

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

June 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*

Regular meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.  
(Program is subject to change.) (Refreshments are usually served after the program.)

**Thursday, May 22** - 7:30 p.m. – Kate Larson has recently been granted her doctorate by the University of New Hampshire after defending her dissertation on the life and achievements of Harriet Tubman. Her lecture is titled “Bound For The Promised Land: Harriet Tubman’s Struggle For Freedom”. Kate has authored a book about Harriet, which will be released this fall. Kate will be flying in from New Hampshire for this special presentation.

**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 at Memorial Park (St. Paul at Yates St.) for the Flag Pole Dedication Ceremony. A reception will follow at the Armoury on Lake Street.

**Saturday, June 7** - 11:00 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 1.5 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 and McGuire streets, east of Burgoyne Bridge. The Society will lay a wreath at the Merritt monument, followed by a walk to discover the history along St. Paul Street

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

**Thursday, October 23** – Paul Lewis – History of Ridley College

**Thursday, November 27** – Annual Show and Tell and Christmas Social

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

**Thursday, February 26, 2004** – Corlene Taylor – “Supporters of the establishment of a Church at St Catharines”

**Thursday, March 25** - Joseph O’Brien – History of ‘Western Hill’ St. Catharines

# **The Historical Society of St Catharines**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2003**

Burgoyne Room of the St Catharines Museum, 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, St Catharines

### **President's Report**

President John Burtiak called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and welcomed the 39 people in attendance. He noted that Society membership was at an all time high and that meetings were well attended. He recapped events of the past year including the Bus Trip, Oille Potting Ceremony and Watson recognition (with members of both families in attendance), the Cemetery Walking Tour and attendance at the Remembrance Day ceremony. He noted that the Society was financially solvent and he thanked board members for their hard work and support.

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, April 25, 2002**

The president noted that the Minutes were published in the June 2002 newsletter. It was moved by Secretary Brenda Zadoroznij and seconded by Wendy Robson that the minutes be accepted. An error was noted regarding the names of Tom Jenkyns and Janice McNabb in the Treasurer's report. The minutes were accepted as corrected.

### **Membership**

Barbara Zason reported a total of 129 members to date.

### **Treasurer's Report**

For the year January 2002 to December 2002, Del Hildebrand reported total receipts of \$7,152.37, total disbursements of \$8,064.23 for a net cash decrease of \$911.86 leaving a bank balance of \$2,886.38. The Society's GIC account stands at \$4000 making a bank total of \$6,886.38. It was moved by Del Hildebrand and seconded by Joe Muskat that the report be accepted. There were no questions. Accepted. (note: complete copy attached to original of minutes)

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

The treasurer noted that the highlights of the year were a successful Anniversary dinner and a profitable bus trip.

### **Business before the AGM**

Joyce Deforest reminded members to sign up for the bus trip. Seats would now be offered to non-members.

The president noted that the Lincoln and Welland Regiment video was available and one copy remained at a cost of \$20.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Joyce Deforest and Joe Muskat gave their report and reminded members that those on the Executive serve for a two year term and that Directors serve a one year term. The slate presented was as follows:

President: Bill Stevens, Past President: John Burtiak, Acting Vice President: Joyce DeForest, Secretary: Brenda Zadoroznij, Treasurer: Del Hildebrand, Directors: Dee Dickman, Dennis Gannon, Paul Hutchinson, Joe Muskat, Maurice Gomme and Bill Harder.

Joyce Deforest asked three times if there were any further nominations, there being no response Brenda Zadoroznij moved that nominations cease, seconded by Wendy Robson. Approved.

It was then moved by Alex Ormston that the slate of nominations be accepted, seconded by Cliff Baker. Accepted. The new board and the incoming president were congratulated.

### **Guest Speaker**

The speaker for the evening, Colin Duquemin, was introduced by Cliff Baker.

Colin Duquemin preceded his presentation by thanking Major Howse and members of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battery for attending. He also thanked Arden Phair and the museum for allowing the 10<sup>th</sup> Battery to put up two displays in the museum lobby.

*minutes continued on next page....*

*....minutes continued from previous page*

The presentation "Stick to the Guns" was part of a presentation that Colin Duquemin first gave in 1995. He recounted the history of the 10th Battery since 1794 with detailed, battle by battle descriptions of its participation in World Wars One and Two. The talk was well illustrated by slides and was brought alive by numerous quotations from participants in the events.

Barry Leighton thanked Colin for his presentation.

Newly elected president Bill Stevens noted that Colin's book was available for \$14.95

The president thanked John Burtiniak for his contribution to the Society over the past two years and thanked retiring Directors, Barbara Zason and Steve Mouck for their work on the Board. He welcomed new directors Maurice Gomme and Bill Harder.

The president reminded the membership of the next meeting on May 22 when the speaker will be Kate Larson who will travel from the States to talk about Harriett Tubman.

He encouraged members to bring any matters of concern to the Board. Herb Harder was thanked for repairing the Society sign.

He reminded members of various publications for sale and of upcoming events including courses at Brock University and the museum's Trivia Night and book signing.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9 p m and a social time and refreshments followed.

*Minutes prepared by Brenda Zadoroznij, Secretary*

## **Your new Board of Directors**

*Elected April 24 for Two Year Term*

Past President - John Burtiniak – tel. 905-227-5120

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

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

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

*Elected April 24 for One Year Term*

Director – Dee Dickman – e-mail [ddickman@spartan.ac.brocku.ca](mailto:ddickman@spartan.ac.brocku.ca)

Director- Membership – Bill Harder – e-mail [whharder@warplink.com](mailto:whharder@warplink.com)

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

Director – Maurice Gomme – e-mail [magomme@becon.org](mailto:magomme@becon.org)

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

Director - Dennis Gannon – e-mail [gannon.dennis@dol.gov](mailto:gannon.dennis@dol.gov)

## **Welcome to Our Newest Members**

Paul Lewis, Hilda Maier, Roger and Lynda Bradshaw, Ann Beresford, Stella Robson, David and Heather Sloan, Esther Summers, Maureen MacGregor.

## **Membership Information**

Membership is for the **Calendar Year. Dues are Individual - \$10.00 and Family - \$15.00.** Cheques should be made payable to: The Historical Society of St. Catharines and mailed to the Society address. Please encourage your friends and acquaintances to join!

## **Newsletter Notes**

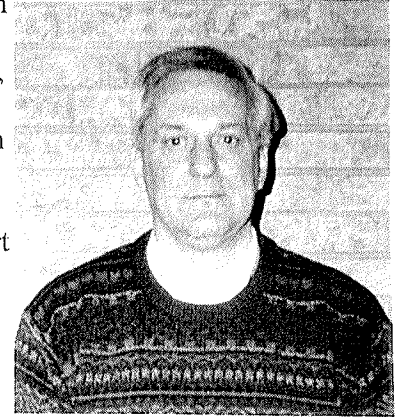
The Historical Society of St. Catharines Newsletter is published up to 4 times per year by the Society. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the membership of issues pertaining to the Society and historical items of interest. Comments and queries should be directed to the Society postal address.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

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

**Next Issue September 2003**

## A Word From Your President

The Historical Society is now in it's 76<sup>th</sup> year. Throughout, the Society has been fortunate to find members who have served the Society well over the years and we thank all who have served on the Board for their contributions. In particular, we say thanks and best wishes in your future endeavors to Barb Zason and Steve Mouck who are leaving the Board at this time. I feel somewhat humble in following in the footsteps of many well known and respected Presidents of this Society, especially John Burtiak, who contributes so much to the historical community and I thank John for his contributions and for his continuing support over the next two years as Past President.



When I joined the Society in 1993, I had no intention of being President ten years later! I would like to thank Gail Benjafield, who asked me to take a Director's position in April of 1994, for this honour! In April of 1995, I was elected Secretary and continued in this position through 2001 under the presidencies of Dennis Gannon, Wes Turner and Joyce DeForest. In 2001, I moved up to Vice-President and John Burtiak became President. In 2003, Dennis, Joyce and John continue to serve the Society on the Board and therefore, as President, I will have lots of experience upon which to draw. I look forward to the next two years, working with the Board to ensure that the History of St. Catharines is enhanced, researched, promoted and told.

Most of you will know, I have been producing the newsletter for the past several years and at this time will continue to do so. Each issue has been a challenge to give you, the member, 10 pages of current and past material that you will find useful and interesting. It has also challenged me to learn more about our City's people, places and events of the past. Looking through old newspapers and reading local history in books, pamphlets and papers has made me a regular at St. Catharines Public Library Special Collections. I now find myself buying most new local books for my own library.

A recent acquisition to my library, documents the history of the St. Catharines Rowing Club over the past 100 years. I attended the St. Catharines Rowing Club's 57<sup>th</sup> Captain's Dinner on March 29, 2003. The occasion marked the release of the book edited by Stan Lapinski and designed by Sheila Kennedy titled "*100 Years in a Row – A Pictorial History.*" (ISBN 0-9732817-0-7 soft cover and -5 hard cover). At 216 pages (8 1/2 " x 11 1/2") it is incredible documentation of 100 years of the Club. The Club has produced 150 numbered hardbound copies and 3000 soft covered copies and while this number is quite large, if half of the people that have their photo within the covers buy a copy, it will certainly sell out.

Indeed, like many others at the dinner, I purchased a copy, as I have a history with the St. Catharines Rowing Club ... and the book is now there to document it! Forty years ago, I was the coxswain in the Senior 135 pound eight that won a Royal Canadian Henley Regatta Championship and our crew is pictured on page 110 (I have also reproduced it on the following page of this newsletter). In 1964 I coxed the Junior 155 pound eight and we also won at Henley and our crew is pictured on page 112. As part of the 100-year celebration, the St. Catharines Rowing Club is holding a reunion on Henley Island August 8-19. Friday, August 8 will be the crew reunion night for all Club and High School crews. Saturday will be the "Cerise and Blue Bash" ... just like the last night of Henley! I am hoping my former high school and club crewmembers will be able to attend and reminisce. Yes, it is 39 and 40 years ago, but it is remarkable how looking through the book brings back so many vivid memories.

History of all types needs to be documented and I encourage all Society members to document some past happenings, get out their photo albums and look for that one picture that might show a view of something that is now historical and share it with us. Consider writing a short piece for the newsletter and share your memories with us. In closing, I congratulate all those who undertake this documentation and even go on to write a book!

Bill Stevens, President  
The Historical Society of St. Catharines



1963

Royal Canadian  
Henley Regatta  
Sr. 135 lb Eight  
Championship

Crew: Bow –

Jim Brett

Bill Anderson

Bob Dickie

Conrad Gibbons

Rick Lamore

Ed Mueller

Walt Sciamonte

Stroke -

Doug Mackie

Cox -

Bill Stevens

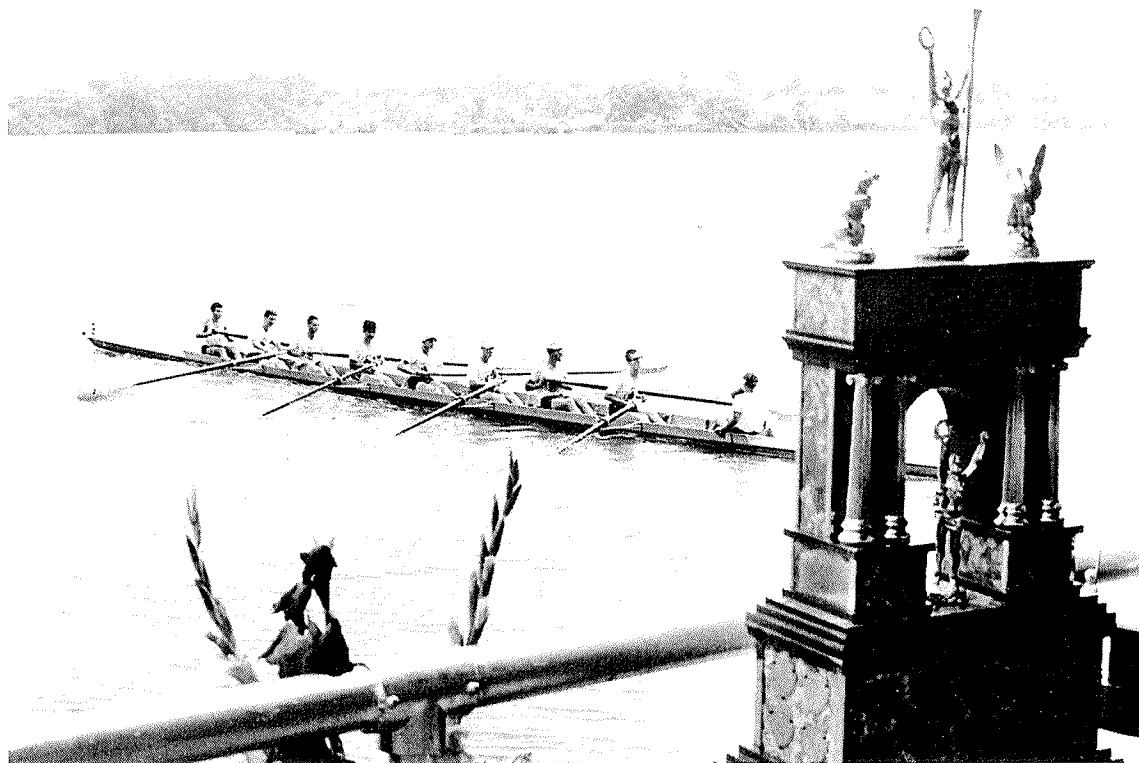
Coach –

Bill Dick

Trophy: Michael

J. Broderick

Memorial



## St. Catharines Rowing Club Celebrates 100 Years!

**June 21** – St. Catharines Rowing Club Open House and Boat Christening – on water and boathouse tours, equipment displays, music, food and entertainment. Special centennial 100 boat row-past in the afternoon. Location: Boathouse and Lower Island, free admission all afternoon!

**August 9-10** – Henley Weekend – Crew Reunions and more! Location: Fri. - Henley Island Alumni Clubhouse; Sat. TBA; During Henley weekend races a special area in Rennie Park will be set up.

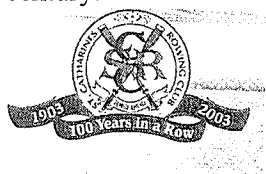
To find out more about these and other events, visit the web site at [www.niagara.com/~rowserc/](http://www.niagara.com/~rowserc/)

### *Additional Celebrations*

- 2003 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta being held in St. Catharines.
- The Henley Island Helpers Association is marking their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- In August of 1993 the Canadian Men's Lightweight 8 won the Gold Medal at the World Championships and four of these crewmembers were from the SCRC. They are planning a special 10-year reunion.

**The Centennial Book** is available in soft cover for \$30.00 plus tax and hard cover collector's edition for \$80.00 plus tax. Books may be purchased at St. Catharines Museum, Regatta Sport (50 Lakeport Road) and Mail Boxes Etc. (12 Queen Street store).

**"Henley Tradition 1957"** – A special commission reproduction by George Upper. This special centennial project is designed to raise funds for the St. Catharines Rowing Club equipment fund. Limited to 500 reproductions of the highest quality, it may be purchased from Ferrante Picture Framing (210 Niagara St.), Framing & Art Centre (300 Lake St.), Artsapes Gallery (Ridley Heights Plaza). The goal of the equipment fund is to purchase "The Second Century Fleet". These new boats, one of each type, will be painted to commemorate SCRC's second century.

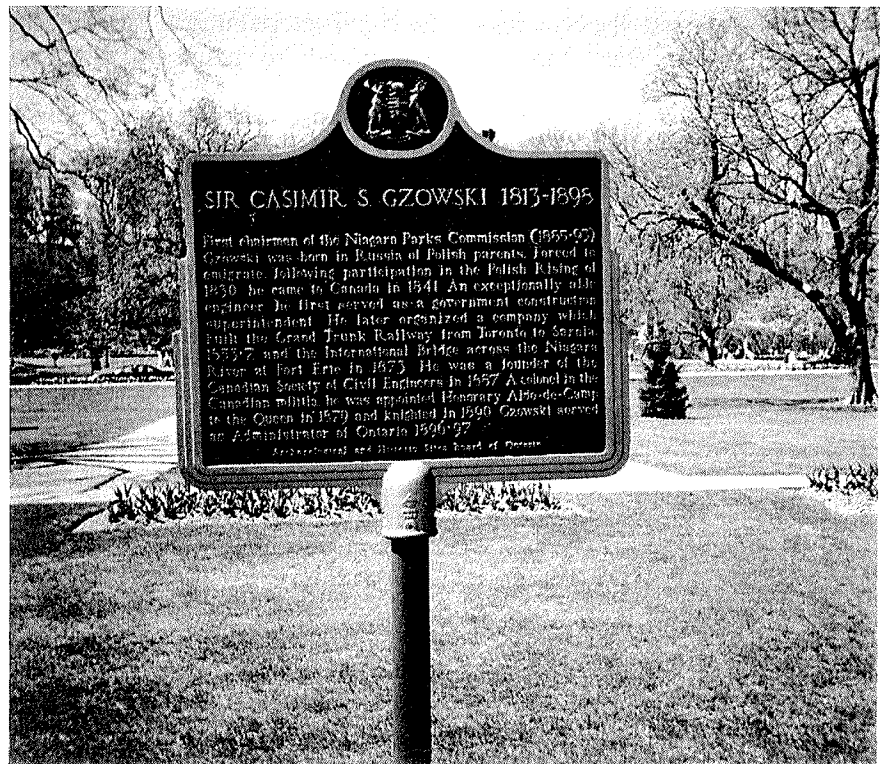
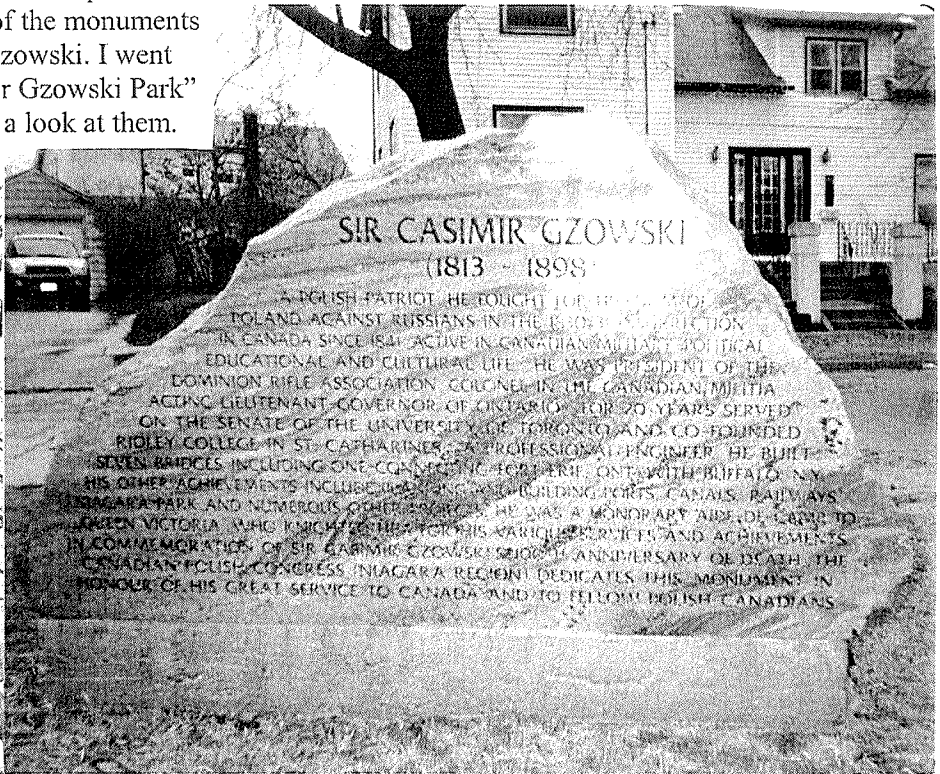
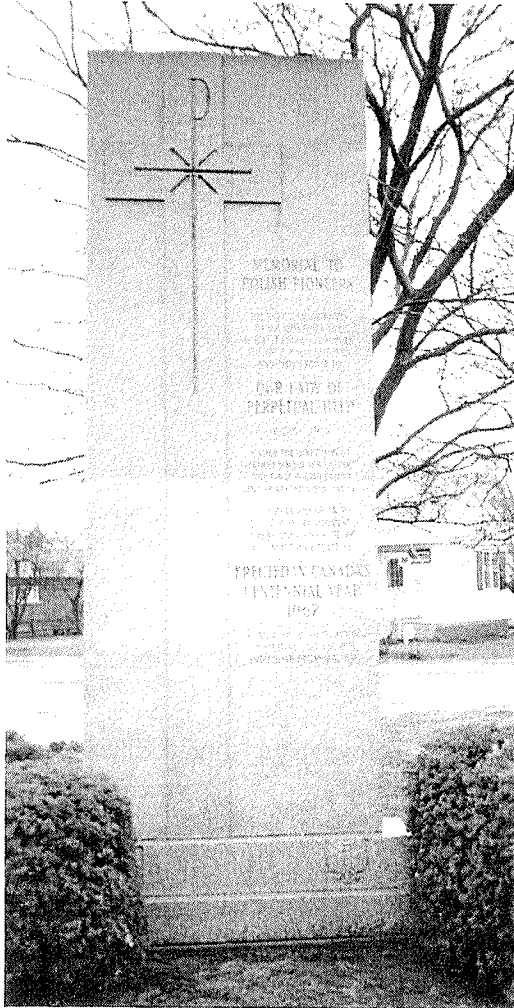


*The Historical Society of St. Catharines  
Congratulates the Rowing Club on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

Forge  
ahead!

## The Polish Community In St. Catharines

On Thursday, March 27 Dr. 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* gave us an insight into the creation of his book and about the Polish Community in St. Catharines. Of particular interest to me was Dr. Radecki's mention of the monuments to the Polish Pioneers and to Sir Casimir Gzowski. I went over to the parkette area called "Sir Casimir Gzowski Park" on Niagara Street at Currie Street and took a look at them.



About two years ago, while walking through the Niagara Parks gardens near the Falls, I had taken a picture of a plaque in honour of Sir Casimir Gzowski (1813-1898). I had always wanted to find out more about him and thanks to Dr. Radecki's book, on pages 10 through 13, there is a fascinating biography of this man that even several pages in a newsletter could not do justice. You might want to stop by the monument some day and read it. Perhaps our upcoming speaker on Ridley College will provide some small insight into his

connection with that institution. You can also read the plaque inscription on the following web site [www.waynecook.com](http://www.waynecook.com) by clicking on the Historic Plaques of Ontario section, Niagara Region and look for plaque #24. There are several other plaques in St. Catharines among the over 125 that are shown in the Niagara grouping.

## From the Papers of Al Holden in the Special Collections Room at the Centennial Branch of the Library

Al Holden was known for his research into the local militia of Niagara. A box of his records will be sorted, indexed and placed into a library file box by the Historical Society. The following is an example of what is to be found in these papers, as recorded by Al.

The Grantham Township entries extracted from:

“General Return of Such Persons As Have Left The District of Niagara Since The First Day of July 1812 and Joined the Enemy”

Name,	Where Born,	Property	and Where Situated
Ebenezer Kelly,	U.S.,	100 acres of land	in the Twp. of Grantham
Thomas Lane,	U.S.,	300 acres of land	in the Twp. of Grantham
William Merritt,	U.S.,	80 acres of land	in the Twp. of Grantham
Luther McNeil,	U.S.,	130 acres of land	in the Twp. of Grantham
William Wilson,	U.S.,	50 acres of land	in the Twp. of Grantham

The above statement is correct to the best of my knowledge.

(signed) Thomas Merritt, Sheriff of Niagara District.

*The following additional information pertaining to the above, is contributed by Alex Ormston:* Although undated, volume 21 (Sept.-Dec. 1814) of the Upper Canada Sundries (NAC RG 5 A1) contains many letters from militia commanders saying they had supplied lists of deserters to the sheriffs in their respective districts, obviously in accordance with instructions received to do so. By December of 1814, several of the District Sheriffs write to make additions to their lists, “recently sent.” So it would be safe to date the “General Return” as “ca December 1814.” Additional Background: 54 Geo. III c.9, passed 14 March 1814 was “An Act to declare certain persons therein described, Aliens, and to vest their Estates in His Majesty.” The lists of deserters from the Militia, and the “General Returns” from the district sheriffs were obviously a step in the process.

In 1818, by a further Act, Estates of certain traitors and also of Aliens were vested in Commissioners of Forfeited Estates, in order to effect their sale, the proceeds of which would go to satisfy war claims.

Their final Report is dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1829 and all Estates forfeited and sold are listed in the various Returns filed with it, along with various other Returns showing the proceeds realized, the expenses of the Commission, etc.

The following is an example of a manuscript extant, for William Merritt, a younger brother of Sheriff Merritt, showing the legal process involved in having him declared an outlaw, and his lands legally forfeited. As can be seen, the process lasted from May, 1814 until January, 1818, and went through several steps. (William Merritt, born in 1772, never returned to Canada, and died at Cambria, New York, near Lewiston, on 17 March 1748.)

MERRITT, William, *defendant*.

“Commission To Inquire of Lands forfeited on an Outlawry for High Treason. The King vs William Merritt” issued to Abraham Nelles and William Crooks; Also the “Inquisition” taken by Nelles in the Township of Grantham, District of Niagara, in execution of the commission. Oct. 25, 1817 - Jan. 22, (1818). *2 pieces.*

State that Merritt was indicted at a session of the Court of special oyer and terminer and general gaol delivery held at Ancaster, District of Niagara, in May 1814, for aiding the enemy and attempting to persuade loyal citizens to take oaths of allegiance to the enemy during the occupation of the Niagara District. Failing to appear when summoned before the Courts of general quarter sessions of the peace held at Grimsby (July 11, Oct. 10, 1815) and at Niagara (Jan. 9, 1816), he was declared an outlaw.

Source: Guide to the Manuscript Collection in the Toronto Public Libraries (1954), page 55

## Congratulations to Del!

The Society nominated Del Hildebrand to receive the City of St. Catharines Volunteer Service Award. Del received the award on April 15. We thank Del for his involvement with the Society as Treasurer.

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

Brampton and Oakville are the prime destinations. Tickets are \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. Call Joyce DeForest at 905-685-4728 to buy your ticket. The bus leaves from downtown, opposite the Market Square on King Street, at 8:00 a.m. and returns about 5:30 p.m. John Burtniak will provide commentary as the bus travels a scenic route for part of the journey. While a lunch stop is planned, the cost is not included in the tour ticket price. We will visit the Erchless Estate, home of the founder of Oakville, the Customs House built in 1856 and the first post office in Oakville, all part of the Oakville Museum complex. After lunch we tour the Peel Heritage Complex, which comprises the museum, county archives, and art gallery all within the former Peel County Jail.

### **Crystal Beach Revisited!**

At our meeting held Thursday, February 27, John Burtniak showed the Video of Crystal Beach -- 58 attended the showing of this nostalgic look back at the Lake Erie amusement park. The video captured the feel of the giant roller coaster and the big band era of the dance pavilion. The production was very well done and featured the cross-lake boats that brought thousands of people from Buffalo to Crystal Beach to enjoy the sandy beach and picnic areas. Many members reminisced about their 'time' at the park during the social that followed. We thank John Burtniak for bringing the video to our attention.

### **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 to 4:30 p.m.

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

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: [<stcmchin@niagara.com>](mailto:stcmchin@niagara.com)

### **Commemoration of the Battle of St. Julien**

On Sunday, April 13, the 10<sup>th</sup> Battery, 56<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment, RCA marched from the Armoury to the St. Catharines cenotaph for a service of remembrance and returned to the armoury via James Street and past the library. The Battle of St. Julien took place on April 22, 1915.





## ***The Mighty Niagara: One River - Two Frontiers***

By: John N. Jackson with John Burtiak and Gregory P. Stein

This in-depth regional study of the Niagara Frontier traces the evolution of landscape and patterns of settlement on both sides of the Niagara River extending from St. Catharines, Ontario, to Lockport, New York. This significant region, astride an international frontier, both unites and divides Canadian and American territories bordering the Niagara River.

Like map overlays that build on an underlying base geography, Professor Jackson's chronological approach begins with the qualities of the physical background and their ongoing ramifications up to the present for the use and development of land. He then adds the Native settlements, showing their trails and economic activities, while noting that certain Native features remain an intrinsic part of the modern landscape. The next time period reveals the divisive effect in 1783 of the new international boundary.

Subsequent chapters follow the changes over the course of time as canals, railways, hydroelectric power, and the dominance of the automobile in the present era all transformed the environment. Jackson also discusses Niagara Falls as the fulcrum around which the Niagara Frontier has developed and the impact of the tourist industry on the region. This thorough analysis of an important international region will be a great use to anyone involved in cross-boundary trade, education, research, or tourism.

The book is 486 printed pages with illustrations. ISBN 1-57392-980-8. The book is available at the St. Catharines Museum Gift Shop.

The Society congratulates John and John, two members of our Historical Society, on the publication of this tremendous book.

## **Michael Power's Latest Books**

Michael Power, a Society member and former Secretary, continues his writing pursuits, with a special interest in Ontario Catholic Church History. Since the new year he has had two separate books published. One is *A Promise Fulfilled: Highlights in the Political History of Catholic Separate Schools in Ontario* (a volume of 540 pages, published by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association), which provides an incisive study of the "personalities, strong opinions, the role of organized religion in society and the emergence of the Catholic laity in their trusteeship of separate schools." The other is the fifth (and final) volume of *A Documentary History of Assumption College*, which school of post-secondary education evolved into the University of Windsor.

Some of Michael's earlier works include a history of Mount Hope (Catholic) Cemetery, Toronto, and *A History of the Roman Catholic Church in Niagara, 1615-1815*, published in 1983, which revises and extends Dean Harris' 1895 work on the same subject. Michael has been involved in fifteen or more works, including the study of slavery in Upper Canada and the Battle of Slabtown. Michael may be contacted at 905-732-0852.

Submitted by John Burtiak

## **John Burtiak to Lead Brock University Course**

The Department of Continuing Education is offering a course titled "Your ROOTS are Showing", which will explore Niagara's rural roots and small towns. Learn why some hamlets, such as Wellandport, have prospered while others, such as Silverdale, have disappeared and only the place names remain. Dates: June 12 (6pm-8pm), June 19 (6pm-8pm), June 26 (bus tour from 9am-3pm). During the bus tour learn how the early roads, watercourses, canals and railways shaped the Niagara Peninsula settlement pattern. Cost \$149, senior \$139. Information on registration and other course offerings can be obtained by calling 905-688-5550, ext. 4775 or by visiting the web site at [www.brocku.ca/conted](http://www.brocku.ca/conted)

## News and Notes of Historical Interest!

\***"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** – web site - [www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)

\***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 Colonel John Butler (Niagara) Branch of The United Empire Loyalist' Association of Canada** – will meet September 6 at Betty's Restaurant in Chippawa for lunch at 11:45 a.m. and then Bowman Andrews will speak about the Butler's Rangers.

\***June 19 is United Empire Loyalist Day in Ontario.**

\***June 21 is National Aboriginal Day**

\***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** – located at 360 Niagara Street, St. Catharines will be holding a fund raising golf tournament and is seeking golfers, hole sponsors, and prizes. The tournament will be held at the Links of Rockway Glen on Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. Call Wendy at 905-646-4365 or by e-mail [discoverycentre@becon.org](mailto:discoverycentre@becon.org). The centre is now over ¾ of the way to their goal of 1.2 million dollars. You can find out more from their web site [discoverycentre@becon.org](http://discoverycentre@becon.org).

\***The Grimsby Museum** – May 20 through July 1 –exhibit – With this ring: Wedding Gowns and Accessories from their permanent collection.

\***The Friends of the Carousel** – drop by their new workshop in the small plaza on Academy Street across from the bus terminal and watch wood carvers in action! The carousel, which will be open for the summer as this newsletter arrives, already shows some of their tremendous workmanship and you can still ride the carousel for 5 cents! Visit their new web site [www.friendsofthecarousel.org](http://www.friendsofthecarousel.org).

\***St. Catharines – Canada's Canal City** – by John N. Jackson-Sheila M. Wilson – Copyright 1992 by The St. Catharines Standard Limited – if you have been searching for this very hard to find book, the Society directs you to Hannelore Headley's book store on Queen Street, which has about 20 brand new copies which she is selling for \$35 each.

\***Merritton Matters** – the newsletter published by the Merritton Community Group now has a web site [www.merrittonmatters.ca](http://www.merrittonmatters.ca) containing news, activities, photo gallery and historical content.

\***Folk Arts Festival** -"Cultural Fusion" in Montebello Park -11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. -May 31 and June 1.

\***Mackenzie Heritage Printery and Newspaper Museum** – feature exhibit titled "Canada's Newspaper Story". The exhibit includes copies of the mastheads of almost every newspaper in Canada. From May 23 to June 21, the museum is open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from June 22 to Sept. 1, hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The museum web site is [www.niagara-parks.com](http://www.niagara-parks.com).

\***Old Fort Niagara, Youngstown, New York - June 7-8: The King's Birthday** – over 400 participants will hold this Official British Brigade event to celebrate the King's birthday! **July 4-6 – French and Indian War Encampment** – the largest event of its kind recreates the 1759 Siege of Niagara, over 1000 participants.

\***The Thorold & Beaverdams Historical Society** – June 30 – presents Bob Foley – Laura Secord and the Battle of Beaverdams. 7:30 p.m. at Chestnut Hall, alongside the Thorold Library on Ormond Street.

\***Fort George** - July 1 - Canada Day fireworks ; July 19 & 20 - War of 1812 Re-enactment program.

\***Fort Erie** - August 1 -3 - Living History Weekend - 1814 battle, period camps, artillery and more.

\***The St. Catharines Museum** presents The Standard's Craft & Car Show, June 14 and 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days at the Museum. British Car show on Saturday. Classic Car show on Sunday.

\***Congratulations to The Friends of Morningstar Mill** on the addition of the reconstructed sawmill to the complex.

\***The Last Word** .... What better way is there to spend a lovely spring or summer day than taking in a historical site, attraction or event? Enjoy yourselves and have a great summer! *the ed*