



OHS BULLETIN

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

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Welcome Isabel Bassett

The Ontario Historical Society welcomes Isabel Bassett MPP for St. Andrew St. Patrick who was recently appointed Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. She served as the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Finance until her appointment on October 10, 1997.

Prior to running for office, Ms. Bassett was a high school teacher and produced and reported on numerous award-winning television documentaries about social and political issues.

She has also published two books: *The Bassett Report*, on Canadian women, career strate-

gies and successes; and *The ParLOUR Rebellion*, about turn-of-the-century Canadian women and their struggle for equal rights.

The OHS looks forward to working with the new Minister and her staff in resolving the many challenges facing the heritage community in Ontario.

Community museums, municipal restructuring and amalgamation

By John Carter, Museum Advisor, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation

Is your community museum facing municipal restructuring and amalgamation? This article will help you meet the challenges and opportunities associated with this process and provide advice to enable your site to continue to meet eligibility requirements in Regulation 877 Grants for Museums.

A summary of municipal restructuring proposals published in mid-1997 showed that the 206 current municipalities in Ontario would be amalgamated into a proposed 71. Of the 191 museums in the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG) programme, 63 percent are owned and operated by municipalities.

Once you have confirmed that your municipality is included in the restructuring and amalgamation process, consider develop-

ing a position paper to define what community museums are and list their attributes and benefits, as well as requirements as contained in the Community Museum Policy for Ontario and associated Regulations, guidelines and standards.

It is crucial to ensure that museum issues and concerns such as governance, service, operation, facility and finances are addressed when developing recommendations for Transition Teams. It is vital to continue to meet the requirements and regulations of the Community Museum Policy for Ontario in order to become and remain eligible for funding.

An important and helpful resource is *Making It Work*, a reference developed jointly by the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. It includes a checklist on museums as a component of consolidating specific municipal services.

Most municipalities have es-

tablished working groups to deal with culture, heritage and the arts. See the article "Museums of the MegaCity" on page 6 of this issue of the *OHS Bulletin* for a description of how Metropolitan Toronto handled the situation.

Museums must adopt a proactive role in providing practical recommendations to municipal Transition Teams and in identifying flexible approaches and options for effective operation within a new municipal government structure.

The process of municipal restructuring and amalgamation can be a positive one. If you have not yet gone through this process, why not contact colleagues in municipalities that have, to share information and to benefit from their experiences and insight? Museum specific advice is available by contacting your provincial museum advisor at the Culture Programmes Branch, Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation at (416) 314-7137.

Celebrate the "Year of the Tiger"

Find a friend and come celebrate the "Year of the Tiger" and the launch of our new book *From Cathay to Canada: Chinese Cuisine in Transition*.

Join us on Monday evening January 26, 1998 for a sumptuous ten course traditional Chinese New Year Banquet prepared by the graduating class of the Chinese Cuisine Students at George Brown College. Professor Bill Wong who is a Master Chef will supervise the preparation of the dinner.

Come and learn how everyone will fare during the "Year of the Tiger" and discover why this could be a special year for you as Valerie Mah, Principal, Bruce Public School, Toronto discusses the customs of the New Year.

The tickets are \$50.00 per person or two for \$88.00 and as an added bonus, everyone will

receive their own copy of the new book and a tax receipt for a portion of your ticket! A social gathering will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner at 6:30 p.m. Book now since tickets are limited, (416) 226-9011.

We're still waiting!

As we go to press, The Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society have not received the decision of the Tribunal that heard the appeal for the closing and the moving of the Clendennen Cemetery in Markham.



The Honourable Isabel Bassett, Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation).

Bring your love of food to the Foods of Love

Join us on Saturday evening, February 14 at our historic headquarters to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. We can promise you a heart warming buffet of delectable foods, a variety of beverages and an evening of good fellowship.

Celebrate the Patron Saint of Love by reserving your tickets today. Tickets are

\$30.00 each, with an income tax receipt issued for a portion of the ticket cost.

For further information and to order your tickets, contact The OHS at 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011 or fax 226-2740.

Make it an evening to remember. See you there!

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The Ontario Historical Society
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Executive Director's report

By Dorothy Duncan, OHS Executive Director

Farewell and Welcome

By the time our members read my report, Meribeth Clow and Cathy Febbraro will both be on maternity leave. We welcome Lorraine Lowry back to Canada and to our office from her extended trip to Nepal, India, Australia and New Zealand. Lisa DiMarco, who came to us for a limited Experience '97 programme, has continued to assist us on a part time basis and our dedicated volunteers have assumed many new responsibilities. Our best wishes go with Meribeth and Cathy and our grateful thanks to the rest of the crew in these increasingly difficult times.

A Tribute to Ellen Langlands

I had the pleasure of meeting Ellen Langlands many, many years ago when she and architect Phil Goldsmith were working on the restoration of the Spruce Lane Farm near Burlington for the Ministry of Natural Resources. I have followed with admiration Ellen's professional development, her dedication to, and involvement in, the many organizations and institutions that benefitted from her knowledge and expertise including the Costume Society of Ontario, the Ontario Museum Association and the OHS. Due to her interest in historic textiles Ellen spent several months in England studying conservation techniques there. She was appointed the Director of the Wellington County Museum in 1986 after having served as Curator for ten years. Her death in November was a shock

to all who knew and loved her and a great loss to the heritage community in Ontario.

What Is Really Happening to the Heritage Support Programmes at the Ministry?

These increasingly difficult times for the museums and heritage organizations in Ontario have their basis in the late? lost? annual operating grants from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. There was a time when the Ministry informed us early in the year of the amount that we would receive and the support cheque (all or part) was received in a timely manner. The arrival time has moved through the year - June, July, August and last year September with a 33% cut! At every opportunity, we have attempted to urge the Ministry to move its deadlines forward and to communicate with us, so that we, in turn, can serve this enormous province and the multiplicity of needs from individuals, organizations and institutions. Over the last year, we received many promises, however, the OHS received its grant on November 8, and again with another decrease! Many heritage organizations and institutions like ourselves have called the Ministry for clarification about timing, amounts, cause of delay and have received no clear answers. As we go to press we understand the community museums are still waiting. Who has the answers to this mystery? Let's hear from you! In the meantime, the fundraising continues apace!

Lost Treasures

Lost Treasures on November 8 was a highly successful sale of books, antiques, collectibles and memorabilia that brought in over \$2500.00. Our thanks to volunteers: Frank Bartoszek, Glen Bonetta, Jean Burnet, John Carter, Edith and Geoff Geduld, Joyce Hack, Jeanne Hughes, Bev Hykel, Barb Kane, Hazel Kitto, Elaine Laprairie, Ronda Margolese, Grace Matthews, Daniel O'Brien, Sarah Walker and staff members Rob Levery and Barbara Truax who worked as volunteers on that day.

Come to the Book Launch

From Cathay to Canada: Chinese Cuisine in Transition will be launched on January 26, 1998 at George Brown College. This publication comes as a result of the excellent Symposium by the same name co-sponsored by the OHS and the School of Hotel and Food Administration, University of Guelph, earlier this year. The Symposium brought together a large and enthusiastic audience from many interest groups and disciplines to explore the important contribution that Chinese Canadians and their foodways have made to Canadian cuisine. Professor Jo Marie Powers of the University of Guelph is the guest editor and she, along with many of the authors, will be on hand at the launch. We look forward to having you with us.

The Foods of Love

Mark Saturday evening, February 14 on your calendar and call



Alex S. Cook of the Milton Historical Society was recently honoured with an Ontario Heritage Foundation Community Achievement Award. He is the resident genealogist and has authored two volumes of biographies of distinguished citizens of Milton, listing the persons occupation, accomplishments and information about their families. Alex is flanked by MPP Ted Chudleigh (left) and Mayor Gordon Krantz. (Photo courtesy of the Milton Historical Society.)

us to reserve your tickets for our second dinner that honours the Patron Saint of Love, St. Valentine. Once again we will present a buffet of foods that our ancestors, and ourselves, have treasured as the foods of love. There will be a limited number of tickets available for this event at \$30.00 each, with a tax receipt issued for a portion of the amount so if you are interested, reserve yours now!

Heritage Day and Heritage Week

Monday, February 16 will be celebrated as Heritage Day in many communities across Ontario, while in others the whole week will be a full schedule of events. In Metropolitan Toronto, the museums, historical societies and other heritage and cultural organizations and institutions will participate in Heritage Showcase at the Scarborough Town Centre, February 20, 21 and 22. Visit the

OHS table, tell us you read about the Showcase in the *OHS Bulletin* and we have a gift for you!

Join us on May 2

Speaking of gifts, May 2 is the day that the Board of Directors and staff of the OHS have designated to thank you, our members and supporters, for your gifts to the restoration of our headquarters. This gala day will begin with the Annual Business Meeting and then everyone can explore the McKenzie House, stable, dairy and Women's Canadian Historical Society Coach House, tour the restored grounds and gardens and the newly developed McKenzie Parkette that adjoins our property.

Finally, you can help us unveil our provincial historic plaque and enjoy refreshments. We will not be hosting a Conference in conjunction with the Business Meeting in 1998, due to this very special event.

History in their own backyard

Carol and David Ladell can honestly say that history has happened right in their backyard. The couple own Lot 118, just north of Holland Landing, and inadvertently discovered that the ten acre property, which abutts the Holland River, has very likely been the site of hundreds of years of First Nations and historic activity.

In 1993, the Ministry of Transportation proposed building the Bradford Bypass, which will run east-west from Highway 400 to an extension of Highway 404. The route for the Bypass will cut through Lot 118 and travel over the Holland River.

The Ladells, along with several interested citizens, academics and historical societies formed the group, Canadian Heritage Landscapes (CHL) to preserve historical and archaeological sites and landscapes of national significance. They consider Lot 118 to be such a site, and initially protested the building of the Bypass for environmental reasons. The property is designated as a ESA (Environmentally Sensitive Area) and a Class 1 wetland, containing rare plant and animal species, many found nowhere else in the region.

Research, however, has revealed another very significant

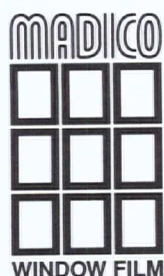
reason for preservation of the site. CHL has discovered that Lot 118, specifically the point of land which meets the Holland River, is very likely the location of the Lower Landing, used as an embarkation point for fur traders, soldiers, settlers and explorers including Champlain, Brulé and Franklin. It was probably used as a gateway by the First Nations for hundreds of years. Upper Canada's first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe, likely established the terminus for Yonge Street on the site, as well as Fort Gwillimbury. Later, stagecoaches travelling north on Yonge Street deposited their passengers there for further travel by steamboat north to Lake Simcoe and beyond.

CHL submitted a detailed report on its findings to Parks

Canada in April, and has asked that Lot 118 be declared a national historic site. The report, along with further research by Parks Canada historians, was submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for consideration at its November meeting.

On Sunday, October 19, CHL sponsored "Footprints in History" at Lot 118 to showcase to the heritage community the significance of the site, and to garner support for its preservation efforts. The OHS was represented by Meribeth Clow and Wes Rochester, and Meribeth has submitted this report for the *OHS Bulletin*.

For further information, please contact Canadian Heritage Landscapes at 80 West Drive, Brampton, Ontario L6T 3T6.



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Across the Province

By Richard Gardiner, Chair, Local Societies Committee and Dorothy Duncan, OHS Executive Director

The **United Empire Loyalists' Day Act**, 1997 passed Second Reading in the Ontario Legislature in August. If it passes Third Reading (as expected before year end) June 19 will be proclaimed United Empire Loyalists' Day thanks to MPPs Harry Danford (Hastings-Peterborough), Michael Brown (Algoma-Manitoulin), Tony Martin (Sault Ste. Marie), John Parker (York East), Bud Wildman (Algoma), Jim Flaherty (Durham Centre) and Tim Hudak (Niagara South).

The **Innisfil Historical Society** celebrated its 25th anniversary in October at the Lefroy Grange Hall with a slide show and narrative review of its history.

The **Ontario Black History Society** has invited those interested in helping to conduct video and oral presentations on Canadian Black History at libraries, schools and other organizations to write to the Society at #202, 10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto M5C 1J3.

"Some Assembly Required: A History of Auto Work and Workers in Windsor" continues as the featured exhibit at **Windsor's Community Museum** until December 20 when it will move to the **Workers Arts and Heritage Centre** in Hamilton. For further information: Windsor's Community Museum, (519) 253-1812; Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, (905) 463-4992.

The **Museum for Textiles** at 55 Centre Avenue in Toronto opened a new Education Gallery called "fibre space" in October. Ongoing activities will include artists-in-residence, heritage days, workshops and demonstrations. Contact (416) 599-5321 for the schedule.

The **Gananoque Historical Society** has continued the tradition of having a medallion cast in time for Christmas giving. For details about previous medals and the 1997 Town Gates, call (613) 382-3548.

Continuing the holiday gift giving theme, **Black Creek Pioneer Village**, (416) 736-1733 and the **Komoka Railway Museum**, (519) 657-1912 have both developed fascinating fundraiser calendars. A unique gift to consider!

The **Peterborough Historical Society** has published *Peterborough Sixty Years Ago (from 1897)*, by J. Hampden Burnham, #18 in the series of occasional papers. Call (705) 743-9710 for costs.

Do you have ties to Alberta? If you do, the **100th Anniversary Strategy Committee** wants your suggestions on how to celebrate in 2005. Call toll free 1-888-844-2005.

Manitoba Historical Society members and friends will celebrate the centenary of the Yukon Gold Rush on the Trail of '98 to the Chilkoot pass next August. If you are interested: (204) 896-6448 or 1-800-531-0131.

The Wilde Weekend sponsored by the **Tillsonburg Mu-**

seum and Annandale House has been rescheduled to the new year. Call (519) 842-2294 for dates, times and fees.

Jeanne MacDonald, Nadine Stoikoff and Randall White have launched a brand new book publishing business — **eastend-books**, 45 Fernwood Park Avenue, Toronto M4E 3E9, (416) 691-6816.

Congratulations to Helene Weaver, past president of the **Owen Sound Historical Society** and volunteer at the **Marine-Rail Museum** on winning a Heritage Achievement Award and launching *Memories of the Thirties and Forties*. Contact Helene at 680 5th Avenue A West, Owen Sound N4K 5C9 for copies of her book.

From the **Guelph Historical Society** comes news of the Verne McLlwraith Essay Contest on the topic "Guelph: Its Societies, Clubs and Associations". Congratulations to the winners: Helen Brimmell, Bonnie Durtnall and Suzanne Crawford. The topic for next year — "The Arts in Guelph".

Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will host Summer Camp '98 from May 30 to June 5. Call Jane MacNamara (416) 463-9103 for details.

Smith Township Historical Society has announced its 1998 programme including Ken Armstrong on "Grosse Isle", January 15 and Conrad Hill on "History of Railways in the Peterborough Area", February 19 at the Smith Township Resource Centre. Call (705) 745-8139 for further information.

Huron Historical Notes, published by the **Huron County Historical Society**, highlights *Local School System Histories 1832-1997*. For cost and availability: Rae McFarlane, R R # 1 Bayfield N0M 1G0.

Canada's National History Society is inviting nominations for the Pierre Berton Award for 1998 to recognize individuals or institutions who have made outstanding contributions to popularizing Canadian history. Contact Laird Rankin, #478-167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0T6.

The **Heritage Canada Foundation** presented the Lieutenant Governor's Award to Marion MacRae and the Gabrielle Leger Award to Janet Bingham in October. On the same evening, **The Royal Society of Canada** and the **Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada** launched *The Places of History: Commemorating Canada's Past*, edited by Thomas Symons, former Chair of the Board.

The **Winter Festival of Lights** continues at Niagara Falls until January 20. For information about the host of events surrounding this spectacle: (905) 374-1616.

The many friends and colleagues of **Gwen Metcalfe** were saddened to learn of her passing.

Gwen was well known across Ontario as Curator of **Dundurn Castle**, A Fellow of the **Canadian Museum Association** and a tireless worker for history and heritage. Sympathy is also extended to the family and friends of **John Lindsay Ladell**, well-known author and member of the **Milton Historical Society**.

Her Most Imperial Majesty, Victoria R.I. has informed us that she is available for special events in the Metropolitan Toronto area. Contact Josephine Morgan at (416) 463-0450 to discuss Her Majesty's availability, schedule and other details.

The **Burks Falls and District Historical Society** opened a new museum this year and we look forward to hearing more about their programmes and projects.

The **Newfoundland Historical Society** sponsored the "Cabot and his World Symposium" in June with support from the **Bonavista Historical Society, Canada's National History Society, Villa Charities, the Department of Canadian Heritage** and the **Cabot 500 Celebrations Committee**. The Society is now planning to publish the papers presented at the Symposium. Write to Box 15, Colonial Building, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 2C9.

The **Lincoln and Continental Owners Club** has announced its 1998 programme beginning with participation in the Heritage Showcase at Scarborough Town Centre February 20, 21 and 22. For details of the year long programme, contact (416) 461-6032.

Congratulations to the **Hastings County Historical Society** celebrating 40 years of service to the community. In a recent issue of *Outlook*, the Society's newsletter, Gerry Boyce, reminisces about the first executive: Tom Wrightmeyer as President, Ken Bird, Vice President; Veva Robson, Secretary and Tom Ramson, Treasurer. Gerry became publicity director and within two weeks was editing a weekly series of Historic Belleville columns for *The Intelligencer*.

Glanmore, the Hastings County Museum, will pass from County ownership and responsibility to the City of Belleville at the end of the year.

Many residents in Huron County are joining the new **Friends of St. Joseph Society** to assist in the development of a historic park and the preservation of a large collection of historic documents about the St Joseph's community. A well attended and enthusiastic gathering was held at Brentwood on the Beach (a superb bed and breakfast) in late October, to appoint a steering committee and formulate future plans. For further information: (519) 236-7137.

John Bonser well known across Ontario as the Field Unit Superintendent, Eastern Ontario

President's Message

By Robert Surtees, OHS President

One hundred and five years ago, the U.S. Bureau of Census declared that its recent decennial census indicated that America no longer possessed an identifiable frontier settlement line. Three years later at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association, Frederick Jackson Turner, then a young professor at the University of Wisconsin, outlined his soon-to-be-famous paper concerning the influence of the frontier on American society and American history. The "frontier thesis", as it is popularly known, ascribed the main characteristics of American society, including its special form of democracy and the national tendency to go for "the main chance", to the presence and image of the frontier in the American experience.

The image and theory had immediate appeal, and while its usefulness as an explanation for America's past has been questioned, challenged and modified, the appeal continued. It also received attention and a degree of adoption in Canada. Certainly when I first encountered the "frontier thesis" as an undergraduate in the early 1960s, my immediate reaction was to embrace it. Perhaps that quick acceptance came from the romantic notions which it represented, or perhaps it came from the experiences of my childhood and formative years.

In September of 1947, I entered first grade at Golden Avenue Public School in South Porcupine, now a portion of the larger city of Timmins in northern Ontario. Grown-ups of the town - my teachers, my parents, the parents of my friends, the parish priest - often referred to our living "in the bush", or "on the fringe" or "on the northern frontier".

It was certainly common to hear people refer to the region as being in "New Ontario". One local business, the Airport Hotel, had in its dining room a wall size painting depicting the terrible forest fire that had destroyed the community in 1911, only two years after gold had been discovered in the region, and only a year after mines of consequence like the Dome and the Hollinger,

had begun producing. That event had occurred only 36 years before I entered school. The region, often called simply "the Porcupine", was very young, as were the people who lived there. To me, all the grown-ups seemed aged, but in reality few were much older than my parents who, in 1947, were aged 35 and 32.

A common observation at the time was that "there are no grandparents in the north", and it was remarkably accurate. My classmates and I had grandparents, but they almost all lived somewhere else it seemed, usually in southern Ontario or, because so many local people were recent immigrants, in "the old country". It was a community which possessed many of the features associated with a frontier, and most of us who lived there sensed this to be the case.

This past Summer, my first school, now delightfully modernized, celebrated its 50th anniversary. It did so in conjunction with the other early schools in the area, including Bertha Shaw Public School (originally named Broadway P.S.) and Timmins High School. A surprising number of my classmates still lived in the region and many of them joined with the substantially larger number who returned from elsewhere for the celebrations. A remarkable number of them are grandparents!

Likewise, on October 5 this year, Haileybury held special events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the monstrous forest fire that had destroyed much of that town and the surrounding communities of Cobalt and New Liskeard. One hundred and forty-five survivors of the 1922 fire showed up for the event. As we sat at the dinner of 420 people at the Haileybury curling centre, I thought of the expression from my childhood and smiled, for the survivors clearly were grandparents. Most of them sat at tables represented by three generations of families. Perhaps counting grandparents is not a very scientific gauge, but it struck me then that the era of the frontier had definitely ended in the North.

Farewell

We regret to announce the passing of Lillian Benson of London and Elizabeth Arthur of Thunder Bay and Toronto. Both served The Ontario Historical Society as President and made outstanding contributions to the success of the Society.

for **Parks Canada**, Superintendent of the Rideau Canal and Past President of **The Ontario Historical Society**, was honoured at a Farewell Retirement Celebration on November 13 at the Smiths Falls Golf and Country Club. John was President of the OHS at the time of our Centennial Celebrations in 1988 and devoted a great deal of time and effort travelling across both northern and southern Ontario to participate in the heritage events of that year. Thank you John and good luck!

Upcoming Events

December: In addition to the many special days of programming this month, the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum highlights **Christkindlsmarkt - A German Christmas Market**. The exhibition is a recreation of a traditional market set up in German town squares and is open until December 24. Each Sunday includes a Punch and Judy puppet show. The Museum is located at 466 Queen Street South in Kitchener and can be reached at (519) 742-7752.

December - January: Celebrate **Christmas Traditions** with the Joseph Brant Museum on 1240 North Shore Boulevard East in Burlington. Learn about the different Christmas traditions in Burlington and around the world. Call (905) 634-3556.

December through 1998: On the second Thursday evening of each month, a **Crazy Quilt Stitch** takes place at the Victoria County Museum at 322 Kent Street West in Lindsay. There is no charge, but you must bring your own material, although material can be traded and exchanged. Call (705) 324-6756.

December - January 3: Two exhibits are open at the Woodstock Museum on 466 Dundas Street. **Symbols of the Season** explores the origins of Christmas traditions such as trees, decorations, candles and cards. **Fifty Years CKOX, 1947-1997** looks at com-

mercial radio broadcasting in Woodstock. For details call (519) 537-8411.

December-January 25: The London Museum of Archaeology hosts the Royal Ontario Museum travelling exhibit **The Discovery of the Titanic**. A scale model, images detailing the history as well as underwater archaeological finds from the Great Lakes are featured. Contact the Museum in the Lawson-Jury Building, 1600 Attawandaron Road, London, (519) 473-1360.

December - March 1: Plan to visit the Market Gallery of the City of Toronto Archives at 95 Front Street East to attend **St. James' and its Neighbours: Georgian Unity and Victorian Diversity**. The exhibition of architectural drawings, photographs and other archival material marks the bicentennial celebration of the Cathedral Church of St. James. Call (416) 392-7604.

December 17: The Town of York Historical Society and Toronto's First Post Office hold their **Annual Open House** on December 17. A friendly welcome and holiday fare await. Toronto's First Post Office is located at 260 Adelaide Street East. Call (416) 865-1833.

December 20: Feel the joyous magic of a Christmas past as the County of Grey Owen Sound

Museum presents its 18th annual **Christmas to Last** on December 20 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sleigh rides and Christmas tree candle lighting, music and homemade fare by lamp and candle light are available throughout the evening. Tickets are limited and are available at the Museum, 975 Sixth Street East in Owen Sound. For tickets call (519) 376-3690.

December 20-23, 27-31, January 2-4: Montgomery's Inn in Etobicoke is holding **Merriest Days of the Year**, a Christmas Festivities and self-guided tour. Visit the inn and experience the warmth of the holidays with old-fashioned traditions, crafts, recipes and decorations from the 19th century. Contact the Inn at 4709 Dundas Street West, (416) 394-8113.

December 26 - 31: Come to **Black Creek Pioneer Village** and try the games adults and children in the 19th century played during the long Winter months — not Sega, video rentals and cable TV, but crokinole, checkers and dominoes. Contact the Village at the corner of Jane Street and Steeles Avenue in North York, (416) 736-1733 to join in the fun.

December 28: Take the time to attend **Winter Frolic, the 3rd Annual Winterfest** at the Myrtleville House Museum, 34 Myrtleville Drive in Brantford. Throughout the year, the museum has been a proud community partner in the City of Brantford's 150th anniversary celebrations. Contact the museum at (519) 752-3216.

January 15 - February 12: The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is offering **a series of lectures and short courses** at the Archives of Ontario, 77 Grenville Street in Toronto. Prerequisite for most lectures is a Basic Genealogical course or equivalent experience. Preregistration is required for the afternoon and evening lectures. For information: (416) 483-3223.

January 18: Return to Montgomery's Inn for the 15th annual show of traditional needlework and textile arts at **All Done By Hand: A Celebration of Traditional Needlework**. Demonstrations and displays include Berlin work, rug hooking, quilting, crewel, white work and hand-crafted teddy bears. The Inn is located at 4790 Dundas Street West, (416) 394-8113.

January 22: The Ottawa Historical Association presents its programme of evening history talks. Tonight Nicole St. Onge, University of Ottawa delivers **Montreal Iroquois Engages in the Western Fur Trade 1800-21**. On February 19, Bryan Hollebhone of Carleton University presents **Domestic and Official Timekeeping in Canada from 1830**. On

March 19, Alan McCullough, Parks Canada discusses **Famine and Remembrance: The BlackStone Monument and Irish Canadian Identity**. All talks are held in the Senate Chamber on the 6th floor of Robertson Hall, Carleton University. For details (613) 997-0506 or (613) 728-4314.

January 24-25: Plan to attend **A Wee Celebration** at the Oakville Museum, 8 Navy Street, Oakville and celebrate Robbie Burns' birthday and the early Scottish heritage with Scottish food and entertainment. Call (905) 338-4400.

January 25: Mackenzie House at 82 Bond Street in Toronto holds its annual **Robbie Burns Day** celebration between noon and 5:00 p.m. This traditional Scottish Ceilidh features the piping of the haggis, traditional entertainment with multi-talented performer Ian Bell, Scottish country dancing, poetry readings and a variety of Scottish foods. Contact (416) 392-6827.

January 25: The Ontario Black History Society presents the 1998 **Black History Month Kick-off Brunch** at the Colony Hotel, 89 Chestnut Street in Toronto. The keynote speaker is Juanita Westmorland-Traore, the former Director of Employment Equity. Cost is \$35.00 for members and \$40.00 for non members. The Society can be reached at (416) 867-9420.

February 21: The Ontario Archaeological Society and Columbus Centre/Centro Scuola present **Archaeology Unearthed** a day-long workshop for budding and wannabe archaeologists or those just curious as to how it is done. Learn how to make stone tools, date pottery, analyze animal bones, recreate ancient environments from seeds and much more. To register call the Cultural Department of the Columbus Centre (416) 789-7011 ext. 250.

February 22, 28: Activities are

scheduled for the whole family to celebrate **Heritage Day** at the Oakville Museum. Return to the Museum on the 28th for **Collector's Day** and see a variety of interesting collections belonging to local collectors. The Oakville Museum is located at 8 Navy Street, (905) 338-4400.

February 27-28, March 1: A weekend series of talks and demonstrations is taking place at two of Toronto's most prestigious historic houses, Spadina and Casa Loma. **A Room with a View: Designing Historical Interiors For Your Home** is a must for anyone interested in the decorative arts. Contact Spadina at (416) 392-6910 for registration information.

March 11-15: Canada Blooms, a generous donor to the Don Valley Brick Works, once again hosts the **Flower and Garden Show** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, South Wing on 225 Front Street West. The floral displays include design competitions, a flower show and exhibits by interior designers. Plan to attend the marketplace, seminars and demonstrations at this beautiful show. 1-800-730-1020 or (416) 593-0223.

March 21-22: The **23rd annual Toronto Model Railway Show** takes place at the Toronto Congress Centre in Etobicoke on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission for adults is \$9.00, seniors \$6.00, children \$4.00, five and under are free and for a family is \$25.00.

April 18: The Ontario Genealogical Society presents **Colloquium '98** hosted by the Toronto, Halton-Peel, York Region and Simcoe Branches on the topic Old Country Roots: UK, Ireland and Europe. The colloquium takes place at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at 252 Bloor Street West in Toronto from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Early registration deadline is March 1. Contact (416) 445-4256.

Our featured publication

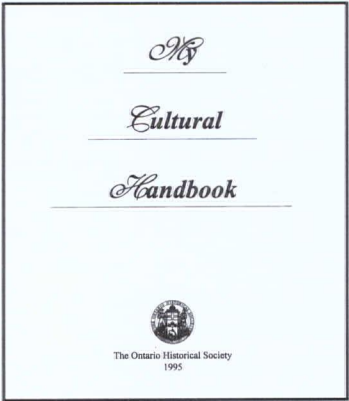
"Holidays have sometimes been considered frivolous interruptions in the business of earning a living and not worth serious attention. On the contrary, holidays and holy days reflect some of the deepest values of the peoples who celebrate them. When they do not they disappear. In the 19th century, Ontario's population was not homogeneous, although it is sometimes seen to have been so. In the 20th century, especially in the second half, Ontario has become extremely diverse, and proud of its diversity. The diversity, and the pride that leads to celebration of diversity, have resulted in a rich and varied holiday calendar".

So begins Jean Burnet's paper, "Festivals of the Newcomers in 20th Century Ontario" which is included in this issue's featured publication *My Cultural Handbook*.

In 1993, The Ontario Historical Society hosted the two-day seminar "Canadian Holidays and Holy Days" which explored the rich diversity of the many celebrations of the people of Ontario. *My Cultural Handbook* is the wonderful resource developed from the research and experience of the presenters at that seminar and has been put together in a binder for-

mat so you can include additional information and keep it a useful, current resource.

The handbook includes presentations about First Nations celebrations, Old World beginnings and New World adaptations. Several offer practical suggestions when preparing for cultural exhibitions. *My Cultural Handbook* is a practical guide with basic research materials and first hand experiences, suggestions for implementing programmes and projects and includes a resource list and bibliography.



My Cultural Handbook contains 90 pages and sells for \$13.00 including GST and handling. To place your order, send your payment (payable to The Ontario Historical Society) to our office at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2.

Upcoming OHS Events

DATE	PROGRAMME	LOCATION
January 26	Launch of <i>From Cathay to Canada: Chinese Cuisine in Transition</i>	Toronto
February 14	The Foods of Love	Willowdale
February 20-22	Heritage Showcase	Scarborough
May 2	Donor Appreciation and Annual General Meeting	Willowdale
May 8	How Does Your Garden Grow?	Willowdale
For further information on these events and others in the planning stages, please contact The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011 or fax 226-2740.		

Cemetery news

By Marjorie Stuart, OHS Cemetery News Editor

Descendants of those buried in **Tranquility Cemetery** in Brantford have been meeting with City officials. Compensation offered, in the form of benches and ornamental plantings, was rejected. The descendants would like the right-of-way closed and the road removed from the cemetery property.

The efforts of Ken Turner and Doug Townsend have finally paid off. The Cemeteries Regulation Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations has recognized that the **Augustine Cemetery** in Kingsville does exist. Efforts are now underway to determine the exact boundaries of the family plot that dates to at least 1812. A housing development is in progress in the area and it is hoped that the site can be preserved.

Jacqueline Smrke of *The Windsor Star* has researched and written about cemeteries and preservation concerns in Essex County. The Township of South Colchester spends \$44,000.00 annually to maintain its 17 cemeteries, yet the **Quick Family Burial Ground** lies in ruins.

Another desecrated cemetery which is administered by the Township is **Harrow Baptist Church Cemetery**. Elise Harding-Davis, curator of the North American Black Historical Museum in Amherstburg, identified it as one of 17 local black burial areas that include the **Smith Family Burial Site**. The headstone for this family is now a part of the decor in a Windsor home.

Janet Cobban, Curator of the John R. Park Homestead, runs an educational tour at **Iler Cemetery**. Area students learn about pioneers and their lives.

Catherine McKendrick, professor of Religious Studies, University of Windsor, while visiting in **St. John's Cemetery**, indicated that if some of Essex County's older cemeteries were lost, residents would lose touch with valuable personal history. Ross LeClair, chair of the Essex

County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society and a family historian, said these were the final resting places of those who really created Essex County which time has forgotten.

Delos Rogest Davis, Canada's first black lawyer and first King's Counsel in Canada as well as the United Kingdom and British Dominions, is buried in the **Taylor Family Cemetery**, South Colchester County. Despite his achievements, his grave is not designated as an historic site.

The Niagara Foundation sponsored a tour of **St. Andrew's Cemetery**, **Christ Church (McNab) Cemetery**, **The Negro Burial Ground** and **River Road Cemetery** in October.

The Haileybury Fire Museum held a very successful celebration of the 75th anniversary of the **Haileybury fire of 1922**. Some of those who attended were survivors and descendants. The victims of that dreadful fire and other fires are buried in local cemeteries. Many of these are unmarked graves. Four hundred and twenty people attended, 145 of which were survivors.

An undated notice of application for closure of the **Ketcheson Grave Cemetery** at Lot 27 Concession 5, Sidney Township was received in mid-September. A plaque on the cairn at the site indicates that this site was the 1806 burial of Henry Ketcheson, the second son of Loyalist William Ketcheson. A site visit determined that disinterment appeared to be in progress despite the absence of an Order to Close from the Registrar of Cemeteries.

Concern has been raised by the Backus Conservation Area at Port Rowan over the condition of the memorials in the **Backus Pioneer Cemetery**. They were placed in a concrete slab many years ago and are now deteriorating rapidly.

The same thing is happening in St. Catharines where the tombstones in the **Hainer-Dittrick**

Cemetery are in poor condition. In 1977, The John Howard Society, under the direction of the City of St. Catharines, placed the tombstones in a brick wall. Now, these markers are tumbling from the wall. Efforts by descendants of the areas' first settlers and the local historians to have this cemetery restored have fallen on deaf ears.

Descendants of the **Horton (Cummings) Family Cemetery** in Rawdon Township are seeking advice on proper restoration methods for their family burial ground.

One of our regular readers alerted us to a housing development under construction adjacent to the **Woodruff Cemetery** just north of Highway 2 in Pickering Township. We have been assured that the cemetery will be preserved.

We were invited to address the **Historical Students Association of York University** in November. Professors and students were very interested in the Clendennen Tribunal and the efforts to preserve Ontario's over 5,000 cemeteries.

We have received requests to publish fundraising ideas that have been successful. If you would like to share your ideas or to have an event publicized, please send us the information. Due to publication deadlines we need about three months notice.

Welcome new members

The Ontario Historical Society welcomes new members:

Cambridge: John Hagopian
Hastings: Hastings Historical Society
Milton: Global Heritage Press
Niagara Falls: Friends of Lundy's Lane Battlefield, City of Niagara Falls Parks, Recreation and Culture
Peterborough: John Milloy
Pickering: Pickering Museum Village Foundation, Pickering Township Historical Society
Scarborough: Robin Brass, Lisa Daulby
Stratford: Stratford-Perth Museum Association
Thornhill: Jeremy Diamond, Nathan D. Ewen
Toronto: Lawrence Crawford
Woodbridge: Bonnie Smith

New Home Fund
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Roy Christenden
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Dorothy Edleston
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Cemetery Defence Fund
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Support the work of The Ontario Historical Society across the province by making a donation towards our ongoing efforts to preserve Ontario's heritage. All contributions are tax deductible.

Ontario History - the December issue

By Terry Crowley, Editor

Christmas often brings warm and fuzzy reflections on how blessed this country is in contrast to so many others in the world. Even in regard to the United States, we frequently think Canadian life is more tolerant, less abrasive, more sensitive. You don't have to worry about drive-by shootings that I was told about when I recently presented a paper at a conference at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Yet I cannot forget Queen's University historian Arthur Lower's comment that Canadians are a smug, self-righteous people. The statement is too strong, but it contains a kernel of truth in highlighting our proclivity to think that because all is right with us, so it must be for our compatriots.

Racial prejudice is not only a blight on the United States, but on this country as well. One article in the December issue of *Ontario History* reveals how racism disadvantaged African-Canadian children educationally in the era of Confederation. For the first time, an author has thoroughly documented the ways in which white prejudice against Blacks in Ontario prevented young people from going to integrated schools. Government officials attempted to inveigh against local practice, but to little avail in many instances. Black parents sought recourse through the courts, but that avenue was not for the unadventurous and sometime proved to be financially crippling. Prejudice is hard to overcome; the campaign against it needs to be relentless.

Conflicts in Ontario's history also arose as Mormons entered the province during the 1830s. The followers of the new religious denomination were disliked not only as competitors to mainline Protestant churches, but also because they allowed male polygamy. Not much is known about the history of this sect in Ontario, but new research by Darren Ferry, a student at McMaster University in Hamilton, shows how the Mormons established a bridgehead in the province during the 1830s.

Adherents to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints became tarred through association with William Lyon Mackenzie's radicals during the political turmoil resulting in the rebellions of 1837-38. Many chose emigration to the United States and by the next decade their presence in the province was greatly weakened.

The third article in the issue charts attempts by the Protestant churches to overcome ungodliness through the Forward Movement that followed World War I. This campaign borrowed heavily from the war effort for its rhetoric. It attempted a spiritual revival but ended up primarily as a financial success.

In this interesting piece, there is ammunition for those sceptical of organized religion, as well as those concerned with understanding how we became a secular society.

Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, the December issue of *Ontario History* will provide good holiday reading. The message of the season is our desire for peace and goodwill to prevail. History furthers those ideals.

Happy holidays!

We gratefully acknowledge

By Frank Bartoszek and Jeanne Hughes, Co-Chairs, Fundraising Committee

The Ontario Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following donors:

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- ♦ **Historical Research**
(See "Starting From Scratch" and "Upper Canada in the Making" in *Horizon Canada*, Vol. 2, # 22 and 23.)
- ♦ **Family History**
(See *OGS Seminar '85*, pp. 26-32.)
- ♦ **Corporate and Advertising History**
(See *DCB*, Vol. XIII, Cowan and McCormick biographies.)
- ♦ **Heritage Product Marketing Research**
(See "Marketing Food" in *Consuming Passions*, OHS, 1990.)
- ♦ **Built Environment and Cultural Landscape Analysis**

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Museum News

Museums of the MegaCity

By Susan Hughes, OHS Museums Committee

The interim report of the Toronto Transition Team, making recommendations about restructuring in the new City of Toronto, was issued in October, 1997. *New City, New Opportunities* reflects months of work by municipal staff and board members who provided input for, and responded to, questions posed by members of the Transition Team.

Since June of this year, municipal staff have met on a weekly basis to develop a plan for the amalgamation of our services and resources into a single entity. For the Arts, Culture and Heritage Work Group, mandated by the Transition Team and the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commissioners, the process resulted in the development of *Building on Strength: Arts, Culture and Heritage in the new City of Toronto*.

This report outlines the discussions and recommendations developed by staff representatives of the seven municipalities that will be amalgamated. The focus of our meetings over the Summer resulted in an inventory of cultural activities and services provided by each municipality and recommendations on possible structures for Arts, Culture and Heritage in this new context. We were asked to identify potential cost savings, some of which were realized through increased efficiencies and the reduction of duplication.

We spoke strongly, however, to the fact that many functional areas in the new City will be under-served, an issue we believe must be addressed through the re-deployment of any funds saved in our service area.

The Transition Team report recommends the creation of a Culture Office, operating within the Community and Neighbourhood Services Group. In this area, Arts, Culture and Heritage will be aligned with Housing, Social Services and Parks and Recreation in a single function area. The report states that the Culture Office should complete a full inventory and analysis of arts, heritage and cultural policies, pro-

grammes and facilities within the first year and develop a culture policy for the new City. The report acknowledges the need for partnerships and linkages with other City departments including Planning and Building and Economic Development to ensure co-ordination for heritage designation and preservation, public art and economic support for the sector.

The Transition Team report acknowledges that a key area of responsibility for the Culture Office will be heritage. As recommended by both the Work Group and Metro Area Municipal Heritage Alliance, the report suggests the establishment of a single LACAC for the City with a series of community panels at the local level. The matter of local community input was strongly expressed at both the Work Group and the Alliance, and it would appear that our voice and our intentions were clearly heard and understood.

With respect to museums, the Transition Team report suggests establishing a single Toronto Museums Board to oversee management and set policy guidelines. Staffing for the Museums Board would be provided by the Culture Office. The report does not address our request for local museum committees to provide community input. It does state, however, that for 1998, the existing management and programming arrangements within the City's museums should continue.

Finally, the report asks that the new Culture Office make recommendations to City Council on the future role of the existing Toronto Historical Board (Heritage Toronto) in relation to the city wide LACAC and the Toronto Museums Board. During 1998, the Toronto Historical Board, it is suggested, could continue to provide the LACAC function for the previous geographic boundaries which defined the old City of Toronto. Many questions remain on what the role Heritage Toronto might play in the new City.

The Work Group will continue to meet as we work towards creating a new Culture Office with responsibilities for our City's diversity. The report of the Transition Team answers many questions, yet poses new ones. The final decisions regarding amalgamation rest with the new City Council. In the interim, we eagerly await the Transition Team's final report and look forward to working with its members as they seek to provide a framework for the creation of our New City of Toronto.

To obtain copies of the Toronto Transition Team's interim report, contact: Toronto Transition Team, Yonge Corporate Centre, 4110 Yonge Street, Suite 502, North York, Ontario M2P 2B7, (416) 259-7711. Contact <http://www.newtoronto.com> to download the report.

Where dreams become reality

The Windsor Wood Carving Museum celebrated its first anniversary recently. A vision to collect, celebrate and share the history and workmanship of wood carving began four years ago. The result is the one room museum located in the Main Library at 850 Ouellette Avenue in Windsor.

The museum is open year round, has a carver on site demonstrating techniques of carving on Friday and Saturday afternoons and regularly raffles a carving from one of the artisans who also exhibit in the museum. Fax the museum at (519) 977-0823 or email woodcarv@MNSi for further information.

Busy season at Heritage Toronto

Finding and identifying antique treasures is the theme for just one of the many programmes presented by Heritage Toronto at their headquarters. This illustrated lecture series offers a new subject each week for six weeks.

Topics include "Establishing a Collection: Finding and Identifying Treasures", "Collecting Oriental Rugs", "Blue and White China: A Revolution in Dinnerware Patterns", "Collecting and Preserving Antiquarian Books", "Lest We Forget: Collecting and Understanding 19th and 20th Century Canadian Militaria" and "Antique Furniture".

For details on this lecture series, an upcoming gardening series or the many other programmes taking place at Heritage Toronto at 205 Yonge Street or the five historic sites call (416) 392-6827.

Historic Church moves to Fanshawe Pioneer Village

The last Sunday in September marked two milestones in the history of Trinity Anglican Church in Sebringville - its 125th anniversary as well as its closing.

The quaint little church was given a new purpose upon relocating to Fanshawe Pioneer Village at 2609 Fanshawe Park Road East in London in November. Once settled in its new home, the church will serve as a wedding chapel.

Constructed in 1887 at a cost of \$1,400.00, the price tag for moving the board and batten church to Fanshawe was projected at less than \$100,000.00. Pre-move and later restoration expenses included bracing the church's walls before the move, as well as removing the stained-glass windows. At its new site, the

church will not include the small wing which housed the furnace, office and kitchen. A section of wall will have to be replaced.

Other than the church's organ, most of the furniture and several "antique" Bibles have also been offered to the Village.

An unidentified individual has agreed to finance the moving of the church to the Village in London. Repayment will be made through various fundraising activities.

The Village also acquired the Denfield General Store in July and is working on bringing a second Perth County building to the property.

For further information about booking your wedding or event at the Village's new chapel, please contact (519) 457-1296.

Mark your calendar for the ALHFAM conference

"A Day in the Life...Living History of the Everyday" is the topic of the 1998 Association for Living Historical Farms and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) Conference taking place June 21 to 25 at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ontario.

Sessions will address both the details of everyday life in the

past and how they are portrayed today, and the day-to-day issues that are encountered while working at a museum or historic site.

For further information, please contact Cathy Blackburn, Joseph Schneider Haus Museum, 466 Queen Street South, Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1W7, (519) 742-7752.

Benares fundraising campaign nears 1997 goal!

By Ted Gittings, Benares Fundraising Committee

Early this year, the Benares Museum Advisory Board announced a major fundraising campaign. *Come Home to Benares* has a ten year goal of raising \$1 million from individuals and corporations.

The 1997 objective was to raise at least \$50,000.00. At the end of October, a total of \$38,114.00 had been raised against the Committee's 1997 goal.

All contributions of \$250.00 or more will be recorded on a Donor Recognition Wall. Donations will be used to repay the loan for

installing the Visitor Centre gallery and to complete the restoration of the outbuildings and gardens on the museum's six acre park-like setting. The endowment portion of the campaign will ensure the continuing operation of the museum and its programmes in future years.

Benares Historic House can be found at 1507 Clarkson Road North in Mississauga. Those interested in contributing to the museum's fundraising efforts can contact Margaret Fitzpatrick, Resource and Development Coordinator, at (905) 822-2347.



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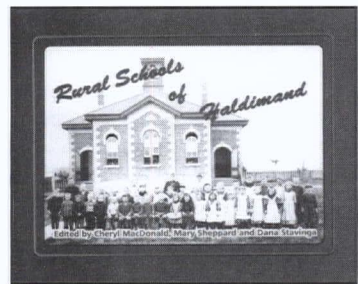
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From the Bookshelf

By Pat and Chris Raible,
Editors



School days, school days ...

Rural Schools of Haldimand. Edited by Cheryl MacDonald, Mary Sheppard and Dana Stavinga. North Erie Shore Historical Society. 108 pages. Illustrations.

Since 1967, Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum (formerly S.S. #2, Walpole) has collected a wealth of material relating to rural education. Drawing on this collection, as well as other sources, the North Erie Shore Historical Society presents a look at school days of the past, reminiscing about teachers, inspectors, discipline, exams and rural school fairs. This attractive publication features more than 80 photographs of school buildings and classes. Also included are brief histories of Haldimand schools.

Novel History

Any Known Blood. By Lawrence Hill. Harper Collins. 512 pages \$28.00 hardbound.

What makes this novel the tale of five generations of a black family migrating back and forth across the Canada-US border of interest to OHS members is that author Lawrence Hill was inspired by his own family history. Fugitive slaves arrive by schooner and settle in Oakville. Some return south to join in John Brown's raid on Harpers Ferry. A later generation in Oakville is the target in 1830 of a Ku Klux Klan demonstration. A contemporary provincial government speechwriter in search of his own identity discovers all this and much more about his (and our) history. As well as writing fiction, Hill is the author of two books on Canadian black history, *Women of Vision* and *Trials and Triumphs: The Story of African-Canadians*.

Back in Print

Simcoe County Pioneer Papers. Simcoe County Historical Association. 344 pages. Illustrations. \$30.00 softbound.

Originally published in six sections from 1908 to 1917, this fascinating work is now available again. Most of the accounts and reminiscences were written in the 1890s and thus cover some of the County's settlers, their life and times. Here are reflections on the hardships and the achievements of pioneer life - log shanties, bad roads, early farming, one-room schools. Here are memories of the War of 1812 and of the Rebellion of 1837. Nearly half the books are a history of the Penetanguishene Naval and Military Establish-

ments. The Association also distributes other publications on Simcoe County history.

Hardy Haileybury

Leslie McFarlane: The Hardy Boys' Haileybury Connection. By Bruce W. Taylor. Haileybury Hardy Boys Committee. 69 pages. Illustrations. \$7.00 softbound.

Surprise, surprise! The Franklin W. Dixon who wrote the first 20 books in the world famous Hardy Boys series was really Leslie McFarlane who grew up in Haileybury. McFarlane was an influential Canadian writer in his own right, screen-writing films and television dramas and helping to establish the National Film Board. This brief sketch of his life places special emphasis on his Haileybury years.

Annual Journal

The Hay Bay Guardian, Volume 5, 1997. Trustees of the Old Hay Bay Church. \$5.00.

The trustees of Canada's oldest surviving Methodist Church, erected in 1792 in Adolphustown, both care for their building and care about their history by publishing an annual journal. The feature article in this year's issue is the touching tale of an American-born woman, a settler with her family on land near the church. With the outbreak of the War of 1812, her husband's sympathies were with the Americans. He deserted the militia and fled to New York State. She was determined to join him, no easy matter in the middle of a war.

Baa

More Letters from the Country. By Marsha Boulton. Little Brown (Canada). 222 pages. \$14.95 softbound.

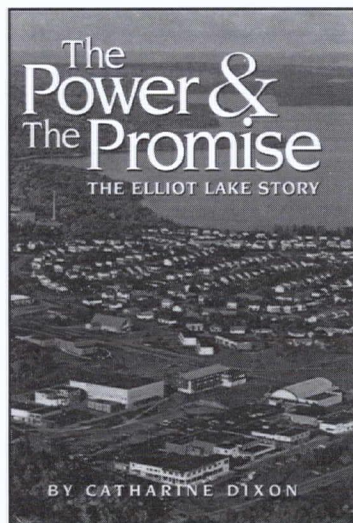
Winner of the 1995 Stephen Leacock Award for Humour, Marsha Boulton presents us with another engaging glimpse of history in the making. Boulton's letters (many originally broadcast on the CBC) encapsulate everyday adventures and misadventures on her farm near Mount Forest. Here, she raises sheep, horses and exotic fowl or do they raise her? Here, also, she learns rural wisdom from her kindly neighbours. One letter describes her working with the local historical society. This anecdotal history of contemporary farm life in rural Ontario is not to be missed.

Uranium Town

The Power and the Promise: The Elliot Lake Story. By Catharine Dixon. Gillidix Publishing. 396 pages hardbound. Illustrations. \$29.95.

Elliot Lake sprang up almost overnight with the discovery of vast uranium deposits in the rough Algoma terrain. The ensuing rush seemed to equal the Klondike gold rush (within five years, uranium oxide vied with wheat and lumber as one of Canada's top exports). But unlike the

Klondike, Elliot Lake was seen by city planners as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a model community. Dixon draws on personal reminiscences as well as tons of archival materials to present the Elliot Lake story. After more than 40 years of intensive mining, the last uranium operation closed in 1996. Dixon looks also to the future, as this modern city in the wilds of Algoma seeks a new destiny.



Mines and More

The Land Between: Northwestern Ontario Resource Development, 1800 to the 1990s. By W. Robert Wightman and Nancy M. Wightman. University of Toronto Press. 566 pages. \$75.00 hardbound.

That part of Ontario stretching west and north from Sault Ste Marie to the Manitoba border is too often dismissed as uninviting Canadian Shield, the land between. Based on extensive field and archival research, a different picture is presented here. The Wightmans indepth study brings to light unique patterns of identity and economy shaped by the region's rich natural resources. Major industries have included forestry, mining, fishing, farming and tourism. Although thorough in detail and of scholarly relevance, the book will appeal to general readers interested in this distinctive (and extensive) part of Ontario.

Please Note:

More extensive reviews of a number of books relating to the history of our province are published in *Ontario History*, the journal of The Ontario Historical Society. Prices of books referred to on this page may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

History Noted

Since our last issue of *From the Bookshelf*, we have received these flyers and notices describing publications of interest:

Memories of the Thirties and Forties. By Helene Brown Weaver. Elmhedg Press. The personal narratives of a woman who grew up on a farm in St. Vincent Township attending a one-room school, and later becoming a rural school teacher at the age of 17.

Home is Where the Hearth Is: The contribution of small sites to our understanding of Ontario's past. Edited by Jean-Luc Pilon and Rachel Perkins. Ontario Archaeological Society, Ottawa Chapter. Eleven papers from a recent symposium. Six diskettes. \$12.00. Or download from the internet: <http://www.cyberus.ca/~jlpilon/flash.htm>

Ontario Photographers List, Volume II, (1901-1925). By Glen C. Phillips. Iron Gate Publishing. 106 pages. \$25.00 softbound. A companion volume to The Ontario Photographers List (1851-1900), which has just been reprinted (\$30.00), this fully indexed work lists the names and operating dates of over 2,200 commercial photographers in nearly 300 Ontario villages, towns and cities.

Mushrooms of the Boreal Forest. By Eugene Bossenmaier. U-Learn, University of Saskatchewan. Illustrations. \$19.95 spiral bound. A colour guide to accompany the nature enthusiast — more that 220 species are beautifully photographed and clearly identified.

The Canadian Military Experience 1867-1995: A Bibliography. Department of National Defence. Canadian Government Publishing-PWGSC. \$17.95. A compilation of published primary sources and secondary works on Canadian military topics, containing some 2,500 entries compiled largely from major military and academic libraries in Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto.

Landscapes of Memories: A

Guide to Conserving Historic Cemeteries: Repairing Tombstones. Publications Ontario. \$10.00. Written by a specialist in masonry conservation, this guide is ideal for cemetery trustees, monument builders, conservators and volunteers.

Amherstburg 1796-1996: The New Town on the Garrison Common, Book II. Marsh Collection Society. 463 pages. Illustrations. \$40.00 hardbound. This second volume brings the community's history up to date with topical chapters and many random recollections by Amherstburg residents past and present.

Dictionary of Canadian Place Names. By Alan Rayburn. Oxford University Press. 461 pages. \$34.95 hardbound. Contains more than 6,200 names from our rich toponymic tapestry — villages and cities, lakes and parks, mountains and bays.

A to Z of Canadian Art. By Blake McKendry. 242 pages. Illustrations. \$35.00. A concise reference text encompassing the entire field of Canadian Art including Folk Art.

Ghosts of Haileybury. By Brian Dobbs. Highway Book Shop. 140 pages. Illustrations. \$11.95 softbound. Chronicles many stories of people, events, and unknown facts about the town of Haileybury.

The Place of History: Commemorating Canada's Past. Royal Society of Canada for the Department of Canadian Heritage. \$20.00. These proceedings of the symposium held on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada offer an understanding of the work of the Board, what it has been doing and what it will be doing.

The Hessians of Upper Canada. By Johannes Helmut Merz. 236 pages. \$26.00. The story of the Hessian soldiers who fought for King George III and settled in Upper Canada after 1783.

Directory of Publishers

Blake McKendry, 9 Baiden Street, Kingston, Ontario K7M 2J7.

Canadian Government Publishing-PWGSC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S9.
Elmhedge Press, c/o 680-5th Avenue A. West, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5C9

Gillidix Publishing, 26 MacFarlane Road, Elliot Lake, Ontario P5A 1L1.
Haileybury Hardy Boys Committee, Box 218, Haileybury, Ontario P0J 1K0.

Harper Collins, 55 Avenue Road, Suite 2900, Toronto, Ontario M5R 3L2.

Highway Book Shop, Highway 11, Cobalt, Ontario P0J 1C0.

Iron Gate Publishing, #1110-95 Fidler's Green Road, London Ontario N6H 4T1.

Johannes Helmut Merz, 703-350

Concession Street, Hamilton, Ontario L9A 1B6.

Little, Brown (Canada), 148 Yorkville Ave, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1C2.

Marsh Collection Society, 235A Dalhousie Street, Amherstburg, Ontario N9V 1W6.

North Erie Shore Historical Society, R.R. 1, Selkirk, Ontario N0A 1P0.
Ontario Archaeological Society, Ottawa Branch, Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa, Ontario K1S 5J1.

Oxford University Press Canada, 70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1J9.

Publications Ontario, 50 Grosvenor Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1N8.

Royal Society of Canada, 225 Metcalfe Street, Suite 308, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1P9.

Simcoe County Historical Association, Box 144, Barrie, Ontario L4M 4S9.

Trustees of the Old Hay Bay Church, 24 Princess Margaret Blvd., Etobicoke, Ontario, M9A 1Z4.

U-Learn, University of Saskatchewan, Room 125, Kirk Hall, 117 Science Place, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5C8.

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Letter to the Editor

In response to our article "Ontario Government proposes raising funds for charities through casinos", which appeared in the September-October OHS Bulletin, Sybille Schaufler of Hensall, Ontario has expressed her thoughts and views.

I have very mixed feelings on this subject. I think it reveals a lamentable trend when a society 'officially' endorses what amounts to a 'repackaging of yesterday's crime' and parading it as 'today's virtue'. It looks very much like casinos with the tremendous financial clout they already have and are obviously bound to increase by leaps and bounds, will eventually, by default or design, garner a monopoly on fundraising.

On the plus side: With their tremendous resources, experience in promotions, etc. casinos will

execute any fundraising in a far more professional, effective and perhaps efficient manner than any handful of already overloaded, overworked, from very little to totally inexperienced volunteers in any of the beneficiary organizations could ever hope to achieve. The flip side as I see it: Good, concerned citizens, who wish to continue supporting worthwhile causes will find themselves more and more cajoled, encouraged, driven, coerced to set aside their principles and take up gambling to channel their charitable contributions through casinos. Others may of course welcome this trend as an excuse, or legitimization, to pursue their secret, or not so secret, desires.

Overall, I'm concerned with the future quality of life when we start replacing museums (Seagram) with eight-screen Cineplex theatres, and build

larger and larger casinos, obviously in response to popular demand. At the same time, there seems to be a revival of old pastimes, such as hiking, birdwatching and other eco-tourism activities. While I'm well aware of the potentially much greater impact on economic benefits of the former, I'm very concerned with the negative consequences this is bound to have on the latter. I'm also concerned with the potential impact this trend is likely to have on the recent headway seemingly made by many smaller businesses, non-profit organizations and small groups who promote those 'back to simpler pastime' activities, including a search for their roots, or nostalgic trips into the past.

National Archives of Canada makes important acquisition

Earlier this year, the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa was successful in purchasing 149 manuscript lots relating to the Office of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs.

The documents, dating from 1762 to 1829, include correspondence between British officials and the First Nations, speeches and proceedings of First Nations' Councils and the British and agreements relating to land claims. A substantial portion of the records relate to the First Nations of Ontario and to Loyalist settlements.

This important collection, most of which has never been available to researchers, will be preserved at the Archives. Reference photocopies are now available, and a finding aid is in progress.

For further information, contact the National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street in Ottawa, (613) 947-1498.



On October 19, 1997 the Don Valley Brick Works Regeneration Project was officially opened. A large crowd gathered to enjoy the unveiling of the plaque in appreciation of the many donors and supporters. Greetings were delivered by Ken Smee, Chair, The Conservation Foundation of Greater Toronto (at the podium); The Honorable Hilary M. Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Jeffrey Smyth, Friends of the Valley; Michael Prue, Mayor of the Borough of East York; Alan Tonks, Chairman of the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto; Dick O'Brien, Chair, The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority; and Patrick Wilson, The Easton Foundation. The Brick Works, a 16.5 hectare site is located in the Lower Don River Valley, south of Pottery Road and west of Bayview Avenue in East York. The project is designed to protect, enhance and rehabilitate this internationally significant natural and cultural heritage site. (Photo courtesy of John Carter.)

Elizabethtown Township invites prospective authors

The Township Council of Elizabethtown and the Heritage Elizabethtown Committee are considering commissioning a historian to write the history of the township. They envision the publication of a hardcover book of approximately 300 to 400 pages covering the entire township from the first settlers to present time, but with emphasis on the past 150 years.

If you are interested, please submit a curriculum vitae, a written proposal outlining such items as qualifications and experience, familiarity with the Township,

availability and estimated schedule, views on organization of the book, salary expectations and expense estimates and comments on pricing, publication costs and the recovery of advanced costs. Also required are samples of relevant published works, and other information of interest to the committee.

Applications must be received by **January 15, 1998**.

Address material to The Heritage Elizabethtown Committee, Township of Elizabethtown, Township Hall, R.R. #2, Addison, K0E 1A0, fax (613) 345-7235.



Traffic stopped for the journey of the Grapper-Duncan House as it crossed the bridge over Highway 404 at Major Mackenzie Drive north of Toronto. The 1928 dwelling, one of the few remaining sites connected with the Rebellion of 1837, was moved to Markham's heritage subdivision on October 7. For the second time in its history, the house has been moved from the path of new development. (Photo courtesy of the Richmond Hill LACAC.)

OHS holiday office hours

The office of The Ontario Historical Society will be closed from 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 1997 and will re-open on Monday, January 5, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

New stamp features stained glass window from Leith United Church

On November 3, a new 52 cent Christmas stamp was released by Canada Post which features the image of the Madonna and Child as executed in stained glass from the Leith United Church in Leith near Owen Sound.

The stained glass window, "The Holy Family" was placed in the Leith United Church in 1952 by Laura Webster in memory of

her daughter, Frances Pauline Webster. The window was designed by Ellen Simon and created by Yvonne Williams.

The Leith United Church was built in 1865 as an "Auld Kirk" Presbyterian Church. In the adjacent Leith Pioneer Cemetery, which is a designated heritage site, the grave of Canadian landscape painter Tom Thomson can be found.

"Visions of the North, Voices of the North" - a call for papers

A call has gone out for proposals and abstracts for the Conference being organized by Nipissing University and the North Bay Film Society taking place at Nipissing University in North Bay from May 15-17, 1998.

"Visions of the North, Voices of the North - The North in Film" should appeal to filmmakers, critics, teachers, artists and academics ensuring a fresh

blend of the celebration of a film festival with the enquiry and stimulation of an academic conference.

The deadline for proposals is **January 30, 1998** and should be addressed to: "Visions of the North, Voices of the North", Jodi Sutherland, Nipissing University, 100 College Drive, Box 5002, North Bay, Ontario, P1B 8L7, (705) 474-3461 ext. 4558, email visions@einstein.unipissing.ca.

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The *OHS Bulletin* the newsletter of The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011, fax (416) 226-2740. will be published five times in 1998. There will be four regular issues, and one special issue celebrating the opening of the John McKenzie House. The copy deadline for the next issue is January 15, 1998

Enquiries concerning submissions and advertising rates should be directed to The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, (416) 226-9011 or fax (416) 226-2740.

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"From the Bookshelf" Editors: Pat and Chris Raible

Museum News Editor: Brian Wood, Bell Homestead National Historic Site, Brantford

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