



The Historical Society of St. Catharines

NEWSLETTER

March 2005

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.

Society Meetings and Program

Regular meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held on the 4th Thursday of each month between September and May in the Burgoyne Room of the St. Catharines Museum.

The Museum is 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, March 24 - 7:30 p.m. - Phil Gifford - "Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes"

Thursday, April 28 - 7:30 p.m. - Annual General Meeting and Election of Executive and Board of Directors followed by: Guest Speaker - David R. Murray - "Justice and Crime in Early Niagara"

Thursday, May 26 - 7:30 p.m. - David Beasley - "The Knight of San Fernando Comes to St. Catharines; or, Policing Turmoil in St. Catharines"

Saturday, June 11 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Historical Society Bus Tour - theme: "Discover Niagara - Part 2 - The Western Half"

Reminder: 2005 Calendar Year Membership Renewal

NOTICE: The Society issues annual membership cards to paid up members. If you have paid your dues and do not have a membership card yet, please contact Bill Harder or Bill Stevens.

Individual \$10.00 or Family \$15.00

Make Cheque Payable to - The Historical Society of St. Catharines and mail to Society address.

Tear off and return this form

Yes, please enter my/our membership in the Society for the year 2005

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone # _____; e-mail _____

Yes, I wish to receive Society meeting e-mail reminders _____

Individual ____ or Family ____ - Enclosed is our cheque/money order in the amount of \$ _____

Notice of Annual Meeting – April 28, 2005 – 7:30 p.m.

To be held in the Burgoyne Room, St. Catharines Museum, 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St. Catharines.

Agenda

Call to order, President's Report, Minutes of previous annual meeting (held April 22, 2004 and published in *June 2003 Newsletter*), Financial Report, Auditor's Report, Nominations and Elections, Amendments to Constitution, Any other business properly brought before the membership, Close of formal meeting, Guest Speaker, Announcements, Social.

Nominations and Elections

The following have been nominated for a two-year term:

President – Bill Stevens; Past President – John Burtniak; Vice President – Paul Lewis;

Secretary – Brenda Zadoroznij; Treasurer – Chris Loat

The following have been nominated for a one-year term as a Director (maximum six to be elected) – Joyce DeForest, Dee Dickman, Maurice Gomme, Bill Harder, Paul Hutchinson, Joe Muscat

Society Membership News

Past President Passes Away

PENKETH, Colin E. – passed away in his 91st year on Wednesday, December 15, 2004 at the St. Catharines General Hospital after a brief illness. He was born in Toronto on January 13, 1914. Beloved husband of the late Phoebe J. Penketh (1997). Colin was employed with General Motors for 40 years, retiring in 1979. A Veteran of WWII, served with the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve, a member of St. George's Anglican Church and former lay reader, Past Vice President of the Royal Canadian Legion (HT Church) No. 24. Colin was President of the Historical Society of St. Catharines in 1978, 1979 and 1980. A Memorial Service was held in St. George's Anglican Church, 83 Church Street on Saturday, December 18, 2004 at 2 p.m. Several Society members attended, including current President Bill Stevens. The Society extends condolences to the family.

Condolences

The Society would like to express our deepest sympathy to member Brian Ford and his wife Margaret on the sudden death of their daughter Sabrina on January 2, 2005.

Welcome to New Members

Janet Lewis, Robert Malcomson, Hannelore Headley, Kimberly Hurst, Brenda Fox, Mark Newman, Brian K. Narhi, Sandra Hunt.

Members Recognized in the News!

Doris Pettifer was featured in an article in The Standard on December 30, 2004. The article describes her volunteering at Community Care every Thursday for 34 years.

Congratulations to Bill Steinman on his ordination as a priest at St. Barnabas Anglican Church on Sunday, December 12, 2004. An article about Bill appeared in The Standard on Saturday, December 11, 2004.

Heritage Grant

The Society is very pleased to receive a Provincial Heritage Development Grant of \$831.00 and we thank the Ontario Ministry of Culture for this assistance with our programs.

Show and Tell another success!

Forty-four members and guests attended our November Show and Tell and enjoyed the artifacts and items brought in by 20 members. Afterwards, a Christmas cake and goodies were enjoyed.

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.

Next Issue June 2005

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

January 27, 2005 – Meeting Report

It was a cold winter night, but 54 brave souls attended our January meeting. Member Sheila Wilson presented a fascinating account of the history of the St. Catharines Public Library. She brought several pictures for display depicting various images of the former Carnegie Library, including some rare interior views that elicited fond memories for those who had the opportunity to use this facility. Sheila also had overheads showing old newspaper articles about the first library in the city known as the Mechanics Institute. It was obvious that Sheila had done a thorough job in researching this topic and the presentation made a most interesting evening. We thank John Burtiak and Paul Lewis for donating the books for the raffle. Book donations are welcome!

Annual Historical Society Bus Tour - Saturday, June 11

Discover Niagara – Part 2, is this year's theme. Tickets are \$25.00 for each member and \$30.00 for each non-member and include the bus and admissions if any, but does not include lunch. Lunch details will be provided shortly. Reservation by payment only to Joyce DeForest. Non-refundable unless seat is resold. Departure will be 8:30 a.m. and return at 4:30 p.m. Transportation by Farr Motor Coach. John Burtiak will be providing commentary along the route. Walking to and around sites is planned, so shoes and appropriate dress is a must. Past tours have been very popular and we suspect that this one will be especially so. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Society Donates Missing Volume

The Special Collections department of the St. Catharines Public Library had a gap in their collection, lacking the *Report On Canadian Archives 1892* and the Society is pleased to have donated this missing volume. Society member Alex Ormston first recommended that the Society consider purchasing this volume and with the assistance of member Alun Hughes, who was able to track down a copy at a bookstore in London, England, the Society purchased the volume and donated it to the Library on December 15th. The Board authorized the donation at a cost of up to \$50.00.

Here is an example of what can be found in this volume:

October 20, 1812, York – Major General R.H. Sheaffe to Bathurst, (No.1) In consequence of the death of Major General Brock, has taken the oaths as President to administer the Civil Government. Encloses extract of his (Sheaffe's) despatch on the subject of the public loss. No word from Proctor at Detroit lately. The last stated that troops were on the march against him. The enemy has been reinforced on the Niagara Frontier since the 13th inst. And expect more help. They seem determined to repeat the attacks and by the aid of numbers and perseverance they may eventually succeed in gaining possession of a small part of the Province unless reinforcements speedily arrive. At present an armistice exists between himself and Brigadier General Smyth, thirty hours' notice to be given of intended rupture. Lt.-Col. McDonnell, Provincial Aide-de-camp to Brock, and Attorney General of this Province, died on the 14th inst., of wounds received in the actions at Queenston. Shall appoint some one to act in his place till His Majesty's pleasure be known.

Best From Past Newsletters

From: *June 1993 Newsletter*

The Bicentennial of the Emancipation Act

(excerpt from an article concerning events in Niagara-On-The-Lake to celebrate this Act)

Would it be hyperbole to call that Act one of the landmarks of western civilization? I don't think so. In 1793, just 20 miles or so from where you sit reading these words, the Upper Canada Legislature under the leadership of Governor John Graves Simcoe enacted legislation that foresaw the end of slavery in their life times. That was 70 years before Lincoln emancipated the American slaves in 1863 or Czar Alexander emancipated Russian serfs in 1861, and was fully 40 years before the British emancipated the slaves throughout the British Empire.

Opinion: The Welland Canals Preservation Association: May Not Rest In Peace!

(excerpt from an article by Dee Dickman lamenting the loss of our Heritage)

Another heritage organization has finally succumbed to the lingering effects of neglect. In its youth, the Welland Canal Preservation Association (1977-1993) constructed miles of bicycle and walking trails along the old Welland Canals and was the focus for the promotion of canal related heritage issues. We are sad to inform you that the W.C.P.A. was laid to rest on May 11th (1993) at a meeting in the Cellar Bench Restaurant, with six mourners in attendance.

2005 – The Year Of The Veteran

The Government of Canada has declared 2005 the *Year of the Veteran*. Throughout the year, Canadians will celebrate, honour, remember, and teach our youth about the contributions and sacrifice of our veterans. The year 2005 is especially meaningful because it marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

They Lost Their Lives In The Boer War

By Bill Stevens

In front of the St. Catharines City Hall stands a war memorial with a prominent statue of Private Watson. Private Alexander Watson died during the Rebellion in the North West Territories in 1885. A second plaque on the memorial lists other soldiers who also died while serving in that conflict. However, there is a third plaque unrelated to the Rebellion and that one is to memorialize four St. Catharines men who made the supreme sacrifice in the Boer War. The Boer War or South African War was fought from October 11, 1899 to May 31, 1902 when The Peace of Vereeniging ended the war and the British Empire declared victory. This war was the first time Canadians fought overseas in a war. More than 7000 Canadians were sent overseas in four separate contingents.

The plaque engraving is shown in bold print, while the non-bold type is additional information found about these men.

Major Henry M. Arnold / 90th Winnipeg Rifles / Capt. 2nd Special Services Battalion RC.R.L. / Died Feb 25th 1900 from wounds received in action at / Paardeburg Drift, South Africa, Feb. 18th 1900.



While the plaque reads Major, the Canadian War Memorial web site and other sources show Henry Mittleberger Arnold, as a Captain and that he died February 23rd. He was 40 years of age. He was the son of Charles Morgan Arnold. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment of Infantry, 2nd Battalion and part of the First Contingent. Captain Arnold was shot in the head as he raised himself to scan the battlefield with his binoculars. He is buried in the Vendusiedrift Garden of Remembrance in Paardeberg. The cemetery is located 9.1 kilometres from the Paardeberg Museum, follow a dirt road and turn right at the Cannon sign, travel 600 metres, then turn and travel a further 200 metres. He is remembered on page 2 of the South African War Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill. A photograph of his grave marker can be seen on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site (URL shown below).

Lieut. J. Edgar Burch / Adj. 2d Dragoons, attached to 1st Battalion C.M.R. / On special duty, killed in action near Pretoria / South Africa, July 16th 1900.

Lieutenant John Edgar Burch was a member of the Royal Canadian Dragoons and was part of the Second Contingent. He was 26 years old when killed and one of two Canadians killed during the battle of Pretoria. The Boers had attacked a detachment of Royal Irish Fusiliers who were in danger of being surrounded. Two troops of Canadians under Lieutenants Borden and Burch were sent to reinforce them. During their counterattack, they led their men in a forward attack and both lost their lives. John Reeves, the Colonel commanding the Royal Irish Fusiliers, wrote, "In the few words I spoke to you (Colonel Lessard) last night at the funeral of your two very gallant officers I am afraid I failed to convey the deep gratitude my regiment owes to the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles for their gallantry in going so nobly and fearlessly to the succour of our beleaguered detachment at Witpoort yesterday. The counterattack your regiment made occurred at a most critical moment, and doubtless saved many of the lives of our detachment." Colonel Evans, who was commander of the 2nd Battalion at the time, wrote: "On our return from outpost duty on Tuesday night we buried two

officers by lantern light. All Canadians, 1st and 2nd Battalions were there, and representatives from the New Zealanders and Mounted Infantry. The burial service was conducted by the Brigade chaplain, the Rev. Mr. Gardiner, and as the two gallant lads lay there, with a Canadian flag, which I picked up at Johannesburg, covering their bodies, and their Canadian comrades all about them, it was sad and most impressive scene, and I think all our hearts were turned toward the sorrowing ones in the dear old land we had left a few months ago.”

He was the son of Major F.O. Burch and brother of A.L. Burch, Knox College, Toronto. He was the manager of the Knife Works. He is buried in the Braamfontein Garden of Remembrance in Johannesburg. The cemetery is located on Graaf Street, off Smit Street. Enter through the gate, go 400 metres and turn right, and go 100 metres to find the Canadian graves on the right side. He is remembered on page 6 of the South African War Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill. His portrait and a photograph of his grave marker can be seen on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site (URL shown below).

Private Archibald Radcliffe / 1st Battalion C.M.R. 2d Troop, A Squadron / Field Force, South Africa / killed near Belfast, S.A. Sept 23rd 1900

Private Archibald Radcliffe (listed as Ratcliff in the Canadian Virtual War Memorial) was killed in action when khaki-clad Boers lured him and three other dragoons into a trap killing two of them as they fought their way out. He was 21 years of age. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment and part of the Second Contingent. He is buried in the Belfast Old Municipal Cemetery. The cemetery can be found by turning off the N4 towards Belfast, then going under the railroad bridge, turning left at fork (Spitskop Road), then right at Van Kraayenberg Street, then left onto Scheepers Street, which turns into a dirt road, then 150 metres to the cemetery, which is on the left and the Canadian graves are at the top centre.

He is remembered on page 34 of the South African War Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill. A photograph of his grave marker can be seen on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site (URL shown below).

Corp. Robert Irwin / 19th St. Catharines Regt. / Wounded at Houtuck, South Africa May 1st, 1900 / died in Bloemfontein, S.A. July 1st, 1900.

Private (in the Canadian Virtual War Memorial) Robert Irwin, military service number 7204, died of enteric fever at age 19 years while serving in the Royal Canadian Regiment. He was part of the First Contingent. He was the son of Robert Irwin of St. Catharines. He had previously served with the 19th St. Catharines Battery. He is buried in the President Brand Cemetery in Bloemfontein, located on the corner of Church and President streets, Johannesburg.

He is remembered on page 19 of the South African War Book of Remembrance on Parliament Hill. A photograph of his grave marker can be seen on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site (URL shown below).

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial

The Canadian Virtual War Memorial web site contains the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice for our country. The site contains information on those who died in the South African / Boer War, WWI, WWII and the Korean War. There is the ability to submit photographs, letters, etc. of those named and thus be made accessible on this site. If you have a picture of a soldier that currently has none on-line, please send it in. If you are unable to do so, the Society can have another member scan it and submit it. The web site is located at:

< <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem> >

Century Church Congregations in St. Catharines
(active in 1905 and still active in 2005)

St. George's Anglican – 83 Church Street
St. Thomas' Anglican – 99 Ontario Street
St. Barnabas Anglican – 31 Queenston Street
St. John's Anglican – 80 Main Street
St. Mark's Anglican - Third Street Louth
St. James Anglican – 405 Merritt Street
Queen Street Baptist – 57 Queen Street
Zion Baptist – 25 Raymond Street
Elm Street United – 11 Elm Street
First Grantham United – 415 Linwell Road
Memorial United – 105 Maple Street
St. Andrew's United – 92 Main Street
St. Paul Street United – 366 St. Paul Street
Welland Avenue United – 5 Henry Street, at corner Welland Avenue
Westminster United – 180 Queenston Street
Louth United – Third Avenue Louth
Knox Presbyterian – 53 Church Street
St. Andrew's Presbyterian – 372 Merritt Street
Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria Roman Catholic – 67 Church Street
St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic – 169 St. Paul Street Crescent
Star of the Sea Roman Catholic – 34 Elgin Street
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic - 31 Chestnut Street
British Methodist Episcopal – 92 Geneva Street
Salvation Army – 400 Niagara Street

This list was created using city directories and telephone books along with various historical articles, books and church web sites. Corrections are encouraged by e-mailing Bill at bibmstev@computan.on.ca. Any corrections will appear in future newsletters.

A Chronology of the Welland Canals and Port Dalhousie

The first, second and third Welland Canals started in Port Dalhousie. Their construction, opening, operation and eventual closure certainly would have had impacts upon Port Dalhousie. The following is a simple chronology through the years:

- 1787 - 1788 – Grantham Township survey undertaken by Daniel Hazen.
- 1791 – early map shows Captain Peter TenBroek, a United Empire Loyalist, as having received Crown land grants for most of the lands where the first three canals and Port Dalhousie began.
- 1820 - 1828 – George Ramsey, Ninth Earl of Dalhousie, is Governor-General of Canada.
- 1821 - Dec. 28 – land transaction – Squire Nathan Pawling becomes owner of 300 acres of land where the canals and Port Dalhousie would be located.
- 1824 – Welland Canal Company incorporated - start of construction of the first canal.
- 1826 – Squire Nathan Pawling posted an advertisement on April 5th to sell lots in “Port Dalhousie.”
- 1829 - November 27 – official opening of the first canal, which ran from a control gate at Lake Ontario over to where the harbour wall is to-day in a line roughly parallel to Gary Road, the canal then turned southward and along into Lock 1, the route then followed Twelve Mile Creek up to St. Catharines – the first vessels to pass through the canal system were Annie and Jane (Captain Isaac T. Pheatt) and the R.H. Boughton (Captain Joseph Voller).
- 1837 – Robert Abbey established a shipyard at Port Dalhousie.
- 1842 – the canal was purchased by the government.
- 1842 – start of construction of the second canal – with 9-foot deep large cut stone locks; a weir was constructed across Twelve Mile Creek to create Martindale Pond.
- 1845 – opening of the second canal.
- 1845 – circa – small jailhouse constructed (still existing in Lakeside Park).
- 1846 – the first telegraph system followed the second canal from Port Dalhousie to Port Colborne.
- 1850 – Alexander Muir established floating dry dock at Port Dalhousie.
- 1852 – first lighthouse built for second canal – this “inner range” lighthouse was replaced in 1893.
- 1853 – the first railroad opens - Port Dalhousie and Thorold Railway opened between Port Dalhousie and Merriton. Terminal built on east side of Port Dalhousie harbour.
- 1853-1855 – the canal was deepened by raising the banks and dredging.
- 1862 – Port Dalhousie becomes a Village – population 1,364.
- 1875 – start of construction of third canal - with 14-foot deep locks.
- 1879 – a second lighthouse was built and became the “outer range” lighthouse (still existing).
- 1887 – opening of the third canal along a new route from Port Dalhousie to Allanburg – Lock One was built further in, which today is just east of Lincoln Fabrics. The canal then headed across Martindale Pond to Lock 2 which is at the foot of Jaycee Park and then through the park.
- 1887 – Locktender’s shanty constructed (is the last remaining of the first three canals).
- 1887 – 1915 – the second canal remained open from Port Dalhousie to Thorold.
- 1890 – Maple Leaf Rubber Co. mill provided Port Dalhousie with electricity, using the falls at the second canal’s wastewater weir. (Maple Leaf Rubber Co. took over the Lawrie Mill in 1886).
- 1894 – contract awarded for construction work on the piers.
- 1898 – the second “inner range” lighthouse was destroyed by lightning. It was replaced immediately.
- 1898 – the Maple Leaf Rubber Co. building burnt to the ground. Two new buildings (now Lincoln Fabrics) were built on either side of the roadway and connected by an overhead walkway.
- 1902 – Lakeside Park opens.
- 1903 – Royal Canadian Henley Regatta held for first time on Martindale Pond.
- 1915 – the second canal between Port Dalhousie and Thorold closed.
- 1930 – (75 years ago) third canal decommissioned; Lock One remained opened at Port Dalhousie.
- 1931 – the fourth canal opened at Port Weller thus by-passing Port Dalhousie.
- 1948 – Port Dalhousie incorporated as a Town.
- 1961 – amalgamation with St. Catharines, Merriton and Grantham Township.
- 1967 – Sewage Treatment Plant to serve Port Dalhousie opens (thus starting the clean-up of the old canals by removing sewage from the Twelve Mile Creek and Martindale Pond).
- 1969 – lock one of third canal closed and access to Martindale Pond from Lake Ontario ends.
- 1984 – Port Dalhousie Harbour Study completed (by Lanmer Consultants (1978) Ltd.).
- 1987 – The hydro generating station was constructed on the east side of Lock One of the third canal.

Reeves of Grantham Township – 1850 – 1900

1850 – John Gilleland	1876 – Thomas Keyes
1851 – Robert Lawrie	1877 – Thomas Keyes
1852 – John Gilleland	1878 – Thomas Keyes
1853 – Alex C. Hamilton	1879 – Thomas Keyes
1854 – Robert Lawrie	1880 – James W. Johnson
1855 – Robert Lawrie	1881 – James W. Johnson
1856 – Robert Lawrie	1882 – Solomon O. Secord
1857 – William Junkin	1883 – Solomon O. Secord
1858 – W. N. Hutt	1884 – Solomon O. Secord
1859 – J. C. Rykert	1885 – Solomon O. Secord
1860 – J. C. Rykert	1886 – Seymour Parnell
1861 – J. C. Rykert	1887 – Solomon O. Secord
1862 – J. C. Rykert	1888 – Solomon O. Secord
1863 – Angus Cooke	1889 – Salem Davis
1864 – Andrew Boyle	1890 – Salem Davis
1865 – Angus Cooke	1891 – James H. R. Secord
1866 – Angus Cooke	1892 – James H. R. Secord
1867 – Thomas Keyes	1893 – James H. R. Secord
1868 – Delos W. Beadle	1894 – James H. R. Secord
1869 – David W. Corbin	1895 – Albert Pay
1870 – Orson J. Phelps	1896 – Albert Pay
1871 – James W. Johnson	1897 – M. W. Swayze
1872 – James W. Johnson	1898 – M. W. Swayze
1873 – James W. Johnson	1899 – James A. Stewart
1874 – Delos W. Beadle	1900 – James A. Stewart
1875 – James W. Johnson	

The above list was created by Bill Stevens from the Grantham Township Council Minutes. Bill is looking for any genealogical and historical information on the above Reeves.

The 10 Arenas in St. Catharines

The new four-pad arena complex, which opens in 2005. Located on St. Paul Street West.

The Jack Gatecliff / Garden City Arena – built in 1938 and retrofitted in 1969 and again in 1995. It seats almost 3000 people. Its name was changed to honour the sportswriter and NHL Hall of Fame member Jack Gatecliff.

Rex Stimers Arena – opened in 1966 and renovated in 1985 and again in 1996. It is named after former radio broadcaster Rex Stimers. It is part of the Garden City Arena twin-pad complex on Geneva Street at Division Street.

Haig Bowl Arena – was originally an outdoor lacrosse bowl and was fitted with artificial ice-making equipment in 1963 and then enclosed in 1974. The interior was completed in 1976. Located on Haig Street.

Bill Burgoyne Arena – was opened in 1973. An addition was built in 1984 to provide additional meeting and equipment areas. Located on Linwell Road.

Merritton Lions Club Centennial Arena – is operated by the Merritton Lions Club. Located at 7 Park Avenue.

Ridley College Arena – a private facility located on the campus of Ridley College on Ridley Road.

Anniversaries in 2005

Most of this list contributed by Arden Phair

- 190th – marriage of William Hamilton Merritt of St. Catharines to Catharine Prendergast of Mayville, NY in 1815
- 170th - construction of the new St. George's Anglican Church in 1840
- 160th - incorporation of St. Catharines as a town in 1845
- 160th - opening of the Second Welland Canal in 1845
- 160th - construction of St. Catherine of Alexandria R.C. Church in 1845
- 150th - dedication of the new British Methodist Episcopal Church in 1855
- 140th - founding of St. Catharines General Hospital in 1865
- 95th - founding of the Girl Guides of Canada, first troop in St. Catharines in 1910. This anniversary is being recognized with a special exhibition at the St. Catharines Museum
- 90th - opening of the Burgoyne Bridge in 1915
- 80th - dedication of the B'Nai Synagogue on Church Street in 1925
- 75th - closure of the Third Welland Canal in 1930
- 75th - license issued for radio station CKTB in 1930
- 75th - Sanatorium relocated to its present Escarpment site in 1930
- 75th - St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church opened in 1930, the first Armenian church in Canada
- 60th - end of World War II in 1945

Inscription on Stone Historical Marker in Port Dalhousie's Rennie Park

THE MUIR BROTHER'S DRY DOCKS

Five Muir brothers built and repaired ships on this harbour site from 1850 until 1946. This Muir family left Ayrshire, Scotland in 1834 and settled in Howick, Quebec. The eldest brother, James, remained there with his parents and four sisters while six brothers moved to the Niagara Peninsula in Upper Canada. John and his family farmed in Niagara Township. Alexander, the driving force, William, Bryce, David and Archibald all became ships' captains and sailed the ships they built here. The names of the 14 ships they built started with the initial "A" and were known as the "A-Fleet." They carried cargo from Duluth, U.S.A. to Liverpool, England. Their first ships were constructed of wood and sails and progressed to steel and steam. The Muir Bros. Dry Docks was the longest continuous business in Port Dalhousie.

The Muirs were prominent in Port Dalhousie for over a century (1839 to 1948) and saw the community grow from 12 houses. The first three Welland canals had their northern entrance here, which resulted in an industrious dry dock on this site. The Muir Bros. Dry Docks was a forerunner of the Port Weller Dry Docks, which is situated on the fourth canal.

Street Name Project

Maurice Gomme is heading up a Historical Society project to compile a list of city street names and how they got their name. There are approximately 1338 street names in St. Catharines, so we need your help. What is the origin of the name of the street you live on? Do you know the origin of any of these: Rabuka, Inglewood, Ricci, Jarrow, Salvatore, Kamia, Sequoia, Keswick, Stoyanoff, Leonard, Swansea, Lisgar, Ted, Listwan, Lucerne, Champa, Marmora, Clayburn, Dacotah, Dunblane, Elberta, Domenic?

Send your answers to Maurice at magomme@Cogeco.ca

Memories of Morningstar Mill

The book "*Memories of Morningstar Mill*" has been out of print for several years. A request was received from an individual seeking to buy two copies. If you would like to sell your copy, please let Bill Stevens know.

Brock University Continuing Education Courses

The two courses listed are being held at Rodman Hall. To register call 905-688-5550, ext. 4775.

* History on Your Doorstep: Additional Glimpses into Niagara's Past, with Alun Hughes, four Tuesday sessions - March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 9th morning field trip.

* Exploring Historical Shipwrecks in the America's – Part 1 – with Kimberly Monk, four sessions beginning Thursday, April 7.

For additional course offerings and full outlines visit the web site www.brocku.ca/conted.

Upcoming Events Around Niagara

Ongoing to April 25 – "...and still I rise: A History of African-Canadian Workers, 1900-Present" - At the St. Catharines Museum. For more information this event and the museum, telephone 905-984-8880 or visit the Museum web site www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca.

Wednesday, **March 16** – 8:00 p.m. – Great Men of Hamilton – Margaret Houghton, Special Collections, Hamilton Public Library, Author - at the Grimsby Historical Society meeting at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 154 Main Street West, Grimsby.

Tuesday, **March 22** – 10:00 a.m. - Top Hat Ceremony welcomes the opening of the Welland Ship Canal – at Lock 3 and the St. Catharines Museum.

Monday, **March 28** – 7:30 p.m. - Bob Banbury: "Port Dalhousie, Lakeside Park and the Carousel" at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting to be held at Chestnut Hall, alongside the Thorold Public Library on Ormond Street, Thorold.

Tuesday, **April 5** – the District School Board of Niagara is offering a course titled, History, Just Around The Corner – Course #2213 starts April 5, for 5 Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. at Lakeport Secondary School. Cost is \$35.00. The early start time will allow for 5 Outdoor Sessions featuring walking tours including Port Dalhousie, Downtown, Mountain Locks Park. The course outline indicates that some of the walks may be strenuous, on unpaved trails. Further details and registration information can be found in the Lifetime Learning guide or by telephone 905-687-7000 or on-line at www.dsbni.edu.on.ca/Community

Wednesday, **April 20** – 8:00 p.m. – The Real Story of the Black Donnelly's – Ray Fazakas, Lawyer and Author - at the Grimsby Historical Society meeting at St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 154 Main Street West, Grimsby.

May 14 – **May 29** – Niagara Folk Arts Festival.

Saturday, **May 21** and Sunday, **May 22** – Festival of the Carousel in Lakeside Park.

Saturday, **May 28** - Third Annual St. David's Heritage Day will take place starting at 10:00 a.m. at the St. David's Lions Club Park. Historical displays, arts and crafts, singers, dancers, re-enactors and more. This free event raps up at 5:00 p.m.

Monday, **May 30** – Dennis Gannon: "Thorold, Yesterday and Today" followed by the Annual 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.

Saturday, **June 4** and Sunday, **June 5** – Canadian Canal Society Tour.

Date to be announced – Dedication of the monument to James "Chief" Smiley (1884 – 18 March 1948). The "Chief" as he was affectionately known, is buried in the St. Andrew's United Church Cemetery (located at the foot of Johnston Street) in Port Dalhousie. The cemetery overlooks Martindale Pond and the Henley Course, which was home to the "Chief." Until this past fall, his gravesite was unmarked; however his grandson, Wayne Smiley of Brantington, New York has ensured that this situation has been corrected by placing a monument.

<<http://www.yourniagara.ca>> has map of cemeteries in the Region

1. on your internet browser type in <<http://navigator.yourniagara.ca/navigator/>>
2. on right side – click on "Public Niagara Navigator" then
3. click on "map layers" – and go to drop down menu item named "Historical" and click on it
4. the map will then refresh and show red dots where each cemetery is located ... you can enlarge the map and use the "i" icon to find out the information available for that cemetery