

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 176

OCTOBER 2010



The Ontario Historical Society and Dundurn Press is proud to host the launch of Dorothy Duncan's

Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations

Feasting and Fasting



Canada's Heritage
Celebrations

Dorothy Duncan

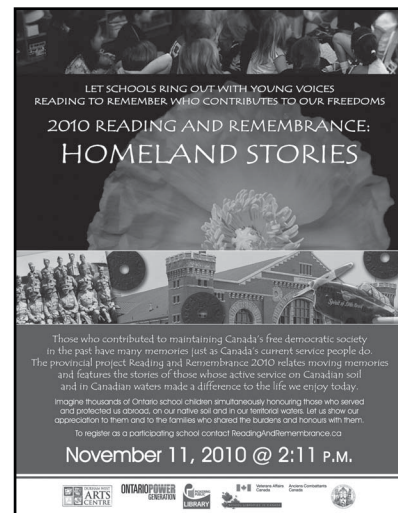
Sunday November 7th
2:30 to 5:00 p.m.

John McKenzie House
34 Parkview Ave. Willowdale

Including special guest
Barbara Wall La Rocque
author, *Wolfe Island*

Refreshments | Free Parking
RSVP to OHS by Nov. 1st

Reading and Remembrance 2010: Homeland Stories



OHS Welcomes New Affiliate: Soo Pipe Band

Cliff Graham, Guest Writer
clifford.graham@ontario.ca

The Soo Pipe Band was incorporated in the Province of Ontario through affiliation with the OHS on June 12, 2010. The band is located in Sault Ste. Marie and has been in existence since 1915, when Scottish immigrant Peter Buchan convinced another re-located countryman, John Murdo (Jock) Nicolson, an accomplished bagpipe player, that a pipe band was needed for the town. The early years were a struggle and the wives of the founders sold sprigs of heather tied with tartan ribbon wherever the band performed to raise much-needed funds. Since its inception, the band has been fortunate to have some accomplished teachers to provide instruction for new members and entertainment for local crowds through the promotion and support of Scottish music and culture.

Although the majority of the band members are adults, an as-



The Soo Pipe Band participated in celebrations commemorating King George VI's Coronation, May 1937.

Photo Soo Pipe Band

sociation with local cadet groups allows younger players to practice with the Soo Pipe Band with the hope that this will foster an interest in joining the pipe band in future years.

In the beginning, the band struggled to find a permanent home for meetings and practices and met in several locations throughout the city. Upon affiliation with the local Regiment, the band finally had

'Soo' cont'd page 5...

In This Issue

PRESIDENT'S REPORT2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT2

NEW MEMBERS AND DONORS2



ACROSS THE PROVINCE3

MUSEUM NEWS4



CEMETERY NEWS5

EXHIBITS, EVENTS AND NOTICES6

FROM THE BOOKSHELF7-8

The Ontario
Historical
Society



Founded
1888

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

In 2005, the Year of the Veteran, Angie Littlefield and Mary Cook launched Reading and Remembrance, a program offering free online Remembrance Day educational resources for teachers and educators across Ontario. Each year ten ready-to-use lessons which emphasize reading, diversity, equity, and research into local history are posted online along a particular theme. Past themes have included 'In Flanders Fields', 'Anti-Racism and Holocaust Education', 'Women and War', 'The Art of Dissent', 'Medals and Memories', and now in 2010, 'Homeland Stories'. In 2009, the OHS became a leading partner in the program because of its unique dedication to its mandate of getting more history education into Ontario's schools.

2010's theme 'Homeland Stories' follows a 161 km rule: practically every young person in Ontario should be able to find an air base, adopted ship, prisoner of war camp or a WWII tie-in within 161 km of his or her community. As such, this theme focuses on the local history that connects youth to their heritage. In addition, a special lesson on the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE) is in honour of their 110th anniversary of serving communities across Canada.

By visiting www.readingandremembrance.ca, educators are able to browse through more than 50 archived lessons and an additional 30 shorter "Minutes" lessons, many of which are available in both English and French. Teachers are welcome to select past or current themes that coincide best with their curriculum and to utilize materials not only on

Remembrance Day, but year-round. For example, October 2010 will commemorate Women's History Month and Reading and Remembrance features dozens of lessons on female spies, war artists, pilots, munitions workers, nurses, Silver Cross mothers and wives, war brides, and much more. Also new to the website is the document entitled "Getting the Most" – which is a downloadable user's guide, which acts as support for teachers new to the material.

Teachers and educators are invited to download and sample Reading and Remembrance materials at the ease of a few clicks by visiting www.readingandremembrance.ca. Teachers may sign up their schools online or simply download and print materials for use in the classroom. Signing your school up will allow it to be featured on the year-end Honour Roll!

The lesson plans for Reading and Remembrance, presented in both French and English, are:

- Aerodrome of Democracy
- Battles on the Home Front
- Enemies Within
- Helping Hands Across Canada
- IODE in WWII
- Movie Stars: Home Grown Heroes
- Music And Meaning
- Safe Haven
- The Allure of Canada: War Grooms and PoWs
- Wedding Dresses, War Brides and War Housing.

The Society would like to thank Ontario Power Generation and Veterans Affairs Canada, the 2010 sponsors for Reading and Remembrance: Homeland Stories.

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



President's Report

Bob Leech, President
bleech@deloitte.ca

Greetings OHS members and supporters! I am pleased to announce that the OHS will be hosting a very special event on Sunday November 7th between 2:30 and 5:00 p.m., at the historic John McKenzie House. In partnership with the Dundurn Group, the Society will be hosting the official launch of author, historian and former OHS Executive Director Dorothy Duncan's new book *Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations*. The event will also celebrate Barbara Wall La Rocque's *Wolfe Island: A Legacy in Stone*. On behalf of the OHS, I extend an invitation to our members and friends to attend this important event. Interested parties must R.S.V.P. before November 1st by e-mailing ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca or phoning 416.226.9011.

Over the past 100 years the OHS has been the recipient of several thousand books and documents.

Our intention is to digitize parts of this collection, make it searchable via the OHS web site and provide access to this material for historical research at the John McKenzie House. To begin this effort, on Friday, September 24th, Deloitte held its annual Impact Day, a firm-wide day of volunteer service. 5 Deloitte team members rolled up their sleeves and contributed a great deal of hard work, assisting with the creation and computer indexing of the Society's library. Although more work is still needed, this initiative gave the library project a strong start. The OHS would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Alex, Annette, Brenda, Jason and Samantha for their hard work and enthusiasm.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate once again the recipients of the 2009 OHS Honours and Awards. On June 12, 2010, the Society recognized outstanding volunteers, organizations and authors, from across Ontario, at its Awards Ceremony

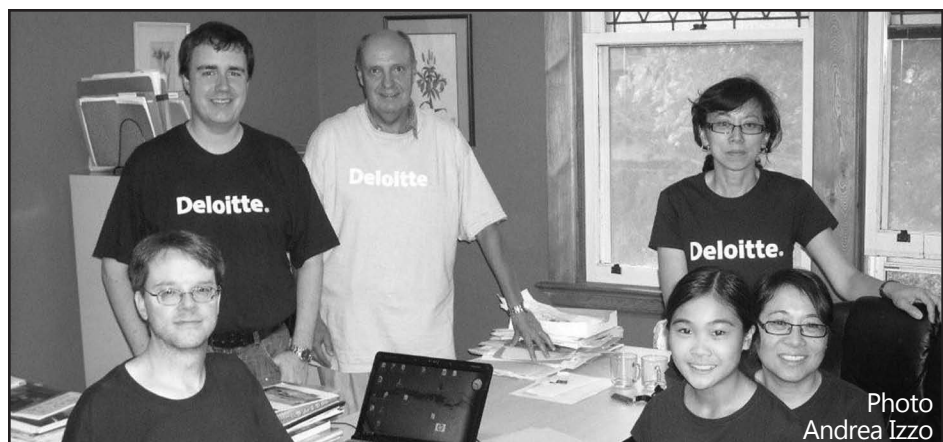


Photo
Andrea Izzo

On September 24, Deloitte held its annual Impact Day, a firm-wide day of volunteer service. The OHS was very fortunate to have five hard-working volunteers assist with the cataloguing and organization of its library. Deloitte also made a donation to purchase a number of bookshelves, which the volunteers assembled. Many thanks to (clockwise from left): Alex, Jason, OHS President Bob Leech, Annette, Brenda and Samantha!

in Willowdale. Enclosed, in this edition of the *OHS Bulletin*, is a Nominations Form for the 2010 Honours and Awards Programme. I encourage members to consider submitting a nomination for a local volunteer, organization, or author who has made a lasting contribution to heritage in your community. For more information please visit our website or e-mail Awards

Coordinator Andrea Izzo at izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Finally, I would like to remind our members that as a growing not-for-profit organization, the OHS' finances are always stretched thin. Donations are tax deductible contributions that help ensure the Society's continuing success. Thank you in advance for any support!

Executive Director's Report

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Incorporation

The OHS had a very busy and productive summer. The Society continues to respond to the rising tide of applications by our fellow Ontarians across the province to incorporate through affiliation with the OHS. Between January and June 2010, the OHS incorporated four historical organizations. Throughout the summer, we received and processed many new applications for incorporation, engaged in community consultations and held public meetings in various parts of Ontario.

I am pleased to report that on September 25th, the OHS Board of Directors incorporated Haliburton County Historical Society; National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario; Friends of Twelve Mile Lake Church and North Halton Celtic Historical Society as not-for-profit corporations in the Province of Ontario. Congratulations to all the volunteers who donated their time and skills to ensure the incorporation of these four historical organizations through affiliation with the OHS.

OHS Insurance Programme

The OHS insurance programme remains popular and the Society continues to process insurance applications on a regular basis. Any historical organization in Ontario that is a non-profit corporation and a member of the OHS "in good standing" is eligible to apply for General Liability Insurance and/or Directors and Officers Liability Insurance.

As soon as the OHS approves an application for the Insurance Programme, John Thomas, our Insurance Broker, JONES DESLAURIERS, consults each histori-

cal organization to ensure that insurance policies are tailored to address specific needs and local circumstances.

As of August 31, 2010, the OHS has reviewed and approved over 85 non-profit corporations for the Society's insurance programme. There are 41 historical organizations that have Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policies underwritten at a limit of \$2 million each. There are 44 organizations that have General Liability Insurance policies with liability limits of at least \$2 million each of which 19 have purchased coverage for contents and property.

At present, the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance has a \$450 flat rate with \$2 million limits and the General Liability Insurance has \$2 million limits with a rate of \$450 to \$725 (based on gross revenue). Organizations can request General Liability Insurance quotes with limits from \$1 million to \$5 million. Competitive rates for buildings/contents/collections are also now available.

Currently, there are many active applications and therefore, insurance policies for our members are underwritten and issued on an ongoing basis.

The OHS insurance programme enables and protects volunteers across Ontario who donate their time and skills to serve on the Boards of Directors of our member organizations.

If your organization would like further information or wishes to apply to the OHS insurance programme, please contact me.

Bill 65

On August 19th, I was informed that there was new proposed provincial legislation regarding

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Algoma 1812
Planning Committee

Heather Chambers

Marco Covi

Friends of Twelve
Mile Lake Church

John Glass

Haliburton County
Historical Society

Janice Hogg

Living History
Art Studios

Anne McIntyre

Jacob Minnetyan

National Historic
Sites Alliance
for Ontario

North Halton Celtic
Historical Society

William Richardson

La Société
d'histoire de Toronto

Soul of the Mother

Thomas Steinhoff

Cynthia White

William Wicken

DONORS

Thomas Basted

Gyuszi Berki

Joy Davis

Aline Desjardins

Margaret Derry

Torrance Henderson

Paul Huntington

Ronald Junkin

Patricia Kennedy

William J Lamb

Mary Lemyre

Marcel Martel

Catherine McEwen

Joy Ormsby

Sharon O'Shea

Alan Shiels

Roberta Simpson

James Stanley

Diana Taschereau

Brenda Whitlock

'Executive Director's Report' cont'd on page 5...

Across the Province

Scores of newsletters from historical societies and museums across Ontario have brought us glimpses of exciting programmes enjoyed in hosting communities as well as a fascinating preview of upcoming events this fall. They always contain a range of topics, from research to recipes, local news and views, messages of congratulation and condolence, and confirm for us the incredible level of interest in history and heritage in this province.

How about a “Bakeless Bake Sale” just like the one sponsored by the Haileybury Heritage Museum in August? An invitation to the community was extended to join “the easiest Bakeless Bake Sale ever, because no baking was involved! Just send a donation, big or small, and receive a tax receipt.” Did it work? Call 705.672.1922 for the answer.

The John R. Park Homestead is publicizing the upcoming educational programmes at their spectacular site on the shore of Lake Erie. This is the 33rd year of service to the community and these year ‘round, seasonal, curriculum based, hands-on programmes are designed for all grade levels. Information and reservations: 519.738.2029.

Congratulations to Dr. Rae Fleming, former editor of *Ontario History* on the publication of *Peter Gzowski, A Biography*, by Dundurn Press. This new biography has already received favourable reviews across Canada.

John R. Park and his family were very involved in community life, including the local Agricultural Society and Harrow Fair (that began in 1854) in Essex County. *The Harrow Fair Cookbook* has just been published by Whitecap

Books and contains not only prize winning recipes, but stories of the families and individuals who made them. Ask for this beautiful book in your local book store and savour Essex County.

From two societies come questions: Robert Hammond, President of the Lennox and Addington Historical Society wants opinions and ideas about his society’s celebrating (or not) the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812. To share your thoughts: 613.354.3027. Warren Stauch, on behalf of the Waterloo Historical Society reminds us of their 100th Anniversary in 2012 and wants to know who else is celebrating? Suggestions: 519.744.2935.

Well done Donald Booth! As June 19 approached, Donald, of United Empire Loyalist descent, realized that the Loyalist Flag should fly on the Guest Flagpole on June 19, Loyalist Day, at Queen’s Park. He took the initiative to ensure it would happen, despite the fact it was a Saturday and the Legislative Assembly would not be sitting. A great many other people did see it and commented to their local heritage and historical organizations.

The Town of York Historical Society reports that Artscape, a non-profit corporation that revitalizes buildings and communities through the arts, is coming to the rescue of the Shaw Street School in Toronto. It was declared surplus in 2001, but in future will offer space to arts organizations and studio space to artists.

Congratulations to Samara Cull and the Town of Latchford on their new and very successful Community Garden. Mayor Peter Davies reminds us that it is ideas like this, coming from folks like Samara that brings communities together

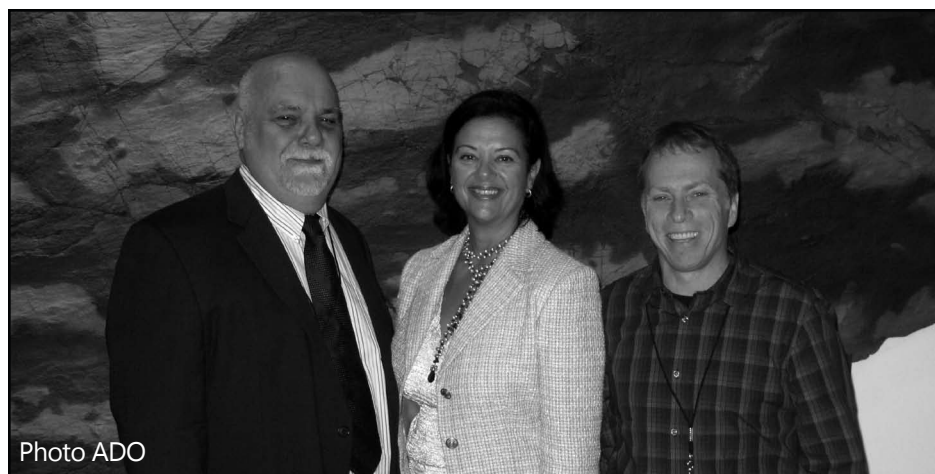


Photo ADO

On September 14th, the OHS participated in the EnAbling Change Partnership Day at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). Seen here are (left to right) Alfred Spencer, Director, Outreach and Compliance Branch, Accessibility Directorate of Ontario; Dr. Marie Bountrogianni, President and Executive Director of the ROM Governors and Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS.

Before joining the ROM Governors, Dr. Bountrogianni served as Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs for Ontario and Minister, Democratic Renewal. Previously, she was Minister of Children and Youth Services and Minister of Citizenship and Immigration for Ontario. She cites the passage of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)* as her proudest accomplishment during her tenure at Queen’s Park.

In 2008, the OHS, in partnership with the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, published *Accessible Heritage – An Accessibility Tool Kit For Ontario’s Heritage Organizations and Institutions*. On October 28th, 2010, the OHS was one of the presenters at the 8th Annual Essex County Accessibility Workshop.

for the benefit of everyone. Further information: 705.676.2416.

A good news story comes from the Markham Museum – where the new Collections Building will highlight an exhibit area and an enlarged archives and storage area for artifacts. The Town of Markham has established a new Friends of the Markham Museum Foundation to support the operation of the museum and to raise funds for it and its programmes. To learn more: 905.294.4576.

The Simcoe County Historical

Association has announced the annual Andrew Hunter Award for 2011, offered for historical research on the County and written by an undergraduate student for a course in any university or college. Two awards are offered, one for an essay, and the other for a thesis. For further information: www.simcoecountyhistory.ca. Essay entries must be postmarked by April 8, 2011 and theses by January 28,

‘Across’ cont’d page 6...

Letter to the Editor: Restore Access to the Archives of Ontario

From The Committee for Our Ontario Archives

In April 2009, the Archives of Ontario moved to a new state-of-the-art building on the York University campus. At the time of the move, the hours of operation were reduced by more than 60 percent. Researchers have had greatly diminished access to the holdings of the Archives of Ontario—and thereby Ontario’s documentary heritage—and in fact many Ontarians have no opportunity to use the Archives of Ontario.

A small committee of historians and genealogists stepped forward in early August to initiate a campaign to have service restored to pre-move standards. (The committee is unaffiliated with any one organization.) The group has prepared a one-page document (text reproduced below) that states its requests and sets out the “before-and-after” situations. The tone is supportive and non-confronta-

tional, with the thought that the officials who read it may not be aware of the situation or at least its implications.

In its first four weeks, the campaign has gained the enthusiastic support of 40 heritage organizations from around the province, representing at least 9,750 members. Your organization can add its support to the campaign by sending an e-mail to the committee at our.ontario.archives@gmail.com. Please include the full name of your organization and the number of members you represent.

Here is the text of the “Request” that the committee would like your organization to consider:

We request the following aspects of public service be restored to pre-April 2009 levels:

Reading Room Hours

Prior to April 2009, the Reading Room was open weekdays from 8:15 am to 10:30 pm, and 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturdays. At

present, it is open to researchers from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm weekdays. There are no Saturday hours.

These reduced hours have the following repercussions:

- Workers with 9-to-5 jobs and self-employed workers must take time off to use the Archives.
- Researchers from outside the GTA must travel during weekday rush hours to maximize their research time.
- For researchers within the GTA travelling by public transit, the buses are overcrowded and frequently caught in rush hour traffic.
- Researchers from outside the GTA who cannot complete their work in an 8-hour day must incur accommodation expenses.
- Undergraduate and Continuing Education Students at institutions other than York University have little or no opportunity to use the Archives of Ontario.

It is evident to those of us who have used the Reading Room since April 2009 that these barriers have resulted in severe underutilization of the new facilities and equipment. Indeed, restoring the hours to pre-April 2009 levels, and providing archival reference services on Saturday and some evenings would

ensure access for all potential users.

Access to Original (Non-Microfilmed) Holdings

Prior to April 2009, a researcher could order material in advance and it was held in document lockers or a storage room. It could be accessed by the researcher whenever the Reading Room was open, including evenings and weekends. At present, there is no access to original material after 5:00 pm on weekdays.

Use of Classroom Space

We also request a reconsideration of the policy governing the use of classroom space. The new Archives of Ontario includes the addition of a large classroom on the main floor, accessible directly from the public lobby. At present the space is used only for Archives of Ontario programs. While we understand that these programs must take precedence, we feel that allowing historical, cultural and educational groups to use the space for appropriate activities would complement the mandate of the Archives of Ontario and enhance the public’s knowledge and awareness of Ontario’s heritage.

Minden Hills Museum

Caroline McLachlan Darling, Curator
museum@mindenhills.ca

The Minden Hills Museum is very fortunate to have the Three Sisters Community Garden on its site. You can see this garden at the front of this photograph and it draws considerable interest among



Photo
Rob Leverty

other plants absorb more readily. Corn requires this form of nitrogen for optimal growth. The squash, with their large and often prickly leaves, shade the soil, preventing weed growth, and deter animal pests. An ideal Three Sisters garden also has a row of Marigolds growing along the outer edges of the garden to deter insect pests which might harm the garden.

Teaching students that mutual benefit doesn't exist only in the plant world, the students help gather the produce in the fall and donate it to the local food bank. This shows students the importance of giving

our visitors.

The Three Sisters garden is managed by the Minden Horticultural Society and the local grade 3 students. The Horticultural Society uses the gardens to aid in teaching the grade 3 students about plant life. These students learn primarily about gardening and plants, but also about how life is interconnected. The students learn this through a gardening style which the First Nations used to optimize plant growth, the Three Sisters.

The Three Sisters, beans, squash and corn are the main plants grown in the garden to form a system. Firstly, corn stalks support the beans. Beans then absorb nitrogen in the air and release it in a form that

back to their community. This is just one of many programs the Minden Hills Museum provides to the local schools and community.

Behind the garden is Bowron House, perhaps the most interesting building in the museum's collection. Bowron House was built in 1861 by Francis Bowron. Emigrating from England, Francis Bowron was hired to be Minden's first schoolteacher. He arrived in the county in 1860 and taught in the newly built one room schoolhouse. As well as being the first schoolteacher, Francis Bowron also conducted the first official census of the area in 1861.

The original section of Bowron House, seen on the right of this

The OHS Museums Committee Needs Your Input!

Many of the museums in the province have roots in Historical Societies and many continue to operate a museum as a part of their mandate.

To better serve our Museum community, we invite you to answer a few questions and submit it to the OHS. With this survey, the Museum's committee will be able to meet your needs, and information will assist us in representing our Historical Society Museums.

1. Is your Historical Society a member of the OHS?
2. Does your Historical Society operate a museum?
3. How is your museum funded? Does your museum receive Provincial Funding (Community Museum Operating Grant? or Heritage Organizations Development Grant?) If so, please comment on how the grant benefits you.
4. What services would you like to see from the OHS?

Please feel free to submit comments to Pam Cain, Chair, OHS Museums Committee at pcain@fort-frances.com, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale ON, M2N 3Y2 or 1.866.955.2755

picture, was built to government regulations: 20 feet by 24 feet. The second floor above and an extended kitchen to the left were added later. While the original house is restored to its 1890's glory, the kitchen addition is restored to a 1920-30's kitchen.

The addition of the kitchen does pose some challenges. A perfect seal is nearly impossible to maintain and continual preservation and maintenance is often required to ensure the preservation of this building.

In addition to Bowron House, the Minden Hills Museum also houses a schoolhouse which was built in the 1890s, a replica of an 1890s Church built entirely by volunteers, Minden's first Bank built in 1915, a logging camp, blacksmith shop and a machinery barn. Many of our visitors also enjoy our stocks and pillories, often putting each other in the devices for pictures.

As well as the existing buildings and permanent artifacts of great interest any time of year, The Minden Hills Museum also shows regular special exhibits in the various buildings as well as

having volunteers provide living history from time to time. Bowron House recently played home to *Heritage Fibreworks*, which exhibited the techniques and materials used by the early settlers. An upcoming exhibit *The History of the Camera* will include a large number of camera and camera-related artifacts which have been kindly loaned to the museum. This winter will see a two-week interactive exhibit entitled *Heritage Toys and Games*, which will include opening and closing carnival style competitions. Information on these and other exhibits are listed on our website at www.mindenculturalcentre.com and in our regular member newsletter.

The Minden Hills Museum is part of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre which includes the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, and R.D. Lawrence Place – a literary and naturalist centre. All these can be accessed for a single small admission fee which goes towards the upkeep of these buildings. We look forward to welcoming you to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre soon.

Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario and Leaskdale Manse N.H.S.

Earle Lockerby, Guest Writer
lockerby@nbnet.nb.ca

In 2011, Uxbridge Township will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lucy Maud Montgomery's commencement of residency in Ontario. Most people think of Montgomery only in the context of Prince Edward Island. Yet it was in Ontario – first Leaskdale, followed by Norval and then Toronto – where she wrote all except four of her 23 books. It was in Leaskdale where she was the most productive; here she wrote 11 books. It was in Leaskdale, now in Uxbridge Township, that she had the first home that she could call her own and where she raised her two sons. It was here that the angst of the Great War formed an indelible mark upon her – an impact that is reflected in her novel, *Rilla*

of Ingleside. Local topography in Leaskdale inspired *Rainbow Valley* and a vacation in the Muskoka area is reflected in *The Blue Castle*.

It was the fall of 1911 when Lucy Maud and her husband, Rev. Ewan Macdonald, took up residence in Leaskdale where they would remain for 15 years. He had assumed the position of minister of the Presbyterian church in Leaskdale and of the Presbyterian church in nearby Zephyr the previous year. Like Montgomery, he had grown up in PEI. Their arrival in Leaskdale followed a wedding in PEI and a honeymoon in England and Scotland.

The Leaskdale home of the Macdonalds is now the Leaskdale Manse National Historic Site and is operated as a museum by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Society

of Ontario (LMMSO). The basic character of the building, both inside and outside, remains virtually unchanged since the time of Montgomery's residency. In 2006 the Society purchased the decommissioned St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, a hundred yards or so from the Manse, and renamed it Historic Leaskdale Church. The building is historic in its own right since it was here where Montgomery was active as a leader of women's groups, taught Sunday school and worked on charitable endeavours. It was this church that was, in effect, responsible for Lucy Maud Montgomery's relocation to Ontario. Accordingly the building, built in 1906, has been declared a historic site by the Council of the Township of Uxbridge. The church serves as an adjunct to the Manse (a reversal of the relationship in former years) by providing additional space for interpreting Montgomery's life in Leaskdale, and by providing parking space, public washrooms, kitchen facilities and space for a gift shop, meet-

ings, workshops, concerts, teas and other social events.

In recent years the LMMSO has involved itself in a great deal of fundraising, building restoration and renovation. In the process, it has secured two Trillium grants, several New Horizons grants and a Parks Canada grant. These have been applied toward substantial renovations to the church, while preserving the historical integrity of the church sanctuary, and to a major period restoration of the interior of the Manse which is now underway. As a result of these activities and a series of events sponsored throughout each year, the LMMSO has made a great deal of progress in raising public awareness of Montgomery and her national and international literary legacy, and of the Leaskdale Manse as a principal setting for what is perhaps the most important phase of her life. Having died in 1942, she remains one of Canada's

'Lucy' cont'd page 6...

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart,
Editor marjstuart@sympatico.ca

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND!

The resources of the OHS are constantly challenged as we try to defend threatened cemeteries across the province. We can't do it alone. All donations receive a tax receipt.

The Steele Cemetery in Port Colborne has been officially re-named the Doan Cemetery. This cemetery is the last resting place of Aaron Doan, a United Empire Loyalist, and many of his descendants. The Niagara Peninsula Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and a team of volunteers worked to have the cemetery accurately named. It was also designated as a heritage site and Loyalist burial ground.

The township of Wilmot, in partnership with descendants and friends, has undertaken a project to erect a memorial cairn in the Kropf/Baden Cemetery that will incorporate the existing pioneer tombstones. Two granite plaques will be erected. One will list the

names of those buried in the cemetery which was established c. 1830 and the second plaque will outline the history of the cemetery. A Trust Fund has been established. Tax receipts may be issued with a minimum of \$20 donation to the Kropf/Baden Cemetery Project c/o The Township of Baden, 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden, ON N3A 1A1.

Human remains were discovered in Crystal Beach during natural gas line installation. These are believed to be the remains of the Otway Page family who settled in the area

c. 1795. It was often the custom to bury family members on their own property. Many family burial sites still remain today. It is important to register these with the Ministry of Consumer Services and with the municipality. If there is no record of a cemetery burials can easily be disturbed during construction.

A Master Plan is being developed for Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto at the same time as an Environmental Assessment of Steeles Avenue West from Keele Street to Jane Street in the City of Vaughan. There are two cemeteries located within Black Creek Pioneer Village. The Townline Cemetery or the Stong Family Burial Ground was established c. 1845. The Daziel Pioneer Burial Ground, while still within the village, is located north of Steele's Avenue West and just west of Jane Street in the City of Vaughan. This small plot was established c. 1832.

The Cooley-Hatt Cemetery hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board start in Hamilton on October 19, 2010. The Ancaster Burial Grounds, as the cemetery was first known, had been set aside by Preserved Cooley, a United Empire

Loyalist and Ancaster farmer who built the first school in the area. Henry Beasley, who died in 1793, is believed to have been among the first burials. His wife Maria Noble and grandson, George, were buried there by 1812. Several of the Cooley children died in the 1790s. Preserved Cooley and his wife, Mary, died in 1816. Richard Hatt, who had married Mary (Polly) Cooley, died in 1819. Richard Hatt is known as the founder of Dundas. He was a successful businessman and a member of the 7th Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. He was also a Magistrate and Captain of the 5th Lincoln Militia in the War of 1812. Helen Butler Berrie and at least four of their children were buried in the Ancaster Burial Grounds. *From Bloody Beginnings* by David Beasley has an account of the funeral for Tom Barry who died in 1799. Tom had established the business trade in York (now Toronto). His mourners lined the route from Burlington Heights as his coffin arrived for burial in the Ancaster Burial Grounds. An archaeological assessment determined that there were at least 99 burials in the cemetery.



Three generations of the Hall family visited the OHS' display and book table on September 18, 2010, at MONO'S 2nd BIG DAY OUT in downtown Mono Centre. Seen here with one month old Josephine Jean, are proud parents Mel and Jason with granny Carol.

Thank you to everyone for organizing such a popular special event and inviting the OHS. We appreciated meeting so many new and old friends and our best wishes to all the individuals and families who read and signed our Cooley-Hatt Cemetery petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. OHS was also very impressed with the excellent display of historic photos by the Town of Mono Heritage Committee and all the valuable work this volunteer committee does to preserve and promote their local history. Well done!

'Executive Director' from page 2

not-for-profit corporations. The deadline for written submissions concerning *Bill 65, An Act to revise the law in respect of not-for-profit corporations* was August 25th. After reviewing this legislation and attending a legislative hearing, I wrote a submission which focused on our main concern that "based on the Society's experience in small communities across Ontario, the Society is very concerned about Part IV, Directors and Officers, Subsection 23 (4) *Not*

more than one-third of the directors of a public benefit corporation may be officers or employees of the corporation or any of its affiliates. With respect to "officers", this is impractical and will cause unnecessary hardship for small non-profits who rely on volunteer Boards of Directors for their governance. The Ontario Historical Society recommends that "officers" should be deleted from Subsection 23 (4) of the proposed legislation".

On Tuesday, August 31st, the Standing Committee on Social Policy met for Clause-by-Clause Consideration of Bill 65. I attended the proceedings and I am pleased to report that the Government moved the following motion in Committee. "Subsection 23 (4) of the Bill be struck out and the following substituted: (4) *Not more than one-third of the directors of a public benefit corporation may be employees of the corporation or any of its affiliates*". The motion was unanimously adopted and therefore "officers" was deleted from Subsection 23 (4).

I would like to sincerely thank Jim Brownell MPP (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry), Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Consumer Services and David Zimmer MPP (Willowdale), Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General for listening to the OHS' concerns and supporting the Society's submission on this proposed legislation.

Cooley-Hatt Cemetery Petition

It seems that we now receive daily in the mail signed copies of our Provincial Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario urging protection of the Cooley-Hatt Cemetery (circa 1786) from real estate development. The OHS

will copy and document each petition before delivering the originals to the Legislature. There have been some enquiries as to whether there is a deadline. We have told everyone that we hope to have most petitions by the end of February 2011. As of September 21, 2010, citizens from 102 cities, towns and rural districts across Ontario have read and signed our petition. Your tremendous support renews our confidence and inspires us to stop the relocation of this historic cemetery. Thank you!

Remembering Barbara Sargeant and Dorothy Milne

Many members of the heritage community will be saddened to learn of the passing of Barbara Sargeant of Port Hope on September 9 and Dorothy Heather Milne of Don Mills on September 16.

Barbara was a dedicated and tireless worker for many historical societies and museums in eastern Ontario, and will also be remembered as Past President of the Ontario Museum Association and Board Member of the OHS. I remember Barbara who donated her time as an OHS workshop speaker on countless occasions and loyally attended our lectures and conferences.

Dorothy loved everything to do with history. North York was a particular interest as she collaborated, with Patricia Hart, to publish *Pioneering in North York* in 1968. She kept in close touch with descendants of the North York pioneers and loved to tell their stories. Dorothy helped to spearhead the preservation and restoration of Gibson House Museum which opened in 1971. She belonged to many historical and genealogical groups. Dorothy was a strong supporter of the OHS' efforts to preserve Ontario's cemeteries and the Society's Cemetery Defence Fund.

Barbara and Dorothy were valued friends. We will miss them and send our warmest regards to their families.

'Soo' from page 1

a place to call home. The band accepted an invitation to become associated with the local militia regiment (49th Field Artillery) in 1952, being their band of record and providing support for military parades. The official tartan for the band is the Gordon (Modern).

During the 1950s and '60s the pipe band was involved in many competitions and regional tattoos. While competition has not been part of the band's activities in recent years, the Soo Pipe Band continues to promote their culture and music at various local venues including support for the Sault Ste. Marie Museum's annual Remembrance Concert, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, community concerts and parades. The band also travels to several communities celebrations in the Algoma District and towns and villages throughout northern Michigan.

In 1994 a former member Alfred Abbott compiled a brief history of band. As the band prepares for its 100th anniversary in 2015 it is making preparations for a variety of events to mark the occasion. As part of these preparations research is being carried out in collaboration with the Sault Ste. Marie Museum to produce a book on the band's history since 1915. Kim Forbes, curator for the museum, has been a key member of the book committee in the difficult task of gathering information from years gone by.

The current pipe-major for the band, Cliff Graham, started playing pipes in 1967, has been associated with the band since 1970 and is president of the band. Harry Thomas has been drum-major with the band since 2006 and is also the vice-president/secretary for the organization.

For more information about the Soo Pipe Band visit their website at www.soopipeband.com.

Exhibits, Events and Notices

NOVEMBER 8

Puslinch Historical Society presents Martyn Pullin, who operates Sheffield Museum nearby, and who will show photos taken by Sylvester Main 100 years ago. The photos document daily life in pioneer times and are augmented by details from Mr. Main's journals. Martyn's book of these photos, *Life in the Country* will also be available. 7:30 p.m., Township Offices, 7404 Rd. 34, Aberfoyle.

DECEMBER 4

Breakfast With Santa

The Friends of the Elman W. Campbell Museum will host a continental breakfast with Santa at 8:30 a.m. and again at 9:30 a.m. Admission to this event includes Breakfast, Photo Opportunity with Santa and Museum admission. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and must be purchased in advance. For more information, please call 905.953.5314. The Museum is located at 134 Main St. S, Newmarket.

DECEMBER 5

Grand Old Christmas Festival

Experience traditional winter fun in a historical setting, explore an active Heritage Village where you can visit with a blacksmith, interpreters and Santa Claus himself. Try your hand at candle dipping and printing a souvenir bookmark. Enjoy Christmas music, hot apple cider and roasted chestnuts. Warm up with a cup of tea and Christmas pudding in Arabella's Edwardian Tea Room. Visit *Ornaments of Society*, a winter and Christmas exhibit. Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum, 280 King St., Port Colborne 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. 905.834.7604.

DECEMBER 9 to 11

A Christmas Carol

The Humber River Shakespeare Company presents the Dickens classic in the form of a full stage production. 7:00 p.m. as well as a 2:00 p.m. matinee on the 11th. Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. West, Etobicoke. 416.394.8133.



The OHS recently met with one of its affiliated societies, the Ontario Heritage Fairs Association (OHFA) to plan for the joint "Beyond the Facts" workshop at the upcoming Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers' Association (OHASSTA) Conference on November 5th and 6th. The workshop will run on November 6th between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. Pictured above (left to right) is Carol White, Executive Director, OHFA; Andrea Izzo, Coordinator of Communications, OHS; and Jennifer Maddigan, Treasurer, OHFA.

Photo Rob Leverty

"Across the Province" continued from page 3

2011. Entries should be sent to: The Corresponding Secretary, Simcoe County Historical Association, Box 144, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 4S9.

Saturday, September 11th was a gala day at the Banting Homestead in Alliston as many family members, friends, neighbours, skilled craft workers, supporters and donors assembled on the lawn for the grand opening ceremony of the newly restored Octagonal Drive Shed. Congratulations to the Lions and Rotary Clubs of Alliston, the Town of New Tecumseth and the Banting Homestead Foundation for this first restoration on the site. Plans for the restoration of the Banting farm house, the construction of the new Heritage Room near the house and the new Diabetes Outreach Centre are now in the final stages.

King Township history aficionados gathered at the King Museum for a joint celebration, May 26th 2010, for three local students from Kettleby Public School who

each won a prestigious award for her display in competition at the April 21st Aurora History Fair. The girls were students of teacher Elaine Robertson, former Chair of the King Township Heritage Committee and past President of York Pioneer and Historical Society. After presentations to the winners from the King Township Historical Society and congratulations from King's Mayor Margaret Black, the audience was electrified by Ms. Robertson's surprise announcement that she had just returned from Los Angeles, California, bringing home a Merit Award from the Awareness Film and Arts Festival for the historical documentary "An Exploration of a Township and Its People," which competed with over 90 films from around the world. The 35 minute film produced by Mark Magro, starring Robertson's Kettleby AIM class illuminated the township villages' vivid past as costumed Grades 6-8 students interpreted significant historic highlights at King City, Ansnorveldt,



Photo
Rob Leverty

In August the OHS hosted a special event at the John McKenzie House. OHS volunteer David Peacock (left) is seen here with David Crombie, former Mayor, City of Toronto (1972-1978) following his address "The Civic Responsibilities of Politicians and Citizens".

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Do you have an exhibit, event, or story that you would like to publicize in the *OHS Bulletin*? Send submissions to:

Editor, *OHS Bulletin*,
izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The *OHS Bulletin* reserves the right to edit all submissions. Good quality, high resolution images are always welcome.

WANT MORE EVENT INFO?

The OHS now has an online events calendar at

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Please bookmark the site and check for heritage events in your area! If you are a member of the Society, you may add your own heritage events to the calendar by logging-in to the site! *Across the Province* (Page 3) also features events in your area!

"Lucy" cont'd from page 4...

most noted and beloved women of letters and novelists. At the same time, the Society is establishing an important museum complex dedicated to Lucy Maud Montgomery and is developing complementary educational programming in the literary arts with emphasis on outreach to youth.

A number of events will be held in Uxbridge and Leaskdale in 2011 to mark the centenary of Montgomery's arrival in Ontario, and in Leaskdale in particular. The crowning event will be a three-day celebration from October 13 to 15, featuring several keynote speakers, invited presentations concerning Montgomery and her writings, a ribbon cutting to unveil the restored Manse, tours of Maud's local historic places, a theatre presentation, gala dinner and much more. The Leaskdale Manse National Historic Site, i.e. the principal museum, and the Historic Leaskdale Church are open to the public from late May until late September and can be visited by appointment at other times. For more information, please contact Kathy Wasylenky at 905.852.5284 or Nina Elliott at 905.852.7493.

The LMMSO incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 2004.

Nobleton, Schomberg, Laskay and Lloydtown. Funding for the film was provided by the King Heritage Committee with narration by local resident Andrew Marshall, former CBC radio host. The film had already captured third prize in the Multimedia Film Festival of York Region, adding extra jubilation to the party. Congratulations!

There are a host of interesting programmes already underway and planned for the coming months, including:

October 29, 30: "Desserts by Lamplight" returns to Historic Bovaird House in Brampton, hosted by the Brampton Historical Society: 905.874.2804.

November 4: The Lundy's Lane Historical Society presents "The Battle of Stoney Creek" by James Elliott, author and historian, at the Niagara Falls Public Library at 7:30 p.m.

November 6: Lanark County Genealogical Society will meet at the Archives, Drummond Centre Hall at 1:30 p.m. with guest speaker Dr. Helen Douglas. This meeting

is dedicated to the veterans who have served, and continue to serve Canada: 613.745.6335.

November 8: Markham Historical Society will host a Pioneer Harvest Dinner at the Transportation Building, Markham Museum. Tickets: 905.294.3342.

November 11: Manvers Township Historical Society will honour our Canadian veterans on Remembrance Day at the Bethany Cenotaph: 705.277.2636.

November 13: "Kitchen Tool Magic" hosted by The Tool Group of Canada and the Culinary Historians of Ontario at Victoria Square Community Centre from 8:30 a.m. to noon: 416.691.4877.

November 20: A Fundraising Curling Bonspiel sponsored by the Friends of The OPP Museum and the Coldwater Canadiana Heritage Museum at the Barnfield Point Recreation Centre, Orillia: 705.326.5206 or 705.329.6889.

December 5: Christmas Sugarplum Tea will be hosted by Bonnechere Museum in Eganville: 613.628.1000 for details.

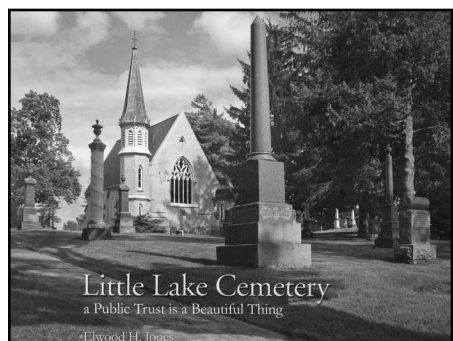
From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
raible@georgian.net

NATURAL HISTORY

Ontario's Old-Growth Forests: A Guidebook Complete with History, Ecology, and Maps. Michael Henry and Peter Quinby. Fitzhenry & Whiteside. 232 pages. Illustrations. \$40.00 softbound.

To the early settlers, trees were a necessary commodity – for building houses, for firewood, for potash – or they were an infernal nuisance, to be laboriously cleared away so that crops could be planted. In 1838, Anna Jameson explained “A Canadian settler hates a tree, regards it as his natural enemy, as something to be destroyed, eradicated, annihilated by all and any means.” Fortunately, our needs for lumber seem more easily met and someone else grows our food. We can rejoice in these magnificent ecological marvels, our old-growth forests, and this is just the book to help us do so. It is a beautiful book with its numerous colour photos and maps that first invite browsing, then more careful study. Chapters cover the many types of forest found in Ontario: Carolinian, Northern Hardwood, White and Red Pine, Boreal and Ancient Cedars, explaining their history and ecology, and listing selected old-growth sites. The authors point out that many of these wonders are just a day trip away and they tell us how to get to them. Their final chapter is “Conserving Old-Growth Forests,” a fitting tribute to our natural heritage.



BEAUTIFUL BURIAL GROUND
Little Lake Cemetery: A Public Trust is a Beautiful Thing. Elwood H. Jones. Trent Valley Archives for Little Lake Cemetery Company. 64 pages. Illustrations. \$10.00 softbound.

Peterborough's Little Lake Cemetery is a drumlin on a point defined by Little Lake as it narrows to form the Otonabee River. Much of the history of the Trent-Severn Waterway passed nearby, says

Elwood Jones. His book marks the cemetery's 160th anniversary, reviewing how the cemetery came about and describing the many prominent and interesting people buried there. It was formed in 1850 “as a joint-stock company without owners,” probably the first privately incorporated cemetery in Canada West. From the beginning, the trustees were committed to the public good, with the intent that the cemetery should be self-supporting. The natural beauty of its location has been augmented by careful and continuing landscaping. Excellent photographs of the landscape, monuments and grave markers enhance the book and show that, like a public trust, this cemetery also is “a beautiful thing”.

GLENGARRY GREATNESS

Dictionary of Glengarry Biography. Royce MacGillivray. Glengarry Historical Society. 777 pages. \$95.00 hardbound.

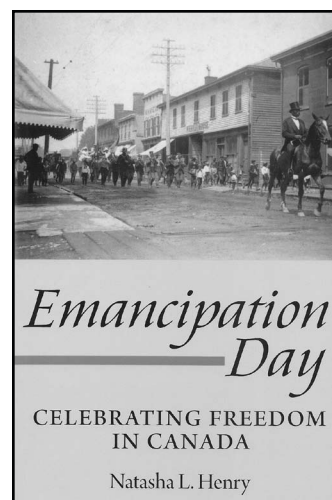
Here is an extraordinarily comprehensive volume – 850,000 words describing 1,600 people of historical significance – all associated in one way or another with Glengarry County, Ontario (and many of them familiar to all students of Canadian history). No library boasting an Ontario history collection should be without it. Unlike volumes of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, this book is all the work of one man, University of Waterloo professor Royce MacGillivray. Long appreciated by Canadian academics for his other published works – and for editing *Ontario History* in the 1980s – MacGillivray devoted his retirement years to researching and writing this great volume. His investment will pay dividends to historical and genealogical researchers for many many years to come!

A MEMORABLE LIFE

“Go to School, You're a Little Black Boy,” A Memoir. Lincoln M. Alexander with Herb Shoveller. Dundurn Press. 254 pages. Illustrations. \$26.99 softbound.

Originally published in hardcover in 2006, this is the life story (so far) of Lincoln MacCauley Alexander – university graduate, prominent lawyer, member of parliament, cabinet minister, lieutenant governor of Ontario, chancellor of the University of Guelph – celebrating a lifetime of achievement,

of recognition, of admiration. Yet success was not a given for a black child born in 1922 in a racially intolerant Toronto. His father was a railway porter and his mother a maid, both immigrants from the Caribbean. Alexander credits his mother, Mae Rose, for insisting on the importance of education for any child, but most especially for a black child. “She was the one that indicated to me that being black you had to excel and reach for excellence at all times.” His parents separated when he was a teenager, and his mother took him to live with her in Harlem, New York, where his further education included learning to use a switchblade. He came back to Canada in World War II and served in the air force as a wireless operator. With veteran's benefits he continued his education, at McMaster University and then Osgoode Hall law school. The second woman of influence, his “rock” and the love of his life, was Alexander's beautiful, dignified and ever-supportive wife, Yvonne. This is an inspiring personal story – of one man's extraordinary achievements and influence – but it is also a noteworthy slice of Canadian history.



FREE AT LAST!

Emancipation Day: Celebrating Freedom in Canada. Natasha L. Henry. Dundurn Press. 288 pages. Illustrations. \$28.99 softbound.

In 2007 the OHS (among many others) celebrated the bicentennial of the 1807 Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. But it was another twenty-seven years before an act of the British Parliament freed all slaves in its colonies, their emancipation to commence August 1, 1834. That first day of liberation was truly a joyous occasion, and since that momentous date, celebrations have continued. Natasha Henry's careful study explores the social, cultural, political and educational aspects of Emancipation Day events over the years across Canada, showing how they have

evolved to meet changing interests and conditions. For example, Henry writes, “the West Indian immigrants who settled in Toronto in the mid-1900s introduced the carnival feature to Independence Day with the establishment of Caribana in 1967.” There has been a recent revitalization in local celebrations, due in part to interest in genealogy, Henry says, as well as a resurgence in the “freedom movement.” In 2008, Ontario officially recognized the first of August as Emancipation Day, appropriately coinciding with Civic Holiday honouring John Graves Simcoe, who Henry notes was instrumental in setting the wheels in motion to end slavery in Upper Canada.

REEXAMINED, REASSESSED

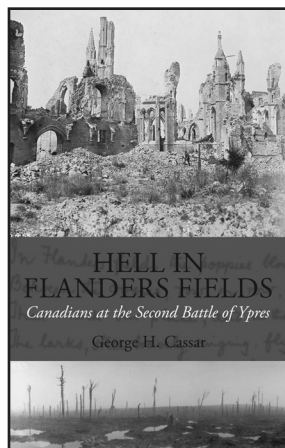
Lord Selkirk: A Life. J. M. Bumsted. University of Manitoba Press. 517 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 hardbound.

At last! A sympathetic, critical, detailed (dare we say definitive?) biography of a centrally important, yet much misunderstood figure in early 19th century Canadian history, Thomas Douglas, Fifth Earl of Selkirk. Best remembered for the tragic debacle of his Red River settlement in what became Manitoba, where competition between the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company brought violence and murder. Many scenes in Selkirk's dramatic life took place here in our province. He first sponsored settling Scots in Prince Edward Island, but his next settlement project was at Baldoon in Upper Canada. Important incidents in his infamous failures further west took place at Fort William (Thunder Bay) and in the law courts of York (Toronto) where he ran afoul of the Family Compact (as the elite later came to be called). Ultimately, Selkirk failed, was bankrupted, and died. Bumsted portrays him a man so firm he was stubborn, so optimistic he was impractical, so idealistic he misjudged his enemies. He was a loser, but he left a legacy that ultimately benefited our whole land.

'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.

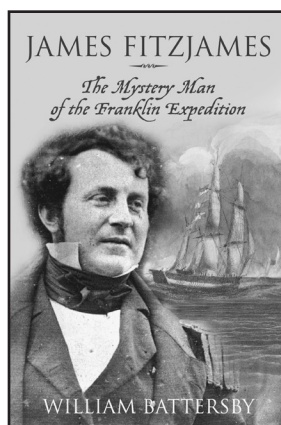
The prices of books referred to on this page may or may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.



Hell in Flanders Fields
Canadians at the Second Battle of Ypres
by George H. Cassar

50 b&w and colour illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index

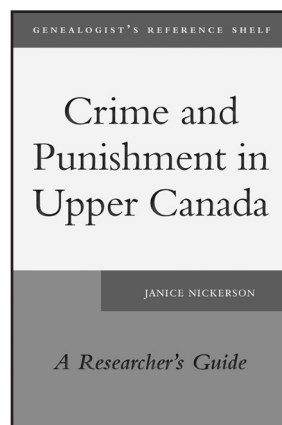
The Canadian 1st Division beat overwhelming odds, their French allies fled in terror, chlorine gas was used against them for the first time in combat, and they fought in the trenches, sometimes hand to hand, for five days to hold the Allied line and save 50,000 troops. This book skillfully blends into the history of the battle the graphic and moving words of those soldiers.



James Fitzjames
The Mystery Man of the Franklin Expedition
by William Battersby

32 b&w illustrations, notes, bibliography, index

A Royal Naval hero of the early 19th century, James Fitzjames joined the Franklin Expedition at the age of 32 – and never returned. The lost Franklin expedition is one of history's great unsolved mysteries. The author strips away 200 years of misinformation and half-truths to build an understanding of Fitzjames's significance for the expedition.



Crime and Punishment in Upper Canada
A Researcher's Guide
by Janice Nickerson

50 b&w illustrations, maps, charts, notes, documents, appendices, bibliography, index

The book provides genealogists and social historians with context and tools to understand the criminal justice system and to locate sources on criminal activity and its consequences for the Upper Canada period (1791-1841) of Ontario's history. Document examples, with case studies demonstrate the use and relevance of various records.



Available from your favourite bookseller.
Hear about our new history releases: www.dundurn.com/newsletter

REALITY RADIO

Peter Gzowski: A Biography. R. B. Fleming. Dundurn Press. 511 pages. Illustrations. \$40.00 hardbound.

For nearly half a century as a journalist – especially in the 1980s and '90s as a radio journalist based in Toronto – Peter Gzowski covered Canada. His interviews and essays transcribed our country's current history. The great-great grandson of Sir Casimir Gzowski of 19th century fame and fortune, Peter was more humbly born in Galt (now part of Cambridge) Ontario. In his public career he rose to become one of the most loved and admired of his countrymen. His private life, however, as revealed in this thoroughly researched and artfully presented biography, was often depressed and at odds with his public persona. Author and historian R. B. (Rae) Fleming lifts the mask off the man we thought we knew. He sympathetically relates basic facts, repeats amusing anecdotes and records Gzowski's impressive achievements. But Fleming also describes the darker – less admirable but perhaps more human – aspects of the man whose 1997 radio retirement was bemoaned by listeners as the loss of "the glue holding Canada together."

THE WAY IT WAS

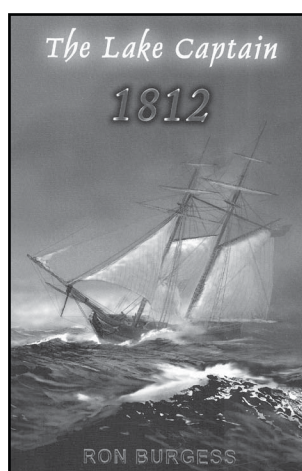
From Queenston to Kingston: The Hidden Heritage of Lake Ontario's Shoreline. Ron Brown. Natural Heritage – Dundurn Press. 284 pages. Illustrations. \$26.99 softbound.

Writer (and adventurous investigator) Ron Brown's guides to neglected or forgotten places of social and historical interest are appreciated by all of us who seek out spots in our province with reminders of its past. This volume, with its informative descriptions and attractive archival photographs, tours the north shore of Lake Ontario. Even in cities as familiar

as Toronto or Kingston, Brown relates fascinating facts about old buildings and historical artifacts. Here is a compact but amazingly comprehensive guide to heritage sites you won't see without getting off the QEW and the 401.

Trillium and Toronto Island: The Centennial Edition. Mike Filey. Dundurn Press. 115 pages. Illustrations. \$24.99 softbound.

For thirty-five years, Toronto *Sunday Sun* columnist and broadcaster Mike Filey has offered delicious details of Toronto's diverse history. This is a new and expanded version of one of his more than twenty books. Its focus is the *Trillium*, the ferry that served Toronto Island from 1910 to 1976, and after its resurrection again from 1973 to the present. Splendid photographs old and new record a century of service and, no doubt, will arouse in many readers fond memories.



WAR ON THE WATER

The Lake Captain, 1812. Ron Burgess. Borealis Press. 313 pages. Maps. \$19.96 softbound.

The schooner *Nancy* played a vital role in the Upper Great Lakes during the War of 1812. This is a highly fictionalized account of the ship and her captain, Alex Macintosh. The Americans are all aggressive, the Indians are all admirable, the British officers are mostly arrogant, but the captain and his crew are crafty, colourful and courageous. Author Ron Burgess's excitement with history, experi-

ence as a teacher, and expertise in sailing Lake Huron combine to weave a lively yarn. Esteemed historian Barry Gough expertly presented the *Nancy's* full factual history in *Through Water, Ice & Fire: Schooner Nancy of the War of 1812* (reviewed by us three years ago). Readers looking for a rollicking re-telling of the tale will also enjoy Burgess's version.

IMPORTANT IMPOSTER

Honoré Jaxon: Prairie Visionary. Donald B. Smith. Coteau Books. 294 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Here is incredible tale – but told by an academic with impeccable reputation, it must be believed. Born in 1861, William Henry Jackson abandoned his southern Ontario Methodist British immigrant upbringing, went west to organize discontented farmers in Saskatchewan, became Louis Riel's secretary, and adopted a totally fictitious Metis identity: Honoré Joseph Jaxon. Arrested and declared insane, he escaped from an asylum and fled to Chicago where in time he became a prominent labour leader and spokesman for native American culture. He later shifted to New York, failed as a real estate developer but achieved notice as a colourful champion of the dispossessed. He died in 1952, his extensive library lost in the city landfill. According to University of Calgary Professor Donald B. Smith, Jaxon is especially important to our Canadian understanding of Riel. And, as Smith notes introducing the tale "occasionally those on the fringe see things more clearly than those in the mainstream."

HISTORY NOTED

Since our last issue of *From the Bookshelf*, we received notice of this publication of interest:

Axe Making in Ontario. Gary E. French. Georgian Bay Historical Foundation. \$45.00

A comprehensive history of the trade, a discussion of the development of North American axe forms, and an overview of trade practices. It contains an alphabetical list, with biographies, of more than 350 axe makers (including Samuel Lount) and axe making firms and illustrates types of axes, related tools and their identification markings.

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Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS's biannual scholarly

journal, *Ontario History*, is available to individuals for \$22.00 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for \$32.00 and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$43.00. Inquiries about membership should be directed to: Christina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Inquiries about submissions and advertising should be directed to: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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