

The Historical Society of St. Catharines

**P.O. Box 23104, 124 Welland Avenue,
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7P6**

Web Site: <http://www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html>

Founded in 1927.

Our Mission and Goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and vicinity.

Our Society is affiliated with The Ontario Historical Society.

SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

Society Meetings and Programs

Society meetings and programs, 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, September 22 - 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting and Speaker - Mark Dobell will speak on "St. Catharines Transit: People Moving People Since 1961." Mark has written a history of the St. Catharines Transit system.

Saturday, October 15 and Sunday, October 16 - Doors Open Niagara - Many members will be participating in this marvellous program. Be sure to take the opportunity to visit places of interest throughout Niagara! More information on sites can be found at the following web site: www.doorsopenniagara.com

Thursday, October 27 - 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting and Speaker - Past President John Burtiak will speak on "Gettysburg and Lundy's Lane: A Twist on History."

Friday, November 11 - Remembrance Day - the Society will place a wreath during the Remembrance Day Service at the downtown war memorial in remembrance of all those who made the supreme sacrifice.

Thursday, November 24 - 7:30 p.m. - Our 6th Annual Member's Show and Tell and Christmas Social - this is always a fun night and we encourage you to scout out that interesting article in your possession and bring it along!

Thursday, January 26, 2006 - 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting and Speaker

Thursday, February 23, 2006 - 7:30 p.m. - General Meeting and Speaker

Downtown Day Another Success

The Town Crier proclaimed the importance of the day, the mayor officially welcomed those in attendance, John Burtniak provided the very informative historical background and Paul Lewis ensured the plant was placed atop the Oille Fountain. Well done!



A Beautiful Corner!

One can not help but notice the beautiful grounds at the corner of James and King streets. The old Court House looks majestic and the Oille Fountain sits proudly in its original setting. The Fountain was restored just a few years ago and it is fitting that a ceremony be held here each year and a geranium placed in the urn atop the fountain as per the wishes of Lucius Oille when he donated such a wonderful fountain to the citizens of St. Catharines at the end of his term as mayor in 1878.

Next year will be the 30th Anniversary of the ceremony.



Board of Directors of The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Elected April 28, 2005 for Two Year Term

Past President - John Burtiak - 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 - Chris Loat - e-mail chris_loat@ridley.on.ca - tel. 905-685-6939

Elected April 28, 2005 for One Year Term

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

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

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

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

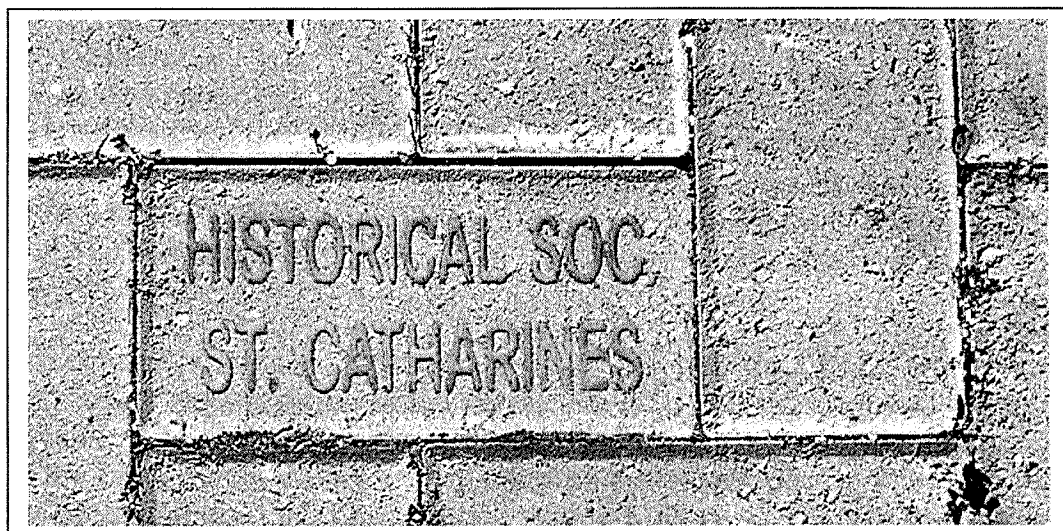
Director - Maurice Gomme - e-mail magomme@Cogeco.ca - tel. 905-682-2329

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

Program Committee: Paul Hutchinson, Maurice Gomme and Dennis Gannon

Pathway Brick Recognizes Society Donation

This photograph is of the brick in the pathway at the Children's Discovery Centre which recognizes our donation to the Centre, which is located on Niagara Street across from Laura Secord Secondary School and beside Pearson Park.



Member Recognized in the News!

Andy Panko was featured in an article in The Standard on June 4, 2004. The article is titled "Journey through Andyland" "Andy puts enormous energy into his passions, like model trains and cleaning up our polluted lands". Andy was to speak at our September meeting but unfortunately has had to decline due to a conflict with his business schedule.

Best From Past Newsletters

Pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter, features an article that originally appeared on pages 4 and 5 of the December 1994 Newsletter.

Newsletter Notes

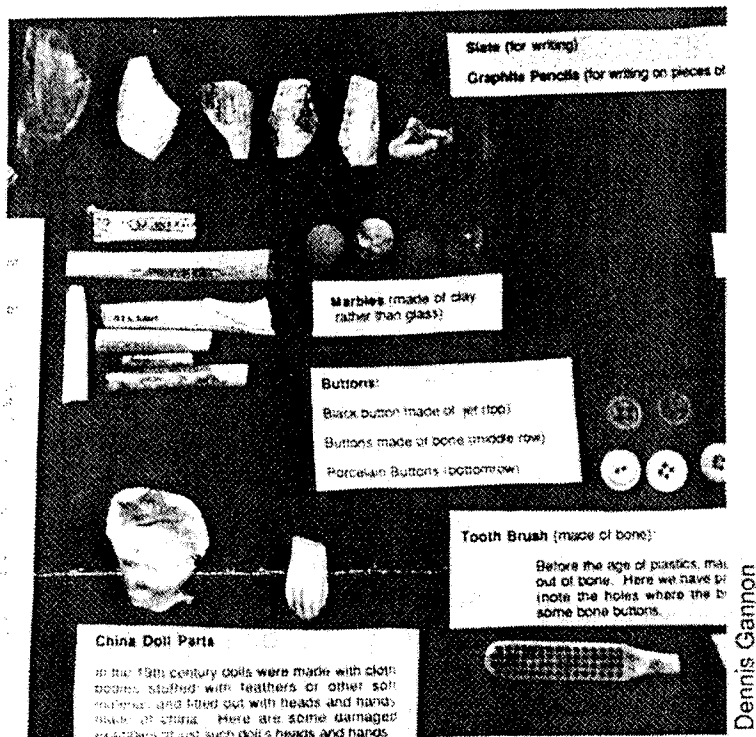
The Historical Society of St. Catharines Newsletter is published up to 4 times per year by the Society. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the membership of issues pertaining to the Society and items of historical interest. Comments and queries should be directed to the Society postal address.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

Bill Stevens produced this issue.

Next Issue: December 2005

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

THE WAY WE WERE:



Dennis Gannon

Part of the library display: pieces of clay pipes, children's marbles, buttons, a broken china doll's head, . . .

Historical Society members Don McLeod, Dennis Gannon and Paul Hutchinson spent part of the summer of '94 by undertaking a highly informal "archaeological dig." Week after week they eyed the surface of what became a virtual mountain at the corner of Centre and Academy streets, a mountain composed of backfill dirt removed from along St. Paul and King streets as the MTO site was excavated in downtown St. Catharines. Don, the sharpest-eyed of the three, someone with prior experience on a **real** archaeological dig, pointed out that the backfill material was liberally scattered with all sorts of artifacts and other objects, things that soon stimulated their imaginations because of the clues they offered about how people in 19th century St. Catharines lived.

What kinds of things are we talking about? Many fragments of pottery and chianaware, many bottle fragments (even some complete bottles) . . . clay pipes . . . clay and stone marbles . . . broken doll's heads . . . buttons . . . building materials like slate and mottled red and white sandstone (the kind used to build such distinguished structures of the 1870's as St. Thomas' Church and the Grand Opera House).

Some readers by now may be wondering how this article snuck into the pages of this newsletter of the HISTORICAL Society of St. Catharines. Is this history? Wouldn't this have been more appropriate in the pages of some archaeological publication? Or a bottle collector's catalogue?

We think this tale of our summertime diversions in the dirt of Olde St. Catharines DOES embody a kind of history. True, it's not one of the kinds of history that we are more used to. It's not **political history**, the kind that focuses on questions like "Who was the first mayor of St. Catharines" or "When was Regional Government established?" Nor is it **economic history**, dealing with questions like "When did the Welland Canal first open to traffic?" or "When did General Motors establish itself in St. Catharines?"

Instead, what we have here is a somewhat diffuse relative of those kinds of history. It's **social history**, which focuses on the day-to-day details of how individuals lived their lives a century or more ago. What did people wear? What did they eat? How did they spend their leisure time? What were their houses made of?

Reeves of Grantham Township – Part 2

Reeves from 1850 to 1900 were published on page 8 of the March 2005 Newsletter

I wish to thank D. Faulkner of the City Hall Clerk's Department for this information.

1901 - James O. Wilson	1931 - J. Arthur Swayze
1902 - James O. Wilson	1932 - J. Arthur Swayze
1903 - John Scott	1933 - J. Arthur Swayze
1904 - Fred C. Read	1934 - Alex E. Stewart
1905 - Fred C. Read	1935 - Alex E. Stewart
1906 - Samuel Arbuthnot	1936 - William C. Nickerson
1907 - Samuel Arbuthnot	1937 - William C. Nickerson
1908 - Samuel Arbuthnot	1938 - Ernest H. Hack
1909 - William Bowman	1939 - Ernest H. Hack
1910 - William W. Read	1940 - Ernest H. Hack
1911 - W. H. Secord	1941 - John C. Dressel
1912 - W. H. Secord	1942 - John C. Dressel
1913 - W. H. Secord	1943 - John C. Dressel
1914 - Frederick Stewart	1944 - Cecil Secord
1915 - Frederick Stewart	1945 - Cecil Secord
1916 - Frederick Stewart	1946 - Cecil Secord
1917 - W. Charles Bush	1947 - Cecil Secord
1918 - G. Arthur Welstead	1948 - Ivan Duncan Buchanan
1919 - G. Arthur Welstead	1949 - Ivan Duncan Buchanan
1920 - G. Arthur Welstead	1950 - Ivan Duncan Buchanan
1921 - G. Arthur Welstead	1951 - James W. Rodger
1922 - G. Arthur Welstead	1952 - James W. Rodger
1923 - Fred C. Haynes	1953 - Keith D. Walker
1924 - Fred C. Haynes	1954 - Keith D. Walker
1925 - Fred C. Haynes	1955 - Keith D. Walker
1926 - Fred C. Haynes	1956 - Keith D. Walker
1927 - Fred C. Haynes	1957 - James W. Rodger
1928 - Oscar F. Jacobson	1958 - James W. Rodger
1929 - Oscar F. Jacobson	1959 - James W. Rodger
1930 - William K. Masterson	1960 - Ivan Duncan Buchanan

Grantham, Lincolnshire, England

Grantham is located on the River Witham, on the border with Leicestershire, in a largely agricultural region. The Town was on the old stagecoach route between London and Lincoln and was once a major railway junction. Grantham is noted as the birthplace of Britain's first woman Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, born here in 1925, who became Prime Minister in 1979. Another famous son of Grantham was the scientist Isaac Newton who was born in Grantham in 1642. Grantham was sacked in 1461 at the time of the Wars of the Roses. Richard III signed the instrument of death for the Duke of Buckingham at the 14th-century Angel Inn in 1483. In 1643 Oliver Cromwell made Grantham his headquarters for operations. Its 14th-century church, dedicated to St. Wulfram, has a graceful 282-foot spire and is one of the most impressive parish churches in the country. A chained library of 83 books is included in the churches treasures; it was presented to the church in 1598 by a local rector. The 15th-century Grammar School is a superb building; it has a stone tiled roof and fine mullioned windows and on a window-ledge there still remains the carved name of Isaac Newton who was educated here. There is a commemorative statue of Sir Isaac Newton in front of the guildhall. Grantham House is a late 14th-century property that is owned by the National Trust. It has Elizabethan additions and shows enlargements of the 18th-century. The house is set amidst fine parkland. Grantham has a fine collection of buildings from all periods and is an interesting, gracious red brick town that has been at the centre of the Lincolnshire hunting community for centuries and surrounded by countryside of rich pasturelands, sweet meadows and endless twisting narrow lanes.

The Grantham Canal offers many miles of enjoyable waterways that run right through the beautiful Vale of Belvoir. Grantham offers visitors a variety of pleasurable experiences, and there are excellent shopping facilities with antique shops, several noted restaurants and fine historic inns. There is a good museum and nearby Belvoir Castle and Belton House are well worth a visit.

Lest We Forget

Names Appearing on the Grantham Township Cenotaph

(Located in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, on the north side of Queenston Street)

HONOUR ROLL

--- 1939 – 1945 ---

AIKEN, DAVID	P.O.
ASH, GEORGE	FLT. LT. - D.F.C.
BIRD, ERNEST	PTE.
CLINTON, EDGAR S.	P.F.C.
DOREY, JOHN A.	PTE.
ESSERY, FRED	PTE.
FAST, JOHN	PTE.
FISK, GEORGE C.	SGT.
HALL, JOSEPH M.	PTE.
HAWKE, CHARLES W.	GNR.
HIPWELL, HERBERT E.	PTE.
HOLMES, LEONARD	FLT. LT.
IRVINE, JAMES F.	FLT. SGT.
JEWER, JAMES W.	GNR.
JOHNSTON, CLARENCE A.	FLT/SGT.
JORDON, ALBERT C.	PTE.
KOLOYIAN, SOLOMAN	PTE.
LEACH, EDGAR	PTE.
MALE, CHARLES C.	CPL.
MARTIN, BRUCE L.	TPR.
MATTHEWS, DONALD W.	SGT. AIR GNR.
NEWHOUSE, HARRY	PTE.
NEWHOUSE, ROBERT V.	PTE.
OLSEN, GORDON L.	SGT. PILOT
RILEY, IRVING	PTE.
ROMANCHUK, JOSEPH R.	CPL.
SLESSOR, WILLIAM	PTE.
SMITH, ELWOOD O.	F.O.
TAYLOR, NORMAN	W.O.

St. Catharines Library Database Goes Live!

Researchers have yet another great resource in the St. Catharines Public Library's new Local Names Index database. The database includes personal notices such as birth and death announcements. Over 15,000 notices are now on-line with about 1000 notices being added each month. To access this site go to: www.stcatharines.library.on.ca and click on Local Names Index.

Some Rowing Items

*It was 35 years ago in 1970 that St. Catharines hosted the World Rowing Championships. Then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau attended on the final day of the four-day event. Twenty-nine nations competed. *This summer's Royal Canadian Henley Regatta was the 123rd, so a very important 125th will take place in 2007.

*The St. Catharines Public Library has scanned numerous old Royal Canadian Henley Regatta souvenir programs and you can view them on the Henley Regatta section of the library web site: www.stcatharines.library.on.ca. Take note of the ones that they do not have yet and if you can lend even one year to copy, please drop it off at the information desk on the main floor of the library. They are very interesting to peruse and represent a very important part of our City's sporting heritage. The site also contains pictures and history of each Henley trophy and winners.

Great New Tourist Brochure for Port Dalhousie

The front page is a collage of pictures: the Port Mansion with sail boats lining the harbour, people strolling the pier, children riding the carousel, a sculler on Martindale Pond, a couple dining, and the lighthouse; across the middle of the 3 fold flyer are the words "the village within a city" and in the lower section "Old Port Dalhousie, St. Catharines, Ontario." This is a very lovely brochure! Inside the three folds there are more pictures and text extolling the wonderful virtues of the small town and provides a web site: www.portdalhousie.com to obtain more information. The back 2 folds lists all the businesses and services available in the old town and a "How to find us" section. The brochure certainly promotes the area well. However, it does not mention that Port Dalhousie is a Heritage District. Pick one up while in Port and send it to a friend or relative and I am sure they will pay you a visit and want to go to Old Port!

Victoria Lawn Planning 150th Anniversary Events

As part of the 150th anniversary celebration in 2006, Bill Stevens has offered to lead a walk featuring approximately 20 former mayors of St. Catharines. The Historical Society membership will be asked to assist as details unfold. In preparing a tour guide, Bill is looking for any original pictures, letters, diaries or other mementoes relating to our former mayors.

Victoria School will become Women's Place

Victoria School on Niagara Street will be preserved, although renovated to house the needs of Women's Place. The school and grounds (especially the flag pole) were the setting for scenes from a now legendary Christmas movie "The Christmas Story." The museum has the Red Rider toy gun from the movie.

1938 Lacrosse Champions to go into Lacrosse Hall of Fame

The great 1938 St. Catharines Athletics Senior Lacrosse team that won the Mann Cup will be placed into the Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame in November. The team was the first St. Catharines team to win the Mann Cup. Team members were: Roy Barnard, Joe Cheevers, Walt Coupland, Bill Fitzgerald, Harry Green, George Hope, Ed Kelly, Carl Madsen, Frank Madsen, Wandy McMahon, Norm McDonald, Jay McDonald, Dan Millar, Red Millar, Roy Morton, Mel Soper, Tom Teather, George Urquhart, Bill Whittaker, Billy Wilson and coach Art Brown.

Elected Municipal Councils of St. Catharines 1845 – 2006

Elected Municipal Councils of St. Catharines 1845 – 2006 is the name of a new book by Historical Society vice-president Paul E. Lewis. The book provides the names of elected council members for every municipal council of St. Catharines. Great publication Paul!

St. John's Anglican Church Windows Subject of Book

Historical Society member Brian Leyden has published a book titled "*The Windows of St. John's – a Project of Love*" which contains a coloured picture of each stained-glass window and details of each one. Despite many hours of research, one mystery remains --- who was Rev. Lewis Barrett White and his connection to the Port Dalhousie Church? Copies are available for \$15.00 (which goes towards the building fund) from Brian by calling 905-934-4212 or from the Port Dalhousie Avondale store.

Congratulations to Doug Favell

Doug Favell will be inducted into the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame at the St. Catharines Museum on October 15. Doug will join his father, Doug Favell Sr. in the Hall of Fame. Congratulations Doug!

Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (N.P.A.R.C.)

The N.P.A.R.C. meets monthly from September to June on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Optimist Club, located at 8 Napier Street in St. Catharines. Visit their web site www.nparc.on.ca for additional information about this club and the hobby of amateur radio.

Historians Seeking Information on Gun Boats

Cheryl and Sandra MacDonald are seeking information on gunboats stationed on the Great Lakes between 1866 and 1868. The boats were named the HMG *Heron*, HMG *Britomart* and HMG *Cherub*. The *Britomart* was launched in May 1860; it spent ten days in Port Dalhousie. The *Cherub* was launched in March 1865 and spent one day in Port Dalhousie. The *Heron* was launched in July 1860 and spent six days in Port Dalhousie. They are writing a book on the history of the gunboats and the interaction of the crew with Canadians during this period. If you have any information about their crewmembers, such as letters, diaries, photographs of the harbour at the time, newspaper articles or anything else pertaining to these boats, contact Cheryl at heronwood@execulink.com.

Gardening Angels Tend Rev. Burns Plot

Historical Society member Lynda Bradshaw and business partner Suzy Hastings operate a small gardening business known as Gardening Angels. They tend to many gravesites in Victoria Lawn Cemetery, including that of Rev. Anthony Burns. The gravesite is absolutely beautiful and certainly must impress all those who visit it. The Gardening Angels hope to expand to include some former Mayors of St. Catharines and thus ensure that these past public figures are truly not forgotten.

Welstead Lake, Alberta

Welstead Lake is located approximately 170 km north of Fort McMurray. According to the 1928 edition of *Place Names of Alberta* the lake was named in 1914 after a Reeve of Grantham Township in Ontario. The short entry goes on to say: "Why this name was chosen is not known. Perhaps Mr. Welstead was a friend or relative of the surveyor working in the area." G. Arthur Welstead was Reeve of Grantham Township from 1918 to 1922, which is later than 1914 when the lake was named ... any information on Welstead or his connection with this lake would be appreciated.

The Friends of Fort George

This is a volunteer group that works in partnership with Parks Canada for the protection, preservation and promotion of Fort George so that all Canadians and international visitors will learn more about the significance of Fort George and better appreciate it and the other sites that comprise Niagara's National Historic Sites. For information about "The Friends" visit their web site: www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca

Some Historical Events Around Niagara

This list is presented for your information only, please confirm them as event locations and times can change and indeed be cancelled.

Ongoing to November 6 – “Listen to the Night: Bats of Ontario” at the St. Catharines Museum.

September 26 – Tim Lowrey: “In Loving Memory – 150 years of Funeral Memorial Cards” at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hall, Ormond Street, Thorold.

October 24 – Alun Hughes: “Centreville, Slabtown, Welland City and the History of Merritton” at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hall, Ormond Street, Thorold.

November 3 – The 150th Anniversary of the British Methodist Episcopal Church, Salem Chapel will be highlighted by the presentation of a paper entitled “An Historical Significance of the Salem Chapel with reference to the Underground Railroad Movement” by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Daniel D. Rupwate, General Superintendent of the BME Church. Co-sponsored by the library, this program will take place in the Mills Room of the Central Library at 7:30 p.m.

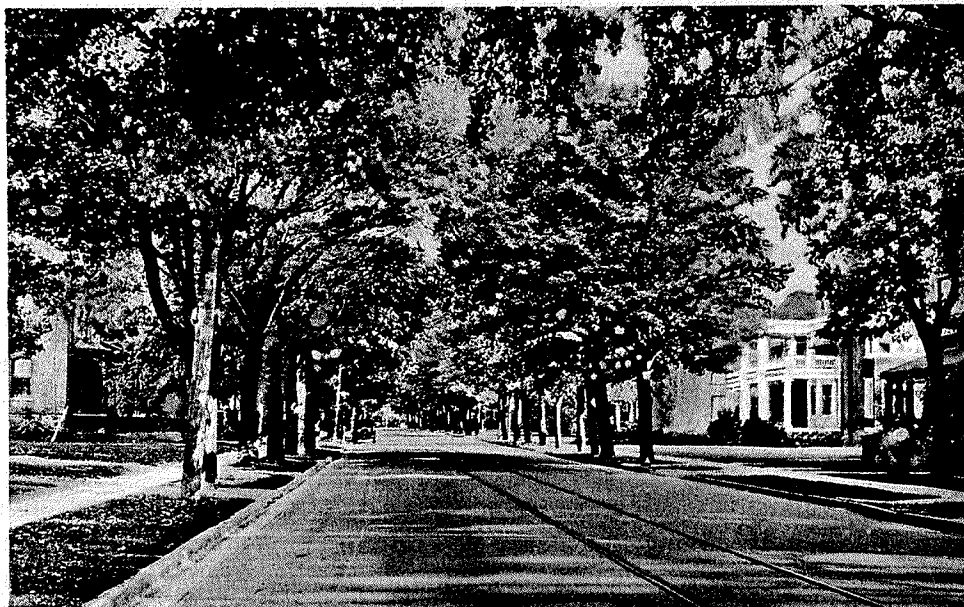
November 20 – “Friends Day” at the St. Catharines Museum. Behind the scenes tour, special displays, silent auction and more. For further details: tel. 905-984-8880 or visit www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca

November 19 - January 22 – “Let’s Celebrate: Festivals of Music” at the St. Catharines Museum.

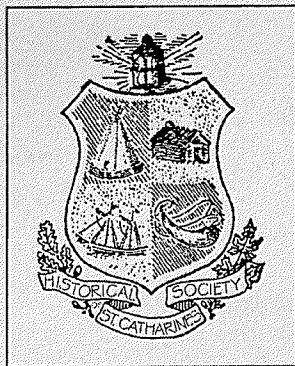
November 28 – Andy Panko: “The Great Gorge Trip” at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hall, Ormond Street, Thorold.

Old Post Card View of Ontario Street

This view taken sometime between 1930 and 1945 was taken while standing on Ontario Street just south of Welland Avenue and looking southerly towards Adams Street, essentially where the hospital is today. Notice the rail tracks down the middle of the street and the abundance of trees. The house on the west side or extreme right of picture, marked with an ‘X’, is the former home of L. L. Drake at 151 Ontario Street who resided there from about 1930 to about 1945. In this time frame, the next home 149 was the residence of J.D. Chaplin, followed by 147 owned by L.E. Peart. Over 50 years later and according to a 1980 city directory, 151 was the Hotel Dieu Nursing Sisters’ Residence, while 149 and 147 was parking for the hospital. After Mr. Drake moved out, 151 was the residence of R.M. Robertson. The former residence of Hamilton K. Woodruff across the street has recently been demolished.



Ontario Street, St. Catharines, Ontario.—3.



The Historical Society of St. Catharines **NEWSLETTER**

June 2005

P.O. Box 23104, 124 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, ON, L2R 7P6

Web Site - <http://www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html>

Founded in 1927. Our Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

Our Mission and Goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and vicinity.

Saturday, June 11 – The Society’s Annual Historical Bus Tour

This year’s theme: ‘Historical Gems of Western Niagara’. We will be travelling around the western half of Niagara Region with transportation provided by Farr Motor Coach. Tickets are \$25.00 for each member and \$30.00 for each non-member. Ticket price includes the bus transportation and admissions if any, but does not include lunch. Lunch is on your own (bring or buy it!) Reservation by payment only to Joyce DeForest (905-685-4728). Non-refundable unless seat is resold. Departure will be **8:30 a.m.** **SHARP** from the front of the downtown Market Square on King Street and return at 4:30 p.m. John Burtniak will be providing commentary along the route. Please dress for some outside walking, wear comfortable shoes and perhaps an umbrella.

Saturday, July 2 – The Society Presents “Downtown History Day”

The Society has combined 3 events into one great outing! - starting at **10:00 a.m.** – 29th Annual **Planting of geranium in the Oille Fountain** (at corner of James and King streets) -**10:30 a.m.** - **Walking tour of downtown** (from Oille Fountain to Merritt monument) - **NOON** – **Celebration of William Hamilton Merritt** (at the Merritt monument on St. Paul Street West at the foot of Yates Street). Take in all three events or join in at any of the above times!

The following meeting and speaker programs will take place at the St. Catharines Museum at Lock 3 beginning at 7:30:

Thursday, September 22 – Dr. Andy Panko will speak on the N.S.&T. Railroad

Thursday, October 27 – John Burtniak will speak on “Gettysburg and Lundy’s Lane: A Twist on History”

Thursday, November 24 – Our 6th Annual Member’s Show and Tell and Christmas Social

Ontario Heritage Act

The Ontario Government has passed **Bill 60, Ontario Heritage Amendment Act, 2005**. (Hon. Mrs. Meilleur (Minister of Culture). Third Reading debated April 18, 2005. Third Reading carried on division April 19. Royal Assent April 28. S.O. 2005, Chapter 6.) You can read the entire Act on the Ontario Government web site at the following link:

http://www.ontla.on.ca/documents/Bills/38_Parliament/Session1/b060ra_e.htm

Highlights of Society Activities in 2004

January 22 - Speaker - Alun Hughes - Daniel Hazen Surveyor of Grantham Twp.
February 26 - Speaker - Corlene Taylor - Early Settlers of St. Catharines / The Mayholme Foundation
March - Newsletter
March 25 - Speaker - Joseph O'Brien - History of 'Western Hill'
April 22 - Annual Meeting and Election of Directors
April 22 - Speaker - Richard Taylor - In Search of Home Children
May 3 - Regional Historica Fair - Society was sponsor and 3 members judged the exhibits
May 27 - Speaker - Mark Losier - William Hamilton Merritt's Light Dragoons of the War of 1812
June - Newsletter
June 12 - Annual Bus Tour - route covered the easterly half of Niagara Region
July 3 - Downtown Day - Celebration of William Hamilton Merritt, a historical walking tour through downtown and the 28th planting at the Oille Fountain
September - Newsletter
September 23 - Speaker - Robert Malcomson - The Battle of Queenston Heights: a Very Brilliant Affair
October 16 and 17 - Doors Open Niagara - many members volunteered at sites
October 28 - Speaker - Hannelore Headley - The Blond China Doll
November 5 - Society provided guides for historical walk following a Provincial Heritage workshop
November 11 - Remembrance Day - Society placed wreath at the downtown cenotaph
November 11 - Joint meeting with OGS Niagara Peninsula Branch - Speaker - Rob Leverty - Ontario Cemeteries: The Struggle For The Public Interest
November 25 - 5th Annual Show and Tell and Christmas Social
December - Newsletter
December - Street name project initiated

Membership News

Welcome to New Members: Murray Brain Calvert, Ann Cowper, Bill Chuchman, Madeline Muir, Robert Steele, Michael Featherstone, Earl Honadle, Dr. Ivan and Celia Hrabowsky, David Murray

The Society Wishes To Thank: Sheila Wilson for her generous financial donation, John Burtiniak for his donation of books, Herb Harder for his assistance at the meetings, Mary and Barry Leighton for bringing along the refreshments for the socials.

Correction to March 2005 Newsletter

The March Newsletter contained a list of Century Church Congregations in St. Catharines on Page 6. St. Mark's Anglican on Third Street Louth should not be included on this list. St. Mark's began in the former Grange Hall in the summer of 1912 as a Sunday school. In December of 1915, the Rev. Robert Henry Ferguson, then rector at St. John's Port Dalhousie began regular Sunday services in the hall. In 1920 it transferred as a mission of St. John's Port Dalhousie to a mission of St. John's Jordan and continues as such to-day.

Newsletter Notes

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

Next Issue September 2005

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Thursday April 28 2005

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

President Bill Stevens welcomed the 66 people in attendance and preceeded the business part of the meeting with announcements of upcoming events and other items of interest to the membership.

He extended the Society's condolences to Jim Purdie on the death of his wife.

The President noted that a quorum was present so that the meeting could proceed.

He thanked the Board for their work over the past year.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, April 22 2004

It was noted that the Minutes were published in the June 2004 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 2004 to December 2004, the Treasurer noted a profit for the year of approximately \$1,200 with total assets of just over \$8,000 including G.I.Cs. It was moved by Chris Loat and seconded by Maurice Gomme that the report be accepted. There were no questions. Accepted.

The report had been reviewed by Janet Lewis and Ted Crabtree and found to be acceptable.

The reviewers were thanked for their work.

Nominating Committee Report

John Burtniak noted that Officers of the Society serve a two year term and the Directors a one year term. He presented the following slate of candidates for the year 2005-2006.

President: Bill Stevens, Past President: John Burtniak, Vice President: Paul Lewis, Secretary: Brenda Zadoroznij, Treasurer: Chris Loat.

Directors: Joyce DeForest, Dee Dickman, Paul Hutchinson, Joe Muskat, Maurice Gomme and Bill Harder. There were no volunteers or nominations from the floor for the positions.

Later in the meeting it was noted that a motion to approve the Slate of Candidates had been omitted. It was then moved by John Burtniak and seconded by Mary Leighton that the Slate be accepted. Accepted.

Thanks were given to the Directors and Officers with special thanks to President Bill Stevens for all his work on the Society's behalf.

No amendments to the Constitution were put forward.

Membership Director Bill Harder reported a total of 147 members to date.

The Secretary presented correspondence of interest to the membership.

Any Other Business

The membership was informed of the upcoming 'Historica' event at the Niagara District School Board and the availability of tickets for the Society's bus trip.

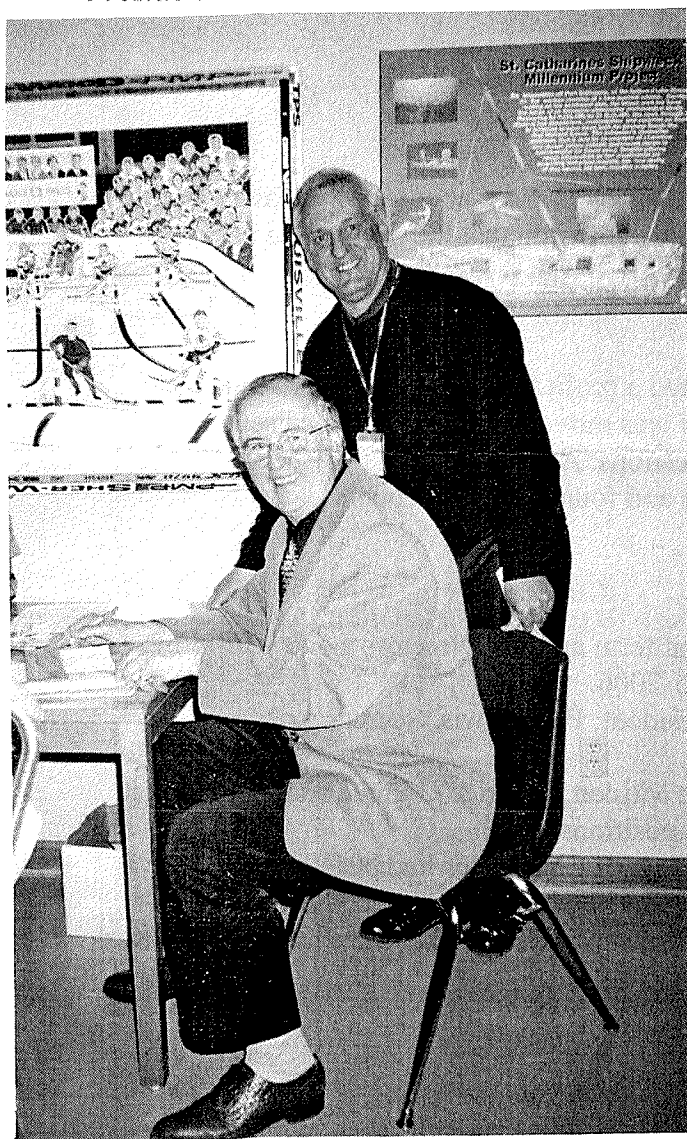
Following the business part of the meeting, John Burtniak introduced the speaker for the evening David Murray and his presentation 'Justice and Crime in Early Niagara'

David Murray spoke of the legal history of early Niagara and the need to explore the justice system "from the bottom up". He told of recently discovered records found in the attic of the Old Court House, Niagara on-the-Lake and the richness of those records, presenting a fresh perspective on the social and justice system in early Niagara. He gave several examples from his recently published book and after his excellent presentation answered questions from the audience.

Bill Stevens thanked the speaker and noted that copies of the book were available to buy.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm and a social time with refreshments followed.

Photo of David Murray our speaker on April 28 signing a book for Society President Bill Stevens



Past Meeting Reports

February 24, 2005 - Alun Hughes presented "Captain Dick: Treasure Trove and Toponymic Truth" to approximately 58 in attendance. In his usual professional way, Alun gave us an analysis of Richard Pierpoint's connection to the naming of Dick's Creek and with the use of visual overhead drawings helped to show how this important waterway that runs through south St. Catharines received its name. The conclusion he made was that the creek was indeed likely named after Mr. Pierpoint.

March 24, 2005 - Our scheduled speaker was unable to attend and a 40-minute video titled "St. Catharines Shipwreck Millennium Project" was shown with the kind permission of Shark Marine Technologies Inc. A donation was made to the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee. The video showed dramatic footage of an unknown early wood masted ship lying on the floor of Lake Ontario just off Port Dalhousie. Techniques of marine research were particularly of interest. Approximately 44 attended.

Past President Telephones!

I am always amazed at the power of the Internet. On the evening of May 17th the telephone rang and on the line was John Calvert, a past president of the Society in 1986 and 1987. John was on the internet and when he entered his name into a search engine, it came up as being in a newsletter of the Historical Society. He quickly discovered our web site and the posted newsletter requesting that if anyone knew where John was, to call Bill Stevens. This query was part of our hunt for past presidents to invite to the Society's 75th Anniversary dinner. We had a great little chat and I hope John, who lives in Niagara Falls, will come out to one of our future meetings and say hello!

Board of Directors of The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Elected April 28, 2005 for Two Year Term

Past President - John Burtiak - 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 - Chris Loat - e-mail - Christopher_J._Loat_Sr@ridley.on.ca

Elected April 28, 2005 for One Year Term

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

Director - Joyce DeForest - e-mail - vdefores@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

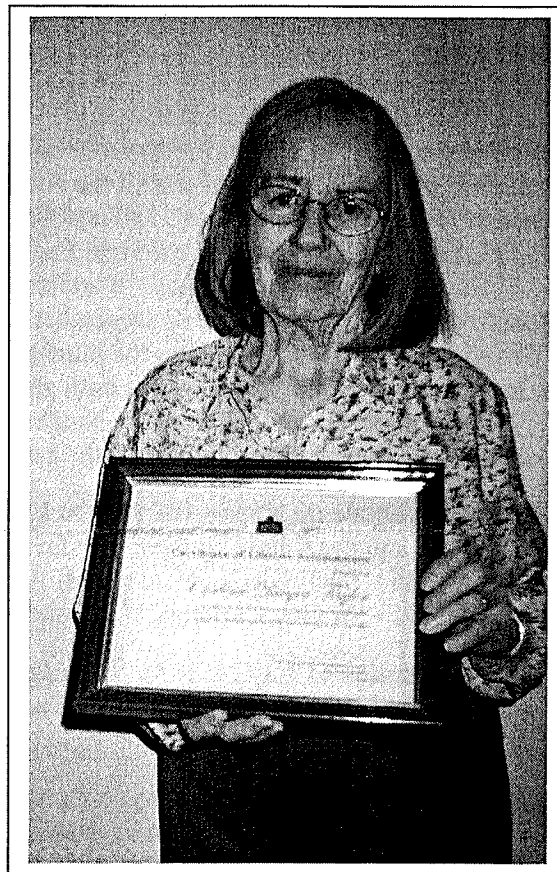
Director - Joe Muskat - tel. 905-687-3359

Ontario Heritage Foundation Awards

At the March 3, 2005 meeting of Regional Council, Regional Chair Partington, together with Mayors Hodgson and Rigby, presented the 2004 Ontario Heritage Foundation Awards. The awards were presented in three categories: Lifetime Heritage Achievement, Natural Heritage and Built Heritage.

The Lifetime Heritage Achievement Award went to Corlene Dwyer Taylor, a lifelong Niagara resident. She was born in "Mayholme" the family homestead on Ontario Street, St. Catharines and is descended from Loyalist families including the May family, original Grantham Township settlers. Corlene recently obtained a heritage designation for "Mayholme" and donated the property and house to the Mayholme Foundation to be used as a repository and library for genealogical and historical research. Corlene received a Life Membership in the Niagara Peninsula Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society in 1996 for her dedicated work. She is also a long-standing member of the Historical Society of St. Catharines. She compiled a booklet on the "Cemeteries of the Town of Lincoln" and co-authored "The Mini Atlas of Early Settlers in the District of Niagara, 1782 - 1786".

The Natural Heritage Award went to the Board of Directors and Friends of Malcolmson Park. The Park is one of the last remaining large natural areas of St. Catharines. Accepting the award is Mr. and Mrs. Potter.



The Built Heritage Award went to John Wakelin and Pat Forster, the owners of Heritage House Bed and Breakfast at 29 Edmund Street in St. Catharines. The house built in 1870 by Theodore Thompson, a captain in the volunteer militia, has been restored to its original 1870s character.



Early Governance as it Relates to Grantham Township

By Bill Stevens (I wish to thank Alun Hughes and Alex Ormston for their assistance in compiling this article)

The settlement of what is now known as Ontario was precipitated by the declaration of American Independence and subsequently the fall of British rule in what is now the United States of America. Some of those wishing to remain Loyal to the British Crown fled to Fort Niagara. In May of 1781 the British purchased lands on the west side of the Niagara River from the Mississauga Indians. A small number of settlers had settled on the west side in 1780 and this number grew quickly with the land purchase and survey in 1782. In 1783 the Peace Treaty was signed and England officially recognized the U.S.A. The growing number of Loyalists resulted in the purchase of additional lands from Mississauga Indians on May 22, 1784 (and confirmed by a treaty signed on December 7, 1792). It was this second purchase that now allowed settlement in Grantham Township. Soon after the purchase settlers began to make their way into the area that would become Grantham Township. But it wasn't until after the survey undertaken between December 27, 1787 and March 31, 1788 by Daniel Hazen of Township Number 3 (which was later called Grantham Township) that these settlers could claim their land holdings with the Land Board.

During the above time period of 1780 to 1791, the area of Grantham Township was part of the British Province of Quebec and the following were the Governors of the Province of Quebec:

1778 – 1786 – Sir Frederick Haldimand

1786 – 1791 - Sir Guy Carleton, 1st Baron Dorchester (Lord Dorchester)

By proclamation of July 24, 1788 Upper Quebec, now known as Ontario, was divided into four districts for the primary purpose of administering justice and land distribution. The area of Grantham Township would become part of Nassau District.

On June 19, 1791 royal assent was given to the Constitutional Act, commonly called the Canada Act, which came into affect by proclamation of August 24, 1791, split the Province of Quebec into Lower Canada and Upper Canada. From December 26, 1791 to February 10, 1841 the area now known as Grantham Township was in the British Province of Upper Canada. The Legislature of 1792 for Upper Canada consisted of 16 representatives elected by the people and the Legislative Council consisted of 7 councillors nominated by the Crown. The capital was at Newark (now Niagara On-The-Lake).

On July 8, 1792 John Graves Simcoe was appointed the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. He served in this position until 1798, but was in England for the last two years of his term.

On July 19, 1792 a proclamation divided the Province of Upper Canada into 19 counties. The counties would provide a basis for elections, the distribution of lands and organizing the militia. Sixteen representatives were elected to the first Legislative Assembly. Lincoln County was divided into 4 ridings and the first representatives were: Riding #1 - Nathaniel Pettit who also represented York County and Durham County; Riding #2 - Benjamin Pawling; Riding #3 - Isaac Swayze; Riding #4 - Parshall Terry who also represented Norfolk County.

On September 17, 1792 the first parliament of Upper Canada met at Newark. At this first session of the Legislature, the names of the four districts (previously named by Lord Dorchester in 1788) were changed and the Nassau District became the Home District.

On April 9, 1793, there came into operation "An Act to provide for the nomination and appointment of Parish and Town Officers within the Province." The era of town meetings and quarter sessions began and lasted until 1841, when Upper and Lower Canada were reunited. Presumably Grantham Township held meetings starting in 1793, however the records for 1793 – 1817 are lost.

On July 21, 1796, in the absence of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, Hon. Peter RUSSELL was appointed President of the Executive council of Upper Canada, a position he held until August 17, 1799. During his term the Provincial offices in Newark closed with the move of the capital to York.

On August 17, 1799 Hon. Peter HUNTER was appointed Lieutenant-Governor and held this position until his death on August 21, 1805. During his term of office, on January 1, 1800 the four districts were revised and the

number of districts expanded, at which time the Home District area was changed and the District of Niagara was created. Niagara consisted of four ridings of Lincoln and Haldimand.

In 1800 the following officials of Niagara District are known: Clerk of the Peace – Ralfe Clench; Sherriff – James Clark; District Court Judge – William Dickson; Surrogate Court Judge – Dr. Robert Kerr.

In the absence of a Lieutenant-Governor, the head of state from September 11, 1805 – August 25, 1806 was Hon. Alexander GRANT who was President of the Executive Council.

August 25, 1806 – 1812 – the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Upper Canada was Hon. Francis GORE. He went to England on leave October 8, 1811 and until his return, the head of state was the administrator or president, which was committed successively to the senior military officer. During Gore's absence, the following served as President Administering the Government of Upper Canada:

- October 9, 1811 – killed October 13, 1812 – Major-General Sir Isaac BROCK
- October 20, 1812 – June 18, 1813 – Major-General Sir Roger Hale SHEAFFE, Bart.
- June 19, 1813 – December 12, 1813 – Major-General Francis Baron de ROTTENBURG
- December 13, 1813 – April 13, 1815 – Lieut. -Gen. Sir Gordon DRUMMOND, G.C.B.
- April 25, 1815 – June 30, 1815 – Lieut. -Gen. Sir George MURRAY (Provisional Lieut.-Gov.)
- July 1, 1815 – September 21 1815 – Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Phipps ROBINSON, K.C.B. (Provisional Lieut.-Gov.)

* Francis Gore returned September 1815 and left the country again on June 11, 1817.

- June 11, 1817- August 13, 1818 – Hon. Samuel SMITH

August 13, 1818 – November 4, 1828 - Maj.-Gen. Sir Peregrine MAITLAND, K.C.B. served as Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada. Following the death of the Duke of Richmond, Maitland served as administrator of Lower Canada between March 8 and June 30, 1820. During his absence Hon. Samuel SMITH acted as the administrator of Upper Canada.

From November 5, 1828 until he resigned and relieved on January 25, 1836 the Lieutenant-Governor was Maj. Gen. Sir John COLBORNE, K.C.B., later Baron Seaton.

From accession on January 25, 1836 until March 23, 1838 the Lieutenant-Governor was Maj. Sir Francis Bond HEAD, K.C.B.

From accession on March 23, 1838 until February 10, 1841 the Lieutenant-Governor was Maj. Gen. Sir George ARTHUR, K.C.B.

Grantham Township records from 1818 to 1900 can be found in the Special Collections area of the St. Catharines Public Library. These records list the following Township Clerks as of the first meeting in January of each year: 1818 – 1819 - William CHISHOLM; 1820 – Samuel WOOD; 1821-1842 – Charles ROLLS.

In 1841 the "District Councils Act" was passed and continued through 1849.

Between February 10, 1841 and June 30, 1867 Upper and Lower Canada became the united Province of Canada. Upper Canada became known as Canada West. The first Governor of the Province of Canada was Lord Sydenham who served in that capacity from February 10, 1841 until his death on September 19, 1841. His death prompted the appointment of Sir Richard Downes Jackson as Administrator until Sir Charles Bagot was appointed Governor on January 12, 1842 and he served until March 30, 1843. He died at Kingston on May 19, 1843. Following Bagot as governor was Sir Charles Metcalf from March 30 to November 26, 1845. Lord Cathcart was then appointed Administrator on November 26, 1845 and governor on April 24, 1846 and served until January 30, 1847. Lord Elgin was governor from January 30, 1847 until December 19, 1854.

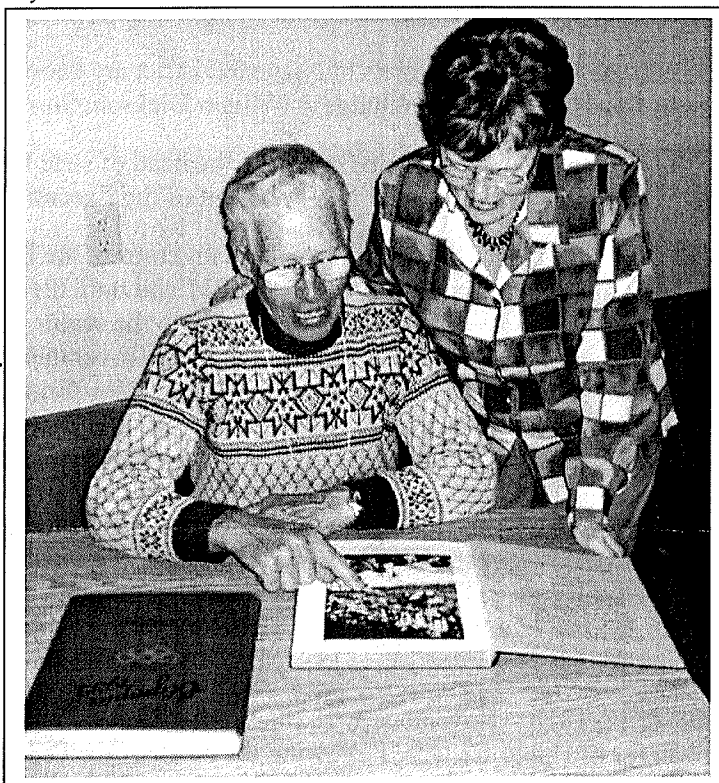
In 1849 the "Baldwin Municipal Act" was passed which provided for the creation of municipal councils.

Thus on January 1, 1850 Grantham Township was incorporated and Township Council was elected. The council members then elected a Reeve from the council members. The first Reeve was John Gilleland. A complete list of Grantham Township Reeves from 1850 to 1900 can be found in the Society's *March 2005 newsletter*.

Society Member Profiles: Herb Harder

By Paul Lewis

Herb Harder was born in the free city of Danzig in 1937. That area, which has since become part of Poland, was at the center of those difficult years before and during the Second World War. He remembers those childhood years as somewhat carefree while the adults around him struggled with enormous problems. In 1945, Herb and his brother Bill were forced to leave the family farm in front of the advancing Soviet armies. Soon after that their mother died and the boys were split up for a time. In 1947, however, the brothers were reunited with their father in West Germany. In 1953, sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee, they settled in N-O-T-L doing farm work. By 1955, Herb had a job in St. Catharines at the Ford dealership, indulging in his passion for working on cars. By 1960, he had his bodyman's license and the rest, as they say, is history... all 50 years of it!



*Herb and Hildegard examine one of Herb's
scrapbook albums on the '32 Olympics*

While the dealership changed hands often over the years, Herb didn't. Tools have changed and cars have changed but Herb has taken it all in stride. The years have been happy ones for the Harder family--three now adult children and a host of good memories. Herb indulges his hobbies--collecting picture books, model railroading, biking and gardening. He speaks three languages. His wife, Hildegard, and brother Bill are Society members too. Herb, like his nickname "Beaver" suggests, looks after our meeting details, Bill is our membership secretary and Hildegard just enjoys the gatherings. Herb is thinking about retirement, but after 50 years...who knows!

Miscellany

Congratulations to Gary Konkle, co-ordinator of the Friends of Morningstar Mill upon receiving the 2005 Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award from the Niagara Escarpment Commission .

Did You Know - That on January 1, 1858 Canadian Currency was changed from pounds to dollars?

When it comes to Heritage - Decisions we make to-day will impact us tomorrow?

Society member Mark Losier would like to establish a re-enactment group based upon Merritt's Light Dragoons. If you have (or want to have) a costume, a horse and some time contact Mark at 687-9248.

Best from Past Newsletters - Due to space limitations this column will return next issue.

The Society is looking for past records. If you happen to have old minutes, please consider passing them on to one of the Board members. Thank You.

NOTICE: This will be the last newsletter sent to members not having paid their 2005 dues.

Street Names Project Progressing Well

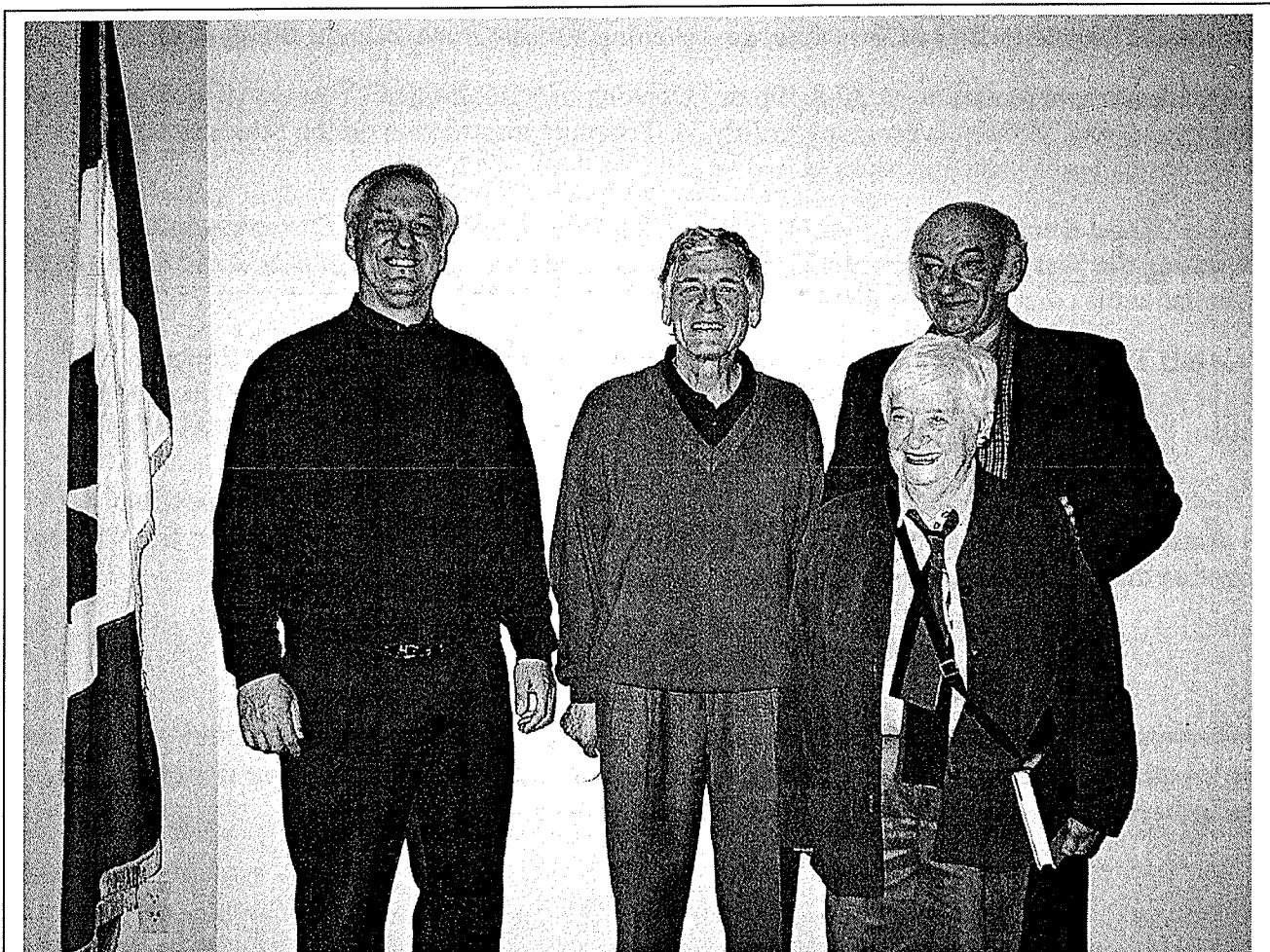
With several hundred names of local streets already researched, project chair Maurice Gomme has put out a call for information on the following: Inglewood Rd., Jamar Cir., Jolie Crt., Keistan Dr., Laird Dr., Listwan Dr., Lora St., Marvin Dr., May Alley, Nicholas St., Norwood St., Rochelle Dr., Romlo Crt., Sajur Crt., Sharon St., Southdale Dr., Terrama Crt., Thorn Pl., Turnova St., Wallace St., Wendover Pl., Winnifred Ave., Wynn St., Inglis Cir., Janet Crt., Justin Cres., Laguna Cres., Lantana Cir., Little Forks Sq., Lorraine Dr., Mathies St., Minto Crt., Nina Ave., Parker St., Rodger St., Rondelle Pl., Samuel Crt., Stockwell Rd., Terry Lane, Timco Pl., Valerie Dr., Wanda Rd., West Farmington Dr., Winston Rd., Warkdale Dr., Ingram Pl., Jessica Dr., Kamina Dr., Lailey St., Largo Dr., Lowell Ave., Matthews Crt., Monique Cres., Norman Rd., Rio Lane, Roland St., Roxborough Crt., Sequoia Ave., Sheldonbury Ct., Struk Pl., Tews Pl., Trevor Crt., Vivian Ave., Wembley Dr., Winfield Ct., Woodrow St., Waverley Rd.

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment Foundation

The Lincoln and Welland Regiment Foundation is a Registered Charitable Organization that was initiated in 1981 for the purpose of supporting those undertakings not financed by the Department of National Defence. The Foundation is raising funds to support many projects such as: the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Band, Support of the Regiment in relief efforts, the Cadet Program, the Military Museum at Butler's Barracks, and emergency support for Veterans in difficult circumstances. If you wish to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to: The Lincoln and Welland Regiment Foundation and mail to them at 81 Lake Street, St. Catharines, ON L2R 5X3.

Past Presidents Attend Annual Meeting

The annual meeting saw several past presidents of the Society attend. Pictured here is current president Bill Stevens along with past presidents Wes Turner, John Burtniak and Sheila Wilson.



Your Calendar of Historical Events Around Niagara

This list is presented for your information only, please confirm them as event locations and times can change and indeed be cancelled.

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 Association, it is looking better than ever!

All summer long – The Mackenzie Printery & Newspaper Museum – open during the summer months. Located on the Niagara Parkway in the Queenston community.

June 4-5 – Sophie, the Countess of Wessex will be visiting St. Catharines in her role as honorary Colonel-in-Chief of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

June 3, 4, 5 – 60th Annual Regatta of the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association held on the world famous Royal Canadian Henley Course in Port Dalhousie.

June 11 and 12 – Tall Ship Cruise aboard the Empire Sandy. Saturday daytime historical cruise on the lower Niagara River. Saturday evening dinner dance “Blues” Cruise. Sunday brunch Welland Canal cruise. Offered by Niagara College continuing education.

June 11 & 25, July 9 & 23, August 13 & 27, September 10 & 24 - Point Abino Lighthouse Tours - Four times per day: 10:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:45 p.m. For further information and tickets contact the Town of Fort Erie Parks & Leisure Services Department at 905-994-7825.

June 19 – Loyalist Day

June 21 – National Aboriginal Day

June 27 – Dennis Gannon speaks on “Thorold, Yesterday and Today” at the Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society meeting (which is followed by a Pie Social); The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in Chestnut Hall alongside the Thorold Library on Ormond Street, Thorold.

July 1 – Canada Day festivities at Fort George – evening – music, food, cannon firing, fireworks

July 2 – St. Catharines Museum - 1:30-3:30p.m - Opening of Exhibit titled “You Go GIRLS! 95 Years of Guiding in Canada.” Exhibit is on-going to July 31. For more information on the Museum visit their web site www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca

July 16-17 – Grand Encampment – Fort George will host the very first Grand Encampment in Canada commemorating the War of 1812. Hundreds of re-enactors in historic garb will muster at the fort restaging the spectacular battles that shook the old town so long ago.

July 22 – Golf Tournament to raise funds for the Children’s Discovery Centre – at Rockway Glen Golf Course & Estate Winery. Lunch at noon, golfing starts at 1:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:00p.m. Cost is \$125/person. For further information contact Mandy or Nancy at the Centre - phone 905-646-4365.

August 13 – 14 – Fife and Drum Muster And Soldier’s Field Day At Fort George – The sounds of fifes and drums, musketry and cannon firing fill the fort, as fife and drum corps and soldiers from across North America display their centuries old skills.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer

The Last Word: The Society still has some overdue memberships. I encourage you to renew, as unpaid members will be dropped from the membership list after June 30.