

Oh BULLETIN

The
Ontario
Historical
Society

Summer 1982

78 Dunloe Road, Toronto, Ontario M5P 2T6

Issue 33

Summing Up and Looking Ahead

President's Remarks by Alec Douglas

The *Ontario History* Endowment Fund, I am delighted to tell you, is now a fact. Your response to my appeal in the last *Bulletin* justified our hopes. In less than two months, members have donated \$5,000 and our Wintario application for support has been successful. I am sure that I represent the view of the membership as a whole in expressing profound gratitude to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture for supporting this important endeavour. Anyone who contributes to or reads *Ontario History* for years to come will derive benefit from this investment.

The fund will amount to a total of \$60,000. For every dollar subscribed, Wintario will subscribe \$3. The Society is obliged, therefore, to raise another \$10,000 to reach its \$15,000 target. With interest from the fund it will be possible to subsidize publishing costs each year, thus ensuring that the journal continues to appear regularly and maintains adequate standards without an excessive increase in subscription fees.

We are particularly grateful to one life member who by great generosity has become our first Benefactor. The directors of the Society are tremendously heartened by this visible show of support. I would like to express my gratitude to each donor, and to all those societies that have written letters supporting our Wintario application for the *Endowment Fund*, our very special thanks.

Ontario History received still further aid and comfort, shortly after the last *Bulletin* went to press, from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. We had not expected this, because in 1981 the SSHRC turned us down. Evidently, our appeal found a more sympathetic audience in 1982.

This means that we can not only maintain the present standards of the journal, but will at last be able to expand its size and further enhance both the aesthetic quality and scholarly value of *Ontario History*. The directors of the Society and the editors who have struggled so long to make ends meet will, I know, receive this news with particular satisfaction. To them I express our gratitude for persevering under adversity.

We are very conscious that the SSHRC grant is offered for only one year at a time. Many varying conditions govern whether grant monies will be available, and the amount of money to be provided.

I also want to emphasize that the

Ontario Heritage Foundation responded very generously when the outlook was so gloomy that we felt obliged to ask for financial support last year. Therefore, even without SSHRC funds, we would have been able to continue publication at a satisfactory level in 1982, thanks to the Ontario Heritage Foundation. In future years, nevertheless, the only sure support of the journal will continue to be our own members and subscribers. The Endowment Fund is absolutely vital to our long-range plans and I urge members, by their personal donations, to help us reach the target of \$15,000 so that in providing matching funds for the Wintario grant, it will not be necessary to deplete the Society's reserve account.



The Welland Canal, circa 1915. (From the Toronto Star Weekly, January 1, 1916). Canal buffs are invited to join the newly-formed Canadian Canal Society. See page 11, second column.

Photo Courtesy Ontario Archives

The interest from such an investment will be the only lasting guarantee of security for *Ontario History*, and will keep subscription fees down.

If these good tidings were all I had to report, it would be cause enough for celebration. There is more, however; the pace is speeding up in many other facets of Society activities. As readers may have noticed in Zena Cherry's *Globe and Mail* column on April 13, one of the activities of Dorothy Duncan's Young Ontario Committee is a young people's art show entitled "Preserve the Province in Pencil, Pen and Paint". The results of this will be displayed at the History Fair in Kingston, which will take place during the Annual Meeting from June 18-20. Young people between the ages of 6 and 16 are invited to enter, and every artist who sends in a picture will receive a colour poster of the History Fair. The early response is encouraging.

Many societies have been visited by our new Executive Director, Dorothy Duncan, since February; an even greater number will hear from her by July. The Society is undertaking a survey of all the heritage groups in the province. Displayed on the walls of our office in Toronto there are now large maps of the province, festooned with coloured pins which represent historical societies, museums, LACACs and all the other groups devoted to heritage activities. They are an impressive sight and graphically demonstrate the magnitude of the heritage movement in Ontario. Elizabeth Quance will co-ordinate the survey and, along with Dorothy and other representatives of our Society, will undertake to visit all heritage groups in the next few weeks. The final report will be a valuable source of information for a wide range of people. It is not yet certain what shape the report will take, or when it will come out, but we will keep you informed.

One fact emerges above all others from even the most superficial look at our display maps. The vast geographical expanse of Ontario breaks down into a number of well-defined regions. We need to be aware of different regional characteristics and needs — of the rich diversity in

geographical, demographic, ethnic and cultural traditions that form our Society.

The historian concerns himself with these matters, but he cannot work effectively in isolation. Archivists must gather source materials and make them useable. Archaeologists are needed to put the historians' work into its true perspective. Museologists provide indispensable knowledge of material culture and bring us face to face with evidence of change in our past, and specialists in genealogy, the history of

**Heritage is everybody's business
and the more clearly that is understood, the stronger our communities will be.**

art and architecture add to the foundations of an historian's knowledge. Thus, it is a most welcome development, and of great importance to scholars and laymen alike, that these various disciplines are now represented on the Ontario Heritage Co-ordinating Committee. I have been Chairman of this group for the past year, and we have elected Dr. Mima Kapches, President of the Ontario Archaeological Society, to assume those duties for the next twelve months. Also represented on the Committee are the Ontario Museum Association, the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the Toronto Area Archivists Group, the newly formed Ontario Archivists Association and the Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology.

As we approach the bicentennial celebration of the province, as well as the centennials of several regions and communities, and of this Society in 1988, the importance of working together becomes dramatically clear. The building of the Rideau Canal in

1832 was simply a moment in time. It created a profound transformation of one region and to understand that we must be aware of what went before as well as what came after. Archaeological sites carbon-dated to 5,000 B.C. jostle with cottage properties of the twentieth century, and need to be preserved amid the constant changes of our own time. In short, heritage is everybody's business, and the more clearly that is understood, the stronger our communities, both rural and urban, will be.

An equally, if not more vivid example of this truth will become clear when we join in the celebration of Sudbury's centennial at our Annual Meeting in 1983. The Sudbury Historical Society and the Société Historique du Nouvel Ontario have joined forces to start preparations for this event which I am sure will be a landmark in the history of the OHS. A mes amis de ces deux sociétés, veuillez accepter, je vous en prie, l'expression de ma reconnaissance la plus profonde de votre support. Je vous souhaite bonne chance dans vos préparations, et je prévois avec beaucoup de plaisir la réunion de 1983.

With that small excursion into French, perhaps it would be advisable to bring these remarks to an end. In the next *Bulletin* our new president will be preparing this column. It has been a pleasant chore, knowing (or at least entertaining the naive belief) that the audience was friendly. As I will be saying to those of you who come to Kingston in June, thank you for giving your support to us in the past year. I am sure my successors can count on you to keep the Society growing and prospering. Good luck to you all. ■

The **OHS Bulletin** is a quarterly publication of the Ontario Historical Society, sent free of charge to all members of the Society. For details of membership, please contact the Executive Director.

Editing & Layout: John Eerkes
Typesetting & Printing: Oliver Graphics

The Halton Heritage Study

*Preservation Committee Report
by Heather Broadbent*

Recently the Society received a copy of the *Halton Heritage Study* and a letter confirming that the recommendations contained in the study had been adopted by Halton Regional Council last February. The study was undertaken by the Planning and Development Department of the Regional Municipality of Halton, Director Mr. R. Mohammed, and was funded by a grant from Employment and Immigration Canada. A planner with the Department, Paul Attack, supervised and edited the study. The research and writing was done by Elaine Campbell and Dino Mazzarato.

Probably the most important feature of the entire project is that the study is a planning document, created by a planning department as a tool to implement the heritage policies contained in the Halton Region Official Plan. The study acknowledges input from many local historians and groups and is not only a heritage inventory but an instrument created by planners to enable them to do their job. The information in the study seems precise, and the method utilized for the inventory allows for addition and revision as information becomes available. Heritage features are listed under theme headings: settlement, economic activity, and transportation, with each theme subdivided into eras or types. The three volumes are illustrated with photographs and excellent maps produced by the Halton Public Works Department. Of particular interest are the very detailed Feature Inventory Sheets. Each site has a page listing 21 different items pertaining to that feature, including a photograph where practical.

In previous editions of the *Bulletin* we have mentioned the importance of new legislation, municipal plans and local bylaws as tools of heritage conservation. This study is an excellent example of how a policy and its support-

ing documentation in an official plan can be an essential part of progress and building for the future. It should be pointed out that few Regional Councils have the benefit of advice from Heritage Committees. Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees are appointed by municipal councils; rarely is the support extended to the regional or county level. However, provincial legislation mentioned in a previous *Bulletin* article may make this type of inventory and report an essential part of planning for Ontario's future. The Regional Council for Halton is to be congratulated.

If your community is interested in the study, the complete set of three volumes is available for \$25 from Mr. Paul Attack, Planning and Development Department, The Regional Municipality of Halton, Box 7000, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario L6J 6E1. Or call (416) 827-2151, Ext. 244. ■

Current Heritage Activities

*Local Liaison Co-ordinator's Report
by Joyce Pettigrew*

Attending the Heritage Co-ordinating Committee meeting in April as Local Liaison Co-ordinator was an inspiring experience. The Committee is composed of representatives of various groups, including the Ontario Archivists, Ontario Archaeologists, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Ontario Genealogists, Ontario Museum Association and the OHS. By meeting with one another, ideas were exchanged, problems understood and co-operation achieved toward a common goal — preserving Ontario's heritage.

The Heritage Co-ordinating Committee is working towards obtaining a building, to be named "Heritage House", in which the offices of all these groups may be located. This would be not only a symbolic joining of forces; the proximity of these offices to one another would greatly facilitate

the co-ordination of their efforts.

There are many ways to encourage heritage activities in your area. Here are some ideas worth considering:

The staff of Dundurn Castle in Hamilton has organized an exciting twelve-week seminar to take place one evening a week, entitled "Restoring Your House Yourself". Even though one of the topics — "liaison with governments" — suggests historic homes, the others — dating the home, the role of the architect, structural evaluation, wiring, heating, and furnishing and landscaping — could be applied to restoring any home. Hamilton is fortunate in being able to obtain instructors who are leaders in the field of restoration. Another interesting feature of Dundurn's seminar is that the fees for a couple are only one-third more than for a single participant. Perhaps you could encourage the community college in your area to assist in mounting a similar course.

Bayfield LACAC has been successfully working with its historical society and other community groups towards designation of a large portion of the village as a Heritage Conservation Area. The co-operation and perseverance of these groups should serve as an example to others.

What are you doing about oral history in your area? The OHS and the Ontario Black History Society co-sponsored a workshop on the subject this past winter. North York Historical Society reports an active committee working toward an archival library of tapes.

Simcoe County Historical Association is assisting in the erection of a plaque to mark Wilberforce Street, which is significant to the early Black settlement of Oro Township. Similarly, a plaque commemorating the contribution of the Black settlers to the former South Norwich Township will be unveiled in Otterville on July 4th, through the joint efforts of the South Norwich Historical Society and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Other groups could further the knowledge of Black history in Ontario by assisting the Ontario Black History Society to bring its travelling display to their areas. ■

Workshops Off to a Good Start

*Local Societies Committee Report
by Wesley Turner*

The 1982 workshops have been very successful. The first was the Oral History workshop held at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse in Toronto on March 6. Co-sponsored by the Ontario Black History Society, it attracted 43 participants, thirteen of whom joined the OHS as new members. The workshop was well received by the audience. I was most ably assisted by Dave Roberts, Dorothy Duncan, Lynda Moon, Terry Campbell, and Lorraine Hubbard. In the Committee's opinion, there exists a strong demand for this workshop which should produce a large attendance when it is next offered. Planning is underway to present it in the autumn.

On March 13, a workshop on Archival Procedures was held at the Public Archives in Ottawa, co-sponsored by the Eastern Ontario Archivists Association. Despite its specialized nature the workshop attracted 40 participants, a number of whom were already OHS members. The EOAA was pleased with the results and will likely approach the OHS to co-sponsor a similar venture in 1982-83.

On March 20, the workshop on Promoting the Local Historical Society was given at Todmorden Mills Museum, co-sponsored by the East York Historical Society. Participants numbered 36, of whom five joined the OHS. Ernie Buchner did a fine job, both in overall arrangements and in his sessions. My thanks to him and the other contributors: Vrenia Ivonoffski, Ron Kaplansky, and Jane McMyn.

On April 3, the Basics of Historical Writing workshop was presented at the Welland Historical Museum, co-sponsored by the Welland Historical Museum and the Welland Historical Society. Thirteen people attended, two of whom joined the OHS. The participants were lively, interested and enthusiastic. Dr. Arthur Bowler of State University of New York, Buffalo, assisted me most capably. Everything proceeded smoothly thanks to the ar-

rangements made by Mary Sullivan, the Museum's curator, and Irene Stevens, the Chairman of the Museum Board.

On that same date, the Basics of Historical Research workshop was presented at the Kitchener Public Library, co-sponsored by the Waterloo Historical Society. The Chief Librarian, Mr. Lynn Mathews, and Grace Schmidt of the Waterloo Historical Society deserve our thanks for the excellent facilities and arrangements. Twenty-eight people attended, eleven of whom became new members. The workshop was ably conducted by Dr. Jacques Goutor assisted by Dr. Eric Jarvis and Susan Hoffman.

The Committee has been busy this year. We have been able to accomplish what we have because of the assistance of Dorothy Duncan and the support and enthusiasm of local societies and museum people. We hope soon to be able to announce autumn workshops. ■

Editor's Note

John Eerkes

In this issue, we are pleased to publish "Wild Plants of the Canadas" by Blanche Pownall Garrett. Mrs. Garrett is the author of *Canadian Country Preserves and Wines, A Taste of the Wild, and Fruits of the Earth*.

To those readers who had some difficulty in identifying the photographs in the Spring issue of the *Bulletin*, I should apologize. A more appropriate caption for both of them would have been "What's wrong with this picture?" Both photographs were backwards - left was right and *vice versa*.

As always, notices of appointments, publications, events, and relevant black and white photographs are welcome. Submissions for the Autumn issue of the *Bulletin* should be sent to the attention of The Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, The Ontario Historical Society, 78 Dunlop Road, Room 207, Toronto, Ontario M5P 2T6. Deadline for submissions is July 15. Enjoy the summer.

News from the Young Ontario Committee

Dorothy Duncan

The Young Ontario Committee welcomes John Carter, Museum Adviser for the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and Rita Michael, Consulting Archaeologist, as new members. Are there any other volunteers? Of any age? Members must be over 6 years of age!

The first project of the Committee, *Preserve the Province in Pencil, Pen and Paint* will be on view at the History Fair in Kingston in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Several historical societies have already asked whether the Art Show is available to travel to their communities after the History Fair. If you are interested, please contact us as soon as possible so that we can arrange the itinerary for the Art Show.

The Committee is now preparing an outline for a new project that will be based on local history and how historical organizations and institutions can involve young people in learning about their communities.

In addition, the Committee is considering possible new projects to be launched this Fall that will involve young people between the ages of 6 and 16. ■



Wild Grape

Wild Plants of the Canadas: Food Yesterday and Today

Blanche Pownall Garrett

The history of any territory must always revolve around the subject of food. Armies and navies winning or losing a battle, explorers opening up a continent, political factions forging a nation's constitution — all this sometimes earth-shaking action is dependent, in the final analysis, on the simple, homely question, "Where did they get their food? What did they have to eat?"

Throughout those first years of settlement in Upper and Lower Canada the question was crucial and constant. Few of the colonists had anything in their past experience to prepare them for the rigours and extremes of climate in the new land. There was no way they could anticipate the monotony of salt pork and dried peas throughout long months of winter. In our time of computerized supermarkets and imported delicacies to suit every palate and purse, it is difficult to imagine the importance of food — when men tramped through miles of bog and swamp carrying heavy sacks of grain on their shoulders; when a winter's potatoes was adequate reward for weeks of felling trees, removing stumps and breaking ground that had never been cultivated; when spring's earliest green dandelion leaves must have been more welcome fare than any gourmet salad we've ever eaten.

Until land was cleared, gardens planted, grain sown and a mill for its grinding established, food was a daily and often desperate problem; and it was here that the country's native wild plants made all the difference. The history of their use is a saga of survival. Many of the plants would be familiar to settlers from use back home in Europe — nettles, which had been a purging spring green and a base for beer since Roman times; the several varieties of fragrant wild mint; the sorrel, similar to that used for English "green sauce" and "green soup"; and the watercress, which may have reminded some of them of high tea "back home". There were dandelions



Elderberry

and lamb's quarters, plantain, and April's bracing wild leeks.

In many areas, friendly Indians showed settlers the plants that were medicinal and edible, as well as those few that were to be left alone because of their poisonous properties. They introduced them to the native wild sunflower; the Jerusalem artichoke, whose roots make a healthful substitute for potatoes; the autumn harvest of arrowhead roots and the beds of wild rice. Edwin Guillet records how Mrs. Simcoe used juniper berries, and the leaves of the balm of Gilead tree, to flavour soups and stews. Mrs. Traill tells of the substitutes for tea — sometimes actual substitutes and sometimes a means of stretching the precious supply of imported tea — sweet gale fern, sild bergamot, Labrador tea, spearmint and peppermint, and wintergreen leaves and berries. For those hard-working English, Scottish and Irish men who so sorely missed their British beer, the forest offered birch beer, maple beer and spruce beer. Cool refreshing drinks — or hot spicy ones if the occasion required it — were made from the pungent wild ginger root and soothing wild currant; from the tart red barberries of autumn; and from the high bush cranberries that clung to the trees even in winter.

There were wild fruits of many kinds — strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, high and low bush cranberries, gooseberries, haws,

huckleberries. There were wild grapes, tart wild plums, and crabapples. Picking the wild fruit was not something one did for a day's outing if one happened to be in a holiday mood; rather, it was one of the absolutely necessary activities of pioneer life. To the enjoyment of each fruit in season was added the real need to put by the surplus for the long hard winter, the only hope of relieving the monotony of winter fare. At first the fruit was kept by drying it. After that came crocks; and finally, jars with "bladders of butchered beasts to cover the preserves", the Langton records of 1837 recall. So abundant was the wild fruit harvest each year that the struggling settler was able to live better because of it.

By and large, the men and women who settled this country were adventurous, adaptable, and able not only to make do with next-to-nothing, but also to waste little time in improving their lot. True, the first seasons were unbelievably hard; but in not many years there were mills to grind flour, carefully tended garden plots from which to stock the snug root-houses, maple vinegar for the winter's pickled vegetables, maple sugar and wild honey for the winter's store of preserves. The settlers took great pride in the orchards and gardens that had begun in the wilderness with indescribable discomfort and toil. But even after the wild fruit harvest had ceased to be a necessity, they would hoard for a special occasion the bottle of wild raspberry vinegar, the sealer of wild plums in brandy, and the glass of amber-coloured mayapple jelly.

In spite of superhighways, bustling towns and cities, and mushrooming suburbs, there is still wild plant wealth to harvest in many areas. It is no longer a necessity; and we harvest it with care and consideration, for some plants are becoming rare and have to be protected. Yet, to some of us, as to those first settlers, there is no rarer treat than a small jar of wild strawberry jam, or a glass of hawthorn jelly, or a tumbler of chokecherry wine. ■

Programme Planning Survey Underway

Dorothy Duncan

The Ontario Historical Society is undertaking a survey of all the historical societies, heritage groups and institutions concerned with preserving the history of Ontario. The survey will include a review of present and future projects and programmes, funding sources and funding needs. There will be particular emphasis on plans for

recognizing the Provincial Bicentennial, which will begin in 1984.

Representatives of the Society are currently contacting all historical organizations and institutions in Ontario to discuss the survey in detail.

Elizabeth Quance is co-ordinating the survey. The results will be compiled into a submission to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture to assist them

in planning programmes that are responsive to the needs of the historical organizations and institutions in the province.

If your group has not been contacted, or if you are aware of a group that has been missed, contact the Society as soon as possible, as the submission will be prepared and presented to the Ministry in July. ■

Donors to Endowment Fund for *Ontario History*

The OHS gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the following individuals and organizations:

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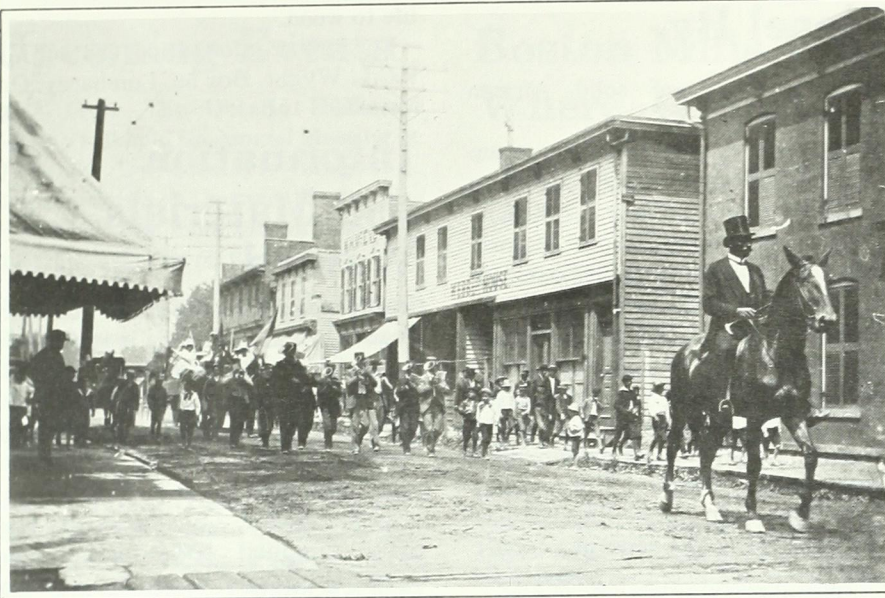
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Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society
Wellington County Historical Research Society

In addition to the above, the Society is grateful to the many other donors who prefer to remain anonymous. ■

OHS Museums Section Workshops for 1982

Date	Location	Topic
July 17	Sault Ste. Marie	Display and Exhibit Techniques
August 28	Allan Macpherson House, Napanee	Herbs in History: Herbs in Your Museum
September 11	Strathroy-Middlesex Museum, Strathroy	Managing Your Museum: The Role and Responsibilities of Boards & Committees of Management of Community Museums
October 14, 15, 16	Annual Conference, Aurora	Preparing for the Bicentennial in Your Museum
November 13	Pakenham	Reaching Young People in Your Community

For further information, contact the Museums Section Workshops, The Ontario Historical Society, 78 Dunloe Road, Toronto, Ontario M5P 2T6 or phone (416) 486-1232. ■



Emancipation Day Parade, Amherstburg, 1894.

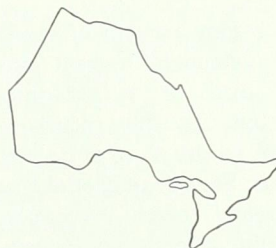
Photo Courtesy Ontario Archives

Exploring Ontario's Ethnic Mosaic

The Multicultural History Society of Ontario, established in 1976, is an autonomous research institute that encourages the preservation of ethnocultural sources and scholarly research about ethnic and immigrant history. A current project concerns the preservation of the records of ethnocultural organizations, so that future generations will be aware of the contributions of Ontario's immigrant communities. The society believes that the success of the project "is the only guarantee that serious historical scholarship, school curricula free of bias and children who understand their parents' way of life will be possible in Ontario's future".

So far, the society has published six issues of a biannual journal, *Polyphony*, as well as memoirs, bibliographies, research guides, conference proceedings and occasional papers. Some of the groups dealt with in the publications are the Black communities, the French, Italians, Finns, Ukrainians, Hungarians, Poles, Portuguese and Macedonians. More studies will follow. The society has no membership; however, its publications are available to all interested parties.

For information concerning its programmes or publications, contact the Multicultural History Society of Ontario at 43 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2C3 or phone (416) 979-2973. ■



Across the Province

The East York Historical Society will soon publish *The History of Leaside* by J.I. Rempel. The book will be about 30 pages long and contain more than 30 illustrations. It will sell for about \$3.50.

The Enoch Turner Schoolhouse in Toronto has organized a Summer Junior History Club, to meet on August 3, 10, 17 and 24. The programme is designed for the 8 to 12 age group. The idea is to learn to be a history detective; the junior historians will take part in nineteenth-century schooling and will learn about old Toronto. Registration must be done in advance; the fee is \$22. Call the Schoolhouse at (416) 863-0010.

The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society has begun a junior history group for young people 11 to 15 years of age. The first meeting was held at the Central Police Station on January 30 and accompanied by a slide show and discussion. The group will meet on the last Saturday of each month to acquaint youngsters with the history of the region.

Two local museums have recently produced "new look" newsletters. The Lennox and Addington County Museum has just released the *Gaol News*, and the St. Catharines Historical Museum has renamed its newsletter *Tales of the Twelve*. Both newsletters are attractively designed and very informative on the activities of the museums.

The York Pioneer and Historical Society reports that *Music at Sharon Temple* was so successful last year that another programme has been planned for this summer. Concerts will be presented on July 1, 3 and 10. The music will include, among other works, a heritage concert of a nineteenth-century Canadian operetta and a recital by Hugh McLean on the restored Coates pipe organ. For further information, write the "Music at Sharon" Office, Box 331, Sharon, Ontario, L0G 1H0.

The St. Catharines Historical Museum celebrated its 15th anniversary on June 4. Following are some of the events scheduled for the summer: (1) A major new gallery should be completed by July 1, with the official opening to take place in September. The name of the exhibit will be "Health Spas and Mineral Springs of St. Catharines". (2) A Marine Art display will run from the end of June to September. It will depict the ships that sailed the Great Lakes and through the Welland Canal, and ships built in St. Catharines. There will be original art by noted marine painters, as well as ship models, artifacts from vessels, postcards and photographs. (3) On June 25 the Museum will host the Pen-Ohio "A" Ford Club. About 60 Model A Fords will stop by the Museum as part of their Ontario tour.

"Phoebe" to Carry Colonel By

This summer Parks Canada, operators of the Rideau Canal, will charter the steam launch "Phoebe" to carry Colonel and Mrs. By through the system between June 12 and 26 in a re-enactment of the 1832 opening of the Canal. The "Phoebe" will be commanded by Captain Floyd Allan of Kingston, assisted by two engineers and two deckhands.

Refuelling isn't as simple as saying "Fill her up" and waiting for so many litres to pass through the hose. "Phoebe" is steam powered, using cord wood as fuel. Supplies have already been strategically located along the route while lockmasters are re-learning the techniques for handling steam-powered vessels.

The 48 foot "Phoebe", built in Kingston in 1914, is now owned by the Frontenac Society of Model Engineers and is berthed at the Kingston Pump House Steam Museum. It appeared at official Canal-opening ceremonies in Ottawa on May 23 and will make a further cruise in August.

Designed by Mat Davis and built at the Davis Drydock Company in Kingston, "Phoebe" has a 9 foot beam, draws four feet of water and its stout ribs carry one-inch southern pine planking, another reason for the launch to shrug off its near-70 years. Powered by a Davis compound engine rated at 65 hp at 150 rpm, it has a speed of 10 knots. Although another engine was used for several years, the original is now back in the hull.

"Phoebe" is a "day-boat" with glassed-in cabins running almost the entire length of the launch. The forward area is described as a working deck and is the realm of the wheelsman. Communications to the 11 foot engine room, just aft of the central area and dominated by the "Davis Water Tube Safety Boiler", are by bell signals.

Behind the engine room are the passenger quarters or "aft cabin" with seats along both sides and a drop-leaf table between. There are toilet facilities, an ice box and ice drawer (for fish caught en route) and a sideboard for glasses, dishes and linens. All the interior panelling, even that in the

engine room, is of solid African mahogany.

The "Phoebe" was built by a group of friends, colleagues and students as a retirement gift for Dr. John A. Brashear when he left the post of president of the University of Pittsburgh in 1914. It was named after the wife of the famed educator and astronomer. It was actually the second boat of the same name. The first, presented to Dr. Brashear by steel magnate Andrew Carnegie in 1904, burned shortly after it was built.

The first owner of the "Phoebe" had it transported to the Muskoka Lakes, north of Toronto, and it remained there until Dr. Brashear's death in 1920. A series of owners followed until the "Phoebe" found its way to Skaneateles Lake, one of the Finger Lakes in northern New York, where it was owned and sailed by Mr. A.S. Wickstrom who kept it in excellent condition until his death in an aircraft accident in the 1970's.

Then began a chain of events, and the involvement of a great number of people and organizations, that culminated in the return of the "Phoebe" to the place of its birth. The Frontenac Society of Model Engineers had already been instrumental in establishing the Pump House Steam Museum as a 300th birthday present for Kingston in 1973. It is dedicated to the display of steam engines and seemed the ideal place to display the "Phoebe". With the promised support of the federal, provincial and municipal governments and a number of individuals and businesses, the Society launched a campaign to bring the "Phoebe" home. A financial arrangement by the Society held the "Phoebe" until final details could be arranged.

Picking the 15 ton launch out of a landlocked lake in the rugged country of northern New York and transporting it to Kingston is a story in itself. Nevertheless, it was accomplished and the "Phoebe" returned home to be refurbished, again to grace the waters it had known for so many years and remind us of the quiet power of steam and heritage of the craftsman bringing

life to wood.

For further information, contact Mr. F.C.L. Wyght, Box 56, Lombardy, Ontario K0G 1L0. ■

Information and Materials Wanted

The National Historic Parks and Sites Branch of Parks Canada is seeking information on the manufactured goods produced by planing mills and sash, door, and blind factories, such as the Rathbun enterprises of Deseronto. The Rathbuns operated one of the largest such factories in Canada and its products supplied both foreign and domestic markets. If you know of any records of the Rathbun's sash, door and blind departments, such as bills of sales, catalogues, or photographs, please contact Margaret Archibald, Research Historian, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Parks Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1G2.

The Provincial Museum of Alberta is planning a travelling exhibition on the history of blue jean making in Alberta and of the GWG Company. If you have blue jeans, jackets, World War II Naval uniforms, or other clothing *manufactured by the GWG Company* which you would be willing to either donate or loan, please notify Sandra Morton, Curator of Social History, Provincial Museum of Alberta, 12845 - 102nd Ave., Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6. Phone: (403) 427-1743.

The St. Catharines Historical Museum is seeking information on the following: *The Stephenson House* (northwest corner of Salina and Yates) in the latter half of the nineteenth century. This property was later known as *The Puccini Macaroni Factory*; the building was destroyed between 1932 and 1937. *Springbank Hotel* (Yates St. in vicinity of College St.) which burned down in 1903. *Mack Mineral Spring Water Bottling Company*, last known address 111 Welland Avenue North. If you have any information relating to any of the above St. Catharines sites, please call the Museum at (416) 227-2962 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ■

Upcoming Events

June 18-20: The **Ontario Historical Society** will hold its Annual Meeting at Queen's University, Kingston. Registration is on the main floor of Victoria Hall. For more information, call the OHS office at (416) 486-1232.

June 18-19: The **Lake Ontario Archives Conference** will hold its Annual Meeting at Trinity College, University of Toronto. For further information, contact R. Scott James at (416) 367-7042.

June 30-July 16: The **Ontario College of Art** will offer a course in 19th Century Architecture in Canada. Specific attention will be given to Ontario buildings, which will be studied in relation to contemporary North American and European stylistic trends. Instruction will be divided equally between classroom lectures/discussions and visits to buildings in Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Hope, Cobourg and Grafton. For more information contact Archie Graham at (416) 977-5311, extension 233, or Helen Thibodeau at extension 331.

July 31-August 1: The **Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum** will celebrate "Canal Days" at 280 King Street in Port Colborne. This annual celebration of the Welland Canal will feature historical and educational demonstrations and displays on the marine history of the area, and craft demonstrations and sales. Food and entertainment will be provided.

August 24-28: A **Canadian-American Urban Development Conference: A Comparative Approach to the Urban Past**, will be held at the University of Guelph. Three days of sessions will focus on the nature of social, economic and political power in the cities of Canada and the United States. A multidisciplinary approach will deal with history, geography, planning, architecture, political science, economics and sociology. Tours of southern Ontario towns and cities will also be arranged. For further information contact Gilbert A. Stelter, Conference Coordinator, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1. ■

Boston Mills Enters Market Where Goliaths Fear to Tread

Interest in the Niagara Escarpment area's heritage is alive, well and on the upswing — as can be attested to by the success of a small, courageous and independent publishing house dedicated to printing books on local history.

The company, **The Boston Mills Press**, was launched in 1974 by James Filby and three partners after major Canadian publishers rejected Filby's history of the Credit Valley Railway because they considered the book "too local" to be financially successful.

Undaunted and sensing a need for a company dedicated to recording the often overlooked "lesser" histories of Canada's past, the fledgling company in its first year published three books totalling 3,500 copies.

"It was tough going at first," Filby recalls, "because we lacked recognition. But, because we were local, we got the support of local businesses."

Initially, the little histories were sold in general stores and antique shops throughout the Credit Valley region. Today, Boston Mills Press books are also found in major bookstores throughout Canada.

The Boston Mills Press has published 60 books, sold 150,000 copies, and was awarded the 1980 Heritage Canada Communications Award.

All four co-owners — Filby, his wife, Jean, Ralph Beaumont and John Denison — have other jobs, but have devoted eight years of their weekends and evenings to writing, editing, designing and promoting works on Ontario's heritage — histories that otherwise might have remained virtually unexplored by modern readers.

Included among the books published by The Boston Mills Press are accounts of early pioneer life in many of the small towns and hamlets that dot the Niagara Escarpment. The following books may be of particular interest:

Belfountain and the Tubtown Pioneers, by Margaret Witeside, relating the history of some of the early settlers of Belfountain (formerly known as Tubtown).
William Cook's History of In-

glewood, detailing life in the once prosperous and thriving railway town situated on the edge of the Escarpment.

Other books include: *A Pictorial History of Alton* by Ralph Beaumont; *Cheltenham: A Credit Valley Mill Town* by Frank Nelles; *Saunders' History of Georgetown* by Kathleen Saunders; *Steam Trains through Orangeville* by Ralph Beaumont; *Owen Sound: The Day the Governor General Came to Town and Other Tales* by Andrew Armitage; *The Rockside Pioneers* by Robert Chrichton; *Terra Cotta: A Capsule History* by Mary Zatyko and *Barber Dynamo* by Reinhard Filter.

Another informative book in the Credit Valley series deals with *The Great Horseshoe Wreck* of 1907 on the Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway Line. Seven people were killed and 114 injured in this wreck on the Escarpment which occurred about ten miles south of Orangeville.

The Credit Valley Series is just one of four series in progress. With the help of Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council grants, The Boston Mills Press has been able to expand into other subject areas.

With the Toronto Area Archivist Group, the Press is currently working on a 15-volume series entitled *Ontario's Heritage: A Guide to Archival Resources in Ontario*. So far three volumes have been published on Peterborough, Peel and Northern Ontario.

Also published by the Press is *Place Names of Peel: Past and Present*, by Pauline Roulston, a first in a series on place names in Ontario.

While the books are getting larger in format, Filby says he and his partners are trying to keep most of their publications local in nature; although they have published some books of national and international appeal such as the *Avro Arrow* and a book on the Royal Flying Corps. The *Avro Arrow* sold 6,000 copies in 15 days and is now in its third printing.

Filby anticipates the Press will publish at least ten books a year. ■

(From Cuesta, Spring 1982)



From the Bookshelf

As She Began by Bruce Wilson provides a general introduction to a crucial period in Ontario's history, 1775 to 1800, when thousands of loyalist refugees from the American Revolution streamed into the "land between the lakes". Concentrating on the personal and social aspect of the migration, Wilson looks at the origins, backgrounds, motives and later successes of the men and women who were forced to begin a new life in the wilderness. 128 pp., 54 illustrations and maps.

Available from Dundurn Press, P.O. Box 245, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L5 for \$12.50.

Buckskin Pimpernel: The Exploits of Justus Sherwood, Loyalist Spy by Mary Beacock Fryer is a compelling narrative of a Vermont farmer who sent out raiding parties and spying missions to harass the rebels in New York and New England during the American Revolution. He also supervised negotiations between Ethan Allen and Governor Haldimand in Quebec to keep Vermont out of the new Union. When the war ended, Sherwood settled near what is now Brockville and became active in establishing the political and judicial framework of Upper Canada. 288 pp., 8 illustrations.

Available from Dundurn Press, P.O. Box 245, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L5 for \$9.50.

Building the Rideau Canal by Robert W. Passfield marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Rideau in 1832. When the War of 1812 showed the Canadas to be vulnerable to American attack, the Rideau was built as a key element in a defence system constructed by the British army. The finished project included engineering achievements unequalled anywhere in the world, and the canal has since played a major role in the Canadian commercial transport system. The

book is also available in French, under the title *Construction du canal Rideau: histoire illustrée*. This is a co-publication of Fitzhenry and Whiteside Ltd. and the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, in collaboration with Parks Canada. 174 pp., with 50 coloured and 16 black and white illustrations.

Available at bookstores for \$24.95, or from Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 150 Lesmill Road, Don Mills, Ontario M3B 2T5 for \$25.95.

Designated Buildings of Architectural and Historic Interest in the City of Guelph 1977-1981 has been published by the Guelph LACAC. 28 pp., profusely illustrated.

Available from the Department of Planning and Development, Guelph City Hall, for \$2 plus \$1 for postage and handling.

Dreams of Empire: Canada Before 1700 is an illustrated descriptive catalogue of an exhibition presented by the Public Archives of Canada. The exhibition includes maps, engravings, paintings, seals, medals, manuscripts and prints. All are reproduced in the catalogue, which also includes a written history of the period and introductions to the eight themes explored: origins, exploration and occupation of the continent, population and settlement, government, wars, economy, society and culture, and religion.

Available from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, 45 Sacre-Coeur Boulevard, Hull, Québec K1A 0S9. For the English edition, quote cat. no. SA2-129/1-1982E, ISBN 0-660-10977-8. Hardcover \$24.95, softcover \$14.95.

The Genesis of Our Capital by Hamnet P. Hill, a reprint of an article first

published in 1935, outlines Ottawa's early history. 8 pp.

Available from the Historical Society of Ottawa, P.O. Box 523, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5P6 for 50¢ plus postage.

Hopeful Travellers by David Gagan is a fascinating and detailed study of the histories of families living in Peel County between 1845 and 1875. Subtitled "Families, Land and Social Change in Mid-Victorian Peel County, Canada West", it also describes the maturing of the agricultural community of the area.

Published by the University of Toronto Press, and available from bookstores for \$20.

The Ice Industry at Bell Ewart has just been published by the Innisfil Historical Society. The book traces the rise and fall of the ice industry in a village in Simcoe County. Only 200 copies have been printed. 35 pp., illustrated with photographs and line drawings.

Available from the Innisfil Historical Society, Box 381, Stroud, Ontario L0L 2M0 for \$3 plus 50¢ for postage.

Laura: A Portrait of Laura Secord by Helen Caister Robinson is a biography of one of Canada's early heroines, who walked for more than 19 hours during the War of 1812 to warn British soldiers of an impending attack by American forces. Her heroism did not bring recognition until 40 years later, when she was rewarded by the visiting Prince of Wales. 240 pp., 5 illustrations.

Available from Dundurn Press Ltd., P.O. Box 245, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2L5. Hardcover \$16.50, softcover \$7.75.

Medicine for Heroes is the first publication of the Mississauga South Historical Society. Its contents include: "Primitive Medicine Among the Indians in Ontario"; "Each Family Its Own Doctor"; "Medicine for Heroes"; "Some Doctors Who Practised in Peel County Area 1822-1910"; and "Country Doctor". 93 pp., illustrated

with photographs and nineteenth-century prints.

Available from the Mississauga South Historical Society, P.O. Box 452, Port Credit Postal Station, Mississauga, Ontario L5G 4M1.

Northern Ontario Fur Trade Archaeology edited by C.S. "Paddy" Reid contains seven articles concerned with recent research in the area. A comprehensive bibliography is included.

Available from the Publications Service, Ministry of Government Services, 5th Floor, 800 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N8.

Ontario's Heritage: A Guide to Archival Resources lists records found in hundreds of repositories in each region of Ontario, including those of municipal governments, educational authorities, religious bodies and private organizations and collections. Three volumes have been published so far: Vol. 1 - Peterborough Region (118 pp.) \$6.95; Vol. 7 - Peel Region (101 pp.) \$9.50; and Vol. 13 - North East Ontario (100 pp.) \$9.50. Add 50¢ for postage and handling.

Available from, and make cheques payable to, the Boston Mills Press, R.R. 1, Cheltenham, Ontario L0P 1C0.

Pélagie by Antonine Maillet depicts the courageous return by thousands of French Canadians from exile in the southern United States to their beloved Acadia. The author chronicles her ancestors' journey to the Maritimes, from which they were deported by the English in 1755 for refusing to swear allegiance to the British crown. Antonine Maillet has previously been awarded the Prix Champlain and the Governor-General's Award; with this novel, she has won France's prestigious Prix Goncourt. 251 pp.

Published by Doubleday Canada Ltd. and available from bookstores for \$17.95.

Pioneer People and Places: Early Grenville now consists of eight volumes dealing with the history of the county. For more information contact the Grenville County Historical Society, Box 982, Prescott, Ontario K0E 1T0. ■

Of Interest

The **American Association for State and Local History** is offering six correspondence courses in its independent study programme, which allows students to proceed at their own pace. The courses are: Administering Historical Photograph Collections; Interpretation Through Effective Labels; Layout and Design of Publications; Interpretation of Historic Sites; Documents: Interpretation and Exhibition; and Education: School Programmes and the Museum. For more information, contact the Independent Study Programme, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37204, U.S.A.

The **Canadian Canal Society** held its founding meeting on May 1, 1982. About 35 canal buffs met at Dalhousie House, in Port Dalhousie Ward of St. Catharines, to approve the constitution and choice of Board of Directors. They also chose the following executive: President, Donald A. Smithies (Manager, Museums and Archives, Peterborough Board of Museum Management); Vice-President, J. Hayward Madden (American Canal Society, Livonia, N.Y.); Secretary, Robert R. Taylor (History Professor, Brock University); Treasurer, George M. Carl (Former Secretary, Scott Misener Steamships).

The society's main purpose is to encourage and advocate the preservation, restoration, interpretation and use of Canadian canals, both historic and contemporary. Memberships are \$10 (individual) or \$15 (family). Information about the society can be obtained by writing to Robert R. Taylor, 8 Hessford Road, St. Catharines, Ontario L2P 2A7, or c/o History Department, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario L2S 3A1.

The **Historical Lighting Society of Canada** has recently been organized to foster the study of early lighting methods and the preservation of lighting artifacts. For information contact Jack Cooper, 567 Avenue Road, P.H. 1, Toronto, Ontario M4V 2K1.

Forty members were recruited at the first meeting of the **Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology** on February

27. The society intends to promote the study and preservation of Ontario's industrial heritage. It has just published its first newsletter and will hold regular meetings and tours across the province. The annual membership fee is \$10; apply to Phyllis Rose, Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology, Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, 280 Huron Street, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1.

The **Smithsonian Institution's** Office of Museum Programmes has announced a series of workshops for individuals employed in museums. The courses vary in length from two to five days, and will run until April 1983. The topics include principles of conservation and preventive care, freeze-dry techniques, travelling exhibitions, labelling, membership programmes, managing and maintaining collections, publications, museum management, computerization, fumigation, community and school relations and more. Contact Nancy L. Welch, Training Programme Co-ordinator, Office of Museum Programmes, Arts and Industries Building, Room 2235, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560 U.S.A. ■

New Members

Agincourt: S.C. Whyte

Cambridge: Kathryn Martin

Downsview: Paul Voynovich

Hamilton: Centennial Library, Hillfield-Strathallen Collegiate; Mr. Alfred R. Thompson

Kapuskasing: Ron Morel Memorial Museum

Kitchener: A.D. Campbell; Sara E. Dreger

Lindsay: Lindsay Public Library

London: Mrs. Barbara Balch; Mrs. Gail Clothier; Miss Laurena E. Storey

New Hamburg: Ernie Ritz

Ottawa: Eva T. Odoherty

Toronto: Valerie Cole; Ruth Keene; Henri Pilon; James Renwick

Whitby: Whitby LACAC Committee

Wilsonville: Virginia Beaver; Ann General

Out of Province

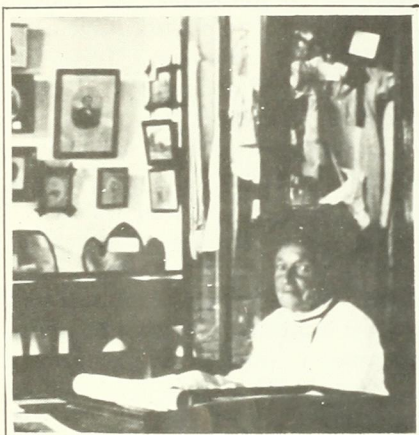
London, England: The Librarian, Royal Commonwealth Society

Vancouver, British Columbia: Mr. Christopher L. Hives

Museum Recalls Brock's Hat Trick

Betty Zyvatskauskas

What can the Niagara Historical Society Museum claim over the Royal Ontario Museum? Built in 1907, it's the oldest museum building in Ontario. Today visitors are welcome seven days a week to look at the collection of United Empire Loyalist artifacts, War of 1812 weapons and personal possessions of local heroes such as Major-General Sir Isaac Brock and Laura Secord.



Miss Carnochan of the Niagara Historical Society, 1906.

Perhaps the museum's most remarkable artifact is Brock's hat. As the story goes, Brock wore it only at his funerals — all three of them. The hat was delivered after Brock died from his battle wounds; each time the general's remains were given a new resting place, the hat was exhumed from some closet for the occasion. It's not marked, so you will have to ask someone to point it out. It's the one in the case with the 1780 officer's coat.

Military paraphernalia is naturally a cornerstone of the museum collection and war buffs delight in the badges and insignia of Butler's Rangers and the Royal Americans. A Brown Bess musket and Kentucky long rifle are among firearms on display.

The area's pioneers included the Ball family which built an important mill near Vineland. Jacob Ball was a lieutenant in the loyalist Butler's Rangers. Family artifacts such as a coffee pot (not frequently used in English homes) illustrate the family's German roots.

Local institutions which would otherwise have long drifted into obscurity are chronicled at the museum. Miss Rye's 1869 Home for Immigrant Girls is described with old photos and clippings. The ambitious Miss Rye took it upon herself to rescue hundreds of homeless waifs from the mills and workhouses of industrial England and bring them to Canada at a cost of £10 each. In Miss Rye's converted courthouse home they were schooled in the virtues of modesty and hard work. A fortunate girl might be adopted by a local family or taken into service as a housekeeper.

Victorian furnishings and housewares have been sorted out into a room-by-room display which tries to give visitors a taste of a period home. A mid-nineteenth-century nursery has a rocking bench which enabled the busy mother to rock a sleeping child while keeping her hands free for knitting or needlework.

The Niagara Historical Society Museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St. in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children. The museum's summer hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information telephone (416) 468-3912.

(From the Globe and Mail, April 24, 1982)

Publicity Committee Needs Your Help!

The newly formed Publicity Committee is recruiting volunteers to work in these areas:

*Promotion
Copy Writing
Proofreading
Layout & Design
Print Production*

This committee will cover promotion of all Society activities and promises to be very exciting.

What better way to become involved and discover at first-hand what is happening at the OHS?

If you have experience in any of these fields or feel you could help promote the OHS in some other way, please write to the Publicity Committee Chairman, Sandra Sims, at the Ontario Historical Society, 78 Dunloe Road, Toronto, Ontario M5P 2T6.

OHS Bulletin
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Toronto, Ontario M5P 2T6

