

# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DECEMBER 2008

## Ontario History's 100th Anniversary...Or is it?

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This year marks an important landmark in the history of *Ontario History*, the scholarly journal of The Ontario Historical Society. Under the editorship of Tory Tronrud, Curator, Thunder Bay Museum, 2008 will see the 100th volume of the periodical. But it would seem, unfortunately, that the party has arrived 10 years too late! *Ontario History*, which was then produced under the name *Papers and Records*, first appeared in 1899 – almost 110 years ago – and in that span of time, only 100 volumes have been published. This discrepancy was caused by a problem which is emblematic of the Society's past and which is shared by many non-profits – a lack of funding.

In the Society's earliest days, funding came from Ontario's Department of Education in the form of an annual grant of \$478. While this might seem like a paltry sum, it was in fact seen as quite generous for the time. After all, according to the 1899 Annual Report, the secretary's annual salary totalled \$100, the production costs of *Papers and Records* totalled \$250.85, and membership with the OHS was only \$1.00 per year! However, the Society experienced some low points throughout its history, when funding became scarce. For example, between 1921 and 1938, years of economic turbulence, four issues were not produced. In total, eleven years between 1902 and 1941 saw no issue published. In 1913, two issues were published. As such, 2008 marks the 100th issue, 110 years later.

Despite this, *Ontario History* has enjoyed many prosperous years as a very useful tool for historians and students alike. It first appeared in 1899, during the reorganization and incorporation process which saw The Ontario Historical Society





The cover design of the original *Papers and Records*, Volume 1, is dated 1899 (reprinted 1930).

transform from the Pioneer and Historical Association of the Province of Ontario. Under then-OHS president James Coyne, *Papers and Records* was meant primarily to preserve rare documentary sources. As such, the first issue includes pages upon pages of marriage, burial, and parish records from across the province. As time progressed, with the desire to reach a much wider audience, editors gradually included more narrative history, concerned mainly at this time with our constitutional and political past.

By the 1920s, *Papers and Records* improved on a number of fronts. The size and quality of issues was expanded as university-trained historians began contributing articles on a regular basis for the first time. For example, Fred Landon of the University of Western Ontario began writing a new brand of history concerned primarily with the social past of Ontarians and of African Canadians. The direction of *Papers*

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## Access Beyond The Ramp

John Rae,  
1st Vice President of the Alliance  
for Equality of Blind Canadians

Whenever the term "accessibility" is mentioned, most people immediately think of a sloping ramp or accessible washroom. This is not surprising, since the international Symbol of Access is a stylized wheelchair.

However, a more inclusive idea of access includes much more. It involves understanding and valuing differences. Some of us look different, talk differently, learn in different ways, move around differently, or use adaptive equipment to perform our jobs.

While "accessibility" does include access to premises, it also includes access to museum collections, educational programs, employment opportunities, and information about what's on display and what's happening at your heritage property.

### Access to Premises

Getting in is the key to taking part in what's happening – so gaining access to and being able to move around a facility is paramount. Providing parking spots close to your entrance, level entrances, adequate lighting, non-slip floors, elevators, keeping glare to a minimum, and providing that occasional bench for a quick rest, will make your facility more "accessible" and more inviting to a larger number of patrons.

### Access to Programs

How do you promote your programs? Are they only advertised by print flyers at the entrance to your facility, or do you also have a TTY with staff who check it regularly, provide brochures in plain language and multiple formats, put a telephone message on your phone line, especially at night, or operate a website that contains information on upcoming activities and events?

Do you offer public lectures? Do lecturers spend most of their time talking to their slides, or are they adept at describing what is on the slides they are using to supplement their presentation? Do you offer special programs for school groups? Do you have some items that students can examine by touch?

### Access to Employment Opportunities

How are staff recruited? Do you use word of mouth, or do you have a plan in place to reach out to various groups in your community? Do staff know about their duty to accommodate?

### Access to Information on Displays

Is information about items on display presented only by notes in tiny print on a display case? Or does your facility provide audio guides, tactile drawings, replicas, or information sheets in multiple formats?

### Access to Collections

How is your collection displayed? Are items on display mainly in glass cases, or can patrons touch some or most of what's on display? Do you provide educational programs, where a patron can interact with staff and ask questions about what's on display?

### No Substitute to Tactile Access

For a patron who is blind like me, there is no substitute to tactile access! Being able to run my hand over a shiny surface, examine the contours of a statue, and feel the face and clothing makes history real!

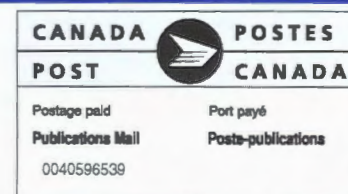
I have travelled extensively, both in Canada and abroad. I have visited many museums, pioneer villages and historic homes and properties.

While in Copenhagen, I was asked to put on a pair of thin cotton gloves to prevent the oils from my hands from damaging any of the irreplaceable collection from ancient times that I was touching at the Ni Karlsburg Glyptotek. During a special tour on board Admiral Nelson's flagship, they took down the rope and allowed me to wander his quarter-deck. In the basement of the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, I had the opportunity to examine some of the items they did not have room to put on display.

At Nelson Mandela's former house in the Soweto district of Johannesburg, South Africa, I could touch much of what was on display, including Tommy "Hit Man" Hernes World Championship boxing belt, which was a great thrill for me.

ACCESS cont'd page 3...

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



THE  
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## President's Report

**Ken Turner**  
ken.turner@sympatico.ca

Season's Greetings! I wish you all a very Happy Holiday! I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to our membership to help out and keep a very important organization alive. Recently, I was contacted by Deirdre Kavanagh of the Friends of the Archives (FOA) about a crisis their organization is facing. The FOA donates money through a grant program to help smaller archives in Ontario and across Canada maintain their archival collections. The organization has recently lost a few key board members and without finding replacements, it may have to dissolve. The FOA are currently looking for people interested in sitting on their board and asked that I bring the possible dissolution of this important organization to the attention of our membership with the hope that some of our members may be interested in helping out.

Below is a quote from FOA Director Fraser Dunford:

"It is always sad to determine the closing of an organization, particularly one as sorely needed as the

Friends of the Archives of Ontario. We have an annual grant competition a newsletter, a website, we give tours of archives, hold lectures and have indexing projects. We have been responsible for helping many small Ontario archives achieve modest but needed goals and the Friends ought to be able to continue doing that for many more years.

But at our September 18th board meeting, the Board of Directors learned that two members would have to leave for health reasons. We need a board of eight to accomplish the basics we should be doing. We have never been very successful acquiring board members. We have struggled for years with five or six, leaving undone things we should do and doing other things only as well as we could. We are now four and none of us can contribute more time to the Friends that we now do. We debated whether we should struggle on in hopes of finding one, perhaps two new board members. But that is not a solution; that is merely continuing inadequate survival. If we close, our assets (all cash) will be distributed among

the small Ontario archives we have tried to serve.

We have announced a grant competition this fall, which we will do. Now we are seeking new board members. We have a board meeting on November 20th. If at that time we have found a President, a Treasurer and two additional board members, we will continue. That is what we would prefer to have happen. If we don't find them, then for the Friends it will be the end."

I hope that this brief note from myself and the FOA will strike a chord with you, our OHS members, and some of you will step forward and keep the Friends of the Archives going!

Sincerely,

Ken Turner, President

Editors Note: *Sadly, no new Board members appeared at the November 20 meeting, so the remnant of the Board decided to close the FAO. They will meet December 10 to award grants and January 22 to disburse the remaining funds. Suggestions are: to provide a fund to help archives digitize parts of their collections, or to establish a bursary for a student studying to become an archivist or archival technician. If anyone has other suggestions, please email info@thefao.ca*

## Executive Director's Report

**Rob Leverty**  
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS has a provincial mandate and it is our duty to work in communities in all parts of Ontario. I am going to devote most of this report to our recent work in northern Ontario.

Since becoming your Executive Director last April, I have been to northern communities on three separate occasions.

### Blind River

Last May, I visited the Timber Village Museum (TVM) in Blind River. I was very impressed by the high quality and diversity of their collection. With the splendid hospitality of Chris Clark, Curator, TVM, I was invited to give two presentations for interested individuals and numerous historical groups. One was on heritage designation followed by a second presentation on incorporation for non-profit organizations through affiliation with the OHS. The next morning the OHS launched its Accessible Heritage Toolkit with the Mayor of Blind River; the Deputy Mayor; the TVM Curator; the Voyageur Heritage Network (VHN) and representatives from the Ministry of Culture. In the afternoon, the OHS, in partnership with the TVM and the VHN, presented "Living History: A Basket Making Workshop." Representatives of historical organizations and institutions from Sault Ste. Marie to North Bay attended these activities including members of the general public and heritage groups from Iron Bridge, St. Joseph Island, Massey, Sturgeon Falls, Manitoulin Island and Sudbury.

### Fort Frances

In September, I travelled to northwestern Ontario. In Fort Frances, the OHS launched the Accessible Heritage Toolkit with our workshop partners, the Fort Frances Museum and the Fort Frances Municipal Accessibility Advisory Committee. I also toured the recently restored Fort Frances Museum and its new accessible exhibit space. This is truly a fine museum and the OHS salutes the long serving and hardworking curator Pam Hawley who should be very proud of the restoration of this Heritage 1898 schoolhouse.

### Sioux Lookout

The next day in Sioux Lookout, the OHS participated in the Fall 2008 Meeting of the Sunset Country Museum Network hosted by the Sioux Lookout Volunteer Museums Group at the A-Frame Gallery. Representatives of regional museums, Consultants for the Ministry of Culture, two Municipal Councillors and the Economic Development Officer for the Town of Sioux Lookout and the local media attended this meeting. I gave a presentation on a wide variety of topics including our Honours and Awards Programme; Ontario History; preservation of historical buildings and cemeteries; incorporation and insurance. I also launched the Accessible Heritage Tool Kit. On behalf of the OHS, Dorothy Duncan gave a presentation on "Customer Service - Making Our History Accessible." We held consultations at the Sioux Lookout Museum, the train station, the cemeteries, and learned about other local challenges including the documenting and storing of over 180 cubic feet of collected



**The Sioux Lookout Volunteer Museum Curators Group hosted the Fall 2008 Meeting of The Sunset Country Museum Network. The OHS gave two presentations at this regional meeting and joined our colleagues in touring the Sioux Lookout Museum. Seen here is Vera Kameda-Lacroix, Volunteer Curator, with a truly magnificent First Nation Runner's Regalia. This garment is a prize example of two cultures coming together, as the tunic portion is constructed with mid-1800s Victorian fabric. The group also had prepared a display of their doll collection that dates from the early 1900s for the tour. For further information contact Vera Kameda-Lacroix at vkameda@xplornet.com.**

*Photo Rob Leverty*

paper archives. We were interviewed by the local press.

For decades volunteers have been collecting artifacts, photographs and documents about Sioux Lookout's rich history. Now, the volunteers are led by two dedicated and creative individuals: Donna Giles and Vera Kameda-Lacroix. Donna and Vera have donated their skills and countless hours to safeguard and promote Sioux Lookout's heritage. For example, they have worked with local artists to develop impressive portable historical displays now on exhibit at the local airport, the Tourist Information Office and the Town's Economic

*EXECUTIVE cont'd page 5...*

## DONORS AND DOERS

### DONORS

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Every year, Deloitte & Touche LLP holds Impact Day, during which employees worldwide offer volunteer services to contribute to their community. This year, the OHS was very fortunate to have the help of five Deloitte team members help around the John McKenzie House to set up and promote the annual book sale and to stain our back deck! Many thanks to (left to right): Colleen Kelly; Mary Poirier; Paul Robinson; OHS Board Member Robert Leech; and Nancy Banting.

*Photo Andrea Izzo*



## DONORS AND DOERS

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Bruce Mines &  
District Historical Society

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Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS, addressing the AGM of the Weston Heritage Conservation District (WHCD). After this presentation, the membership of the WHCD unanimously passed a motion "that the WHCD incorporate through affiliation with the OHS." Dan Harris, Vice-President, WHCD, recently wrote the OHS, "Thank you again for all of your considerable assistance and support. We are very excited about joining a broader based movement of organizations that share our enthusiasm for preserving built heritage." See page 4 for full story!

Photo Courtesy of WHCD

## Across The Province

The coming year will find many organizations and institutions in Ontario celebrating special anniversaries and one that will touch almost everyone is the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ontario Provincial Police. There are already many plans in place for programmes and projects at the OPP Museum in Orillia, as well as special projects across Ontario including the travelling exhibition *Arresting Images*, that pays tribute to policing the historic "southern frontier" and the *Commemorative Patrol* that will celebrate the OPP's role (along with their canine teams) in the vast regions of the north. To learn more, or to become involved: OPP Museum 705.329.6889 or Friends of the OPP Museum 705.527.9016.

Good news came from the Ministry of Tourism with the announcement that *Celebrate Ontario 2009*, with a budget of \$9 million, will recognize the importance of festivals and events as significant economic drivers for communities across Ontario. The deadline is January 16 for applications to be submitted in person or by mail or courier. To learn more, or to receive application forms: 416.326.0844.

The Gananoque Historical Society has always maintained one of the largest memberships in Ontario and again this year is reporting 1,200 members. The popular 30+ page *Newsletter* arrives already punched ready to insert in a 3-ring binder, an added bonus.

Many in the heritage community will know Hugh MacMillan, who served for many years as Liaison Officer for the Archives of Ontario, but have you read *Adventures of a Paper Sleuth*, Hugh's own account of his travels and treasure hunt as he searched for archival material? To order: 613.726.7588.

Speaking of archives, could your archives use a little support? The Friends of the Archives of Ontario, formed a decade ago as a volunteer, non-profit organization to assist the Archives of Ontario and archives throughout the province. To learn more about programmes

and services, including project grants, contact Box 27, Toronto's First Post Office, 260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, M5A 1N1.

Bruce County Historical Society reminds us that one souvenir of the 150th anniversary of Southampton is *Southampton Remembered*, 120 pages of memories and photographs. For availability and cost contact 519.368.7186.

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (best known as the Ontario Fairs Association) has also published a pictorial book to commemorate its 150th anniversary. To order this "snapshot in time": 705.488.3182.

The Streetsville Historical Society has launched a *Tweedsmuir History* of Streetsville, Volume I, compiled by the Streetsville Women's Institute that covers the period 1905 to the 1950s. Information: 905.542.1877. *A Taste of Macpherson House* was recently published by the Lennox and Addington Historical Society. This historic recipe book commemorates 40 years of preserving pioneer life in the 1830s. For availability and cost contact 613.354.3027.

The Leeds & 1000 Islands Historical Society reports that the Landsdowne Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 50th anniversary recently, having grown from a bucket brigade to a modern equipped and trained department of very dedicated volunteers. A Ladies Auxiliary was organized in 1961 with fundraising as the major objective, and, since then, bazaars, bingos, dances, bake sales, yard sales, dinners and many other activities have all supported the Department. Congratulations!

Congratulations also to The Pinhey's Point Foundation, who received the Kanata Chamber of Commerce People's Choice Business Award in the category of Community Support/Non Profit Organizations of the Year. The Foundation is responsible for research, interpretation and exhibitions at Horaceville, a City of Ottawa heritage property. To learn more: 613.832.4347.

The Logger's Hall of Fame in

Latchford has been renovated this year thanks to a \$12,500 grant from the Frog's Breath Foundation. Two new publications are available from the Town of Latchford: *Latchford Centennial Memories 1907 - 2007*, and the *Latchford Centennial Cookbook*. To order, call 705.676.2416.

Many museums and historical societies have announced 2009 programmes including Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, meeting on January 9 at the Canadian Football Hall of Fame to hear Margaret Houghton share stories from *Here First*, her most recent book. The Grimsby Historical Society will welcome Holly Gonsalves of Puddicombe Estate Farms and Winery as she discusses "Two Hundred and Twelve Years of Farming" on January 21: 905.945.2166. Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society will host Paul McGrath speaking on "Getting the Most Out of ANCESTRY.CA" at the North York Central Library Auditorium on January 26: 416.878.9800. The Toronto Postcard Club will host the 28th Annual Postcard Show on February 8 in the Humber College Gym on Humber College Boulevard in Etobicoke. Woodside National Historic Site in Kitchener is planning a Family Day on February 16 with treats, games, a scavenger hunt and lots of Victorian activities: 519.571.5684. Grey County Historical Society will hold the February 18th meeting in Cooke's Presbyterian Church Hall in Markdale. Following a Pot Luck Luncheon Norman Playter will be "Identifying the Unusual": 519.372.0225.

As October drew to a close, two of Ontario's most popular museum curators were honoured by their communities - Linda Kelly of the Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah on Manitoulin Island and William "Bill" Yeager of the Eva Brook Donly Museum and Norfolk County Archives in Simcoe. In both cases, friends, family and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to the dedication and professional contributions that these two professionals have made to the museum and historical community over the years. As they both go forward to new challenges in the months and years ahead our thoughts and our thanks go with them!

...from ACCESS page 1

At the University of Saskatchewan, I had the pleasure of examining their collection of replicas of artifacts from ancient times. At the Museum of Civilization and Man in Gatineau, I have had special tours, especially during the summertime when their staff is supplemented by archaeology and anthropology students and touched much from their extensive First Nations exhibition, and I have roamed around many pioneer villages and touched implements that were used to build this country. Creativity, ingenuity and reaching out to various organizations in your community can go a long way to making your collections more "accessible" to a much larger number of patrons, who want to experience what the past has left us to learn from and enjoy what you have on display.

For further information feel free to contact the Alliance for Equality of Blind Canadians by e-mail at [info@blindcanadians.ca](mailto:info@blindcanadians.ca) or by toll free phone at 1.800.561.4774.

*Editor's Note:* In addition to being the 1st Vice President of the AEBC, John Rae was a member of the Provincial Advisory Committee established by the OHS and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario to advise on the development of an Accessibility Tool Kit. John has also been a speaker at numerous OHS workshops entitled "Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities." *Accessible Heritage: An Accessibility Tool Kit for Ontario's Heritage Organizations and Institutions* is available from the OHS for \$45.00 including GST and shipping. For more information, or to order a copy, please contact the OHS at 416.226.9011.



**The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF), M'Chigeeng, Ontario, attended the OHS workshop "Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities" in Sudbury. Seen here (left) is Alan Corbiere, Operations Manager for the OCF, receiving *Accessible Heritage - An Accessibility Tool Kit for Ontario's Heritage Organizations and Institutions*.**

Photo Dorothy Duncan



## Across the Province (cont'd)

### 1837 Rebellion Prisoners' Boxes

In the months following the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada, hundreds of men were arrested, alleged participants in that ill-fated insurrection. Imprisoned in Toronto's jail and awaiting trial, a number of them passed their time by carving small wooden boxes. With pen and ink they wrote on them loving mementos, affirmations of faith, or even political declarations. Until recently, these boxes have been seen simply as interesting personal artifacts, treasured by families, museums or collectors of antiques, but without particular historical significance.

According to Ontario historian and author Chris Raible, these boxes are much more important than previously realized. "Seen individually they are fascinating," he says, "considered collectively, they are extraordinarily informative. They tell us what those poor men, after months of languishing in jail, were thinking and feeling. They also suggest surprising strength of character and express anything but repentance."

Two other men are working closely with Raible to compile a complete inventory of all known Rebellion prisoners' boxes. John Carter is a museum advisor for the Ministry of Culture whose personal interest in the Rebellion has led him to research the stories of Rebellion prisoners, particularly the men who were transported to Van Diemen's Land in Australia. His museum contacts help locate boxes and his files add information about the people who are specifically named in box inscriptions.

Darryl Withrow, a Toronto teacher and Pickering Museum Village volunteer, is carefully studying and measuring boxes, studying the skills of those who made them. So far he has studied 39 different boxes – nearly half of



A c.1838 prisoner's box crafted in a Toronto jail following the failed Rebellion in Upper Canada. Courtesy of Culture Division, City of Toronto.

Photo by Darryl Withrow

all the known boxes. With their owners' permission, Withrow is creating facsimile copies, a collection of box replicas for use in museum and school programs. Several of his boxes were featured at the Pickering museum's "Spirit Walk" last September.

From his examining and recreating boxes, Withrow confesses, he has gained "an appreciation for the skill these men had and for the passion they exhibited in their writings." To his surprise, nearly every box seems to have been measured with accuracy and precision. "They all show a remarkable tendency to be created to normal imperial ruler measurements: 2 & 1/2 inches ... 3 & 3/4 inches ... 1 & 7/8 inches. Was there a ruler in the room?" Also, every box has "a sliding dovetail lid," a design that takes a high degree of skill. "These dovetails are no more than an eighth of an inch in height and could easily be ruined by a wrong move or an inferior tool. Yet all are precise and the fit is tight and most still work today, 170 years later." He is equally impressed with the skills required to make the inlays – hearts, diamonds, triangles and rectangles – on many boxes. He suggests that "two, three, four or more men with the skill" might

have worked as "a small assembly line of design." Also, the inside of some boxes show "the distinctive mark of a 3/8th inch chisel." He wonders what tools the makers had, "Where did they get them and how they were allowed to keep them?" Of one thing he is sure, despite what some historians have suggested, "pocket knives and broken glass could not provide the versatility necessary to create what they have created."

Raible believes the boxes are especially significant because of their inscriptions. "Some men, missing their families or sweethearts, inscribed their boxes with names, hearts, flowers, and loving messages." For example Charles Doan's box, now in the collection of the Aurora Museum: "Dear mother this I for thee make/ A token keep it for my sake/ If in yon eastern world I roam/ And parted from my wife and home." Other boxes reveal religious feelings, such as William Reid's: "In Clinging to the Massey Grate/ Uncertain as to Future Fate/ Catch a Glimpse of Hev'n's Pure Light/ But Trust in God to Set All Right" – a verse found on at least five different boxes.

"These men may have been months in a penitentiary," Raible notes, "but they certainly are not penitent." George Barkley's inscription is typical "May vengeance draw his sword in wrath/ And justice smile to see it done/ And smite the traitors for the death/ Of Matthews, Lount and Anderson." Anthony Anderson was shot early in the Rebellion – Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were publicly hanged. Indeed, tribute to the "martyrdom" of Lount and Matthews is expressed on at least a third of the known boxes.

The first known collective exhibit of prisoner boxes was held in 2005 at the City of Toronto's Market Gallery. Information about those 18 boxes, along with details of another 21 boxes – all in area museums, private collections, or referred to in published writings – became the basis for an inventory. It was published in the 2006 volume of the *York Pioneer*, the



Courtesy of Bruce & Pat Wilson.

Photo by Darryl Withrow

annual journal of the York Pioneer and Historical Society. Since then, word has spread – in part because of articles in the *Toronto Star* – and many more boxes have been discovered. A second inventory listing these "new" boxes – 77 boxes in all, at last count – is scheduled for the 2009 *York Pioneer*.

A number of these boxes are on display at museums in Aurora, Fort Henry, Lambton County, Mackenzie House, Markham, and Uxbridge. The Sharon Temple, The Royal Ontario Museum, The Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum also have them in their collections. In other museums there could well be boxes that have not yet been "discovered." Many more boxes are privately held, treasured by the descendants of their makers or the families to whom they were first given. Still more boxes, purchased at auctions or from antique dealers, are owned by individuals who take special interest in the artifacts of Ontario's history. References to yet more boxes continue to be discovered in family histories, local histories, personal reminiscences, and old newspaper clippings.

"The more we turn up new boxes," says Raible, "the more we are sure that there are many others. It is extraordinarily helpful when people tell us about boxes they have or know about." Readers of the *Bulletin* are invited to get in touch with him by emailing [chrisraible@georgian.net](mailto:chrisraible@georgian.net) or telephoning 705.466.2261. Parties interested in the history of the Rebellion are encouraged to check out the special Rebellion-themed Autumn 2009 edition of *Ontario History*.

### OHS Welcomes a New Affiliated Society – The Weston Heritage Conservation District

Weston pioneers brought their trades and traditions and left behind a legacy of built heritage that the Weston Heritage Conservation District (WHCD) is striving to preserve. This includes the beautiful homes, riverstone walls and majestic trees that line the picturesque streetscapes of Weston. These homes go back to the 1850s, with styles that range from Georgian to Victorian to Arts & Crafts.

The idea of creating a Heritage Conservation District began in 2004 after residents won the fight to save the former Gardhouse residence at the Ontario Municipal Board. Councillor Frances Nunziata obtained Community Council's approval to study Weston as a potential Heritage Conservation District.

Due to the large number of homes in the area, the study was divided into three phases. A Board was formed, bylaws were drawn up and research began. The study of each

house involved trips to the Toronto Archives to investigate assessment records, directories and aerial maps, days at the Toronto Land Registry Office to obtain plans and instruments and discussions with other groups, individuals and Toronto Preservation Services.

City Council passed a by-law on September 27, 2006, officially designating Phase 1 as a Heritage Conservation District. An appeal against the by-law was settled in April 2007 and on August 20 of that year the Ontario Municipal Board approved the Weston Heritage Conservation District Plan.

Just as the WHCD Board was applying the finishing touches to Phase 1 the neighbours reported that 96 Queen's Drive (Phase 3) was under serious threat from a developer. After months of meetings, speeches and strategies the Ontario Municipal Board unfortunately granted the developer's appeal on January 17, 2008.

Immediately following the adverse decision, the WHCD Board voted to more than double the boundaries of Phase 2 Study area in order to bring properties like 96 Queen's Drive under its protective umbrella.

Phase 2 is off to a promising start. We launched the new study on April 26, 2008. Shortly after that, the community elected a new slate of officers to the Board of Directors. We have a new website ([www.heritageweston.com](http://www.heritageweston.com)), fundraising opportunities, a photography committee and heritage awareness initiatives all in the works.

The WHCD Board has not limited its activities to just the designation of the district. Through seminars, our website and an inventory of preservation resources we hope to help educate the public on what can be considered heritage, how it can be saved and the resources available.

Weston has a number of individually designated buildings that are under threat and the Board has made them part of their mandate also. The push to save the Weston Plank Road Building is continuing.

Whenever any property is threatened the Board is there to offer their expertise and support.

Our Mission Statement is to promote the preservation and protection of the built heritage of Weston through the policies and guidelines within the Weston Heritage Conservation District Plan. Through the knowledge and information gained in this process, it is hoped that the neighbourhood will maintain its historical atmosphere and integrity while encouraging an ever increasing sense of goodwill amongst the residents.

Most importantly, we have joined The Ontario Historical Society as an affiliated society. This alliance has made it possible for us to be incorporated and has added a level of support to our efforts that is greatly appreciated.

Cherri Hurst, President,  
Weston Heritage  
Conservation District  
416-241-9322

Editors Note: Please see a related photograph on Page 3.



# Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor  
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

We are saddened to report the recent death of Barbara Paterson in Muskoka. Barbara's name was synonymous with Muskoka's heritage and she supported the preservation of cemeteries. We worked together on two cemetery workshops and other related cemetery issues. Her great interest and wise counsel will be greatly missed.

One of our readers has advised us of an early cemetery in Pembroke. This was the first Roman Catholic cemetery with burials between 1847 and 1899. It is also believed that there were aboriginal burials at the site. The cemetery is administered by the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception who are believed to have used the cemetery until 1956. Further information relating to this and the earlier cemetery is sought.

Information is sought relating to the Vandecar Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery in East Oxford, where a church and cemetery were established c. 1856. The property was sold in c.1915 when the congregation was disbanded. This is not to be confused with a later cemetery with the same name.

We were advised of a family burial ground that was bulldozed. It is illegal to disturb any burial site whether in an organized cemetery or a small and inconspicuous burial ground. Anyone with knowledge of this or related incidents should report it to the police and

the Cemetery Regulation Unit, Ministry of Government Services.

Vandalism has been reported in the Old Methodist Burying Ground also known as St Paul's United Church in Perth. This one of the oldest pioneer burial grounds in Ontario.

The Town of Oakville has taken down gravestones that are a risk to public safety. This has occurred in Bronte, Munn's, Palermo and Oakville/St. Mary's cemeteries. These have been carefully placed on the ground and will be repaired in the coming year. The administrators of cemeteries are responsible for preservation and stabilization under the Cemeteries Act. If a grave marker presents a risk to public safety they may lay it down.

The grave markers which have been laid down in Oakville are the "wedding cake" type. These have multiple tiers and seldom have a good base. The layers were often pinned or cemented together. The pins rust away or the cement crumbles so, while these grave stones may look safe, they are not.

Rob Levery has spoken on Cemeteries and the Public Interest in Scarborough, King Township and Prince Edward County in the past month. Diane Clendenan and I have a power point presentation which we would be pleased to present to interested groups.

The Town of Fort Frances is preparing a database of cemetery information. Documentation for those buried in Riverview Cemetery

has been completed and work has commenced on inputting the records of Fort Frances Cemetery. When completed, this database will be a great help for genealogists and family historians.

Hearings before the Ontario Municipal Board were held recently with regard to proposed construction of a condominium complex at Orchard Point in the Orillia area. The Chippewas of Rama First Nation have offered to witch or dowse the area. In 1889, remains of an aboriginal woman were discovered during construction of the Red Cross Hospital. It is believed that there were other aboriginal burials in the area. It had been suggested that an archaeological assessment be carried out before any construction at the site begins.

The Sunset County Museum Network met recently at Sioux Lookout. This group, comprised of members from Aitkookan, Fort Frances, Kenora, Red Lake and Sioux Lookout meets regularly. This year the group discussions included the preservation of paper records and the urgent need to preserve these records and those of their local cemeteries.

The Cathedral Church of St. James in Toronto is proposing to construct a \$14 million New Cathedral Centre. Burial records indicate that there are 3094 known recorded burials at St. James Cathedral Churchyard adjacent to the existing cathedral buildings. Some early records were lost and it is known that many more interments took place prior to the establishment c. 1841 of the new St. James Cemetery and Crematorium on Parliament Street. Records show that very few families did remove

their deceased family members at that time. Archaeological digs in 2004 revealed human remains within the Cathedral grounds. The plans for this Centre have not been reviewed but it is to be hoped these will not intrude on this well-known and catalogued burial ground.

Library and Archives Canada has announced the launch of *In Quarantine: Life and Death on Grosse Île, 1832-1937*. A variety of preserved documents have been digitized. These include births and deaths at sea, hospital registers, journals, letters and more. This database may be viewed at [www.collectionscanada.ca/grosse-ile](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/grosse-ile).

The "information explosion" on the Internet is a great boon to genealogists and family historians. Ancestry.com and Ancestry.ca as well as other genealogical websites have an amazing collection of material available to research on line. The family historian is reminded that it is important to view the original source when documenting any research.

## DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND!

The resources of the OHS are constantly challenged as we try to defend the cemeteries that are threatened across the province. We are fortunate that many of our members donate their time and expertise but there is much we must pay for so we are forced to ask our readers for their assistance. We can't do it alone. All donations will receive a tax receipt.

...from EXECUTIVE page 2

Development Office. However, the challenges to protect their local history are daunting and I have pledged to do whatever I can to help the Sioux Lookout Volunteers defend their history.

### Manitoulin Island

My last trip to northern Ontario was in late October to Manitoulin Island. There were visits and meetings at the Kagawong Old Mill and Heritage Centre and the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation. The Centennial Museum in Sheguiandah hosted the Annual Meeting of the Voyageur Heritage Network and I was very impressed with the detailed reports given by all the members of the network including the Central Manitoulin Museum Volunteers; Michael's Bay Historical Society; Greater City of Sudbury Museums; Sturgeon River House Museum; Little Schoolhouse Museum; Discovery North Bay and Centennial Museum. Members of the general public joined us for a traditional turkey dinner followed by Dorothy Duncan's very popular workshop Manitoulin at the Table.

OHS then attended a special event in recognition of Linda Kelly's fourteen years of service as Curator of the Centennial Museum. (see picture above right) Linda has been a great friend of the OHS and since 1995 we have worked together to deliver many educational programmes in the north. Welcome to Heidi Ferguson who is the new curatorial intern. In



**The OHS was invited to attend a special event to honour Linda Kelly, the retiring curator of the Centennial Museum of Sheguiandah. Mayor Jim Stringer, Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, is seen here presenting a certificate to Linda in recognition of her fourteen years at the municipal museum.**

Photo Rob Levery

the years to come, the OHS looks forward to working with our partners and members on Manitoulin Island.

### New northern OHS Affiliates

The OHS has many affiliated societies and supporters in northern Ontario. I am thrilled that in the last year there have been three new heritage organizations in the north incorporate through affiliation with the OHS. They are la Société historique du Nouvel-Ontario; The Anderson Farm Museum and Heritage Society; and most recently, the Bruce Mines and District Historical Society. The next issue of the *Bulletin* will have information about our educational programme next spring in Mattawa.

### Passings and Condolences

I was so sorry to hear that Alan Miller has died. I first met Alan and his lovely wife Helen in 1998 at our first public meeting with the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee about incorporation through affiliation with the OHS. Alan was humble, quiet and ever so wise and alert. His dignity, kindness, sparkling eyes and winning smile will be missed but always remembered. I was deeply saddened to hear that Barbara Paterson has died. She was dedicated to preserving and promoting local history and we had collaborated many times on workshops. Huntsville, Muskoka and Ontario have lost a really priceless asset. The OHS has lost a valued member and true friend.

Manitoulin Island has also lost a local historian and key member of their community. Doug Lanktree passed away in early October. Doug was the President of the Central Manitoulin Historical Society and very active in preserving Mindemoya's historical past.

Finally, I was shocked to hear that John Hart, 56, the Solicitor for the City of Peterborough died suddenly. Readers of the *Bulletin* will be familiar with the City of Peterborough's appeal of the decision that it is not in the public interest to relocate part of Confederation Square Cemetery. Over the last two years, I spoke to John on many occasions "off the record" about this difficult file. I always found him to be a very fine and thoroughly decent human being.

On behalf of the OHS, I send the families of Alan, Barbara, Doug and John our condolences and deepest sympathies.

### Willowdale Community Garden

In my last report to you, I wrote about the City of Toronto's innovative initiative to create a community garden on the lands adjacent to the John McKenzie House. The community garden is a collaboration between Clean and Beautiful City (Toronto); Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation; Councillor John Filion and the OHS.

On October 21, 2008 the OHS hosted a well-attended community meeting to discuss the Willowdale Community Garden. The overwhelming positive response from the community led to the creation of a project design committee and organizing committee. The OHS hosted a second meeting on November 18th for the design committee. I am very pleased to report that this meeting generated consensus within the design committee allowing this exciting project to move forward. Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation will start work on the community garden adjacent to the OHS headquarters this December. Clean and Beautiful City capital funding will be dedicated to the project in late 2008 and in 2009.

I hope all of you have a great Christmas and my very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2009!

Rob Levery,  
Executive Director



## Exhibits & Events

**OCT 2008 to FEB 28, 2009**

### ***Over any Distance Imaginable: The Royal Mail from York***

This exhibition offers insight into the tumultuous period of the 1830s, during which letters were the only form of long-distance communication. Presented by Toronto's First Post Office at The Market Gallery, St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. East, Toronto. Contact 416.392.7604 or marketgallery@toronto.ca

**NOV 2008 - MARCH 1 2009**

### ***A Few of Our Favourite Things***

Visit a showcase of quilting traditions and beyond from The Grand Quilt Guild of Fergus. Wellington County Museum & Archives. Visit [www.wcm.on.ca](http://www.wcm.on.ca), phone 519.846.0916 or email [info@wcm.on.ca](mailto:info@wcm.on.ca) for more information!

**DECEMBER 2008**

### ***Creches From Across the World***

This exhibit features over 150 creches from almost 60 different countries. Open daily, with special activities for children, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm until December 22nd, and again on the 28th and 29th. St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. 416.364.7865, ex. 233.

### **SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

Do you have an exhibit, event or story that you would like to publicize? If you have a submission, send it to:

Editor, *OHS Bulletin*,  
The Ontario Historical Society,  
34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2  
or [bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

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

...from *ONTARIO HISTORY* page 1

and *Records* was never the same after the contributions of the likes of Landon, Ernest Cruikshank, and Supreme Court Justice William Riddell.

The economic hardship of the 1930s brought with it difficult times for the publication. The government grant was altered such that it would no longer fund *Papers and Records*, and to save money, the OHS was forced to make some changes. They cut the publication back to a third of its size, changed from hardcover to paperback printing, and began to print the OHS Annual Reports together with it.

The periodical continued this way, mostly unchanged until 1947, when under the editorship of future archivist of Ontario George Spragg, *Papers and Records* underwent a 'facelift' of sorts. Stylistically, Spragg renamed the periodical to *Ontario History*, added the book review section, and introduced bright colours to the cover. This continued until 1962, when under Morris Zaslow, *Ontario History* covers received pictures and the publication was split into four annual prints, or 'numbers'. In terms of substance, Spragg lay down higher standards of writing and research that remain to this day.

In 1974, thanks to the efforts of Hilary Bates Neary and Robert

**JANUARY 11**

### ***Sir John A. Macdonald Dinner***

The Kingston Historical Society is hosting this anniversary dinner in honour of Canada's first prime minister at the Senior Staff Mess at the Royal Military College. The guest speaker will be Professor Tom Axworthy, Queen's University. Event begins at 6:00 p.m. Tickets on sale until January 6. For more information please contact Heather at 613.544.5596 or Warren at 613.545.9316.

**FEBRUARY 13**

### ***Valentine Tea at McCrae House***

Treat your special someone to an afternoon tea at the historic McCrae House! Seating begins at 2:00 p.m. and tickets are purchasable in advance only for \$12.00, which includes admission to McCrae House and Guelph Civic Museum. Order by calling 519.836.1221.



For over twenty years, Moris and Carol Leach have attended every workshop the OHS has held on Manitoulin Island. Thank you Moris and Carol! The OHS appreciates your enthusiasm, dedication and support for our educational programmes.

*Photo Rob Leverty*

Sherman, an invaluable Index of *Ontario History* from 1899 to 1972 was created. This search tool only strengthened the publication's use among students. In 1993, a supplementary index was created by Jean Burnet, Elizabeth Bloomfield, and Linda Foster. Both of these indexes can be viewed online at OHS's website.

Many congratulations are due to the countless authors, editors, and contributors of *Ontario History* for this landmark 100th issue. It has had a successful and impressive history, and in the words of Gerald Killan, it "contributed to the foundation of critical historical scholarship in Canada." Today, this strong tradition of publishing relevant historical interpretations under high scholarly standards continues into a twenty-first-century Ontario.

For further reading, see Dorothy Duncan's "Nothing Short of a Miracle!" in the Autumn 2008 (Volume C, No. 2) *Ontario History*. Also check out Gerald Killan's "The Good, The Bad, and an Occasional Touch of the Ugly: The Ontario Historical Society *Papers and Records*" (June 1975, Volume LXVII No. 2).

To order an issue of *Ontario History* or to add a subscription to your membership, please contact the OHS at 416.226.9011 or [ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

**FEBRUARY 13**

### ***20th Heritage Dinner***

Kick off Heritage Week in Hamilton and join The Ontario Historical Society in celebrating the 65th Anniversary of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society! OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty will be the keynote speaker at this event. Waterfront Banquet Hall, 555 Bay St. N., Hamilton. 6:00 p.m. cocktails, 7:00 p.m. dinner; \$35.00 per person. Telephone 905.924.0805 or visit [www.headofthelake.ca](http://www.headofthelake.ca) for more information.

**FEBRUARY 28**

### ***Northern Terminus***

Join the Grey Roots Museum & Archives for the launch of *Northern Terminus: The African Canadian History Journal (Vol 6)* and *Threads: Piecing Together the Underground Railroad*. Event will be held at 102599 Grey Road 18 (just south of Owen Sound) at 1:30 pm. Presentations will be followed by refreshments and music by the Bobby Dean Blackburn Trio. Free admission. Visit [greyroots.com](http://greyroots.com) for more information.



Sir John A. and Lady Agnes Macdonald recently visited Belleville as guests of the Hastings County Historical Society. Joining them as guest speaker at the Society's annual banquet was author Richard Gwyn, on the left, who is working on the second of his two-volume set on Canada's first prime minister. To Macdonald's right is Society President Orland French and, in the Macdonald sweatshirt, Heritage Advisor Gerry Boyce. The Macdonalds were portrayed by Brian and Renee Porter, re-enactors who live in Brockville. In separate presentations, Porter and Gwyn provided a fascinating history lesson on the life and style of Sir John A. The banquet attracted a sold-out crowd of 180 people at the Ramada Inn, raising about \$6,000 for the Society's archives fund.

*Photo Hastings County Historical Society*



Pictured (left to right) are Pam Hawley, Curator, Fort Frances Museum (FFM); Margaret Sedgwick, Chief Librarian, Town of Fort Frances and Faye Flatt, Municipal Planner and member of the town's Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) with Rob Leverty, OHS Executive Director, at the launch of the OHS' Accessible Heritage Tool Kit at the Fort Frances Civic Centre. The FFM and the town's AAC were partners with the OHS and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario for the workshop Making Ontario's Heritage Accessible for People with Disabilities.

*Photo courtesy of the Fort Frances Times*

## Ontario History Spring 2009 Preview

Though at the time of writing several articles are still in revision, the Spring 2009 issue of *Ontario History* will feature an eclectic mixture of articles covering a wide expanse of time. David Bain has contributed a fascinating study of Toronto's High Park and the man most responsible for its creation, John George Howard. For something completely different, be sure to read Daniel Laxer's analysis of Franco-Ontarian folksongs and the coureurs de bois and voyageurs who sang and composed amongst the diverse peoples of the North American fur trade. Bringing us into the 20th century will be Anne Warner's article on 1920s youth culture at Queen's University, which explores the tension between traditional ideals of middle class Canadian society and the values that began to emerge among middle class youth in the 1920s. Also expected is another article by David Calverley, who last contributed in 2006 on the subject of the Hudson's Bay Company and Treaty Nine. His latest work examines the dispossession of the Ojibwa and Cree by the creation in 1925 of the Chapleau Game Preserve. Also in revision is an article by Lorene Bridgen that discusses the role that African Canadians played in Southwestern Ontario's temperance movement between 1830 and 1860.



## From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors  
raible@georgian.net

### TWO FOR TORONTO

**Toronto: An Illustrated History of Its First 12,000 Years.** Edited by Ronald F. Williamson. James Lorimer. 160 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.

Five knowledgeable experts each presents an era in the history of Toronto. One sketches the geology, the glacial history, the flora and fauna, the natural world. Another traces the archaeological record of the area and what it reveals about hunters, gatherers and fishers, followed by agriculture in more enduring native communities. A third – by long-time OHS member Carl Benn – relates a more familiar story of Iroquois occupation, a French fort, the establishment of York, war, growth, rebellion, and early urban development. Chapter four tells of a century of industrialization and economic prosperity. The final chapter considers the period from the end of the Second World War to the Toronto we know today. All in all, a rapid, highly readable and thoroughly reliable work, a wonderful reminder of how present is Toronto's past and how important it is to the city's future.

**Historical Atlas of Toronto.** Derek Hayes. Douglas and McIntyre. 192 pages. Illustrations. \$49.95 hardbound.

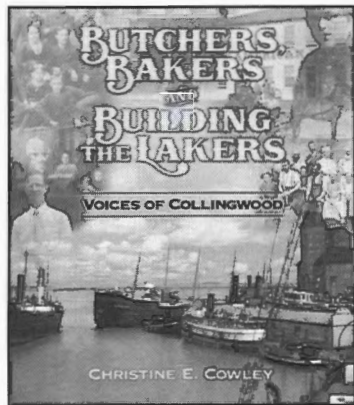
Dozens of books track the history of Toronto, once called York (and, according to one very early map, almost called Dublin). This is the first attempt to interpret that history cartographically, with the maps marking every period in the city's history. Here are hundreds (more than three hundred) maps each originally drawn for a specific purpose – for city planning, for military defence, for subdivision development, for routing the rail roads, for every significant step in the urban area's more than two centuries. Accompanying text, despite its occasionally opinionated tone and a few minor errors, does much to clarify the meaning and significance of the images. Maps show what happened – and what might have happened. Some readers will delight in the details, others will exalt in the bird's-eye, panoramic views. If you are a lover of old maps – and who among is not? – you will adore this book.

### HONORIS CAUSA

**On Her Majesty's Service: Royal Honours and Recognition in Canada.** Christopher McCreery. Foreword by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. Dundurn, 173 pages. Illustrations. \$30.00 softbound.

Royal recognition in Canada is accorded through a variety of honours and awards. The Royal Victorian Order and Medal have been used since 1896 to honour Canadians who have rendered extraordinary or personal services to the Sovereign. The Royal Victorian Chain was instituted in 1902. Vice-Regal and Commissioners' Commendations are awarded for

important services to a vice-regal or territorial commissioner. Vice-Regal and Commissioners' Recognition Badges are awarded to lieutenant-governors, territorial commissioners, and their spouses. Coloured photographs show the various awards and complete lists of Canadian recipients are included.



BY THE BAY

**Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood.** Christine E. Cowley. LifeGems Personal Histories. 356 pages. Illustrations. \$90.00 hardbound.

"It is through its people that we come to know a place," says Cowley, and in this fine volume she has let today's residents reminisce at will to tell the story of Collingwood. Starting somewhat slowly, the small Georgian Bay settlement at Hen and Chickens Harbour seemed to blossom overnight when the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway sent its first railcar north along the new line in 1855. Farming of course remained important, but soon the ship-building of tankers, passenger ships, tugs, ferries, and naval vessels brought a growing tide of prosperity for the newly named Collingwood. Other manufacturing and service industries followed, and Cowley speaks of "rich recollections of Saturday night shopping ... when the streets and stores were lively until the wee hours of Sunday." Times change: the last big laker was launched in 1985, the shipyard closed in 1986, the railway has virtually gone, and most factories have moved elsewhere. But Collingwood has adapted, with its emphasis on four-season tourism and recreation and its growing reputation as the perfect place to retire. Illustrations and archival photos grace every page of this comprehensive history, published in celebration of Collingwood's 2008 sesquicentennial. And genealogists take note: there is a splendid index!

**A View of the Bay: Collingwood and Beyond.** John de Visser and Judy Ross. Boston Mills Press. 160 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 hardbound.

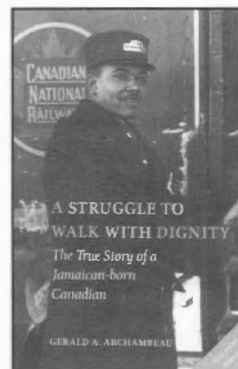
Writer Judy Ross has once again teamed up with photographer John de Visser in this gorgeous book celebrating the charm and beauty of the area's heritage and landscapes. Ross describes how Collingwood (renamed in honour of Admiral Collingwood, Nelson's second-in-command at the Battle of Trafalgar) flourished with the coming of the railroad and with its prosperous ship-building industry, as the many fine brick

and stone buildings depicted in de Visser's photographs bear witness. Bordering Collingwood are the Georgian Bay, the Niagara Escarpment, and rolling farmland. Nearby are Creemore and the Purple Hills, Thornbury, Wasaga Beach, Beaver Valley and the Blue Mountains. Farming country, waterfronts, night skies, historic houses, and civic and commercial heritage buildings – all are captured with consummate skill by de Visser's more than 150 marvellous photographs and by Ross's appreciative text.

### HISTORY IN FICTION

**Who Were the Whiteoaks and Where Was Jalna? An Investigation into the Sources of the Jalna Novels of Mazo de la Roche.** Heather Kirk. Tecumseh Press. 210 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

Mazo de la Roche (1879-1961) was one of Canada's most popular and prolific writers, and her many faithful readers here and abroad learned much of their Canadian history from her Jalna series. These novels cover the life and times of the Whiteoak family between 1854 and 1954 and their rural estate, Jalna, "somewhere in Ontario". The first, *Jalna*, won an international competition, and by the time she died, the Jalna series had sold eleven million copies. Kirk says that de la Roche's biographers have generally guessed that the fictional Whiteoaks were based on wealthy strangers living west of Toronto in Halton and Peel. Kirk makes the case that in fact the Whiteoaks were modelled on an ingenious combination of her own close relatives and those of her companion, Caroline Clement. Jalna, Kirk believes, is a combination of properties owned by these relatives in Simcoe and York Counties.



### HUMAN RIGHTS

**A Struggle to Walk with Dignity: The True Story of a Jamaican-born Canadian.** Gerald A. Archambeau. Blue Butterfly. 278 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

Here is the story of an immigrant who did not easily make good, who struggled to make a living, to stay alive. For a time his world was transcontinental railway sleeping cars serving as a (then termed) Negro porter meeting the needs of mostly white passengers. That era is gone, but other jobs the author also worked at also had racially-determined conditions and pay-scales. Archambeau tells of facing his own family breakdowns and personal problems on the one hand and experiencing gross prejudice on the other. As he testifies, he survived "by developing a political conscience." Only by challenging discrimination was he able to move past adversity and find personal security as well as the satisfaction of having contributed to society.

### REFORMING ZEAL

**The Age of Light, Soap & Water: Moral Reform in English Canada, 1885-1925.** Mariana Valverde. University of Toronto Press. 205 pages. Illustrations. \$27.95 softbound.

The turn of the twentieth century saw a great wave of moral fervour, particularly among Protestant social reformers in English Canada. Valverde looks at their attempt to rescue "fallen" women as well as to teach mothers what to tell their children (most especially their daughters) about how not to "fall". Race, class, philanthropy, societal views of sexuality and gender roles, all informed their beliefs and actions. She sees this reforming zeal as an amalgam of several different issues: temperance, the white slave trade, immigration, racial purity, and the perceived threat of the city.

### MINING HISTORY

**Red Lake: Golden Treasure Chest.** Michael Barnes. General Store. 145 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Red Lake in Northern Ontario, not far from the Manitoba border, is probably rarely, if ever, visited by OHS members. Yet it and other northern mining communities continue to be of vital concern to the province's economy, and their stories are of importance as well as interest. Barnes gives us an appreciation of Red Lake's history from earliest times. Not until the 1920s was gold actually found, with the first "gold rush" taking place in 1926. As gold increased in value, even during the Great Depression, mining companies were better able to obtain financing, and gold mines in the Red Lake area have continued to produce the precious yellow metal without pause. This book, with its many photographs, is a tribute to the early prospectors and to all those people who have stayed over the years, making a pleasant community in the still unspoiled wilderness.

### KEEPING HOUSE

**This Old Haus: A Place in Time.** Susan MacFarlane Burke, Kenneth McLaughlin & Stephanie Kirkwood Walker. Friends of the Joseph Schneider Haus. 208 pages. Illustrations. \$39.95 softbound.

This splendid book celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum in Waterloo. It is the story of the heritage enthusiasts who brought community and resources together to recreate an authentic mid-19th century Mennonite homestead, and it is a tribute to the staff and volunteers who continue to bring to life the legacy of its Pennsylvania-German settlers. Starting with the complex work of restoring the

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.



old homestead inside and out (in the style of the 1850s), authenticity was a demanding goal. At the Haus the practices and knowledge that marked the Schneiders' daily life are studied, interpreted and faithfully enacted. Lots of coloured photographs make this attractively formatted book a pleasure to browse, and the informative text presents a compelling invitation to visit the museum in person.

#### CONFEDERATION RECONSIDERED

**British Businessmen and Canadian Confederation.** Andrew Smith. McGill-Queen's University Press, 232 pages. \$80.00 hardbound.

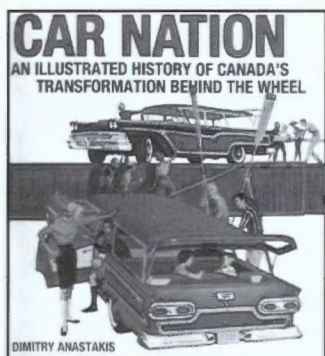
The story of the "Fathers" of Confederation is oft-told here in Canada, but we've ignored the British financiers who also parented the process of unifying the British North American colonies. They were a small but influential group who wanted to keep Canada in the Empire – not that they were acting out of altruism, of course. They sought to rescue their already made and poorly-performing investments. This work covers the period from the construction of the Grand Trunk Railroad in the 1850s to the purchase of Rupert's Land in 1869-70. It was a time when politics and business were meshed in a "crony-capitalist," cross-water enterprise. The ties that bound were the financial bonds. A respected academic offers fresh look at the origins of our nation.

#### IMAGINATIVE HISTORY

**From Bloody Beginnings: Richard Beasley's Upper Canada.** David Richard Beasley. Davus Publishing. 388 pages. Illustrations. \$15.95 softbound.

The central character of this story, Richard Beasley, was indeed a man of some prominence in the years just before and the decades after the creation of this province.

A descendant has cast his ancestor's biography as a personal narrative – a drama with famous players indeed: Richard Cartwright, Major John Butler, Chief Joseph Brant, and Isaac Brock as well as Family Compact members John Strachan and John Beverley Robinson along with radicals Robert Gourlay and William Lyon Mackenzie. Readers who enjoy fictionalized scenes with imaginatively created dialogue, all based on extensive research, will welcome this volume and its fresh approach to an important historical period.



WHEELS, GLORIOUS WHEELS!

**Car Nation: An Illustrated History of Canada's Transformation Behind the Wheel.** Dimitry Anastakis. James Lorimer. 96 pages. Illustrations. 24.95 softbound.

Canadians love their automobiles, as Anastakis' text with its many excellent illustrations clearly demonstrates. "The car was the machine that truly changed the world.... In Canada, it changed how we design our cities and homes, the way we travel and work, how we socialize and date – even the very air we breathe." Having a car means personal freedom and economic opportunity. Certainly, automaking has been an integral part of Canada's economy since the car's introduction. But the automobile with its dependence upon oil also has wider economic and environmental implications. Anastakis looks at a future when cars must run "cleaner, smarter and safer". This informative and attractively

presented book will surely have wide appeal.

#### NOT FORGOTTEN

**Vanished Villages of Elgin.** Jennifer Grainger. Dundurn, 216 pages. Illustrations. \$24.99 softbound.

**Ghost Towns of Muskoka.** Andrew Hind and Maria Da Silva. Dundurn Natural Heritage. Illustrations. \$24.99 softbound.

Two volumes in a growing library of books about past communities that once flourished but are now non-existent. We call them "ghost" towns, but there is little spectral about the forlorn foundation, the former schoolhouse or church, or the forgotten cemetery that survives as a reminder of a once vibrant village with live inhabitants and personal stories. One book presents the tales of some forty once-flourishing hamlets of Elgin County. The other focuses on Muskoka and details eleven formerly-vibrant communities that the authors insist ought not be forgotten. None of these places is gone – they all lived a brief time and their legacies linger.



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