



OHS BULLETIN

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

Issue 132 • December 2001

Escape to Freedom Remembered

Bryan Walls

On Saturday, October 20, 2001 the slaves who escaped to freedom and those who helped them along the way were remembered. Two bronze statues were unveiled, one in Detroit's Hart Plaza and the other in Windsor's Civic Esplanade. The statues were designed and created by Denver artist Ed Dwight at a cost of \$1.1 million US, with funds raised by the Detroit 300 Committee and the Underground Railroad Monument Committee of Windsor.

As a fifth generation descendent of John and Jane Walls I was deeply honoured to see their names engraved in the base of the statues along with other key operatives on the Underground Railroad. Their fight for freedom was unquestionably true and their story is pregnant with historical and human significance for us today.

After the tragic events of September 11, 2001 many of our

freedoms have been threatened and hope is now more than ever important to grab on to. Therefore we must look to our past to see what a nation and a people are capable of accomplishing. A study of the history and the personal family struggles of those who were involved in the Underground Railroad freedom movement of the nineteenth century can help us in the twenty-first century; our ancestors tell us that we can build a world of peace, harmony and tolerance of the differences of others. These monuments come at a very appropriate time and all people of Ontario should be proud of the positive story and message they contain.

You can learn more about the John and Jane Walls story in the book *The Road That Led to Somewhere* by Dr. Bryan E. Walls available from the Proverbs Heritage Organization, 1307 Pelissier Street, Windsor N8X 1M4.



A new monument was erected on October 20, 2001 in Windsor to commemorate the Underground Railroad. The monument is inscribed with *Keeping the Flame of Freedom Alive* and consists of 4 bronze statues and flags anchored to a concrete base which rises 7 meters. (Anna Davis)

New Money For the Cobalt Heritage Silver Trail

Phase Two of the Cobalt Heritage Silver Trail received a \$262,804 boost from the FedNor programme. The federal money complements the \$328,000 received in July from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

The money will go towards enhancing and expanding the self guided tour of the historic silver mines around Cobalt by adding more historic headframes and other attractions from the Cobalt Silver Camp and by making repairs and stabilizing the existing headframes.

With Cobalt being named Ontario's Most Historic Town by TV Ontario, there has been a huge increase in tourism. The expansion of the Heritage Trail is part of Cobalt's ongoing efforts to make tourism its industry of the future.

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Farewell

The Ontario Historical Society would like to extend its sympathy to the family and friends of former OHS president Robert "Bob" Surtees. Surtees passed away suddenly on Saturday August 25, 2001; he was 60 years old. He leaves behind his wife Marg and seven daughters: Jennifer, Rebecca, Allison, Victoria, Sarah, Laura and Deborah.

Surtees was president of the OHS from 1997 to 1998. As well as being an active historian he was also actively involved in his community. He began teaching at Nipissing University the year that it opened and won numerous

awards for his published works including the Joseph Brant Award and the Ermine Wheeler-Voegelin Ethnohistory Prize. He was also a recognized authority on Native land claims. Surtees was the faculty advisor for the Nipissing University Drama Club, a member of the community theatre, member of the Knights of Columbus 1007 4th Degree and the Progressive Conservative Party. He won the Governor General's Award for service to his community and the George Martyn Memorial Trophy for his devotion to basketball.

He will be missed.



Office Closing

The OHS office will close on Friday, December 21, 2001 at 4:30 p.m. and re-open on Monday, January 7, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.

Happy Holidays!

The Ontario Historical Society
34 Parkview Avenue
Willowdale, Ontario
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Across the Province

Dorothy Duncan

Members, friends and supporters of the **Milton Historical Society** have had a successful fund raising campaign for the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop project with the Town of Milton donating \$50,000 and Mattamy Homes donating \$10,000 in addition to many other corporate and in-kind donations. To learn more: (905) 878-0657.

The **Archives Association of Ontario** (AAO) has announced that Tom Belton, their new Archives Advisor began his duties in September: (519) 272-9765.

Friends of the late Shirley Spragge of **Queen's University Archives**, Kingston, are invited to honour her memory with a donation to the AAO Shirley Spragge Education Fund to create a bursary for archivists wishing to study at the university level: (416) 533-9592.

The **Old Britannia Schoolhouse** had a facelift earlier this year, just in time to celebrate its own 150th anniversary, the 20th anniversary of its restoration and the 10th anniversary of the Friends of the Schoolhouse, all in 2002. A reunion is planned for May 26, 2002, so students, teachers, trustees, parents, inspectors and custodians should call Eva Ardiel at (905) 459-9158 to learn the details, or to drop in for the annual Christmas Open House and Stocking Stuffer Sale on December 2.

The **Campbellford-Seymour Heritage Society** planted a red maple tree on the lawn of the Heritage Centre in Campbellford earlier this year in honour of the late Hector Macmillan, former mayor of the community and strong booster of the Society. Information about this active Society: (705) 653-2634.

Congratulations to the **Mississippi Valley Textile Museum** in Almonte, celebrating ten years in the beautiful historic Rosamond Mill site. Mary Hugessen, Past President of the Board of Directors has donated a stained glass window to the museum, matching the existing one over the front door. Details of the 10th anniversary celebrations: (613) 256-3754.

Speaking of celebrations, the **Manitoba Historical Society** will host the Sir John A. Macdonald Annual Dinner on January 19 at the Fort Garry

Hotel in Winnipeg with Jamie Brown, producer of *Pioneer Quest* and *Quest for the Bay* as guest speaker. Tickets: (204) 947-0559 The Society is calling for papers for the History Conference in the Spring of 2002. Topics should include Manitoba and/or the Prairies.

The **Beaverton Thorah Eldon Historical Society** also celebrated its 25th anniversary on October 21 at St. Paul's Anglican Church Parish Hall in Beaverton.

The **Pickering Museum Village Foundation** is seeking support for the restoration of the Brougham Central Hotel, now part of the recreated historic museum village located in Greenwood. If you lived in Brougham in the middle of the 20th century you may have known this building as Mrs. Woodward's General Store, thus do many of our historic buildings have several stories to tell. For further information about the Village, the Hotel and your donation to it, call: (905) 839-4672.

Our sympathy goes out to the many friends and colleagues of the late Frances Bain, a dedicated member of the **West Toronto Junction Historical Society** and the OHS.

The **Orillia Museum of Art and History** launched *Sir Sam Entertains*, a cookbook of favourite and time honoured recipes for four season entertaining. This latest fundraiser supports the restoration of the Sir Samuel Steele building the home of the Museum: (705) 326-2159.

The **Hastings County Historical Society** officially opened the Hastings Heritage Centre and head office of the Society in the former Thurlow Town Hall, 154 Cannifton Road North, Cannifton, on September 10. Jean Murray Cole, OHS Vice President represented our Society and brought greetings from our thousands of members across Ontario. Information: (613) 395-3022.

The **Bruce County Museum and Archives** has launched *Forgotten Lives - Early History of a Coastal Village* by John Weichel, a great boon to researchers in the Southampton area: (519) 934-2270.

The **Markham Community Branch** of the Markham Public Library is seeking to borrow original

documents such as genealogies, family histories, oral histories and photographs to copy for inclusion in the **John Lunau Heritage Resource Centre**. Call (905) 294-2782 to discuss this possibility.

The **Historical Society of St. Catharines** has announced the 75th anniversary edition of the Historical Calendar for 2002 is now available: Box 23104, 124 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines, L2R 7P6 for cost and availability.

The **Esquesing Historical Society** has received a \$22,000 grant from the Trillium Foundation to write, advertise and publish a history of Acton that will cover the period 1818 to 2000. Author John Mark Rowe and the society are projecting a December 2001 publication date.

The **Seventh Town Historical Society** hosted the official opening of the new wing of the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, 528 County Road 19, Ameliasburg in September. Congratulations!

Congratulations to the **Scarborough Historical Society** when, on November 26, the members and supporters will "Look Back on 45 Years" of accomplishments and service to the community. Awarded the OHS 1982 Scadding Award of Excellence, their latest goal is to create a Genealogical Subcommittee under the leadership of Donald Smith. If you are interested in Scarborough Genealogy call (416) 438-5534. The Scarborough Historical Museum, one of the early projects of the Society is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary. To learn more about the Society and the Museum (416) 338-8807.

The **Lennox and Addington Historical Society** launched *Remembering: Lennox and Addington Veterans of World War II and the Korean Conflict* by Stephen Fochuk in September with support from the Millenium Partnership Program, Government of Canada.

The **Newcastle Village and District Historical Society** celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and continues to host a variety of programmes, projects and fund-raising events, as well as staffing the "Room" for visitors and researchers. Call (905) 987-5433 for more information.

Historian and author Jean Morrison's long awaited book *Superior Redezvous - Place. Fort William in the Canadian Fur Trade* is available at the Thunder Bay Museum Society's Gift Shop: (807) 623-0801. More good news from the Thunder Bay Museum: Dr. Tory Tronrud has been appointed Director/Curator and Margaret Frenette Office Administrator. Congratulations!

The **Brockville Historical Society** has donated \$150 to the Brockville Museum

to support the Hometown History Hunt for Grade 7 students next spring. Call (613) 342-4397 for details.

The **Ontario Black History Society** has received a grant from the City of Toronto for the creation of a Museum of African Canadian History/Underground Railway Museum and from Widdington Properties (via the City) for a book project to focus on the history of the AME Church, lost to recent development, and other churches of Black Canadian heritage: (416) 867-9420.

Diane Skalenda, well known Manitoba Museums Advisor has become the Coordinator of Parish and Diocesan Support for the **Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land**. Diane's many contributions to Canadian museums have been recognized with awards from the **Canadian Museums Association** and the **American Association for State and Local History**. Diane you will be missed!

Congratulations to OHS Vice President Jean Murray Cole of Indian River, whose latest book, *This Blessed Wilderness: Archibald McDonald's Letters from Cumberland 1822-44*, was launched at the **Canadian Canoe Museum**, Peterborough, in October. For more information call (705) 748-9153.

Other book launches in October include *Let's Go To The Grand, A Century of Entertainment* by Sheila Johnston of Richmond British Columbia details the life and times of the Grand Opera House in London. London Township launched *A Rich Heritage 1796-1997* in Ilderton. Details:(519) 659-5116

The September issue of the *Newsletter* of the **Gananoque Historical Society** lists 1075 members! Surely this is Ontario's largest (or one of its largest) local Societies? Can you top this? To learn more about this active Society call: (613) 382-2282.

Passage to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad opened at the **Guelph Civic Museum** in October and the exhibition continues until December 18. Information: (519) 836-1221 ext. 225.

The **City of Toronto Culture Division** has published the Fall Calendar of Events for the ten historic museums and eleven art galleries and cultural centres. For your copy (416) 329-6827 ext. 229. Meanwhile, the local Culture Division offices have published *Your Guide to Arts and Culture Fall 2001* listing 29 locations "where the arts are happening" in the North District only. For your copy: North (416) 395-6194; South (416) 392-9861; East (416) 396-4931; West (416) 394-8390.

For those fair goers the exhibit *Fall Fairs of Wellington County* stays at the **Wellington**

County Museum until February 17: (519) 846-0916 ext. 221.

Congratulations to the **City of Victoria**, awarded Heritage Canada's 2001 Prince of Wales Prize for its "exemplary commitment to heritage preservation within its jurisdiction"

The **Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History** invites applications for short term fellowships in American Civilization. Deadlines are December 3, 2001 and May 1, 2002. Information: (646) 366-9666.

The Town of Markham signed an unique Cultural Partnership Agreement with Noerdlingen, Bavaria, Germany in October recognizing the desire to promote the exchange of people, ideas and the arts. William Berczy who was born near Noerdlingen, led a group of families from Altona, Germany to settle in Markham in 1794 thus becoming the founders of the town. Twenty-five descendants of those first settlers attended the ceremony in Noerdlingen when the agreement was signed. Information: (905) 640-3906

The **Upper Canada Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution** has published *A Tiny Dessert Collection*, a fascinating collection of recipes with a generous addition of history. An ideal gift for friends or family on either side of the border. Costs and availability: Helen Hatton, 22A Phoebe Street, Toronto, M5T 2Z3.

Would you like to have Queen Victoria, escorted by her Lady-in-Waiting and her Aide-de-Camp at your next meeting, special event or festival? Call (905) 451- 0851 to discuss the possibility.


The **Rideau Waterway** was designated a Canadian Heritage River in September at a ceremony in Molly Brant Park, Kingston.

The **Grimsby Historical Society** has announced the upcoming programme schedule including topics such as railroads, the Burlington Races, the Battle of Stoney Creek Cemetery and much more! (905) 945-8364

The **Kingston Hisotrical Society** has also announced the topics, speakers and tours planned well into 2002: (613) 544-9925.

Community Arts Ontario will be hosting a series of regional workshops in April, May and June, 2002. For locations dates adn topics: (416) 598-1128 or 1-800-806-2302

Do you have an extra bookcase that you could donate to the **Society for the Preservation of Historic Thornhill's** archive room? Call: (905) 889-0192

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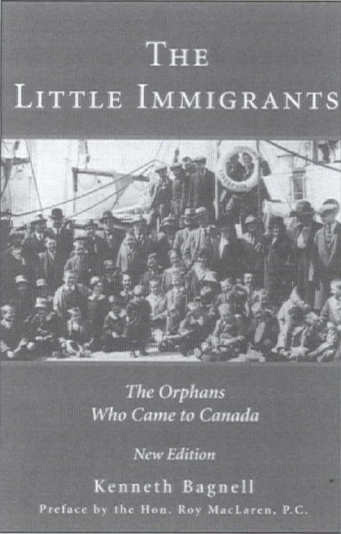
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Upcoming Events

Do You Need a Guest Speaker?



The Little Immigrants: The Orphans who Came to Canada by Ken Bagnell is the definitive history of the child migration (Home Child) movement that sent over 100,000 children to Canada from the British Isles from the late 1800's to the 1930's. More than ever, the children of these descendants are looking for answers to help them understand the moving story of their parents' journey to Canada. Ken Bagnell eloquently tells the story of these children and pays tribute to their contribution to the growth of Canada. Ken is a wonderful speaker and is willing to come to speak to your group on the topic of the Home Children. For more information call Kerry Breeze at (416) 214-5544.

December 5: Attend **A Benares Christmas Evening** and you will leave with a natural old style wreath fashioned with your own hands, (905) 615-4545.

December 5: Weston Historical Society presents **21st Annual Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing** at Central United Church with special guests and reflections of celebrating Christmas traditions, (416) 235-0845.

December 7: Need to do some Christmas shopping? Leave your children ages 5 to 10 at the Chatham-Kent Museum for **Crazy Crafty Christmas** to make ornaments, decorations and a party, (519) 360-1998.

December 8: All hands on deck for **The Hamilton Ships Company of 1812 Christmas Dinner** at Ancaster Old Town Hall, (905) 573-0195.

December 8: Children's Christmas Workshop for children ages 7 to 10 at the Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty. Discover how Christmas was celebrated in a one-room schoolhouse and create your own punched-tin latern, (905) 562-5242.

December 8: Enjoy the **12th Annual Candlelight Christmas House Tour** sponsored by the Victoria County Historical Society and Museum, (705) 324-6756.

December 8, 9: A Night Before Christmas at Hillary House, Aurora, reservations (905) 727-4015.

December 9: Christmas Festival at the Wellington County Museum and Archives. With entertainment, crafts, music, festival treats and a visit from Santa Claus, (519) 846 0916.

December 9: Victorian Christmas at the Simcoe County Museum, (705) 728-3721.

December 9: Victorian Christmas Carol Service at the Scugog Shores Historical Museum, Port Perry, (905) 985-3589.

December 10: Christmas Party hosted by the Bruce County Genealogical Society at the Bruce County Museum and Archives, Southampton, (519) 934-2270.

December 13, 20: Christmas at Woodside includes two evenings when the kerosene lamps and candles will glow while the group Midnight Clear will be carolling, (519) 571-5684.

December 11: Sponsors' Luncheon at Allan Macpherson House, Napanee, (613) 354-5982.

December 13: Christmas Party at the Temperance Hall, Sharon, hosted by East Gwillimbury Historical Society, (905) 478-8073.

December 14, 18: Yuletide Candlelight Tours of Glanmore with traditional refreshments and a visit from Father Christmas. Pre-

registration required, (613) 962-2329.

December 14, 15, 21, 22: Explore **The Castle by Candlelight** at Old Fort Niagara, meet historical personages and see the Firing of the Christmas Guns. Take a flashlight! (716) 745-7611

December 22: Lost Ponds of Runnymede (Kennedy Estate) Heritage Walk. Meet at entrance to Runnymede Subway Station at 1 p.m. (416) 593-2656.

2002 Events
January 5: Lower Spadina Heritage Walk. Meet at southeast corner of Queen Street West and Spadina Avenue at 1 p.m. (416) 593-2656.

January 9: Esquesing Historical Society presents **The Age of Post Cards** at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

January 15 - March 31: Once Upon A Time... Knights, Castles and Commonfolk, an exhibition showcasing medieval life during the years 1000 to 1500 A.D. at the Guelph Civic Museum, (519) 836-1221.

January 17: David Lorente speaking on **Home Children** at the Pembroke Welcome Centre, hosted by the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group. A wonderful article about David Lorente and Home Children Canada appeared on August 20, 2001 in the *Toronto Star*, (613) 735-0206.

January 26: Chaplin-Oriole Estates Heritage Walk. Meet at the southeast corner of Eglinton Avenue West and Oriole Parkway at 1:30 p.m. (416) 593-2656.

February 13: Author Mark Rowe highlights *Acton: The History of Leathertown* at an **exclusive preview** hosted by the Esquesing Historical Society at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

February 16: Down by the Old Mill Stream Heritage Walk. Meet at the northwest corner of Braodview and Mortimer Avenues at 1:30 p.m. (416) 593-2656.

March 23, 24: Attend the **27th Annual Railway Show** at the Toronto Congress Centre, (416) 622-5709.

April 22: 12th Annual Speakers' Forum at the Classic Theatre, Cobalt. Hosted by the Temiskaming-Abitibi Heritage Association, (705) 672-1922.

May 31, June 1,2: The Quebec Family History Society will host **the largest conference ever held on family history research in Quebec** in celebration

of its founding 25 years ago. Over 20 speakers, a Genealogical Book Fair and a computer demonstration all presented in English, (514) 482-3418.

May 16-26: 7th Annual Waterloo County and Area Quilt Festival, Cambridge, 1-888-804-7909.

April 30 - May 4: Canadian Museums Association Conference, Calgary, Alberta, 1-800-221-4443.

Doors Open Ottawa

Riding on the success of *Doors Open Toronto*, the Nation's Capital will present *Doors Open Ottawa*, a weekend celebration of local architectural heritage. Historic and/or architecturally significant buildings will "open their doors" to the public, free of charge. Most participating buildings are not normally open to the public.

The idea for *Doors Open* originated in Europe. Today, over 40 countries host "Doors Open Days". In 1998, 19 million people visited local heritage properties worldwide. In 2001, *Doors Open Toronto* attracted 71,000 visitors to 91 buildings. Ottawa's event is being organized by the City's Office of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with CBC Radio, *The Ottawa Citizen*, Heritage Ottawa, and the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa. *Doors Open Ottawa* will take place on Saturday and Sunday, May 25 & 26, 2002. "We received very positive feedback from the community when they heard that *Doors Open* is coming to Ottawa", says Ted Ross, Co-ordinator for the event.

Organizers believe that *Doors Open Ottawa* promises to raise public awareness of architectural heritage and will offer rare insights into Ottawa's unique blend of urban and rural community heritage. It will be a strong attraction for visitors to Ottawa who so often never get beyond the exterior façades of the city's many prominent landmarks.

Following Ottawa's recent amalgamation of 12 municipalities into one, *Doors Open Ottawa* will also celebrate the new City as a whole, helping residents realize that the new City's community histories are now linked. At the same time, the heritage community is counting on the event to create a new generation of volunteers and advocates to strengthen the community's commitment to heritage.

For more information on the event contact, Ted Ross, Coordinator, *Doors Open Ottawa*, City of Ottawa, People Services, 172 Guigues Avenue, Ottawa K1N 5H9, tel: (613) 244-4474.

Join The Ontario Historical Society
on Sunday, December 2, 2001 from 1 - 4
p.m. at 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale
for
Cookbook Caper

Meet Anita Stewart who will be on hand to autograph her newest book, *The Flavours of Canada: A Celebration of the Finest Regional Foods* and Habeeb Salloum who will be autographing *From the Lands of Figs and Olives* and *Classic Vegetarian Cooking from the Middle East and North Africa*. We will also have a large collection of new and used, historic and modern cookbooks, antiques and collectibles, and sweets and treats and afternoon tea will be served for \$5.00.

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Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart

On June 29, 2001, the OHS appealed the decision of the Registrar (Acting) under the *Cemeteries Act (Revised)* ordering the closure of part of *St. Alban's Anglican Church Cemetery* in Palgrave. The OHS appealed the Order to Close part of this cemetery to the Licence Appeal Tribunal pursuant to Section 10 of the *Cemeteries Act* on the grounds that it is not in the public interest as required by sections 8 to 13 of the *Cemeteries Act*. On October 1, 2001, the OHS attended a prehearing at the Licence Appeal Tribunal. As in the Clendennen Cemetery appeal hearing, the OHS has requested that this appeal be heard by a panel of three members of the Tribunal. The Ministry of the Attorney General, solicitor for the Registrar, Cemeteries Branch, has indicated that they have no objection to this request. The OHS has made another request for information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for any records or

documents since August 11, 2000 (being the last item released under our previous request) referable to St. Alban's Cemetery. We understand that the appeal hearing will commence mid-winter, 2002.

Congratulations to the *Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries*. They recently celebrated 175 years of service to the Greater Toronto area. The York General Burying Ground, later known as Potter's Field, was established by an Act of Parliament in 1826 and was recently designated as a National Historic Site. Over the years, the name has changed and more properties have been acquired. Today there are ten cemeteries, which are beautifully maintained and cater to all nationalities and religions

Beechwood Cemetery in Ottawa was recently declared a National Historic Site. This cemetery is laid out in the "rural style" and its monuments reflect local and national history.

Family members are concerned about the *Trumpour* burial sites located in the Adolphustown area. It is important to make certain that small burial plots are registered with the Cemeteries Regulation Section, Ministry of Consumer and Business Services as well as entered on the Official Town Plan of the municipality.

The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee of King Township has prepared a booklet cataloguing the history and condition of King Township's 14 abandoned cemeteries. Copies are available at the King Township Municipal offices as well as the King Township Museum.

In Miami, Florida the *Tequesta Indian Cemetery*, believed to be 2000 years old was discovered during preparation for a development. The prospective buyers of the site have bowed out. State laws

protect ancient burial grounds. Rather than risk public and Indian outcry the State of Florida will keep the two and a half acres intact as a park.

In the Owen Sound area, developers have revived plans to build on the Georgian Bluffs property that contains known First Nations burial sites. In 1997 developers for the Sheldon Rosen group pulled out of the project citing concern for the burial location of Naaneebweque, an early land claim advocate. A golf course, hotel and marina are slated to be built at this Ojibwa heritage site. The Nawash band fears the impact that this large development will have on the environment and native fishing.

In the Yukon, *Inuvialuit* burials on Hershel Island have surfaced after more than 80 years. Shifting of the ground during spring thaw forced the burials to surface. They have

been reburied within the territorial park.

Heritage Thorold Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee has voted to have *Smith Cemetery* protected under the Ontario Heritage Act. It is the first public burial ground in the city. The first known burial dates from 1801.

Our recent mail indicates that there is a growing concern over the preservation of our cemeteries particularly our pioneer burial sites. The LACACs in Lincoln and St. Catharines are considering heritage designation. Nancy Cameron writing in the *St Catharines Standard* urges municipalities to co-operate with cemetery owners to ensure that proper conservation and restoration methods are carried out to preserve the gravestones and the complete inscription. She is concerned that "the messages that they carry from their time to ours" may be "lost forever."

Good News for St. James' Cathedral Cemetery?

Marjorie Stuart, Rob Levery and Catherine Bray

On November 8, 2001, The Corporation of St. James' Cathedral withdrew its application to the Registrar of Cemeteries to have a portion of the cemetery closed and the bodies removed. The Corporation has bowed to pressure from parishioners, descendants, local businesses, and citizens' groups, as well as to people worldwide, who responded with shock and horror to the proposed desecration of an estimated 3000 bodies. We congratulate the Corporation of St. James' Cathedral for showing that they do indeed respect the deceased and honour

the commitment made in the Anglican Prayer of Consecration which states in part: "And we do pronounce, decree, and declare that the said land shall remain so consecrated, set apart and dedicated for ever..."

The *Cemeteries Act* states very clearly that it must be in the public interest to close and move a cemetery. Quite clearly, digging up our ancestors in order to makemoney is not in the public interest.

The action by the Corporation of St. James' Cathedral would have set a precedent for all Ontario cemeteries. The action by the

Corporation of St. James' Cathedral would have opened the floodgates for similar applications for other Ontario cemeteries. If an Order to Close the St. James' cemetery had been issued by the Province of Ontario other cemetery owners would have argued such an Order was a precedent to allow the sale of any Ontario cemetery.

It is hoped that we can work in conjunction with the Save St. James' Committee and the Corporation of St. James'

Cathedral to see that the parking lot is completely removed from part of the burial ground and a suitable memorial is erected to the men, women and children who were among the first inhabitants of the Town of York. These include people of many religious backgrounds and all walks of life.

We want to thank all the people who came forward with family information and other offers of assistance and all

those who have donated to the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund. This strong support shows that preserving Ontario's cemeteries, in their original location, is in the public interest.

As we went to press, *The Church Bulletin* for St. James' Cathedral advises that they will reapply for closure. We need your continued support especially if the application is filed in the next few days as the objection period will end over the holiday season.

HERITAGE RESOURCES CONSULTANT

- ◆ **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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On All Souls Day - Friday, November 2, 2001 - The Save St. James' Committee held a vigil to protest the closing and moving of the northern half of the burying ground at St. James' Cathedral. Included among the many citizens who attended the vigil, were (left to right) Linda McCaffery (nee Curtis), James and Georgie Curtis, and Barry Curtis. The Curtis family has at least two generations of ancestors who are buried in the Cathedral cemetery. (Robert Levery)

Museum News



OHS Executive Director Dorothy Duncan presents the 2000 Dorothy Duncan Award and cheque to Paul Nadiwan, Director of the the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation while Michael Cywink, Curator, and elder Violet McGregor watch. (Rob Leverty)

Rebels With a Cause

In the 1830s, a small group of men frustrated by the pace of political reform in Upper Canada took up arms against the crown. Dispersed by loyal militia, many fled to the US, and in the year that followed, launched a number of attempts to invade Canada, aided by their American sympathizers. To quell internal protest and to protect the colony, Imperial troops were stationed on the edge of town in a large base that covered many acres. A rotating series of regimental postings kept nearly 500 troops here until the early 1850s.

Officers of the various regiments were frequently invited to Eldon House by John Harris, an important government official, who was English by birth and had served in the British Navy. He and Amelia also had several eligible daughters for whom the sons of some of England's great families would make ideal husbands. By 1851, four daughters had married officers and returned with them to England.

Rebels and Redcoats, which began September 29 at the Eldon House Interpretive Centre, examines both the rebels' short-lived crusade and the legacy the troops left. Uniforms and weapons are on view as well as many reproductions of early views of London, produced by several of the officers. A number of the artifacts recently excavated in Victoria Park, former site of the barracks, provides an insight into the life of the average soldier. The rebels are represented

by a reconstruction of reformer John Talbot's newspaper office complete with a working flatbed press.

Return to the anxious days of 1837 as rebels and redcoats clashed over the future of Upper Canada. Rebels and Redcoats runs at Museum London until the new year.

Two art exhibits are also currently underway at Museum London, *I became unconscious* and *Course Studies - Tracking Ontario's Thames: An Exploration of the River. I became unconscious* (1995), by Katherine Knight, is based upon an 1881 boating disaster in which the *Victoria*, a sternwheeler full of holiday passengers capsized and sank just downstream from the present site of Museum London. A gift of the artist, this is the first work in the collection by Knight, 2000 winner of The Canada Council Duke and Duchess of York Prize in photography.

Course Studies - Tracking Ontario's Thames: An Exploration of the River is a photographic exhibition which studies the three main branches of the Thames from Stratford, Mitchell and Woodstock all the way to Chatham and Lake St. Clair. The year-long exploration was conducted by Toronto photographer Steven Evans, designer, planner and teacher George Kapelos and essayist Lynne DiStefano. Both exhibits run until January 13, 2002.

For information on all three exhibits contact Museum London, (519) 661-0333.

Tax Relief for Heritage Properties

On November 6, 2001, the Minister of Finance introduced amendments to the Municipal Act which, if passed by the Legislature, would implement a new tax relief mechanism for heritage properties.

The proposed new mechanism would be a tax reduction programme that

would allow local municipalities to refund up to 40% of the municipal and education taxes levied on eligible heritage property. To be eligible for inclusion in this programme, a property would have to be designated under Part IV or V of the Ontario Heritage Act and be subject to

an easement or other form of agreement respecting the preservation and maintenance of the property. To enter the programme, property owners would be required to submit an initial application to their local municipality, and subsequent applications may be required at the option of individual municipalities.

Details of the proposed new mechanism are set out in Bill 127, the Responsible Choices for Growth and Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2001. (Specifically, the proposed amendments are found in section 162 of Part XVII of the Bill along with other amendments to the Municipal Act.) For more information contact Diane Ross, Manager, Legislative Design Unit, Ministry of Finance (416) 327-0266.

Call for Student Papers

The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) has announced a Call for Student Papers for the 2002 Annual Conference in Calgary, April 30 to May 4 2002. The Call for Student Papers provides an opportunity for students to share their research in a number of areas such as museum learning experiences, marketing and promotion, management issues, fund-raising and development, new technologies and volunteerism.

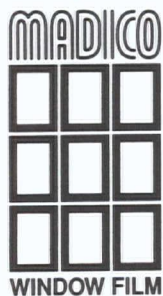
All student CMA members submitting a paper have the opportunity to compete for a free trip to the CMA conference including complimentary registration to the conference; travel to Calgary from a major

connecting airport; accommodation during the conference; and an opportunity to present the winning paper in a special session at the conference. Students must meet the following requirements: they must be enrolled in a full-time programme in a Canadian college or university; the submission must be an original research paper written in the 2001-2002 academic year; the applicant must be a member of the CMA and be available to present at the conference.

The submission deadline is January 7, 2002. For more information contact Dawn Roach, Head of Programmes and Projects, 280 Metcalfe Street, Suite 400, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1R7 (613) 233-5438.



On Saturday, November 3, 2001, The Ontario Historical Society and the Peterborough Historical Society, with support from Canada's National History Society, co-sponsored the workshop "Are You an Historical Society That Owns, Operates and Maintains a Museum?" at Hutchison House Museum in Peterborough. (Rob Leverty)



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From the Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible

Please Note:

More extensive reviews of a number of books relating to the history of our province are published in each issue of *Ontario History*, a journal also published by The Ontario Historical Society.

The prices of books referred to on this page may or may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

Vade Mecum

Exploring Manitoulin.

3rd ed. By Shelley J. Pearen. University of Toronto Press. 228 pages. Illustrations. \$22.95 softbound.

This is the book to take to Manitoulin with you ... and to read before your visit and again after it. It offers five tours of the island, to be undertaken in leisurely fashion – visitors are encouraged to take their time in savouring all Manitoulin has to offer. Here you can explore pioneer cemeteries, lookouts, historic farmsteads, native reserves, ghost ports, hiking trails, boardwalks, waterfalls, museums, communities, lighthouses, and fishing stations. Not this year? Pearen's descriptions and history will also engage the armchair traveller.

Beautiful Ontario Towns. By Fred Dahms. James Lorimer. 96 pages. Illustrations. \$16.95 softbound.

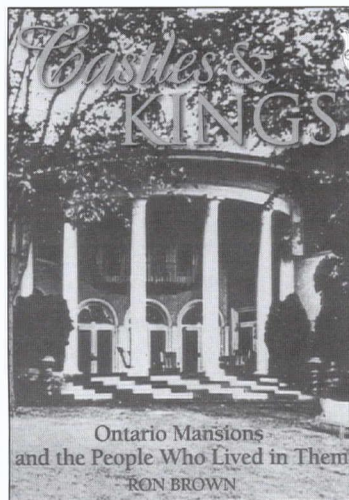
Dahms has selected ten outstanding communities, all within striking distance of Toronto, all enticing to visitors and permanent residents alike, and all proudly cherishing their history. The chosen communities are Creemore, Dunnville, Elora, Fergus, Meaford, Neustadt, Paisley, St. Jacobs, St. Marys, and Thornbury. Dahms invites tourists with his sections on contemporary character and current attractions, but clearly he has done his homework in presenting the history of each. The picturesque charm of the chosen towns is well illustrated with excellent photographs. Beautiful!

Gold Strike

Remember Kirkland Lake: The Gold Miners' Strike of 1941-42, Revised edition. Laurel Sefton MacDowell. Canadian Scholars' Press. 292 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.

In 1941 Kirkland Lake miners went on strike, for better pay, but especially for the recognition of their union and the right to collective bargaining. The employers and the government would have none of it. The press, local officials, the police, and the federal government had little sympathy. Gold mining was essential to the war effort – and to the town's economic existence. Strikers were denounced as

aliens influenced by radical Russian and American ideas. The strike failed after three months, but the Canadian labour movement in time achieved all that the strikers had fought for. The story of the strike is here fully recounted and carefully analyzed.



Castlemania

Castles & Kings: Ontario's Mansions and the People Who Lived in Them. Ron Brown. Polar Bear Press. 176 pages. Illustrations. 19.95 softbound.

Ron Brown, best known for his ghost railways and ghost town books, has again taken to the highways and (especially) the byways of Ontario. Here he invites us to discover (or rediscover) a number of the gracious old homes that bespeak Ontario history. Each "castle" is described in detail and depicted in current as well as archival photographs. Some of the mansions are indeed castle-like, built to resemble the grand edifices of Europe; others are less grandiose in appearance but they nevertheless testify to the wealth and influence of their original owners. Many are still private residences, though they can be glimpsed from the road. A number of them, however, are open to the public. Brown gives details as to which is which and how to locate them all.

Short Hills - Full Story

Niagara Rebels: The Niagara Frontier in the Upper Canadian Rebellion, 1837-1838. Colin K Duquemin. Norman Enterprises. 299 pages. Illustrations. \$21.95 softbound.

Despite all the studies and stories of the Rebellion, the impact of that upheaval on the Niagara region has not before been carefully examined. Of especial interest is the account of the "Short Hills" raid in June, 1838, when Canadian exiles and American supporters crossed over the Niagara River from New York state. Their purpose was to reignite the fires of Rebellion. In the wake of their failures were the hanging of one rebel and the transportation of others to Van Diemen's Land. The entire sorry-but-engaging saga is here related. With its publication, the

exhaustive research of local historian Colin Duquemin reaps rewards for all of us.

Yours 'til Niagara Falls

It Happened at Niagara, First Series and Second Series. Sherman Zavitz. Lundy's Lane Historical Society. Illustrations. 66 pages and 63 pages. \$18.95 each, softbound.

Each of these attractive booklets tells twenty-five brief stories about people and events in the Niagara Falls area. Some are vignettes in the life of the famous – Helen Keller, Oscar Wilde, Princess Diana – others are tales of wrecks and of rescues, murders and mysteries, wars and rebellions. Those who want more will find the source bibliographies most useful.

S.O.S.

Disaster Canada. Janet Looker. Lynx Images. 270 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

More than 130 Canadian catastrophes, from the wreck of the *Delight* at Sable Island, Nova Scotia in 1583 to the Pine Lake, Alberta tornado in 2000 are listed, and the details of half of them are related. Here are stories of shipwrecks, explosions, fires, storms, and accidents – many of them occurring in Ontario – that are both frightening and fascinating.

Fur Trade Correspondent

This Blessed Wilderness: Archibald McDonald's Letters from the Columbia, 1822-1844. Edited by Jean Murray Cole. University of British Columbia Press. Illustrations. \$75.00 hardbound; \$24.95 softbound.

Shortly after its merger with the North West Company, the HBC sent McDonald to carry on its work west of the mountains – these letters to family and friends (including Edward Ermatinger in St. Thomas) tell of his life and his leisure. McDonald may have been geographically isolated, but his letters reveal how connected he was with the larger world, including the politics of Upper Canada. This work is of special interest to OHS members because its editor/author is an OHS Board Member.

Influential Educator

Margaret Addison: A Biography. Jean O'Grady. McGill-Queen's University Press. \$49.95 hardbound.

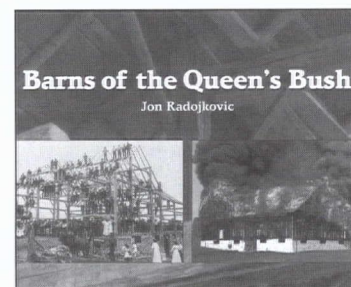
The biography of a Canadian forerunner, the dean of women at Toronto's Victoria University for almost thirty years. Margaret Addison was the first woman to hold a major post in higher education. She was a woman who clung to her convictions: women are uniquely different from men, education must improve morality, and Christianity provides the essential context for life. No

modern feminist, but nonetheless a proud pioneer whose life and influence are well worth reading.

Eat Hearty – Learn History

Amherstburgers and other Culinary Delights: Recipes and Historical Tidbits. Edited by Jennifer MacLeod. A fundraiser for Amherstburg Museums & Galleries. Marsh Collection Society. 143 pages. Illustrations. \$15.00 softbound.

These may be modern recipes (126 of them), but each is named for a person, place or thing in Amherstburg's past – "First Hussars Hungry Boys' Casserole," "Ramsay Street Rice Salad," or "Lime-Kiln Crossing Lemon Refrigerator Cake," to name a few! Brief "tidbits" (the editor calls them) provide the historical references.



Barns Beautiful

Barns of the Queen's Bush. Jon Radojkovic. Bruce Dale Press. 143 pages. Illustrations. \$35.00 softbound.

The author moved to Grey County, with his wife cleared land, cut logs, built a house and barn (without hydro – but with a chain saw) and in the process came to love the structure and beauty of wooden barns. His work is a study of 25 buildings (23 barns, 2 mills) in Grey and Bruce counties, each pictured and described. The reader is given an education in types of

wood, tools of the trade, and terms used in barn construction. Archival and modern photographs, and drawings by Mary Tripp MacCarl combine to create a work any lover of the Ontario countryside will treasure.

At Death's Door

Fit to Be Tied: Ontario's Murderous Past. Terry Boyle. Polar Bear Press. 192 pages. Illustrations. \$19.95 softbound.

Crime, it seems, is an ever-compelling topic – witness the appeal of murder mystery books and TV police dramas! Popular historian Terry Boyle claims he is shocked to realize the fascination people have for crime. Nevertheless, for this book he has culled from contemporary (and often lurid) newspaper reports "true but unbelievable stories about murders and hangings." These are lively and detailed accounts of a somewhat gruesome subject. For all our concern about today's crime rate, Boyle assures us that the crimes of the past were just as heinous as those committed today, and the "speedy justice" meted out then was even more likely to be unjust.

Ships Ahoy!

Warships of the Great Lakes 1754-1834. Robert Malcomson. Naval Institute Press (Canadian distributor: Vanwell Publishing). Illustrations. \$69.95 cloth.

This is an almost encyclopedic volume of descriptions, plans, pictures and accounts of the fresh water navies – British, French and American – that did battle on the Great Lakes. Military historians especially will find it an admirable piece of work!

History Noted

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

Titles in Military History 2001 – one of many catalogues published by the Edwin Mellen Press.

Index to the Upper Canada Land Books, Volume 3, January 1806 to December 1816. Ontario Genealogical Society. \$38.00. Until this publication, no printed surname index existed. Of especial interest is the "Introduction to the Land-Granting Process in Canada," by Patricia Kennedy of the National Archives.

Directory of Publishers

Bruce Dale Press, Box 2259, Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0.

Canadian Scholars' Press, 180 Bloor Street West, #1202, Toronto, ON M5S 2V6.

Edwin Mellen Press, Box 67, Queenston, ON L0S 1L0.

James Lorimer & Company, Formac Distributing, 5502 Atlantic Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1G4.

Lundy's Lane Historical Society, 5810 Ferry Street, Niagara Falls, ON L2G 1S9.

Lynx Images, Box 5961, Station A, Toronto, ON M5W 1P4

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

McGill-Queen's University Press, 3430 McTavish Street, Montreal,

Quebec H3A 1X9. www.mqup.ca.

Norman Enterprises, 56 Highland Ave., St. Catharines, ON L2R 4J1

Ontario Genealogical Society, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 102, Toronto, ON M4R 1B9.

Polar Bear Press, 35 Prince Andrew Place, Toronto, ON M3C 2H2.

University of British Columbia Press, 6344 Memorial Road, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z2.

University of Toronto Press, 10 St. Mary St., Suite 700, Toronto, ON M4Y 2W8.

Vanwell Publishing Limited, 1 Northrup Crescent, Box 2131, Station B, St. Catharines, ON L2M 6P5.

Does Ontario Need a Cemetery Preservation Society?

Dorothy Duncan

Members and supporters of The Ontario Historical Society will be surprised that I would suggest that Ontario needs another historical or heritage organization. The Province of Ontario, since the nineteenth century, has been blessed with concerned citizens who have come together with common causes, formed organizations, become incorporated as non-profit corporations so they have a legal identity and have identified, researched, preserved and promoted a multitude of heritage resources, both tangible and intangible.

In the early 20th century, the OHS first became concerned about the protection and preservation of the burial sites and pioneer cemeteries in the province when it became apparent that many of them had fallen into a dilapidated state. The Society first urged its many local member societies to pressure local authorities and arouse public interest and concern about their care. When efforts for local reform failed, the OHS lobbied Queen's Park for legislation to protect cemeteries and finally, in 1927, a Cemetery Act was introduced. That first Act needed strengthening and again, after persistent lobbying by the OHS, the Act was improved and by 1932 action had been taken in over half of the counties in Ontario to preserve its pioneer graveyards.

In the intervening years the OHS, through its Honours and Awards programme, has continued to recognize and support those individuals and organizations working both locally and provincially, to record, preserve and protect both burial sites and cemeteries. In addition, the OHS has offered a series of workshops in both northern and southern Ontario entitled "The Heritage of Ontario Cemeteries" bringing experts such as Harvey Medland, author of *Tombstone Tales from Ontario Cemeteries* and OHS Cemetery News Editor Marjorie Stuart to assist and support local participants who are interested in preserving this unique aspect of Ontario's history. The Society has published and

distributed materials to assist concerned citizens in their efforts to preserve local sites, and continues to offer "Cemetery News" in every issue of the *OHS Bulletin* that reaches thousands of readers across Ontario. The OHS and the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) that has devoted years of volunteer time to the recording of all the known burial places in Ontario, have collaborated on many projects.

In 1989 when the Province of Ontario introduced a new Cemeteries Act the OHS made a presentation to the Province's Legislative Committee in an attempt to ensure that the new Act would better preserve and protect the over 5,000 known burial places and cemeteries. Our efforts were in vain, for it is obvious that this new Act is seriously flawed.

Our members are well aware of the OHS and OGS appeal in 1995 to the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal to protest the closing and moving of the tiny pioneer Clendennen Cemetery in the Town of Markham. In 1999 when the landmark decision was made and we learned that we had won, we assumed this would send a strong message to all those interested in selling cemeteries for development projects.

Not so, as land values rise in Ontario these sacred places are particularly vulnerable. Our ancestors, and ourselves have chosen and continue to choose beautiful, central locations for the final resting places of our loved ones. The pressures are constant - every day the question is raised somewhere in Ontario - the possibility of closing and moving a cemetery.

The OHS has attempted to meet this ongoing challenge, all too often cancelling other projects and programmes because the need is always urgent. How long can the OHS continue to do this without jeopardizing all the other work that the membership and the people of Ontario want the Society to accomplish?

I think that it is time to consider the question "Does Ontario Need a Cemetery Preservation Society?"

Heritage Day! Heritage Week! Are You Ready?

The celebration of Heritage Day, Heritage Week and the month long commemoration of Black History Month in February often catches the heritage community by surprise.

There are so many holidays and holy days to celebrate as the old year ends and the new one begins, that February arrives with a flourish, and sometimes with only vaguely formulated plans.

Don't be caught unawares in 2002 - start planning now for Heritage Day on February 18th and Heritage Week 16th to 24th. The celebration of the contributions made by Black Canadians to our history is a month long commemoration.

New Life For Jolly Miller?

The Jolly Miller, a well - known historic inn near the corner of Yonge Street and York Mills Road in Willowdale is slated for a \$1.7 million renovation and restoration by the Pegasus Group. Toronto Councillor Joanne Flint reports that it will be transformed into a restaurant, banquet and meeting facility and a British - style pub.

Discussions are also underway to explore the possibility that the Jolly Miller

may become the home of the North York Historical Society.

The Jolly Miller is one of the few surviving inns that served the travelling public in the 19th century. Surveyors, soldiers, settlers, farmers and entrepreneurs would have patronized this establishment, looking for lodging, meals and spirits as they made their way into the farmland in the north or to the fast growing capitol in the south (Toronto).

Send Us Your Stories

Do you have an upcoming event that you would like to advertise? Have you had a successful event that you would like Ontario to know about? Do you have an interesting story to tell from Ontario's past? The *OHS Bulletin* is always looking for submissions from members. If you have something that you would like to submit to an upcoming issue of the *Bulletin* send us a copy. Please include a hard copy and an electronic copy in Microsoft Word.

The copy deadlines for the upcoming issues are: February 2002 issue, January 4, 2002; May 2002 issue, April 12, 2002; July 2002 issue, June 28, 2002; September 2002 issue, August 23, 2002; December 2002 issue, November 8, 2002. Send your submissions to Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2. The *OHS Bulletin* reserves to right to edit all submissions for length and content.



The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recently designated the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church as a site of national significance. The Church is the last remnants of a community of African Canadian United Empire Loyalists. (Dorothy Duncan)

Congratulations

In 2000, the Waterloo Historical Society established two annual awards of \$500 each for outstanding research papers relating to the history of Waterloo Region. Recipients of these awards must be in 3rd or

4th year of History at the University of Waterloo (UW) and Wilfred Laurier University (WLU). The first recipient at UW was Crystal Luxmore; no award was given at WLU. Congratulations Crystal!

ISSN 0714-6736

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 2002; February, May, July, September and December.

Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: Reprinted from the *OHS Bulletin*, (issue and date), published by The Ontario Historical Society. All photo credits and bylines must be retained. The views expressed by the contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the OHS.

The OHS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Recreation.

The several classes of membership in the Society are: Individual/Institution/Organization \$20.00; Family \$25.00; Sustaining \$50.00; Life \$300.00; Benefactor \$1000.00. Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the Society.

The Society's biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, Gabriele Scardellato, editor, 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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Cemetery News Editor: Marjorie Stuart
From the Bookshelf Editors: Pat and Chris Raible
Printer: Versatel Corporate Services

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