



# OHS BULLETIN

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

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## OHS remembers with "Tulip Tribute"



The Ontario Historical Society presented "Tulip Tribute" at the John McKenzie House on Remembrance Day at which red and white tulips were planted in honour of service men and women and loved ones. Many friends and neighbours attended the ceremony including (left to right): Beth Hanna, Curator of The Gibson House, representing the City of North York; Edith Geduld, President of the North York Historical Society; Cliff Cooper of Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Programme; Edie Saunders, neighbour; Jim Peterson, MP for Willowdale; Gordon Duncan, OHS member and veteran; Paul Schellekens, Consul General of the Netherlands; and Dennis Pollock, head gardener at Black Creek Pioneer Village. (Photo courtesy of Cathy Febraro.)

On November 11, The Ontario Historical Society held a "Tulip Tribute" at its new headquarters to commemorate the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Canada's role in the liberation of Holland and to honour the service men and women who have served around the world.

There, in the gardens of the John McKenzie House, and with the benefit of fine, sunny weather, tulip bulbs were planted on behalf of individuals and groups who wished to honour their loved ones.

Dorothy Duncan, OHS Executive Director, welcomed

the guests and highlighted the history of the house and its gardens, remarking that tulips, especially red and white varieties, were grown by the McKenzie family for many years. Dennis Pollock, head gardener at Black Creek Pioneer Village, assisted in the

selection and planting of the bulbs which are not only historically appropriate but are also, coincidentally, our nation's colours.

Paul Schellekens, Consul General of the Netherlands; Jim Peterson, MP, Willowdale; Theresa Traynor, Toronto Coordinator, Canada Remembers; Cliff Cooper of Canada Trust's Friends of the Environment Programme; and Beth Hanna, Curator of The Gibson House, who represented the City of North York brought greetings. Several community organizations were represented including the 48th Highlanders Regiment and Museum, North York Historical Society, York Pioneer and Historical Society, the Ontario Archaeological Society, Women's Canadian Historical Society and the Willowdale Central Rate-payers' Association, as well as many neighbours and friends of the Society.

The National Capital Commission's "Tulip Tribute: Shore to Shore", is a project which is part of the Canada Remembers programme headed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. For every tulip planted by individuals or community organizations, the NCC will

plant another in Ottawa. Next Spring, when Canada's capital is ablaze with tulips, the OHS' headquarters at 34 Parkview Avenue will also bloom — with memories in the form of red and white tulips dedicated to those who shared an important part of Canada's history. The following is a list of those who donated funds towards the planting of tulips and those to whom tulips were dedicated:

Merle W. Alkins  
Donald W. Booth  
Janet Cobban  
Dorothy Duncan  
Ellie Ronaldson  
Doris M. Tucker  
Women's Canadian Historical Society  
Barbara Kane, for William Kane and J. M. Kelly  
Robert Leverty, for James Kelly and George R. Rathbone  
Anne MacKay, for Harold W. MacKay  
Daniel O'Brien, for Fred and Margaret O'Brien  
Wesley Rochester and Meribeth Clow, for Edward Mansell Blake, James Duncan Donald, Wesley Graham, James Parslow, Douglas Wright Rochester and Robert James Watters  
Ada Louise Smith, for her husband, Mr. Smith

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## Cultural Celebrations in Ontario

Many of our members will remember the very successful seminar held at Black Creek Pioneer Village in 1993 which explored Canadian holidays and holy days. The interest shown in that seminar and the requests to have it repeated, prompted the OHS to design a series of seminars entitled "Cultural Celebrations in Ontario" which will be presented in seven locations across the province next year, with support from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation and in partnership with local organizations and institutions.

These seminars will explore the diversity of cultural traditions and celebrations in Ontario through lectures, discussion groups and tours. Participants will have an opportunity to explore new concepts in interpreting, observing and presenting celebrations and special events in our modern communities.

Dates are set for March 3

and 4 in Sault Ste. Marie; April 1 and 2 in North Bay; May 4 and 5 in Chatham; and June 10 and 11 in Brampton. For further information about these seminars or the others to take place in Thunder Bay, Brockville and Midland, please contact Rob Leverty at the OHS, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011 or fax (416) 226-2740.

## Office Closing

The office of The Ontario Historical Society will be closed for the holidays from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 23, 1994 to 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 3, 1995. Have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

## Presenting History

We are all in the history business and the OHS Annual Conference in Chatham on May 5 and 6 will highlight the ways we do that now, and how we can do a better job in the future.

Sessions will concentrate on publishing, oral testimony, publicity, programming for young people, interpreting history through archaeology and designing local tours. A clinic for officers and directors of heritage organizations (indeed all non-profit corporations) will bring together experts on all the topics that puzzle us - legal questions, funding, preservation issues, insurance,

non-profit corporation status, basic bookkeeping and much, much more!

Add to that a buffet breakfast while the OHS annual reports are received, the President's Luncheon and the presentation of the Honours and Awards, an international dinner (presenting history through food), the Spirit Theatre (living history at its best) and an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with your colleagues across the province. Details are currently being finalized and OHS members will receive a copy of the programme in January.

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





## Executive Director's report

BY DOROTHY DUNCAN,  
OHS Executive Director

In a few days we will all be celebrating the arrival of a new year and each of us will reminisce about the passing of the old. For the OHS, it has been a busy year filled with change and expanded activities as your Board of Directors, staff and volunteers attempted to meet your needs and support your initiatives in preserving some aspect of Ontario's history.

After 106 years, the OHS moved into a permanent home in April, with a minimum of fuss due to our hardworking volunteers and the competence of Tippet-Richardson Ltd. Already we can see a tremendous difference in our ability to provide services in both northern and southern Ontario. Before the move we were spread over four locations and everything we ever needed or wanted was always somewhere else.

In addition to the move, we presented 26 workshops, hosted 4 community meetings, provided speakers for 18 seminars and conferences, designed and presented 21 special programmes, participated in 24 special events,

mounted exhibits and displays at 37 locations in Ontario, attended 69 meetings, and encouraged you to *Let's Party!* with us in Hamilton, in May.

Along with other cultural organizations we successfully lobbied to stop the move of the cultural division of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation to Niagara Falls, and also lobbied for the preservation of scores of historic structures and sites.

Our New Home Task Force met their Phase I goal with flying colours and are now well on their way with Phase II fundraising, due to the generosity of you, the membership, and the staunch support we have received at all our fundraising events from the general public.

Our request for assistance to the Ontario Archaeological Society, located only a few blocks away on Willowdale Avenue, met with an enthusiastic response from their Toronto Branch as Greg Purnal and Elise Sherman headed the team of archaeologists that investigated our property over the summer months. With their work completed and historical research on the grounds in hand, landscaping,

fences and historical plantings can now proceed.

### So, 1995?

The Ontario Historical Society, with support from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, is planning seven seminars in northern and southern Ontario to highlight Cultural Celebrations in Ontario.

All roads lead to Chatham May 5 and 6 to explore **Presenting History**, the business we are all in. In July, we'll be in the Town of Simcoe for our annual John Graves Simcoe workshop, and this time the topic will be Elizabeth and the social history of the period. Historic gardening workshops are much in demand and you will find us in at least two locations as we remember the late Jean Harding and John Bradshaw and their tremendous contributions to our historical knowledge of plants, gardens, the environment and the out-of-doors generally.

And yes, there will be business as usual with an average of 40 telephone calls, 50 letters and requests for information every day, serving our 300 affiliated societies, and much, much more.

Happy New Year!



The 1994 workshop exploring the life and times of John Graves Simcoe took place in Queenston last July with a site visit to the Mackenzie Heritage Printery Museum. Here OHS President, Janet Cobban (left); local co-ordinator, Lou Cahill; and Printery Curator, Sandra Overstrom display one of the creations produced at the site that day. The 1995 workshop will take place in the Town of Simcoe and will focus on the life of Elizabeth and the social history of the period. (Photo courtesy of Rob Levery.)

## Hurons return to North York

The residents of western North York are preparing to celebrate the First Nations heritage of the area. From 1450 to 1500 AD, a substantial Huron village was located at what is now the northwest corner of Jane Street and Wilson Avenue. The North York Sheridan Mall and part of the Oakdale Acres subdivision now occupy this land.

This project began when Steve Pitt, President of the Oakdale Acres Ratepayers Association and lifelong resident of the area, received for Christmas a copy of the out-of-print book, *Pioneering in North York* by Patricia Hart. The book contained a map listing archaeological sites in the area including the "Black Creek" site next to which Pitt had lived all his life. As soon as he found out Huron objects had been

removed from the area by archaeologists in 1950, he became determined to locate the artifacts and bring them back to their original home - if only for a short time.

The artifacts were found in a storage room at the University of Toronto's Department of Palaeontology. The department agreed to loan them if a secure display space could be found. Pitt then turned to Sheridan Mall, who offered a vacant store.

A small exhibit of Huron artifacts now occupies one of the mall's store windows. The long range plan is to open, in late January 1995, a temporary mini-museum designed and run by local students. Other projects including an historical plaque and a 300-foot wall mural are also being considered.

## A new book and a new role

Recently, an innovative local history book, one which hopes to forge new partnerships and develop a new role for community history, was launched in Cobourg.

*Fortunes by the Lake: A Short History of Cobourg* was written by Karen Walker for The Cobourg History-Literacy Project. The project was developed by the author for The R.E.A.D. (Reach, Educate and Develop) Centre of Northumberland, an adult literacy programme. Under Co-ordinator Nancy Hastings, The R.E.A.D. Centre helps the esti-

mated 25 percent of the residents of Northumberland County who have difficulty reading and writing.

Walker initiated The Cobourg History-Literacy Project to bring Cobourg's rich heritage to The R.E.A.D. Centre's new adult readers, many of whom have had little opportunity to explore their community's history. Written in a strong, simple and concise style, *Fortunes by the Lake* improves literacy skills while encouraging interest in Ontario's and Cobourg's past.

By linking history with liter-

acy, the book is an example of heritage in an active new role in the community, demonstrating how the past can help improve lives today and further important social concerns. *Fortunes by the Lake: A Short History of Cobourg* provides the struggle against illiteracy with a new tool - history that is vibrant, relevant and socially-minded.

For further information about The Cobourg History-Literacy Project, please contact The R.E.A.D. Centre of Northumberland at (905) 373-7033.

## Church archives closes

The Presbyterian Church Archives in Toronto has closed its office to the public for the remainder of this calendar year. It has become necessary to find a new site due to environmental and space considerations. Possible locations in Toronto are currently being investigated.

It is hoped that the archives can open its new doors to patrons early in the new year. In the interim, staff will provide limited reference assistance over the phone and through the mail. For the present, the archives remains at the same mailing address and telephone number. Stay tuned for further developments as they unfold. For information, please contact Kim Arnold, Archivist/Records Administrator, Presbyterian Church Archives, 59 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2E6, (416) 978-4503.

## Remember your historical society

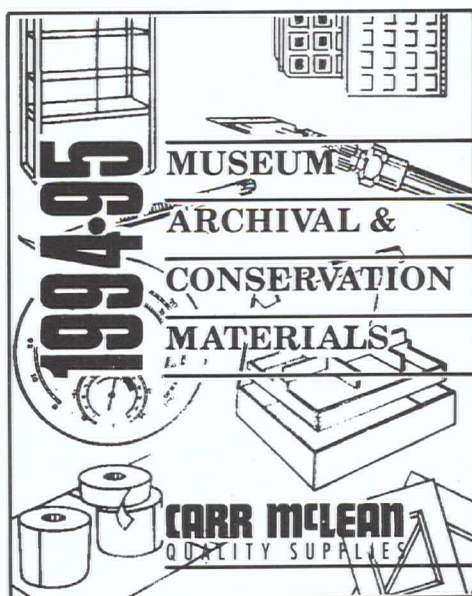
As we draw close to the end of the calendar year, many of us are considering making those last minute charitable donations which can be useful at tax time next year. David Downing of Oakville has an excellent suggestion when making a contribution to the United Way. Simply note on the reverse of your pledge form that you wish your donation to be forwarded to your local historical society, provided it is a registered charity. The United Way will do the rest. The South Norwich Historical Society has been benefitting from Downing's generosity in this manner for several years. For further information, contact the United Way.

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# Across the Province

**BY EVERETTE MOORE,  
Chair, Local Societies and  
DOROTHY DUNCAN,  
OHS Executive Director**

As 1994 passes into memory, we recognize the many birthdays and anniversaries that have been celebrated this year. One of the most interesting is the centennial of the Higginson Round Barn on Highway 34 south of Hawkesbury. This heritage landmark was built in 1893 and 1894 by Thomas Tweed Higginson, and in October family and friends gathered to celebrate the ingenuity of the builder and the endurance of the structure. Also in eastern Ontario, the **Glengarry Historical Society** celebrated 35 years of service to the County. As well as operating the Nor'westers and Loyalist Museum at Williamstown and the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum, the Society offers regular programmes, grants a post-secondary history scholarship, publishes *Glengarry Life* and a newsletter, initiates the erection of local historical markers and preserves archival collections.

Congratulations to OHS Board member, Paul Delaney of Penetanguishene, for receiving a commemorative Canada 125 medal. Senator Bill Kelly, who nominated Delaney, presented him with the medal at the Victoria Harbour school where he teaches.

In Kitchener, the tenth anniversary of the Schmidt Room at the Kitchener Public Library was recognized with a special celebration where Kenneth McLaughlin, OHS Past President was in attendance along with other special guests.

**The Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM)** has announced that the 1995 Annual Meeting and Conference will be held in Ohio. The historic Western Reserve, Hiram College, Century Village, Hale Farm and Village, and Lake Farmpark will host sessions during the Conference from June 17 to 21. Contact Andy Baker, Lake Farmpark, 8800 Chardon Road, Kirtland, Ohio, 44094 for details.

Congratulations to the **Latchford/Montreal River Heritage Preservation Society** on the completion and opening of Phase One of the Latchford Heritage Logging Attraction. Plans are already underway to hold the first annual Latchford Heritage Days on July 7, 8 and 9, 1995.

Congratulations also to Gordon Cullingham, a Director of the **Historical Society of Ottawa** and the past president of the **Council of Heritage Organizations of Ottawa (CHOO)** on receiving the Whitton Award for community leadership in Arts and Culture.

The **Guelph Historical Society** awarded first prize in the 1994 Verne McIlwraith Essay Contest to Bonnie Durtnall. The topic for the 1995 contest will be "Guelph Area Transportation: Railways, Street Railways and Roads". For further information: Marilyn Whitley (519) 824-9345.

John McIntyre, a very active

member of both the **Aurora and District Historical Society** and the **York Pioneer and Historical Society**, has found time to author *Children of Peace*, a new volume in the McGill-Queen's *Studies in the History of Religion*. Interested? Sharon Temple, 18974 Leslie Street, Sharon LOG IVO for availability and cost.

The **Oshawa Historical Society** is lobbying the City of Oshawa to establish a LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) to help prevent the loss of any more of Oshawa's historic structures. If you have suggestions, contact Regan Hutcheson, Chair of the Heritage Preservation Committee (905) 571-6849 after 6:00 p.m.

The **Lennox and Addington Historical Society** has launched a project to record all those from the County who served in World War II. If you can provide information: Frank Streek, 164 John Street, Napanee K7R 1R5.

*The Challenge of Underwater Heritage Colloquium Highlights* is now available free of charge from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Archaeological Resource Management, 7th Floor, 365 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa K1A 0C8. The Colloquium was held at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec in February of this year.

Are you interested in attending the **Federation of Family History Societies** 7th British Family History Conference, to be held March 31-April 4, 1995? Contact Janet Few, 12 Ranelagh Road, Lake, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8NX, England.

Looking for interesting programme ideas in the new year? How about the innovative evening sponsored by the **Essex County Historical Society**, that began at the Victoria Tavern, moved to the Bridge Tavern, then to the Dominion House (all in Windsor) with discussions of the history of the buildings and the beverages served. Contact Laurence Grant (519) 253-1812 for further information. Another suggestion is to book a day trip on the Royal Mail Ship, Segwan, out of Gravenhurst. Contact Cathy Tait for schedules and costs (705) 687-6667 or fax (705) 687-7820.

The **Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society** hosted a special presentation recently when Janna Ramsay Best recognized the descendants of Islay, with guests from Barrie, Orillia, Lindsay and Fenelon Falls in attendance.

The **Aurora and District Historical Society** is sponsoring a series of seminars led by David Tomlinson on garden design and operations to be held at Hillary House on January 21 and February 25. Call (905) 727-8979 for details.

The **St. Mary's River Marine Society's** archival collection has found a permanent berth at Algoma University College's Arthur A. Wishart Library in Sault Ste. Marie. Anyone interested in donating material can contact the Algoma University College Library or the Society, Box 1283, Sault Ste. Marie P6A 6N1.

The **Peterborough Historical Society** is planning the first Antiques and Collectibles Show to be held at the Rockhaven Motor Hotel, Peterborough May 12-14, 1995. Information? Elwood Jones, (705) 743-0231.

The **Sarnia Heritage Committee** is presenting a new programme to recognize the efforts of local residents in preserving buildings. Each month, the *Sarnia Observer* will carry a photograph of the building and the owner's name that has been selected for a Certificate of Recognition for that month.

The heritage community was saddened to learn of the deaths of James Anderson of Stratford, recently retired from the **Stratford-Perth Archives**, author, preservationist and winner of the OHS' Janet Carnochan Award in May of this year; and Harold Nie, former local Councillor and dedicated member of the **North Erie Shore Historical Society** and the Wilson McDonald School Museum.

Michel Dupuy, Canadian Heritage Minister, has announced the establishment of a committee to assist Parks Canada in the future development of Grosse Isle National Historic Site. The committee is comprised of Dr. Larkin Kerwin, Dr. Jean Hamelin, Dr. Jean Burnet (editor of *Ontario History*) and Marianna O'Gallagher, with a mandate to ensure that all interested parties be given an opportunity to participate in the preparation of the management plan for this important site, and to make a final report to the Minister by September 1995.

The **Lake of the Woods Historical Society** has announced the programme for the coming year: February 11, Valentine's Tea at the Mather Walls House in Keewatin; March 25, Let's Get Started Genealogical Workshop at Cameron Bay Children's Centre in Norman; and April 26, "Summer Camps on the Lake of the Woods" lecture by Professor William Thompson at First Presbyterian Church in Kenora. For further information: (807) 547-2870. Plans are also afoot to restore the Master Bedroom and the Girls' Bedroom at the Mather Walls House in 1995.

The **Bicentennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists** recently launched a new book, *The Loyalists of the New Settlement: A Study in Multiculturalism* by Mona Gleason. Contact Margaret Lewis, R.R.# 3, Kingsville N9Y 2E6 for availability and cost.

Happy Birthday to Miss Edna Ash, **The Ontario Historical Society's** Secretary-Treasurer from 1957 to 1964, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on January 6.

The **Ojibwe Cultural Foundation** of West Bay, Manitoulin Island held a very successful fundraiser "An Evening with the Dreamcatchers", in Toronto beginning with dinner prepared under the supervision of David Wolfman, international award winning chef, and a silent auction that raised over \$30,000.00 for a new Centre on

## Presidents Message

**BY JANET COBBAN,  
OHS President**

I hate hot cider and I never want to see another gingerbread cookie! If you're involved in Christmas programming with an historical society or museum, you know how I feel. Six weeks making cornucopias from wallpaper scraps and stringing popcorn is enough to try anyone's patience.

Yet "Olde Tyme Christmas" is perennially popular with visitors, and many historical organizations rely on it for a year end attendance and revenue boost.

Why celebrate just one holiday when you can build historical programming around special occasions throughout the year? Sign up for one of our new seminars,

"Cultural Celebrations in Ontario", (see details on page one) and learn to research the unique events celebrated in your own community. Perhaps you could make taffy on November 25, St. Catherine's Day; join with the local Japanese community to celebrate Doll's Festival on March 3; or mark Midsummer's Eve in June.

While thinking of holidays, remember that Heritage Day is February 20, 1995, and this is the time to finalize your plans for local activities.

Make a New Year's resolution to spread some holiday cheer throughout the year, create new partnerships, attract new audiences and save the sanity of your members and volunteers.

the Island. Donors wishing to support this project should forward their donations to the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation Building Fund, Box 278, West Bay, Manitoulin Island POP IGO.

The **Kilworthy Historical Committee** of the **Sparrow Lake Historical Society** has successfully created a new park dedicated to the pioneers of the area with a 20 tonne piece of granite and an historical plaque as the focus. MP Andy Mitchell; MPP Dan Waters; Bill Oliner, Councillor for the Township of Gravenhurst; Sue and Harvey Anderson of the Rama First Nation (winners of the OHS 1993 Carnochan Award); Kilworthy Pioneer Club members in historic costumes and the 45th Parallel Pipes and Drums Muskoka Band were all on hand to participate in the ceremony. Along with the many guests, they congratulated Betty Chish-Graham and her hard working colleagues on the creation of the new Kilworthy Park.

The **Ontario Heritage Foundation** has announced further appointments to the Board of Directors: Joanna Bedard as Chair, Morris Zbar as Vice-Chair and Sondra Phillips as a director, in addition to those appearing in "Across the Province" in the July-August issue.

Are you interested in historic food and beverages? Then you may be interested in learning more about the **Culinary Historians of Ontario**. Address enquiries to C. Lupton, 60 Church St. East, Apt. E, Kitchener N2G 2S2.

Sherman Zavitz, President of **Lundy's Lane Historical Society** has been appointed Official Historian for the City of Niagara Falls. Congratulations!

William Legett was installed as the 17th principal of Queen's University at a colourful ceremony in October. Dr. Legett is also the Honorary Patron of the **Kingston Historical Society**.

**Esquering Historical Society** has announced that on January 11 Archdeacon Ralph Spence of Burlington will speak on Flags! Flags! and on March 8, Heather Broadbent will speak about Ontario Cemeteries. Both meetings will be held at Knox Church, Georgetown, at 7:30 p.m.

The **York Pioneer and Historical Society** Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 3 at 8:00 p.m. at the Education Centre, College and McCaul Street, Toronto. "My Favourite History Book" is the theme of the programme, and all members should bring their favourite and be prepared to describe it.

*The Arts Advocate*, a newsletter highlighting the politics and policies of arts and culture in Ontario, was launched this fall. To subscribe, contact: 52 Old Orchard Grove, Toronto M5M 2C9, (416) 483-9693 or fax (416) 483-6125.

The **Pass Lake Historical Society** is looking forward to moving into the multipurpose addition at Salem Lutheran Church. In the meantime, the tribute to the late Grethe Mikkelsen is being prepared for inclusion in the 1995 Montreal Conference book published by the **Federation of Danish Associations in Canada**.

Congratulations to the **Rossport Historical Society** for opening its first museum in a 1945 CPR caboose. Exhibits tell about the fishing and railroad history of the small Lake Superior hamlet of 150 residents.



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# Upcoming Events



The OHS seminar series, "Cultural Celebrations in Ontario" will explore many of the traditions and special occasions of the various cultures in our province including the presentation of the eagle feather by the First Nations. At "Canadian Holidays and Holy Days" held at Black Creek Pioneer Village in 1993, Mary Lou Fox, Director of the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, presented a feather to OHS Executive Director, Dorothy Duncan. Beth Hanna, Curator of The Gibson House; Rob Leverty, OHS Programme Co-ordinator; Dr. Jean Burnet, Editor of *Ontario History*; and Dr. Douglas Leighton of Huron College in London (left to right) look on. Many of the above will be making presentations at "Cultural Celebrations in Ontario" taking place across the province in 1995. (Photo courtesy of Lorraine Lowry.)

**December:** Hamilton's museums have a wide variety of activities planned for this month. The Hamilton Children's Museum presents **Incredible Insects**, an exhibition designed for young people ages 8 to 13. Twenty-five activity centres explore the world of insects. Contact the Museum at (905) 546-4848. The Garden Club of Hamilton is decorating Dundurn Castle for a traditional **Victorian Christmas**. Candlelight tours are available by contacting the museum at (905) 546-2872. Whitehearn, the former home of three generations of the McQuesten family, is decorated for an **Edwardian Christmas**, complete with family stories and a spectacular floor to ceiling tree. Contact the site at (905) 546-2018. Visit the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology for their latest exhibit, **The Engines of Prosperity**, exploring the early railways of Hamilton. Contact (905) 546-4797.

**December 1994-January 7, 1995:** The main floor of the Woodstock Museum features an exhibition of the history and artifacts of the **Oxford Rifles**. Throughout December, the Museum is offering **Victorian Christmas** programmes for both young and old. Contact the Museum at 466 Dundas Street, (519) 537-8411.

**December-January 8, 1995:** **Let's Celebrate: International Holiday Festivals** opens in the Special Exhibits Gallery of the St. Catharines Museum. This exhibition highlights the many winter festivals and celebrations that take place around the world. Return to the Museum from January 14 to March 12 for **Discovery of the Titanic**, an exhibition from the Royal Ontario Museum exploring the discovery of the underwater wreck of the Titanic. Don't miss the Museum's **Heritage Week Celebration** on February 26 with old-fashioned family fun. Contact the St. Catharines Museum at 1932 Government Road, (905) 984-8880.

**December 1994-March 1995:** The Clarke Museum and Archives in Kirby presents **Toys, Games and Pastimes 1860-1960**, featuring over 50 examples of artifacts relating to playtime and hobbies. Contact Mark Jackman, Curator at the Museum located at 7086 Old Kirby School Road, (905) 983-9243.

**December 1994-March 10, 1995:** The Lennox and Addington County Museum in Napanee welcomes the travelling exhibit from Parks Canada **Court House of Canada** until the end of January. **From Shells to Loonies**, beginning January 23 and continuing until March 10, traces the history of currency in Canada from the wampum used by the First Nations to the one dollar coin we now use. Contact the Museum at 97 Thomas Street East, (613) 354-3027.

**December 1994-December 1995:** Canada's history is filled with tales of the exploits of adventurous men and women who have made significant contributions to the development of our country. With the exhibition, **Living in Canada in the Time of Champlain**, the Canadian Museum of Civilization focuses on one of these historic individuals: Samuel de Champlain, founder of Quebec City, whose efforts and vision earned him the title of "Father of New France". Contact the Museum of Civilization in Hull at (819) 776-7167

**December 21:** The Friends of Doon invite you to **Starry Night** at Doon Heritage Crossroads in Kitchener. The historic site will be decked out for a turn-of-the-century Christmas celebration during this fundraising event. From 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., you can stroll through the village, listen to Professor Chalaupka's Celebrated Singing School and gaze at the stars on a mini-sky planetarium on loan from the London Children's Museum. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Contact Doon Heritage Crossroads at (519) 748-1914.

**January 14-March 31, 1995:** This winter, the Markham Museum is presenting the second part of its popular quilt and coverlet exhibit, **The Great Cover-up: The Sequel**. The exhibition features a variety of bedcoverings from the Museum's collection, each with its own unique story to tell. Contact the Museum on Highway 48, just north of Highway 7 in Markham, (905) 294-4576.

**January 15, 1995:** Enjoy a celebration of traditional textile arts including lace making, rug hooking, quilting, cross stitch, needlepoint, spinning and weaving at **All Done by Hand**, presented by Montgomery's Inn in Etobicoke. Contact the Inn at 4709 Dundas Street West, (416) 394-8113.

**January 31-June 18, 1995:** On April 16, 1895, Chatham officially became a City. In 1995, the Chatham Kent Museum celebrates this centennial with the special exhibition **1895**, a look at Chatham in the year it grew from a town into a city. Contact the Museum at 75 William Street North, (519) 354-8338.

**January 22, 1995:** The Guelph Civic Museum commemorates the Scottish bard, Robert Burns with **A Robbie Burns Ceilidh**. From 1:30 to 4:00 p.m., enjoy live music, song, dance and authentic Scottish refreshments and finger foods. Contact the Museum at 6 Dublin Street South, (519) 836-1221.

**February 17-19, 1995:** Register now for the Canadian Museums Association's fourth annual Museum Shop Conference. **Sources and Resources** takes place at The Park Plaza Hotel in downtown Toronto. Learn innovative techniques for visual merchandising, product development and marketing. Contact the CMA, 280 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400, Ottawa K2P 1R7, (613) 567-0099.

**February 18-24, 1995:** Join the Huronia Museum as it kicks off **Heritage Week** with their fifth annual Heritage Dinner on the 18th. An Identification Clinic takes place on the 19th and the 22nd is Volunteer Appreciation Night. Contact the Museum in Midland at (705) 526-2844.

**February 24-26, 1995:** In celebration of Heritage Day, the Metro Area Heritage Group is once again presenting **Heritage Showcase** at Sherway Gardens in Etobicoke. Discover the wide variety of programmes and activities that the Metro Toronto heritage community offers. The Ontario Historical Society will be represented as well, with displays of our publications and brochures. Contact Mary Ann Beamish at the Toronto Historical Board, (416) 392-6827 or the OHS at (416) 226-9011.

## Let us know

What has become known as the longest street in the world will celebrate the bicentennial of its construction in 1996. Construction of Yonge Street, initiated by Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe, began in 1796 at the shores of Lake Ontario in what is now the city of Toronto. The street continued north for many miles to Lake Simcoe, and now, as Highway 11, virtually spans the province to the Manitoba border. Many groups throughout the

province are making plans to commemorate this important milestone in our history. In an effort to let our readers know about the variety of activities that will take place, the *OHS Bulletin* is inviting you to send us details of your programmes and projects. Throughout the bicentennial, we will publish lists of these activities to help publicize your events. Let us know what you are doing by sending the details of your activity to the OHS, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale M2N 3Y2.

## Everyone is welcome!

The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and Honorary Patron of the OHS, invites you to attend his New Year's Day Levee on January 1, 1995. The event will take place in the Lieutenant Governor's suite at Queen's Park from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For further information, please contact Bryn MacPherson-White, Executive Assistant at (416) 325-7780.

## Join us for Heritage Day

Celebrate Heritage Day 1995 by visiting The Ontario Historical Society's new home, the John McKenzie House at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale. We are holding an Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 20, and you are invited to take a brief tour of the house and enjoy some historic refreshments. For further information, give us a call at (416) 226-9011. Hope to see you here!

## Upcoming OHS Workshops and Seminars

DATE	WORKSHOP	LOCATIONS
January 21	Education and the Common Curriculum	North Bay
March 3, 4	Cultural Celebrations in Ontario	Sault Ste. Marie Ontario
March 11	Education and the Common Curriculum	Welland
April 1, 2	Cultural Celebrations in Ontario	North Bay
April 19	Education and the Common Curriculum	Aylmer
May 4, 5	Cultural Celebrations in Ontario	Chatham
May 27	Education and the Common Curriculum	Muskoka
June 10, 11	Cultural Celebrations in Ontario	Brampton

For further information on these training programmes and others in the planning stages, please contact Lorraine Lowry, Workshop Co-ordinator, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011 or fax (416) 226-2740.



## Writing a community's history

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD,  
Author and Historian

Community history writing has flourished in Ontario for 150 years. The first local history in the province was James Croil's *Dundas: A Sketch in History*. Since then, the number and variety of community histories has grown to an extent that makes it difficult to keep track of all the titles issuing from Ontario presses each year. In the 1990s, many municipalities are celebrating their bicentennial of white settlement. Commissioning a well researched and professionally written local history for a growing number of municipalities is an important and unparalleled way to reinforce a community's identity and to provide a useful reference tool for residents, students, planners and local businesses.

In recent years, a few universities have begun offering courses promoting the writing of community histories that meet the professional standards established earlier in Britain, France

and the United States. The OHS Fred Landon Award gives recognition to the better community histories being written, to further improve the standard in Ontario. Still, too many local histories in this province fulfil the traditional dictum that "local history in Ontario is as dull as ditchwater and full of it!"

So, then, what makes a local history good? In a few words, there are five essentials for creating a good community history. First, the community's development must be chronicled within a firm understanding of Ontario's historiography; the writer must have a solid grounding in the historian's craft to avoid the pitfalls and assumptions that mar the work (however well-intentioned) of amateur historians.

Second, a good community history is not just a collection of facts, names, dates and anecdotes, but it has a central theme, with all the facts, names, dates and anecdotes adding up to explain some profound or essential aspect of the community.

Third, a good local history establishes the regional context of the community, and indicates as to whether the community is typical or unique within the region. Fourth, a good local history invokes the particularity of place, detailing the specifics of groups and individuals with their assorted cultural baggage in a particular geographic locale. Fifth, and finally, a good community history makes abundant use of visual material and three-dimensional artifacts, using lengthy captions to explain the evidence contained in the visuals.

In summary, a good local history seeks to explain how change occurred for various people within a particular geographic locality and within a wider regional context over time.

*Dr. Glenn Lockwood is a professional community historian working out of Ottawa. His most recent book is **Smiths Falls: A Social History of the Men and Women in a Rideau Canal Community, 1794-1994**.*



Students from Toronto's Sprucecourt Junior School had an opportunity to experience history first-hand when they visited one of the oldest log homes in the city. From left to right are Ryan Colley, Timmy Lieu, Rufa Abbas and James Knight. (Absent when the photo was taken was Shafna Farishnikdeen.) Please see their comments below. (Photo courtesy of Vincenzo Pietropaolo.)

## History through the eyes of a child

Ruth Johnson, a teacher at Toronto's Sprucecourt Junior School, is introducing her students to their community's history early in life. At a recent Toronto Historical Board wallpaper seminar, Johnson met William Gilpin who lives very close to the school in one of the oldest remaining log homes (now covered in stucco) in the city. She capitalized on this chance meeting to arrange for her students to visit Gilpin's home one day after school. Two weeks later, the students had a first-hand opportunity to experience what everyday living may have been like many years ago. Here are excerpts from their comments:

*Rufa Abbas (born in Sudan)*

The washroom is made out of logs and bricks. The kitchen is

made out of bricks and wallpaper. The dining room is made out of wallpaper. The hallway is made out of red paint. The house is nearly 200 years old. The living room is made out of wood and plaster. The wood shingles were cut by axe by hand.

*Ryan Colley (born in Canada)*

We went to a log cabin house. We talked about how they cut the trees to make logs.

*Shafna Farishnikdeen (born in Sri Lanka)*

I like the washroom because it looks nice. The logs were the outside part of the house. I like the living room because it has a piano and because it looks neat. I like the garden and the tomatoes. William finds stuff in his garden and those things look great.

*James Knight (born in Canada)*

I like the old-fashioned record player and I like the old-fashioned wallpaper. It was red and fancy. I like the bathroom wall that was made out of logs. There was a big bathtub and funny hot and cold handles. William has a big backyard.

*Timmy Lieu (born in Canada)*

I like the living room because it is so beautiful to see. We saw cow teeth and a hole in the wall. There was a log inside it and we saw some logs. I saw the garden. It was beautiful.

For further information on William Gilpin and his log house, please see ***Emerald City - Toronto Visited***, by John Bentley Mays, published by Viking, 1994, pages 70-74.

## We gratefully acknowledge

BY JAMES CLEMENS, Chair, New Home Task Force

The Ontario Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following donors to our New Home Fund.

Una Abrahamson	Peter Elms	Colleen Massabki	Patricia Stone
Merle Alkins	Jean and Donald Furness	Florence Maynes	Eudene Stuart
Emily Ashton	Edith and Geoffrey	Thomas McIlwraith	Randall White
G. Blaine Baker	Geduld	Dorothy Nicholson	Brian Winter
Frank Bartszek	Alix Gronau	Daniel O'Brien	Lincoln and Continental
Sandra Beech	Beth Hanna	Ruth and Eber Pollard	Owners Club
Elizabeth and Michael	Ida Hewett	Father Francis Reed	North Erie Shore
Bliss	Florence Hill	Gabriele Scardellato	Historical Society in
Percival Burrows	Dorene and Forbes	Jean Simmonds	memory of Harold Nie
Thelma Dawson	Hirsch	Helen Spanis	West Toronto Junction
Joan de Guerre	Jeanne Hughes	Judith and David Spencer	Historical Society
Dorothy Edleston	Florence Martin	James Stanley	

## Welcome new members

The Ontario Historical Society welcomes new members:

*Ancaster:* The Tool Group of Canada  
*Belleville:* Mary Jane Throop  
*Bracebridge:* Muskoka Heritage Foundation  
*Bramalea:* Dana John Nield  
*Dundas:* Dr. J. D. Richardson  
*Etobicoke:* J. William Lamb  
*Gloucester:* George Nicholson  
*Guelph:* Guelph Arts Council  
*Hamilton:* James Elliott  
*Maidstone:* Sue Sylvester  
*Matheson:* The Thelma Miles Museum  
*Mississauga:* The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

*Newboro:* Newboro Community Historians  
*Newmarket:* Carole Huband  
*Niagara Falls:* Friends of Stamford Village  
*North York:* Fay Matthews-Garcia  
*Ottawa:* Allan Bartley, Robert L. Vaughan  
*Scarborough:* Scarborough Court Retirement Home, Paul and Jean Wing  
*Toronto:* Suzanne Lout, Walter Moffat, Mary Anne Neville, Mr. and Mrs. K. Nunn, Victoria Vine  
*Willowdale:* Isabelle M. Sturgess, Kelvin and Betty Crossley

## What's coming up in Ontario History

BY DR. JEAN BURNET,  
Editor

The December issue of *Ontario History* contains an article by Christopher Anstead and Nancy Bouchier entitled "The 'Tombstone Affair,' 1845: Woodstock Tories and Cultural Change"; "Ontario's Political Culture: Conservatism with a Progressive Component", by the former leader of the Ontario NDP, Donald C. MacDonald; "Swinging with the Governors: Newcastle District Elections, 1836 and 1841", by Quentin Brown; "The Public Right of Fishing, Government Fishing Policy and Indian Fishing Rights in Upper Canada", by Roland A. Wright and a number of lively and interesting book reviews.

The March 1995 issue begins with an article by Randall White, "The Province of Ontario Savings Office, 1922-1990: A Case Study in the Complexities of Ontario Political Culture". The lead article is followed by "What are the good of those meetings anyway?": Explaining the Early Popularity of the Ontario Women's Institute", by Linda M. Ambrose; "Maintaining a Great Lakes Fishery: The

State, Science, and the Case of Ontario's Bay of Quinte, 1870-1920", by Neil S. Forkey; "The Toronto Irish, Home Rule and the Great War, 1912-1918", by Philip Currie; a research note, "The Use of Land Registry Offices for Historical Research", by John Hagopian and book reviews.

### Attention Ontario History Subscribers!

Wanting to make your collection of *Ontario History* complete? The Ontario Historical Society has just conducted an inventory of its holdings of the quarterly journal, and has made available the following issues...at very special prices!

- A limited number of broken sets from 1958 to 1988  
**\$100.00**
- Single issues to December 1988  
**\$1.00 each or 4 for \$3.00**
- Single issues from March 1989 to June 1994  
**\$2.00 each or 4 for \$6.00**
- *Ontario History Index 1973-1992*  
**\$5.00 each (regular price - \$20.00)**

Take advantage of these special prices now by picking up your order at The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario. Please enquire about postage and handling costs for mail orders at (416) 226-9011 or fax (416) 226-2740.

### The Toronto Home of Sir Edmund Wyly Grier 1862-1957

was privately moved to Uxbridge in 1981 and is currently in a serious state of disrepair. Although Grier is best known for his portraits located in institutions across Canada, he did paint a number of watercolour scenes of London, England, Niagara-on-the-Lake and early Toronto (York). Many of these were donated to the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library by John Ross Robertson. All seriously interested potential purchasers who may be willing to acquire "Rose Cottage" and move it to another property should contact Ruth Johnson at (416) 691-7898 and leave a message. (The price is negotiable.)

## CHA honours Joan Sangster

At its annual meeting last June, the Canadian Historical Association announced that it was awarding the Hilda Neatby Prize for the best English language article to Joan Sangster of Peterborough for "The Softball Solution: Female Workers, Male Managers and the Operation of Paternalism at Westclox, 1923-1960". OHS members will remember that this article, published in *Labour/Le Travail* in the Fall of 1993, received the Society's Riddell Award at our 1994 annual conference in May in Hamilton. Congratulations again to Joan Sangster.



# Museum News



Fred Gamester, volunteer with the North Bay Area Museum, meets the new son of Sharon Clark Berard, Curator of the Dionne Museum, at the opening of the North Bay Area Museum earlier this year. The opening was a great success and since then, the Museum's new interim location on Main Street West, has been bustling with many special activities, and in 1995 it will co-sponsor "Cultural Celebrations in Ontario" with the OHS on April 1 and 2. (Photo courtesy of Pam Handley.)

## Pooh memorabilia keeps growing



Six years ago, the White River District Historical Society launched Winnie's Hometown Festival, in commemoration of the birthplace of the bear that inspired the creation of Winnie-the-Pooh. Last May, the Society received over 200 Pooh artifacts from an avid collector in Fargo, North Dakota. Kenneth Saperstone, who had collected the memorabilia for 30 years, passed away last January and willed his collection to the Society. The items are now exhibited at the Information Centre in White River, along with the carved wooden statue portraying the first meeting of Captain Harry Colebourn and "Winnipeg".

## Information wanted

### Michipicoten historical dramas

The Michipicoten Township Public Library is producing several historical dramas pertaining to the Michipicoten area. They plan to recreate events involving the fur trade during the 1800s, First Nations history, Francis Clergue, Sir James Dunn, the gold rush and Wawa during the 1950s and 60s. Anyone having photos, information, clothing or

other memorabilia of these periods is asked to contact Leoni Havelka, Project Co-ordinator at the library, Box 1730, Wawa P0S 1K0.

### Sir Edmund Wyly Grier

Please see the advertisement on page 5 concerning the home of Sir Edmund Wyly Grier. Any additional suggestions would be welcomed and appreciated. Contact Ruth Johnson at (416) 691-7898.

## Markham Museum enjoys successful year

Some new exhibits and Markham's bicentennial celebration brought an attendance boom to the Markham Museum in 1994. Manager Birgitta MacLeod reports visitation to the galleries has increased 50 percent over last year. Bicentennial events throughout the year and the Berczy Settlers reunion in August have increased interest in Markham's heritage. Local schools, in particular, are taking

advantage of the museum's resources.

This news is inspiring for a site that suffered staff and budget reductions in the spring, forcing the museum to take a close look at its services and programmes. As a result of this evaluation, a new research policy makes it easier for genealogists and others to find information. More children's programmes will be offered during school holidays

and the museum is considering a value pass offer for families who visit frequently.

Although the site's future appeared uncertain a few short months ago, Birgitta MacLeod feels optimistic. Artifact donations have increased, showing that residents have great confidence in the museum's future. The Markham Museum is located on the west side of Highway 48, 2 km. north of Highway 7.

## Reduction in your MCTR grant? Here's why!

Some museums noticed in 1994 that they had received a reduction in their annual operating grants from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation. To learn more about the situation, Janet Cobban, OHS President and Laurence Grant, President of the OMA, headed a meeting with Ruth Freeman, Manager of Museum and Heritage Organization Programs with the Ministry, at the OHS in September. In response to their questions, Freeman issued a letter to all museums in the grant programme explaining the reasoning behind the reduction. Here are excerpts from her letter.

"Some of you have expressed concern about the possibility of receiving a grant reduction because you now have lower salary costs as a result of implementing the social contract legislation. This situation affected four museums in 1994, but is unlikely to affect many others in the future.

"You will have realized that

despite the cost-saving measures you have introduced at your museum, the grant amount was not changed. The four museums whose grants were reduced all had eligible operating expenses over \$220,000. and were already receiving grant amounts at maximum entitlement under the regulation. Since the regulation stipulates that grants to museums spending more than \$220,000. cannot exceed twelve percent of eligible costs, their grant amounts were less than in the previous year, but were still held at twelve percent of the eligible costs. Unfortunately most museums are receiving grants that fall below the maximum amounts described in the regulation, so that reduced eligible costs will not affect the grant amount.

"Nonetheless I encourage you to be familiar with the regulation and with the terms and conditions of the grant so that you can anticipate any situations specific to your museum. For example, the regulation also states that grants to seasonal museums

cannot exceed fifty percent of eligible operating costs. The regulation is sent to you every year as part of the application process. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns...

"Betty Malyon, John Carter, and Jacques Lavoie are the Museum Advisors. Their responsibilities include providing assistance to your museums on museological matters. These services range from providing you with practical advice on all aspects of museum functions to assisting you with master plans, studies, and major projects. They ensure that you have the information you need to maintain your eligibility under the ministry's grant program."

For further information, please contact Ruth Freeman, Manager, Museum and Heritage Organization Programs, Cultural Programs Branch, Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9, (416) 314-7156.

## Brewed in Windsor

"Brewed in Windsor", an exhibition on Windsor and area breweries and drinking establishments, opened on November 13 at the La Maison François Baby House in Windsor. The history of Windsor breweries is traced including the British American Brewery, Walkerville and Hofer Breweries and others.

Memorabilia such as bottles, trays, tipping trays, ash trays, labels, photographs, signage, barrels and kegs are found in abundance in the exhibition. A collection of cooperage equipment used in the manufacture of barrels to transport draft beer is also represented. The exhibition

looks at taverns in the Windsor area and their function as social centres. Specific histories of long standing establishments, such as the Dominion House and Victoria Hotel, along with others that are no longer in operation are highlighted. While making and consuming beer is the primary focus of the exhibition, the temperance movement and prohibition are also discussed, as are contemporary trends toward microbreweries, homebrewing and brewpubs.

Many beer related events are being planned in conjunction with the exhibit. The Essex County Historical Society is

hosting a beer tasting session and an historic pub crawl through Windsor area taverns. The museum, with the permission of Molson Breweries, has reproduced a coaster with the image of the "handsome waiter" as a means of advertising the exhibition. The coaster is in use at a number of Windsor area drinking establishments.

"Brewed in Windsor" continues until September 17, 1995. For more information, please contact La Maison François Baby House at (519) 253-1812.

*Used with permission from Baby House Voices, volume 9 no.3, Fall 1994.*

## The Hungarian community exhibit

An exhibit on the Hungarian community in Welland opened on November 16, 1994 at the Welland Historical Museum. The exhibit was prepared by guest Curator, Jane Burns, a folklorist/anthropologist who has been interviewing members of the Hungarian community to

collect stories that reflect the community. Excerpts from these interviews form the basis for the text of the exhibit. Burns has also borrowed items from community members which include family and picnic photographs, embroidery, packages of home-made noodles and older vestments from the churches.

The exhibit explores the growth of the community beginning with the different waves of immigration to the establishment of a community with churches, social organizations and local businesses. The life of the community is depicted through its embroidery, dance, music, food, wine and the important role of the Welland Farmer's Market. A number of special events will be held over the course of the exhibit including a dinner and dance, fashion show, Christmas concert, wine tasting and three Open Houses.

Some of the events will be taking place at the Welland Historical Museum while others will be held at the Hungarian Community Centre (the Self Culture Society).

A publication will also be produced as a permanent record of the exhibit. This publication will be made available to libraries and schools as a resource for study of Welland's multicultural population.

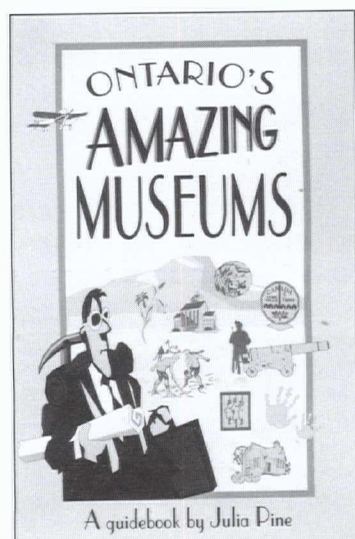
The Hungarian exhibition is the third in a series to explore the many cultural communities which make up Welland. The Ukrainian and Italian communities were portrayed in earlier exhibits and plans are under way for 1995 when the Francophone population is showcased on its 75th anniversary.

For further information, please contact the Welland Historical Museum at 65 Hooker Street, (905) 732-2215.



# From the Bookshelf

BY PAT AND CHRIS  
RAIBLE, Editors



## Curiosities Abound

**Ontario's Amazing Museums: A Guide to Ontario's Most Interesting and Unusual Museums, Archives, Education Centres, and Collections.** By Julia Pine. ECW Press. 290 pages. \$14.95 paper.

All OHS members know that our province is well stocked with "collections of neat stuff" open to the public, but few can have found as many as Bata Shoe Museum staff member Julia Pine. Here are described and listed alphabetically — from the Addiction Research Foundation Museum to the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre — 275 of them! There are many more she missed, no doubt, but this guide will delight all lovers of the unusual. Geographic and subject indexes are helpfully provided.

## Canal Community

**Smiths Falls: A Social History of the Men and Women in a Rideau Canal Community, 1794-1994.** By Glenn J Lockwood. Town of Smiths Falls/Heritage House Museum. 650 pages. Illustrations. \$46.95 cloth.

In this impressive and richly detailed book, Lockwood chronicles the progress of Smiths Falls from frontier beginnings as a construction camp to its present stature. Competing elites, ethnic and religious conflict, the lack of opportunity for women, the coming of the railroad, economic progress and recession, are all addressed. This well researched and copiously illustrated book is local history juxtaposed against the larger backdrop of Ontario's development.

## Photo Philosopher

**Algonquin Park: Excursions with a Photographer.** By Dave Taylor. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 208 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 paper.

Travel with a skilled photographer and able writer on six one-day excursions. See what he sees. Learn what he knows. Ponder what he thinks. His primary interest, even passion, is Algonquin's ecosystem, hence this volume is no mere "how to" take photographs of a natural environment, it is also a "where to," a "what to," and most of all a "why to".

## Ontariana

**Wellington County History: Volume 7.** Wellington County Historical Society.

An annual volume — this year's includes the memoirs of J. J. Morrison, as well as stories of plane crashes, libraries, banks and agricultural societies.

**Pictures from the Past, Huntsville, Lake of Bays.** Muskoka Pioneer Village. \$19.95.

A reprint of the 1986 volume, a collection of photographs and accompanying stories illustrating the history of the area.

**John Ramsay of Kildalton and The Day Book of Daniel Campbell of Shawfield 1767.** By Freda Ramsay. Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society.

Two books of particular interest to Islay descendants of the Beaverton area and throughout Ontario.

**Preliminary Name List for a Dictionary of Glengarry Biography.** By Royce MacGillivray. 76 pages. \$11.00 paper.

The names of some 1,400 men and women, collected for inclusion in a projected dictionary of prominent Glengarrians.

## Hard Reading

**Reading Rock Art: Interpreting the Indian Rock Paintings of the Canadian Shield.** By Grace Rajnovich. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 191 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 paper.

Thoroughly researched, yet simply and artfully presented, are the meanings to be found in the more than 400 pictographs which adorn cliff faces in five provinces, more than half of them in Ontario. They were the work of the Algonkian people, whose pictorial poetry continues to fascinate and inspire.

## Good Grinding

**Memories of Morningstar Mill: Mountain Mills at DeCew Falls.** By Lorna Robson, with Paul Hutchinson. Slabtown Press. 52 pages. Illustrations. \$6.00 paper.

A large sign reads: "Mountain Mills, Decew Falls — Gristing and Chopping — W. Morningstar, Cash for Wheat — Flour and Feed Always on Hand". The mill operated for 50 years until 1933, stood idle for nearly 60 years, and now is in process of being restored. This informative booklet tells its whole story.

## Long Pointing

**The Long Point Settlers Journal, Volume 1, Numbers 1, 2 and 3.** Annual subscription \$20.00.

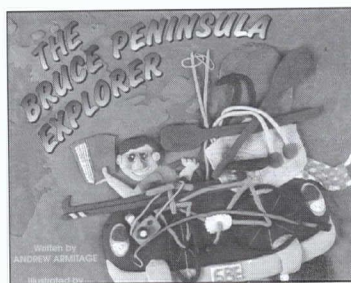
All with an interest in the early history of Upper Canada, particularly Norfolk County, will welcome this new journal, with its articles, biographies, transcribed documents, genealogical indices and related informative material. Its editor, R. Robert Mutrie, authored *The Long Point Settlers*, a work still in print.

**Local Economies of the**

**Long Point Area (Working Paper 5).** By Steven Wilcox. **Human Heritage and History of the Long Point Area (Working Paper 6).** By Sue Dakin and Andy Skibicki. **Shoreline Flooding and Erosion Hazards in the Long Point Area (Working Paper 7).** By Patrick Lawrence and Gordon Nelson. Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo. \$10.00 each.

The latest in a continuing series of informative research papers dealing with the Long Point area.

## Beckoning Bruce Buffs



**The Bruce Peninsula Explorer: Eight Daytrips on the Bruce.** By Andrew Armitage. Illustrated by Catherine Caple. The Ginger Press. 168 pages. \$19.95 paper.

Author Andrew Armitage is totally enamoured with one piece of the province. The fruits of two decades of his personal explorations into its history, geography, zoology and even mythology are here publicly published. Everyone who knows the Bruce Peninsula — and anyone who would know it better — will welcome this fascinating guide. With it, the Ginger Press continues its mission of producing books (12 so far) dealing with the natural and cultural heritage of the Grey/Bruce district.

## Roots

**"We're Rooted Here and They Can't Pull Us Up": Essays in African Canadian Women's History.** By Peggy Bristow, et al. University of Toronto Press. 248 pages. Illustrations. \$45.00 cloth, \$17.95 paper.

Six essays explore 300 years of residence in Canada by Black women, effectively dispelling the misconception that Blacks are recent immigrants, with limited contribution to our country's progress.

Here we can appreciate their experience: as early slaves and Loyalists, travellers via the Underground Railroad, residents of Buxton and Chatham, Ontario; as 19th century teachers and 20th century labourers. A final chapter analyzes governmental practice and policy in relation to African Canadian women. This thoughtful book provides highly recommended reading for all.

## Rods

**Train Country: An Illustrated History of Canadian National Railways.** By Donald MacKay and Lorne Perry. Douglas & McIntyre. 192 pages. Illustrations. \$45.00 cloth.

When Canadian National

Railways was created after World War I by combining five financially troubled companies, it became the largest railway in the country, with thousands of miles of lines, as well as hotels, ships, telegraph and other services. *Train Country* captures the heyday of CN through the reminiscences of workers and its impressive collection of photographs. Railway buffs will drool over this attractive book, but it will surely also appeal to all who recognize the importance of the railways in Canadian history.

## Wings

**Wings for Victory: The Remarkable Story of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Canada.** By Spencer Dunmore. McClelland and Stewart. 399 pages. Illustrations. \$29.99 cloth.

The BCATP was a World War II programme of colossal proportions, at its peak graduating more than 3,000 aircrew each month to staff the Allies' "aerodrome of democracy". *Wings for Victory* entertainingly tells the story of the programme and of the young men who entered it as clerks and farmers, students and salesmen, and graduated as pilots, navigators, air gunners or bombers

## Quest

**In Search of My Father: One Woman's Search for the Father She Never Knew.** By Marion Elizabeth Fawkes. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 109 pages. Illustrations. \$14.95 paper.

Trying to discover more about her father who was killed in France in the summer of 1918, Fawkes embarks on a genealogical treasure hunt which takes her back to her earliest Canadian forebears.

## Achtung!

**The German-Canadians: A Concise History: Die Deutschkanadier. Geschichtlicher Überblick.** Historical Society of Mecklenburg Upper Canada. 180 pages. Illustrations. \$19.00 cloth.

This is Volume XII of the Canadian-German Yearbook, published every one-and-a-half years. Topics in this special edition include the German U.E. Loyalists, direct immigration from Germany to Ontario in the 19th century, German Canadian literature and German-Canadian studies, as well as a select bibliography of related books. (The text is presented first in English, then in German.)

## Municipal Hydro

**Power from Water.** By Robert J. Boyer. Muskoka Publications Press. 83 pages. Illustrations.

This year, Bracebridge celebrated the centenary of its electrical generating station, the first municipally owned operation in Canada. Local resident Robert Boyer, who served both as Muskoka MPP and as Vice-Chair of the Ontario Hydro Commission, was well qualified to chronicle its story.

## Directory of Publishers

Note: Prices listed do not include tax or postage charges.

**Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society,** Box 314,

Beaverton, Ontario L0K 1A0.

**Douglas & McIntyre,**

1615 Venables Street,  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5L 2H1.

**ECW Press,**

2120 Queen Street East, Suite 200,  
Toronto, Ontario M4E 1E2.

**Ginger Press,**

848 Second Avenue East, Owen  
Sound, Ontario N4K 2H3.

**Heritage House Museum,**

Old Slys Road, Box 695,  
Smiths Falls, Ontario, K7A 4T6.

**Heritage Resources Centre,**

**University of Waterloo,**  
Environmental Studies Building 1,  
Room 345,  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

**Historical Society of Mecklenburg Upper Canada,**  
Box 1251, Station K,  
Toronto, Ontario M4P 3E5.

**Long Point Settlers Journal,**  
244 Maple Leaf Avenue North, R. R.  
#2, Ridgeway, Ontario L0S 1N0.

**Royce MacGillivray,**

Department of History,  
University of Waterloo,  
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1.

**McClelland & Stewart Inc.,**

380 Esna Park Drive,  
Markham, Ontario L3R 1H5.

**Muskoka Pioneer Village,**  
Box 2802,  
Huntsville, Ontario P0A 1K0.

**Muskoka Publications Press,**

Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1R6.

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## Down under at the John McKenzie House

BY RONDA MARGOLESE,  
OHS and Toronto Branch,  
Ontario Archaeological Society  
member

Summer weekends - the ideal time for a picnic in the park, relaxing at the beach or a trip to the family cottage. Not so for my husband, Duane, and I, as we tend to set our sights on more adventurous activities. When we heard that the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Archaeological Society was conducting an archaeological dig this summer at the John McKenzie House, the OHS' new home, we decided we had to participate.

The site is located on a large North York lot south of Finch Avenue. Besides the McKenzie house, which was built in 1913, there is also a milk house which dates to 1907 and a 1915 stable. The property first belonged to Jacob Cummer during the early 19th century.

Each weekend, we met at the site around 9:00 a.m. Greg Purmal and Elise Sherman who headed the project, assigned the units we would work on that day.

Before heading to our pits, we collected our tools: trowels, buckets, whisk brooms and dustpans and set up the two screens through which we sifted our excavated soil.

Our digging was confined to the backyard. We worked in one meter square units located near or against the exterior walls of the two outbuildings. One of the units I worked on turned out to be a large refuse heap as it contained pieces of tinsel, broken toys, old packaging and rusting metal. Other units I excavated contained clayish soils which baked as hard as cement in the sun. Yet as the summer progressed, new units were opened while others were closed. I often felt sad when the completed ones were filled in as it seemed I was losing an old friend.

A well-earned lunch break was taken around noon. The hour not only provided an opportunity for us to acquire physical sustenance, but allowed fellow diggers to compare their morning's finds. We often caught up on what was learned about the site during the week and viewed the latest photographs.

As expected, the dig sparked the curiosity of the OHS' neighbours. The family to the east was particularly friendly, as on several occasions they invited us for a swim in their pool. Due to their relatively long period of residency in the neighbourhood, they were familiar with the last two families to occupy the McKenzie home.

Perhaps the most unpleasant episode of the summer occurred in early August. Troweling through the yellow-grey soil, I came upon a colony of red ants. As these bugs were a familiar inhabitant of the site, I thought nothing of our encounter until the next day. A visit to the doctor resulted in a shopping bag loaded with antihistamines and antibiotics. Homewrecker, my husband called me later.

Despite the bugs and some rather hot afternoons, our interest in the project was continually fueled by the varied collection of artifacts we found. Whether we uncovered square-headed nails, fragments of red earthenware or fine blue and white transfer wares, our days were always



How did we spend our summer? Ronda and Duane Margolese spent it volunteering at an archaeological excavation at the John McKenzie House, the OHS' new home. As members of the OHS and the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Archaeological Society, who conducted the assessment, what would have been a better way to pass the summer months? Fellow volunteer, Bertram Sturup (right), studies his findings. (Photo courtesy of Barbara Kane.)

exciting. One afternoon, I found a large fragment of a glass vessel which connected to a piece fellow volunteer Bertram Sturup had found earlier that day in the unit next to mine. Two of my husband's most memorable afternoons were distinguished with the finding of a bone-handled knife and a portion of a

chamber pot.

By the end of the day, our muscles ached and our clothes were soiled beyond recognition. Yet the project was a rewarding experience. It allowed us to meet people who shared our interest in archaeology and discover something new about the history of our city.

## Cemetery news

BY MARJORIE STUART,  
Toronto Branch, Ontario  
Genealogical Society and OHS  
Member

A special thank you to everyone who has sent news of their cemeteries. We have received newspaper clippings, information relating to restoration methods and accounts of restoration projects that have been completed. Not all of these are projects that have been successful. We are still hearing of the "remodeling" of cemeteries and the loss of the spatial relationships. Placement of markers in concrete continues despite a Regulation in the Cemeteries Act stating that the owner shall only use reversible processes to preserve and stabilize a marker.

We salute the organizers of a highly successful Tour of Historic Homes and Strawberry Festival on Amherst Island. The proceeds from the event will be used to repair the gravemarkers in **Pentland Cemetery**. The Council and Cemetery Committee sanctioned the fundraising but no money was solicited from either group.

Student volunteers from a stone masonry class at Kingston's Queen Elizabeth Collegiate Vocational Institute will assist local stone masons, Bill Hedges and David Nourry, in carrying out these repairs.

**Hay Bay Cemetery** in Adolphustown Township in Lennox and Addington Counties was the site of an archaeological assessment in 1993. Bill Lamb has sent us a very interesting account of this assessment and the efforts to identify the extent of the original cemetery and the location of field markers. A cemetery plan and record of burials does not exist. When road widening necessitated the moving of a monument, those who administer the cemetery recognized its heritage significance and this project was undertaken. This cemetery, which is adjacent to the Old Hay Bay Church, the first Methodist meeting house in Ontario built in 1792, has monuments dating from 1811 and many field stones which possibly indicate earlier burials. All who have had the wisdom to preserve this important part of Ontario's history are

to be congratulated.

From the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre comes news that Alan Piper has presented the Centre with the fruit of his 22 years of diligent research, including the records of 12 cemeteries in Hungerford Township. Also mentioned was the work of Ann Rowe of Foxboro who has also researched **Hungerford Township cemeteries**. We are fortunate that these people had the foresight to preserve these records which often vanish and the information on the gravemarkers is no longer legible.

The Fur Trade Dramatists and Volunteers of Old Fort William in Thunder Bay and their Chief Director, Glen William Craig, have rescued the gravemarker of Susan, wife of fur trader, William McGillivray. She was originally buried where the CPR freightyards are now. The marker has been restored and moved to **Mountain View Cemetery**. As an Ojibwa, her monument holds a special spiritual significance for women who make pilgrimages to the site and leave offerings.

## Archives Advisor programme in jeopardy

The survival of the Archives Advisor Programme, administered by the Archives Association of Ontario, is under threat by the Ontario government. This free, province-wide, on-site advisory service is available to any Ontario organization interested in developing an archives.

Since its introduction in 1991, the service has provided complimentary on-site visits to 211 organizations across Ontario including museums, "stand-alone" archives, trade unions, community organizations, museums, libraries, corporations, First Nation Bands, educational and health/medical institutions, in addition to responding to over 600 information enquiries about how to start and sustain an archives programme.

The advisory programme also administers a free on-site

conservation advisory programme and a thermohygrograph loan service located in six regional depots across the province. This service contributes to the ongoing development and maintenance of documentary records across Ontario.

Please support the continuation of this programme, the only Ontario government service directly aimed at assisting archives. Without your support, this programme will be terminated in July 1995. Write and/or telephone The Honourable Anne Swarbrick, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Recreation, 6th Floor, 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9, (416) 325-6200 or Ian Wilson, Archivist of Ontario, 77 Grenville Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9, (416) 327-1602 or 1-800-668-9933.

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The several classes of membership in the Society are: Individual/Institutional \$15.00; Family \$18.00; Sustaining \$50.00; Life \$300.00; Patron \$500.00; Benefactor \$1000.00; Affiliated Societies \$35.00. 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 member individuals for \$21.40 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for \$32.10 and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$42.80.

Editor: Meribeth Clow  
"Cemetery news" Editor: Marjorie Stuart  
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Museum News Editor: Laura Suchan, Director, Oshawa Sydenham Museum  
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