



# OHS BULLETIN

34 PARKVIEW AVENUE, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2N 3Y2

ISSUE 138 FEBRUARY 2003



Thornhill School 1847-1922

## THOREAU MACDONALD'S SKETCHES OF RURAL ONTARIO: A NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE OHS

When most people think about heritage preservation, they visualize the preservation of three dimensional artifacts and buildings. Truly, these reminders of the past are the most effective and meaningful connections that we have with our heritage. However, for innumerable reasons, it is not always possible to preserve everything we would like to. Fortunately, there are other ways to hold onto the things we value from earlier times, such as written descriptions, paintings, drawings and photographs.

The late Thoreau MacDonald made use of all of these alternatives to preserve a record of the rural landscape that he loved, and communicate this information to others.

Thoreau MacDonald (1901-1989) was the son of Group of Seven artist J.E.H. MacDonald and Joan Lavis. Although he was not a member of the Group itself, he was in close contact with many of its members, and grew up in the creative atmosphere of this nationalistic art movement. He had a long and successful career as a commercial artist, working out of the Studio Building in Toronto's Rosedale ravine from the 1920s to the late 1940s. After that, he worked from his beloved Thornhill home, Four Elms, on the south side of Centre Street.

Thoreau is best known for his work and accomplishments in the field of book design, lettering and illustration. His most memorable artwork includes his black and white line drawings of old houses, farm scenes, rural landscapes and Canadian wildlife. These illustrations can be found in many Canadian books published from the 1920s to the 1970s, including a series of paper chapbooks issued in limited numbers under Thoreau's own Woodchuck Press imprint. The design and illustration of the classic book, *Maria Chapdelaine* (The MacMillan Publishing Company of Canada, 1938) is considered by many to be his crowning achievement.

Presently, there is a revival

of interest in the work of Thoreau MacDonald. Paul Leet Aird wrote a book of environmental fables illustrated with Thoreau MacDonald's work in 1997. In 2002, Pickering historian John W. Sabeau's book, *A Boy All Spirit - Thoreau MacDonald in the 1920s*, was released. At the same time, author David McCabe, working in partnership with Thoreau's second cousin Susan MacDonald, self-published a children's book that features his distinctive artwork. Significantly, the City of Vaughan, the owner of the MacDonald house at Thornhill, is currently undertaking studies to aid in the restoration of the house and grounds to better reflect the MacDonald family's period of ownership.

THOREAU MACDONALD page 2

ABOVE: A sketch by Thoreau MacDonald depicts a winter scene at the one-room brick schoolhouse in Thornhill, built in 1847 and burned in the 1920s.

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

## MEET THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AT HERITAGE WEEK RECEPTION

Kick off Heritage Week 2003 by attending the *OHS Thank-you Reception* for volunteers, donors, members and friends. The Ontario Historical Society is pleased to announce our special guest for the reception will be Ontario's Minister of Culture, The Honourable David Tsubouchi.

The reception will be held at the John McKenzie House, home of the OHS, at 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale, from 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Come and enjoy light refreshments and good conversation with fellow supporters of the OHS, and meet the Minister of Culture.

R.S.V.P. to the invitation by February 12<sup>th</sup>.

The theme for Heritage Week (February 17 - 23, 2003) is *Heritage of Our Town*. The intent of this theme is to showcase civic heritage, including city halls, libraries, courthouses, exhibition buildings and, of course, civically owned heritage properties such as the John McKenzie House.

For information about Heritage week events in the Province you can visit [www.culture.gov.on.ca](http://www.culture.gov.on.ca). For more information about the OHS *Thank-you Reception* please call 416.226.9011. We look forward to seeing you there.

## EXPLORE PETERBOROUGH'S HERITAGE THIS SPRING

Join the OHS for a spring day trip bus tour exploring history in Peterborough.

Enjoy return luxury coach from Toronto (departure 8:45 a.m., return approx. 6:30 p.m.) to Peterborough that includes a visit to three different sites.

The tour will begin at the Canadian Canoe Museum with a guided tour of exhibits that trace the role of the canoe in Canadian history. Then to Hutchison House, restored to the 1840s period, where lunch and a tour will be provided. Then it's on to Lang Pioneer Village for a tour, demonstrations and refreshments. Lang will have their gristmill operating for the group to see. And of course gift shops will be open at all three sites.

Tour participants will be picked up and dropped off at the parking lot behind the Jolly Miller on Mill Street (two streets south of York Mills Road, off Yonge St.).

The cost is \$65 for OHS members and \$70 for non-members, which includes bus transportation, all admission fees, lunch and afternoon coffee. Registration is required by April 14, 2003. Please call 416.226.9011 for more information or to register.

BELOW: Jeremy Ward, Public Programming and Artisans Coordinator for the Canadian Canoe Museum, is seen here working in the Preserving Skills Gallery on the 36' Montreal Canoe that you will see on the tour.



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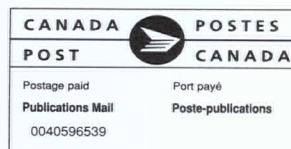
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LYDIA ROSS ALEXANDER

### CONVERSATION BETWEEN CANON HENRY SCADDING (1813-1901) AND LYDIA ROSS ALEXANDER

*Canon Scadding wrote in Toronto of Old that he feared that "men of the next generation would be left irremediably ignorant of a multitude of minute particulars relating to their immediate predecessors." He recently spoke to me in a dream.*

HS: Well, my dear, the OHS has now existed some 115 years. Do tell me how it's going along. How is the OHS serving my beloved pioneer historical societies these days?

LRA: It's a different world, Canon. It's a different country. The 8 affiliate societies of 1891 have grown to 269 and the membership is now some 4000. The Board of Directors and its membership truly represent the entire province.

HS: I have had the leisure time, as you can well appreciate, to read the *OHS Bulletin*, and I must congratulate the Society on its ongoing efforts in cemetery preservation, but Lydia – may I call you Lydia? – I sincerely hope that this is not accomplished to the exclusion of all our other concerns.

LRA: I assure you, dear Canon, that we are working on many fronts – preservation, educational programmes, and publications come to mind. But admittedly cemetery preservation is absorbing a great deal of our present resources, human and financial. I recently attended hearings regarding the preservation of St. Alban's Cemetery in Palgrave at which Dr. Doug Leighton, an Anglican priest and historian, rather like you, served as an expert witness for the Society. You would have been proud of him. He clarified for the Judicial Panel the sacredness of the Anglican cemetery in the 19<sup>th</sup> century – how the ground was 'set apart' for holy purposes, how the parishioners believed that their burials were 'in perpetuity'. By the by, he carries on your concerns to preserve the archives of the Anglican Church. Yes, he is very like you.

HS: Heavens, this needs to be explained?

LRA: Alas, even a portion of the cemetery at St. James

Cathedral is threatened with closure. Seems they wish to build a condominium. You were ordained at St. James, were you not? In fact, your human remains reside at St. James. Forgive me if this is a sensitive matter.

HS: Condominium?

LRA: Let's not go there. Be assured we are monitoring the situation, as it goes. You would be very pleased to know that the Ontario Genealogical Society's President, David Mackenzie, has recently written indicating that the OGS supports both in principle and in concrete terms, cemetery preservation. But enough about cemeteries! Did you realize that the Law Society of Upper Canada Archives holds 1.5 meters of your textual records? Among these records is a booklet entitled *The Necessity of Physical Culture to Literary Men, and Especially to Clergymen*. What was that all about?

HS: Condominium? In any case, I'm glad to know my records are in good hands.

My primary concern in founding the OHS was to foster the spirit of British Canadian nationalism. I am, when all is said and done, correctly described as an 'enlightened Victorian imbued with the idea of progress'. I heard by the heavenly grapevine that you met with the Queen on her recent visit.

LRA: Ah yes, along with 8,000 other eager and aggressive Canadians. Canada has become an exciting cultural mosaic. The Society reflects these changes. I found on the Web a society in your name, The Henry Scadding Society, seeking funds for Upper Canada College Students – to enable UCC boys 'to do good and to do well'. Blows the mind, don't you think?

HS: The Web? Blows the mind?

*The foregoing might be considered, in the words of Canon Scadding, "a minute scintilla in one of those monthly meteoric showers of miscellaneous light literature".*

### ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 3RD, 2003

2:00 P.M.

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

SUNDAY, MAY 4TH, 2003

2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

BOTH EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT THE JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE, 34 PARKVIEW AVENUE, WILLOWDALE, 416.226.9011

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PATRICIA K. NEAL

pkn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

In late November 2002 Minister of Culture David Tsubouchi announced that his government would consult with leaders in the provincial heritage sector to explore potential revisions to the *Ontario Heritage Act*. President Lydia Alexander and I, along with representatives of other provincial and national heritage organizations, participated in a focus group to discuss the proposed changes.

A discussion guide, prepared by the Ministry of Culture, presents options for improving the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Some of the possibilities under consideration include: providing municipalities with more flexibility and greater powers to make decisions about their local heritage; looking at how the province can protect property of provincial heritage interest; and strengthening archaeology provisions. A copy of the discussion guide is posted on our website [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca) or can be obtained from the Ministry of Culture.

Our discussions follow some long-awaited changes recently made to the *Ontario Heritage Act* through the Government Efficiency Act. These changes broaden the mandate of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee's (LACAC) and strengthen controls regarding demolition. The consolidated version of the Ontario Heritage Act (which includes the amendments from the Government Efficiency Act) is available online at: [http://192.75.156.68/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90o18\\_e.doc](http://192.75.156.68/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90o18_e.doc)

The newly announced *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* will have an impact on museums, historic sites, archives, and galleries owned by municipalities. Several *Standards for Community Museums in Ontario* also include requirements that are tied to accessibility issues. The Ontario Historical Society, in partnership with the Ontario Museums Association, has applied for funding through the Ministry of Citizenship's *EnAbling Change* program to

assist the heritage sector with meeting the Standards and improving access for staff, visitors and volunteers. Our proposal is twofold: to design and deliver a series of workshops across the province that will improve the heritage sector's ability to provide both intellectual and physical access to persons with disabilities; and, to research and produce a resource manual and training guide to provide ongoing information to our constituents. Approval of this initiative is pending.

All friends, volunteers, donors and members of The Ontario Historical Society are invited to join us on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. for our *Thank-you Reception* to celebrate Heritage Week. Ontario's Minister of Culture The Honourable David Tsubouchi has accepted our invitation to attend and this is a great opportunity for you to meet him. This year's theme, *Heritage of Our Town*, showcases Canada's civic buildings. I do hope you can join us on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

THOREAU MACDONALD continued from page 1

The latest project relating to the work of Thoreau MacDonald is a new book titled *Thoreau MacDonald's Sketches of Rural Ontario*, written by George W. J. Duncan of Markham. This book project has been approved by the Board of Directors of The Ontario Historical Society and is being directed by the Society's Publications Committee. Release is expected in 2003, at a date to be announced in a future issue of the *OHS Bulletin*.

*Thoreau MacDonald's Sketches of Rural Ontario* uses a selection of the artist's drawings to illustrate a variety of common themes in the cultural heritage landscape of rural Ontario. The images will be familiar to anyone who has lived in or travelled through the province and delighted in the distinctive features of villages, farms, and the open countryside. The text explores the artist's life and work in connection to documenting and celebrating the rural landscape of Ontario, and interprets and expands upon the scenes that are illustrated. Farmhouses, barns, school-houses, cemeteries and old orchards are just a few of the vignettes included in this survey.

The following is an excerpt from this soon-to-be-released book, to give a hint of what the rest of the publication will be like. The subject, "Pioneer Cemetery," is of particular relevance to the work of The

Ontario Historical Society at this time. The illustration is taken from one of Thoreau MacDonald's chapbooks, titled *Some gates...*

PIONEER CEMETERY  
BY GEORGE W. J. DUNCAN

"These shafts of memory/  
Sculpted with heavy rural art/  
And scored with sorrows of the heart." So wrote J.E.H. MacDonald in his poem, *An Ode at Graveyard Corners*. MacDonald's verses capture some of the impressions one may experience when visiting an abandoned rural cemetery.

Small cemeteries associated with rural churches are among the most interesting, but regrettably are vulnerable to serious neglect. Oftentimes only the burial ground, with its leaning headstones settling into the overgrown grass, remains of a once-active country church. Sometimes only a cemetery is left to show where a vanished community once stood. The same vulnerability is true of old family farm cemeteries, even more at risk when they are forgotten by later owners not related to those who rest in some out-of-the-way corner of their property.

These creamy white marble headstones are the fragile records of mostly ordinary people who left no other trace; mere fragments of the lives they lived. Many times only a name and the birth and death dates are given to hint at who these people were. Though the old markers are very

similar to one another in terms of materials, there is considerable variation in design. Decoration on Victorian gravestones ranges from chaste to gaudy. Ornamentation is usually based on religious symbolism, giving comfort to the onlooker with the idea that the soul of the deceased is at rest and residing with the eternal, while they perhaps contemplate their own mortality. The weeping willow, the hand-in-hand, and open bibles are common motifs.

With each passing season, old marble gravestones are gradually melting away in the rain and the snow. Each year, their inscriptions become a little more faint, like the memory of those whose lives they commemorate.

See top of page 5 for an illustration by Thoreau MacDonald, from *The Gates of Old Thornhill* and an excerpt from the poem *An Ode at Graveyard Corners* by J.E.H. MacDonald.

IF YOU CARE ABOUT ONTARIO CEMETERIES AND THEIR PRESERVATION, PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO THE CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND, THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 34 PARKVIEW AVENUE, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO, M2N 3Y2



## ACROSS THE PROVINCE

### 10,000 YEARS OF TORONTO HISTORY THE MCCOWAN COLLECTION

Bruce McCowan of the *James McCowan Memorial Social History Society* will speak about the archival and artifact collections of the McCowan family of Scarborough on Tuesday, February 18, 2003, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., Toronto. From 10,000 year-old aboriginal spear points to oral histories gathered recently, Bruce will survey a range of leases, wills, personal letters, bankruptcy papers, coins, furniture, and architectural and agricultural relics, to weave the story of an ordinary Scottish Canadian farm family into the wider context of their community.

This Heritage Week event is in connection with the exhibit *10,000 years of Toronto History* at the North York Central Library, Canadiana Department, on

display until April 2003. The exhibit consists of the Robert Ashbridge McCowan and William Harold McCowan Collections of aboriginal artifacts. These collections include evidence of very early human occupation in Toronto, approximately 8,000 BC. Ashley and Harold McCowan found the relics in farm fields about a century ago.

Bruce McCowan is Senior Technical Writer at Genesis Microchip in Markham, Managing Editor of [www.scarboroughrecord.com](http://www.scarboroughrecord.com) and author of numerous papers, booklets, and books on socio-economic history. His latest book, *Neigh the Front – Exploring Scarboro Heights*, has been nominated for a Heritage Toronto award. Bruce McCowan may be reached at [bea@beamccowan.com](mailto:bea@beamccowan.com).



### WELLAND JUNCTION LOCK RECEIVES A PLAQUE

Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, it was possible for the Welland Historical Society to commemorate the Junction Lock with a plaque. This Feeder Junction has an interesting history, now acknowledged for future generations.

Back in 1829, when William Hamilton Merritt needed more water in his first Welland Canal, a Feeder Canal was dug between Dunnville and Port Robinson to supply enough water to bring boats up over what he called "the summit", to Welland River or Chippawa

*LEFT: In October of 2002, a plaque was unveiled at the site of the Junction Lock of the Feeder Canal in Welland, at the corner of Prince Charles Drive and Broadway Avenue. Left to right are: Edythe Phillips, President of the Welland Historical Society, Dr. Arnold Purdon, honorary historical society member, and Jim Gillap of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Junction Lock is one of the last visible reminders of William Hamilton Merritt's first Welland Canal.*

Creek to the Niagara River and up to Buffalo. But the current in the river proved to be too strong. So the first Welland Canal was pushed through to Port Colborne from Port Robinson. A Junction Lock was built near the present Broadway Bridge to allow boats, scows and tugs from Dunnville and surrounding country to pass into the Welland Canal and to proceed either to Lake Erie or to Lake Ontario.

Good work, Welland Historical Society for preserving this interesting part of the Welland Canal's history.

### CREEMORE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL STORY

In October the Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society sponsored a slide lecture entitled "Creemore, Champlain and the Petun Indians." Noted archaeologist Charles Garrad, a Director of the Petun Research Institute, presented the program. More than 150 members and friends were entranced as Mr. Garrad took them back nearly four hundred years, describing the life and times of the Creemore area's early residents. He reported on his many digs in the area and on his continuing research into the lives of the Petun.

His research shows that the Petuns were almost certainly visited in 1616 by Samuel de Champlain, who, upon looking

towards what is now the village of Creemore, remarked, "The country is full of hill slopes and little level stretches, which make it a pleasant place." (The Society's local history, published in 1998 picks this up in its title, *A Green & Pleasant Place*.)

Mr. Garrad commented upon what happened to the Petuns after the mid-1600s and how he has traced their descendants to present-day Oklahoma.

After the lecture, Mr. Garrad answered questions and over refreshments chatted informally with those eager to learn more.

For more information about the Purple Hills Arts & Heritage Society, Email [arts@creemore.com](mailto:arts@creemore.com).

### OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

In 1827, William Chisholm, a prosperous merchant, purchased 960 acres of land around the mouth of the Sixteen Mile Creek in order to start a community of merchants, shipbuilders and settlers. So was born the village of Oakville. In 1953, one hundred and twenty six years later, William Chisholm's great granddaughter, Hazel Mathews, founded the Oakville Historical Society.

In the late 1930s, Hazel Mathews discovered a vault in the Custom House containing papers and documents pertaining to the Chisholm family and other settlers. More papers were discovered under the boards in the Erchless house in the 1950s. This piqued her interest and she began a search that took her crawling around old basements and attics looking for more documents, artifacts, furniture, etc. She accumulated a great deal. In 1952, Hazel Mathews saved the town's original old post office building at Lakeshore Road and Navy Street on the east bank of the Sixteen Mile Creek. It had been built in 1835 and William Chisholm had been the first postmaster. The building was moved to land that she and her sister owned, now part of Lakeside Park. It became a museum, and, for a while, housed the collection of historical data and artifacts that Mathews had carefully collected over fifteen years.

Hazel Mathews became concerned that the early history of Oakville would be lost and as a result, founded the Oakville Historical Society in 1953. The

Society was formed to discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Town of Oakville.

In 1955, the farm building that contained Merrick Thomas' original pioneer house was scheduled for destruction. The original building, located in the vicinity of the present day St. Thomas Aquinas High School, was bought for \$1 from the Department of National Defence. The Oakville Historical Society had the original part moved to its present site beside the Old Post Office in Lakeside Park and carefully restored it.

In 1957, the Society initiated the Historical Plaque program. This involves the placement of information plaques on homes of a hundred years old or more. A walk around the old parts of the town is more enjoyable and interesting when one can read the age of the homes, as well as the names and occupations of many of the original owners.

The Oakville Historical Society has a great interest in preserving our heritage. In 1965, it encouraged the town council to pass a bylaw designating the south side of Robinson Street and environs to be used for low density housing only, thereby saving the old part of the town from commercial development and preserving its original use and charm.

In 1976, developers were planning to build a high-rise apartment and subdivision on the Erchless Estate. The Oakville Historical Society and some local residents pressed the Town Council to purchase the land and

property in 1977 for the use and enjoyment of the Oakville people. This was done by the forward thinking council of the day under the leadership of Mayor Harry Barrett. The old house has now become a museum and it, along with the gardens beside the Sixteen Mile Creek gives great pleasure to all visitors and residents.

Over these past fifty years, the Oakville Historical Society has offered many programs promoting the conservation, education and the history of our town. Each year, the Society holds four public meetings at Knox Presbyterian Church, Lakeshore Road and Dunn Street. A variety of subjects are selected, such as historical gardens in Ontario, history of the Elgin Winter Garden Theatre, and antiques. In the summer they host several popular walking tours of Old Oakville and the Main Street. After the tour, a tea is served in their offices that overlook Erchless Gardens and Sixteen Mile Creek. They hold an annual *Picnic-In-The Park* each June with bands and games. The Thomas House Museum is open during the summer months and a *Harvest Festival* ends this activity in September.

Their offices, located at 110 King Street, hold the archives and photographs of Oakville's past along with an extensive library. They are open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Watch for upcoming Fiftieth Anniversary events. For information: 905.844.2695, [www.oakvillehistory.org](http://www.oakvillehistory.org)

*Below: Seen here are members of the Verona Area Heritage Society who attended the workshop Everything that you ever wanted to know about an historical organization or institution but were afraid to ask! held in October 2002 at the Glanmore National Historic Site in Belleville. There were over fifteen historical societies, heritage organizations and museums that participated in this workshop that was co-sponsored by The OHS and the Friends of Glanmore with support from Canada's National History Society.*

*Photo Rob Leverty*





EVENTS & EXHIBITS

**UNTIL FEBRUARY 28:** *Imperial Adventure: Canadians in the South African War (1899 – 1902)* at the Canadian War Museum. See original film footage and an impressive collection of artifacts from this long-forgotten conflict, 819.776.8600, or [www.warmuseum.ca](http://www.warmuseum.ca)

**FEBRUARY 15:** *Heritage Showcase* presented by The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, Fairview Park, Kitchener, 519.575.4785

**FEBRUARY 15 & 16:** *Listen Up! The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Storytelling Festival Telling the Stories of Toronto* presented at City of Toronto Historic Museums in collaboration with the Storytellers School of Toronto. A variety of storytellers entertain at eight different museums across Toronto, [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

**FEBRUARY 16 – APRIL 27:** *The Curious Collector*, an exhibit presented by Annandale National Historic Site, Tillsonburg, features local collectors, opening Feb. 16, 2 p.m.- 4 p.m., 519.842.2294, [rcorner@town.tillsonburg.on.ca](mailto:rcorner@town.tillsonburg.on.ca)

**FEBRUARY 20 & 21:** *Heritage Days at the Temiskaming Square Mall* in Dymond Township (New Liskeard), exhibits from local museums, historical societies, and the Earlton Steam Show, for info call the Haileybury Heritage Museum, 705.672.1922

**FEBRUARY 20 – APRIL 11:** *Electricity in Action*, an exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum on display at the Sault Ste. Marie Museum, 705.759.7278, [ssmmchin@vianet.on.ca](mailto:ssmmchin@vianet.on.ca)

**FEBRUARY 20:** Brampton Historical Society presents **James Douglas of the Belfountain Heritage Society** speaking on the history of the Belfountain area, Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 7:15 p.m., free for members, \$5 non-members, 905.457.4508, [www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com)

**FEBRUARY 21:** *Beers of Olde Ontario*, presented by the Niagara Historical Society, Bill Nesbitt from Dundurn Castle hosts an informative and tasty evening. Music by *Against The Grain*, 7:30 p.m. \$20, 905.468.3912

**FEBRUARY 22 – MARCH 23:** *Remembering the Black Loyalists of Nova Scotia* – An exhibit at Mackenzie House Museum, which explores the migration of Black Loyalists to the Maritimes in search of freedom. This is a rare opportunity to discover the story of a group of people who contributed a great deal to the equality and diversity we enjoy in Canadian Society, Sat. & Sun. Noon- 4 p.m., 416.392.6915

**FEBRUARY 27:** *The Life & Times of Crystal Beach*, a video presented by the Historical Society of St. Catharines, 7:30 p.m. St. Catharines Museum, [www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html](http://www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html)

**MARCH 14:** *Saint Patrick's Concert with Sandy MacIntyre*, Montgomery's Inn, Toronto, 8 p.m., \$15, Advanced registration recommended. Renowned Cape Breton fiddler and his band *Steeped in Tradition* present an evening of Celtic music, light refreshments, 416.394.8113, [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

**MARCH 9 & 23:** *Guided Walking Tours of High Park* presented by Colborne Lodge, explore the natural and human history of High Park, 1:15 p.m., meet across the street at the south side of Grenadier Café and Tea House. Free, although a \$2 donation would be appreciated. 416.392.6916, [www.toronto.ca](http://www.toronto.ca)

**MARCH 15 & 16:** *28<sup>th</sup> Annual Toronto Model Railway Show* at the Toronto Congress Centre presented by the Canadian Railroad Historical Association, Toronto & York Division, Sat. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Adults \$9, Seniors \$7, Children \$5. 416.249.4563

**MARCH 20:** *Ontario Artist – Blacksmith* presented by the Milton Historical Society, the significance of the blacksmith in our early history. Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James St., Milton, 905.875.7354, [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)

**MARCH 22:** *The Friends of the Archives of Ontario Annual Meeting*, 2 p.m. at the George Ignatieff Theatre, Devonshire Place, University of Toronto, guest speaker Charlotte Gray, 905.838.3143.

**MARCH 29:** *Living History Conference* hosted by the Talbot Settlement 2003 Planning Committee 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Fanshawe College

St. Thomas Campus, choose from over 30 workshops, see exhibits & more, 519.631.1460, [www.golden.net/~talbot2003](http://www.golden.net/~talbot2003)

**APRIL 5:** *The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grey County Black History Event Family History: Your Life Line*, will be held at the Durham Arena and Community Centre, Durham, 519.369.3119, [greta@bmts.com](mailto:greta@bmts.com), 519.369.3245, [archives@greycounty.on.ca](mailto:archives@greycounty.on.ca)

**APRIL 12:** *Heritage Walk of Toronto's Railway Esplanade 1853-1970*, 1:30 p.m. meet at Queen St. and River St. (SE corner), Toronto Field Naturalists, 416.593.2656

**APRIL 12:** *Children's Easter Workshop at Jordan Historical Museum*, Workshop has a 50's theme to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, 3802 Main Street, Jordan, 905.562.5242, [jhmt@vaxxine.com](mailto:jhmt@vaxxine.com)

**APRIL 14:** *41 Years of Journalism in Our Community* presented by Markham Historical Society and Markham Museum & Historic Village, with Jim Thomas, former Editor of the *Markham Economist & Sun* and *Stouffville Tribune*, 8 p.m., 9<sup>th</sup> Line Church, Markham, 905.294.4576, [lorne.smith@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorne.smith@sympatico.ca)

**APRIL 26 & 27:** *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Collector Exhibition*, hosted by the Bayfield Community Centre, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., see a variety of area collections on display, 519.565.2376

**MAY 24 & 25:** *Doors Open Toronto*, this 4<sup>th</sup> annual event provides free access to over 100 significant Toronto buildings (many are not normally open to the public), 416.338.0496, [www.doorsopen.org](http://www.doorsopen.org)

SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an upcoming event or exhibit 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. Please include a hard copy and an electronic copy in Microsoft Word.

Send your submissions to Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2. The *OHS Bulletin* reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.

JOIN THE OHS AT THESE EVENTS

DATE	Event	HOST/SPONSOR/ LOCATION
FEBRUARY 17, 2003	Heritage Day <i>Thank-you Reception</i> for volunteers, donors, members & friends 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	OHS at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale, ON
MARCH 1 & 2 2003	Oral History <i>-workshop-</i>	OHS and Archives Association of Ontario, London, ON
MARCH 29, 2003	<i>Rants, Rails and Rogues</i> A History of Southwestern Ontario <i>-Living History Conference-</i>	OHS at Talbot Settlement Bi-Centennial Committee, St. Thomas, ON
APRIL 5, 2003	Victorian Gardens <i>-workshop-</i>	OHS and the Friends of Glanmore National Historic Site, Belleville, ON
APRIL 12, 2003	Spring Meeting <i>-workshop-</i>	OHS and Voyageur Heritage network hosted by Clark House Museum, Powassan, ON
MAY 3, 2003	OHS Annual General Meeting, 2 p.m.	John McKenzie House, Willowdale, ON
MAY 4, 2003	OHS Honours & Awards Ceremony 2 - 4 p.m.	John McKenzie House, Willowdale, ON
MAY 5, 2003	OHS Bus Tour	Toronto to Peterborough return
MAY 24 & 25, 2003	OHS Annual Book Sale in conjunction with <i>Doors Open Toronto</i>	John McKenzie House, Willowdale, ON



FOR INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS  
CALL 416.226.9011

MEET MARY ANN SHADD CARY  
RETURNS TO MACKENZIE HOUSE MUSEUM

Due to the popularity of her portrayal last summer, Theatre professional Dawn Roach will revive her vignettes based on the life of historical figure Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823 – 1893) who was a teacher, journalist, suffragette, and lecturer. Shadd Cary was also one of the first black women in the United States to complete a law degree. In Toronto, Cary became the first Black woman newspaper publisher in North America through her work with the *Provincial Freeman*, a

newspaper that stood for temperance, racial equality, education and moral reform.

Presented by the City of Toronto Culture Division, you can see this performance on Sundays in February (2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, & 23<sup>rd</sup>), during regular tours beginning at 12:15 p.m., 1:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Adults \$3.50, Seniors/Youth \$2.75 and Children \$2.50. Mackenzie House Museum is located at 82 Bond Street, For more information call 416.392.6915.



# CEMETERY NEWS

MARJORIE STUART

Congratulations to the City of Pickering Council, for adopting the following resolution:

"That the Council of the Corporation of the City of Pickering adopt the following interim practices in assessing all matters of development and redevelopment within the City of Pickering.

1. All significant aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeological sites shall be protected and preserved.

2. An Archaeological Master Plan shall be developed to incorporate any and all available information on such sites and that Plan be prepared with the appropriate First Nation(s).

3. A minimum 120-metre archaeological heritage zone shall be created around all watercourses. Approval of any development within this area will be contingent upon recommendation of an independent archaeological assessment completed to the satisfaction of planning staff and with the appropriate First Nation(s). And that these practices be considered as a benchmark throughout the GTA and that this recommendation be forwarded to the Provincial Smart Growth Committee for its endorsement.

4. Exhumation and re-burial of human remains for the purpose of facilitating development shall be prohibited.

And that staff of the Planning and Development Department take the necessary steps to incorporate these practices in all policies and procedures that govern development within the City of Pickering and report back on the status to Council in six months."

The Canadian Museum of Civilization is preparing to return bones removed from native burial grounds to the Algonquin people whose ancestors inhabited the Ottawa area. Some of these bones were removed about 1843 from the present site of the Museum. The Museum has other remains in their collection including a forearm stained with red ochre

from a burial rite that was meant to ensure eternal peace. These will undergo radiocarbon testing to determine connection to the Algonquin people. A further collection from the Morrison and Allumette islands is deemed to be too old to provide a link to the Algonquins and will not be repatriated. The Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg near Maniwaki have led the repatriation project and would like all bones taken from native burials from the Ottawa Valley returned.

Concern has been raised over the condition of Braynes Cemetery in Southwold Township, Elgin County. Pat Temple noted that many of the stones in the old section are not legible and some are broken with pieces missing. Footstones have been removed from their original location.

Lynn Friedman is preparing a history of Admaston, Rosebank and Haley's Station Cemeteries in Renfrew County. She is seeking obituaries, laser colour photocopies of photographs and funeral cards. For further information contact Lynn Friedman, 5121 Palomar Crescent, Mississauga, ON L5R 2X5.

Restoration work on Richview Cemetery in Etobicoke began in October. Approximately \$40,000 has been raised towards the \$54,000 required to complete the project. It must be completed by May 2004 as stipulated by the Ontario Heritage Challenge Fund grant. Insufficient funds will result in several monuments being excluded from the restoration project. Randall Reid, project co-ordinator, is interested in contacting descendants of the following families: Baldock, Bell, Bolton, Brooks, Dewsbury, Dorsey, Forster, MacFarlane, Moody and Weir. Donations and enquiries should be directed to Randall Reid at Montgomery's Inn, 4709 Dundas St. West, Etobicoke, M9A 1A8, 416.394.6025 Email rreid0@toronto.ca

A Closure Application under the Cemeteries Act has been received for a portion of Fairview Cemetery in Mersea Township in Essex County. There is a 45-day period in which to

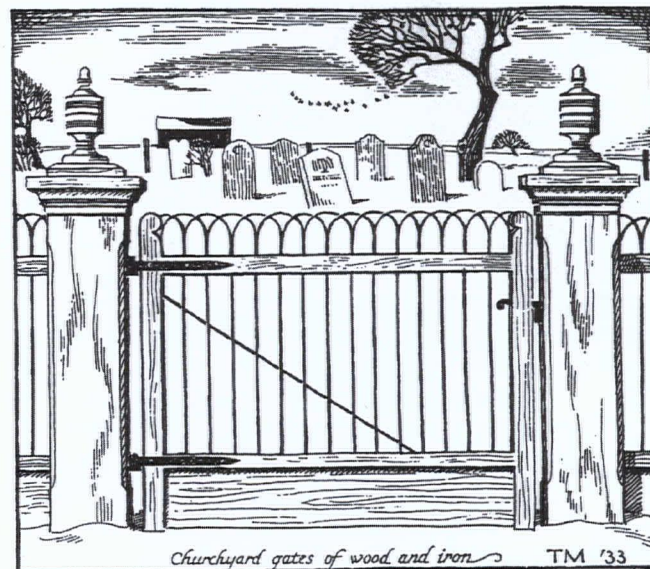
make a representation to the Registrar of Cemeteries. This will expire on February 22, 2003.

The hearing before the Tribunal with regard to the closure and moving of human remains at St. Alban's Cemetery in Palgrave has ended with three days of summation by the lawyers representing the Province, The Anglican Church and OHS.

Information is sought on a cemetery known at various times as Presbyterian Cemetery, Potter's Field, Hope Cemetery or Proudfoot's Cemetery located in London within the boundaries of Princess Street, (S), Colborne Street, (E), Waterloo Street, (W) and Central Street, (N) and interrupted by Hope Street and Waverly Place on the east side. Anyone with information should contact Ian A. Ross, B.E.S., Associate Manager, Environmental Engineering Division, Courtland Engineering Consultants Inc., London, ON, 519.240.2673.

The Department of National Defence has developed a Canadian Post War Military & Dependant Graves web site to allow people to locate the final resting place of military families who died during European postings since the end of World War II. This virtual cemetery is located at <http://admieapp.forces.gc.ca/pwg-tag/index.asp?lang=en>

At the end of November, Rob Leverty and I participated in a two-day Cemetery Workshop held with the Township of Stone Mills. This is a "new" community comprising the old townships of Camden East, Sheffield, and the Village of Newburg. The Township has established an Abandoned Cemetery Committee and needed information on restoration, funding, the heritage value of their cemeteries, etc. Despite rain, cold and snow we visited 7 of the 22 known abandoned cemeteries in their area. Most of these will require cleanup and maintenance as well as restoration. A very eager and keen committee has been formed to oversee this. They are seeking volunteers to assist them with this task. Any one willing to help is



And through the woven grass  
The vines of wandering roses creep and pass.  
And tufts of yellow moss  
Hide the deep graven words of love and loss,  
On broken tablets bourne,  
Cast down by time to lie with those they mourn.

Your simple monuments of mortal tears  
In marble sadness sweetened by the years...  
Only these clasping hands of carven stone  
Remaining of your life enjoyed and known...

Excerpts from An Ode at Graveyard Corners by J.E.H. MacDonald

See this image and many more beautiful drawings by Thoreau MacDonald in George Duncan's soon to be published book Thoreau MacDonald's sketches of Rural Ontario.

asked to contact Dorothy Wilson, Deputy Clerk, Township of Stone Mills, Centreville, ON K0K 1N0, 613.376.2475.

In a letter to *Practical Family History* Arthur Carden describes a cemetery project in Tennessee. Tommy Allen, a teacher, chooses a different cemetery each year and the schools' approximately 140 Grade 8 students clean up the cemetery and repair broken headstones. These are photographed and each child gets a copy. The student must research the person commemorated on the headstone and write a "resume". The resumes are published in books, which are sold. The proceeds finance the next year's project. Mr. Allen won a Teacher of the Year Award for the State of Tennessee. Well done!

Ian Gillespie, writing in the London Free Press, tells of a forgotten London cemetery on land owned by Sifton Properties Ltd. There are at least 53 graves in this cemetery. The London & Middlesex County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

would like to hear from anyone who could submit names of those buried in the cemetery. Possible burials could include Mary Wells, Jonathan Rogers (c1864) and his wife, Tamasin Wells (c1894). It is possible that Joseph Kilbourne Sr., who died in 1817 and may have been the first European to settle in the area, may also be buried there. Please contact Gerry Tordiff or Dennis Mulligan at Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London, ON N6G 1G5, 519.645.2845 Fax: 519.645.0981

Congratulations to The Finnish Canadian Historical Society in Sudbury. They are restoring an abandoned Finnish Cemetery.

Tina Michaud, recently appointed to the Parks and Recreation Department for the Town of Greater Napanee, is responsible for cemeteries within this area and is trying to assemble a list of all known burial locations. Anyone with information on unmarked or little known cemeteries is asked to contact Tina Michaud at Box 97, 124 John Street, Napanee, ON K7R 3L4.



LEFT: The Township of Stone Mills has recently established an Abandoned Cemeteries Committee. The Township asked the OHS to conduct a workshop on abandoned cemeteries. The day before the workshop the Deputy Clerk, Dorothy Wilson, organized a tour of seven very different abandoned cemeteries in the township. Some of the workshops participants are seen here visiting the McGill Cemetery. Congratulations to the new Township of Stone Mills for showing such vision and leadership!

Photo Rob Leverty



# MUSEUM NEWS

## THE CANADIAN CLOCK MUSEUM: PROMOTING A RICH HOROLOGICAL HERITAGE

The Canadian Clock Museum, located at 60 James Street in the town of Deep River in eastern Ontario, was set up as a non-profit, registered charitable organization with a board of directors in late 1999. Canada's only clock museum subsequently opened to the public at the end of May 2000 as the personal millennium project of long-time collector Allan Symons. The Museum's mission is to promote, through its exhibits, web site and various presentations, the many Canadian companies and individuals involved in the production and sale of clocks from the early 1800s to the present time.

The flat-roofed, two-storey building served originally as the local Calvary Pentecostal Church, from 1962 until late February 2000, when the congregation sold it while planning for a larger facility. Since then, several sources of funding have been utilized by the Museum for building conversion and operation, ranging from substantial annual cash and in-kind donations to a Trillium Foundation grant for some startup renovation costs, and federal and provincial grants towards summer student wages in 2001 and 2002. Since annual revenues do not yet cover all operating expenses or provide funds for acquisitions, Symons continues to contribute a significant amount of his monthly pension cheque.

The Museum's collection (a total of more than twelve

hundred artifacts) covers a broad range of Canadian-made and Canadiana clocks (1820s-2002) plus related horological items that include watches, watchmaker's tools, company catalogues, magazine advertisements and store advertising materials. About four hundred items are on display in the thirty-foot by forty-foot exhibit room, which is divided into semi-enclosed sections focused on major companies or specific periods of time. A special feature included in the admission fee is a one-hour guided tour of these exhibits. The Museum has the largest public displays for the top three Ontario-based clock manufacturers: The Arthur Pequegnat Clock Company (Berlin/Kitchener, 1904-1941), Westclox Canada (Peterborough, 1920-1986) and the Snider Clock Corporation and the Snider Clock Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (Toronto, 1950-1957, 1957-1976).

Carrying out research is a key function for the Museum, both for its own artifacts and in response to questions received through its web site. There are three excellent books already available that cover the Canadian history up to about 1940 (the titles are listed on the web site). The Museum has its own library with more than two hundred titles plus key American and British horological journals. Business directories in the Reference Section of the National Library

in Ottawa provide a good starting point for companies after about 1900. For fairly recent businesses, contacting retired staff provides a useful route. The current focus is on manufacturers of advertising clocks – most companies were based in the Toronto area in the 1950s-1980s.

The Canadian Clock Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the summer months (except Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) and Tuesday through Saturday from early September through late May, or by appointment. The majority of visitors come from all over Ontario, but because the Museum is located just thirty seconds off nearby Trans-Canada Highway 17, there is good tourist representation from every province, many U.S. states and several European and Asian countries. Serious clock collectors often make the trek from Ottawa, Toronto, and farther afield for an extended tour that includes the artifacts storage areas. You can visit The Canadian Clock Museum online at [www.canlockmuseum.ca](http://www.canlockmuseum.ca).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Luise & David Bridge  
June Dafoe  
R. Brian Dietrich  
Rossiter Dukes  
Eleanor Genovese  
Bianca Lakoseljac  
L. Quack  
Randall Robertson  
Bonnie Schepers  
Richard Thompson  
Mark Woods  
Peter Woods

*BELOW: Museum of the Streets contains many old photographs depicting early life in Richmond Hill. At Station #6 Yonge Street North of Richmond Street there are 13 entries in the booklet including William Graham (seen with his horse and buggy), one of Richmond Hill's premier building contractors, who began his career in 1910.*



William H. Graham with his horse and buggy on his father's farm north of Crosby Avenue. c. 1910. Courtesy of: Mrs. Wallace W. Graham, Richmond Hill

## HAMILTON MUSEUM DESIGNATED NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

The Erland Lee Museum, 19<sup>th</sup> century home of one of Stoney Creek's prominent early families, has received a designation as a National Historic Site of Canada. The Gothic Revival home, located atop the edge of the Niagara Escarpment in Stoney Creek, Hamilton, was the site of the founding of the Women's Institutes, a rural women's group organized in 1897 to foster improvements in women's living conditions and lead to women's empowerment.

The Women's Institutes (W.I.) was the brainchild of Mrs. Adelaide Hoodless of Hamilton and was brought to fruition by Mr. Erland Lee and his wife Mrs. Janet Lee of Stoney Creek. The Lee couple, utilizing their family connection to all levels of government, orchestrated events, which culminated in the founding of the group in Stoney Creek in February 1897. This ensured that the W.I. would become the voice of rural women across Canada and eventually the world, lobbying for progressive change to improve women's education and social status. Janet Lee drafted the original constitution for the W.I. at the family dining room table still present in the museum home.

The heritage site was occupied by the Lee family from 1808-1972 and became a non-profit museum in 1972, when the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario purchased it. Since 1972 the main building, the accompanying carriage

house, and 1.9 acres of grounds have been a testament to the pioneering vision of the dedicated women who crafted the W.I. and to the enlightened support of Mr. Erland Lee, who worked to ensure the organization was accepted and supported by the government.

The Erland Lee Museum undertakes to preserve the Lee home as it was during the family's 170-year occupancy, with particular emphasis on 1897, and to research, educate, and promote the social history of the Stoney Creek area.

The National Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada undertook research of the site in the summer of 2001. The Board accepted the recommendation for designation in June 2002 and a presentation of a historical plaque is expected in 2004.

The Women's Institutes of Ontario, owners of the heritage site, support the designation to commemorate the past and uphold the future. This designation allows the museum to apply for future funding relating to restoration.

The museum operates year-round with historical main and top floors of the house; a fieldstone basement renovated for a scale model railroad of Stoney Creek; a carriage house with exhibits and a room for school programs and rentals; and grounds with picnic facilities and an escarpment view. For more information 905.662.2691, [www.fwio.on.ca](http://www.fwio.on.ca).

## THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT ALL ASPECTS OF OUR WORK AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY

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## RICHMOND HILL'S MUSEUM OF THE STREETS

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department of the Town of Richmond Hill have put together a 40-page booklet called *Museum of the Streets*. Made possible by the work of Richmond Hill's Millennium Committee and the Government of Ontario's Main Street Program, the booklet is a self-guided tour of 12 sites in Richmond Hill's historic old village core. The booklet contains maps, archival photographs and plenty of interesting information.

Maggie MacKenzie, Heritage Centre Coordinator for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department of the Town of Richmond Hill describes the booklet as follows, "*Museum of the Streets* is a journey of discovery. You will be the tour guide. Our signs and accompanying self-guided tour booklet are here to guide you through the streets of Richmond Hill, showing the obvious, and sometimes not-so-obvious signposts to our fascinating past. *Museum of the Streets* has been

designed to allow you to do as much or as little as you wish at any one time. You will be able to take the journey at your own pace, whenever you like. This innovative museum is always open and there is no admission charge other than your own time and interest in the Town." for further information see their web site at [www.town.richmond-hill.on.ca](http://www.town.richmond-hill.on.ca).



# FROM THE BOOKSHELF

CHRIS AND PAT RAIBLE, EDITORS  
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## Please Note:

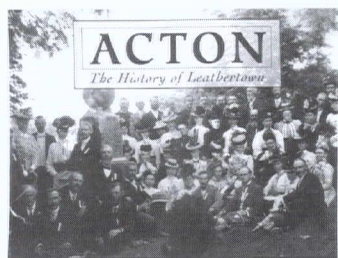
More extensive reviews of a number of books relating to the history of our province are published in each issue of **Ontario History**, a journal also published by the Ontario Historical Society.

*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.*

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

***The Small Details of Life; 20 Diaries by Women in Canada, 1830-1996.*** Edited by Kathryn Carter. University of Toronto Press. 486 pages. Illustrations. \$65.00 hardbound; \$34.95 softbound.

This is an anthology of experiences and feelings noted by women immigrating to and settling in their new homeland. Of the twenty, five deal specifically with life in Canada West / Ontario. Unlike the works of Anna Jameson, Susanna Moodie, and Catharine Parr Traill which were very definitely written with publication in mind, these diary entries were recorded for the writer's own solace, each diary "a Mason jar packed with a rich harvest of details." Every selection is introduced by an essay giving biographical details about the diarist and putting the whole in context.



## AROUND ONTARIO

***Acton: The History of Leathertown.*** By John Mark Benbow Rowe. Esquesing Historical Society. 96 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

An extraordinarily detailed yet highly readable history of an Ontario community founded by a Methodist preacher, but ultimately famed for its leatherworks, especially the Beardmore Company. A name index and a full bibliography add to its usefulness. The Esquesing Historical Society deserves praise for making use of the professional skills of the Boston Mills Press to produce such an attractive volume.

***Hamilton Street Names: An Illustrated Guide.*** Edited by Margaret Houghton. James Lorimer & Co. 135 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Hamilton began as a small settlement but evolved into a metropolis. Here are the stories

attached to more than 100 Hamilton streets, from Aberdeen Avenue to York Boulevard. Editor Margaret Houghton, Special Collections Archivist at the Hamilton Public Library (and president of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society) recruited twenty-five assistants to create a most informative volume.

## IMMIGRANTS ALL

***Arrivals: Stories from the History of Ontario.*** By John Bentley Mays. Toronto: Penguin, 2002. 418 pages. Illustrations. \$36.00 hardbound.

John Bentley Mays is a journalist, not a historian. He is more interested in reporting stories he has discovered than in relating history he has researched. As a result *Arrivals* is a collection of interesting tales, all drawn from the history of this province and arranged in chronological order. What they have in common is that their central figures all came here from somewhere else and that each engages Mays' interest. Because Mays writes so well, these thirty chapters make pleasant reading, all the more so, perhaps, because Mays includes so much of his own personal commentary.

***Portuguese Women in Toronto: Gender, Immigration, and Nationalism.*** By Wenona Giles. University of Toronto Press. 161 pages. \$40.00 hardbound.

Drawing on more than sixty interviews, Giles takes a new look at first and second generation Portuguese immigrants. Comparing the experience and attitudes of these two groups, Giles discusses their cultural homogeneity and heterogeneity and the way in which work outside the home has affected their experiences and attitudes. This is an academic study, but of broader interest are the interviews with and the insights of the women themselves.

## MISSIONARIES

***When We Both Got to Heaven: James Atkey Among the Anishnabek at Colpoy's Bay.*** By Mel Atkey. Natural Heritage Books. 164 pages. Illustrations. \$21.95 softbound.

Mel Atkey has carefully researched the life and times of his great-great-grandfather who emigrated to Canada as a Methodist lay preacher. With his wife and seven youngsters, he settled at Colpoy's Bay (on the Bruce Peninsula) in 1855, called to teach the Anishnaube children to read and write English, primarily so that they could forsake their "heathen" ways. Interspersed with the trials of the

Atkey family are details of white settlement, treaty negotiations, and removal of the Anishnabek to other places (notably Christian Island). It is a dismal tale of governmental mismanagement and duplicity and the unrelenting need for land by the incoming pioneers. After the removal of the Anishnabek, Atkey stayed in the area as farmer and postmaster. Atkey does not condemn his well-meaning and hard-working ancestor, but he makes clear that the whole sad story speaks for itself.

## DEEP DIVISIONS

***The View from Rome: Archbishop Stagni's 1915 Reports on the Ontario Bilingual Schools Question.*** Translated, and with an introduction by John Zucchi. McGill-Queen's University Press. 131 pages. \$65.00 hardbound.

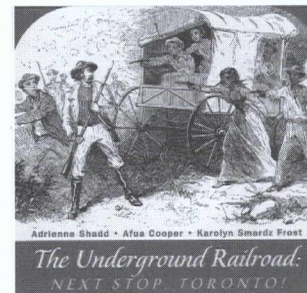
By 1915, Ontario's Catholics may have been united in faith, but they were deeply divided over language. Anglophones wanted their children taught in English, Francophones in French. The specific issue was "bilingual" schools which existed in practice, although not by regulation. The division had become so deep that it threatened the very existence of the province's separate school system. Acrimony was so heated that papal intervention was necessary. An Apostolic Delegate was sent to investigate. Here, for the first time in English, are his reports. John Zucchi's 35-page introduction provides a most helpful historic perspective on the whole controversy.

## REBEL REVISITED

***Mackenzie: A Political Biography of William Lyon Mackenzie.*** By John Sewell. Toronto: James Lorimer, 2002. 249 pages. \$29.95 hardbound.

Like Mackenzie, John Sewell is a former mayor of Toronto who has continued a career of active political involvement. That Mackenzie has inspired that career is most interesting, especially since Mackenzie is so often discounted as a figure of historical significance.

Sewell has three purposes for this volume: to tell of his research experiences in Scotland; to retell Mackenzie's life on the basis of that research; and to distill, from Mackenzie's writings, basic principles that are pertinent to modern Canadian democracy. The book should thus be read by all who would take a fresh look not only at Mackenzie, but also at Upper Canada's reform movement and the importance of the 1837 Rebellion.



## FREE AT LAST

***The Underground Railroad: Next Stop Toronto!*** By Adrienne Shadd, Afua Cooper and Karolyn Smardz Frost. Natural Heritage Books. 92 pages. Illustrations. \$14.95 softbound.

Here – for perhaps the first time – is told the history of blacks in Upper Canada, specifically in York/Toronto. Some of the earliest came as slaves, many more as escaped slaves smuggled from slave-holding U.S. states through northern free states to full freedom in Canada. By mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, Black immigrants comprised some 2,000 of the city's 50,000 residents. The story is less of their escapes and much more of their lives and their contributions to the city in which they settled. Illustrations and old newspaper clippings enhance this history – a work that is essential reading for all who care about Toronto's social and political history.

## CANADIAN FAMILY

***The Journey to Canada.*** By David Mills. Saxon House Canada. 548 pages. Illustrations. \$40.00 hardbound.

The author, grandson of the Hon. David Mills, prominent Ontario Liberal in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, has a double purpose for this volume: to present his own narrative commentary on Canadian history (alas, without citing sources for most of his quotations or information) and to reprint several of his grandfather's essays on Canadian constitutional history. He also mixes in oral history commentary by his father, describing life in Ontario a century or more ago.

## REBELLION AND RANGERS

***Rebellion in the Mohawk Valley: The St. Leger Expedition of 1777.*** By Gavin K. Watt. Dundurn Group. 429 pages. Illustrations. \$28.99 softbound.

Here, in full detail, is the story not of an American invasion of Canada, but an Ontario-based Canadian (British) invasion of New York. The year was 1777, shortly after the outbreak of the American Rebellion. A major military campaign was launched to sever all communication between rebels in New England and those further south. While Burgoyne led his troops south from Montreal via Lake Champlain, a supporting invasion was launched from Lake Ontario to the Mohawk Valley. The two were to link and move down the Hudson. Burgoyne's efforts ended in disaster. St. Leger's were stalled and ultimately halted. Lovers of military history will be fascinated by this meticulously researched and clearly written volume.

## HISTORY NOTED

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

***The Oral History Manual.*** By Barbara Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan. AltaMira Press. US \$24.95 softbound. A guide to help anyone interested in doing oral history research – step-by-step instructions, checklists, full-size reproducible forms, and other helpful suggestions.

***The McCabe List: Early Irish in the Ottawa Valley.*** By Bruce S. Elliott, index by DeAlton Owens. Ontario Genealogical Society. 86 pages. \$11.00 softbound. Information on some 700 mostly Irish families in Bytown in 1829.

***Index to the Upper Canada Land Books, Vol. 6, January 1827 to December 1832.*** Edited by Susan Smart. Ontario Genealogical Society. 347 pages. \$38.00. Adds another 10,990 names – such records are primary sources of information for genealogists. A bonus is "Introduction to the Land-Granting Process in Canada" by Patricia Kennedy of the National Archives.

## DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS

**AltaMira Press**, 15200 NBN Way, Box 191, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214, U.S.A.  
www.altamirapress.com

**Dundurn Press Ltd.**, 8 Market St., Suite 200, Toronto ON M5E 1M6.

**Esquesing Historical Society**, Box 51, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1

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

**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.  
www.naturalheritagebooks.com

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

**Penguin Books Canada, Ltd.**, 10 Alcorn Ave, St. 300, Toronto, ON M4V 3B2.

**Saxon House Canada**, Box 6947, Station A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X6.

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



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