



BULLETIN

The
Ontario
Historical
Society

Local Societies Committee

SEPT. 1978

1466 BATHURST STREET, TORONTO, ONTARIO, M5R 3J3

ISSUE 20

President's Message

The last few months have again been busy ones for the Society; many of the developments that have taken place are connected with our publications. Our members will be sorry to hear of the retirements of the two editors of **Ontario History**. Paul Cornell has been an editor or co-editor of **Ontario History** since 1962, as well as serving as president of the Society and organizing successful membership campaigns. Ken McLaughlin has been co-editor since 1970 and has carried on in recent years despite increasing responsibilities to St. Jerome's College at the University of Waterloo, where he is now head of the History Department and a member of the governing board. In appreciation of their services, the Executive Committee has voted Paul the Cruikshank Gold Medal and Ken has been made an Honorary Life Member of the Society. Royce MacGillivray, also of the University of Waterloo, will succeed them as editor and our new assistant editor will be Roger Hall of the University of Western Ontario.

After a great deal of discussion, the Executive has also decided to adopt a new publications policy. You will now all have received the first issue of our new **Approaching Ontario's Past** leaflets which, we hope, will become a regular feature of the Society's publications. The Ontario Heritage Foundation has been kind enough to provide the funding for these booklets and to assist in the editing. Gerry Boyce, the author of the first issue on "The Local Historical Society and The Schools," is to be particularly thanked both for preparing the study and for his patience while the endless "bugs" of a new production were sorted out. On the other side of the picture, the Society has been regretfully forced to suspend our Research Series, which has become increasingly expensive with the rapid inflation in publication prices in recent years; also, the books were not selling as rapidly as we had hoped. Hopefully, at a future date when we have more funds, a revised series can be instituted. **Ontario History** will be taking on some new features: in particular, a Book Review column in alternate issues to supplement the Book Notes.

The Society has also been active in holding conferences and in following up on the resolutions passed at them, the Secretary will be reporting on the four funding workshops that were held across the province, and on his visits to many local societies; but, in addition, we held a highly successful two-day seminar in Toronto on "Archives and Heritage Groups". The 70 participants from across the province heard from a number of professional archivists and toured the United Church Archives.

In addition, on May 9th Gerry Killan and the writer

met with the Hon. Robert Welch, the former Minister of Culture and Recreation, and several of his staff, to discuss the resolutions that arose out of our September, 1977, conference on the Ontario Heritage Act. The various resolutions were examined at length; the Minister told us that he found them most helpful and felt that it was very likely that a revision of the Act, incorporating some of our ideas, would take place in the course of the next year.

In conclusion, two problems should be noted. The first of these, the constant changing of place names which has been taking place across the province, is not a matter of urgency, yet one to which members of the Society should give their attention. The recent suggestion that the City of Hamilton become the City of Wentworth is an example of how these questions can arise suddenly. It may well be necessary to change historic names from time to time; but, first, it should be clearly ascertained whether or not the people of the area involved want the name changed.

The Society is considering a policy in such matters and should be in a position to advise its members how they can make their feelings known to the authorities. For the moment, great credit should go to the Burlington Historical Society, which has taken the initiative of circularizing the various historical societies in the province and obtaining their opinions on this issue. Mrs. Doris Defoe, their Corresponding Secretary, has done a wonderful job of collecting the material, which shows that most of us are very concerned. Could you drop me a line, either at the History Department of the University of Western Ontario, or at the office of the Society, and let me know if your area has had any difficulty with name changes and what your feelings are on the matter. We can then work together to begin to formulate our policy.

Of more immediate seriousness to those of you who administer municipally funded museums is the plan to deconditionalize museum grants so that they can all too easily be directed to other purposes should municipal councillors wish to reallocate the funds. With the decision not to implement reassessment of the province, action in this field appears to be delayed, but your Museum Section is continuing to keep a watchful eye on the matter.

But enough of these problems for the present; I hope you have had a good summer and are well rested for the up-coming fall activities of your local historical society.

Fred H. Armstrong,
President

Comment

Ah, summer! It is the time for relaxing from the trials and the pace of heritage activities for many of our members. How easy it is to forget about our local society while we are preoccupied with the lawn, the garden, the paint brush, the barbecue and, most of all, that great old Canadian custom, the summer holiday. The road is beckoning us on while the weather is pleasant and so it should—there is no better time to visit that museum or historic site, be it in the next county, or at the other end of the province.

Yet, while offering perhaps what is a welcome change in the routine, the summer may have been an excellent opportunity to stand back from the **fray** and consider some questions about the future of your local historical society. For instance, is your society's membership growing at a healthy rate? If not, why not? and what can be done about it? Should your society produce a newsletter, or re-design its current newsletter? Is the fall meetings programme set and does it offer a proper balance between being informative and providing entertainment for the members? Does the programme offer something to attract a new member into the society? Is your society playing an active role in the community? If not, what role can it play? Should your society plan a special event to commemorate a particular date or an individual important in the history of your community? Are there other organizations or groups in your community with which your society could work on a project? And, most important, is your society's fee structure generating sufficient funds to allow any or all of the above?

All of these questions, and more, are food for thought while relaxing in that back yard hammock, or during an early evening stroll. They go to show that the "season" of a local historical society is never over.

Here at the O.H.S. we have been busy during the summer on a number of projects. Our two student assistants, Kim Mahoney and Damien Frost, have been gathering the information for our new "Directory of Local Historical Societies and Heritage Groups in Ontario". A questionnaire was sent to over 200 heritage groups and historical societies across the province. Judging by the number of telephone and mail inquiries we receive in the office for information on local groups, there is a real need for this publication. The Directory should be available in the Fall.

Book sales this year have been very encouraging. The stock of some titles is getting low; so, if you have been putting off ordering one or two of the Society's publications, do not wait too long.

On a different note, the Society conducted a successful series of seminars and workshops this past Spring. With the cooperation of the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, we presented four workshops on funding opportunities for local historical societies and heritage groups. These were held at Simcoe, Midland, Napanee and Pembroke. Thanks go to the Norfolk County Historical Society, the Midland and District Historical Society, the Simcoe County Historical Association, the Lennox and Addington Historical Society and the Ottawa Valley Historical Society for their invaluable assistance in making the workshops possible. Special thanks go to the speakers who contributed to the workshops, especially Phil Baker, Vrenia Ivonoffski and

Lorne Ste. Croix from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation.

The workshops were essentially information sessions, where the delegates were brought up-to-date on the various funding programmes of the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, and, in addition, had the opportunity to learn about some of the funding and fund-raising programmes of the local host societies. Since we had close to 300 registrants at the four sessions, it is apparent that there is a great deal of interest in funding for local societies! I am sure that the delegates will be putting into practice much of what they learned at the one-day sessions.

A two-day "Archives and the Local Historical Society" seminar was held at the R.O.M., Toronto, on March 31 - April 1. Sixty-seven delegates from across the province heard professional archivists, academics and local society representatives present short talks on the role of the local societies in today's archival field. Included in the itinerary was a tour of the United Church Archives at Victoria University, which is part of the University of Toronto. Special thanks go to Dr. Glen Lucas for conducting the tour and explaining the role of the archives to the delegates.

Our appeal for donations has had a marvellous response from the membership. A list of the donors is given below. To all of them we give grateful thanks. But the Society is still short of its goal of \$5,000.00. Please remember that the Society is working hard to serve the members and the cause of "Preserving Ontario's Heritage". It needs your support to carry on.

Evelyn Alward
Olwen Anderson
Lillian Benson
Mrs. H. J. Brook
Mrs. John D. Bryce
Isabelle Campbell
Marjorie Campbell
W.A.B. Douglas
Kimberly Gordon
S. A. Higgins
Wm. E. Hitchins
Derek Hopkins
Sheila Lewis

John A. G. MacDonald
Florence Martin
David McFall
Robert McNairn
Nicholas P. Meade
James Miller
Reuben S. Oberhottzer
R. S. Pennefather
Peterborough Centennial Museum
Francis Reed
John B. Robinson
Annie L. Sayers
John B. Wray

Thus far 13 societies have been accepted for "affiliate" status with the O.H.S. We welcome the following to our corporate family:

Goulbourn Township Historical Society
Orangeville and District Historical Society
Collingwood and District Historical Society
North Yarmouth District Historical Association
Beverly Heritage Society
Waterford and Townsend Historical Society
Heritage Richmond Hill
Albion/Bolton Historical Society
East Toronto and Beaches Historical Society
Cookstown Historical and Heritage Society
Weston Historical Society
Binbrook Historical Society
Prince Edward Historical Society

New Publications

A number of new publications have been received in the office from both local historical societies and other publishers.

The Kingston Historical Society has recently published Vol. 26 of **Historic Kingston**. Copies can be ordered from the Kingston Historical Society, P.O. Box 54, Kingston, Ontario and cost \$5.00 plus \$.25 postage.

Volume 17 of **Historic Guelph; the Royal City** has been published by the Guelph Historical Society. Copies are \$3.00 plus postage and may be obtained by writing to the society at P.O. Box 1502, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 6J9.

A new publication by the Hastings County Historical Society has been received in the O.H.S. office. It is entitled **Belleville's Heritage, a partial inventory of old buildings**. The booklet covers 41 buildings in Belleville and includes a picture and brief history of each building. A small map showing the location of each of the buildings in the town is included in the booklet. Copies cost \$1.00 plus 25c postage and can be ordered from the Hastings County Museum, 257 Bridge Street East, Belleville, Ontario K8N 1P4.

The Lennox and Addington Historical Society has published Volume 16 in their **Papers and Records** series. At \$7.95, copies can be ordered from the Lennox and Addington County Museum, Rear 97 Thomas Street East, Napanee, Ontario, K7R 3M3.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies at York University has issued a new paper in their Discussion Paper Series which will be of interest to historians of Ontario. Number 17, by Elizabeth J. Hovinen, is titled **The Quakers of Yonge Street** and is priced at \$2.50.

Other News

Marceline Szpakowski is currently researching loom-mounted devices and their application. She would like to have anyone in Ontario with knowledge of or interest in Jacquard, Dobby and witch mechanisms on looms to contact her at 54 Celt Avenue, Toronto, M6A 1G9.

Richard Skimulis of 3120 Sheppard Ave. E., Apt. 66, Agincourt, Ontario is researching a book on log structures. He would like information, pictures and sketches of log structures (houses, barns and sheds) across Canada.

The Sainte Marie Among the Hurons Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Robert Montgomery, General Manager, is inviting the submission of original manuscripts in competition for the 1978 Sainte Marie Prize. The manuscripts must deal with an aspect of 17th century Canadian history. A cash grant of \$1,649.00 is awarded for the manuscript showing the best original research and which is not less than 20,000 words. Deadline for the competition is October 15, 1978.

The National Research Council, Ottawa, is sponsoring a three-day "Conference on the Study of the History of Canadian Science and Technology" at Queen's University, Kingston commencing November 3rd. Further information and registration forms can be obtained from:

A.W. Tickner
Senior Archival Officer
National Research Council of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6

Societies wishing to commemorate a special building in the community might consider a bas-relief wood carving by Mr. Kim Murray of Georgetown, Ontario. Kim is a member of the O.H.S. and has started to establish quite a mark for himself with his bas-relief carvings of churches and heritage properties. You can contact him by writing to 15th Sideroad, R.R.3, Georgetown, Ontario, L7G 4S6.

The 1978-79 workshop programme from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., covers a wide variety of sessions of particular interest to museologists. Applications and further information can be obtained by writing to Workshop Series, Office of Museum Programs, Arts & Industries Building, Room 2235, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., 20560.

Allan Anderson and Betty Tomlinson are not only known for their frequent broadcasts on radio, but also as the producers of an outstanding slide presentation on Canada and Canadians of the Edwardian era. All of the slides are made from post-cards produced during the period 1900 to 1920 and are accompanied by an informative and sometimes amusing commentary delivered by Allan and Betty. Much of the commentary is based on the more than 20,000 post-cards in the Anderson-Tomlinson collection.

Allen and Betty gave their presentation at the O.H.S. seminar on "Archives and the Local Historical Society" last Spring. For two hours, the audience was transported back through the years as the streets, the buildings, the countryside, and, most of all, the people of the early decades of this century came alive once more when the slides flashed on the screen. And, the audience joined into the fun with their own comments and bits of information as particularly familiar scenes appeared. The show was also valuable as a demonstration of the practical use of another form of archival collection; the common, everyday post-card.

With the support of a Canada Council grant, the team has taken this show across the greater part of Canada. Since the show is a distinctive form of local Canadian history, Betty and Allan spend a number of evenings appearing before local historical societies which are an especially appreciative audience. Each show is tailored for the particular audience and every one is different. Perhaps your society would enjoy a post-card study of your area. The fee is \$150.00 plus expenses. Perhaps a couple of neighbouring societies could get together and split the costs or invite the public and charge a small admission to defray the expenses.

You can get further details by contacting Allan Anderson at R.R.3, Tottenham, Ontario.

Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation Notes:

In keeping with the amicable and co-operative spirit which exists between the Ontario Historical Society and staff from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, a new section will appear, from time to time, in the Bulletin informing you of Ministry and Ontario Heritage Foundation activities. First, we should introduce the people who have direct responsibility for most Ministry and Foundation activities affecting historical societies. The organizational unit involved is the Historical Conservation Section. The chief of this tightly-knit, dedicated crew is Carl Thorpe, whose title is Supervisor. His senior staff, most of whom

you undoubtedly already know, include: David Roberts, Phillip Baker, Lorne Ste. Croix, and Vrenia Ivonoffski. Should you have any questions about Ministry programmes or activities, feel free to give any one of them a call in Toronto (area code 416) at 965-4021 or write them at the Heritage Administration Branch, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 7th Floor, 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto, M7A 2R9.

Many of you will be pleased to learn that the 1978 historical society annual operating grant application forms have just been mailed out. Your society might be eligible to receive up to \$1,500. Be sure to fill out the forms and return them to Carl Thorpe. Remember that they ought to be returned no later than 31 December, 1978.

The Honourable Reuben Baetz, Minister of Culture and Recreation and Mr. A.B.R. Lawrence, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, wish to inform you that the Ministry and the Foundation plan to stage a conference, "Exploring our Heritage: The Ottawa Valley Experience", at Arnprior on 21-22 October, 1978. Vrenia Ivonoffski has been appointed as the conference co-ordinator and you should direct questions to her.

The conference should provide a great opportunity for all of you to become better acquainted with the heritage of this historic area. Local societies will make presentations, many of them including slides, on various historical topics. A few professional historians will present interesting and informative papers. A number of craft displays and demonstrations will round out the affair. Two evenings (those of the 20th and 21st) will be filled with entertainment, including performers and films. Costs will be kept to a minimum for meals and accommodations, and there will be no registration fee.

Local societies might think of combining attendance at all or part of this conference with a tour of historical sites. In the Arnprior area there are some interesting possibilities, and all the routes into town pass through historic and very scenic regions. Remember too that you are only just over an hour away by bus or car from Ottawa and could include a tour of sites there. We look forward to seeing many of you at Arnprior in the autumn.

Help Wanted

The O.H.S. office is slowly being swamped with the amount of correspondence and other work which is being carried on. We are not complaining since the office is there to help as many people as possible in as many ways as needed. But, I do need some help!

If you can type, fill book orders, work on a project, have a few hours in a month to spare, live in the Toronto area and would like to volunteer to help, please give me a call at 536-1353. This can be your opportunity to become involved in the Society and its work. I cannot promise you glamour or riches, but there could be some fun and it is a chance to do something.

Issues, Answers, Ideas

A recent newsletter from the **Essex County Historical Association** included an item which is common to many societies, including the O.H.S. Even though there are new members coming into the society, there is a constant loss of old-time members. The problem is how to hold onto present members, attract new members and yet keep costs in line. If you have any ideas or suggestions, why not pass them

along and we will print them in future issues of the **Bulletin**.

The **Oxford Historical Society** has announced the formation of a speakers panel which is available for the meetings of Women's Institutes and other historical societies in the area. This is a valuable idea for making more people aware of different aspects of their heritage and for raising awareness among the public of your society. If your society has a speakers bureau, please let us know.

The **Wallaceburg and District Historical Society** has produced a "History Resource Booklet" listing available historical materials including audio-visual presentations, contact personnel, interviews on tape, photographs, references and much more for distribution to the area's schools and service clubs. This is an excellent way for a local society to work with the teachers and schools to make them and others aware of the wealth of information and aids which are available.

Albion/Bolton Historical Society

The reception to the film "Albion Is, Was and Will be" has been very favourable, with a number of showings given in the Region and a number of copies sold as well. I had a chance to see the film and it is a most impressive and imaginative effort.

Ancaster Township Historical Society

This group reports a very active season, including a meeting where the PLANISTICS GROUP presented their ideas for a heritage village in the core area of Ancaster. Mr. Robert Attree was the chief speaker for the evening.

Beverly Heritage Society

It is always a pleasure to see a relatively new society embark upon and successfully complete a series of very worthwhile projects, including the publications of a book. Now they have worked through another project by hiring six students for the summer, under a federal grant programme, to conduct a thorough historic building inventory in the former township of Beverly.

Binbrook Historical Society

Work is continuing on the preparation of a history of Binbrook Township, which disappeared in the Wentworth reorganization. The book will up-date and expand on an earlier Women's Institute history.

Bracebridge Historical Society

Working in conjunction with the local Rotary Club, this group hopes to open a notable house in Bracebridge as a local museum. Plans call for the society to be responsible for operating the museum.

Bruce County Historical Society

A major activity with this group right now is the archives which they operate at Southampton. Mrs. Ron Gatis, Archives co-ordinator represented the society at the

Bruce County Historical Society

O.H.S. Archives Seminar in March and then spent some days working with Mr. Jim Anderson at the Perth County Archives in Stratford.

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society

The Congress of Local Historical Societies (U.S.) held its annual day-long conference on July 19, 1978, at the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society. A lecture on the Sullivan Expedition, a discussion on grant writing and workshops on publications, cataloging and oral history were on the programme.

Canadian Historical Association

The Regional History Committee of the Canadian Historical Association announces that it is soliciting nominations for its "Certificate of Merit" awards. These annual awards are given for meritorious publications or for exceptional contributions by individuals or organizations to local and regional history.

Nominations and supporting documentation for candidates who have made a contribution to local or regional history in Ontario should be submitted, before October 15, 1978, to:

Professor J.K. Johnson
Department of History
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5B6

Cookstown Historical and Heritage Society

This brand new society hosted the unveiling of a cairn in the memory of Emily Ferguson Murphy. The cairn was erected by the Simcoe County Historical Association and unveiled by Her Honour, Lieutenant-Governor Pauline McGibbon on June 14th.

The Grimsby Historical Society

The office has received a copy of a little pamphlet called "Historic Places in Grimsby and Neighbourhood and Where to Find Them". This helpful little pamphlet is ideal for a tour of the area.

The Lennox and Addington Historical Society

Congratulations to the L. & A. Historical Society for receiving the O.H.S. Award of Excellence for their work in 1977.

The London and Middlesex Historical Society

It has been a very active spring for the London group between holding their regular meetings, holding a

junior history contest and hosting the O.H.S. Annual Meeting. The Elementary School Local History Contest brought in 37 entries by 52 pupils; a very good response covering a widely varied survey of the area's history area.

North Yarmouth Historical Association

Newly affiliated with the O.H.S., the main focus of attention continues to be the restoration of the Patterson Cabin, a log structure originally constructed in 1834 in Yarmouth township.

Ontario Heritage Foundation

Preserving Ontario's townscapes was the theme of the conference "Conserving Ontario's Main Streets" on August 24 to 27 at Trent University, Peterborough. The Main Street Conference endeavoured to examine the issues involved with heritage conservation in the core areas of our communities and, as all who attended will agree, helped plan a framework for the future development of these areas, which will respect their existing heritage. Invitations were sent out to LACAC's, downtown business representatives, municipal officials and heritage conservationists across the province.

The Ridgetown Historical Society

Another active and successful year has been outlined in a very attractive Annual Report by this society. Not only did the report include all of the news but it also incorporated a number of pictures. Small wonder that the Ridgetown group has a healthy membership and bright prospects when they produce such an attractive report.

The Royal Ontario Museum

From April 7 to September 10 the Canadiana Building is featuring an exhibition of portraits painted in Canada from the 1780's to the 1870's. The portraits range from the well-known to the unknown and include the Maritimes as well as Upper and Lower Canada.

The Scarborough Historical Society

The publication of "Remember When...Volume I" written by Richard Schofield is announced. Copies retail at \$3.50 plus 50c postage and can be ordered from the Society at P.O. Box 593, Station "A", Scarborough, Ontario.

Streetsville Historical Society

The O.H.S. had a booth at the Bread and Honey Festival which the Streetsville Historical Society helped sponsor in June. It was a most enjoyable Saturday for my wife and I as we met a great number of people who stopped at the O.H.S. display, as well as the displays of heritage groups in the Streetsville area. Our thanks to the Streetsville people for their hospitality.