

The Historical Society of St. Catharines

P.O. Box 25017, 221 Glendale Avenue, Pen Centre,
St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 4C4

Our mission and goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and area. The society was founded in 1927.
Our Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

Our website is: <http://stcatharineshistory.wordpress.com>

September 2011 Newsletter

UPCOMING HSSC PROGRAMMES

Our monthly meetings for all members and their guests are held at the St. Catharines Museum, Lock 3. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The museum is also open at that time so that members and guests may view current exhibits. The Society meeting starts a 7:30 sharp. Reminder: as our members are inside the Burgoyne Room and unable to monitor those entering the Museum, the Museum's door will be locked at approximately 7:45 p.m. If you are late, ring the doorbell to the right of the main doors.

Thursday, September 22, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Museum:

Anne McPherson will give a presentation on her McCordick and Smith families, both of local historical interest. She promises to bring lots of old photographs.

Thursday, October 27, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Museum

Former HSSC president Dr. Wesley B. Turner will speak on his recently published book *The Astonishing General, the life and legacy of Sir Isaac Brock*.

Thursday, November 24, 2011 – 7:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Museum

“Show and Tell”. Members and guests are invited to bring an item of interest and give a short (3 to 5 minutes) presentation on it. For the authors in our midst, you may bring your recent book to show and possibly sell. Afterwards we will have our Christmas Social: please bring a plate of goodies if you wish.

Thursday, January 26, 2012- 7:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Museum

HSSC member David Hemmings will speak on his latest book, *The House of McFarland a master shipwright's legacy*.

Membership Renewal Reminder: Please remit membership dues as soon as possible. Those not intending to renew, please advise so membership list can be revised.

NEWSLETTER NOTES

The Historical Society of St. Catharines Newsletter is published up to 4 times per year. The purpose is to inform the membership of issues pertaining to the Society and items of historical interest. Comments and queries should be directed to the Society's postal address. Opinions and comments expressed in the Newsletter are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society. Subscription to the Newsletter is by paid membership only.

Annual Membership dues to the Society are: Individuals \$10.00 Family -- \$15.00

(note: Membership is from September to August. Families receive only one newsletter).

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

September already. Probably most of us have that old back-to-school feeling of nervous anticipation. As your fledgling president I am hoping to get off to a good start. There was, in fact, already an early false start when our annual general meeting had to be cancelled at the eleventh hour due to the big storm on April 28. We apologise to anyone who showed up at the Museum doors.

As a result of this cancellation, the AGM was moved to the May 26th meeting and our election of executive was duly held. We then decided to hold an extra meeting in June to make up for the meeting we missed. Many of you were happy to have our meetings extended into June, and so we are going to carry on into June again this coming year.

We believe we have a good variety of programmes lined up for 2011 – 2012. As the War of 1812 Bicentennial approaches, we will start events early with Dr. Wes Turner speaking at our October 27th meeting on his new book *The Astonishing General, the life and legacy of Sir Isaac Brock*. We also have a few changes planned for the Oille and Merritt commemorations. They will be incorporated into our regular meetings, along with a few other surprises.

Recently you received a 5-page mailout from the Society including membership form, list of upcoming programmes, minutes of the 2011 AGM and a list of board members. This mailout took the place of our June newsletter which was pre-empted by the mail strike and the illness of former newsletter editor John Calvert. We wish John well and thank him for his contributions. This September newsletter has been prepared by Bill Stevens and Elizabeth Finnie, with contributions by Brian Narhi, Dennis Gannon and Alun Hughes.

Many of you have already renewed your HSSC membership. Every member is important. Your interest in local history is worthwhile, whether you are researching, attending events, or reading this newsletter. Welcome to a new year in St. Catharines history.



Elizabeth Finnie

..... in the Captain's chair.... see Society News

SOCIETY NEWS

In Memoriam:

A memorial was held at Brock's Pond Inlet to honour **Daryl Ann (Dee) Dickman** who died on July 7, 2011. Dee was a member, and former board member, of HSSC. She was a librarian at Brock University for 34 years, and served on many local environmental committees. Dee leaves her two sons Timothy and Sven, and two grandchildren. We will all miss Dee, who was ever-encouraging.

New Members:

Robert Armstrong, Anna Gale, Anne Beresford, John Richmond, Mark Newman, J. & L. Homer.

Recent Events

As mentioned earlier, the AGM which should have been held on **April 28, 2011** was postponed due to the storm, and held during the following meeting on **May 26, 2011**. The minutes of that meeting and list of executive were sent to our members at the end of August. Our speaker that evening was Gail Collins, who had done years of research on the British Home Children. She produced a quilt showing photos and stories of many of these children. The quilt was on display at the Museum for the month of May.

Oille Fountain Potting Ceremony: Saturday May 28, 2011 was a beautiful spring day as 26 people gathered at the corner of James and King Streets for the 37th annual potting ceremony at the Oille Fountain, located next to the Old Courthouse in downtown St. Catharines. Past president John Burtiak welcomed those attending and presented a brief biography of Lucius Oille. Heather Foss of the St. Catharines Heritage Committee represented the mayor and pointed out the need to continue to remember our past and promote our history. Eleanor Lancaster brought greetings from local M. P. Rick Dykstra, and made reference to a memorial to Lucius Oille located in her church, St. Barnabas. Doris Pettifer and several other Oille family members were present and all were asked to assist in the ceremony by preparing the planting to be placed in the urn atop the fountain. Paul Lewis had handled all preparations, buying the flower and providing the ladder. Society director Bill Stevens scaled the ladder, received the planting from the family hands and put it in place. John concluded the ceremony with thanks to all who participated in this event.

June 23, 2011 meeting: This was an extra meeting scheduled to take the place of the cancelled April 28 meeting. As the new president Elizabeth Finnie was away, vice president Dennis Gannon conducted the meeting. Past president John Burtiak gave a presentation on the Heritage Churches of Merritt: St. Andrew's, Elm Street United, St. James Anglican, Malpas-McLean Memorial and St. Patrick's.

Merritt Day, July 5, 2011: For many years the Society has commemorated William Hamilton Merritt's legacy with a ceremony at the Merritt statue. This year featured a brief talk on Merritt's early years by president Elizabeth Finnie, a surprise visit by "William Hamilton Merritt" himself in a top hat and frock coat (on a very hot evening), and the planting of small Canadian flags at the statue by the attendees as well as Tom Whitelaw, president of the Canadian Canal Society. Following this short ceremony, Paul Lewis led the group on an interesting guided tour down Yates St.

We then moved on to Montebello Park, and some members went on to the Mansion House for an informal get-together.

On the evening of **Wednesday, September 7, 2011**, Bill Stevens, Elizabeth Finnie and our spouses had the pleasure of representing the Society at a reception held on board the frigate HMCS Montreal docked at Port Weller. The event was part of a program to promote the Navy within the Great Lakes region. We were able to meet several crew members, who answered many questions about the ship and life in the Canadian Navy. We had a very informative tour and at the urging of Bill, Elizabeth eventually "manned" the captain's seat in the bridge for a photo. We thank Commander Jamie Tennant and the Ship's Company for their warm hospitality. They are all fine representatives of Canada: we were greatly impressed. We would also like to thank our society member John Richmond, chair of The Garrison Community Council of Niagara, who arranged for the Historical Society invitation.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN ST. CATHARINES AND VICINITY

Currently at the St. Catharines Museum

Special Exhibit: "Ornamenting the Ordinary"

Last Monday of Each Month - 7:30 p.m.

Thorold and Beaverdams Historical Society - at Chestnut Hall, Thorold

Contact Information: Randy and Diane Barnes 905-984-4435

Saturday, October 1 - 11:45 a.m.

Col. John Butler Branch United Empire Loyalist of Canada - meets at Betty's Restaurant Niagara Falls for lunch and speaker. Reservations required: Gail Woodruff grammag@cogeco.ca

Speaker: Tania Denis, MacKenzie Printery speaking about "The Printery in Queenston"

Thursday, October 13 - 7:00 p.m.

Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara Peninsula Branch.

Rick Roberts will speak on "Recording Source Citations Using Family Tree Maker or Legacy Family Tree". This meeting will be held at Chestnut Hall, Thorold

Sunday, October 16 - 2:00 p.m.

Peninsula Field Naturalists - Info: John Bacher 905-684-4834

Walk: "Glenridge Quarry and Brock Lands" - Meet at the Glenridge Quarry parking lot on St. David's Road for a tour of lands owned by Brock University, to consider their potential for reforestation.

Wednesday, October 19 - 7:30 p.m.

Grimsby Historical Society

"Triumph & Tragedy - Ruby and Thomas B. McQuesten", Mary Anderson's acclaimed book on the life & times of the family known for Whitehern. The Hamilton Historical Board has named 2011 as McQuesten Year. Meeting to be held at the Carnegie building, 25 Adelaide St., Grimsby

Monday, October 24 - 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: John Bacher - Topic: "Edmund Zavitz Tree Planting Pioneer"

At Peninsula Field Naturalists meeting to be held at Mountainview United Church, 150 Glendale Ave, St. Catharines.

Saturday, October 29 - starting at 9:00 a.m.

Ontario Genealogical Society - Region IV Annual General Meeting and Seminars

Special Speaker: J. Brian Gilchrist. Three Seminars will be presented. For details and registration:

www.ogs.on.ca/niagara or email niagara@ogs.on.ca.

Meeting will be held at First Grantham United Church, 415 Linwell Road, St. Catharines

Saturday, November 5 - 11:45 a.m.

Col. John Butler Branch United Empire Loyalist of Canada - meets at Betty's Restaurant Niagara Falls for lunch and speaker. Reservations required: Gail Woodruff grammag@cogeco.ca

Speaker: Alan Clifford, UE, CJB Branch Member

Topic: Video presentation on Shadrack Byfield's experiences during the War of 1812.

Thursday, November 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara Peninsula Branch

Liz Robbins (a member of HSSC) will be the speaker and will show a short film about her beloved Mother *Emma MacPherson McFadyen*, which Liz wrote directed and produced, entitled "My Mother the Hero". Liz's film was "showcased" at Women in Film and Television, in Toronto last March.

Wednesday, November 16 - 7:30 p.m.

Grimsby Historical Society

Speaker: Ron Dale - Topic: "Who Won the War of 1812?"

Held at the Carnegie building, 25 Adelaide St., Grimsby

Saturday, December 3 - 11:45 a.m.

Col. John Butler Branch United Empire Loyalist of Canada - meets at Betty's Restaurant Niagara Falls for lunch and speaker. Annual General Meeting and Christmas Social.

Reservation: Gail Woodruff grammag@cogeco.ca

Thursday, December 8 - 7:00 p.m.

Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara Peninsula Branch

Christmas Party, Elections and Show and Tell

Held at Chestnut Hall, Thorold

HOT OFF THE PRESSES: New Books by our Members!

The Astonishing General: the life and legacy of Sir Isaac Brock, by Wesley B. Turner.

Edmund Zavitz: tree planting pioneer, by John Bacher.

The History and Homes of Yates Street, St. Catharines, by Paul Lewis.

The House of McFarland: a master shipwright's legacy, by David Hemmings.

And the Society itself has recently published Occasional Paper No. 1:

Duelling Columns: Horatio Nelson and Isaac Brock: parallel monuments a world apart.

This is the text of the October 2010 lecture by Tom Malcomson, edited by Paul Lewis et al.

Please be sure to let us know if you have recently published, or are about to.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture.

Our Past Presidents (one of a series by HSSC Director Bill Stevens)

Wesley B. Turner

During the Society's 75th anniversary several Past Presidents were profiled in the newsletter. It is time to continue this feature and we begin with Dr. Wesley B. Turner, who was president of our Society for three years: 1996, 1997 and 1998, and is still a member in good standing. Wes has always promoted the history of our region and our museum, having served as chair of the Museum board of Trustees in 1985. Wes also served as president of the Ontario Historical Society for two years: 1983 and 1984. We will be addressing our Society at our October 27, 2011 meeting.

Wes was born in Toronto and educated at Weston Collegiate before obtaining his Bachelor of Arts (honours) from the University of Toronto in 1956 and a Master of Arts in 1962. In 1972 Wes achieved his Doctor of Philosophy in History from Duke University in North Carolina. Wes spent seven years teaching history at high school before coming to Brock University in 1967 where he lectured in history. He was chair of the History Department from 1985 to 1988. Wes retired from Brock in 1998.

Wes has written many scholarly articles and books, notably the following:

The War of 1812, the War that both sides won, published in 1990.

British Generals in the War of 1812: High command in the Canadas, published in 1999 and coming out in paperback in 2011

The War of 1812 in the Niagara Peninsula, published in 1981.

The War of 1812: the war for Canada, published in 1982.

Life in Upper Canada, published in 1980.

Album of Upper Canada, published in 1987.

And just released: *The Astonishing General: the life and legacy of Sir Isaac Brock*.

Wes has also contributed several biographies to *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, completed 10 biographies and 3 articles for the *Canadian Encyclopaedia* and the *British Generals*, and has reviewed many books for the *Canadian Book Review Annual*, the *Canadian Historical Review* and others.

Wes is married to Diane and has three children: Douglas, Gordon and Jennifer. After his retirement they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake where they operated a B&B known as Elliot House on Prideaux St. They love to travel. Wes is also a past president of the Scottish Country Dancing Group of St. Catharines. Wes continues his love of history and is busy as co-chairman of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Citizens' War of 1812 Bicentennial Steering Committee.

Darby Family Plaque Unveiled

by: **Brian Narhi**

The Darby Family Burial Plot, situated in Cindy Drive Park in north end St. Catharines, was officially dedicated by the City's Heritage Committee with a plaque unveiling ceremony on the morning of **June 18, 2011**. Several months of research and planning had been devoted towards this event in order to ensure a successful outcome.

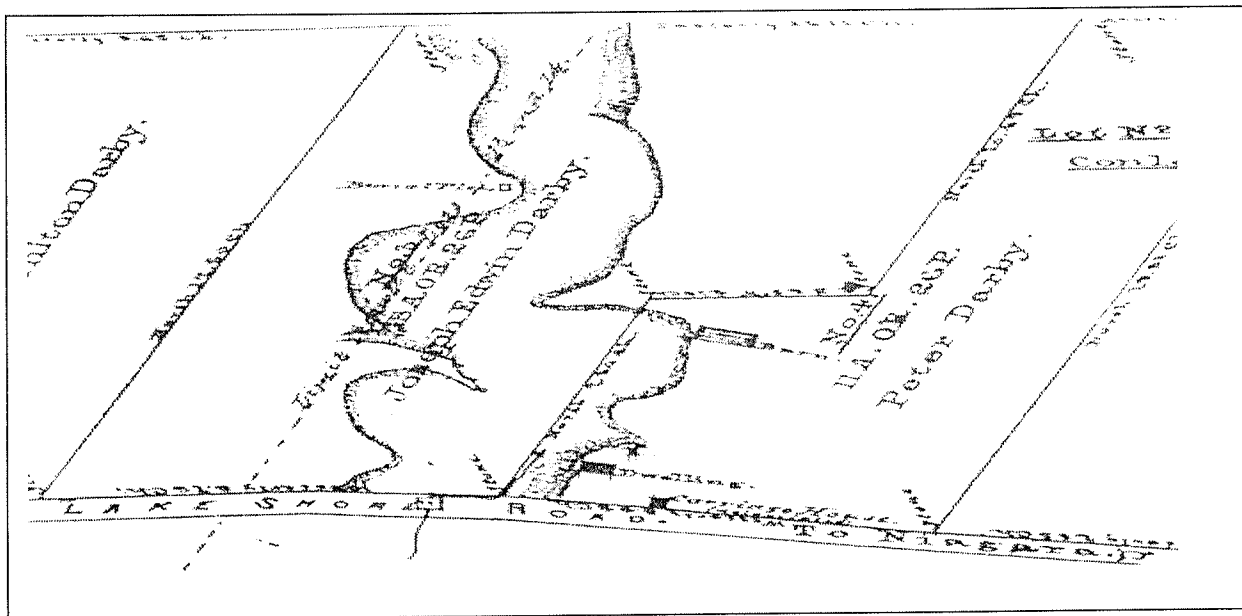
The Darby family is unquestionably one of the first to have settled in Grantham Township. The primogenitor, John Darby, served in the British army during the "French-Indian" or Seven Years War. He initially lived in Niagara Township during the mid-1780s, but had settled in Grantham by 1787. He was alive in 1796 when he submitted his land petition, but appears to have died sometime after 1805. His farm was then taken over by his son, George Darby (b. ca. 1763). George may have seen some action during the latter part of the American Revolutionary War. Around 1790 he was

married to Margaret, the daughter of George Adam Bowman of Butler's Rangers. They had a large family of at least twelve children. George Darby served in the Lincoln Militia during the first year of the War of 1812, but died from sickness contracted whilst on duty in December 1812. The Darby farm was to remain in the possession of the family for over a century.

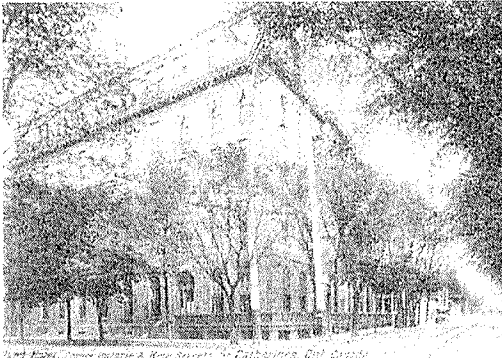
Perhaps the biggest challenge faced by the Heritage Committee was that of trying to determine the actual location of the cemetery itself. It has been a long known fact based upon various documentary sources that the Darby family had established a small burial place somewhere within the boundaries of their farm, and just a short distance north of Lakeshore Road. However the exact location had long since been forgotten since there were no longer any visible stones to mark the individual grave sites, and a fence which once existed there had been removed long ago. Fortunately, a local surveyor, Edward Gardiner, had surveyed this farm in early 1870 in order to assist with the division of the estate among the Darby heirs. The resultant map was attached to a deed filed in the local Land Registry Office. It clearly showed the 'burial plot' on part Lot 13 Concession 1 in Grantham, on a parcel of land inherited by Joseph Edwin Darby. A city survey crew used this map and aided by modern equipment were able to pinpoint the location of the cemetery within the park.

Due to a lack of records, the exact number of burials which took place at this site is not known with certainty. It is thought that the following members were buried here: John Darby (ca. 1805), George Darby (1812), Cornelius Darby (1828), Margaret Jane Darby (1829), Margaret [Bowman] Darby (1843), Ann [Schram] Darby (1851), George H. Darby (1854) and John Darby (1864).

During the ceremony, greetings were conveyed by Grantham ward councilor Bill Phillips, Eleanor Lancaster (representing Rick Dykstra), and a message was read from Jim Bradley. An outline of Darby family history was presented by descendants, including John Darby who travelled with his family from Missouri to be present on this occasion. The Reverend Canon Rob Fead of St. George's blessed the site, after which the plaque was unveiled. The ceremony concluded with an honorary musket salute and music, provided by a group of local militia re-enactors.



Article and Photos – Submitted by Dennis Gannon



Yesterday and Today: The Welland House Hotel

The summertime streets of St. Catharines from about 1855 to 1885 must have been clogged with vehicles and pedestrians. During that era people flocked to St. Catharines from all over eastern Canada and the United States to “take the waters” -- that is, to benefit from the alleged curative effects of drinking and bathing in the mineral springs found here.

The second of the three spa hotels built here was the Welland House, which opened in June 1856. In the beginning it was not actually a spa hotel in its own right since it did not have its own supply of mineral water. Rather, it simply provided accommodations for the many people who could not find rooms at St. Catharines’ first spa hotel, the Stephenson House, built in 1855 at the corner of Yates and Salina Streets.

However, by 1864 mineral water was being piped into the Welland House from a well down by the Canal, and the hotel used that commodity



as a drawing card from then until as late as 1941, well beyond the hey day of the spa business locally. After 1941 the Welland House was once more just an ordinary hotel, and continued as such until it closed in the early 1990s.

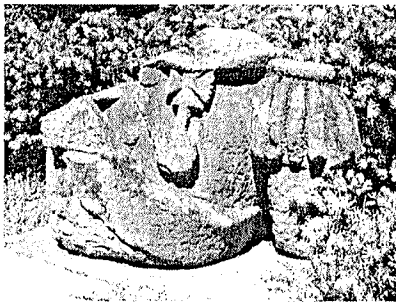
After standing vacant and facing possible demolition, the historic old building got a new lease on life when it was purchased in 1994 by the Parliament family of Guelph. They extensively refurbished it inside and turned it into The Downtown Student Residence. It now provides housing for Brock students, whose presence downtown has infused new life into downtown St. Catharines.

The two photos above, showing the Welland House in about 1920 and as it is today, don’t differ greatly -- except for those trees in the 1920 view. Once you’ve seen the older photo, the building today looks positively naked without those trees. Where did they disappear to? How might they be brought back?

HOW BROCK'S SHOULDER GOT TO BROCK

Late one October night in 1966, Isaac Brock's left shoulder suddenly appeared on the front lawn of Brock University. No, it wasn't his actual shoulder, but a carved limestone replica from his statue atop the Brock Monument at Queenston Heights. According to campus lore, it had fallen off many years before after being struck by lightning. Some students found it sitting at the base of the column, and claimed it for the University. It was thought that other body parts might follow. As the student newspaper *The Badger* reported: "The liberators ... hope to recover his other shoulder so that we can at least have mates." That never occurred, but thanks to the initiative of these students, Brock's shoulder still resides at the University, in Jubilee Court.

Or so the story goes. But what really happened? How did a piece of Brock's Monument end up at Brock University?



Brock's shoulder in Jubilee Court today

The History of the Monument

The story of the University's namesake, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock is well known, and his death in particular has become legendary. He was shot while leading a charge against invading American troops at the Battle of Queenston Heights on October 13, 1812. Some have him expiring without uttering a word, but others say he urged his soldiers to "push on." The Latin equivalent — *Surgite!* — is now the University's motto.

Exactly 12 years later, on October 13, 1824, thousands gathered at Queenston Heights to dedicate a monument in his honour. The remains of Brock and his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell, were brought from Fort George where they were buried after the battle and were reinterred in a vault in the monument's foundation. According to a later writer in *The Globe*, Macdonell's body was "a mass of decomposition" but Brock's features were "nearly perfect and easily recognised." In 1825 architect Francis Hall resumed work on the monument, a Tuscan column rising to 135 feet, but possibly because of financial constraints the statue planned for the very top was never added. No report of a formal opening ceremony has been found.

As fate would have it, the two comrades in arms were not allowed to rest in peace, for on April 17, 1840, the column was damaged beyond repair by a terrorist bomber believed to be Irish-Canadian Benjamin Lett. Described as a "vagabond" by none other than Charles Dickens, Lett was a disciple of William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837.

Public indignation was fierce, and on July 30, 1840, thousands gathered at Queenston Heights for a meeting to inaugurate a new monument. A design competition was held and architect Thomas Young's proposal was chosen, but nothing happened for more than a decade, again because of financial problems. Then at last, on July 9, 1853, the old monument was torn down, and a few days later Brock and Macdonell were moved to a temporary resting-place in the Hamilton family cemetery at Willowbank in Queenston village (though not without some controversy about careless workmen possibly mixing up the remains). On October 13 the corner stone of the new monument was laid, and Brock and Macdonell were reinterred in separate vaults, once more before a gathering of thousands.

The new monument was not, however, Young's winning design. Instead it was an imposing 185-foot Corinthian column topped by a statue of Brock, designed by different architect, William Thomas. Completed in 1857, it was officially opened on October 13, 1859 before a crowd approaching 15,000 people. A year later the Prince of Wales (the future Edward VII) attended a ceremony at the monument in honour of Brock and veterans of the War of 1812.

The Storm of '29

For more than 70 years the statue of Isaac Brock stood proudly atop the monument on the Niagara Escarpment brow at Queenston Heights. But in 1929 disaster struck. On April 5, a devastating electrical storm swept through central Ontario, causing widespread damage. Brock's statue was one of the casualties — his outstretched right arm broke off and came crashing down. Weighing nearly half a ton, it split into three pieces that buried themselves deeply in the ground.

The monument may already have been weakened by an earthquake that shook Niagara Falls on November 12, 1927, and an inspection confirmed the worst. The statue was in particularly bad shape, and the 1930 annual report of the Niagara Parks Commission stated: "It is remarkable that the head had remained so long without falling, for the upper part of the torso was completely shattered through the action of the elements."

There was no choice but to remove that portion of the statue from the waist up and lower it to the ground. The head, though weathered, was apparently considered solid enough to put back in position, but the rest — the right arm, torso and left shoulder — had to be recut from new stone. In addition, the whole monument was repointed to make it more weather-proof. (There have been three major restorations since then — in 1973-74, 1985 and 2008, the most recent following a four-year period when the monument was closed to the public for safety reasons.)



Brock's head at ground level, 1930

The Journey to Brock

Following the restoration in 1930, the right arm seems to have been stored inside the monument, but the torso-cum-shoulder was left outside and largely ignored. Until, that is, the night of Thursday, October 13, 1966 (appropriately the anniversary of Brock's death) when Brock students "reclaimed" the stone and deposited it at the main entrance to the University. This was not, incidentally, at the Schmon Tower, which was still under construction, but at the former Frozenaire plant below the Escarpment where the University began. The following day the *St. Catharines Standard* published a picture of 17 exuberant students gathered round their trophy, though the caption states that 23 actually took part.



The students and their trophy, 1966

Brock's President, James A. Gibson wasted no time having the students return the stone to the Niagara Parks Commission, only for them to repeat

the escapade the following year. Then in 1973, by which time Parks Canada had assumed responsibility for the Brock Monument, it came back once more. This time it was a legal move, a donation in honour of the many individuals, organizations, corporations and unions that helped raise \$8.5 million for the University's Founding Fund. A plaque (which has since gone missing) was mounted on the stone and unveiled by C. Bruce Hill, General Chairman of the Fund, in the newly-christened Founders' Court in the Mackenzie Chown Complex.



C. Bruce Hill in Founders' Court, 1973

The stone stayed in Founders' Court until the University's 25th anniversary in 1989 when it was transferred to Jubilee Court. There are plans to move it again later this year, this time indoors. The destination is expected to be Brock's new Market Hall, which already displays a dramatic mural by artist Bogdan Luca depicting images from the War of 1812, including one of Isaac Brock on his horse Alfred. Of course, the perfect final touch would be to have the right arm, the piece that fell in 1929, placed in the Market also, thereby fulfilling *The Badger's* dream of 1966 and providing Isaac with a sense of closure. What seems to be the forearm is already in the University's possession, but the whereabouts of the hand and shoulder are uncertain.

Postscript

A final word about the medal on Brock's chest. The part shaped like a Maltese Cross denotes a military member of the British Order of the Bath. Sir Isaac Brock never wore the medal and didn't even know he'd been honoured, for he was not knighted until October 10, 1812 just three days before his death. But the presence of the medal on the stone is quite legitimate, thanks to a proclamation by the Prince Regent (later George IV) in 1813 authorizing its inclusion on any monument subsequently erected in Brock's honour.

[The preceding is an updated version of "Statue Shoulder Stolen in Monumental Prank," an article co-authored by Alun Hughes and Jocelyn Titone that appeared in Brock News in March 2011.]

Principal Sources: (in addition to those cited in text): archival records from Brock University Special Collections; *St. Catharines Journal*, *St. Catharines Constitutional*, *The Globe*, *Upper Canada Gazette*, *The Church*, *Niagara Mail*, *Niagara Chronicle* and *London Gazette*, various dates from 1813 to 1859; Malcomson, *Burying General Brock*; Seibel, *Ontario's Niagara Parks*; McArthur and Szamosi, *William Thomas Architect*.

Credits: layout (Loris Gasparotto); editing (John Burtmiak); information (former Brock students and other persons too numerous to list)

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The Historical Society of St. Catharines

----- SOCIETY PROGRAM -----

September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012

*Unless otherwise noted, Society programs are held at the St. Catharines Museum on the Welland Canal Parkway, St. Catharines, on the fourth Thursday of the month.
(the Museum opens at 7 p.m.)*

Thursday, September 22, 2011

7:30 p.m. - Lecture: Anne McPherson, who is a direct descendant of the McCordick Family, will tell us about the McCordick family and the McCordick business. The McCordick leather works remained active in St. Catharines for many years ... do you remember it?

Thursday, October 27, 2011

7:30 p.m. - Lecture: Dr. Wesley B. Turner, noted WAR of 1812 author and researcher, will provide insights into the life of Sir Isaac Brock the subject of his newly published book *"The Astonishing General, the life and legacy of Sir Isaac Brock"*

Thursday, November 24, 2011

7:30 p.m. - Show and Tell - an opportunity for members and guests to bring along their own item of interest and spend 3-5 minutes telling us about it ... this fun evening has proven to be very entertaining in the past and is followed by a Christmas Social. (members are encouraged to bring a small contribution to the bake table!) There will also be a book sales table for that little Christmas gift purchase.

Thursday, January 26, 2012

7:30 p.m. - Lecture: David Hemmings will bring John McFarland to life in his lecture titled: "The House of John McFarland, Niagara's Timber Trader." The lecture covers shipbuilding, boat repairs, prisoners in 2 wars, Fort Niagara, 2800 acres of timbered land, farms in Niagara and Thorold/Port Robinson, tea trading, his family, Keefer Mansion and various other houses and of course the newly refurbished McFarland House on the Niagara Parkway.

Thursday, February 23, 2012

7:30 p.m. - Lecture: Brian Nahri will present a unique lecture using actual diaries of two local black families, Talbot and Mills, to tell their story. This program coincides with February being Black History month.

The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Thursday, March 22, 2012

7:30 p.m. - Lecture: Janis Barlow will share with us her collection of information on the Kiwanis Horse Show, this once famous horse show that will surely bring back memories to those who once attended this event.

Thursday, April 26, 2012

7:30 p.m. - ANNUAL Meeting - presentation of annual reports and elections. (note: elections this year will be for up to 6 Directors only as the executive positions do not expire until 2013. If any member is interested in standing for a directorship, please advise any executive member).

8:00 p.m. (estimate) - Lecture: Alun Hughes - his lectures are always well attended and very "animated" stay tuned for the title!

Thursday, May 24, 2012

6:30 p.m. - Oille Fountain Potting Ceremony will take place at the Oille Fountain on the corner of James Street and King Street.

7:30 p.m. - note: this will take place at the *Downtown Centennial Library - Mills Room*.
Lecture: "Oille and Water; the rest of the story" - Dr. Lucius S. Oille - his life, career and legacy. Long time Society members John Burtniak, Dennis Gannon and Bill Stevens will be collaborating on this presentation.

Thursday, June 28, 2012

6:30 p.m. - Celebration of William Hamilton Merritt's Birthday 219 years ago on July 3, 1793 - a brief ceremony will take place at the National Historic Plaque outside the museum's canal side entrance, followed by serving of birthday cake!

7:30 p.m. - Lecture: John McKenty, author of a book titled *Canada Cycle & Motor, The CCM Story* will tell us about the Welland Vale Manufacturing Company, which merged with five bicycle operations to form CCM in 1899. As the Greater Circle Route passes by the museum, if you have a CCM bicycle, why not bike to the meeting (or bring it along) and show it to us!

Program is subject to change without notice.

Further details and revisions will be published within the Society newsletter and web site as available. Web site: <<http://stcatharineshistory.wordpress.com/>>