OHS BULLETIN

34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2

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Many Community Museums Receive Shocking News from Ministry of Culture

In the final days of 1999 over 25 community museums in Ontario learned that their applications to the Community Museum Operating Grant Programme of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, based on their 1998 operating year were unsuccessful.

This news, coming as it did at the very end of the year, and with no warning, has left many of those museums in an impossible position. Days from their year end many have been unable to hold fund raisers or find supplementary funding to make up the deficits they now face. As we all know, museums are among the leaders in programme delivery in their communities and as a result bring thousands of dollars to their communities in revenues as described in this issue in the article Heritage = $$ and ENE = Heritage below.

What will happen now in those communities affected by the Ministry's decision? For further information on this issue and the related matters of museum policies and standards see Museums News on page 6.

Ten thousand years of aboriginal habitation in the region that is now called Toronto was celebrated on World Peace Day at the Village of Yorkville Park when officials and guests gathered to bless the white pine Aboriginal Great Tree of Peace, the park, and the great stone that has been brought there from Muskoka in the presence of the Honourable Hilary M. Weston, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; Grand Chief Tom Bressette, Chiefs of Ontario, Chief Carolyn King, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation; and Urban Elder Vern Harper. The flag of the Chiefs of Ontario was raised, the Village of Yorkville Park was formally opened, and seedlings were distributed for planting across the Province, carrying forth the message of peace.

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Heritage = $$ and ENE = Heritage

The OHS has presented over 21 workshops in Northern and Southern Ontario on the topic of *Money Matters!* in the last year. The workshop series has been an unqualified success and is continuing in this new year as well. The catalyst for the workshops was the combination of two factors: a study that we completed in 1998 called Heritage = $$ and ENE with the bottom line confirming that every man, woman and child attending one of our day long heritage events leaves behind an average of $87 per person *in the community*. Our heritage events will (hopefully) break even for all of us, but for the hotels, motels, restaurants, drug stores, etc., we are a financial bonanza. In merchandising terms, we are the loss leaders in our community grocery stores!

The other factor that prompted the workshop series was the unexpected financial difficulties that many heritage organizations and institutions were, and are, facing as a result of decreased support in money and manpower from every source.

What a dilemma! Our heritage resources and events are one of Ontario's financial engines driving the economy, while the beneficiaries hesitate to put their collective shoulders to the wheel!

Despite this reluctant attitude on behalf of the province and many businesses, we are grateful that dedicated individuals, organizations and institutions are striving to preserve and present Ontario's history. Currently there are hundreds of projects underway, with thousands of volunteers raising funds to ensure a priceless landmark, shoreline, structure, archaeological site, collection of artifacts, whatever, is not lost to all of us and to future generations. Here are just a few that have crossed our desk in the last few weeks:

"Enaamjige Yaang—Our Vision," the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation Capital Campaign to complete the dramatic new centre at West Bay on Manitoulin Island. They are almost there, but to give them that final push over the top, call (705) 377-4902.

Two projects in the Niagara area are worthy of your support as well, "Saving Colonel John Butler" and the "Lundy's Lane Battlefield" project.

In the summer of 1999 the homestead of Niagara-on-the-Lake's founder, Colonel John Butler was located close to Butler's Burying Ground by archaeologists. Town Council has asked the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy to spearhead a campaign to purchase the property on which the site is located. Contact the Colonel John Butler Heritage Fund, Box 1582, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0.

The Friends of Lundy's Lane Battlefield has developed a host of fund raising projects and programmes to match the millennium funding they received from the federal government to develop Lundy's Lane as a Historic Site. For information or to make your donation: Friends of the Lundy's Lane Battlefield, 6018 Barker Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 1Y4.

In eastern Ontario the Friends of the Ruins of St. Raphaels Inc., has launched a fund raising campaign to stabilize the ruins of this National Historic Site. St.

continued on page 2

Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History

The Ontario Historical Society, with support from Ontario 2000, will host a symposium April 14, 15, 16 in Toronto to celebrate the human history of this land that is known today as the Province of Ontario. Millions of people have occupied this land, from the First Nations to the newcomers arriving daily, and sessions will explore their challenges and accomplishments over the last 1,000 years. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this symposium. For information and registration forms contact the OHS at (416) 226-9011.

The Ontario Historical Society
34 Parkview Avenue
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President's Report

Jeanne Hughes

The December issue of the *OHS Bulletin* contained a report on the creation of a Foundation to administer, and plan for the future of, the Edward Banting farm which Mr. Banting bequeathed to The Ontario Historical Society. The OHS received possesion of the farm in late September 1999 and, as reported, steps were taken almost immediately to form a Foundation and so protect the Society's assets.

This farm is the birthplace of Sir Frederick Banting, the co-discoverer of insulin, and Mr. Edward Banting left the farmstead to the Society because he was concerned about its future, given that historical significance as well as its location adjoining a prehistoric Palaeo-Indian site. By way of background, the farm consists of 100 acres of land, which is presently rented out to a local farmer, as well as a house and several farm buildings. The house is not the one in which Sir Frederick was born, that having been torn down in the 1920s and some of the materials from it used to build the present smaller house. Other buildings consist of a large barn, an octagonal drive shed and two or three other small wooden buildings. A first inspection reveals that none of the buildings are in first-class shape, nor were they constructed at the time of Banting's birth. A member of the Banting family is presently residing in the house.

Mr. Edward Banting left the farm to the OHS in the confidence that we would do all in our power to establish an appropriate use for the site and we are honoured by his trust in this Society. We regret that, during his meetings with representatives of the Society, he did not impart any ideas he might have had towards reaching such an appropriate use. It should be mentioned also that no money was included in this bequest and that all projects will have to include plans for applicable funding.

Because of the historical significance of the farmstead the Foundation feels that the best course of procedure in planning the future of the property is one of making haste slowly. Many hours have already been spent at meetings and in consultation with interested parties in the Town of Alliston. In early February, a meeting was held at the OHS office where some members were invited to share thoughts and suggestions that they might have on an appropriate use of the property. We will be holding additional meetings to discuss the future of the site. We would encourage anyone who has any thoughts and ideas on the subject to submit them to the Society's office.

We have been entrusted with a most important responsibility. Let us make sure that our decisions are the right ones of which Mr. Edward Banting would be proud!

The Society was pleased to learn that we have been awarded Millennium funding from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation to help celebrate the significance of our history in this special year. Accordingly a symposium is being planned for the Spring with the theme "Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History" a subject that will surely be of interest to all our members. Look for further details and plan to attend!

Executive Director's Report

Dorothy Duncan

Happy New Year!

Canadians from coast to coast celebrated, or watched and listened in awe to other celebrants as our clocks, computers, and calendars rolled over to January 1, 2000. The Ontario Historical Society has now spanned three centuries, one of the few historical organizations in Canada that can make that claim.

The OHS has an additional reason to celebrate for, on Christmas Eve, a letter arrived from the Honourable Helen Johns, Minister of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation confirming that our application for support funding to present a symposium in April "Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History" had been approved. This symposium will take us back to the year 1000 in this land that we today call Ontario to the life and times of the First Nations, and then trace the changes that have brought us to the incredibly complex and diverse province that we have today. Mark April 14, 15, 16 on your calendar, and plan to be with us as we journey through time, tradition and technology towards the new millennium.

Publications Coming Up!

Following the successful symposium "Buon Appetito: Italian Foodways in Ontario," the papers presented that day are being edited by OHS Board member Professor Jo Marie Powers of the University of Guelph and readied for publication. You will hear more about *Tombstone Tales* by Harvey Medland, well-known teacher, lecturer and historian. As OHS members you will be receiving invitations for pre-publication special orders for both these books as well as invitations to attend the launches. Watch your mailbox for details.

Our Sincere Sympathy

Goes out to Marjorie Stuart, our well-known Cemetery News Editor, and her family in the passing of her husband Ronald at the end of the year.

Annual General Meeting

Following the tradition implemented by our Board of Directors several years ago, the Annual General Business Meeting of the OHS will be held on Saturday, May 6, at 2:00 p.m. at our headquarters the John McKenzie House, 34 Parkview Avenue in Willowdale. The annual election of officers and members of the Board of Directors will be held, and the business of the Society transacted and confirmed.

The Honours and Awards winners will be announced for 1999 and many will be presented that day if the recipients are in attendance. For those not able to attend on May 6, presentations will be made in their own communities at an appropriate time and place.

Our Doors Will Be Open

On Saturday, May 27 and 28 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. as part of the "Doors Open Toronto" weekend dedicated to the built heritage of Toronto, the OHS will host an open house here at our headquarters. This programme is part of a new, city-wide initiative by Heritage Toronto, supported by *The Toronto Star*, CBC Radio One and many other organizations and institutions.

We hope to welcome you at any or all of these events.

Preserving a part of East York's built heritage

John Carter, Chair, East York LACAC

On December 16, 1999, the City of Toronto, the East York Local Architectural Advisory Committee Panel, and Context Development Inc., invited the public to participate in the recognition of a part of East York's built heritage of the past.

Included in this event were the official opening of a public square at the corner of Pape Avenue and Mortimer Avenue, and the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Earl Kitchener Public School/Toronto Normal School/Toronto Teachers' College.

The Earl of Kitchener Public School was originally located on this site. Opened in September of 1915 by the Toronto Board of Education, this school was jointly used by students from the City of Toronto and the Township of East York.

In 1941, the building became the Toronto Normal School. This institution provided teacher training through the Ontario Department of Education. The Normal School later evolved into the Toronto Teachers' College. A new building was opened in 1955. In 1978, Centennial College assumed both buildings.

The former Toronto Teachers' College is now an integral part of the college's Bell Centre for Creative Communications. The Toronto Normal School building was demolished in 1993. This site is now occupied by the Upper East Side condominiums, a project of Context Development.

Words of greeting were extended by Howard Cohen, President of Context Development, East York Councillors Jane Pitfield and Michael Prue, Gail Nyberg, Chair of the Toronto Board of Education, Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director of the OHS (and a graduate from the Normal School), John Ridout President of the East York Historical Society, and John Carter, Chair of East York LACAC.

Nearly 40 members of the public including several past students attended the event. This commemoration of part of East York's heritage provides a good example of co-operation and partnership between the private sector (Context Development which paid for the costs of the plaque and public square), local and provincial heritage groups, and municipal government.

This process will be used in the future to help protect and promote the built heritage of East York.

Heritage= $$ and ENE = Heritage *continued from page 1*

Raphaels, which once boasted a congregation of 600 and was the administrative centre of the church in Upper Canada under the leadership of Bishop Alexander Macdonell, was gutted by a devasting fire in 1970. To assist with the mammoth task, contact Box 190, Williamstown, Ontario K0C 2J0.

Do you want to keep Ontario's economy booming? One simple way is to support your local museum, historical society, heritage group and their activities; we will all benefit from your generosity.

Travelling exhibits opening soon

A series of unique travelling exhibits are opening soon at four museums in Ontario which will be shown at their sites, circulated to each other, and then travel to other museums in the country. This project is supported by funding from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage.

The partner museums worked together to research and expand concepts for their exhibits, and each site has focused on the strengths of their own collections while also considering general relevance and marketability at the other host sites.

The exhibits are: "The Noble Experiment: Temperance and Prohibition" at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives; "Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet" at the Guelph Civic Museum; "Passage to Freedom: The Underground Railroad" at the Welland Historical Museum; and "Mach 2: The Development and Destruction of the Avro Arrow, at the West Parry Sound District Museum. This particluar exhibit highlights the role of nearby Nobel's Orenda test facility, where the Iroquois engine was designed and tested and includes original photographs, documents, plans and parts, from the destruction after the project was cancelled. Outreach for the exhibit will include lectures, films, and programming for children.

The impetus for this innovative project stemmed from a perennial problem facing smaller Ontario museums in recent years—finding affordable and suitable traveling exhibits that they can bring to their communities.

Across the Province

Mary Simonds, Chair, Local Societies Committee and Dorothy Duncan, Executive Director, OHS

To mark the opening of the **Trans Canada Trail** this year the longest Trail Relay in the world, (16,100 kilometres) will take place along the route. A bottle of water will be drawn from the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and 5,000 official carriers will transport it to Ottawa where it will be poured into a newly constructed **Trans Canada Fountain**. To learn more, or to be a part of their exciting project: 1-800-465-3636.

Congratulations to Ken Lamb of the **Milton Historical Society** and author of *P.L. Inventor of the Robertson Screw*, who recently received two awards: the Heritage Community Achievement Recognition and a Certificate from the Town of Milton acknowledging his preservation work.

Former teachers and students of **S.S. # 10 Innisfil School** (Stroud) will hold a reunion on Saturday, August 12 at the Stroud Curling Club. Interested? (705) 436-2578.

Longing for summer? Planning your next vacation? Don't miss the **Latchford Heritage Logging Days** to be held July 14, 15, 16. Call (705) 676-2129 for details.

Naomi Alboim, Deputy Minister of **Citizenship, Culture and Recreation** has recently accepted a position at **Queen's University** in Kingston.

Paul Delaney, former OHS Board member was honoured by the **Simcoe County District School Board** for his exceptional teaching methods both locally and in Sierra Leone, West Africa with a TVOntario Teachers' Award.

The **Devon History Society** of Devon, England presented the Devon Book of the Year Award to Mary Beacock Fryer and Christopher Dracott for *John Graves Simcoe 1752–1806: a biography*, in October. Congratulations!

The **North York Historical Society's** Millennium Project is the sponsoring of a commemorative sculpture of C.W. Jefferys, famous historian, author, artist, and a Past President of the OHS. Canadian sculptor Adrienne Alison has been selected to create the bronze bust that will be unveiled later this year. To make a donation or to learn more about this project: (416) 222-3485.

The **Temiskaming Abitibi Heritage Association** has announced the "Local History Workshop 2000" will be held April 29 at the Cobalt Classic Theatre. Call (705) 672-1922 for programme details.

Paula Niall of Owen Sound was honoured recently by the City of Owen Sound and the **Ontario Heritage Foundation** for her contributions to local history as the founding President of the **Owen Sound Historical Society**, the founding Chairperson of both the **Billy Bishop Heritage Museum** and the **Owen Sound Historical Costuming Guild**, among many other projects.

The newly formed **Brampton Historical Society** has announced the 2000 calendar of events including Lorne Smith "The Odyssey of the Berczy Settlers" on March 16 and Richard Feltoe "Service of Upper Canada Militia 1813–1815" on April 20. For further information on membership and programmes: (905) 457-0058.

Members of the **Newfoundland Historical Society** are serving on the organizing committee for the Viking International Millennium Symposium to be held September 16–24. Contact VIMS, Box 5542, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5W4 for further information.

The **Royal Ontario Museum** has announced the annual Veronika Gervers Research Fellowship in Costume and Textile History with a March 30 deadline. For information: (416) 586-5790.

Barbara Tyler, FCMA, the Executive Director and CEO of the **McMichael Canadian Art Collection** has resigned and is returning to the United States. Our best wishes go with you Barbara as you leave us for Phoenix.

And speaking of best wishes, we have also learned of the retirement of George Waters of **Heritage Toronto** and Heather Broadbent of the **Caledon Heritage Committee**. Something is certainly breaking up that old gang of ours!

The **Museum for Textiles** in Toronto was the only museum to receive one of the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for the Arts when they were presented by the Honourable Hilary M. Weston in December, recognizing 20 arts organizations from across Ontario for developing exceptional private sector and community support. The award brought with it a cheque for $10,000. Congratulations!

The 11th Annual Kingston Rail-O-Rama Show, sponsored by **Kingston Division, Canadian Railroad Historical Association** will be held at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour, April 15 and 16.

On Friday, December 10, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada made her first official visit to the City of Toronto. During the ceremony she presented three Police Exemplary Service Awards, ten Caring Canadian awards and two Academic Medals. For those in the audience from the heritage community, there was great pleasure when the Governor General departed from her prepared speech to remind the City of Toronto that "It's always been a struggle in this city between moving forward really fast and preserving the past, of what to keep, what to be given away and given up. As Toronto races into the future, the city's historical roots must be remembered and honoured as a vital part of its cultural identity."

A very few weeks later a large and concerned gathering of historians, architects, archivists and heritage activists met at the **Arts and Letters Club** in Toronto to discuss a specific example of the Governor General's comments. The meeting was called by Margaret McBurney, well-known author and President of the Club, to discuss the Massey buildings on Jarvis Street and their neighbouring buildings on Wellesley Place and to press the representatives of the Ontario Realty Corporation who attended, for answers about their future. We think this may become a textbook example of the old saying "If anything can go wrong, it will," and we do hope we are proven wrong on this one.

In order to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the City of Peterborough, the **Peterborough Historical Society** plans to erect seven historical markers along the **Rotary Greenway Trail** this spring. To learn more about this and other special projects in the planning stages: (705) 740-2600.

The **Haileybury Heritage Museum** launched *The Great Fire of 1922*, a 75th Anniversary Commemorative Book, just in time for holiday giving. Their next project is a statue, by sculptor Ernie Fauvelle, depicting a scene from the Great Fire. Information: (705) 672-1922.

Congratulations to Annette Augustine of Thunder Bay on being named to the Order of Canada. Annette is well-known to the heritage community for her support of culture, arts and heritage, particularly her support of the **Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society**.

The **North York Historical Society** and the **Grenville County Historical Society** both celebrate 40 years of service this year. When these two societies were only 25 years old they met on the lawn of Homewood in Maitland for a celebration and the exchange of time capsules. How are those time capsules and when are you going to open them?

The Honourable Helen Johns, Minister of **Citizenship, Culture and Recreation** invites all Ontarians to participate in the volunteer recognition programme for the year 2000. Ontario's Volunteer Initiatives include grants, awards and medals for individuals, organizations and institutions. If you have not received your package of information write to the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, Citizenship Development Branch, Voluntarism Initiatives Unit, 2nd Floor, 400 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9.

The **Ontario Archaeological Society** holds its Annual Symposium in Midland at the Highland Inn Resort Hotel and Conference Centre on the theme "Archaeology of Huronia in all its aspects including The Great Lakes." If you would like to submit an abstraction of up to 200 words, send it to Rosemary Vyvyan, Huronia Historic Parks, P.O. Box 160, Midland, Ontario L4R 4K8.

Help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the **Ontario Archaeological Society** with the purchase of a limited edition ceramic coffee mug available through their head office in Willowdale. Call (416) 730-0796 to order yours.

The **Richmond Hill Historical Society** announces completion of Phase I of the video project "EMERGENCY Dr. Jim, A Real Prescription," available from the Society, Box 61527, 9350 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C 0C9.

Bud Sugarman, representing the **Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Association** and Jane Beecroft of the **Community History Project** certainly deserve a round of applause for their excellent planning and organization of the celebration of the opening of Yorkville Park in Toronto.

Farewell to friends

Helen Downie, a member of staff at the Royal Ontario Museum for 25 years, was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Museum Association in 1972 in recognition of her accomplishments. One of the best known was her inspiration and endeavour to bring the extremely successful "Gold for the Gods" exhibit to Toronto.

Verna Isabel Haggith was well-known to the museum community in Ontario for her work with the Little Schoolhouse and Museum at South Baymouth on Manitoulin Island. Verna began her career as a teacher in Kent County and transferred her love of teaching to the Schoolhouse Museum where she did such a superb job and was such an inspiration to her friends and colleagues.

Carol Nina Sprachman was the National Director of the Canadian Federation of Friends of Museums, founded in 1977. Carol worked for *Canadian Homes and Gardens*, was a volunteer at the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the volunteer editor-in-chief of *Significant Treasures*, which has appeared as a monthly series of articles in the *Globe and Mail*.

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  (See *OGS Seminar '85*, pp. 26-32.)
- **Corporate and Advertising History**
  (See *DCB*, Vol. XIII, Cowan and McCormick biographies.)
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  (See "Marketing Food" in *Consuming Passions*, OHS, 1990.)
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Upcoming Events

February: The Canadian Postal Museum at the Canadian Museum of Civilization opens two major exhibitions this month. **Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Postal Heritage in Evolution** has visitors follow a single envelope and its letter, in a trip around the globe as it evolved through the ages in many forms; from authentic clay Mesopotamian tablets, to letters exchanged in wartime, to modern day e-mail. **Canvas of War: Masterpieces from the Canadian War Museum** features seventy oil paintings by war artists, including members of the Group of Seven, and Alex Colville. The Museum of Civilization is located at 100 Laurier, Hull, Quebec:1-800-555-5621 or (819) 776-7000.

February: Cross-stitch artist Ingrid Steiner of Waterloo is the **Folk Artist-in-Residence** for the year at Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener. This is the 11th year the programme has provided an opportunity for the public to meet and see closely the work of an artisan. During her year in residence, Ingrid will share her knowledge and skill in a series of demonstrations, workshops, and a lecture. **A Stitch in Time: The Embroidery of Ingrid Steiner** is an exhibition of her work, as well as examples of samplers and show towels from the museum's collection. The Joseph Schneider Haus is located at 466 Queen Street South in Kitchener. Contact (519) 742-7752.

February 20: Plan to attend the Port Hope Heritage Fair and learn about **Port Hope and the Age of Sail and Steam** as you visit the dealers, displays and see the memorabilia. This fun and informative event is organized by the East Durham Historical Society, and held at the Port Hope Lions' Centre from noon until 4:00 p.m. Admission is $1.00

March 11: Join the Toronto Field Naturalists and the Ontario Society for Industrial Archaeology for a walk along **Meadow Creek**, a tributary of Black Creek, meeting at 1:30 p.m at the northwest corner of Dufferin Street and Wilson Avenue. Follow this now mostly buried creek from the Downsview Lands past three former airfields and R.C.A.F. stations (Barker Field, Toronto Flying Club Airport, and Trethewey R.C. A.F. Station) to Black Creek Drive and Weston Road. On Saturday, **April 15**, meet at 2:00 p.m. at the south-east corner of Bayview Avenue and Moore Avenue for the **C.P. Viaducts Walk, Numbers 3 and 4** (continuation of Numbers 1 and 2 from last September). The route will follow the rail line as far as possible via the West and East Don Rivers. Some detours are necessary, but the route will not go near rail right of way. On Sunday, **April 30** at 2:00 p.m. meet at the north-east corner of Ray Avenue and Weston Road (Mount Dennis) for the three hour walk encountering, **Trethewey Model Farm**, a former Trethewey R.C.A.F. Station and the former Trethewey Estate. Learn about William Griffiths Trethewey, founder of the famous Trethewey Silver Mine at Cobalt. The walk will be led by a Geologist and Historical Geographer. For further details on any of these walks, contact the Toronto Field Naturalists at (416) 593-2656.

March 14–17: Children can step back in time for **March Break Adventures** at the Gibson House Museum, during this activity based programme where children can have fun and learn about a child's life in 1851 Willow Dale. For the adults, return on **April 15** and spend a day in the warmth of Eliza Gibson's kitchen preparing (and sampling) recipes from the 1850s at **Introduction to Hearth Cooking**, one in a series of hearth cooking workshops. The Gibson House Museum offers a unique kitchen experience, preparing a variety of dishes from 19th century recipes, and cooking them over the fire in the open hearth. This 1851 restored home is located at 5172 Yonge Street in Toronto. Call (416) 395-7432 for registration details.

March 22, 29, April 5: Montgomery's Inn hosts **Just Wilde for Interiors**, a series of three lectures on the Decorative Arts, exploring the Aesthetic Movement of the 19th century, with topics exploring: wall, floor and ceiling coverings, draperies and furnishings. Pre-registration is required by contacting (416) 394-8113. On display from **April 4–May 28**, is an exhibition of the work of watercolourist Gil Caldwell. The Inn is located at 4709 Dundas Street West in Etobicoke.

The Ontario Archaeological Society and Columbus Centre/Centro Scuola present
5th Annual
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A day long workshop for budding and wannabe archaeologists or those just curious as to how its done ...

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For information and registration call the Cultural Department at (416) 789-7011 ext. 250
Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Avenue W., Toronto, ON M6A 1C3

May 4–7: The Colonel John Butler Branch of the United Empire Loyalists host **Conference 2000: Defending the Empire**. For details and registration contact Rodney Craig, 2540 Centre Street, R R # 1, Ridgeville, Ontario L0S 1M0 (905) 892-3420.

May 12–14: Plan to be in the lovely city of Ottawa at Tulip Time, for the OGS Seminar 2000 **Migration Mosaic: Those who came; Those who stayed; Those who left**. Numerous topics will be covered under the general headings: Basic, Resources, Tools, Migration, and Advanced. In addition, tours, an extensive marketplace and computer/research room, and much more await you. For registration information contact (613) 836-0837.

May 17–20: The Canadian Conservation Institute, along with the Association for Preservation Technology and the Heritage Conservation Programme of Public Works and Government Services Canada, have jointly organized the conference. **The Conservation of Heritage Interiors** is an opportunity to share information about current examination and treatment practices, solve problems and explore solutions in project management, and in the innovative use of materials required to plan and execute successful conservation projects in historic interior spaces. For registration details, contact Christine Bradley, Canadian Conservation Institute, 1030 Innes Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5 (613) 998-3721, ext. 250.

May 27–28: Heritage Toronto, with sponsoring organizations invites you into a number of buildings of historic and architectural significance throughout the city not normally open to the public for **Doors Open Toronto**. Many of your favourite public buildings will also be open, offering special activities or events such as exhibits, presentations, musical recitals, or behind-the-scenes tours. Heritage Toronto is dedicated to developing relevant public programming which creates access, awareness and excitement about Toronto's history. This millennium event is a celebration of the remaining historic buildings, and to recognize a dedication and commitment to fine architecture, and its preservation by the public and private owners of these buildings, and encourage a renewed interest in our heritage generally. A Doors Open Toronto banner will be displayed at each site, and a printed guide will help you plan your two days of discovery. The Flatiron Building, the R.C. Harris Filtration Plant, St. Anne's Anglican Church, The Carpet Factory, and the John McKenzie House are just a few of the properties that will have their doors open. For information call Heritage Toronto (416) 392-6827.

Aboriginal Peoples of the Lower Great Lakes 1500–1800

The Tuesday spring lecture series sponsored by Heritage Toronto begins February 29 and continues until April 18. All lectures are held from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the historic headquarters at 205 Yonge Street. Dr. Carl Benn, curator and author of *Historic Fort York 1793–1993* and *The Iroquois in the War of 1812*, explores the history of the native peoples of the Lake Ontario region from the eve of European contact to the end of the eighteenth century examining such topics as native cultures, the fur trade missionary activites, conflict among aboriginal groups, between natives and Europeans, and material culture. The cost for all eight lectures is $45, and $6 for a single lecture. Contact Heritage Toronto (416) 392-6827.

Join the OHS at these events

DATE	EVENT	HOST/SPONSOR/ LOCATION
February 19	Heritage Showcase *–special event–*	Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, Fairview Park, Waterloo
February 18–20	Heritage Showcase *–special event–*	Toronto Historical Association, Scarborough Town Centre, Scarborough
February 26	Seedy Saturday *–special event–*	Black Creek Pioneer Village and Seeds of Diversity Canada, Downsview
February 29	Discovering Your Community *–workshop at York Region Heritage Fair 2000 Professional Development for Teachers–*	Heritage Schoolhouse and the York Region District School Board, Richmond Hill
March 3–4	Living History 2000 *–conference–*	Hamilton Ships Company of 1812, Royal Connaught Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Hamilton
March 4	Room with a View 2000 *–interior design conference–*	Heritage Toronto, Spadina, Casa Loma, Toronto
April 8	Customer Service *–workshop at Voyageur Heritage Network Spring meeting–*	Voyageur Heritage Network at Musée Sturgeon River House Museum, Sturgeon Falls
April 14–16	Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History *–symposium–*	OHS, Toronto
May 6	Annual General Meeting	OHS John McKenzie House, Willowdale
May 10	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About a Historical Society, *but* were Afraid to Ask *–workshop–*	OHS and Ross Township Historical Society, Cobden
May 27–28	Doors Open Toronto *–open house tours–*	Heritage Toronto, John McKenzie House, Willowdale
June 21	A Search for Truth: Interpreting the Past *–workshop–*	OHS and the Friends of Muskoka Pioneer Village, Huntsville

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor

Natalie Southworth writing in *The Globe & Mail* on January 15, 2000 has raised the long held concern of many historians, planners and archaeologists that the project to develop Toronto's waterfront will disturb the burial sites of those that fell during the war of 1812. Many were killed in the battle that took place on April 27, 1813.

Toronto's oldest visible burial ground, **Victoria Memorial Park**, is to receive heritage designation in April. This cemetery was established about 1794. The last known burial was in 1862. Many of those buried there, including Governor Simcoe's daughter, had connections to Fort York.

Surfers beware! An article in the Kawartha Branch, OGS newsletter written by June James advises readers that errors were noted in local cemetery information listed on a web site. This applies to all information that appears on the Internet. Surfers are advised to check the original source. June James also reports extensive vandalism at the **Bowmanton Cemetery** located in Haldimand Township, Northumberland County.

The Gatehouse at **Hamilton Cemetery**, Hamilton has received heritage designation. This building constructed between 1855 and 1862 was originally a mortuary chapel and residence for the caretaker. It now houses the offices of Hamilton Municipal Cemeteries. It is located at the main entrance to this historic cemetery established in 1848 on the site of the earthworks constructed during the War of 1812.

St. Bernard's Convalescent Hospital on Finch Avenue West in North York is to be closed. There is a small cemetery on the hospital grounds. The cemetery was established in 1961 for the religious sisters who administered the hospital.

Special Remembrance Day ceremonies were held in Virginia at **Arlington Cemetery**. These ceremonies took place at the Cross of Sacrifice erected by the Canadian Government in 1927 to recognize American soldiers who fought for Canada during the First World War. Inscriptions to those who fought for Canada during the Second World War and the Korean War have been added.

The Burk's Falls & District Historical Society are restoring the monument to the memory of David Burk as their millennium project. Those wishing to donate to this project should make their donation to the Society at P.O. Box #463 Burk's Falls, Ontario P0A 1C0

The Leeds & Grenville Branch OGS asks that those with information regarding unmarked burials notify Eileen Truesdell, 7-239 King Street West, Gananoque, Ontario K7G 2G7. A publication is planned citing the name, date, source and record.

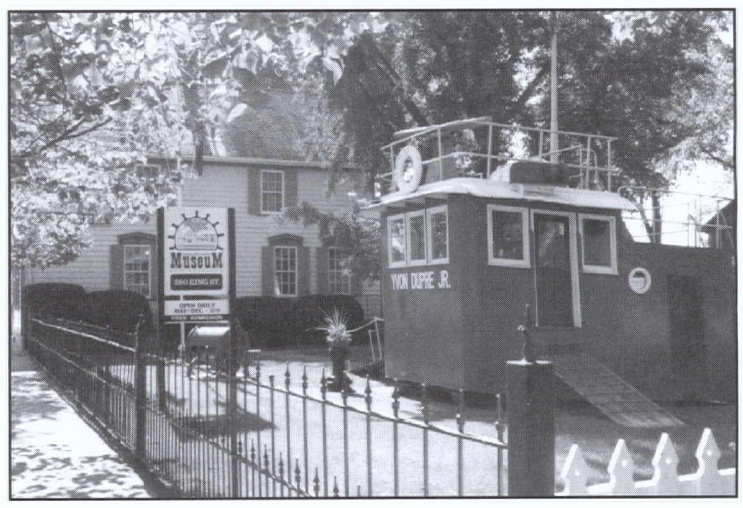
The Huron County Branch, OGS is searching for information pertaining to the early residents of the Huron County House of Refuge, 1895–1931, particularly those buried at the rear of the farm. This facility is now known as Huronview. Please contact Grace Adkins, Box 458, Exeter, Ontario N0M 1S6 or call (519) 235-0523.

Much concern has been raised regarding the fate of Etobicoke's **Ontario Hospital Cemetery**. The first recorded burial was in 1892 but it is felt that the site was in use much earlier. There are over 1500 known burials most of which are unmarked. The Ontario Government wishes to sell the site and a prospective buyer has made a proposal. The concern is that there are an unknown number of burials. Archaeological assessments must be made before construction or any disturbance of the property.

Ken Turner, President of The Essex County Historical Cemeteries Preservation Society reports that the Hutchins family, and in particular, Alice Williston, successfully raised the funds for a monument at the **Hutchins Family Cemetery**. Ken, who led the efforts to prove that the **Augustine Family Cemetery** did actually exist, reports that two of the original headstones have been discovered. One returned mysteriously and the other is in Vancouver. Hopefully it too will be restored to its original location. The Society is composed of members dedicated to work on the restoration and preservation of cemeteries in Essex County and can be contacted c/o 25 Prospect Street, Kingsville, Ontario N9Y 1M6 or call (519) 733-8123.

The Benares Historic House & Bradley Museum lists as "New Acquisitions" the donation of the grave marker of Mazo de la Roche's pets. The marker lists Bunty 13 years, Mickey Free 16 $^1/_2$ years and Tam 17 years 9 months. The inscription reads "Virtue of Man Without His Vices." Bunty was the main focus of *Portrait of a Dog* which Miss de la Roche published in 1930.

Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum 25th anniversary



The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2000. The Museum opened on May 25, 1975 in an 1869 Georgian Revival Style Home with its original Carriage House. The Wheelhouse from the Tugboat, the *Yvon Dupre Jr.* which was installed on the Museum Grounds, was the setting for the opening ceremony. Since then, the Museum has grown into a Heritage Village which includes a Log Home, Log Schoolhouse, Blacksmith Shop, Life Boat, Tea Room, and Heritage Resource Centre.

On Sunday, May 28, as part of the annual "Pie Social and History Fair," the Museum Board and Staff invite you for an afternoon celebration to commemorate the 25th Anniversary. At 2:00 p.m., the Year 2000 Memorial Bandstand will be dedicated, and a skillfully-crafted wood carving featuring the Museum Logo, created and donated by the Heritage Wood Carvers, will be unveiled.

Come and experience the past by creating your own souvenir on our newly-acquired heritage printing press and see why Gutenberg was chosen as the 'Millennium Man.' You will discover how difficult it was to print a card in past centuries, and you can take home your first effort.

During the afternoon, the Niagara Regional Male Choir and a Barbershop Quartet will provide musical entertainment in the brand new Bandstand. The blacksmith will be demonstrating his horseshoe-making skills; there will be weaving demonstrations on an antique loom in the Log House; a Schoolmaster will provide lessons in the Log Schoolhouse; and volunteers in Edwardian Dress will serve afternoon tea with assorted pies in Arabella's Tea Room. For the children, there will be a surprise candy drop from an air-born kite. Don't forget to include a visit to the Williams' Home where you will see 2000 artifacts showcased in the 25th Anniversary Exhibit "Too Grand."

The Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum is located at 280 King Street in Port Colborne (905) 834-7604.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donors

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Kettleby: Elaine Robertson
Kingston: Marjorie Simmons
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Museum News

Cindy Crawford, St. Joseph Island Museum, Editor

Some thoughts on the Community Museum Operating Grant and Standards for Community Museums consultation process

Susan Hughes, OHS Board of Directors and Chair OHS Museums Committee

I hope that by now all museum staff, board members and funding authorities are aware of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation's intent to make changes to the Community Museum Operating Grant programme with respect to eligibility, calculation of grants, eligible operating expenses, and so on. Furthermore, the Ministry is making changes to the Standards for Community Museums in Ontario.

In late November, a letter was issued by Minister Helen Johns informing museums of a future consultation and asking for input by December 23, 1999. The correspondence probably arrived on your desk when your museum was deeply involved in public programming activities, or possibly closed for the season.

On Monday, December 13, the Ministry met with museum curators and directors. Dorothy Duncan, our Executive Director and Elmer Pilon and I, from the OHS Museums Committee were present at this special meeting, as were representatives from the OMA. We attempted to convey the needs, interests and desires of our member museums.

The meeting illustrated the following: The proposed changes to both the Operating Grant programme and the Standards Review require greater consultation; not a single meeting with a chosen few. The consultation must be just that; a consultation where Ministry staff listen to, and respond to, the needs of the community they serve, including museum staff and board members.

Further consultation is crucial if the programme will serve the needs of seasonal museums and smaller institutions. It was apparent that although the meeting had 26 attendees, representing some of the individuals whose names were put forward in part by the OHS and the OMA, Northern Ontario was under represented, as were seasonal museums. In reality, the OHS submitted 35 names to the Ministry; only a portion of the list was used. Hence, we could not fully explore issues facing these museums since there were only two representatives from the North involved in the process. Some of the specific changes relate to the number of days and months a seasonal museum must be open to the public, and changes to the way the grant amount is calculated. Both changes will have profound implications for many institutions.

Further proposed changes will have an impact on all museums, such as the ownership of the museum collection, and museum governance structures. In order to permit ample public input and reflection, the process should be thorough and the Ministry's proposed time-frame relaxed.

The Standards Review includes changes and updates to existing six standards, and the development of four new standards. Although we applaud the fact that the Ministry is now re-examining the 20 year old Standards, there are a few issues which need clarification. What range of museum advisory services will be offered to assist museums as they work to meet the Standards? What range of funding programmes will be available to meet the Standards? What is the impact on museums of achieving the new and revised Standards with dwindling resources and limited or non-existent full-time staff? Will these museums be forced from the programme, and if so, what will the impact be on local communities in the event of a loss or cutback in museum services?

Also in mid-December, 27 museums received notification from the Ministry that they were cut from the programme. Meanwhile, 10 new museums were brought into the programme. The programme funding dollars have remained the same. If the Ministry's intent is to support only the *best* museums, I wonder where the rest will go. I also wonder who will determine what constitutes the *best*. One disillusioned colleague told me that museums which were not approved based upon the assessment survey issued by the Ministry may feel that they have failed when in fact they were simply assessed by a Ministry that did not know or understand the details of the climate and the community in which the museum operates. If that is the case, then the real question we should be asking is who actually failed at doing their job?

The need for further consultation was clearly voiced at the special meeting and it is my understanding at press time that the Ministry will be hosting two more consultations; at Fulford Place in Brockville on February 3 for Southern Ontario, and at the Sault Ste. Marie Museum on February 7 for Northern Ontario.

If you have not received a package of the proposed changes, contact your Museums Advisor. Send your comments to the Ministry at 400 University Avenue, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2R9 and ensure that you send a copy to the OHS.

Although the deadline for input now appears to be mid-February, we hope the time frame will be extended to accept your comments. It is anticipated that the OHS, will have prepared its initial response to the Ministry by the time this article appears in print.

Time capsules 101: how to ensure your own historical moment

Cindy Crawford

Where were you when the clock struck 12 midnight on January 1, 2000? The resurgence of interest in time capsules will leave little question, for future generations, as to who was doing what at that particular point in time. Or will it? According to Bob Barclay, Senior Conservator at the Canadian Conservation Institute in Ottawa, the preservation of that moment in history is dependent not only on the contents but also the container's structure and its environment.

According to Barclay, the millennium has struck a chord in people's need to preserve history for posterity. He says there has been a huge influx in the number of people calling to ask the who, what, where, why, and when of time capsules.

Barclay, who is also a member of the International Time Capsule Society, says if the capsules are part of a museum's programme for this year, museum staff should carefully evaluate not only what they want to achieve but how they're going to achieve it.

"Most time capsules' contents tend to be unimaginative or often along the same lines as other time capsules," says Barclay. "Think of things that will disappear so that the people of the future won't have access to them."

He suggests including what he calls the inventory of society. This can include such disposable goods as digital watches or written accounts of "a day in the life of..." He says people often take daily life for granted and not recognize it for its historical value.

"Newspapers are usually included in time capsules and people fail to remember that newspapers are archived elsewhere," he says. "Sometimes the archival copies could end up being in better condition than the copy in the time capsule."

Barclay suggests not including magnetically recorded material, like audio and video tape, which is not stable. Do use archival quality materials such as Mylar sleeves to contain items. Essentially, museum conservation and preservation principles apply. With some modern materials, however, it is hard to predict how they will, or if they will survive, even in the most ideal conditions.

He cites a recent example in England where a live television crew was recording the opening of a fairly-recent time capsule containing a tape of a television programme. Upon opening the time capsule, all that remained was a liquid mess.

"We recommend that time capsules be kept indoors in a stable environment," says Barclay, suggesting a wall in the museum or a civic centre. There is also the condition within the capsule to consider, as well. The exclusion of light is a given but consideration must also be made as to how to remove oxygen and ensure the container is watertight.

Which leads to the next area of consideration...how to preserve a time capsule so that it has something to show in the future. Barclay has written a detailed guideline as to the construction of a time capsule, the preparation of contents, conditioning the interior, passive protection of materials, sealing and enclosing or burying.

Some of the items on the time capsule shopping list may include stainless steel, wing nuts and paraffin. As with any historical publication, a history on time capsules is also included. The Time Capsules document can be reviewed and ordered through the Canadian Conservation Institute, 1030 Innes Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M5 (613) 998-3721.

Last, but certainly not least, is how to record the location of the time capsule and its opening date. If it is going to be placed within an interior wall, Barclay suggests that a plaque be mounted in front of it with an inscription as to what lies behind it and when it should be opened.

This also ensures that, should the building be demolished or renovated, the time capsule will be moved. Although it may sound like an unnecessary precaution, Barclay says it doesn't hurt to also include instructions on how to open the time capsule.

"If you have to, put a dotted line on it saying cut here," he says, half jokingly, adding that sometimes in haste, people have inadvertently damaged the contents in their efforts to open the capsule.

Barclay says that when it comes to deciding when a time capsule should be opened, most people think in terms of one or two generations or the equivalent of 25 or 50 years. He adds that it remains to be seen whether future generations will be as interested in this relatively modern phenomenon but, for now, it creates a lot of excitement.

"The opening of a time capsule today makes people very excited," says Barclay. "They're getting to see touchstones that are a link to their own past."

Let the OHS know if you are developing a time capsule project. What are its contents? When will it be opened?

New Museum News Editor

Greetings from Northern Ontario! Along with a New Year, you also get a new Museum News editor. This is my third year as curator of the St. Joseph Island Museum. As a freelance writer and seasonal curator, I believe I have the best of both worlds as I find these two areas of interest crossing over one another.

I welcome your feedback, suggestions or introductions. I can be contacted at St. Joseph Island Museum RR # 1, Richards Landing P0R 1J0 (705) 246-3223 or via e-mail at sjmuseum@canada.com.

Many museums that receive funding through the Community Museum Operating Grant, through the MCzCR, are owned and operated by their municipalities. Amalgamation can impact the museum governance, and possibly make a museum ineligible for provincial funding.

Two bulletins published by MCzCR provide information on how municipalites and museums can work together to ensure eligibility requirements are met: *Changing Times, Bulletin 5* "Municipal Museums" and *Changing Times Bulletin 6* "Governance and Management—Meeting the Requirements of Museum Regulation 877."

Contact your Museum Advisor if you have not received your copy. The next issue of the *OHS Bulletin* continues to explore how some municipal museums have met the challenges of amalgamation in their communities.

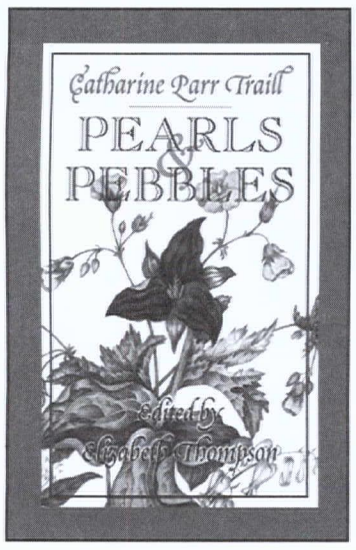
From the Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors

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 OHS. 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.

Materia Medica
William Osler: A Life in Medicine. By Michael Bliss. University of Toronto Press. 581 pages. Illustrations. $50.00 hardbound.

Unquestionably the most famous physician of his time, revered "as the father of modern medicine" for his work at McGill in Montreal, Johns Hopkins in Maryland, and Oxford in England, William Osler's roots were firmly Ontarian. Born at Bond Head in 1849, Osler's early years and education were typical of a fairly affluent family in small town Canada West. His ensuing and world-wide fame resulted from his efforts to bring high standards and scientific methods to medical practice. Michael Bliss says his book is "about the coming of modern medicine, the training of doctors, the doctor-patient relationship, localism and holism in medical thought, role modeling, feminism, humanism, science and the humanities ... but the essence of any biography must be the attempt to recreate a human life." This he has done in splendid and highly readable fashion.



Flora, fauna & history
Pearls & Pebbles. By Catherine Parr Traill, edited by Elizabeth Thompson. Natural Heritage Books. 211 pages. Illustrations. $21.95 softbound.

This attractively presented book is a brand new edition of a work originally published by Catherine Parr Traill in 1894. It in turn was a compilation of her previously published essays and stories as well as selections from unpublished notebooks and journals. Traill chiefly focuses on natural history—birds, insects, plants, the disappearing forest—but the flora and fauna are seen through the eyes of the settler. Indeed, the autobiographical tone of the book gives us renewed appreciation for her long and (mostly) joyful life, in spite of the hardships faced by early immigrants to "the backwoods of Canada."

Finders, Keepers
Help! I've Inherited an Attic Full of History. Volume I: Dating, evaluating and disposing of the accumulation of a lifetime. Volume II: Archival conservation in the home environment. By Althea Douglas. Ontario Genealogical Society. 94 pages (each). Illustrations. $16.00 (each) softbound.

Anyone with boxes of family memorabilia will find these two booklets godsends. They offer practical and sensible advice on distinguishing the wheat from the chaff, disposing of the chaff and preserving the wheat.

Memories and Mysteries
Disappearing Ontario: Images from our vanishing countryside. By Ron Brown. Polar Bear Press. 150 pages. Illustrations. $27.95 softbound.
Haunted Ontario: Ghostly, spine-tingling encounters in places you can visit. By Terry Boyle. Polar Bear Press. 176 pages. Illustrations. $19.95 softbound.

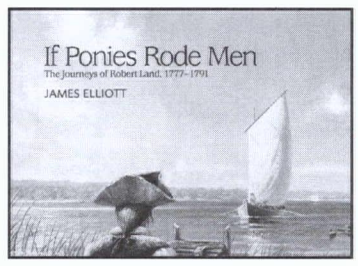
Two of the best known and most admired searchers into our province's past have each produced new books. Brown presents a marvelous selection of nostalgic images, all reminders of a vanishing rural landscape. Boyle has assembled another clutch of scary stories, all supposedly true. Polar Bear Press should be praised for producing such attractive volumes—books that keep our past very much in the present.

Quick Trip
The Niagara Peninsula: There's More to Niagara Than Just Going Over the Falls in a Barrel. By Geoffrey Corfield. Upney Editions. 102 pages. Illustrations. $13.95 softbound.

A trip around the Niagara Peninsula, stopping at historical sites and offering quick lessons—each illustrated by clever "INK-BLOT" cartoons that amuse as well as educate. The style is fun, the omissions serious—nothing about Mackenzie and the printing museum in Queenston, about Navy Island and the 1837 Rebellion, or about Ridgeway and the Fenian raids. Too bad London based author/artist Corfield couldn't have spent more time touring the area himself.

Passing Fame
Famous People Who Have Met Me: the Life and Interviews of R. E. Knowles. Edited by Jean O'Grady. Colombo & Company. 327 pages. $25.00 softbound.

Today few remember R.E. Knowles and his insightful and audacious *Toronto Star* interviews with the celebrities of the 1920s and 1930s. Here is a selection of the more than 1500 he wrote—interviews with Albert Einstein, Mary Pickford, Babe Ruth, Ramsay MacDonald, and 31 other famous personalities of the period. A biographical introduction tells Knowles' own story, a popular preacher and best-selling novelist who passed through the dark valley of depression, emerging as a journalist almost as famous in his day as the notables he wrote about.



History Recreated
If Ponies Rode Men: The Journeys of Robert Land, 1777–1791. By James Elliott. Stoney Creek Historical Society. 56 pages. Illustrations. $16.95 softbound.

Loyalist Robert Land was one of the earliest settlers of what is now Hamilton. Very little is known about him personally, but much is known about the era in which he lived and the plight of many Americans who found themselves on the losing side of the Revolution. Here is an all-too-brief narrative, the tale of Land and his family, their experiences both during the war and in the years immediately after. Historical accuracy and creative imagery combine to tell a story, one that author journalist Elliott describes as "a plausible account of what might have happened based on the evidence and the context of the times." The book is artfully designed and beautifully illustrated.

Volumes of History
The Front of South Fredericksburgh. By Ruth M. Wright. South Fredericksburgh Heritage Committee. 164 pages. Illustrations and Maps. $20.00 softbound.

The Front—that area of South Fredericksburgh bordering the Bay of Quinte—has always drawn people to its natural beauty. Ruth M. Wright details its history from the early inhabitants, the Mississauga, to the coming of the Loyalists and other pioneer settlers, to more recent times. She tells "by casual pictures and stories...the growth and decline of the commerce once related to the farming industry, the conception and progress of education, and the influence of early missionaries who built the three churches of the Front." The book is well illustrated, and it includes a welcome index of family names.

The Bridges of Creemore Mills, 1832–1871. By Helen Emmett Blackburn. Blackberry Press. 132 pages. Illustrations and Maps. $19.95 softbound.

Lively local history is always a pleasure to read—most especially when it is also carefully researched and accurately reported. Helen Blackburn has combed early newspapers, land, census and cemetery records, as well as personal papers and school board minutes to provide a fascinating documentary of a thriving community and of the early families whose ambition and foresight enabled Creemore's growth. (It also is well indexed.)

Murray & Me. By Harry R. Barrett. Patterson's Creek Press. 296 pages. Illustrations. softbound.

Harry Barrett and Murray Hammond have combined their talents—and their memories—to paint a charming picture of growing up in Woodhouse Township between the two World Wars. They also draw on their family histories to produce a glimpse of the past in "old Norfolk County."

Local Histories of Ontario Municipalities 1987-1997: A Bibliography. By Barbara Aitken. Ontario Genealogical Society. 94 pages. Illustrations. $12.00 softbound.

Let no one say Ontario local history is dead—here listed are some 1200 books and booklets produced in a single decade. All too often such works are ephemeral, unknown outside their immediate areas. This is the third in a series of OGS research tools for locating local histories—the first two: 1951–1977 and 1977–1987 are still available, same source, same price.

History Noted

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

Outaouais no 6 – "La préhistoire de l'Outaouais/Ottawa Valley Prehistory"– Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society. $15.00. Seven chapters (in both English and French) trace the natural history and cultural changes in the Ottawa Valley over the past 10,000 years.

Beyond Their Years: Biographies of Five Native Canadian Women. By John L. Steckley. Canadian Scholars' Press. $24.95. Life stories reconstructed using a variety of historical sources, each from a different native culture.

Affairs With Old Houses. Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. $19.95. Personal stories about preserving fifteen different heritage houses in Nova Scotia.

Euphemia Township History 1849–1999. Edited by Alice Gibb. Euphemia Township Historical Society. 510 pages. Illustrations. $50.00. The first total history of the Euphemia area with eyewitness events, anecdotes, reminiscences, and poetry.

Tools of the Canadian Genealogist's Trade. By Althea Douglas. Ontario Genealogical Society. 100 pages. $13.00 softbound. A series of articles written to advise anyone doing Canadian research.

Thunder Bay to Gunflint: The Port Arthur, Duluth & Western Railway. By Elinor Barr. Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society. $24.95. The story of the intrigue that swirled around the railway's beginnings in the 1880s and 1890s, and the fascinating individuals who guided its destiny.

Directory of Publishers

Blackberry Press, Helen Blackburn, R.R. 1, Nottawa, Ontario L0M 1P0.
Canadian Scholars' Press, 180 Bloor Street West, #1202, Toronto, Ontario M5S 2V6.
Colombo & Company, 42 Dell Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6B 2T6.
Euphemia Township Historical Society, c/o Township of Dawn-Euphemia, R.R, 4, Dresden, Ontario N0P 1M0.
Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, c/o 5680 Inglis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1K3.
Natural Heritage Books, Box 95, Station O, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2M8.
Ontario Genealogical Society, 40 Orchard View Boulevard, Suite 102, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1B9.
Ottawa Chapter, Ontario Archaeological Society, Box 4939, Station E, Ottawa Ontario K1S 5J1.
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Polar Bear Press, 35 Prince Andrew Place, Toronto, Ontario M3C 2H2.
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Stoney Creek Historical Society, Box 66637, Stoney Creek, Ontario L8G 5E6.
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Millennium project to commemorate Almonte train wreck

Mary Lettner, Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

Many people in the Ottawa Valley are remembering one of the most tragic events of the 20th century. The Almonte train wreck, which occurred on December 27, 1942, is often referred to by survivors as 'the day the war came to Almonte.' Thirty-six passengers were killed and one hundred and fifty injured when a special train carrying troops on their way to war service struck the rear of the CPR local train which was loading passengers at the Almonte station.

Planning is underway to erect a suitable memorial to mark the site of the train wreck. Initial funding is being provided by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Town of Mississippi Mills. The memorial will be installed in a small park which is being created at the site of the accident. The work will be carried out in stages as funds become available. If you wish to support this project with a cash donation, you are asked to forward it to the North Lanark Historical Society, P.O. Box 218, Almonte, Ontario K0A 1A0. All donation will be acknowldged with tax deductible receipts and progress reports.

In addition, the North Lanark Historical Society is seeking information about the event. All information will be held in their records and may be included in a future publication. As the accident occurred over 57 years ago, soon, it may be lost, so there is some urgency now. We wish to thank Mr. Mervin Tosh who contributed the following first hand account of the accident. He was a passenger on the CPR local Ottawa Valley train.

"I was home on Christmas leave from the Navy and on Sunday evening I went to a church service at 7 p.m. in the Almonte Presbyterian Church with my mother. After the service we walked down the platform in front of the railway station. As usual on Sunday evenings there was a large crowd at the station. It was the big event of the evening to see who was coming and going. That evening the crowd was larger than usual because of the holidays, and because of the adverse weather conditions more people were travelling by train. Mother went ahead home and I waited with my friends to catch the train to go to Carleton Place. When the train finally arrived at 8:43 p.m., Almonters, as was their custom, started to go to the rear coaches on the train because by the time the usual Sunday evening local train arrived in Almonte, that was where the vacant seats usually were. The conductor was standing in the middle of the train and said to the Almonters who were going to board the train, "If you want to get on at all, you will have to get on here because they are standing in the aisles in the rear coaches."

"I got on board and turned right to enter the seating area. I passed the smoking section; and then because some people were going the other way, I stepped back into the little alcove where the drinking fountain was located. By this time the conductor had pulled the signal cord the first time. But before he could pull the cord the second time to tell the engineer to start the train, there was a severe jolt and our coach was pushed some distance along the track. The severe jolt was like that of an inexperienced locomotive engineer starting a train but this time it was much worse. It was obvious that something had indeed happened at the Bridge Street crossing. It was apparent that we were going to be there for a while so I walked back towards the crossing to see for myself. I was totally unprepared for the horrible scene. I would prefer not to describe the gruesome details."

"In the post accident hours several things stood out. Firstly, there was, of course, no organization then in existence which could alert the general population of the tragedy and what they should do. It was 'word of mouth' and whatever limited use could be made of an overloaded phone system. Secondly, it was amazing how well the Almonte and district people responded. Thirdly, the troops from the troop train were also very helpful in doing so, and got their first war experience on their way to the battlefields of Europe."

"In the plaque that will be attached to the proposed monument I believe there should be a tribute to those who died and to all those who performed so well that night. Most of the people involved are no longer with us but their families should be very proud of them."

Museum producing Wilson MacDonald video

A small rural museum is using modern technology to enhance appreciation of heritage and Canadian literature.

Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum is named for lyric poet Wilson Pugsley MacDonald (1880–1967), who was born in nearby Cheapside. Author of several books of poetry, Wilson gave hundreds of readings during his career, the majority of them in high schools and colleges. His compelling voice and dramatic style awakened an appreciation of poetry for many of his listeners. Thirty years after his death, many of those listeners still remember him. But supporters of the Wilson MacDonald Museum want to make sure his memory is preserved for generations to come. With that in mind, the North Erie Shore Historical Society has hired David MacDonald to produce a video on Wilson's life.

David, a well-known televison weatherman, is a nephew of Wilson and creates videos part-time. A regular visitor to the Museum over the past few years, David sees the project as a combination of genealogy and heritage. "This is a labour of love for me, because Wilson has always been a part of my life and I want to keep his name and his work alive."

Research and writing for the project will be handled by Cheryl MacDonald, a local writer and historian (and no relation to David or Wilson). Cheryl has written hundreds of historical articles and several books. She was a contributor to the 1990 best seller *Chronicle of Canada* and is currently finishing a biography of Wilson MacDonald for Natural Heritage/Natural History of Toronto.

The 30-minute production will be broken into several shorter segments, each of which can run independently. Along with still photographs and location shots, the video is expected to include vintage film clips and audio interviews with Wilson.

One segment of the video will also look at the development of the Museum, including a popular heritage school programme. Visitors will be able to watch segments on the Museum's video player, and copies will be available for sale. The video will be launched next spring at Wilson MacDonald's Birthday Bash, the Museum's season opener.

Funding for the project will come from North Erie Shore Historical Society, government grants, and private donations. Anyone who donates $100 will receive an $80 charitable donation receipt, be credited on the video and video cover, and will also receive a copy of the tape.

For further information, or to order a video, contact Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum (905) 776-3319 or Dana Stavinga, Museum Manager at (905) 776-1869.

Sault Museum ties in exhibit with Ontario Winter Games

Cindy Crawford

Usually exhibits are planned with the anticipation that they will attract a captive audience. For the Sault Ste. Marie Museum, the captive audience is coming, so the museum has designed an exhibit to appeal to them.

The Ontario Winter Games, which runs from March 16–19 in Sault Ste. Marie, is expected to draw more than 3,000 athletes plus their entourage and families. This particular Winter Games is making history seeing as it is the first time the special athletic games will be included in the programme. The combined events make it the first all-inclusive set of games in Canadian history. For Kathy Fisher, Curator at the Sault Museum, it was an opportunity waiting for an exhibit.

"We have our permanent sports collection but we thought this would be a good opportunity to attract the visitors as well as introduce sporting groups to the fact that we have this gallery," says Fisher. The 450 square foot Russ Ramsay Sports Hall of Fame has a permanent collection of curling, cross country, baseball, rowing and boxing memorabilia but Fisher is hoping the exhibit will enable them to expand into other sport groups.

"We know that some of the local sports organizations have their own historical collections so we think this is a great opportunity to develop a partnership, combine for a temporary exhibit, and possibly be considered for future donations," says Fisher, who hopes to receive confirmation of participation by at least half of the 30 solicited organizations. A greater variety of sports memorabilia would enhance the appeal of the Winter Games, she says, to have over 30 sports groups represented this year.

Along with the Ontario Winter Games, the museum is hoping to tap into the March Break crowd which is expected to bring another 4,000 extra visitors to the city. "We have found that the January to March time frame is usually slow so we're hoping that this exhibit will attract local people as well as the visitors and athletes," says Fisher, of the February 21 to March 30 exhibition.

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The Society's biannual scholarly journal, ***Ontario History***, is available to member individuals for $21.40 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for $32.10 and to non-member organizations and institutions for $42.80.

Enquiries concerning submissions and advertising rates should be directed to the OHS, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2 (416) 226-9011 or fax (416) 226-2740

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