



# OHS BULLETIN

34 PARKVIEW AVENUE, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2N 3Y2

ISSUE 144 MAY 2004

## OTTAWA'S HERITAGE BUDGET REINSTATED

The past few months have been ones of great upset and determination for Ottawa's heritage community. In February of 2004, the City of Ottawa proposed a budget with drastic cuts aimed at the cultural sector – heritage in particular seemed to be targeted. The City proposed the complete closure of the four city-owned museums (Billings Estate, Pinhey's, Cumberland and Gloucester) and funding cuts to all the heritage programs and organizations. Thankfully, these drastic, short-sighted measures met with a great deal of opposition from cultural groups and supporters of arts and heritage.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, it was decided by Ottawa city council,

the cuts would not be made. A 2.92% increase in property taxes will allow these important programs to continue. David Flemming, President of Heritage Ottawa, commented, "Everything in the heritage budget earmarked for reduction or elimination on February 11 was reinstated except for a forty thousand dollar programming exhibition grant for Ottawa City Archives. A sustainability plan for museums was also approved."

Heritage and its preservation is an important aspect of what makes a city a destination – a tourist attraction, a unique experience, all of which are good for economic development; not to mention heritage is our identity.



## MINISTER OF CULTURE JOINS HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION

Heritage Day 2004 was celebrated in style at the John McKenzie House in Willowdale. A wide variety of guests attended, including Ontario's new Minister of Culture, Madeleine Meilleur; Roy Collingwood, Constituency Asst. to Willowdale MPP David Zimmer; OHS members, donors and volunteers; and colleagues in the heritage community. The Ontario Historical Society hosted this annual reception to pay tribute to Ontario's Heritage Day/Week and to salute Ontario's extensive military history.

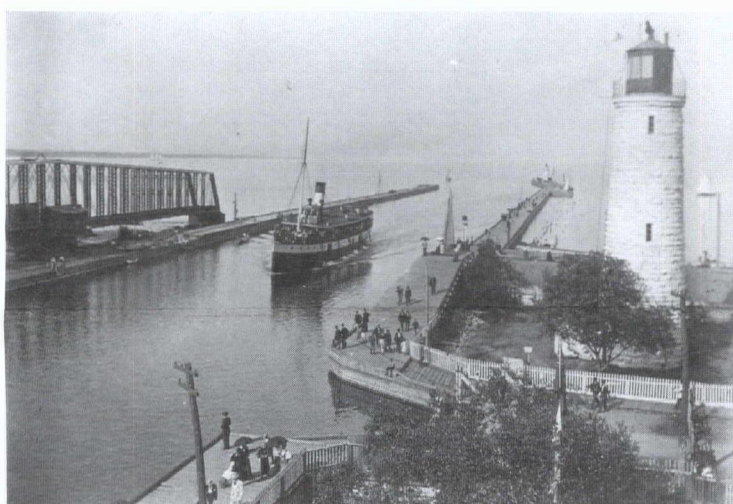
Everyone enjoyed the reception that was complemented by excellent food, catered by Chef Frederick Oh of Eidolon

Catering; delicious wine from Niagara's Joseph's Estate Wines, poured by Terrence Tait; swinging jazz music provided by Tim Cozens and Ron Mathews of Café Jazz; and colourful re-enactors Bruce and Carol Whittaker, Tim Avery and Bill Meakins.

To commemorate this important military theme, the OHS produced a full colour poster illustrating various military images from the early years to the present day. Posters were mailed to all members in

time for Heritage Week, and were also distributed to members of Canada's military. Thanks go to the many people and organizations who donated the use of military photographs and related images including Rick Shaver, John Wright, Fort William, Fort York, Fort Wellington, Fort George, Joseph Brant Museum, Canadian Warplane Heritage/Rick Radell Photography, and *The Toronto Star*/Peter Power photographer. A limited number of these beautiful posters remain

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## HELP SAVE AND RESTORE HISTORIC LIGHTHOUSE

The Beach Canal Lighthouse Group is a new group, but their membership is growing rapidly. This group is dedicated to acquiring, restoring and preserving the 1858 limestone lighthouse and the

1857 Lightkeeper's Cottage beside the lift bridge at the Burlington Bay Canal, the entrance to Hamilton Harbour. These long ignored structures are the oldest on the entire Burlington-Hamilton beach strip. This group's latest newsletter *Beach Beacon*, explains: "John Brown, who also constructed the six Imperial Towers on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay, was hired to build the 1858 lighthouse. It was constructed of white dolomite limestone that is over five feet thick at chest height, and is about 55 feet high. It is almost identical to the lighthouse built by Brown on Christian Island in Georgian Bay. When the lighthouse stonework was complete, an interior spiraling staircase was installed. Then the lantern roof was added with the light. This lighthouse was one of the first to use coal oil, rather than the traditional whale oil. This began a new trend in preferred energy sources, which angered

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ABOVE: A Pre-1910 photograph of the 1858 limestone lighthouse at the Burlington Ship Canal entrance to Hamilton Harbour. Courtesy Hamilton Public Library Special Collections

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RIGHT: Members of the Sheffield Park Black History Museum, The Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee and the Bruce-Grey Branch, OGS, are seen here leaving for Collingwood after attending the Heritage Day reception at the John McKenzie House.

Photo Rob Leverty

TOP: Posing for a photograph at the Heritage Day reception held at the historic John McKenzie House are, left to right: Carol Whittaker, Bruce Whittaker, Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur, Bill Meakins and Timothy Avery. These colourful re-enactors added a special air of military heritage to the event where a wide variety of guests enjoyed themselves.

Photo Sheila Creighton



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OF

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2004, 2 P.M.

Refreshments

Spring release of *Ontario History*

John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale

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





# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

JEAN MURRAY COLE

At the OHS Heritage Day celebration on February 16<sup>th</sup>, it was a great pleasure to welcome the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister of Culture, on her first visit to the John McKenzie House, and to greet so many OHS members and colleagues from other provincial heritage groups. It was a lively afternoon, with good music, good food, and even some red-coated re-enactors highlighting this year’s military history theme. One special busload of visitors came from Collingwood, combining a visit to the Black History exhibit at Black Creek Pioneer Village with their stop at Parkview Avenue for the OHS reception.

These are busy times at the John McKenzie House. The Cultural Tourism Marketing grant from the Ministry of Culture that was announced by Minister Meilleur on Heritage Day provides an opportunity for our member organizations to book affordable space in a special advertising insert in the Toronto Star on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, and staff members look forward to hearing from many of you who want to promote your upcoming activities. This initiative will result in a comprehensive list of heritage events throughout the province this summer, in a convenient form to save for reference.

HERITAGE DAY continued from page 1

and if you or your organization would like one for display contact the OHS.

And special thanks to the Ministry of Culture for continued support of the OHS and its initiatives to bring Ontario’s heritage to the people! See below for a complete list of the people who made this Heritage Day reception a wonderful success.



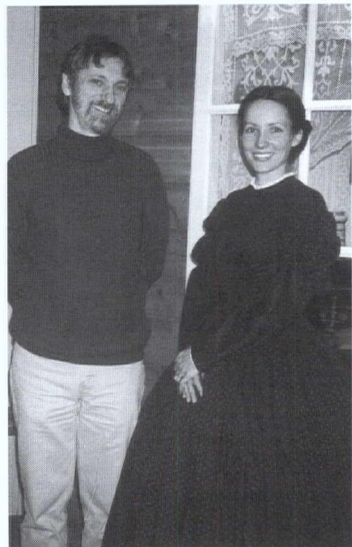
Top: Tim Cozens (left) and Ron Mathews of Café Jazz played a variety of jazz favourites.

Left: (Left to right) Carmela Andraos, OHS Member & Volunteer, Christina Perfetto, OHS Membership Coordinator, and Rita Scagnetti, Director Heritage & Libraries Branch, Ministry of Culture, have fun at the Heritage Day reception. Photos Sheila Creighton

THE OHS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATIONS: Ontario Ministry of Culture; Frederick Oh of Eidolon Catering; Tim Cozens and Ron Mathews of Café Jazz; Terrence Tait from Joseph’s Estate Wines; Emilia Romano and Irene Gubelmann of Success by Design; Mary Tezak from The Toronto Star; Re-enactors: Bruce & Carol Whittaker, Timothy Avery, Bill Meakins; Benjamin Moore & Company, Ltd.; Community Foundations of Canada; Turn of the Century Lighting; Painter Mario Ruggeiero; Electrician Bill Gelinas; Royal Canadian Legion, North York Branch No. 66; OHS volunteers: Richard Thompson, Charles St. John, Harvey Medland, Sergio Tonon, Pearl Hui, Diane Clendenan, Jeanne Hughes, Penny Potter, Jean Murray Cole, Jack Cecillon, Rhonda Bailey and Wasay Rizwan.

Below: On Heritage Day, February 16<sup>th</sup>, in co-operation with the OHS, Black Creek Pioneer Village (BCPV) presented various educational programs to heritage groups from the Collingwood area. Chris Bagley (left), Supervisor for Interpretation, Education & Events (BCPV) is seen here with Chara Kirkman, Costume Designer (BCPV). Chara presented a popular session on 19<sup>th</sup> Century Costume Design.

Photo Rob Leverty



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

PATRICIA K. NEAL  
pkn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Our Heritage Day 2004 celebrations brought many OHS members, donors and friends together in a salute to Ontario’s military heritage. More than 150 people dropped in on the festivities during our afternoon event that featured music by Café Jazz, food by Eidolon Catering, wine by Joseph’s Estate Wines, and costumed re-enactors (Bruce and Carol Whittaker, Timothy Avery and Bill Meakins). Culture Minister Madeleine Meilleur brought greetings from Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, and formally announced the province’s investment in the OHS Guide to Heritage Tourism in Ontario. Roy Collingwood brought greetings and congratulations from David Zimmer, MPP Willowdale.

The Guide to Heritage Tourism will be released June 5<sup>th</sup> in the Saturday Star. It will feature heritage tourism activities and events from June through September. All OHS members and heritage partners have been invited to participate in this initiative. I hope that your organization recognized the value of this endeavour and submitted a listing.

Our full-colour poster saluting Ontario’s military heritage has been very well received. A full-page reproduction of the poster was featured in the February 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Saturday Star, which brought many calls of appreciation, and new members, to the OHS. Framed copies of the poster were presented to both Minister Meilleur and Mr. Collingwood in appreciation of their support. A poster was mailed to each member and dozens of posters were shipped to National Defence Headquarters in Ottawa for distribution to our Canadian Armed Forces overseas. The poster is reproduced on our website where we encourage

others to submit their own photographs depicting Ontario’s military heritage. We’ve had many requests for extra copies of the poster. We will respond to demand as stock permits.

Heritage Day was also the unveiling of the freshly repainted John McKenzie House, home of the OHS. Benjamin Moore & Company, Ltd. and Community Foundations of Canada provided paint and funds to repair and redecorate this distinguished heritage property. Our friends at Turn of the Century Lighting in Toronto provided antique and reproduction light fixtures appropriate to the architectural style and period of the building. It was a hectic few weeks, but all work was completed in time for our celebrations. How wonderful to hear the many comments from our visitors on our ‘new look’.

The federal government has announced a new financial incentive program to support owners of commercial heritage properties. Through the Commercial Heritage Properties Incentive Fund (CHPIF), Canadian companies interested in rehabilitating a historic property for commercial purposes could have 20% of the eligible costs reimbursed by the federal government. To be eligible for financial support, projects must comply with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, and involve the restoration, for commercial purposes, of a building or property listed in the Canadian Register of Historic Places. The building or property must also be owned or leased by a for-profit Canadian corporation. Applications for the initial phase of this program were due March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004. For more information about the CHPIF, contact program officials at Parks Canada at 819. 934.2818 or at CHPIF@pc.gc.ca.

Requests for Directors & Officers Liability coverage are still being received from affiliated societies. We continue to work on this initiative with a local insurance broker. Our goal is to develop a reasonably priced insurance package that can be efficiently administered.

There are still a few spots available in our antique identification workshop series. Participants will learn how to identify 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century decorative arts. Janet Carlile presents the first three workshops in the series on glass, silver, and porcelain/pottery. Janet writes a popular column on antiques for the Southam newspaper chain and is currently Curator/Director of the Arnprior and District Museum. Daniel O’Brien presents the fourth workshop in the series on furniture. Many members will recognize Daniel’s name, as he is a Museum Advisor with the Ministry of Culture. Daniel has extensive knowledge of historical interiors, furniture and design. An antique identification clinic will take place on the Friday evening preceding the Saturday workshops. Meet Janet and Daniel and learn the history of your treasured piece while enjoying refreshments.

Membership in The Ontario Historical Society continues to be a sound investment! Canada Revenue Agency (formerly Canada Customs & Revenue Agency) has recently advised that the OHS may issue tax receipts for membership dues. Effective January 2004, tax receipts will be issued for the full amount of dues from members. Members who subscribe to Ontario History will receive a tax receipt for the amount of their dues less \$10 (the value of the member’s discounted price). Include a donation with your membership renewal and realize greater savings at tax time!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Leeja Isabel Anderson  
Marilyn M. Barry  
Dave & Pat Ferguson  
Thomas Ferguson  
Murray Hodgins  
Tina Hummel  
Naresh Khosla  
David B. Milne  
George Redburn  
Edwin Rowse  
Craig R. Sitter  
Ken & Susan Stewart  
Culinary Historians of Ontario  
Peterborough Centennial  
Museum & Archives

## THANK-YOU TO OUR DONORS

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT ALL ASPECTS OF OUR WORK AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY

Louis & Donalda Badone  
Dr. Carl E. Benn  
Dorie Billich  
Jean E. K. Cole  
Laney Doyle  
Brian Gallagher  
Dr. John E. F. Hastings  
Jeanne Hughes  
Charles Johnston  
Rose Kessler  
Frances Kilbourne  
Carol King  
Donna Maine  
Duane Margolese  
Joe Martin  
James E. McAndless

Judy McGonigal  
Joan Milburn  
James Miller  
Janet Morgan  
Joan Harman Murray  
Sharon Spears  
Marjorie Stuart  
Corlene Taylor (The Ontario Genealogical Society)  
Richard Thompson  
Sarah Walker  
Alan E. Woods  
Manvers Township Historical Society  
The Ontario Genealogical Society

## BOOKS WANTED

The OHS seeks book donations for our annual fundraising Book Sale on May 29 & 30. All titles welcomed. If you have any used or new books you would like to donate to this excellent cause, please call the OHS office at 416.226.9011.

## JOIN THE OHS FOR THE ANNUAL HONOURS & AWARDS PRESENTATION

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2004,  
2:30 p.m.

Reception follows

John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale



# ACROSS THE PROVINCE

**The Warkworth Percy Historical Society** held its first evening of “**Culinary Delights**” in 2001. This special program presented traditional foods from members of the community representing various ethnic backgrounds. Participants also gave a brief explanation about the tradition of their dish. A variety of dishes were served from authentic Neapolitan Pizza and Finnish breads to Hummus and Chicken Curry. After much demand, a second evening offered up an equally delicious feast with Welsh Scones and Cakes, German Herring Salad, South Korean noodles with Beef and Mixed Vegetables.

Continuing this tradition, in 2004, a third evening presented dishes including a Barbados specialty Chicken with Peas and Rice, Pizizzi from Malta, and Alderville First Nations’ Wild Rice Creamy Pudding.

Plans are in the works to hold a fourth “Culinary Delights” evening in 2005. The Society meets the fourth Monday of the month from September to May, 7:30 p.m. at the Percy Heritage Centre, Warkworth. Everyone is welcome. For further information call 705.653.4082 or 705.924.2502.



Photo Gibson Seeley  
ABOVE: Peterborough Historical Society past and present board and trust committee members were photographed at the annual dinner meeting and silent auction held during Heritage Week. Front row from left: Willard Chapman, Lois Davidson, Gwen Morawetz, Lilly Blin, Mary Laverty, Martha Kidd, Jean M. Cole, Bennery Corkery, Marilyn Huels (President); back row: Donald Earle, David Bate, Michael Townsend, Rob Easton, Chris Ormerod, Bill Hemmings, Bill Durant, Paul Armstrong, Stewart Brown, Don Willcock (past President).



On February 6th, 2004, Regan Hutcheson (centre) received the “Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal” for his efforts in heritage conservation. The Commemorative Medal for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II’s Golden Jubilee was created to mark the 50th anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty to the Throne on February 6, 1952. It is awarded to those persons who have made a significant contribution to Canada, to their community or to their fellow Canadians. Regan was presented the medal in the Great Hall at the Town of Markham Civic Centre. Included in the photograph are members of Regan’s family, Town (Heritage Section) staff, members of Heritage Markham and members of Town Staff and Council. He received the award from Mayor W. Donald Cousens of Markham.

Toronto’s **Eric Rosen**, author of history books, *The Banker of Cabbagetown* and *The Don* and other children’s history books, has a new set of Historical Prints available, seven prints from wood cuts. More information can be found at [www.ericbooks.com](http://www.ericbooks.com).

An interesting website to visit is the Toronto Public Library’s award winning **Ontario History Quest** (OHQ) website at <http://ohq.tpl.toronto.on.ca>. This site covers history in Ontario from 1820–1970 and is the newest online learning tool for students studying history in grades 7, 8, 10 and 12.

Winner of the “EduNet Choice Award,” the site has been named “Site of the Month” by the Toronto District School Board and is recommended by HISTOR!CA, a charitable organization dedicated to increasing awareness and understanding of Canadian History. OHQ was developed in partnership with the Toronto Public Library, the Archives of Ontario and the City of Toronto Archives and made possible in part through the Ontario Ministry of Culture

Library Strategic Development Fund: Digital Alliances Program. Toronto Public Library is North America’s busiest public library system with 98 branches. Every week, over 300,000 people visit its branches and borrow more than half a million items.

**Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants – 2004 Annual Conference** will be held Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> in Gravenhurst, Ontario. This conference brings together heritage professionals from national, regional and local governments and organizations who present issues in natural or built heritage and cultural tourism. For more information visit the CAPHC website at [www.caphc.ca](http://www.caphc.ca) or email: [admin@caphc.ca](mailto:admin@caphc.ca), 416.515.7450.



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LIGHTHOUSE cont. from page 1

many whalers, since it threatened their livelihood. The lighthouse was maintained without major repairs until 1958.”

The Beach Canal Lighthouse Group held a meeting in March featuring speaker Michael Sterling, a leader in the successful restoration of the Chantry Island Lighthouse at Southampton. Sterling gave the group a firsthand account of the exciting and challenging journey which lies ahead.

The Group is raising funds and building local partnerships to restore the limestone tower and brick house in time for their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2008. Both buildings are in remarkable condition for their age. The group hopes the historic lighthouse and cottage will again be a magnificent sight, with a working light tower and indoor/outdoor exhibits reminding visitors of the fascinating history and importance of the canal area to the development of the entire region.

If you are interested in being part of this exciting project – saving and restoring these unique lake structures – then contact The Beach Canal Lighthouse Group at 905.681.6233 or email: [lighthouse1858@hotmail.com](mailto:lighthouse1858@hotmail.com).

## ENJOY A HERITAGE PUBLISHING VACATION

Take a holiday and learn how to write and publish a community history or family history book while holidaying in a popular historical setting.

Ontario History Consultant Orland French is hosting a heritage publishing vacation this May 17-21 at beautiful Jones Falls in the heart of Rideau Lakes. French, an experienced writer and publisher of community history books, has applied his expertise to create a vacation opportunity both pleasant and informative for people who love history.

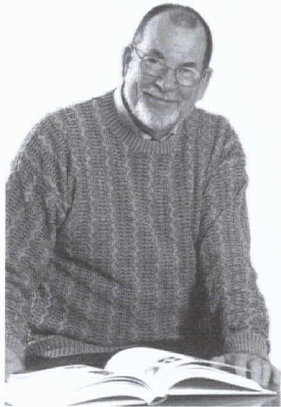
On this history publishing vacation, you will also learn about the Rideau Canal locks and lakes and have time to explore nearby heritage sites. Participants will enjoy the hospitality and comfort of the historic Hotel Kenney and share the experience with other history enthusiasts.

One all-inclusive price covers accommodation, meals, seminars, informative lectures and admission fees. The five-day package is priced at \$650 for one person, double occupancy, or

\$775 for single occupancy. All taxes and gratuities are included. There is a maximum of 20 participants so early registration is encouraged.

Orland French has a great amount of experience in the history book publishing area. He publishes history books through his company Wallbridge House Publishing of Bellville, and acts as a history book consultant for the history book program at Friesens, producers of history publications well-known in Western Canada. French has worked with community and corporate history book committees and individuals, assisting them by providing advice on organizing a committee. This includes tips on researching and writing histories, assistance on collecting and choosing pictures, information on pricing, help with marketing and fund-raising promotions, support for publishers using a computer, and experience in desktop publishing.

If you are an individual or group looking to publish some kind of history book, then this is the perfect holiday. For more information call 613.969.8354, or visit [www.littlebrickbookhouse.com/heritageholiday](http://www.littlebrickbookhouse.com/heritageholiday) or email [ofrench@littlebrickbookhouse.com](mailto:ofrench@littlebrickbookhouse.com)



LEFT: Orland French, history book publishing expert, will share his extensive knowledge on a holiday for those who love local history.

## ANNUAL BOOK SALE MAY 29 & 30 – 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Join us for this annual fund-raising event held in conjunction with *Doors Open Toronto* at the historic John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale

**FREE admission**

**All kinds of used books – new ones too!**  
**FICTION & NON-FICTION**

gardening, cooking, history, romance, mystery, reference, nature, travel, health, and much more!

## COLLECTORS NIGHT BOOK SALE

**FRIDAY, MAY 28, 7- 9 P.M.**

**\$10** per person includes refreshments, a wine sampling, and the first chance to purchase a wide variety of books prior to the weekend sale – perfect for collectors and booksellers.

For more information please call 416.226.9011



The Ontario Archaeological Society Seeks An Executive Director.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
**ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**PART-TIME POSITION**

### GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION

The Executive Director reports to the President and is responsible to the elected Board of Directors of the Ontario Archaeological Society Inc. (OAS), for overall administration of the OAS.

A detailed job description can be found at:  
[www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca](http://www.ontarioarchaeology.on.ca)

Send your résumé by Friday **May 14, 2004** to:  
Christine Caroppo, President,

Ontario Archaeological Society,  
1444 Queen St. E., Toronto, ON M4L 1E1  
Or: [ccaroppo@rom.on.ca](mailto:ccaroppo@rom.on.ca) Inquiries: (416) 586-5726



EVENTS & EXHIBITS

**APRIL 24, 2004: Historic Gardening Talk** at the Jordan Historical Museum at 1 p.m. Join Bob Wildfong, Horticultural Specialist, for an informative session on historic gardening. Cost is \$4, registration required. Contact 905.562.5242 or email jhmtchin@vaxxine.com for more information or to register.

**MAY 2, 2004: Trilliums, Trout-lilies and Bloodroots: A Guided Walk** Learn to identify some of spring's earliest blooming woodland flowers in this guided walk through the Todmorden Mills Wildflower Preserve. Free parking/admission for walk. 416.396.2819 or todmorden@toronto.ca for more information.

**MAY 4, 2004: A slide show on the History of the Opeongo Rd.** Presented by Dave Lorente, popular speaker and advocate of "Home Children". Country Haven Retirement Home Meeting Room, Beachburg, 7:30 p.m. Contact the Ross Museum 613.646.2622 for more information.

**MAY 16, 2004: 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 'Burning of Dover', War of 1812.** The United Empire Loyalists, Grand River Branch, mark this anniversary at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Port Dover. Starts at 2 p.m.

**MAY 21 – SEPT. 10, 2004: It's About Time**, an exhibit by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. Highlighting the museum's collection of watches and clocks, examine technological advances in time measurement and how our concept of time has changed. For more information call 905.727.8954.

**MAY 23, 2004: A Walking Tour of the Fort York Garrison Reserve and Niagara Neighbourhood.** Explore the history of this area and learn about the origins of Fort York and the subsequent industrial neighbourhood. Meet at Fort York's Canteen, main entrance, rain or shine, moderate difficulty, free parking. Participants get free admission to the fort following the tour, call 416.392.6907 for information.

**MAY 27–30, 2004: Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar 2004**, annual conference at the International Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre, Toronto. Included is a presentation titled *Ontario's Cemeteries – The Struggle for the Public Interest*. Contact 416.733.2608 or visit [www.ogsseminar.org](http://www.ogsseminar.org).

**MAY 29, 2004: Hearth Cooking Workshop** at the Jordan Historical Museum, 1-4 p.m. Learn to cook over the open hearth in the historic Fry House in this hands-on workshop. \$30/adult + GST, includes all supplies. Registration required. Contact 905.562.5242 or email jhmtchin@vaxxine.com for more information.

**MAY 31 – JUNE 2, 2004: "Access and Privacy" the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Archives Association of Ontario Conference.** Ban Righ Hall, Queen's University. Presentations and debates on how recent changes in legislation affect archival programs. 20+ speakers on various archival issues. Register by May 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact 416.533.9592 or [aao@ao.fis.utoronto.ca](mailto:aao@ao.fis.utoronto.ca) for more information.

**JUNE 5 & 6, 2004: Springtime in Paris**, a Paris Historical Society Walking Tour. 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. daily, lunch with John Bemrose, author of *The Island Walkers*. Ticket information and reservations call 519.442.2433 ext. 19 or email [parishs@execulink.com](mailto:parishs@execulink.com) or [www.parishhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.parishhistoricalsociety.com).

**JUNE 11-13, 2004: Lake Simcoe Heritage Faire and Militia Muster.** Experience life from the 1790s to the 1860s with re-enactors, merchants and demonstrators at Georgina Pioneer Village. Contact 905.476.4305 ext. 284 or [ngyorody@town.georgina.on.ca](mailto:ngyorody@town.georgina.on.ca) for more info.

**JUNE 12, 2004: Settler's Day at the Markham Museum.** Starting at noon and featuring a newly constructed Conestoga wagon. Over forty pioneer activities demonstrated throughout the day including butter churning and rope making. Contact Lorne Smith at [lorne.smith@sympatico.ca](mailto:lorne.smith@sympatico.ca) for information.

**JUNE 12-18, 2004: All About You, Leeds and the Thousand Islands.** Art, history and music fest featuring 100 paintings of the Township by Shirley Gibson-Langille. Lots of activities, prizes and refreshments from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at the Lansdowne Community Building, 1 Jesse St. Free admission, for details visit <http://shirleygibsonlangille.homestead.com>

**JUNE 26, 2004: Tombstone Tales**, author Harvey Medland presents a talk on Ontario cemeteries. Parry Sound Genealogical Society, 12 noon, call 705.789.5813 for more information.

**JULY 10, 2004: "Art in the Park" at Harrison Estate Park.** Presented by the Scarborough Arts Council and The Bluffs Gallery. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. artists working in all media will be selling their wares. Paintings, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewelry and more. Contact 416.698.7322 or [gallery@scarborougharts.com](mailto:gallery@scarborougharts.com) for more information.

**JULY 17 & 18, 2004: Echoes from Niagara's Past**, presented by Fort George, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Period re-enactors recreate battle scenarios of the War of 1812. Muskets and cannons to be fired, demonstrations of military weapons and tactics presented along with a period fashion show. For information and admission 905.468.6614, [www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca](http://www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca)

**JULY 24, 2004: Port Maitland Festival of History**, at the Dunnville Airport. Runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., see you there! Contact [wwarnick@cogeco.ca](mailto:wwarnick@cogeco.ca) for more information.

The Ontario Historical Society and Natural Heritage Books take pleasure in hosting **A Celebration of African Canadian History in Print** Events and book displays Meet authors, editors and publishers Readings and light refreshments **Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. John McKenzie House 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale RSVP by Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> Rob Levery Tel: 416.226.9011 Email: [rlivery@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:rlivery@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

UPCOMING DOORS OPEN ONTARIO EVENTS

<b>MAY</b>	
Hamilton	May 1-2
Gravenhurst	May 22-23
Brockville-Thousand Islands	May 29
St. Marys	May 29
Owen Sound	May 29-30
Sault Ste. Marie	May 29-30
Toronto	May 29-30
Port Hope	May 30
<b>JUNE</b>	
Perth	June 5
Whitchurch-Stouffville	June 5
Huron	June 5-6
Ottawa	June 5-6
Smiths Falls	June 6
Mississippi Mills	June 12
<b>JULY</b>	
Meaford	July 10-11

For more information: [www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca) or contact the **Ontario Heritage Foundation** at 416.325.5015

JOIN THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT THESE EVENTS			
FOR INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE EVENTS CALL 416.226.9011			
DATE	EVENT	HOST/SPONSOR	LOCATION
<b>2004</b>			
MAY 1	OHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING LAUNCH OF SPRING ONTARIO HISTORY	The Ontario Historical Society	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
MAY 7	FIPPA WORKSHOP	The Museums Committee of The Ontario Historical Society	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
MAY 14	FRIDAY NIGHT ID CLINIC - SILVER	OHS Antique Series	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
MAY 15	SATURDAY ANTIQUE WORKSHOP - SILVER	OHS Antique Series	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
MAY 18	CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY IN PRINT	OHS & Natural Heritage Books	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
MAY 20	ONTARIO'S CEMETERIES - THE STRUGGLE FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST - PRESENTATION	OHS at Brampton Historical Society	Brampton
MAY 27-30	3 RS OF FAMILY HISTORY INCLUDING ONTARIO'S CEMETERIES - THE STRUGGLE FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST - PRESENTATION	OHS at OGS Seminar 2004	Toronto
MAY 28	COLLECTORS NIGHT BOOK SALE	The Ontario Historical Society	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
MAY 29-30	OHS ANNUAL BOOK SALE IN CONJUNCTION WITH DOORS OPEN TORONTO	OHS with City of Toronto Culture Division	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
JUNE 5	HERITAGE TOURISM PERSPECTIVES SECTION	The Saturday Star	Ontario & <a href="http://www.thestar.com">www.thestar.com</a>
JUNE 7	ORAL HISTORY - WORKSHOP	OHS & Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee	Community Heritage Church, Collingwood
JUNE 13	HONOURS & AWARDS PRESENTATION	The Ontario Historical Society	John McKenzie House, Willowdale
JUNE 19	ANNUAL MEETING AND 35TH ANNIVERSARY - GUEST SPEAKER	OHS at Seventh Town Historical Society	Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, Ameliasburg
JULY 24	PORT MAITLAND FESTIVAL OF HISTORY	OHS at Dunnville Airport	Dunnville

**SATURDAY ANTIQUE WORKSHOPS**

LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY  
18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DECORATIVE ARTS:  
SILVER, PORCELAIN & POTTERY, FURNITURE.  
DESIGNED FOR MUSEUM CURATORS, COLLECTORS,  
ANTIQUE ENTHUSIASTS

Workshops will be held on Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale

**MAY 15 – SILVER**  
**SEPTEMBER 18 – PORCELAIN & POTTERY**  
**OCTOBER 16 – FURNITURE**  
each session:  
**\$65 for OHS members \$80 non-members**  
Includes lunch and one object ID, plus a.m. & p.m.  
refreshments, Pre-registration is required

Join expert Janet Carlile for a fun and informative workshop. She will be instructing on Silver, Porcelain, and Pottery. Janet Carlile is an independent valuer and appraiser. Her training in antiques is wide and varied.

Daniel O'Brien will teach the furniture workshop. Daniel's knowledge of furniture and design is extensive and he is currently a Museum Advisor for the Ministry of Culture.

**FRIDAY NIGHT ID CLINICS**

On the Friday nights, 7 – 9 p.m., prior to the Saturday workshops, an ID clinic with Janet Carlile will take place at the John McKenzie House, Willowdale.  
Have an object related to the workshop topic identified for \$10 per item. Enjoy refreshments.

Note: This is an identification clinic not an appraisal.

**MAY 14 – SILVER**  
**SEPTEMBER 17 – PORCELAIN & POTTERY**  
**OCTOBER 15 – FURNITURE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PHONE 416.226.9011 OR  
[www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)



# CEMETERY NEWS

MARJORIE STUART

Good News! On January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2004, The Town of Markham passed a bylaw designating **The Clendennen Cemetery** as being of historic and/or architectural value or interest in accordance with Section 29, Subsection 6 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Our readers will remember that this is the pioneer cemetery which the OHS and OGS fought to save from real estate development. In 1999 The Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal ruled it was in the *public interest* that this cemetery should not be closed and moved. Dedication ceremonies are expected to take place later this year.

More Good News! On January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Rob Leverty of the OHS was at the Toronto South Community Council which adopted the report designating St. James' Cathedral Burying Ground under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the Toronto City Council unanimously endorsed the designation of the St. James' Burying Ground. We now look forward to the passage of the accompanying bylaw. Also now under consideration for heritage designation are **St. James' Cemetery** on Parliament Street and **The Toronto Necropolis** in Toronto.

From across Canada we continue to receive letters, emails and telephone calls re the fate of **St. Alban's Anglican Church Cemetery** in Palgrave. As we go to press the Ontario Registrar for

Cemeteries has not given his decision on the *public interest* as it relates to the latest application to dig up and move the entire cemetery in order for the owner to build a house.

In the past two months we have received numerous communications regarding unmarked and possibly unknown burial sites. It is important that these be reported to the Cemeteries Regulation Section, Ministry of Consumer and Business Services, 250 Yonge Street, 32<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Toronto, ON M5B 2N5. Also it is extremely important that these sites be recorded on the Official Town Plan of the municipality. The lack of awareness of these sites can create much indignity to the deceased.

Concern has been raised in Magnetawan over the fate of **Ahmie Harbour Cemetery**. This cemetery is located within Croft Recreational Park. Title to the property must be determined before a decision can be made as to its disposition.

An abandoned family burial ground has been found near Ventnor Road, beside the Nation River east of Spencerville. Any person with information about this burial ground is asked to contact the OHS office.

There is concern about abandoned cemeteries in the District of Parry Sound. Research is underway to determine the ownership of these properties.

Over the past few months we have received messages of concern about the two cemeteries in the town of Spragge. These are the **Spragge Protestant and Roman Catholic Cemeteries**. The town has been sold.

Congratulations to Murray Pletsch of North Bay. His hobby is photographing tombstones in local cemeteries. The information is placed on his web site <http://nocgg.madoc.net>. Many of the tombstones he has recorded are becoming illegible or worse, have disappeared through vandalism.

In recognition of Ontario's military heritage, preparation is underway to recognize the **burial grounds at Fort York** as well as **Victoria Memorial Square** in Toronto. Burials range from the early days of the Town of York and the War of 1812.

Visitors to the Hamilton area should have **Hamilton Cemetery** on their itinerary. This is the final resting place of the early founders of the city and the elaborate earthworks prepared for the War of 1812 have been preserved. This is an extremely interesting cemetery to visit.

We have received concerns regarding the fate of **Middleport Cemetery** in Onondaga Township. This cemetery and the church, which is the original building, date from 1854 and were the first Anglican Church and burying ground in the Township.

The **Thomas Foster Memorial Temple** in Uxbridge built over 70 years ago for use as a family mausoleum is badly in need of necessary repair and painting.

The Elgin County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society has undertaken a project to identify unmarked burials in Elgin County cemeteries. This project aimed at existing cemeteries may also identify other unmarked burial locations. Those with information are asked to contact Bruce Johnson at [bjohnson@amtelecom.net](mailto:bjohnson@amtelecom.net) or the Elgin County Branch, OGS, Box 20060, St Thomas ON N5P 4H4.

The Leeds & Grenville Branch OGS seeks information about an "Indian Mound" one mile south of Athens. A picture appeared in Leavitt's *"History of Leeds & Grenville"*. Anyone with information is asked to contact the branch at P. O. Box 536, Brockville, ON K6V 5V7.

In Quesnel BC, Mary Lust, a long time Quesnel resident, has identified at least 275 former residents who are known to have been buried in the **Quesnel Pioneer Cemetery** with unmarked locations. The cemetery has approximately 1000 registered burials.

At **Lansdowne Cemetery** in Enderby, BC, tours were arranged of the cemetery in conjunction with Enderby Museum. A summer student was hired to research the cemetery and those buried there.

What developed was a successful series of tours arranged for local visitors and tourists.

The Sioux Lookout Genealogy Club dedicated a cairn to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century pioneers buried in Sioux Lookout's earliest cemetery located across the lake and accessible by water or railway tracks. The site was named the **George W. Kendall Sr. Memorial Cemetery** in honour of George Kendall who researched the site unused since 1915. Descendants of families buried there attended the ceremonies.

Rob Leverty has again received many invitations to present "Ontario's Cemeteries - The Struggle for the Public Interest". On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Rob will be at the Brampton Historical Society and on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the OGS Seminar 2004 *Resources/Research/Results 3 RRRs of Family History* ([www.ogsseminar.org](http://www.ogsseminar.org)).

Our readers are reminded that the final date for submission for the next issue of *OHS Bulletin* is May 5<sup>th</sup> for the Summer Issue. I will be pleased to publicize your cemetery events that are planned for the summer months. Please write to me, Attention: Marjorie Stuart at the OHS office or email [marjstuart@sympatico.ca](mailto:marjstuart@sympatico.ca)

## ST. MARYS OLDEST CEMETERY HONOURED

On Sunday, November 30, 2003, a group gathered for a ceremony to unveil a plaque marking the location of the earliest recorded burial grounds in the town of St. Marys. The site, currently a neighbourhood park, was used between 1850 and 1885 as a Protestant cemetery and then abandoned when a new non-denominational municipal cemetery opened. Concerned that the park's original purpose might someday be forgotten, the St. Marys Historical Society and the Town of St. Marys joined together to install a permanent memorial.

St. Marys is a town of about 6500 in southwestern Ontario. Originally settled as part of the Huron Tract, and administered by the Canada Company, surveyors laid out the town site of St. Marys in 1839 and the first lands within the town's boundaries were soon sold. Principal buyers were members of one prominent family from nearby Oxford County, the Ingersolls, including brothers Thomas and James and several of their sons and nephews. Altogether, some 700 acres at the core of the town were bought by this family, who set out to provide services that would attract settlers.

A sawmill and a grist mill were up and running by the early 1840s, and, a few years later, James Ingersoll set aside suitable sites for church buildings for the three main Protestant denominations: Church of England, Methodist and Presbyterian. In a separate part of town, he also gave these congregations three adjacent blocks of land for their cemeteries. In 1850, this may have seemed adequate provision for a community graveyard. But by the mid-1880s, the cemeteries were full and the Department of Health ordered them closed. In 1885, the first burial took place in the municipal cemetery that still serves as the St. Marys Cemetery.

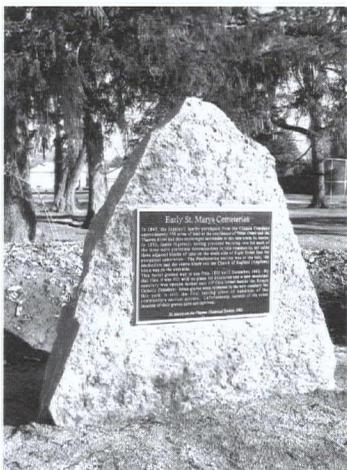
In the 1950s and 1960s, volunteers from service clubs converted the old cemeteries into a neighbourhood park. Sadly, with the exception of some salvageable grave markers, nothing remained to mark the park as the final resting place for hundreds of St. Marys' earliest settlers.

The St. Marys Historical Society and town officials undertook a joint project to rectify the situation. The Historical Society purchased a

bronze plaque outlining the history of the old cemeteries, and the Town of St. Marys provided a limestone boulder, salvaged from the foundation of a pioneer barn on the outskirts of town. The municipal public works department set the boulder in a landscaped area just inside the park. Town of St. Marys CAO Bruce Grant notes, "We would like to develop this part of the park into an area for reflection, a place to honour our history. We hope in the future that other memorial donations, such as benches or shrubbery, will enhance this garden area."

The plaque was unveiled by Jamie Hahn, Mayor of St. Marys, the members of the Historical Society and the ministers from the local Presbyterian, United and Anglican churches, representing the three original Protestant denominations that had used – and still own – the cemeteries. A number of the members of these congregations as well as neighbours of the park also attended the dedication service.

Visitors seeking the final resting places of their St. Marys ancestors may still be disappointed that there are no records of the exact burial sites in this early cemetery. But at least they will now find that the site is acknowledged with honour for its part in the history of the community.



LEFT: A commemorative plaque honouring St. Marys first cemeteries was unveiled in November of 2003, thanks to the work of the St. Marys Historical Society and the Town of St. Marys.

BELOW: King Township Councillor Jane Underhill (left) with Fiona Cowles of Heritage King's LACAC at the recently restored Kinghorn Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (1848). Heritage King has decided to restore King's other 12 pioneer cemeteries with the goal being to complete at least one cemetery per year. Congratulations to Heritage King for showing such leadership!

Photo Rob Leverty





# MUSEUM NEWS

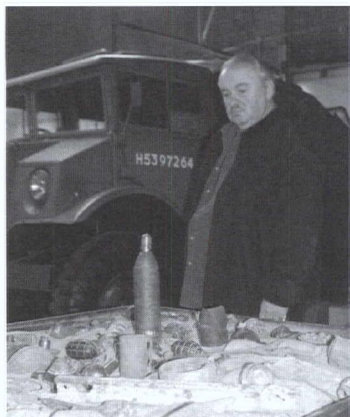
## COLLECTING MILITARY HERITAGE

Rick Shaver of Brantford has been collecting military-related items since he was a child. At age six, Rick noticed an arrowhead in his father's toolbox. Rick notes, "He said he'd give it to me if I could find one myself. So I combed the field near our home and found a broken one." When Rick was eight, his mother gave him his grandfather's war artifacts – medals, uniform parts, German 'trophies', letters from the front – his grandfather was part of the 120<sup>th</sup> Battalion out of Hamilton in WWI. This was the start of a strong collecting interest, with a focus on military.

Many of the photos in the OHS's heritage day commemorative poster and featured on the OHS website are courtesy of Rick Shaver who is also the Chair of the Canadian Military Heritage Museum located in Brantford.

Housed in a 13,000 square foot industrial building, the Canadian Military Heritage Museum has a fascinating collection of more than 10,000 artifacts including: fully restored military vehicles, full-size WWI warplane replicas, uniforms, medals, rare photographs and document, weapons, a library resource centre and a gift shop. The museum is an experience of Canada's military heritage from the United Empire Loyalists of the 1700s to the peacekeepers of today. Featured are displays on: the War of 1812, Boer War, WWI & WWII, Korea, Cadets, Army, Navy, Air Force, Merchant Navy, First Nations Veterans, United Nations, Gulf War, Brant Haldimand Norfolk Militia, Royal Canadian Legion, Vintage Motorcycle Museum and a Women's Display. Volunteer run, the Canadian Military Heritage

Museum is always looking for volunteers. Shaver notes, "If you have any military artifacts kicking around the attic and you don't know what to do with them, then give the museum a call. The museum is open to all donations, monetary and artifacts."



Photos Sheila Creighton



The museum is open year-round, May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>, hours are 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays – Sundays.

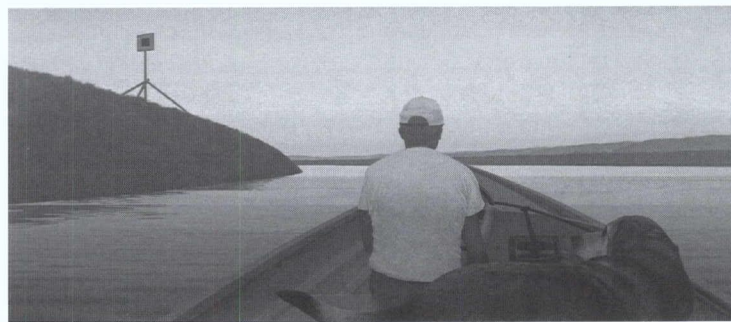
This August, the museum will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and festivities will include: live entertainment, a beer tent, beef on a bun and more. For more information about the Canadian Military Heritage Museum phone 519.759.1313.



TOP LEFT: Rick Shaver stands in front of a hands-on activity for children, which involves digging up military artifacts. "Kids love this," Rick notes, "We try to have some exhibits that children can actually touch. It really adds to their experience."

ABOVE: The Canadian Military Heritage Museum is home to the Vintage Motorcycle Museum.

LEFT: A display dedicated to the Canadian Air Force.



## MUSEUM LONDON FEATURES COLVILLE EXHIBIT

Alex Colville: *Return* is currently on display at Museum London's Ivey Centre Gallery. This exhibit, on until May 30, 2004, features paintings, drawings and prints by the famed artist done between 1994–2002.

Senior Canadian artist Alex Colville is one of Canada's most respected representational painters. Now 83 years old, Colville is still producing provocative pieces that art experts call meticulous and calculated, and that capture a mood of disquiet through his unique vision and classical artistic approach. This exhibit looks at the body of work that Colville has created over the past ten years examining persistent themes and metaphors.

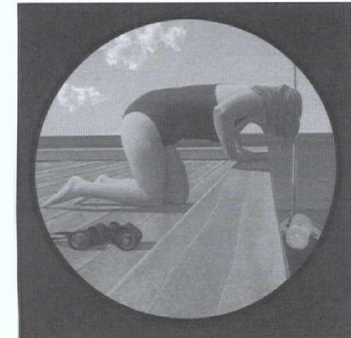
Alex Colville was a Canadian war artist during World War II and was one of three painters admitted to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp as it was being liberated. Curator Tom Smart contends that, for the rest of his life, Colville painted to create and maintain order, order that was directly at odds with

what he witnessed at this camp. Smart states, "Colville's lifelong work can be deconstructed into four categories: ordering, doubling, longing and mortality. Colville's work is an attempt to preserve order and defend against chaos."

Alex Colville: *Return* is a stunning collection of paintings and prints, and a testimony to the resilience of the human spirit. For more information contact Museum London at 519.661.0333 or online at: [www.museumlondon.ca](http://www.museumlondon.ca)

ABOVE: Alex Colville's *On a River*, 1996, acrylic, polymer emulsion on hardboard.

BELOW: *Observer*, 2002, acrylic, polymer emulsion on hardboard.



## OHS MUSEUMS COMMITTEE REPORT

It is my pleasure to introduce the members of the Museums Committee and to provide this brief overview of the Committee's work to date.

The Museums Committee includes Mary Baruth, Supervisor of Heritage Preservation for the City of Windsor; Susan Neale, Museum Coordinator at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives; Wendy Whitfield, Manager of Heritage and Culture at the County of Haldimand and me, Museum Curator at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum. We have "met" twice via teleconference to identify means to share information and develop tools to help museums throughout the province to increase revenue generation, reduce costs, improve practices and enhance knowledge. The following is a quick survey of what we worked on to date.

Susan Neale compiled a report on how museums can use their Business Numbers and Vendor Permits to access wholesale pricing. GST must be paid at every step as it taxes the "value added" but remember that if you are NOT the end consumer, you need not pay PST provided you have a Vendor Permit. Also, for any product or food you are selling, your Vendor Permit enables you

to purchase at wholesale prices – not just your gift shop stock, but also any food you sell at special events. You may also be able to purchase demonstration equipment such as drop spindles or volunteer thank you gifts at reduced prices using your Vendor Permit.

The Committee is **very** excited about the upcoming Artifact Identification Workshop Series with Janet Carlile. These will be informative and valuable sessions for museum workers. See page 4 for further details.

The Museums Committee investigated the feasibility of using Canada Post's business reply envelopes for fund raising activities or for receiving signed gift forms from donors. Given the \$500 annual fee for this service plus the increased per-returned-letter cost (i.e. 62¢ per envelope weighing less than 50g or \$1.50 for letters weighing 51–100 grams or in non-machineable size envelopes) this option is not likely cost effective for small to medium-sized museums even though you are charged only for the envelopes returned. By partnering with other museums however, regional museum groups may be able to organize this as a benefit of membership. Alternatively, museums might be able to work with their municipality for access to

business reply envelope rates for direct mail fundraising appeals.

Our Committee has arranged for a workshop on the application of the Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and the Municipal Freedom of Information Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) to museum collections of historical documents and providing public access to these resources. For municipally-operated museums, all records including historical documents are public records and subject to access through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests. For non-municipally operated museums, making sure that personal information contained within historical documents and protected by FIPPA legislation is adequately protected through your museum's policies and practices is essential to ensure your museum avoids embarrassment and/or litigation. Our FIPPA workshop will be held at the OHS Headquarters, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$20.00 for OHS members (\$25.00 for non-members) and will include lunch and light refreshments. Rafael Eskenazi, Policy Advisor from the Access and Privacy Office of the Management Board

Secretariat, will provide an overview of the FIPPA and MFIPPA legislation with specific reference to its application within a museum setting. The afternoon session will be an interactive panel discussion with a question and answer period to share experiences and expertise with the aim of developing "best practices" for providing public access, protecting privacy and conserving our historical documents within the regulatory guidelines of the FIPPA legislation. If you have any specific questions you'd like answered or "What if?" situations reviewed, please forward them to [museums@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:museums@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

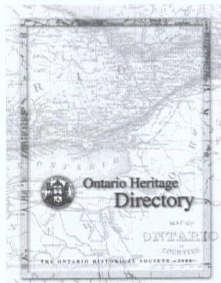
The Museums Committee is considering creating a listing in the *OHS Bulletin* and on the OHS website to promote current heritage-related capital and/or endowment fundraising campaigns. Does your Society, Museum or Historic Site have a current fundraising campaign? Would you be interested in reaching the 24,000+ readers of *OHS Bulletin*? If so, let us know at [museums@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:museums@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca) and watch for developments in upcoming issues of the *OHS Bulletin*. Dorie Billich  
Chair, OHS Museums Committee

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# FROM THE BOOKSHELF

CHRIS AND PAT RAIBLE, EDITORS

raible@georgian.net

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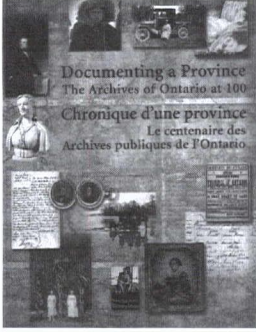
More extensive reviews of a number of books relating to the history of our province are published in each issue of **Ontario History**, a journal also published by the Ontario Historical Society.

*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.*

**NO MEAN BOOK**

**Toronto: No Mean City**, By Eric Arthur, revised by Stephen A. Otto. University of Toronto Press. 315 pages. Illustrations. \$35.00 softbound.

This is perhaps the most important book ever written about Toronto; a history of the city through its architecture. Originally published in 1964 by New Zealand born Eric Arthur, the book was the product of his many years in Toronto observing, studying and teaching about building and rebuilding. In the 1980s, because the process of change continued at such speed, Arthur's book was thoroughly and sensitively revised by urban historian Stephen A. Otto. This latest edition adds four brief essays, by an architectural journalist, a leader of the heritage movement, a writer of the arts scene, and a cultural observer. Their pieces are pleasant reading, but the substance of the volume remains the Arthur-Otto collection of images and accompanying reflective comment. If you do not have this book already, buy it and read it. It does for the city what *Looking for Old Ontario* (University of Toronto Press) did for the rural environment. It forces you to consider the past as you observe the present; it changes your view of what you see.



**TREASURES PRESERVED**

**Documenting a Province: The Archives of Ontario at 100 - Chronique d'une province: le centenaire des Archives publiques de l'Ontario**. University of Toronto Press for the Queen's Printer for Ontario. 344 pages. Illustrations, many in colour. \$50.00 hardbound.

If anyone has a preconception of the Archives as a dusty place of files and microfilms, they will certainly form a different opinion after looking at *Documenting a Province*. This book is truly a celebration as well as a tribute to the work of the Archives,

founded just one hundred years ago with the appointment of Alexander Fraser as the first provincial archivist. Thanks to his vision and that of all who have followed him, our Archives is a place of wonder as well as of research, and its collection now includes three centuries of our history. Here are presented many of the treasures of our heritage: documents, letters, photographs, portraits, paintings, posters, maps, architectural drawings, all splendidly reproduced - an enormous wealth of material which is both an appreciation of our past and a resource for the future. In her introduction, the present archivist, Miriam McTiernan, says, "We think that you will be surprised and delighted to discover the incredible range and diversity of our holdings, and we encourage you to learn more by visiting us." This stunning book, beautifully presented, is a splendid place to start.

**MEMORABLE MONUMENTS**

**Stories from Stones: Cairns of Ontario**. By Marion Heath. Borealis Book Publishers, 210 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

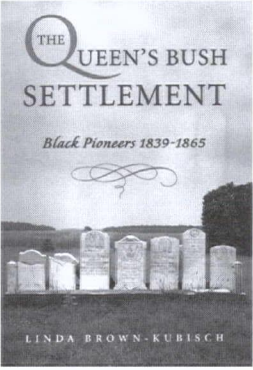
A few years ago, when Marion Heath "discovered" cairns, she found out that most people don't know much about them. The word *cairn* comes from the Gaelic word *carn*, meaning a pile of stones, which from at least the Bronze age people built to celebrate an important event or place. This book tells the stories of twenty-three Ontario cairns. They commemorate people and events such as: Etienne Brulé, the 'Columbus of the Great Lakes'; the war of 1812; the 1837 Rebellion; the Duke of Richmond, bitten by a rabid fox; the Black settlement in Norwich Township; Nellie McClung, and others. Each cairn is located, and the background and facts for each are presented in detail. There are many photographs, some in colour. This is the sort of book to enjoy at leisure and then to keep in the car as a travel guide, next to your copy of *Discover Your Heritage: A Guide to Provincial Plaques in Ontario*, published by Natural Heritage a few years ago.

**LIVING HISTORY**

**From West Flamborough's Storied Past: A Celebration of West Flamborough Township's Heritage**. By Patricia and Maurice H. Green, Sylvia and Robert Wray. Waterdown - East Flamborough Heritage Society. 120 pages. Illustrations. \$30.00 softbound.

Here is the recipe for an almost perfect heritage publication: take a series of sharp, new photographs of attractive old buildings; mix them with a collection of clear, sensitive

sketches of architectural features and rural scenes; add a number of factual, fascinating short essays relating historical details, and combine them all using the technical skills and design sensitivity of a computer expert. Four Flamborough area volunteer creators, encouraged (and, no doubt, partly funded) by their local historical society, have produced a lovely volume. And, perhaps best of all, nearly all of these structures - most of them homes - have present functions as well as past meanings. They illustrate that West Flamborough's habited history, as it were, is still very much alive.



**UNSETTLING EVIDENCE**

**The Queen's Bush Settlement: Black Pioneers 1839-1865**. By Linda Brown-Kubish. Natural Heritage Books. 340 pages. Illustrations. \$26.95 softbound.

Fugitive slaves and northern free Blacks came to Canada seeking security. Some found it, but many eked out an existence in uncertainty. The first Blacks in the Queen's Bush, an unsurveyed portion of present-day Waterloo and Wellington counties, came as squatters. These settlers, lacking abolitionist sponsorship like the better-known Elgin or Wilberforce settlements, were left largely on their own. This fascinating and fully-documented volume is a study of tensions - between religions, between cultures, between neighbours, between leaders, between generations. It is also a history of white missionaries and Black settlers - their problems and their prospects - related with clarity and compassion. For a thirty-year period, a people proved themselves proud, learning to live in liberty, capable of transforming a wilderness into productive farmland. But their settlement was destined not to endure. Victims of economics, politics, weather and racism, they dispersed, some to urban areas and other Black settlements, many back to the United States after the end of the Civil War. What was once one of the largest Black communities in the province dwindled and died. We are learning more and more about the history of Blacks in Upper Canada. Despite the myths that passengers on the Underground Railway were carried to a heavenly terminal, their story is not always one in which we can take pride.

**UP FROM SLAVERY**

**Sarah's Journey**. By David Beasley. 458 pages. Davus Publishing. \$19.95 softbound.

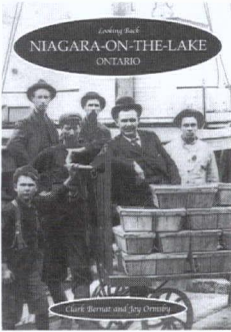
This is the story of Sarah, born in Virginia in 1790. After enduring all the miseries that slavery inflicted upon her, she manages to escape with three of her children. She makes her long way north, arriving in Simcoe, Upper Canada, in 1822. There she lands a job keeping house for a young Scotsman, Duncan Campbell. Simcoe grows from a village to a prosperous town, and Sarah and her children, along with a growing community of escaped Black slaves, flourish. Although this is a fictional account, author David Beasley says "The events and characters in this novel are taken from life. Sarah's grave ... disappeared when the Wesleyan burial ground in Barrie gave way to development."

**JOURNAL OF A JUSTICE**

**A Conventional Man: The Diaries of Ontario Chief Justice Robert A. Harrison, 1856-1878**. Edited by Peter Oliver. University of Toronto Press for the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History. 646 pages. Illustrations. \$75.00 hardbound.

Peter Oliver has undertaken a Herculean task! He has taken the voluminous diary entries of Robert Harrison and selected rather less than one third. Harris may have been conventional (as the title suggests) in his values, attitudes and prejudices, but he was certainly an imposing figure. He was a respected and financially very successful lawyer, and a number of the entries concern cases he was working on. However, his diaries are essentially a record of personal matters, and as such give us an intriguing picture of the life of the privileged classes in mid-19th century Toronto. He notes his feelings and opinions about a variety of matters such as love, marriage, sexuality, medical practice, servants, technology,

and the plays and operas he sees. He wines and dines with Ontario's elite and records his frank opinions of them. In 1875 (at age 42) he was appointed Chief Justice of Ontario, alas not a position he held long: at the age of 45 he was dead of heart disease. Oliver's splendid introduction sets the diaries in context.



**THEN AND NOW**

**Looking Back: Niagara-on-the-Lake Ontario**. By Clark Bernat and Joy Ormsby. Looking Back Press.

Those who are familiar with the heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake will especially appreciate this book. It is a comprehensive compilation of archival photographs, most taken between 1850 and 1950. This visual tour of a (rightly) heritage-proud community is neatly organized in six chapters: the commercial district, churches and community buildings, transportation, early residences, sports and recreational activity, and the military tradition. Caption paragraphs do more than identify the subjects, they provide the historical context. Part of the attraction of these images is that, though most of them are of buildings, nearly all of them have people in them, working, playing, or proudly lined up to have their pictures taken. The photos offer an apt reminder that it is the human side of heritage that we most prize and ought to preserve. The publishers deserve praise for books that present Provincial history through photographs. We can all look forward to the next volume from Looking Back Press.

**HISTORY NOTED**

Since our last issue of *From the Bookshelf*, we have received a flyer describing a publication of interest:

**Country Post: Rural Postal Service in Canada, 1880-1945**. By Chantal Amyot and John Willis. Canadian Museum of Civilization. \$39.95 softbound. Based on insightful interviews with twenty-eight postmasters from all regions of Canada, this book relates the history of the rural post office, a once vibrant institution of sociability and communication.

**DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS**

**Borealis Book Publishers**, 8 Mohawk Crescent, Nepean, ON K2H 7G6 www.borealispress.com  
**Canadian Museum of Civilization**, 100 Laurier Street, Box 3100, Station B, Hull, Quebec J8X 4H2.  
**Davus Publishing**, 150 Norfolk St. S., Simcoe, ON N3Y 2W2. www.kwic.com/~davus.  
**Looking Back Press**, Box 2131, 1 Northrup Cres. St. Catharines, ON L2R 7S2. sales@vanwell.com

**Natural Heritage Books**, Box 95, Station O, Toronto, ON M4A 2M8. www.naturalheritagebooks.com  
**University of Toronto Press**, 10 St. Mary St., Suite 700, Toronto, ON M4Y 2W8.  
**Waterdown - East Flamborough Heritage Society**, Box 1044, Waterdown, ON L0R 1H0. www@hpl.com (Book orders: Flamborough Archives, 163 Dundas St. E., Waterdown, ON L0R 2H0.)



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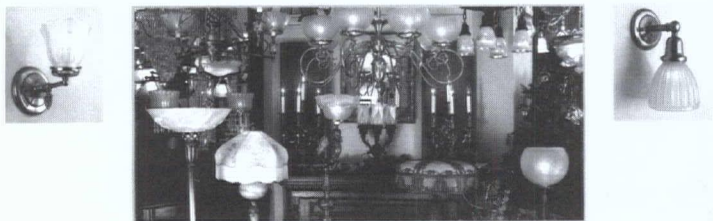
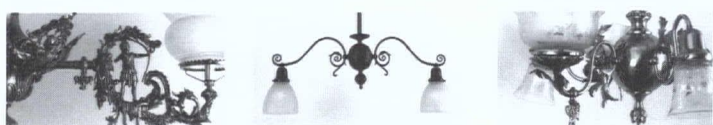


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If you have something to submit for an upcoming issue, send a copy to: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2. The *OHS Bulletin* reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Please include a hard copy and an electronic copy in MS Word.

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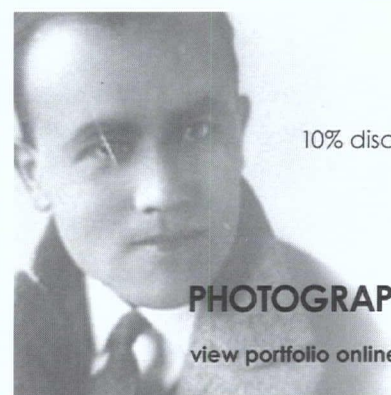
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**Editor:** Sheila Creighton  
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