

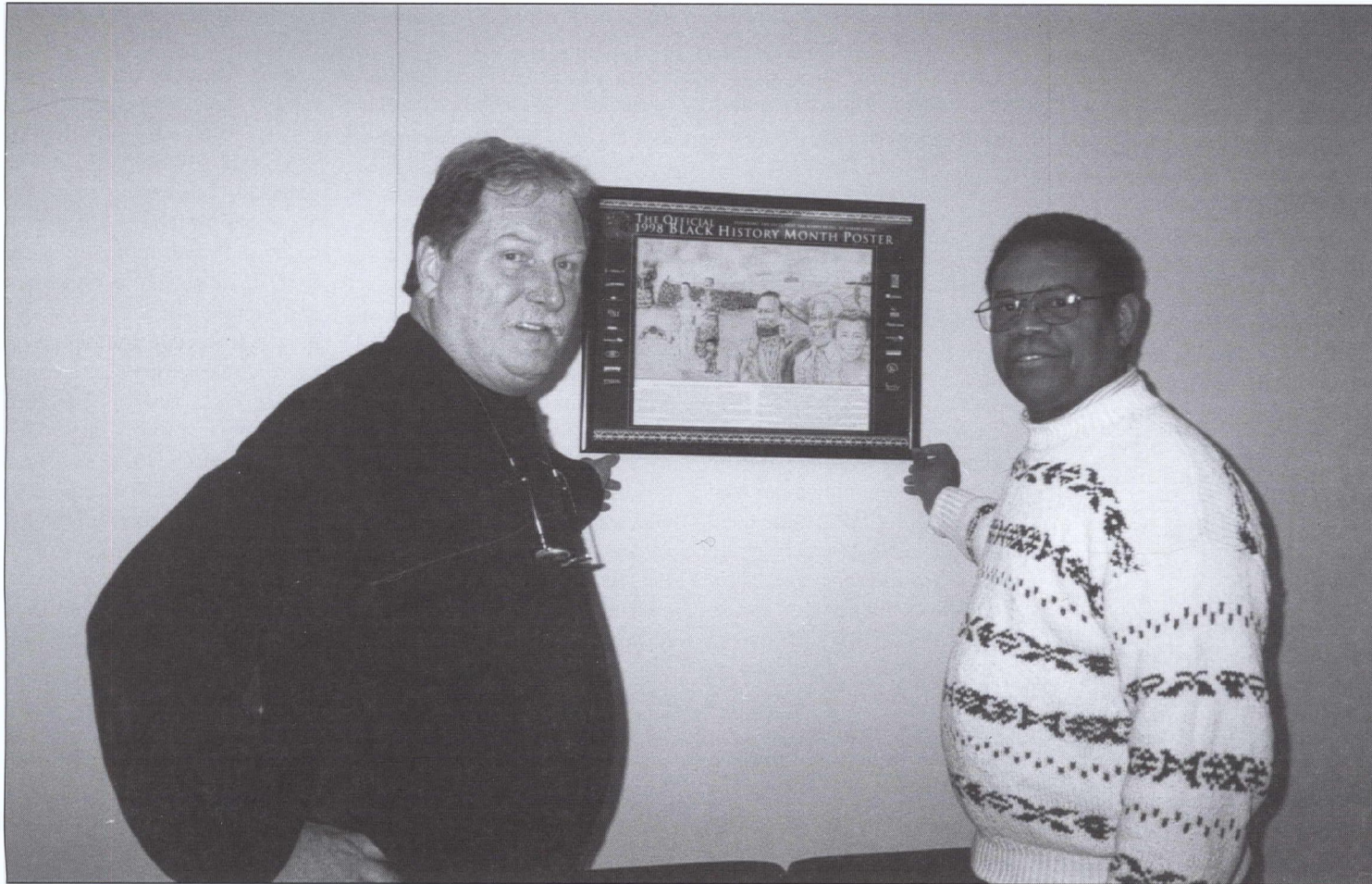


# OHS BULLETIN

34 PARKVIEW AVENUE, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2N 3Y2

ISSUE 134 • MAY 2002

## The OHS Goes to Jail



Warden Peter White and Chaplain Rev. Franklin Andrews of Correctional Services Canada were two of the participants in the OHS professional development workshop for the staff of the Warkworth Institution near Campbellford. OHS Programme Coordinator Rob Leverty gave a presentation on Black history in Ontario. (Rob Leverty)

## DOORS OPEN TORONTO Returns!

DOORS OPEN TORONTO on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> will again give thousands of residents and visitors an opportunity to view the interiors of scores of buildings usually closed to the public in the City of Toronto.

The Ontario Historical Society will be opening the John McKenzie House to the public on both Saturday and Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A sale of new, old, historic and modern books in the Women's Canadian Historical Society Coach House will be in progress both days. Mark your calendar now! For further information: (416) 338-3888 or [www.doorsopen.org](http://www.doorsopen.org).

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## Popularizing Canadian History

Lydia Ross Alexander

On the weekend of February 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Executive Director Pat Neal and First Vice-President Lydia Ross Alexander represented The Ontario Historical Society at the second PATHS conference, sponsored by Canada's National Historical Society (CNHS). Representatives from the provincial and territorial historical societies assembled in Quebec City to establish and maintain a loyal national network of people working to popularize Canadian history at the grassroots level.

Delegates participated in several concentrated sessions including *Strategic Planning* for non-profit organizations, Joseph E. Martin, President, CNHS; *History in Education* with Jacques Lacoursière; and *Everything you ever wanted to know about an historical organization but were afraid to ask!* facilitated by Dorothy Duncan. Two additional sessions were devoted to panel discussions. The first panel discussed publications and efforts to broaden their respective readerships, the pros and cons of theme issues and advertising. At the second panel session, representatives presented their

respective experiences with the CNHS grants programme. As beneficial as the sessions were, the opportunity to network and to share experiences with our counterparts across Canada was most enriching and exciting.

The CNHS was established in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to popularizing Canadian history through the publication of *The Beaver*; the Governor General's Award for excellence in teaching Canadian History; the Pierre Berton Award for distinguished achievement in popularizing Canadian history and the provincial historical society grant programme. For more information about the CNHS visit their website [www.historysociety.ca](http://www.historysociety.ca).

The 2002 PATHS conference was sponsored by HISTOR!CA, a new charitable foundation whose mandate is to provide Canadians with a deeper understanding of their history and its importance in shaping their future. A variety of programmes, in both official languages, brings history to life. With education as its core priority, HISTOR!CA divides its efforts between classroom and educational initiatives and projects involving television and new media. Of particular interest to OHS members is HISTOR!CA's grants programme providing financial support for projects with a history or heritage focus. For information contact Historica Foundation of Canada: 1-800-567-1867, or [www.histori.ca](http://www.histori.ca).

## Wrap Yourself In Tradition

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, staff from the Heritage Services department at Hudson's Bay Company will conduct a one-day workshop at the John McKenzie House, teaching the traditional craft of making Metis capotes (voyageur coats). The workshop begins with a brief history of HBC point blankets. A textile-and-sewing specialist works with each person to determine how his/her capote will be designed (with fringe, without fringe, length, buttons, details, etc.).

The \$200 cost of the workshop includes:

- 1 HBC point blanket
- 1 Sewing kit per person (includes pattern, thread, needles, and pins)
- Instruction by textile and sewing specialist

*See Capote on page 4.*

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FRANK BARTOSZEK

At the Annual General Meeting in May, I will be passing the gavel on to the new President. Instead of looking back on the past year, I thought it would instead be interesting to look ahead to events and opportunities for our Society.

Our new Executive Director, Pat Neal, and her staff are working with the Board to schedule a range of events of interest to the heritage community. In May and June our series of lunch time lectures continues (see the article on page 1 for more details).

Our events continue with Heritage Toronto's Doors Open accompanied by The Ontario Historical Society's Book Sale on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> May and our ever-popular Canada Day Yard Sale on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Events for everyone! I urge you to attend and participate in as many of these events you are able.

This of course brings up the importance of participating in events by The Ontario Historical Society and by your local historical societies. The variety, frequency, and richness of offerings all depend on your active participation.

The effectiveness of any organization also depends on richness in membership. One area where we can all do a little better is attracting younger members to our organizations. Not only will this improve our demographics, but also, more importantly, by reaching out to younger members we will encourage a wider appreciation of our heritage.

May I suggest all historical societies in Ontario consider new ways to encourage wider participation in their organizations? Perhaps your group could encourage student

projects or presentations as part of your regular meetings. Science fairs at schools have a large following – is there a possibility of a history fair in your community?

The strength and vitality of our heritage organizations depend on continuity and enthusiasm. What a marvellous way to provide both by broadening our demographics. We can all learn from each other.

To conclude this message, I do want to thank two board members who have provided me with help, support and encouragement. Dr. Bryan Walls, O. Ont., Past President, always a gentleman, has provided calm wisdom on many occasions. I have always been able to count on Lydia Ross Alexander for enthusiasm, helpfulness, cheerfulness, and hard work in performing the many duties required of her. Lydia chaired the Search Committee that was responsible for finding our new Executive Director. We all owe her much gratitude for taking on this significant task for the Society. I would also like to thank Jeanne Hughes for her help while we were both board members. Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dorothy Duncan for her phenomenal efforts in promoting the heritage of this Province.

To the membership of The Ontario Historical society, I wish you all the best for continued success of your Society, and I look forward to working with the new President to further promote appreciation of Ontario's heritage.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PATRICIA K. NEAL  
PKN@ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA

Welcome! I have heard this cordial greeting so many times over the past three months. I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our members and the number of invitations to visit that have come from our member societies across the province. Thank you all for your kind words of support; I look forward to getting out and meeting as many of our members and affiliates as possible in the coming months.

In January, I participated in a provincial workshop on volunteerism hosted by the Ministry of Citizenship. Eighty organizations from across the province, representing more than 3.5 million volunteers, attended to discuss trends in volunteering, share information on programmes and to identify future opportunities for collaboration. Future workshops will focus on the growth and development of volunteerism in Ontario.

The Ontario government has developed a new tool for municipalities to provide tax relief to owners of designated heritage property. The Heritage Property Tax Relief Program will assist eligible property owners in maintaining and restoring their historical buildings by providing

tax reductions of up to 40%. It was my pleasure to take part in this exciting announcement in February with The Honourable Jim Flaherty, then Deputy Premier of Ontario and Minister of Finance, and The Honourable Tim Hudak, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation. The event was appropriately held at Michael and Jane Wilson's restored Regency cottage in Beamsville.

The second Provincial and Territorial Historical Societies (PATHS) conference was held in Quebec City in late February. Delegates participated in sessions on fundraising, publications, history in education, and walking tours. Lydia Alexander, First Vice President, and I attended, courtesy of Canada's National History Society. It was a great opportunity to meet representatives from historical societies across Canada and share best practices. A resolution concerning access to historical census data passed unanimously.

Early March saw the installation of James K. Bartleman as the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. It was an honour to attend this event on behalf of the Society.

The appeal by The Ontario Historical Society concerning the partial closure of St. Alban's Cemetery in Palgrave commenced on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As we prepare for the hearing, I would encourage those of you concerned with the preservation of Ontario's cemeteries to consider donating to our cemetery defence fund. It is easier than ever to contribute to the OHS; donations, book orders, and membership renewals can now be charged to your Visa card.

Our Tuesday lunch hour lecture series was well received with many first-time visitors to the John McKenzie House attending. Many thanks to Board member Penny Potter, who prepared the lunches every week, and to Barbara Kane, her able assistant. The programme will continue May 21<sup>st</sup> for an additional four weeks at the reduced rate of \$5 (\$7 non-members) as lunch will no longer be included. Attendees are encouraged to bring their lunch. Coffee, tea and juice will continue to be provided. Check the event listings in the Bulletin or visit our website at [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca) for more information.

## Welcome new members

*Aurora:* David Falconer  
*Dearborn, Michigan:* Theresa Kotyk  
*Dorset:* Dorset Heritage Museum  
*Guelph:* Andrew Thomson  
*Hong Kong:* Ken Nicholson  
*Markham:* James and Georgina Curtis

*Mississauga:* Friends of the Old Britannia Schoolhouse  
*Orleans:* Brenda Greenway-Serne  
*Peterborough:* Rosemary McConkey, Mary Heaman  
*Pickering:* Carol King  
*Pictou:* Archives and Collection Society

*Port Hope:* Heather MacKinnon  
*Stirling:* Stirling-Rawdon Historical Society  
*Thornhill:* Lynne Currie and Rick Verwey, Charles Cooper  
*Toronto:* Robert Johnston, Linda and Patrick McCaffery, Marjorie Demeter

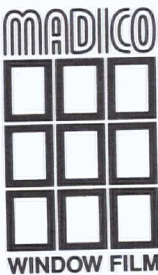
## Ontario Historical Society Scenes

Members of the OHS and their friends are invited to join us in a one-day excursion in September to the Peterborough area. We will travel by luxury coach from Toronto, with an additional pickup in the Port Hope area. Site visits will include The Canadian Canoe Museum

and Hutchison House in Peterborough, and after lunch visits to the Petroglyphs Provincial Park and the Whetung Ojibway Centre at Curve Lake. We will enjoy "behind the scenes" glimpses from our hosts. Watch for detailed information in the July OHS Bulletin.



Generous donations to the OHS! William Gray, author of *The Starch Works – A History of the St. Lawrence Starch Company*, and his brother Ian Gray, President, *St. Lawrence Starch Co. Ltd.*, with a beautiful oak bookcase, just one of the many items of furniture and equipment that they generously donated to the OHS. (Rob Leverty)



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## ACROSS THE PROVINCE

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Tiessen of Waterloo for being selected as the **2002 Edna Staebler Research Fellow**. Dr. Tiessen was selected for his research project entitled *Gordon Christian Eby's poetics of life and language: Mapping the modern world, from pre-war Berlin to post-war Kitchener (1911-1919)*. This Fellowship was established by Edna Staebler and the **Friends of Joseph Schnider Haus** in 1995 to "increase the knowledge and expand understanding of the cultures of the folk and founding people of Waterloo County/Region." For more information contact Katherine McCracken (519) 742-7752.

If anyone is interested in over 500 carbon copies of correspondence by N. Clarke Wallace, M.P. for Woodbridge during the mid 1890s, contact Dr. Douglas Pollard (705) 679-8375 or bookshop@nt.net

The **Sparrow Lake Historical Society (SLHS)** would like to invite OHS members to visit their website at [www.sparrowlake.ca](http://www.sparrowlake.ca). By clicking on the SLHS icon, you

can relive the history of the resorts on Sparrow Lake in the 1900s through text and pictures. Also included are the stories of the power dams, Ragged Rapids and Swift Rapids on the lower Severn River, along with personal notes of those who lived there. This website is open-ended and will continue to grow with articles and pictures as time goes by, so be sure to visit it often.

**Montgomery's Inn Museum**, Etobicoke, is looking for volunteers. If you can help out two afternoons per month call Randall Reid (416) 394-6025.

Work has begun on the **Juno Beach Centre** in the Town of Corseulles-sur-Mer, France. The Juno Beach Centre is an educational centre and museum dedicated to preserving and commemorating the military and civic contributions Canadians made during World War II. Juno Beach is the beach that Canadian troops stormed as part of the D-Day assault to liberate Europe. A public and corporate fundraising campaign, begun by veterans five years ago, has raised more than \$4.6 million

of the \$6.1 million needed. To contribute to the Juno Beach Centre call 1-877-828-JUNO or visit their website [www.junobeach.org](http://www.junobeach.org).

After 22 years of lobbying by William LeSurr, the **C.N.R. Scherzer Rolling Lift Bascule Railway Bridge** in Smiths Falls will receive a Parks Canada plaque. The bridge was designated by the National Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada 19 years ago.

The **Mississauga Heritage Foundation** received a \$170,000 Trillium Foundation Grant to increase and diversify the MHF membership and volunteers and to reach out to school groups. As well as providing for the hiring of a Communications Officer, the grant has provisions for a new laptop computer and a new exhibition display panel.

Happy Birthday! The **Uxbridge-Scott Museum** will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 27<sup>th</sup>. (905) 852-5854

The **Niagara Mailing List** is an Internet site devoted to

genealogy and history in Niagara. You can post short messages, place or answer a query or read current news. To subscribe, simply email the list, [NIAGARA-ONT-L-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:NIAGARA-ONT-L-request@rootsweb.com), and in the body of your message simply write "subscribe." You will then be notified of your membership.

Montreal writer Julie Gedeon is writing a book called *Iron Ladies - The Role of Women in Canadian Railways* and she is eager to interview women who worked for any of Canada's railways, or wives who helped maintain a station or section of track with their husbands. Julie can be reached at [eloquence@attcanada.ca](mailto:eloquence@attcanada.ca) or (519) 626-0952.

The **Guelph Arts Council** walking tours of Guelph's historic core area are scheduled for select Sundays until October. The titles for this season include: Where Guelph Began; Downtown Walkabout; The Slopes of the Speed; Altar and Hearth in Victorian Guelph; and Brooklyn and the College Hill. For more information: (519) 836-3280 or [gac@sentex.net](mailto:gac@sentex.net).

Sudbury City Council has approved a plan that will restore the historic **Flour Mills Silos** into a recreation centre. Renamed Flour Mill Active Learning Centre de vie active du Moulin Fleur, two of the silos will house a rock climbing academy and gym, while the other silos could house Le Centre franco-ontarien de folklore.

According to the legend of the Burlington Races, during the War of 1812 a British naval squadron miraculously escaped defeat by a superior American force and hid in Burlington Bay. Recently Robert Williamson, Vice-President of the **Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society** and retired Naval Commander, discovered the long lost log book from the British flagship. Using the log book and his years of naval knowledge he has managed to reconstruct the events of that day in 1812 and has discovered that the battle did not conclude as previously thought. If you would like Robert Williamson to talk to your Historical Society and tell you how he unravelled this mystery he can be reached at [cdrbob@worldchat.com](mailto:cdrbob@worldchat.com).

## Heritage 2002 at Michipicoten

Howard Whent

Michipicoten, "land of the big bluffs" (from the native Ojibwa), has appeared on maps of the Lake Superior region for almost four centuries, making it one of the oldest place names in the province. The Township of Michipicoten, the municipal name chosen for the town of Wawa, is located 220 km north of Sault Ste. Marie.

2002 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Township of Michipicoten. The Michipicoten Museum Society and The Michipicoten Heritage Committee, with the support of the Township of Michipicoten, is planning an unprecedented heritage display from July to September at the community centre.

One of the display highlights will be a classic 1950 Rolls Royce Silver Dawn, a car with a distinguished history, loaned by the Canada Science & Technology Museum in Ottawa. Originally owned by Sir James

Dunn, Lady Dunn retained ownership until she sold it to John Basset Sr., the founder of Baton Broadcasting. The last owner, Frederick Eaton, used it as one of his official cars while Canadian High Commissioner to London prior to donating it to the Canada Science and Technology Museum.

The Michipicoten (Wawa) area is truly one of the undiscovered heritage jewels in the province of Ontario. Visitors will be pleased to see the "signs of history" located around the town of Wawa, including the Mackenzie/Bethune Cemetery. Dating from the 1700s, it contains the grave of Louisa Mackenzie (Bethune), great grandmother of Dr. Norman Bethune. This and many other 'treats' await the visitor.

Further information on Heritage 2002 can be obtained by phoning toll free 1-800-367-9292 or by viewing the Wawa website [www.wawa.cc](http://www.wawa.cc). Information will be updated as it becomes available.



Dr. Geery, Warden of Simcoe County, and Doug Hamilton, President of the Simcoe County Historical Association, welcome everyone attending the fundraising workshop at the Simcoe County Museum in Minesing. Rob Leverty of the OHS gave a presentation at the workshop, which was held on Heritage Day. (Rob Leverty)



Rob Leverty of the OHS giving a workshop on innovative methods for teaching history to teacher education students at York University's Faculty of Education. (Harry Smaller)



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 16: The Avro Arrow Story** with Claude Sherwood. Presented by the Brampton Historical Society. Info: bramhis@rogers.com

**May 16: The Spirit of My Quilts – A First Nation Perspective and Sensational Silks.** The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum will open the 2002 Season with two diverse and impressive exhibits: quilter Alice Olsen Williams and silk painter Doreen Hardiman. Ms. Williams will have nearly 50 quilts that will amaze and delight and the colours of Ms. Hardiman’s paintings will dazzle. While here, visit Historic Almonte and make a day of it! For more information call (613) 256-3754.

**May 20: Wilderness Journey: Reliving the Adventures of Canada’s Voyageurs.** Ian and Salley Wilson are a husband-and-wife team that set out to recreate all aspects of voyageur lifestyle using only materials and building methods available in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. They will be regaling the Richmond Hill Historical Society with some of their adventures. Info: (905) 884-7685.

**May 20:** The Elman W. Campbell Museum marks International Museums Day with an **Open House** from 1 to 4 p.m. Visitors can tour the storage area and view a display of royal memorabilia to commemorate the Golden Jubilee. (905) 953-5314.

**May 24:** The Bronte Historical Society is sponsoring a **Wine and Jazz Evening Fundraiser**. Call (905) 825-5552 for more information.

**May 24-26: The 8th Annual Community Heritage Ontario Provincial Conference** will be held in Peterborough. Speakers will present innovative approaches to “Smart Growth.” For more information call Mary Stephens (519) 439-3373 or visit the CHO website www.heritageontario.org.

**May 25:** The town of Lincoln’s Jorden Museum of the Twenty is proud to present its **Second Annual House Tour**. Participants will have the opportunity to tour various historic and contemporary houses in Beamsville and surrounding area. To purchase tickets call (905) 562-5242 or email jhmt@vaxxine.com.

**May 27:** The Scarborough Historical Society is holding a **Tour of Birchmount Firehall #1 Museum**. The tour will be conducted by Al Cousins, a retired Scarborough firefighter. Email: shs@interlog.com or phone (416) 282-2710.

**May 31-June 1: Underground Railroad Activities on the Maritime Great Lakes.** This conference, to be held at the Charles Wright Museum of African-American History in Detroit, Michigan, will cover historic activities associated with the Underground Railroad traversing the waters of the Great Lakes. For more information, contact Orloff Miller (513) 412-6913, orloff@nurfc.org or Diane Miller (415) 221-3749, diane\_miller@nps.gov.

**June 2:** Celebrate Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee with an **Afternoon Tea** at the Canadian Royal Heritage Museum in Neustadt. Call (416) 222-3668 or (416) 482-4909 for more information.

**June 2-7:** The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Geneological Society is holding its annual adult **Geneology Summer Camp**. Participants will experience an intensive week-long programme that includes visits to Toronto archives and libraries. For more information contact the Toronto Branch of the OGS: (416) 733-2608 or www.rootsweb.com/~ontbogs/torbranch.html.

**June 5: A Garden History Walk** is offered at the University of Guelph Arboretum. This is a very popular walk so you must pre-register, call (519) 824-4120 ext. 4110.

**June 15: The Annual Heritage House and Garden Tour** of nine properties is presented by the Brockville Museum. Tickets are \$15.00 and are available by advanced sale only. To order your tickets call (613) 342-4397.

**June 22: Murder Mystery at Fort George.** The Fort George Players present an evening of lies, half truths and the occasional clue. Fun for the amateur sleuth and historian alike. Further information available at (905) 468-6614 or ont\_niagara@pch.gc.ca.

**June 22:** The Manvers Township Historical Society is hosting a **Stawberry Social** at the Old Post Office. For more information call J. Perry Grandel (705) 277-1694.

**July 1: Canada Day Ceilidh and Beer Tasting** at Macpherson House in Napanee. Information: lahs1907@canada.com or (613) 354-5982.

**July 27-28: Township of Frontenac Islands – This is your life.** Admission is free for this art, history and music festival featuring over 100 paintings by Shirley Gibson-Langville, historic displays and walks, musical entertainment by Picket Fences, Andrew Ray, Old Time Fiddlers and Bill McDonald. At the Wolfe Island Community Hall. Info: (613) 549-8360.

Perennials, Northern Fires and Sabotage at the OHS

The increasingly popular **Lunch Hour Lecture Series** continues in the month of May. To help you get ready for gardening season the OHS is presenting Dennis Pollock, Head Gardener at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto on **May 21th**. In Talking to Perennials, Dennis will cover everything you wanted to know about perennials.

On **May 28th**, John Carter will present The Built Heritage of the Talbot Trail. This armchair tour will present various architectural types and a wide selection of buildings, all located on or near the early settlement road established by Thomas Talbot.

Tombstone Tales comes to the OHS on **June 4th**. Author Harvey Medland will be telling the stories of Laura Secord and Billy Green and the Northern Ontario Fires, two stories that are not in his book *Tombstone Tales From Ontario Cemeteries*.

On **June 11th** Lynn-Philip Hodson will tell the story of what went on behind the fences of Camp X. During WWII over 500 secret agents were trained in the finer arts of killing, sabotage, resistance and partisan work, and demolition, at this secret camp near Whitby.

Tickets for these lectures are \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members. Participants are encouraged to bring their lunch.

In addition to the Lunch Hour Lecture Series the OHS is sponsoring a **Doll Appraisal Clinic** on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the John McKenzie house from 1 -3 p.m. As well as the verbal appraisals, Norah Stoner will be giving a presentation on dolls dating from 1750 to 1950. The event is free and appraisals cost \$5.00 per doll.

For more information about any of these events contact the OHS (416) 226-9011 or ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Capote  
Continued from page 1.

- Presentation about the history of HBC and the HBC point blanket
- Aboriginal stories and music
- Lunch

To reserve a place in this workshop your deposit of \$200 must be received by The Ontario Historical Society by August 1<sup>st</sup>. For further information, or to register, please contact The Ontario Historical Society, (416) 226-9011 or pkn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

JOIN THE OHS AT THESE EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	HOST/SPONSOR/ LOCATION
May 21	Talking to Perennials <i>-lunch hour lecture series-</i>	Dennis Pollack at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale
May 25-26	Doors Open <i>-open house tours and book sale-</i>	OHS at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale
May 28	The Built Heritage of the Talbot Trail <i>-lunch hour lecture series-</i>	John Carter at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale
May 30	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About a Heritage Organization But Were Afraid to Ask! <i>-workshop-</i>	OHS and Sunset Country Museums Network at Fort Frances Museum, Fort Frances
May 30	Museum Mix and Mingle	OHS at International Museums Association, Rainy Lake, U.S.A.
May 31	Bringing the Past Alive <i>-presentation-</i>	OHS and Fort Frances Little Theatre at Fort Frances Museum, Fort Frances
June 1	Celebrating Gardens <i>-workshop-</i>	OHS, Fort Frances Museum and Fort Frances Horticultural Society at Fort Frances Museum, Fort Frances
June 3	Strategic Planning <i>-consultation-</i>	OHS and Red Rock Historical Society, Red Rock
June 3	Doll Appraisal Clinic	Norah Stoner at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale
June 4	Tombstone Tales From Ontario Cemeteries <i>-lunch hour lecture series-</i>	Harvey Medland at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale
June 4	Site Visit	OHS at Thunder Bay Historical Society Museum, Thunder Bay
June 4	Camp X <i>-lunch hour lecture series-</i>	Lynn-Philip Hodson at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale
July 1	Canada Day Street Sale	OHS at John McKenzie House and our neighbours on Parkview Avenue
September 21	Capote-Making Workshop	Hudson’s Bay Company at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale



# CEMETERY NEWS

MARJORIE STUART

The Kingston Historical Society will hold a commemoration ceremony to honour Sir John A. Macdonald on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. This annual event takes place at **Cataract Cemetery**. Sir John A. Macdonald is buried in a fenced plot that is marked by a plaque and the Canadian flag. This year the keynote speaker will be Peter Truman whose topic will be "Sir John A. and The National Party". The public is invited to attend.

For those seeking information on cemeteries in the North Bay and surrounding area there is a new web site <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~murrayp>. Murray Pletsch, who has photographed headstones in cemeteries in North Bay, Calendar, Corbeil, Mattawa and Sturgeon Falls operates this site.

Desmond Gourley writing in *Timberline*, the newsletter of the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group, recounts his search for a "missing" headstone. He had a photograph of the stone and could identify its last known location. After much searching, a fellow genealogist and the cemetery caretaker located the stone lying below the surface near where it had always been. It is a warning to us that cemetery markers disappear in a very short time if they have fallen or have been laid flat.

Congratulations are due to Mary MacKay who has published the first in a series of books about pioneer immigrants from Colonsay, Scotland. *Lauchlan's Legacy* tells the story of the Lauchlan McNeil family who settled in Arran Township and the Paisley area. Mary is donating all proceeds to the **Rusk's Cemetery Restoration Fund**. *Lauchlan's Legacy* costs \$12 plus \$2 postage. All cheques should be made payable to The Municipality of Arran-Elderslie and sent to Mary

MacKay, RR 2, Dobbinton, ON NOH 1LO.

On April 13, Rob Levery and I presented a cemetery workshop in co-operation with the Voyageur Heritage Network and the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum. The topics included the Value of Cemeteries to the Family Historian as an historical resource, understanding tombstone inscriptions, locating your ancestry and organizing cemetery walking tours. Part of the presentation included the *Cemeteries Act* – the public interest and how moving a cemetery could affect you and your family. Representatives attended the workshop from local cemetery boards and over 25 heritage groups from Northern Ontario.

The Trustees of **Richview Cemetery** expect restoration work to commence this spring. The cemetery received a grant from the Provincial Heritage Challenge Fund and has had to find the matching funds. Randall Reid, the Project Co-ordinator, tells us that the project is 75% funded. This cemetery is located in the middle of the 401/427 intersection in Etobicoke.

**Glenwood Cemetery** in Picton has an historic chapel built in 1873. This stone building has fine stained glass windows including one that is believed to be Tiffany glass. The cemetery is seeking \$40,000 to restore the chapel. Cheques should be made payable to Glenwood Cemetery and mailed to Doris Seeley, Box 335, Picton, ON K0K 2T0.

The Essex County Historical Cemetery Preservation Society will repair damaged headstones in return for donations. Money received will be used to assist in their ongoing work in local cemeteries. Contact Ken Turner at 519-733-8123.

Pat Moxley will address the Essex County Branch,

Ontario Genealogical Society on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm at the Windsor Public Library, 850 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor. Her topic will be "Replicating records of destroyed cemeteries of Essex County with special emphasis on Black Heritage."

Mary Munnoch has recently published a book describing the cemeteries of Adjala-Tosoronto Townships. Included in the book is deed information, histories of the churches and a transcription of the information on the headstones in ten cemeteries. This book may be purchased for \$25 from the Adjala-Simcoe Municipal Office on Simcoe County Road 50.

Concern continues over a proposed development at Georgian Bluffs on the shoreline north of Owen Sound. It is the burial site of Naaneebweque, the "Indian Princess" who married William Sutton, an English missionary. In 1857, the Suttons lost their land when the British government disallowed land ownership by First Nations. Catherine Sutton went to

England in 1860 to protest to Queen Victoria. Naaneebweque's great-great-great-great-granddaughter Susan Schank is concerned that her ancestors' burial site is threatened, as well as many Ojibwa sites of great historical importance.

The Ontario Realty Corporation is disposing of public land at Reesor Road and Steeles Avenue in Markham. This is one of the major archaeological sites in the Rouge Valley known as the Milroy Site. The plan is to privatize the site and the Toronto Catholic Cemetery Board would be the owners of the property. Archaeologists have studied this site since the 1950s and the findings of several studies have been documented. Many have expressed concern that there will be a double standard in the disposition of public land that is known to contain First Nations burial mounds that will be displaced in order to bury those who are not members of the First Nations.

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. On October 1, 2001, there was a prehearing to establish the parties to the hearing. All interested parties were given a further extension of 15 days in which to file notice. The Anglican Church of the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto and Mr. Gordon Barr, the owner of the property, only filed their notice on December 10, 2001. This forced another hearing before the Licence Appeal Tribunal in March. Consequently, the Anglican Church and Mr. Gordon Barr were added as party respondents, with the Ministry of the Attorney General, against the appeal of the OHS. The addition of the Anglican Church and Mr. Barr will add significantly to the length and costs of these hearings. For example, there was an extra prehearing on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002. The estimate of five days set aside for presentation of arguments that was established in October has already been exceeded.



On February 28<sup>th</sup> these families and parents were honoured for their contributions to Black History Month at a ceremony held at the Heritage Community Church in Collingwood. Rob Levery of the OHS was the guest speaker for the Family Recognition Evening organized by the C.S. Wilson Centre and the Sheffield Park Black History & Cultural Museum. (Kathryn McLean)

## 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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## Thirty Year Tombstone Mystery Solved

After more than thirty years, Albert Lypps finally got his tombstone back. On Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup>, a ceremony at the Christ Church Colchester cemetery restored the nineteenth century child's monument to its rightful place.

Sometime in the mid 1970s, a tombstone was dropped off at the John R. Park Homestead & Conservation Area. The stone reads "Albert, son of Henry and Catharine Lypps, died March 21, 1833 aged 5 years, 5 months and 21 days." The staff of the newly

opened museum did not know what to do with it, so Albert's marker was safely stored away.

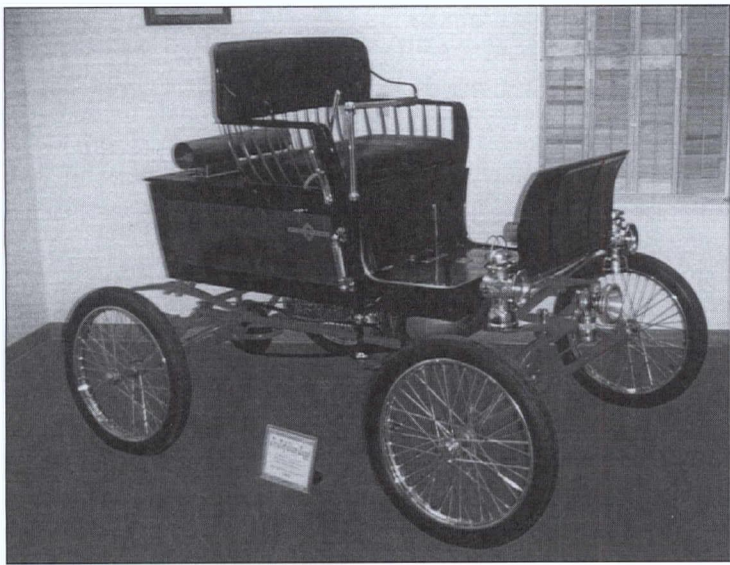
Recently, Ken Turner, president of the Essex County Historical Cemeteries Preservation Society located Albert's grave. While doing research at the HEIRS (Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society) library, Turner found a detailed listing of all the burials in the Christ Church cemetery. There was Albert, right next to other members of the Lypps family. Since the list was

compiled during the 1970s, it seems that Albert's stone was removed relatively recently, perhaps as a prank.

Representatives of the cemetery, Lypps family, Cemetery Preservation Society and Homestead gathered for a short ceremony on March 21<sup>st</sup>, the 169<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Albert's death, where the newly restored monument was unveiled. Homestead Curator Janet Cobban said, "It's wonderful to see Albert's stone returned. We must respect the dead and their resting places."



# MUSEUM NEWS



On September 8, 2001, a specialized vehicle transport containing the 1901 Neff Steam Buggy crossed the border into Canada, bringing the little automobile back home from the United States 100 years to the very day that newspapers first chronicled its debut on the roads of the village of Humberstone (now part of Port Colborne).

## Canada's Century Car Returns Home

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is now the proud owner of the 1901 Neff Steam Buggy. Its American owner, Loren Holmwood of Washington, D.C., had willed the vehicle to the Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum, several blocks from where it was originally built, instead of the Smithsonian Institute, if certain conditions were met. His death in a traffic accident initiated the chain of events leading to the vehicle's repatriation.

The Neff Steam Buggy, believed to be the oldest surviving Ontario manufactured car and probably the second oldest surviving Canadian made car, was built by Benton Neff of

Humberstone at the Neff Foundry and Machine Shops in Humberstone. Recent research has discovered a three-generation Neff family enterprise there spanning the period from 1831 to 1909. Probably no other early Canadian company has ever matched its broad range of transportation products including wagons and buggies, high wheel bicycles, skates, steamboats, safety bicycles, and automobiles.

The Neff Steam Buggy was rescued from a local wrecking yard by a visiting Californian, Nelson Holmwood, in 1953. After 17 years of restoration, the 'Little Steam Buggy That Could' made a 10,000 mile trip in 1970, winning first place trophies all across

North America before retiring to the country estate of Nelson's son Loren Holmwood in Stanardsville, Virginia. Loren Holmwood, over the years, had developed an appreciation for Benton Neff and his Humberstone surroundings and, sensing the benefits of historical closure, enabled the vehicle to return home.

A seventy-page documentary entitled *The Neff: Benton Neff and His 1901 Steam Buggy* has been published by the Museum where the Steam Buggy is now on display. The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is located at 280 King St. (905) 834-7604, pcmchin@niagara.com.

## Fort York in the 21st Century – Re-Birth or Re-Burial?

Cathy Nasmith

This article was originally published in CHO News.

Fort York is a National Historic Site, a War of 1812 battleground and burial ground, and the birthplace of the City of Toronto. Because of recent press coverage, many readers will be aware that the Ontario Municipal Board has decided that 28 and 36 storey condominium towers next to Fort York meet the tests of good planning in Ontario. This decision has a lot of heads shaking, and has added to a groundswell of opinion calling for reform, even abolition, of the OMB.

Immediately following the announcement of the OMB decision on the matter, Jack Layton, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and a Toronto City Councillor, called for abolition of the OMB. "Even councils and their planners are browbeaten into accepting plans they would otherwise reject because of the threat that the OMB would override their decision." In this statement, Layton succinctly states why it was ultimately impossible for Toronto City Council to protect Fort York from inappropriate development. Once an appeal body looked to for fair decision making, in recent years OMB decisions have

overwhelmingly favoured the developer.

At the beginning of 2001, the Friends of Fort York had every reason for optimism about the future of the fort. Efforts of the Friends in 1994 had led to a "fort centred" Part II Official Plan for the new Fort York neighbourhood. The Part II Plan contained strong built-form regulation, statements of the importance of the fort in the area, requirements for urban design guidelines for development adjacent to the fort, requirements for consultation with the Toronto Historical Board, and the provision of new streets located to take advantage of views to and from the fort.

Even though the permitted densities were higher than almost any other part of the City, the Part II Plan clearly set out that the densities would not be granted if they did not fit into a carefully prescribed set of height restrictions. The Friends expected that the buildings next to the Fort York Heritage Conservation District would frame the district with a consistent backdrop of eight storey buildings similar to the St. Lawrence neighbourhood. In the background, toward Fleet Street, buildings would be predominantly 12 storeys with

higher buildings of 22 storeys limited to only three locations at the west and eastern edge of the precinct.

Between 1994 and 2001, municipal amalgamation in Toronto had reduced the resources in the city, diffused heritage protection and advocacy, and created a gulf between citizens and their councillors. As a result, many of those involved in the discussions leading to the implementation of the Part II Official Plan had been replaced. Moreover, the City failed to undertake the urban design guidelines promised to the former Toronto Council in 1995.

However, following the publication of *Fort York: Setting it Right* in 2000 by the Friends of Fort York and the Fort York

Continued on page 8.

## Haileybury Heritage Museum Relocation Project Update

The Haileybury Heritage Museum Board, Building Committee and Volunteers have had a busy fall and winter. Work is continuing on the renovations to the former Ontario Provincial Police building, which was donated to the Museum, in preparation for its relocation to the new facilities this spring.

The Museum received assistance from Human Resources Development Canada through the provision of three carpenter/labourers as well as \$5,000 in cash for roofing material. They also received \$13,000 funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for a heating system upgrade and materials for renovations to the building's interior. The Building Committee had to increase its fund-raising target from \$10,000 to \$25,000 due to a shortfall in

expected funding sources and an increase in cost of some budgeted items. To date, the Museum has raised \$17,750 towards its \$25,000 goal.

The new facility will provide the Museum with an additional 1,200 square feet of much needed display space. This was realized through a 28-foot x 40-foot addition to the side of the building. This addition has 14 feet high ceilings, which were needed in order to accommodate the 1904 Toronto Railway Company Streetcar (#124) that was used as housing after the Great Fire of 1922.

Work on the renovations is scheduled to be completed by mid-April and the displays should be set up by mid-May. The Museum hopes to open in the new location by the first of June, in time for the summer season.

## We gratefully acknowledge the following donors

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# FROM THE BOOKSHELF

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## 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.

## Farm Life

**And On That Farm He Had a Wife: Ontario Farm Women and Feminism, 1900-1970.** By Monda Halpern. McGill-Queen's University Press. 234 pages. Illustrations. \$70.00 hardbound.

Halpern shows how essential to Ontario's farm economy were women — through their productive and reproductive labour. Although the women (daughters as well as wives) were generally dedicated to the success of their family farm, many also recognized the inequity of their status — their hard work was usually without remuneration or ownership. Halpern quotes farm journals of the time in which a number of women are quite outspoken in their condemnation of the patriarchal system. (And at least some men urge their fellow farmers to be more considerate.) During this period, farm women also sought to improve their lot through the home economics movement and such organizations as the Women's Institute. An intriguing look at an unexpected aspect of social feminism.

**A Farm on the North Talbot Road.** Allan G. Bogue. University of Nebraska Press. 226 pages. US\$19.95 paper.

Allan Bogue, an eminent economic historian at the University of Wisconsin, was born and raised on a farm in Westminster township. He uses his abilities as an academic analyst and his skills as a writer to produce a description of life on an Ontario farm in the 1920s and 30s. Times were often hard both economically and personally. His book combines anecdotes of family history with analyses of agricultural trends. Because it is partly a memoir, it is detailed but it is never dull. We should be grateful to an American University press for publishing an account of an important but neglected aspect of Canadian history.

## Wired!

**The Invisible Empire: A History of the Telecommunications Industry in Canada, 1846-1956.** By Jean-Guy Rens. McGill-Queen's University Press. 383 pages. Illustrations. \$49.95 hardbound.

Digital data transmissions so dominate our days with their instant messaging that we may forget that there was a time when communication was much slower. Indeed, when the mayor of Toronto telegraphed (the first in Canada) the mayor of Hamilton, at noon on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1846, before the official communication could commence two telegraph operators had to co-ordinate their clocks. Hamilton and Toronto had different times — seventeen minutes different! This book is a history of Canada's telecommunications industry from then until (nearly) now. Telegraph, telephone, radio — much that was historically important took place here in Ontario. A careful and thoughtful study, at times technical, but always intelligible.



## Natural History

**75 Years of Research in the Woods: 1918 to 1993.** By I.C.M. (Cam) Place. General Store Publishing. 205 pages. Illustrations. \$29.95 softbound.

This is the story of the Petawawa Forest Experiment Station and the Petawawa National Forestry Institute. Beginning with a small tent camp in an abandoned field at the edge of the Petawawa Military Reserve, over the years the station grew in scope and influence. It remained at the forefront of forestry research and training of foresters until it was closed in 1996. Because of its work, much more is known about silviculture, forest ecology, fire research and tree breeding — ideas now evident in forests and forest science around the world. Thanks to its programmes, we can all breathe a little easier.

**Reflections of the South Nation Watershed: A Pictorial History of Its People and Natural Resources / Histoire illustrée de la Nation Sud: son peuple et ses ressources naturelles.** By/par Patrick Coyne. General Store Publishing House for South Nation Conservation. 136 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

From earliest times a rich abundance of natural resources attracted First Nations peoples to this part of Eastern Ontario. Then came European settlers who benefited from the land for agriculture, from the forests for ships and towns, and the rivers for transportation — eventually to the detriment of the environment. This most attractive book features a treasure trove of

archival photographs and explanatory text in both English and French. Proceeds from its sale will be used for planting trees, protecting wetlands, enhancing fish habitat, and improving water quality throughout the watershed.

## Hefty History

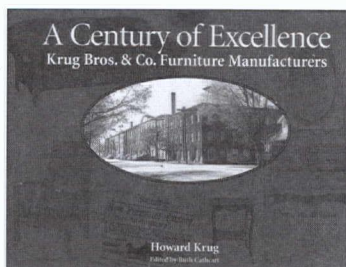
**Land, Power, and Economics on the Frontier of Upper Canada.** By John Clarke. McGill-Queen's University Press. 747 pages. Illustrations. \$75.00 hardbound.

An academic's extraordinarily detailed description of the process of settling just one county, Essex, in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Clarke, a Carleton University professor of both geography and environmental studies, has as strong an interest in the political culture as in the physical landscape. What happened in Essex is constantly considered in its larger context. In Upper Canada, controlling land gave power to an elite hierarchy. Meanwhile, individual settlers transformed their own land from forest to farm with their own labour. This full volume may scare some by its very size (747 pages), but for those interested in this formative period (1788-1850) of our province's history, Clarke's study fully rewards those who work their way through it.

## Brock Book

**The Green Pastures of Old Brock.** By Jack A. Gordon. Sunderland and District Historical Society. 262 pages. Illustrations. \$30.00 hardbound.

This history of Brock township is a reprint of a work first published five years ago but only just brought to our attention. It begins with a brief sketch of the typography of the area and continues with a chapter on First Nations peoples. Most of the work, not surprisingly, is on the settlement and development since 1833. Families, businesses, organizations, churches, schools, and events are all detailed. Anyone with roots in the area will treasure this extensive compilation of historical material.



## Furniture Firm

**A Century of Excellence: Krug Bros. & Co. Furniture Manufacturers.** By Howard Krug. Natural Heritage/Natural History. 184 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

The autobiography, so to speak, of one company in one small Ontario town — it was written by a son of a founder. The firm began as the inspiration of Christian and Conrad Krug, energetic and skilled immigrant twins, soon assisted by two more brothers. It developed by the efforts of the next generation into a major enterprise. Changing times and circumstances led to its demise in 1987. Here are reflections and records of an industry — physical, financial and personal details of furniture manufacturing. Pictures abound of employees at work and play, and, perhaps most interesting, reprints of catalogue pages over the years that reflect the changing fashions of home furnishings.

## Labour Lawyer

**Renegade Lawyer: The Life of J.L. Cohen.** By Laurel Sefton MacDowell. University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society for Canadian

Legal History. 386 pages. Illustrations. \$60.00 hardbound.

Cohen was a passionate advocate for collective bargaining at a time when Canadian labour law (unlike American labour law) was highly restrictive. He vigorously and effectively defended radical union organizers and in the process ultimately effected changes in this country's industrial relations system. As one admirer put it, "He put a spinal column where there was a wishbone." His personal life, however, was troubled and ultimately tragic. His life of legal prominence ended with disbarment, breakdown and apparent suicide. Here is a portrait of a Jew who broke through barriers by the power of his legal abilities but who remained an outsider, as the title suggests, a "renegade." A sensitive biography of a brilliant and influential barrister but an arrogant and ultimately unfortunate individual.

## History Noted

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

**Index to 1861 Census for Simcoe County.** Ontario Genealogical Society, Simcoe County Branch. A complete index of all 50,000 names presented in 20 volumes. Available (or coming soon) as individual volumes or as a CD for \$29.95.

**Strays! An Index to British Strays in Canada resulting from the OGS Strays Project, Volume 2.** Compiled by Ken Young and David J Brown. Ontario Genealogical Society. 88 pages. \$10.00 softbound. Some 1978 British strays, "a person who is described in a record of an event as being from, or connected with, a place outside the area in which that event took place."

**York County Men & Women who gave their lives in World War I, Vol. 2: City of Toronto.** Compiled by Norman Jolly. Ontario Genealogical Society, York Region Branch. 343 pages. \$22.00 softbound. The names and biographical information on almost 10,000 persons, taken from the casualty lists of the *Toronto Daily Star* and supplemented by additional information. Volume 1 is also available (\$10.00).

**And I Will Dwell in their Midst: Orthodox Jews in Suburbia.** By Etan Diamond. University of North Carolina Press (available from Heritage Toronto). \$28.00 softbound. An award winning volume based especially on the experience of Toronto.

**Christianity in Canada: Historical Essays.** By John S. Moir. Laverdure & Associates. \$14.95 softbound. The collected essays — a number of them especially related to Ontario's history — of one of Canada's most respected students of the role of religion in Canadian society.

## Directory of Publishers

**General Store Publishing House,** 1 Main St, Burnstown, ON K0J 1G0.

**Heritage Toronto,** Toronto's First Post Office, Box 44, 260 Adelaide St., Toronto, ON M5A 1N1.

**Laverdure & Associates,** Box 246, Gravelbourg, SK, S0H 1X0.

**McGill-Queen's University Press,** 3430 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1X9. www.mqup.ca.

**Natural Heritage Books,** Box 95, Station O, Toronto, ON M4A 2M8.

**Ontario Genealogical Society,** 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 102, Toronto, ON M4R 1B9. www.ogs.on.ca

**Ontario Genealogical Society, Simcoe County Branch,** Box 892, Barrie, ON L4M 4Y6.

**Ontario Genealogical Society, York Region Branch,** Harding P.O. Box 32215, Richmond Hill, Ontario, L4C 9S3.

**Sunderland Historical Society,** c/o Denise Marsh, Box 366, Sunderland ON L0C 1H0.

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



Continued from page 6.

Management Board, the City was working on a new plan to consolidate the open space around the fort into a new Fort York Park. Land north of the fort would be returned from the railways to the city and allow for re-creation of the northern ramparts. The Robert Fung Waterfront Task Force had also recommended burial of the Gardiner Expressway. Construction on Fort York Boulevard, which runs more or less along the line of the former lakeshore south of the fort, would start in 2001, and give the fort a brand new address.

To the Friends of Fort York it looked as if all things were falling into place for the fort. After a century of neglect, Fort York was about to re-emerge from behind the industrial buildings, railways and expressways as the jewel at the centre of a beautiful new downtown neighbourhood and park system.

The bubble burst when H&R Properties, the first developer to make a proposal for the lands south of the fort, asked to build four towers at 30 and 38 storeys instead of the lower street edge buildings prescribed in the Official Plan. Now in private practice and representing the developer, the planner who had written the Part II plan while employed at the city argued that since the developer couldn't fit the density into the height restrictions that the height restrictions were impractical. The new local planner, who had no history with the earlier discussions, agreed.

With the city planners unwilling or unable to enforce the built form controls in the Part II plan, the discussion turned to an exploration of how the approved density could best be realized on the site and to re-organizing the development parcel to increase parkland west of the development. The heights policy, so critical to the future environment of the fort, was consequently abandoned. When asked on the floor of Council about the heights policy in the Part II plan, the Director of Community Planning for the South District could not answer the question. Sadly, the planners also assumed that they knew better than other city staff what was best for the fort – comments from the Toronto Preservation Board, Heritage Toronto, Culture staff (Museums) and Parks staff were given short shrift.

In spite of several requests, the Friends of Fort York were unable to persuade the developer to do the studies to show what their proposal would look like from the fort, or to test other models besides the tower. To get the answers they needed the Friends of Fort York, working with the Centre for Landscape Research (CLR) at University of Toronto, developed computer modeling which showed what the developer's scheme would look like from inside the fort and from several other vantage points. The Friends also prepared drawings that

showed what the area south of the fort would look like if this development set a precedent, estimating that if all landowners followed a similar pattern, the area south of the fort could contain as many as 11, 30-40 storey towers.

The images developed were extremely effective in lobbying Councillors. Twenty deputants all spoke to great effect at Community Council resulting in a vote of 5-1 against the scheme and in support of the Official Plan. The decision was highly unusual as councillors broke with their normal practice of voting with the local councillor. Culture staff broke with planning staff to oppose the proposal and recommend that it be brought into greater conformity with the Official Plan.

Immediately following the defeat at Community Council, H&R quickly shuffled the towers around on the site and offered a "new" scheme – presented in plan only. The scheme was somewhat better in that the towers had been moved away from the fort, but as subsequent modeling at the CLR demonstrated, the long distance views from inside the fort showed similar visual impact.

Unfortunately for the Fort, H&R was able to persuade the Mayor that these changes were sufficient to support the scheme. The Friends of Fort York watched, unable to speak at Toronto City Council, as the Mayor's staff lobbied on behalf of the development. Ignoring strong citizen protest and national press coverage Council voted to overturn the advice of Community Council and accept the development proposal. This left only the Friends of Fort York to argue the case for the Fort before the OMB.

In spite of citizen pleas for intervention to both the Provincial and Federal Ministers responsible for heritage matters, both Ministers remained silent. Parks Canada assisted with testimony from Ron Dale, Superintendent Niagara National Historic Sites, regarding the importance of controlling the environment around a historic site in creating a sense of authenticity for the visitor. It was left to many prominent Toronto citizens and many heritage organizations, including the Ontario Heritage Foundation, to write and appear before Toronto City Councillors and the Ontario Municipal Board in opposition to the proposed development.

At the Ontario Municipal Board, planning decisions that have dramatic impact on our heritage are made in a forum ill-equipped to deal with heritage policy arguments. While it is obvious to most in the heritage community that high rise towers so close to the fort will visually overwhelm the single storey buildings and subtle landscape of Fort York, there is little in the way of heritage policy at both the provincial and federal levels which is adequate to deal with such a situation. The unthinkable is under-regulated.

International heritage charters are filled with language

calling for development adjacent to heritage sites to be compatible with, and respectful of, the scale and character of such heritage sites. Those familiar with good heritage practice understand the meaning of such phrases, whereas the Board chose to instead accept the submissions of the developers' lawyers and planners in this case that the provision of certain aspects of the Part II Plan, particularly view corridors, was enough to meet the intent of the Plan to protect and enhance the Fort. Thus, in the view of the Board, narrow view corridors between high rise towers were "respectful of the fort." The OMB, which would be expected, in line with other tribunals and courts, to have regard for international charters on heritage to which the Canadian government is a signator, made no mention of these principles in its decision and policies appeared to disregard such evidence. Nor did the Board make mention of heritage policies or interests at the provincial and federal level and the Board made mention of, but did not focus on, the Fort-centred policies in the Part II Plan. What was more important for the OMB was the expediency and financial feasibility of development on site, such that the OMB, accustomed to dealing with local land use arguments, did not give the same weight to the evidence of heritage

planners as was given to the evidence of land use planners.

Of note, as the recognition of Fort York predates much current heritage practice, the Fort does not have the benefit of a Commemorative Integrity Statement, a tool for managing historic sites much in favour with Parks Canada. The Fort York Heritage Conservation District documents do not speak to what would be important in the future environment surrounding the site. However, it is not clear that, even had this material been in place, the OMB would have accepted these as binding policy documents. One suggestion for assisting the OMB in evaluating heritage arguments would be that a member of the Conservation Review Board be added to the panel for cases involving heritage.

In spite of the excellent evidence and arguments about the obligations of the Board to protect and enhance heritage advanced by the Friends, the OMB decision focused on the need to balance the "public good with proprietary interests." The Board stated: "Above all, one should not allow either the public or private interest to become the exclusive and captive objective. Both are important and neither should become the sole pampered darling of the Plan." The Board also could not support evidence that tall buildings would be detrimental to

the fort, and found "that the proposed towers, tall as they may be, would have regard to all the policies," i.e. other benefits to the fort such as view corridors, and provision of new parkland provide compensation and since the towers are designed "in a fashion that creates an attractive composition on the skyline...that the proposed height and massing provide for an appropriate relationship to the area context." While the Board did recognize and compliment the Friends on the dignity they displayed and the excellent case and presentations they put forward, this recognition provided cold comfort in the context of a decision determining that the height controls were not essential to respect for the Fort and therefore the proposal should be permitted.

While the Friends of Fort York are disappointed with the OMB decision, it may be we have lost one battle but will go on to win the war. The outcry in the press has been extraordinary. City staff are reviewing the Official plan and looking for new ways to prevent towers so close to the fort. Citizens are horrified that in such an important place, where it would be reasonable to expect every possible care would be taken, the planning system in Ontario has failed the public good, and failed miserably.



Great move guys! Thanks to Bill Pinnigar, Mike O'Connor and Bob Glenn of TIPPET RICHARDSON Ltd. for moving the furniture and other items donated by the St. Lawrence Starch Co. Ltd. from Port Credit to its new home at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale. (Rob Leverty)

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