

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 161

SEPTEMBER 2007

Forging Freedom Conference a Success!

On June 22nd and 23rd, 2007, The Ontario Historical Society hosted its first annual conference in more than a decade at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. *Forging Freedom: A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade* was well attended by 110 participants, including scholars, performers, and many members of the OHS.

The conference was opened on Friday night with welcoming words from Mr. Brian McMullen, Mayor of St. Catharines; Dr. Rosemary Hale, Dean of Humanities at Brock University; and John Burtiniak, President of The Historical Society of St. Catharines. Their comments were followed by a truly inspirational performance entitled *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* by Leslie McCurdy, a one-woman show that brought to life the incredible story of Harriet Tubman's heroic role in the Underground Railroad.

Saturday morning began with a successful and productive OHS Annual General Meeting. Opening remarks for the conference were then provided by the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Fascinating presentations were delivered by Rosemary Sadlier, President of the Ontario Black History Society; Dr. Afua Cooper, Advisor to the Ontario Bicentenary Commemorative Committee on the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and author of *The Hanging of Angelique: Canada, Slavery, and the Burning of Montreal*; Dr. Bryan Walls, author and founder of the John Freeman Walls Underground Railroad Historic Site; Dr. Fred Armstrong, Professor Emeritus at the University of Western Ontario; and Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost, Executive Director of the OHS and author of *I've Got a Home in Gloryland: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*.

While enjoying a lovely lunch, the conference participants were

treated to a very special keynote address by Dr. Kate Clifford Larson, author of *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero*, and *The Road to Freedom*. A powerful historical drama by Shannon and Bryan Prince came next with musical accompaniment by vocalist Denise Pelley and pianist Stephen Holowitz.

This was followed by this year's Honours and Awards Ceremony. See page 6 for the complete list of 2007 OHS Honours and Awards recipients.

The conference closed with an engaging and very informative bus tour of African Canadian heritage sites, stopping at the St. Catharines Museum, Salem Chapel, and the B.M.E. Church N.H.S. Many thanks to the City of St. Catharines for sponsoring the bus and to Donna Ford and the Central Ontario Network for Black History for hosting the tour.

The Ontario Historical Society is grateful to all of those who attended *Forging Freedom* for helping to make it such a resounding success. It would also like to extend a special thanks to the volunteers and vendors who worked behind the scenes to plan, set up and facilitate the event. The Four Points Sheraton and Brock University's Conference Services also deserve special mention. We look forward to, and are extremely excited about, our next conference in 2008!

Andrea Izzo



Conference participants share a moment to discuss the OHS's special *Black History in Ontario* edition of *Ontario History*.

Photo courtesy of Carlos Ferguson



Forging Freedom Keynote Speaker Dr. Kate Clifford Larson captivates her audience with her talk, entitled *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero*.

Photo courtesy of Carlos Ferguson



The Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism and Recreation for the Province of Ontario, shares some opening remarks at the *Forging Freedom* conference on Saturday, June 22nd, 2007.

Photo courtesy of Carlos Ferguson

Voices of Ontario's Past

Evening Literary Series

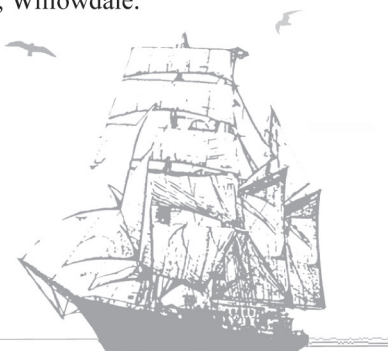
Presented by
The Dundurn Group, in partnership with The Ontario Historical Society

Held every 8 weeks on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
at the John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale.
Refreshments served.

Tickets sold in advance:
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Purchase by calling (416) 226-9011 or
online at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

First Literary Event:
"Going Down to the Great Lakes in Ships"
October 4th, 2007 • 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Scott Cameron • Paul Carroll
Gavin Watt • 4th Author TBA

More information at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



In This Issue

PRESIDENT'S REPORT2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT2

DONORS AND DOERS2-3



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS3

EXHIBITS & EVENTS4



CEMETERY NEWS5

MUSEUM NEWS.....6

FROM THE BOOKSHELF.....7

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The Ontario Historical Society
34 Parkview Avenue
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President's Report

Chris Oslund
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Dear Members:

Many historical societies across the province struggle with declining membership, aging volunteers and limited financial resources to accomplish all of the things they want to achieve. The Ontario Historical Society is no different.

In late 2005, the Board held a strategic planning exercise to assist us in addressing some of these challenges. Discussion centred around the services we provide our members, both individual and affiliated societies, and what strategies were needed to foster membership growth. We also struggled with the concept of maintaining relevancy in an ever-changing society. I believe the work of each and every historical society across the province is just as relevant today as ever before,

but how do we engage others to share our vision and passion for the preservation of Ontario's history?

The Board decided that, as an initial step, we would circulate a survey to our membership. The intent of the survey was to gauge what services were being used and how we could improve and enhance those services. Although we did not receive as many responses as we would have liked, we did receive a good cross section of replies from the Society's membership.

A strong majority of the respondents listed the "Promotion and Awareness of Ontario History" and the "Promotion of Ontario's History in the Educational System" as extremely important. Additionally, the *OHS Bulletin* was listed as a preferred communication tool, and strong support was echoed for the Society's role as an advocate in the preservation of Ontario's history.

Many of the comments received urged the Society to consider more regional conferences and educational events. We have already taken steps to address this by moving the Annual General Meeting around the province. The 2006 Annual Meeting was held in Orillia and in June of 2007 we hosted a very successful conference and Annual Meeting in St. Catharines entitled *Forging Freedom*. We hope to continue hosting the Annual Meeting in various regions throughout the province and we are constantly looking for funding opportunities to broaden our outreach programs to rural communities.

The input received from the survey will assist us in the next steps of our strategic planning exercise. The plan will no doubt focus on how the Society can increase its capacity and achieve sustainability for years to come.

Yours truly,

Christopher W. Oslund
President

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Mary Wyatt

Executive Director's Report

Karolyn Smardz Frost
karolyn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Dear Members:

I am writing this on the train en route to Halifax. We have just passed Kingston and are traveling across the Rideau Canal, Canada's newest UNESCO World Heritage Site!

As always when I travel in this province, I am struck by its incredible natural beauty. But I also take note of the stands of sumach so often indicative of the presence of prehistoric Native encampments, the old fencerows and crumbling barns of pioneer farms, the traces of roads and of once well-worn pathways, now overgrown. And I remember and pay homage to those who contributed to making Ontario the great province it is today, starting with the First Nations peoples. They fished the streams, hunted in the forests, and harvested crops of corn and squash and beans from this rich earth. It was they who taught newcomers from the Old World how to live in the New, in what is, after all, a very harsh climate. Pioneering settlers, mainly from Europe and Africa, then cleared these immense expanses of land to prepare it for a different method of agriculture. They constructed harbours and canals, factories and craftsmen's shops, and carved new homes out of the dense forests that Ontario once boasted. It was a hard and precarious existence for all of our forefathers and foremothers.

We who are part of The Ontario Historical Society remember. It is our self-appointed task to study and conserve, to learn and to teach, lest the memories of all of Ontario's peoples of the past be lost. It is an immense responsibility.

One of the ways in which we do that is through our work to preserve cemeteries. Our prehistoric and historic cemeteries are sadly endangered in the face of the rapid development our province is experiencing. The Ontario Ge-

neological Society is our partner in this important endeavour. With the help of our affiliated and member societies as well as a host of concerned individuals who donate time to the cause, as well as money to the Cemetery Defence Fund, we continue to work towards the goal of preserving this quintessential part of the past for the future.



Dr. Karolyn Smardz Frost addresses the *Forging Freedom* audience with her paper, entitled "*Milestones Along the Freedom Road*."

Photo courtesy of Carlos Ferguson

Another priority at the OHS is to learn and teach about our province's rich legacy from past generations. This summer we re-instituted a long-time tradition of the OHS – we partnered with the Ontario Black History Society and the City of St. Catharines and held a major conference in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting. Entitled *Forging Freedom: A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade*, this landmark event was funded through a Community Builders Grant from the Province of Ontario. It brought together scholars and community historians, heritage entertainers and educators in a unique and special venue at the Pond Inlet Facility of Brock University. Thanks to the

wonderful permanent and summer staff of the OHS, and to a host of volunteers from the Niagara region, an informative and enjoyable time was had by more than 110 participants. We are already laying plans for next year's conference. Watch this page for news in the coming months!

A third area in which the OHS is very active is in publishing the results of new research about Ontario's heritage. To this end, The Ontario Historical Society has just been awarded a \$12,000 Roots of Freedom grant from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration. It will provide approximately half of the funds needed for our 2007 legacy project.

We plan to do two things to commemorate in a tangible and lasting way the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade: the first is to develop a website entitled *Forging Freedom*. This will provide access to the papers delivered at the *Forging Freedom* conference in June. It will be supplemented with a bibliography and educational materials designed so teachers can access this information for use in classrooms across the province.

The second is to publish a book of articles about the contributions made to the growth of Ontario by people of African descent. Did you know that two prominent African Canadians, William P. Hubbard and Dr. Anderson Ruffin Abbott, were on the board of the York Pioneers when that group joined with the Peel County Historical Society to found The Ontario Historical Society? Our own organization plans to honour their memory with a commemorative volume of articles on Black history and the Underground Railroad. These articles were originally published in the pages of *Ontario History* over the past 99 (!) years.

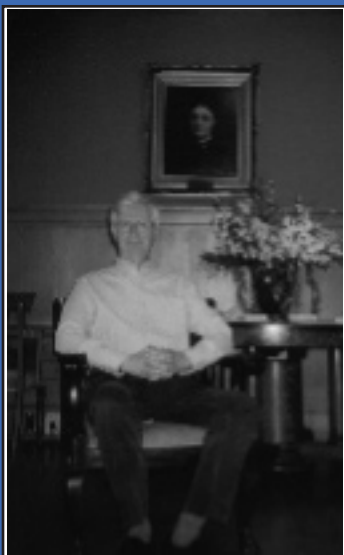
Finally, this fall we launch our new Thursday evening literary series, *Voices of Ontario's Past* at the John McKenzie House. Sponsored by The Dundurn Group

CONTINUED on page 3...

DONORS AND DOERS

DOERS

Glenn Bonnetta
Carlos Ferguson
Donna Ford
Lisa Frances
Norman Frost
Barbara Kane
Arden Phair
Kimberly Riordon
Eva Salter
Andy Stockdill
Sergio Tonon
Rene Tsang



Thank you to dedicated OHS member, donor and volunteer Glenn Bonnetta who is seen here on Sunday, May 27, 2007 relaxing after a long day of greeting the public and giving tours of the John McKenzie House during the 8th Annual Doors Open Toronto.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Freda Crisp
Barb Edwards
Thomas Gibson
Graphnet Mapping Inc.
Edward Grenda
Stephen Holowitz
Paul Huntington
Sheila Lambrinos
Natalie Lisowiec
Marian Press
Marc Mattin
Jason Russell
St. Catharines Museum,
Program Aide
Paul Taylor
Janis and Brock Vodden

Across The Province

Chicken Soup for the Curator's Soul The Story of One Museum's Demise and Rebirth

Following the flurry of activity surrounding Canada's One Hundredth Birthday celebrations in 1967, a number of educators in Kingston and the County of Frontenac felt that it was time to establish a museum which would preserve the memory of our schools, pupils, and educators for the people of this area. By 1972 materials were gathered, and plans were finalized for such a museum. And in 1979 the Frontenac County Schools Museum opened its doors.

Part of the impetus was the closing of a large number of rural, one-room schoolhouses, and the loss of records, artifacts, and other materials. Tales were told of teachers pursuing trucks taking school registers, desks, books, and other materials to local dumps, in order to save them for posterity. The Public School Board, and later the Separate School Board supported these efforts. The Public School Board provided space in a school and helpful funding; and the Museum provided a model schoolroom (c. 1890-1910) with authentic desks, a woodstove, books, straight pens and slates, and appropriate programs, all of which were very popular with teachers and school-children, as well as with the general public and touring groups from as far away as Japan. They showed how such a school was organized, which songs children sang, lunches they ate, and the games and toys with which they played.

The Frontenac County Schools Museum maintained its independence from the school boards, but when changes in government funding were made in the 1990s, it found itself without a space (the school was sold) and without funding from the school boards. In 2001, the Museum accepted a generous offer from one of its members to place its materials in a storage area in the interim. During that time, eight or nine members of the Executive Board continued to meet on a monthly basis in a member's home in order to consider how to find appropriate space, raise funding, restructure the Museum's activities, and find new partners to help

achieve its goals. The Board be-lieved firmly in the value of the Museum's programs and its unique collection of documents and artifacts.

After requesting interim funding from a local philanthropic group, the Museum received enough funds to 'stay afloat', despite the depletion of its trust fund. The Board continued in its tireless efforts to re-establish the museum by approaching different groups such as the Retired Teachers Association, Queen's University Archives, and many other local museums. It produced new material which outlined plans for reopening the Museum and presented solid planning and strategies. The Board then came across an 1886 limestone building, which once housed a town hall and library, in a quiet historic heritage area not far from Fort Henry N.H.S. Although their initial request to lease the building was denied, the Board appealed the decision and was able to form an agreement with the mayor and the school board.

Then, in 2005, unexpected news arrived that a substantial gift (\$15,000) would be donated if the Museum was moved into the former town hall and library. However, the space required some renovations, with which the school board and local volunteers assisted.

The County School Museum Board's luck continued to grow, as several retired teachers and other volunteers donated time and effort to assist in creating a wonderfully vibrant and charming two-room space, consisting of a model 1890 classroom and a dynamic display area. As the weeks passed, more volunteers continued to show support for the new Museum. In addition, the Museum Board recently held its first Annual General Meeting in several years, has received a second large donation, and has welcomed an influx of new members.

The Frontenac County Schools Museum Association would like to thank all of their supporters and they hope that their story demonstrates that with perseverance, patience, and a strong group of supporters, anything is possible!

Rideau Canal National Historic Site Designated as a World Heritage Site

On June 30, 2007, the Rideau Canal National Historic Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List by The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee. The Rideau Canal was described by UNESCO as "the best preserved canal in North America from the great canal-building era of the early 19th century to remain operational along its original line with most of its original structures intact." This designation includes the Rideau Canal, Fort Henry, and the Kingston Fortifications, and also

coincides with the canal's 175th anniversary. It is a site of outstanding cultural value – Canada's 14th World Heritage Site, and the first in Ontario!

Congratulations to the OHS Past President Dr. Brian Osborne whose expertise and commitment were crucial ingredients in the Rideau Canal's designation process. Gavin Liddy of Parks Canada, whose committee was responsible for the UNESCO application, credited Dr. Osborne with ensuring that the Fort Henry N.H.S. and the Martello towers were included in the designation.

...CONTINUED from Executive
Director's Report page 2



Karolyn Smardz Frost, Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society, addresses a crowd at the Marcus Garvey celebrations to commemorate Jamaica's national hero. It was held at Toronto's Distillery District on August 18, 2007.

Photo courtesy of Carlos Ferguson

and The Ontario Historical Society, four authors will read from their newly-published books on Ontario History. The events are scheduled to take place every eight weeks on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m., and refreshments will be served. The first is scheduled for October 4, 2007. The subject for the first set of readings will be *Going Down to the Great Lakes in Ships*. Tickets must be purchased in advance, and are \$7 for non-members and \$5 for members. See our website for reservation information, or phone the office at (416) 226-9011.

As you make your financial plans for the 2008 year end, please remember The Ontario Historical Society and the crucial work it does. It is your generous gifts that help make us able to honour those who went before us, and to continue to research, learn, and teach about Ontario's past in the present.



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Brian Osborne receives a plaque of recognition from the Merrickville & District Historical Society in appreciation for presenting his paper as part of the Rideau 175 Lecture Series (see more information on page 4).

Photo Gustave Pellerin

Exhibits & Events

SEPTEMBER 30 and NOVEMBER 25

Marine Museum of the Great Lakes Fall Speakers' Series

The Marine Museum of the Great Lakes in Kingston invites the general public to these informative talks. OHS Past President Dr. Brian Osborne will speak on *The Rideau Canal: Past, Present and Future* on September 30. Ken Watson will speak on *The Rideau Route: The landscape of the pre-canal waterway* on November 25. Both talks are hosted at the Museum at 55 Ontario Street in Kingston. Admission by donation. More information at www.marmuseum.ca and (613) 542-2261.

OCTOBER 1-3

National Historic Sites Alliance of Ontario (NHSAO) Conference

A three-day conference entitled *Rideau Canal: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* includes a tour both on land and water, and a social gathering on Monday night. Tuesday and Wednesday feature a number of speakers, including the keynote, the OHS Past President Dr. Brian Osborne. The Opinicon Resort Hotel, Chaffey's Lock, Elgin. Contact Karen Richardson, (905) 772-5880 or krichardson@haldimandcounty.on.ca.

OCTOBER 4

The Ontario Historical Society presents 'Voices of Ontario's Past' – a literary series: "Going Down to the Great Lakes in Ships"

Sponsored by The Dundurn Group, this event will be the first in a series of readings by four authors of historical non-fiction, focusing on shipwrecks in the Great Lakes. 7:00-9:00 p.m. Tickets are sold in advance; \$7 for non-members and \$5 for members. Refreshments will be served. More information at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca and (416) 226-9011. John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale.

OCTOBER 21

Rideau 175 Lecture Series

Jonathan Moore presents *Another Rideau World*, which discusses the underwater archaeology of the Rideau Canal. 2:00 p.m. Merrickville United Church, at the corner of Main St. East and St. Lawrence St. in Merrickville. Tickets are \$5 at the door. www.merrickvillehistory.ca

OCTOBER 27

'History on the Grand' history symposium

One-day symposium including paper presentations, walking tour, and keynote speech by Dr. Kenneth McLaughlin. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. University of Waterloo School of Architecture, Downtown Cambridge. Contact Jim Quantrell (519) 740-4680 ex. 4610. www.city.cambridge.on.ca.

NOVEMBER 9

Oshawa Historical Society 50th Anniversary Celebration

Anniversary full-course dinner featuring keynote speaker Hon. Ed Broadbent. Visit the Victorian 'herb-garden' sundial addition to the Henry House Garden. Tickets on sale soon. Oshawa District Shrine Club. Contact Sherri Upton at (905) 436-7624 ex. 106.

NOVEMBER 10

Exploring Scottish Ancestry: A Workshop on Resources & Current Research Techniques

Hosted by The Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch, \$30 registration fee. 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. North York Central Library Auditorium, 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto. Contact (416) 733-2608 or info@torontofamilyhistory.org.

NOVEMBER 25

Cookbook Caper Book Sale

Presented by The Ontario Historical Society and the Culinary Historians of Ontario. Enjoy tea and

Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Opens Bicentenary Exhibit



Photo Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration

On July 18, the Ontario Bicentenary Exhibit was opened in Toronto. It was created to commemorate the 1807 Act to Abolish the British Slave Trade and to help Ontarians learn more of the history of slavery in Ontario and the contributions of all those who fought for its abolition.

The Exhibit brings history to life with scheduled events, including lectures, story-telling and music. Admission to all activities is free of charge. The Ontario Bicentenary Exhibit will be open until December 31, 2007.

Location

Ontario Bicentenary Exhibit
880 Bay Street (at Grosvenor St.)
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1
Phone Number: 416-314-7304
Email address:
info.MCI@ontario.ca.

Hours of Operation

Sunday – 12 noon to 5 p.m.
Monday – Closed
Tuesday – Closed
Wednesday – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



On June 18, 2007, the OHS attended an Accessibility Open House hosted by the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Accessibility (MACOA) of the City of St. Catharines. Seen here at the Open House are (left to right) Diana Lecinski, Accessibility Coordinator, City of St. Catharines and Niagara Region, and Shelley Stewart and Fred Stevens, Co-Chairpersons of MACOA, City of St. Catharines.

Photo Rob Leverty

refreshments in an historic setting, while browsing through hundreds of new and used cookbooks on a wide variety of food topics. 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale. (416) 226-9011. www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca and www.culinaryhistorians.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.



OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino and special guests helped celebrate the opening of the new face of The OPP Museum, *From Generation to Generation: What Museums Do!* The opening marked the installation of two awards presented to The OPP Museum in 2006 by The Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Museum Association for the Museum's temporary exhibit, *The OPP's Best Friend: Celebrating 40 years of the OPP Canine Unit*. Curator Jeanie Tummon "was particularly pleased that *From Generation to Generation* – an exhibit celebrating the work not only of The OPP Museum but of all museums – received such a great response at the opening celebration." Left to Right: Actor John LeClair representing the OPP's "Living Past"; S/Sgt Wayne Jacklin, OPP Canine Unit Coordinator; Mr. Rob Leverty, Deputy Executive Director, Ontario Historical Society; Mme. Marie Lalonde, Executive Director, Ontario Museum Association; OPP Commissioner Julian Fantino.

Photo Jeanie Tummon



The OHS participated in the 8th Annual Doors Open Toronto held on Saturday, May 26, and Sunday May 27, 2007. Both days were constantly busy with over 400 guests, including families from Ottawa, Goderich, Cambridge, and Owen Sound visiting the historic John McKenzie House in Willowdale. This successful event depended on the wonderful people who volunteered their time to give tours. Thank you (left to right) to former OHS employee Barbara Kane; OHS Executive Assistant Risa Kusumoto; former OHS 2006 Summer Student Carol Ma and OHS Office Manager and Membership Coordinator Christina Perfetto.

Photo Rob Leverty



Pictured above are (left to right) Riley and Krysten Gates, who are helping the MacTier Railroad Heritage Society (MRHS) by selling gift items and tickets for a fundraising event. The OHS recently visited the Board of Directors of MRHS to discuss the development of a new railroad museum in MacTier. MRHS and OHS are presenting in partnership with The Voyageur Heritage Network and Discovery North Bay a workshop entitled, "Eating on the Rails" on Saturday, October 20, 2007 in North Bay. For further information on this workshop, please contact: Jennifer Buell, Discovery North Bay at (705) 476-2323 or email: education@heritagenorthbay.com, or Rob Leverty at (416) 226-9011.

Photo Rob Leverty

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

The Registrar, *Cemeteries Act* (Revised), Michael D'Mello has given his long-awaited decision on the application to close a part of Confederation Square in Peterborough. The Registrar has ruled that there should not be a partial closure of the burial ground at Confederation Square as it is not in the public interest. This is the first time since the Act was enacted that a Provincial Registrar has ordered that full or partial closure of a cemetery is **not** in the public interest.

The City of Peterborough Council has subsequently voted to appeal this decision to the Licence Appeal Tribunal. The OHS Board of Directors unanimously voted that the OHS formally request the Tribunal to grant it full party status in order that the society could participate in any appeal hearings. The Tribunal has now informed the OHS that this matter would be determined at a pre-hearing conference. The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) has also asked the Tribunal for party status. If granted party status by the Tribunal, both societies would attend the appeal hearing and, based on the evidence, argue that partial closure of this historic burial ground is not in the public interest.

The City had applied for this closure in order to allow a veterans' group to erect a monument to all the veterans of Peterborough City and County. There are an estimated 146 grave shafts under the area where the proposed monument is to be built. This could mean that there are many more burials. Confederation Square is the site of Peterborough's pioneer burial ground.

John Sheehan is Chair of *Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery*. This is a non-profit group, composed of members of The Kawartha Branch, the Ontario Genealogical Society and other Peterborough researchers. They have spent long hours preparing a history of the burial ground and seeking the names of those believed to have been buried in the pioneer cemetery. It was established c. 1820 and is known as the *Burial Ground*. The last known interment was c. 1857. Initially, the cemetery was divided into three sections – Church of England, Roman Catholic, and General Burial Ground. The Anglican portion was never used and was sold. The Peter Robinson settlers are believed to be among the early burials.

Confederation Square is registered with the Cemeteries Regulation Unit. It was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1983. There is a bronze Cenotaph which was designed by Walter Allward, the designer of the Vimy Ridge Monument which was recently rededicated on the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The Cenotaph originally commemorated local servicemen and women who died during the First World War. In 1979 the names of those who died during World War II and in Korea were added.

The OHS and the OGS have been urging that all burial sites in Ontario be registered with the Cemeteries Regulation Unit, the Ministry of Government Services. Once registered, it is imperative that cemetery owners seek heritage designation through their local Council and the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Sadly, we continue to receive information regarding vandalism. This is an ever increasing and expensive problem. It has been generally suspected that the vandals were young people on a spree. Recent reports indicate that vandalism has now become more organized. There have been reports of stolen bronze statues and recently at *Glendale Memorial Gardens Cemetery* in Etobicoke 800 bronze vases vanished. Police suspect that the high price for bronze is the reason for this type of theft. At *St. Raphael's Roman Catholic Cemetery* in Alexandria, Glengarry County, vandals did extensive damage to the cemetery and the nearby convent. In Sydenham, South Frontenac, the town is raising money for a reward hoping to lead to the arrest of the vandals who damaged at least 43 stones in *Sydenham Cemetery*. Volunteers provided most of the labour to restore the cemetery and a record of their time and costs is being kept, as the cost of this destruction will affect the charges police can lay when the vandals are apprehended. Estimates are being sought for the cost of professional restoration.

The fate of *Maple Lawn Cemetery* or *Louth United Church Cemetery* in St. Catharines is still to be determined. The non-denominational cemetery, established in the 1840s, has been administered by a board from the church. The church was officially closed last year and the board wishes to retire. The City of St. Catharines has been asked to assume responsibility but the cemetery would have to be declared abandoned with no further interments. There are still a number of plot holders who hope that last members of their family can be interred in the cemetery.

A notice of declaration of an unapproved cemetery was published in the Niagara Region newspapers. This was the former *St. Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery*, located on Chestnut Street, Jordan Station. The cemetery is believed to have been closed to further burials c. 1876. Archaeological assessments reported the presence of one adult body, and newspaper accounts have indicated more. The property had been sold for development and the new owner was unaware that this was a burial ground. It is for reasons such as this that we urge that all burial sites be registered and that they appear on the official town plan.

The Annual Meeting of *Warner Cemetery* was held recently. The Committee worked with the Ministry of Transport to preserve this historic cemetery when the Queen Elizabeth Way was widened. The final land-



On August 9, 2007, heritage groups joined The Honourable Caroline Di Cocco, Minister of Culture and Jim Brownell, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-Charlottenburg to celebrate the announcement that the Government of Ontario will honour Ontario's deceased premiers by permanently marking their gravesites with flags and commemorative plaques. This program is to be implemented and administered by the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT). In his speech, Rob Leverty, OHS, congratulated Ministers Di Cocco and Brownell stating "In our struggle for the public interest, the OHS and our partners across Ontario can and will build on this historic initiative to protect and preserve the gravesites of all our fellow citizens in their original locations." Pictured at the Quinn's Inn, Cornwall are (left to right) Chris Granger, Chair, Heritage Cornwall; Ranald McDonell, President, Cornwall Township Historical Society; Annette Pickering, Past President, La Regionale Saint-Laurent, History & Genealogy Society; Allan Macdonell, President, Glengarry Historical Society; Caroline Di Cocco, Minister of Culture; Mrs. Brownell; Rob Leverty, OHS; Bill Pickering, Genealogist, Clan Chisholm Canada; Dennis Carter-Edwards, Historian, Parks Canada and the OHS Past President; Alan McDonald Sullivan, Board of Directors, OHT and Jim Brownell, MPP.

Photo Office of Jim Brownell, MPP

scaping will take place during the summer months. At Ruthven Park in Cayuga, volunteers restored *Indiana Cemetery*. A special service of rededication and a hands-on cemetery conservation workshop recently took place. The recent work on *Indiana Cemetery* was used as a case study.

In Oshawa, the representatives of Simcoe United Church thought that the city-administered *Pioneer Memorial Park Cemetery* was once attached to an earlier church. Investigation revealed that while the city has maintained the cemetery for many years the official transfer to the City had never been officially registered.

The Haven's Memorial Committee has been working with *Homer Cemetery* and the Heritage Planner for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. They are preparing heritage designation material for the Council. The Niagara Foundation is already preserving two stones at *Homer Cemetery*.

Improvements are proposed for Derry Road west of Argentia Road in Mississauga. It is feared that this could have an impact on *Eden Road Cemetery*.

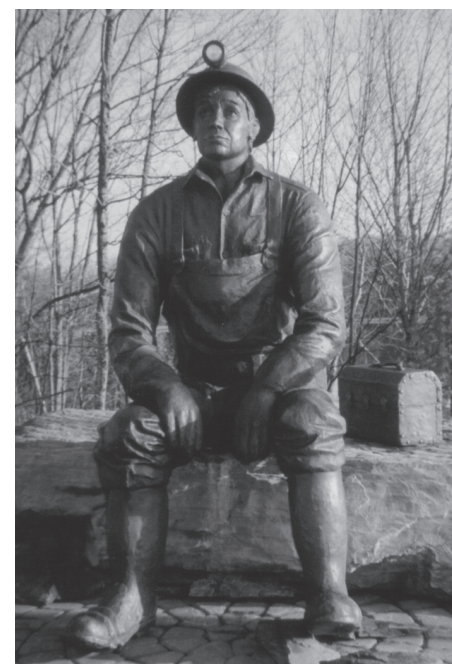


Photo Rob Leverty

Rob Leverty was honoured to represent the OHS at the Day of Mourning & Dedication of The Elliot Lake Miners Memorial on Saturday, April 28, 2007. The Memorial was designed and constructed by Laura Breetvelt-Brown who grew up in Elliot Lake and is now living in Ottawa.

The Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum is compiling a book in memory of the miners who worked at the Elliot Lake site. Family members are asked to write and submit a biography of their loved ones. The book is titled *Miners' Memorial: Memories from the Heart*. For further information please contact Darla Hennessey at (705) 848-2084 or darla.hennessey@city.elliottlake.on.ca.

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.

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Museum News

Partners in Celebration – Ontario Heritage Institutions Celebrate their 40th Anniversary

The Museums Committee of The Ontario Historical Society would like to recognize the following heritage institutions, as each celebrates its 40th anniversary.

1967 was the Centennial of a great nation. Canada's heritage was celebrated as never before and signified the nation's mood of extreme optimism and confidence. Communities and organizations across Canada were encouraged to engage in projects to celebrate the anniversary. The projects ranged from special one-time events to local improvement projects, such as the construction of municipal arenas, parks – and wonderfully, museums!

Wishing our colleagues a fabulous 40th year; congratulations!

Allan Macpherson House (Lennox & Addington Historical Society) was opened.

Arnprior & District Museum

Atikokan Centennial Museum

Backus Museum

Black Creek Pioneer Village opened in 1960 and then had an

'official' opening in 1967. Two major buildings were also added (Half Way House and Roblin's Mill) that year.

Brant Museum and Archives (Brant Historical Society) received a two-storey addition.

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (Bruce County Historical Society) received an addition – the old log school from Amabel Township.

Buxton National Historic Site and Museum

Cannington Centennial Museum

Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah
Centennial Park, 1910 Logging Museum

Chapleau Centennial Museum

Comber and District Historical Society Museum

Copper Cliff Museum (TBC)

County of Grey-Owen Sound Museum

The **Dundurn Castle** restoration project was completed. It was opened to the public on Saturday June 17, 1967 and would later become recognized as a National Historic Site. Includes the **Hamilton Military Museum**.

Eva Brook Donly Museum (Norfolk Historical Society) received an addition.

Fort Erie Railroad Museum

Haliburton Highlands Museum

Huron Museum & Huron Ojibwa Village

Killarney Centennial Museum

Lang Pioneer Village Museum

London Centennial Museum was built in the shape of the five-point centennial symbol.

Montgomery's Inn (Etobicoke Historical Society) received an exterior renovation project.

Muskoka Lakes Museum

North Hastings Heritage Museum

Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum (Glengarry Historical Society)

A two-room museum in **Ontario's Parliament Buildings** was opened in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the 1st Parliament of Upper Canada, which coincided with the nation's Centenary.

Ontario Heritage Trust

Penetanguishene Centennial Museum & Archives

Perth Museum

Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives

Pickering Museum Village received a centennial expansion.

The Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah



Photo Sharon Temple

Sharon Temple Museum expanded to include a drive shed for its historic Doan Buggy

St. Catharines Museum

Musée Sturgeon River House Museum

Teeterville Pioneer Museum

Timber Village Museum

Todmorden Mills Heritage Museum and Arts Centre

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society was formed.

Waba Cottage Museum and Gardens

Wellington Community Historical Museum.

White Oak, a replica of a sailing ship, which was launched on Confederation Day, was added to the **Oakville Museum**

Willoughby Historical Museum

Wilson P. MacDonald Memorial School Museum

York Museum, Toronto, in the centennial recreation centre

A Special Thanks to our Summer Students

The Ontario Historical Society would like to extend a warm thank-you to this year's summer students, Risa Kusumoto and Keting Cao. Both students were instrumental in the preparation and setup stages of this summer's conference in addition to handling their own summer projects.

Risa was hired through the University of Toronto at Scarborough's Arts Management Co-op Program as the OHS's Executive Assistant. She assisted in many projects throughout the summer, including designing the floral arrangements for the conference and creating artwork for this issue of the *OHS Bulletin*, in addition to the enthusiasm she brings to her day-

to-day administrative tasks. In September she will continue her Bachelor of Arts Co-op (Hons.) degree at UTSC.

Keting Cao worked productively as the Heritage Data Coordinator in which she developed and managed various OHS databases. Of her position, Keting states: "Working at the OHS has been such a great experience! Not only have I learned many useful and transferable skills that will definitely aid in my future pursuits in the business field, I have also made many great friends." This fall, Keting will be studying Bachelor of Business Administrative at the University of Toronto at Scarborough.



OHS Staff pose for a photograph in the west parlour bay windows of the John McKenzie House. Pictured here (left to right) are Risa Kusumoto, Executive Assistant; Christina Perfetto, Membership Coordinator and Office Manager; Keting Cao, Heritage Data Coordinator, and Karolyn Smardz Frost, Executive Director.

Photo Andrea Izzo

The 2007 OHS Honours and Award Ceremony

For this year's Honours and Awards ceremony the OHS solicited the help of Henry D'Angela, Mayor of the City of Thorold. Mayor D'Angela presented the awards to the recipients as the citations were read out by members of the Board. Eight awards were presented this year as determined by the Honours and Awards committee under the direction of Dr. John W. Sabeau and Dr. Cynthia Comacchio.

Book awards went to Su Murdoch, B.E.S. Rudachyk, and Kurt H. Schick for their handsomely produced *Beautiful Barrie, The City and Its People: An Illustrated History of Barrie, Ontario*, in the regional history category (**Fred Landon Award**); to Judy Rebeck for *Ten Thousand Roses: The Making of a Feminist Revolution*; for women's history (**Alison Prentice Award**); to Kerry M. Abel for her comprehensive history of north-eastern Ontario – *Changing Places: History, Community and Identity in Northeastern Ontario* in the category of social, economic, political or cultural history (**J.J. Talman Award**); and to Charlotte Gray for *Reluctant Genius: The Passionate Life and Inventive Mind of Alexander Graham Bell*, (**Donald Grant Creighton Award**).

The Tyrconnell Heritage Society received the **Dorothy Duncan Award**, presented to a not-for-



Dr. Bryan Walls poses outside the Pond Inlet facility at Brock University during the Forging Freedom conference, at which he was awarded the OHS's Cruikshank Medal.

Photo courtesy of Carlos Ferguson

profit organization for outstanding service to its region.

Allan McGillivray, who has served the community of Uxbridge Township for over 35 years in researching, interpreting, and communicating its history, was awarded the **Carnochan Award**, given to an individual who has contributed many years of service to the heritage community.

Dr. Bryan Walls and Lydia Ross Alexander, two Past Presidents of the OHS, were also honoured. Dr. Walls was the recipient of the **Cruikshank Medal**, which is presented on rare occasions to individuals who have performed with distinction on behalf of the OHS. Ms. Alexander was given a special President's Letter of Commendation for her many years of service to the OHS.

Dr. John Sabeau

From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
raible@georgian.net

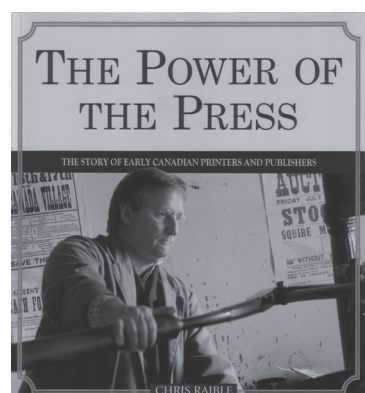
FREE AT LAST

I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad. Karolyn Smardz Frost. Thomas Allen Publishers. 450 pages. Illustrations. \$36.95 hardbound.

In 1831, Thornton and Lucie Blackburn made a daring daylight escape from their Kentucky slaveholders, and with the help of forged papers found their way to apparent safety in Detroit. But safe they were not. Pursued by their owners, the Blackburns fled once again, this time to Canada where, thanks to British law steadfastly interpreted by Canadian officials, they could be free at last. Settled in Toronto, Thornton Blackburn established a successful taxi cab business and he and Lucie played a notable part in welcoming other fugitive slaves. Nevertheless, the Blackburns were all but forgotten until an archaeological dig in 1985 uncovered the remains of their home. Enter archaeologist/historian Karolyn Smardz Frost (luckily for us all, now our OHS Executive Director). Her 20 years' diligent detective work on both sides of the border has resulted in this outstanding book, at once a compelling account of a great escape, a scholarly analysis of slavery with its personal, political and economic impact, and a recognition of the important role free Blacks played in their new homeland.

Finding Freedom: The Untold Story of Joshua Glover, Runaway Slave. Ruby West Jackson and Walter T. McDonald. Wisconsin Historical Society Press. 158 pages. Illustrations. US \$18.95 hardbound.

Yet another dramatic escape, this time from St. Louis, Missouri, to a hoped-for safe haven in Racine, Wisconsin. As with the Blackburns, Joshua Glover's former owner set out to recover his "property"; as with the Blackburns, friends and sympathizers secured Glover's escape, not without cost to themselves. Thus began Glover's 40-day Underground Railroad journey to Canada. News of his travails preceded him to Canada, and a number of newspapers, including Mary Ann Shadd's *Provincial Freeman*, carried accounts of his escape. Glover eventually made his home in Etobicoke where he was an employee of the Montgomery family for many years.



WORDS AND IMAGES

The Power of the Press: The Story of Early Canadian Printers and Publishers. Chris Raible. James Lorimer & Co. 95 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

Fashioning Fabric: The Arts of Spinning and Weaving in Early Canada. Adrienne D. Hood. James Lorimer & Co. 93 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

The focus of these volumes: two common technologies. The one, letterpress printing of newspapers and handbills; the other, creating textiles for domestic uses. Both were essential to the lives of early settlers but are now barely remembered and largely unappreciated. Both were developed long before Europeans brought them to Canada, but both significantly changed over 200 years as settlement spread across the country. The *Power of the Press* relates the trials of the first King's Printers, the political impact of independent publishers like William Lyon Mackenzie and Joseph Howe, and the social import of the daily metropolitan press and the small community newspaper. *Fashioning Fabric* explores the methods, tools and patterns used by each immigrant group – from the Acadians to the Mennonites. Dozens of modern full-colour photographs, taken at (mostly Ontario) historic sites, make visually clear the detailed explanations of the texts. Each book's attractive design is matched with substantive content, while appendices direct readers to museums offering demonstrations and to bibliographic sources for more information. The authors draw on their years of research to present brief but significant social histories – what is more basic than printed words or woven cloth?

MEN OF WAR

Fix Bayonets! A Royal Welch Fusilier at War, 1796-1815. By Donald E. Graves. Robin Brass Studio. 488 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 hardbound.

The career of British officer Thomas Pearson spanned the Napoleonic wars – with major battles fought in Portugal, Spain and North Africa – as well as service in Canada in the War of 1812 (including Chippewa and Lundy's Lane). Once again historian Donald Graves and publisher Robin Brass have combined their considerable talents to produce a volume that is exhaustively researched, eminently readable, copiously illustrated and handsomely designed. A must for military history buffs.

EPISTOLARY HISTORY

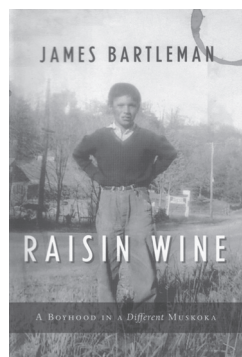
The Wadsworth Letters: Family Correspondence 1816-1857. Jeanine Avigdor and Randall Reid, editors. Montgomery's Inn Museum with The York Pioneer and Historical Society. 80 pages. Illustrations. \$9.54 softbound.

Brothers Charles and William Wadsworth, born in Essex, England, were prominent merchant-millers. In 1828 they established the milling firm of C. & W. Wadsworth on the Humber River at St. Phillip's Road in Weston. The family continued the milling operation until approximately 1917. These personal letters provide a vignette of their life and business interests between the years 1816 and 1857.

MORE THAN ROCKS AND WATER

Georgian Bay Jewel: The Killarney Story. Margaret E. Derry. Poplar Lane Press. 260 pages. Illustrations. \$49.95 hardbound.

A work aptly demonstrating that a trained historian can also be an ardent admirer of her subject – in this case, Killarney. The area is renowned for its natural beauty, as many of the images throughout the volume testify, but the casual visitor or vacationer may not be aware of its mineral resources, its fishing industry, and the importance of its geographic location as a point of Great Lakes passage. Environmental, economic and historical concerns are interwoven in a work that is, in design and word, a joy to read.



THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Raisin Wine: A Boyhood in a Different Muskoka. James Bartleman. McClelland & Stewart. 260 pages. \$29.99 hardbound.

Until his recent retirement, James Bartleman was Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, a person of prominence, admired and respected by all. Here he tells of his early years in the heart of cottage country Muskoka. However, his family was not part of the 'smart set', and young James was caught between two worlds, that of his dedicated Chippewa mother and of his happy-go-lucky, working-class white father, whose main claim to fame was his excellent home brew. But James was clever and full of enterprises, which sometimes worked and sometimes did not! A poignant, often funny, always delightful memoir.

COME TO THE FAIR

A Walk Down Memory Lane: 150 Years of the Campbellford-Seymour Agricultural Society 1854-2004. Ann Rowe, editor. Campbellford-Seymour Heritage Society. 142 pages. Illustrations. No price listed, softbound.

Agricultural societies, by their very nature, are practical and immediate, focused on today's problems and tomorrow's prices. Annual fairs showcased products,

celebrated successes, shared experiences. *A Walk Down Memory Lane* is just that, a stroll through one society's past. The Campbellford-Seymour Heritage Society, one of the oldest in Ontario, funded by the area's community foundation marked its first 150 years by recording its history. What a fine way to celebrate a sesquicentennial!

RESEARCH RESOURCES

Townships of the Province of Ontario, Canada: A Complete Index of the Townships in all the Counties and Districts. Muriel Gartner and Frederick Prong. Ontario Genealogical Society. 72 pages. Maps. \$12.95 softbound.

Births, marriages, deaths, land – all these records were registered by townships. Hence the value of this compilation of all – yes, all – the townships in our province, both historical townships that no longer exist as political entities and the more recently formed municipalities (current to Dec. 2006). The maps alone are worth more than the price.

The Beginner's Guide to Ontario Genealogy. Fraser Dunford. Ontario Genealogical Society. 32 pages. \$9.95 softbound.

Looking for maps, censuses, religious records, civil registrations, municipal records, land records, newspapers, or immigration/emigration records? Here is a helpful guide describing what they are and where to find them.

BOOK ABOUT BOOKS

History of the Book in Canada, Volume Three: 1918-1980. Carole Gerson and Jacques Michon, editors. University of Toronto Press. 638 pages. Illustrations. \$85.00 hardbound.

The laudable conclusion of an extraordinary effort: a comprehensive history of Canadian publishing – not only books and pamphlets, but (especially in the first two volumes) also newspapers and journals. The history of books touches every aspect of our national history. Chapters cover topical areas, with 'case studies' telling specific stories – more than a hundred separate essays by twice as many scholars. The world of books in Canada changed dramatically, but it lost none of its vitality. Monumental but not overwhelming, the three volumes of this history combined offer both a fascinating examination and a glorious celebration of the printed word.

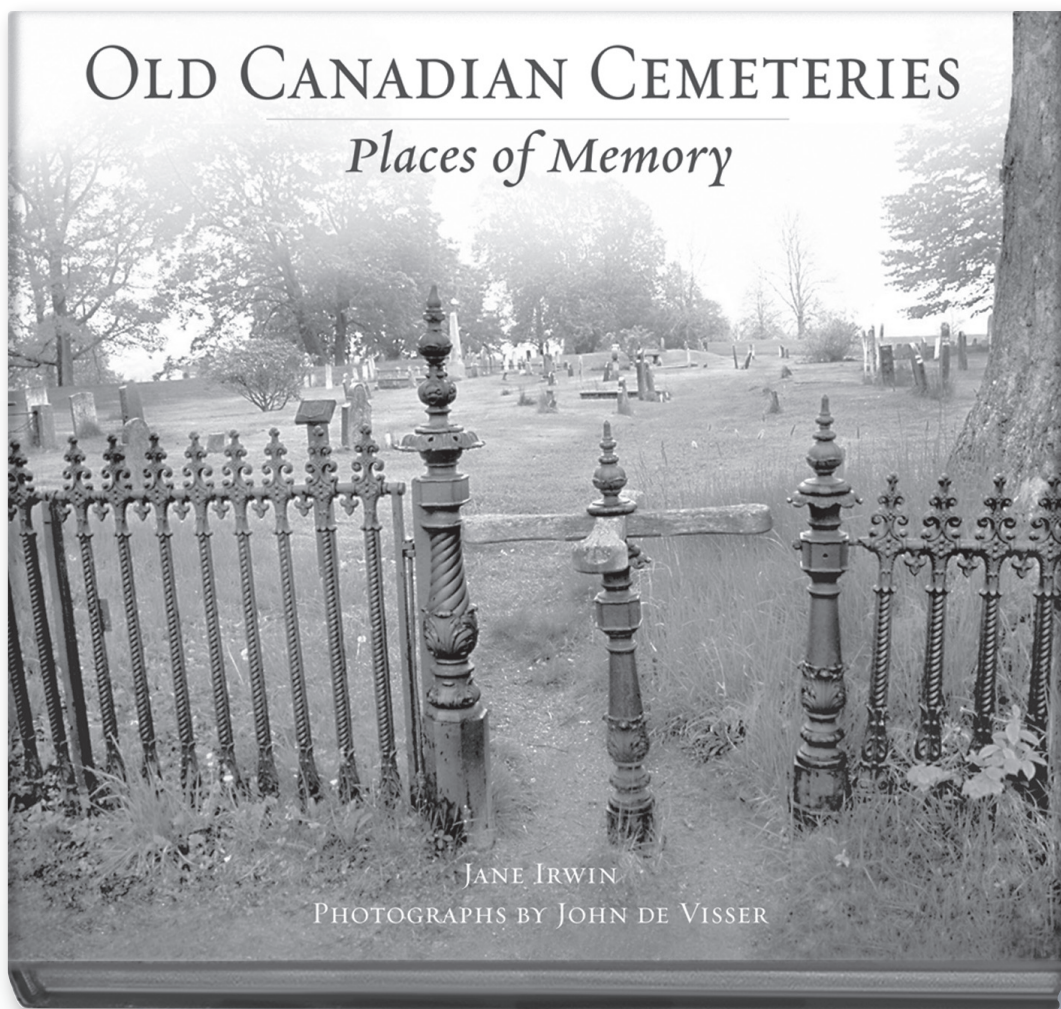
HISTORY NOTED

Richard Beasley and Early Days on Burlington Heights and The Political Education of Richard Beasley. David Beasley, Davus Publishing \$5.00 softbound.

Two talks, given to historical societies in Hamilton and in Waterloo, that tell of the experiences of Squire Richard Beasley, an early 19th-century settler of note, and his encounters with Allan MacNab and the Tory oligarchy.

BOOKSHELF page 8

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from *BOOKSHELF* page 7

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1482 www.wisconsinhistory.org

*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,
a journal also published by the OHS.
The prices of books referred to on this page may or
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