

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 159

APRIL 2007

The Geneographic Project: A Chance to Unravel Your Family's DNA

The National Geographic Society, IBM, geneticist Spencer Wells and the Waitt Family Foundation have launched the Geneographic Project, a five-year effort to understand the human journey – where we came from and how we got to where we live today. This unprecedented effort will map humanity's genetic journey through the ages.

The fossil record fixes human origins in Africa, but little is known about the great journey that took *Homo sapiens* to the far reaches of the Earth. How did we, each of us, end up where we are? Why do we appear in such a wide array of different colours and features? Such questions are even more amazing in light of genetic evidence that we are all related—descended from a common African ancestor who lived only 60,000 years ago. Though eons have passed, the full story remains clearly written in our genes – if only we can read it. With the newly launched Geneographic Project, there is the possibility that we now can.

When DNA is passed from one generation to the next, most of it is recombined by the processes that give each of us our individuality.

But parts of the DNA chain remain largely intact through generations, altered only occasionally by mutations which become 'genetic markers'. These markers allow geneticists to trace our common evolutionary timeline back through the ages, charting ancient human migrations from Africa, through India, even to isolated continents like Australia.

When you send away for the Geneographic Project kit, you receive a test that takes a painless cheek swab sample of your DNA.

The Geneographic Project then tests either your matrilineal or patrilineal line, whichever you choose. Your results will reveal your deep ancestry along a single line of descent and show the migration paths your ancestors followed thousands of years ago. Your DNA trail will not reveal information about your recent relatives, like your great-grandparents, rather, this study provides an anthropological story – revealing how your ancestors migrated around the world many thousands of years ago. To participate or find out more, contact: www.nationalgeographic.com/geneographic



David Zimmer, MPP (Willowdale) and Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General, cuts the sumptuous Heritage Day cake with the Ontario Historical Society's Past President, Brian Osborne and Christina Perfetto, OHS's Office Manager and Membership Coordinator.

Museum of Civilization to Open New Permanent 'Face-to-Face' Exhibit

The Canadian Museum of Civilization will open Canada's first large-scale biography-based exhibition hall this summer. Through the compelling life stories of historically-significant men and women, this new permanent exhibition, called "Canada Face-to-Face," will provide visitors with a glimpse into centuries of Canadian history. The exhibition opens on Friday, June 29, 2007.

Canada Face-to-Face, the Museum's final permanent exhibition hall, will profile the country's history on a human and intimate scale. The exhibition will introduce 27 personalities through five sections: We Built, We Governed, We Fought, We Founded and We Inspired. Artifacts, recordings, photographs and first-hand accounts combine to create personal portraits of many people — some famous, some not — who have left a mark on Canadian history. Featured individuals will be presented realistically within

the context of their time and place. They will be seen as individuals with public and private lives, vices and virtues.

Canada Face-to-Face will be renewed on a regular basis, as other personalities take their place within the exhibition. From the day the exhibition hall opens, visitors will also be encouraged to suggest additional names for inclusion, along with an explanation of why that person is important to the story of Canada. More information is available online, at www.civilization.ca/facetoface.

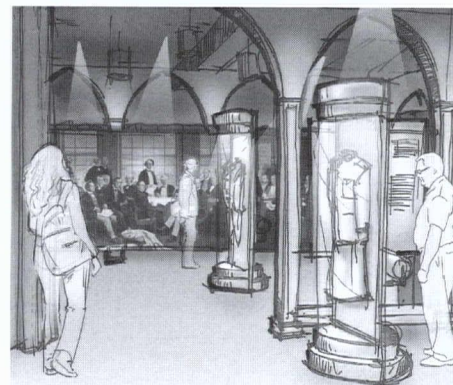
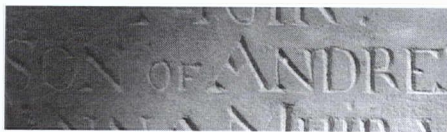


Image courtesy of Canadian Museum of Civilization

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Museum News



From the Bookshelf

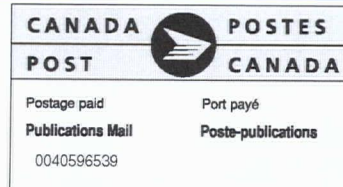
THE
ONTARIO
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President's Report

Chris Oslund • coslund@ntl.sympatico.ca

Dear OHS Members;
This April's OHS Bulletin provides a look back at the success of our Heritage Day celebration, as well as a look forward to a spring filled with events tailored for the historically minded.

For those of you who could not join us on Heritage Day, the OHS was fortunate enough to have Mike

Ford, a popular folk-pop artist and former member of the group Moxy Früvous, play for us.

The Six String Nation Guitar on which he preformed is filled with hidden history. The brainchild of Jowi Taylor of CBC's 'Global Village', this unique instrument is comprised of components from historical sites and objects from

across the country. Having this unique instrument played at the John MacKenzie House on Heritage Day nicely complemented the federal government's theme of 'Places for People – Our Heritage of the Everyday', as well as the province's theme of 'Heritage Day 2007: Celebrating 40 Years of Heritage Conservation'.

As the oldest provincial heritage organization, we are proud to have joined all levels of government, our many wonderful members and our more than 350 affiliated societies, friends and neighbours

to commemorate Ontario's rich legacy from the past.

In this issue I would also like to offer our best wishes to our Executive Director, Karolyn Smardz Frost, for the success of her book, 'I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad'. Launched on February 22, 2007, as a Heritage Toronto Black History Month event at the St. Lawrence Hall, the volume chronicles the lives of fugitive slaves Thornton and Lucie Blackburn, who started the first taxi business in Upper Canada.

Executive Director's Report

Karolyn Smardz Frost • karolyn@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

By the time you read this, dear members, it will be spring! Right now, looking out at the snow and ice, it seems impossible that by then the flowers will be blooming and our affiliated museums and societies will be sprucing up their displays and grounds for hosts of new visitors.

I know that our President, Chris Oslund, is writing about our Heritage Day reception, held at the John McKenzie House on February 19, 2007, so I won't say much here except to thank the staff, volunteers and donors for a wonderful, wonderful day. Terence Tait of Joseph's Estate Wines provided beverages and came to pour himself; our own past board member Penny Potter arranged the flowers; and award-winning chef Frederick Oh of Eidolon Catering came to serve a creative repast of Asian fusion food. Vice Chair John Sabeau spoke on behalf of the society, and our own Member of Provincial Parliament,

David Zimmer, always a warm friend and supporter, brought greetings. Past Chair Brian Osborne cut the traditional Heritage Day cake, and also thanked former Bulletin Editor Sheila Creighton for her years of hard work and dedication to the society.

The highlight of the afternoon was a foot-tapping, hand-clapping presentation of original songs about Canada's history by folk musician Mike Ford. He was playing the Six String Nation Guitar that we featured in last month's Bulletin. The CBC's Jowi Taylor spoke eloquently on the development and meaning of this unique instrument. By the end of the afternoon we were all singing along with Mike!

The Ontario Historical Society is working hard on plans for our upcoming conference in honour of the Bicentennial of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade. Both the federal and provincial governments, as well as the City of Toronto, have this past Black History Month (February) taken up the banner of celebrating this important landmark in the struggle for human liberty.

Our first conference since 1995 (!) is to take place along with our Annual General Meeting at Brock University in St. Catharines on the evening of June 22nd, and all day June 23rd. I hope that as many of you as possible will come out to enjoy the historical presentations, talks and a bus tour of historic sites in the Niagara Peninsula planned by the Central Ontario Black History Network.

Best wishes to you all for a speedy end to winter! Think of the Ontario Historical Society as you are considering charitable donations in the upcoming weeks and months, and please do come along and visit us at the John McKenzie House. We always have pots of tea and coffee on and we are delighted to meet with our members, friends and affiliates whenever they are in town.



Ontario Historical Society's Second Vice-President, John Sabeau (left), takes a moment with Thomas McIlwraith (centre), Book Review Editor for *Ontario History* and Jowi Taylor (right), host of the CBC's *Global Village* and the originator of the Six String Nation Guitar, at the OHS's Heritage Day Event.



The Ontario Historical Society's own Executive Director, Karolyn Smardz Frost poses with MPP (Willowdale) David Zimmer and a copy of her recently released book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tail of the Underground Railroad* at the OHS's Heritage Day Event.

All Heritage Day photos are courtesy of Sheila Creighton



Former Communications Director, Sheila Creighton, with Heritage Day cake and the Ontario Historical Society's Past President, Brian Osborne, on her last day with the OHS. Thank you, Sheila, for all your hard work!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS Your Generosity Makes A Difference!

Fred, Dale & Irene Armstrong
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James W. Miller
Henry Vivian Nelles
Patricia Stone
Glenn Wright

CEMETERY DEFENCE
Fred, Dale & Irene Armstrong
Edith & Geoff Geduld

NEW MEMBERS LIST
Christine Clark
Robert Leech
Doug Mackey
Christina E. Pimentel

Across The Province

Cookstown Tweedsmuir History Goes Digital

The Innisfill Public Library in partnership with the Cookstown Women's Institute made history when they created the first digitized Tweedsmuir Histories in Canada. The Cookstown Tweedsmuir Histories seven bound volumes contain essays, descrip-

tions, documents and photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries. In 2002, permission was granted to the Innisfill Public Library to digitize the entire collection and make this valuable resource accessible on the Internet.

Initially, volunteers with considerable computer skills were used to perform data entry. Each volunteer was provided with orientation, training and a schedule that was devised for each partici-

pant. Through Industry Canada's Community Access Program, a Masters student in Public History was hired and proper transcription processes and procedures were ensured. This student also performed much of the data entry. The scanning and cross checking of the final transcription was performed by a library employee with experience in this type of data entry.

The entire process lasted 34 months, and the data base includes 1,115 photographs as well as 552 essays. To view the results, go to the library's IBIDNET website at: www.ibidnet.ca. Click "Search Historical Databases", select "Innisfill" under the Municipality heading, then select "Cookstown" under the Community heading.

When correct procedures are followed, what the Branch Manager, of the Innisfill Library, Cookstown Branch, Susan Baues calls "the next step" for this valuable database is made possible. It is hoped that this collection will become a part of 'Our Ontario', a provincial wide database that anyone will be able to search. To find out more go to: http://knowledgeontario.ca/OUR_ONTARIO/index.html

The Cookstown Public School, c. 1893. Part of the database collected by the Innisfill Public Library and the Cookstown Women's Institute. Thanks to the Innisfill Notes Newsletter for the story.



Get "Wilde" in Tillsonburg

The Annandale National Historic Site (NHS) in Tillsonburg is nationally designated for its unique interior design. Built in 1880 by the town's first mayor and major industrialist, E.D. Tillson, the home showcases the English style of design known as the Aesthetic Art Movement. Oscar Wilde was the most vocal supporter of this movement and his visit to nearby Woodstock in 1882 is credited

with influencing Tillson's design choice. OHS recently had a site visit and seen here are (L-R) Patricia Phelps, Museum Assistant and Rita Corner, Curator, with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Plaque. Annandale NHS is open year round Monday through Friday 9 - 4 and Sunday 1 - 4. For more information and a calendar of events, visit the Town of Tillsonburg website: www.tillsonburg.ca



Photo Rob Leverty

The Orillia Museum of Art & History celebrated Sir John A. Macdonald with a special dinner and cocktails this past January 18th. In attendance

were special guest speaker, Jack Granatstein, and special guest, Hugh Gainsford, the great-grandson of Sir John A. The event was a sold-out success.



Gainsford, pictured here centre, is now 89, and sports the Scottish wit and charm of his great-grandfather. Left is Pat Angus and right is Jim Angus.

Photo is courtesy of Richard Johnston.

City of Brampton Receives Heritage Canada Foundation 2007 Achievement Award

The Heritage Canada Foundation and the Brampton Chapter of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) announced that the Creditview Bowstring Bridge Restoration Project in Brampton, Ontario will receive a 2007 Achievement Award.

The award was presented to Her Worship, Susan Fennell, Mayor of Brampton at Brampton City Hall on Wednesday, February 28, 2007.

Constructed in the 1930s over the Credit River, the Bowstring Bridge is a key landmark, linked

continued on page 4...

Exhibits & Events

APRIL 27, 2007

The HBC Local History Grant Program, Application Deadline.

Designed to assist applicants involved in historical heritage commemoration, grants of up to \$1,000 are available to promote greater public awareness of Canadian history, particularly among young people. Eligible projects could include the creation of a website, the establishment of a walking lecture series, an in-school program, or a public exhibit of documents and artifacts. For more information, go to: www.hbc.com/hbc/socialresponsibility/grant

APRIL 28, 2007, 1:30 PM

The Life & Art of Carl Ahrens, Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery Centre in the Square, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener

Kim Bullock will give a talk about her great-grandfather and accomplished artist, Carl Ahrens. A friend to both Homer Watson and John King, this artist's life took him around North America, until he finally settled in Galt. This will be the largest-ever showing of his work.

MAY 1 – 15, 2007

Multimedia Scrapbooking & Genealogy, North York Three sessions, Tuesdays 7 – 9 pm, with Paul McGrath. North York Central Library, Meeting Room 2. Cost \$45

This course will help you create images of the photographs, documents and other items you have collected as a genealogist. You will be shown how to create a CD or DVD slide show. To register, go to www.torontofamilyhistory.org or call 416-733-2608

MAY 5, 2007, 8:30 AM – 4 PM

The Rum Runners Haunts & Hideouts Bus Tour, Prince Edward County

Visit the homes and haunts of some of the most colourful rum runners, gamblers and bootleggers from the roaring twenties. Lunch will be served. Price \$60. Presented by the Hasting County Historical Society. Contact Vera Morton for more information at 613-966-4859

MAY 12, 2007, 9 AM – 4 PM

The Lucy Maud Society Festival of Antiques, Leaskdale

The Festival takes place at the historic Leaskdale Church and Manse and includes an Antique Dealers' Show and Sale, a live auction at 1 pm, and yard sales around Leaskdale. Leaskdale is 10 minutes north of Uxbridge on Durham Road #1. For more information, call Kathy Wasylensky: 905-852-5284 or go to: www.lucymaudmontgomery.ca

MAY 13, 2007, 1 PM – 3 PM

Agnes Moodie Fitzgibbon Wildflower Walk, Toronto

Madeleine MacDowell and the Humber Heritage Committee will again hold this special annual walk starting at the Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas Street West, on the east bank of the Humber River and going into Magwood Sanctuary. City street and park trails. A good time to see spring flowers. This walk is part of the Lost River Walks series.

MAY 13, 2007, 2 PM

Lost Creeks of Earl Bales Park, Toronto

Start at the southeast corner of Bathurst and Sheppard, end at Bathurst and Wilson. Explore the typography of Earl Bales Park, home to several

creeks and former creeks and tributaries to the West Don. Hopefully, it will be in good time for spring ephemerals to still be found in the park, and for inbound migratory birds. Moderate difficulty – lots of hills and possibly muddy paths. This walk is part of the Lost River Walks series.

MAY 18, 2007, 1:30 PM

John Cannon's View of Elora, by Steve Thorning

Celebrate International Museum Day in Aboyne Hall, Elora, with a fascinating presentation by local historian Steve Thorning on John Cannon (1862-1931), a local photographer and avid inventor who spent his lifetime working to further photographic technology. Admission is free for the day and refreshments will be served. Call the Wellington County Museum for details: 519-846-0916, ext. 221

MAY 27, 2007, 10 AM – 3 PM

Canada's Largest Photographic Fair, Toronto at the Soccer Centre, 7601 Martin Grove Rd.

Antique, collectable and user cameras, lenses, darkroom equipment, film, books, images, optical instruments and more. For information, contact: Mark Singer at 905-762-9031

MAY 31 – JUNE 3, 2007

United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada Conference, Windsor

Walk through the town viewing murals depicting the early French Settlers, The Battle of Windsor, The War of 1812 and the history of Black Slaves. Speakers on various topics. For more details, write to uelac2007@aol.com.

JUNE 1 – 3, 2007

Ontario Genealogical Society Annual Seminar, Ottawa

Hosted by the Lanark County Genealogical Society, at Algonquin

College, 1385 Woodroffe Ave. For more information: 613-820-4488 or go to www.ogsseminar.org

JUNE 2 – 10, 2007, SUNSET ROM Architectural Opening & Building Dedication, Toronto

A free public event beginning at sunset on June 2nd to celebrate the construction completion of the Micheal Lee-Chin Crystal. Governor General Michaëlle Jean will officially open the new wing. Free admission will last overnight and through Saturday, June 3rd. Seven galleries, spaces on four floors, two special exhibitions, new retail and dining facilities and the Museum's new entrance will be on view. Call: 416-586-8000, or visit www.rom.on.ca/renaissance

Calls for Submission:

Ontario Historical Society Museums Committee

The OHS Museums Committee wants to hear from you! If your Museum was started in 1967, making this your 40th anniversary, please let us know. Contact: sneale@city.peterborough.on.ca

Thornhill Archives

The Thornhill Archives Committee would like to acquire photographs and any other documentation related to areas of Thornhill that are currently under-represented in their collection. For more details contact: Archives@thornhillhistoric.org

Neilson Park Creative Centre, Toronto

The Neilson Park Creative Centre is seeking a visual art group to share its facility and join its umbrella organization. NPCC is currently home to six resident groups. For more information, contact: Denise Rainville at 416-622-5294

Panoramic view of Elora, c. 1887. Taken by John Cannon from the steeple of St. John's Anglican Church.

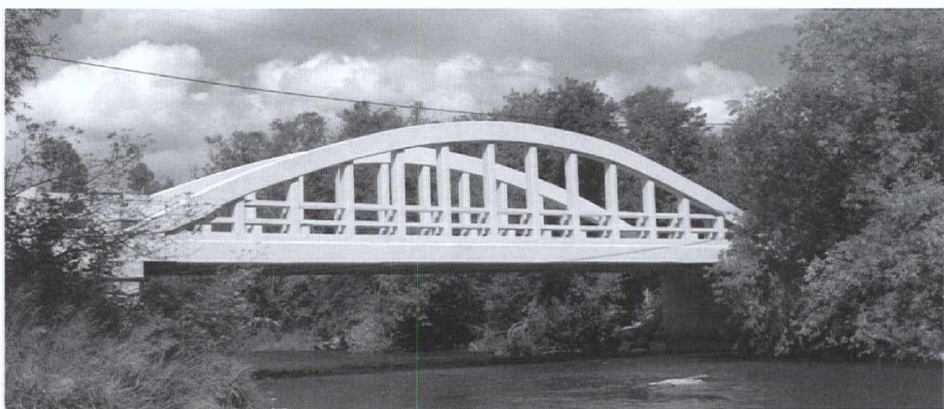


continued from page 3...

to the nearby Churchville Heritage District and other heritage resources. It is one of only two remaining bowstring truss-style bridges in Brampton and is the only one that remains part of the public road system. In 2002, the city faced the dilemma of either closing the bridge, which had fallen into disrepair, or restoring it. The bridge was designated a year later and more

than \$700,000 was invested in its restoration and repair.

Improvements to the concrete bridge were necessary to address growing concerns regarding its structural integrity and safety and to bring it up to current bridge code standards. The work included altering the deck of the bridge to provide one lane of traffic and constructing a guiderail system at the approaches to the bridge, as well as barrier railings.



Now restored to its former beauty, the bridge is one of the focal points of Creditview Road—a road the city has listed as a cultural heritage landscape.

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor • marjstuart@sympatico.ca

The *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002*, finally received Royal Assent on December 20, 2006. The Act brings all aspects of the bereavement industry under one umbrella. The sections that are of the greatest concern to the heritage community are not significantly changed. Unfortunately, the small inactive cemeteries that are for the most part closed to further burials or have few burials in a year will continue to be vulnerable. It is the view of many that these cemeteries should no longer be administered by the Ministry of Government Services. *The Cemeteries Act* or its successor also prevail over the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

The decision of the Registrar of Cemeteries with regard to the proposed closure of a part of the pioneer cemetery in Peterborough known as Confederation Square is still pending. A group in Peterborough wishes to erect a memorial wall in tribute to Peterborough's veterans. This will require the disinterment of many of the pioneers of the area. The group has turned down alternative site proposals. It is possible that the remains of ancestors of many of those to be honoured will have to be relocated. Needless to say, this has caused and continues to cause public outrage. Peterborough's veterans should be recognized but not at the expense of their ancestors.

In the Ancaster area, property development that would require the Cooley/Hatt Cemetery to be partially relocated is still the concern of descendants of those buried prior to 1824. This pioneer cemetery has approximate 100 burials. We are told that alternative proposals by the descendants have received positive response from the heritage engineers of the City of Hamilton. All parties are working together to reach a decision.

We have received a number of calls concerning the fate of Christ Church (Anglican) Cemetery (Mimico) in Etobicoke. The church was badly damaged by fire last year and has been razed for safety purposes. The Anglican Diocese is seeking alternative uses for the church site, but we have been told that the burial ground, which dates to c. 1832 and has over 200 burials is not threatened.

Recently we have been asked to comment on the proposed sale of property that has a very old family burial ground. There is no law that says the property cannot be sold, but all parties involved in the

proposed sale must be made aware of the existence of the burial ground and the location within the property should be described in the official documents. In this particular case, the burial ground was not registered with the Registrar of Cemeteries.

We continue to urge that all known burial grounds be registered with the Registrar of Cemeteries and with the municipality. There is no way to preserve these sites, particularly if they are unmarked, unless all the authorities are made aware of the existence of the burial ground. There is no charge to register a cemetery. The OGS has a cemetery registration project and maintains lists of these sites. They, too, would like to hear about any unregistered sites. If you have a concern about a site, they can advise whether a site is registered.

To register a cemetery, you should send your documents by registered mail to:

The Registrar of Cemeteries
Regulation Unit
Place Nouveau
5775 Yonge Street, Suite 1500
Toronto, ON M7A 2E5
Tel: 416-326-8404

The Ontario Genealogical Society
102 – 40 Orchard View Blvd
Toronto, ON M4R 1B9
Tel: 416-489-9803
Email: provoffice@ogs.on.ca

Over the past three months, there have been several requests regarding heritage designation and the future of some burial grounds. We were able to assist one family in locating the burial locations of family members that had been separated for a great many years. It was brought to our attention that there are a number of proposed road construction projects across the province. Local cemetery officials should work with the Ministry of Transport. If discussion takes place in the early planning stages, much can be done to preserve and protect burial grounds. Examples of this type of cooperation can be seen with Richview Cemetery in Etobicoke, that is preserved in the middle of Canada's busiest highway interchange – 401, 427 and Eglinton Avenue. Other examples are the Warner Methodist Cemetery on the Queen Elizabeth Way near Queenston and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Elmwood Cemeteries on opposite sides of Highway 7 in the Town of Markham.

Concern has been raised about the fate of The Burwash Industrial

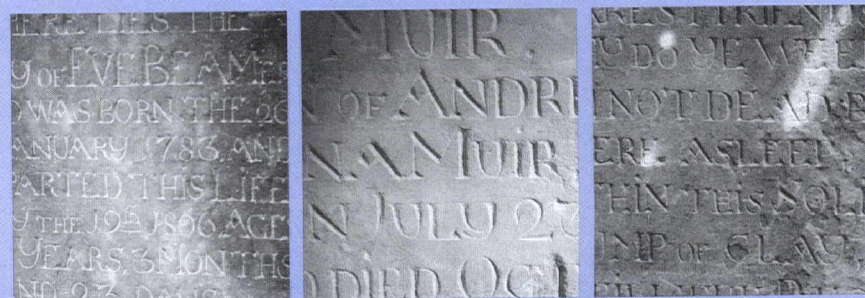
The Creation of Cemetery Polka

By Greg Smith, reproduced in part from the Grimsby Historical Society Newsletter.

The gravestones cut by John Solomon Teezel first caught my eye as I walked through St. Andrew's cemetery on my way home from work during the summer of 1998 and I eventually decided to make a typeface from them. Taking typefaces from gravestones is not as odd as it sounds. Our modern alphabet is based on letters carved in stone by the Romans. The great American type designer, Frederic Goudy, took a rubbing of some letters in the Louvre as the basis for his delightful Hariano type.

Graphite rubbings of the headstones were done to reproduce as many of the letters as possible. After designs were completed for the missing letters, a three-inch grid was devised and the letters were drawn by hand. Those letters were then scanned and redrawn using Adobe Illustrator software to reproduce the type. In the spring of 2001, I sent the type to the Adobe Corporation – one of the largest producers of typefaces in the world – to see if they would be interested in producing and marketing my type. To my surprise, they were interested in the type (which I had now named Cemetery Polka). They wanted to see a companion lowercase set of letters to go along with it, so I set about to design an entirely original set of lowercase letters which would harmonize with the existing uppercase letters. I sent the results off to Adobe. Unfortunately, Adobe didn't find the typeface suitable to its needs and I have shelved Cemetery Polka for a while.

Recently, I returned to St. Andrews to take photos of the gravestones and was saddened and distressed to find that only three or four stones were readable. The stones themselves are limestone and the faces seem to crumble off. One stone had no readable carving on it at all.



Farm Cemetery. This cemetery is registered as being administered by The Ontario Realty Corporation. A correspondent advised us that the facility is now used by the military as a practice range!

We learned recently that the name of a cemetery registered as "Abandoned" is now known as Garrison Pioneer Cemetery. This cemetery located at Lot 3, Concession 3, Tyednaga Township, Hastings County is on property obtained from the Crown by Caleb Archibald Garrison who in turn donated land for a Methodist Church and Cemetery. It is believed that there are 102 burials. Most of those interred in the cemetery are Loyalist descendants of Zenas Ross U.E., King's Rangers, 84th Reg. KRRNY. Charles (Chuck) Ross, a descendant of Zenas Ross, seeks pledges for restoration of the cemetery.

Christopher Hume, writing in the Toronto Star on Friday, October 27, 2006, had an article titled "Candidates Just Don't Get The Heritage Concept". This was written just prior to the municipal elections in November and still applies to the candidates who will be running in the provincial election this October.

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vwxyz
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Mr. Hume noted that several sites within Toronto were threatened or, worse still, have disappeared. Heritage and its preservation should be the concern of all citizens of Ontario. Ontario's rich heritage appears to be expendable. The candidates in the upcoming provincial election next October should be made aware of these concerns and asked to respond. The Ontario Historical Society and The Ontario Genealogical Society has spent long hours and considerable sums of money in the defense of Ontario's cemeteries. This should not be necessary. Ask your candidates where they stand on heritage issues.

Donations Required For OHS Cemetery Defense Fund

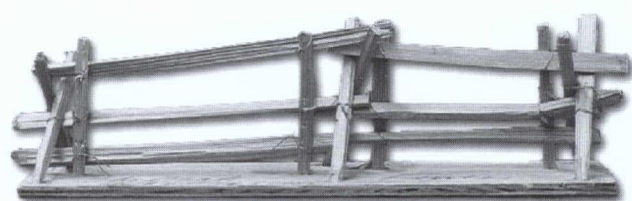
The resources of the OHS are constantly challenged as we try to defend the cemeteries that are threatened across the province. We are fortunate that many of our members donate their time and expertise, but there is much we must pay for and so we are forced to ask our readers for their assistance. We can't do it alone. All donations will receive a tax receipt.

Lanark Log Fences

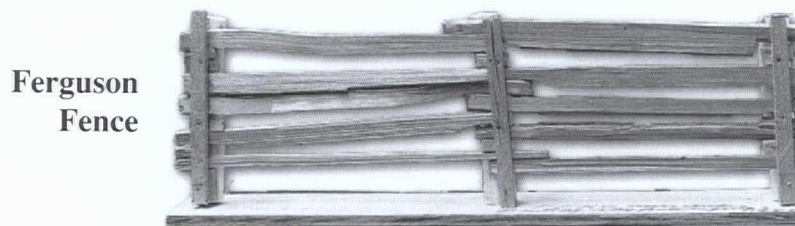
Visitors to the by-ways of Eastern Ontario are often impressed that log fences are still used to mark property lines and to confine livestock. These evidences of the past are frequently encountered in Lanark County where many different designs are in use, originating over 100 years ago to make use of cedar trees while clearing land for cultivation.

A resident of Lanark, long time farmer, wood carver and repository of much rural wisdom, Alex

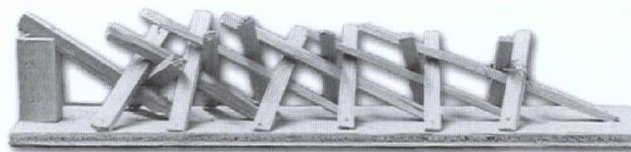
Bowles (1908-1993), understood the importance of the log fence in the County heritage. Bowles exercised his wood carving skills to make models of some thirty designs of fences, from the 'stump fence' to the 'Bolton fence', and the so-called 'patent fence'. Sets of his models were presented to museums in Lanark, Middleville and Appleton, all in Lanark County. For more information, contact: Lanark and District Museum, George Street, Lanark, ON, K0G 1K0



Crab Fence



Ferguson Fence



Indian Fence

Photos are by Frank Thomas

Windsor's Community Museum Opens 'Rising Dragon' Show

Rising Dragon is a community-based exhibition featuring the history of Chinese Canadians in Windsor. Never before documented, this exhibition attempts to piece together information from people's recollections and from artifacts and photos that have been passed down from previous generations. Many interesting artifacts will be on display, including a fascinating collection of missionary curios loaned by Gloria Jung on behalf of the Leamington Baptist Church. Missionary Carl G. Gowan sent this collection of approximately 70 items back to Leamington from China in the 1920's. Included

are dolls, charms, ancestral idols, toiletries, clothing and shoes for bound feet.

The exhibition's opening, which took place February 18th, was the best attended opening in the history of the museum, with over 290 people in attendance. Exhibition Curator, Hugh Barrett, sees this as a result of featuring



Carl Gowan and his family in China, c. 1922. Photo courtesy of the Windsor Community Museum. Thanks to the Burlington Historical Society for the story idea.

community-focused exhibits, where special advisors and committees are set in place to ensure the community feels ownership of the end product. Building on this success, the Windsor Community Museum hopes to feature a Polish exhibition next year. *Rising Dragon* will be on display until December 22, 2007.

Joseph Brant Coin Unveiled

Officials from the Canadian Mint, along with local dignitaries, were on hand at the Joseph Brant Museum on January 18th to unveil Canada's Silver Dollar commemorating Joseph Brant (Thayendanegea). Brant was a British military captain who led Mohawks in both the French and Indian wars from 1754 to 1763 and in the American Revolutionary War.

The coin itself depicts Brant wearing a traditional headdress

and a gorget stamped with the royal seal of George III. In 1784, the British government awarded the Six Nations a tract of land six miles deep on either side of the length of the Grand River. For years afterwards, Brant continued as an active advocate for the Six Nations, negotiating with the British Government on their behalf. Brant died in Burlington in 1807. This year marks the 200th anniversary of his death.

Lynda Powless, a descendant of Joseph Brant, assisted in the unveiling of the New Canadian Silver Dollar commemorating Thayendanegea. Thanks to the Burlington Historical Society for the story idea and the Joseph Brant Museum for the photo.



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Do you have an exhibit, event or story that you would like to publicize? If you have a submission, send it to:

Editor, OHS Bulletin, The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON, M2N 3Y2 or bulletin@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

The OHS Bulletin reserves the right to edit all submissions. Good quality, high resolution images are always welcome.

From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors • raible@georgian.net

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Canadians at Table: Food, Fellowship and Folklore, A Culinary History of Canada.

By Dorothy Duncan. 248 pages. Illustrations. \$35 hardbound.

Dorothy Duncan's long love of history and fine appreciation of food are combined in this delightful review of what has nourished us – from the earliest settlers thousands of years ago to the most recent immigrants. Meals have always been important, witness the logger who claimed he'd "rather work for a dollar less in a real camp where the food was good." Using booklets and broadsides, diaries, letters, advertisements, menus, fund-raising cookbooks and word-of-mouth, Duncan describes what Canadians have eaten for basic sustenance and what they have enjoyed in celebration. Early arrivals relied in large measure on local plants and animals. As time went by, more and more food was imported from further and further away, resulting in lots of diversity – and 'fresh' foods at all seasons of the year. Now the trend is once again on shopping locally for organic and artisanal foods! Duncan presents a truly appetizing review of what Canadians have eaten through the ages – and why. Also of interest is her earlier book, *Nothing More Comforting: Canada's Heritage Food*, published by Dundurn in 2003.

FOR THE BIRDS

Birding at Point Pelee: A Birder's History of Canada's Most Famous Birding Spots.

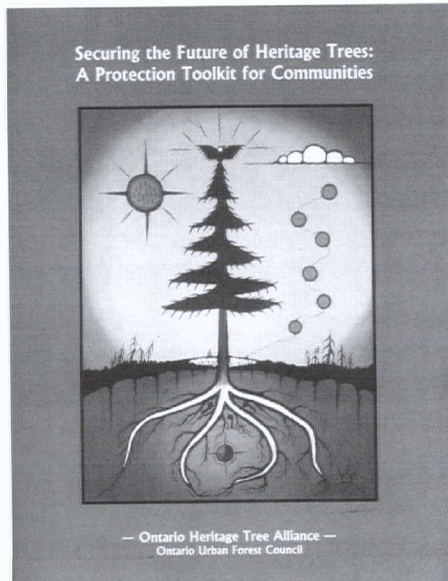
By Henrietta T. O'Neill. James Lorimer & Company. 228 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Each May, it seems almost as many birders as birds flock to Point Pelee National Park. Henrietta O'Neill catches the excitement of the expectant watchers as they return year after year for the annual migration. She takes us from early speculations about migration by a U.S. government team (mapping the topography and hydrography of Lake Erie in the 1870's) through the gradual but growing interest by amateur birdwatchers to today's knowledgeable, well organized, and well equipped birders. O'Neill traces the evolution of the park, scientific discoveries and changes in ornithological methods over time, including the need to balance conservation and recreation. Lots of personal reminiscences make this a lively read.

FOR THE TREES

Securing the Future of Heritage Trees: A Protection Toolkit for Communities.

By the Ontario Heritage Tree Alliance. Ontario Urban Forest Council. 148 pages. Illustrations. \$30 softbound.



"A Canadian settler hates a tree," Anna Jameson asserted in 1838, but honouring and protecting old trees, whether singly or in groves, is now a passionate heritage concern. A heritage tree is notable because of its size, form, shape, beauty, age, colour, rarity, genetic constitution or other distinctive feature, say the authors. Some trees are linked to historic persons, places or events. Other are associated with local folklore, myths, legends or traditions. This useful workbook for groups who care about significant trees in their own communities is full of practical advice and success stories. Also available is a scrapbook *Ontario Urban Forests – Growing Interest and Concern*.

AD ASTRA

The Sky's the Limit: Canadian Women Bush Pilots.

By Joyce Spring. Natural Heritage. 200 pages. Illustrations. \$24.95 softbound.

Bush pilot stories are quintessentially Canadian, celebrating the heroism of those who brave adverse conditions to bring supplies or doctors or other relief to far away, otherwise inaccessible places. Joyce Spring notes that we expect bush pilots to be rugged individuals – and they are, but not all of them are "six foot two and male". The intrepid bush pilots in this book are all women, women who have flown coast-to-coast, piloting single-engine aircraft, "called out at all hours, in all weather, to fly the sick and the injured... crop-dusting, you name it, they've done it. More than that, they've done it well," says Spring. Lots of good stories.

HISTORY IN FICTION

McNab: A Novel.

By David Mulholland. General Store. 265 pages \$19.95 softbound.

In 1822, Archibald McNab, 17th Chief of Clan McNab, pursued

by bailiffs, fled Scotland in disgrace, abandoning his wife and children. He arrived in Upper Canada and in 1823 acquired a free land grant in the upper Ottawa valley. In dealing with government officials, he presented himself as a fine Highland chieftain, a charming and entirely trustworthy gentleman. But his plan was to lure his tenants from Perthshire, once again become their 'laird', and profit from their labour in a feudal system he thought was his due. How the settlers freed themselves from McNab's dominion is narrated by his loyal piper MacGregor. A colourful yarn about a colourful character.

HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS

College Street – Little Italy: Toronto's Renaissance Strip.

Edited by Denis De Klerck and Corrado Paina. Mansfield Press. 160 pages. Illustrations. \$35.95 softbound.

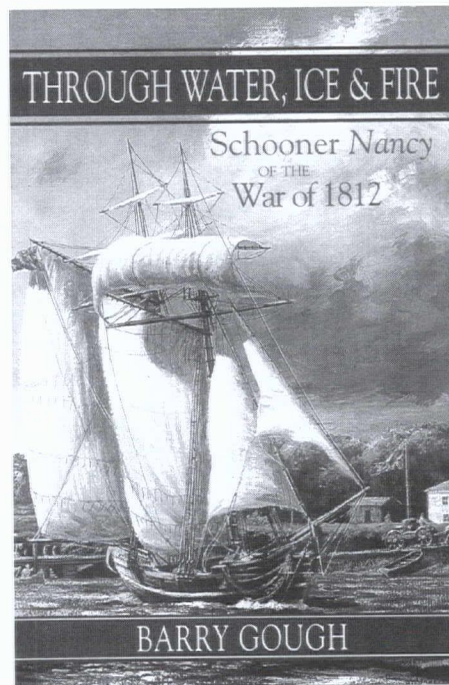
Splendid contemporary and archival photographs illustrate the essays which explore the history of Toronto's College Street neighbourhood. Immigrants from across the world have settled here, allowing an intimate and easy mix of cultures. Thus, College Street has evolved with each generation and ethnic group leaving its distinctive mark, most notably, perhaps, the area between Bathurst and Ossington, dubbed Little Italy.

HEROIC HISTORY

Through Water, Ice & Fire:

Schooner Nancy of the War of 1812.

By Barry Gough. Dundurn. 213 pages. Illustrations. \$24.99 softbound.



Naval historian Barry Gough spins a grand tale of the War of 1812. From the outset, the Northwest was a crucial battleground, economically vital to the British, politically indispensable to the Americans, and home to dozens of Native nations. Supply routes important to the fur-trading North West Company ran through the Great Lakes to Montreal. Enter the Nancy, a nimble little NWC schooner, built for speed and maneuverability, but with an ample hold for carrying goods west

and furs east. When hostilities broke out, it was soon requisitioned. Her young master, Alexander Mackintosh, had a deep sense of obligation to king and country and daringly commanded his ship through countless battles and storms to keep strategic supplies and troops on the move as needed. Finally cornered, Mackintosh set fire to his ship rather than have it fall into enemy hands.

WHERE TO LOOK

Municipal Records in Ontario: History and Guide.

By Fraser Dunford. Ontario Genealogical Society. 182 pages. \$29 softbound.

As the author suggests, searching municipal records has never been simple because they are by nature so local. Yet minutes, by-laws, assessments rolls, voters lists and school lists are a gold mine for information about particular persons living in specific locations. Here is a guide of what to look for and where to find it.

COLLECTIVE ENDEAVOUR

Governor Simcoe Slept Here:

The Legacy of West Gwillimbury.

By the Bradford West Gwillimbury

Local History Association. 825 pages

in two volumes. Illustrations. Index.

\$75 hardbound (includes CD).

The first substantial volume, copiously illustrated, details the history of this Simcoe county township from its First Nation heritage, through its early settlement, the turbulent 19th century and evolving into its 20th century history. Volume II is devoted to a compilation of the histories of hundreds of families who lived in the county from 1819 to 1960. An accompanying CD provides an index of families, a list of 1949 marsh land owners and a collection of striking landscape photographs by area artist Franz Aschwandten. Highest marks to the dozens of contributors who brought these comprehensive and instructive volumes into being.

History Noted

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

Honouring Our Roots and Together in History.

Westminster Township Historical Society.

Illustrations. Indexed. \$100 hardbound.

A two-volume history of the settlement and development of the townships of Delaware and Westminster. Volume I relates the history of the

BOOKSHELF page 8

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.

area and volume II tells of the pioneers who established their homes in Middlesex County.

Remembering Pilkington Township: Lives, Loves and Labour.

Edited by Elysia DeLaurentis and Debra Nash-Chambers. Wellington County Historical Society. 310 pages. Illustrations. Index. \$55.

The stories of farm families, rural residents and social organizations that established roots and supported the economic development, institutions and sporting life of Pilkington for over 150 years.

Directory of Publishers

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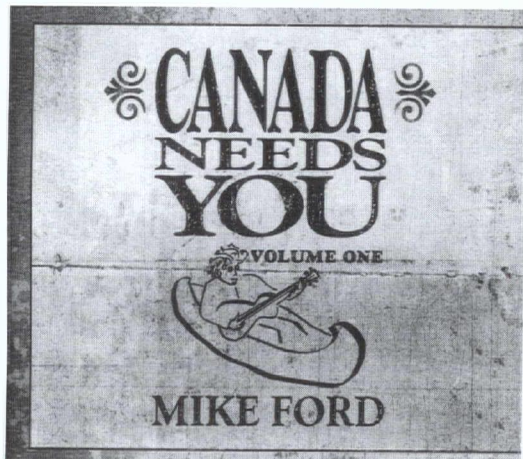
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