

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 170

SUMMER 2009

## OHS' 121st Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards



The OHS hosted a successful 121st AGM and Honours and Awards! Pictured above (left to right) at the John McKenzie House reception, hosted by The Friends of The OPP Museum are: Ken Turner, President, OHS; OPP Constable Guy Higgott; Jeanie Tummon, Curator, OPP Museum and Mr. David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale.

On June 13, the OHS held its 121st Annual General Meeting and Honours and Awards Ceremony at the North York Civic Centre and John McKenzie House in honour of the 100th anniversary of the Ontario Provincial Police. Following a successful AGM, participants heard fascinating presentations from OPP Museum Curator Jeanie Tummon about the century-long history of the OPP and from OPP Constable Guy Higgott about his recent 1,000 km commemorative dog sled and snowshoe patrol across northern Ontario. For more information about the OPP's anniversary, please visit [www.opp100.ca](http://www.opp100.ca).

This year's Honours and Awards Ceremony was also very memorable, thanks to the wonderful comments and stories shared by awards recipients. For more information and a list of recipients, please see page 4. Many thanks to the partnership organizations for this event, including the Ontario Provincial Police, The OPP Museum and Friends of the OPP Museum, who hosted our reception at the John McKenzie House and provided wonderful baked goods from a number of historical recipes. Thank you also to Joanna Russo of The Cake Crusader for providing the cake pictured above. We look forward to next year's AGM!

## Parkview Neighbourhood Garden: A Community Success



Councillor John Filion (Ward 23) shared a few words with Parkview Neighbourhood Garden volunteers on May 23. Filion, who has been in municipal politics for 28 years, said the event attracted "the most positive and diverse group of citizens that he had ever seen at a community event in Willowdale". Photo and article by OHS Summer Student Matthew LaRose

This past spring there was an exciting new development at the John McKenzie House, the headquarters for the Ontario Historical Society. In collaboration with Toronto City Councillor John Filion (Ward 23, Willowdale), the City of Toronto "Clean and Beautiful City" program, and a group of dedicated neighbourhood volunteers, an organic community market garden was established immediately adjacent to the house.

The idea for the garden developed during a discussion between Councillor Filion and Robert Leverty, Executive Director of the OHS, following a community event held at the John McKenzie House in 2008. The two discussed the rich agricultural history of the site, including the original Holstein cattle farm that John McKenzie operated, and the vegetable patch and landscaped garden the family maintained until the 1970s. The vacant land adjacent to the house provided a perfect opportunity for the community to revive the agricultural legacy of the site, while establishing a gathering place for the local community.

Following the discussion, a garden planning committee was organized that featured stakeholders from the OHS, City of Toronto and local residents. The garden plan called for four 450-square-foot vegetable plots, accompanied by fencing, benches and landscaping. In homage to the historic nature of the site, a 3,028-litre cistern would be installed that would collect rainwater from the John McKenzie House to be manually pumped for

garden use.

On Saturday, May 23, 2009, the garden was officially unveiled during its inaugural planting day. The event coincided with the Doors Open Toronto event at the John McKenzie House next door, where over 900 visitors and 60 gardeners attended the festivities. Dozens of local residents signed up as volunteers, with positions ranging from gardeners to steering committee members. Volunteers utilize various spaces at the John McKenzie House, including the Stable for storing tools and supplies, the Coach House for community meetings and seminars, and the driveway and immediate grounds for hosting large events.

After just over a month of planting and gardening, the site continues to attract visitors and new volunteers from the local community. The Ontario Historical Society and the John McKenzie House not only provide a focal point for the garden, but have played a key role in the inspiration, development and day-to-day operations of the site. The success of the garden in bringing together neighbours and reviving local heritage highlights the important role the OHS plays in the local community, in addition to other communities across the province.

As of late July, the garden has received a minor expansion, making room for many new vegetables. The crops planted in May have grown considerably and have begun producing vegetables. This is all due to the efforts of a network of committed community volunteers.

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**From Hands Now  
Striving to Be Free**

Boxes Crafted by 1837 Rebellion Prisoners



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## President's Report

**Ken Turner, President**  
[ken.turner@sympatico.ca](mailto:ken.turner@sympatico.ca)

Greetings, members and friends! I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OHS nominations committee and the members who re-elected me for another term at our Annual General Meeting this past spring. I wished and agreed to stay on for another year to oversee the outcome of Bill 149, *The Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act*. I have many meetings and speaking engagements with regard to this bill scheduled for this summer and fall. I believe my push to have the bill passed into law will be far more effective as a sitting President of the OHS and I am glad the Society agreed. I am also glad to announce

that our Society is now in good financial shape and our situation looks good for the near and distant future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our departing members of the board, John Sabean, Orland French and Lorraine O'Byrne. John served several terms as our 2nd Vice-President and was a tireless worker as Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee. Orland served as our Secretary and provided valuable input to the Board from his years of experience as a journalist and author. Lorraine served briefly as our Museums Committee Chair and was always there to ask the tough questions when they needed to be asked. All three of our departing

## Executive Director's Report

**Rob Leverty, Executive Director**  
[rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

I am pleased to report that in 2009 we have already incorporated the following four historical organizations through affiliation with the Society: The Portland on the Rideau Historical Society, The Unionville Villagers' Association, The Canadian Royal Heritage Trust and The Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society. Congratulations and welcome to these new partners in preserving and promoting Ontario's history.

In April, I gave a workshop at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford. I would like to thank Kim Hill, Manager, Two Rivers Community Development Centre and Paula Whitlow, Curator, Chiefswood National Historic Site for their help in organizing and sponsoring this well-attended educational event. I also had a book table at the 9th Annual Emancipation Grey County Black History Event, at the Grey Roots Museum & Archives, Owen Sound; was the keynote speaker at the AGM of the Unionville Historical Society; and attended the opening of *Frontiers: A Century of Policing* at the OPP Museum in Orillia.

On May 2, 2009, the OHS, in partnership with the Mattawa Historical Society and Museum, the Town of Mattawa, and the Voyageur Heritage Network, held the workshop *Mattawa – Historic Crossroads of the Nation*, in celebration of Mattawa's 125th Anniversary. The hospitality and generosity of the Mattawa Historical Society and Museum was indeed memorable. This was truly a great workshop and I would like to thank the following speakers: John Whalen for conducting a historic tour of the Ottawa River on a pontoon boat; Doug Mackey and Gerry Therrien for promoting local history and museums in the media; local crafter Sandy Maianso from Tainted Treasures and Frank Bastien for his presentation on local historic pictures and photographs. Also a special thanks

to the members of St. Alban's Anglican Church Hall for preparing a wonderful lunch.

The John McKenzie House hosted the York and Pioneer Historical Society's successful launch of *From Hands Now Striving to be Free: Boxes Crafted by 1837 Rebellion Prisoners* by Chris Raible with John C. Carter and Darryl Withrow. We also took part in Toronto Heritage's "Willowdale Walk" where over 150 participants toured the John McKenzie House. The OHS had a popular book table for two days at the OGS Annual Conference in Oakville.

On May 13, I gave a presentation to the North York Historical Society (NYHS). It was a pleasure to meet with old friends and dedicated supporters of OHS. The next day, the OHS joined forces with the NYHS and Friends of the O'Connor Irish Heritage House to give presentations to the City of Toronto's North York Community Council. We opposed the Toronto District Catholic School Board's application for demolition under Section 34 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* of the Senator Frank O'Connor Maryvale 1933 Estate. We also urged the City Council to refuse the School Board's application under Section 32 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to repeal the By-law designating the Senator O'Connor House, Garage and Outbuilding. I am pleased to report that the Community Council unanimously adopted our recommendations. At its next meeting, Toronto City Council subsequently refused repeal of the designating By-law and demolition of all the structures.

It was a great pleasure to bring greetings and attend the Grey County Historical Society's (GCHS) 42nd Annual Dinner in Meaford. GCHS gave its first "Heritage Certificate of Recognition" to Robert and Douglas Shouldice of Shouldice Designer Stone for their significant contribution to the preservation of Grey County by restoring the King Edward Hotel in Shallow Lake. Author and journalist of local history, Andrew Armitage, gave an excellent presen-

tation entitled *Old Grey County – 40 Years of Adventures in the Queen's Bush*. GCHS members also enthusiastically supported the OHS that evening by providing over 100 signatures to our petition for Bill 149.

On May 23-24, the OHS participated in the 10th Annual Doors Open Toronto. During the weekend OHS staff and volunteers welcomed and gave tours to over 910 guests at the John McKenzie House. Visitors came from the local community, various parts of Ontario, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver, Tampa, Richmond, Baltimore, Hong Kong, Kyoto, Hanoi, Bogata, Santiago, Liverpool, Belfast, Dublin and Newcastle, Australia.

On Saturday May 23rd, the City of Toronto's Clean and Beautiful Program launched, in partnership with the OHS and local residents, a neighbourhood market garden adjacent to the John McKenzie House. Over eighty volunteers helped to prepare and plant the vegetable garden. Our City Councillor, John Fillion (Willowdale) stated that in his 28 years in municipal politics "it was the most positive and diverse group of citizens that he had ever seen at a community event in Willowdale". (For further information, see article on page 1).

The OHS hosted a fundraising event for the Culinary Historians of Ontario. Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally gave a presentation at the John McKenzie House entitled *Tandoori, Shashlyk and Grouse, Oh My! The Exotic (Food) World of Expo 67*. The OHS then participated in a successful public meeting at the South Fredericksburgh Community Centre as part of the application process for incorporating The Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

I am pleased to report that citizens from over 230 cities, towns, villages and rural districts have signed the petition supporting Bill 149. It was also a great day when Counsel for the Attorney General recently informed me that the City of Peterborough had agreed to a settlement preserving in their

members brought very unique and valuable assets to the Board and their contributions will be missed.

I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our three new Board members Pam Cain-Hawley, Curator of Fort Frances Museum in Fort Frances; Caroline DiCocco, former Minister of Culture, in Bright's Grove; and Jesse Kugler, a lawyer with Caley Wray in Toronto.

I know they will make a fantastic addition to our Board. I wish to also let any of you out there know that if you were nominated to the Board this time and not selected please do not get discouraged. We must have regional representation from around the province and oftentimes great candidates do not get appointed immediately because our Board already has representation from a certain region.

Ken Turner, President

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## DONORS AND NEW MEMBERS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Lorene Bridgen  
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Dave Cook  
Caroline Di Cocco  
Discovery North Bay  
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Rose Fine-Meyer  
Diane Gallinger  
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Helen Small  
Jean and Arthur Spinney  
Diana Taschereau  
Paul Taylor  
Tory Tronrud  
Frederick Turp  
Mary Wyatt



# Cemetery News

**Marjorie Stuart, Editor**  
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Our readers and the general public have overwhelmingly responded to our request to sign the petition in support of Bill 149, *The Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act, 2009*. An OHS demographic survey indicates that petitions have been received from citizens residing in 231 cities, towns, villages and rural communities across Ontario. There is still a need for names on the petitions and for letters to MPPs. The petition can be downloaded and printed at [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca). Letters should also be addressed to local MPPs with copies to the Premier and Jim Brownell, sponsor of Bill 149. Summer is traditionally a time for family reunions and visiting; this is a good time to tell your family and friends about Bill 149.

Doors Open Toronto was a great success. At the John Mckenzie House we had over 910 visitors on May 23-24 many of whom viewed the OHS Cemetery Defence display and lined up to sign the petition for Bill 149.

We have good news from Peterborough! All parties have agreed to a settlement that it is not in the *public interest* to relocate part of Confederation Square Cemetery. The City of Peterborough has accepted a location and design for a memorial that will not disturb any burials and subsequently withdrew its appeal to the Licence Appeal Tribunal, avoiding expensive public hearings.

St. John's Cemetery, Port Dalhousie, celebrated its 175th anniversary in June. A piper and town crier, clergy and dignitaries in a horse drawn coach, and a parade of parishioners and well-wishers marched through the

community. Butterflies were released during the festivities.

This year, as Toronto celebrates its 175th birthday, many recall the days of the cholera epidemic. The burial location of the thousands who died of cholera in Toronto's early days still lies unmarked in the burial ground which surrounds St. James Cathedral and under the school yard adjacent to St. Paul's Church. The location of a third cemetery is unclear but is believed to have been in the area of St. Mary's Church and Portugal Square and Bathurst Street.

Congratulations are due to Everett Collrin who has worked at St. James Cemetery in Toronto as a volunteer for five years locating hidden gravestones. He estimates he has restored several thousand tombstones. He has also photographed about 6000 stones. This is an amazing labour of love.

Workers at McBurney Park in downtown Kingston, or Skeleton Park as it is known, discovered more bodies while revamping tennis courts. The cemetery was established in 1814 as a Garrison Burying Ground for soldiers but became the final resting place of an estimated 10,000 residents. Many burials lie just below the surface.

Surveys will be taken to determine the location of burials at the site of the former Infirmary in Norfolk. This burial ground was "rescued" by The Norfolk County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society when the property was sold for redevelopment. Officials thought the burial ground was where the monuments had been reassembled in a small area. Research by the group provided many more names and burial dates which finally convinced the municipality to order a survey.

We receive many requests for assistance. Recently we had requests to locate burial grounds in Lanark, Simcoe, Leeds & Grenville, Hastings and Halton.

The Friends of Brick Street Cemetery in London are requesting information about those buried in the cemetery. The plan is to document the cemetery's history to help raise funds. A list of known burials can be found at <http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/ON/ONB12688>. Please contact Marjorie Munroe at [maplenation@sympatico.ca](mailto:maplenation@sympatico.ca) if you can supply information.

Our readers are reminded to watch for notices of road work. These are usually in local news-

papers and often have a proposed route and a public information centre. Please let us know if these involve known burial grounds.

Warner Cemetery held its annual meeting recently. This cemetery established in the late 1700s is still open for burials. It is managed by a volunteer board and does not receive government funding. They have a perpetual care fund but the interest does not cover the cost of cutting the grass. They sent a plea for donations with their annual report. There are many small cemeteries in the same plight. Families who gather to honour their ancestors at special reunions as well as summer visitors are reminded to make a donation to help with maintenance costs.

The Ontario Association of Cemetery Funeral Professionals held its annual charity golf day in June in support of The Unforgettables Fund. The fund was established at Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto to assist families with limited resources to provide a dignified funeral and burial for their child. In 2008, there were

117 requests for this assistance.

The Church of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph has been undergoing extensive repairs, during which burials were discovered. These are believed to have taken place between 1832 and 1845 at St. Patrick's, the first cemetery on this site. The bodies have been re-interred at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

St. Gregory's Cemetery in Oshawa was vandalized recently. Police arrested a 12 year old and two teenagers at 3:30 a.m. in the cemetery! Damage was estimated at over \$15,000.

Mattice family descendants are searching for information relating to the family burial ground in Etobicoke. This small farm burial ground was established about 1850 in the area north of Dixon Road between Islington Avenue and Royal York Road. Records indicate it was moved circa 1953, but their final resting place is still unknown.

Please join us when I will speak at The Toll Keeper's Cottage Museum in Toronto on October 7. For more information please e-mail [marjstuart@sympatico.ca](mailto:marjstuart@sympatico.ca)

## Doors Open Ontario - Cemeteries to Visit!

<b>Sept 19-20</b> 1-4 pm	<b>Salem United Church Cemetery</b> 19041 County Road 2, Summerstown
<b>Sept 19-20</b> 10 am-4 pm	<b>Brick Street Cemetery</b> 370 Commissioners Road West, London
<b>Sept 19-20</b> 10 am-4 pm	<b>Streetsville Public Cemetery</b> Southside Bristol Rd/Main St. between Mississauga Rd. and Queen St. S. and Creditview Rd., Mississauga
<b>Sept 19</b> 10 am-4pm	<b>Friends (Quaker) Meeting House and Cemetery</b> 17030 Yonge Street, Newmarket
<b>Sept 19</b> 10 am-4pm	<b>Luesby Memorial Company Ltd</b> 93 Main Street South, Newmarket
<b>Sept 26</b> 10 am-4 pm	<b>Lloydtown Pioneer Cemetery</b> 6600 19th Sideroad, Lloydtown
<b>Sept 26</b> 10 am-4 pm	<b>Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church and Cemetery</b> 3097 15th Side Road, RR 1, Campbellville (north of Highway 401, just east of Guelph Line)
<b>Sept 26</b> 10 am-4 pm	<b>St. John's Anglican Church and Cemetery</b> 10009 Guelph Line, RR 1, Campbellville
<b>Oct 17-18</b> Sat 10-4 pm	<b>Holy Trinity Anglican Church &amp; Burial Ground, Chippawa</b> 7820 Portage Road, Niagara Falls. Sun. Service 10 a.m.
<b>Oct 17-18</b> Sat 10-4 pm	<b>Old St. Thomas' Church &amp; Churchyard</b> 55 Walnut Street, St. Thomas

## Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre



The Northern Ontario Railroad Museum and Heritage Centre in Capreol proudly unveiled its newly refurbished Boxcar Home on June 16, 2009. The Museum's newest exhibit may be the only one of its type in existence today. A hardworking group of volunteers transformed an old boxcar into a replica of the many boxcar houses that still exist in Capreol and probably in many other railroad communities in Northern Ontario. Boxcars were converted into homes in Capreol to house CNR employees and their families during the earlier days of the town's development. With its period furniture and its gardens framed by railroad ties, it is a piece of history recreated and it complements the museum's rolling stock display which includes a railway school car on wheels. Please contact the Museum for more information at 705.858.5050 or [normhc@vianet.ca](mailto:normhc@vianet.ca)

Photo Art Taylor



The OHS was honoured to attend and be the guest speaker at the AGM of the Unionville Historical Society in April. Congratulations to the new Board of Directors (pictured above), we look forward to working with you to help preserve Historic Unionville.

Photo Rob Levery



# Honours and Awards

Andrea Izzo, OHS Bulletin Editor  
izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS would like to offer a heartfelt congratulations to the 2008 Honours and Awards recipients. To the right, please find a list of individuals and organizations who were recognized for their contributions to heritage preservation and scholarship at this year's Annual General Meeting in Willowdale.

This year's Honours and Awards Ceremony was particularly special, as each award recipient had very thoughtful remarks to share, often relating anecdotes or connections to the OHS. It is ceremonies such as this one that reminds us of the importance of the Awards Program.

The OHS would also like to offer a heartfelt thanks to John Sabean, who is stepping down from the OHS board after 5 years of dedicated service, most particularly in the capacity of Chair of the

Honours and Awards Committee. Thanks John, your efforts will be missed! We also welcome Sharon Jaeger as the new Interim Chair of this committee.

Next year's Honours and Awards Program will feature a new award, the Huguenot Society of Canada Award. For more information, please see the article below.

In 1967, the OHS established an Awards Program to honour individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of Ontario's heritage. To nominate an individual for a 2009 award, please fill out a nomination form, which is included in this issue of the *OHS Bulletin*. Alternatively, the form can be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to you by request, or downloaded from our website. If you did nominate an individual or author for an award who was not selected, the OHS encourages you to nominate again!



OHS President Ken Turner is joined by Directors John Sabean and Brad Rudachyk in presenting the 2008 President's Award to Barry Penhale of Natural Heritage Books, a member of the Dundurn Group.

Photo Andrea Izzo

## OHS Announces New Category: Huguenot Society of Canada Award

The Ontario Historical Society is excited to announce the creation of a brand new award, the Huguenot Society of Canada Award. This category will honour the best book or substantial article in a major publication published in Ontario in the past three years which has brought public awareness to the principles of freedom of conscience and freedom of thought. This award was created in partnership with its namesake, the Huguenot Society of Canada. Formed in 1967, the Huguenot Society had an objective to research and preserve Huguenot history, aid its members in tracing the genealogy of their Huguenot ancestors, and to bring together the Huguenot community in Canada. Despite having members from across Canada and the USA, the Society unfortunately ceased operations in 2004.

The term Huguenot refers to Protestant reformers living in France during and after the Reformation in the 16th Century, who were often condemned and punished for their religious beliefs. Facing this hardship, the Huguenots experienced very little, if any, freedoms and rights we cherish today. They began to rely upon their ability to defend themselves both physically and militarily, or

were forced to flee their countries of residence.

The Huguenots began to view themselves as fighters for freedom of conscience and freedom of thought in terms of being able to have their own religious practices and beliefs contrary to the established Church of France. They built for themselves a community within France with their own churches and schools, despite discrimination against them and the constant fear of punishment or even death. Persecutions and hardships continued until the promulgation of the Edict of Toleration in 1787. During the conflicts, approximately 200,000 Huguenots fled France, on fear of persecution, since their emigration was forbidden.

Parties interested in nominating a book or article for the 2009 Huguenot Society of Canada Award can find a nomination form on our website, or can request it to be mailed. Each nomination must provide three copies of the book or article (plus a \$10 fee if it is a book). The deadline to nominate an award for the 2009-10 program is Monday, January 10, 2010. The OHS thanks the Huguenot Society of Canada and Peter Dupuy, President, for their ongoing support of the Honours and Awards Program.

## 2008-09 Honours and Awards Recipients

Willowdale, Ontario • June 13, 2009

**Dorothy Duncan Award** • Sunderland and District Historical Society

**Russell K. Cooper Living History Site Award** • Cumberland Heritage Village Museum

**President's Award** • Barry Penhale of Natural Heritage Books

**Cruikshank Medal** • Marjorie Stuart

**Carnochan Award** • Brian Winter

**Certificate of Merit** • Margaret Boyce

**Joseph Brant Award** • The Honourable James Bartleman for Raisin Wine: A Boyhood in a Different Muskoka (McClelland & Stewart)

**Fred Landon Award** • Gerry Boyce for Belleville: A Popular History (Natural Heritage Books, The Dundurn Group)

**J.J. Talman Award** • Catherine Anne Wilson for Tenants in Time: Family Strategies, Land, and Liberalism in Upper Canada (McGill-Queen's University Press)

**Donald Grant Creighton Award** • A. B. McKillop for Pierre Berton: A Biography (McClelland & Stewart)

### ...FROM EXECUTIVE, PAGE 2

original location all the burials at Confederation Square Cemetery thereby avoiding an expensive appeal hearing before a Provincial Tribunal. I would like to thank everyone who assisted me on this very difficult case – including John Sheehan and his group Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery in Peterborough; Bob Crawford, Past President, OGS; Michael D'Mello, Registrar, *Cemeteries Act* and William MacLarkey, Counsel, Ministry of the Attorney General. Over the last three years, this case consumed far too much of our time and energy and it cost the taxpayers a lot of money. It proves beyond a reasonable doubt why it is in the public interest that the *Inactive Cemeteries Preservation Act, 2009* should be enacted as soon as possible.

On June 13th the OHS had a very successful 2009 AGM and Honours & Awards Ceremony held in partnership with The OPP Museum and the Friends of The OPP Museum to honour the 100th Anniversary of The Ontario Provincial Police. On behalf of our membership, I would like to thank OPP Museum Curator Jeanie Tummon and OPP Constable Guy Higgott for their special presentations on the OPP Anniversary and the 1,000 km commemorative dog sled and snowshoe patrol. A tremendous vote of thanks to the Friends of The OPP Museum for preparing all the food from their publication *MUSH!! Dining on the Go in Early Northern Ontario* and donating it for the reception at the historic John McKenzie House.

At the AGM, John Sabean, Orland French and Lorraine O'Byrne retired from the OHS Board of Directors. I would like to thank them for all their years of dedicated volunteer service to the OHS. I would like to welcome our new Board Directors Jesse Kugler, a lawyer with

CaleyWray, Pam Cain-Hawley, Curator, Fort Frances Museum and Caroline Di Cocco, a former Ontario Minister of Culture. I would also like to congratulate all our award winners and everyone who was nominated for an award for their contributions towards preserving and promoting Ontario's history.

An icon in African-Canadian Black History has retired. The OHS salutes Mrs. Gwendolyn Robinson, Director/Historian of The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society (CKBHS) who has retired after 40 years of service to her community, the Province and our nation. Gwen will continue with her research from the comfort and leisure of her home. Our very best wishes go out to Gwen and her family. Janie Cooper-Wilson of the Collingwood-Owen Sound area is the new Executive Director. Janie is also founder of the SilverShoe Historical Society. Congratulations Janie and we look forward to working with you and the CKBHS.

We have received the terrible news that Peggy Kurtin has passed away. I was honoured to represent the Society at her Memorial Service held at Riverdale Farm in Cabbagetown. She was later buried in the Necropolis Cemetery. Peggy was a relentless and untiring champion of heritage preservation in Toronto. Whenever we met, she and I would talk about her love for the Beaver Valley and the natural heritage of Ontario. However, I will always remember Peggy on a cold, damp November afternoon in 2001 when the OHS held a vigil in front of St. James Cathedral, protesting the Cathedral's application to relocate, in the *public interest*, the northern half of the burying ground for luxury condominiums. Peggy brought with her that day, as always, great dignity and integrity. We were proud to be in her quiet but determined presence. Thank you Peggy! Our thoughts and sympathies are with your family.



## Across The Province

The celebrations across Ontario continue in 2009 as The Friends of the Tay Watershed look for descendants of those involved in developing the Tay Canal 175 years ago. If you are a descendant or know someone who is, contact David Taylor at 613.264.0094 to learn more about the events planned for the anniversary this year. You also have the opportunity to attend David's lecture on August 5 at the Drummond Centre, 1920 Concession 7 Road, between Innisville and Perth, when he will speak about the Tay River and the 175th anniversary events, sponsored by the Lanark County Genealogical Society.

With Eye of the Leopard winning the 150th running of the Queen's Plate at Toronto's Woodbine Raceway on June 21, did you ask: Whose Plate? What Queen? Yes, it was Queen Victoria in 1859!

The Toronto Heliconian Hall in the old Village of Yorkville has been declared a National Historic Site and will celebrate its 100th anniversary on November 10. Watch for further details.

Sunnybrae Public School will celebrate 50 years of educating Stroud and area students on September 26. To learn more: Donna Wice, 705.436.2578.

The St. Lawrence Seaway opened in April of 1959 and D'Arcy Jenish's new book *The St. Lawrence Seaway: 50 Years and Counting* details this ambitious undertaking by the St. Lawrence Seaway Commission. When the OHS realized the scope of the project, the Society became active in the preservation of the historic architecture, artifacts and archives from the area that was to be transformed by the building of the Seaway. The Honourable George Challies, the first chairman of the Commission, confirmed that "every opportunity should be taken to preserve tangible links with the area's historical past by preserving homes and landmarks and establishing museums". He also promised that a Historic Centre comprising some of the district's oldest buildings would be established. This was, of course, the genesis of the renowned Upper Canada Village. The Village now appears to be undergoing a dramatic transformation, much to the surprise of the heritage community in Ontario. To learn more: 1.800.268.7376 or 416.443.8888.

The Museum on the Boyne in Alliston will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2010 and is inviting personal collections to be on display. Deadline to register is August 28: 705.435.0167.

Congratulations to the members of the Essa Historical Society in Simcoe County on celebrating their 30th anniversary recently at a luncheon in Baxter Hall.

The Billings Museum Board officially opened the Old Mill Heritage Centre in the Village of Kagawong on Manitoulin Island in July. For further information on hours, exhibits and programmes: 705.282.1442.

The Hastings County Historical

Society Archives is to be relocated to the Irish Hall, 315 Church Street in Belleville, with the support of the City of Belleville and Hastings County. Details: 613.962.5991.

"Is This the First Team Canada?" asks Michael Talbot in a provocative article that appeared in the Fall 2008 issue of the Hockey Research Journal. He details the accomplishments of the Oxford Canadians beginning in January of 1910 and makes a compelling argument for this "being the first team to represent Canada wearing the famous (red) maple leaf". He goes on to ask if Team Canada will mark its centenary on home ice at Vancouver's 2010 Olympics?

Watch for *Sandford Fleming: The Early Diaries 1845-1853*, to be published this fall by Dundurn Press of Toronto. Jean Murray Cole, a member of the Peterborough Historical Society has edited the diaries and prepared an introduction for them. To learn more: 705.743.9710.

Congratulations to Warren Stauch on receiving the well-deserved Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement for the Region of Waterloo.

With regret we note the passing of several well-known historians, museum workers and supporters of the preservation of our past, including Professor Maurice Careless of Toronto, often called the foremost Canadian historian of his generation. He taught for 39 years at the University of Toronto, but will also be remembered for his lectures, advice and assistance to the heritage community at large. John Patrick Wohler of Carp served at the Museum of Man, Signal Hill, and taught museum studies at Algonquin College. Elizabeth Ingolfsrud, of Etobicoke and Port Burwell was the author of many books on Canadian antiques, and Chair of the Etobicoke Preservation Committee. Lorna Bergey of Kitchener-Waterloo was an expert on Pennsylvania German foodways and social history and a tireless worker in the field of history and heritage. Farewell, good friends.

As always, there are many upcoming events, exhibits, programmes and lectures planned for the coming weeks and months across Ontario. Here is just a sampling:

- August 20 and September 17: Lecture series continues at the Niagara Historical Society Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake, when Jane Errington speaks on "A woman is a bit of a slave: Women and Their Work in Upper Canada" and Douglas McCalla on "Consumers in the Bush: Rural women seen through charge accounts at Upper Canadian country stores". Details: 905.468.3912.

- August 22, 23: The 23rd Annual Three Fires Homecoming Pow Wow, hosted by the Mississaugas of the New Credit near Hagersville: 905.768.5686.

- August 29 to October 10: A series of food focus programmes and sales at the Tollkeeper's Cottage, corner of Bathurst Street and Davenport Road, Toronto, and...

- September 23 to October 14: A series of lectures at the same location. Details for both programmes: 416.515.7546.

- September 9: Historian and author J. Mark Rowe will discuss the Beardmore Tannery as he illustrates Acton's leather town history and explores the company that generated its leather producing reputation at St. Joseph's Catholic Hall, Acton: 905.877.8251.

- Piping Evenings is a feature at the McCrae House in Guelph this summer. In case of rain the pipers move across the street to the Gazebo in Royal City Park. For dates and details: 519.836.1221.

- September 12: There will be more pipers piping as the OPP continues celebrating 100 Years, with a Tattoo at the GM Centre in Oshawa: 905.438.8811.

- September 25: "History of the Phonograph from Tinfoil to Stereo" by Bruce Straby at the Routhier Community Centre, hosted by The Historical Society of Ottawa: 613.825.3104.

- September 26: Doors Open King Township: 905.833.2331.

- September 26, 27: Doors Open Oakville: 905.844.2695.

- September 30: Oxford Historical Society will host a supper meeting with Cheryl MacDonald and Bob Blakely enacting "Conversations with Lieutenant Colonel Robert Nichol and Mrs. Nichol: a review of the War of 1812 and the politics of Upper Canada" in the Grand Hall at the Woodstock Museum: 519.421.1700.

- October 18: Trafalgar Day Celebration, 7 West River Street, Bronte: 905.825.5552.

- October 21: The War of 1812 will again be described by Lieutenant Colonel Robert Nichol and Mrs. Nichol at the Oakville Historical Society meeting, having journeyed (no doubt on horseback) from their conversation last month in Woodstock! 905.844.2695.

The OPP, The OPP Museum and the Friends of The OPP Museum continue to be involved in a busy schedule of events, exhibits and programmes across Ontario for the remainder of the year that includes Kenora, Maxville, London, Cobalt, Earlton, Orillia, Midhurst, Sudbury, Ottawa, Guelph, and many more locations. Dates and details: 705.329.6889, or contact your local detachment of the OPP.

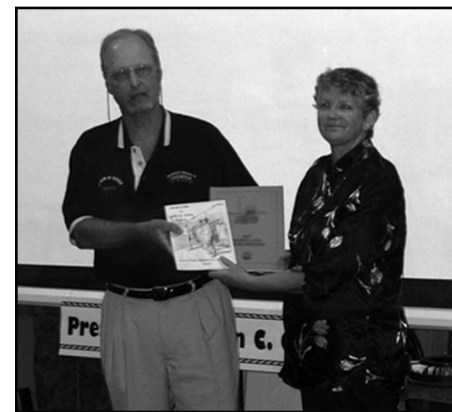
## 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion Exhibit Featured at Tasmanian Museum

It was all the result of rebellious acts! Uprisings and armed invasions from the United States into Upper Canada during 1837-1838, inevitably led to the direct linkage of the histories of Ontario and Tasmania. Ten incidents of armed invasion by members of the "Patriot Army" which occurred between December 1837 and December 1838, resulted in the eventual capture, incarceration and transportation of 93 English-speaking exiles to the penal colony of Van Diemen's Land in 1839-40. Charged with "piratical invasion," these North American political prisoners had their death sentences commuted to transportation for life. After long journeys from Canada and England, these prisoners served their time in the Van Diemen's Land penal system before receiving tickets of leave (probation) and then their individual pardons.

Fifteen of these men were situated in the Glamorgan District on the east coast of Tasmania. Eight of them are listed as working at the Rocky Hills Probation Station which is fifteen kilometres south of the town of Swansea. They included James Gemmel, Asa Richardson, Foster Martin, Gideon Goodrich, Chauncey Mathers, John Swanberg, Riley Whitney and Aaron Dresser. Here the convicts were set to work building the probation station, and constructing roads and bridges. Others were employed at estates in the Swansea region. Michael Fraer was the miller at "Riversdale" and Moses Dutcher farmed there for the Meredith family. Both men subscribed to the Irish and Scotch Relief Fund by donating bushels of wheat. Patrick White was assigned to work for Dutcher, while William Gates, Orin Smith, Garrett Hicks and Jacob Paddock also settled and worked in the area.

This fascinating history is currently being depicted at the Glamorgan War Memorial Museum/Swansea Heritage Centre in an display entitled "*Uncertain Future in an Unknown Land: North American Political Prisoners in Van Diemen's Land.*" It is the first exhibit mounted at a Tasmanian museum that specifically interprets this aspect of shared Ontario/Tasmanian history. Using a mix of local artifacts and graphics and text from period sources, the story of these fifteen "Patriots" will help local residents and visitors alike to better understand the historical connection between this particular aspect of Canadian and Australian heritage.

Maureen Martin Ferris, Curator, Glamorgan War Memorial Museum/Swansea Heritage Centre



**Dr. John Carter, Museum & Heritage Advisor, Ministry of Culture, presents Maureen Ferris, Curator, Glamorgan War Memorial Museum and Swansea Heritage Centre with copies of OHS educational material about the Rebellions in Upper Canada.**

*Photo John Carter*



# Exhibits, Events and Notices

**AUGUST 23**

## **Celtic Family Garden Party**

At the O'Connor House and Senator O'Connor College School Cafeteria & Courtyard, 60 Rowena Dr., North York from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Entertainment by "The Westenders" and Maureen's Reel Ceili Dancing for all the family. Information & table/ticket reservation: Adults \$10, Children \$22. Contact Mary at 416.745.2906 or maryfay@rogers.com or visit [www.oconnoririshheritagehouse.com](http://www.oconnoririshheritagehouse.com)

**SEPTEMBER 13**

## **Historical Walking Tours of Paris**

Presented by The Paris Museum & Historical Society beginning 1:30, 2:00 & 2:30 p.m. Enjoy a Sunday afternoon learning about "Canada's Cobblestone Capital"! Tours (\$10.00 per person) begin at The Asa Wolverton House at 52 Grand River Street South. Volunteer Guides in period costume will present interesting history of one of the "Prettiest Towns in Canada"! To book your tour, please call The Museum at 519.442.9295 or visit [www.parishistoricalsociety.com](http://www.parishistoricalsociety.com)

**Submit Information about your Local History Event to:**  
[izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

**SEPTEMBER 26**

## **Norfolklore XXXIII**

Canada's oldest and original genealogy fair, Norfolklore, takes place again this year in Simcoe with more than 20 exhibitors and vendors from across Ontario. A genealogist's treasure trove, this event still costs only \$5/person and allows entry to both the fair and the Eva Brook Donly Museum. Please note the new location is the Simcoe Seniors Centre, just 2 blocks from the museum. For more info, call 519.426.1583 or visit [www.norfolklore.com](http://www.norfolklore.com)



### **RENT THE HISTORIC JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE**

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Recently, The Mattawa Historical Society & Museum, in partnership with the OHS, The Voyageur Heritage Network (VHN) and the Town of Mattawa, successfully hosted the workshop *Mattawa – Historic Crossroads of the Nation*. Pictured above (left to right): David Lafleur, President, VHN; Dean Backer, Mayor of Mattawa; John Whalen, President, Mattawa Historical Society and OHS Director Linda Kelly.

*Photo Rob Levery*

## **Ontario Heritage Connection** **[www.ontarioheritageconnection.org](http://www.ontarioheritageconnection.org)**

Ontario Heritage Connection – connecting to timely information on heritage issues across Ontario.

[www.ontarioheritageconnection.org](http://www.ontarioheritageconnection.org) is a hub for the exchange of information about Ontario's culture, history, built and natural heritage, archaeology and the environment. OHC provides a "first stop" for anyone seeking information on Ontario's heritage and serves as a forum for the exchange of heritage news. The aim is to raise public awareness and promote Ontario's heritage research and education.

The Front Page is updated weekly with several new stories – all are archived with a search engine which enables reading of archived stories. On screen buttons lead to Events and Heritage Connec-

tions (with links to First Nations, Historic Sites, Historical Societies, Local Heritage Groups, Municipal Heritage Committees, Museums and Archives, as well as Provincial Organizations including their branches and chapters). There are links to Doors Open, Archives of Ontario, federal, provincial and municipal contacts.

Take a moment to make sure your contact information is up to date – if not go to the Contact Us button and send the correction. Also be sure to send your local stories to [ontarioheritageconnection.org](mailto:ontarioheritageconnection.org) and events, the Front Page is waiting.

Stories to [news@ontarioheritageconnection.org](mailto:news@ontarioheritageconnection.org) and Events to [events@ontarioheritageconnection.org](mailto:events@ontarioheritageconnection.org)

## **Join the OHS at these Educational Events!**

For more information or to download a Registration Form, visit [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca) or e-mail [rlevery@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:rlevery@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

**Sept. 12**

11-4:00 pm

### **Mono's Big Day Out**

at Mono Centre, Dufferin County - OHS book table

**October 17**

1:00-4:00 pm

### **Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the OPP**

at YMCA Centre for Life, Sudbury  
In partnership with The Sudbury Region Police Museum, The OPP Museum, Friends of The OPP Museum, and The Voyageur Heritage Network. \$15, register by Oct. 14

Contact: Caroline 705.675.9171 [caroline.ross@police.sudbury.on.ca](mailto:caroline.ross@police.sudbury.on.ca)

**October 24**

1:00-4:00 pm

### **Eating on the Rails**

at Spruce Row Museum, Waterford  
Workshop led by Dorothy Duncan exploring how eating on the rails has changed over the last 150 years in Canada, with samples. \$25, register by October 19.

Contact: Krista 519.443.4211 [sprucerow.museum@norfolkcounty.ca](mailto:sprucerow.museum@norfolkcounty.ca)

**November 7**

10-3:30 pm

### **Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities**

at Simcoe County Museum, Minesing  
This workshop, in partnership with The Simcoe County Historical Association, examines practical solutions to improving accessibility in the heritage sector. Includes resource material kit and lunch. \$25, register asap.

Contact: Rob Levery 416.226.9011 or toll free 1.866.955.2755

## **Peggy Kurtin** **1934-2009**

A major contribution to Toronto's heritage was concluded on Monday July 13th with the death of Peggy Kurtin. Not content to be the adored mother of six and grandmother of seven, Peggy launched into preservation work by co-founding the Cabbagetown Preservation Association. She achieved five Heritage Conservation Districts, which now include over 1,500 properties, and was a key player in producing the book *Touring Old Cabbagetown*. As a member of the York Pioneer and Historical Society, Peggy worked every year at Scadding Cabin on the CNE grounds. Until May of this year, Peggy served as Secretary of the ten-year-old umbrella organization, the Toronto Historical Association. For several years she was active with the city-wide Maps Project and worked hard on that group's study for the Official plan of some of Toronto's lost heritage sites. She was a very active member of the Community History Project, devoting many hours to that group's restoration of an 1835 tollhouse, as well as fundraising and even gardening for it. Peggy was recognized by many awards, the most recent of which was Heritage Canada's Lieutenant-Governor's Medal. At her memorial service, she was praised by Deputy Premier George Smith-erman who had admired her for several years. After that was over, one of her colleagues remarked, "She will be hard to replace, unless we can find five or six good people." And all who were there agreed that her gift to Toronto was enormous.



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Tel./Fax: (519) 775-2613



# From The Bookshelf

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

**CONFLICT AND COMMUNITY**  
*Labour Pains: Thunder Bay's Working Class in Canada's Wheat Boom Era.* Jean Morrison. Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society. 176 pages. Illustrations. \$14.95 softbound.

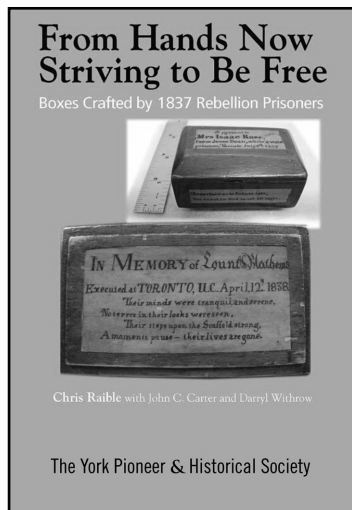
The turn of the 20th century was indeed a "wheat boom era" for the twin cities of Fort William and Port Arthur. The settlement of the western prairies produced great harvests, brought by rail to Thunder Bay for transshipment to grain ships heading east. The area once known for the fur trade (a history also interpreted for us by author Jean Morrison in her other fine books) became a centre of working class strife. Labour unions fought both employers and each other. Socialists of different varieties (and propensities for violence) vied for support. Large numbers of immigrants from Britain, Finland and southern Europe settled and interacted with First Nations, French Canadians, and English speaking peoples. The Social Gospel movement prompted many church leaders to focus their concerns on this world more than the next. It was a time of controversy and conflict, as well as cooperation and community. Kudos to the Thunder Bay Museum for encouraging Morrison to return to themes first considered in her graduate thesis at Lakehead University forty years ago and produce an important book that is readable, reliable, eye-opening, and enlightening. Morrison concludes her study with an apt reminder: "history is a work in progress ... the working class of Thunder Bay keeps defining itself again and again."

## FIRST CLASS

*First Here: What happened when in Hamilton.* Edited by Margaret Houghton. North Shore Publishing. 159 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound.

Here are Hamilton firsts of great variety – events, people, buildings, activities – sketched in enough detail to delight any Hamiltonian, or anyone else who is fascinated by human trials and trivia. Fifty-one chapters are by some eighteen authors from seven area historical/heritage societies. Ancaster, Beverly, Dundas Valley, Glanbrook, Head-of-the-Lake, Stoney Creek, and Waterdown East Flamborough – as

well as the Educational Archives and Heritage Centre of Hamilton-Wentworth – all pooled their energies and expertise to produce a local history with a difference.



## CRAFTY REBELS

*From Hands Now Striving to Be Free: Boxes Crafted by 1837 Rebellion Prisoners.* Chris Raible with John C. Carter and Darryl Withrow. The York Pioneer and Historical Society. 75 pages. Illustrations. \$15.00 softbound.

In the spring of 1838, after enduring months without trial, at least fifty men, jailed in Toronto for joining the ill-fated 1837 Rebellion, began to craft small boxes from scraps of firewood. Nearly a hundred boxes – each unique yet all strikingly similar – have now been identified, held by descendant families, by museums, or by private collectors. This comprehensive inventory lists the 96 boxes, brief biographies of their makers, exact box inscriptions with their sources, and other relevant information. A chapter by Chris Raible assesses the significance of these boxes and what they reveal about the hopes, faith and political ideals of the men who made them. Much more than mere mementos, these boxes recorded the radical aspirations and collective purpose of many insurgents and offer fresh insight into the Rebellion itself. Darryl Withrow's essay considers how the boxes were made, the tools and skills required, and the cooperative effort necessary to craft them. These men in a penitentiary were anything but penitent.

## FAMILY HISTORY

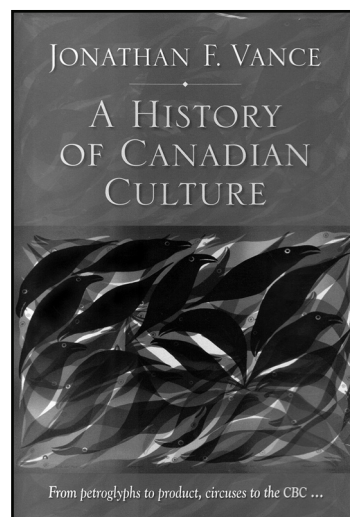
*Tracing Your Irish Family History and Tracing Your Scottish Family History.* Anthony Adolph. Firefly Books. 224 pages ea. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.

At least some of the ancestors of some four million of us in Canada emigrated from Ireland – even more of us are descended from those who came from Scotland – and some of us can claim family roots in both nations. These two volumes, written by professional genealogist Anthony Adolph (best known to many of us, perhaps, by his appearances on the Discovery Channel) are thus useful to all of us who may be searching our family histories. Packed with helpful advice and information, the books are lavishly illustrated – so well, indeed, that they are fun to peruse even if you are not planning soon to begin a quest to learn more of your own past. The geography, the culture, the politics, the artistry, are all here to ponder – and to appreciate.

## HOMES OF DISTINCTION

*Bayview Village: From Farmland to One of Canada's Most Picturesque Communities.* Jeanne Hopkins. Bayview Village Association. 122 pages. Illustrations. \$20.00, softbound.

Two hundred years ago, the area was forested wilderness. One hundred and fifty years ago ten landowners had cleared and were farming it. A hundred years ago the territory had been subdivided into smaller farms and cottage lots. Fifty years ago developers purchased it all – north of Sheppard, east of Bayview, south of Finch – and named it Bayview Village. Here in words – and especially in pictures – is its history, essentially the history of the last fifty years with elegant homes, prominent persons, changing institutions.



## CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

*A History of Canadian Culture.* Jonathan F. Vance. Oxford University Press. 500 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 hardbound.

From Dorset sculpture to the Barenaked Ladies, to Booker Prize winners, to government funding for the arts – this is a truly ency-

clopedic review of the development of Canadian art. Of particular interest, perhaps, to OHS members are sections specific to Upper Canada/Ontario: frontier culture, vernacular architecture, public libraries, other government buildings, support of artists and theatre, and most certainly those Ontario artists, musicians and writers who enjoy a world-wide reputation. A comprehensive review of an important subject.

## PUB PLACES

*In Mixed Company: Taverns and Public Life in Upper Canada.* Julia Roberts. UBC Press. 240 pages. Illustrations. \$80.00 hardbound; \$32.95 softbound.

There are books (none recent) that present photographic tours or offer brief histories of particularly significant inns and taverns in Ontario, but this volume is probably the first to consider the importance of taverns to the development of the province socially, economically and politically. Upper Canada's scattered farmer settlers were not entirely isolated. Their pubs were their public spaces, bringing together persons of diverse backgrounds – men and women, natives and newcomers, white and non-white, soldiers and civilians, prominent and poor. Taverns were not simply places to drink or to sleep, they were the sites of communication and celebration, commerce and controversy. Here is an academic study peppered with stories of innkeepers and patrons, travelers and regular customers. A book to challenge old notions of our colonial history of class, gender, race, and culture.

## BLACK HISTORY

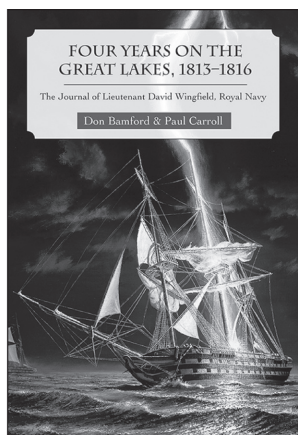
*A Shadow on the Household: One Enslaved Family's Incredible Struggle for Freedom.* Bryan Prince. McClelland & Stewart. 296 pages. Illustrations. \$32.99 hardbound.

Bryan Prince, a director and historian with the Buxton National Historic Site and Museum, has crafted a well-researched and utterly compelling account "of

## 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.*

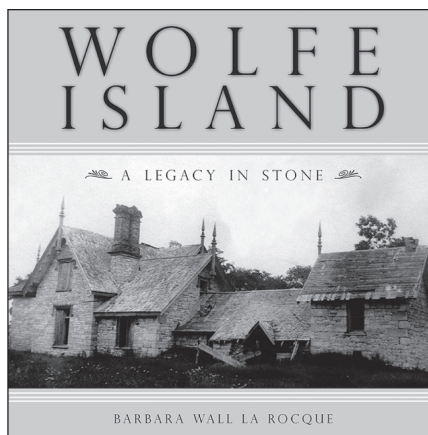
*The prices of books referred to on this page may or may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.*



**Four Years On The Great Lakes, 1813-1816**  
*The Journal of Lieutenant David Wingfield, Royal Navy*  
 by Don Bamford and Paul Carroll

65 archival illustrations, maps, bibliography, appendices, notes, index  
 \$28.99 paperback

A glimpse into the life and attitudes of a young enthusiastic naval officer on the Great Lakes during the War of 1812 and his time as a POW.



**Wolfe Island**  
*A Legacy in Stone*  
 by Barbara Wall La Rocque

80 b&w photos, map, notes, bibliography, index  
 \$30.00 paperback

This extensively researched history of Wolfe Island, from ice-age to present, is a treasure trove for history buffs. It follows the development and decline of industry, the evolution of facilities, land-title frustrations, and the emergence of its own unique identity.

Available from your favourite bookseller.

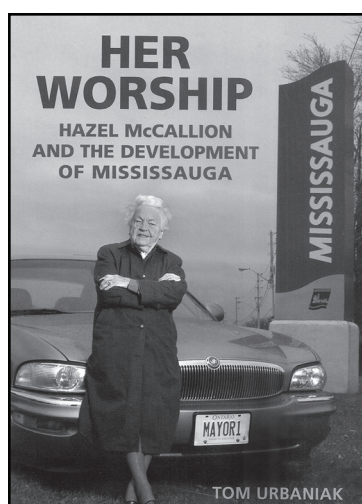


one enslaved family's incredible struggle for freedom." John and Arabella Weems lived in Rockville, Maryland. When they were married on March 1, 1829, John was listed in the marriage ledger as a free man, but Arabella was the "property of Mr. Robb". A woman of "superior culture and endowments," Arabella was nevertheless a slave and so legally the Weems children were also slaves. John was promised that he could in time buy his family's freedom, but this was an empty promise easily broken. After Robb's death in 1847 the Weems family situation seemed especially precarious. Arabella and the children were to be separated, sold, and sent to various locations. John knew he must redeem his family before they were lost forever. The Weems' cause was enthusiastically embraced by abolitionists on this side of the Atlantic but especially in Britain. Funds were raised to permit John to "buy" his wife and children as they could be traced. This procedure, of course, presented a real dilemma: was not such action in fact supporting slavery as an institution and encouraging slave-owners to inflate their prices? Nevertheless, Arabella and six of the children were eventually found, purchased and freed. (With skilled abolitionist help, fourteen-year-old Ann Maria Weems, disguised as a boy, succeeded in escaping and making her way to Canada.) Thus, in spite of heartbreaking setbacks, the family was finally reunited in freedom.

**Working for Freedom: The Story of Josiah Henson.** Rona Arato. Napoleon Publishing. 88 pages. Illustrations. 254 pages. \$18.95 hardbound.

Arato's book, a similarly dramatic tale, is the latest in Napoleon's excellent multicultural "Stories of Canada" series for young readers. Josiah Henson was born in 1789, a slave on a Maryland plantation, and the first part of this fine book tells

the story of his early life as well as providing background details about slavery. In spite of the cruelty Henson often endured, he was a good and reliable worker, but like John Weems he recognized that he must find freedom for himself and his family. A devout Christian, he became a respected preacher, earning considerable money from his preaching, money he was cheated out of when he tried to buy his manumission. Fleeing with his family to Canada, helped by the Underground Railroad, he settled in Dresden. Recognizing the need to help other fugitives prosper in their new country, he helped establish the Dawn Settlement in Dresden where he built a sawmill and vocational school. In time his dedication was recognized far beyond Canada – while visiting England, he was introduced to Queen Victoria and later he met U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes. Henson continued to preach and lecture until his death in 1883 at the age of ninety-three.



**HURRICANE HAZEL!**

**Her Worship: Hazel McCallion and the Development of Mississauga.** Tom Urbaniak. University of Toronto Press. 336 pages. Illustrations. \$65.00 hardbound. \$27.95 paperbound.

With its population of more than 700,000, Mississauga is Canada's sixth largest city. At first sight a blend of seemingly endless sub-

divisions, industrial-commercial parks, and busy expressways, it also embraces distinctive older communities, splendid lakefront and riverside parks, bold architecture and fine cultural institutions. The personification of all this, it seems, is Hazel, the "people's mayor," often credited with building from the ground up an effectively run modern city while keeping the finances in order. Urbaniak presents Mayor McCallion as an admirable but nevertheless enigmatic figure, asking to what extent she has shaped Mississauga, which since World War II has gone from being primarily rural and pastoral, Anglo-Saxon and white, to being industrial and commercial, multi-cultural and multi-racial. A delightfully readable book about an extraordinary woman and the "place that Hazel built."

#### HISTORY NOTED

Since our last issue of *From the Bookshelf*, we have received these flyers and notices describing publications of interest:

**Memories of Smithville 1787-1950, West Lincoln Historical Society.** Carruthers Printing, \$40 hardbound. A history in four sections: the story of the UEL Griffin Family who first settled an 800 acre land grant in 1787; a tour through the town first called "Griffinville" – its buildings and its people; over 100 family histories; and a fine selection of archival images.

**The Shield, Ontario Visual Heritage Project, 4 DVDs. No price listed.** Free to museums, schools and libraries in each area. The distinct stories of the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, the City of Greater Sudbury, and Manitoulin Island, are presented in multimedia tool kits intended to teach, preserve and promote our history. Each Project is a feature length, professionally produced, High Definition documentary on the history of a county, complete with re-enactments of historical events, interviews, photographs and film.

#### DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS

**Bayview Village Association,** c/o Douglas Webster, 7 Sutcliffe Dr., Toronto, ON M2K 2A5 416.221.5870.

**Carruthers Printing** (for the Lincoln Historical Society), 131 College St, Smithville, ON L0R 2A0 1.877.957.3751.

**Firefly Books,** 66 Leek Cres., Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1H1. 416.499.8412. fireflybooks.com

**McClelland & Stewart Inc,** 75 Sherbourne St., Toronto, ON M4A 1P9. www.mcclelland.com

**Napoleon Publishing/ Rendezvous Press,** 178 Willowdale Ave., Suite 201, Toronto, ON M2N 4Y8 www.napoleonpublishing.com

**North Shore Publishing Inc,** www.canadianheritagebooks.com

**Ontario Visual Heritage Project,** www.visualheritage.ca

**Oxford University Press Canada,** 70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, ON M3C 1J9. www.oup.com/ca

**Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society,** 425 Donald St. E., Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V1 tbhms@tbaytel.net 807.623.0801.

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