OHS Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ISSUE 169 APRIL 2009

Historic Bill 149 Receives All Party Support at 2nd Reading in the Legislature

But we need your help to ensure that it reaches 3rd Reading and a Final Vote!

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
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On February 19th, 2009, Jim Brownell, MPP, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, tabled his Private Member's Bill, the *Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act*, 2009, at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario *(see page 2 – Bill 149)*. On March 12th, Mr. Brownell moved Second Reading of Bill 149. After substantial debate with all parties of the Legislature supporting Bill 149, the motion was carried unanimously that Mr. Brownell's legislation be referred to the Standing Committee on General Government *(see page 3 – excerpts of the debate on Bill 149)*.

Bill 149 is historic in that it will be the first time there is a law in this province prohibiting the relocation of an inactive cemetery. In the future, if Bill 149 is enacted, it will be in the public interest that our cemeteries remain in their original locations.

Equal treatment for all faiths and cultural backgrounds

But what is even more significant is that Bill 149 would enshrine into law that all known inactive cemeteries are equal. It is a defining moment in this province because for the first time in our history, whatever your cultural background and faith, your cemetery would be treated equally, with dignity and respect.

In 1992, the Ontario Government enacted a new *Cemeteries Act* that allowed the owner of any cemetery to relocate it if it was deemed to be in the *public interest*. Against the wishes of the OHS and our provincial partner the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS), the Legislature failed then to define the *public interest.*

Fighting to define *public interest*

For 17 long years both societies have been in a struggle to defend and define the *public interest*. We have held workshops, given presentations, published educational materials and conducted genealogical research. Since 1996, every *OHS Bulletin* has had a *Cemetery News* column to inform and educate the general public about the vulnerable and valuable heritage of our cemeteries.

However, far too often, OHS and OGS have been forced to exercise our legal options as a last resort. On numerous occasions, we have had to appeal Provincial Orders that it was in the *public interest* to relocate pioneer cemeteries for real estate development. In defence of the *public interest*, both societies have had to prepare for and participate in very expensive and time-consuming provincial hearings before the Licence Appeal Tribunal.

Some days we have had to fight legally every step of the way. Readers of the *OHS Bulletin* will remember when our opponents tried at various Tribunal hearings to block the testimony of descendants who wished to testify on our behalf. Or when in 2002, the Province filed a motion at a Tribunal requesting a publication ban which would have included the *OHS Bulletin* and was intended to stop the OHS from publishing reports on the *public interest* to our members, donors and the general public.

As recently as June 2006, the OHS and OGS even had to defend ourselves at a Tribunal against a provincial motion which would have denied our right to an appeal hearing of an order to relocate a pioneer cemetery for private real estate development.

Bill 149 will stop legal wrangling

Bill 149 will stop this legal circus which has been a terrible waste of the taxpayer's money. It will allow both OHS and OGS to spend their precious volunteer time and donations promoting the restoration of cemeteries rather than defending against their desecration.

Bill 149 finally defines the *public interest*, ensuring that with respect to our historic cemeteries, greed does not become the *public interest.*

But it isn't law yet—and we need your help

Although it is a good sign that Bill 149 has received all party support at Second Reading, it does not mean that it will be enacted. Bill 149 is a Private Member's Bill, not a Government Bill. There is no guarantee that this legislation will reach Third and Final Reading and become law.

What you can do

Therefore, both OHS and OGS are asking our members to help us:

1) Write the Premier of Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, and CC: Jim Brownell, MPP, and let them know

***BILL 149* CONT'D, PAGE 5...**

Mr. Jim Brownell, MPP, Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism consults with representatives and members of The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) and The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) on his Private Member's Bill – Bill 149, *Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act, 2009*. Pictured above (left to right): Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS; Jim Leonard, OHS Board Member and Chair, OHS Cemeteries Commitee; Dorothy Duncan, former Executive Director, OHS; Robert Crawford, Past President, OGS; Marjorie Stuart, OHS Volunteer and Editor, Cemetery News, *OHS Bulletin*; Mr. Jim Brownell, MPP; and Ken Turner, President, OHS. *Photo Office of Jim Brownell, MPP*

In This Issue

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 1

BILL 149 FULL TEXT.....2

DONORS AND NEW MEMBERS.....2

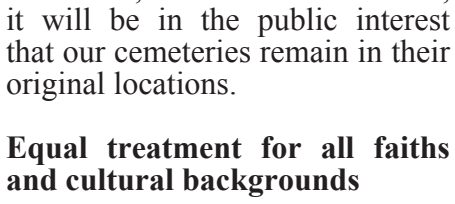
CEMETERY NEWS 3-4

ACROSS THE PROVINCE.....5

EXHIBITS & EVENTS 6

FROM THE BOOKSHELF.....7-8

PUBLICATION INFORMATION 8



1st SESSION, 39th LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
58 ELIZABETH II, 2009

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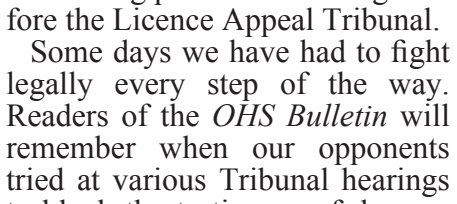
Bill 149 **Projet de loi 149**



The Ontario Historical Society's 2009 Annual General Meeting

Honouring the 100th Anniversary of
The Ontario Provincial Police

Saturday, June 13th, 2009 :: 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Programme:
OHS AGM and Honours and Awards Ceremony;
Special presentations by OPP Museum Curator Jeanie Tunmon (OPP Anniversary) and Constable Guy Higgott (1,000 km commemorative dog sled & snowshoe patrol);
Reception to follow at the John McKenzie House.

The Council Chamber,
North York Civic Centre
5100 Yonge St., Toronto

In partnership with the Ontario Provincial Police, The OPP Museum and Friends of the OPP Museum

The OPP Museum / le Musée OPP — Friends of The OPP Museum

You must R.S.V.P. by June 1 to 416.226.9011 or izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

The Ontario Historical Society
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Bill 149, Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act - The Text

Bill 149 **2009**

An Act to protect Ontario's inactive cemeteries

Preamble

Ontario's cemeteries are unique repositories of human history and the resting places of human remains and associated artifacts like grave markers, tombstones and monuments. They are important elements of our collective heritage, a priceless authentic historical record of the past and witnesses to the continuity of life in Ontario. Many of Ontario's cemeteries also contain significant ecological features invaluable to the natural heritage of Ontario.

The following principles are basic to all the peoples of Ontario:

1. The sanctity of the deceased is of paramount concern.
2. The deceased have a right to rest in peace in the tradition and custom of their religion or beliefs at the burial site of their choosing.
3. Common human dignity must be respected.
4. The living must be responsible for the care of the deceased.
5. The cultural heritage to which burial sites bear witness must be maintained to ensure the historical record for future generations.

Ontario's rich heritage is at risk due to a lack of action for its preservation. Failure to safeguard one of our last remaining authentic cultural heritage resources, Ontario's inactive cemeteries, would be disastrous for the continuity of the historical record and our collective culture in this province. It is in the public interest that they be protected, preserved and maintained in their original locations.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

Definitions

1. In this Act,

"aboriginal peoples" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada; ("autochtone")

"cemetery" means land set aside for the burial of human remains and includes a mausoleum, columbarium or other structure intended for the interment of human remains, with or without government authorization or recognition; ("cimetière")

"human remains" means a dead human body or the remains of a cremated human body; ("restes humains")

"inactive cemetery" means a cemetery that,

(a) is no longer used for the burial of human remains or no longer accepts human remains for burial,

(b) continues to be used for the burial of human remains but the number of burials per year is less than five,

(c) consists of land set aside for the burial of human remains of members of a family or interrelated families,

(d) is an unapproved aboriginal peoples cemetery, or

(e) is or was a cemetery although it does not have markers indicating that fact. ("cimetière inactif")

Prohibition on relocation

2. No person shall relocate an inactive cemetery.

Conflict

3. This Act prevails over any other Act or regulation that permits the relocation of an inactive cemetery or provides a process by which an inactive cemetery may be relocated.

Commencement

4. This Act comes into force on a day to be named by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor.

Short title

5. The short title of this Act is the *Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act, 2009*.

Projet de loi 149 **2009**

Loi visant à protéger les cimetières inactifs de l'Ontario

Préambule

Les cimetières de l'Ontario constituent d'uniques recueils de l'histoire humaine et sont le lieu de repos de restes humains, renfermant des artefacts associés à ces lieux comme les repères de tombes, les pierres tombales et les monuments. Ils constituent d'importants éléments de notre patrimoine collectif, sont un précieux et authentique dossier historique faisant écho au passé et sont témoins de la pérennité de la vie en Ontario. Bon nombre des cimetières de l'Ontario comportent également d'importantes caractéristiques écologiques dont la valeur est inestimable en ce qui concerne le patrimoine naturel de l'Ontario.

Les Ontariens et Ontariennes s'entendent sur les principes fondamentaux suivants :

1. Le caractère sacré des dépouilles mortelles revêt une importance primordiale.
2. Les défunts ont le droit de reposer en paix dans le lieu de sépulture de leur choix, selon les traditions et les coutumes véhiculées par leur religion ou leurs croyances.
3. La dignité humaine doit être respectée.
4. Il incombe aux vivants de prendre soin des défunts.
5. Le patrimoine culturel dont témoignent les lieux de sépulture doit être conservé afin de garantir aux générations futures un dossier historique.

Le riche patrimoine de l'Ontario est en danger en raison de l'absence de mesures visant à en assurer la conservation. Il serait désastreux pour la continuité du dossier historique et de notre culture collective dans notre province de ne pas sauvegarder les cimetières inactifs de l'Ontario, une de nos dernières richesses culturelles authentiques. Il est dans l'intérêt public de les protéger, de les conserver et de les entretenir dans leur emplacement original.

Pour ces motifs, Sa Majesté, sur l'avis et avec le consentement de l'Assemblée législative de la province de l'Ontario, édicte :

Définitions

1. Les définitions qui suivent s'appliquent à la présente loi.

«autochtone» S'entend notamment des peuples indiens, inuit et métis du Canada. («aboriginal peoples»)

«cimetière» S'entend d'un bien-fonds qui est réservé à l'inhumation de restes humains et en outre, d'un mausolée, d'un columbarium ou d'une autre construction destinée à l'inhumation de restes humains, et ce avec ou sans l'autorisation ou la reconnaissance du gouvernement. («cemetery»)

«cimetière inactif» S'entend d'un cimetière, selon le cas :

a) qui ne sert plus à l'inhumation de restes humains ou qui n'accepte plus de restes humains pour inhumation;

b) qui sert toujours à l'inhumation de restes humains, le nombre d'inhumations étant toutefois inférieur à cinq par année;

c) qui est un bien-fonds réservé à l'inhumation de restes humains des membres d'une famille ou de familles apparentées;

d) qui est un cimetière autochtone non approuvé;

e) qui est ou était un cimetière même s'il ne contient pas de repères témoins. («inactive cemetery»)

«restes humains» Le corps d'un être humain décédé ou les restes d'un corps incinéré. («human remains»)

Déplacement interdit

2. Nul ne doit déplacer un cimetière inactif.

Incompatibilité

3. La présente loi l'emporte sur toute autre loi ou tout autre règlement qui autorise le déplacement d'un cimetière inactif ou qui prévoit un processus par lequel un cimetière inactif peut être déplacé.

Entrée en vigueur

4. La présente loi entre en vigueur le jour que le lieutenant-gouverneur fixe par proclamation.

Titre abrégé

5. Le titre abrégé de la présente loi est *Loi de 2009 sur la protection des cimetières inactifs*.

Donors and New Members

Donors

Ellen Blaubergs

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Heather Broadbent

Marilyn Connell

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W.N. Goodspeed

Head of the Lake Historical Society

Charlotte Hines

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Elizabeth Ruth Redelmeier

Carol Rothbart

Marjorie Stuart

Diana Taschereau

Frances Vink

Welcome New Members

Daniel Broyld

Jonathan Cable

The Canadian Royal Heritage Trust

Chiefswood Museum

The Etobicoke York Community Preservation Panel

Friends of the OPP Museum

Lawrence Edward Grant

John Kennedy

Ramona Lee Ho

Christopher Martinello

Niagara Escarpment Foundation

Kelly O'Mara

Mark Sholdice

The Unionville Villagers' Association

Cemetery News

Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act Official Debate (Hansard)

Editor's Note: *Below are excerpts of the official debate in the Provincial Legislature following the Second Reading of Bill 149 on March 12, 2009. It represents the support of representatives from all three parties. Many thanks to all MPPs who spoke in support of Bill 149: Jim Brownell, Liberal MPP (Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry); Elizabeth Witmer, Progressive Conservative (PC) MPP (Kitchener-Waterloo); Rosario Marchese, NDP MPP (Trinity-Spadina); Jeff Leal, Liberal MPP (Peterborough); Marie Van Bommel, Liberal MPP (Lambton-Kent-Middlesex); Mike Colle, Liberal MPP (Eglinton-Lawrence); and Laurel Bronten, Liberal MPP (Etobicoke-Lakeshore). For the full version of the Hansard, visit www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca or http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=2143.*

The Deputy Speaker (Mr. Bruce Crozier): Mr. Brownell has moved second reading of Bill 149. Pursuant to standing order 98, Mr. Brownell, you have up to 12 minutes.

Mr. Jim Brownell: It is a pleasure to rise in the House this afternoon to speak on my private member's bill, Bill 149, the *Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act*. The purpose of this bill is to preserve the sanctity of the final resting places of our deceased and to provide clear legislation that inactive cemeteries are protected, preserved and maintained in their original locations.

At this time I would like to introduce and welcome to the Legislature this afternoon Marjorie Stuart, Diane Clendenan, Rob Leverty and Bob Crawford from the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society, and also John Sheehan from the Citizens for the Protection and Preservation of the Pioneer Cemetery in the riding of Peterborough. I welcome them as we debate this afternoon. I sincerely thank them, too, for their support of this bill…

For many years now, it has been my contention that descendants of our deceased and those organizations opposing the closure and move of inactive cemeteries should not continuously fight with developers, the courts and tribunals to preserve the sanctity and last wishes of our ancestors.

Along with my colleagues who are debating with me today, I would like to commend all those from across Ontario, and indeed across Canada, who are in support of this bill and have taken the time to contact my office. To date, my office has received hundreds of letters, e-mails, telephone calls and petitions.

It is because I believe that this bill is in the best interests of our constituents that we are debating it here today. The support I've received from those concerned citizens confirms that people care about our deceased family members and the burial locations where they rest.

As many of you know, I am a proud advocate for the conservation of the rich history and heritage of Ontario, and indeed of all of Canada. As a past president of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society and the Cornwall Township Historical Society, and having served 11 years as president of the Lost Villages Historical Society in my riding of Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, I have had much involvement in all aspects of history and heritage preservation. Bill 149, with the protection of inactive cemeteries, is certainly something I have been interested in for many years and is an extension of my community work and advocacy.

The Inactive Cemeteries Act has a great impact on the culture and heritage of our province, but it also affects other aspects of our way of life here in Ontario. This bill, in addition to preserving the history of our province, will also provide clear legislation to developers on where they can or cannot build in regard to the location of our cemeteries. It will protect valuable green spaces and the various species of plants and animals that live within our inactive cemeteries. It will acknowledge the benefits of our cemeteries when adjacent to our park systems or forested areas as places to engage in physical and leisure activities. It will allow organizations such as the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society to focus on what they do best: research, documentation and preservation, instead of fighting legal battles to protect these sites and spending huge sums of money in these battles.

For example, the battle in support of preserving the Clendenen Cemetery in its original location in the town of Markham is a familiar battle that the two said organizations fought and were successful. Thank goodness The Ontario Historical Society is supported through the financial generosity of donors through their cemetery defence fund.

This bill will provide peace of mind to the citizens of this province, knowing their families' and ancestors' burial sites will not be disturbed and they will remain accessible to future generations. I know that my mother is watching today, and I know that when my parents chose their final resting place at St. Andrews West, Ontario, they did so expecting that their mortal remains would lie there forever.

As you can see, the history and heritage contained in Ontario's inactive cemeteries is but one aspect of this bill, and one that is close to my heart. These burial grounds contain not only great historical figures but also the pioneering souls who opened our province to future generations. These cemeteries lay out the various ethnic and cultural heritages of our province and provide us with our current identity of freedom and acceptance. To visit one of these inactive cemeteries is a journey back in time to when these great citizens were forging the communities that we live in today. As indicated in the preamble to the act, Ontario's cemeteries are unique repositories of human history and the resting places of human remains and associated artifacts like grave markers, tombstones and monuments. They are important elements of our collective heritage, a priceless, authentic historical record of the past and witnesses to the continuity of life in Ontario…

This bill also aims to show that economic growth can flourish without the desecration of our forefathers' burial grounds. This happened here in Ontario when Richview Cemetery found itself situated in the middle of the interchange of Highways 427 and 401, not far from Pearson airport. Engineers designed and redesigned the ramps and road networks to preserve the cemetery and the sanctity of this site.

This bill will establish clearly what we, the descendants of the deceased, cannot develop inactive cemeteries and that we cannot close and move them at random. It will eliminate lawsuits, fights and tiresome squabbles over these sacred sites. Here are two examples to illustrate my point.

In Toronto, part of the grounds of the original St. James' Cathedral on Church Street was planned to be sold to a condominium developer who planned to move the cemetery, so as to clear the land. Public outcry ensued, and a deal was made to sell off a parking lot northwest of the church instead.

In another story, John Haynes and his family banded together to prevent bulldozers from destroying the Haynes family burial ground, with graves dating from 1784 to 1860. Some graves were disturbed when the city of St. Catharines commenced building a recreational centre on the site, disregarding a 1974 bylaw whereby the city "undertook to provide for the maintenance, management, regulation, control of certain cemeteries including the Haynes cemetery."

The history of this family and a piece of our provincial heritage placed at risk for a recreational centre? Hard to believe, but it is true.

The battles just outlined took countless man-hours and thousands of dollars to preserve and protect the sanctity of these sites. If there had been clear legislation stating that these gravesites could not be disturbed, these battles could have been avoided, saving tax dollars and the time and money of the developers and also of historical societies and citizens' groups that are given the arduous task of fighting on behalf of our deceased. These cemeteries thus remain accessible to the citizens of Ontario. They cannot be overrun by urban sprawl or commercial development. They deserve to exist in a natural state so our citizens can appreciate the heritage and culture they provide.

"Protecting Ontario's inactive cemeteries is an important part of preserving our heritage. As PC Critic for Culture, I urge everyone to join in their preservation by supporting Bill 149." –Julia Munro, MPP, York-Simcoe. *Photo Office of Julia Munro*

According to a document on the Ministry of Culture website, many cemeteries promote recreational use of their grounds by welcoming hikers, cyclists, photographers and bird watchers, and by organizing walking tours and outdoor chamber music concerts. Cemeteries can supplement community park systems and enhance adjacent public open spaces…

While the bill is entitled the *Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act*, it affects all current burial grounds as well, as they too will eventually fall idle.

This same document from the Ministry of Culture has referred to our cemeteries as outdoor classrooms. Many of our outdoor cemeteries, such as the Red Cloud Cemetery in Northumberland Township–the descendants of those buried there had to go to court to prevent its destruction–are home to rare species of plants and animals, as well as the final resting places of our deceased ancestors and family members. These ecosystems that developed in these burial grounds, due to their peaceful and lush environments, have existed for perhaps 100 years. They are bastions of life for the living, made possible by being the final resting places of our deceased. These valued

Hansard cont'd, Page 4...

Donations Needed for the OHS Cemetery Defence Fund!

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

Cemetery News, cont'd

...From *Hansard*, Page 3

deceased still resonate within their own families and communities. They are examples of hard work and pioneering spirit…

I have a few more comments to make, and I'm sure in my wrap-up I'll have time to end it with a poem that I think very much expresses what I'm talking about today: that we must, as a province, protect inactive cemeteries in our province.

Mrs. Elizabeth Witmer: It's a real pleasure to support this bill…This act, if passed, would override anything in any other act or regulation that addresses the relocation of inactive cemeteries. I would just like to inform the Speaker that I will be supporting this bill. I believe places of burial should be protected, and I do believe a person's resting place should be their final resting place, so I'm quite supportive…

As a former history teacher, part of what we used to do sometimes was visit some of the cemeteries. There's a tremendous amount of history to be found. There's a lot that you can learn about a community–their way of life and what they may have done during their lifetime–and so I think that our cemeteries are very valuable. We need to preserve them. They are a very important component of our heritage and our culture, and they do provide a valuable resource to the historians, the genealogists and the general public, people who have an interest…

This bill, if it is passed, will establish as well some very clear-cut, upfront regulations to any potential developers in order that they don't do planning that may be unnecessary and could incur some additional costs. It will also provide families and descendants with peace of mind, knowing that their loved ones and their ancestors will not ever be disinterred. As well, we have important societies, the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society, which now have the opportunity to spend the money that they have, the hard-earned and valuable funds that they have, in conservation and the preservation of our province's history and heritage, rather than having to spend thousands of dollars fighting in courts for the rights of deceased Ontarians–and that is the right and respect of the final resting place.

Many people in communities today, particularly as we continue to see expansion of growth and expansion of development in communities such as Toronto and the GTA, of course, come to cemeteries and walk. They're very valuable recreational spaces. They're also very valuable green spaces, and they're home to many rare species and many different types of plants and animals. So this bill would maintain the ecosystems that are housed in the cemetery grounds; they provide a valuable resource to our communities in many respects.

This is a bill which we will probably all support. I know that I will, and I congratulate the member for bringing it forward and thank him.

Mr. Rosario Marchese: It's a real pleasure to speak to this bill, I have to say, and it's a pleasure as well to listen to all the different members who are going to speak to this bill, because we all have a history in one way or another. So far, we're going to get a whole lot of Liberals to support it, which is good; we've got the Conservatives who are supporting this, which is good; and New Democrats, which is good–until you wonder, "Where was the problem around this?" as we review this historically. I want to help you with that brief review of the history around this.

Before I do, I want to congratulate The Ontario Genealogical Society, and in particular The Ontario Historical Society, for their incredible work on this issue, because they have been concerned about the identification and preservation of every aspect of Ontario's history for over a century. I'll make reference to them as I refer to some of the cases that I'm going to speak about.

We have all had a history in this regard. The Liberals introduced a bill in 1989, the new *Cemeteries Act*, and it was a very weak act. The Ontario Historical Society introduced many amendments which were rejected by the then-Liberal government. We carried on until New Democrats came into power, and I recall my involvement with this in the year that I was Minister of Culture, when I took an interest in cemeteries…

I remember dealing with the fact that I wanted to get on with the idea of having a strong heritage act. It took a long time to develop that as well, a long time. We've had a series of bills along the years, each one better, but, my God, does it ever take a long time to really create strong bills that create the tools to be able to preserve our heritage. And it doesn't come easy.

In 1992, therefore–just to talk about the history–we, the New Democrats, created the *Ontario Cemeteries Act*, where the owner of a cemetery could close a cemetery if it was in the public interest. The problem of the public interest is that we never really define it. So anyone, really, could define "the public interest" according to their own interest, rather than the public interest being that we will protect cemeteries at all costs. That needs to be defined today, still, so many years later, and that's what The Ontario Historical Society has been fighting for a long, long time.

One example of the public interest that was fought for years was the case in 1994 in the town of Markham where someone who owned a 100-acre farm in Markham applied to the province of Ontario to close and move a tiny pioneer cemetery located on the property. The problem was that the registrar of cemeteries for Ontario agreed that the Clendennen Cemetery, as it was known, could indeed be moved. Understand this: The registrar of cemeteries agreed that it could be moved. They're the

MPP Rosario Marchese (Trinity-Spadina), NDP Caucus Chair and a former Ontario Minister of Culture spoke in support of Bill 149 on March 12th.

Photo Rob Leverty

people charged to protect cemeteries, and they agreed that it could be moved. So you wonder: Who was there to protect cemeteries, except for people like The Ontario Historical Society, which had to try to find support across Ontario, raise a few dollars and take it to court to be heard? It took years – three long years. At the end of it, at the end of spending $100,000 from money raised from private donations, they were able to win that particular case. It was a landmark decision for heritage organizations that were involved and for every Ontarian who cared about the rich history of Ontario.

In 2001, the province ordered that it was in the public interest for the St. Alban's Anglican Cemetery to be partially relocated for real estate development. Understand: It was the province that said that it's okay, that it's in the public interest to move the cemetery. This case was successfully appealed by The Ontario Historical Society to the Licence Appeal Tribunal, which ruled against the registrar, cemeteries branch. Remember it–the registrar, cemeteries branch, which you would think is there to protect and preserve cemeteries…

We need to define "the public interest" as it relates to the protection and preservation of all cemeteries, designated or not, because even those cemeteries that are designated have no protection. They can easily be undesignated. We need to preserve all of them, and we have close to 4,000 or 5,000 such cemeteries.

So it's a real pleasure today to support the member's bill from Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry because I think it's a good bill. I don't want to say that in 2006–but I have to–we were dealing with the *Ontario Heritage Act*...and Liberals and, I suspect, even civil servants were saying that the revisions to the Ontario Heritage Act in 2005 would protect Ontario's cemeteries, but they weren't and we were saying so in committee. Even Tories, whom we fought during their term, were in committee saying that we need to protect cemeteries. God bless. You see how things change as we go around the circle? But it was great; even the Tories agreed. We said that we needed to make sure that the cemeteries are protected, and we filed three main motions, which of course were rejected by the Liberals. Some of you remember that because you were there in committee with me. Some of you weren't, but some of you were. You know that they were rejected. Of course, many of you, who were not active and wouldn't know anything about it because you were not part of the committee, would say, "I don't know. I wasn't there. Therefore, I wasn't part of it." But it's a government initiative.

When you introduce a bill and you reject and oppose amendments that we make to protect cemeteries, it means that you, as a member of the government, opposed those amendments that would have strengthened the protection of our cemeteries. But why go back in history? Why do that? It doesn't really help, does it? We have to move forward, reflect on the positive and reflect on the fact that this is a private member's bill, and I want to support it…

My suspicion is that the majority of Liberals today will support this bill. Am I correct? There is nodding around. That's a good thing. Why criticize the Liberals for what they didn't do? Let's focus on what the Liberals might do in the future…

I believe we need to respect our history, and I believe we need to respect our burial sites. It's part of who we are. I don't want any developer saying, "It is in the public interest for us to move these burial sites because I want to develop here and it's in the interest of the community to move these burial sites so that we can develop whatever we want."…

Mr. Jim Brownell: I'd like to thank all those who spoke in support of this bill…It's wonderful to be in the House this afternoon and see support on this from all sides of the Legislature, and to have our good friends from the two societies–the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Genealogical Society–who have worked so hard to protect what we have, and protect the sanctity and cemeteries out there.

But these fights should not have to go on any longer. These historical and genealogical groups should be researching and documenting and preserving; that's what they do best. I just want to thank them for their work and their support.

I would like to wrap up this afternoon with this poem; its author is unknown...It reads as follows:

Dear Ancestor

Your tombstone stands among the rest/Neglected and alone./The name and date are chiselled out/On polished, marbled stone./It reaches out to all who care/It is too late to mourn./You did not know that I exist/You died and I was born./Yet each of us are cells of you/In flesh, in blood, in bone./Our blood contracts and beats a pulse/Entirely not our own./Dear Ancestor, the place you filled/One hundred years ago/Spreads out among the ones you left/Who would have loved you so./I wonder if you lived and loved,/I wonder if you knew/That someday I would find this spot,/ And come to visit you.

I hope that we in the province of Ontario can continue to visit those sites in their original locations and stop this fighting, to preserve the sanctity of these sacred places in our province.

Across The Province

Congratulations to Michel S. Beaulieu, Lakehead Social History Institute Co-Director, Assistant Professor of History at Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Museum board member, on winning the 2009 J. P. Bertrand Award for the best scholarly article on the history of Northwestern Ontario. His winning article '"We did it just for Fun': Amateur Filmmaking at the Lakehead, 1929-1930", appeared in the Autumn 2007 issue of *Ontario History*.

Congratulations are also due to the students who received Guelph Historical Society scholarships (Hugh Douglass Awards): Kienan Farrell, Christopher Lawson, Jessica Ince, Ian Chesney, Rachael Cadman, Brittany Hunt, and Steven Riley; and to Denise Carncohan, for receiving the Ruth and Eber Pollard Canadian History Award from the University of Guelph.

Jim Ross was honoured recently by The Tool Group of Canada in recognition of his outstanding service and excellent leadership to the group. Members and friends should note the new meeting location at Victoria Square Community Centre on Elgin Mills Road, just east of Highway 404 in Markham.

Good news from the Trillium Foundation for The Ontario Genealogical Society when they received a grant of $179,400 as starter funds for a project to help Ontario heritage organizations digitize parts of their collections.

The Region of Peel Museum and Art Gallery is currently celebrating 40 years of service to the community, due in no small part to the hard work and perseverance of the Peel County Historical Society many years ago in preserving the artifacts and archives of the area. We must also remember the Thousand Islands Bridge marking 70 years. A crowd of 25,000 attended the bridge opening along with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Mackenzie King, and heard President Roosevelt promise: "There will be no challenge at the border, and no guard to ask a countersign. Where the boundary is crossed, the only word must be, 'pass friend'."

Two interesting fundraising events have recently come to our attention, when the Oxford Historical Society held a two-day book sale featuring the works of Oxford County authors. The sale was part of "Oxford Creates" with many of the authors on hand to sign the books that were sold. To learn more: 519.421.1700. Meanwhile Simcoe County Warden, Tony Guergis, hosted his second annual Warden's Ski for the Museum at Horseshoe Resort with breakfast and lunch at the Crazy Horse Restaurant with *Moonglow* as entertainment. This event raises funds to enhance educational programmes and facilities at the Simcoe County Museum. Details: 705.726.9300.

We are sorry to report the passing of two well-known members of the heritage community in recent months. Louis (Lou) Cahill began his career with the *St. Catharines Standard*, later founded the Niagara News Bureau that became the Ontario Editorial Bureau and is now OEB Enterprise. Lou was active in founding many organizations: the Welland Canals Foundation, the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum and the Canadian Canal Society, and worked tirelessly to assist and support the museums and heritage groups that sought his advice and support. Hugh Scott Brennen Symons worked at both the Royal Ontario Museum and the University of Toronto, and his book *Early Canadian Furniture* was welcomed by museums across the country, however, it was *Place d'Armes: A Personal Narrative* that was chosen one of the 100 most important books in Canadian history by the *Literary Review of Canada*. Farewell, good friends!

Rosemary Aicher is the first ceramicist to be named Artist-in-Residence at the Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener. She is the nineteenth resident artist and a member of the Waterloo Potters' Workshop and the Potters' Guild of Hamilton. During her year in residence, Rosemary plans a complete programme of lectures, workshops and demonstrations and has invited other specialists in her field to participate as lecturers and guest artists. For further info: 519.742.7752.

The Kingston Historical Society has announced the publication of *"A Troublesome Berth" The Journal of First Lieutenant Charles Allan Parker, Royal Marines: The Canada Years, 1838—1840* edited by Robert J. Andrews and Rosalyn Parker Art. Details: 613.545.5944.

A new publication made its appearance earlier this year when *The Welland Canals Advocate* was launched to bring focus to having the past and present Welland Canals declared a National Historic Canals Corridor. 905.934.9777 to learn more.

The Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogy Group proudly announced their first digital publication, *Burials in the Pioneer Cemetery of St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church 1856—1888, Pembroke, Ontario*, compiled by Jackie Patterson. Details: 613.584.3811.

You may want to plan a visit to the Anchorage at the Bradley Museum in Mississauga where *Preserving Streetsville's Past* is on exhibit until June 15. This display is presented in partnership with the Streetsville Historical Society and highlights a number of artifacts and photographs, people and places that helped the growth and prosperity of Streetsvile during the last 150 years. Further information: 905.615.4860.

The King Township Museum, located at 2920 King Road in King City, is featuring a special exhibit, *Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Nature's Kaleidoscope*, until June 26. To learn more about the exhibit and the busy schedule of events at the museum: 905.833.2331.

There are many fascinating programmes to announce in the coming months, including The Lanark County Genealogical Society meeting, May 6 at the Beckwith Township Hall, Black's Corners, when Carol Bennett will speak on "The Peter Robinson Settlers – A Genealogy Puzzle": 613.256.3130; Dorothy Duncan will speak on "Loyalists at Table" at the Hamilton Branch, United Empire Loyalists' meeting at the Scottish Rite in Hamilton on May 23: 905.648.6519; Sharon M. Chandler and Jim Lawrason will present "Air Commodore Len Birchall" at the Historical Society of St. Catharines meeting at the St. Catharines Museum on May 28: 905.934.8966; also on May 28 the Etobicoke Historical Society will hold the Annual General Meeting at Montgomery's Inn, followed by historian Dave Cook speaking on "Fading History": 416.749.0373; the Peterborough Historical Society's annual bus trip featuring Camp X will roll on June 17 and if you want to be aboard call 705.740.2600 for costs and reservations; the Town of Latchford commemorative plaque will be unveiled on July 15: call 705.676.2115 for time and place; the Society for the Preservation of

***Province* cont'd, Page 6...**

In February 2009, the OHS attended the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society's (HLHS) 20th Heritage Dinner in celebration of its 65th Anniversary. Rob Leverty, OHS, gave the keynote address entitled "The Role of Historical Societies in Ontario: Past, Present and Future". In this picture are representatives from the following six OHS affiliated societies (in brackets the date of incorporation): HLHS (1944); Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society (1983); Grimsby Historical Society (1953); Beach Canal Lighthouse Group (2004); Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society (1999); West Lincoln Historical Society (1983) including also Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, City of Hamilton; Stoney Creek Historical Society and Glanbrook Heritage Society. *Photo HLHS*

...From *Bill 149*, Page 1

that you support this historic initiative. Mr. McGuinty can be reached by e-mail: dmcguinty.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; by fax: 416.325.3745; and by mail: Dalton McGuinty, Premier, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1. Mr. Brownell can be reached by e-mail: jbrownell.mpp@liberal.ola.org or by mail: Jim Brownell, MPP, Ministry of Tourism, 9th Floor, Hearst Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1.

2) Please talk to your Provincial Member of Parliament and urge your local MPP to support Bill 149 at the Standing Committee on General Government and to ensure that Bill 149 reaches Third Reading for a final vote in the Legislature. If you are unsure of how to contact your local MPP, check the website: Legislative Assembly of Ontario and click on MPP Addresses and Contact Information.

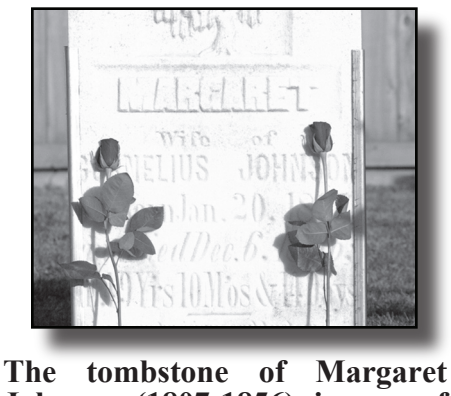
3) Start a petition so that Jim Brownell can present it to the Legislative Assembly and therefore, daily remind his colleagues at Queen's Park that the *Inactive Cemeteries Protection Act, 2009* has broad public support from all regions of Ontario.

You can download a sample petition from our website: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca or contact me at 416.226.9011 or rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca. When your petition is ready, please mail us the original: The Ontario Historical Society, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 3Y2. We will make copies for our library and OGS and then deliver your original petition to Jim Brownell's office.

In our lifetime, we rarely get the opportunity to support provincially significant heritage legislation, particularly a law that reflects and protects the wishes of past, present and future generations. Bill 149 ensures that the mystery of our authentic and original history survives.

Please do not let this historic moment slip away.

Your support is needed once more and is deeply appreciated.



The tombstone of Margaret Johnson (1807-1856) is one of several marked burials at the inactive Clendennn Cemetery in Markham, which were saved from relocation by the OGS and OHS. The passing of Bill 149 will prevent further potential relocations of inactive cemeteries from occuring. *Photo Don Hinchley, OGS*

Exhibits & Events

SEPT 2008 to JUNE 7
Witness: The Photographs of Frank Wright

Witness the transformation of the city of Burlington from a predominantly rural town into the city it is today through the medium of photographs taken by Frank Wright between the 1950s and 1960s. This new exhibit is presented by the Joseph Brant Museum in Burlington and has been extended until June 7th, and has had an audio-visual component and videos added to complement the photographs. 1240 North Shore Blvd., Burlington. 905.634.3556. www.museumsofburlington.com

MARCH 7 to JUNE 7
Quilt Treasures

This exhibit shares heritage quilts from the Wellington County Museum & Archives Collection. 0536 Wellington County Rd. 18, Fergus. Contact 519.846.0916., info@wcm.on.ca or visit www.wcm.on.ca for more information.

MAY 7
Scruples of Conscience: The War of 1812 at Sugar Loaf

The Lundy's Lane Historical Society is hosting a presentation by Don Anger, Port Colborne Museum volunteer, local historian and author. 7:30 p.m. in the LaMarsh Room, Niagara Falls Public Library, at the corner of Victoria Ave. and Morrison St., Niagara Falls.

MAY 9
Mother's Day Victorian Tea

Bring your mothers and enjoy an old-fashioned afternoon in an historical setting! A variety of teas, old-fashioned sandwiches and sweets will be served on vintage china. Wear a fancy hat if you have one or borrow one of ours! Two sittings: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. or 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $10 and must be purchased in advance by calling 905.953.5314. Presented by the Friends of the Elman W. Campbell Museum, 134 Main St. South, Newmarket.

MAY 9
Mother's Day Tea

The Dionne Quints Museum is celebrating Mother's Day with a tea social between 12:00 and 2:00 pm., complete with a craft table for constructing a tea party hat. Please call 705.472.8480 to pre-register. 1375 Seymour St., North Bay. $7 per child, free admission for moms!

MAY 25 to NOVEMBER 27
Mourning After: The Victorian Celebration of Death

This unique exhibit at the Oshawa Community Museum & Archives explores Victorian funeral and mourning practices by drawing on musum and private collections of funeral announcements, mourning dress, memorial photography, tombstone motifs, hair and coffin jewellery, and other funeral mementos. For more information call 905.436.7624 or visit www.oshawamuseum.org. 1450 Simcoe St. North, Oshawa.

JUNE 12 to 14
225th Anniversary of the Loyalist Landing

The Bay of Quinte Branch of the UEL Association of Canada welcomes the public to celebrate the 225th Anniverary of the Loyalist Landing, June 12th to 14th at the UEL Heritage Centre in Historic Adolphustown. Three full days of reenactments, history talks, genealogy workshops and more. Call 613.373.2196 or email 1784@uel.ca for more information, or visit our website www.uel.ca for a complete listing of events. $5/person $15/family group.

Submit Your Local Event to:
izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Culinary Historians of Ontario Spring Lecture Fundraiser
"Tandoori, Shashlyk, and Grouse, Oh My!
The Exotic (Food) World of Expo 67"

A Lecture by Dr. Rhona Richman Kenneally

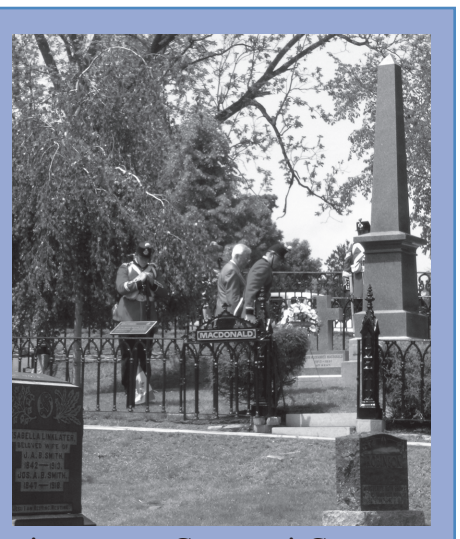
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 :: 7:00 p.m. :: John McKenzie House
34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2

Event includes Antique Cookbook Silent Auction.
Tickets are $15 per person, pre-registration required.

To register, please send cheques payable to the OHS
to the above address, or call 416.226.9011 to pay by credit card.
More information at www.culinaryhistorians.ca.

The Kingston Historical Society invites you to a service commemorating the 118th Anniversary of the death of Sir John A. Macdonald. The service will combine pageantry and history in a special outdoor setting.

Location: Cataraqui Cemetery, Kingston;
Date: Saturday, June 6, 2009, 1:30 p.m.;
Guest Speaker: Dr. Ged Martin;
Topic: *Sir John A. Macdonald and the Electoral Politics of Kingston: 1841- 1891.*



You are welcome to tour historic picturesque Cataraqui Cemetery (927 Purdy Mills Rd. off Counter St.) before and after the ceremony and as well enjoy refreshments following the ceremony. Two fathers of Confederation, Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Alexander Campbell, and many other noteworthy Kingstonians and Canadians are buried here. *Photo Jennifer McKendry*

The Ontario Historical Society recently celebrated Heritage Day 2009 in appreciation of our members, donors, volunteers, and friends. It was a well attended reception at which Executive Director Rob Leverty spoke about the OHS' growing membership and the good news that 16 heritage groups have incorporated through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society in just 24 months. Many thanks especially to Joanna Russo of The Cake Crusader for their donation of a John McKenzie House cake! Pictured above (left to right): Rob Leverty, Executive Director, OHS; Marie Lalonde, Executive Director, Ontario Museums Association, and Bernard Charlebois, Vice President Market Development, Virtuo.ca CMS Technologies. *Photo Andrea Izzo*

The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards

Established in 2007 by the Honourable James K. Bartleman, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, in partnership with the Ontario Heritage Trust, the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards recognizes the outstanding achievements of volunteers, youth, and communities in the field of heritage preservation, protection and promotion. This year's awards ceremony was held on February 20, 2009 in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park and was emceed by Richard Moorhouse, Executive Director, Ontario Heritage Trust. On hand to present the awards were The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of

Photo Andrea Izzo

Ontario and Honourary Patron of The Ontario Historical Society (above right) and The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman, Ontario Heritage Trust (above left).

***Lt. Governor* cont'd, Page 8...**

Directors of The Waterdown-East Flamborough Historical Society, which incorporated through affiliation with the OHS in 1983, met with Rob Leverty to review their goals and strategic directions. Rob was given a tour of the Flamborough Archives and observed "this is one of the finest archives I have ever seen." *Photo Len Snell*

...From *Province*, Page 5

Historic Thornhill has announced the Thornhill Village Festival is scheduled for September 18, 19 and 20, and is appealing for volunteers to help organize this very popular event. If you can assist call 905.731.2739.

Cottonwood Mansion in Selkirk has announced the 2009 programme schedule and it contains a host of events including Queen Victoria's Birthday Tea, a Spring Murder Mystery, a Strawberry Social, a Victorian Band Concert and Peach Social, a Harvest Festival, and much, much more!

Mark your calendar now for these upcoming conferences: The Culinary Historians of Ontario are sponsoring Culinary Landmarks, May 1-3 in Toronto. Contact: culinaryhistorians@uoguelph.ca for programme details. Also on May l and 2 in Toronto, the Asian Footprints Conference: contact eileen.lam@utoronto.ca for programme details. The Ontario Genealogical Society Conference 2009 will be held in Oakville from May 29th to 30th with the theme "From the Printed Page to the Digital Age". For information: www.ogs.on.ca/conference.

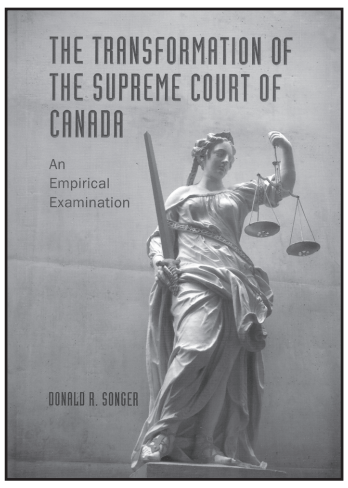
From The Bookshelf

Chris and Pat Raible, Editors
raible@georgian.net

THROUGH THE CAMERA'S EYE

Toronto's Visual Legacy: Official City Photography from 1856 to the Present. **Steve Mackinnon, Karen Teeple, Michele Dale. James Lorimer. 192 pages. Illustrations. $45.00 hardbound.**

This stunning photographic album is published in celebration of the 175th anniversary of Toronto's incorporation as a city in 1834. The chosen images have been selected from the City Archives' collection of over a million photographs assembled from 1857 to the present. Waterworks, roads and bridges are seen during their construction and operation as is "Canada's first subway". The Bloor Street Viaduct, the R. C. Harris water filtration plant, and the old and new city halls are celebrated here. Toronto's citizens at work and at play are also given pride of place. An impressive series of less celebratory images show the poverty, disease and overcrowded conditions at the beginning of the last century as well as Department of Public Health initiatives to improve the situation. In the past sixty years, as Toronto has grown into the cosmopolitan city it is today, City photographers have documented its development and its celebrations.



SUPREME COURT

The Transformation of the Supreme Court of Canada: An Empirical Examination. **Donald R. Songer. University of Toronto Press. 290 pages. $70.00 hardbound.**

The Supreme Court has undergone significant changes in the last half century, most dramatically following the adoption of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in 1982. Unquestionably, the Charter has substantially increased the Court's role in resolving controversial and political issues, often resulting in extended media coverage. Songer focuses on four major themes: the Court's transformation; the Court as both political and legal; the Court as politically moderate; and the Court as democratic. Songer believes that the Court has remained a politically moderate and democratic institution in spite of its considerable power and influence. This carefully researched text will be of particular interest to all concerned with judicial behaviour and comparative law.

GOOD SPORTS

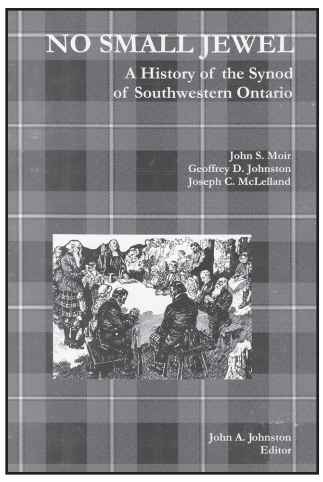
Immodest & Sensational: 150 Years of Canadian Women in Sport. **M. Ann Hall. James Lorimer. 96 pages. $19.95 softbound.**

Since the latter part of the nineteenth century Canadian women have been playing and competing in an ever-widening range of sports. Though from the beginning, social obstacles meant an "uneven playing field" for them. One of the earliest sports clubs for women was the Montreal Ladies Archery Club, formed in 1858. Women also formed their own snowshoe clubs quite early on, and of course there were sleigh and toboggan parties, skating balls and ice carnivals in winter and picnics, croquet and boating in the summer, but these delights were mostly for women of wealth and leisure. However, as Hall shows, times changed and over the years women have become much more involved in both leisure-time and competitive sports. This delightfully illustrated book tells the story of pioneering women athletes and of the women sportswriters who championed them.

IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

William Wye Smith: Recollections of a Nineteenth Century Scottish Canadian. **Scott A. McLean & Michael E. Vance, editors. Natural Heritage Books, Dundurn Group. 421 pages. Illustrations. $25.99 softbound.**

This fascinating volume is not your common-or-garden memoir. It is an anthology of anecdotes and vignettes, memories of people and events, descriptions of places and papers read, all over a time-span of two-thirds of a century. There are chapters reflecting on Indians, Negroes, English and Scottish Immigrants, Irish and German Immigrants. Smith was a Congregational minister, poet, teacher, and journalist with a sharp eye and a facile pen. Viewing the world through male-white-Protestant-Scottish-tinted glasses, his images are prejudiced and opinionated, but nonetheless entertaining and insightful. Perhaps best of all for the more serious reader, professors McLean and Vance devote a third of the book to their annotations – notes that do much more than cite sources, they offer detailed information about persons mentioned and items referred to, along with sources for where to learn more. This handwritten manuscript sat unpublished and virtually unknown in the Archives of Ontario for over a century. Now it can be read by us all.



CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

No Small Jewel: A History of the Synod of Southwestern Ontario. **John S. Moir, Geoffrey D. Johnston, and Joseph C. McClelland. Presbyterian Church in Canada. 254 pages. $20.00 hardbound.**

A church history, a Presbyterian church history, a Presbyterian church history of only one part of our province – hardly a recipe for tasty reading. Yet this unpretentious volume is fascinating reading, thanks to the skill of John Moir and his colleagues. Characters and events are put into context, controversies are made clear, failures and disappointments are acknowledged, and achievements and strengths are celebrated. The particular concerns considered over two centuries were ever changing, but the underlying issues remain ever relevant: the purpose of preaching and teaching, the role of religion promoting individual morality and genuine social justice, the demands of faith for passionate commitment and compassionate service, the tension between the necessity for standards and the rigidity of intolerance – these and more are as real in 2009 as in 1809. As Joseph McClelland suggests in the final chapter, a review of past events offers not simply *nostalgia* for the past, but an *agenda* for the future.

LEXIQUE HISTORIQUE

Mots choisis: Trois cents ans de francophonie au Détroit du lac Érié. **Marcel Bénéteau et Peter W. Halford. University of Ottawa Press. 544 pages. $85.00 hardbound. $45.00 softbound.**

L'ancienne colonie du Détroit est le berceau de la francophonie en Ontario et le plus vieux peuplement français permanent à l'ouest de Montréal. Cette region demeura longtemps isolée des autres centres français du Canada, et la langue parlée par ses habitants reflète sa situation historique and géographique. Ce livre presente plus de 3 000 mots relevés à partir de plusieurs sources manuscrites, imprimées et sonores provenant des deux côtes de la rivière Détroit. Le lexique comprend les archaïsmes, les régionalismes, les emprunts aux langues amérindiennes, ainsi que tout les mots et acceptions absents des dictionnaires de référence.

GRAND OLD U OF YORK

York University: The Way Must Be Tried. **Michael Horn. McGill-Queen's University Press. 316 pages. Illustrations. $49.95 hardbound.**

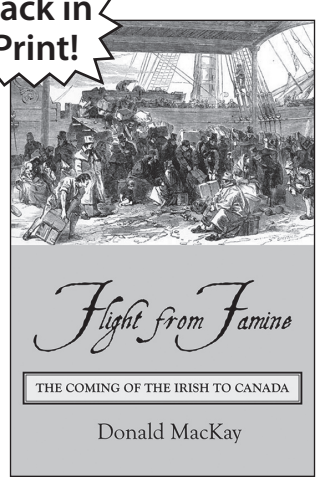
Fifty years – from fewer students than could be crowded into a mid-sized bus to student population greater than a mid-sized city – is time enough in the life of a university to deserve a celebration and a published history. York University has been in the news since its opening – for its growth, for its achievements, for its problems, and perhaps most of all for its controversies. Thanks to thorough archival research and extensive personal interviews (well over a hundred persons), the narrative of a half century is here well related – especially in the full text, but augmented by photographs. Strangely (to a non-York outsider), there seems to be a disconnect between the ordered paragraphs and elegant images of the volume, and the disordered debates and

Bookshelf **cont'd, Page 8..**

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

The prices of books referred to on this page may or may not include GST or postage charges. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

Back in Print!



Flight From Famine
The Coming of the Irish to Canada
by Donald MacKay

33 b&w photos and illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index
$29.99 paperback

The moving account of the survivors of the Irish potato famine. Their tale is a testament to courage, resilience, and perseverance, as well as an important chapter in the development of pre-Confederation Canada.

DUNDURN
www.dundurn.com

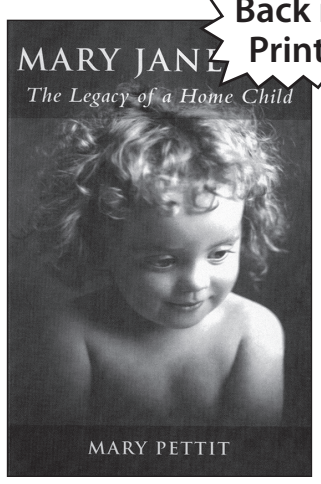
Mary Janeway
The Legacy of a Home Child
by Mary Pettit

41 b&w photos, posters, charts, maps, endnotes, glossary, bibliography
$22.99 paperback

Based on extensive historical research, Mary's story as a child domestic servant brings into focus the details of hardship and deprivation experienced by the many of the thousands of young people sent to Canada between 1869 and 1939.

Available from your favourite bookseller.

Back in Print!



...From *Bookshelf*, Page 7

confusing conflicts of its reputation. This elegant volume is a reminder to us all: the worth of a university centres in the education it offers and the research it engages in, not in the headlines it makes.

WAY BACK WHEN

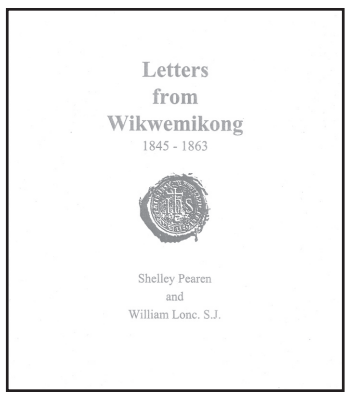
***Once Upon A Time In Washington.* Jennifer Harvey. Plattsville & District Heritage Society. 204 pages. Illustrations. $35 hardbound.**

A work partly of imagination, but grounded on diligent investigation and augmented by extensive archival illustration. Written from an early 21st century perspective, it nevertheless focuses a village in the mid-19th century: Washington, Blenheim Township, Oxford County, Ontario. Chapters are topics – education, fairs, religion, temperance, and others – each its own story, yet intermingled tales. The work is also a marvelous scrapbook of quotes, maps, clippings, photos, and drawings, many reproduced in tinted colours and sepia tones. An addendum, nearly half the book, traces the separate history of each of more than sixty sites, the places where people have lived and worked through time. A wonderful work, lovingly compiled, charmingly related, attractively produced.

WAY UP THERE

***Dancing in the Sky: the Royal Flying Corps in Canada.* C. W. Hunt. Dundurn Press. 358 pages. Illustrations. $28.99 softbound.**

Here is the story of World War I Canadian flying – a telling of the tale as a whole, not a memoir but a narrative. Here are the planes, the places, the politics, and, of course, the pilots and other personnel. Part of the story is the tension between old patterns of thought and newly opening opportunities, a Canada caught between not-always-compatible British regulations and American expectations. Author Hunt here, as with all his popular histories, keeps his focus on the human dramas of challenge and change, tragedy and triumph. These days, no page of reviews of current book on our history is complete without at least one military history – and this volume is a worthy addition to that library.



MISSION STATEMENTS

***Letters from Wikwemikong 1845-1863.* Transcribed, translated and edited by Shelley Pearen and William Lonc, published by William Lonc, S.J. 202 pages. $19.95 softbound.**

Jesuit missions have been part of this province since the 17th century – the early history at Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons is a familiar story. Here is a very different chapter in that history: the Holy Cross Mission at Wikwemikong on Manitoulin Island in the 19th century. The book is not a narrative but a series of letters, clearly translated and carefully annotated. These are reports from field officers to the head office, that is, from the Jesuit fathers ("Superiors") in Ontario to the Father General at Rome. They summarize not only the spiritual welfare of the mission, but also offer details of life on the island in general and life in the native community in particular. A volume in the series, *Early Jesuit Missions in Canada.*

HISTORY NOTED

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

Book of Remembrance. Gow Harvey. Plattsville & District Heritage Society. 230 pages. Illustrations $35.00 hardbound. A record of the names and brief history 220 local men and women from Plattsville, Bright, Chesterfield and Washington, who served in World War I, World War II, and the Korean conflict.

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6N5. www.uopress.uottawa.ca

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

William Lonc, wlonc@jesuits.ca - available from Huronia Museum, Midland and Sainte Marie Bookstore, Midland.

...From *Lt. Governor*, Page 6

Pictured above receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement Award is Ms. Mary Finley. Her volunteer career has spanned over three decades and includes work with numerous historical groups and museums. She is Past President of both the Streetsville Historical Society–an OHS affiliated member society since 1973–and the Mississauga South Historical Society–an OHS affiliated member society since 1982.

The Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards are the highest level of recognition from The Ontario Heritage Trust. There categories of awards: The Young Heritage Leaders, recognizing exceptional young people working to preserve local heritage; The Heritage Community Recognition Program, which recognizes local individuals and groups of volunteers; and the Community Leadership Program recognizing communities for exceptional heritage conservation. The OHS would like to congratulate all the award recipients for their outstanding contributions to the ongoing battle to preserve our province's heritage. For a complete list of the 2009 award recipients, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca or call 416.314.4907.

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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 individuals for $22.00 per year, member organizations and institutions and non-member individuals for $32.00 and to non-member organizations and institutions for $43.00. Inquiries about membership should be directed to: Christina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

Inquiries about submissions and advertising should be directed to: Editor, *OHS Bulletin*, 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2, 416.226.9011, izzo@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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