

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 163

FEBRUARY 2008

2008 AGM and Conference in Guelph: An Enthusiastic Invitation!

Members and affiliates of The Ontario Historical Society will know that we relaunched the annual conference in conjunction with the AGM last year with the highly-successful *Forging Freedom* event at Brock University. This year's conference will be held in partnership with the Guelph Historical Society, Guelph Civic Museums, and the History Department, University of Guelph. The theme is Ontario's Environmental History: *From Nature to Ecology, Landscape to Ecosystems: An Historical View of Ontario Environments*. The City of Guelph's reputation as a frontrunner in implementing environmentalist policies and programs, its university's acclaimed scientific research in this area, and its noted commitment to historical conservation, make it a uniquely appropriate and inviting setting for our 2008 conference.

The conference and AGM will take place on Friday June 13 and Saturday June 14, 2008, on the University of Guelph campus, with registration and tours commencing at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. Registrants can look forward to a number of historic tours scheduled for Friday and Saturday, including walking tours in our vibrant host city; a visit to the historic John McCrae House that includes their famous "Afternoon Tea"; and a bus trip to neighbouring Elora, featuring a stop at the Wellington County Museum and Archives – formerly the County House of Industry – and time for browsing and coffee in Elora's unique downtown.

Following Friday evening's reception at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, our opening gala will take place across the street at the venerable War Memorial Hall. Peter Kelly, University of Guelph, author (with Douglas Larson and Sarah Harmer) of *The Last Stand: A Journey through the Ancient Cliff-Face Forest of the Niagara*

Escarpment, will give a slide presentation on that subject. Musical acts include the Guelph Spirit Walk artists, who perform as local historic figures, including Guelph native and world-renowned opera singer Edward Johnson. What promises to be an exciting evening will close in a concert by local folksinger and activist James Gordon.

Saturday morning's opening AGM will be followed by presentations on our conference theme by a number of authorities on the subject who were invited on the basis of their expertise in, as well as commitment to, Ontario's environmental history. Finally, we are delighted to have Dr. Gilbert Stelter, Professor Emeritus, History, University of Guelph, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Stelter, one of the founders of the Canadian urban history field, and very much involved in the city's historical societies and heritage communities, will speak on "The Environment and the City: The Symbiotic Relationship Between the Natural Environment and the City-Building Process", with special focus on the origins of international cities and local Ontario patterns. The conference will close with the OHS annual awards presentation and the Guelph Civic Museum's bus tour, "Step Up to Guelph".

Brochures and registration materials will be sent to OHS members and affiliates in the very near future. This year's event promises to combine a vibrant local setting – the City of Guelph – with some thought-provoking discussion on Ontario's historic role in the environmental considerations that are foremost among Canada's pressing contemporary issues. We look forward to seeing our friends and members in Guelph in mid-June!

For further information contact:

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio, at ccomac5702@rogers.com
Dr. Debra Nash-Chambers, nashchambers@rogers.com



Pictured above is the historic War Memorial Hall, a picturesque part of the Guelph University Campus, and the site of the joint OHS-GHS 2008 Conference Opening Night Gala on Friday, June 13, 2008.

Photo Guelph University

2008 OHS AGM and Conference in Guelph: An Enthusiastic Invitation

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The theme is Ontario's Environmental History:
"From Nature to Ecology, Landscape to Ecosystems:
An Historical View of Ontario Environments".

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Friday 13 June and Saturday 14 June 2008,
on the University of Guelph campus, with registration and tours
commencing at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre. Opening gala
will take place at the venerable War Memorial Hall.

To register, please contact Ontario Historical Society at
416 226 9011; ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Insurance Rates now Available for OHS Member and Affiliated Societies!

Karolyn Smardz Frost,
Executive Director

Good things are happening here at the OHS offices. Just this past week, after a year's hard work to set it up, we have arranged for a special insurance offering for all our affiliated and member societies.

That's right – we did it! I am very proud of this. Member and affiliated societies in good standing with The Ontario Historical Society are now eligible to purchase insurance at very discounted rates. Liability Insurance is available through a highly reputable firm, at the rate of

\$675 per annum, while Directors & Officers Insurance can be acquired for \$450. As those of you who have investigated insurance rates for your own not-for-profit group can attest, these are quite remarkably low prices.

Further information will be available on our website at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca by the time you read this. But remember, your organization must be, and remain, "in good standing" to be eligible, so send those delinquent fees, or late Annual Reports and audited financials into the OHS office at the John McKenzie House!

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



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ONTARIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



34 PARKVIEW AVE.
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www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

President's Report

Chris Oslund
coslund@ntl.sympatico.ca

Dear Members,

In my last article for the Bulletin I provided an update on the Conservation Review Board Hearing held in September regarding the Banting Homestead. I am pleased to report that the Ontario Historical Society Foundation has entered into an agreement with the Town of New Tecumseth for the purchase of the property.

One of the recommendations of the Conservation Review Board was the need for all three levels of government to participate in the protection of the property in order

to preserve and commemorate its connection with Sir Frederick Banting. The OHSF is pleased that the Town of New Tecumseth has taken a pro-active role to ensure that this is achieved.

The Town will purchase the property from the OHSF for \$600,000 which is payable over a 3 year period at \$200,000 per year. In addition, the Town of New Tecumseth has committed to raise \$500,000 from members of the community and supporters of the Banting Homestead for the purposes of repairing and maintaining the land and buildings.

This is a strong commitment from the municipality and one that will ensure the property is maintained for future generations.

The Board and Foundation have been struggling with the disposition of the Banting Homestead since receiving this very generous bequest from Edward Knight Banting almost 9 years ago. At times we were faced with very difficult decisions. We attempted to ensure that the interests of the various parties involved were balanced and that the intent of Edward Banting's gift was respected. We were often criticized for our decisions, but I can assure you that they were only made after careful consideration and deliberation by the Board.

This final resolution to the disposition of the Banting Homestead will allow the Society to re-focus its efforts to enhance our existing programs and the services that we offer our members and affiliated societies.

Chris Oslund
President

and working hard towards, the conservation of Ontario's past for the sake of the future.

I am sure you will all join us in wishing a hearty "Happy Birthday" to The Ontario Historical Society!

Finally, I must bid you all a fond farewell. This will be my last report as Executive Director to the *OHS Bulletin* and to all of you, our members, member societies, affiliates, friends and donors. My year-and-a-half has been fascinating, rewarding and a great deal of satisfyingly hard work.

One of the achievements of which I am most proud was reintroducing the Annual OHS Conference, as we did last year with *Forging Freedom: A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade* held at Brock University in June 2008. It was such a success that The Ontario Historical Society is joining with the Guelph Historical Society and a variety of community partners to mount another conference in association with our AGM. This time it will be in Guelph on June 13 and 14, the topic being *From Nature to Ecology, Landscapes to Ecosystems: An Historical View of Ontario Environments*. There's lots of information about how to become involved in the insert that accompanies this issue of the *OHS Bulletin*. Over my time as the Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society, I have met literally hundreds of wonderful people whose profound concern for the heritage of this province humbles and inspires me. I have visited museums, heritage and archaeological sites that engage my historical imagination in new and exciting ways. I have listened to myriad stories, some personal family tales and others regional, provincial, national and even international in scope and importance. All of them touch my heart and fire my enthusiasm to know more about our multiple and collective heritages as Ontarians. Thank you all for your friendship, for your support, and for your enthusiasm. Wish me well as I move on to new challenges. Whatever I do next, you can be sure that I will be working towards the goals of my personal mission statement: *Preserving the past, to better the present, for the sake of the future.*

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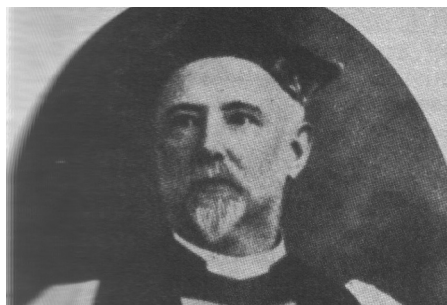
Alan E. Woods

Executive Director's Report

Karolyn Smardz Frost
karolyn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Here we are, in our 120th year! The Ontario Historical Society was founded in 1888, first named the Pioneer and Historical and Society of Ontario. The announcement was made at Queen's Park on September 17, 1888, during the 100th anniversary celebrations for the Ontario Legislature.

Our first president was noted historian, the Reverend Henry Scadding (1813-1901). The rector of Holy Trinity Church for 28 years, he lived in the beautiful old house, designed by noted architect William Hay, that still stands next to the church at No. 6, Trinity Square in the heart of the Toronto Eaton Centre courtyard.



The OHS's first president, the Rev. Henry Scadding.

A brainchild of the York Pioneer and Historical Society (Toronto's venerable heritage organization founded in 1869 and still going strong!) and the Peel County Historical Society, and renamed The Ontario Historical Society, the organization was incorporated by an Act of the Provincial Legislature in 1899. And thus began a history that spans 12 decades. Ontario's Parliament gave the OHS a unique mandate: it is empowered to recommend newly-forming historical societies for incorporation by the Provincial Government, and is, I believe the only organization in the province that is entrusted with such a responsibility.

The Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario, the Hon. David C. Onley, is the Honourary Patron of the OHS, continuing the longest-running such relationship the office of the Lieutenant Governor has with any organization

Many of Ontario's most venerable scholars have been Presidents of the Board of Directors, including Fred Landon, JJ Talman, Maurice Careless, Morris Zaslow, Gerald Killan, Fred Armstrong, Kenneth McLaughlin and Brian Osborne. Dozens of professional and community historians, museums curatorial staff, heritage preservation professionals and concerned citizens have dedicated their time and energy to the promotion and preservation of Ontario's rich heritage from past generations through service on the Board of Directors, and in a variety of other capacities.

Our mandate today remains the same as it was in 1888, when the first Board of Directors dictated that "the objects of the society shall be:

a) to promote among the citizens of the Province of Ontario the preservation and appreciation of its heritage;

b) to unite the various historical societies of the Province in one central organization, so as to promote communication, interchange of ideas and cooperation among them; and to encourage the formation of new historical societies that promote the history of Ontario, and to enhance and extend their influence in the Province;

c) to cooperate with individuals, societies, institutions and government agencies; and

d) to undertake projects of any nature to encourage and develop the study and preservation of that heritage.

Part of the mandate includes publishing new information about the contributions made by the peoples of Ontario's past to the growth of the province. This year we also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the much-respected Ontario History, the only province-wide heritage journal".

Today the Ontario Historical Society has more than 360 member and affiliated societies, in addition to its individual membership. Collectively the OHS therefore helps to represent the interests of more than 50,000 people in this province who are concerned with,

DONORS AND DOERS

DOERS

Dianne Clendenen

Dorothy Duncan

Dianne Gallagher

Jeanne Hughes

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Judy McGonigal

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Frank Spence

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WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

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Walter Daschko

Golden Horseshoe
Antique Society

Thomas Kennedy



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Across The Province

Logging History:
Alligator Tug Found near Timmins

By Frank Spence, Guest Writer
frankspence@hughes.net

On July 8, 2007, Marten River Provincial Park officials near North Bay became aware of a previously unknown Alligator Tug Boat. As only three other tugs were known to exist, plans quickly went into high gear for the retrieval of this historic find. The new find was a pre-1925 Russel Brothers Alligator Tug (built in Fort Frances) or Warping Tug or sometimes called a Winching Tug used in the logging industry a century ago. Known other alligator tugs are located at Wakami Provincial Park near Chapleau, Algonquin Park, and the town of Simcoe. This tug is the only remaining Russel Brothers Alligator and is the oldest known Russel Brothers boat of the over 1,200 watercraft built.

On the banks of the Frederick House River near Connaught, dense bush hid a collapsed boathouse that was protecting the 43-foot long, 10-foot wide, and 11-foot high alligator tug used in the area for moving log booms of 6,000 logs to the saw mills, during the time horses were the main source of power in northern logging camps. From what is known, the tug may have been put in the boathouse in the mid 1950s when a supply of logs was no longer easily available. The boathouse had kept the tug in remarkable condition all these years, even though the boathouse itself had rotted and decayed.

The Russel Brothers of Fort Frances started operations in 1907 and by 1912 were making Winching tugs for the booming logging industry in Canada. Up to 1925 the hulls of these watercraft were made of Norway Pine '2x4's laid on the flat, covered with a layer of lead and a thin skin of sheet metal. The power was provided by a gasoline engine when other companies were still using steam power. In 1925 the hull design was changed to all steel and then in 1937 the company moved its operations to Owen Sound.

This particular tug had its engine replaced with a diesel motor and we know that it was still in operation following the Second World War, as one of the engine parts has a serial number that when traced back was made for engines that were to be used in boats for the invasion of Japan, which never happened, and was later sold off as war surplus. Inspection of the tug shows where



This pre-1925 Russel Brothers Alligator Tug Boat finally became visible after clearing away the debris from a fallen boathouse on the Frederick House River.
Photo Frank Spence

Black History Month

Karolyn Smardz Frost,
Executive Director

The Ontario Historical Society is proud to be celebrating Black History Month. The multicultural, multi-ethnic heritage of Ontario is, as you all know by now, very near and dear to my heart. So I would like to share a story with you all.

On Monday, February 11, 2008, I had the honour of addressing the Stayner Historical Society for Black History Month. Do you know that more than 80 people came out on a snowy, blowy Monday night to hear my talk? The support for preserving the past

of all of Ontario's peoples that is ing short of inspirational. Now we just need to convince politicians and developers that we need to save the more tangible evidence of that heritage so future generations can learn from the buildings, the cemeteries, the archaeological sites, and the many other remnants of our past that are so endangered these days....

But back to Stayner: after bringing greetings from The Ontario Historical Society, and describing our important work in heritage education and preservation, I told the inspiring story of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn. These fugitive

slaves from Kentucky came to Canada on the Underground Railroad, and started Upper Canada's first taxi business. But before they reached our shores, they had been recaptured in Detroit, were rescued in that city's first racial riots, and crossed over to Sandwich, Ontario. There they were jailed at the request of the Governor of Michigan. And thus began the first extradition case between Canada and the United States relating to the Underground Railroad. In fact, Sir John Colborne, Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, devised Canada's very first refugee reception policy to protect the Blackburns, and it is the basis of our extradition laws to this very day.

The Blackburn story first came to light in an archaeological dig in a downtown Toronto schoolyard in 1985, and is the subject of my recent book *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* (Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, & New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007). Thornton and Lucie Blackburn were only two of more than 35,000 African Americans who came to Canada in search of liberty in the years before the US Civil War, and stayed to help build this great nation as we know it today.

That is really something to celebrate. Happy Black History Month!



Karolyn joined OHS Director and Conference Committee Chair Dr. Cynthia Commachio at a planning and logistics meeting with the Guelph Historical Society to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming 2008 joint OHS-GHS Conference and AGM.
Photo Karolyn Smardz Frost

Exhibits & Events

JANUARY - JUNE 2008

Exhibition of Taras Shevchenko's Art – "The Father of Ukrainian Realistic Art"

Event hosted by the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum & Memorial Park Foundation. Open Monday to Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, or on weekends by appointment. Taras Shevchenko Museum and Library, 1614 Bloor St. West, Toronto. (416) 534-8662.

JANUARY 25 to MARCH 16

Child's Play: A Century of Toys, 1850s-1950s.

This travelling exhibit makes a temporary stop at Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin Street South, Guelph. \$4 admission, members enter free. Visit www.guelph.ca/museum or phone (519) 836-1221 for more information.

FEBRUARY 2008

Small Town Giant: Beatty Brothers of Fergus, 1874-1964

In honour of the 175th anniversary of Fergus, this new exhibit opens, telling the story of the growth of a small-town maker of farm implements into one of Canada's foremost manufacturers of household products and war-time munitions. Wellington County Museum & Archives, 0536 Wellington Road 18, between Fergus & Elora. \$3 admission. Visit www.wcm.on.ca or phone (519) 846-0916 for more information.

MARCH 26

History of Astronomy in the Toronto Area

An illustrated talk on the history and heritage of astronomy in the Toronto area from the 1830s to the present. Presented by Peter Broughton. 7:30 pm. No admission charge, and refreshments served. Northern District Library, 40 Orchard View Blvd, Toronto. More information at www.geocities.com/athens/parthenon/8809.

MARCH 29

Beginner's Digital Photography: Point and Shoot

The University of Guelph Arboretum presents a half-day (9:00 am - noon) workshop teaching beginners how to use their digital cameras 'beyond the auto setting'. Register before March 14 by calling (519) 824-4120, ext 52358. \$30, space is limited.

APRIL 13

Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum's Pancake Brunch

Celebrate winter's end at this delicious event hosted by the Friends of the Museum and enjoy a pancake and ham brunch, topped with locally produced maple syrup, before touring the Museum's restored heritage buildings. \$6 for adults, \$2 for children. 11:00 am-2:00 pm. 14732 Woodbine Ave., Stouffville. Contact Katharine at (905) 727-8954 or email wsmuseum@townofws.com for more information.

APRIL 19

Meeting the Challenges of Today's Garden

Friends of Glanmore NHS proudly present this gardening workshop at the Belleville Recreation Centre, 16 Pinnacle Street, Belleville between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm. \$40 pre-registration includes lunch, breaks, and resource materials. To register, call (613) 962-2329.

APRIL 19 and 20

8th Annual Collector Exhibition

Exhibition featuring a wide variety of area collections on display – ranging from antique clock lamps to Imperial Oil memorabilia. Silent auction and lunch counter available. Hosted by The Bayfield Historical Society at the Bayfield Community Centre, 4 Jane Street (at Highway 21), 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Contact Bernard at (519) 565-2376.



Photo Linda Iler, ECHRS

The Essex Carnegie Library opened to the public from Dec. 18, 1914 until Nov. 2005. Vacant, and unsure of its fate until Nov. 12, 2007, the Town of Essex accepted a working proposal and handed over the keys to this designated municipal historical building to the Essex and Community Historical Research Society (ECHRS). Incorporated in March 2007 through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society.

Essex and Community Historical Research Society
18 Gordon Ave., Essex, ON N8M 2M4

OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 12, 2008

Period Costume - Group Membership Displays - Mural Tours
Raffle - Local Authors - Book Signing - Children's Display
Everyone welcome!

APRIL 24

Etobicoke Historical Society's 50th Anniversary Celebration

The Etobicoke Historical Society invites you to its 50th Anniversary celebration! Refreshments will be served at 7:00 pm at Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. West, Etobicoke. To RSVP, please contact Denise Harris at denise.harris@sympatico.ca

APRIL 26

History Hands-On (H₂O) in Spring

A chance to really experience life as it was more than 100 years ago! Many hands-on activities to experience, such as preparing treats in the Farmhouse kitchen. Free admission, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, 14732 Woodbine Avenue, Stouffville. Contact Katharine at (905) 727-8954 or email wsmuseum@townofws.com for further information.

MAY 7 to 10

Oil Springs, Ontario: 150 Years – Back to the Future

International Symposium and Field Trip celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first commercial oil well in North America. Held at the Holiday Inn, 1498 Venetian Blvd., Sarnia. Visit www.holiday-inn.com/sarnia or phone (519) 336-4130

to make reservations. Full registration is \$275 for members or \$315 for non-members. Contact Joe Van Overberghe at (519) 680-1620 or jvanoverberghe@ontpet.com to register.

MAY 17 and 18

The Most Favoured for Flavor: Apples and Hops in the County

A new exhibit about the importance of apples and hops to the early economy of Prince Edward County is opening at the Rose House Museum, 3333 County Road 8 in Waupoos. Opening ceremony starts at 2:00 pm on Sunday, May 18th. Phone Jennifer Lyons at (613) 476-5439 for more information.

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.

Upcoming Lecture on

Mrs Beeton's Famous Cookbook

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
7:00 pm
at the John McKenzie House
34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario

The Ontario Historical Society will host the third annual spring lecture of the Culinary Historians of Ontario

"Recipes Revised: 19th Century Editions of Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management"

delivered by Leslie Howsam, Professor, Department of History, University of Windsor and President of the Canadian Association for the Study of Book Culture. Howsam will discuss how Isabella Beeton's books morphed through the 19th century, while retaining her name and solidifying her image.

This event includes refreshments made from Beeton's recipes

\$10 CHO and OHS members; \$12 non-members.
SPACE IS LIMITED
You must pre-register by April 28, 2008. Please complete the registration form below and mail it with your cheque (payable to The Ontario Historical Society) to:

Saturday, May 3, 2008

**LIVING HISTORY:
A BASKET MAKING
WORKSHOP**

at
TIMBER VILLAGE MUSEUM
BLIND RIVER, ONTARIO
1:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.

This workshop is presented by The Town of Blind River's Timber Village Museum in partnership with The Ontario Historical Society and The Voyageur Heritage Network.

According to Ojibway tradition, black ash basketry involves a long and difficult process that was described in a vision to an Anishnabe man. Learn about the origins and history of this traditional skill. Participants will use flat reed, birchbark and sweet grass instead of black ash because of the scarcity of the raw material. Baskets made of black ash will be on display.

Join demonstrator, Irene Makadebin and workshop leader, Judy McGonigal, historian, curator and museum volunteer to make a Great Lakes Spoked Basket.

Registration is \$15.00 which includes materials.
You must register as soon as possible as space is limited.
The registration deadline is Friday, April 25, 2008.
To register, please send a cheque (payable to Timber Village Museum) to:
Timber Village Museum, 180 Leacock St. P.O. Box 628, Blind River, ON P0R 1B0
Attention: Basket-Making Workshop

For further information, contact either:
Chris Clark by phone at (705) 356-7544/ email museum@blindriver.com;
Rob Leverty at (416) 226-9011 / rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Gladstone Baptist Cemetery

In November the heritage community celebrated the rededication of The Clendennen Cemetery in Markham. This was the final stage in the preservation of the cemetery which was originally slated to be moved to allow for a housing development. A lengthy Government Tribunal took place and the ruling was that it was not in the public interest to close and move Clendennen Cemetery. Little did we know that in a few short days we would all be shocked and horrified by the destruction of Gladstone Baptist Cemetery in Thames Centre near London, Ontario.

The Municipality of Thames Centre, the administrators of the cemetery, wanted to dismantle the cairn built in the form of a four sided walled-in area. By the time we learned of the proposed "dismantling", municipal employees, using heavy equipment, had already destroyed the memorial walls containing the tombstones and these had been consigned to the local city dump. Local television as well as national and local newspapers reported this and we received many telephone calls and e-mails from across Canada and the US.

The Thames Centre Council advised that they did not order the destruction of the memorial walls but had expected that the stones would be preserved. Crumbling cairns and cemetery markers are the source of much concern for those who administer cemeteries. Cemetery administrators are responsible for public safety and health. There are also fines for willful destruction such as deliberate vandalism. In the case of the Gladstone Baptist Cemetery, some of the tombstones which had been placed on the memorial walls many years ago had fallen off or were in danger of falling off. Recent photographs showed that there was some deterioration of the walls and that preservation steps would be required. However, this did not warrant total destruction. While the deterioration was a concern for the municipality there were immediate steps that could have been taken with regard to public safety. Some municipalities have enclosed cairns with protective fencing. This is not a permanent solution but necessary while plans for preservation of the site are being developed.

The Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation published a book, *Landscapes of Memories, A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries* compiled by Tamara Anson-Cartwright. This is available through the Queen's Printer. In addition there have been many restoration workshops sponsored by the Ministry across the province. The Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals also provide similar advice and workshops for cemetarians. The fact remains that advice and

guidance does exist for cemetarians who find themselves in this type of dilemma. Destruction is not an option. Cemetarians are in effect custodians or curators of an outdoor museum. Museum curators do not destroy an artifact because it deteriorates with age.

The Ontario Government ordered the municipality to recover the remaining damaged tombstones from the dump. These were to be placed in storage until steps could be taken to develop some type of memorial. It is too late to preserve many of Gladstone Baptist Cemetery's early tombstones. Many of the tombstones formerly in the cemetery contain valuable genealogical and historical data. It is to be hoped these old stones will not be replaced by modern stones with the barest of information. Often the information on early tombstones is the only surviving documentation of the lives commemorated in stone.

Many "stories" surfaced after this destruction. It was reported that the memorial was not on the original site. It has been determined that a cemetery has existed at this site since at least the mid-1800s and maybe earlier. We are not aware of the denomination of the original church at the site but reports indicate that many of those buried there were pioneers or settlers in this area. The recorded tombstones have dates ranging from c 1840 to c1900 when it is believed that burials ceased at that site.

This was a dark day for Ontario cemeteries and Thames Centre in particular. Hopefully the administrators of cemeteries across the province will heed the warning that destruction is not acceptable and seek the assistance of those with expertise in the cemetery restoration field rather than rid themselves of the problem.

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.

SUPPORT YOUR HERITAGE!
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416.226.9011
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital/Ontario Hospital (New Toronto) Cemetery

By Ed Janiszewski, Guest Writer
edjaniszewski@ica.net

Closure of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital in 1979 and its more recent proposed sale in 1998 to build a crematorium, left the cemetery all but abandoned. Efforts by the Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto (PSAT) spearheading the Lakeshore Asylum Cemetery Project (LACP) have insisted that the owner, the Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC), re-implement the maintenance of this registered site. The members have met regularly to plan the site's improvements, and visit spring and fall to help keep the few markers (154) clear of debris, to place artificial flowers, and to memorialize all 1511, by their presence, these all-but-forgotten pioneers from every region of Ontario.

A recent Toronto Star article announced that the sale of the cemetery was "dead" (<http://www.thestar.com/living/article/220616>).

Heritage designation will be sought to ensure that the ORC includes this "option" regarding plans for the site.

On June 18th, seven descendants of two men and a woman buried there, visited this century-old cemetery after having been unable for years to locate the unmarked graves. With the assistance of the LACP, they could finally pay their respects to their family members. LACP encourages descendants to contact us through the web-site: <http://www.psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com/cemetery/index.html> or write to:

**Among Friends,
c/o LAMP CHC
185 Fifth Street
Toronto, Ontario
M8V 2Z5**

A companion web-site created by Ms. Agatha Barc offers some background and history of the hospital and the cemetery: <http://www.asylumbythelake.com>



The OHS was privileged to attend the recent launch of the local history book *Oakville Street Names & Landmarks* by David Ashe & Joyce Burnell published by Burnell Creighton Publishing at the Oakville Town Hall. Seen here left to right are: Joyce Burnell (co-author & publisher) and Sheila Creighton (photographer & publisher). This full colour, hardcover book features close to 100 Oakville street name histories, 40 landmarks and lots of images – including some archival images never before seen. The launch was well-attended and the book well-received. It was also splendid to see Sheila again, former Communications Director for the OHS (2002-2007). 15% of the profits from the book will go to the Oakville Historical Society who are also one of the book's sponsors. For more information contact: www.oakvillestreetbook.com. Photo Rob Leverty

Heritage Day is Family Day Family Day is Heritage Day

As many of our readers may already know, the McGuinty government recently announced the creation of a new statutory holiday for Ontarians. As such, the third Monday of every February will now be referred to as Family Day. While many hard-working families had a positive response to this change, it was also a cause for concern for some Ontario Historical Society members and the heritage community at large.

For many years now, the Ontario Ministry of Culture has designated the third week of February as Heritage Week, of which each Monday was traditionally Heritage Day – the same day as McGuinty's new holiday. To point out this

overlap to Mr. McGuinty, OHS President Chris Oslund wrote a letter to the Premier on behalf of the OHS membership outlining their concerns. The Premier responded in a timely manner expressing his thanks for our letter, and shared his hopes that Ontarians might be able to incorporate "important activities such as exploring the heritage of our province" into the new holiday.

To work around this new provincial holiday, the OHS is now proudly hosting its annual Heritage Day reception on the third Tuesday of each February, and we would

HERITAGE DAY cont'd page 6...

OHS Welcomes New Affiliated Society

Officially incorporated through affiliation with OHS in March 2007, the Ontario Historica Heritage Fairs Association recently achieved charitable status recognition from Canada Revenue. This status is expected to greatly assist OHHFA in raising funds to fulfill its mission of promoting awareness and understanding of Canadian and Ontario history and heritage through the facilitation and management of an Ontario Historica Fairs program.



Dr. Brian Osborne presents a participation ribbon to a student at the 2007 Historica Fair.

Photo OHHFA

This is not a new program in Ontario. The first Fair, one of six across Canada, was held in Kingston in 1994. By 1999, there were six fairs in Ontario and the CRB Foundation became a founding partner in the Historica

Foundation of Canada. Since 1999, Ontario has grown to 21 Regional sites and now involves 100,000 Ontario students and 3,000 community volunteers. In 2007, the OHHFA was formed to ensure sustainability and growth of this unique opportunity for interaction between the educational and heritage sectors of Ontario.

Historica Fairs are a community event. Each regional fair partners with local school boards, museums, libraries, historical societies, heritage groups, service clubs, and interested community members to organize and fund an annual public showcase of student produced research projects. Fair venues come alive on fair days as the public and heritage community interact with young historians from grades four to ten as they tell the fascinating stories of the roles family members, community members and well-known and sometimes not so well known individuals played in the history of Canada. Heritage workshops, interactive displays, musical and theatre presentations make each fair unique and memorable to students and visitors alike.

Likewise, the Fairs are a provincial event. The Ontario Archives gives a prize annually to each



Dr. Brian Osborne, Past-President, OHS presents Sam from the Kingston Historica Fair with the OHS participation ribbon at the 2007 Ontario Provincial Historica Fair held at Library and Archives Canada.

Photo OHHFA

Regional Fair to recognize excellent primary source research, and Ontario Genealogical Society rewards a student researching his or her family's past. Each year, with the help of generous sponsors, 100 students chosen from the Regional Fairs attend a five day history camp where they are immersed the history of an Ontario community and share their projects and love for history with like-minded peers. The Ontario Historical Society presents each of these students with a special participation ribbon to salute their achievements.

This year's Ontario Provincial Fair will be held in Ottawa, June 11-15, 2008 and the public showcase of projects will be held June 12, 2008 at the Library and

Archives Canada. Past fairs have included participation by special guests such as the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Archivist of Ontario, the Archivist of Canada, the Presidents of the OGS and OHS, and the President and Chairman of the Board of the Historica Foundation.

The OHHFA is open to everyone interested in furthering the awareness and understanding of Canadian history. If you are interested in attending, or better still being involved in our Fairs, becoming a member of our association, or just learning more, visit our website at www.ohhfa.ca or email or phone the Executive Director, Carol White, at cwhite@histori.ca or call 1.613.384.1208.



In partnership with The Voyageur Heritage Network (VHN), The MacTier Railroad Heritage Society (MRHS) and The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum & Heritage Centre (NORMHC) and hosted by Discovery North Bay, the OHS presented recently the workshop *Eating on the Rails*. There has been a resurgence of interest in Ontario's railway history and seen here with members of the MRHS and NORMHC are (seated, right) Dorothy Duncan, author, historian and workshop leader; (standing, far right) Jennifer Buell, Director, Discovery North Bay and (beside Jennifer) David Lafleur, President, VHN and Sturgeon River House Museum.

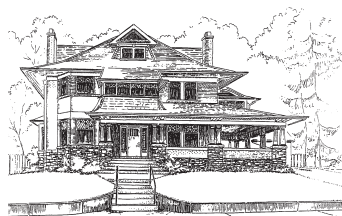
Photo Rob Levery

...from *HERITAGE DAY* page 5

like to thank our members for sharing with us their thoughts about Family Day. This year's reception will be held between 2:00 and 7:00 pm on February 19. The focus of this year's reception will be the 120th Anniversary of The Ontario Historical Society.

For the Government of Ontario's official press release regarding Family Day, please visit <http://www.premier.gov.on.ca/news/Product.asp?ProductID=1703>.

Happy Family and Heritage Day from the OHS to all of its members!

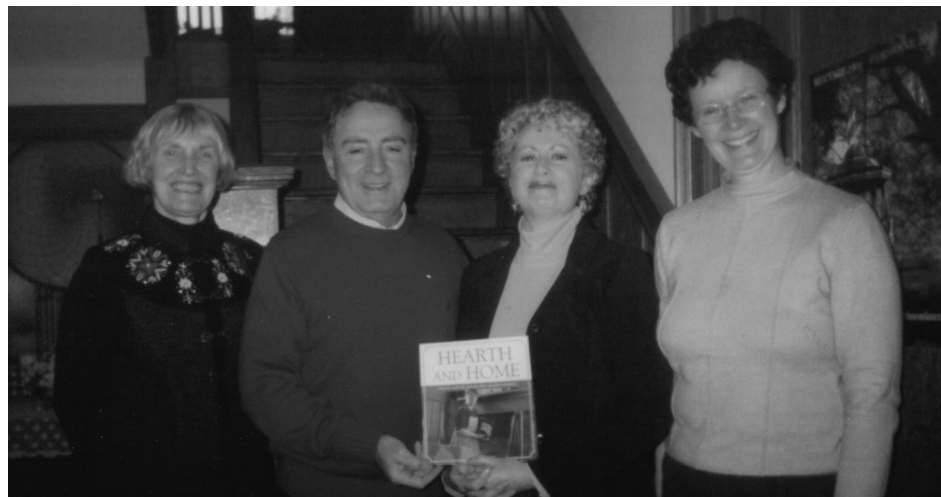


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Every year the Culinary Historians of Ontario (CHO) assist the OHS with the Cookbook Caper fundraiser, by pricing books and sponsoring an afternoon tea. Seen here are (left to right): Donna Crossan, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Denistry, U of T and wife of David Zimmer, MPP (Willowdale); Mr. Zimmer who is also Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General; Fiona Lucas, President, CHO; and Liz Driver, CHO Past President. Fiona is holding her book *Hearth and Home: Women and the Art of Open-Hearth Cooking (2006)*, which won the Silver Prize in the English Canadian Food Culture Category of the 10th annual Canadian Culinary Book Awards organized by the University of Guelph and Cuisine Canada.

Photo Rob Levery



The Cookbook Caper fundraiser featured a delightful and delicious afternoon tea sponsored by the Culinary Historians of Ontario. Captured with teapots in hand are (left to right): Rosemary Kovac, Mya Sangster, Joan Derblich. Thank you for your generous donation and support!

Photo Rob Levery

From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
raible@georgian.net

MUSEUM PIECES

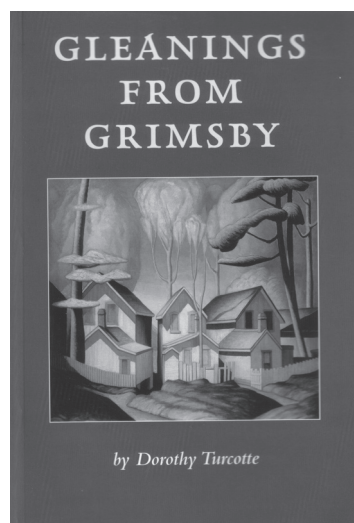
100 Years – 100 Artefacts:
Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niagara Historical Society and Museum. Looking Back Press. 128 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound.

The Niagara Historical Society, founded by Janet Carnochan in 1907, marked its first hundred years by selecting a hundred items – clothing, documents, furniture, portraits, implements, photographs – and recruited a hundred different people each to write briefly about one of them. Here they all are, in words and pictures, published as another fine volume by Looking Back Press. What a splendid way to celebrate a centennial!

NEW WORLDS

Emigrant Worlds and Transatlantic Communities: Migration to Upper Canada in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century.
Elizabeth Jane Errington. McGill-Queens University Press. 244 pages. Illustrations. \$80.00 hardbound; \$29.95 softbound.

This is a sympathetic study of the experience of British and Irish migrants who made their way to new lives in the New World between 1815 and 1845. Errington makes full use of diaries, journals and letters, but intriguingly also looks at the hundreds of “Information Wanted” notices printed in colonial newspapers. Many families immigrated together, of course, but many others followed a father, husband, brother, sister, or other relative. The “Wanted” notices demonstrate that a sadly surprising number of these family members were not found. These notices, she says, offer us a glimpse into the lives and concerns of those anonymous folk as they arrived. “What had propelled them,” she asks, “to leave all that was familiar to make that long and often dangerous journey to the colonies?” The support of family members, both of those who remained in the home country as well as those in the new, remained crucial to a new immigrant’s sense of identity, and the loss of that support was devastating.



AROUND ONTARIO

Gleanings from Grimsby.
Dorothy Turcotte. Grimsby Historical Society. 178 pages. Illustrations. \$25.00 softbound.

If, trusting the Oxford English Dictionary, to glean means “to gather or pick up in small quantities”

this volume is well titled. Here are multiple small stories gathered into a striking portrayal of one Niagara area community. Personalities – the famous such as Lauren Harris or Norman Bethune and the equally admirable though lesser known such as William Poole or Florence Martin – and locations – like Place Polonaise or El Ranch Casablanca – and events – like the Mural Project or the annual Wayzgoose showcase of printing – are all appreciatively described. Here is a composite work both neatly designed and nicely written.

Milton Streets: The Stories Behind the Villages, Hamlets, Neighbourhoods and Roads.
John Challinor II and Jim Dills. Milton Historical Society. 127 pages. Illustrations.

When incorporated in 1857, the town of Milton was only 400 acres, an area unchanged for nearly a hundred years. In 1953 it began to expand, piece by piece, until today’s population of over 50,000 occupies 366.61 square kilometres. But, as this book reveals, Milton has preserved memories of its past by insisting that all its streets be named after local citizens, all its major roads honour prominent Canadians, and all its sub-divisions be designated as neighbourhoods that memorialize settlers who first farmed them. Here is the entire record, along with a listing of every street and neighbourhood with a notation of its historical identity. The whole work is marvelously enhanced by splendid colour photographs. To mark Milton’s 150th anniversary, the Milton Historical Society enlisted the skills of two local historians, found funding from three developers, recruited five area professional photographers, and engaged a premier Ontario publisher, Boston Mills Press, to produce a most elegant volume.

GOLD!

The Scholarly Prospector: Don McKinnon.
Michael Barnes. General Store Publishing House. 169 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

This is a warm tribute to a man hailed as Canada’s greatest prospector and co-discoverer of the massive Hemlo gold field. Without a doubt, Don McKinnon has had an enormous impact on the development of mineral wealth in northern Ontario and he has persisted in seeing that a share of the wealth extracted from his discoveries remained in the north. Barnes shows that prospecting is not the glamorous and rewarding endeavor it might seem and that the finders rarely prosper financially from their strike. McKinnon’s success story is part of the history of mining in Canada and shows what a man can do with determination, hard work, and diligent research into the geology of the north country.

LEST WE FORGET

Words of Valediction and Remembrance: Canadian

Epitaph of the Second World War.
Eric McGeer. Vanwell Publishing. 312 pages. Illustrations. \$35.00 hardbound.

Touring a military cemetery, with its markers row on row, offers an opportunity for grateful tribute to those who died in war. Focusing on a single headstone provides an intimate glimpse of one person whose life was ended. Chapter by chapter, this remarkable volume visits ten Canadian burial grounds in Europe and weaves the names and the phrases carved in stone – literally thousands of them – together with the author’s reflections on the wartime context, the physical geography, and the principal themes and sources of inspiration for the carved epitaphs. An impressive meditation on memory and hope. “Remembrance, the only immortality we know.”

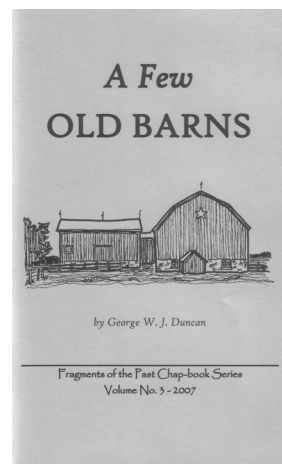
The Canadian Corps in World War I.
René Chartrand, Illustrated by Gerry Embleton. Osprey Publishing. 48 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound.

A slim but highly informative work describing the organization, listing the units, and illustrating the uniforms and equipment of the four Canadian divisions – 600,000 troops – on the Western Front in 1915-18.

PRIME MOVERS

Canada’s Prime Ministers: Macdonald to Trudeau.
Ramsay Cook and Réal Bélanger, editors. University of Toronto Press. 476 pages. Illustrations. \$85.00 hardbound; \$36.00 softbound.

The Dictionary of Canadian Biography has been an essential Canadian source since it first began to come off the press more than fifty years ago. Its volumes, arranged chronologically by death date – and also available on line (www.biographi.ca) – were published for ready reference rather than cover-to-cover reading. The DCB editors have here produced a new book by assembling the entries for our Prime Ministers to offer a comprehensive picture of the post of PM and the first fifteen men who filled the office. A dozen scholars combine to trace the personal trials and political turmoils of the nation from 1867 to 1984. An engaging read.



CHERISHED BARNs

A Few Old Barns.
George W. J. Duncan. Fossil Hall Press. 28 pages. Illustrations. \$7.50 softbound.

Thoughtful and appreciative reflections – and illustrations that grew out of the observations and researches of architectural historian George Duncan. Each barn is a unique structure – some now gone, some converted to other uses, some

still serving their original purpose. This, the third volume of Duncan’s “Fragments of the Past Chap-book Series,” will be treasured by all who appreciate the varied features of our agricultural heritage.

ONE MAN’S CASTLE

Dundurn Castle: Sir Allan MacNab and his Hamilton Home.
Edward Smith. James Lorimer & Co., 128 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

With this neatly produced book, you are first escorted on a grand tour of Dundurn castle, room by room, guided by Edward Smith’s knowledgeable text and Rob Skeoch’s striking photographs. Then you are presented with a short history of the building and biography of one of Upper Canada’s true blue characters, Sir Allan MacNab. He rose from the ranks to military glory, economic success and political power, only to crash to defeat, despair and penury. MacNab bequeathed our province with a double legacy: an unwavering faith in a Tory ideology and a magnificent castle that is perhaps our finest heritage building.

TRANSITIONS

Sisters in Two Worlds: A Visual Biography of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill.
Michael Peterman. Introduction by Charlotte Gray. Compiled and edited by Hugh Brewster. Doubleday Canada. 176 pages. Illustrations. \$45.00 hardbound.

This beautifully presented and illustrated book gives us fresh appreciation for two beloved Upper Canadian literary lionesses. The two young sisters are first seen here in their comfortable family home in rural England, leading what seems an idyllic life, part of a large and loving family. Their early years are charmingly depicted visually with archival images (paintings, documents, letters) and modern photographs of their environs. All this changed with their father’s unexpected death in 1818. The family continued to live at Reydon Hall in Suffolk, but in straitened circumstances, and of course the girls were growing up into concerned and socially conscientious young women. Then came love and marriage followed by their emigration to the “Backwoods” of Upper Canada. Thanks largely to their own published works, their long lives here are well known, notably the dreadful early hardships of pioneer settlement, but again we are charmed by the illustrations on every page, including photographs of the Moodie and Traill families. A joy to browse and a joy to read with care.

CANADIAN ICON

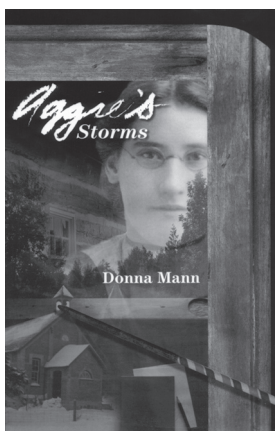
Measuring Mother Earth: How Joe the Kid Became Tyrrell of the North.
Heather Robertson. McClelland & Stewart. 360 pages. Illustrations. \$34.99 hardbound.

Joseph Burr Tyrrell was a great Canadian geologist, explorer, prospector, and mining engineer; a character almost larger than life. Born in Weston, Ontario, in 1858, he died a century later in 1957. He joined the Geological Survey of Canada in 1881, and saw the

BOOKSHELF cont’d page 8...

...from *BOOKSHELF* page 7

Northwest explored, mapped, settled and exploited. He is remembered for his explorations and discoveries, notably Alberta's coalfields and dinosaur beds, but Bulletin readers may be especially interested in his years in Northern Ontario, with his discoveries and investments in gold mines. His big breakthrough came with his prediction of another rich vein of gold in the about to be abandoned Kirkland Lake gold mine. Tyrell's is a story of triumphs and shrewd mining investments but also of lost opportunities. Heather Robertson has skillfully and breezily painted – warts and all – a colourful portrait of a remarkable man.



FOR THE YOUNGER SET

Aggie's Storms. Donna Mann. Bruceale Press. 130 pages. \$15.00 softbound.

Everyone loves a good story! And this is a good story about Agnes Macphail, but it is not about her pivotal career in Canadian politics, it is instead about her childhood in Grey County. We are taken back to 1900 when ten-year-old Aggie lives in a log cabin in the Queen's bush. She is presented as a lively, warm-hearted and definitely determined young lady who doesn't hesitate to speak up when she sees injustice. Grandmother Campbell is reported to have told Aggie, "There'll be lots of storms in life, you just have to pick the ones you're going to venture into."

WOMEN'S WORK

Pick One Intelligent Girl: Employability, Domesticity, and the Gendering of Canada's Welfare State, 1939-1947. Jennifer A. Stephen. University of Toronto Press. 299 pages. \$75.00 hardbound; \$29.95 softbound.

In the relatively brief period between 1939 and 1947, public policy regarding the status of Canadian women saw two distinct shifts. During the 1930s women workers were often seen as a threat to men's jobs. Then the war: critical labour shortages threatened the war effort, and the answer to Canada's "manpower crisis" lay in its womanpower. But by war's end, says Stephen, this womanpower was expected to "disappear back into the household, as women traded coveralls for aprons." She shows what elaborate psychological, economic, and managerial techniques were used to accomplish this. Towards the war's end, the National Committee for Mental Health diligently developed a national standard of ideal citizenship and cultural identity: white, middle-class, educated, and above all organized around the male breadwinner-dependent housewife model. Fascinating!

THE BREATH OF LIFE

Breathless: A Transplant Surgeon's Journal. Thomas R. J. Todd. General Store Publishing House, 269 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

This is a tribute to the world's first successful lung transplants, performed by a University of Toronto team thirty years ago. Dr. Todd, a member of the original surgical team, participated in many of the early procedures and eventually became the program's director. His reminiscences bring to life the story of those procedures – what was involved surgically and medically, what the early difficulties were, and how in time they were surmounted. But it is also, and primarily, the story of the

people involved – the surgeons, nurses, and other hospital staff, and most significantly the patients and their families. It is clear that Dr. Todd's patients were not "lungs", they were people. He writes, "Each name had a face, a mother, father, or spouse. I shared their concerns and felt the tension and anticipation." Dr. Todd now shares with us this experience of great excitement, accomplishment, and the fulfillment of a dream.

WE SEE THEE RISE

The Illustrated History of Canada. Craig Brown, editor. Key Porter Books. 627 pages. Illustrations. \$36.95 softbound.

Completely revised and updated for the second time since its first appearance twenty years ago, The Illustrated History of Canada continues to be the single most comprehensive chronicle yet to be published. Its text informative, its images stunning. If you only own one general history of this country, let it be this one.

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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!

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

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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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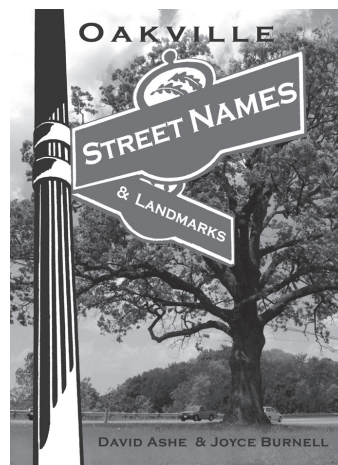
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