

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 162

DECEMBER 2007

Evening Literary Series Hoists Sails with First Event

The Ontario Historical Society successfully hosted the first installment of its Evening Literary Series, "Reading Ontario's Past," on October 4th themed "Going Down to the Great Lakes in Ships." Organized in partnership with the Dundurn Group, the event featured readings from books by several renowned historical authors.

Guests had the opportunity to mingle and enjoy hors d'oeuvres before the evening's festivities began. Welcoming comments and an introduction of the four authors were graciously provided by Barry Penhale, Publisher Emeritus.



Barry Penhale of the Dundurn Group shares some opening remarks.

Photo Karolyn Smardz Frost

Author Scott L. Cameron started the evening off with passages from his acclaimed book, *The Frances Smith: Palace Steamer of the Upper Great Lakes* (2005). Cameron, who is also the Chair of the Owen Sound Marine & Rail Museum, provided vivid and colorful anecdotes of life aboard the luxurious steamboat vessel, which carried passengers from the provinces of Quebec and Ontario across the Great Lakes in the 19th century. Built in Owen Sound, the *Frances Smith* was known as the largest vessel on Georgian Bay during the latter part of the 1800s.

The evening continued with Paul Carroll's selected readings from *Freshwater Heritage: A History of Sail on the Great Lakes, 1670 - 1918*, a book for which he wrote the prologue. Authored by his close friend and sailing enthusiast Dom Bamford, this book provides a detailed look into the history of sailing, commercial shipbuilding,

and the race for naval domination of the Great Lakes.

A well-known expert on Upper Canadian history, author Mary Beacock Fryer presented the audience with passages from her extensive trilogy on the historical Simcoe family in Ontario: *Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe: A Biography*; *Our Young Soldier: Lieutenant Francis Simcoe, 6 June 1791-6 April 1812*; and *John Graves Simcoe: 1752-1806, A Biography*.

The event concluded with an energetic presentation by Gavin K. Watt, President of the Museum of Applied Military History, and a founder and commanding officer of the recreated King's Royal Yorkers. Watt shared with the audience readings from his book *Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley: The St. Leger Expedition of 1777*.

The Ontario Historical Society is very grateful to all those who attended our "Going Down to the Great Lakes in Ships" Evening Literary Series event and helped make the evening a most enjoyable affair.

The series will continue with a second installment entitled "Traditions." Three authors will who will speak about Canadian social traditions in an historical context. The Ontario Historical Society is very proud to host Frances Hoffman, co-author of *Much to be Done: Private Life in Ontario from Victorian Diaries* and author of *Steeped in Tradition: A Celebration of Tea*; Lance Goddard, author of *Hell and High Water: Canada and the Italian Campaign*; and Arthur Bousfield, co-author of *Queen and Consort: Elizabeth and Philip: 60 Years of Marriage*.

The next event will take place on December 4th, 2007. Please kindly visit our website at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca for more information. We invite everyone to attend!



The Ontario Historical Society's first Evening Literary Series event, held on October 4th, 2007 was a great success. Pictured above are (left to right): Gavin K. Watt, author of *Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley*; Scott Cameron, author of *The Frances Smith: Palace Steamer of the Upper Great Lakes, 1867-1896*; Kirk Howard, Publisher, The Dundurn Group; Mary Beacock Fryer, author of *John Graves Simcoe: 1752-1806, A Biography*; Paul Carroll, author of the prologue for Don Bamford's *Freshwater Heritage*; Barry Penhale, Publisher Emeritus, The Dundurn Group; and Karolyn Smardz Frost, Executive Director of the OHS.

Photo Karolyn Smardz Frost



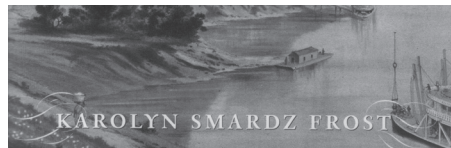
Scott Cameron takes a moment to share some insights on the *Frances Smith* and its place in Ontario's history, drawing on information from his book *The Frances Smith: Palace Steamer of the Upper Great Lakes, 1867-1896*.

Photo Karolyn Smardz Frost

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Don't Miss This Upcoming Workshop!

in
Blind River, Ontario

LIVING HISTORY:
A BASKET-MAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 26, 2008

museum@blindriver.com or rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

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Willowdale, Ontario
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President's Report

Chris Oslund
coslund@ntl.sympatico.ca

Dear Members,

On September 10 and 11, 2007, a Conservation Review Board Hearing was held in the Town of New Tecumseth (Alliston) regarding the municipality's intention to designate the property known as the Edward Knight Banting Homestead in the Town of Alliston.

The Ontario Historical Society Foundation submitted a Notice of Objection to the Intention to Designate on July 16, 2007, and was represented during the proceedings of the Hearing.

You may be asking yourself, 'Why would The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) submit an objection to a municipal heritage designation? Doesn't the OHS usually support community groups and Municipal Heritage Committees in their efforts to recommend properties for designation to municipal councils?'

As many of you are aware, the OHS received the one-hundred-acre Banting Homestead in 1999 through a bequest of Edward Knight Banting. Since that time, successive OHS Boards and members of the OHS Foundation have struggled to find a balance between the preservation of the cultural heritage values associated with the homestead and Sir Frederick Banting, and the difficult task of finding the funds necessary to maintain the buildings.

In late 2006, the OHS entered into an *Agreement of Purchase and Sale* with Solmar Developments.

Solmar agreed to provide funds for the restoration of the home and support the designation of approximately 5 acres of land surrounding the home and out-buildings, saving them from development.

In order to finalize the *Agreement of Purchase and Sale* to Solmar, the land needed to be free and clear of any encumbrances. Since the designation of the entire one-hundred acre farm would nullify our agreement with Solmar, the OHS had little choice but to file an objection against the designation.

From the onset, the OHS has never objected to the designation of the house and farm buildings, as well as a reasonable area surrounding the buildings. Since both sides agreed to this "statement of fact," the designation of the buildings and five acres was not disputed during the Conservation Review Board Hearing process.

In its decision, issued October 25, 2007, the Conservation Review Board stated it recognized that the OHS was in an "awkward position" as the leading volunteer provincial historical organization.

They further stated:

"In the Board's opinion, the OHS has demonstrated a reasonable commitment to this property, especially given that this is its first endeavor in property management. Based on these proceedings, it is evident to the Board that the OHS and OHSF hold a genuine regard for the future disposition of the property as a place of commemoration and have struggled with defining the essence that would preserve Banting's legacy. Serious

evaluation was undertaken before determining that the dwelling, out-buildings and associated cultural heritage landscape only, without the cultivated fields, constituted that essence.

It also appeared to the Board that the motivation for proposing the sale of approximately 95 acres was likely fuelled by the ongoing financial strain of the stewardship of this property. Perhaps the situation would be different had the bequest to the OHS by Edward K. Banting made provision of the property in perpetuity."

On Monday, November 12, 2007, the Town of New Tecumseth passed Bylaw no. 2007-207, being a Bylaw to designate the property known as 5116 Sir Frederick Banting Road as being of cultural heritage value based on the Recommendations contained in the decision of the Conservation Review Board.

Solmar Developments have withdrawn their Offer of Purchase and the OHS is back to 'square one' as far as the future of the property.

Of interest, in its recommendations regarding the future disposition of the Banting Homestead it was the opinion of the Conservation Review Board that the preservation of the homestead of a Canadian of this stature warrants local, provincial and federal cooperation regarding stewardship.

One can only hope that a concerted effort will be put forward by the three levels of government to assist the Ontario Historical Society in its effort to find a resolution that will be fair and balanced for all parties involved.

Yours Truly,

Christopher W. Oslund,
President

has traveled the province meeting with old and new Affiliates, member societies and individual members. We have both given talks in myriad locations, sharing our provincial history with Ontarians of all backgrounds and walks of life. Rob has also provided workshops that have been very well received, including one in St. Catharines in September on the crucial subject of Accessible Heritage. The Accessible Heritage

OHS Executive Director Karolyn Smardz Frost gave the keynote address for George Brown College's 40th Anniversary Celebration. An audience of 200 enjoyed her insightful presentation on *George Brown; Publisher, Politician, and Anti-Slavery Activist*.

Photo courtesy of

Executive Director's Report
CONTINUED on page 3...

DONORS AND DOERS

DONORS

Rosemary Ambrose

Carmela Andraos

Marilyn Barry

John & Joan Bonser

Fred Bradley

Paul & Mary Carroll

Cynthia R. Comacchio

Bob Crawford

Deborah L. Cushing

Ross Fair

Orland French

Brian Gallagher

Richard & Jean Haalboom

Torrance Henderson

Christopher Hoover

Dorothy Johnstone

Ronald Junkin

Rose Kessler

Dr. Bruce McCraw

Catherine McEwen

Steven J. McLarty-Payson

Vodrie & Jack McOuat

Joan Elizabeth Murray

James & Lorraine O'Byrne

Sharon O'Shea

Dr. Brian S. Osborne

Geoffrey Reaume

James D.L. & Jane Ross

John Sabeau

Robert E. & Kathleen Sanders

John Sayers

B.H. Snitman

James N. Stanley

Dr. Thorold Tronrud

Ross Wallace

The Wilson Foundation

Executive Director's Report

Karolyn Smardz Frost
karolyn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Dear Members:

It's Christmas already, and then we will be welcoming the New Year! How did that happen? The past year seems to have simply flown by, and now we are looking forward to 2008. This is a time for reflection, and for taking stock of all that transpired in 2007, while anticipating the possibilities the New Year will offer.

I would, first and foremost like to extend a warm welcome to The Honourable Aileen Carroll, the new Minister of Culture and Minister Responsible for Seniors. We are very much looking forward to working with you, Honourable Minister!

Since January there have been many challenges and, I think, some real achievements. In the year when our nation commemorates the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade, the OHS stood forth for its commitment to honour this crucial landmark in human liberty.

I was asked to represent the OHS at the provincial level, and sat on the Bicentenary Committee struck by the Ministry of Citizenship and

Immigration. It was chaired by the Honourable Jean Augustine, Fairness Commissioner for the Province of Ontario, and the advisor was Dr. Afua Cooper, noted scholar of African Canadian history, a well-known poet, and the author of the critically-acclaimed *The Hanging of Angelique: Canada, Slavery and the Burning of Montreal* (2006).

In 2007, we reintroduced the OHS Annual Conference. It was entitled *Forging Freedom* and focused on the remarkable and lasting contributions to Ontario that the African Canadian community has made over the years. A marked success, this conference was held on the weekend of June 22-23 at Brock University in St. Catharines, and more than 110 people attended. The Annual General Meeting of the OHS was held there, as was a very moving Honours and Awards Ceremony presided over by our own Second Vice President, John Sabeau. Also in keeping with this historical focus, the 99th issue of Ontario History was a themed issue celebrating Ontario's rich African Canadian past.

On the practical side of things, this year has been a time of regrouping. Our own Deputy Executive Director, Robert Leverty,

DONORS AND DOERS

DOERS

Dianne Foster

Jane Gibson

Barry Penhale

On Thursday, November 2nd, 2007, Risa Kusumoto and Andrea Izzo represented The Ontario Historical Society at the University of Toronto at Scarborough's Volunteer and Internship Fair; an event which allowed The Ontario Historical Society to network with potential student volunteers for upcoming events.

If you or anyone you know are interested in volunteering with the OHS, please kindly let us know! Help is always needed to host special events such as the Reading Series or the annual conference. Please contact the OHS at (416) 226-9011 to learn more!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Anderson Farm
Museum & Heritage Society

Stephanie Bangarth

Cindy Beck-Jost

Dan Birch

Gordon Craig

Jess Dunkin

Elgin St. Thomas
Archives Association

Elisabeth Mason

Mastro's Place

Aiko Morton

Julius N. Olajos

William Richardson

The Silvershoe
Historical Society

Society Historique
Du Nouvel – Ontario

Paul Toffoletti

Farley Wuth,
B.A. Historians

Across The Province

Questions & Answers With The Archives Association of Ontario

The following information was provided by Carolynn Bart-Riedstra, the Archives Association of Ontario's (AAO) Archives Advisor.

How much does this service cost?

Thanks to the funding from the Ministry of Government Services through the Archives of Ontario and federal funding from Library Archives Canada through the Canadian Council of Archives, there is no fee for this service. The purpose of this program is to encourage, support and mentor archival institutions. Whether you are a special interest group that has archival material and is setting up a program, or an institution with an active archival program the archives advisory service is here to help with whatever issues may affect your institution.

Will we receive a report?

Part of the advisory service is to do an assessment of the current situation and offer suggestions about how to work towards the archival standards endorsed by CCA and the AAO's Institutional Development

Committee. Part of the site visit is a follow-up report with an analysis by the advisor about what might need to be changed. Comments include suggestions about collection policies, mandates, conservation issues, and funding.

In some cases, where the advisor is in the area and just dropping into different archives as a courtesy, no report will be given. These visits are called 'site briefings' and are meant to allow the institution the opportunity to talk to the advisor.

This year I have also begun to make courtesy calls where I just drop in and say 'hello'. It has been a chance for me to meet many colleagues in Ontario when I am on the road. I differentiate these visits from the site briefings as I have been the one to contact the institutions and ask to visit them. Usually I am lucky enough to meet my colleagues and have a tour of the archives. This has been an invaluable opportunity for me to see institutions that don't need help or advice.

Can we just phone the advisor for questions?

Some institutions may just have questions about something specific

...**CONTINUED** from
ED's Report, page 2

Toolkit is in the final production stages and we expect to launch it on Heritage Day, 2008.

With the participation of enthusiastic members of the Board of Directors, we have cleaned out the attic, both literally and figuratively. The John McKenzie House is looking its very best these days – do come and see us when you are in Toronto. Remember, too, that we have an elegant and historic dining room, living room, kitchen and coach house that are available for rental for special events and meetings. Affiliates and members are eligible for special rates!

Under the expert supervision of Christina Perfetto, Office Manager and Membership Coordinator, the affiliates and member society files have been completely reorganized and brought up to date. Take note, those of you who are "late" with your annual reports and financials, not to mention affiliation fees. You know you will be hearing from us early in the new year! Let's tie up all of those loose ends and begin 2008 afresh, okay?

Likewise, the Board of Directors has been "cleaning house" in other ways. The Membership Survey to which so many of you contributed in 2006 has been very important in the development of our new Strategic Plan. This document, essential for future planning, took a lot of thought and discussion, but is finally complete. It will provide direction for major OHS decisions over the next few years.

I am running out of space and there is so much more to say! But

let's think about 2008 for a moment. This is a VERY important year. It is the 120th anniversary of The Ontario Historical Society!

That's right, the OHS was founded in 1888, with a mandate to collect, research, learn, and teach about the wealth heritage resources we share in our province. In 1899, on April 1st, the OHS was incorporated by Act of Provincial Parliament, with a unique mandate. We were entrusted with the important task of assisting other heritage organizations in forming and becoming incorporated entities in their own right. In place of Letters Patent, our Affiliated Societies – more than 360 at last count – receive from the OHS the essential letters of authorization that they need to support applications for grants, insurance, public event funding and other functions.

This year also will see the 100th Volume of Ontario's premier heritage journal, *Ontario History*. I know that editor Tory Tronrud of Thunder Bay has a very special issue planned to commemorate this landmark in our publishing history.

Finally, we are partnering with the Guelph Historical Society to host our 2008 Annual Conference in that city. It is entitled *Nature to Ecosystem: An Historical View of Ontario Environments*. The conference will take place at Guelph University on June 13-14, 2008. Mark your calendars – it promises to be a fascinating event, with Dr. Gilbert Stelter, renowned urban historian, as keynote speaker.

In closing, on behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of The Ontario Historical Society, I

and an advisor visit is not is not needed. The advisor is available to answer questions by phone or email. Please feel free to contact me at archivesadvisor@rogers.com or (519) 271-0404.

What does the advisor actually do at a site visit?

The site visit may take about two hours. Usually, I talk with representatives of the organization and view the collection. It is at this time that many organizations ask me questions about their policy development or storage requirements for their collection. I also review the policy and procedures manual and mandate of an organization. Where there is not a mandate I recommend various samples that might help the organization determine their own mandate.

I am not a member of the AAO; can I still request a visit?

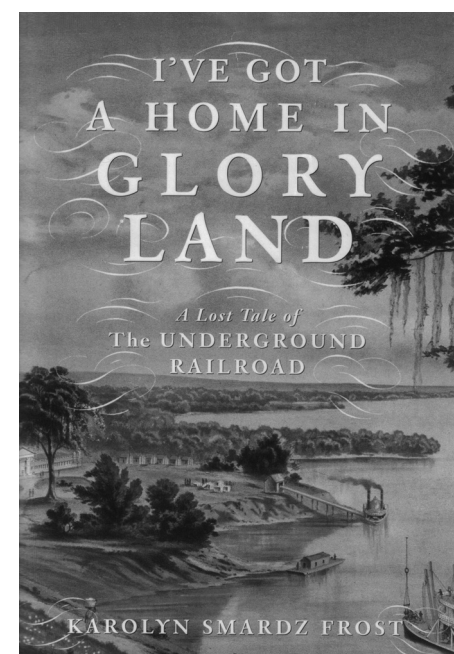
Again, thanks to the generosity of the above funding bodies, you do not have to be a member of the AAO to request a site visit or to contact me for help about any issues regarding archival collections. I am here to help and only a phone call or email away.

For more information about the AAO and its services, please visit us online on our web page at <http://aao.fis.utoronto.ca>. I welcome your email or calls and look forward to talking to you soon.

*Carolynn Bart-Riedstra,
AAO Archives Advisor*

wish you a joyous Holiday Season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. As you close your own accounts for year-end, please remember the ongoing work done by your own OHS in collecting, preserving and promoting the heritage of all of Ontario's peoples. Your donations are very much needed to help make our work possible. Please do give generously.

Karolyn Smardz Frost, PhD
Executive Director



The OHS would like to offer a very heartfelt congratulations to OHS Executive Director Karolyn Smardz Frost for receiving the 2007 Governor General's Award for Non-Fiction for her book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* (Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers and New York: Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2007). Visit www.homeingloryland.com for more information!

Exhibits & Events

JULY 07 - APRIL 6, 08

Beyond the Silhouette

Exhibition exploring fashion and the Women of Historic Kingston. Agnes Etherington Art Centre, Queen's University, Kingston. Contact (613) 533-2190 or visit www.aec.ca

OCTOBER 07 - JANUARY 6, 08

Remembering John McCrae

Learn about the life of the Canadian soldier and poet by visiting this exhibit, which looks at McCrae's accomplishments as a doctor, soldier, traveller, and artist. Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin St. South, Guelph. Contact (519) 836-1221 or visit www.guelph.ca/museum.

This exhibit is also being presented at the Spadina Museum: Historic House & Gardens at 285 Spadina Road (next door to Casa Loma) from mid-February until April 13.

OCT. 07 - JANUARY 13, 08

Edward Johnson: A Man of Music

An exhibit honouring the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Edward Johnson Music Foundation. Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin St. South, Guelph. Contact (519) 836-1221 or visit www.guelph.ca/museum.

NOV. 22, 07 - MARCH 28, 08

Cantelon Rides Again

Catch a glimpse of Norfolk, old and new, through the different art forms created or inspired by W. Edgar Cantelon. Presented by the Norfolk Historical Society in cooperation with Norfolk ArtsCo. Norfolk Heritage Centre, 109 Norfolk St. South, Simcoe. (519) 426-1583 or visit www.norfolklore.com

DECEMBER 1 - 23, 07

Victorian Christmas

Experience the nostalgia of an old-fashioned Christmas when you tour the exceptional boyhood home of William Lyon McKenzie King. Weekend afternoons feature baked goods, hot beverages, and Victorian activities. Woodside National Historic Site, 528 Wellington St. North, Kitchener. Contact (519) 571-5684 ext. 25 or visit www.pc.gc.ca/woodside.

DECEMBER 20 and 21, 07

Woodside by Lamplight

Decorated for Christmas in lavish Victorian style, Woodside National Historic Site will be gleaming with candlelight and lamplight while listening to "The Coulters" sing live Christmas carols. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 528 Wellington St. North, Kitchener. Contact (519) 571-5684 ext. 25 or visit www.pc.gc.ca/woodside.

DECEMBER 27, 07

2nd Annual Gift of Music Festival

Presented by the St. Luke's Anglican Church Art, Music, & Drama Committee, this concert offers a relaxing and entertaining evening of classical music presented in the European tradition in an intimate setting. St. Andrew's Church, Dundedin, Ontario. 7:30 p.m. Contact (705) 466-3400 for tickets and information.

JANUARY 24, 08 and

FEBRUARY 28, 08

Historical Speakers Series

The Historical Society of St. Catharines is hosting two upcoming talks; January 24 with Ian Ellingham on "My Nicholson and MacBeth Gate" and on February 28 with Prof. Carmela Patrias and Larry Savage on "The History of the Labour Movement in St. Catharines." 7:30 p.m. at St. Catharines Museum. More information at (905) 984-8880.

FEBRUARY 7, 08

Reading Ontario's Past: African Canadian History

Sponsored by the Dundurn Group, this event will be the third installment of readings by authors of historical non-fiction. Held at the Historic and picturesque John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Contact (416) 226-9011 or visit www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

FEBRUARY 17, 08

Toronto's Early Black Community A New Walking Tour

Explore downtown Toronto while listening to the stories of some of our earliest Black settlers. This is an easy walking tour with hot chocolate served. RSVP needed. 1:00

Heritage Canada Foundation Launches Online Discussion Board

The Heritage Canada Foundation recently introduced a new online communications tool, the *AGORA-L* discussion list. It was developed in order to connect built heritage advocates and conservationists from across the country. It consists of a moderated discussion group allowing individuals to exchange ideas, information, and views regarding a variety of conservation issues and topics.

To join AGORA-L online, visit

www.heritagecanada.org/eng/agera-l/index.cfm and follow the instructions. For further questions, please contact Carolyn Quinn, Director of Communications at cquinn@heritagecanada.org or telephone (613) 237-1066, ext. 229.

The Heritage Canada Foundation is a national, membership-based, non-profit organization with a mandate to promote the preservation of Canada's historic buildings and heritage places.



Ontario Historical Society staff members Christina Perfetto and Rob Levery, along with North York Historical Society Director (and former OHS staff member) Barbara Kane (centre), really enjoyed the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Miller Tavern (formerly the Jolly Miller) in North York on October 16, 2007. This memorable party was also a very successful fundraiser for the North York Historical Society thanks to the generous support of the Miller Tavern.

Photo North York Historical Society

to 3:00 p.m. Mackenzie House, 82 Bond St., Toronto. Contact (416) 392-6915.

FEBRUARY 21, 08

Art of Niagara Series

RJR Shop & Kiln: The Forgotten Story of an Old Town Pottery by Richard and Monica Taylor. Presented by the Niagara Historical Society & Museum, 43 Castlereagh St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. 7:30 p.m. Contact (905) 468-3912 or visit www.niagarahistorical.museum.

FEBRUARY 23, 08

Keys to Ontario Research

A wintry workshop about family and local history research. Presented by the Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch and the Canadiana Dept. of North York Central Library. North York Central Library Auditorium, 5120 Yonge St. Email info@toronto-familyhistory.org or call (416) 733-2608.

APRIL 26, 08

Living History: A Basket Making Workshop

Timber Village Museum in conjunction with The Voyageur Heritage Network and The Ontario Historical Society are proud to present this workshop. Contact Chris Clark by phone at (705) 356-7544 and email at museum@blindriver.com or Rob Levery at (416) 226-9011 and rlevery@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

Editor, *OHS Bulletin*,
The Ontario Historical Society,
34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2
or bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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



A great big 'Thank-You' goes out to an old friend of the Ontario Historical Society, (left) Pam Handley, former OHS Board Director and now special advisor to Discovery North Bay with (right) Jennifer Buell, Director, Discovery North Bay, who hosted in October 2007 our workshop, "Eating on the Rails."

Photo Rob Levery



In partnership with The Museums of Niagara Association (MONA) and Niagara Region, the OHS held in September 2007 the workshop *Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities*. This event was fully booked including participants such as (left to right) Bob Halfyard, Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch; Ada Summers, Salem Chapel B.M.E. Church and Wilma Morrison, Nathaniel Dett Memorial Chapel B.M.E. Church and the Norval Johnson Heritage Centre.

Photo Rob Levery



At the recent OHS workshop *Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities* hosted by the Regional Municipality of Niagara, representatives from various Accessibility Advisory Committees across Niagara gave an excellent presentation entitled "Community Accessibility." The speakers included (front row, left to right) Fred Stevens, St. Catharines, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA); Mary Lou Whitty, Region of Niagara Accessibility Advisory Committee (RNAAC) and (back row, left to right) Jean Bennett, RNAAC; Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator for the City of St. Catharines and Region of Niagara; Margaret Sanderson, Accessibility Coordinator for Brock University; Ms. Joey Hewitt, MACOA and (seated) Ian Greaves, RNAAC.

Photo Rob Levery

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Clendenen Cemetery - Honouring Markham's Heritage

Saturday, November 10th 2007 was a lovely sunny day. It is usually bleak and cold, but for the Clendenen family it was a triumphant day. Over fifty people gathered for the rededication of this pioneer cemetery and unveiling of a plaque to honour John and Magdalene Clendenen and their descendants. They were one of the Town of Markham's earliest families. The Clendenens are believed to have settled their land in the late 1790s and their property remained in the family until 1950.



Harold Clendenen takes a moment to share a few words with 'Cemetery News' editor Marjorie Stuart.

*Photo courtesy of Don Hinchley,
Vice President, OGS*

Harold Clendenen, along with his brother, Gordon, and sister, Muriel Reesor, were joined by nieces, nephews, and numerous cousins. Members of the heritage community from all over the Greater Toronto Area attended in this historic event.

In 1995 the Town of Markham and the property developer asked the Ontario Registrar of Cemeteries to order that it was in the public interest for this pioneer cemetery to be officially closed and moved. The Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society joined forces to appeal the Provincial decision to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal. The appeal hearing took place in Toronto from November

27, 1995, until July 30, 1997, and it was the first time such a case had ever been heard in the Province of Ontario. It took nineteen months for the Tribunal's three Hearing Officers to write and release their decision. In February 1999, the Tribunal ruled in favour of the OHS and OGS appeal declaring that it was not in the public interest to close and move Clendenen Cemetery. This was a landmark ruling!

John Webster, Markham Councillor (Ward 5), introduced the various speakers and people who assembled at the Clendenen Cemetery for the plaque unveiling. Mayor Frank Scarpitti spoke about the importance of the Town's rich history. He mentioned the struggle to save the Clendenen cemetery and said that there had been a dramatic change in attitude towards preservation of Markham's many pioneer cemeteries and pledged that there would never be another closure issue. Town Historian, Lorne Smith, spoke about the Clendenen family and said that plans were under way to preserve four other pioneer family burial grounds - Wurts, Pingle, Reesor and Hoover. Along with the Clendenen family, these were all pioneers who settled in Markham in the late 1790s. Rev. Dr. John Niles rededicated the cemetery and spoke of the earliest Methodist minister, Rev. Bangs. He had been a "saddlebag" preacher who covered the territory from Kingston to York Region. Rev. Dr. Niles spoke of the tradition of consecrating a burial ground with oil and water for the purpose of setting this land apart for the glory of God and the eternal rest of the believers.

Harold Clendenen then spoke



Some of the Clendenen descendants are seen here as they prepare for the dedication ceremony.

Photo Rob Leverty

briefly and from his heart when he thanked the OHS and OGS and in particular certain individuals who had stood by the family in the struggle to preserve Clendenen Cemetery. He repeated what he had said on the witness stand ten years ago. "A cemetery is a cemetery forever and forever." For the Clendenen family and their many friends this was a fine tribute and ending to what could have been a dark page in Ontario's history.



The tombstone of William Clendenen (1777-1855). There are five marked burials at the Clendenen Cemetery including William's wife Susanna (Stover) Clendenen (1790-1865) and their daughters; Margaret Johnson (1807-1856); Magdalene Holden (1820-1863) and Mary McKinnon (1825-1855). There are also four unmarked burials.

*Photo courtesy of Don Hinchley,
Vice President, OGS*

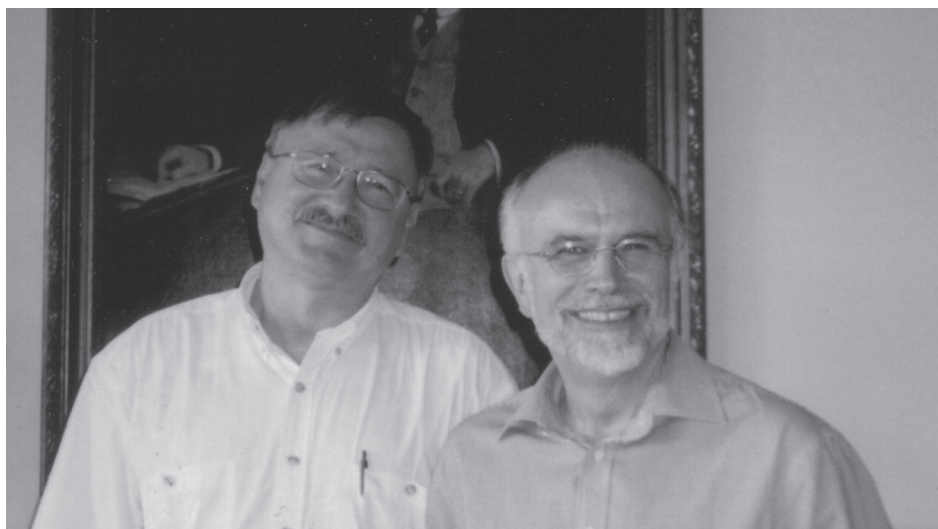
A memorable rededication ceremony of the Clendenen Family Cemetery then took place and the historical plaque to commemorate the restoration of this cemetery was unveiled. Later in the afternoon, there was a reception held at the Markham Museum.

A decade ago, The Town of Markham, with the Province of Ontario and the developer, fiercely fought against the OHS and OGS and the descendants. On behalf of the OHS and OGS, I would like to congratulate the Mayor of Markham, the Council and staff for holding on November 10, 2007, a very honourable and dignified ceremony. Now the Town of Markham has officially joined us in the struggle for the public interest.

This was a great day for the original and authentic history of Ontario!

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 are fortunate that many of our members donate their time and expertise but there is much we must pay for so we are forced to ask our readers for their assistance. We can't do it alone. All donations will receive a tax receipt.



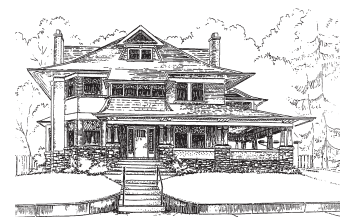
The Ontario Historical Society recently attended the launch of "Places of Worship in West Toronto" at Glendon College, York University. This new website (<http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/placesofworship>) was compiled by (left to right) Gabriele Scardellato, (former Editor & Managing Editor, 1999-2003 - *Ontario History*) and Roberto Perin who have produced a guide to all public places of worship recorded in the west side of the old City of Toronto. The two-year survey revealed over two-hundred forty active places of worship and over seventy former places of worship. The more than three-hundred sites documented testify to the great variety of religious traditions and experiences in the city, and they underline the extraordinary ethnocultural diversity of Toronto.

Photo Rob Leverty



On April 28, 2007, The Ontario Historical Society in partnership with the Voyageur Heritage Network and The Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum (ELNMM) presented the workshop "The Heritage of Ontario Cemeteries." Introductory remarks were given by (left to right) Bill Ferrell, Vice-Chair, Advisory Board for the ELNMM and Elliot Lake Mayor Rick Hamilton seen here standing in front of a self-portrait titled *Salute to a Miner* by Mr. Denis Gagnon. The ELNMM is also in the midst of compiling a new book in memory of the Elliot Lake miners, entitled *Miners' Memorial: Memories from the Heart*.

Photo Rob Leverty



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Museum News

Norfolk Historical Society and "Cantelon Rides Again"



The Ontario Historical Society recently made a presentation to the membership of the Norfolk Historical Society (NHS), an OHS affiliate. Seen here are (left to right) Sheila Hastie, Secretary; Virginia Birnie, Past President; and Phil Ross, President.

The charter meeting of NHS was held at the Norfolk County Courthouse on February 9, 1900, when a small group of interested citizens of Simcoe assembled for this purpose.

In July 1922, the NHS hosted the OHS Annual Meeting in Simcoe. On November 26, 1929, the Society became incorporated

through affiliation with the OHS.

In 1941, on the death of Mrs. Eva Brook Donly, a home for a museum was provided. She bequeathed her 1840s home in Simcoe to the town for the purposes of a museum. The NHS was asked by the town to set up and operate the museum and the Eva Brook Donly Museum was born.

Again in June 1942, the NHS hosted OHS meetings and at this time the museum was officially opened.

The whole house was completely renovated and re-decorated and a Centennial Wing was dedicated on May 3rd, 1967, with the whole



On November 9th, the Oshawa Historical Society celebrated 50 years of preserving Oshawa's history with a special dinner at the Oshawa Shrine Club. The Oshawa Historical Society was joined by one of Oshawa's most famous citizens, Ed Broadbent, who is seen here with (right) Stoney Kudel, President, Oshawa Historical Society. Ed Broadbent gave the keynote speech "*Democratic Development Abroad: What Can Be Done?*" The OHS was honoured to attend this very special event. Durham Wind Ensemble provided the entertainment for the evening. Anniversary events continue in 2008 with a planned publication and exciting exhibits.

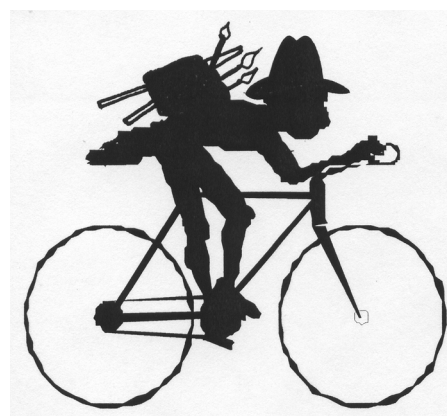
Formed in 1957 by a group of citizens, the Oshawa Historical Society incorporated in 1965 through affiliation with the OHS. The Oshawa Historical Society opened the first community museum in Oshawa in 1960 with Henry House, now part of the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives. For more information contact info@oshawamuseum.org

Photo Rob Leverty

museum now open to the public.

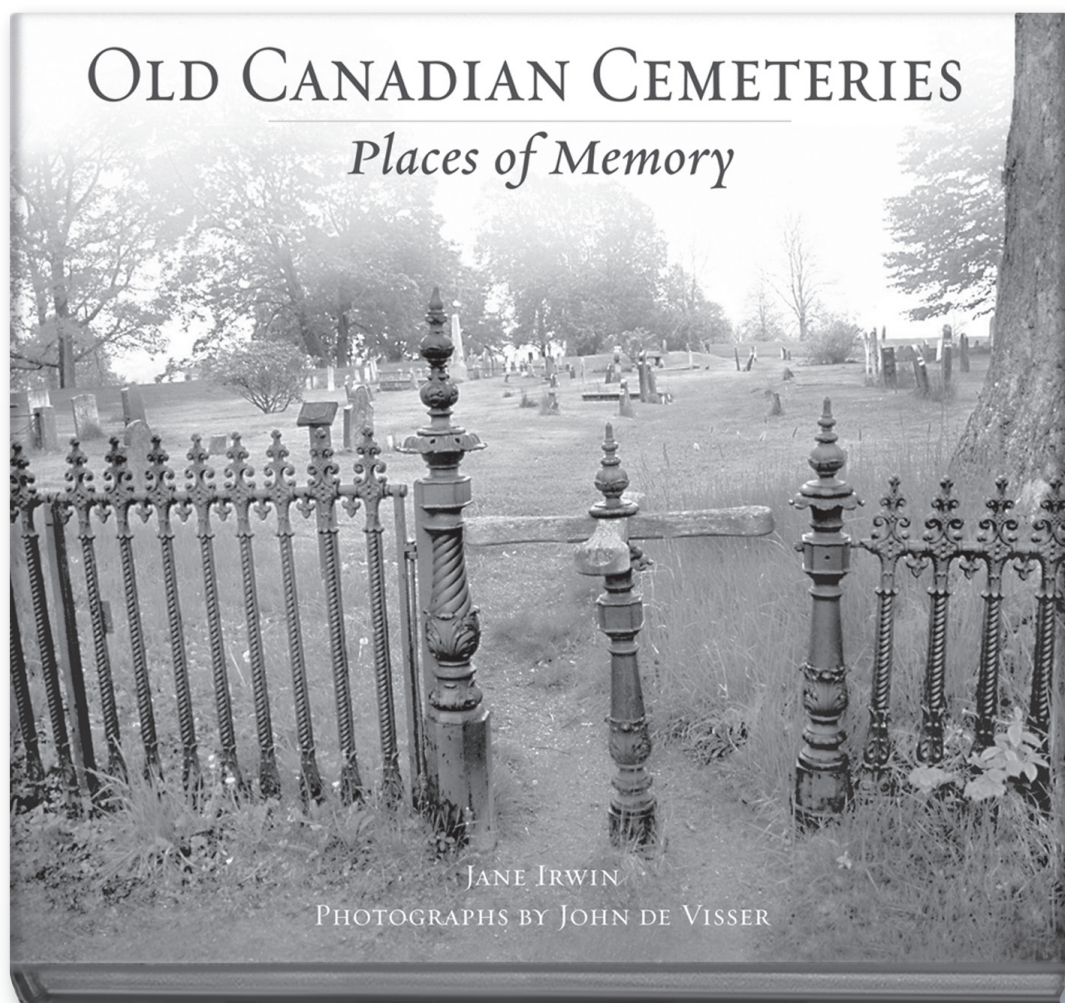
This winter, the NHS is featuring the paintings of W.E. Cantelon in four separate exhibitions from November 23 to March 28, 2008. In this exhibition series, *Cantelon Rides Again* (referring to the fact that he was a familiar sight travelling the County on his bicycle) – A History of Norfolk County Through Art, Cantelon meets contemporaries, present day artists who also record Norfolk's history, primarily from the group 'Norfolk ArtsCo'.

For information call (519) 426-1583, email office@norfolklore.com or visit www.norfolklore.com.



A piece of artwork representing the *Cantelon Rides Again* exhibit, which is on now at the Norfolk Heritage Centre. (See Exhibits & Events, Page 4 for more information).

A new book on disappearing landmarks of our history.



OLD CANADIAN CEMETERIES Places of Memory

by Jane Irwin

Important links to the past, Canadian pioneer, military and First Nations' burial places are being worn away by weather, development and time. Here you'll find a record of Canadian settlements, religious schisms, many ethnic groups and the wide variety of materials used for markers. Photographs by the celebrated John de Visser.

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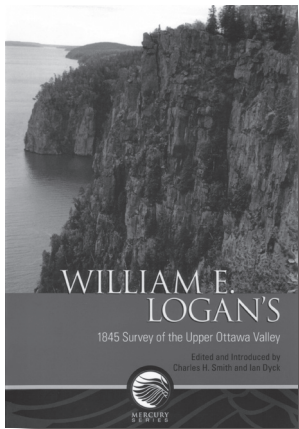
From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
raible@georgian.net

IN MEMORIAM

***Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places of Memory.* Jane Irwin. Photographs by John De Visser. Firefly Books. 320 pages. Illustrations. \$75.00 hardbound.**

What a stunningly beautiful book! Through gorgeous photographs and outstanding text we are invited on a tour of Canada's historic cemeteries (many in Ontario) to explore our diverse heritage. Graveyards are testimonials to our past: immigration, settlement, epidemics, families, traditions, beliefs and customs. Irwin reminds us that "the great Rural Cemeteries established in cities across Canada were created to illustrate the beauties of nature combined with art...they were expressly designed to be admired, visited and appreciated." The more modest country graveyards have their own beauty and historic interest. Indeed, burial grounds are places of memory and treasures of local history, and it is sad to realize that all too many are in danger of disappearing, a fact well known to OHS members. This splendid book should be on everybody's gift list.



***William E. Logan's 1845 Survey of the Upper Ottawa Valley.* Edited by Charles H. Smith and Ian Dyck. Canadian Museum of Civilization. 238 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.**

Sir William Edmond Logan was one of Canada's most notable scientists and pioneering geologists. This book presents Logan's 1845 field journal, written as his party explored and mapped the Ottawa River from Lachine to the head of Lake Timiskaming, and from the mouth of the Mattawa River to Lake Nipissing. His journal relates the details of the expedition's everyday life – how the field party lived, worked, and travelled; the people they met, and the social and economic conditions of the time. Logan supplemented his notes with sketches of the landscape and geological features. The editors have provided an informative introductory essay, detailing the significance of his fieldwork and explaining the survey instruments he used.

GRINDWORK

***Ontario's Historic Mills.* George Fischer and Mark Harris. Boston Mills Press. 224 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.**

Most early settlements of our province started with a mill and then evolved into villages and towns – mills were vitally important to the pioneering farmers for grinding grain, sawing lumber, or preparing cloth. (A millpond to provide the necessary power could be created almost anywhere). Sadly, most mills have become a casualty of progress, say the authors, either disappearing altogether or slowly crumbling at the mercy of the elements or vandals. Mercifully, some have survived, the old buildings serving new purposes, such as upscale shops and restaurants, while others have been lovingly restored to act as living examples of earlier days. Here is a guidebook of the mills that remain, with photographs, descriptions, historic and current operations, and with detailed directions as to how to find them.

THE FAB FIVE

***The Persons Case: The Origins and Legacy of the Fight for Legal Personhood.* Robert J. Sharpe and Patricia I. McMahon. University of Toronto Press for The Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History. 269 pages. Illustrations. \$50.00 hardbound.**

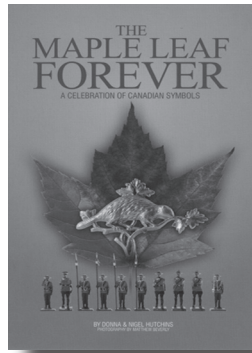
In this scholarly but also highly readable review of the 1929 landmark decision, the authors examine the Persons case not only as a pivotal moment in the struggle for women's rights but also as one of the most important constitutional decisions in Canadian history. At issue was whether or not a woman could become a Senator. Although many might have wondered why Emily Murphy would have the least desire to "intrude upon the slumber of the Red Chamber," even then most would probably have agreed that women were "persons." The question was: were they *qualified* persons according to the British North America Act, 1867? (In 1867 women were not eligible to vote or hold public office). The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the law had not changed in the intervening almost sixty years: women were not qualified. This decision was overturned by the British Privy Council. It recognized that not only were women qualified persons but also that Canada's constitution was "a living tree, capable of growth and expansion." A fascinating look at the people and the principles involved.

PLAGUE

***SARS in Context: Memory, History, Policy.* Jacalyn Duffin and Arthur Sweetman, editors. McGill-Queen's University Press. 206 pages. \$75.00 hardbound; \$29.95 softbound.**

In 2003, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome swept across the globe, affecting more than 8,000 people worldwide and having unforgettable repercussions here in Canada, notably in and around Toronto. This brand new and seemingly mysterious pathogen was in time controlled by an

ancient method: isolation of sufferers and quarantine of their contacts. The disaster was more than medical, however, for its ramifications were social, political, economic and legislative. This book consists of a series of reflections from historical, scientific, economic and policy perspectives, most originally presented at a symposium held at Queen's University in Feb. 2004.



O CANADA!

***The Maple Leaf Forever: A Celebration of Canadian Symbols.* Donna & Nigel Hutchins. Boston Mills Press. 224 pages. Illustrations. \$59.95 hardbound.**

"Iconic Expressions of the Canadian Identity" is an apt description of this carnival of patriotic images, most especially the beaver, the maple leaf and the Mountie. Large in format (11" by 14") and far-reaching in coverage, here are hundreds upon hundreds of objects in public museums and private collections. Some official, some political, some commercial, some artistic, some frivolous – all are explicitly Canadian (albeit many manufactured for the Canadian market in Japan, Scotland, the United States, and, no doubt, China). Many, many images, with their accompanying brief explanations, combine to make a book aimed to appeal to every patriot.

RESEARCH AID

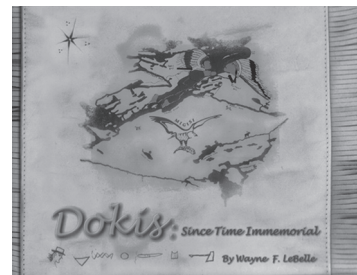
***Index to Overseas Deaths of Ontario Servicemen and Servicewomen, 1939-1947, v. 1 A-L. v. 2 M-Z.* Bruce Thornley, edited by Clifford Collier. Ontario Genealogical Society. Each volume \$35.00 spiralbound.**

A monumental task to find, check and recheck: the names of service men and women who died overseas as a result of World War II are here listed alphabetically. Included are the Provincial Registration Number, Surname, Given Name, Service, Date [of death], Hometown, and Cause. Cause gives details such as "KIA (Wellington; Air Ops, shot down) Darmstadt, Germany" or "LAS: HMCS Trentonian; Sunk." This index will surely be a godsend to researchers and genealogists who can now refer to the original microfilmed records in the Archives of Ontario to confirm the information and see what else might be listed on the death certificates, such as date and place of birth, or names of parents. (An OGS note indicates that microfilms can be ordered via inter-library loan through local libraries).

THEY ALSO SERVED

***It Was Their War Too: Canadian Women in World War I.* Pat Staton. Green Dragon Press. 104 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 softbound.**

Most accounts of the First World War focus on the political causes and the tragic loss of so many young lives on the battlefields or in the trenches; the contributions of women are not as well documented. Intended primarily for use in schools, this book of short essays, diaries, and photographs adds to the record. As men left for the war, women stepped in to fill jobs that had previously been closed to them. Thousands of women were employed by the military, in supply depots, canteens, and as nurses and drivers at home and abroad. Many more worked in factories or on farms. Women organized charitable associations, busily fundraising, knitting socks and comforters, and sending food and supplies to the soldiers overseas. The book also includes a section on the aftermath: women were urged to go back to their proper place in the home to make way in the labour force for returning soldiers.



EXTENDED FAMILY

***Dokis: Since Time Immemorial.* Wayne F. LeBelle. WFL Communications for the Dokis First Nation. 163 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.**

Local historian Wayne LeBelle has produced both a "history book" and a "family album" with this volume describing the Dokis people on the French River and Lake Nipissing. Archeological evidence reveals aboriginals were in the area more than 5,000 years ago. Ancestors of present day people of the Dokis Reserve lived there hundreds of years before 17th century contact with Jesuits and fur traders. Most of the book consists of a plethora of pictures, dating back into the 19th century, and accompanying commentary. The past and present of a people truly comes alive.

AROUND ONTARIO

***Speaking of Avonmore: History, Heroes, Happenings and Humour in the Life of a (not very) Typical Ontario Village.* Murray Barkley. 301 pages. Illustrations. \$40.00 hardbound.**

The Barkley family next year (2008) will celebrate a hundred years of operating a general store in the Stormont county community of Avonmore. Two books published in recent years told the town's history. This volume is a compilation of the some twenty-five years of the author's "speeches, writings and diatribes." You may never have visited the village, yet the people and events feel familiar. A particular place reflects universal human experiences. This anthology may not be a chronology, but the gentle charm and warm humor of these affectionate reflections make pleasant reading.

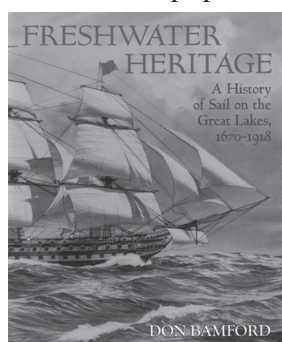
from *BOOKSHELF* page 7

Aviation in Thunder Bay.
Jim Lyzum. Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society. 88 pages. Illustrations, softbound.

One of the first flights in Canada took place at the Lakehead in 1910 and planes have been in the air in the area ever since. Once the site of aircraft production, airplanes remain central to Thunder Bay's economy, both commercial and recreational. With archival images of planes, here is a chronicle of Canadian aviation in a location central to our nation.

Toronto Sprawls: A History.
Lawrence Solomon. University of Toronto Press. 120 pages. \$45.00 hardbound; 19.95 softbound.

This thoughtful monograph begins by looking backward to Toronto a hundred years ago – a city already so enlarged that its northern boundary was Eglinton Avenue – and its increasing concerns about water, transportation and sewerage. The author then looks from the present time forward—speculating on the government structures necessary to deal with water, transportation and sewerage, as well as garbage and policing. The sprawl that is now the GTA, Solomon argues, was caused not by market forces, but by political policies designed to disperse the urban population.



SAIL ON, SAIL ON

Freshwater Heritage: A History of Sail on the Great Lakes, 1670-1918. Don Bamford. Natural Heritage Books. 301 pages. Illustrations. \$34.95 softbound.

Sailing ships on the Great Lakes – from LaSalle's *Griffin* to the War of 1812 *Detroit* to the fishing and lumber-carrying ships of a late 19th century commerce – are all here, chronicled in detail and illustrated in profusion. Here is not only the military and commercial history of sailing, but also the technology, as chapters on ship-building clearly describe the tools and methods of ship-building. A central section presents colour portraits of eight historic vessels. The author's enthusiasm for maritime history and extensive experience sailing on all the lakes himself permeate every page. Natural Heritage Books, now a part of the Dundurn Group, has once again produced a volume that is carefully edited, beautifully designed, and augmented by useful appendices, notes and bibliographies.

SCHOLARLY BIOGRAPHY

Marginal Man: The Dark Vision of Harold Innis.

Alexander John Watson.

University of Toronto Press.

525 pages. Illustrations. \$65.00 hardbound; \$35.00 softbound.

Described as the "first in-depth intellectual biography" of "the great Canadian economic historian and communications visionary," this volume is hardly intended for the casual reader. Yet those who delve into its biographic details and theoretical analyses will be rewarded. Harold Innis's life and his ideas were intertwined. His beginnings in rural Ontario pervaded his life, for he came to believe that important developments arise in the margins, not the centre. Despite living and working at the periphery in Canada, Innis earned international recognition. His early work in "staples theory" brought a fresh understanding of Canada's economic history. His later explorations in communications have been called the "old testament" basis for Marshall McLuhan's "new testament" theories.

Fifty years after his death, Innis continues to have profound influence.

SUMMER MEMORIES

At the Ojibway (100

Summers on Georgian Bay).

David MacFarlane. Nancy

Lang. 168 pages. Illustrations.

\$69.95 hardbound.

A skilled and sensitive author (David MacFarlane), a team of researchers, more than a hundred interviews, numerous family collections of letters and memorabilia, the resources of two dozen museums and libraries, the contributions of nearly fifty investors, all assembled with the artistic vision and extraordinary devotion of a publisher (Nancy Lang) – rarely, if ever, can so much creativity have gone into a single book of Ontario "local" history. The Ojibway, for sixty years a hotel, for forty a recreation centre, has been the focus of summer festivities. In centennial celebration, this tribute: a book of beauty to be treasured, by all who know and love Point au Baril, as a joy forever.

HISTORIC LITERATURE NOTED

Winona: or the Foster

Sisters. Isabella Valancy

Crawford; edited by Len Early

and Michael Peterman.

Broadview Press. 334 pages.

\$19.95 softbound.

Roughing It in the Bush.

Susanna Moodie; edited by

Michael Peterman. W.W. Norton.

640 pages. US\$15.00 softbound.

Two 19th century works by prominent Canadian authors are given new life thanks to Trent professor (and long-time OHS member) Michael Peterman. *Winona*, a now long-forgotten Ontario tale, helped establish Crawford as a writer, but only after she took her publisher to court. This "critical edition" of *Roughing It in the Bush* is a venture into Canadian literature by an American publisher renowned for fifty years for its scholarly editions of significant literary works.

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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, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011, bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

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, the journal also published by the OHS, now in its 100th volume!

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