

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

March 2003

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***

Unless otherwise noted - the Society will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

**Meetings are usually held 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.  
(Program is subject to change) (Refreshments are usually served after the program)

**Thursday, March 27** - 7:30 p.m. - Henry Radecki, Ph.D., a native of Wolyn, Poland, and author of the newly published book *The History of the Polish Community in St. Catharines*. Dr. Radecki has lived in St. Catharines for 20 years.

**Thursday, April 24** - 7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting and Election of Executive and Board of Directors. Following the meeting, we are delighted that Society member Colin Duquemin will present a lecture on "The History of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Battery and the Battle of St. Julien".

**Thursday, May 22** - 7:30 p.m. - Kate Larson is currently working on her PhD dissertation, and a book (due out this fall) on the aspect of the life and work of Harriet Tubman. Kate is from north-eastern United States and we are very pleased she will be able to come and speak to us.

**Saturday, May 31** - 1:00 p.m. - 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Oille Fountain Planting - meet at the fountain on the corner of King and James Streets. Following the planting, at 2:00 p.m., we are invited to join with The Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada over at Memorial Park (St. Paul at Yates St.) for the Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony. A reception will follow at the armoury.

**Saturday, June 7** - 11 a.m. sharp - Walking Tour of Victoria Lawn Cemetery - "Canals and Ships" is the theme of this year's tour. Starting from main office. Duration 1 1/2 hours.

**Saturday, June 14** - Annual Historical Society Bus Tour - see details inside newsletter.

**Saturday, July 5** - 11:00 a.m. - Annual Merritt Day Celebration and Walking Tour of downtown - meet at the corner of St. Paul Street and McGuire Street, east of the Burgoyne Bridge. The Society will lay a wreath at the Merritt monument and go for a walk to be led by John Burtiak.

**Thursday, September 25** - Alex Ormston - History of the Niagara District Bank.

**Thursday, October 23** - Joseph O'Brien - History of 'Western Hill' St. Catharines.

**Thursday, November 27** - Annual Show and Tell and Christmas Social.

**Thursday, January 22, 2004** - Alun Hughes - Daniel Hazen, Surveyor of Grantham Township.

## **Notice of Annual Meeting – April 24, 2003 – 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 (published in the *June 2002 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, Refreshments and Social Time.

### **Nominations and Elections**

Take note that the executive positions are for a two-year term. Director's terms are for a one-year term. Nominations and elections will take place for a minimum of two and a maximum of six directors. Any two members in good standing must nominate members in good standing, and that member must agree to the nomination. Elections will be held immediately following the close of nominations. Those elected will assume office immediately.

### **Slate of Candidates for Executive and Directorship**

Past President (automatic) - John Burtniak – tel. 905-227-5120

President - Bill Stevens – e-mail [bibmstev@computan.on.ca](mailto:bibmstev@computan.on.ca) - tel. 905-934-8966

Vice President -

Secretary - Brenda Zadoroznij – e-mail [bzadoroz@becon.org](mailto:bzadoroz@becon.org) - tel. 905-935-3025

Treasurer - Del Hildebrand – e-mail [dhildebr@Becon.org](mailto:dhildebr@Becon.org) - tel. 905-935-3025

Director - Joyce DeForest – e-mail [vdefores@mergetel.com](mailto:vdefores@mergetel.com) - tel. 905-685-4728

Director - Paul Hutchinson – e-mail [slabtown@niagara.com](mailto:slabtown@niagara.com) - tel. 905-227-2699

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

Director - Dennis Gannon – e-mail [dgannon@becon.org](mailto:dgannon@becon.org)

Director-Membership -

Director -

### **Proposed Amendments to Constitution**

No Amendments have been put forward.

## **St. Catharines Museum**

The St. Catharines Museum is open daily. Hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Museum Library/Archives is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m.

The Museum Gift Shop, "Merritt's Mercantile," carries many items and books of historic interest.

### **Follow-Up on the December 2002 Newsletter**

One article at the end of the newsletter dealt with the relationship between Rodman Hall, the Society, and the Museum. A further connection with the Society is that the Historical Society decided to convert the ownership of its collection (which had helped form the nucleus of the Museum's collection when the Museum was founded in 1965) to an outright donation at a meeting at Rodman Hall on September 18, 1984.

For additional information on upcoming events visit the museum web site [www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca](http://www.stcatharineslock3museum.ca)

To contact the Museum by post: St. Catharines Museum, P.O. Box 3012, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3R6

by telephone: 905 984-8880, ext. 231; by Fax: 905 984-6910; by e-mail: [<stemchin@niagara.com>](mailto:stemchin@niagara.com)

### **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 historical items of interests. 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 is by paid membership only. Bill Stevens produced this issue.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture & Recreation.

**Next Issue June 2003**

## **The Historical Society of St. Catharines – NEWS & NOTES**

\***Heritage Grant** - the Society is very pleased to receive a Provincial Heritage development grant of \$822 and we thank the Ontario Ministry of Culture for this assistance with our program.

\***Welcome to Our Newest Members** - Don and Lois Wiley, Lesley Taylor, Anthony Gasbarini, Elizabeth VanOphem, Kathy Burtch, Terry Jefferson

\***The Society would like to thank Lynn Prunskus and Paul Hutchinson** for conducting another wonderful workshop '*Caring for Family Treasures on Paper*' on Saturday, November 30. Twelve people participated in the most informative and practical program. There was a hands-on encapsulation session, tour of Brock University Library Special Collections and a wonderful lecture and display of archival materials. If you have an idea for a workshop, please let Paul know.

\***"Taking the Waters: a History of the Spas of St. Catharines"** - Members may purchase a copy from the Society for \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage and handling.

\***The Ontario Historical Society** – has a new web site - [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

\***Bobbie Styran** – was featured in a front-page story on December 19, 2002 in *The Standard* titled "Sharing her passion for canal history". The title says it all, congratulations to member Bobbie!

\***World Canals Conference** – "Channels For Prosperity" will be held June 2-4, 2004 at Brock University. More information can be obtained by e-mail: [tourism@city.stcatharines.on.ca](mailto:tourism@city.stcatharines.on.ca) and information about the host organization, the Canadian Canal Society from their web site <http://people.becon.org/~ccs/>.

\***The Grimsby Historical Society** – House Tour – May 24, 2003. Tickets (\$15.00) are available from the Grimsby Museum (905-945-5292).

\***The Friends of the Carousel** - will be holding a fund raising dance on May 10 at the Port Dalhousie Lion's Club Hall. Tickets – call Bob at 905-646-1675

\***18 Merritt Street** - we congratulate the owners on their beautiful restoration and for seeking heritage designation. John Charles McNamara, a contractor, built the home in 1880. It was sold in 1895 to John Conlon a bridge tender and lock tender.

\***HMCS Haida** – is at Port Weller Dry Docks to be repaired prior to being put on permanent display in Hamilton. It is the last of 27 Tribal Class destroyers that were built. *The Standard* has been covering this story and carried a wonderful front-page story on January 18, 2003.

\***Juno Beach Centre** – construction has begun in Courseulles-sur-Mer, France. Information can be found on the Internet <[www.junobeach.org](http://www.junobeach.org)>

\***Great Lakes Conference** – St. Catharines will be host to up to 250 Mayors from Canada and the United States from June 16 to 18 at the Quality Inn Parkway Complex.

\***Children's Discovery Centre** – is making steady progress on the dinosaur dig and many other projects. You can find out more from their web site <http://www.childrensdiscoverycentre.org>

\***March 25 – Top Hat Ceremony** welcomes the opening of the Welland Canal – 10 am at Lock 3.

\***April 6** – has been declared **Archives Awareness Day** by the Archives Association of Ontario.

## **St. Catharines Rowing Club – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Despite the terrible weather conditions on Thursday, January 23, 38 people, including several people who had been past rowing club members, enjoyed the presentation by Stan Lapinski. Stan spoke of the founding of the rowing club in 1903 and through a series of wonderful slides told of the changes and challenges that took place over the past 100 years. Stan is involved in the production of a book on the history of the club, which will be introduced at the Rowing Club's Captain's Dinner on March 29. Rowing is a major sport in St. Catharines, and club crews and members have represented St. Catharines and Canada around the world. Of course St. Catharines Rowing Club crews have always represented the club right here in St. Catharines at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta, winning many events over the years. Stan has searched out many rare photos as well as more contemporary ones to produce a comprehensive history of the club. The club will hold a reunion on the weekend of August 8 to 10 on Henley Island. You can access more information on the rowing club and the centennial events from their web site [www.niagara.com/~rowsrc/](http://www.niagara.com/~rowsrc/) or obtain information by e-mail [src100@yahoo.ca](mailto:src100@yahoo.ca). It is interesting to note that Historical Society president A.E. Coombes was the president of the St. Catharines Rowing Club in 1925 and possibly 1926.

## **Walking Tour of Victoria Lawn Cemetery – “Canals and Ships”**

***Saturday, June 7 - 11 a.m. sharp***

Bill Stevens will lead a 1 ½ hour (approximately) tour starting from the cemetery office area. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, dress according to the weather and bring some water or soft drink refreshment. The tour will highlight approximately 30 grave sites of those individuals who planned, financed, or sold lands for the canal, and those who built it along with those who built and sailed the ships. Sponsored by the Society and Victoria Lawn Cemetery. The tour is free. Participation is entirely at your own risk.

## **November's Show and Tell Another Success**

A wonderful evening! Many members came early to renew their membership, pick up the latest newsletter, chat a bit before enjoying the meeting and program and then staying for some punch, Yule log cake and some of Joyce DeForest's famous baked goods. A total of forty-two attended, with eighteen presenting items. Some of the items shown:

- Celtic Illumination – a wonderful work by Molly Bennett, an account of Molly and the meaning of the Illumination was presented
- “New Horizons” – a book by John Pearn and Vena Pearn, a “find” that contained many pictures and family history of a member's ancestors in the New Zealand area
- Walking Stick – with the crest of The Order of St. Patrick
- Pin – depicting William of Orange (man on a horse) – date shown as 1690
- Letter and newspaper articles – attributed to Fred Parnell – c1894-96
- Miner's Safety Lamp – c 1934 used by a member's family who were coal miners in Kent, England
- Photograph of “old” Glenridge – a wood framed black and white photo, about 6-feet long by 1-foot high, with brass plate “The St. Catharines Improvement Company”. The view looks south from downtown c1908-12 and shows the two tall concrete poles that once straddled the old lock, the train station and many other prominent features, but no Burgoyne bridge
- Stainless Silver Dish – shell shaped, with two spoons, family had lived in the same house for 5 generations, the question was asked, and “does anyone know what it is?”
- Candle Holder – from London, England, in the shape and appearance of the house on the Osmond Grounds built for Queen Victoria's children, made of metal, with a hinged roof to allow lighting of the candle
- Autograph book – with about 15 pages of autographs from the 1880's, including Mrs. Mary A. Robertson, Daniel Duffy, and others with surnames of Mack, Stiven, etc.
- Mayor's Chain of Office – on May 1, 1956, during the Society Presidency of Mrs. Montgomery, the Society presented St. Catharines Mayor John Smith a chain of office. It was made by Burke's Jewellers in Montreal, but was only used until amalgamation in 1961, at which time the City donated it to the museum
- Original First Minute Book of the Society – the minutes start January 14, 1927 with the start up meeting and is followed by a general membership meeting one week later
- Picture Collecting Books – over 20 books from Germany that were fully complete with the appropriate pictures, all with a theme and very colourful
- A Photo and A Sketch – “the tale of two pictures” - both pictures of the ship “Persia”, one being the photograph by J.T. See c1874 and the other, a sketch by Thompson, done many years latter that appears to be sketched using the picture by See. It was noted that John Norris sailed on the Persia
- Broken Bottles – two pieces of very interesting bottles, one having the word “Seneca” on it and the other a bluish coloured soda bottle from c1850 ... although these were only pieces, they provide some history, but begs the question ... do you know anything about the Seneca bottle?
- Egg Crate – from the Leslie McMann Grocery store on Front Street in Thorold. A short story of the store and Mr. McMann, a former Mayor of Thorold, was presented
- Ceremonial Trowel – dated 1888 and used in the ceremony at the Elm Street United Church, has the name John McClain on it

As you can see, there was a wide assortment of items of historical interest. The Society thanks all those who brought forward items with great enthusiasm, making for such an enjoyable evening.

## **The Colonel Butler (Niagara) Branch of The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**

This Branch serves the Niagara Peninsula and meets on the first Saturday of each month, except January, July, and August. The UELAC has a number of classes of membership, but Regular Membership, with voting rights, is restricted to members who can provide documentary proof of descent from a Loyalist. A Loyalist ancestor must meet the following criteria:

Either male or female, as of 19 April 1775, a resident of the American colonies, and joined the Royal Standard prior to the Treaty of Separation of 1783, or otherwise demonstrated loyalty to the Crown, and settled in a territory remaining under the rule of the Crown; or a soldier who served in an American Loyalist Regiment and was disbanded in Canada; or a member of the Six Nations of either the Grand River or the Bay of Quinte Reserve who is descended from one whose migration was similar to that of other Loyalists.

After the initial flurry of settling the United Empire Loyalists on their new lands, Lord Dorchester, Governor-in-Chief of British North America, decided to honour those who had lost virtually everything they owned. On November 9, 1789, in Council at Quebec City, he gave particular recognition to the "First Loyalists" by differentiating them from other Loyalists and settlers. The Dorchester Resolution, approved by the Council (1) defined the U.E. Loyalists as those "who had adhered to the Unity of Empire and joined the Royal Standard in America before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783" (2) "put a Mark of Honour upon the Families" of the U.E. Loyalists (3) Approved the granting by the Land Board of 200 acres of land to the sons and daughters of the U.E. Loyalists. Accompanying the resolution to be laid before King George III in London was the following: N.B. Those Loyalists who have adhered to the Unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard (in America) before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their children and their descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following Capitals affixed to their names: U.E. – Alluding to their great principal The Unity of the Empire. *Source: Col. Butler (Niagara) Branch Membership Brochure*

The U.E.L.A.C. has a web site at: <http://www.uelac.org/branches.html>, with more information and you can also scroll down the branch list, to the local branch and find an on-line newsletter.

On December 27, 1934, The U.E.L.A. of St. Catharines and District, formed in 1905, held a ceremony to unveil a Memorial Boulder to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the Loyalists in Canada. On February 7, 2002 the local Branch submitted a request to have a flagpole erected at the Loyalist Memorial Boulder. On June 3, 2002, the St. Catharines City Council approved the request. The flagpole with the Loyalist flag flying year round will commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and serve as a permanent tribute to the United Empire Loyalist who played a major role in the development of the St. Catharines area. The flag resembles the Union Jack except for a missing diagonal stripe. On **May 31** at the hour of **2:00 p.m.** a ceremony to dedicate the new flagpole will be held at Memorial Park.

### **Casualties of the Militia of Lincoln County in the War of 1812;**

Compiled by: Alan Holden and Lt. Col. Wm. A. Smy, OMM, CD, CMH, UE

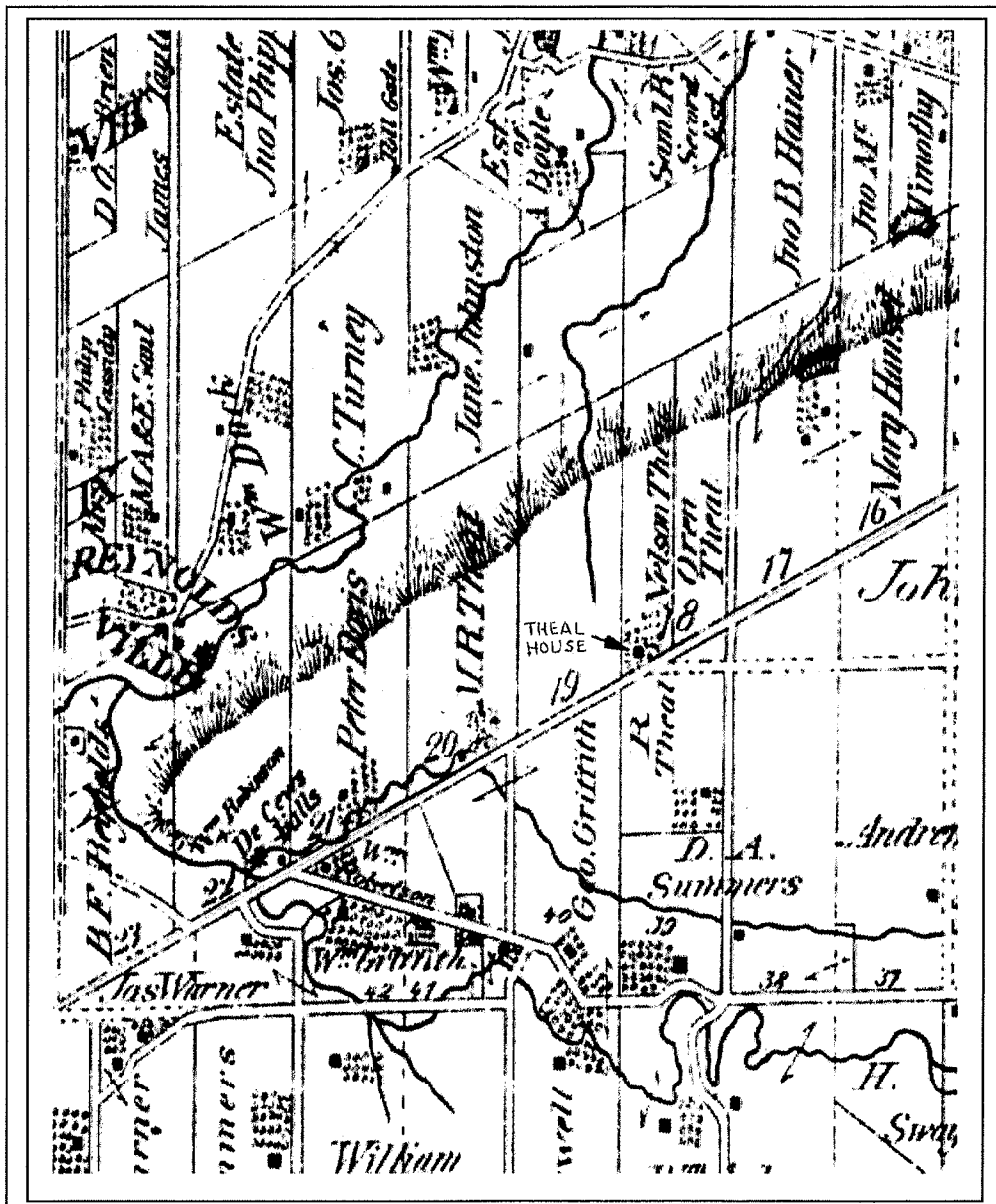
This 33-page book was published by Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association to commemorate the 190th Anniversary of the outbreak of the War of 1812. The book is dedicated to the memory of Alan Holden who is credited by William A. Smy with the study and much of the research. It provides an alphabetical listing of more than 200 men who were wounded, killed, died of wounds or died of disease while serving in the Lincoln County Militia. Seventeen of the men listed served in the American Revolution, twelve of them in Butler's Rangers. Short biographical details are included for each man.

The Lincoln Militia recruited men from Lincoln County, which at that time comprised the whole Niagara Peninsula and stretched west to include the townships of Ancaster, Barton, Glanford, Binbrook, and Saltfleet. Sources are cited for each man, his Regiment is listed and there is an index of additional names. This book is a "must have" reference for historians and researchers interested in the War of 1812 era of the Niagara Peninsula. Priced at \$10.00 tax included, is available by calling Brian Ford at 905-935-7382.

By Alun Hughes

The house is sometimes called Symphony House after a previous occupant, and before that it was known as the Field House, but it has never been formally named. I call it the Theal House, for Theals occupied it for many years and it was almost certainly a Theal who built it.

Several Theals are named on the accompanying map, a composite of the Grantham and Thorold maps from Page's Historical Atlas of Lincoln and Welland Counties, dated 1876. The house, surrounded by trees, is shown on Nelson Theal's land in the western half of lot 18, concession 10 of Grantham. His brother Oren has the eastern half, and an uncle Moses Richard Theal has lot 20 to the west. Another Theal, possibly a third brother Richard, has the northern half of lot 39 in Thorold to the south.





To the east of the Theal lands is the Merrittville Highway, and the road intersecting it at an angle is St. David's Road, which before the flooding of Lake Moodie used to continue all the way from Thorold to DeCew Falls. Tucked into the corner between the two roads are lots 18 and 19 of Grantham, which is where most of Brock's buildings lie.

These two lots have a very convoluted history. The first owner was George Turney Sr., who is named on maps as early as 1791 and who in 1804 or thereabouts sold to Thomas Lane. This is where the story starts to get interesting, for when the War of 1812 broke out Lane turned traitor and fled to the United States! (I like to think that he shot the fatal bullet that killed General Brock at Queenston Heights, but alas I have no proof of this.)

Lane's land, and the land of many others like him, was confiscated by the Commissioners for Forfeited Estates, and when peace was restored was returned to private ownership. Lots 18 and 19 were sold separately, and in both cases, due to a mix of unscrupulous behaviour and administrative laxity, there ensued a period of mass confusion as to who rightfully owned what.

In 1829 the Commissioners sold lot 18 to William Woodruff. This should have been a perfectly straightforward transaction, but it turned out that the land was already occupied by someone else! This was Samuel Theal, a veteran of the War of 1812 who had arrived in Niagara from Westchester, New York in about 1800, and who in 1825 purchased lot 18 from George Turney Jr., son of the original patent-holder.

But how could this be, when the elder Turney had sold the lot to Thomas Lane and Lane's land had been appropriated by the government?

It all goes back to the Turney-Lane transaction. The instrument of sale had been lost in the war, the two principals were gone (Turney was killed in 1814 and Lane had fled), and there was no proof that Lane had ever paid for the land. It seems that sufficient doubt existed to persuade the younger Turney that lot 18 still belonged to the family, theirs to dispose of as they wished. And so he sold to Theal. The sale was duly registered, and in a classic case of the right hand not knowing what the left is doing no-one in government realised that anything was amiss. (Something similar happened in lot 19, but that is another story.)



*Photo of Theal House taken by Bill Stevens in 2002*

Matters obviously came to a head in 1829 when the Commissioners sold the same lot to Woodruff. Though the sale to Theal was problematic it was recognised that he did have a prior claim, and in 1830 "An Act for the Relief of Samuel Theal" was passed by the parliament of Upper Canada that enabled him to secure ownership.

In 1834, three years before he died, Samuel sold the lot to his son Zalmon, who kept it until his own death in 1869. The land was then split between his sons Nelson and Oren, and remained in Theal hands until 1909. It was Nelson who in the 1870s initiated excavation of the escarpment-edge quarry now occupied by the university's Central Utilities Building, though the actual work was carried out by others under a lease arrangement.

Which brings us back to the house, which is built of rubble stone taken from the upper layers of the escarpment. Who built it, and when? The house is not shown on the detailed map of the area commissioned by William Johnston, owner of lot 19, in 1822, and it is missing from Tremaine's map of Lincoln and Welland Counties in 1862. However, Zalmon Theal's will makes clear that he was living there by 1869, and of course it appears on Page's map of 1876.

This implies that the house was built by Zalmon Theal in the mid sixties, but other evidence indicates otherwise. Family tradition has it that Samuel Theal himself lived on lot 18, which would suggest that he built the house around 1830. This conclusion is supported by two independent assessments by restoration architects. Little of the original house remains apart from the outer walls, but both experts were able to pinpoint the date fairly precisely, one to pre-1850 and the other to pre-1840. Thus Samuel was probably the builder, and Tremaine's map is simply in error.

### **Brock University Continuing Education**

#### **Glimpse into Niagara's Forgotten Past!**

Did you know that Brock University, named for a hero of the War of 1812, occupies land owned by a traitor in the very same war? Or that the numerous water bodies in the Beaverdams area (including Lake Gibson and the Klondike) are all man-made? Learn about Thorold's flourishing bicycle factory in the 1890's, the history of St. Catharines' confusing road system and much more. Join Brock geography professor Alun Hughes for an upcoming Continuing Education course entitled History on Your Doorstep beginning March 26<sup>th</sup>. This fascinating course will culminate with a field trip to many of the places being discussed. For more information on this or other distinctive non-credit courses offered at Brock this winter, call 905-688-5550, ext. 4775 or visit us on the Web at [www.brocku.ca/conted](http://www.brocku.ca/conted) to register.

### **Annual Historical Society Bus Tour - Saturday, June 14**

Brampton and Oakville are the prime destinations of this year's tour. Tickets are \$30.00 for each member and \$35.00 for each non-member. Reservations by payment only to Joyce DeForest. Non-refundable unless seat is resold. Departure will be 8:00 a.m. and arrival back in St. Catharines no later than 6:00 p.m. Transportation is by highway coach. The lunch stop has yet to be determined, but is *not* included in the price. We will visit The Erchless Estate, home of Oakville's founding family. The site includes the Oakville Museum, Customs House built in 1856, the first Post Office in Oakville, the Erchless Home and Gardens restored in 1900. In the afternoon we will visit the Peel Heritage Complex in Brampton. This site consists of the museum, archives, and art gallery within the former Peel County Jail. Time permitting, we *may* be able to include one other museum or scenic drive on the way back to St. Catharines. John Burtiak will be providing some commentary along the route. This promises to be a popular tour, so book early!



## **The St. Catharines Lawn Bowling Club**

*The following article was been taken in whole from "The Canadian Lawn Bowler's Handbook – 1903"*

The St. Catharines Lawn Bowling Club originated, it is alleged, in the later part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, its members consisting of United Empire Loyalists, who left the neighboring Republic at the time the American colonies rebelled against the mother country, and took up their residence in the Niagara district.

Associated with these early colonists, tradition says, were those brave aborigines who allied themselves with our ancestors in defence of King and country. It was these dusky allies of the primeval lawn bowlers who first introduced lacrosse, which has since become the national game of Canada. In the "archives" of the club most interesting relics exist in the shape of bowls, rudely carved from chestnut and apple-tree wood, especially chestnut, and covered with a coating of whitewash. These were the implements used by our ancient brethren. At first the orator of the club was puzzled to make out the practical use of the overcoat. He thought that it might have been used in some fierce snow-balling match in early days, in order to conceal the nature of the bowls that were projected at the unsuspecting heads of their antagonists – for "there were giants in those days" – but, after a profound research in the annals of the Paleolithic age, he discovered that the whitewash was employed to protect the bowls from the beavers who infested the banks of the Twelve and Beaverdams Creeks. The beavers, thinking they were snowballs, spared them, and did not, as they otherwise might have done, use them to construct the foundations of their ingenious habitations.

About seven years ago the game of lawn bowling, which had fallen into a shape of innocuous desuetude, was revived by the late John Hammon, a veteran English bowler, who, at his own expense, fitted up a bowling green on the premises attached to his hostelry, "The Mansion House," and infused his enthusiasm for the Royal game into several well known citizens; many of whom take a deep interest in its welfare, and who are still honored members of the club. But, alas! poor John Hammon is no longer with us; he has passed forever beyond the bounds; and no more will the "'orn of the 'unter be 'eard on the 'ill."

Four years ago still greater enthusiasm became manifest, and large accessions of members were enrolled on the club's roster. Loyal support has always been accorded by the St. Catharines club to the Dominion and Ontario Lawn Bowling Associations, and its members have been represented at many tournaments, where they have not infrequently distinguished themselves and done honor to their club as winners of trophies.

At the annual meeting of the club this year, the members decided that the green heretofore in use was inadequate for the number of teams which would probably visit St. Catharines to take part in projected tournaments; and it was determined to secure, if possible, the beautiful and perfect lawn attached to the grounds of the Welland House, an establishment which is deservedly the pride of the citizens of St. Catharines. Not only is the Welland House a source of local qualification, it is also a boon to suffering humanity, owing to its magnificent and up-to-date saline baths, unrivalled for the cure or amelioration of many diseases that afflict mankind. A satisfactory arrangement has been effected for the use of this lawn for the present year, and for its proper care and maintenance. There will be room for ten or eleven rinks; and a great deal of pleasure is anticipated by members of the club in being able to furnish to their friends from other clubs one of the most perfect and picturesque bowling greens in the Dominion. To all this should be added the advantage of imbibing – *ad libitum* – foaming goblets of ice-cold aerated St. Catharines mineral water to assuage their thirst and rectify any temporary derangement of the organic machinery.

*"Whisky is said to be a dangerous thing,  
So come and drink of our St. Catharines spring.  
Hot Scotch and Lager paralyze the brain;  
But splits of "Mack" will sober us again."*

The following gentlemen comprise the membership of the now prosperous St. Catharines Lawn Bowling Club; Hon. President, Dr. E. Goodman; President, M.J. McCarron; Vice-President, John Marshall; Secretary, Treasurer, J. K. Kernahan. Executive Committee – The officers and W. G. Yielding, Alex. McLaren, J. G. Moore and W. G. Finlay. Members – S. P. Anderson, C. O. Beam, L. Bissonette, Thos. H. Brown, H.W. Calkins, J. P. Casey, Jno. S. Campbell, C. H. Stanley Clarke, A. Chatfield, C. H. Connor, R. G. W. Connolly, D. B. Crombie, John E. Cuffe, W. G. Finlay, B. Fairfield, Dr. E. Goodman, Dr. J. Gray, J. T. Groves, J. G. Harris, J. K. Kernahan, Dr. Klotz, E. A. Lancaster, A. H. Malcomson, John Malcolmson, J. B. McIntyre, Robt. McLaren, Neil McGregor, Jno. Marshall, A. W. Marquis, F. H. Morey, J. G. Moore, J. G. McCarron, Alex. McEdward, C. G. McGhie, H. R. O'Reilly, H. O'Loughlin, O. G. Phelps, Wm. Peel, Geo. Rogers, H. M. Rogers, Dr. Sutherland, W. G. Sutton, J. E. Varley, Jas. N. Walker, W. G. Yielding.

*The editor thanks Wes Turner for contributing this article.*

## **Highlights of 2002 – Our Anniversary Year In Review**

Jan. 21 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Holiday Inn. Lecture by Norman Macdonald featuring a slide show and lecture featuring homes around the City. – 75 attended

Feb. 28 – Presentation on Surveying and Surveyors by Tony Roberts and Des Rasch – 49 attended

March – Newsletter issued to members

Mar. 28 – Presentation on Lake Ontario Passenger Steamers by Fred Addis – 68 attended

Apr. 25 – Annual Meeting and presentation on the Neff Steam Buggy by Don Anger – 48 attended

May 18 – 26<sup>th</sup> annual Oille Fountain Planting and Private Watson Citizen's Recognition program

May 23 – Presentation on the N.S.&T. Railroad by Andy Panko – 54 attended

May 25 – Writing History workshop at the B.M.E. Church, with tour afterwards – 11 participated

June – Newsletter issued to members

June and October – Members presented History Award at 10 High School

June 16 – Bus Tour to Port Burwell and Vienna area – full bus!

July 6 – Walking Tour of Victoria Lawn Cemetery, which included special recognition of Past Presidents of the Society and the William Hamilton Merritt plot. – 43 participated

September – Newsletter issued to members

Sept. 26 – Video on the History of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment presented by Major G. Guitard, C.D. – 44 attended

Oct. 8 – Rodman Hall – viewing of Domestic Gems Exhibit. The Society was an exhibit sponsor.

Oct. 24 - Presentation on the History of Brock University Lands by Alun Hughes – 48 attended

November 11 – Society participated in Remembrance Day service at Cenotaph and laying of wreath

Nov. 28 – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Tell – 42 attended

Nov. 30 – Workshop on Caring for Family Treasures on paper – 12 participated

December – Newsletter issued to members

The Society donated a copy of the Spas book to each St. Catharines High School (10 schools)

Year End – Membership reached 175, an increase of 20 members

## **Have You Renewed Your Membership For 2003?**

*If you have not renewed ....* Please consider doing so today, so that we can continue to promote the history of our great City! Membership is for the **Calendar Year. Dues are Individual - \$10.00 and Family - \$15.00.** Please make your cheque payable to: The Historical Society of St. Catharines and mail to the Society address on the front of the newsletter. Additional membership information was published in the December 2002 newsletter.