

The Historical Society of St. Catharines NEWSLETTER September 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.

Lest We Forget

Four of five brothers, the children of John and Frances Adie of St. Catharines, enlisted for service overseas in the First World War. Only one of the four, Captain Robert Adie, returned.

In memory of

Gunner ALLAN ADIE

Service Number: 341920

Service Number: 34192

Who died on November 20, 1917. Age: 21

Force: Army - Regiment: Canadian Field Artillery - Unit: 8th Brigade

Son of John A. and Frances Adie, of St. Catharines, Ontario Buried – Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium

Commemorated on Page 189 of the First World War Book of Remembrance

In memory of

Private ARCHIBALD WILLIAM ADIE

Service Number: 851119

Who died on April 10, 1918.

Age: 26

Force: Army - Regiment: Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario Regiment)

- Unit: 18th Bn.

Son of John A. and Frances M. Adie, of St. Catharines, Ontario

Buried - Etaples Military Cemetery, France

Commemorated on Page 357 of the First World War Book of Remembrance

In memory of

Lieutenant JOHN MCCLELLAND ADIE

Who died of wounds on November 3, 1918.

Age: 35

Force: Army - Regiment: Canadian Motor Machine Gun Brigade - Unit: 1st

Lieut. ADIE had been in western Canada for several years and enlisted in

Calgary in an artillery unit as a private.

Son of John A. and Frances Adie, of 5 Adam St., St. Catharines, Ontario.

Buried - Auberchicourt British Cemetery, France

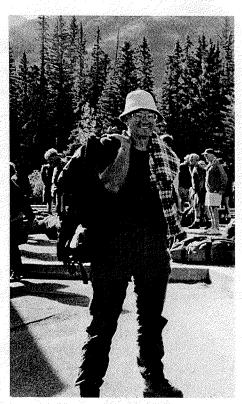
Commemorated on Page 357 of the First World War Book of Remembrance

Allan, Archibald and John were survived by their parents, two sisters, Mable (at home) and Mrs. John A. (Jane) House (of Port Dalhousie), and two brothers Captain Robert (still overseas at the time) and James (of Newark, New Jersey). A cousin, Harry Morton Ellis Adie, son of James and Clara Adie of 99 Queen Street, St. Catharines, also laid his life on the altar of his country.

In Memoriam – Del Hildebrand – 1943-2004

Our Historical Society has lost a valuable member of the Board of Directors. Del Hildebrand, our treasurer, joined the Board a few years ago and handled our financial affairs most professionally. Del died suddenly at about 7 a.m. on Friday, July 16 while fording a river just outside the Glacier Lake emergency shelter site located along the Akshayuk Pass, the main route through Auyuittuq National Park, on Baffin Island in Nunavut Territory. Del was on a long-planned wilderness hiking expedition to this area north of the Arctic Circle. Del was also a member of the Bruce Trail Association and was an experienced and well-travelled hiker, having hiked in many beautiful places around the world including Peru, New Zealand, England and North America.

Del was born in Waldheim, Saskatchewan on February 10, 1943. Del will be missed by his loving companion Brenda Zadoroznij, his children and their families, and one brother and two sisters and their families. We extend our deepest sympathies.



Auyuittuq National Park, Baffin Island

Auyuittuq National Park is one of Canada's last wilderness paradises and is largely dominated by rock and ice. "Auyuittuq" is Inuit for "the land that never melts." Auyuittuq is home to the Penny Ice Cap, a 6,000 square kilometre ice cap that is one of the few remaining remnants of the most recent ice age. The park is located on the Cumberland Peninsula of Baffin Island. It is accessible only by boat or snow machine from the Inuit village of Pangnirtung, and is visited only by a few hardy backpackers and mountain climbers during the brief Arctic summer. The Weasel River bisects the western section of Pangnirtung Pass as it drains Summit Lake, crossing numerous glacial moraines on its way to Pangnirtung Fjord at the head of the Pass. For a short period in July the banks of the Weasel River come alive with the bright Purple Saxifrage, the first plant to flower each spring, in contrast to the monotone gray landscape in this towering glacial valley.

In Memoriam - Kathleen Jackson

The Society extends its condolences to long-time member Dr. John Jackson on the passing of his beloved wife Kathleen on June 20, 2004. Kathleen enjoyed attending our meetings and was always a joy to talk to. Kathleen was a former President of the St. Catharines University Women's Club, an active member of the May Court Club and a former member of the St. Catharines Museum Board. She leaves John, their son Andrew and his wife Karen, their daughter Susan and her husband Bob Evans, and their son Paul to mourn her passing.

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 December 2004

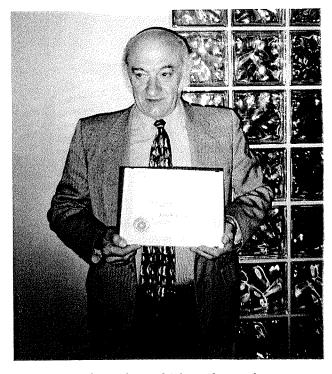
John Burtniak Receives Provincial Heritage Award

On June 17th, Regional Chair Peter Partington presented John Burtniak with the Cultural Heritage Award from the Ontario Heritage Foundation as part of the Heritage Community Recognition Program. Well deserved – Congratulations, John!

Esther Summers Receives Niagara Heritage Award

On June 18th, Esther Summers was presented with the Niagara Heritage Award. The ceremony was held at Betty's Restaurant in Chippawa. Esther is a most deserving recipient and we congratulate her on receiving this award.

Esther is a member of our Society.



Above photo of John with award

Annual Bus Tour

A full bus toured through the eastern half on Niagara Region on Saturday, June 12 to view various places of historical interest. John Burtniak certainly knows the history of Niagara. Need I say more! Thanks, John, for a most informative and varied ride through history. And I thought I knew all the interesting places in Niagara. The photo below was taken at Drummond Hill Cemetery.



Society Needs New Treasurer

Please consider volunteering to assume the Society's treasurer duties. Contact Bill Stevens 905-934-8966 or e-mail <u>bibmstev@computan.on.ca</u>. It is important to fill this position quickly.

Celebrating William Hamilton Merritt and Downtown Walk

July 3rd was a lovely day to celebrate William Hamilton Merritt's birthday (his actual birth date was July 3). Over 30 members of the Society, the public and the Canadian Canals Foundation listened to John Burtniak explain the importance of W. H. Merritt. Following the laying of wreaths, Alun Hughes described the area around the monument as it was many years ago. We then set out on a very interesting walk, down the little narrow laneway behind Ontario Street and then stopping at the Opera House site. The tour continued through downtown, ending at the Oille Fountain.



28th Annual Oille Fountain Geranium Potting Ceremony

It was a glorious noon hour as the Mayor of St. Catharines, Oille family members, Society members and the public came together to celebrate this unique piece of our City's history. Several members of the Oille family attended, coming from Vancouver, Meaford, Haliburton and around Niagara. Pat Stewart, the daughter of Fred Oille and a great-great grand niece of Dr. Lucius Oille was the official potter and did a great job of lifting the planted bowl up into the urn, assisted by Janet McPherson, whose father was Les Oille, Fred's brother. *The Niagara News* reporter was there to observe and two pictures and a great front page story was placed in the Friday July 9th issue of the newspaper.

Following the ceremony at the Fountain, a reception was held at the Honest Lawyer Restaurant across the street. The Honest Lawyer opened their premises just for us, and supplied coffee to go with our cake (thanks to Doris Pettifer for providing this). Several members and guests stayed to enjoy some lunch and refreshment before departing.

Thank you, Chris and Dennis, staff of the Honest Lawyer Restaurant, for making the reception such a success!



Best From The Past and an update!

"A TINKLE OF GLASS"

From March 1993 Issue (article slightly edited) - Submitted by Sheila Wilson

Anyone who has seen photographs of early scenes of St. Catharines and area must have come across the name of Edwin C. Poole, photographer. Born in England in 1845, he first settled in Chatham and then in 1876 moved to St. Catharines, where he established a photography studio and soon gained a reputation for his fine photographic work. In 1878 he was awarded Honourable Mention at the Paris Exhibition, and he also received a diploma from New York City, a bronze medal at Toronto, and a gold medal at Hamilton Photographic Conventions in recognition of his work. He was also one of the founding officers and member of the Canadian Photographic Association.

While Poole's work was mainly portraits and studio work, it is his series of pictures of St. Catharines and other towns such as Thorold that local historians are so interested in, because of the reproductions of his prints, which appeared in such publications as the 1907 Souvenir number of the St. Catharines Standard. Some of his prints were also reproduced in the Toronto papers. Apparently he systematically photographed most of the buildings and the landscape of St. Catharines and area, and it is thanks to his prints that we have some idea of what St. Catharines looked like at the turn of the century, since many of those landmarks have disappeared. When Edwin Poole retired, his business, including all his negatives (in those days glass plates) were acquired by another photographer, his successor, a Mr. Friesman. He in turn offered to sell the plates to the St. Catharines Public Library, and the minutes of the Library record this transaction in 1922.

The Public Library also had some historical artefacts acquired by donations through the years, and since its main concern was for its book collection, the artefacts and the glass plates were put in the hands of the St. Catharines and Lincoln Historical Society for safekeeping. As the Society met in a room in the Library this seemed a good idea but no formal release of those artefacts was given to the Society. In the passage of time, the Library outgrew its quarters and changing internal arrangements meant that the Historical Society had to seek new premises. For a while they met at Rodman Hall and had some of the artefacts stored there. Then it was thought a good idea to store things above the old Fire Hall on Lake Street. During these moves, the glass plates were moved several times, but therein lay the mystery of what finally happened to them. When I became head of Reference in the St. Catharines Public Library in 1960, my predecessor asked me to trace those interesting plates, but to no avail. Every older member of the Historical Society was quizzed; the late Miss Kathleen Duff said that she remembered hearing a "tinkle of glass" in one of the moves.

All the other artefacts became the nucleus of the present St. Catharines Museum, which the Historical Society helped to establish in 1967, but no one has seen or remembers these priceless Poole prints.

Dennis Gannon's note: A memorandum summarizing the proposed Library purchase of Poole's negatives contains some fascinating details. It refers to the Library Board acquiring "the first photographic negatives taken in this city, ...taken over by Mr. Poole when he started his business here ..." It also says the price would be \$10 "per thousand," noting that "It is impossible to estimate the number of the plates." So we have AT LEAST 1,000 plates, many of them Pre-Dating Poole's arrival in 1876 (dating back to the 1860's? the 1850's? the 1840's?) That "tinkle of glass" recalled by Miss Duff robbed us of more than anyone probably realized at the time.)

The story continued in the June 1993 Newsletter - "Responses to Poole story."

Corlene Taylor responded with information about Poole and his family and mentioned a *Standard* article dated January 15, 1920 that reported on the donation of Poole's negatives to the St. Catharines Library and also noted that the Poole gift included the negatives of other photographers, including J.T. See (active here ca.1868-1874). Corlene suspects that the destruction of Poole's glass plate negatives probably took place while they were stored in Rodman Hall; during the time the Society stored its artefacts and records there.

Another local researcher found the following paragraph in the 1929 Annual Report of the Lincoln Historical

Society, forerunner of our Society: We have listed 892 of the negatives from the collection from Mr. E. Poole's studio. These comprise buildings, general views, vessels, waterways, official and society groups, personal portraits and miscellaneous subjects.

In the September 1994 Newsletter, a photograph of Poole's Photo Studio on St. Paul Street appeared and the photo was dated March 1902.

EDWIN POOLE

In the May 1999 Newsletter, a portrait of Edwin Poole appeared, along with the reverse side of the portrait, which was an advertisement for his Studio and acted as a business card.

The article included a short biography of Poole as follows: Edwin Poole was a noted photographer who conducted a successful business in St. Catharines until his retirement in 1921. His work won several awards at photographic competitions around the world. In an advertisement ca.1878 he was closing his shop to attend the Paris picture exposition. For many years he was the superintendent of the Sunday school at the Lyman St. Baptist Church before becoming a faithful member of the Queen St. Baptist Church. For 44 years (1885-1929) he was secretary of the Upper Canada Bible Society. He was a prominent worker for the establishment of the YMCA here. He was one of the oldest members of Union Lodge I.O.O.F.



Edwin's wife predeceased him by seven years and two children died young. He loved children and he always carried peppermints in his pocket for those who sought him out. Edwin died on January 27, 1931 at his home at 11 Race Street, St. Catharines. He is buried in Farringdon Cemetery in Brantford, where other members of his family are buried. At his death, he had two sisters, Mrs. Frances Staniland of Brantford and Miss. Agnes Poole of St. Catharines. He also had two brothers, William Poole of England and L.J. Poole of Detroit.

Since the above articles appeared in the newsletters the following information was found in two death notice entries:

February 8, 1893 – Died Brantford, February 7, Matilda, relict late John Poole and mother of E. Poole, Photographer this city, aged 75 years 9 months.

January 2, 1923 – died at late residence 11 Race Street, January 1 – Mary H. wife of Edwin Poole, Interment, Brantford.

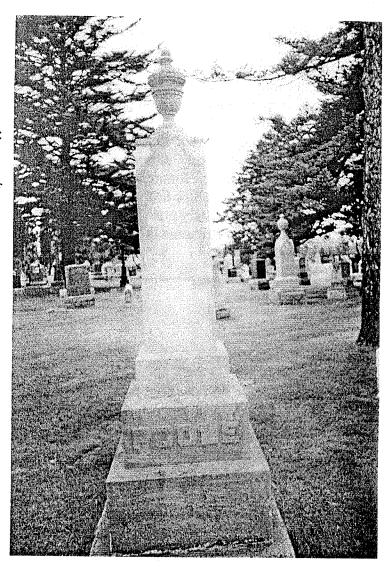
Edwin Poole and several family members are buried in Farringdon Cemetery, Old 'J' Section 1 Row 3 beside the church. The cemetery is located on Mount Pleasant Street, Brantford, Ontario.

... continues ...

The POOLE monument was photographed and transcribed for me by Karen Jackson. (I thank you, Karen, for this, Ed.)

There are ten people listed on one monument. The transcription reads as follows:

POOLE monument in Farringdon Cemetery: (on the east side) – JOHN POOLE / died July 17, 1878 / Aged / 61 years 19 days / Thy will be done / Matilda / beloved wife of / John Poole / died Feb. 7, 1893 / aged / 75 years 8 mos / rest in the Lord and wait / patiently for him (on the west side) EDWIN POOLE / 1845 – 1931 / Mary H. / wife of E. Poole / died / Jan. 1, 1923 / aged 73 years (on the north side) Alfred E. / son of / John and Matilda / Poole / died / Sept. 11, 1889 / aged / 36 years 5 months / He giveth His loved sleep / Agnes POOLE / born / July 14, 1885 / died / Feb. 10, 1940 (on the south side) HENRY W. STANILAND / aged 50 years / died / Nov. 20, 1896 / his wife / FRANCES POOLE / 1850 – 1932 / CLARISSA A. / age 2 yrs 7 mos / died / Oct. 23, 1893 / GLADYS READWIN / 1891 - 1971



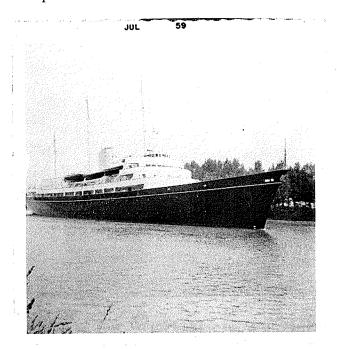
"Old Raceway Was Factor Bringing Factories Here"

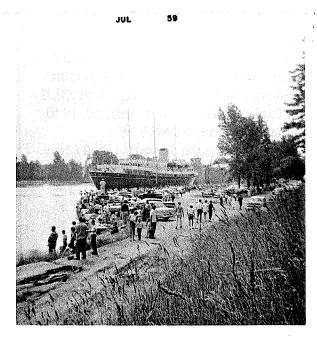
Newspaper Article – March 25, 1960 – The Standard

The old hydraulic raceway built in 1824, which generated power in its tumultuous water, was the factor that brought factories and mills to St. Catharines in the early day, Francis Goldring told members of the Lincoln Historical Society last evening. Mr. Goldring illustrated his talk with early maps. Many other communities, started at the same time as Shipman's Corners, which became St. Catharines, did not continue to grow. The old raceway wended its way from Hayes Steel Mill to Hutchison's Mills, later the old Kinleith Paper Co. Many old lanes, Mr. Goldring said, led down from St. Paul St. to the mills along the raceway where horse-drawn wagons took their loads down, at William, James, Tannery Lane, Hill, Head and Race streets. Some of the factories were Riordon Paper Mills, Oille's mill, Garden City Paper, Grantham Flour Mills, Phelps' Mill and Packard, first to use water from the raceway. Mr. Goldring also described types of waterwheels used in the mills, turned by the strong raceway current. Norman Macdonald presided at the meeting. Another meeting will be held March 30 in connection with forming a Lincoln Historical Museum at the new Arts Centre in Rodman Hall. A delegation from the society will go to city council to urge the preservation of Lock three of the first Welland Canal. R.S.K. Welch, the society's president, is its representative to the Arts Council.

Dates In History

July 1, 1959 – (45 years ago) – The Royal Yacht Britannia transits the Welland Ship Canal. On page 9 of the July 2nd edition, of the *St. Catharines Standard*, a larger story and several pictures appeared. The caption for the pictures reads in part as follows: "Standard photographers John McTaggart and Don Sinclair fought through crowds. Leaned over locks, scampered along banks and dangled from lift bridges to record the pictures on this page." Some excerpts from the accompanying article read as follows: "Thousands lined the banks ... and bunched along the west wall of Lock 1 To see the royal yacht Britannia start her faultless 326-foot climb up the Niagara Escarpment. Thousands more lined the canal along to Port Colborne First sight of the sleek 412-foot yacht was the yellow tops of her three raked masts ... Rounding the slight curve in the approach to Lock 1, the yacht passed four of her escorting warships tied up along the west wall ... A Royal Marine band on board the Britannia vied with a solitary piper on board HMCS Gatineau in an exchange of greetings. .. The blue, white and cream Britannia is bound up the Great Lakes to pick up Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at Windsor...."





October 14-15, 1954 - (50 years ago) - Hurricane Hazel slams into St. Catharines!

October 19, 1909 - (95 years ago) - the beginning of what is now Shaver Hospital took root on historic Collier's Hill in St. Catharines. The original site is near what is now Westchester Avenue and Highway 406. Today Shaver Hospital, which was built in 1930, is located atop the Niagara Escarpment on Glenridge Avenue.

November 7, 1789 - (215 years ago) - Lord Dorchester's Proclamation - Lord Dorchester, governor of both upper and lower Canada, issued a proclamation at the Council Chamber of Quebec regarding the Loyalists who, having left the United States, came to Canada and adhered to the principle of the Unity of the Empire. As well as giving lands belonging to the Crown to the Loyalists, he proclaimed that, forever after, the Loyalists and their descendants could affix U.E. after their name.

November 12, 1994 - (10 years ago) - the Queen Street Y.M.C.A. was a pile of rubble on the ground. It had opened in the fall of 1929 to much praise "The grandeur of the building both outside and within, was the cause of most favourable comment ..." - Now a Parking Lot!

Calendar of Events

(Programs are subject to change)

Thursday, September 23 - Guest Speaker - Robert Malcomson: "The Battle of Queenston Heights - a very brilliant affair" - 7:30 p.m. at The Historical Society of St. Catharines meeting - at the St. Catharines Museum (Burgoyne Room) located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines.

September 18 to October 31 - St. Catharines Junior 'A' Hockey: The Pride is Back! - explore the proud heritage of Junior 'A' hockey in St. Catharines - at the St. Catharines Museum.

September 23 - Yates Street Walking Tour - conducted by John Burtniak for the Brock University Continuing Education Program - 9 a.m. to noon - fee \$49.00 / \$45.00 seniors - for more information on this or other courses and to register, call 905-688-5550, ext.4775.

September 23 (2:00 to 3:30 p.m.) or on October 28 (7:00 to 8:30 p.m.) - Discover Your Roots - a basic overview of the many genealogical resources available, in the Special Collections Room of the St. Catharines Public Library. To register call 905-688-6103, ext. 220. Free.

September 24, 25 and 26 - Brock University Celebrates 40th Anniversary - Brock is also hosting 'Brock Days 2004' - visit Brock's web site at www.brocku.ca to view a photo series, which is a retrospective of the University's history. The public is invited to attend several events, which can be found on their web site.

September 25 - Grape and Wine Festival Parade - celebrates the 50th anniversary of the City's first Memorial Cup - four different Junior A Hockey teams (Falcons, Teepees, Blackhawks, Fincups) will provide honourary parade marshals. An open-to-the-public reunion of all former Junior players will be held after the parade at the St. Catharines Museum from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

September 27 - Kimberly Monk: "The Shickluna Shipyard" - 7:30 p.m. in Chestnut Hall, Ormond Street, Thorold - Thorold and Beaverdams Historical Society.

September 29 - The Canadian Railway Historical Association - Niagara Division – meets at 7:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Museum.

September 30 start - 5 Thursday sessions from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - "History, Just Around The" - A short journey through local history of St. Catharines - a general interest course - at Lakeport Secondary School - to register call 905-687-7000 before Sept. 20 and 905-934-2545 after Sept. 20 - fee \$35.00 - by the District School Board of Niagara, Community Education Services.

October 2 - Pioneer Festival in Jordan - '10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - an admission fee is charged.

October 8, 9, 10, 11 - Ball's Falls Thanksgiving Festival - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily - at the Ball's Falls Heritage Conservation Area, Jordan - an admission fee is charged.

October 10 - "Lost Villages" - 7:30 p.m. - Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Thorold - Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch meeting.

October 16 - Heritage Designation of Mayholme - 2:00 p.m. - in conjunction with Doors Open program. Mayholme was built ca.1858 by George May, a member of one of the oldest Loyalist families to settle in this area. Mayholme is located at 525 Ontario Street, St. Catharines.

Calendar of Events

(Programs are subject to change)

October 16 and 17 - DOORS OPEN NIAGARA - St. Catharines sites are: British Methodist Episcopal Church, Hernder Estates Winery, Inner Range Lighthouse, Carousel, Lincoln County Courthouse, Morningstar Mill and Miller's House, Ridley College Chapel, Rodman Hall, St. Catharines Museum, St. Thomas' Anglican Church (which is celebrating its 125th Anniversary) and Mayholme. All venues are open free of charge. Further details can be found at the following web site www.doorsopenniagara.com. Also, if you are willing to assist at any of these sites please e-mail Rebecca Cann at rcann@stcatharines.ca.

October 25 - Janice Barlow: "The Grand Opera House of St. Catharines" - 7:30 p.m. in Chestnut Hall, Ormond Street, Thorold - Thorold and Beaverdams Historical Society.

Thursday, October 28 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Phillip Gifford - "Lost Ships of Niagara" - 7:30 p.m. at The Historical Society of St. Catharines meeting - at the St. Catharines Museum (Burgoyne Room) located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines.

November 11 - 11:00 a.m. - a moment of silence - Remembrance Day. The Historical Society will place a wreath during the service at the Cenotaph in Memorial Park on St. Paul Street.

Thursday, November 11 - 7:30 p.m. - Guest Speaker - Rob Leverty - "Ontario Cemeteries: The Struggle For the Public Interest" - at the regular meeting of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch - in partnership with The Historical Society of St. Catharines - at the St. Catharines Museum (Burgoyne Room) located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines.

Thursday, November 25 - 7:30 p.m. - 5th Annual Show-and-Tell and Christmas Social - 7:30 p.m. at The Historical Society of St. Catharines meeting - at the St. Catharines Museum (Burgoyne Room) located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines.

November 29 - Derek Miller: "A History of the Welland Ship Canal" followed by Christmas Social - 7:30 p.m. in Chestnut Hall, Ormond Street, Thorold – Thorold and Beaverdams Historical Society.

Thursday, January 27, 2005 - 7:30 p.m. - Society member Sheila Wilson — "The History of the St. Catharines Public Library" - 7:30 p.m. at The Historical Society of St. Catharines meeting - at the St. Catharines Museum (Burgoyne Room) located at the Welland Canals Centre (at Lock 3), 1932 Welland Canals Parkway (formerly Government Road), St. Catharines.

Information Sought:

The Grantham Township Cenotaph located in Victoria Lawn Cemetery lists those brave souls who gave their lives for Canada's freedom. There are three names inscribed upon the cenotaph that I have been unable to find any information on. If you know anything at all about Thomas A. KIRTLAND, Garnet M. SMYTH, or Roy Burton SECORD would you please advise me, Bill Stevens, at e-mail

bbmstev@computan.on.ca I am hoping to produce a booklet on this cenotaph.