



# OHS BULLETIN

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

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## Congratulations award winners!



Several award winners were on hand on May 8 to accept their awards. Standing left to right are: Bob Staley, Chair of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Committee; Wayne Morgan, Newmarket LACAC; Donald Rumgay, of Bluestone House Inc., Port Hope and publisher of *Century Home* magazine; front: Sandra Fuller, Newmarket LACAC; Wendy Locke, Past President of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill; Dorie Billich, Curator of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Joan Rumgay, *Century Home* magazine. (Jim Clemens)

The Ontario Historical Society announced the recipients of Honours and Awards for 1998 at its

historic headquarters, the John McKenzie House in Willowdale on May 8, 1999 during the Annual General Meeting.

**Carnochan Award** presented to individuals who have contributed many years of service to the heritage community: **W. John McIntyre of Aurora and the late Ruth Redmond of Lundy's Lane.**

**Dorothy Duncan Award** nominated by a First Nation's Band Council or a Municipal Council for outstanding service to its region: **Rydal Bank Historical Society of Rydal Bank.**

**Museum Award of Excellence** to a museum showing excellence in community programming and involvement: the **Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum of Gormley.**

**Scadding Award of Excellence** for outstanding contributions to the field of history: **Guelph Historical Society, and the Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill.**

**B. Napier Simpson Jr. Award of Merit** to a Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) for special contributions to heritage conservation in its municipality in the recent past: the **Newmarket LACAC.**

**President's Award** to a corporation or business that has contributed to heritage conservation in the recent past: **Bluestone**

**House Inc.,** of Port Hope and publisher of *Century Home* magazine.

**Alison Prentice Award** honouring the best book on women's history in the past three years (1996-1998): **Linda Ambrose, History Department, Laurentian University, Sudbury, For home and country: the centennial history of the Women's Institutes in Ontario** (Boston Mills Press, 1996).

**Fred Landon Award** for the best book on regional history published in the past three years (1996-1998): **Geoffrey Hayes, History Department, University of Waterloo, for Waterloo County: An Illustrated History** (Waterloo Historical Society, 1998).

**Joseph Brant Award** for the best book on multicultural history in Ontario published in the past three years (1996-1998): **Janet E. Chute, School of Resources and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, for The Legacy of Shingwaukonse: A Century of Native Leadership** (University of Toronto Press, 1998).

**J. J. Talman Award** for the best book on Ontario's social, economic, political or cultural history published in the past three years (1996-1998): **Peter**

## Welcome new minister

The Honourable Helen Johns, MPP from Huron-Bruce has been appointed the new Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation with responsibility for Seniors and Women.

Helen Johns was first elected to Queen's Park in 1995. She has been Parliamentary Assistant to the Ministers of Health, Environment, and Energy. Previously she was a controller for small and medium-sized businesses, has done consulting work, and been an instructor at the college level.



## Cook Book Caper goes on the road

On Saturday, July 17 the OHS, in co-operation with Muskoka Pioneer Village in Huntsville, is hosting Cook Book Caper to benefit one of our affiliated societies, the Gurd and Area Historical Corporation. This Society formed in 1989 to preserve, restore, furnish and interpret the Commanda General Store Museum. For years, Claire Hankinson and Penny Kepkay, with an enthusiastic and energetic Board of Directors and the support of the community kept this project humming. It was recognized as a model of how an historic site can affect the well-being and economy of a region with innovative fund raisers and by excellent attendance by both

local residents and travellers.

Unfortunately, the Gurd and Area Historical Corporation has encountered difficulties in recent years and the Board now wants to dissolve the Corporation and dispose of its assets. To identify the challenges and the potential for this Museum, a Business Study is currently underway with FEDNOR providing the bulk of the funding and the OHS providing some support as well. The funds we raise at Cook Book Caper will be our donation to assist the Gurd and Area Historical Corporation and the Commanda General Store Museum Business Study. Visit us, tell your friends, have fun and help a worthy cause!



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# Executive Director's Report

Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director

### Annual Meeting 1999

For the second time the OHS held the annual business meeting at our headquarters, followed by the presentation of the Honours and Awards for 1998. With regret we said goodbye to three hard-working Board members, Robert Surtees of North Bay, Karen VandenBrink of Stratford and Richard Gardiner of London. We welcomed Susan Hughes, of Todmorden Mills Museum, East York as the new Chair of the Museums Committee.

### Out and About

The tempo of activities both in Ontario and beyond has continued to hum. A workshop in Elliot Lake; a Young Ontario Programme at the Heritage Fair in Markham; meetings in Burk's Falls, Huntsville, Peterborough, Killarney, Toronto, Willowdale and Penetanguishene; presentations at the Ontario Black History Society's Heritage Forum in London; at 2 Conferences; one at the University of Oregon in Corvallis, the other at "Crossing Borders" Conference at Ryerson Polytechnical University in Toronto; organizing and conducting "A Taste of Historic Toronto Tour" and hosting an informal Edwardian luncheon for the "Crossing Borders" delegates; visits to affiliated societies: Toronto Historical Association and Caledon East Historical Society; acting as a judge at the Ontario Genealogical Society's (OGS) "Threads of Family History" ex-

hibition; book tables at OGS, Simcoe Branch Seminar at Base Borden; Archives in Your Attic Day in Toronto, the OGS Seminar'99 also in Toronto, and the Voyageur Heritage Network meeting in Elliot Lake.

### Special Events

St. Patrick's Supper was an unqualified success, with a full house and a waiting list. Irish fare, stories and jokes and the lyrical music of Gillian Federico and her harp made it an evening to remember! We are currently preparing for Tea on the Verandah on Sunday, August 8, when you can have your tea, and then browse and buy books of bygone days, at the super sale of history books on display.

### Harvest Supper

Ontario has a long tradition of Harvest Suppers in many of our rural communities and on Wednesday, October 20 at its historic headquarters, the OHS will offer all the wonderful fare that has made, and continues to make, them a feast to remember. In addition, Dr. Zebadiah Zonk, the famous Victorian phrenologist will be with us to demonstrate his skill and knowledge in analyzing heads and interpreting personalities.

### Buon Appetito! A Symposium on Italian Foodways in Ontario

This day long symposium in Toronto on Saturday, November

6 will cover many topics including: Bread, Wine and Fantasy; Special Days: Special Dishes; Folklore and Legends; From Garden to Table; Grow! Prepare! Preserve!; Where Do You Buy Your Olive Oil? and two fascinating demonstrations; one highlighting utensils in the Old World transformed to the New World and the other is the preparation of a Columbus meal in the 15th century compared to the preparation of a 20th century meal. For lunch participants will be invited to bring their favourite Italian dishes and the recipes to share with the others.

### OHS Volunteers Make it Happen!

They are always there when we need them—no job too appalling or too challenging to tackle. They cook, bake, serve, clean-up, sort, scrub, price, sell, beg, borrow, and everything else that is needed when it's needed. Thank you to every member of our Board of Directors and to Carol Agnew, Sandra Archer, Glenn Bonnetta, Jean Burnet, John Carter, Barbara Efrat, Edith and Geoff Geduld, Bev Hykel, Barbara Kane, Joyce Lewis, Hazel Kitto, Grace Matthews, Marilyn McClaskey, Bob McGregor, Daniel O'Brien, Claudette Shaw, and Sarah Walker. We couldn't do it without you!

### Welcome!

To Carlos Faria and Heidi Tan who have joined the OHS until the end of August, supported by the Summer Experience Programme of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

# Tributes

### Una Abrahamson

Una was well known to the heritage community as an author, speaker, donor and advisor. Soon after she arrived in Canada she began collecting Canadian cook books and artifacts related to Canadian domestic life. Despite her busy professional career as an editor of *Chatelaine*, publicist at General Food Kitchens and a Dominion store executive she authored dozens of articles that focused on Canadian culinary and social history, several books including *God Bless Our Home*, *The Canadian Guide to Home Entertaining*, and *Crafts Canada*, and gave hundreds of lectures across Canada.

Una was injured in a traffic accident several years ago and was in a coma for over a year. As she began to recover her friends and colleagues were delighted to find that her interest in culinary and social history and her desire to improve her collection had not diminished. Una made the decision several years ago to leave her enormous collection of books to the University of Guelph to ensure they would be available to researchers. Thank you Una, your legacy will continue to benefit the heritage community for generations to come.

### Frank Dunbar

Frank served for many years as Corporate Secretary of the Royal Ontario Museum and was, many believed, an expert on parliamentary procedure. Everyone in the heritage community knew that, if they had a contentious issue to resolve on an agenda, Frank would know the correct way to proceed. He was recognized by his museum colleagues by being made a Fellow of the Canadian Museum Association.

He was called on for advice by many organizations and institutions including the Town of York Historical Society and Toronto's First Post Office.

Frank never forgot his first love, the Royal Canadian Navy, where he had served as a Lieutenant Commander, often regaling his friends and colleagues with tales of derring-do on the high seas. For most of us, however, his legacy is a better understanding of parliamentary procedure and the need for order in conducting business in the heritage community.

### John McGinnis

John McGinnis was known across Ontario as a true friend of the history and heritage of this Province. His enthusiasm, knowledge and spirit of co-operation was known to museums and historical societies, large and small. Curators, museum workers, preservationists, historians and all those interested in collecting, preserving and interpreting Ontario's past knew that John was as close as a telephone call. John was always willing to assist smaller organizations and institutions who needed assistance, advice, or the loan of artifacts and on many occasions made the resources of the Toronto Historical Board, later Heritage Toronto available to them. Restorations and historic sites such as The Gibson House, T. Montgomery Inn, Muskoka Pioneer Village, Black Creek Pioneer Village and Woodchester Villa are just a few of these that come to mind.

John was a role model for us all and the spirit of support and co-operation so necessary if the history and heritage movement in Ontario is to continue to prosper and expand.

honours and awards continued from page 1

**Oliver, 'Terror to Evil Doers': Prisons and Punishments in Nineteenth-Century Ontario** (University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, 1998).

**Riddell Award** for the best article on Ontario history published during the award year (1998): **Mike O'Brien, History Department, Memorial University, Newfoundland**, for "Manhood and the Militia Myth: Masculinity, Class and Militarism in Ontario, 1902-1914" in *Labour/Le Travail*, Fall 1998.

**Special Award of Merit** for outstanding contributions to the community: **Linda Lundström** of Toronto.

The Dorothy Duncan Award was presented to the Rydal Bank

Historical Society by Judith McGonigal, Past-President of the OHS, on May 30 at the annual meeting of the Rydal Bank Historical Society in Rydal Bank.

The J.J. Talman Award was presented to Peter Oliver, by Ian Wilson, Past-President of the OHS, and Dorothy Duncan Executive Director on June 17 at the annual meeting of the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History in Toronto.

For dates of other award presentations see the list on page 4 in "Upcoming OHS events".

The deadline for submissions for the 1999 awards is October 29, 1999. For nomination forms, criteria, or other information contact the OHS at (416) 226-9011, Fax 226-2740.

## We gratefully acknowledge the following donors

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


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Albert Tucker  
Brenda Whitlock  
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Heritage Society  
Serbian Heritage Museum  
Whitchurch Stouffville Museum

**The Mugs Honour Roll # 1**  
Our thanks for all those who responded to our appeal for mugs for the "Crossing the Borders" Conference. Our Ameri-

can colleagues were impressed with the diversity of responses from the heritage community:  
Carol Agnew  
Sandra Archer  
Carl Benn  
Dorothy Duncan  
Barbara Efrat  
Jim Fortin  
Aileen Howes  
Jeanne Hughes  
Hazel Kitto  
Peggy Kurtin  
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# Across the Province

Mary Simonds, Chair, Local Societies Committee and Dorothy Duncan, OHS Executive Director

Congratulations to the **Friends of Lundy's Lane Battlefield** in receiving approval for \$228,000 in Canadian Millennium Programme funding, contingent on the City of Niagara Falls and the Friends newly registered Foundation each contributing a matching amount. The funds will be used to develop the Lundy's Lane Battlefield as an historic site, a fitting tribute to the late Ruth Redmond, who was known as the 'Angel of Lundy's Lane', and a recipient of the 1998 Carnochan Award from the OHS.

All Aboard! South Simcoe's historic, turn-of-the century steam train is rolling again. To enjoy a trip, or to arrange a **Baggage Car Party**, call (905) 936-5815.

The **Retired Teachers of Ontario** are seeking items pertaining to education past and present for Project 2000—Memories and Mementos. If you have items to donate, call (705) 728-7147.

The current issue of *The York Pioneer*, published annually by **The York Pioneer and Historical Society** is dedicated to the memory of David McFall. In addition to a tribute to David and Jean McFall's many contributions to history and heritage written by Russell Cooper, this issue contains an excellent selection of articles. Call (416) 481-8648 to obtain a copy.

The **Ontario Archaeological Society** will hold its 26th Annual Symposium in Waterloo, October 29–31, bringing together archaeology and paleoecology, and is calling for papers for "The Human Ecology of Ontario's Eleven Millennia: People, Environment, Change and Adaptation Throughout the Holocene." Call (519) 888-4567, ext. 5666 for information.

If you are travelling in Eastern Ontario this summer be sure to visit the **Nor'Wester and Loyalist Museum** at Williamstown, where Sir Alexander Mackenzie's compass case has found a home. Famous as the first European to reach the Pacific overland from eastern Canada, his compass case was located in New Zealand! The Museum staff will fill in the details (613) 347-3547.

The **Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada** has announced a number of plaque unveiling ceremonies in Ontario this year. For dates, times, locations and subjects (613) 993-0649.

**Markham Historical Society** will tour the old City of Toronto on Saturday, September 11, then return to the Markham Museum and Historic Site for a corn roast and barbecue. Details (905) 294-3342.

The many contributions to Ontario's heritage by the late Mary Manning were recognized by the **Streetsville Historical Society's** dedication of a tree and bench to her memory in the

Pioneer Cemetery on Sunday, June 27.

The **Lincoln and Continental Owners Club** has announced a vigorous programme for the year including the ever-popular Land Yacht Regatta at Cobourg, August 6–8. Call (416) 461-6032 to learn about the year's schedule of events.

**Heritage Mississauga** needs volunteers to assist with an oral history project that includes first hand accounts of the original Township of Toronto and since 1968, the development of Mississauga. Call (905) 615-4418 if you can help.

Ian Vincent, a former director of the **Guelph Civic Museum** and a former curator of **Heritage Toronto**, has been appointed Manager of the **Lisburn Linen Centre and Museum** in Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

Congratulations on 20 years of service to the community to the **Scarborough Arts Council**. For information on events, services, artist support and more call (416) 698-7322.

The new **Brampton Historical Society** held its inaugural meeting earlier this year and elected Paul Hunt as President. This Society has emerged from the dissolving of the **Peel County Historical Society**, one of the sponsoring societies of the infant OHS in the nineteenth century. For details (905) 457-4365.

The **Esquering Historical Society** has announced the fall programme, including an interview with John Graves Simcoe, First Lieutenant of Upper Canada. What a coup! If you want to know more: (905) 813-7632.

The **Prince Edward Historical Society** has chosen as a Millennium Project the research of original settlers in the County, and how many families still live on at least a portion of that land. A map will be printed to record the results.

The **Toronto Island Public and Natural Science School**, slated for demolition in April, is to survive as the new **Gibraltar Point Centre for the Arts**.

The **Stephen Leacock Memorial Medal for Humour** has been awarded to Stuart McLean for his short story collection *Home From the Vinyl Café* published by Penguin Books.

Congratulations to our members and friends in Cobourg on winning the **Communities in Bloom** award for 1999.

The **Hastings County Historical Society** has found a home in the former Thurlow Township Municipal Building and Town Hall in Cannifton. The Society is looking for other heritage groups to share the space. Interested? (613) 395-3022.

Congratulations to Tim Gallagher, secretary of the **Espanola Historical Society**, on being chosen Citizen of the Year for 1998! Historian Tim has

made many contributions to Espanola's history, but outdid himself with the remarkable exhibit he developed for Espanola's 40th Anniversary Homecoming.

Still in Espanola, George Morrison, author of *Espanola on the Spanish* was also honoured when he received a **Heritage Community Recognition Certificate**.

The **Writer's Circle of Durham Region** is a non-profit organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing, fostering literacy and providing moral support to writers through education and networking. Details (905) 668-6957.

The new **Wellington Society for the Countryside** held its inaugural meeting in March with Senator Eugene Whelan, former Minister of Agriculture as keynote speaker. For information about programmes, field tours, lectures and workshops: (519) 856-1430.

**Guelph Arts Council** released its new brochure "A Guide to Public Art in Guelph," giving a thumb-nail sketch of many of the city's artistic treasures, and is available at local galleries/museums, visitor centres, and Guelph Arts Council offices: (519) 836-3280.

The **Markham Berczy Settlers Association** is exploring the possibility of a tour to Germany in 2001. If you would like information about the Association, tour, or other programmes: contact: 10292 McCowan Road, Markham, Ontario L3P 3J3.

**Owen Sound Historical Society** has sent an S.O.S. to help save the Marine-Rail Museum that is in grave danger of sinking. Call (519) 371-3333 if you can assist in keeping this museum afloat.

**Ruthven Park**, a property of **The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc.**, is now open for visitors. Call (905) 772-0560 for dates and times.

The **Peterborough Historical Society** wants to enter the new century with a distinctive logo and is sponsoring a contest, open to members, students and the general public. Deadline: October 31. More information: (705) 740-2600.

Congratulations to Gil Stelter of Guelph, first Canadian president of the **Urban History Association**, an international organization based in Chicago.

Would you like to find your Irish roots? Plan to attend the August 9 meeting of the **Bruce County Genealogical Society** at the **Bruce County Library** and Rev. Thomas will tell you where to begin: (519) 353-5540.

New appointments! Heather McMillan as the first Executive Director of the **Archives Association of Ontario**; Donna Scott as Executive Director of the **Ontario Arts Council**; Bradley Hayes as Development



Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director, OHS, Marie Lalonde, Executive Director, Ontario Museum Association, Rosemary Sadlier, President, and Raymond Smith and Aileen Williams, executive members, Ontario Black History Society at the Heritage Forum in London in May.

Director of **Old Fort Niagara**; and Lucille Roch as Assistant Deputy Minister, Culture, Sport and Recreation Division, **Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation**.

The **Brant County Museum** is preparing a new exhibit "A Child's World" and needs toys from the 1920s to the 1980s to round out their collection. If you are willing to loan yours, call (519) 752-2483.

If you happen to be relaxing beside the **Welland Canal** this summer watch for some of the international cruise ships passing through enroute to Chicago, as discussed in the current issue of the *Great Lakes Seaway Review*.

The **Bowmanville Museum** has officially opened the POW Log Cabin that has been moved to the Museum grounds. The Cabin was built as a skills training exercise by some of the 800 German prisoners who were imprisoned at Camp 30 in Bowmanville during the war. The Museum has a toll free number for enquiries: 1-888-567-2598.

The **Guelph Historical Society** held its annual tree planting ceremony in April honouring the City of Guelph, 172 years; the Ontario Agricultural College, 125 years; the Duncan McPhee Building, 135 years; the Township of Guelph, 150 years, Dublin Street United Church, 125 years, and the *Guelph Mercury*, 145 years.

The **Marsh Collection Society** in Amherstburg has recently doubled its floor space! They now have a larger reading room as well as separate storage rooms and a workroom which will not be in public viewing. The

enlarged area can better accommodate researchers, staff and volunteers as well as better organize and store the collection.

The **South Easthope History Book Committee** is producing a hardbound book telling the stories of the people who make up South Easthope; from Punkey Doodle Corners to Tavistock to Harmony to Stratford to Shakespeare. If you would like to make a contribution in support of this substantial project (519) 275-3944.

Congratulations to Jo-Marie Powers, OHS member from Guelph, and editor of *From Cathay to Canada: Chinese Cuisine in Transition*, who was awarded the first Award of Merit by **The Women's Culinary Network** for her contributions to teaching, mentoring students, and writing about North American food and foodways.

When the **Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto** began in 1924, some Canadian provinces had not yet granted women the right to vote. Ada Mackenzie had won the Canadian Ladies' Open in 1919 and with the support of some extraordinary women founded the club that is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. To mark the occasion the Club has published *The Ladies' 1924–1999: A History of the Ladies' Golf Club of Toronto*, by Tim O'Connor.

To mark the 60th anniversary of Crown Royal, (the Canadian Whisky that originated with the Royal Visit to Canada in 1939), **Seagram Canada** in association with **Via Rail** has many activities planned including the "King of the Rails" contest with a September 1 deadline. Contact (514) 933-7079 for details.

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# Upcoming Events

**June–July 25:** To celebrate Smiths Fall’s railway ties, Heritage House Museum presents **The Story of Steam Trains in Miniature**, 125 years of steam history in Canada. In addition, 22 black and white photographs by Omer Lavallee feature local railway station scenes. Heritage House Museum is a Victorian restoration circa 1867 with seven furnished period rooms and two galleries with changing exhibitions. It is located on Old Slys Road, right next to the Rideau Canal. (613) 283-8560

**July–August:** The Bowmanville Museum holds its weekly **Victorian Tea** on the front verandah every Wednesday from noon to 3:30 PM. Tea, coffee, or juice, two scones, jam and butter are served on tables set with fine linen and antique dishes. The museum is located at 37 Silver Street in Bowmanville (905) 623-2734 or 1-888-567-2598.

**July 7–September 1:** Enjoy tea in the gardens at the McCrae House **Summer Teas**, most Wednesdays throughout the summer. Reservations are required. Servings include McCrae Private Blend Tea, Guelph Town Garden Tea, and an assortment of scones, jam, shortbread, cookies and fresh berries. The McCrae House is located at 108 Water Street in Guelph. (519) 836-1221, ext. 223

**July–September 3:** The London Regional Art and Historical Museums recalls many decades of band music through costume, period photographs, and instruments in the new exhibit, **The Bands of Time: Two Centuries of Instrumental Music in Canada**. Military and civilian bands, brass bands, dance bands and jazz bands are all highlighted, including the city’s most famous band formed by the Lombardo brothers. The Museum is located at 421 Ridout Street North in London. (519) 672-4580

**July 3–September 4:** The Grand Hall Gallery of the Woodstock Museum hosts the exhibit **20th Century Retrospective: Part I, 1900–1949** featuring five room settings; each depicting one of the first five decades of the 20th century, and include examples of furnishings, costumes and technology. In addition, interpretive panels in each room present world, Canadian, and Woodstock events. The

museum is located at 466 Dundas Street in Woodstock. (519) 537-8411

**July–Labour Day:** The Royal Ontario Museum’s Museumobile will once again bring dinosaurs to the Thunder Bay Museum. Fifteen years ago, “Albert,” the 65 million-year-old ROM skeleton first delighted audiences in Thunder Bay. Now, after a successful “Buy a Bone” campaign, the Museum has made him their own. The Thunder Bay Museum is located at 425 Donald Street East in Thunder Bay. (807) 623-0801

**July–October 15:** A busy programme of events and displays will keep you coming back to The Mill of Kintail throughout the season. **A Teddy Bear Picnic**, an exhibition of Teddies through the ages runs from **June 30 to August 29**; throughout **July and August** enjoy **Tea-on-the-Lawn**, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM; and from **September 1 to October 15** the Museum hosts **Times and Seasons**, a quilt show by the Fox Hollow Quilting Group. The Mill of Kintail is located 8 km north of Almonte. (613) 256-3610

**July–October 17:** The Guelph Arts Council has designed five walking tours exploring historical areas of downtown Guelph: **Where Guelph Began**, **Downtown Walkabout**, **The Slopes of the Speed**, **Altar and Hearth**, and **Brooklyn and the College Hill**. All tours take approximately two hours and cost \$2 per person. Tour booklets are available for \$5. Contact (519) 836-3280 for details.

**July 10:** The Ontario Archaeological Society invites you for a day on a dig during **Archaeology Exposed** on the Butler Site in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Learn the background and significance of the site, how long the site has been worked and what has been unearthed thus far. In the afternoon, learn excavation techniques and dig in one of the site’s squares. Space is limited. Contact (416) 730-0797 to register.

**July 11:** The Cobourg & District Historical Society invites you to attend the third annual **Cemetery Walk** which will begin and end at Union Cemetery, and includes St. Michael’s and St. Peter’s Cemeteries. The \$8 fee includes

shuttles between sites and light refreshments; the walk begins at 1:30 PM. Tickets are available at Campbell Monuments and Cobourg Book Store.

**July 18:** The St. Joseph’s and Area Historical Society celebrates the opening of the **Historic Park Walkway** at 2:00 PM in the municipal park. The names of settlers, their descendants, and local residents are being engraved in the new brick walkway. Until recently the park’s historic area included the historic plaque dedicated to founder Narcisse Cantin, and a statue of St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of Canada. The expansion recognizes six stations highlighting the area’s history. For information, or to get your name engraved contact (519) 235-7640.

**July 19–31:** The Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum features **Ship Shape**, an exhibit of local and international postcards depicting different marine vessels. **August 9–22** will be **An Afternoon Tea**, a bilingual exhibit dedicated to afternoon tea in the early 1900s. **September 1–15** features **Our Native History**, a display of the Museum’s early Native artifacts. The Museum is located at 280 King Street in Port Colborne. (905) 834-7604

**July 24–September 11:** The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum, which preserves the history of textiles in Canada has threaded together a full programme of events. On **July 24** are the **Lamb Race** fundraising events; from **August 5 to October 11**, a collection of contemporary quilted wall hangings featuring a series of birds common to the Ottawa Valley **Quilts Take Wing** will be on display; **August 14** is **Family Day** with activities and fun for the whole family; and a fundraising **Murder Mystery Night** takes place on **September 11**. The Museum is located at 3 Rosamond Street East in Almonte. (613) 256-3754

**July 25:** The County of Grey Owen Sound Museum hosts the popular **Spoke and Bustle** from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM featuring demonstrations such as lace, soap and rope making, blacksmithing, timber squaring and wool spinning. In addition there will be displays of antique telephones, sheep shearing, shingle splitting and shaving, and much more. The museum is located at 975 6th Street East in Owen Sound. For costs and details, contact (519) 376-3690.

**July 25–September 12:** Be sure to check out the photograph exhibit at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives, **Captured Moments in Time: The Parks Photo Collection**. It represents the body of work of two professional photographers,

Lewis and Gordon Parks who captured a variety of historical subjects including: scenes of downtown, the local war effort, aerial photography, a detailed series documenting the construction of Trent University, as well as industrial and everyday life in the city. The Museum is located at 300 Hunter Street East, Above the Lift Lock in Peterborough. (705) 743-5180

**August 7–8:** The Cannington & Area Historical Society hosts the 21st annual **Quilt and Craft Sale** from 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM at the Cannington Community Centre, 80 Peace Street in Cannington. The sale features more than 60 exhibitors, quilts for display and sale, quilt raffle, door prizes, demonstrations, displays and a used book sale at the Museum. Admission is \$2.50. For details (705) 432-3053.

**September 3:** The Buxton National Historic Site and Museum in North Buxton hosts the 2nd annual **Underground Railroad History and Genealogy Conference**. Speakers will present the compelling stories of the early settlers who found freedom and opportunity in Canada. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. The fee is \$35 Canadian or \$25 U.S. before August 15. Contact (519) 352-4799 or Fax (519) 352-8561 for details.

**September 11:** Plan to join the Aurora and District Historical Society for the fifth annual **Walking and Candlelight**

**Tour of Historic Homes** from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Light refreshments and musical entertainment will be waiting for you at several unique and diverse homes in Aurora’s historic core. Tickets are \$15 before August 16, \$20 afterwards, and support the restoration of Hillary House. For details (905) 727-8991.

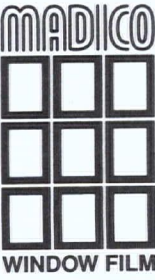
**September 25:** Mark your calendar for **Norfolklore’99**, the 23rd annual genealogy fair held in Simcoe, at the Eva Brook Donly Museum and Simcoe Composite School, two nearby locations where you can do your one stop genealogical shopping! The Eva Brook Donly Museum is located at 109 Norfolk Street South, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 2W3. (519) 426-1583.

**October 16–24:** The Town of Ajax hosts the 60th Anniversary Reunion of the H.M.S. Ajax & River Plate Veteran’s Association with the **Gala Dinner Event** on the 23rd. For information on all the events planned, contact (905) 619-2529, ext. 334.

**October 27–28:** Victoria Hall in Cobourg is host for the second **Annual Workshop** of the National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario. The organization is composed of owners, managers and operators of National Historic Sites and promotes the commemorative integrity of sites through co-operative action. For details, contact Krista Murphy at Heritage Toronto, (416) 392-6827, ext. 261.

## Upcoming OHS Events

DATE	PROGRAMME	LOCATION
August 8	Tea on the Verandah and sale of history books	Willowdale
Sept. 15	Presentation of the Carnochan Award	Aurora
Sept. 18	Presentation of the Fred Landon Award	Kitchener
Sept. 29	<i>Money Matters!</i>	Tweed
Sept. 30	<i>Money Matters!</i>	Renfrew
October 2	Presentation of the Alison Prentice Award	Sudbury
October 5	Presentation of the Scadding Award of Excellence	Guelph
October 6	<i>Money Matters!</i>	Fort Erie
October 20	Harvest Supper	Willowdale
Nov. 6	Buon Appetito: A Symposium on Italian Foodways in Ontario	Toronto
Nov. 13	Preparing for a Victorian Christmas and New Year	Napanee
For information on these events and others in the planning stages, please contact the OHS, (416) 226-9011.		



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## A plaque marks the spot

Eileen Paul-Wylie, Perth

Today, stored in a small dark, room behind the stage in the community hall in the hamlet of Watson's Corners, Eastern Ontario lie the remaining books of one of Canada's first libraries. If they could speak what a story they could tell. It would be a tale of the lives of the borrowers, the early settlers in the Lanark Highlands area, approximately 100 kilometres from Ottawa.

Most of these hardy pioneers were from Scotland. The land was rugged, rocky, hilly and tree covered. What a challenge they faced! Each man was given a hundred acre lot. They arrived in their new land in the early 1800s with few possessions from 'home.' They were only allowed to bring bedclothes, pots, pans, dishes, personal clothing and the books of their private library.

It took many months of hard labour to get a home built and to start eking out a living. During that time their books were their only source of relaxation. How they were treasured!

To help overcome their loneliness and sense of isolation settlers occasionally would venture over miles of rough terrain to visit a neighbour. Food to share would be taken with them. Soon they started swapping books. This idea was the forerunner of the library.

It was founded in 1828 by a group of these settlers. They chose the most central location, known as Watson's Corners, and originally called Granny Cumming's Corners. This small community is located in Dalhousie Township, seven miles from the village of Lanark.

They built a log structure, called St. Andrew's Hall and furnished it with homemade benches and shelves; the shelves were crafted by James Park. They were nine feet high and six feet wide, strong and sturdy, still in use today housing the remaining volumes.

The pioneer members of the library pooled their own books for circulation. They solicited subscribers and donations from people they thought could help. One of these was the Earl of Dalhousie, Governor General at the time. He had nothing but warm admiration for the efforts of the settlers. Some of them were former tenants on the Dalhousie estate in Lanarkshire, Scotland. He became the patron of the library, donating money and 116 volumes.

A committee of 12 was chosen and a list of regulations for the library was drawn up. The group met the first Saturday of each month, when books were given out to subscribers. A volume could be kept for four weeks. A penalty of a shilling per month was charged for overdue books. At first each person was allowed only one book at a time. The books were so precious that the subscribers were not allowed to lend a borrowed book to anyone else. These rules were made when borrowers had to trek over miles of bush trails.

It's interesting to note the names of some of these early volumes: *Gibbon's Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*, *Antiquities of Greece*, *Dr. Cumming's Scripture Readings*, *Dwight's Theology*, *Hale's Contemplations*, *The Encyclopedia Britannica*, *Wilson's Sermons*, *D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation*, poems of Robert Burns, biographies of Lord Nelson and Mary, Queen of Scots, works of Dickens and Sir Walter Scott. One family came to the library prepared to carry away all twenty volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* at one time only to find that was against the rules.

Upon these books—at one time the library had a total of eight hundred—the pioneers based their whole code of conduct. This code had its emphasis on Law, Order, Duty, Restraint, Discipline and Obedience. These were the watchwords. Many of their descendents, brought up by this code of conduct became prominent citizens.

Over the years the library changed locations. When the original St. Andrew's Hall became inadequate the books were moved to the Sons of Temperance Building which was supported on wooden posts. Eventually it became untenable so the library was moved into a new community hall where the remaining volumes rest today.

The library remained popular until the 1880s when magazines and books became available to everyone. By the beginning of the 1900s it was almost non-existent with few books remaining.

Today, in front of the well maintained community hall stands a blue and gold historic sites plaque. The plaque commemorates this remarkable library, one of Canada's first, a tribute to those wonderful hardy ancestors.

The Unionville Historical Society held a highly successful tour of historic cemeteries in the Town of Markham in mid-May. This was led by Lorne Smith and Trevor Watson.

Also in May, the Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries launched a new chapel and reception centre at **Pine Hills Cemetery** in Scarborough. Archivist Rick Schofield led an historical walk of the cemetery.

Descendants of those buried at **Tranquility Cemetery** in Brantford are still greatly concerned that matters governing the care and maintenance of this cemetery have not been resolved. Drainage and related issues are now before the courts.

A memorial dedication service was held recently at the **Carl-Misener-Bald Cemetery** located near Port Robinson. Descendants of the Carl and Misener families restored the cemetery which was established circa 1798.

King Township Historical Society has received a Millennium Grant which will go toward the restoration of **Lloydtown Pioneer Cemetery**. In addition, the municipality has promised assistance. The committee is anxious to reach descendants, particularly those of Jesse Lloyd who donated the land for the cemetery in 1834. They should contact the King Township Historical Society, 2920 King Road, King City, Ontario L7B 1A6.

The Essex County Historical Cemeteries Preservation Society is a group of concerned individuals who have brought together a joint desire to locate, preserve and protect the area's historical burial sites. The group, led by Ken Turner, who worked

## Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor

so hard to locate his ancestors' burial ground, the **Augustine Cemetery**, is working in conjunction with local heritage and municipal organizations. Membership is \$10 per year; contact 25 Prospect Road, Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 1M6.

The Nipissing District Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, has requested that anyone with knowledge of private family burial grounds contact the branch at Box 93, North Bay, Ontario P1B 868.

It should be added that those with knowledge of marked or unmarked private family burial plots should report these to the Cemeteries Regulation Branch, Ministry of Consumer & Commercial Relations, 250 Yonge Street, 33rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5B 2N5. And further, these plots should be registered with the municipality so that they appear on the official town plan. Those concerned with the preservation of their family cemeteries should also work with Heritage Planners at the municipal level to develop policies governing cemeteries.

The **Roach Family Cemetery** in Mersea Township was rediscovered last fall. The area was temporarily fenced and efforts are underway this year to restore the tombstones and erect a permanent fence.

The Temiskaming Abitibi Heritage Association is seeking information on W.J. Walsh who was buried in 1908 in **Moore's Cove Cemetery**, Haileybury. Mr. Walsh, an undergraduate of Trinity College, Dublin, taught in Rev. Alfred Fitzpatrick's "reading camp" at McDougall Chutes, now Matheson, when he was killed by a train. The Reading

Camp Association was the forerunner of Frontier College set up to teach those employed in mining and lumbering camps as well as railway construction gangs in 1899. A memorial service is planned for Mr. Walsh as a part of Frontier College's 100th anniversary celebrations.

**Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery** at Crown Hill, north of Barrie, has been the subject of an inquiry under the Land Titles Act. Part of the cemetery property, donated by the Lawrence family in 1844, was fenced. The unfenced portion has been used for many years by the owners of the adjoining farm. Under the Cemeteries Act this disputed land would remain a cemetery until a closure procedure took place. The decision of the Director of Titles was that the unfenced property is still a part of the cemetery.

An official opening of the new **Mountain Cemetery** in Grimsby took place in June. The Grimsby Historical Society donated a pair of native trees to commemorate the occasion.

Concern has been raised by Michael Harrison over the fate of the burial site on his great grandfather's farm. The land, in the Township of Toronto Gore, now a part of the City of Brampton, once owned by Matthew Harrison is being redeveloped. It is hoped that this small cemetery and another adjacent burial site will be preserved in land set aside for a park.

The next issue of the *OHS Bulletin* will go to press in September. Those with events or notices that they would like published are asked to contact the Cemetery News Editor at the OHS office by August 10.

## Education kit a valuable resource

One of the successful ways in which The Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill continues to raise the profile of heritage in their community was the production and distribution of an activity filled education kit.

"When Yonge was Young" has been developed for Grade 7-8 schoolchildren, but the material is applicable to all ages. What has been most important was to ensure the understanding of heritage into the next generation. The kit reintroduces some of the people of Thornhill's past; making them come alive for today's history makers.

Examples from the kit include: maps from stages in the development of the community, questions based on the Thornhill History Video Parts I and II, also produced by this active Society, listing of historic plaques with questions, bicycle and walking tours, and past Society newsletters. Each member of the historical

society made a contribution, and continues to do so; an original intention has been to keep it a relevant, ongoing project.

If your society is considering producing such a resource, the Society would be pleased to hear from you, contact The Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill, Box 224, Thornhill,

Ontario L3T 3N1 (905) 881-6478.

You can also see the members at two upcoming events; the 11th annual Festival Ball, Thursday, September 16 at Heintzman House and the 23rd Annual Village Festival, Saturday, September 18. Call (905) 881-6478 for details.

## Welcome new members

**Aylmer:** Alymer & District Museum Association  
**Big Trout:** KI Lands and Environment  
**Brampton:** Peter A. Murphy  
**Croton:** Lillian Steele  
**Etobicoke:** Alderwood Historical Society  
**Killarney:** Killarney Heritage Committee  
**Kingsville:** Essex County Historical Cemeteries Preservation Society

**Mississauga:** Valerie Malloy, Sharon E. Milsom  
**North York:** Helen Mills  
**Orillia:** Marine Heritage Association  
**Scarborough:** Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering, Gary and Jean Waller  
**Schomberg:** Lloydtown Rebellion Association  
**Sleeman:** Little Grass Research Committee



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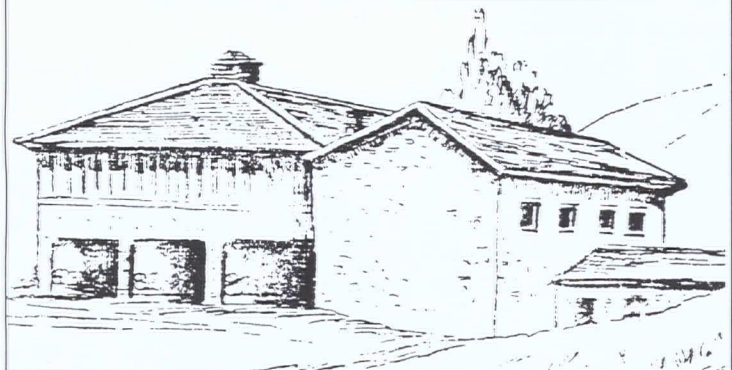
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## Museum News

### HELLIWELL'S FIRST BREWERY ON THE DON



Old Brewery on the Don, circa 1820, by John Ross Robertson Landmarks of Toronto.

### “Diligence and industry” early 19th century beer and brewing in Toronto

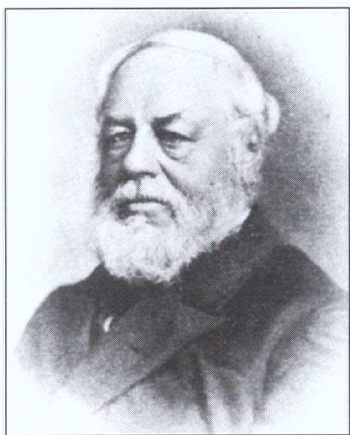
Have you ever stopped to consider what the beer industry was like before the rise of companies like Molson's or Labatt's? If you are interested in Toronto's early brewing history or simply interested in beer, visit Todmorden Mills Museum for a unique look at the 19th century brewing industry. From July 6 to October 29, the museum explores Toronto's early 19th century brewing history in “Diligence and Industry”, an exhibition incorporating some never before seen artifacts and photographs.

The exhibit introduces thirteen breweries established in Toronto between 1800 and 1850 and the brewing technology of the time. Visitors will learn about the Helliwell family who lived at Todmorden Mills and operated a brewery, distillery, malthouse and gristmill on site between 1821 and 1847. The exhibit sheds light on the early brewing process using the diary and folio accounts of William Helliwell. The role of beer and brewing in 19th century life is explored through those who worked in the breweries, frequented or owned the local taverns, and those who petitioned for temperance. Included in this exhibit are photographs and artifacts on loan from the Guelph Civic Museum and from local collectors and beer enthusiasts.

“Diligence and Industry” is the first phase of a multi-year project being mounted by the Todmorden Mills Museum to celebrate the fascinating brewing history of the site and early Toronto.

The exhibit is open in the Todmorden Mills Museum's Paper Mill Gallery Tuesday through Friday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and weekends from noon until 5:00 PM.

The Todmorden Mills Museum is located on Pottery Road, just west of Broadview Avenue at Mortimer Avenue. To access the site from the Don Valley Parkway, take the Bayview/Bloor Street exit, then follow Bayview Avenue north to Pottery Road. For information contact the museum at (416) 396-2819.



William Helliwell, Brewer, 1821–1847.

### So what will become of the Ministry conservation lab?

Susan Hughes, Chair, Museums Committee

The fate of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation's Conservation Lab has been on the minds of many as the Ministry offices relocate to 400 University Avenue, 4th floor, effective July 1, 1999.

The OHS requested a meeting with Michael Johnson, the Manager of Archaeology and Heritage Planning to discuss the issue. On June 10 Dorothy Duncan and I met with Ministry staff and learned that the Ministry would be issuing a request for proposals to find a non-profit organization that would be interested in

assuming responsibility for the lab services with the Province as a possible partner. In the interim the lab equipment will be moved to Ottawa for temporary storage. We were heartened to hear Ministry staff state that the lab should continue to serve the community museums of Ontario, the original intent of this service.

We have sent a letter to Michael Johnson on the OHS's interest in responding to a call for proposals which should be available by mid-July. We are very aware of just how important

training and on-going care of collections are to the many museums operating across our Province, particularly as museums deal with the implications of dwindling budgets.

It is our hope that the lab can once again become a place for preventive conservation workshops and training programmes geared to the needs of our institutions. The permanent loss of a provincially-focused conservation lab service would be a major loss to the heritage community at large. We will keep you informed as this project unfolds.

### Himalaya! Rugs and Robes from Tibet and Bhutan

Linda Zutis, The Museum for Textiles

The very brilliance of Tibetan rugs, together with their unusual sizes and shapes, explains their lack of popularity in the West. Tibetans do not weave 'room-size' rugs for use on the floor. Rather, platform rugs the size of a small bed are used for sitting and sleeping; saddle rugs in a variety of shapes are used for mules and horses. Small square rugs are used by Buddhist monks for prayer and meditation. Once the aesthetic language of these rugs becomes clear, however, their appeal is hard to resist. Tibetan rugs feature mystical and mythological symbols from Chinese sources such as dragons and

phoenixes, as well as snow lions, seasonal flowers, and scholarly symbols like books, game boards and musical instruments.

In Bhutan, the tiny Himalayan kingdom between Tibet and India, garment-weaving of very high quality and complexity thrives. Textiles are the major form of artistic expression in Bhutan, and textile production in households throughout the country is vigorously supported by royal patronage.

Himalaya! includes 71 nineteenth-and-twentieth century Tibetan rugs; silk robes, dresses, raincoats, and scarves. The Museum for Textiles, with more than

200 Tibetan and Chinese rugs, has one of the largest Tibetan textile collections in North America. Much of the material was acquired from Tibetan refugees who settled in Ontario in the 1970s and 1980s. Most of the material in the exhibit has never been on show before. The exhibit runs until October 14.

Be sure to check out another exhibit at the museum, “Toronto Ties One On”, celebrating the neck tie, on display until October 3.

The Museum for Textiles is located at 55 Centre Avenue in Toronto. (416) 599-2911.

### Summer at Schneider Haus keeps you coming back for more

A series of ten exciting theme weeks offers families many reasons to return to the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum throughout the summer. Special guests join museum staff to help visitors explore life on the Schneider farm in the 1850s. Some themes focus on seasonal chores such as gardening and flax processing; others are more unusual and will provide a hands-on opportunity to experience something out-of-the-ordinary.

“Summer at Schneider Haus” includes “Schmecks Week” July 10–16, that focuses on traditional Mennonite foodways. On July 11 enjoy afternoon tea with local author Edna Staebler, author of *Food That Really Schmacks*.

The third week of July is dedicated to “Oral Traditions” and

showcases the language and music traditions of the local German community. George Bechtel and the Schneider Family Quartet will perform traditional vocal music on July 17, and on the next day, Nancy-Lou Patterson reads from her latest novel *The Tramp Room*, which is set in the historic Schneider Haus. Throughout the week, local speakers of the Pennsylvania German dialect will be *Schwetzing*, chatting, with visitors, introducing them to the fun and folk lore associated with speaking the dialect.

Although Friday was traditionally bake day for the Hausfrau, the Schneider women will be ‘firing up’ the new bakeoven, built last year, each day during “Staff of Life: Wheat & Bread” from July 24–30.

“Tramps and Travellers” will attract a variety of flim-flam men, including the rascally Dr. Hezekiah Q. Rumpott. On August 22, during “Folk Medicine” week, celebrated phrenologist Dr. Zebadiah Zonk will be looking for volunteers to have their heads ‘read’. Staff will be making herbal remedies, exploring patent medicines and discussing Pennsylvania German beliefs and superstitions regarding one's health.

A special Summer Pass offered for only \$10.00 makes this your ideal way to entertain visiting friends and family over the summer. Activities are on-going and pre-registration is not required. The Joseph Schneider Haus Museum is located at 466 Queen Street South in Kitchener. (519) 742-7752.



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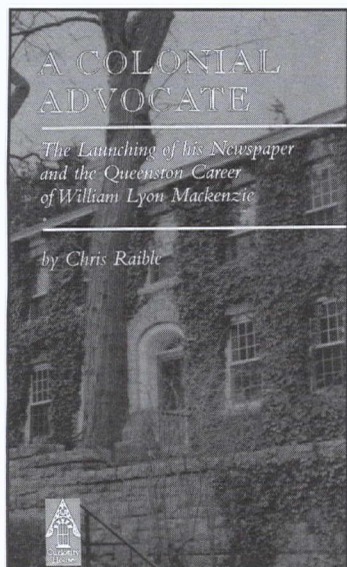
- \* Copy of an heirloom or clothing artifact made up to fit.
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- \* Costumes for re-enactments of historical events.
- \* A costume making workshop for volunteers.
- \* Consultation for costumed programmes.



# From the Bookshelf

Pat and Chris Raible, Editors

## Lives in Our History Notes on New Biographies



**A Colonial Advocate: The Launching of his Newspaper and the Queenston Career of William Lyon Mackenzie.** By Chris Raible. Curiosity House, Creemore, 1999. 70 pages. Illustrations. \$12.95 softbound.

In unabashedly self-serving fashion, we begin this page with Chris' second book about William Lyon Mackenzie. (His first, *Muddy York Mud*, was also published by Curiosity House.) When Mackenzie became a journalist just 175 years ago, he was a total political unknown. His purpose was nothing less than the political reformation of Upper Canada. Here is the story of his starting the paper, of the public response to it, and of the editor's colourful early career in Queenston—a prologue to the rest of his controversial life. The book was published in association with Queenston's Mackenzie Heritage Printery Museum, housed in the Mackenzie family home where the *Colonial Advocate* was born, and with the Clan Mackenzie Society of Canada.

**John Graves Simcoe 1752–1806: A Biography.** By Mary Beacock Fryer & Christopher Dracott. Dundurn Press. 291 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound.

A straightforward telling of the life story of our first Lieutenant-Governor, arguably the single most influential person in our province's history. This work emphasizes the family and personal aspects much more than the political of his years in Upper Canada. Mary Beacock Fryer, of course, is a well known Ontario historian—this volume completes a trilogy, previous works were on Elizabeth Posthuma

Simcoe and on their son Francis. Christopher Dracott, her English co-author for this book, is a retired Scotland Yard inspector.

**Mary Ann Shadd Cary: The Black Press and Protest in the Nineteenth Century.** By Jane Rhodes. Indiana University Press. 284 pages. Illustrations. US \$39.95 hardbound.

Many OHS members know a bit about Mary Ann Shadd Cary, Ontario's—indeed North America's—first black woman editor and publisher. Here, at last, is a full-length biography, the chronicle of a fascinating, determined, talented and energetic woman. She edited and published the *Provincial Freeman*, begun in Toronto in 1853 and continued for seven years in Chatham. An American by birth, she actively encouraged other blacks—freemen and slaves—to follow her example and emigrate to Canada. Among her Canadian critics were not only white racists, but also black males. After the war, like many others, she returned to the United States, continuing her career as an activist working for women's rights, better education and temperance. Written from an American perspective, the book is also very much a Canadian story.

**The Consummate Canadian: A Biography of Samuel Weir Q.C.** By Mary Willam Mason. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 312 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.

The splendid cover, a reproduction of James B. Dennis' painting, *The Battle of Queenston Heights*, tells the reader immediately that this book is much more than a chronicle of the career of Samuel Weir, a brilliant London lawyer. Weir's greatest achievement—certainly the one for which we can all gratefully remember him—was to assemble an extensive collection of Canadian art, much of it historical in subject, and to endow a gallery in Queenston where the public may view and appreciate it. The book includes reproductions of many of his prized works—26 colour plates and many black and white photos.

**Honour Due: The Story of Leonara Howard King.** By Margaret Negodaef-Tomsik. Canadian Medical Association. 236 pages. \$24.95 softbound.

Here is the (until now) forgot-

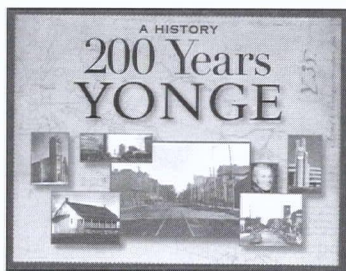
ten story of a courageous Canadian Medical pioneer. Born and reared on a dairy farm near Farmersville (near Athens), Ontario, Leonara Howard King became a teacher, but was determined to become a doctor. Denied access to medical education here, she studied in Michigan and then went to China as the first Canadian woman medical missionary. The book tells the tale—the many tales—of the next 47 years of her work as a doctor in Imperial China.

**W. L. Mackenzie King: A Bibliography and Research Guide.** Compiled by George F. Henderson. University of Toronto Press. 367 pages. \$95.00 hardbound.

This scholarly book is not a biography. It is a tool for research, exhaustive in its annotated listing of all known works by, about, our most written about prime minister.

**Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Volume XIV 1911–1920.** University of Toronto Press. 1247 pages. \$100 hardbound.

Serious study of Canadian history would be almost impossible without reference to the monumental, magnificent series the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*. This most recent volume describes more than six hundred persons who died from 1911–1920. Understandably, its entries vary in length, from a few brief paragraphs to the splendid 19-page treatment of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Like all previous *DCB* articles, these are without exception lively and informative. This volume—indeed the entire series—is an essential for every reference library.



**Two Hundred Years and Counting**

**A History of 200 Years Yonge.** Introduction by Ralph Magel. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 144 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Who among us does not remember the celebrations on Yonge Street three years ago? A wonderful variety of historical documents and artifacts were assembled for displays and were reproduced in articles at the time. Here they are preserved in more permanent form. The book contains a magnificent assortment of historic images. Most were picked from archival collections, some are modern photographs taken to show the changes of scenes over time. The book also records in word and photo many of the 1996 celebrations. It is fully researched,

clearly written, attractively designed, professionally reproduced, favourably priced. A keepsake to treasure.

## Inner City History

**Cabbagetown: The Story of a Victorian Neighbourhood.** By Penina Coopersmith. Photography by Vincenzo Pietropaolo. James Lorimer & Company. 96 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 hardbound.

This splendidly illustrated book captures all the charm of Cabbagetown. Now one of Toronto's most vibrant downtown neighbourhoods, it narrowly missed the "urban renewal" that demolished so many other inner city areas. Charming street-scapes of homes built before the turn of the century combine tiny workers' cottages with grand Victorian homes. Well-tended gardens overflow with lilac, forsythia, and magnolia. There are parks, gardens, theatres, a working farm, small shops, and trendy restaurants, all testimonials to the district's living history. Two well-designed walking tours celebrate Cabbagetown's heritage.

## Art History

**Massanoga: The Art of Bon Echo.** By Robert Stacey and Stan McMullin. Penumbra Press. 101 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.

Eastern Ontario's Mazinaw Lake, with its mile-long granite cliff rising sheer from its surface, is one of Canada's most awe-inspiring places. Also known as "Massanoga," derived from the Algonkian word for "painted," it is both a painted place and a place of painting. From those early Algonkian hunters' red-ochre pictographs to the paintings and photographs of this century's celebrated artists, this most attractive book showcases the art and artists of Massanoga's Bon Echo. It also celebrates Flora MacDonald Denison and her son, Merrill Denison, who welcomed the myriad of artists and writers who flocked to their Bon Echo Inn. 38 colour plates include the works of Franz Johnston, Arthur Lismer, C. W. Jefferys, Dorothy Stevens, and others.

## Bands by the Beaches

**Lake Huron's Summer Dance Pavilions: Sand, Surf & Music.** By Peter Young. PDA Communications. 115 pages. Illustrations. \$15.95 softbound.

Return with the author to the summer evenings of yesteryear. The bands played and the people swayed in dance pavilions along Lake Huron's shore from Owen Sound to Sarnia. Big bands, some of them world famous, played in these pleasant places. The barn-like buildings are gone—destroyed, demolished or converted—but the memories remain in these recorded chronicles, accompanied by a marvel-

lous collection of photos and advertising ephemera. This is the second volume in the author's preserving of a charming piece of our province's social history.

## Tales Worth Telling

**Just a Minute More: Glimpses of Our Great Canadian Heritage.** By Marsha Boulton. McArthur & Company. 215 pages. \$14.95 softbound.

No-one could accuse Marsha Boulton of "killing Canadian History!" Warmly recognized for her delightful "Letters from the Country," Boulton's sure instinct for a compelling yarn informs each page of this new collection of characters and incidents from our past. From young Billy Green's heroics in the War of 1812, to Mary Ann Shadd's self-reliant road to independence, to Sir Barton's capture of horse racing's Triple Crown, Boulton's latest tales testify that History remains alive and well in Canada.

## History Noted

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

**Sun Bright and Well Beloved.** By J. Stanley Allen and Richard Allen. Allen Family Publications. 575 pages. Illustrations \$60.00. Traces 300 years of a North American family from Yorkshire to Rhode Island to Ontario, with "a sub-dominant theme of reflection on the nature, use and limitations of genealogy."

**Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York Ontario.** Originally published by J.H. Beers & Co. Shenrone Enterprises. 673 pages. Illustrations. 2 volume set. \$75.00. A reprint of a 1907 publication "containing biographical sketches of prominent and representative citizens and many of the early settled families." Also available, a complete name index – \$30.00.

## Directory of Publishers

**Allen Family Publications**, 1901-3360 Southgate Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 9A6.

**Canadian Medical Association**, 1867, prom. Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3Y6.

**Curiosity House**, 190 Mill Street, Box 308, Creemore, Ontario LOM 1G0.

**Dundurn Press Ltd.**, 8 Market Street, Suite 200, Toronto Ontario M5E 1M6.

**Indiana University Press**, 601 North Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47404-3797, U.S.A.

**James Lorimer & Company**, Formac Distributing, 5502 Atlantic Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1G4.

**McArthur & Company**, 322 King Street West, Suite 402, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1J2.

**Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc.**, Box 95, Station 0, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2M8.

**PDA Communications**, 76 Hillcroft Street, Oshawa, Ontario L1G 2L2.

**Penumbra Press**, Box 940, Manotick, Ontario K4M 1A8.

**Shenrone Enterprises**, 38 Springhome Road, Barrie, Ontario L4N 2W8.

**University of Toronto Press**, 10 St. Mary Street, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2W8.

## Heritage Books of Haldimand-Norfolk

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## Searching for the “man in the iron mask”

Geoffrey Corfield, London

The incredible journey of the “man in the iron mask” brought him to Canada sometime in 1909 or late 1908. Harry Bensley was walking around the world, pushing a baby buggy and selling postcards as part of an extraordinary bet. He arrived in Quebec City on board a ship from Cork, Ireland and continued to Trois Rivières, Montréal, Ottawa, and Cornwall before going to New York.

His story began in The London Club in London England in 1907 when two men were discussing whether or not it was possible to walk around the world. Lord Lonsdale said it could be done; the American millionaire J.P. Morgan said it could not.

For some unknown reason, a 17 year old named Harry Bensley, formerly of Thetford, Norfolk and the British Army in India, was also in The London Club at that time. Was he working? He overheard the discussion, and ended up offering to settle the argument by walking around the world himself. The offer was accepted and Morgan bet \$100,000 US (£21,000) that Bensley could not do it. Lord Lonsdale backed Bensley. Morgan then added four strange conditions.

1. Bensley must walk around pushing a preambulator (baby buggy) the whole way (no baby inside).

2. He must wear an iron mask.

3. He must find a wife while on his journey without removing his mask.

4. He could only take with him £1 in cash, a companion, and a change of underwear; and he had to pay his way by selling postcards.

Bensley agreed. He bought a pram, had an iron mask made-to-measure (weighing 4 lbs 6 oz), and found a fellow to go with him whose identity today is unknown (and who did not wear a mask).

On New Year's Day 1908, they set off from Trafalgar Square.

The details of Harry Bensley's trip are sketchy. After walking north through England his itinerary had him in Scotland, Ireland, Canada, the USA, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Japan, China, India, Egypt and Italy in that order.

On August 14, 1914 he was in Genoa, Italy ready to cross into France, and on to Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Germany and Holland, before returning to London and collecting his bet, a considerable fortune. He had walked 30,000 miles in six and one half years and received 200 offers of marriage. But in Genoa a telegram awaited; the bet had been called off because of the start of World War I.

Bensley removed his mask; returned to England by ship; collected a consolation prize of £4,000; gave it to charity; rejoined the army; went to war; returned and settled in Wivenhoe, Essex; served as a local councillor for five years; married a girl from Yorkshire he never met on his travels; and eventually moved to Brighton; where he died in 1970, aged 80.

The exploits of Harry Bensley appeared to have been forgotten until 1998 when Oliver Bone, the curator of the Ancient House Museum in Thetford, Norfolk (Bensley's home town), found references to him while researching local history as part of a heritage plan. One item was an article written in *This England* magazine in 1976 which published a picture of one of Harry Bensley's postcards showing two men (one in an iron mask), standing beside a baby buggy with the words: Walking Round the World. A £21,000 Wager written on it; and asking its readers if they knew who the two men were?

Two relatives of Harry Bensley have been identified. Mrs. Grace Broughen of Thetford, Norfolk, a niece, knew little more than the details given here, and Angela Salzman, a great-niece wrote, “It's not made up. I heard all about him from my mother. Someone said he was a chancer and my mother used to say he was a rogue.”

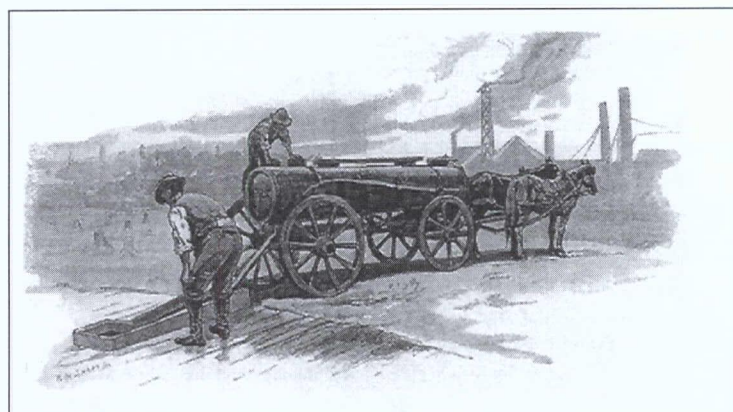
In early January 1999, the BBC World Service Radio ‘Outlook’ programme interviewed Oliver Bone about Harry Bensley. I heard the programme in London, Ontario, and was intrigued by the story (especially with the connection to Canada and the fact that Harry Bensley sold postcards), and wrote this article as a means of initiating a search for documented evidence of Harry Bensley having been in Canada.

“The Man In The Iron Mask” would have been a spectacular news item in 1909. Newspapers and people probably took pictures or written articles. People probably bought his postcards. There could very well be photographs/postcards/stories about Harry Bensley buried away for which nobody knows their connection or significance.

In addition, there may be local historical societies in Trois Rivières, Cornwall or any of the places along Harry Bensley's route who might be interested in searching for any evidence that ‘The Man In The Iron Mask’ once passed their way.

The Harry Bensley story is certainly unusual and bizarre enough to catch the media's attention today in 1999. By publicizing it something may surface. Unless Harry Bensley's trip was a well-planned six and one half year fraud that didn't pay off, there must be some evidence of Harry Bensley's visit to Canada somewhere. We just have to look for it.

If you have any information or pieces of this puzzle, please contact: Geoffrey Corfield, 314 Stephen Street, London, Ontario N6K 2N3 (519) 471-2465.



Pumping Oil at Petrolia, Picturesque, Canada, 1882.

## Recording Ontario's early oil industry

Chris Andreae, Historica Research Ltd.

Beginning in July 1999, in association with the Oil Museum of Canada, the Institute for the History of Technology and Industrial Archaeology at the University of West Virginia will document significant features of the historic Oil Springs and Petrolia oil fields, creating an information base on the Central Lambton Oil Heritage District.

For many years the Institute of Technology and Industrial Archaeology has been involved in recording surviving remnants of the early oil industry in the United States. Recently, the Oil Springs field was identified as the best preserved field from the formative years of the oil industry (1850s–60s) in North America. Many of the wells are still operated by technology developed at that time.

The area will be documented using a recording method developed by the Historic American Engineering Record and of the United States National Park Service. Site recording makes use of measured and interpretive drawings, large-format photographs, and written data.

To date, no detailed inventory and comprehensive management plan has been developed for the conservation and interpretation of the site. The oil fields, however, are a remarkably well preserved historic site. In addition to the physical remains, many historical documents exist; much can still be learned about early oil technology.

Although the field has been identified as a National Historic Site since the 1930s, it is relatively unknown to the public as an historic resource and visitor attraction. The first commercial oil well in North America was excavated at Oil Springs in 1858. The area came under intense development in 1862, with the bringing in of the world's first gusher. The recent development of an Oil Heritage Driving Tour provides a beginning for expanding the site's potential.

If you are interested in visiting the site during the recording process, or wish more information, contact Robert Tremain, Curator, Oil Museum of Canada Oil Springs, Ontario N0N 1P0 (519) 243-2600.

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(See “Starting From Scratch” and “Upper Canada in the Making” in *Horizon Canada*, Vol. 2, # 22 and 23.)
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- ♦ **Corporate and Advertising History**  
(See *DCB*, Vol. XIII, Cowan and McCormick biographies.)
- ♦ **Heritage Product Marketing Research**  
(See “Marketing Food” in *Consuming Passions*, OHS, 1990.)
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The Society's biannual 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.

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

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