

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 160

JUNE 2007

The Road to Freedom – Historical Drama to Grace This Year's AGM & Conference

This year, during our Annual General Meeting, The Ontario Historical Society is proud to be a co-presenter of Forging Freedom – A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. This important conference will be host not only to a series of excellent speakers, but it will be graced by Bryan and Shannon Prince with their riveting historical drama, The Road to Freedom. Drawing from original historical documents, as well as using music and song, Bryan and Shannon bring to life the people who made history with this engaging re-enactment.

Bryan and Shannon always take particular care to research the area they are performing in so they can present the stories of local people. For instance, in 2005, they performed with The Karen Schuessler Singers at Wesley Knox United Church in London. Focusing on London area historical figures, slaves, former slaves, abolitionists, contemporary observers and writers, Bryan and Shannon used quotes from 19th century interviews, newspapers, letters and other primary sources to create an historically accurate rendition.

Interwoven within the historical accuracy is music and song. This is where the talents of vocalist, Denise

Pelley and pianist Stephen Holowitz, come into play. Road to Freedom weaves its narrative with music that ranges from the classic Amazing Grace, to Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge over Troubled Water and beyond, to songs from the contemporary musical Hair-spray. It's no wonder that at a recent Road to Freedom performance, that took place this past March at York University, with the launch of the Harriet Tubman Institute, Michaelle Jean, Canada's Governor General was deeply moved.

For The Ontario Historical Society conference this June 22nd and 23rd, Bryan and Shannon will perform the stories of people from across the entire province. When speaking about the upcoming event, Bryan Prince describes it this way: "As with all our performances, we tell a larger story of black history in the province – from the horrors of the trans-Atlantic slave trade known as the middle passage, slavery, the actual flight, to finding freedom and building new lives. There is no more poignant way to tell their story than to let them do it in their own words."

Join us in hearing these very words. Visit our web site for conference details, or call us directly at, 416-226-9011. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.



Bryan and Shannon Prince dressed in historical costume for their Road to Freedom performance.

Photo courtesy of Andy Stockdill.

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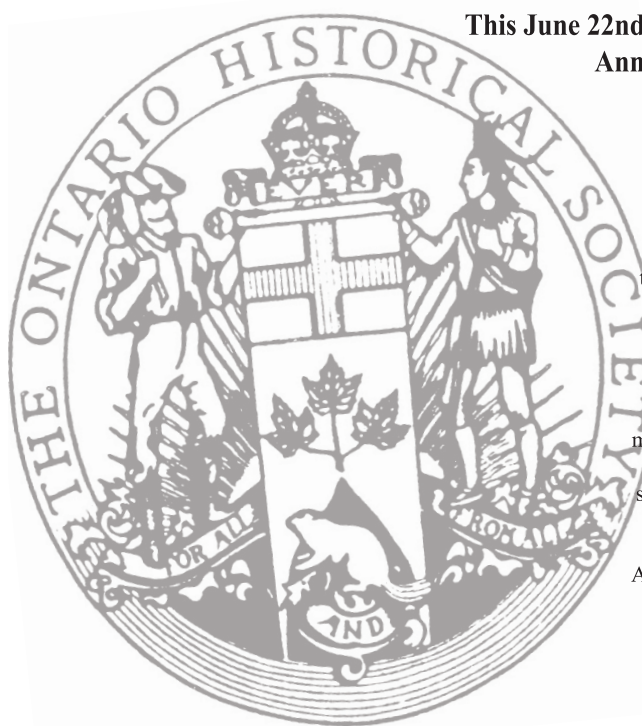


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This June 22nd & 23rd Join us for our Annual General Meeting at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario

It is with great pleasure that The Ontario Historical Society presents Forging Freedom: A Conference in Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Working with both the Black History Society, and the Central Ontario Network for Black History, we are offering our members a unique chance to delve into history with knowledgeable speakers and live musical presentations. As always, we are also happy to host our Honours & Awards Ceremony where the OHS celebrates the best in Ontario History. Call (416) 226-9011 to register today!

Or visit our web site at:
www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca



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President's Report

Chris Oslund • coslund@ntl.sympatico.ca

Dear OHS Members,
Recently I had the pleasure to participate in an event held during National Volunteer Week. It reminded me of the countless hours that volunteers across Ontario dedicate to improve their communities. Likewise, without the support

of volunteers in the heritage sector much of the work that has gone into preserving Ontario's history would be lost.

Oftentimes, our societies struggle with declining membership and issues surrounding the engagement of young people. I believe

that initiatives such as the Historica Fairs are an ideal way to engage young people and introduce them to the relevancy of preserving our history. This year, the Provincial Historica Fair will be held in Ottawa May 16th - 20th, 2007 followed by the National Historica Fair in Lethbridge, Alberta July 9th 16th, 2007.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Meeting and Conference to be held at Brock University in St. Catharines on June 22 & 23, 2007.

Executive Director's Report

Karolyn Smardz Frost • karolyn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Happy Summer, my dear Members! I can't believe I have been Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society for more than six months. The time just seems to have flown by. There has been so much to learn and so many wonderful people to meet! I have given talks in the GTA, Durham Region, and Southwestern Ontario to affiliated and member societies over the past few weeks, as well as to large groups of school children participating in Historica Fairs (wow, the displays are fascinating!). Over the next year or so, I will begin to travel further afield to visit with our affiliates, members and friends located across this great province. Once I have mastered my new duties, I promise, I will be out to see you all.

Today I attended the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Archives of Ontario building at York University. Located in the heart of the main campus, the new building will be built and furnished with locally available materials. In fact, the new archives building will meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification for the construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

There will be a 290,000 square foot three storey podium building, with a reference area double the size of the existing facility, and a seven storey research tower, all constructed

at a cost of \$100,000,000. For those of you who know the York campus, it is located at the eastern end of York Lanes, right on the ring road where the buses turn, and next to restaurants and parking.

An avid user of the archives myself, I admit I have shared my fellow researchers' misgivings about the proposed location. However, as the Honourable Minister of Government Services, Gerry Philips, explained, the new subway line will run directly under the building. Lorna Marsden, York's President, enthusiastically described her own plans to enhance the use of the archives by graduate and undergraduate students and explained that York is actually in the very heart of the GTA. It is very close to the 400, the 401 and to the 407. This means that all those documents and photographs and maps and films will be more accessible to people who travel not only by subway and TTC and train, but also by regional transit, and by car from all parts of the province and beyond.

On another note, I would like to remind everyone of our upcoming conference, Forging Freedom: In Honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. To be held at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, on June 22 and 23, 2007, in conjunction with the Ontario Historical Society's Annual General Meeting, this is our first

conference in more than a decade. The program brochures and registration form are included with this issue and you can also download them from the website at www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca. Registrations are flowing in, so hurry and reserve a spot for you and as many friends as would like to join us for this landmark event.

Coinciding with the conference will be the publication of our ninety-ninth (!) issue of Ontario History. Also dedicated to the bicentenary of the British government's decision to end involvement in the Atlantic Slave Trade, it is nearly twice the size of our usual printing. It includes articles by noted scholars in the field of African Canadian studies, and presents a semi-chronological picture of Black life in Ontario from earliest colonial times through the late 20th century.

Finally, so many of you have asked about whether or not the Ontario Historical Society could help arrange Directors and Operators Insurance and Liability Insurance for our affiliates that negotiations have been reopened. I will have news for you soon on the subject, so watch the website!

Do remember, all of you, that the Ontario Historical Society is a charitable, not-for-profit organization that depends on support from its members and friends. As this spring turns into summer, we are looking forward to the development of workshops and other programs for the fall and winter. Your generous support is always gratefully received, and very much appreciated.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS Your Generosity Makes A Difference!

- Robert & Virginia Atkins
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CEMETERY DEFENCE

- Fiona Chapman
- Gordon Gibbins
- Charlotte Hines
- James Mcandless
- Diana Taschereau
- Waterloo Historical Society

NEW MEMBERS LIST

- Essex & County Historical Research Society
- Green Bay Cemetery Association
- Ontario Historical Heritage Fairs Association
- Trafalgar Township Historical Society
- Jason Churchill
- Michele LeBoldus
- Paul Lovejoy



The Honourable Gerry Philips, Minister of Government Services, York University President Lorna Marsden, and Jennifer Laidlaw, Director of Operations for the Archives of Ontario, turn the sod for the construction of the new Archives of Ontario building to be opened on the York University campus in 2009.



First Vice-President Ken Turner and Yvonne _____, attended the launch of Karolyn Smardz Frost's new book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad* (Thomas Allen & Sons, and Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2007) at the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum, April 28, 2007.

War of 1812 Commemoration Resolution Unanimously Passes the Legislature

By Julia Munro, MPP for York North

On April 5, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed my resolution to establish a commission to commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812. Members of all three parties spoke out on behalf of its passage. Establishing an independent commission to co-ordinate Ontario's commemorations will let historical groups and local communities play an important part in planning celebrations. Numerous historical groups, including the Ontario Historical Society, have already begun to plan for the commemorations, and my resolution aims to get the provincial government involved early, so it can be an effective promoter of the commemoration.

My resolution directs the government to establish a commission that includes amongst its members representatives of groups dedicated to the preservation of Canada's military history and heritage as well as representatives of

Ontario communities that are the sites of battles or other significant events of the war. The government should work as an ally to historical groups and a coordinator of activities, but it should not 'take over' the celebrations. Local groups and communities know which events of the war should be commemorated and the commission should be there to help. Key roles for the commission would be to list and market events, help to reduce any overlapping commemorations, and to help ensure the war is remembered in those parts of the province without prominent forts or battlefields. It could advise the government on how much funding is needed for local commemorations. The commission would also need to work with other levels of government, in Canada and the USA, to coordinate a continent-wide commemoration.

The vote in the Legislature is only the first step. Resolutions are not laws; they are only the opinions of members of the Legislature. It is

now up to citizens to ensure that MPPs and the government understand that commemorating the War of 1812 is important. If you support my idea of a commission, and want to see it happen, I encourage you to contact your local MPP and let him or her know that you think the government should take action. Remembering the war and our history is important, and the sooner we get started, the better our commemorations will be.

Here is the text of my resolution. For more information, please contact me by email at julia.munro@pc.ola.org or by phone at 416-325-3392.

I move that, in the opinion of this House, the government of Ontario should establish an independent commission to devise and carry out a plan for the commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812; that this commission should include among its members representatives of groups dedicated to the preservation of Canada's mili-



After attending the debate on her resolution in the Ontario Legislature, Rob Levery, OHS, is seen here with Julia Munro, York North MPP. OHS supported Mrs. Munro's motion on the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration.

Photo Courtesy of Judith Baird

tary history and heritage as well as representatives of Ontario communities that are the sites of battles or other significant events of the war; and that the government of Ontario should work with the government of Canada and other governments to commemorate the War of 1812 during its bicentennial and afterwards as an important tourism and educational experience.

Welcome to the Essex and Community Historical Research Society – A New OHS Affiliated Society

It was only a dream a year ago but once a few history buffs and genealogists got together they organized a committee, established a board of directors, held public meetings and wrote a constitution with by-laws. On March 24, 2007, the OHS Board of Directors accepted the Essex and Community Historical Research Society (ECHRS) as a new affiliated society thereby incorporating it as a non-profit corporation in Ontario.

Essex County is rich in First Nations, French and Black history including the influx of Irish, Scots, English, and German pioneers who brought their many talents to a new settlement area. The main purpose

of ECHRS is to research, document and preserve the history of the Town of Essex and communities within Essex County.

ECHRS is establishing a research library and it has already accepted donations of books, documents, pictures and family histories. Groups such as the Friends of Woodslee and the Lakeshore Black Heritage Committee have recently joined ECHRS to preserve local history.

If you are interested in sharing your history, knowledge, talents and skills, please contact Linda Iler, President, ECHRS at [lindail@echrs@cogeco.ca](mailto:echrs@cogeco.ca) or by phone (519) 796-3393



OHS Welcomes New Affiliated Society – The Trafalgar Township Historical Society

The Trafalgar Township Historical Society (TTHS) is dedicated to documenting, celebrating and preserving the agricultural history and heritage of North Oakville that was formerly known as Trafalgar Township.

The TTHS is a group that formed in 2006 as a result of celebrating of the 200th Anniversary of Trafalgar Township. On March 24, 2007 the TTHS incorporated as a non-profit organization through affiliation with the OHS.

Although the history of the lakeside Oakville community is well commemorated through The Oakville and Bronte Historical Societies, the history of the older, agricultural communities of North Oakville is not so well acknowledged. With urban development about to take place on the formerly agricultural land north of Hwy. 5 (Dundas), the TTHS believes it is now an important time to capture and celebrate the history of their community and share

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Some of the members of the Trafalgar Township Historical Society who met Rob Levery, OHS, on a very cold winter 2007 night at the historic one-room Palermo Schoolhouse in Oakville

Photo Rob Levery

Exhibits & Events

MAY 28, 2007

From Generation to Generation: What Museums Do, The OPP Museum, Orillia

This new exhibit will celebrate the installation of two awards of excellence into the museum's permanent gallery. From Generation to Generation demonstrates that museums help us preserve and celebrate our heritage. Admission is free. To visit us this summer call: 705-329-6889

JULY 7, 21, AUGUST 4, 25, & SEPTEMBER 8, 22 & 23, 2007, 11:00 AM.

The Stories In the Stones, Hamilton Cemetery Tours. Hosted by Robin McKee.

Join us for a lively, informative and free tour of selected grave sites in historic Hamilton Cemetery. Each tour will introduce you to some of Hamilton's interesting personalities and our rich history. Location: 777 York Blvd. at the Gatehouse across from Dundurn park. The tour lasts approximately two hours. For more information, call: (905) 544-9559

JULY 20 – 22, 2007

Canalfest, Merrickville

In Blockhouse Park. Activities include Voyageur Canoe Races, historical re-enactments, musical entertainment, children's activities and more. Call: 613-269-2229

JULY 28 – 29, 2007

The Fort Under Seige, Thunder Bay
Lord Selkirk has arrived to take over the fort after the massacre at the Red River Settlement. Tension

ishighashechallengesthepartners of the Northwest Company and attemptstoarrestthemformurder. See the drama as it unfolds. Call: 807-473-2344

AUGUST 11, 2007

Dutch Family History Research Workshop, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto

The Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch will be holding a day-longworkshopforresearchers with Dutch ancestry. In addition to local speakers, attendees will hear Rob van Drie, deputy director of the Central Bureau voor Genealogie, a state-supported documentation centre in The Hague, and Jay Fonkert, a genealogical researcher from St. Paul Minnesota. Full program details and registration form are available at: www.torontofamilyhistory.org, or call 416-733-2608

AUGUST 11, 2007

Come to Port 1887 & Doors Open, Scugog

Come to Port 1887 will involve a re-enactment of the 1887 events. All are invited to dress in period costume and join the fun. Events include; Horse drawn carriages, a temperance rally re-enactment, and a tour of Pine Grove Cemetery in Prince Albert with Paul Arculus at 1:30 pm. For more information call the Scugog Shores Museum: 905-985-3589

AUGUST 11 – 12, 2007

The Siege of Old Fort Erie, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls & Region

Witness the battles of 1814 which turned Old Fort Erie into Canada's bloodiest battlefield. On-going events throughout the weekend at Canada's largest 1812 re-enactment. Lantern tours Saturday evening. Call: 1-866-642-7275

SEPTEMBER 9, 2007

Judy Chicago, Clay & Glass Museum, Waterloo

American feminist artist, and creator of the Dinner Party, Judy Chicago will lead an in-person talk and tour of the exhibition at the Clay & Glass Museum. For more information call Nancy Wright: 519-672-1593

SEPTEMBER 27, 2007, 7:30 PM

The Cleveland Bay Horse in Ontario, The Lennox &

Addington County Museum, Speaker Jane Scott

Although a practical necessity, the horse was also a status symbol. The smart, sleek, Cleveland Bay was much desired and became the horse of choice for the T. Eaton Company. Join us at the museum, 97 Thomas East Street, behind the courthouse. For more information: 613-354-3027

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, 2007

Crown Forces Designation

Awarded to Fanshawe 1812: The Invasion of Upper Canada at Fanshawe Pioneer Village. British troops will be garrisoned to protect the inhabitants from American soldiers raiding settlements in 1812 Upper Canada. If you are interested in joining this lively re-enactment call Fanshawe directly: 519-457-1296

Announcements

The Cornwall Community Museum in the Woodhouse has received its largest single donation in its 50 year

history from the Chevrier Family in the form of papers, artwork, medals and memorabilia from their father the Honourable Lionel Chevrier, MP for Cornwall from 1935-1954; Minister of Transport; First President of the St. Lawrence Seaway Corp; Minister of Justice and attorney General and Canada's high Commissioner to London. The collection includes copies of all of Chevrier's speeches, rare photographs and his Companion of the Order of Canada.

Passing the torch – Members from the Woolwich Historical Foundation are handing over their collection to the Waterloo Historical Society. Once the collection is set up with the Waterloo's research system, access will be better. The items will be in the Grace Schmidt room at the main branch of the Kitchener Public library. The Foundation is closing after starting in 1982.

We are all sad to say farewell to Adrienne Shadd, who has been the OHS Executive Assistant for the past several months. She is looking forward to working on historical research and writing projects full time from now on, although she loves the OHS so much, we know she will be back to help out from time to time. Good luck, Adrienne!

The Bulletin would like to apologize for an error in our last issue. We mistakenly gave credit to the Lanark County Genealogical Society for hosting the Ontario Genealogical Society Annual Seminar. In fact, it is the Ottawa Branch of the OGS that has worked to mount this event. Our regrets for the error.

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it with new arrivals so the past will not be forgotten.

The TTHS also wants to engage the public in the need to preserve buildings of historical significance and its pioneer cemeteries. First and foremost, it would like to preserve the one-room schoolhouse in Palermo, protect the Palermo Cemetery and ensure the survival of the Dr. Anson Buck home. Society members have already donated countless hours to restore the schoolhouse and would like to hear from others who may have done similar projects.

Although the TTHS has only been in existence for just over a year, it has undertaken many exciting projects and initiatives with the intention of keeping its feet deeply rooted in the rich soil of North Oakville's agricultural past. For further information, please contact Michelle Knoll (905) 257-9080 or Michelle@jeffknoll.org

Rare Tollkeeper's Cottage a Community Keeper

OHS recently attended a fundraiser at the City of Toronto Archives in support of the Tollkeeper's Cottage. Jane Beecroft, Community History Project (CHP), is seen here with her cousin Doug Beecroft, Legislative Counsel, Government of Ontario. Doug gave a slide presentation entitled "The Magnificent North" to raise funds for the restoration of the CHP's rare wooden tollhouse. Located on the one road in Ontario which began at the end of the Ice Ages and crosses the entire province from Montreal to Windsor, this little tollhouse will be a unique teaching facility revealing the evolution of Ontario's road system from aboriginal trails to the modern network of roads. The tollhouse will also explore the troubled 19th century tolling system as

well as the lives of the tollkeepers and their families.

This unique 1835 structure owes much to CHP's remarkable volunteers who have already donated more than 5,800 hours, not counting their labours at fundraising and research.

CHP has been unable to find any other tollhouse extant in Canada. If you have any information or would like to make a donation to this important restoration, please call (416) 515-7546. Readers may follow the progress of this historic project at: www.tollkeeperscottage.ca

Photo Rob Leverty



Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor • marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Is this in the public interest? The decision of the Hearing Officer at the St Alban's appeal before the Licence Appeal Tribunal was that St. Alban's Anglican Cemetery in Palgrave is to be closed and all human remains and gravemarkers relocated.

This decision is a great disappointment for all who volunteered their time and expertise to preserve this cemetery not just during the latest hearings but from 1997 when the first public meeting took place. Our readers will recall that OHS and OGS repeatedly requested that an archaeological assessment be carried out to determine where and how many bodies were actually interred. The records of the Anglican Church were incomplete and this required an extensive archival search by OHS and OGS to determine the number of original burials. In addition, the records of many local cemeteries were explored. In October 2006, the owner of St. Alban's Cemetery finally ordered an archaeological assessment to be done days before this last set of hearings – ten years after this had been first been proposed.

This Tribunal decision has many troubling factors. For example, James Rowley in his Will of 1912 requested that his Executors bury him in the cemetery and \$125 was provided for a substantial monument. Despite the fact that a lengthy list of direct descendants objected their concerns were not given any weight in the final decision.

Several years ago the Town of Caledon zoned the property "Village Commercial". In his most recent application for relocation of the entire cemetery, the owner indicated he wished "to preserve the church building and build a residence on the property."

The St. Alban's hearings have ended but through the means of this column we will report on the "Village Commercial" development in Palgrave.

The Cemeteries Act states that the Registrar of Cemeteries may order a cemetery closed (and moved) if it is in the "public interest". Public interest is not defined in the Cemeteries Act. The bottom line is that this cemetery will be closed because the "public interest" is served by allowing one person the opportunity to build a "residence" on property now zoned "Village Commercial".

The Doors Open program sponsored by The Ontario Heritage Trust will take place again this summer. Uncle Tom's Cabin

Historic Site in Dresden reopened on the Victoria Day weekend and will be open until the end of October. There are two cemeteries to visit at this site. The following cemeteries will be open between 10 am until 4 pm unless otherwise noted.

- 11 August - Pine Grove Cemetery, Prince Albert
- 25-26 August - Berczy Burying Ground, Unionville
- 8-9 September - Salem United Church Cemetery, Summerstown
- 15 September - East Hawksbury United Church Cemetery, Ste Anne de Prescott
- 15 September - Church of St John the Evangelist Cemetery, South Cayuga
- 15 September - Friends (Quaker) Meeting House Cemetery, Newmarket
- 15 September - Deadman's Point Cemetery, Porcupine
- 22 September - Kettleby Cemetery and Dead House, Kettleby
- 22 September - St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery, Eversley
- 22 September - Uxbridge Cemetery, Uxbridge
- 23 September - Mount Hope Cemetery Mausoleum, Brantford

With regard to the proposed Wall of Honour at the Confederation Square burial ground in Peterborough "The Lindsay Post" of 2 April 2007 quoted the Registrar of Cemeteries that "his final report on the city's application should come out within the next two weeks". As this is written on 1 May nothing has been heard. A local veterans group is wants to construct this memorial wall to honour Peterborough's veterans but this will require the disinterment of many of Peterborough's original settlers. This is a highly contentious issue which concerns many in the area. Hopefully the veterans group can find a suitable location for this memorial without destroying a designated Ontario heritage site.

Bethel (Old Methodist) Cemetery in Manvers Township is threatened by proposed highway expansion. This cemetery is located at Golf Course Road and Highway #35. The Manvers Twp. Historical Society wants public consultations with the Ministry of Transport. We are reminded of Warner Cemetery near Queenston. The cemetery committee worked with the Ministry for years and reached an amicable arrangement to preserve their burial ground.

Richview Cemetery is in the

On Sunday, January 28, 2007, Rob Leverty, OHS, gave a presentation to the Halton-Peel Branch of The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) at the Public Library, City of Brampton. Seen here are (left to right) Ann Logan, Chair, Halton-Peel Branch, OGS, and Bob Crawford, President, OGS and Vice-Chair, Halton-Peel Branch, OGS.

The Halton-Peel Branch assists genealogists with family roots in the Regions of Halton and Peel (formerly counties). The transcription of cemeteries in Halton and Peel is an on-going project as they are of vital importance



Photo Rob Leverty

to genealogists in their search for ancestors. To date, over 200 cemeteries have been located in the two Regions of which approximately 140 have been transcribed and published. See their web-site at: <http://www.halinet.on.ca/sigs/ogshp/ogshp.htm>.

middle of the 427/401 network of roads. This cemetery was preserved by realigning a down ramp. It is important that local heritage groups work with the engineers during the planning stages.

OGS is keeping a close eye on the proposed widening of Derry Road in the City of Mississauga since this could interfere with Eden United Church Cemetery. This project is still in the planning stages but we have been in contact with the project managers.

Palermo United Church Cemetery is threatened by a proposed development. With the help of many concerned citizens the Trafalgar Township Historical Society has urged the Town of Oakville to adopt a by-law designating this pioneer cemetery under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act as a property of cultural heritage value and interest.

Congratulations to John Cole and a group of Welsh descendants who are making plans to preserve a huge alter stone in Homer Cemetery near Niagara-on-the-lake. William Havens from Aberystwyth Wales settled first in Rhode Island in 1638. His great-grandson William 1738-1800 and his wife Lydia Masters 1742-1815 settled in Grantham Township in 1783. The restoration of this stone is costly and funds are sought.

The local council has passed a by-law seeking heritage designation for Christ Church Cemetery in Mimico which was established in 1832. The church was the scene of a fire late in 2006 and had to be razed for public safety. The Anglican Diocese has decided not to rebuild.

The United Empire Loyalists, Grand River Branch, has placed heritage signs at cemeteries where loyalists are buried, in St John's Anglican Cemetery, Woodhouse, Doan's Hollow, Pioneer Cemetery, Oakland, Johnson Cemetery, St William's and Greenwood Cemetery in Waterford. These signs are not to be confused with the official gold and blue signs denoting

official heritage designation by the Ontario Heritage Trust.

It has come to our attention that family historians are, on occasion, having difficulty accessing burial records for some cemeteries. They have been turned down on the basis of privacy concerns. The Cemeteries Act specifically states "The owner shall make available for inspection without charge a public record..." The Act lists what the record should contain such as the name and address of the interment rights holder, date of purchase, transfer of the rights, a list of those interred in the lot with dates etc. It should be remembered that in the case of old records some of this information may never have requested or recorded. One should also remember that the principal business of a cemeterian is the interment of the deceased and maintenance of the grounds. Therefore it is not advisable to visit the cemetery office at their busiest time such as Monday morning when they are attending to the needs of families and funeral directors. Some records have been computerized and are readily available. In other cases an appointment is required. Municipalities often assume the responsibilities of abandoned cemeteries. Some of these records may have vanished or are now located in the archives of the former place of worship. However, the people responsible for maintaining the records of a cemetery cannot deny access to burial records and plot cards.

Donations Required For OHS Cemetery Defense 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.

40 Years Later

The year 1967 saw the celebration of Canada's Centennial. Hundreds of events were hosted in newly opened or recently renovated museums across the nation to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the passing of the British North America Act. It was also a very exciting year for the Ontario Historical Society. A collection of twenty-four essays was published in Profiles of a Province: Studies in the History of Ontario; the Society appointed its first Executive Assistant, and for the first time, the Ontario Historical Society's Honours and Awards Program was introduced.

At first, there were only two awards; both named in honour of Brigadier-General Ernest Cruikshank (1853-1939). A veteran of the First World War and an avid historian, he published an astounding number of essays in the Society's Papers and Records. He was elected an honorary member of the OHS in 1899 and sat as its President from 1920-22.

In a ceremony at the 1967 Annual General Meeting Dinner, the first Cruikshank medals were presented by the Honourable William S. Davis, Minister of Education of Ontario. There were two categories: historical writing in Ontario History and Founders Medals awarded in recognition of outstanding services to The Ontario Historical Society and to the development of local history in Ontario. The first award recipients were J. Keith Johnson and James K. Lewis for best written

article and best written article by a non-professional historian, respectively. These two authors received what would later be known as the Riddell Award, which was named in honour of Justice William Renwick Riddell of the Ontario Supreme Court who, like Cruikshank, had published many important articles in The Ontario Historical Society's Papers and Records. The Founders Medals, which would later be known as simply the Cruikshank Medal, were awarded to Dr. George Spragge and Dr. Fred Landon.



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The photo (1) shows Dr. Landon being presented his award by J.J. Talman (mentioned below).

Fred Landon (1880-1969) was a historian at the University of Western Ontario who wrote many articles on Canada's social history, a relatively new field at the time. He wrote sixteen articles for Ontario History on a variety of topics, which included his area of specialty; the Underground Railroad Abolitionist movement. Today, the OHS continues to honour Landon's contribution to the province's history and in 1987 it introduced the Fred Landon Award, which honours the best book on regional history in Ontario published in the past three years. In the same year, the Honours and Awards Committee also introduced the Joseph Brant Award, which was named after the Mohawk war chief and statesman Thayendanegea (c.1742-1807) (see picture 2) and today this honours the best book on multi-cultural history in Ontario published within the past three years.

After its sixth year, the Honours and Awards Program introduced another special award, The Scadding Award of Excellence, which is awarded to a heritage society or heritage group that has made an outstanding contribution in the field of history. It was

A Brief Chronicle of The Ontario Historical Society's Honours & Awards.

named in honour of Canon Henry Scadding (1813-1901) (see photo 3), the founding member and first president of the Pioneer Association of Ontario, which would later reorganize and incorporate in 1898 into what is now The Ontario Historical Society.

The 1980's saw a proliferation of Honours and Awards. In 1980, the Honours and Awards Committee reorganized the program to accommodate the growing number of categories. New award categories were created, they included the Carnochan Award and the President's Award, which honours a corporation, business, or executive that has contributed to heritage conservation in the province. Its first recipient was The Millcroft Inn Limited, in care of Jeremy Kendall, for the successful restoration and reuse of an 1881 woolen mill. The Carnochan Award was introduced to honour an individual who has contributed many years of service to the heritage community. It was named in memory of Janet Carnochan (1839-1926), who throughout her lifetime, worked to have the history of her hometown of Niagara-on-the-Lake more properly preserved.

Like Carnochan, Bruce Napier Simpson Jr. (1925-1978) also played a significant role in the conservation of the province's built heritage, including Black Creek Pioneer Village, and he did so through his expertise as an architect. It was in honour of Mr. Simpson's efforts that in 1982 the B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit was created. It is awarded to a municipal heritage committee in Ontario for special contributions to heritage conservation in its municipality in the recent past.

On December 3, 1989, a new award was officially established in honour of Dorothy Duncan (see photo 4), past Executive Director of The Ontario Historical Society. It was announced during a surprise ceremony at the conclusion of the official opening of an OHS exhibit at the Commu-

nity History Project Heritage Centre in Toronto. The Dorothy Duncan Award, in the form of a cash presentation, is awarded to a non-profit organization which must be nominated by a Municipal Council or a First Nations Council for outstanding service to its region. Its first recipient, the Latchford/Montreal River Heritage Preservation Project, was recognized two years later.

In the 1990's, the Committee introduced three new awards. First, in 1993, the Museum Award of Excellence in Community Programming was

created to honour a non-profit public museum in Ontario which has shown excellence in community involvement and programming. Secondly, in 1995, came the J.J. Talman Award, which is presented to the best book on Ontario's social, economic, political, or cultural history published in the past three years. It was named in honour of Dr. James Talman (see photo 5), a past President and a long time supporter of the Ontario Historical Society. During his membership with the OHS, which lasted in excess of an astonishing 60 years, Talman contributed a great deal of effort and volunteerism, including becoming the editor of the journal during an era of financial hardship for the OHS that followed the Second World War. Thirdly, in 1998, the Alison Prentice Award was created to honour the best book on women's history published in the past three years. It was named after Dr. Alison Prentice (see photo 6), a distinguished scholar in the field of Women's History and Studies in Education.

The new millennium saw the advent of two more awards. Following the death



4



6



5



Past Presidents Leslie Gray, J. J. Talman and Morris Zaslow, and Mrs. Lilian Jensen admire Dr. Fred Landon's Cruikshank Medal. Since Dr. Landon was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the presentation took place at his residence in London.

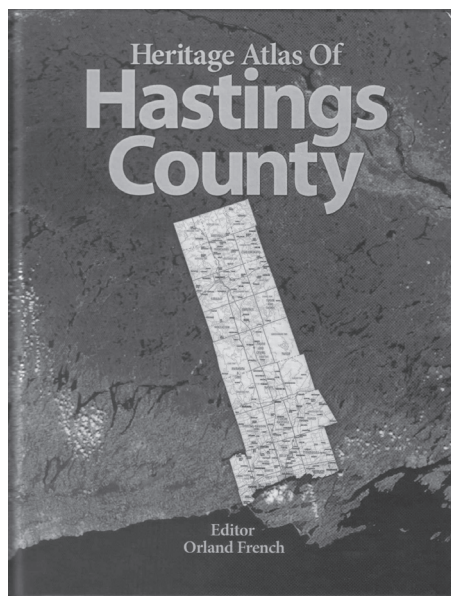
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From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors • raible@georgian.net

“All politics is local,” an American congressman once declared – certainly much history is local, focused on persons in particular times and places. In recent months, such a stream of localized histories flowed our way that we devote this entire page their review.

Farms of Innisfil is a substantial work, the product of the combined research of dozens of people. The first half takes us to every farm in the township, concession by concession, lot by lot, offering a vignette (and for many a snapshot) of those who have lived there. There is even a list of 57 farm names. The second half tells collective tales, of workers, of organizations, of hazards, of activities and recreation, of farming changes, and of future challenges. In an increasingly urban province, this volume offers a thoughtful testimony to the values of rural life.



Professional journalist, editor and local historian Orland French, aided by a team of contributors, created the Heritage Atlas of Hastings County, a volume unlike any area history we have seen in nearly fifteen years of editing this Bookshelf page. It is indeed an atlas, incorporating a map of the county into every section – thirty-four of them – from chapters on Geology, the Ice Age, First Nations, and Archaeology to chapters on Politics, Historic Sites and Architecture, all augmented with photographs, specific maps and informative text. Would that every county in Ontario could produce such a volume!

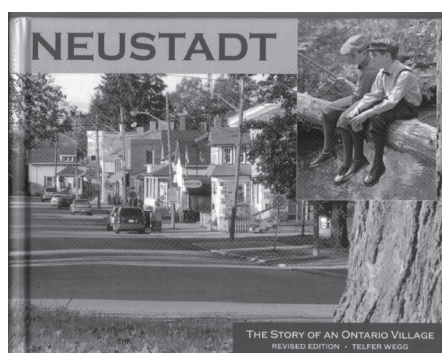
The City of Brockville, recognizing that no complete history of the community had ever been published, commissioned Glenn J. Lockwood, Anglican archivist and author of several township histories. The result – The City of Brockville is an extensive, attrac-

tive, informative, exhaustive (but not exhausting) work, pleasant to look through, fascinating to read, deserving of full study by serious students not just of Brockville, but of our entire province.

Honouring Our Roots and Together in History is a two-volume study of the settlement and development of two townships, Delaware and Westminster. Volume I relates the history of the area while volume II tells the stories of the early settlers who established their homes in the then dense forests of Middlesex County. The publication is especially important because neither town still exists – Westminster was absorbed by the city of London in the 1990s, while Delaware vanished last year, amalgamated with Lobo and London townships to form the geographically accurate, but sterile-sounding township of Middlesex Centre.

The building of a railway, thus opening an area to the pulp and forestry industry, led to the sudden creation of a town, Smooth Rock Falls, complete with electricity, water and sewers (but no local telephones for half a century). A history that is a chronicle – nearly every paragraph is dated – traces the development of a town and its people. The entire work is bilingual, with columns left and right in English and French.

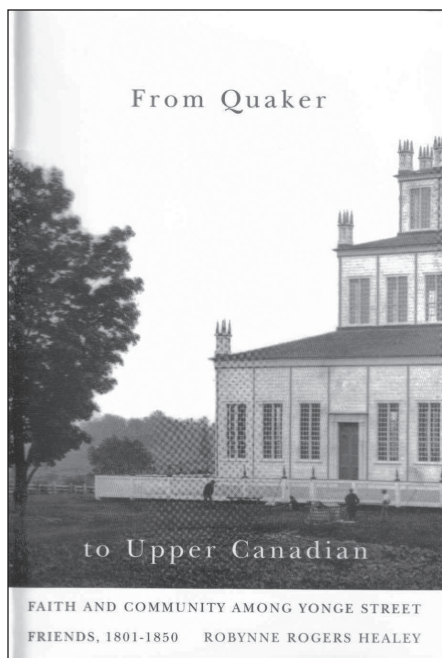
One way to preserve pictures of the past is to publish pictures of the past. Acid-free files and boxes may keep images safe, but of what worth are they if they are unknown? Publishing images enlarges their significance with no damage to the originals. Pictures provide windows through which we may view the past, as the Looking Back Press demonstrates with each addition to its splendid series. The books present archival photographs and drawings of an area or enterprise, each volume using visuals to relate a history, with just enough text to inform the images. The latest, The Niagara River and St. Clair Shipping, survey two historic waterways that were (and are) vital to our province. Another recent excellent collection of pictures, Brantford: A Passage Through Time, has been produced by the city's historical society. It offers more than two hundred images (from the Brant Museum's collection of more than seven thousand) with descriptive text to enhance our understanding of the transitions of a city and its people.



The professionalism of photographer Telfer Wegg is evident on every page in this most attractive revised edition of his history of Neustadt, although many of the images incorporated into the work long predate those captured by Wegg's own camera. The birthplace of John Diefenbaker, the village (as well as its old, recently revived brewery) has its distinctive flavour.

The artistry of three photographers is captured in The Niagara Escarpment as they journeyed through its unique landscape.

The natural and the human are intertwined in most of its hundred and more fine colour photographs – farms, homes, roads, city skylines, boats, hikers, and riders on horses all belong in the pictures as much as do the trees, animals, rocks, and streams. A coffee table book is thus a history lesson: our natural heritage and our human activity need not conflict, but we must remain alert with our eyes open.



From Quaker to Upper Canadian, a volume in the McGill-Queen's Studies in the History of Religion, centres on a community of Quakers who went through three major traumas: the withdrawal of key members to form with David Willson the Children of Light; a split between Hicksites, who trusted the Quaker "inner light" of personal experience, and the Orthodox, who insisted on the truths of the Biblical revelation; and a crisis of conscience about the 1837 Rebellion – despite their pacifist traditions, many joined the rebels. The book's subject is specific, but its

underlying question is universal: how can a community insulate itself from the perceived evils of a larger society without isolating itself from responsible participation in that society?

Finding family history, as any genealogist will confirm, can be a frustrating endeavour, but the rewards are worth it. A Safe Haven examines some of the families of Oxford County on the Northern shore of Lake Erie, clusters of settlers who shared a common heritage: all were Blacks who migrated from the United States, in the 1830s, the 1850s, and after the American Civil war. Some were escaped slaves, some were freemen whose very freedom was endangered. Like all settlers, they made an impact on their area, but in time their stories disappeared. This volume uncovers the evidence and tells their tales, family by family, generation by generation.

BOOKS REVIEWED

Farms of Innisfil: Challenges, Chores and Changes. 406 pages. Illustrations. Index. Price not listed, hardbound. Innisfil Historical Society, Box 7176, Innisfil, ON L9S 1A9.

Heritage Atlas of Hastings County. Orland French, editor. 240 pages. Illustrations. No price listed, hardbound. The County of Hastings. 235 Pinnacle St., Box 4400, Belleville, ON K8N 3A9.

The Story of Brockville: Men and Women Making a Canadian Community on the United States Frontier, 1749-2007. Glenn J. Lockwood. 660 pages. Illustrations. Index. No price listed, hardbound. The Brockville Museum, 5 Henry St., Brockville, ON K6V 6M4.

Honouring Our Roots and Together in History. Illustrations. Index. \$100.00 hardbound. Westminster Historical Society, 7079 Colonel Talbot Road. London ON N6L 1J1

Smooth Rock Falls 1916-2004. Sheila Ann (Priebe) Jacques. 166 pages. Illustrations. Index. No price listed, softbound. WFL Communications (for the Smooth Rock Historical Society) 13488 Hwy. 64, Field, ON P0H 1M0.

BOOKSHELF 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, a journal also 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.

The Niagara River: The Ontario Shore. Sherman Zavitz. 128 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound. St. Clair Shipping: Marine Highway. Alan Mann. 128 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound. Looking Back Press, Box 2131, 1 Northrup Cres. St. Catharines, ON L2R 7S2. sales@vanwell.com

Brantford: A Passage Through Time: Photographs from the Brant Museum and Archives Collection. Stacey McKellar and Cindy MacDonald-Krueger. 128 pages. Illustrations. No price listed, softbound. Brant Historical Society, 57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, ON N3T 2W6. www.brantmuseum.ca

Neustadt: The Story of an Ontario Village. Revised edition. Telfer Wegg. 72 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 hardbound. 729 Queen St., Neustadt, ON N0G 2M0. www.weggphotos.com

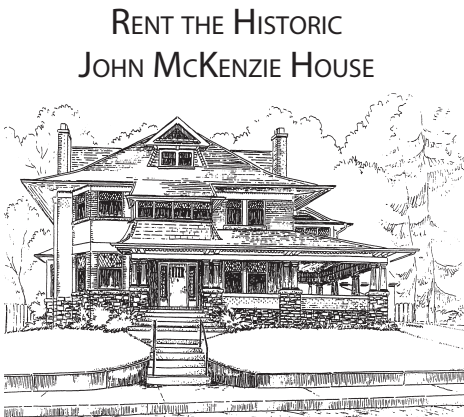
Niagara Escarpment: A Photographic Journey from Niagara Falls to Tobermory. Sandy Bell, Vic MacBournie and John MacRae, photographers. 128 pages. Illustrations. \$55.00 hardbound. James Lorimer & Company, Formac Distributing, 5502 Atlantic Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1G4. www.lorimer.ca

From Quaker to Upper Canadian: Faith and Community Among Yonge Street Friends, 1801-1850. Robynne Rogers Healey. 292 pages. Illustrations. Index. \$75.00 hardbound. McGill-Queen's University Press, 3430 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1X9. www.mqup.ca

A Safe Haven: The Story of the Black Settlers of Oxford County. Joyce A. Pettigrew. 256 pages. Illustrations. Index. \$19.95 softbound. South Norwich Historical Society. P.O. Box 149, Otterville ON, N0L 1P0. jrmcmurch@cable.rocknet.com

of an esteemed colleague who was well known across the province for his countless contributions to the interpretation of Ontario's history, the Honours and Awards Committee introduced the Russell K. Cooper Living History Site Award. It was first awarded in 2001 to Dundurn National Historic Site for showing excellence in programming, ingenious problem solving, and/or site development. Most recently created was the Donald Grant Creighton Award, honouring the best book of biography or autobiography highlighting life in Ontario, past or present, published within the past three years. It was named after historian Donald Creighton, whose works include a two-volume biography of Sir John A. Macdonald, both of which won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction.

The Ontario Historical Society created the Honours and Awards Program in order to acknowledge the work of outstanding individuals and organizations, and to raise



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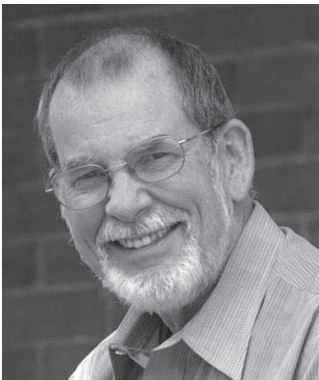
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