



Milton Historical Society

Post Office Box 85 Milton, Ontario

OFFICERS

President - Jim Dills, 419 Campbell Ave. Milton, Ont. 878-6061

First Vice President - (Mrs.) Val Grimshaw, Tremaine R. 878-8329

Second Vice President - (Mrs.) Lyn Gonneau, 79 Town Line 878-0218

Secretary - (Mrs.) Joyce Hagevik, 691 Woodward St. Milton 878-0266

Treasurer - (Mrs.) Pamela McLean, 213 Queen St. Milton 878-7678

Committees: Library and Museums - Don Hayward

Religious and Educational - Mrs. Jessie Hamilton

Industrial and Commercial -

Social and Recreational -

Civic and Environmental - Bus Norrington

(The above group forms the Society's Executive Council)

MEMBERSHIPS

Membership in the Society is open to all who are interested in the Objects.

Individual \$3

Student Membership \$1

Family Membership \$5

Life Membership \$35

Institutional and Sustaining \$35

Memberships are available from the Treasurer Pam McLean

Milton Historical Society is a group interested in the history of Milton District, its collection, dissemination and its preservation. It co-operates with local authorities and groups, stimulates interest and seeks to arouse an awareness of our local heritage.

Mailing Address - P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Society is May 17. The program will include:

- . The Miller's Walk - a slide presentation by Jim Dills reflecting some of the history of Milton
- . The History of Ontario Wines and a wine tasting period
- . William Merritt, founder of the Welland Canal will be portrayed by actor David McKenzie in a special presentation on the history of that canal, now 125 years old.

Do plan to come for this colorful and interesting evening on the these topics. Tell your friends too. Admission will be by payment of your membership for 1979 or a donation. Location will be announced later in the Coming Events column of The Champion but mark your calendar now.

Memberships

Memberships in the Society expired at the end of January and now fees are payable for 1979. Membership may be obtained from the Treasurer or at the next meeting. The fee schedule is on the front of this news letter. It should be noted too that future newsletters will be mailed to members only because of the costs involved. Membership cards will be ready for the next meeting for those who have already paid. A membership makes a thoughtful gift too.

Two positions open

There are two openings on the Executive Council of the Society. One would be chair person of the Industrial and Commercial committee concerned with the history of industries, railways, roads and businesses. The other would be chair person of the Social and Recreational committee with an interest in the history of homes, service clubs, sports, lodges, clubs, parks and societies. The Executive Council meets monthly. If you are interested in these positions please contact the president. If you are interested in assisting on the other committees as a member, please contact the chair person identified on the front of this news letter.

Program Planning

You will have noticed that the Society is not meeting as frequently as last year. The Executive Council felt monthly meetings required so much time there was not opportunity to attend to other important activities. It was agreed to adopt a reduced meeting schedule but to add more program material at each meeting. We hope you will find this change interesting and informative. We look forward to your continued attendance as we seek to make the programs outstanding events.

Antique Show

Vice president Val Grimshaw is planning the details for a Society-sponsored Antique Show and Sale, hopefully in the Court House, for Oct. Val was responsible for the last two Antique Shows and Sales which were held the past two years on Labor Day week-end. She has graciously agreed to have the event sponsored by the Historical Society this year, with the proceeds for the work of the Society. Some help will be needed closer to the time. It will be an ideal time to get involved in the work of the Society and have some fun too. Contact Val at the next meeting if you would like to assist.

Heritage Policy

The Society asked Milton Council to work toward a Heritage Policy for the town which would recognize the interest of many groups in the preservation, restoration and utilization of the buildings and properties which reflect the history of the town. The objective of the policy would be to provide some co-ordination in all the individual efforts. Another objective would be that with some basic concept in place we could then promote the many aspects of the town's history which would appeal to residents and tourists. Council agreed to this proposal and named the town planner to work with the Historical Society on this program. Needless to say, you will be hearing more of this as time goes on and plans take shape. If you have suggestions please feel free to contact the President. Ideas in writing are preferable if at all possible.

Bits and Pieces

- Much is happening and there is a great deal of interest in local history. Jim Dills has presented his "Miller's Walk" to members of the Rotary Club and the Kinsmen Club. Rotarians are considering an agreement with the town to manage the Kernighan Property owned by the town and the Kinsmen are anxious to obtain the old Registry Office on Brown St. Jim will also be conducting a "walk" for a group of Girl Guides in May. If you know of an organization interested in seeing the 25 minute slide presentation, suggest they contact Jim (878-6061). The objective is to build interest in this historically fascinating community.

- A new group called the "Milton Players" has been formed with Mrs. Elva Newton as president. They have a keen interest in seeing the Court House as a theatre. It's an exciting concept and could be another great asset to the community.

• A community group is organizing a Festival of Countries program for Milton which you may have read about. The Historical Society was asked to participate and we will be arranging that participation. The location has not been named yet for our "Canadian" event but we are hopeful it might be on Brown St. We have much planning on that yet. Have you any ideas? Will you help?

• We're looking forward to a picnic for our July meeting but more of that later.

• Restoration of the pictures of the mayors of Milton has taken much longer than we anticipated, but we hope that when the project is complete it will be one the Society will be proud to have participated in. Photos are available from 1857 right through to the present, which is a tremendous historical asset of the community.

• The possibility of a cairn to protect the monuments in the Pioneer Cemetery is not forgotten. Details, both financial and physical are being studied and we hope you may see some advancement of the project in the near future. Any suggestions or offers of help are welcome. Burials took place in this cemetery at least as early as 1830 and we should certainly be concerned in the preservation of the history this tiny plot of land represents.

• In response to an inquiry from The Lake of the Woods Museum at Kenora, we were able to provide some information on William Durie Lyon. Who was he and why were they interested? He was a former mayor of Milton, a partner with Edward Martin and John White in a mercantile business, he was twice warden of Halton County which was quite unusual, he represented Halton in the Ontario Legislature as a Reform candidate. In 1867 he established with others an extensive lumbering business at Michael's Bay, Manitoulin Island. In 1879 he was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate for the western end of Thunder Bay with headquarters at Fort Frances, an area that in those times "was infested with many bold, daring and lawless characters." A Scot, he had been born in Glasgow in 1825 and came to an Esquesing farm in 1831 with his father. Another of those fascinating people who were among the pioneers of Milton and about whom we only learn with a little effort.



M I L T O N H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R

Post Office Box 85

Milton, Ont.

Meetings: The next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 20 at 8 p.m. and we are hoping to be able to hold the meeting in the Court Room of the Court House on Brown St. That is still subject to confirmation so please watch the Coming Events column of The Champion the week prior to that. Other meetings are planned for November 15 and Dec. 13. Please mark your calendar and watch the Coming Events column. Speaker on September 20 will be Dorothy Duncan of the Heritage Administration Branch. A film on restoration is also planned.

Festival of Countries: The Historical Society is participating in this community project by organizing the Canadian pavilion. This will be located on the second floor of the former Kernighan house now named the John Martin house after the builder. The displays will include a general store, selling maple sugar and maple syrup; a museum collection being organized by George Jackson; and a sale of forgotten treasures, hopefully older items, collectibles, pictures and knick knacks that members and friends might donate. Proceeds will be earmarked to advance the preservation of the Court House. If you have items you would be willing to donate, please call Pam McLean 878-7678, Don Hayward 878-6790 or other members of the executive for pick up before September 15 the date of the event. If you would like to volunteer to assist stamping passports, looking after displays or otherwise please also call one of the above named. The Canadian pavillion is one of 11 or 12 that your \$2.50 passport will admit you to during this Festival. Passports (\$3.00 after Sept. 1) may be obtained from Pam McLean. Children under 14 are free with their parents or adult.

Antique Show: Unfortunately we have had to cancel this planned event because of a lack of response from vendors. We had hoped to raise some funds from this to advance the Court House proposals but we will have to find another way.

Court House: When it appeared preservation of the Court House needed prompt action, the executive proposed to Milton Council that if the town would purchase it for the \$1., the Society would try to develop a feasible plan to preserve the building, accomodate community use and provide for its continuity through a rental of part of the building. It was also agreed community suggestions would be sought. The public meeting was held and announced in newspaper stories and advertising. Some 55 attended. Now estimates are being invited from architectural firms on the cost of a feasibility study which is required to gain the interest of provincial funding groups. The province, through Wintario, customarily funds half the cost of the feasibility study. Ultimately that will leave us the other half to raise by donation or otherwise. When a plan has been developed that meets all the criteria it will be presented to Milton Council for their consideration and action.

Keeping in touch: It has been difficult this year to retain the kind of contact we would like between executive and members. The meeting schedule was reduced because all the effort seemed to go into getting a meeting together with good speakers and programs leaving little time for other activities. Newsletters are expensive, hence this form this time and postage at 15c each also takes its toll. Another problem has been too few people trying to do too much. Perhaps one is an outgrowth of the other. If you can help, take a look at the attached sheet and give it to us or mail it. There is so much to do and we'd love to involve more people but we have to know you're interested.

Contacts: Jim Dills 878-6061; Val Grimshaw 878-8329; Lyn Gonneau 878-0218; Joyce Hagevik 878-0266; Pam McLean 878-7678; Don Hayward 878-6790; Jessie Hamilton 878-9956; Peter Ford 878-6065; Bus Norrington 878-9413.