



5151 Yonge Street  
Willowdale, Ontario  
M2N 5P5

# OHS BULLETIN

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## Blackburn's Past Unearthed

Who is Thornton Blackburn and why are archaeologists digging in his backyard?

To answer the former we must begin with the latter. In 1983, the Grade 11 Archaeological Field School was initiated. Operating during the summer months, it was sponsored by the Toronto Board of Education, Continuing Education Department and offered the only full-credit course in archaeological fieldwork in Toronto at a high school level. This was not the first time the Toronto Board of Education became involved with an archaeological dig. In 1982, the Toronto Board of Education in co-operation with the Toronto Historical Board participated in the excavation of Fort Rouille.

The year 1983 was an important one for archaeology in Toronto, not only because of the Grade 11 Archaeological Field School, but also because of a new programme, 'inSite: Digging Into Our Past.' This exciting experiment in archaeology promoted the role of public archaeology in the conservation of our urban heritage. In 1983, 'inSite' worked hand in hand with the Grade 11 Field School's first dig, the Front Street Archaeological Project. By the fall of 1984, archaeologists, students, and the public successfully completed the excavation of the Parliament Buildings of Upper Canada (1822-1892).

Thanks to these successful projects, the extraordinary story of Thornton and Lucie Blackburn was brought to life this year. Archaeologists had decided that in 1985 they would choose a domestic site to ex-

cavate, a site that would tell them something about the everyday life of the people who built our fair city. Thornton and Lucie Blackburn were indeed two such residents.

Their story begins south of the Canadian border in Maysville, Kentucky in the early 1830's. The Blackburns were slaves who decided to flee slavery to a 'free' U.S. state in the north via the Underground Railroad — a secret 'underground' operation to help fugitive slaves on their journey to freedom. In July 1831, Thornton and Lucie arrived in Detroit, Michigan where they soon became well known. However, in June 1833, slaveholders from Kentucky arrived in Detroit in search of their human property. Their intent was to take the Blackburns back to Kentucky and slavery ... they almost succeeded.

The Blackburns were soon put into jail. When they were taken to court and were unable to prove that they were 'free' Blacks, the court ruled that the slaveholders could take the Blackburns back to Kentucky. However, Black citizens in Detroit and in neighbouring Canadian towns would not accept the court's ruling and came to the fugitives' rescue. Thanks to their help, Lucie Blackburn was able to escape by switching clothing with a visitor to the jailhouse. Later, she made her way to Canada via the Detroit River.

On June 19th, 1833 violence erupted outside the jailhouse when a horse and cart arrived to take Thornton Blackburn to the steamboat that would carry him



R.H. Thomson as Samuel Lount and Cedric Smith as William Lyon Mackenzie star in 'Samuel Lount,' a film focusing on the reasons for the rebellion of 1837. Photo courtesy Chris Reardon. See page 5.

back to slavery. During this disturbance, Thornton Blackburn was able to escape to Canada. Afterwards, this incident was referred to as the Blackburn Riot.

Lucie and Thornton were reunited in Canada, but it didn't take long before they found themselves incarcerated again. In the Minutes of the Executive Council of York for the autumn of 1833, it is reported that authorities in Detroit requested that the Blackburns be 'delivered up' because they had incited a riot during which a sheriff was wounded. But 1833 was the year Upper Canada passed an act providing that fugitives and slaves need not be extradited if the Governor-in-Council felt it was inappropriate. Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Colborne felt that the request by Detroit officials was quite inappropriate.

(See *The Blackburns*, p. 2)

## Ontario Supports Restoration of Lyndhurst Bridge

The Ontario government hopes the Lyndhurst bridge will be saved from destruction.

In a move to provide incentive for Leeds and Grenville Counties to retain and restore Ontario's oldest surviving bridge, the Honourable Lily Munro, Minister of Citizenship and Culture, announced on July 29 a commitment of \$90,000, under the Community Facilities Improvement Programme.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications will also subsidize the bridge's restoration under the Ontario Heritage Bridges Programme.

'The Ontario Heritage Bridges Programme was established by both ministries to encourage the conservation of heritage road bridges throughout Ontario,' said Ms. Munro. 'Pakenham bridge in the Ottawa Valley was recently preserved due in large

part to the efforts of this programme, and it is my hope that the Lyndhurst bridge will be restored and retained as well.'

Leeds and Grenville council has accepted a roads committee recommendation to tear down the single lane bridge because of structural deficiencies and build a new, two-lane bridge.

Since the bridge has been designated an historic structure under the Ontario Heritage Act, the counties must first receive permission from the Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne council to demolish it.

The bridge's future has received province-wide attention, due to the action of such bridge-restoration groups as the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) and the Friends of the Lyndhurst Bridge.

## LOGO CONTEST: OHS 100!

AND YOU COULD BE A WINNER!!!

In 1988, The Ontario Historical Society will celebrate its 100th birthday. This will be a year-long festival for all who are interested in Ontario's history, so we must get the message out.

You are invited to submit your design for a slogan and logo, something small enough to go on a pin and catchy enough to instantly attract all manner of people. Try to incorporate the OHS crest.

Enter as many times as you like! The reward for the winner will be instant fame and a prize awarded by the OHS Centennial Committee.

Submit your entries by May 30th, 1986 to the OHS Office.

## Restoration of Cobourg's Victoria Hall Continues

The exterior restoration of the Second Street Fire Hall (circa 1882), an integral part of Victoria Hall Square, was completed recently. The restoration project was funded primarily by the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall and by the Ontario Heritage Foundation

through a Building and Industrial Leadership Development Grant under the Bicentennial Challenge Programme. The Town of Cobourg has given the Northumberland Players a 20-year lease for the hall. Interior work commenced in August to convert this heritage building into a theatre centre. For further information, contact Cedric P. Haynes, President, Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall, Room 203, 107 King Street West, Cobourg, Ont. K9A 2M4, (416) 372-6917 or 372-5364. Donations deductible under Canadian Charitable Registration No. 0392 134-52-12 and under Section 501(C)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

### 1986 OHS MEMBERSHIP RATES

Individual/Institutional (non-affiliated) \$15; Family \$18; Affiliated Institutions \$35; Sustaining \$50; Life \$450; Patron \$500; Benefactor \$1000.

The Ontario Historical Society  
5151 Yonge Street  
Willowdale, Ontario,  
M2N 5P5





## President's Message



OHS President, Matt Bray

It was a great honour to have been elected President of The Ontario Historical Society for 1985 - 1986 at the recent Annual Meeting in Brantford. In assuming this position, I am very much aware of the many dedicated individuals who have preceded me and will try with the best of my ability to match the high standards of achievement they have set.

In many respects, my task this year has been made very much easier than it otherwise might have been. Thanks to Executive Director Dorothy Duncan and her capable associates at the Toronto headquarters, the business of the Society is carried out in a professionally competent manner. Because of the work of my immediate predecessors, such as Neil Patterson and Wes Turner, the Society is organizationally sound and financially viable in spite of having expanded its activities considerably in recent years.

One of the greatest strengths of the OHS lies in the quality of people that it has consistently attracted to its executive. In this regard, 1985-1986 is no exception.

With the cooperation of these and many other people, The Ontario Historical Society will carry out a wide variety of activities, some on-going and some new, in the coming months. A very successful summer workshop series has just been completed at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto, and an equally promising winter programme is fully planned. The Society has already begun to prepare seriously for its centennial celebrations in 1988, and the Friends of Muskoka Pioneer Village in Huntsville, co-hosts of the 1986 Annual Meeting, are hard at work seeking to equal the accomplishments of the Brant Historical Society last June. New publications, historical seminars, and special events are also at various stages of preparation. Most importantly, as it has in the past, the OHS will continue to serve its membership, individual and organizational, by stimulating public awareness of Ontario's history and endeavouring to preserve the province's rich heritage in every possible way.

MATT BRAY  
President, OHS

## Executive Director's Report

### Summer Memories

It was a busy summer for the staff and volunteers of the OHS. We held our first summer programme of workshops at Black Creek Pioneer Village and the participation of museum workers, LACAC and historical society members, and other interested individuals (two from as far away as Northern Ireland) made the series a success.

### Update on Transmission Tower

News of the re-location of the TV Ontario transmission tower from the proposed site at Gore's Landing to an existing tower site at Harwood was good news for the heritage community of that area. They had objected to its construction on an historic site without archaeological investigations first being conducted.

### Special Events

The OHS participated in a number of special events this summer. They included the 'Yonge Street Chronicles,' the 75th anniversary of Brown School, the opening of the Thornton Blackburn Archaeological Learning Centre, the Canadian National Exhibition, the Riverdale Farm Centre, the Gibson House Festival, 25th birthday celebrations at Homewood for both the Grenville County Historical Society and the North York Historical Society, the Black Creek Pioneer Village Family Day and Visitor Centre opening, and the 125th Albion and Bolton Fall Fair.

### Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage

We had the opportunity to lead a workshop for the Federation of Nova Scotia Heritage in Cape Breton in August on the topic 'Involving Young People.' It was a stimulating experience to work with the enthusiastic participants from museums and historical societies in Nova Scotia. It gave us the opportunity to exchange ideas and solve common problems.

### Good-bye and Good Luck

The Society said good-bye to Sandra Macpherson with great reluctance when she left to take up her new position as Director of Muskoka Pioneer Village in Huntsville this past September. Sandra came to the OHS over a year ago as a volunteer. Later she became co-ordinator of our Historic Structures Advisory Services and the special workshop series to meet the new standards for community museums in Ontario, funded by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the Honourable Lily Munro, Minister. Our very best wishes go to Sandra in her new position.

### 'Miss Janet' Truly Launched

*Janet Carnochan*, by John Field and published by Fitzhenry and Whiteside in the series called 'The Canadians,' was launched in Niagara-on-the-Lake in September and in Toronto in October. Janet Carnochan's accomplishments both in her own community of Niagara-on-the-Lake and on behalf of our Society across Ontario are legion. The Ontario Historical Society was delighted to be a co-sponsor at the Toronto launch along with the Niagara Historical Society, Brights Wines, Fitzhenry and Whiteside, and the Ontario Editorial Bureau.

### Heritage Canada

We were chosen to represent the member organizations in Ontario at the Heritage Canada 12th Annual Conference 'Heritage 85: The Challenge of Change' in Saint John, New Brunswick in October. The topic, 'Future Uses of our Industrial Heritage,' addressed the challenge faced by communities across Canada. The spirited discussions, panels of speakers, and lectures emphasized the size of the problem and introduced some of the solutions that have worked in other parts of Canada and in England.

DOROTHY DUNCAN  
Executive Director, OHS

## The Blackburns (Continued from page 1)

As a result, the Blackburns were released from jail and allowed to stay in Canada. This incident was the first test of the 1833 Fugitive Slave Act. In 1834 slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire; in that same year the Blackburns arrived in Toronto to begin a new life.

They purchased two lots of land from the Toronto Hospital Trustees soon after they arrived in Toronto and made their home in a small one-storey frame house with an adjacent horse barn on the north side of Eastern Avenue. Thornton Blackburn began working as a table waiter at Osgoode Hall. Although he could not read or write, he was a very enterprising individual. He discovered that a horse-drawn hackney cab was being used in Montreal. It wasn't long before Blackburn obtained the design of a cab from Montreal, which was a copy of a vehicle popular

in London, England. Blackburn then commissioned Paul Bishop the well-known lockmaker and mechanic to build the vehicle. In 1837 the job was done and Toronto (and Upper Canada) had its first taxicab with Thornton Blackburn as the city's first cabbie.

For several years Blackburn had a monopoly on the cab business in Toronto. Residents came to know the yellow and red cab named 'The City,' as well as its owner. Thornton Blackburn became a prominent and respected member of Toronto's Black community. Although he had a successful business, he and his wife Lucie stayed in their small one-storey house on Eastern Avenue. In 1887, he sold a portion of his land to the Toronto Board of Education. On this ground the Sackville Street School was

(See *The Blackburns*, p. 6)

# Museums Committee News

## Chairman's Message

For the museum community, The Ontario Historical Society's Annual Conference in 1985 heralded a significant transition. The Museums Section of the OHS has self-destructed and, like a phoenix rising from the ashes, there has been a re-birth. The Museums Committee is a brand-new standing committee of the Society with a mandate to 'ascertain the needs and desires of museums with an interest in the history of Ontario, to encourage the establishment of standards, to exchange ideas, and to disseminate information.'

Such a mandate requires a special group of people to fulfil it and the first Museums Committee is such a group. The Committee members are David DeBoer, Programme Co-

ordinator, Marine Museum of Upper Canada, Toronto; John Carter, Museums Development Officer, Ministry of Citizenship & Culture, Toronto; Beth Hanna, Curator, Brant County Museum, Brantford; Sandra Macpherson, Curator, Muskoka Pioneer Village, Huntsville; Una Outram, Former Chairman, Board of Management, Hutchison House, Peterborough; and Pat Zimmer, Director, Aylmer and District Museum.

Should anyone out there in museumland have a concern or request that they wish voiced before the committee, we hope that they will not hesitate to contact a committee member.

JEANNE HUGHES  
Chairman, Museums Committee

## Six Museums Produce Co-op Brochure

Last June, a co-operative brochure was produced for the six museums in the North-West Ontario Travel Association (Sunset Country) area. It was the culmination of two years of planning by the museums in Atikokan, Fort Frances, Emo, Kenora, Ear Falls, and Dryden. The project was initiated by the Ontario Museum Association's executive director, Greg Backer.

The first step in the brochure's production was the establishment of a regional museums group. Many areas already have such groups in operation. In our case, however, the production of the brochure provided the impetus for the formation of the group. The main criteria for eligibility in this project was that the museum must have been a client of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture (MCC) and have been receiving funding under the Community Museum Operating Grant Programme.

Because of the vast area covered by this brochure, a steering committee from two relatively close museums was established to oversee the brochure's production. The tasks of this committee were essentially to establish a format, draw together all of the necessary information and graphics, put together a mock-up, investigate sources of funding, obtain cost estimates, produce the brochure and distribute it, and evaluate its effectiveness.

To determine an appropriate format for the brochure, a number of regional museum brochures were collected and analyzed.

The most time consuming task was drawing together all of the submissions from the participants, editing them, and then having the participants approve the finished product. A form for the submissions was designed that asked for each museum's name, address, phone number,

location, contact person, hours, and other special features. These were then edited.

In the meantime, a mock-up of the brochure was put together and submitted to three printers for estimates. In this case, the lowest estimate for the printing of 20,000 one-colour brochures was \$2,472 including taxes.

The brochure was intended to provide a cost effective means for individual museums to collectively promote themselves in a large geographic area and as such appeared to be eligible for Wintario. Greg Chaput, the Regional Services Consultant with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, had been very interested in the brochure project and was able to provide the necessary information for the submission of the Wintario application.

While the application awaited approval, work continued on the graphics and layout of the brochure so that it could be sent to the printer as soon as approval from Wintario was received.

The brochure project has proved to be quite worthwhile. Certainly no one museum could have produced as attractive a product for \$206. There are three points, however, that you should bear in mind when setting out to produce this type of brochure. Firstly, allow sufficient time to collect your material. Secondly, work closely with your MCC regional consultant. Deadlines, criteria, and requirements for Wintario change and your regional consultant can keep you informed. Thirdly, do not try to re-invent the wheel. Draw upon the knowledge and experience of others who have undertaken this type of project before.

DARRYL ALLAN  
Director-Curator,  
Fort Frances Museum



# Period Drama Breathes Life Into Historic House

*Star Wars* and David Gibson are not two subjects likely to arise in the same conversation, but when we sat in the basement of Gibson House during the run of *The Gibson House Mystery* those two names were connected. It occurred to us, director and actors, that we were having amazing success performing a play set in the 1850s for an audience that had grown up largely on *Star Wars*.

The *Mystery* was an experiment both for me as writer and for Christine Castle as museum curator. It is a play written in the style of the mid-19th-century domestic melodramas and features a young couple who want to marry against the will of the girl's father and a pair of wicked servants who are attempting to steal the family fortune. It was written expressly for Gibson House and was devised for a young audience. My intention in writing the play was to 'bring the house to life' by involving an audience in the lives of people who act as though they live in this historic house.

It could be said (and it was) that what we were doing was not history. True enough. The characters were drawn not from life but from the stock characters of the theatre of the 1850s. The events described never happened in Gibson House, and the outcome of the action of the play was highly improbable. Nothing in the play, however, was impossible and, as much as possible, the events of the play were based on historical incidents.

Every effort was made to make the play suit the building it was written for. As many topical

references to local landmarks as possible were included. The play's props, the money, the guns, the food, and clothing were all as accurate as we could make them. We were not writing about David Gibson or about any historical characters. To try to put real people from the past on stage is to risk misrepresenting them. What we were doing was quite literally recreating an era: trying to give our audience a sense of what life was like, not what any one person was like.

This seems to me to be a good way of bringing history alive, possibly the best way. Real people do not lend themselves as easily to dramatic situations as do imaginary ones. The reason is simple enough; most people lead very dull lives enlivened only by the occasional exciting moment. A writer can give his invented characters more exciting histories and more 'theatrical' temperaments than most real people are born with.

Last year, I was fortunate enough to be able to write a script for Sir Francis Bond Head and William Lyon Mackenzie — both men of fiery and 'theatrical' natures, and both exceptional men. It was a treat to write dialogue for those two who had both been so prone to open their mouths without thinking about what they were saying.

Common men, that is to say most of us, make rotten subjects of plays. 'Heresy,' I hear some cry. 'What about the plays of O'Neill? What about *Ten Lost Years*?' My answer: listen to a man-on-the-street interview and hear how inarticulate most peo-

ple are. Most people do not speak the way characters do in plays. How untheatrical natural dialogue would be. The 'ums' and 'ahs' of day-to-day speech would be intolerable. No one can hope to recreate a real person on stage with any degree of accuracy and be theatrically interesting at the same time. This is why it is more sensible to invent people. An invented character can be invested with all sorts of details that make him live for an audience. Specific details of someone's life can be read in a book. To know what it was to be alive then, is to know how people lived. To watch people 'living' is more instructive than to be told how they lived.

My actors in the *Mystery* were within a few feet, sometimes inches, of the audience who sat wherever they could in the various rooms in which we played. Because they were acting according to a script and not trying to be spontaneous, there was none of the ghastly self-consciousness that plagues projects in which people pretend that they are someone from the past. I would tell our audiences before the show that they were flies-on-the-wall watching events of 130 years ago and that the people in the play had no awareness of them.

To understand how the *Gibson House Mystery* works you have to think of a triangle. At each point of the triangle put one of the ground-floor rooms of Gibson House — the sitting room, the dining room, and the kitchen. It is possible to move from one room to either of the others without crossing through the third.

Now, think of a play going on in each room at the same time. Each play is interconnected with the other two so that when a character leaves one room and enters another he or she is really going 'off-stage' in one play and 'coming on' in another. Each room runs at its own pace and the actors cannot hear what is going on in the other rooms. Every actor has to take it on trust that the actors in the other rooms are in the right place when it comes time to move from one room to another. Is that clear?

We have three plays going on — actually, three scenes of the same play — at the same time, in three rooms. What of the audience? They have been divided into three groups and a third of them has begun in each of the rooms. They find their places, wherever they can, and watch what happens. At the end of the play the audience moves to the next room and the whole thing is played again. This time they see the story from a different perspective. When all the groups have seen each of the plays (that is, when we have played each scene three times,) everyone moves into the sitting room, which is the largest room in the house, and we play act two. 'Where did act two come from?' I hear you cry. The three scenes take the story of the play only so



Actors in *The Gibson House Mystery* pose in front of Gibson House. From left to right, they are Peter Hinton as the villain, Robert Leeming as the beau, Jennifer Roblin as the sweetheart, Derek Emery as the young girl's father, and Dolora Harvey and Shawn Cutts play the wicked servants.

far. After the actors have completed one cycle, they return to their starting points so that the audience, no matter where they start, sees the same play. It does not matter in what order you see the scenes — everyone is left at the end wondering what is going to happen in act two and no one knows the answer. When we start act two, the play picks up exactly where it left off at the end of the individual scenes and races its way to the end.

After the success of the *Mystery*, another play is in the works. Shirley Hartt at Montgomery's Inn has requested a new play for the Inn along the lines of the one I wrote for Gibson House. At first we had in mind including Montgomery among the characters but that idea was given up for the same reason I did not write about David Gibson. My intention is not the recreation of history but the involvement of an audience in the life of an historic site through the magic of the theatre with its ability to make an au-

ience forget for the moment that they are watching a play.

The actual recreation of an historic character in a 'full scale' production is a scary thing to contemplate. There is always the very real risk of leaving something vital out or, just by choosing certain material, of misrepresenting him. Even in the *Mystery* I made this mistake. I needed to invent a railway for a scandal I wanted my chief villain to commit — railway fraud having been a common way of making money. The name had to be confused with that of a woman, so I chose 'Elmira.' The villain was said to have perpetrated a fraud by offering shares in the non-existent Guelph to Elmira Railway ... at least I thought it was non-existent. After one performance, a man came up to me and said with some annoyance, 'My father worked on that line!'

MICHAEL RIDOUT  
Freelance Writer &  
Theatre Director



Belle and Walker, the scheming servants, argue about the risks involved in stealing the money. Belle orders Walker to 'go in there and open the box and get the money.'

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## 'Ontario History' Examines Crises In Rural Life



Many young men from eastern and central Canada went west to participate in the great harvest excursions. This photo shows workers in Saskatchewan. Photo courtesy Saskatchewan Archives Board.

What was going on 'down on the farm?' In the December issue of *Ontario History*, a number of historians examine the character of rural life in Ontario, especially in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. When we think of

### Of Interest

The Canadian Aviation Historical Society is offering the Silver Dart Aviation Award to students at technical colleges, aviation schools, and universities. The \$500 prize is given to encourage the research and publication of Canadian aviation history. Papers should be approximately 5,000 words with a 200 word abstract, and each entrant should submit three copies. Papers must be received by the award chairman by March 1, 1986. For further information, contact David Neufeld, Chairman, The Silver Dart Aviation History Award, Canadian Aviation Historical Society, National Headquarters - Toronto, P.O. Box 224, Station A, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5S8.

The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture is pleased to announce the appointment of Lily Munro, member of the legislature for Hamilton Centre, as Minister. Premier David Peterson also appointed Tony Ruprecht, member of the legislature for Parkdale, as Minister without portfolio. He will assist Dr. Munro on a variety of Ministry matters. Prior to her election, Dr. Munro served for seven years as director of the Centre for Continuing Education at McMaster University.

The Royal Ontario Museum has appointed Dr. T. Cuyler Young, Jr. as its new director. Dr. Young is internationally known as an archaeologist, with a particular expertise in Iran and Iraq. His appointment took effect on September 1. Dr. Young is the museum's sixth director and succeeded Dr. James Cruise, who held the position for the past ten years.

rural Ontario, do we think of a stable, less cluttered, and more peaceful existence? Perhaps so, but the rural Ontario of this period was torn apart by a series of crises. People were on the move. During the 1880's and 1890's, almost 400,000 people left the Ontario countryside. Many of these were young people (and especially young women) who were at once pushed off the farm by changes in agriculture and pulled towards the towns by new economic and social opportunities. This pattern of movement, change, and exodus created a crisis in rural Ontario.

One fascinating aspect of this pattern, the movement of young women 'working away' from the farm, is described by Alan Brookes and Catharine Wilson

in their article in December's *Ontario History*. Elsie Cook, for example, was born in 1898 and grew up on a farm near Lucknow, Ontario. At the age of thirteen she left home to attend school in the town of Ripley. Here she also earned her room and board by performing domestic service for the cousin of her mother. After attending Normal School, she was able to teach first at a school near her home and then at one further afield in Blackhorse. Then at the age of 25, she married and retired from teaching. Such a pattern of work was widespread in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In this article entitled, 'Working Away From the Farm: The Young Women of North Huron, 1910-1930', the authors examine why these

women left the farm, where they went, and what type of work they performed. With material drawn from a number of interviews, they analyze this little-known dimension of rural life in Ontario.

Gordon Hak in his article, 'The Harvest Excursion Adventure: Excursionists from Rural North Huron - South Bruce, 1919-1928', focuses upon another aspect of the human dimension of work in rural Ontario. Between 1890 and 1929, many young men from central and eastern Canada boarded the trains to participate in the great harvest excursions to Western Canada. This study describes the social history of these harvest adventurers. After recording the experiences of many men who went to the west in their youth, Hak is able to reconstruct not only the reasons for this migration (both social and financial) but also the ways in which this type of work fit within the life cycles and labour needs of rural Ontario itself.

The crisis in rural Ontario that sent young men to the west and young women to the cities also led to an abrupt shift in the political character of the province. The impact of conscription, post-war reconstruction, and the policies of governments that seemed to favour the city and factory owners at the expense of the farm and the farmers all combined to help elect the United Farmers of Ontario in 1919. Margaret Kechnie examines one important, and little-studied, aspect of this political revolution in her article, 'The United Farm Women of Ontario: Developing a Political Consciousness'. Here she presents the United Farm Women of Ontario, a group that tried to address both the concerns of women and the farm in a period of profound

political crisis. She examines the political outlook, the organizational structure, and the strategies of this important group of farm women. And, in a most revealing manner, she shows how this group tried to deal with a problem that would continue to face the women's movement for many decades to come: how can women raise the self-esteem of women as a group, especially when many features of their traditional life and culture are under attack?

Until relatively recently Ontario was predominately a rural province. It was the farm, not the city, that was at the centre of both the economy and social structure of Ontario society. Perhaps we forget too quickly our rural past. The December issue of *Ontario History* will perhaps help us to remember some of the central features of life in Ontario a hundred years ago.

WILLIAM WESTFALL  
Editor,  
'Ontario History'

### What is *Ontario History*?

*Ontario History* is the OHS's highly-respected quarterly journal that publishes essays, book reviews, and notes on this province's history. One of the oldest journals in Canada, it has a wide readership among those who want to stay abreast of new work in the field of Ontario history.

### How to Subscribe

Individual & affiliated institutional OHS members for \$12 per year. Non-OHS members & non-affiliated OHS institutional members for \$25 per year. Send cheques to: The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5.

### Why the OHS Got a Computer

With membership and subscription lists that contain over 3,000 names of individuals, organizations, and institutions in Ontario, the OHS is constantly responding to requests for information by those working to preserve the province's past. These lists also increase by close to 20% annually and must be constantly updated.

The Society fills over 140 requests per year from the heritage community for various combinations of lists extracted from the membership lists. These requests come from members of the OHS, local historical societies, museums, educational institutions, and government agencies. In addition, this list is used by the Society for over 60 mailings a year involving more than 44,000 pieces of mail. As you can imagine, this is a demanding and endless task!

Until now, these demands have been met manually, but in May of this year all that changed. With funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the OHS purchased an IBM PC/XT computer with over 500,000 bytes of memory (512K

RAM), 10 megabyte hard disk and printer.

This welcome addition to our 'staff' will store our membership list, will eliminate the difficult and inefficient manual method of compiling mailing lists, and improve our services to our community.

Our first priority is to put the membership and subscriber master list onto the computer. We hope that this service will be operating by November.

Once the computer master list is operational, the computer's wordprocessing function will be used by the staff to facilitate the production of the Society's many publications.

By the time our winter workshop series begins, the workshop attendance records and other workshop information should also be on the computer. Once all of these applications are running smoothly, we will then explore the possibility of computerizing some of the Society's accounts.

BARBARA DWYER  
Membership Co-ordinator

## Upcoming OHS Workshops

The OHS Workshops are designed for anyone interested in the heritage of this province. Participants are given an opportunity to learn from experts in the field and share ideas with others who are interested in the various aspects of our history.

Members of the OHS register in these workshops at a discount. Join The Ontario Historical Society and save money on these important workshops!

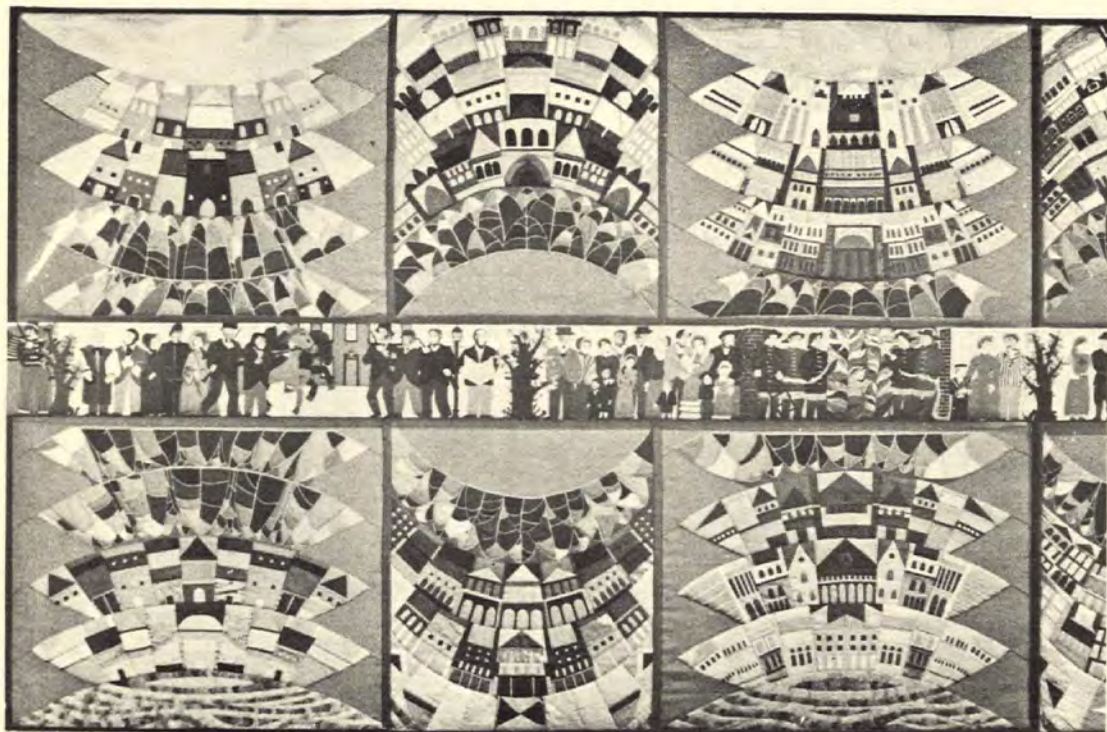
DATE	WORKSHOP
November 9	Planning For Heritage Day
November 16	Education and Interpretation #2 Second in a series to help community museums meet the new standards
January 25, 1986	Exhibit Preparation: Displays, Graphics, and Labels
February 22, 1986	Conservation of Exhibits
March 1, 1986	Human Resources Where to find them and how to train them for your community museum
June 7, 1986	ABC's of Collection Management

These workshops are held at the Visitor Centre, Black Creek Pioneer Village at 1000 Murray Ross Parkway (Jane & Steeles Avenues) in Metropolitan Toronto.

For more information on these workshops and for registration forms, contact The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5, (416) 226-9011.



# How Toronto Got Its Own 'Bayeux Tapestry'



This detail of the Toronto tapestry shows three of the nine panels. This portion represents the city's development from the days of the first settlers to the end of the 19th century when it had grown into a thriving urban centre. Photo courtesy Henry Koro.

'Toronto's Bayeux Tapestry' is how George H. Rust-D'Eye, Chairman of the Toronto Historical Board, referred to the Toronto Historical Embroidery when he presented an Award of Merit to the Toronto Guild of Stitchery for this amazing creation.

This unusual work is not, strictly speaking, a tapestry but rather a stitchery of contemporary design utilizing a wide spectrum of stitchery techniques including applique, machine and hand embroidery, quilting, canvas work, and fabric painting. It is comprised of nine different panels and in total is 24 feet long and 6 feet high. Presently hanging in the mezzanine of Toronto's new City Hall, it was created as a gift to the people of Toronto and was presented to the city on the occasion of its sesquicentennial. It is an historical embroidery in the tradition of the Hastings and Bristol Embroideries in England and depicts the history of the City of Toronto.

Extending the tapestry's full 24-foot length is the focal point of the embroidery, a frieze containing 96 representations of historical figures. Set each in their period surroundings, they include fur-trading Indians, woodsmen, Lord Dorchester participating in the Toronto (Mississauga) Purchase of 1788, Governor and Mrs. Simcoe and the clearing of Yonge Street in 1794, the Battle of York in the War of 1812, Bishop Strachan, and William Lyon Mackenzie.

Among the historical events depicted are the first gas lamp in Toronto in 1841 on King Street, George Brown and the founding of the Globe in 1844, the Immigration Tree and a scene of newly arrived immigrants. After this is a representation of Toronto's two major fires, the first in 1849 and the second in 1904; next there is a peaceful picnic scene; a depiction of the women and men of World War I, 1914-1918; the Flapper Era; the Depression and soup kitchens through the 20's and 30's; and World War II, 1939-1945 in-

cluding Rosy the Riveter. The 1950's is illustrated by the construction of the subway. Bringing the tapestry up-to-date is the representation of the amalgamation of the five boroughs and the City of Toronto, a woman executive, and a Kensington Market scene. All of this is executed in stitchery done to perfection.

In 1977, Ivy Clark and May Horn, two Guild members, came up with the idea of a stitchery after visiting the famous Hastings & Bristol Embroideries in England. Later it was determined that the Toronto Guild should undertake an embroidery based on the history of the City

of Toronto to celebrate its sesquicentennial. On June 11, 1979, City Council accepted the proposal and committed themselves to hanging the Historical Embroidery in City Hall.

Now the Guild could get to work. Some 140 members began the task that would take 11,000 hours and \$15,000 to complete. Blind faith and a high level of motivation caught them all up and away they went.

An historical research committee was set up, and the time span to be covered was divided into 10 and 20 year segments. Each segment was researched, reports were prepared, and used

for reference when the design was being considered.

Barbara Gordon, a professional artist, was chosen to design it. She read the historical research, and a committee of Guild members decided what was to be incorporated in the design. This committee was responsible for researching costumes and authenticity. Barbara Gordon produced a final painted maquette, one-third the final size, plus a black-and-white line drawing to be used as a blueprint. She submitted the maquette to the scholarship committee at OCA that year and won a Gold Medal Award for her design.

By 1980 the design was complete, and work on the actual embroidery could begin. White print copies of the original design were produced and later four more sets of these 'blueprints' were made from which patterns could be cut, colours could be coded, and the development of the sections could be controlled. One committee combed the city for fabrics, threads, and various discounts. Others colour coded these fabrics, cut patterns, prepared kits for the buildings and decided on systems for assembly. It was planned that sections would be worked on by small groups meeting in sixteen different members' homes. The work progressed in this manner, section by section, for three years. Final assembly and mounting of the sections onto plexiglass panels took another year.

In total, 169 yards of cotton, silk, polyester, satin, and ultrasuede were used. Twenty-nine different shades of muted pink, blue, purple, and green were used in the background alone. Altogether 443 spools of

thread and skeins of yarn were used.

All the women who worked on the embroidery have stitched their names on four-inch by seven-inch pieces of linen that have been patch-worked together and placed under the backing, perhaps to be discovered in the distant future by some repair commission!

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing about the tapestry project is the remarkable managerial skill displayed by the Guild. It is not a select group of professional people, but rather a group of ordinary women from all walks of life who simply enjoy needle arts. The only administrative expertise any of them could claim was that of 'family administration.' Although political and financial motivations were absent, everybody worked hard and learned a lot. In addition to having a good time and the satisfaction of a job well done, lasting friendships were made.

Finally on March 4, 1984, the Toronto Historical Embroidery was presented to the City of Toronto by Marie Fenwick, then president of the Toronto Guild of Stitchery. May Horn, who with Ivy Clark had conceived of this project, assisted in its unveiling. Ivy Clark unfortunately did not live to see the completion of the embroidery but was represented at the ceremony by her daughter. Thus the seed of an idea came to fruition and this wonderful embroidery now hangs in Toronto City Hall for all to enjoy.

SHEILA NILES  
Toronto Guild  
of Stitchery

## Samuel Lount Film Explores a Pacificist's Road to Rebellion

A major feature film recently completed, *Samuel Lount*, attempts to arouse interest in the function of reform movements and the richness of Ontario's history as drama. Starring R.H. Thomson as Lount, Linda Griffiths as his wife — Elizabeth, and Cedric Smith as Mackenzie, the film is concerned with the factors that turned an ardent pacifist and member of the Children of Peace into one of Mackenzie's rebels in the Rebellion of 1837.

Samuel Lount and Peter Matthews were the only rebels hanged for their part in the 1837 Farmers' Revolt. Mackenzie, however, hid for 15 years in the United States until he was permitted to return to Canada without fear of imprisonment, trial, or hanging.

Samuel Lount was born in Pennsylvania and was 23 when he emigrated to Canada. As Lount was a member of the Children of Peace movement, the historic Sharon Temple that the group built near Newmarket is used in the feature film. Other historic sites in Ontario and New Brunswick are also seen in the film.

The Lount story has received almost no attention by professional historians, although a monument was erected in 1859 to the memory of Lount and Matthews. The question of how authorities validate descriptions of historical characters is raised by this film as these 'traitors' have since become 'martyrs to Canadian freedom.'

The reformers who participated in the rebellion 'saw a rich and fertile country, almost prostrate and ruined — a hopeful people possessed of the feelings and sympathies of men, trampled upon by the mercenary wretches, whose places in office gave them power.' (An excerpt from a letter by Elizabeth Lount, Samuel's wife, to John Beverley Robinson, Chief Justice of Upper Canada.)

The film, *Samuel Lount*, will be released in Toronto this autumn, and will also be available for use in the school system. Next spring it will be shown on CBC. It was directed by Vancouver filmmaker Laurence Keane and produced by Elvira Lount, a descendent of Samuel's.



Historic foods and herbs are sampled by participants in a workshop held at the Senior Citizens Drop-in Centre in South River. The workshop was co-sponsored by the OHS and the South River - Machar Union Library. Close to 100 seniors attended this fall.



Participants in this summer's OHS Stories, Songs, & Superstitions Workshop at Black Creek Pioneer Village make 'corn dollies.' Made with the grain of the last harvest, they are woven figures that represent a good harvest.



Folklore is further explored at Black Creek Pioneer Village summer workshops. Participants visit an historic herb garden where they learn about herbs that were once used to make amulets to chase away evil spirits. Mugwort was one of the favourite herbs used for this purpose.



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VAUGHAN TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
BOX 51  
MAPLE, ONTARIO  
L0J 1E0

## Upcoming Events

**Until November 24:** The Royal Ontario Museum is holding one of its major international exhibits of the decade, **The Precious Legacy: Judaic Treasures from the Czechoslovak State Collections**. This extraordinary exhibit contains cultural and religious treasures reflecting 1,000 years of European Jewish culture. The ROM is located at 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2C6, (416) 978-3692.

**Until January 5, 1986:** The Guelph Civic Museum will be holding an exhibit entitled **School Days**, featuring the historic aspects of going to school in Guelph. The exhibit will include photographs, textbooks, attendance cards, and notebooks. The gallery is located at 6 Dublin Street South, Guelph, Ont. N1H 4L5, (519) 836-1221.

**Until February 21, 1986:** Gibson House in North York is holding a costume exhibit entitled **Pantalets & Petticoats: A Century of Children's Clothes, 1810-1910**. The museum is located at 5172 Yonge Street, North York, Ont. M2N 5P5, (416) 225-0143.

**November 1, 8, 15, & 22:** CBC Radio's 'Ideas' programme is broadcasting a series on the **New Historians** prepared by Christopher Moore, author of the *Loyalists* and *Louisbourg Portraits*, from 9:05 to 10:00 P.M.

**December 9 - January 9, 1986:** The Wellington County Museum in Fergus is hosting two Ontario Crafts Council shows, **The Medium is the Metal** and **Adam Smith: Patterned Metals**. The museum is located at Wellington Place, R.R. 1, Fergus, Ont., (416) 846-5169.

**February 15 & February 22, 1986:** The University of Toronto, School of Continuing Studies is

running a course called **Effective Oral Presentation** for people who must communicate orally with large or small groups in professional situations. For further information, contact the School of Continuing Studies, University of Toronto, 158 St. George Street, Toronto, Ont. M5S 2V8.

Activities for the  
Holiday Season

**November 16 or 23:** Dundurn Castle is holding workshops entitled **From Tree to Table**. Pre-registration is required. Contact Dundurn Castle, York Boulevard, Hamilton, Ont. L8R 3H1, (416) 522-5213.

**November 29 - December 31:** The Toronto Historical Board will host Christmases from the past: **Victorian Christmas** at Mackenzie House, Edwardian Christmas at Spadina, and **Dickensian Christmas** at Colborne Lodge. Contact the Toronto Historical Board, Stanley Barracks, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ont. M6K 3C3, (416) 595-1567.

**November 29 - December 31:** Whitehern and Dundurn Castle in Hamilton are hosting **Home for the Holidays**. Visit Whitehern for a glimpse into an Edwardian Christmas and Dundurn for a Victorian Christmas. For tickets to Whitehern, call (416) 522-5664 and for tickets to Dundurn's Christmas, call (416) 522-5313.

**November 30 & December 1:** The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum will hold their annual **Old Fashioned Christmas** with craft sales, Victorian Christmas display, antique toys display, Teddy Bear Contest, caroling, food, and craft demonstrations. Contact the museum at 280 King Street, P.O. Box 572, Ont. L3K 5X8, (416) 834-7604.

## The Blackburns

(Continued from page 2)

built. The school is still in use, and the schoolyard is the location for the Thornton Blackburn House Site.

On February 26, 1890, Thornton Blackburn died leaving some \$17,000 to his wife Lucie. Two years later, Lucie Blackburn sold the little house and barn to the Board of Education, who then had the buildings torn down to expand the Sackville Street schoolyard. On February 6, 1895, Lucie Blackburn died. Both Lucie and Thornton Blackburn's graves can be found in the Toronto Necropolis Cemetery.

It is largely due to the researchers connected with the Thornton Blackburn House Site that we know so much about the Blackburns. However, the digging continues at the House Site at Eastern Avenue and Cherry Street. Archaeologists, students, and the public have unearthed quite a few objects since the dig started on July 2, 1985. At the Thornton Blackburn house level, they have found ceramics and glass, sheep bones, forged nails, clay smoking pipes, and coins, one of which is dated 1881. One of the most exciting discoveries to date is the fallen chimney of a red-brick fireplace believed to be part of Thornton Blackburn's home.

City of Toronto students can still participate in the dig. Archaeologists are booking groups on a half or whole day basis. The Thornton Blackburn House Site can be reached through the Toronto Board's Department of Continuing Education. Students taking part in this dig will be participating in a bit of Toronto's history. The Thornton Blackburn excavation is the first lower-income domestic and light industrial dig in Metro and the first Afro-Canadian domestic site to be excavated in Toronto.

GLACE W. LAWRENCE  
Executive Director  
Ontario Black History Society

**December 3-24:** Todmorden Mills Historic Site is hosting **Christmas Wishes**. Showing Christmas through the eyes of an 1867 child, their programme will include special foods and decorations of the season. Todmorden Mills is located at 67 Pottery Road, Toronto, Ont. M4K 2B8.

**December 7 & 8:** The Peterborough Historical Society will feature Shirley Shouldice telling stories for children as part of their **19th-century Children's Christmas Programme**. Pre-registration is required. Contact Hutchison House, Peterborough Historical Society, 270 Brock Street, Peterborough, Ont. K9H 2P9, (705) 743-9710.

**December 8 - January 5, 1986:** The Bronte Creek Provincial Park is celebrating the holidays at **Spruce Lane Farmhouse**. On December 17 and 22, they will invite visitors to sing along with their old pipe organ and indulge in Christmas treats. Contact Bronte Creek Provincial Park, 1219 Burloak Drive, Burlington, Ont. L7R 3X5, (416) 827-6911 or 335-0023.

Saving the Brockville  
Railway Tunnel

It is with not a little trepidation that I take on the task of Preservation Chairman. My predecessors have done a magnificent job over the past few years and I will do my best to maintain their high standards. Other members of the committee are John Butniak, St. Catharines; Philip Goldsmith, Toronto; Louis Macie, Fonthill; Patricia Neal, Vaughan; Tom Robinson, Toronto. The committee has held one meeting since the OHS annual meeting and the enthusiasm for the task was evident, although I think we all felt somewhat overwhelmed by the enormity of the work ahead of us.

One of the first pieces of correspondence in my mailbox was from Paul Bullock, chairman of the Brockville LACAC, with regard to the Brockville railway tunnel. Mr. Bullock writes 'The Brockville railway tunnel is being recommended for designation for both historical and architectural reasons. Started in 1854 and completed in 1860, it was Canada's first railway tunnel. It formed a critical link in the Brockville and Ottawa Railway Company, an early railroad which was later absorbed into the CPR system .... The tunnel, with its large oak doors, forms a

unique monument in Brockville, and is of distinct interest to both the citizens of the area and to visitors.'

He also notes that last fall the Brockville LACAC requested designation of this structure but that City Council only agreed to protect the south entrance. Subsequently a by-law was passed to develop a plan over the next five years to fill in the tunnel. A second attempt to have the whole tunnel designated will be made later this year.

It is interesting that the massive oak doors marking the southern entrance to this tunnel had to be closed during the hours of sunrise and sunset to keep out the cattle straying through the streets of Brockville all day - the only tunnel in Canada with this requirement. The years it took to complete were not easy ones with many stormy debates as to whether it should be completed or not. The final decision was made by the townspeople who voted unanimously to continue the project. It would be a pity indeed if this fine example of engineering were lost.

IRENE STEVENS  
Chairman, Preservation Committee



Children participating in the Day Programme at the Thornton Blackburn House Site. Photo courtesy the Toronto Board of Education.

## New Members

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Agincourt:</b> Rosemary Bennet; F.E. Spurr                              | <b>Thornhill:</b> Susan Hughes; Susan Lancaster  |
| <b>Bracebridge:</b> Woodchester Villa (Bracebridge Historical Society)     | <b>Toronto:</b> Susan Borinsky; The Century Schoolhouse; D. Cowley; Lorraine Dumoulin; Dr. E. Kaegi; James Lemon; Peter E. Lennox; Marina Historical Guild; David Matthews; R. Robert Mutrie; Mr. & Mrs. E. Ogle; Marian Press; Hugh Rowan; Virginia Rowley; Judy Spurr; James N. Stanley; Shirley F. Stapells; Toronto Islands Historical Society; Elizabeth H. Vickers; Janet Watt |
| <b>Brampton:</b> Marc Vespi  | <b>Tottenham:</b> St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School  |
| <b>Brantford:</b> Mr. & Mrs. A. Hanna                                      | <b>Waterloo:</b> Nancy Kennings  |
| <b>Burlington:</b> Rondalyn Draper   | <b>Welland:</b> Louis S. Macie; Mary Sullivan  |
| <b>Don Mills:</b> Martin A. Davison; Karen P. Earl; Josef & Margaret Erdle | <b>Weston:</b> Bettie Campbell; Barbara Cornack; Ruth M. Holt  |
| <b>Downsview:</b> Craig Heron  | <b>Whitby:</b> Ken Hooker  |
| <b>Guelph:</b> Rob Hammond; Tom Matthews                                   | <b>Willowdale:</b> Andrew Hebb; W.M. Kane; Bernice Sharpe; M. Brook Taylor   |
| <b>Hamilton:</b> Janet E.A. Cannon; Norman Stewart                         | <b>Woodstock:</b> Mr. & Mrs. G.H. Johnston   |
| <b>King City:</b> Carl Phillips; Elinor Tolman                             |  |
| <b>Kingston:</b> Bruce S. Elliott  | <b>Out of Province</b>   |
| <b>Kitchener:</b> Wendy Hallman  | <b>Campbell River, British Columbia:</b> Mrs. R.E. Wilson  |
| <b>Little Current:</b> Mac Swackhamer                                      | <b>Santa Monica, California:</b> Raymond D. Oderkirk   |
| <b>London:</b> Paul Brisco   |  |
| <b>Loretto:</b> Mary Munnoch   |  |
| <b>Mississauga:</b> William Crawford; Dr. J.L. Ladell                      |  |
| <b>Ottawa:</b> City of Ottawa; Hilda Gifford                               |  |
| <b>Owen Sound:</b> Robert A. Cotton  |  |
| <b>Oxdrift:</b> John S. Corner   |  |
| <b>Penetanguishene:</b> Heritage Penetanguishene; Gwen Patterson           |  |
| <b>Peterborough:</b> Cyndie Paul   |  |
| <b>Scarborough:</b> Peter Johnson  |  |



# From the Bookshelf

**The Annual Bibliography of Ontario History 1984**, compiled by Laurentian University includes listings of books, articles, and research aids. (1985) Available from The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5 for \$15 pb.

## THE Beginnings OF THE BOOK TRADE in Canada



GEORGE L. PARKER

**The Beginnings of the Book Trade in Canada** by George L. Parker traces the story of this industry in Canada from colonial times to the end of the 19th century. The author begins by explaining the impact of the Gutenberg printing revolution on Europe and later on North America. He follows the development of publishing and the resulting complexity of the book trade in major cities up to the time in the last quarter of the 19th century when English-language textbook publishing and trade book distribution became centralized in Toronto. (1985) 368 pp. Available from University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ont. M3H 5T8 for \$39.95 hc.

**Brant County: The Story of Its People, Volume 1**, by Jean Waldie is a selection of Ms. Waldie's regular newspaper articles on the county. This collection of pieces on the history of Brant County includes articles prompted by various historical stimuli that caught the attention of this first female president of The Ontario Historical Society. (1985) Available from the Brant County Museum, 57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ont. N3T 2W6 for \$14.95 plus \$2 postage.

**Deck the Halls: Celebrating a Traditional Canadian Christmas** contains suggestions for authentic Canadian Christmas activities and customs. Focussing on Ontario traditions, this booklet covers, decorations and gift giving. (1985) Available from The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5 for \$3 pb or \$2 per copy for orders of 10 or more.

**The Ermatinger Family of Sault Ste. Marie** by Gladys McNiece and edited by Ian Brown and Frances Heath recounts the story of Charles Oakes Ermatinger and his family. This fur trader moved in the early 19th century from Montreal to Northern Ontario. Using the Ermatinger family as an ex-

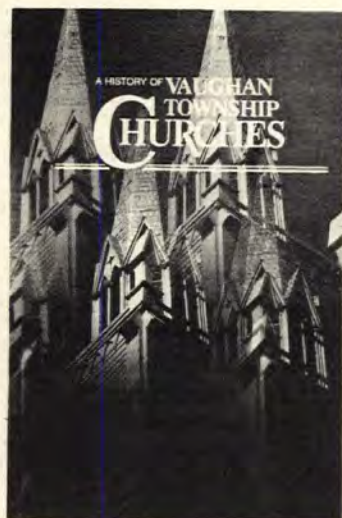
ample, the author points out that the fur trade was not necessarily a lucrative enterprise. The lifestyle of this fur-trading family is carefully traced to create not only a new perspective on the life of the fur trader but of the period as well. (1985) Available from the Sault Ste. Marie and 49th Field Reg't R.C.A. Historical Society, 107 East Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. for \$12.95.

**The Handbook of Grants and Subsidies of the Federal and Provincial Governments** is a loose-leaf reference manual that permits monthly updating of all grants and subsidies available in Ontario. The monthly updating service ensures that subscribers are informed of all government sources of funding that apply to them. Available from STM Ltd., Research & Publication, 980 St. Paul Street West, Montreal, Que. H3C 9Z9 for \$109 plus \$6.50 postage with an additional \$10 per month for the updating service.

**History and Heritage of Binbrook, 1792-1973** has been reprinted for a third time since its initial publication in 1979. (1979, Third Reprint 1985) Available from Gordon Powell, R.R. 2 Binbrook, Ont. L0R 1C0 for \$19.50 plus \$2.50 postage. Make cheques payable to the Binbrook Historical Society.

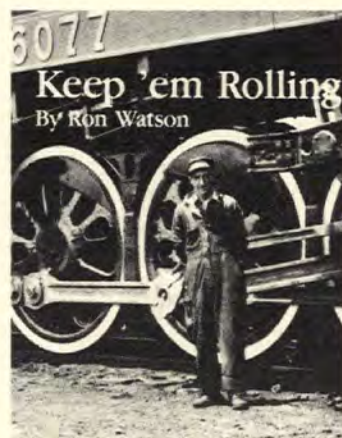


**A History of Gananoque: The Story of the Town with Photographs** by John Nalon looks at the origins of the town's name, the Gananoque museum, Joel Stone — the town's founder, the McDonald Family, the town hall, and the impact of the Thousand Islands and St. Lawrence River on the town's development. This attractive booklet contains over 30 old photographs of Gananoque. (1985) 24 pp. Available from the Gananoque Historical Society, P.O. Box 511, Gananoque, Ont. K7G 2V1 for \$3.50 pb.



**A History of Vaughan Township Churches** by Catherine Macfarlane and

Patricia Somerville records the individual histories of the churches of Vaughan Township's 71 congregations over a 200-year period. This book provides a well-documented account of the development of each congregation, a comprehensive index, and a photographic survey of the architecture and style of the churches. (1985) 405 pp. Available from the Vaughan Township Historical Society, Book Orders, Box 51, Maple, Ont. L0J 1E0 for \$15 plus \$3 postage.



**Keep 'Em Rolling: The Story of Toronto's Spadina Roadhouse** by Ron Watson recalls the history of this historic Toronto landmark during the glorious years of steam engines. The author uses the insights of his father, Harry Watson, who worked for 50 years at this roadhouse to give a personal perspective to the collection of photographs contained in this book. The author's 250 photographs bring to life this exciting period in railway history. (1985) 140 pp. Available from The Boston Mills Press, 98 Main Street, Erin, Ont. N0B 1T0 for \$24.95 hc.

**Lets Get Organized: Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Operating an Historical Museum But Were Afraid To Ask** is a collection of the papers presented at the Museum Committee's Annual Workshop in Brantford this past June. Participants in the workshop will receive complimentary copies. A limited number of copies are available to other interested individuals and organizations from The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5 for \$3 pb. This booklet was published with the support of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

**Making Your Own Traditions - Christmas: Fast & Easy Crafts and Recipes for Parents and Kids** by Dette Hunter and Jocelyn Shipley contains over 100 magical, super-simple Christmas ideas for busy parents and kids that don't require traditional skills, exotic ingredients, or elaborate techniques. Written by two mothers who have learned what works with the least effort and the greatest effect, it includes directions for Victorian paper fans, 'crafty' gifts, marzipan cookies, a super-simple gingerbread house, dipped candles, and much more. (1984) 100 pp. Available from

Traditions Press, 366 Millard Avenue, Newmarket, Ont. L3Y 1Z7 for \$6.75 pb plus \$1 postage.



**North Erie Shore Historical Society Cemetery History and Monument Inscriptions** is a complete set of cemetery records for Walpole, Rainham, North Cayuga, South Cayuga, and Dunn Townships. Records of the following cemeteries are available in this series: Chalmers, Cheapside, Garnet, Hagersville, Hartford, Jarvis, Nanticoke, and Springvale (Walpole Twp.); Balmoral, Bethel Brethren, Bretzler, Evangelical United Brethren, Fisherville, Redeemer Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, Rainham Mennonite (Hoover), Rainham Centre Baptist, Rainham Centre Methodist Disciple, Reformed Mennonite, Selkirk Union, Sweets Corners Christian Church, and Sweets Corners Union (Rainham Twp.); Gill Methodist, Mt. Olivet United, and Kohler-Zion United (North Cayuga Twp.); Evangelical Union, Mennonite, Baptist, St. John's Anglican, and Steen (Upper) (South Cayuga Twp.); and Dunn United (Dunn Twp.) Available separately from the North Erie Shore Historical Society, c/o Mrs. Harold Nie, Box 130, Selkirk, Ont. N0A 1P0.

**Premiers: Ontario Government Leaders, 1841-1867** edited by J.M.S. Careless is a paperback reprint in the Ontario Historical Studies Series of the 1980 edition. Portraits of William Henry Draper, Robert Baldwin, Sir Francis Hincks, John A. Macdonald, and John Sandfield Macdonald are drawn by such distinguished historians as J.M.S. Careless, George Metcalf, William G. Ormsby, J.K. Johnson, and Bruce W. Hodgins. (1985 reprint of the 1980 edition) 340 pp. Available from the University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ont. M3H 5T8 for \$14.95 pb.

**Reviving Main Street**, edited by Deryck Holdsworth for the Heritage Canada Foundation, is a collection of essays by various participants in Heritage Canada's projects to revitalize Main Street in communities across the country. They offer practical advice on how to organize merchants, improving building facades, erecting appropriate signs, encouraging compatible new buildings, and promoting downtown business. (1985) 256 pp. Available from the University of Toronto Press, 5201 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ont. M3H 5T8 for \$12.95 pb. or \$25 hc.

## Reviving MAIN STREET



The Pre-Confederation

(See Bookshelf, p. 8)

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## Market Gallery Exhibit Tells Story of Toronto's City Halls



Old City Hall, Toronto looking north in 1914. Photo courtesy the Property Department, DPW 55-96, City of Toronto Archives.

The Huron Indian word 'Toronto' roughly translates as 'meeting place,' a phrase that aptly describes the four structures that have served as city halls during Toronto's 150-year history.

From the first city hall, a

Georgian structure that served the old Town of York, through the two Victorian buildings erected by the rapidly growing provincial capital, to the monument of modernism that serves the metropolis today, Toronto's

civic centres have stood as working symbols of the community they represent.

From October 26 to January 19, 1986, 'Meeting Places: Toronto's City Halls,' an exhibition at The Market Gallery of the City of Toronto Archives will examine the architectural, cultural, and political history of these important centres of city life.

The centrepiece of the exhibit will be a model of the first city hall, which stood on the site of today's St. Lawrence Hall.

## OHS Celebrates at CNE

North York was the focus of attention on August 21 when the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) celebrated North York Heritage Day. The OHS, which has its office in North York, helped to highlight the City's cultural resources.

The celebration at the CNE's Heritage Village, near the Dufferin Gates, offered something for everyone. For those interested in history, there were heritage displays by the OHS, North York Historical Society, North York Historical Board, Gibson House, and Black Creek Pioneer Village. Local artists displayed their work, while those more gifted with words gave readings of their poetry in the Town Hall. Continuous performances were given by an energetic group of musicians, singers, and dance troupes, all of which are based in North York.

## Information Wanted

The Ontario Forestry Association is developing a pamphlet on points of forestry interest for a bicycle or car tour of downtown Toronto. Specific information on a major wharf believed to be at the foot of Bathurst Street in the white pine days; forest cover of Toronto in 1790; the location of the mills; volume of wood used for boardwalks, pianos, etc.; and other wood-using plants in the area is requested. Please send information to Jas. D. Coats, Executive Vice-President, Ontario Forestry

Association, 150 Consumers Road, Willowdale, Ont. M2J 1P9 (416) 493-4565.

Alex Martin is trying to find the location of **Warwick** or **Warwick** in Hastings County. He is researching the descendants of Robert Parks. Parks was born in 1780 in England and came to Canada between 1810 and 1820. Please send information to Alex Martin, 211-1 Snow Street, Winnipeg, Man. R3T 2M4.

## Bookshelf (Continued from page 7)

**Index to Donald Jones' 'Historical Toronto,'** Toronto Star 1973-1984 has been compiled by Lynda Moon, Barbara Myrvold, and Lorraine Hughes Vicente. This index covers the articles Jones published in the Saturday edition of the *Toronto Star*. These weekly articles have contributed to the increased public awareness and interest in Toronto's historical personalities and buildings. (1985) Available from the Toronto Public Library, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Toronto, Ont. M4R 1B9 for \$5 pb.

**A Separate and Special Place** by Barbara Lazenby Craig and Ronald K. MacLeod traces the development of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Toronto's second oldest hospital, from a 14-bed 'Home for Incurables' to the two-site, 601-bed long-term care and rehabilitation hospital that it is today. (1985) Available from J.B. Armstrong, Vice-President Operations, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 550 Univer-

sity Avenue, Toronto, Ont. M5G 2A2 for \$29.95 plus \$2 postage.

**The Weston Historical Society** has published two books, *A History of Weston*, which is a reprint of the 1937 F.D. Cruikshank and J. Nason edition, and *A Pictorial History of Weston*. Available from the Weston Historical Society, P.O. Box 151, Station A, Weston, Ont. M9N 3M6 for \$10 plus \$1.50 postage and \$7 plus \$1.50 postage respectively.

**Writing History** by Jacques Goutor is the latest in the OHS series of technical leaflets. Published with the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture under the Honourable Lily Munro, it provides a basic introduction to writing historical books and essays. (1985) Available from The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5P5 for \$3 pb.

## Calling for Awards Nominations

Members of the Society are reminded that there are several awards that they, their organizations, or others in the heritage community may qualify for.

**The Scadding Award** is presented to the historical society that has made the most impressive contribution to the preservation and recording of our heritage over a period of years. Although affiliate and membership status is not essential, it is taken into account in selection of the award winners. Please do not forget that there are certain steps that must be taken each year to retain the important status of affiliation.

**The Carnochan Award** is for individuals who have made special contributions to the activities of heritage groups or

preservation projects.

**The President's Award** is for a corporation or business that has made a noteworthy contribution to the preservation of Ontario's heritage during the year.

**The B. Napier Simpson Junior Award of Merit** is presented to a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee that has made special contributions to heritage conservation in its municipality in the recent past. Applications for this award with full supporting documentation may be made to the Society's office.

**The Riddell Award** selection is made by the editors and editorial board of *Ontario History* for the best article published during the preceding year.

Your executive is particularly

pleased to receive nominations for awards from groups who are nominating neighbouring communities or organizations. We stress that recommendations do not have to come from within the nominated community. If you feel that another organization is being modest about its achievements, or about that of individual members, let us know. It may be the only way the Society can learn of worthwhile endeavours to preserve our heritage.

All written nominations should be sent to Beth Hanna and Colin Read, The Ontario Historical Society, 5151 Yonge Street, Willowdale M2N 5P5 before February 1, 1986.

## It's the Holiday Season A Time of Giving And Receiving This year we can help you do both!

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Inquiries concerning submissions and advertising rates should be directed to Sandra Sims, Editor, OHS Bulletin, 319 King Street West, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5V 1J5. Telephone (416) 593-6580.

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The views expressed by the contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of The Ontario Historical Society.

The several classes of membership in the Society are: individual/institutional \$12; Family \$15; Sustaining \$25; Life \$250; Patron \$500; Benefactor \$1,000. Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The OHS Bulletin is sent free of charge to all members of the Society. The Society's quarterly scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to individual and affiliated institutional members for \$12 per year, and to nonmembers and non-affiliated institutional members for \$25.



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The members of the Executive Committee of The Ontario Historical Society are: Matthew Bray, *President*; Douglas Leighton, *First Vice-President*; John Bonser, *Second Vice-President*; Neil Patterson, *Past President*; James Clemens, *Treasurer*; Beth Hanna, *Secretary*; Ernest Buchner, *Gaetan Gervais*, *Jeanne Hughes*, *Glenn Lockwood*, *Margaret Machell*, *Colin Read*, *Irene Stevens*. *Editor, Ontario History*: William Westfall. *Legal Adviser*: David McFall. *Executive Director*: Dorothy Duncan.

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