

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 223

SEPTEMBER 2023

NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY HOSTS "HERITAGE MATTERS"

OHS TO CELEBRATE 135 YEARS AT 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Members of the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS) met on June 26 to hold their public incorporation meeting with the local community. OHS ED Daniel Dishaw spoke about the importance of the incorporation program and the dedication of volunteers and heritage advocates like the members of the NAHS, which was incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on July 7. From left to right are: Mary White, member at large; Adam Ball, Treasurer; Dudley Hill, Fundraising Coordinator; Kathy Mussell, Secretary; Daniel Dishaw; Kim Lulashnyk, Chair; Joan White, member at large; and Ted Stewart, Vice Chair. Board members not pictured are: Diane Haskins, Colleen Bedore, and Lily Bedore.

Kimberly Lulashnyk, Chair, Newboro and Area Heritage Society
create@stonemanorstudios.ca

The historic Red Brick School in Elgin served as the meeting point for several heritage organizations, local stakeholders, and the Ontario Historical Society on June 26, 2023. The gathering, "Heritage Matters: A Meet & Greet," was organized to highlight and discuss the ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the rich history of the Rideau Lakes region. Central to the event was the Newboro and Area Heritage Society's (NAHS) recent initiative to join the Ontario Historical Society (OHS) through incorporation. The Rideau Lakes Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee supported the event with the NAHS acting as hosts and organizers. The goal was twofold: firstly, to familiarize the recently appointed OHS Executive Director, Daniel Dishaw, with the region's heritage-focused efforts; and secondly, to provide a platform for heritage preservation organizations to connect with each other and allow stakeholders to share their experiences and challenges in the realm of heritage work.

"NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWBORO & AREA HERITAGE SOCIETY HOST "HERITAGE MATTERS"	1
OHS TO CELEBRATE 135 YEARS AT 2023 AGM	1
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	2
ONTARIO HISTORY AUTUMN 2023	2
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	3
OHS VISITS THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM	3
REMEMBERING KIRK HOWARD: 1943-2023	4
EMANCIPATION DAY 2023	4
MUSEUM MILESTONES	5
HERITAGE APPAREL LINE A BIG HIT FOR COLLINGWOOD MUSEUM	5
BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO	6
FROM THE BOOKSHELF	7

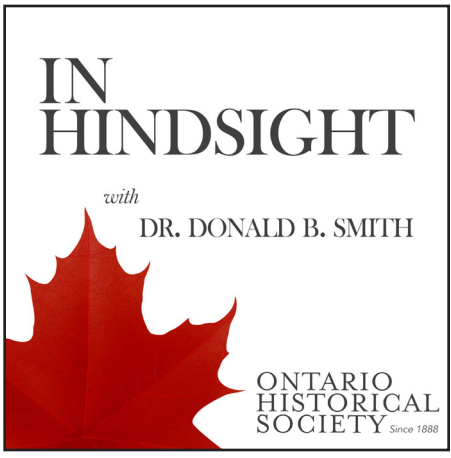


The Ontario Historical Society's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society will take place on Thursday, October 12, 2023, beginning at 7:00 pm EST.

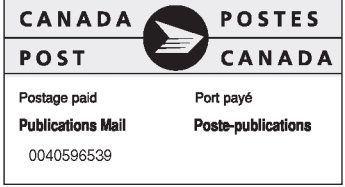
The AGM will once again be held virtually. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our members who have been able to virtually attend our recent AGMs from all corners of Ontario.

Please call or email the OHS office to register for the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society at 416-226-9011 or ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

This year, Dr. Donald B. Smith will deliver the keynote presentation, focussing on the process of synthesizing 50 years of research into a podcast series, as well as some of his favourite discoveries and topics featured in the 21-episode series. For more on Dr. Smith and the *In Hindsight* podcast, please visit the OHS website at ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/podcasts/in-hindsight/.



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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kristin Ives, President
kives@erca.org

Hello. Bonjour. Boozhoo.

I hope each of you has enjoyed the bounty and beauty of the summer. Here in Essex County, the farm stands are full of fresh tomatoes, blueberries, peaches, gladiolas, and more. Communities around the province are surely celebrating the season with various festivals and fairs. At the John R. Park Homestead, we are preparing to participate in the Harrow Fair, hosted by the Colchester Agricultural Society since 1878. Summer is a wonderfully busy season for museums and historical societies – hosting special events and activities as they welcome families and other visitors from near and far. Summer students have been showcasing their new skills in exhibits, summer camp programs, and social media posts.

The Society has been busy, as well, hosting several events at the John McKenzie House over the past few months. In May, the OHS participated in Doors Open and welcomed roughly 1,000 visitors to the John McKenzie House. The event included partnering with three community organizations to animate the space, including local artists and musicians. The OHS has participated in Doors Open since its inception in 2000. This event provides a fantastic way for staff to connect with the local community. The OHS was also pleased to host an art exhibition by sculptor Lubo Brezina. His large-scale wood sculptures were a fixture at the John McKenzie House for five days in June, attracting fans of fine art from across the city.

The end of June is also a busy time administratively, as it is typically the time that provincial grants are due. Each year, the OHS supports its membership by assisting with their Heritage Organization Development Grant applications and writing letters of good standing. This year, staff supported the work of dozens of members from across the province as they applied for annual operating funding. Wishing all of our member organizations success in their various funding applications.

I'm very pleased to welcome all of our members to the 135th Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Historical Society. More information about registration and our keynote speaker, Dr. Donald B. Smith, can be found in the article on page 1 of this *Bulletin*. I look forward to presenting on our 2022 Annual Report there.



Photo – Sarah McCabe

Long-time OHS donor and supporter Jamie Laidlaw visited the John McKenzie House for Doors Open 2023. He has been an incredible advocate for the Society for many years, and has personally donated both time and financial support to help the OHS modernize and reach new audiences. Jamie has helped the Society fundraise for its digitization and digital infrastructure projects, including the OHS website, the *Ontario History Journal* Archive, and OHS podcast production. Pictured above from left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, Jamie Laidlaw, and new OHS member and supporter, Philip Stern.

On behalf of the OHS Board of Directors and the Society's membership, I send our deepest condolences to family and friends of Kirk Howard. Kirk founded Dundurn Press and was an avid supporter of the OHS and a long-time friend and supporter of staff and members alike. Dundurn Press titles were frequently well reviewed and won numerous prizes, including many OHS book awards. Kirk's passion for local history is reflected in Dundurn's publishing tradition, which has featured so many books on Ontario's history. Kirk will be remembered fondly by many of our members and subscribers across the province. Barry Penhale, OHS member, *Bulletin* columnist, and longtime friend of Kirk Howard delivers a full tribute to Kirk on page 4.

I also want to pay tribute to long-time OHS member and perennial volunteer, Jeanne Hopkins, who passed away peacefully on July 13 at age 84. A historian of North York and Willowdale, Jeanne was a wonderful person to work with who contributed so much of her time and energy to the Ontario Historical Society and the North York Historical Society throughout her many years of membership. She will be greatly missed by OHS staff and by so many of our members.

All my best,
Kristin

ONTARIO HISTORY

THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**VOL. 115, No. 2
AUTUMN 2023**

"It is a Glorious Cause and I Will Die for It" - William Alves
by Chris Raible

The Patriot War Letters of W.W. Dodge to Dr. Charles Osgood
by Robert Beasecker

Niagara County, New York: Its Role in the Patriot War
by Bruce D. Aikin

Patriots, Publishers, and Hunters Respond to the Rebellion and Patriot War, 1837-1841
by Josh Steedman

The Patriot Press and their Paper Tiger, 1836-1842
by Stephen R.I. Smith

The Family Life That John Berry Had But Never Experienced
by Cozy Venable Palmer and Michael W. Kehoe

Hiram Sharp: A Life Changed by the Battle of the Windmill
by Terrance Patterson

The Many Lives of James Milne Aitchison
by Ian Hundey

Chauncey Sheldon, a Survivor of the 1838 Patriot War
by John C. Carter

The 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion/Patriot War and its Aftermath

ONTARIO HISTORY

AUTUMN 2023

Scheduled to reach *Ontario History* subscribers in November, the 2023 Autumn issue features nine new peer-reviewed articles:

"It is a Glorious Cause and I Will Die for It" — William Alves
by Chris Raible

**"Remember Me to Friends If I Have Any":
The Patriot War Letters of W.W. Dodge to Dr. Charles Osgood**
by Robert Beasecker

Niagara County, New York: Its Role in the Patriot War
by Bruce D. Aikin

**Rumours, Ruffians, and the U.S.-Upper Canada Border: Patriots, Publishers,
and Hunters Respond to the Upper Canadian Rebellion and Patriot War,
1837-1841**
by Josh Steedman

**The Patriot Press and their Paper Tiger:
Community Formation and Allusions to the Patriot Hunters, 1836-1842**
by Stephen R.I. Smith

The Family Life That John Berry Had But Never Experienced
by Cozy Venable Palmer and Michael W. Kehoe

Hiram Sharp: A Life Changed by the Battle of the Windmill
by Terrance Patterson

The Many Lives of James Milne Aitchison, a Battle of Windsor Raider
by Ian Hundey

The Long Odyssey of Chauncey Sheldon, a Survivor of the 1838 Patriot War: His Story
by John C. Carter

Single copies are available for \$25 plus shipping.
Please visit our website for subscriptions to the journal:
ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/ontario-history-journal/.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director
ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Since our last edition of the *Bulletin*, I have been pleased to participate in so many great events and meetings with our members across Ontario. I travelled to eastern Ontario in July to meet with our newest affiliated organization, the Newboro and Area Heritage Society (NAHS), which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS on July 7, 2023.

NAHS will seek to collect, study, preserve, convey, and celebrate the rich history of Newboro and area. Its aims and objectives are to conserve the area's cultural resources; to promote and facilitate fundraising activities to achieve its mission; to preserve, interpret, exhibit, and communicate the histories, artifacts, and cultures of Newboro and area; and to improve public understanding and awareness of these diverse histories through events, displays, exhibitions, and by providing access to relevant archival material.

The OHS Board of Directors and staff are pleased to welcome this new group to the Ontario Historical Society. In her lead article for this edition of the *Bulletin*, NAHS Chair Kimberly Lulashnyk goes into detail about our meetings on June 26 and all of the fantastic collaboration happening in the heritage community of the Rideau Lakes region. Congratulations to the members of the NAHS and kudos to all the hard-working heritage advocates I had the pleasure of meeting during my visit to the area in June.

After the meet-and-greet, I was given a five-star tour of the area's rich heritage landscape, visiting significant historic sites in several towns. A school bus served as our transport for the day—a blast of nostalgia that I won't soon forget. I was also treated to an excellent meal at the Stirling Lodge in Newboro. If you're travelling through the area, I would absolutely recommend you book a stay or stop in for a meal. The owners are avid heritage advocates and have done an incredible job of maintaining and preserving the historic lodge. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make my visit so welcoming, productive, and educational.

I visited a few more of our members and member organizations as I passed through eastern Ontario, including the Lost Villages Museum in Long Sault. This museum boasts an impressive collection of recovered artifacts, buildings, and archival documents relating to the twelve lost communities that existed along the St. Lawrence River prior to the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project in the late 1950s.

Life member and long-time supporter of the OHS, Jim Brownell is the President of the Lost Villages Historical Society (LVHS) that operates the museum. I was pleased to meet with Jim and David Hill (of the LVHS) for a tour of the relocated buildings from the Lost Villages now housed at Ault Park. The museum site at Ault Park consists of ten heritage buildings that were moved and restored from The Lost Villages and surrounding townships by the members of The Lost Villages Historical Society. Both the interiors and exteriors of the buildings have been restored, and they have been assembled in a village-like setting in the park. My own family traces our roots back to this part of the province, so it was a real pleasure to visit this site and learn more about our history. Jim goes into detail about our visit together in his article below, and makes mention of my grandfather, Frank Dishaw, who was the first Captain of the Great Lakes freighter named *Carol Lake*. As it happens, that ship was built and launched in Collingwood in 1960. The lead article in the Museum Milestones column (page 5), submitted by Melissa Shaw, touches on the unique history of shipbuilding in Collingwood. It's always so satisfying to make these connections in our history!

On July 26 I travelled to Canfield to meet OHS Cemeteries and Preservation Committee Co-Chair Janie Cooper-Wilson and Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) Inspector Andrew Reynolds to participate in a joint site



Photo – Daniel Dishaw

Pictured above are OHS Preservation and Cemeteries Committee Co-Chair Janie Cooper-Wilson and BAO Inspector Andrew Reynolds identifying grave shafts and markers during a recent joint inspection of the Street Family Cemetery in Canfield, Haldimand County.

inspection of the Street Family Cemetery in Haldimand. Haldimand County has recently invested in the restoration and cleanup of this historic site, the final resting place of Harriet Tubman's niece, Caroline "Carrie" Stewart, who fled the United States in search of freedom, ultimately settling in Canfield. Filmmaker Graeme Bachiu and his crew were on site to document the process and interview representatives about the important work being done to restore the cemetery. Bachiu's documentary series on the history of this cemetery and the descendant community, *Canfield Roots*, won the 2021 OHS President's Award. The OHS is committed to ensuring that cemeteries in Ontario are preserved and protected on behalf of the public interest. It was fantastic to see the BAO and the OHS working together toward that common goal, and I was pleased to see all the work Haldimand County has done to restore the site. We look forward to seeing that great work continue.

My predecessor, Rob Leverty, was an incredible advocate for cemetery preservation as Executive Director of the OHS. I know our members and donors appreciate all the work Rob has done, and many of you recently made donations to the OHS "In honour of Rob Leverty" to express that gratitude. I want to thank you all on behalf of Rob and the OHS staff for your generosity and your continued support of the organization.

In the next few months, we have much to look forward to. Our AGM is approaching and I'm excited to meet with all of you then. I know Don Smith will give a fascinating and engaging talk on all the research and recording that went into producing *In Hindsight: Half A Century of Discoveries in Canadian Research* for the OHS.

OHS staff and Willowdale residents are excited about some new restoration work that will soon be under way at the historic John McKenzie House: The Stable, Coach House, and Milk House will be getting some attention from heritage restoration experts this fall. Staff will be documenting the process to share with our members. We also have some great community events coming up at the John McKenzie House this season, including an artisan market, a theatrical collective event, and several meetings of OHS members and other local not-for-profits. Staff are pleased to support all the programming and community engagement happening at the John McKenzie House.

I'm also pleased to be attending the National Trust Conference in Ottawa this October. My colleague, Sarah McCabe will join me. OHS staff and board members are always delighted to attend conferences and other collaborative events across the province. I'll be out on the road again this fall to meet with more of our members and prospective affiliates, a privilege I always look forward to. I hope you all enjoy the fall season. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

All my best,
Daniel

OHS VISIT TO THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

Jim Brownell, President, Lost Villages Historical Society

On Tuesday, June 27, 2023, Nancy and David Hill and I were pleased to welcome three members of the Dishaw family, Dwight, Alexis, and Daniel, home to their roots in the lands of the "Lost Villages". Daniel's father, grandparents, and generations of Dishaw family members before them lived in and around the Lost Village of Dickinson's Landing, Ontario.

The first stop was the Ontario Power Generation Saunders Visitor Centre at Cornwall, where the Dishaw and Hill family members viewed the iconic film: *From Dream to Reality*—Ontario Power Generation's story of the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Projects, completed in

1958. Our guests viewed diagrams and photos depicting the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway before and after all the relocation.

Next on the agenda was a short drive to the village of St. Andrews West for a visit to a historic cemetery where the famous Canadian explorer Simon Fraser and John Sandfield Macdonald, the first Premier of Ontario (1867 to 1871) lie buried.

The highlight of the day was the visit to the [Lost Villages Historical Society's museum at Ault Park, South Stormont](#). As President of the Lost Villages Historical Society, I welcomed the Dishaw and Hill families to the



David Hill of the LVHS holds up a photo of Mille Roches before the relocation and eventual flooding of the town to make way for the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project.

"LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM" CONTINUED ON PAGE 6...

REMEMBERING KIRK HOWARD 1943-2023

Barry Penhale
barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

On June 30, John Kirk Howard passed away at age 80. Always courteous and smartly attired, he stood out in any gathering, be it at home in his beloved Canada or abroad on international book business. Kirk made friends easily and earned the highest regard from fellow members of the book trade.

As a friend and colleague of Kirk's, I think it only fitting to respectfully remember the many ways Kirk Howard was a Canadian publishing pioneer, a member of a select group that includes only a handful of others, with indie publishers Jack David and James Lorimer immediately coming to mind. Through this trio's dedication and hard work, they proved it was possible to thrive in spite of the constant challenges confronting Canada's independent presses. To Kirk and others go kudos for their not easily achieved longevity in an always topsy-turvy field. Because of them, book enthusiasts across the country and beyond enjoy an impressive number of quality Canadian published books, and have been introduced to some fine writers they may otherwise have missed. With Kirk Howard at the helm, many Dundurn titles were published that reinforced his personal passion for Canadian history. It must have delighted Kirk greatly that when Ontario Historical Society book reviewers Chris and Pat Raible were retiring, they recognized hundreds of books received for review, but singled out only three presses by name: University of Toronto Press, Dundurn Press, and Natural Heritage Books. The latter being the small press I founded, which later merged with Dundurn.

Bright with a rapier-like wit, his interests beyond publishing included genealogy and British royalty, subjects often covered during his 47 years in the book business. To his delight, Dundurn imprinted titles were frequently well reviewed and won numerous prizes, including many titles reflecting the publisher's passion for Canada. A past president of the Association of Canadian Publishers and the Ontario Book Publishers Organization, Kirk was invested into the Order of Canada in 2019. As sociable as they come, he was a long-time member of the Arts and Letters Club, which he frequented often until health issues dictated otherwise.

I took it as the ultimate compliment when, upon becoming one of his associates, Kirk said it was as if he was returning to his own publishing roots.



Photo—Dundurn Press—Ian Payton

By then, Dundurn had evolved into our largest solely-owned Canadian press. But Kirk missed the kind of publishing I had become known for, the kind that had been the norm for him during his earlier years in publishing. Fortunately, the Dundurn publishing board, on which my wife Jane and I sat, found favour with book proposals that reminded one and all about Dundurn's ongoing role in telling stories about our local history. Documenting important chapters of the past is, in my estimation, central to the considerable legacy Kirk Howard has left behind.

Having sold Dundurn Press in 2019, an ailing Kirk was to spend his remaining years at his Lake Simcoe condo. Kirk Howard will be greatly missed by many.

EMANCIPATION DAY 2023

Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director
ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I was pleased to be invited to the Ontario Black History Society's (OBHS) Emancipation Day Celebration at Fort York National Historic Site in Toronto. My colleague Sarah McCabe was also in attendance to support our friends and members at the OBHS.

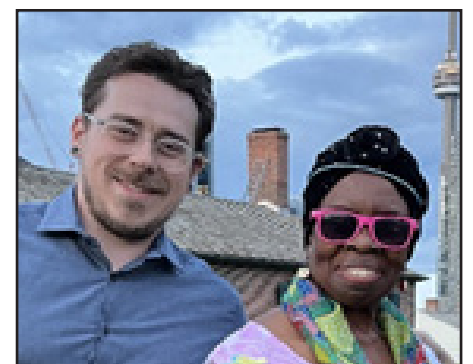
The performances and presentations were fantastic as always. I was especially moved by Leslie McCurdy's one-woman play, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman*, which uses Harriet's own words in telling the story of her life from her earliest experiences as a slave, through her work on the Underground Railroad, to her continued commitment to others in her later years. The play was fantastic, and it was a privilege to meet Leslie McCurdy and speak with



At Fort York on Emancipation Day, 2023. From left to right are OHS ED Daniel Dishaw, actor and playwright Leslie McCurdy, and OBHS President Dorothy Abbott.

her after the performance. McCurdy has been performing *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* for more than 25 years.

I was also pleased to be reunited with many friends and OHS members at the OBHS celebration on August 1. After the conclusion of the program, I had an opportunity to chat with everyone. Pancheta Barnett, President of the East York Historical Society, approached me with a request: to submit a letter of reflection on what Emancipation Day means to me personally. My response was included in a community display by the East York Historical Society on the theme of "Exploring Emancipation" at Todmorden Mills in Toronto. This was my response:



Daniel and Pancheta Barnett at Fort York National Historic Site on Emancipation Day, 2023.

On August 1, we gather to commemorate the liberation of more than 800,000 enslaved Africans in Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and South Africa. For hundreds of years, people of African descent suffered horrendous acts of hate and violence as a result of the slave trade. On Emancipation Day, we reflect on the destructive and painful legacy of slavery in Canada while celebrating the remarkable strength and determination of those who fought for their freedom.

We also gather to celebrate the irreplaceable contributions and achievements of Black Canadians throughout our nation's history. We celebrate Emancipation Day with Black music, art, performance, and thought—the irrefutable evidence that an incredible culture and spirit endured through generations of oppression and discrimination. We gather to emphasize that Black history does not begin or end with the history of slavery.

In reflecting on the history of slavery in Canada, we must also acknowledge the lasting impacts, the intergenerational harm, and the continued fight for equity and inclusion. We must address the inequalities and the racism still prevalent in our society today.

At the OHS, we are privileged to work with so many of our member organizations who endeavour to preserve and promote Black culture and history here in Ontario. I'm honoured to be able to support this important work as I continue to listen and learn. I encourage everyone to learn more about this important part of our collective history and how we can move forward together.

Sincerely,
Daniel Dishaw

MUSEUM MILESTONES

Dr. John Carter
drjohncarter@bell.net

This issue's lead Museum Milestones article is by Melissa Shaw, Museum Supervisor at the Collingwood Museum. In it, she describes the innovative programs and activities offered there. Collingwood is located in a four-season vacation area, so drop by throughout the year and have a visit.

The Ontario museum community has recently lost several long-standing supporters. Hazen Price passed away at the age of 99. He was one of the founders of the Amherstburg Historic Sites Association, and a long-time executive member of the Park House Museum. He was responsible for saving built heritage in Amherstburg, including the Park House and the Gordon House. He was also one of the first tin smiths at the Park House, and taught many others this craft. Hazen will be greatly missed in Amherstburg and in Essex County.

Ted Douglas died in his 94th year in Windsor. He taught the first group of tinsmiths at the Park House, and later was an active volunteer at the Canadian Aviation Museum in Windsor. A celebration of Ted's life was held there on July 23.

Earl Iler passed on at the age of 97. He was a long-time supporter and volunteer at the John R. Park Homestead (JRPH). As a neighbour, with his home and farm directly across from the JRPH, Earl was of great assistance to me at the Homestead during my time there as curator from 1977 to 1980. He was buried in the Iler Cemetery. Condolences to the Iler family.

After 29 years of service at the Guelph Museums, where she carried out various duties and held several positions, Val Harrison recently retired. Museum staff held a retirement party for her before her departure. All the best Val!

Sad news from the Township of Black River-Matheson. Municipal Council there has voted to close the museum, dissolve the museum committee, and sell the building. The Black River Matheson Museum was first opened in 1973. Thelma Miles was the driving force behind this site for many years, and the museum eventually was re-named the Thelma Miles Museum in her honour. For input from the municipality, contact Mayor Doug Bender at mayor@twpbrm.ca, or Clerk/Treasurer Cassandra Child at cchild@twpbrm.ca.

To end on a positive note, I am happy to announce that the Dr. John C. Carter Award in Museum Studies, has been awarded for the first time at the University of Leicester, England, and the initial recipient was Danielle Megaffin, of Tantallon, Nova Scotia. She plans to use the award to assist in travelling to do research for her Ph.D. thesis. Congratulations, Danielle. For further information or enquiries about this bursary, please contact museum@leicester.ac.uk. This award is open to all Canadian students registered for post-graduate candidates in Museum Studies, at the University of Leicester.

HERITAGE APPAREL LINE A BIG HIT FOR THE COLLINGWOOD MUSEUM

Melissa Shaw, Museum Supervisor, Collingwood Museum

The Collingwood Museum's long history of collecting dates back to the establishment of the Huron Institute in 1904. Housed in the basement of the local Carnegie library, the early museum featured exhibits from its five departments: Zoology, Botany, Geology, History, and Civic Development. The Institute's leader, David Williams, spearheaded the publication of three volumes of essays, biographies, and a historic catalogue. The latter documents the Institute's extensive collection of local and marine photographs and continues to be the museum's most accessed publication.

In 1963, a devastating fire struck the Carnegie library. Surprisingly, most of the Institute's collections survived with varying degrees of water damage. The Town of Collingwood stepped in to take ownership of the early collection and purchased the CN railway station as a permanent home for the collection. The Collingwood Museum officially opened in 1966 and hasn't looked back.

In 1998, the original CN station was replaced with a new building inspired by Collingwood's original and stunning 1873 railway station. Unlike the museum of the past, the Collingwood Museum limits its collecting efforts to the Town of Collingwood's history. The most asked-after collections, particularly photographs, continue to be those originally collected by the Huron Institute.



Until 2020, operation of the Collingwood Museum was stable and included the typical responsibilities of programming, collections management, and exhibition development. Everything changed in March 2020. In the face of pandemic closures and gradual re-openings, museum staff was challenged to engage with the community in new and exciting ways. For at least a decade, staff had been discussing the idea of creating branded t-shirts. With the museum closed, staff decided to launch a cheeky line of history-themed apparel to raise awareness about the museum and Collingwood's past. A museum without visitors is a very gloomy space, so to keep our collective spirits high, we dove headfirst into the design process to make our vision a reality.

The first design launched on March 8, 2021—International Women's Day—and featured a black-and-white photograph from the archives of eight

women welders from the World War Two era of shipbuilding in Collingwood. Emblazoned beneath the portrait was the phrase "This is Women's Work". The initial run was a sellout success and we quickly ordered more. By the end of 2021, the shirts had made their way across the province, country, and into the United States. Entire families were being outfitted with the design as a celebration of their relative's achievements. Receiving a photograph of one of the original welders wearing her shirt was a distinct pleasure for staff—she was just 17 years of age when the photograph was taken in 1943. As well, a photograph collage of an entire family outfitted in the design was shared with staff by a descendant of one of the featured welders (photo shown below).



At a time when in-person visits with family and friends were restricted, or outright banned, the Collingwood Museum had successfully sparked memories and conversations across generations. Taking orders by phone allowed staff to connect with community members and the welders' descendants in ways that we could not have anticipated. So, of course, we wanted to do it again.

The second, even cheekier, design officially launched on May 18, 2021—International Museum Day. Shipbuilding is also a cherished memory from Collingwood's recent past, so a design paying homage to this history would be another homerun with the perfect design. The result was the "Get Your Ship Together in Collingwood" slogan and its pairing with a photograph of a newly built warship, a corvette, in Collingwood's harbour. Like its predecessor, the new design was met with great enthusiasm and became a must-have for former shipyard workers and their descendants, community members at large, and visitors to the area. Very quickly, the "Ship Together" design became our bestselling gift shop item and a spectacular way of promoting both the Collingwood Museum and our community's unique history.

The possibilities for reimagining local history in fun and refreshing ways are endless. Moving forward, we hope to expand on this exciting and successful marketing initiative with many more designs. As with all things, however, time and resources will be determining factors as we work to balance pre-COVID expectations and operations with initiatives largely born of pandemic closures.

To learn more about the Collingwood Museum and its exciting initiatives, visit collingwood.ca/museum.

BARRY PENHALE'S ONTARIO

DETECTIVE JOHN WILSON MURRAY & THE BLENHEIM SWAMP MURDER

Barry Penhale

barry@naturalheritagebooks.com

When I was a toddler with hard-working parents building a business of their own, I spent considerable time at my paternal grandparents' home in the Junction district of Toronto. Though I was her grandson, I believe my grandmother, Lucy (Sanders) Penhale (b. 1881), thought of me as yet another son in a rather large brood that included my father. My grandma and my grandpa, Richard "Dick" Penhale, were both from the Exeter area, with similar Huron County farm backgrounds. I tell you this because it would be almost impossible for Ontarians of their era, and especially rural-raised folks, to not be aware of what was often labelled "The Birchall-Benwell Affair." One of my lingering memories from childhood is a precious time at my grandmother's side in the kitchen at 295 Keele Street, when "Maw," (as she was endearingly known to the family) would spontaneously begin singing (unaccompanied) the lyrics to a ditty she knew by heart. I think she would have been barely into her fifties when I first heard her sing the folk song inspired by a tragedy and a celebrated murder trial that was headline news when she herself was still a youngster. It was titled "The Ballad of J.R. Birchall." Here are the lyrics:

Come all you tender Christians, wherever you may be,
I pray you pay attention to these few words from me;
On the fourteenth of November, I am condemned to die
For the murder of F.C. Benwell—upon a scaffold high.

My name is J.R. Birchall – that name I'll not deny,
I leave my aged parents, in sorrow for to die;
For little did they think that in my youth and bloom
I'd be taken to the scaffold to meet an awful doom.

Now Benwell was an Englishman, who had not yet a wife,
He came out here to Canada to seek an honest life,
They said that I betrayed him unto a certain spot,
And there with a revolver poor Benwell, he was shot.

I tried to play off innocent, but found it would not do;
The evidence being against me, it proved I had no show.
The judge he gave the sentence, the clerk he wrote it down,
And to the scaffold I must go to meet my fearful doom.

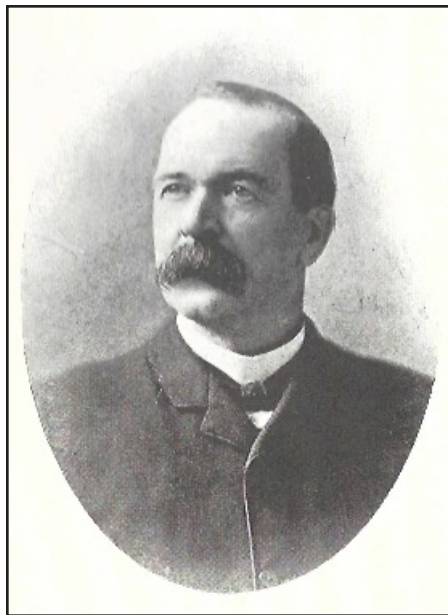
My friends they came to see me, to take their last farewell;
They seemed most broken-hearted to see me in my cell—
Saying, "Comrades, darling comrades, why shed those tears for me,
For when tomorrow's sun shall set, from troubles I'll be free."

My wife she came to see me to take her last farewell,
She said it was heart-rending to leave me in my cell—
She said, "My dearest husband, you know that you must die
For the murder of F.C. Benwell, upon a scaffold high."

It was nine o'clock in the morning, I knew my doom was near;
I bid farewell to all on earth, to friends and loved ones dear.
The last few words were spoken, the words "Thy will be done."
The trap-door was now opened, and Birchall, he was hanged.

The accused was a handsome Oxford University-educated man by the name of Reginald Birchall, a vicar's son who during a stay in Woodstock had masqueraded as Lord Somerset, accompanied by his wife Florence, masquerading as Lady Somerset. The victim, a young man in his twenties, was uncovered in an Oxford County swamp near Woodstock, Ontario, on February 21, 1890. The discovery, made by two local woodcutters, led to a trial of major importance and furthered the already impressive reputation of the Ontario government's Chief Detective at the time, John Wilson Murray.

The Scottish-born John Wilson Murray (portrait shown here) followed his father when he enlisted in the United States Navy in 1857. It was during his naval career that he discovered a plot to free 4,000 Confederate prisoners from an island prison in Lake Erie. This experience prompted him to leave a life at sea and pursue a career in policing. In time, he became Head of Detectives of the Canadian Southern Railway, bringing him north to Canada. Attorney General Oliver Mowat was so impressed by John Murray as to

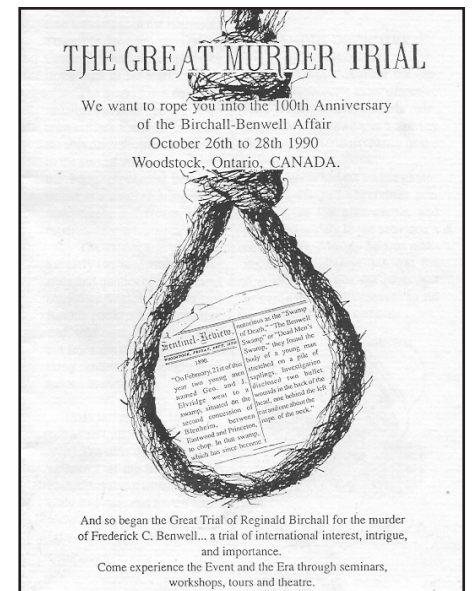


appoint him Provincial Detective of Ontario in 1874. Much ahead of his time in scientific investigation, John Wilson Murray became internationally known and some 33 of his most famous cases make up the contents of his book, *Memoirs of a Great Canadian Detective*, originally published in 1904 and reprinted in 1977 and 1978 by Collins Publishers, Toronto. Though the legendary detective died in Toronto in 1906, he lives on as the central character in the best-selling books by noted Canadian author Maureen Jennings. Yes, it was John Wilson Murray's career that inspired the creation of the extraordinarily popular fictional Detective William Murdoch, so very well known today as the central figure in both the book series and the television show.

No one charged with a crime in Canada up to that time had attracted the amount of interest as did Reginald Birchall. The case even attracted attention in Europe. Cable connections put in place made it possible for the proceedings in the Woodstock Court House to be fed directly to London, UK. Not only English newspapers but their counterparts in France, Italy, and Germany published reams of copy concerning the trial.

Detective Murray, having had the remains of Frederick Benwell photographed, saw to it that engravings made from the photographs were circulated to the press. This marked the first time that a victim's likeness had appeared in Ontario newspapers to aid with an investigation. Already, Detective John Wilson Murray was making forensic history.

In preparation for writing this article, I came across my souvenir program marking the 100th anniversary of The Birchall-Benwell Affair (pictured here). The huge organizational efforts of a Birchall Committee comprised of prominent Oxford County personalities made possible a marvellous three-day gathering in Woodstock during the month of October 1990. Tours and theatre were focused, as never before or since I believe, on this great murder trial of yesteryear. Coordinated by an old friend, Sheila M. Johnson, the organizing team did themselves proud. Everything was so very special but for many in attendance the play "Swamp Murders" was a particular highlight. The production, presented by Woodstock Little Theatre, featured the drama written by Bill Butt whose contributions to the cultural life of Oxford County remain unprecedented. Perhaps the time is right for a revival.



And so began the Great Trial of Reginald Birchall for the murder of Frederick C. Benwell... a trial of international interest, intrigue, and importance. Come experience the Event and the Era through seminars, workshops, tours and theatre.

...“LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM” CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3



A few of the historic buildings open to the public at Ault Park.

Lost Villages Museum site and provided a tour and background information on the formation of the Lost Villages Historical Society and Museum. While at the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, site of the Lost Villages Archives, the Dishaw family members were able to see the coat and cap that once belonged to Daniel's grandfather, Frank Dishaw, a Great Lakes captain.

Following a discussion about the archival collection in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, a short walk along the boardwalk outside the archives brought us to the Stuart house, a restored home depicting life in the 1950s. This house, built in 1810, is the site where the Lost Villages Historical Society was formed in 1977. Having been moved from Wales to the north end of the Stuart farm at the time of the Hydro relocations in the 1950s, the house was donated to the historical society in 2004 and opened as a museum in 2008. Our visitors marvelled at the amazing collection of artifacts from the families and homes of the Lost Villages.

David and Nancy escorted the Dishaws on a short walk to the west end of Ault Park, where David proudly showed them his grandfather's barber shop, an incredible building relocated from Moulinette and then donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society.

There is a strong family connection between the Dishaw and Hill families. Daniel's grandmother was Ethel (Abrams) Dishaw (1926-1993), the sister to Nancy Hill's mother, Beatrice (Abrams) Eastman (1927-1997).

While the visit to Eastern Ontario and the Lost Villages Museum was much too short, the Dishaw family and all others are always welcome to visit our museum site at Ault Park.



Pictured above (left to right) are Daniel Dishaw, LVHS President Jim Brownell, and David Hill, LVHS.

FROM THE BOOKSHELF

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio

ccomac5702@rogers.com

Summer is a busy season, but most of us take some sort of break from our everyday jobs and domestic routines. It's also a busy season for holidays, old and new, marking significant events in our shared past. Mostly we appreciate the "holiday" element even without active participation in festivities; rarely do we think about the historic elements. In truth, even though some commemorations appear to have recently popped up on the calendar, they would not be commemorative in any true sense if they were not also historic in multiple ways.

Some of the oldest go back to the days before the signal summer holiday, Canada Day, and many date to the first quarter century after Confederation. Launching the summer holiday parade in what is actually late spring, Victoria Day, celebrating the monarch's 24th of May birthday since her own times (1837-1901), was declared a holiday by the Legislature of the Province of Canada in 1845. After her death in 1901, the Parliament of Canada made it a legal holiday across the land. Confederation celebrates the official union of the British North American provinces, which took effect on the first of July 1867. Informal local celebrations were formalized by federal law in 1879, when it was declared a statutory holiday as the "anniversary of Confederation," popularly called "Dominion Day," reflecting the language of the predominantly British Victorians who struck up the deal. Testimonies from the time suggest that Victoria Day was more widely and jubilantly celebrated than Dominion Day, which might explain the 1879 law. "Dominion Day" stuck for nearly a century. In 1982, reflecting new political developments, the name was officially changed with the passing of the Constitution Act and a tweak to the national Holidays Act—though, thanks to procedural squabbling (and some public controversy), this was accomplished the week after that year's celebration, the last Dominion Day ever. Some Canadians are still upset.

More recently, days of acknowledgement and reflection rather than "holidays" in the celebratory sense have been either inaugurated or at least formalized by provincial and federal governments. The First Peoples of the land had much reason to celebrate their survival and make their contributions known when their organizations politicized and began to lobby for a national day of remembrance and recognition during the 1980s. Much of the public pressure for this commemoration has to do with the constitutional repatriation and the new Charter of Rights in 1982, reinforced by the recommendations of the hallmark 1995 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. In 1996, then Governor General Roméo LeBlanc announced the "Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day," and all of June was designated as National Aboriginal History Month in 2009. Both names were changed to use the preferred term "Indigenous" in 2017.

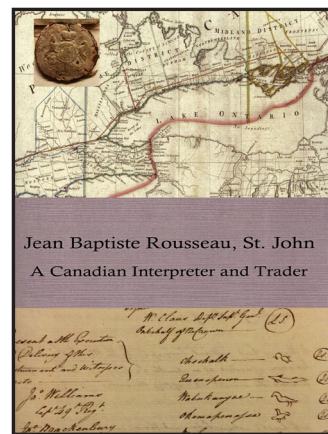
Canadian Multiculturalism Day is the 27th of June, saluting Canadian cultural diversity, by no means a new development but one that also became a matter of national identity under Pierre Elliott Trudeau's direction, when multiculturalism became Liberal government policy (1971); with the Constitution and Charter; and with the Mulroney Multiculturalism Act (1988), although the holiday was not designated until 2002. The national importance of Francophone historic contributions and culture is acknowledged with Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day on the 24th of June. Although officially the National Feast of Quebec, it is celebrated in many francophone communities in Ontario and across a nation in which ten million people speak French and even more can claim French heritage. This includes the Métis and the Acadians, who are regionally dispersed. Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day was mandated in Quebec in 1834, the same year as the national Victoria Day holiday. In 1881, again in Victoria's reign, Acadian Day was mandated at the first national convention of Acadians in New Brunswick; it was made a national holiday in 2003.

Even the most recent "holidays" have historic roots. July is Pride Month in support and celebration of the rights of the 2SLGBTQI+ community, but it began in gay rights protests in 1971, when the first demonstrations took place in Vancouver and Ottawa. By 1973, Pride events were being held in several Canadian cities. Waterloo was among the first, and Toronto's Pride weekend is now among the largest and most organized in North America.

The most recent national holiday, created with the unanimous vote of the House of Commons in 2021, designates the first of August as Emancipation Day to mark the anniversary of the Slavery Abolition Act that passed into law across the British Empire in 1834. John Graves Simcoe Day, celebrated on the first Monday in August, honours the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. More importantly, although Simcoe died before the abolition of slavery, he did manage to pass the first anti-slavery act in the British Empire, the Upper Canadian Act of 1793 Against Slavery, a significant step toward true emancipation and an impressive feat given the pro-slavery views of many important Upper Canadians.

A little history isn't a bad thing, even during summer holiday season. The books I'm looking at this month bring that point home to us. As it happens, I'm reviewing them on the first of August, which, in pagan times, long before any of the holidays mentioned, was called Lughnasadh. Drawn from Irish mythology, the day traditionally marked the midpoint of summer, between the summer solstice and the autumn equinox. A great time to read some good books before the regular seasonal pressures kick in!

JEAN BAPTISTE ROUSSEAU ST. JOHN: A CANADIAN INTERPRETER AND TRADER



GRANT KARCICH

Red Handprint Press, 2023.

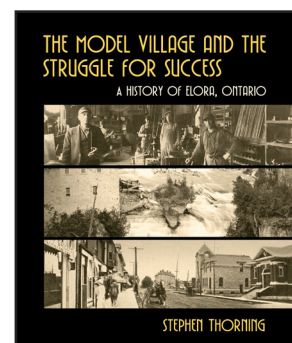
redhandprintpress.ca

Grant Karcich wears a number of scholarly hats; he has degrees in Library and Information Sciences, has worked as a librarian and information sciences consultant, researches and publishes in history, archaeology and genealogy, and has published the works of other writers in these fields. His book, *The Legacy of Vanished Trails*, was reviewed in these pages a few years ago. Like that book, his most recent is multidisciplinary, reflecting his personal interests in historical biography, Indigenous cultures, and geography above all. His subject, the late eighteenth century trader Jean Baptiste Rousseau St. John, was also a man of many skills and interests. Although Rousseau was a lively presence in colonial North America, known and respected within and among its various French, English, and Indigenous sociocultural enclaves, there is little written about him aside from a somewhat-dated entry in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography* (Charles M. Johnston, 1983).

Born in 1758 in Sault-au-Recollet near Montreal, the sixteen-year-old Rousseau, already experienced in the fur trade, on his way to becoming fluent in Ojibway and Iroquoian, and well-versed in English as well as his own language, was obliged to take over the care of his family when his father died suddenly. The elder Rousseau had been an important Quinte Bay fur trader and interpreter for the British Indian department, with which the teenager immediately sought work. His language fluency, his already considerable experience in the trade, his knowledge of the territory, his business acumen, and his seemingly innate gift for diplomacy, afforded him a lifelong career. He expanded into land acquisition and commerce as Upper Canada was increasingly populated by white settlers and the fur trade declined, along with the status of the First Nations at its centre. One of Ancaster's original settlers, Rousseau was involved in the development of Kingston, Hamilton, Toronto, and Brantford, and relocated his family to Toronto just as John Graves Simcoe moved his capital there.

Karcich tells the story of a historical figure seemingly involved in all aspects of a land in transition, highlighting his respect for Indigenous cultures and his attempts to represent their communities fairly in dealings with the English. Karcich also discusses Rousseau's legacy, both in personal and political terms, into the twenty-first century. As Karcich ably demonstrates, Rousseau was a leading player in the transition from the French-dominated fur trade, which did not favour settlement getting in the way of hunting and trading, to an English regime focused on the commercial enterprises that could only be established alongside the settlement necessary for labour and markets. He managed to walk in many worlds and leave his mark while doing so.

THE MODEL VILLAGE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SUCCESS: A HISTORY OF ELORA, ONTARIO



STEPHEN THORNING, EDITED BY ELYSIA DELAURENTIS

Fergus: Wellington County Historical Society, 2023

magicpebblebooks.ca

Many academic historians knew Stephen Thorning as the foremost historian of Elora and Wellington County, but he especially made his mark as "Mr.

"FROM THE BOOKSHELF" CONTINUED ON PAGE 8...

Elora,” the man who wrote popular history columns for the press, appeared on radio and TV as an expert voice about the village, actively participated in local history societies, and even served in public office as a councillor and deputy reeve. Thorning died, far too young, in 2015. No one who knew Steve Thorning and his work has forgotten him, but the unpublished and incomplete manuscript that he began in the 1980s, with every intention of finishing in time for Elora’s 150th anniversary celebration in 1982, languished in storage boxes for years. He returned to several of its topics later, many published in other venues, especially his longstanding “Valuing Our History” columns in local and regional newspapers. No one knows precisely why he never completed the shelved project that this publication represents.

This beautifully produced book owes its existence, then, to a number of people in the Elora community who worked hard to see Thorning’s project through after his untimely passing. This was not just a matter of editing, updating, and filling in from notes, though that was an enormous undertaking. First came the job of digitizing his typed notes, undertaken by the book’s editor, Elysia DeLaurentis, along with his sister Susan Thorning and the late Helen Aitken. As DeLaurentis relates in her preface, the Wellington County Historical Society, which provided funding along with private donors, set up a publishing committee to oversee the complex project. She produced the preface and afterword, as well as editing, filling in, and effectively bringing the book to production. In her words, Thorning’s manuscript “became the aging cloth onto which I stitched and interwove portions of his later work...augmenting it with illustrations, and where needed, additional material”. She also makes the entirely reasonable point that, while the text has been updated, to honour Thorning’s initial approach, it reflects the historical writing of the early 1980s, which was oriented to political and economic development and therefore focused on white, middle-class men.

The book showcases Thorning’s considerable skill in historical research, analysis, and writing. There are 24 detailed chapters, clearly laid out, densely informative, and a pleasure to read. He begins by charting the town’s early history through its predominant slogans, a trait of Victorian-era town-building and civic boosterism: The City of the Falls, The City of Rocks, The Metropolis of Pilkington, The Model Village. Each slogan captured the town-builders’ vision of its future rather than what it was at that moment, but they were not fantastical views. These men were projecting from the town’s considerable resources, as indicated by successive waves of land development, new settlement, agricultural development, and mill and railway construction. As Thorning contends, only the model village concept, derived from the early nineteenth century flurry of British and American “town planning” that was entirely conceivable in a colonial Canada barely on its way to urbanization, “retain[ed] any vitality.” The Victorian businessmen who were the town leaders “would still point to the village as a standard for small urban centres and a model for other villages to emulate”. In that sense, from a contemporary perspective, elements of their vision persist despite changing notions of what constitutes a “model village”.

Ordinary people and ordinary lives come to life in Thorning’s chapter on “Taverns and Temperance,” as he explores the underside of ideal configurations like the model village. He demonstrates that, before the temperance movement made inroads during the century’s second half, the plentiful taverns were among the town’s primary businesses: “In Elora’s early years the tavern was vital and the drinking was hard,” and not just in public establishments. The subsequent two chapters discuss the late nineteenth century “refinement” of village society, with the construction of prominent buildings, the expansion of the churches, especially church-affiliated social organizations and sports clubs, the growth of first private and then public schools, as well as private and then public libraries. Civic pride and optimism then declined, largely, he charges, due to lack of vision on the part

of town leaders, as the model village ideal failed. By the 1920s, with the Great War and the Spanish Flu behind them, Elora had become “the archetypal quiet small town”.

This is where Thorning’s story closes. In her sensitive afterword, DeLaurentis observes that he had planned for 27 chapters. The concluding three were to cover the years from the Depression through the Second World War, and then up to the 150th anniversary in 1982. Later, she notes, he considered that 1999, the year that Elora, Fergus, and a number of other villages amalgamated into the Township of Centre Wellington, would make a more suitable endpoint. Whether he planned to or would have finished this project can never be known.

The editor selected a wide range of illustrations, with scarcely a page missing a reproduction of artwork, advertising, maps, town plans at various points in its history, pages of private writings, individual and family portraits, and photographs of everyday Elora, all reprinted in their original colour. The index is thorough, and Thorning’s original citations have been updated. Without doing the book any justice in my allotted space, I’m grateful to the Wellington Historical Society and Elysia DeLaurentis for putting Thorning’s masterwork together. It is a fitting tribute both to his skill and to the village he loved.

Attendees were provided with opportunities to network and exchange insights during a “Mix & Mingle” session, which was followed by a heritage bus tour. Participants visited The Delta Mill in Delta and the Chaffey’s Lock Museum in Chaffey’s Lock, were entertained by trivia created by beloved local historian, Sue Warren, and instructed about the importance of expanding historical discussions to include the rich and significant histories of the Indigenous Peoples of the area.

One of the key discussion points of the gathering was the historic significance of the Rideau Canal system. Recognized as an essential part of Ontario’s heritage, various stakeholders emphasized the importance of its preservation and the communities it supports.

Several representatives from different organizations shared their perspectives. George German, Interim Chair of the Municipal Advisory Heritage Committee, outlined the committee’s ongoing heritage projects. Mark Brus of Parks Canada highlighted community engagement in national preservation projects. Daniel Dishaw spoke of the Ontario Historical Society’s latest endeavours to safeguard Ontario’s heritage. During her remarks, Marie White, Economic and Heritage Development Coordinator of the Township of Rideau Lakes, emphasized the intersect between historical preservation and economic growth in the region.

The event underscored the dedication of various organizations and individuals toward heritage preservation in Ontario. With collaborations like these, the ongoing commitment to conserving and showcasing the province’s history remains evident.



Photo – Mary White

OHS ED Daniel Dishaw spoke at “Heritage Matters” in Elgin about the Society’s programs and services for heritage organizations and public institutions in Ontario.

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of the Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

Next issue copy deadline:
Friday, November 3, 2023.

Reproduction of any content must be acknowledged as such:

“Reprinted from the *OHS Bulletin*, (issue & date) published by the OHS.” All photo credits and bylines must be retained.

Views expressed by contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the OHS. The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism.

Types of membership in the Society are: Individual \$50, Institution/Organization \$55, Life \$500.

Membership is open to all individuals and societies interested in the history of Ontario. The *OHS Bulletin* is sent free of charge to all members of the OHS. The OHS’s biannual scholarly journal, *Ontario History*, is available to members for an additional \$36.75

per year; member organizations, institutions and non-member individuals for \$47.25; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$57.75. Membership inquiries should be directed to Heather Anderson at handerson@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Inquiries about submissions and advertising: Daniel Dishaw, Executive Director, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2 416-226-9011 ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

**The Ontario Historical Society
Current Board of Directors:**

Executive: Kris Ives, President
Laura Suchan, First Vice President
Dave Mowat, Second Vice President
Michel Beaulieu, Past President
Mark Plishewsky, Treasurer
Allan Macdonell, Secretary
Directors: Gabriella Colussi Arthur, Janie Cooper-Wilson, Michael Dove, Jan Haskings-Winner, Mark Kuhlberg, Eric Payseur, and Sarah Pirani.

OHS Executive Director: Daniel Dishaw
Ontario History Editor: Tory Tronrud

**THANK YOU
DONORS!**

Since
May, 2023

- Anne Baillie
- Michel Beaulieu
- Ellen Blaubergs
- Hilary Dawson
- Edith & Geoff Geduld
- John E. Henderson
- Marjorie McLeod
- R.G. & Elizabeth McQuillan *in honour of Rob Leverty*
- Barbara Nair
- Naomi Norquay
- Barry & Jane Penhale *in honour of Rob Leverty*
- Lawrence Scott
- Donald Smith
- Kawartha Lakes Culture & Heritage Network
- Waterloo Historical Society

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS!**

- Eileen Ansell
- Randal Bagg
- Russell Boychuk
- Lily Cheng
- Debra Cole
- Madison Cornwallis
- Sarah Cossette
- Linda Gagaro
- Jennifer Green
- John E. Henderson
- Brian Jantzi
- Armand La Barge
- Donald Leitch
- Angie Littlefield
- Marg McIntyre
- Pia Newell Santiago
- Joan Nicks
- Jae Page
- David Pypier
- George Redburn
- Jim Sherratt
- Patrick Sirianni
- Philip Stern
- Stephen Thomas
- Pamela Wright
- Scott Yaremko
- Newboro and Area Heritage Society
- Ontario Association of Cemetery and Funeral Professionals (OACFP)
- Ontario Centre for Archaeological Research and Education
- Oro Freedom Institute