



OHS BULLETIN

34 PARKVIEW AVENUE, WILLOWDALE, ONTARIO M2N 3Y2

ISSUE 148 FEBRUARY 2005

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO NEEDS A NEW HOME!

By RUTH BURKHOLDER AND KATHARINE ORR

"In 1903, responding to public demands for an historical records depository, the Ontario government established a provincial archives under Alexander Fraser, a Toronto editor and historian. As first archivist of Ontario, he initiated an ambitious acquisition programme and began the publication of important documents in a valuable series of annual reports. The Archives Act of 1923 directed the transfer of inactive government records to the Archives and by 1934 it had developed as a major centre for the preservation and public use of documents, maps and photographs related to Ontario. Following the Second World War and the introduction of a comprehensive government records management programme, the Archives of Ontario became one of Canada's foremost archival institutions."

These are the words that can be read on the plaque outside the front door of the Archives of Ontario. The Archives is the holder of the recorded memory of the Province. Our shared memory consists of documents, maps, moving images, photographs, and audio recordings which are considerable in volume and weight.

The present public facility is housed in a 1960s office building which is unsound, has no sprinkler system, and mould is spreading into the walls and to the records. In its 100 year

history, the Archives of Ontario has never been situated in a facility that was built or properly retrofitted for that purpose. This 'make-do' approach is not befitting the value of the heritage material that has been entrusted to the Archives.

There has been talk about a new or a different building for many years. Staff and patrons have continued to work in this unsafe and unhealthy environment for a number of years, with the knowledge and hope that plans were being made for a new facility. One part of the plan has come to fruition in the building of a storage facility near Bolton that will be opening in February. But the oldest and most treasured items as well as material that needs to be readily available has been traditionally kept near at hand in the public facility on Grenville Street.

Our cultural heritage is at risk – in the fall of 2004 a building engineer declared the 2nd floor which houses Special Collections (maps, sound and moving images, photographs, architectural drawings, town plans, etc.) to be over-stressed and these materials would need to be moved to retain the integrity of the building. If this situation continues, the Archives could be closed to public access. A new facility outfitted to proper archival standards is needed.

Within the main public building there needs to be space for the preservation of the most treasured records as well as room for the staff to work on the records, both public and private, that have yet to be accessioned by the Archives. As many regular users of the Archives realize, there needs to be space for customers, not only in the main reading room, but also a place for presentations to both adults and Ontario school-children who are now unable to visit because there is just no place for educational outreach. The Archivist of Ontario, in the Strategic Plan 2000-2003, stated, "Today, we are fulfilling this responsibility in a climate of records proliferation and technological change which has had a huge impact on how records are created, preserved and accessed. We must not only take steps to ensure the preservation and future accessibility of the records already in our collection but also implement strategies which will enable us to manage future records which will be



PORT DALHOUSIE'S HISTORIC CHARACTER AT RISK

The village of Port Dalhousie (now part of St. Catharines) dates from 1826, and from 1829 until 1930 was the northern terminus of the first three Welland Canals. Today the village's commercial core, located alongside the old canal locks and harbour, still retains much of its original canal village streetscape; this streetscape includes many original mid-to-late 19th century and early 20th century buildings constructed to provide services to the boats and people travelling through the early canals. At the World Canals Conference held in St. Catharines this past June, delegates affirmed that Port Dalhousie is one of the few remaining 19th century canal villages in the world that is relatively intact.

Port Dalhousie's residents and the City of St. Catharines (Council), strongly supported the designation of Port Dalhousie as a heritage district. In December 2004, the City successfully defended its designation by-law before the OMB and Port Dalhousie was designated a "Heritage District" under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Recently, however, a developer who has bought up many of the buildings in the commercial core has submitted a proposal to city council for a huge development that would substantially alter the heritage

look of Port Dalhousie. Some members of city council are apparently in favour of the development.

The development proposal submitted by the Port Dalhousie Vitalization Corporation (PDVC) to the city calls for the destruction of heritage buildings, the radical alteration of the streetscape by dense construction of new buildings (scores of new retail stores, a 400-seat theatre, and a 75 suite hotel) and a 100 metre glass and steel condo tower (equivalent to 33 storeys with 80 residential units) that would be the tallest building in St. Catharines. More details of the proposed development and community response can be viewed at www.saveport.ca.

This proposal clearly contravenes the intent of the Provincial Policy Statement; the Planning Act; the City's Official Plan and its Secondary Plan for Port Dalhousie; Council-approved heritage district guidelines and; the Zoning By-Law (which sets a 3-storey height restriction on buildings in the Commercial Core of the District). In spite of this, PDVC is asking for a radical amendment to the city's Official Plan and Zoning By-Law.

A citizens' group, PROUD (Port Realising Our Unique Distinction), made up of concerned Port Dalhousie and

St. Catharines residents, led community efforts to secure the heritage designation. It now opposes the development as proposed and wishes to safeguard the heritage streetscape, buildings, and character of this unique and lovely historic village. The heritage character of Port Dalhousie, valued by so many, is irreplaceable. PROUD does not want to see this heritage district so utterly changed, and a valuable and treasured link to our past lost forever.

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ABOVE: A photograph of Port Dalhousie's canalside streetscape (now called Lakeport Road) circa 1900. It is largely intact today. The proposed development would be built around and behind this street, and the 100-metre glass and steel condo tower will loom directly behind the scene in this photo. The mouth of Twelve Mile Creek (present location of Lakeside Park, the harbour, and Port Dalhousie's commercial core) has great historical significance which pre-dates the establishment of the canals and the village. The site is linked to major historical events and people in the early years of Upper Canada. Any development in this area should be sensitive to and appreciative of its history. For complete information and developer's plans see www.saveport.ca. Photo: Archives of Ontario, Rowley Murphy Collection, image C59-3-0-23-4, 10002486.

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The Ontario Historical Society
34 Parkview Avenue
Willowdale, Ontario
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRIAN OSBORNE

My previous messages have introduced your President and Board of Directors to give you a sense of those who are making decisions on behalf of OHS. I intended to follow up with a column on the superb support staff and their role in the organization: Patricia Neal; Robert Leverty; Sheila Creighton; Christina Perfetto; Natasha Ulic; and Carlos Faria. They will be the subject of a future message. But, for now, I wish to direct my attention to a pressing issue that concerns us all.

Simply put, the Ontario Archives is under pressure. The dictionary definition of an archive is so prosaic: "A collection of public or corporate documents or records." But they are much more than this. They constitute the accumulated remembrances of things past that inform the present of where we should be going. To lose these memories would be tantamount to amnesia; to fail to nurture them would be a demonstration of the failure to understand how civilization works, how identities are formed, and what is required for social cohesion. As Joan Schwarz and Terry Cook put it in a recent article in *Archival Science*, "Memory, like history, is rooted in archives. Without archives, memory falters, knowledge of accomplishments fades, pride in a shared past dissipates. Archives counter these losses."

But despite their obvious social importance, the Archives of Ontario are under threat. It was announced recently that the Ontario Government had cancelled the planned move of the provincial Archives to a new building. Given the poor working conditions and health hazards at the Grenville Street site, it was essential that the Archives be relocated to a new building that would be accessible, commodious, and conducive to servicing research needs in acceptable working conditions. After all, these records belong to the people of Ontario. It is imperative that they have access to the records of birth, marriage and death, land, wills, court, church and municipal records, as well as newspapers and a whole array of personal and corporate documentation. The decision not to move to a new

facility should be of concern to all who are concerned with scholarly research, personal inquiries into our individual and collective pasts, and institutional and corporate analyses of records of import.

The OHS Board has done its part. I was directed to write to the minister responsible, the Hon. Gerry Phillips, in his capacity as Chair of Management Board of Cabinet. I did so and expressed our concern over the future of the Archives of Ontario and our considerable dismay at the news of cancellation of the planned new building and upgraded facilities. While recognizing that Government has to contend with many diverse pressures on scarce resources, I argued the case of those of us in the heritage community who are committed to the celebration of Ontario's past. I complimented the staff for the excellent services they provide at the Grenville Street site, who, despite pressure on space and inadequate facilities, have always striven to meet the ever-expanding demands of a society that is becoming increasingly aware of the power of the past. I emphasised the importance of the storage of, and access to, the people's patronage and that our sense of our collective identity requires government's continued investment in the preservation and celebration of the records of our past. I closed with an endorsement of the case for an Archives of Ontario facility that is both an efficient facility and a symbolic declaration of our commitment to an informed polity.

If other members of the OHS wish to make their representations, please note the following contact information: the Hon. Gerry Phillips, gphillips.mpp@liberal.ola.org; or, Management Board Secretariat, 77 Wellesley St W, 12th Floor, Ferguson Block, Toronto ON M7A 1N3; or his constituency office, 204-4002 Sheppard Ave E., Scarborough ON M1S 4R5. Premier Dalton McGuinty may be contacted at www.premier.gov.on.ca; or, his constituency office, dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; or by mail at Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Toronto ON M7A 1A4.

THANK-YOU TO OUR DONORS

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

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PATRICIA K. NEAL

pkn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The beginning of the New Year allows us to look back to the previous year's accomplishments while setting goals for the future.

Our Heritage Day celebrations started the year on a very positive note. The John McKenzie House was freshly painted, courtesy of Benjamin Moore & Co. Ltd. and Community Foundations of Canada. Our full-colour Heritage Day poster saluting Ontario's military heritage was reproduced in the *Saturday Star*.

Fascinating Ontario, a guide to over 140 heritage attractions, events and organizations produced by The Ontario Historical Society in cooperation with the *Toronto Star* and the Ontario Ministry of Culture, was released the first week of June. The Guide was circulated to more than 2 million readers of the *Saturday Star* and was also available at

participating sites and travel centres across Ontario. Readers were invited to enter a draw to win one of five Ontario getaway prize packages. Over 2400 entries were received.

The Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, through the Ministry of Citizenship, awarded the OHS a grant to produce an Information and Resource Tool Kit designed to make Ontario's heritage and culture accessible to people with disabilities. Work on this important initiative continues. The Tool Kit will be available later this year. Information workshops are scheduled to begin in late Spring.

Thoreau MacDonald's Sketches of Rural Ontario was launched in late fall at the J.E.H. MacDonald House in Thornhill. Our newest publication, *Sketches* features the distinctive black and white drawings of Thoreau MacDonald and the prose of

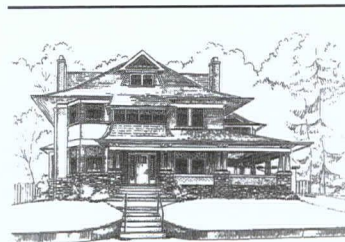
George W. J. Duncan. *Sketches* is available through the OHS and museum and gallery gift shops.

One goal for 2005 is the passing of new heritage legislation for Ontario. Many people have been following the progress of Bill 60 – An Act to Amend the Ontario Heritage Act in the legislature – and know that it received second reading in November. (You can view the second reading version of Bill 60 on the Legislative Assembly website at www.ontla.on.ca) Unfortunately, the bill did not receive third reading before the end of the legislature's fall sitting. It is still on the agenda to receive third reading – hopefully early in the next sitting that begins in February. Thanks to everyone in the heritage community for your ongoing support of this bill. Please continue to make your voices heard so that these important changes can become reality.



ABOVE: OHS President, Brian Osborne (seated front row right) spoke at the fall meeting of the Verona Area Heritage Society on the topic "Kingston: Building on the Past for the Future." Members of the Verona Area Heritage Society seen here are: left to right (back row) Jane Adams, Andy Adamson; (middle row) Eileen Steele, Charles Stewart, Louise Day, Marilyn Hewson, Barb Stewart, Val Ruttan; (front row) Jim Reynolds, Enid Bailey, Brian Osborne.

Photo Courtesy Ian MacAlpine, Kingston



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

AREA, Architects Rasch Eckler Associates Ltd.
Linda Boyko
Jens Carl
Frances Daunt
Dundas Valley Historical Society
Historical Toy and Doll Society
Marie Lytle
Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario
Public History Inc.
Melissa Rabjohn
Rainy River District Women's Institute Museum
Rick Roberts
Catherine Serge
Dale Veno

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2005, 2 P.M.

John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale ON
416.226.9011, ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

RESEARCHERS' REQUESTS

Battle of York, 27 April, 1813. Anyone owning or having knowledge of correspondence, documents and artifacts that relate in any way to the battle of York are invited to contact Robert Malcomson at the addresses below. Malcomson, the author of *Lords of the Lake: the Naval War on Lake Ontario, 1812-1814* and *A Very Brilliant Affair: The Battle of Queenston Heights, 1812* is working on his next book for Robin Brass Studio of Toronto which will cover the battle at York and its aftermath. He has access to nearly all the published material

and the primary documents in the public institutions, but it is the privately held, hitherto untapped sources for which he is searching. If you think you have something of interest, contact: Robert Malcomson, 58 Woodrow Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2P 2A3, 905.641.0348 email: rmalcomson2@cogeco.ca

If you are a researcher and would like to ask Bulletin readers for assistance, write to: Researchers' Requests, OHS Bulletin, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2 or email: bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

ACROSS THE PROVINCE

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created using new and challenging technologies.

Over the next three years, our key focus will be the revitalization of the Archives of Ontario through the acquisition of new facilities to ensure the security and integrity of these priceless information assets and improve accessibility to the collection for our many customers. New facilities will address issues of records preservation, collection security, and customer service which we are currently facing but unable to resolve in our present situation." www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/about/stratplan.htm.

We have to let the government know that the Archives' situation is not acceptable. They need to understand that the historical and genealogical community is large and vocal and made up of people who vote.

We need letters going to the Minister, the Premier, your local MPP and members of the opposition parties. Please write separately to each. Large volumes of letters get attention. We need Minister Gerry Phillips, the Chair of Management Board, receiving calls from the Premier's office and other members of Queen's Park. It is all the better if your local MPP is a member of the opposition as he/she can raise the question in the House. Please do not attack the government officials. You can send an email but you must include your full name and postal address.

Your emails or letters need to emphasize: your use, if any, of the Archives, either by personal visit or telephone or interloan service; the importance of the Archives to the province of Ontario; that users have put up with the poor working conditions and health hazards at the Grenville St. site because it was understood the Archives was moving to a new location; that we are pleased that the new offsite storage building is being built; records belong to the people of Ontario – it is our heritage; that under the Archives Act and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act the people of Ontario have a right to access the records; this access should be under proper conditions and without fear of injury to their health; a building outfitted to proper archival standards is required.

People to contact: The minister responsible, Hon. Gerry Phillips. He is the member for Scarborough-Agincourt and the Chair of Management Board of Cabinet. The Archives of Ontario is part of Management Board. His contact information is gphillips.mpp@liberal.ola.org. You can write to the Minister at Management Board Secretariat, 77 Wellesley St W, 12th Flr,

Ferguson Block, Toronto ON M7A 1N3. His constituency office is at 204 - 4002 Sheppard Ave. E., Scarborough ON M1S4R5.

You also need to contact Premier Dalton McGuinty. You can go to www.premier.gov.on.ca/english/contact to send an email directly to the premier's office or email him at his constituency office in Ottawa at dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org. His contact information is Queen's Park, Room 281, Main Legislative Building, Toronto ON M7A 1A4. Contact your local MPP – for their contact information go to <http://olaap.ontla.on.ca/mpp>.

If you do not know who your member is or the riding you are in, go to Elections Ontario and click on "Find Your Electoral District" www.elections.ontario.on.ca.

Other people to contact: John Tory, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Room 200, North Wing, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A8 john.tory@pc.ola.org. Howard Hampton, Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario, hhampton-qp@ndp.on.ca, Queen's Park, Room 114, Main Legislative Building, Toronto ON M7A 1A4.

John Yakabuski, Conservative Critic, Management Board of Cabinet, john_yakabuski@ontla.ola.org, Room 202, North Wing Legislative Building, Queens Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A8.

Michael D. Prue, mprue-qp@ndp.on.ca, New Democratic Party of Ontario, Critic, Management Board of Cabinet, Room 153, Main Legislative Building, Toronto ON M7A 1A4.

Please spread the word to others and write to express your concern. The Archives of Ontario holds an irreplaceable historical legacy that must be preserved for future generations.

SPEAKERS BUREAU AT THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

Have you always wanted to learn more about the Archives of Ontario?

The Archives of Ontario has a dynamic and informative Speakers Bureau. This program enables Archives staff to go and speak, free of charge, to interested organizations and groups. Staff have expertise on a variety of subjects related to the Archives of Ontario, and its collections and archives in general. If you are interested in having a speaker visit your organization, advance notice of at least one month is required and information on the topic of interest to your group.

Speakers may be arranged by contacting the Archives of Ontario at 416.212.2035 or 1.800.668.9933 (Toll free) or by email at: speakers@archives.gov.on.ca

RIGHT: The 35th Anniversary of the 7th Town Historical Society and the 10th Anniversary of the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre drew a huge crowd to Ameliasburg. Enjoying the festivities, left to right, are: Ian Reilly, President, 7th Town Historical Society; Ernie Parsons MPP (Prince Edward-Hastings); Mary-Anne Sills, Mayor of Belleville; Leo Finnegan, Mayor of Prince Edward County; and songwriter/recording artist Jeanette Arsenault.

Photo Rob Leverty



LEFT: In Bethany, the OHS and the Manvers Township Historical Society (MTHS) recently co-sponsored a Victorian & Heritage Gardening Workshop. Left to right: Splendid hosts, Kathy Morton, Board Director (MTHS), and Katherine Wray, President (MTHS) with the popular workshop speakers Sandy Spearing, Ground Covers Inc., Bethany; Dennis Pollock, Head Gardener, Black Creek Pioneer Village; and Wendy Woodworth, Heritage Horticulturalist, City of Toronto Museums. Photo Rob Leverty

BELOW: Sylvia Wilson and Marlene Thompson produced a fabulous dinner for the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee. It is volunteers like Sylvia and Marlene, also serving on the Board of Directors of the Old Durham Road Committee, who are the backbone of the heritage movement in Ontario. The OHS was one of the guest speakers at this well attended and very successful event.

Photo Rob Leverty



HELP SAVE PORT continued from page 1

Please support the efforts to preserve the unique heritage character of Port Dalhousie by writing a letter to St. Catharines' mayor and councillors. Letters are needed **as soon as possible**. Letters should be addressed to: Mayor Tim Rigby and City Councillors, c/o City Clerk, P.O. Box 3012, 50 Church St., St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7C2. Please mail to PROUD for forwarding, or to the above address, and send a copy to: Nancy Cameron, PROUD Partnerships Chair, 171 Dalhousie Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario L2N 4X6, amnc@niagara.com.

THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PORT DALHOUSIE

The village of Port Dalhousie dates from 1826 and has its beginnings as the northern terminus of the First Welland Canal (1829). With the construction of the enlarged Second and Third Welland Canals (1848 and 1887), Port Dalhousie continued its important role as the canal's northern entrance. Through the 19th century and into the early 20th century, it developed as a lively canalside and lakefront village, providing many services to the

boats and people traveling up and down the canal between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie.

The commercial core of the village naturally located along the canal and took on the distinctive form and look it retains very much today; shaped by the style, scale, function, and period of the buildings which housed services like ship's chandler, hotels, taverns, customs house, etc.

Because of its location at the entry to the canal on Lake Ontario, Port Dalhousie also developed as an important shipbuilding centre. Adjacent to the commercial core along the canal was the well-known Muir Brothers shipyard, established 1850. The five Muir brothers developed an enduring reputation throughout the Great Lakes region as master mariners, shipbuilders, ship-repairers, and timber merchants. The brick and stone building that housed their offices and storerooms (built c. 1865 and now called Dalhousie House) still stands as the last vestige of Niagara's impressive shipbuilding heritage. In the days of the early canals, the Niagara Peninsula was the Canadian centre of marine activity on the Great Lakes, and for most of the 19th century shipbuilding boomed along the Welland Canal.

The commercial core of Port Dalhousie should be preserved with the integrity of its canal village streetscape because of its great historical and architectural significance. The Welland Canal has been a key transportation system since 1829 and played a critical role in our province's early growth. The canal's expansion during the 19th and 20th centuries contributed continuously and enormously to the development of our province and the Great Lakes region as a whole. As a key component of the first three Welland Canals, Port Dalhousie is closely linked through its transportation, services, and shipbuilding functions to the historical and economic development of our area, our province, our nation, and the international Great Lakes region.

Today, the commercial core of Port Dalhousie retains the look of days gone by, and to walk alongside its old buildings is like stepping into the past. It's an irreplaceable link with our canal and shipbuilding heritage, and every effort should be made to preserve it. Any development in the area must be respectful of Port Dalhousie's historical significance, and appropriate to its historical and architectural integrity.

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

UNTIL MARCH 6, 2005: *Egypt: Gift of the Nile*, The Royal Ontario Museum's incredible travelling exhibit of rare Egyptian artifacts is at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre, 62 Temperance St., Bowmanville. The Nile River valley of 6000 years ago was the birthplace of a remarkable civilization. Explore ancient Egyptian personal adornment, family life, education, funeral traditions, and views of the afterlife. This exhibit includes a replica of the coffin from the tomb of Petosiris, linen from an Egyptian tomb, various amulets, ceramic bowls, axe blades, in addition to many more artifacts from Egyptian tombs. **905.623.2754.**

UNTIL JUNE 5, 2005: *The Textures of a Lost Toronto: John Howard's Documentary Art and Drawings 1830s-1880s*. An exhibition at The Market Gallery, 95 Front St. E., South St. Lawrence Market, 2nd Floor, Toronto. Discover a "lost Toronto" as witnessed by the city's first surveyor, noted architect, engineer and artist John George Howard. This groundbreaking exhibition illustrates vividly a Toronto of the past through a collection of original art and artifacts. This is the first time these important works illustrating the development of Toronto have been mounted together. Visitors will journey into the city's pre-industrial past – from the depths of Toronto's 19th century sewers to the elegance of its grand public buildings. Although today little of Howard's work survives, a notable exception is his circa 1837 home – Colborne Lodge in High Park. The Lodge, now a City of Toronto Museum, is considered to be an important example of Regency Picturesque architecture. **416.392.7604.**

UNTIL SEPTEMBER 5, 2005: *The Black Press in Canada West*, An exhibit at Mackenzie House Museum, Toronto. Black literature and journalism throughout the 19th century reflected the reality of the Black experience – the evils and cruelty of slavery, the inspiring flights for freedom, and the advancement of a free people. For members of the Black community, the press also provided a forum for leadership and ensured that they told their own stories. This exhibit explores some of the early publications of Ontario – their publishers, writers, and the significant contributions they made to the Black community and society as a whole. Mackenzie House, 82 Bond St., 416.392.6915, machouse@toronto.ca, www.toronto.ca/culture.

FEBRUARY 17, 2005: *Brampton's Past Through Pictures* presented by Bob Hulley, Photo Historian, 7:15 p.m., Heart Lake Community Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth St., Brampton, www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com.

FEBRUARY 27, 2005: *Urban Ecology Walk, Caves and Outlaws of Hillcrest*. Meet at the northwest corner of Bathurst St. and Davenport Rd., Toronto, at 2 p.m. In the late 1840s and 1850s this area of Davenport Ridge (Iroquois Shore Bluff) was a wild, heavily forested wilderness outside of Toronto. There were animal dens and lairs, and hideouts where "outlaws" encamped and hid their loot after raids into the city. Robberies and even kidnappings occurred along Davenport Road and on new toll roads. The year 1852 is taken as a focus point of this walk. For more information: **416.482.3032**, Free.

MARCH 12-20, 2005: *Maple Magic at Bradley Museum*, 1629 Orr Road, Mississauga, Maple syrup making, historical demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides, weekends 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; weekdays 1 - 4 p.m. 905.822.1569, www.museumsofmississauga.com.

MARCH 14-18, 2005: *Mystery March Break at Markham Museum*, Drop in to the Museum from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day and solve the mystery at Markham Museum. Arrive with your family and spend the day looking for clues to solve the puzzle. Markham Museum and Historic Village, 9350 Highway 48, Markham, **905.294.4576**.

MARCH 17, 2005: *Dance Halls & Pavilions* by Peter Young, presented by the Smith-Ennismore Historical Society, 7:30 p.m. at the Smith-Ennismore Heritage Learning Centre, 826 Ward Street, Bridgenorth. 705.292.9430, sehs@nexicom.net, www.sehs.on.ca.

MARCH 22, 2005: *The Day They Moved The Graveyard and Other True Stories About Thunder Bay* by Stefan Huzan, presented by the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society, 425 Donald St. E., Thunder Bay, 807.623.0801, info@thunderbaymuseum.com, www.thunderbaymuseum.com.

APRIL 23 & 24, 2005: 5th Annual Collector Exhibition, hosted by the Bayfield Historical Society at the Bayfield Community Centre, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The exhibition features a wide variety of area collections on display. **519.565.2376.**

APRIL 24, 2005: Opening of the exhibit *A Model Marvel*: the story of Annandale Farm built in the 1880s by E. D. Tillson. Also see period-furnished rooms, local history displays, the Military Gallery, the Tillson Family History Gallery, and the James Wilson Education Gallery. Annandale National Historic Site, 30 Tillson Ave., Tillsonburg, **519.842.2294.**

BLACK MECCA:
THE STORY OF CHATHAM'S BLACK COMMUNITY

The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society recently opened a new permanent exhibit Black Mecca: The Story of Chatham's Black Community. Located in the Heritage Room at the W.I.S.H. Centre, 177 King St. E. in Chatham, the exhibit contains numerous attractions which include: special interest artifacts, audio interactive life-sized figures of three prominent Blacks of early Chatham, and an audio/visual presentation.

In the early 1800s, five Black families settled along

McGregor's Creek in the tiny town of Chatham, then known only as "the Forks." The village soon became a haven for runaway slaves and by 1850 its population was one-third Black. Once here, Blacks in Chatham thrived in business, education, sport, medicine, and literary and cultural arts. News of their success attracted Blacks to this area from across North America. The history of Blacks in early Chatham is not only of local significance. The years of Black contribution and participation in

Southwestern Ontario left a fundamental impression on the national landscape.

For more information about this exhibit and the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society: **519.352.3565**, heritageroom@hotmail.com, www.ckblackhistoricalsociety.org.



ABOVE: A detail of a quilt in the exhibit Black Mecca. LEFT, the participation of Chatham-Kent's Black people in Canada's Military is explored.

Photos S. Creighton

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

MAY 28TH & 29TH, 2005

10 a.m. - 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 Avenue, Willowdale

FREE Admission

**ALL KINDS OF
USED AND NEW BOOKS!
FICTION & NON FICTION**

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

COLLECTORS NIGHT BOOK SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 2005

7 - 9 p.m.

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

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DATE	EVENT	HOST/SPONSOR	LOCATION
FEBRUARY 20	ONTARIO'S CEMETERIES – THE STRUGGLE FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST - <i>presentation-</i>	OHS AT OGS HAMILTON BRANCH	HAMILTON
FEBRUARY 21	HERITAGE DAY RECEPTION 5 – 7 P.M.	THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY	JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE, WILLOWDALE
APRIL 16	ENABLING CHANGE – MAKING ONTARIO'S HERITAGE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - <i>workshop-</i>	OHS WITH THE VOYAGEUR HERITAGE NETWORK; CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS COMMITTEE; CITY OF SUDBURY HERITAGE MUSEUMS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ONTARIO ACCESSIBILITY DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION	SUDBURY
MAY 7	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2 P.M.	THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY	JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE, WILLOWDALE
MAY 17	ENABLING CHANGE – MAKING ONTARIO'S HERITAGE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES - <i>workshop-</i>	OHS WITH SUNSET COUNTRY MUSEUMS NETWORK; TOWN OF FORT FRANCES ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE; FORT FRANCES MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTRE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ONTARIO ACCESSIBILITY DIRECTORATE, MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION	FORT FRANCES
MAY 27	COLLECTORS BOOK SALE 7 – 9 P.M.	THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY	JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE, WILLOWDALE
MAY 28 & 29	OHS ANNUAL BOOK SALE WITH 6TH ANNUAL <i>DOORS OPEN TORONTO</i>	OHS WITH CITY OF TORONTO CULTURE DIVISION	JOHN MCKENZIE HOUSE, WILLOWDALE

CEMETERY NEWS

MARJORIE STUART

marjstuart@sympatico.ca

Congratulations to the City of Brampton which has a program to restore more than 20 abandoned cemeteries. The City has hired a monument restoration expert. The City feels that pioneer cemeteries present an opportunity for the City to showcase its heritage and to ensure that they are a source of pride for the community.

In December, Rob Leverty and I were invited by the Cemetery Committee of St. Philip's Anglican Cemetery in Etobicoke to tour and discuss their Pioneer Heritage Project. We talked with the Committee about strategies for preservation and fundraising. Congratulations for undertaking such important work!

Descendants of Richard Hatt, founder of Ancaster, are greatly disturbed that a development is taking place that will encroach on the well known but unmarked Cooley Cemetery or Richard Hatt Cemetery. To date over 100 grave shafts have been discovered. Rick Hatt has written us for help stating, "Our family members (Cooleys and Hatts) wish these graves to remain in their final resting places and that the City register this forgotten Pioneer Site as a cemetery."

We continue to stress through this column that it is extremely important that all burial sites be properly registered both with the municipality and the Cemeteries Branch of the Ministry of Consumer & Business Services, 32nd Floor, 250 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M5B 2N5. For example, The Lambton County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and others have asked that the Port Franks Cemetery be properly registered. The Bosanquet Council passed a by-law several years ago assuming the cemetery but this has never been properly registered. The fear is that without proper registration municipal drain work or any other type of work could be undertaken without knowledge of an existing cemetery.

During the past months we have had concerns raised about Riverview Cemetery near Napanee, 10th line Methodist Episcopal Cemetery in West Gwillimbury, Canniff Mills Pioneer Cemetery in Belleville and Brant Cemetery in the Brantford area.

On March 10, 2005, Sue Bazely, Regional Archaeologist for the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation (CARF) will speak on "Early Cemeteries in Kingston" to the Kingston Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society.

Reports of vandalism continue to reach this office. In September, vandals knocked over about 100 tombstones at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in London. Neighbours and the staff of St. Peter's Cemetery came to the immediate assistance of the cemetery. Two 17-year-old youths were charged with mischief over \$5000.

At King City, one 12-year-old and two 13-year-old boys have been arrested after a vandalism spree in King City Cemetery. They toppled 108 monuments. Leusby Memorials in Newmarket restored and repaired many of the stones. This involved the use of heavy duty equipment to lift some of the stones. Among those toppled was the family marker of someone to be interred that day. Police estimate that it took three hours or more to do the damage during the night.

These pages could be filled with reports of the many deliberate acts of vandalism that are occurring across the Province. In an effort to assist those who manage cemeteries we will be listing ideas that have worked for some cemeterians, and suggestions that might help to protect our shared heritage. We invite the suggestions or input of those who have had problems or those who have helped avert vandalism. I can be contacted at marjstuart@sympatico.ca or through the OHS offices.

Neighbourhood Watch is a successful program that was set up in conjunction with local citizens and police departments. Neighbours report suspicious people or noises in the area. Perhaps a Cemetery Watch could be established in a similar manner. We are aware that many cemeteries are in isolated areas, therefore this might not work. Cemeterians should contact their neighbours and seek their co-operation. They should also speak to their local police station. A patrol car could include the cemetery on its routine tour through a neighbourhood.

Many acts of vandalism occur at full moon and particularly at Halloween. Large cemeteries with the resources have hired security companies to patrol their cemeteries. This, of course, is not an option for small cemeteries, but a neighbour who routinely walks his dog at night might be invited to be on a Cemetery Watch Committee.

It is also felt that education has helped to foster an interest in cemeteries. When school trips have been planned, sometimes the students take a greater interest in a cemetery and develop respect for the deceased. Also some community groups have "adopted" a cemetery and have assisted in the clean-up and general maintenance. This may promote greater respect. We have congratulated groups like the Navy League cadets who are working on cemeteries in the Napanee area.

Cemeteries serve the community. The community must become involved in cemetery protection.

The Etobicoke-York Community Preservation Panel is gathering the necessary information to designate cemeteries within their area. These include St. Philip's Anglican Cemetery, The Stonehouse Burying Ground, Lambton Mills Cemetery and the Ontario Hospital Cemetery.

Alan McGillivray led a most informative walking tour of Uxbridge Cemetery last September. Those who attended learned about the cemetery and those buried there who contributed to the development of the community. Mr. McGillivray also gave an overview of other local cemeteries. The oldest cemetery in Uxbridge is the Quaker Friends Burial Ground where the earliest tombstone is 1812. Quaker Hill Cemetery was established as St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery in 1839. St. Paul's Anglican Cemetery was established in 1851 and was presumed to have been moved to Uxbridge Cemetery in 1887, but recent construction has turned up bodies which is what very often occurs.

Clive Redding is writing a history of the Don Jail in Toronto. Hopefully his research will reveal information about the early burials that are believed to have occurred within the jail property.



The condition of MacNaughton Cemetery in the City of Vaughan, details of which first appeared in *The Toronto Star* and in the December 2004 issue of the *Bulletin* has sparked interest. Many have commented on the apparent lack of care on the part of the municipality.

A unique situation has occurred in the Deep River area. We were contacted over two years ago by owners of a house on which alterations were being made. During the course of construction bodies were found. The Cemeteries Act requires that construction cease and various authorities be contacted. The owners have done everything they have been asked to do to comply with the Act. They have attempted to locate descendants, and searched many records to determine the origin of the cemetery. The cost of removal of the bodies is prohibitive and beyond what they can afford. They applied for funding and were turned down. One solution is for the bodies to remain *in situ* but they are unable to afford this since the property would have to be declared a cemetery and to do so would cost \$100,000. The family have appealed to the Ministry of Consumer & Business Services, the Ministry of Culture and to the Ombudsman all to no avail.

Mary Cook, writing in *Forever Young* in October 2004 told of a visit to Tennyson Pioneer Cemetery, in Drummond Township. This small plot is the responsibility of the township but a group from Tennyson Baptist Church have undertaken to keep the brush clear.

The Norfolk County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has raised concern over a different form of vandalism noted during the past summer. Those responsible for grass cutting are not exercising care when cutting close to the older more fragile stones. The damage in many cases cannot be repaired. They ask the questions: who pays for these repairs; and do those who mow carry liability insurance?

Clyde Bell from Tweed told us of the Memorial Gates (see photo below) that were erected in 1949 to honour the crews of the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan

that operated at Trenton Air Force Base from 1939-1945. Mr. Bell commented that the gates and those they commemorate are all but forgotten.

Congratulations to Peter and Colleen Mumford of New Dundee. They purchased a property in 1998. With it came a well-kept family burial ground – the Sheard Family Cemetery. The Mumfords love to show off the cemetery but they ask that you call before coming. They are most anxious to learn more about the Titus Sheard family who settled there on the land prior to 1861.

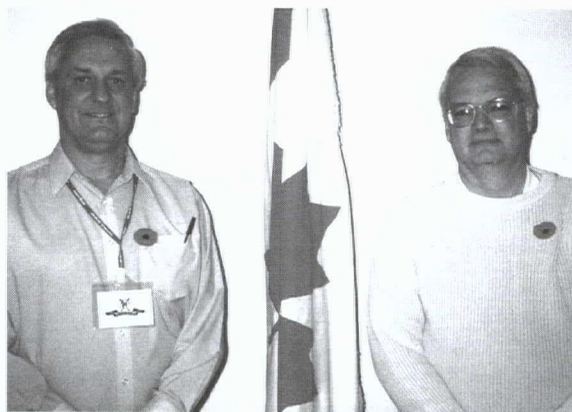
Huron County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, is attempting to find the burial location of Lovina Ingram who died in 1873. Her tombstone was found under a verandah in Seaforth. Research has found that the Ingram family lived in McKillop Township. Anyone with information is asked to contact Huron County Branch, O.G.S., Box 469, Goderich, ON N7A 4C7.

A volunteer committee is searching for information about those buried in the Kilbourne Cemetery at Concession A Lot 50, Westminster Twp. Middlesex County (London). Anyone with information on

CEMETERY NEWS page 6

RIGHT: On Remembrance Day 2004, the OHS presented Ontario's Cemeteries – The Struggle for the Public Interest at the St. Catharines Museum. Pictured here are our gracious hosts Bill Stevens, President of The Historical Society of St. Catharines (left) and Marty Fraser, Chair of The Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara Peninsula. It was the first time that the two societies had ever held a joint meeting which resulted in a great audience representing a good cross-section of the communities in the Niagara Region.

Photo Rob Leverty



LEFT: Radio CJBQ 800 AM has the oldest continuous running open line show in Ontario. Here, seen recently, is phone-in host Peter Thompson (left) with Rob Leverty of The Ontario Historical Society, in Belleville. Rob and Ian Reilly, President, 7th Town Historical Society, fielded questions on the preservation of Ontario's Cemeteries from CJBQ listeners. Originally booked for one hour, there were so many callers and requests that Peter invited Rob and Ian to stay for the entire morning show.

Photo Ian Reilly



MUSEUM NEWS

1825 SAMPLER DONATED TO THE CHATHAM-KENT BLACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By Carolyn Beacroft

A sampler stitched in 1825 by a Black woman was part of the recent bequest of Dorothy Binga Taylor to The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society.

When news of the sampler reached the members of the local chapter of the embroiderers' association of Canada, the group gave the C-K Black History Society a grant to have the sampler professionally conserved and framed. A reproduction of the sampler is underway by the local EAC stitchers and will be presented to the museum early next year.

Harriet Smith, the woman who stitched the sampler, was married in 1816 and lived in Columbia, Pennsylvania with her husband, Stephen Smith, who was a businessman and prominent in the abolitionist movement. With his partner, William Whipper, Stephen Smith assisted many fugitive slaves to escape to Canada and settle in Dresden, Ontario where both Smith and Whipper owned land.

Since Harriet Smith had been a servant in a Quaker household prior to her marriage she would have been familiar with samplers as a method of teaching young women the alphabet and fine sewing skills. As well, she live in a region in which the Quakers had a substantial commitment to education for Blacks with day and night school classes for both children and adults.

Nine years after her marriage, as the wife of a prominent man in the community and becoming active in the abolitionist movement herself, she may have seen the necessity for literacy and in the tradition of women of the day, she did a sampler.

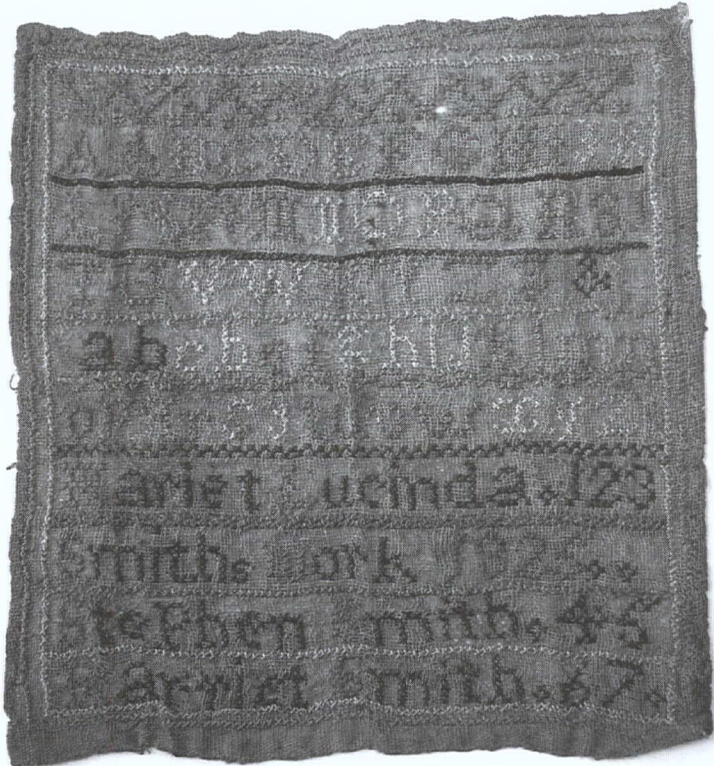
In the lower case letters Harriet Smith has done what many students who are learning the alphabet do and mixed up the 'b' and 'd' so that there is no 'd' but a repeat of the letter 'b'. No correction was made here. The fact that she misspelled her own name the first time supports the idea that she was learning to spell. The second time that she worked her name, she spelled Harriet correctly.

The charm of this sampler lies in the naïve format. The stitcher is precise in her count but does not appear to be trying to design or lay out the work artistically. The mistakes in the sampler confirm the premise that the stitcher was learning her alphabet and provide a rare glimpse of the learning curve for an adult woman working her way

to literacy in the early 19th century.

Harriet later became a member of the North Star Association, which had been formed by Frederick Douglass's newspaper the *North Star* to promote emancipation. In 1848, she was elected president of the Women's Association of Philadelphia, a group organized to raise funds for the betterment of Blacks. These were enormous accomplishments for a Black woman who had signed her marriage certificate with an X.

The Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society is very pleased to have been given the sampler and other family documents by Dorothy Binga Taylor who is a descendant of the family and has so faithfully preserved the family's long history in the Chatham-Kent area.



Above: This 1825 sampler by Harriet Smith was recently donated to The Chatham-Kent Historical Society by Dorothy Binga Taylor, a descendant of Smith.

Photo Courtesy of the Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society

CEMETERY NEWS continued from page 5

those who may have been buried there after 1785 are asked to contact Mrs. Beulah Frezell, 1413 Helena Montague Ave., London, ON N6K 1Z3 or email bfrezell@sympatico.ca. Possible names are: Cassidy, Elson, Hungerford, Kilbourn(e) and Mair.

Archaeologists in Kingston are working to define the boundaries of the burial ground at McBurney Park. This cemetery was established c. 1814 as a Garrison Burying Ground for soldiers. It is estimated that 10,000 were buried at this location before it was closed to further burials in 1864. In 1893 some Catholic burials were exhumed but the stench from open caskets and fear of disease led to a cessation order. The city ordered that tombstones be plowed under and the cemetery be covered with topsoil. At that time it was renamed Frontenac Park and later McBurney Park.

Congratulations to the Old Pioneer Cemetery in Perth who have a program to restore a few of their old marble tombstones each year. They have recognized the rich heritage value of the markers that commemorate their ancestors.

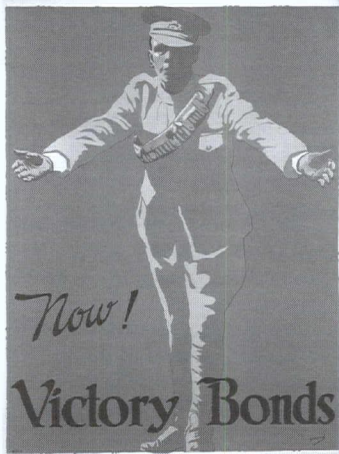
A plaque was dedicated by the Blyth Horticultural Society and Blyth United Church which outlines the restoration and maintenance of the Old Presbyterian Graveyard and Memorial Cairn – a joint venture since 1926. A lilac bush planted in 1879 in memory of 17 year old Jessie Porter still flourishes.

Catarqui Cemetery in Kingston hosted a highly successful late season event "Expressions in Stone". There was an exhibition of memorials and markers by local monument dealers. Local florists provided fall florist displays. Brenda Struthers demonstrated etchings in granite. There was a book signing courtesy of

Jennifer McKendry who has written *Weep not for me – an Illustrated History of Catarqui Cemetery* and her most recent book *Into the Silent Land – Historic Cemeteries & Graveyards in Ontario*. There was special thanks to the James Reid Funeral Home who had provided 150 years of service. The whole afternoon was topped off with self-directed walking tours or tour by trolley courtesy of the Kingston Chamber of Commerce.

During summer 2004 descendants of Jacob Johann Denert gathered at South Bay to honour their ancestor and to pay tribute to Joan A. Still who owns the property and has cared for the Pioneer Burial Ground where the first settlers lie buried. Now that the site has been established and the research done it has been turned over to the Prince Edward County Cemetery Board to maintain.

The Beausoliel First



ON-LINE POSTER EXHIBIT AT THE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

The Archives of Ontario's most recent on-line exhibit documents World War I posters held by the Archives. The invention of the lithographic press in 1798 did much to change the way we shared information. It wasn't long before broadsheets and posters became a common way to attract attention and reach a wide audience.

Poster production became even more popular after the introduction of three-tone colour lithography in the 1860s. Colour posters could be printed in large numbers and at a relatively low cost.

This method of communicating with people was perhaps never more effective than during the First World War

when governments on both sides of the conflict reached out to the masses to solicit their support.

This virtual exhibit focuses on a selection of Canadian posters from the First World War and, in particular, those that can be found in the Archives of Ontario poster collection (C 233).

See the on-line exhibit Canadian Posters from the First World War at www.archives.gov.on.ca.

BELOW: Museum London presents the exhibit Material Visions, Selections From The Brescia Costume Collection until March 20, 2005. This exhibit is in honour of the 85th anniversary of the founding of Brescia University College. Seen here is a Ball Gown circa 1950, collection of Museum London. For more information 519.661.0333, www.museumlondon.ca

Photo Ruth Anne Murray



WE ALL LIVE DOWNSTREAM: THE STORY OF CANADA'S WATER

Until April 15th, The Niagara Historical Society & Museum welcomes an exciting traveling exhibition *We All Live Downstream: The Story of Canada's Water*. Created by the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, this timely presentation offers hands-on exploration of the science, history and issues in Canada's water supply.

Using museum artifacts, multi-media presentations and activities, the exhibit addresses many relevant and pressing topics related to one of our planet's most important resources – water. Visitors are invited to explore four unique display "pods," each addressing a different aspect of this important subject.

Water is very much a local issue. A unique feature of this travelling exhibit is local

contributions. At each stop across Canada, the exhibit incorporates materials highlighting local water issues. These materials then continue to the next venue and the exhibit grows as it travels.

This exhibit has been developed by the Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology in partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage, Museums Assistance Program, St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton, the City of Hamilton, Department of Public Works, the Hamilton Community Foundation, and TD/Canada Trust Friends of the Environment Foundation.

For more info. contact: Niagara Historical Society and Museum, 43 Castlereagh Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, L0S 1J0, 905.468.3912, www.niagara.com/~nhs, email: nhs@niagara.com.

Nations gave the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives permission to record the inscriptions on the tombstones on Christian Island. They were also allowed to take photographs. An elder invited the four volunteers to visit the only traditional burial place on the island. The material collected will be published. The historical content will be extremely interesting and provide an important record of Christian Island.

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FROM THE BOOKSHELF

CHRIS AND PAT RAIBLE, EDITORS

raible@georgian.net

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.

VOLUME OF HISTORY OF VOLUMES

History of the Book in Canada Volume One: Beginnings to 1840. Edited by Patricia Lockhart Fleming, Gilles Gallichan & Yvan Lamonde. University of Toronto Press. 500 pages. Illustrations. \$75.00 hardbound.

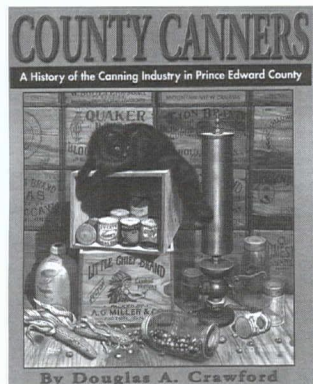
Long before words were printed here, aboriginal peoples used markers and wampum to assist in communication. Long before Canada's printing press, inhabitants of New France read books and relied on documents printed *outré-mer*. With the establishment of the first press in 1752 – a British government operation – newspapers, handbills and books became central to our country's culture. This substantial volume, the creative work of dozens of scholars, tracks a full and diverse history. Academic, but not pedantic, its many chapters, and especially its brief, illustrative "case studies," make it totally accessible to all of us who love books and who are fascinated by printing in its many forms and uses. A delight to behold and a pleasure to read, it is truly a magnificent volume! Make sure your local library gets a copy and then dip into it and enjoy.

MENNONITE MEMORIES

Check Rein: A Journey of Remembrance. By Ruth Reesor. Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario. 420 pages. Illustrations. \$20.00 softbound.

This is number 16 in the Society's Canadian-German Folklore Series designed to present information about Ontario's early Pennsylvania German settlers and their many contributions to our culture. Most volumes deal with life in the 19th century, but Ruth Reesor's story documents life in an Old Brethren and Mennonite home in the 20th century. Ruth was born in 1932 and her life is more or less contemporaneous with that of many readers of the *Bulletin*. Her father, Isaac Baker, was a respected harness maker in Vaughan Township, and Ruth grew up in a rural setting. She describes everyday life in a happy home in chapters such as "School", "The War Years", "Our First Auto", "The Roots of our Faith", "Farm Jobs", "Cutting Wood", etc. etc., Marriage to a

chartered accountant, a family of her own, travel in Canada and abroad, all changed her life enormously, but she remained in essence true to her Mennonite roots.



HISTORY PRESERVED

County Canners: A History of the Canning Industry in Prince Edward County. By Douglas A. Crawford. Country Magazine Printshop. 198 pages. Illustrations. \$25.00 softbound.

For a number of years, Prince Edward County was known as "The Garden County of Canada," and its bounty was harvested, canned, and shipped across Canada and the world. For Douglas Crawford, this book was clearly a labour of love as he searched and researched and gathered thousands of pieces of memorabilia, including canning and sealing machines, pail tokens, labels, signs, and original artwork. The text details this agricultural industry which was so vital to the economy of Ontario – thousands of people were employed each summer and fall in the dozens of small factories that dotted "Quinte's Isle". The book, filled with photographs of owners and workers, is a delightful tribute to all the "canners".

MUSIC HATH CHARMS...

The Ideal World of Mrs. Widder's Soirée Musicale: Social Identity and Musical Life in Nineteenth-Century Ontario. By Kristina Marie Guiguet. Canadian Museum of Civilization, Mercury Series Cultural Studies Paper 77. 154 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

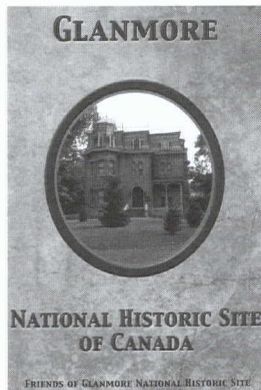
Toronto in the 1840s was the perfect place for soirées musicales such as that presented by Mrs. Frederick Widder on March 12, 1844. Her soirée was at once an elegant party, a formal concert (complete with fancy printed programs) and, says Guiguet, the embodiment of an idealized hierarchical universe. The performers were amateurs, such as Miss Hagerman and Miss Clara Boulton from Mrs. Widder's glittering social set, and professional musicians, like tenor James Dodsley Humphreys. But the evening was far more than a pleasant social occasion. The choice of the performers as well as of the other guests was "purposeful entertainment, and

like business and politics a delicate art." Fascinating!

DISTAFF POLITICIANS?

Dancing Backwards: A Social History of Canadian Women in Politics. By Sharon Carstairs and Tim Higgins. Heartland Associates. 351 pages. Illustrations. \$26.95 softbound.

Carolyn Parrish and Sheila Copps may be household names just at present, but the authors point out that comparatively little is known – or remembered – about so many of the female "firsts" in Canadian politics and the judiciary. Set in the context of our country's history over the last century by means of detailed time lines, this book pays tribute to the outstanding women who battled prejudice and stereotyping to join their male counterparts in the public arena. It highlights the work of leaders such as Agnes McPhail, Rosemary Brown, and Bertha Wilson, as well as lesser known women, and shows the hurdles they had to overcome. The title, "Dancing Backwards", is taken from a comment by Ann Richards, former Governor of Texas: "Being a woman in politics is like being Ginger Rogers. You have to do all the same dance steps as Fred Astaire, but you have to do them backwards and in high heels."



HISTORIC HOUSE

Glanmore: National Historic Site of Canada. Friends of Glanmore National Historic Site. 48 pages. \$12.00 softbound.

One of Belleville's finest homes was built in 1883 by a banker and his wife, John P.C. and Harriet Dougall Phillips. Designated as a historic site in 1969 and opened as a museum in 1973, it is impressive both for its architecture, for its fine furnishings and for its collection of Couldery paintings, several of which are here reproduced. Richly illustrated with many images in full colour. A splendid example of what a "Friends" group can do to promote and interpret a museum.

DONNELLYS REVISITED

Night Justice: The True Story of the Black Donnellys. By Peter Edwards. Key Porter Books. 384 pages. Illustrations. \$26.95 softbound.

Journalist Peter Edwards uses his considerable investigative skills (his best

known book is on the Ipperwash affair) to look with fresh eyes at what may be Ontario's most famous – almost certainly its most written about – murder, the 1880 massacre of five Donnelly family members on a midwinter midnight at a farm near Lucan. The subject of many novels and plays as well as histories, the murders have not before been subject to such a thorough and comprehensive examination. Edwards also demonstrates his skills as a writer to produce a good read.

THIS LAND WAS OUR LAND

The Canada Company and the Huron Tract, 1826-1853: Personalities, Profits and Politics. By Robert C. Lee. Natural Heritage Books. 312 pages. Illustrations. \$26.95 softbound.

The Canada Company was extraordinarily important to the development of our Province, as it assumed responsibility for settling more than two million acres of land. Surprisingly, it has been neglected as the subject of a company biography. Now that void has been more than adequately filled. Robert C. Lee's Master of Arts degree thesis on the Company was written a number of years ago. Only after retirement from his career as a Canadian diplomat could he go back to it and take the time to revise, annotate and publish it, thus making his work readily

accessible to us all. And a fine piece of historical research it is, made even more valuable with its many illustrations, its informative appendices and especially with its notes, many of which sketch the lives and personalities of the story's key players.

HALF A WORLD AWAY

To the Outskirts of Habitable Creation: Americans and Canadians Transported to Tasmania in the 1840s. By Stuart D. Scott. iUniverse. 491 pages. Illustrations. US\$ 40.95 hardbound; US\$30.95 softbound.

In recent years there has been a renewed interest in the 1837 Upper Canada Rebellion, especially in the incidents along the border in the year following the initial Toronto debacle. Among those captured while invading Canada were nearly a hundred men – some Canadians, more Americans – whose death sentences were commuted to transportation to Van Diemen's Land. This narrative of their ordeals – trials, journeys, experiences in Tasmania, and ultimate freedom – tells the whole story. And a stirring tale it is, made all the more interesting to Canadians because Stuart Scott – a skilled historian and retired professor of archaeology – examines the Patriot captives with a New Yorker's eyes and thus writes about them from his unique American perspective.

HISTORY NOTED

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

Our Village of Morriston. By Marjorie Clark. Puslinch Historical Society. Illustrations and maps. \$20.00 – a history of the village with genealogical information on 44 families. Also available are several other publications relating to the area's history.

Mailboxes: Urban Street Furniture in Canada. By Bianca Gendreau. Canadian Museum of Civilization. 64 pages. Illustrations. \$16.95 softbound. The evolution of the mailbox from early cast-iron pillar boxes to contemporary high-tech models.

An Annotated Nominal Roll of Butler's Rangers 1777-1784 with Documentary Sources. Compiled and arranged by William A. Smy. Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University. \$40.00. The Corps of Rangers commanded by John Butler "has been described by military historians as the most active and successful Provincial Corps in the Northern Command during the Revolution".

DIRECTORY OF PUBLISHERS

Canadian Museum of Civilization, 100 Laurier Street, Box 3100, Station B, Hull, Quebec J8X 4H2.

Country Magazine Printshop, Box 30, 257 Main St., Bloomfield, ON K0K 1G0 citymag@reach.net

Friends of Glanmore National Historic Site, R.R. #4, 4150 Old Highway #2, Belleville, ON K8N 4Z4.

Friends of the Loyalist Collection at Brock University, <http://people.becon.org/~loyalist/purchase.html>.

Heartland Associates, P.O. Box 103, RPO Corydon, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 3S3. www.hrtlandbooks.com

iUniverse, www.iUniverse.com/bookstore.

Key Porter Books, 70 The Esplanade, Toronto, ON M5E 1R2. www.keyporter.com

Natural Heritage Books, Box 95, Station O, Toronto, ON M4A 2M8. www.naturalheritagebooks.com

Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, c/o Carol Smith, 10292 McCowan Rd., Markham, ON L3P 3J3 lorne.smith@sympatico.ca

Puslinch Historical Society, 99 Mountsberg Rd., R.R. 2, Campbellville, ON L0P 1B0 smye85@aol.com.

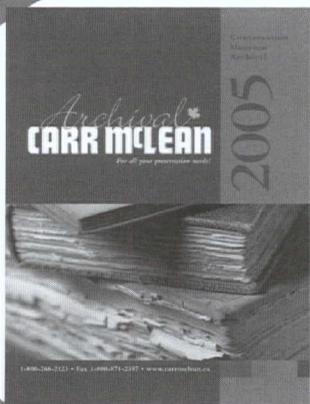
University of Toronto Press, 10 St. Mary St., Suite 700, Toronto, ON M4Y 2W8.

The OHS Seeks New Board Members!

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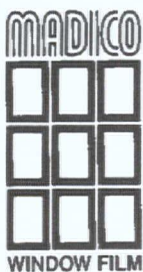
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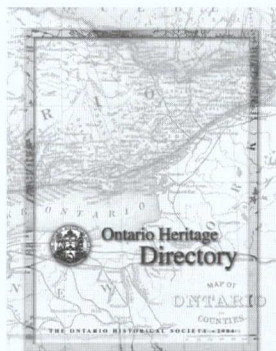
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If you have something to submit for an upcoming issue, send a copy to: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2. The *OHS Bulletin* reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content.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

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ISSN 0714-6736

The *OHS Bulletin*, the newsletter of The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, Fax 416.226.2740 will be published five times in 2005: February, April, Summer, September and December. The copy deadline for the April issue is March 1, 2005.

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

The OHS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Culture.

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Enquiries about submissions and advertising rates should be directed to: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011 Fax 416.226.2740, or: bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

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