

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 166

SEPTEMBER 2008

The OHS and CHO Present the 2008 Cookbook Caper!

For the sixth consecutive year, The Ontario Historical Society is proud to join forces with the Culinary Historians of Ontario (CHO) to present the Cookbook Caper! This annual cookbook sale and tea will be hosted at the historic John McKenzie House (two blocks north of North York Centre Subway) at 34 Parkview Ave. in Willowdale on Sunday, November 23, 2008 between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Peruse through hundreds of new and gently-used cookbooks on a variety of topics, including regional

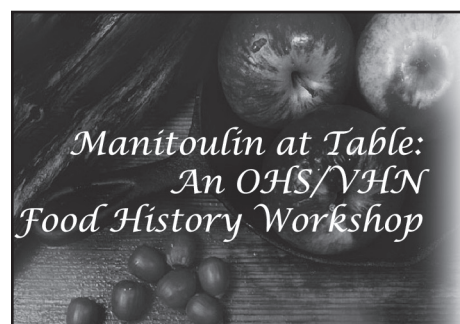
cuisine (e.g. Italian, French, etc), wines, desserts (yes, that includes chocolate!), and much, much more! The CHO will offer a wonderful tearoom where bargain hunters can relax with tea and delicious sweets and baked goods. Be sure to mark your calendars, as this is a wonderful opportunity to add to your cookbook collection or to find special Christmas gifts for others! Donations of cookbooks are much appreciated and can be made at any time by contacting the OHS at 416.226.9011.

Meaford Museum Receives Trillium Grant for Accessibility

On August 11th, the OHS attended a special event at the Meaford Museum during which it was announced that the Meaford Museum had been awarded a grant of \$31,800 by the Trillium Foundation to help construct a new entrance vestibule that will make the museum more accessible. Seen here (left to right) are Meaford Mayor Francis Richardson and Pamela Woolner, Curator, Meaford Museum, holding the OHS's new *Accessible Heritage Tool Kit for Ontario's Heritage Organizations and Institutions*. This new publication can be ordered (\$45 including GST and shipping) by contacting the OHS at 416.226.9011 or emailing accessheritage@ontariohistoricalcasociety.ca.



Meaford Museum Curator Pamela Woolner (right) accepts a copy of the *Accessible Heritage Tool Kit*.
Photo Rob Leverty



**Manitoulin at Table:
An OHS/VHN
Food History Workshop**

Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah,
Manitoulin Island

Saturday, October 25, 2008 :: 12 - 4 p.m.

Registration :: \$30.00
P.O. Bag 2000, Little Current, ON P0P 1K0
705.368.2367 :: snegmus@vianet.ca

In This Issue

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.....	2	EXHIBITS & EVENTS	4
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.....	2	CEMETERY NEWS	5
DONORS/NEW MEMBERS.....	3	MUSEUM NEWS.....	5-6
ACROSS THE PROVINCE.....	3-4		



FROM THE BOOKSHELF.....7-8

The OHS Launches *Forging Freedom* Website



FORGING FREEDOM A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade

Papers | Authors | Lesson Plans | Bibliography

Welcome

In 2007, Canada commemorated the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade Act. The Ontario Historical Society held its annual conference on June 22 & 23rd, entitled *Forging Freedom: In Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade*, in honour of this important landmark in the struggle for human dignity.

Grant funding

Grant funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has made it possible to mount on the Web the papers delivered at this important conference.

Statement from Hon. Dr. Jean Augustine
*Fairness Commissioner for the Province of Ontario,
Former Deputy Speaker of Canadian Parliament*

This Forging Freedom education website will provide educators and students with the opportunity to learn and experience African-Canadian History.

Well researched and quality educational materials of this calibre are essential for use in our schools as students learn each other's history in our diverse Canada.

To increase text size hit:
"Ctrl" & "+" (on PC)
"Cmd" & "+" (on Mac)

Included are lesson plans and suggestions for incorporating the results of this cutting edge research into elementary, middle and secondary school curricula. These lesson plans meet educational standards and curriculum guidelines for social studies and history education in the Province of Ontario. They are designed for Grades 3, 7 and 11/12.

Pictured above is a preview of the *Forging Freedom* website homepage. The site was recently launched on the OHS website, and can be accessed at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/forgingfreedom.

OHS Bulletin readers will remember last year's *Forging Freedom* conference was held in honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade within the British Empire. Canada signed the United Nations accord to develop programs aimed at educating the public in the importance of this landmark event, and the *Forging Freedom* website is an example of this initiative.

Several papers were delivered at the conference along this theme and, since then, a grant was received by the OHS from the Roots of Freedom Grant Project, Bicentenary Committee of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, which was chaired by the Honourable Jean Augustine, Fairness Commissioner for the Province of Ontario. It was because of this grant that the *Forging Freedom* website was possible, and as such, the OHS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry.

The *Forging Freedom* website is designed to provide professional educators with direct access to scholarship on Ontario Black History and, as such, it includes

downloadable Lesson Plans for elementary (Gr. 3), middle (Gr. 7), and secondary (Gr. 11/12) school level teachers. These plans include rubrics, activities and instructional media which conform to the Ontario Ministry of Education's guidelines. Additionally, each of the papers delivered at the 2007 OHS *Forging Freedom* Conference in St. Catharines are available. Both the Lesson Plans and the Papers are available to download, view, and print. Finally, the website also includes a bibliography of relevant materials for expanding one's own library.

This project utilizes excellent scholarship and exciting creativity and the OHS is very proud to present it to our members and to the heritage community at large. Many thanks to the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration and to all of the website contributors, and web design company The Well Dressed Robot. The website can be accessed by following the link on the OHS website homepage, or by visiting www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/forgingfreedom.

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

CANADA POSTES

POST CANADA

Postage paid Port payé

Publications Mail Poste-publications

0040596539

THE
ONTARIO
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



34 PARKVIEW AVE.
WILLOWDALE
ONTARIO
M2N 3Y2

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

President's Report

Ken Turner
ken.turner@sympatico.ca

Where has the summer gone? It seems that it just starts and then it is over! Welcome back everyone! As we start our 2008-09 season (our 120-121st year) I would like to take this opportunity to thank departing board members Jack Cecillon, Cynthia Comacchio, Susan Neale, and Past President Brian Osborne. It was a pleasure serving with you and the contributions you made to the OHS over the last several years are greatly appreciated! I hope you will all continue to be involved and enthusiastic members of the OHS and continue to share your wisdom and knowledge with us!

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new board members, Linda Kelly, representing Manitoulin Island and Northern Ontario; Joe Stafford, representing Kingston and Eastern Ontario; Jim Leonard, representing Brampton and the surrounding area;

and Sharon Jaeger, representing Waterloo and the surrounding area. These four new board members have very extensive backgrounds in the fields of history and heritage and will make outstanding additions to our board!

As we start our new season, we as a Society look forward to better times. For the first time in many years, with the Banting issue resolved to everyone's satisfaction, the Society's finances are on the road to recovery and we are headed back to a balanced budget and long term financial stability. I must extend my sincerest appreciation to Past Presidents Chris Oslund and Brian Osborne for the outstanding job they did over the years in negotiating and successfully resolving the Banting issue. In my opinion, all parties won. The Banting property was preserved in its entirety, and received historic designation recognizing its heritage value! Financially, all parties concerned were satisfied with the terms of

the sale of the property to the Town of New Tecumseth and I think the resolution reached was the best for all parties. I most certainly appreciate the work of Mr. Oslund and Mr. Osborne for giving me the opportunity to start my tenure as President of OHS with a clean slate and the ability to take on a new direction.

I, along with our Executive Director Robert Leverty, and our fantastic new Board, will look at ways to increase services to our members and offer new and improved workshops and programs to our affiliates. We will also continue to offer a strong and supportive voice to the protection of cemeteries in Ontario as well as continue to educate and encourage people to protect and preserve Ontario's built, natural, and documentary history.

Helping on the road to achieve these objectives will be our OHS Board committees. Brad Rudachyk will chair our Affiliated Societies Committee and John Sabean will continue to chair our Honours and Awards Committee. Jim Leonard will chair both our Cemeteries and our Preservation Committee and Lorraine O'Byrne

will chair our Museums Committee. Naresh Khosla will continue to chair our Audit Committee and Bob Leech will chair the committee to increase funding and fundraising known as our Brilliant Ideas Committee. Joe Stafford will oversee our Annual Meeting/Conference Committee. I will continue to chair the Human Resources Committee.

The final objective of our new Board is to bring our staffing compliment back up to its former levels and begin training new staff members for long term succession planning. Our current full time staff of Robert Leverty and Christina Perfetto are our most valuable resources and we will eventually have to find the next generation of super individuals like Robert and Christina! As always, if anyone has any question about the OHS or would like to chat with me about any concerns, the door is always open. Please email me at ken.turner@sympatico.ca. It is my goal to try and visit every region of this province if the opportunity presents itself and to visit as many affiliates as possible.

Ken Turner, President

Executive Director's Report

Rob Leverty
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Since March 2008 we have had fewer staff working at the OHS. However, despite this challenge, I am pleased to inform you that we have managed to continue the essential work of the Society in six important ways:

1. Fulfill all our commitments and respond to as many invitations and requests as possible. During the spring and summer the OHS has made presentations, given workshops, held public meetings, participated in special events and had consultations in partnership with over thirty organizations, institutions and government departments (see bottom-right sidebar for a complete list).

2. Expand membership in our new insurance programme. Since April I have approved thirty-six affiliated societies and heritage organizations that are non-profit corporations and members of the OHS in good standing for our new insurance programme. In August, Robin Derrick, President, Goulbourn Township Historical Society and Museum wrote me that "the cost of our Directors & Officers Liability Insurance under the OHS programme is substantially reduced from what we have been paying the last few years and the coverage is much better."

3. Generate income through the rental of the John McKenzie House. Since June, the OHS has rented the John McKenzie House on eight occasions. I would like to thank Optimé International, Nestlé and Elevator Photography for their rental income which helps pay for the maintenance of our historic headquarters.

4. Work with the Province and our heritage partners to defend the public interest with regard to cemeteries. Readers of the *OHS Bulletin* will be familiar with the City of Peterborough's appeal

of the decision by the Province of Ontario that it is not in the *public interest* to relocate part of Confederation Square Cemetery. It is the first time since the *Cemeteries Act* was enacted in 1992 that the Province has joined the OHS in defending the *public interest*.

The OHS has always worked behind the scenes to try and resolve this matter in order to avoid costly public hearings. In July, all parties requested an adjournment. I wrote the Licence Appeal Tribunal (LAT) that "the OHS agrees that there should be an adjournment to allow sufficient time for the ongoing settlement discussions to achieve a resolution that is satisfactory to all parties." On August 8th, the LAT wrote all the parties stating, "...since the parties are unable to identify when they will be ready to go to a hearing, if ever, the Tribunal will cancel the hearing and close its file administratively. When the City has exhausted its settlement discussion options, it must notify the Tribunal either that it is withdrawing its appeal, or that it requires the appeal file to be reopened."

The City of Peterborough's appeal before the LAT was to commence September 2nd. This case is unique in that it is the first application to relocate a cemetery designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The OHS, of course, still maintains that any settlement must honour and safeguard the public interest. I would like to thank for their exceptional co-operation and assistance William MacLarkey, Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General, Michael D'Mello, Registrar, Cemeteries Act (Revised), Bob Crawford, President, The Ontario Genealogical Society, and John Sheehan, Chair, Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery in Peterborough.

5. Launch an historical community gardens project at the

John McKenzie House. In the spring of 2005 the City of Toronto launched the Neighbourhood Beautification Program. Through this programme the City is able to reach out to neighbourhoods and community groups to design and create "clean" and "beautiful" spaces throughout the city. The John McKenzie House, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, is situated in the centre of the Willowdale community. To promote the protection of the house and also create a beautiful outdoor landscape, the City of Toronto and Councillor John Filion's office are collaborating with the community and the OHS to design historical community gardens adjacent to the John McKenzie House. Since July, the OHS has hosted numerous meetings for this exciting initiative – turning vacant lots into community gardens; creating healthy communities and inspiring our fellow citizens about what can be done closer to home and the workplace.

All funds for the project will be provided by the Clean and Beautiful initiative. The aim is to create an outdoor landscape that mirrors the period when the John McKenzie House was built and is environmentally sustainable. This project will meet the objectives of

the five point Clean and Beautiful action plan: sweep it; design it; grow it; build it; celebrate it; as well as help to preserve the John McKenzie House and grounds permanently.

6. Welcome back rejoining OHS members. I am pleased to inform you that in the last few months many former OHS members have rejoined the society including: Janet Cobban, former Past OHS President who served on the Board for over seven years; Dr. Gabriele Scardellato, former Editor and Managing Editor, *Ontario History* (1999-2003); Barbara Kane, former OHS staff member; Harvey Medland, author of *Tombstone Tales* which was published by the OHS and Wendy Woodworth, member of the OHS Gardening Committee during restoration of the John McKenzie House and grounds. In the past, all of you have generously donated both money and countless hours of volunteer time to the OHS. We are honoured that you are once again members of the OHS.

We want to hear from you. We are here to help you. If you have any questions, invitations or challenges to discuss, please do not hesitate to call me at 1.866.955.2755 (toll free) or e-mail: rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS – Working with Groups Across Ontario

Black Creek Pioneer Village; Timber Village Museum and the Voyageur Heritage Network in Blind River; Culinary Historians of Ontario; Weston Heritage Conservation District; Lake Scugog Historical Society; Grey County Historical Society in Keady; Friends of the OPP Museum in Orillia; Muskoka and Parry Sound Genealogy Group in Bracebridge; Doors Open Toronto; TD Friends of the Environment; Guelph Historical Society; Guelph Museums; History Department, University of Guelph; Save The Children Canada; Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee in Collingwood; Accessibility Directorate of Ontario; Ontario Genealogical Society; Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery in Peterborough; Corporations Branch, Ministry of Government Services; Silvershoe Historical Society in New Lowell; The Roots of Freedom Project funded by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration; Wellington County Historical Society in Elora; Crown Law Office – Civil, Ministry of the Attorney General; Ontario Ministry of Culture; Tollkeeper's Cottage Museum; Coldwater Heritage Canadiana Museum; MacTier Railway Heritage Society, Town of MacTier and the Moon River Metis Council; Consul General of the United States of America in cooperation with The Ontario Black History Society; the Doane Association of America in Barrie; Meaford Museum, the Bruce-Grey Genealogical Society in Wiarton and the Wollaston Heritage Committee in Coe Hill.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	
Christopher Arajs	
Ed Argo	
Robin Burgoyene	
Janet Cobban	
Ian Jackson	
Barbara Kane	
Stephen Laughren	
Harvey Medland	
Bert Morrison	
Fort Frances Museum	
Donald Smith	
Gabriele Scardellato	
Toronto Railway Historical Association	
Barry Wellar	
Wendy Woodworth	
DONORS	
Merle Alkins	
Carmela Andraos	
Thomas Bastedo	
Diane Clendenan	
Deborah Cushing	
Douglas Derry	
Torrance Henderson	
Charlotte Hines	
Katharine Hooke	
Ronald Junkin	
Hazel Kitto	
Mary Lemyre	
Marcel Martel	
Bert Morrison	
Gabriele Scardellato	
James Stanley	
Marjorie Stuart	
Paul Taylor	
Brenda Whitlock	

Across The Province

The year 2008 continues to be one of celebration in the heritage community as we remember that the global oil industry was born 150 years ago at Oil Springs, Ontario, when Hamilton carriage maker James Miller Williams struck crude oil there. The Oil Museum of Canada tells the fascinating story of black gold and its effect on our lives. The historic village of Coldwater celebrated its 100th anniversary in July and the Brant Historical Society and Brant Museum and Archives celebrates a century of service to the community as well. Sharon Temple celebrated the 90th anniversary of its opening by the York Pioneer and Historical Society with a number of special events in September. The Ontario Black History Society has several reasons to celebrate, for it was in 1998, when the Society marked the 20th year of their founding, that they successfully lobbied for the passing of the Emancipation Day Act, 1998, and on August 1 many communities continue to celebrate this important proclamation.

John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada is often cited for his work in the abolition of slavery, and the County of Simcoe is paying homage to him as they have commissioned a pair of bronze busts and ten smaller works by Marlene Hilton Moore of Hillsdale. The busts will be displayed at the county administration building and the Simcoe County Museum both in Midhurst, while the smaller works will be used as fundraisers and gifts for dignitaries. Congratulations to the Town of The Blue Mountains on the opening of the Craigleith Heritage Depot Community Interpretation Centre on September 21. Archaeologist Charles Garrad was the keynote speaker as the guests enjoyed the newly restored 1878 railway station and the history of the area through the displays spanning the last 445 million years! Further information: 519.599.3131,ex.254. The heritage community was saddened to learn of the passing in August of William “Bill” Dempsey,

A Historical Look at Peys Park: From Group of Seven to POW Camp

Do you know which Ontario Provincial Park has a connection with the Group of Seven Artists, logging and river drives, WWII Prisoner of War Camp (1940-46), Japanese-Canadian Relocation Camp (1946-48), Minimum Security Camp (1948-53), and now a Provincial Park (1965)? Neys Park on the northern shore of Lake Superior has a history filled with emotion, memories, struggles; famous artists such as Lawren Harris (Pic Island 1924 painting) and A.Y. Jackson from the Group of Seven; armed guards; and is now a Natural Environment Park with an educational Visitors Centre. For all outdoorists and artists, this is a first-class locale for history, appreciation of nature, incredible views, superb beaches and an excellent selection of campsites for all types of campers.

At the beginning of WWII, England feared that a ready-made army of POWs could potentially be used by an invading force, should that ever occur. Arrangements were made to relocate some of the POWs to Canada, and eventually 40 camps were established in Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta. In Ontario, most of the camps were located in the remote north. Very little remains of these camps in any physical form, yet interest is growing as more university research is being conducted and more people visit the camps during the summer.

Known as Camp “W”, and later Camp “100”, Neys was established in 1940 and received its first POWs in January 1941. Imagine arriving on North America’s eastern shore as a POW, being placed on a train, and shipped 2,000 km inland not knowing where you were going, as all the signs at the various towns had been covered up along with train windows. Then, try to



Peys prisoners of war inside the camp mess hall, circa 1943.

Photo Neys Provincial Park

imagine escaping in the deep snow and extreme cold of winter or the black flies and mosquitoes of summer. Cold Lake Superior to the south, and nothing but bush to the east, north and west. An area of 90 hectares (222 acres) was cleared, and the camp was built upon the sandy soil to help reduce the potential of tunnelling as an escape method. One hundred guards and translators were recruited from veterans of WWI interested in another chance to serve. When a few prisoners did try to escape, the guards could just wait a few days until the swarms of black flies and mosquitoes drove the almost-mad prisoners back into the open where they would be picked up and returned to the camp. One prisoner tried to escape by skating across Lake Superior’s 175 km only to have to turn back when he encountered open water.

As the war progressed, manpower shortages across the area became acute. By 1943, some prisoners were volunteering to work outside the barbed wire, and soon after, the Canadian Government agreed that all POWs were to do compulsory work and the local logging industry benefitted. Being paid 50 cents a day by the lumber company, the prisoners now had something to break up the boredom of daily prison life by working in the seven local logging camps along the

who many will remember as the Director and Superintendent of Board Services for the City of North York Board of Education. Bill was a true friend and staunch supporter of museums and historical and heritage sites, and never turned down an appeal for advice and assistance. Farewell Bill, you will be sorely missed.

Are you travelling to Northern Ontario in the next few weeks to enjoy the fall colours? The Latchford Area Moose Call reminds readers of the many attraction in the area including the House of Memories Museum, The Bunker Military Museum, the World’s Shortest Covered Bridge, all in Latchford, and of course, the Highway Book Shop, the Silver Mining Museum and the Heritage Silver Trail in Cobalt.

The Thunder Bay Museum continues its popular lecture series on October 28 when Michel Beaulieu and Jean Morrison discuss “A Century of Struggle: Labour and the Lakehead” and on November 25 Wayne Pettit will speak on “Soda Pop Manufacturers in Northwestern Ontario”. Details: 807.623.0801.

ACROSS cont’d page 4...

Little Pic River. Life significantly improved for the POWs when they had some physical activity, a pay cheque, and heartier food.

Parks Canada Historical Plaques mark the location of many aspects of Canada’s history, but very little is available in the way of accreditation of Canada’s POW camps. One-third of all the POWs held in Canada emigrated back to raise their families and make a positive contribution to Canada. One of the reasons for this was the very good treatment that Canada gave its war prisoners. One such person was Paul Mengelberg of Longlac, who worked in the logging industry until his retirement. With his wife, he raised a family and has remained in Longlac. I got to know Paul in the mid-to-late 1960s as a result of his association with the Boy Scouts of Canada in the Kenogamisis District when he became the local District Commissioner. Paul was honoured for his service to Scouting with the Silver Acorn Medal at a ceremony held at Queen’s Park. Paul contributed a number of items from his POW days that are on display in the makeshift museum in the park’s visitor centre.

Neys would be an ideal location for one of the Canadian Historical Plaques with its history and WWII connection. On June 10, 2008 a written proposal recommending that Neys become a Historical Site, and possibly a centre for POW camps in Canada was given to Parks Canada. This proposal will start the formal application process and it is hoped that within a few years, the site will be approved for designation and a suitable commemorative plaque. A long term goal is to see Ontario Parks and Parks Canada create a permanent museum at Neys featuring all of the POW camps in Ontario and across Canada.

Article by:
Frank Spence
frankspence@hughes.net

Exhibits & Events

SEPTEMBER 18 to JANUARY 2009
Sitting Pretty: History of the Toilet
 Guelph Civic Museum presents the return of this popular exhibit. Open daily from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. 6 Dublin St. S. Phone 519.836.1221 or visit www.guelph.ca/museum for more information.

SEPTEMBER 27
Harvest Tea

Join the Lennox & Addington Historical Society at the Macpherson House to celebrate Harvest with savoury tea and refreshments. First come, first served between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. \$7. 180 Elizabeth St., Napanee. Phone 613.354.5982.

OCTOBER 5
Fall Family Festival

Pickering Museum Village Foundation's annual fundraising event with the 2nd annual Rubber Duckie Race, live music, children's activities, raffle, and more. Free admission. Visit <http://cityofpickering.com/museum/> for more information.

OCTOBER 9

"Right to Your Front Door": The Home Delivery Business of Milk in Days Gone By

The Culinary Historians of Ontario, in partnership with Montgomery's Inn, is pleased to present this narrated slide show with Herb Kingston. It will be held at Montgomery's Inn Museum, 4709 Dundas St. West at 7:00 p.m. \$10 for CHO members or \$12 for non-members, cash at the door, refreshments included. Phone 416.394.8113 or email montinn@toronto.ca to register!

OCTOBER 17, 18, 24, 25
Ghosts of the Garrison

Tour the grounds of Fort York on these evenings between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. and hear stories from some ghostly visitors! Great fun for the family and not too spooky for the younger crowd. Pre-registration and payment required. 100 Garrison Rd., Toronto. Phone 416.392.6907 to register or visit www.fortyork@toronto.ca for more information.

OCTOBER 19
Apple Harvest Tea

Celebrate the Harvest with freshly-baked apple crisp at Montgomery's Inn. Take home goodies from the bake sale. \$6 admission. 4709 Dundas St. West, Toronto (at Islington Ave). Contact montinn@toronto.ca or 416.394.8113 for more information.

OCTOBER 25 and 26
Haunted Halls

Don't miss this chance to check out the scary and strange 'goings-ons' behind the scenes of the Thunder Bay Museum! This event has been a success for several years running, and is sure to entertain and educate! Drop in between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m., \$4. 425 Donald St. E., Thunder Bay. Phone 807.623.0801

OCTOBER 29

Spirits of Jalna Haunted Tour

Heritage Mississauga and Mississauga Museums will bring its 7th Annual "Haunted Mississauga" evening to Benares Historic House. The tour is interactive and educational, visitors will get a chance to meet the "spirits" of Jalna, Mazo de la Roche's character from her award winning *Whiteoaks of Jalna* novels. Tours begin every half-hour between 7:00 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members, and \$3 for youth and seniors. Contact Heritage Mississauga at 905.828.8411 for more information.

Note: Be sure to return to Benares Historic House on November 29 for "Cooking Edwardian Christmas"!

NOVEMBER 22
Canadian Christmas Food Traditions

The Spruce Row Museum is sponsoring this full day workshop led by historian and author Dorothy Duncan. Dorothy's books will be available for purchase—great Christmas gifts! Telephone 519.443.4211 for more information.

NOVEMBER 23
Cookbook Caper

Join the OHS and the Culinary Historians of Ontario for their annual fundraiser! Peruse through hundreds of new and used cookbooks on sale and enjoy a hot cup of tea and baked goodies in the historic John McKenzie House. Be sure to join us between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. at 34 Parkview Ave., North York. (Two blocks north of the North York Centre subway stop). Email izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca or phone 416.226.9011.



Photo Joseph Brant Museum

"Witness: The Photographs of Frank Wright"

September 2008 - April 2009
Joseph Brant Museum
 1240 North Shore Blvd., Burlington
 905.634.3556 • www.museumsofburlington.com

DECEMBER 7 & 14
Christmas in the Village

Visit the Pickering Museum Village as it springs to life with the inhabitants of the houses busily preparing for their holiday celebrations. Includes Scottish Hogmanay, Welsh traditions, Victorian English Christmas celebrations, and Squire Jonathan's Christmas Ball. Backwoods Players presents A Christmas Pageant free with admission. 12 to 3:30 p.m. contact Katrina Pyke at 905.683.8401.

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.

...from *ACROSS* page 3

The Town of Kincardine celebrated in July the official opening of Walker House, the oldest building in Kincardine and the oldest standing hotel in Bruce and Grey Counties. Built in 1850, it was severely damaged by fire in 1995 and rather than have it demolished the Paddy Walker Heritage Society was formed in 1998. A decade later, with thousands of hours of volunteer labour and hundreds of thousands of dollars in community donations, this success story opened to the public.

History was on the move in Simcoe County in August when the historic caboose and tender box from Barrie's Centennial Beach was moved to the Simcoe County Museum and Archives in Minesing.

The Village of Claremont recently hosted the Boyd Archaeological Field School's summer programme when 21 student archaeologists uncovered over 1,000 artifacts at the site known as the Graham House. The Field School is a 32 year old programme of the Toronto and

Region Conservation Authority.

The Uxbridge-Scott Historical Society and Uxbridge Historical Centre host the popular Family Fall Festival on Sunday, October 5, and a lecture by Rod Clarke "Narrow Gauge Through the Bush," on Wednesday, November 7. For locations, times and costs: 905.852.5854.

Congratulations to everyone at the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum as Volunteer Service Awards for 20 years were presented to Harry Nixey and Don Anger, for 15 years to John Beach and Sue Whynot, for 10 years to Don Fournier and for 5 years to Sherry Spark. Museum Auxiliary volunteers who received 30 year awards were Flo McIntyre, Mona Schutter, Muriel Madere, Bonnie Johnston and Marcia Turner, and Tish Stoner received a 10 year award. The Canal Days "Long Term Commitment Award" was presented to the Museum's Director/Curator Virginia Anger for her dedication to the event for the last 20 years, as she has been a continuous presence at the Museum each and every Canal Day since 1988!



The OHS gave a presentation entitled "Your Crucial Role in Preserving Early Canadian History" to the Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV) 2008 Staff Orientation. Seen here are Marty Brent, General Manager, BCPV and Chris Bagley, Manager, Public Programs and Maintenance, BCPV.

Photo Rob Leverty



In July, the OHS brought greetings and made presentations at the 50th Reunion Dinner celebrating the 100th Anniversary of The Doane Family Association of America (DFAofA). The Reunion was held in Barrie and hosted by the Ontario Doane Chapter. Seen here are (left to right): Dick Doane, President, DFAofA; Brad Rudachyk, OHS Board Member and Chair, Affiliated Societies Committee and Harold Doan, Chair, Ontario Chapter, DFAofA. Harold is also a former OHS Board Member and served for a number of years as Chair, OHS Museums Committee. The OHS book table was very popular with members of the DFAofA who came from across Canada, England and all regions of the United States.

Photo Rob Leverty



Turning Great Ideas into Results
OMA Conference 2008 • Ottawa, ON • November 5 - 7, 2008

Ontario Museum Association Conference 2008

Crowne Plaza Hotel,
 Ottawa, Ontario

- networking • thought-provoking sessions •
- stimulating roundtable discussions •
- informative tradeshow •

To view a complete schedule of events and to register, visit

www.museumsonario.com

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Congratulations to summer student Benjamin Hesch. This past summer he worked as Heritage Coordinator for The Town of Wilmot in Waterloo County. He identified cemeteries for heritage designation and sought preservation and restoration guidance. Hopefully the Town will continue his good works after Ben resumes his studies at the University of Waterloo.

Vandals have been at work at Northbrook United Church Cemetery in Northbrook, near Kaladar, where approximately 80 gravestones were toppled. Anybody with information is asked to contact Napanee OPP or Crime Stoppers at 1.800.222.TIPS. St. Mary's Cemetery in St. Mary's was the scene of senseless vandalism on two successive nights. The Perth County OPP and Crime Stoppers are asking for public assistance. If someone calls Crime Stoppers they do not have to reveal their names or go to court. They may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2000. Our readers are asked to be vigilant as they travel around the province. Any unusual activity in a cemetery should be reported to the police immediately!

An order-in-council was recently approved transferring ownership of Victoria Memorial Square from Federal ownership to the City of

Toronto. There are an estimated 400 burial sites at this location. It was commissioned by Lt. Governor Simcoe in 1793 as a garrison burial ground for Fort York soldiers, their families and local citizens. Katherine Simcoe, daughter of Lt. Governor John Graves Simcoe and his wife, Elizabeth Gwillim, was interred at Victoria Memorial Square in 1794. In 1837 the name was changed to honour the new Queen. The burial ground has changed over the years due to development of the surrounding area; in fact, few would even recognize it as a burial ground. The statue in the park was designed by Walter Allward, designer of the Vimy Ridge Memorial. It commemorates the military deaths of the War of 1812.

Concern has been raised about the Brownsberger Farm Cemetery in Whitechurch. This small burial ground is believed to date from 1828. Prior to 1916 the markers were removed to Wideman Mennonite Cemetery in Markham. It is strongly believed that the remains of those buried at the site were never moved. Construction will start soon at this location. This was not a registered cemetery.

In London human bones, which were described as very old, were found during fence repair at a child-care centre. Unfortunately, the discovery of human remains is an almost daily occurrence around the province. Long forgotten burial

sites are often discovered during construction. This causes expensive work stoppage and can lead to gross indignity to the remains. We keep urging that those with knowledge of unmarked burial sites come forward so the burial ground can be registered at no cost. We also urge that these appear on Official Town Plans.

The Newmarket Historical Society is preparing information relating to the local House of Industry. The burial ground at this site was established about 1883 and was eventually closed c. 1937, during which time approximately 746 burials occurred. Hopefully, the site will be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Newmarket Historical Society, 134 Main Street. S., Newmarket, L3Y 3Y7.

In June a special commemorative ceremony for forty-two of Guelph's original citizens was held in Woodlawn Memorial Park. They had been interred in the original Guelph Burying Grounds on Baker Street. This had been closed many years ago and it was believed that all the remains had been removed. However, during road widening and other work these remains were accidentally discovered.

Melville United Church on Kennedy Road in Markham is for sale. The cemetery which is adjacent is believed to be separate from the property. The former Melville Free Presbyterian Cemetery was established c. 1849. This is a registered cemetery.

Rose Cemetery in Prince Edward County has been the site of studies

by a team from Queen's University. There is a section which may have been marked with wooden crosses many years ago but the cemetery maps do not indicate the actual location of these burials or even who is buried at the site. Queen's students used auger tools to determine cemetery boundaries as well as ground penetrating radar and a magnetometer to detect metals. In addition, they have prepared maps, which will greatly assist the cemetery staff.

Randall Reid and a very capable group have almost completed the restoration project at Sharon United Church Cemetery in Etobicoke. This summer's rain has delayed their work. The cemetery, on the north side of Rexdale Boulevard, west of Highway 27, is the only surviving 19th century site in the now vanished rural community of Highfield. It was established in 1842 as the burial ground for Hainstock's Primitive Methodist Chapel.

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.

Museum News

Grenville County Historical Society and the Prescott Grand Trunk Railway Station

The Grenville County Historical Society in May 2000 approached Canadian National Railway (CNR) with regard to purchasing the old Grand Trunk Railroad (GTR) station to be used as their Archives and Resource Centre. After much negotiation between the Town of Prescott, Ontario Heritage Trust, Monuments Canada and CNR, CNR agreed to rent the station to the Town of Prescott and allow the Historical Society to restore the building, even though the negotiations between the parties involved were still ongoing. Three volunteers from the Society worked all through the summer of 2007 restoring the inside of the building which had been neglected and was in a really sorry state – roof leaking, ceiling falling down, broken windows, etc. The station had suffered badly from vandalism, and the Society knew that if something was not done right away the station would be beyond saving. Three volunteers (husbands of members of the Society) brought the inside of the building back, as much as possible, to how it was originally. A new front door was made by one of the volunteers to correspond as close as possible to the original door.

In October 2007 the Society

moved into the station. This year, the same three volunteers are working on the outside, painting the windows, scraping and burning off all the old paint from under the eaves and working on the Operators Bay. It is worth mentioning that two of these men are in their seventies and one is in his sixties!

The Prescott GTR station was built by British contractors Peto, Brassey, Betts & Jackson in 1856, and dates from the first construction period of the GTR, specifically its Montreal to Brockville section. It is the largest of the nine surviving stations dating from this period in Ontario.

The Prescott station is a physical artifact from the first phase of GTR construction, which, through the changes that have been made to its fabric, use, and environment, represents the waxing and waning of railway fortunes in Canada. Prior to the coming of the railway, Prescott had developed extensively as a transfer and forwarding port between Montreal and the western and northern country. As a result, it was one of the towns identified as part of the Montreal to Toronto routing in the first contract between the GTR and the government.

Prescott was a type A station meriting a "1st Class" rating from



The historic Prescott Grand Trunk Railway Station in Prescott was recently restored by the Grenville County Historical Society and a number of volunteers. Congratulations!

Photo Valerie Schulz

the railway. The architectural origins of the early GTR stations may be found, in part, in English precedents wherein the Italianate style was closely identified with railway architecture. Built of rock-faced grey ashlar limestone, it is the only GTR station of this form where all four of the distinctive chimneys survive. The operator's bay was a later addition.

It also has been recognized by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as being of national significance. The station closed in 1978, though trains continued to stop here until the late 1990s.

On September 20th, 2008 we are holding the official opening of the station as the new home of our

Archives and Resource Centre. The Society is very proud of the fact that they have been able to keep and restore part of Prescott's history and to occupy a building of such historical significance.

Article by
Valerie Schulz, President
Grenville County Historical Society



RENT THE HISTORIC JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE

**FOR MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS,
& SMALL SOCIAL GATHERINGS**

SEVERAL BEAUTIFUL ROOMS AVAILABLE
A PERFECT SETTING
HISTORICAL AMBIANCE

CLOSE TO NORTH YORK CENTRE SUBWAY STOP
CALL 416.226.9011 FOR MORE INFORMATION

SUPPORT YOUR HERITAGE!
JOIN THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



416.226.9011
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Museum News (con'd)

The Windsor Wood Carving Museum



Photo Windsor Wood Carving Museum

The Windsor Wood Carving Museum was founded in the summer of 1993 by a group of twenty-six carvers from the Windsor and Essex County region who were all members of the Sunparlour Woodcarvers, a club which had been in operation since 1981. In 1998 it was decided to close the club so its members could dedicate themselves entirely to the Museum.

Since 1996 the Museum has called the same location its home, within the walls of the Windsor Public Library at 850 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor. The museum has been in existence for 12 years and has continued to grow ever since; today it houses over 300 displayed carvings, 150 members and several activities in the community. It will be presenting its new and amazing Fish and Marine Life Exhibit starting September 6, 2008. This exhibit will feature fish, boats, mermaids, turtles, manatees and other aquatic related carvings and artifacts. There is something in the museum for all age levels

and areas of interest. For more information about the Museum or upcoming tours and activities, telephone 519.977.0823 or visit www.windsorwoodcarvingmuseum.ca. All visitors are welcome to come and participate in our various programs and activities or experience first-hand our new exhibit.

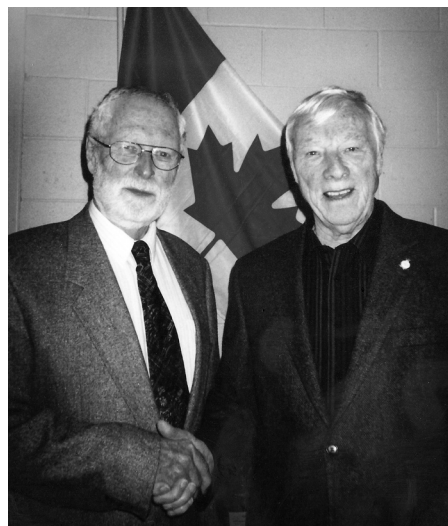
The Museum is also hosting the 11th Annual Wood Carving Show and Competition this October. The show will feature carvings from beginner carvers to those more advanced. It will also include vendors and demonstrators on-site and a special ceremony awarding ribbons, prizes and cash prizes to competition winners. The Show is on October 25 between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and on October 26 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The Ribbon Ceremony will begin at 2:30 pm on Sunday. The show will be at the Moose Lodge, 777 Tecumseh Road West, Windsor.

Manika Gupta,
Museum Assistant, WWC
woodcarv@windsorpubliclibrary.com



During the 9th Annual Doors Open Toronto, the John McKenzie House had visitors from the United States, Russia, Argentina, Korea and various regions of Ontario. We also had a surprise visit from our old neighbours, Bud and Jean Spinney. The Spinneys, who now live in Aurora, were our next door neighbours on Parkview Avenue and Bud for years was a dedicated OHS volunteer who was on the call list for our ADT Security System. If there was ever a problem at 34 Parkview in the middle of the night, Bud was always there to meet the police or fire department. Thank you so very much for your years of dedicated service and best wishes to OHS members Bud and Jean.

Photo Rob Leverty



The OHS attended the Grey County Historical Society's (GCHS) 4th Annual Dinner and 6th Silent Auction in Keady. GCHS incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 1984. Tom Cole, President, GCHS, (left) is with the guest speaker, Charles Garrad, archaeologist, historian and OHS member. Charles gave a superb and very animated presentation entitled "The Beaver Valley – Some History of Eastern Grey County." Don't miss Mr. Cole's upcoming presentation, entitled "The Coming of the Telephone to Grey County" on November 19th, 1:30 p.m. at Cooke's Presbyterian Church Hall in Markdale. Contact Tom Cole at 519.334.1119 for more information.

Photo Rob Leverty

The Snider Clocks Story, The Canadian Clock Museum

In 2007 Canada's only clock museum in Deep River, Ontario, received a Heritage Canada Community Memories investment contract to research and tell the story of Harry Snider's two Toronto-based clock companies. The Snider Clock Corporation (1950-1957) was followed by the Snider Clock Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (1957-1976).

The founder's younger son Michael has provided much background information about these family-operated businesses from the mid 20th century. Summer student Megan Morris photographed and documented more than 150 examples of wall, mantel, and TV lamp clocks in the growing Snider collection at The Canadian Clock Museum (TCCM). Most of the designs created by Harry and then Michael were unique.

In recent years, examples of Harry Snider's clocks from the museum's collection have been included in exhibitions at the Design Exchange Museum in Toronto and the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec.

The House of Snider in Toronto story is now hosted online in the

Community Memories section of the Virtual Museum of Canada at www.virtualmuseum.ca. The museum also sells the story as a fundraiser on a CD-ROM disc with 239 images (including scans of pages from company catalogues) and five storylines. Pictures of all these Snider clocks will soon be in a Gallery on the museum's own website at www.canclockmuseum.ca.

Visitors to the museum, which opened in May of 2000, can see many Snider clocks up close. On display are unusual models such as Harry's "spider" and ball & stick "atomic" 1950s wall clocks, his own designs for TV lamp clocks (some finished in typical 1950s pink and turquoise colours), large wood panel clocks from the 1960s, and many dozens of "starburst" wall clocks that span almost three decades.

The Canadian Clock Museum is located at 60 James Street, just thirty seconds off trans-Canada Highway 17 in Deep River. Watch for the Ontario tourism signs.

Allan Symons
Manager and Curator,
The Canadian Clock Museum
enquiries@canclockmuseum.ca



One of many vibrant, colourful, and fascinating exhibits on display at The Canadian Clock Museum in Deep River, Ontario. This particular image represents a selection of Snider clocks.

Photo TCCM



The OHS in partnership with the Timber Village Museum and the Voyageur Heritage Network presented a very popular event entitled "Living History: A Basket Making Workshop" in Blind River. Pictured here on the left is workshop leader, Judy McGonigal, historian, museum volunteer, curator, and an OHS Past President, helping Jim Fortin, Curator, Greater City of Sudbury Heritage Museums and a former OHS Board Member, to make a Great Lakes Spoked Basket. Thank you again Judy for a great workshop and your continued dedicated service to the OHS!

Photo Rob Leverty

From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
raible@georgian.net

FREE BOOKS FOR ALL!

Local Library, Global Passport: The Evolution of a Carnegie Library. J. Patrick Boyer. Blue Butterfly Books. 362 pages. Illustrations. \$34.95 hardbound; \$22.95 softbound.

A library does not exist apart from its community but is an expression of it. This splendid book celebrates the one hundredth anniversary of Bracebridge's Carnegie library. As Boyer points out, from its earliest days Bracebridge enjoyed a "book culture," enthusiastically supporting its Mechanics Institute Library, founded in 1874. As time went on, this institution proved totally inadequate to the growing town's needs. The town fathers reluctantly undertook the expense of a truly public library – but could not see their way to a library building. Enter Andrew Carnegie, the "Patron Saint of Libraries," who had made huge fortunes in railroads and steel in the U.S. Remembering the importance of libraries in his impoverished youth, if a community gave the land for a library building and promised to support the library once built from public funds, Carnegie would pay for its construction. In Bracebridge negotiations were frustratingly stalled by the town's reluctance to play its part in promising annual upkeep of the library. But after years of letters back and forth, the funds were received and a truly magnificent building was completed in 1908. Since then, library services have expanded exponentially, and two additions have been built to support them and this fine heritage building. The vision lives on.

AROUND ONTARIO

Midland on Georgina Bay: An Illustrated History of Midland, Ontario. William Northcott and William Smith. Huronia Museum. 288 pages. Illustrations. \$60.00 hardbound.

Midland followed the common pattern of development of many Ontario communities – from native peoples and early settlers, to railway connections and thriving industries, to modern life with diverse activities – but Midland evolved in its own unique manner. Here is a local history, lavishly illustrated with some 620 pictures, including images of eighteen of artist Fred Lenz's proudly publicized murals depicting aspects of the city's history – one of them is huge: the 80 x 200 foot mural on the side of a grain elevator at the harbour. The authors spent twenty years researching, writing, and producing this splendid volume – a fine book indeed.

100 Fascinating Londoners. Edited by Michael Baker and Hilary Bates Neary. James Lorimer. 128 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

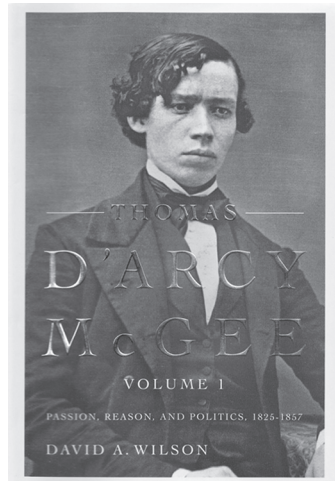
More than fifty authors combined their research interests and writing skills to produce one hundred brief biographies of individuals who

have been participants in London's history – politicians, sports heroes, actors, industrialists, church leaders, artists, authors, and other admirable Londoners – all arranged chronologically by years of death. A novel and admirable way to present a city's history by portraying its greatest asset – its people.

FESTSCHRIFT

Essays in Honour of Michael Bliss: Figuring the Social. Edited by E. A. Heaman, Alison Li and Shelley McKellar. University of Toronto Press. 481 pages. Illustrations. \$75.00 hardbound.

In the course of his career, University of Toronto history professor Michael Bliss has written an extraordinary series of substantial scholarly works – on business history, including *Northern Enterprise*; on medical history, most notably perhaps, *The Discovery of Insulin*; and political history, especially *Right Honourable Men*, with chapters on Canadian prime ministers from MacDonald to Mulroney. He has also come down from the ivory tower and engaged in lively debate as political commentator. This volume is a series of essays by former students, several evaluating Bliss's career, but most on aspects of Canadian history: politics and business, family and religion, health and public policy, medical science and practice. An altogether fitting tribute to a national treasure.



LUCK O' THE IRISH

Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Vol 1: Passion, Reason, and Politics, 1825-1857. David A. Wilson. McGill-Queen's University Press. 432 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 hardbound.

Perhaps most remembered today as a Father of Confederation who was assassinated, D'Arcy McGee has not been subject to major biographical treatment before this work, the first of a projected two volumes. Here his life is subjected to thorough research and thoughtful evaluation by Professor David Wilson, who is already well-known for his writing, including the best-selling *Ireland, a Bicycle and a Tin Whistle*. Sometimes McGee favoured cooperating within the British political system. Other times he was the revolutionary advocate of an independent nation uniting all Ireland. After escaping to the United States to avoid arrest for treason, he wrote Catholic political newspaper columns, often harshly critical of the hierarchy.

In time he returned to Ireland, re-evaluated his religious roots, and made peace with former enemies among the church authorities he had so sharply criticized. He became an ultramontane Catholic, firmly denouncing those of other religious persuasions, especially Protestants. All this and much more occurred before his coming to Canada. Wilson gives us McGee, warts and all: passionate, articulate, erratic, irresponsible, inconsistent, and fascinating.

MAZEL TOV

Canada's Jews: A People's Journey. Gerald Tulchinsky. University of Toronto Press. 630 pages, Illustrations. \$115.00 hardbound. \$45.00 softbound.

From the first few founders of the 18th century forming a congregation in Montreal, Jews have been very much a part of, yet sometimes seemingly apart from, the history of the country. Their story, though intermingled with the Jewish history of the United States, is nonetheless distinct. It is a story that sometimes contradicts the myth of hard-working immigrants fleeing persecution and assisting themselves "to move forward and upward through adversity". The book is a complete reformulating and updating of Tulchinsky's earlier works into a full (more than 600 pages) scholarly and informative work. At last a substantive review of the full history of a people – not always a single body or a united group – in this country.

CLASSIC REPRINTS

The Refugee: Narratives of Fugitive Slaves in Canada. Benjamin Drew. Introduction by George Elliott Clarke. Dundurn Press. 351 pages. \$29.99 softbound.

In the early 1850s white American abolitionist Benjamin Drew was commissioned by the Canadian Anti-Slavery Society to interview Canadian Blacks who had fled north from slavery. Originally published in 1856, this book is a remarkable collection of more than one hundred firsthand oral histories, detailing the dreadful servitude endured in the United States and much improved life in Canada West. But as George Elliott Clarke points out in his fine introduction, they tend to present a rather unrealistically rosy view of life. Still, they are an interesting compilation of settler narratives and "great reads".

This book (with the one following) is part of Dundurn's Voyageur Classics series, reprinted to bring back to life works in the fields of literature, history, politics and biography.

The Firebrand: William Lyon Mackenzie and the Rebellion in Upper Canada. William Kilbourn. Dundurn Press. 326 pages. \$24.99 softbound.

As Ronald Stagg notes in his brief introduction, "considerable work has been done on Mackenzie since *The Firebrand* was first published in 1956." A number of books and articles have focused on aspects of the man and the period, but neither a comprehensive biography of the rebel leader nor a full study of the Rebellion itself – its causes and its significance – has yet been written.

Kilbourn's biography remains a lively read, despite the author's often mocking tone and propensity to spin yarns rather than weave historical facts. Its republication after half a century is a reminder that Mackenzie remains a central, albeit controversial, figure in the history of this province and this country.



FIRE AND WATER

Heat: A Firefighter's Story. Jon Wells. James Lorimer. 256 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

Set ablaze by an arsonist, the burning Plastinet warehouse fire released a stew of chemicals that rained down on Hamilton firefighters. In a very real sense, the book is less about the fire and more about the men, in particular one man, Captain Bob Shaw. *Hamilton Spectator* reporter Jon Wells won a National Newspaper Award for his extended series of stories about the drama and the trauma of combatting the worst toxic fire in Canada's history.

Lake Erie Stories: Struggle and Survival on a Freshwater Ocean. Chad Fraser. Dundurn Press. 227 pages. Illustrations. \$24.99 softbound.

Born in Leamington, Fraser has a lifelong love of Lake Erie. Here are seven vignettes of the lake's history. Five focus on specific eras – LaSalle and French exploration, naval battles during the War of 1812, the Rebellion battle at Pelee Island, the American Civil War, and bootlegging during Prohibition. Two – one on shipwrecks, one on lighthouses – round out the story of the shallowest and second smallest of the Great Lakes.

EACH UNIQUE

Barn Building: The Golden Age of Barn Construction. Jon Radojkovic. Boston Mills Press. 192 pages. Illustrations. \$35.00 hardbound.

The reader is taken on a tour of two-and-a-half centuries through rural areas of Ontario, Quebec and the northeastern United States. Barns of logs and of planks, barns of brick and of stone, barns rectangular, round and polygonal. Each has its own story, many of which

BOOKSHELF cont'd page 8...

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

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

...from *BOOKSHELF* page 7

are here told. The photographs (all in colour, save a few archival images) are stunning, the structural sketches are informative, and the textual commentary is great. Once again Boston Mills Press has produced a heritage book of beauty as well as history – a book for all barn lovers, and who among us is not?



BON VOYAGE!

***“A Happy Holiday”: English Canadians and Transatlantic Tourism, 1870-1930.* Cecilia Morgan. University of Toronto Press. 461 pages. \$90.00 hardbound; \$37.95 softbound.**

One of the most revealing things about national character is the way that citizens react to and report on their travels abroad. Morgan looks at the experiences of English-speaking Canadians abroad (specifically in Britain and Europe) during the last part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth. Based on letters, diaries, newspapers and periodicals, this book suggests that overseas tourism offered a chance to explore questions of identity at a time when issues such as gender, nation and empire were the subject of public debate and discussion. But of course, that was not the travellers' reason for going! As one mused as he made his way home to Montreal, “There ended a very

pleasant holiday which has left many agreeable impressions of places and persons.” Nevertheless, Morgan shows that travel does not necessarily “broaden the mind” but rather overseas tourism in the period under study all too often exacerbated existing prejudices and previously formed opinions. Fascinating!

WOMEN'S WORK...AND WEALTH
***A Silent Revolution? Gender and Wealth in English Canada, 1860-1930.* Peter Baskerville. McGill-Queen's University Press. 375 pages. \$85.00 hardbound; \$29.95 softbound.**

The traditional view of women shows that from the early nineteenth century until at least the end of the Victorian era, urban middle- and even working-class married women operated in spheres quite different from those of men. In particular, a married woman's place was in the home. But Baskerville argues that, at a time when they are generally thought to have had little independence, urban women in fact managed considerable wealth. He examines women's probates, wills, land ownership, holdings of real and chattel mortgages, investment in stocks and bonds, and self-employment. In fact, women controlled wealth to an extent similar to that of most men, and he shows they managed their wealth in increasingly similar and sometimes even more aggressive ways.

WOMEN'S WORK...AND HEALTH
***Just Call Me Eva: The Story of an Uncommon Woman.* Joyce M. Kennedy. General Store Publishing House. 242 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.**

Robena Eva Farmer was born in a modest farm home in the Ottawa Valley in the last decade of the 19th century. Thus begins the life of this “uncommon woman” who at the same time is also “common” in that she shared the life experiences of so many of her

generation: farm life, school, nursing, marriage, family, church and community, two world wars, the Great Depression, in the small eastern Ontario village of Cumberland. While raising a family of six, she also managed a maternity hospital, ushering more than five hundred young Canadians into the world. Based on diaries and letters as well as personal memory, this is a tribute to her mother by a proud daughter.

PROJECT 4000

***Gift of Freedom: How Ottawa welcomed the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian refugees.* Brian Buckley. General Store Publishing House. 97 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.**

In 1979 there was a desperate situation as refugees fled persecution and chaos in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The city of Ottawa responded by resettling thousands of them – welcoming newcomers into an alien culture. Nearly thirty years later, the story of the extraordinary volunteer efforts of more than almost four hundred sponsoring groups are chronicled. Surely a chapter in Canadian history to be proud of.

HISTORY NOTED

In addition to the books reviewed here, we received these notices describing publications of interest:

***Cornwall Justice,* Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Historical Society. 113 pages. Illustrations. \$17.50. The story of Cornwall's jail, dating from 1835 and now a tourist centre.**

***The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore,* 3rd edition. Ron Brown. Dundurn Group. 192 pages. Illustrations. \$29.99. An illustrated history of railway stations in Canada, compiled by the popular Ontario historian of ghost towns and fascinating, almost forgotten places.**

DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS

Boston Mills Press, distributed by Firefly Books, 66 Leek Cres., Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1H1. www.fireflybooks.com

Blue Butterfly Book Publishing Inc., 2583 Lakeshore Blvd. W., Toronto, ON M8V 1G3. www.bluebutterflybooks.ca

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

Huron Museum, Little Lake Park, Box 638, Midland, ON L4R 4P4. Orders c/o www.midlandongeorgianbay.ca

James Lorimer & Company, Formac Distributing, 5502 Atlantic Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1G4. www.lorimer.ca

McGill-Queen's University Press, 3430 McTavish Street, Montreal, QC H3A 1X9. www.mqup.ca

Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry Historical Society, Box 773, Cornwall, ON K6H 5T5. Ian10@bellnet.ca

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

University of Toronto Press, 10 St. Mary St., Suite 700, Toronto, ON M4Y 2W8.

SUPPORT YOUR HERITAGE!
JOIN THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



416.226.9011
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

ISSN 0714-6736

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of The Ontario Historical Society (OHS), 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, Fax 416.226.2740.

Five issues will be published in 2008: February, April, Summer, September and December. December issue copy deadline: November 6, 2008.

Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: Reprinted from the *OHS Bulletin*, (issue & date) published by The Ontario Historical Society. All photo credits and bylines must be retained.

Views expressed by contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the OHS. The OHS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Culture.

Types of membership in the Society are: Individual/Institution/Organization \$35.00; Senior/Student \$30.00; Family \$45.00; Affiliated Societies \$50.00, Life \$500.00; Benefactor \$1000.00.

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 (OH)*, is available to individuals for \$22.00 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for \$32.00 and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$43.00. Inquiries about membership should be directed to: Christina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca. Inquiries about submissions and advertising should be directed to: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Editor: Andrea Izzo
Cemetery News Editor: Marjorie Stuart
From the Bookshelf Editors: Chris & Pat Raible
Printer: Harmony Printing Limited

**The Ontario Historical Society
2008-09 Board of Directors:**

Ken Turner, President;
Robert Leech, First Vice-President;
John Sabean, Second Vice-President;
Chris Oslund, Past President;
Naresh Khosla, Treasurer;
Lorraine O'Byrne, Museums Chair;
Orland French, Recording Secretary;
Sharon Jaeger; Linda Kelly;
Jim Leonard; Jennifer Riel;
Brad Rudachyk; Joe Stafford
OH Editor: Tory Tronrud
Executive Director: Rob Leverty

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



Are you a
**Member Organization or Affiliate
in Good Standing with the OHS?**

INSURANCE
• GENERAL LIABILITY
• DIRECTORS' AND OFFICERS'
LIABILITY

This Service is now Available!

For More Information:
Tel. 416.226.9011
Email. insurance@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



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

• Historical Research and Analysis
• Home and Property History
• Corporate and Advertising History
• Heritage Product Marketing Research

"Defining the Past"

rjburns@newtel.com
www.travel-net.com/~rjburns

"The Baptist Parsonage" (est. 1855)
482-19 Spadina Ave., P.O. Box 84
Toronto, ON M6L 2H0
Tel./Fax: (519) 775-2613