

The Historical Society of St. Catharines

NEWSLETTER

June 2004

P.O. Box 23104, 124 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 7P6
Web Site - <http://www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html>

Our Mission and Goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and vicinity. Founded in 1927. Our Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

Symphony / Theal House Update

At the Society's January general meeting the membership was told about the possible demolition of the Symphony / Theal House on the campus of Brock University. The current occupants, including the Brock Radio Station CFBU 103.7 FM, have been asked to vacate the premises by the end of May. The Society newsletter of March 2003 (pages 6 and 7) contained an article on this house. The Society sent a letter to the University President and received a prompt and encouraging reply.

Further research by member Esther Summers has produced the **Land Petition** (Petition No.11, No.34), of **Samuel THEAL** of Grantham Township, signed at York, 1st July 1818, and reads in part: "... born in the Province of New York now State of New York ... and was in His Majesty's service during part of the American Rebellion ... that your petitioner has resided in this Province since 1811 and was on his arrival promised by the late **Major General Brock** a favourable grant of waste lands of the Crown on bringing in his family. That he moved his family which now consists of a wife and six children into the Province in the same year, but from circumstances provided by the late war has till now been prevented from making any application for Land.".

Mrs. Summers also advised that a descendant of Samuel THEAL was a driving force behind the establishment of Brock University. The following shows the connection:

Samuel THEAL (1764-1837) married Hannah RICHARDS? (1769-1816)

Their Daughter Elizabeth THEAL (1798-1854) married James Coleman HAGAR (1796-1891)

Their daughter Elizabeth Jane HAGAR (1842-1909) married Solomon Hyatt SUMMERS (1818-1892)

Their son Hagar Coleman SUMMERS (1863-1938) married Mary Catherine PATTERSON (1868-1963)

Their daughter **Flora Ethel** SUMMERS (May 31, 1893-Oct.12, 1977 married on September 28, 1921 Elias Grover **EGERTER**.

Flora EGERTER was a member of the Allanburg Women's Institute, which in 1957 started the effort to bring a University to Niagara. An article found in the Fall 1963 issue of *Home and Country*, pages 26 and 27 titled "A Vision, A Resolution, An Achievement" states "The story began in 1957 when an alert Women's Institute member, Mrs. Grover Egerter, submitted a resolution to her home branch of Allanburg...." The resolution detailed the needs for a university in Niagara and resulted in a petition to the Provincial government requesting the establishment of a university here. Other groups joined the call for a university here and eventually a committee called the "The Niagara Peninsula Joint Committee on Higher Education" was formed. In due course "The Founder's Committee" selected a name - Brock University - and chose a site. The University was formally launched at a dinner held in Niagara Falls on June 4, 1963. Premier John Robarts attended and announced a generous grant. Two very proud women, Mrs. Egerter and Mrs. Bearss were special guests. A photograph in the article shows Mrs. Egerter with Premier Robarts, Mrs. Bearss and Arthur A. Schmon, chairman of the Brock University Founder's Committee. The article concludes with this: "A vision and a resolution in 1957 - an accomplishment in 1963. From a small idea has grown a mighty force - Brock University."

Highlights of Society Activities in 2003

Jan 23 – Speaker - Mr. Stan Lapinski – “History of the St. Catharines Rowing Club”

Feb 27 – Video – “The Life and Times of Crystal Beach”

March Newsletter – feature articles on the Theal House and The St. Catharines Lawn Bowling Club

Mar 27 – Speaker – Henry Radecki – “The History of the Polish Community in St. Catharines”

Apr 24 – Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Executive and Directors

Apr 24 – Speaker – Colin Duquemin – “The History of the 10th Field Battery and the Battle of St. Julien”

May 22 – Speaker – Kate Larson – “Bound For The Promised Land: Harriet Tubman’s Struggle For Freedom”

May 31 – 27th Annual Oille Fountain Planting with Mayor T. Rigby

June Newsletter – featuring – 100th Anniversary of the St. Catharines Rowing Club, The Polish Community in St. Catharines, Papers from the Al Holden files, Minutes of Annual Meeting

June 7 – Walking Tour of Victoria Lawn Cemetery led by Bill Stevens – Theme “Canals and Ships”

Jun 14 – Bus Trip – Brampton and Oakville Historical Sites

July 5 – Merritt Day Celebration and Downtown Walking Tour with John Burtniak

September Newsletter – featuring – Photos of Society Activities, Remembrance Day feature on Richard Spaven, Donation to Library

Sep 25 – Speaker – Alex Ormston – “History of the Niagara District Bank”

Oct 23 – Speaker – Paul Lewis – “History of Ridley College”

October – Society donates \$100.00 to the Children’s Discovery Centre of Niagara Courtyard Garden Brick Campaign

Nov 11 – Society placed wreath during Remembrance Day Service at Downtown Cenotaph

Nov 27 – Annual Members’ Show and Tell and Christmas Social

December Newsletter – featuring – News from 50 years ago (January 2, 1954), New York State Law Creating Harriet Tubman Day Commemoration, The Cahill Family

Donated \$1,000.00 to the St. Catharines Library for the acquisition of microfilm of the old council minutes for St. Catharines, Merriton, Grantham Township and Port Dalhousie; microfilm of some Upper Canada Sundries; and binding of city directories held in the Special Collections Room.

Year-end membership total was 180

Joe O’Brien On Western Hill

Our March meeting saw a large turn out of 87 hear Joe O’Brien tell of the early settlement of the Western Hill area of St. Catharines, reminisce about his childhood there, the early businesses, the men who fought in the two world wars, some of whom became well known, including former Mayor Joe McCaffery and the landmarks around Dittrick’s Road. Society member Janice McNab, herself a west St. Catharines resident, introduced and thanked our speaker.

Society Items

New Members:

Lorraine Desjardins, Anna Gale, Edie Williams, Raymond and Margaret Nield, Hilda Ridewood, Carol and Gordon McCormack, Mark Losier, Joe O'Brien, Richard Taylor, Gladys Drobnich, Roy Blay, George and Wynne Nicholson

Society Members in the News:

*Lou Cahill was recently honoured by his peers in the public relations field with the award of the Hamilton Chapter of the Canadian Public Relations Society's Distinguished Service Award, and in addition to receiving the award, the award has been renamed the Lou Cahill Award. Congratulations Lou!

*Alun Hughes has received the Thorold Citizen of the Year Award from the Thorold Chamber of Commerce. Alun is noted for his avid interest in local history and his regular newspaper columns.

Board of Directors of The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Elected April 24, 2003 for Two Year Term

Past President - John Burtniak - tel. 905-227-5120

President - Bill Stevens - e-mail bibmstev@computan.on.ca - tel. 905-934-8966

Vice President - Paul Lewis - e-mail paul_e_lewis@ridley.on.ca -tel. 905-684-9918

Secretary- Brenda Zadoroznij - e-mail bzadoroz@Becon.org - tel. 905-935-3025

Treasurer - Del Hildebrand - e-mail dhildebr@Becon.org - tel. 905-935-3025

Elected April 24, 2003 for One Year Term

Director - Dee Dickman - e-mail ddickman@spartan.ac.brocku.ca - tel. 905-682-3094

Director - Joyce DeForest - e-mail ydefores@mergetel.com - tel. 905-685-4728

Director - Maurice Gomme - e-mail magomme@cogeco.ca - tel. 905-682-2329

Director- Membership - Bill Harder - e-mail whharder@warplink.com - tel. 905-684-2528

Director - Paul Hutchinson - e-mail slabtown@niagara.com - tel. 905-227-2699

Director - Joe Muskat - tel. 905-687-3359

The Society Wishes To Thank the Following People:

Lou Cahill for his donation to the Society, John Burtniak for his donation of books for the raffles, Brenda Zadoroznij and Joyce DeForest for their baked goods donation for the raffles, Herb Harder for his assistance at the meetings, Mary Leighton for bringing along the refreshments for the socials.

Society Participated in First Annual Regional Historica Fair

Approximately 70 students in grades four through eight participated in the first annual Regional Historica Fair held May 3 at the District School Board of Niagara offices in St. Catharines. Society members, Brenda Zadoroznij, Joyce DeForest and Joe Muskat volunteered to judge the exhibits. Society President Bill Stevens attended the Open House. The Society congratulates the winners, who will move on to the Provincial and National Historica Fairs. Your fellow members, mentioned above, indicated that this was a very positive endeavour and that the Society should continue to support Historica Fairs in the future.

Doors Open Niagara – October 16 and 17 – Let Bill Stevens know if you can volunteer at a site.

Newsletter Notes

The Historical Society of St. Catharines Newsletter is published up to 4 times per year by the Society. The purpose of the newsletter 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 postal address. Opinions and comments expressed in the newsletter are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Society. Subscription by paid membership only. Bill Stevens produced this issue.

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

Next Issue September 2004

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - Thursday April 22, 2004

Held in the Burgoyne Room of the St Catharines Museum, Welland Canal Parkway, St Catharines

President Bill Stevens welcomed the 72 people in attendance and preceded the business part of the meeting with announcements of upcoming events and other items of interest to the membership. He congratulated Society member Arnold Hartnett on his recent St. Catharine's Volunteer of the Year Award, gave belated 95th birthday greetings to Harry James and noted Mary Leighton's participation in a recent Bruce Trail clean up event.

Cliff Baker spoke about the recent proposal regarding the future of Port Dalhousie and asked that the Board discuss the proposal at a later date.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, April 24 2003

The president noted that the Minutes were published in the June 2003 newsletter and that copies were available. It was moved by Secretary Brenda Zadoroznij and seconded by Alex Ormston that the minutes be accepted. There were no errors or omissions. Accepted.

Treasurer's Report (copy attached)

For the year January 2003 to December 2003, the posted report showed total receipts of \$3,811.46, total disbursements of \$4,034.40 for a net cash decrease of \$222.94 leaving a bank balance of \$2,663.44. The Society's GIC account stands at \$4000 making a bank total of \$6,663.44. It was moved by Del Hildebrand and seconded by Maurice Gomme that the report be accepted. There were no questions. Accepted.

The report had been audited by Tom Jenkyns and Janice McNabb and found to be acceptable.

Regarding the election of officers for the Society, it was noted that Dennis Gannon was on the published slate of Directors but that he withdrew his name prior to the meeting, leaving the maximum of six on the slate. Bill Stevens thanked Dennis for his contributions to the Society. He also thanked the rest of the Board and all others who had worked for the Society in one way or another.

Nominating Committee Report

The membership was reminded that members of the Executive were elected last year for two-year terms and that only the position of Vice President was vacant.

John Burtiak presented the following slate of candidates for the year 2004-2005

President: Bill Stevens, Past President: John Burtiak, Vice President: Paul Lewis, Secretary: Brenda Zadoroznij, Treasurer: Del Hildebrand.

Directors: Joyce DeForest, Dee Dickman, Paul Hutchinson, Joe Muskat, Maurice Gomme and Bill Harder.

John Burtiak asked if there were any further nominations. Hearing none it was moved by Sheila Wilson and seconded by John Jackson that the slate be accepted. Accepted.

No amendments to the Constitution were put forward.

The membership was reminded that the doors of the museum are closed at 8 p.m. during meetings and that the building must be vacated by 9.30 p.m.

Following the business part of the meeting, Maurice Gomme introduced the speaker for the evening Richard Taylor and his topic 'The Home Children'.

Richard Taylor explained that the children (mostly girls) were brought to Canada by Maria Rye, primarily as a result of two events: the Industrial Revolution and the Irish Potato Famine.

His presentation 'The Journey' told of a small travelling trunk that he had bought at an auction with the name of Caroline Newbold (a 'Home Child') painted on the outside. Illustrated by slides he showed the results of the search he had made to trace Caroline both before and after her arrival in Canada.

Unfortunately she died a few years after her arrival. Richard Taylor is still trying to trace possible descendants of her sister, Selina as his aim, if possible, is to give the trunk and his research material to the family. There were several questions from the audience and Gail Collins reported on her research regarding Home Children. Bill Stevens thanked the speaker.

The raffle draw was made and a social time with refreshments followed.

Photo of
Society President
Bill Stevens
thanking our April 22
guest speaker and his
assistant, Mr. and
Mrs. Richard Taylor



“Preservation of Old Locks Is Sought”

The following appeared 50 years ago in *The (St. Catharines) Standard* issue of 01 June 1954 on page 9: “Preservation of Old Locks Is Sought – A deputation from the Lincoln County Historical Society waited on city council last night to ask if steps would be taken to preserve the locks of the Old Welland Canal. Edwin Secord said the locks should be preserved for the benefit of unborn generations. There was just about 100 years difference in the ages of the old and new canals, Mr. Secord said. I wonder what we will see in the next 100 years. Mr. Secord said the society would also like to see the fountain at the corner of King and James preserved. It was erected there, he said, when St. Catharines was first made a city. W.W. Park told council that if it would ensure that the locks would be preserved the society could erect plaques on them, giving their history. He also appealed to the council to give consideration to finding a home for the society where items of historical interest could be placed. We desperately need a building in the city to house historical records. Time passes rapidly and if such a building is not made available, many items of historical interest and records will be lost forever, he said.”

February 2004 Meeting Report

Thursday, February 26 -74 attended to hear Society member, Corlene Taylor, tell us about the first settlers at St. Catharines in the year 1796. The year 1796 is significant, as the earliest known document that refers to “St. Catharines” is dated February 17, 1796 and in 1996 St. Catharines celebrated its bicentennial. This document contains the names of 44 people who donated monies to build the first church at St. Catharines. In the second part of the presentation, Corlene told us about the Mayholme Foundation. Located on the west side of Ontario Street, slightly north of the intersection of Linwell Road, “Mayholme” will house local and Niagara area genealogy and history collections that are donated to the holdings and become a prime research location. The house, built c1856, has received historical designation and an official designation ceremony and research center opening are planned for September. The center may be open earlier pending the placement of materials on the shelves! Also, donations are now being accepted.

Province Touts Preservation of Heritage Buildings

The Ontario Government has indicated that legislation is forthcoming to help preserve our unique heritage buildings. Let’s all get the word out to Jim Bradley M.P.P. that we support this legislation.

The Best From Past Society Newsletters

Newer members would not have received older newsletters; so, I thought I would reprint items of interest from the Society's past newsletters. 2004 is the 138th Anniversary of the Fenian Raids. The following appeared in the **summer 1991** issue.

“125th Anniversary of the Fenian Raid”

Cliff Baker provided a brief history of the gallant action of the Welland Canal Field Battery on **June 2, 1866** at Fort Erie against the Fenian Forces that had invaded Canada. The 10th Field Battery can trace its ancestry to the Welland Canal Field Battery. The article is as follows:

On June 1st, 1866, a Fenian force of approximately 1,000 men crossed the Niagara River from Buffalo and moved the next day to Ridgeway about five miles to the west. Their intention was to attack the Welland Canal. On June 2nd, the Fenians were engaged at Limeridge, north of Ridgeway, by a force of Canadian Militia including the Queen's Own Rifles, the 13th Battalion from Hamilton, and the York and Caledonian Rifles.

Early that day, the Welland Canal Field Battery commanded by Captain Richard King, along with a small force of the Dunnville Naval Brigade, sailed from Port Colborne to Fort Erie on the tug Robb to patrol the Niagara River. The Battery did not have their guns with them but they were prepared to fight as infantry.

Arriving at Fort Erie they captured a number of Fenians and put them on the Robb under a guard. They patrolled north as far as Black Creek, a few miles down the river. In the meantime another Canadian force was moving to Fort Erie from Chippawa. This included the 19th Lincoln Battalion (a predecessor of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment) and the St. Catharines Garrison Artillery Battery.

In the later afternoon the Welland Canal Field Battery and the Naval Brigade, totalling about 66 all ranks, were drawn up near the Fort Erie docks about a mile north of where they are today. They were attacked by about 800 Fenians who were withdrawing to Fort Erie after the battle of Ridgeway.

It was overwhelming odds.

The Battery stood firm in their ranks until ordered to fire. In the initial volleys, Captain King was severely wounded and subsequently lost his leg. The battery continued to fight from the street and from the surrounding houses until their ammunition gave out. About half the force retired to the north. The other half were captured but released the next day when the Fenians withdrew to Buffalo.

In this valiant action, this small force of gunners suffered four wounded, two seriously. The Fenians suffered a number of fatal casualties and numerous wounded, but numbers are imprecise.

In his report after this battle, a senior officer wrote the following:

"In this affair, this little force covered itself with glory and to them is due the highest post in the roll of honour of this campaign. Although completely overpowered, they fought to the last, suffered severely with several brave fellows, including their Captain, losing limbs. As proof of the stubbornness with which they fought, it may be stated that they killed and wounded more Fenians than had the Queen's Own Rifles and the 13th Militia Battalion both together, at the fight at Ridgeway the same morning."

It is interesting to note that the grandson of Captain Richard King, OC of the Welland Canal Field Battery, was Major W.B.M. King who commanded the 10th Battery in 1915 at the Battle of St. Julien.

A great-uncle of mine, Gunner James Boyle, served with the St. Catharines Garrison Artillery Battery during the advance to Fort Erie.

Let us not forget that in 1866, the gunners of the Welland Canal Field Battery and the St. Catharines Garrison Artillery turned out to defend their homes from a foreign invader. They fought only a few miles from where they lived, as did the Militia Gunners of the Lincoln Militia in the War of 1812.

In later years, local gunners have fought and defended Canada in many overseas campaigns. **UBIQUE** on the gunner's badge truly represents our commitment to serve Canada everywhere we are needed. Our motto, **QUO FAS ET GLORIA DUCUNT**, where Honour and Glory lead, signifies the past, the continuing, and the future role of the Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

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Web Site of Interest

Visit the U.S.A. - National Parks Service – Niagara National Heritage Area Study on the Internet - <http://www.niagaraheritagestudy.org>

Former Glenridge Quarry Landfill Site To Become Beautiful Park This Summer

The Glenridge Quarry Naturalization Site is now a 43-hectare park located on the Niagara Escarpment on the south edge of St. Catharines. The site was once a limestone quarry known as St. Catharines Crushed Stone Ltd. which operated between 1957 and 1972, producing nearly 2,000 tonnes of crushed stone a day for Niagara's building projects. The limestone from this quarry was considered to be the hardest and toughest in Niagara Region. The City of St. Catharines acquired the mined out quarry site in December of 1975. For the next 25 years, the site accepted municipal non-hazardous solid waste, closing in 2002. In the last few years of operation, the Region of Niagara took over the site and once landfill operations ceased, has transformed the site into a new park. The site has many features:

- * A Children's Science and Nature Area with display on the solar system, renewable energy, time, weather and wetlands and an outdoor classroom, log cabin and ramps, earth tunnels, climbing rocks and serpentine stump walls
- * Several walking trails, including a Bruce Trail link and overlook, featuring the Summit Overlook where you can see for miles around and on a clear day the Toronto skyline.
- * A Pond with boardwalk
- * A Meadow Habitat area to attract birds and butterflies and even coyotes and garter snakes
- * A Heritage Arboretum to display the rich diversity of Niagara's native trees such as sassafras, witch hazel, tulip poplar, black walnut, American beech, hackberry and white ash.
- * A Parking Area, Visitor's Pavilion and many interpretive signs and trail markers

The site will be opened to the public this fall. As the trees and meadows mature and mother nature takes over to return this site to an escarpment natural area, we can all forget the odours and paper waste that once blew in the wind. This site will become our Region's Central Park and a place we will visit on a regular basis to enjoy the trails, views and nature. Congratulations to the Region and the Citizens of our community who have spent untold hours to make this happen. You can find out more at the following web site <http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca/living/landfills/glenridge-quarry-naturalization-site.aspx>

Heritage Cemeteries May Get Heritage Designation?

There are 22 places in St. Catharines where you can find a cemetery, a columbarium or both. There are columbariums located at Victoria Lawn and at St. George's Anglican, St. Thomas Anglican, St. Barnabas Anglican and St. Paul Street United Churches. There are 4 active cemeteries, which are: Louth United Church, St. John's Anglican Church, Victoria Lawn and B'Nai Israel. The City maintains St. Andrew's United and although essentially closed, as there are no more plots to sell, burials still occur in plots previously purchased. There are some on private property: the Honsinger Family (which is not marked and the location is a good guess), the Nicholas Smith Cemetery (which is wonderfully maintained by the Henry of Pelham Winery owners), Schram/Tinlin (which is slowly being forgotten). The City of St. Catharines owns Victoria Lawn Cemetery and 10 other very small cemeteries, which are: 1. McCombs (located in Woodgale Park), 2. Boyd/Turney/Christie (located on the bank of Twelve Mile Creek behind the new subdivision on Pelham Road near Power Glen Road), 3. Haynes (located on site of the new four pad arena complex on St. Paul Street West), 4. Bethel Congregation (surrounded by private horse pastures on south side of St. Paul Street West), 5. Gregory (surrounded by private property on the bank of Fifteen Mile Creek), 6. May (a small fenced family plot accessible from Ziraldo Road), 7. Tenbroek (located near bank of Twelve Mile Creek behind the Linhaven Home, 8. Industrial Home (located behind the private property of the Ford dealership on Ontario Street), 9. Servos (a single plot on the edge of Northrup Crescent at the foot of Keefer Street), 10. Hostetter/Cooke (on a knoll at the end of Jarrow Road). These 10 small cemeteries are the ones that some City Councillors are now asking be designated as Heritage Sites. Let's hope that all our councillors will see the need for the recognition of these important places of Final Rest of our ancestors. There should be a fence, a sign and public accessibility to those wishing to pay respects, and eventually there should be an effort to place a plaque or monument to denote the burials. But designation is the key to respecting our ancestors and our past ... now is the time!

Your Calendar of Historical Events Around Niagara

This list is presented for your information only and advises that event locations and times can change and indeed be cancelled.

Ongoing to July 19 - Victorian Order of Nurses Display in the Lobby of the St. Catharines Museum. There is also an exhibit of 18 paintings titled "Charles I. Gibbons: A Sailor's Artist" which features ships of the Great Lakes, 1860-1910. For more information on the Museum visit their web site www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca

All summer long! - The Carousel in Lakeside Park, Old Port Dalhousie is Open! ...
and thanks to The Friends of the Carousel and Niagara Wood Carvers, there is now a second lion!

June 2 - 4 - 17th annual World Canals Conference – Brock University – the theme is: "Channels For Prosperity", pre-conference activities May 30 - June 1 and post conference activities June 6 – 13. Full details can be found on the conference web site www.worldcanals2004.com

June 4 - The St. Catharines Heritage Committee will be unveiling two historical marker plaques for the First Welland Canal.

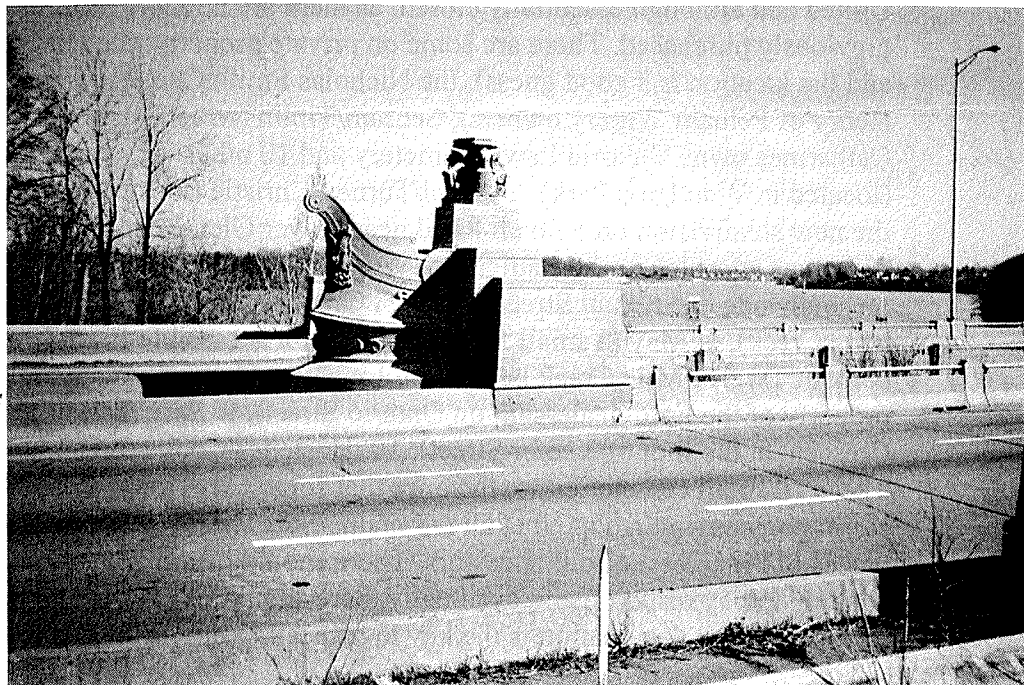
June 4 - Janet Carnochan Day – admission by donation. Celebration in honour of the founder of the Niagara Historical Society at the Niagara Historical Society Museum. Also, feature exhibit at the museum is "Sweet Memories: The history of ships and boats in Niagara-On-The-Lake."

June 4 - Brock University Continuing Education Course - *Of Great Men and Staunch Ships: Archaeology and History of the Shickluna Shipyard*, Learn about the largest wooden ship building yard on the Great Lakes and the men and that built them through pictures, maps, and archival documents. A field trip to the shipyard site will be part of the session. Join Kimberly Monk at Rodman Hall on Friday, June 4. One day: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Cost \$89/\$80 (senior). To register call 905-688-5550, ext.4775 or visit the web site www.brocku.ca/conted for additional course offerings and full outlines.

June 5 - Willowbank Lecture Series – Denis McQuestion will present Healthy and Happy Trees – how to evaluate tree conditions and determine appropriate treatment options, talk followed by a walk. 10:00 a.m. to noon. Cost \$10.00. Held at Queenston Community Library, 32 Queenston Street. Reservations for lectures not required but recommended by calling 905-262-1239 or visiting the web site www.willowbankschool@bellnet.ca

June 7, 1939 – 65th Anniversary of Henley Bridge –

The bridge over Twelve Mile Creek was officially opened by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on June 7, 1939. In commemoration of the Royal visit and dedication of the QEW, ornamental stonework monuments were placed at either end of the bridge. These were designed by William Lyon Sommerville a Toronto architect. The sculpture depicts the history of competitive rowing and boat traffic on the creek and nearby Lake Ontario.



Ongoing to September 6 - Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum – 2004 Feature Exhibit – ‘Impressions – Wine Labels of Ontario’ – May 22 to June 25 – weekends 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and weekdays 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. – June 26 to Sept. 6 – 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Located on the Niagara Parkway in the Queenston community.

Ongoing to September 12 - ‘100 Years & 25 Years: A Celebration of Two Anniversaries’ art show at the Niagara Falls Art Gallery on Oakwood Drive, Niagara Falls which is 25 years old as a public gallery and features the works of famed Canadian artist William Kurelek’s 160-piece Passion of Christ series. The second is a first ever exhibit featuring a selection of 24 pieces showing Niagara Falls and is from the John Burtiak donation and marks the 100th birthday of the City of Niagara Falls.

June 8 - Brock University Continuing Education Course - *Exploring Your Rich Heritage: A Behind the Scenes Look at Niagara*, A two-hour lecture and bus tour to discover historic landmarks along the Niagara Parkway. Join Michael Ripmeester at Rodman Hall, Tuesday, June 8 - 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Cost \$89/\$79 (senior). To register call 905-688-5550, ext.4775 or visit the web site www.brocku.ca/conted for additional course offerings and full outlines.

June 10 - Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara Peninsula Branch meets in the LaMarsh Room of the Niagara Falls Public Library at 7:30 p.m. Sherman Zavitz will speak on “Early Families of Niagara Falls”. There will also be a genealogical display.

Saturday, June 12 - all day – St. Catharines Historical Society Annual Historical Bus Tour

This year’s theme: ‘Historical Gems of Niagara’. We will be travelling around Niagara Region with transportation provided by Farr Motor Coach. Tickets are ~~\$20.00~~ for each member and ~~\$35.00~~ for each non-member and includes the bus and admissions if any, but does not include lunch. Lunch is on your own (bring or buy it – we will be stopping at Betty’s Restaurant in Chippawa). Reservation by payment only to Joyce DeForest (905-685-4728). Non-refundable unless seat is resold. Departure will be 9:00 a.m. SHARP from the front of the downtown Market Square on King Street and return at 5:00 p.m. John Burtiak will be providing commentary along the route. Please dress for some outside walking, wear comfortable shoes and perhaps an umbrella.

June 12 - United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada The Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch will meet at Betty’s Restaurant in Chippawa beginning at 11:45 a.m. for lunch, followed by guest speaker Pat Hughes on “Discovering Oil in Petrolia”. If you wish to have lunch, call ahead (905-925-7382 Brian Ford).

June 12 - Willowbank Lecture Series – Ron Dale will present “The Conquest of Canada: The French & Indian War, a look back to 1754-1763 and the capture of Fort Niagara, Louisburg and Quebec”. 10:00 a.m. to noon. Cost \$10.00. Held at Queenston Community Library, 32 Queenston Street. Reservations for lectures not required but recommended by calling 905-262-1239 or visiting the web site <www.willowbankschool@bellnet.ca>

June 19 - Niagara River Cruise Through History aboard the ship Empire Sandy with commentary by Wes Turner (a Society past president) – 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. - embark from Port Weller – \$89.00 includes dinner - contact Niagara College at 905-641-2252 or visit the web site <ce.niagarac.on.ca> for details or registration.

June 19 - Fort Erie Celtic Festival – at Old Fort Erie grounds.

June 24 - “Discover Your Roots” in the Special Collections Room of the St. Catharines Public Library, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., free, a basic overview of the many genealogical resources available. Space limited, reservations at 905-688-6103 ext. 220.

June 28 - Wilfred Slater: "Recollections of Old Thorold" followed by Pie Social at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting to be held at Chestnut Hall, alongside the Thorold Public Library on Ormond Street, Thorold, at 7:30 p.m.

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations at the St. Catharines Market Downtown – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations at Fort George and Simcoe Park in Niagara-On-The-Lake.

Saturday, July 3 - Downtown History Day - The St. Catharines Historical Society has combined 3 events into one great outing! – starting at 10:30 a.m. - **Merritt Celebration** (at Merritt monument on St. Paul Street West at the foot of Yates Street) - 10:45 a.m. - **Walking tour of downtown** (from monument to Oille Fountain) - Noon - **Planting of Geranium in the Oille Fountain** (at corner of James and King streets) - followed by social

July 3 - 4 - An 1812 Fourth - The Old Fort Niagara staff presents living history programs, musket and artillery firings, and hands-on activities for families as they recall the early years of the U.S. occupation of Niagara Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York

July 4 - 1:00 p.m. – 1814 Battle of Chippawa re-enactment at the Chippawa Battlefield.

July 17 – 18 - "Echoes from Niagara's Past", a walk through Niagara's military history at Fort George

July 24 - Dragon Boat Races on Martindale Pond. (If you wish to help out, call the Museum to volunteer)

July 23 - 25 - French & Indian War Encampment – British, French and Native warriors and a host of sutlers fill the fort to depict the 1759 Siege of Niagara - Thrill to the world's largest annual French & Indian Events in North America at Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York

July 30 - August 2 - Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival in Port Colborne.

August 5, 1984 – 20th Anniversary of Canada's Olympic Gold Medal Eight at the Los Angeles Olympics. The racing shell is on display at the St. Catharines Museum and an eight-minute video is also available to view the race. Neil Campbell of Vineland Station coached the Canadian crew and two St. Catharines rowers - - Kevin Neufeld (no.3) and Brian McMahon (coxswain) -- were crewmembers.

August 7 - 8 - War 1812-14 Battle Re-enactment at Old Fort Erie – over 400 re-enactors - battle 8:00 p.m. Sat., candle light tours, pyrotechnics, encampment, demonstrations, memorial service Sun.

August 14 – 15 - Fife and Drum Muster at Fort George.

August 14 - 15 - "Soldiers of the Revolution" - Battle demonstrations and living history camps to recognize the 225th anniversary of the 1779 Sullivan Campaign. Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, N.Y.

August 21 – Underground Railroad Family Picnic at Lakeside Park and Pavilion - 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Upcoming Society Meetings: held in the Burgoyne Room of the St. Catharines Museum, located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines, Ontario. *(Programs are subject to change) (Refreshments are usually served after the program)*

Thursday, September 23 - Robert Malcomson - topic: "The Battle of Queenston Heights - a very brilliant affair" An Historical Society of St. Catharines event! - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 28 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Phillip Gifford - topic: "Lost Ships of Niagara"

Thursday, November 25 - 7:30 p.m. - 5th Annual Show and Tell and Christmas Social

Thursday, January 27, 2005 - 7:30 p.m. – Society member Sheila Wilson will tell us the history of the St. Catharines Public Library.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer

June 28 - Wilfred Slater: "Recollections of Old Thorold" followed by Pie Social at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting to be held at Chestnut Hall, alongside the Thorold Public Library on Ormond Street, Thorold, at 7:30 p.m.

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations at the St. Catharines Market Downtown – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

July 1 - Canada Day Celebrations at Fort George and Simcoe Park in Niagara-On-The-Lake.

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