took time and experience to know where best to settle. Those pioneers acted as individuals, but communally they transformed their world. Tables and charts abound in this massive work – not for the casual reader, but nonetheless an impressive and important scholarly study of geography and culture.

TRULY TORY

Against Reform. John Pepall. University of Toronto Press. 164 pages. \$20 softbound.

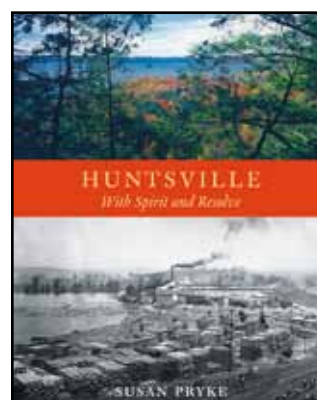
Movements for reform, for making major alterations to our Canadian parliamentary system, have a long history. In our own time, much energy has been spent or misspent on reform, not on the political party (by whatever name), but on political processes: fixed election dates, proportional representation, senate reform, party discipline, parliamentary review of judicial appointments, citizen recall, initiative legislation, and populist veto. John Pepall, a practicing Toronto attorney with a personal history in politics—once a party candidate and often a partisan commentator—considers each of these proposals. Briefly yet comprehensively, with clarity and spirit, he sketches their errors: at best distractions, at worst damaging to democracy. With passion, Pepall persuasively opposes all of them, left, right and centre. In so doing, he testifies to his faith in our present system as one where we are in control. “We choose a government, hold it responsible, turf it out.”

SIR JOHN A.

Favourite Son? John A. Macdonald and the Voters of Kingston 1841-1891. Ged Martin. Kingston Historical Society. 214 pages. Illustrations. \$35 softbound.

By far the most successful Canadian politician of the 19th century, Macdonald has usually been viewed from a top-down or nationalist perspective, with little interest taken in his role in his home town of Kingston, the riding he represented from 1844 to 1878 and again from 1887 to his death in 1891. Yet in Canadian parliamentary politics, servicing one's home constituency is essential. This bottom-up portrayal of Macdonald focuses on his many Kingston elections—involving Orange Order alliances, Irish Catholic interests, Kingston's unfulfilled dreams of becoming the provincial (and later the Dominion) capital, and much more. Canadian historian Ged Martin artfully takes us through

the years, and in the process forces some fresh thinking both about Macdonald and about Kingston. A fascinating read for anyone with a keen interest in Canadian politics.



AROUND ONTARIO

Huntsville: With Spirit and Resolve. Susan Pryke. A project of Heritage Huntsville. Muskoka Books. 256 pages. Illustrations and maps. \$30 softbound.

Here is an amazingly comprehensive, yet pleasantly written narrative history of the Muskoka community most of us have been to or through, but few of us know much about. Thoroughly researched—with full citations for sources and an extensive index—the book is also extensively illustrated with dozens of archival photographs. Sidebar quotations and extracts abound, yet do not distract from the central narrative. All in all, this is a fine volume that deserves to be read with care and retained with pleasure—no wonder that an earlier edition won the 2002 OHS Fred Landon Award for local history. Anyone who has family or personal associations with Huntsville will surely appreciate this book.

Stories of Newmarket: An Old Ontario Town. Robert Terence Carter. Dundurn. 284 pages. Illustrations, maps. \$29 softbound.

Dozens, indeed hundreds of stories of folk who founded or later found Newmarket. Some visitors, like the explorer Brûlé, who walked on through, while others, like Samuel Morse, simply stopped to demonstrate his telegraph. Most of these tales, however, are about those who lived much or all of their lives in Newmarket. As editor of the town paper, *The Era*, for several decades, Terry Carter himself first reported some of these stories, others were told him by town old-timers, and yet others he discovered in written records, including all the back issues of *The Era*, established in 1852. This is not a narrative history but a full volume of tales about interesting people.

SAVIOUR OF UPPER CANADA

A Matter of Honour: The Life, Campaigns and Generalship of Isaac Brock. Jonathon Riley. Robin Brass Studio. 336 pages. Illustrations, maps. \$25 softbound.

There is no shortage of books about General Isaac Brock—and there are, no doubt, more coming as we approach next year's 200th anniversary of his untimely death. This new biography will appeal especially to military history buffs, for Brock is portrayed by a distinguished modern British Lieutenant-General. Thus Brock is envisioned through the eyes of a soldier – indeed one, as Canadian historian Donald Graves notes in his introduction, who “may have more military experience than his subject.” Like all Robin Brass Studio books, the volume is attractive in its design and enhanced by excellent illustrations. Readers must themselves determine whether General Riley answers the question of why General Brock died “doing the job of a captain.”

HEAR THE WHISTLE BLOW

In Search of the Grand Trunk: Ghost Rail Lines in Ontario. Ron Brown. Dundurn/Natural Heritage. 256 pages. Illustrations. 24.99 softbound.

Few people have done as much as popular historian Ron Brown to help us find and appreciate old places and old spaces in our province. With this attractive and informative volume, he does it again, taking us on a journey around Ontario, exploring abandoned famous railway routes. The tracks were long ago taken up, but many buildings, bridges and other reminders remain.

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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 individuals for \$22.00 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for \$32.00 and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$43.00. Inquiries about membership should be directed to: Christina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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

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