

SOCIETY MAKES DONATION TO MILTON TO MARK TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Our Society is marking its tenth anniversary (1987) with a commemorative gift to the Town.

The donation consists of a plaque of the Town's coat of arms and of the ancient poem that supplied the Town motto "Look to this Day".

Those lines were written in Sanskrit - a language that preceded Latin and Greek - some 3,000 years ago. Those who were at our founding meeting-- or at our tenth anniversary meeting-- will recall President Len McNeil's presentation on the subject.

Len says the plaque, showing a colored ersion of the coat-of-arms should be ready early in the New Year. It will be hung in the foyer of the Town Hall. Watch for details of the ceremony.

FEBRUARY IS FOR LAUGHING COURTESY OF A HISTORY EXPERT

Ontario has a lively and humorous history and we're going to hear about it at our February 18 meeting.

The speaker is Hugh MacMillan, liaison officer, Ontario Archives. He'll tell us about our rich heritage and how the revamped Archives organization is bringing it to us.

Here are a few tidbits provided by Mr. MacMillan, to indicate the tone of our February meeting:

From instructions give by the Glengarry Telephone Co., 1907: "Always hang the receiver on the hook with the ear down -- this keeps dust out of the ear. Three minutes is a goodly time to do business and should also satisfy those socially inclined."

From the York Gazette, 1821: "Wanted - a et nurse with guaranteed capacity".

From the Quebec Gazette, 1764: "Wanted - a wife; genteel English, Scotch or French girl with money used to conforming and to the keeping of her tongue."

That last bit was obviously good training for the telephone age.



JANUARY 21 IS ELECTION DAY FOR YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our Nominating Committee held its first meeting early in December in preparation for our annual meeting, Thursday January 21.

Committee chairman is past president Don Hayward. Jessie Hamilton represents the executive and Bob Mackay, the membership at large.

In addition to the slate put forward at the January meeting, members have the opportunity to nominate from the floor, provided the person nominated has agreed to stand.

Don Hayward and his committee would welcome your suggestions.

MILTON'S ON THE HERITAGE

by Leonard McNeil

On June 15, 1963, I had the pleasure of presiding over the erection of a plaque near Courtice in Durham County commemorating the original homestead of the Baldwin family whose members included the famous reformer and statesman Dr. W.W. Baldwin and the Honorable Robert W. Baldwin, former premier of Ontario. I was president of the hundred year old historic Durham County Club of Toronto and journeyed from Milton to Clarke Township, which is now part of the Town of Newcastle, to welcome the speaker of the occasion, the Honourable Leslie Frost, Professor J.M.Carless vice-chairman of the Ontario Historic Sites Board, as well as all local dignitaries. On Contombor 07th 1004 T bad the slasson

of presenting a picture of that historic occasion to then Principal, David Haley, of Robert Baldwin School at a public meeting



held at the school. That picture may be seen at any time in the school's foyer.

Keeping the above in mind, you will understand better why, when I had my first personal interview with Gordon McKenzie prior to the seventy-fifth anniversary program of the Robertson-Whitehouse plant which Jim Dills and I presented, I was fascinated with the outstanding accomplishments of Peter Lymburner Robertson. It occurred to me then that our town had been somewhat neglected by the Ontario Heritage Sites Board, possibly due to the fact that it had not been informed of Milton's notable citizen and his contribution to Ontario, Canada and the world.

A telephone call to Queen's Park alerted me to the fact that the responsibilities of the Historic Sites Board had been taken over by the Ontario Heritage Foundation and that Professor J.M. Carless, now semi-retired, was still working with the Foundation.

After doing much research quietly, on my own inlative, in 1982, 83 and 84 and after discussing the possibility of a plaque for P.L. Robertson with the Foundation's secretary Elizabeth Price, on March 2, 1984, as a member of Milton's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee a personal letter explaining "P.L's" accomplishments was sent to John White, Chairman of the Foundation asking the Foundation to consider the erection of such a heritage plaque on Bronte St. adjacent to the original building where "P.L." invented the socket head recessed screw.

On July 26, 1984 I received a personal letter indicating tentative approval of my project. I first acquainted Mayor Krantz informally of the nature of the enterprise and then made an appointment with David Lapore to discuss the feasibility. After securing a copy of the Ontario Heritage Act and indicating that the plant would not be bound to the preservation of any of its buildings as a heritage structure he approved the erection of such a plaque and asked to be kept informed on all correspondence connected with it.

The next necessary decision to be made by me, while my research continued, was the choice of a sponsor for the project. As you will recall my initial letter was sent as a member of Milton's LACAC committee but a their annual meeting in January 1985 I was given the impression that certain members of that committee felt that the historical aspect of their work was being over emphasized and as, by this time, I had the executive position of Director of Research in the MilDecember 7, 1987

ton Historical Society I decided to request 'ts assistance instead. From then until the

iveiling of the plaque November 8, 1986 I enjoyed the whole-hearted support of Past Presidents Don Hayward, Jim Dills, Val Grimshaw, the executive and all the members of the Society and I am very grateful to one and all for that.

After the application was made and we were advised that the unveiling would take place in 1986, Dave Lepore showed great interest in the project, gave secretarial assistance, opened his historic files to me, appointed retirees Roy Weston and Buck Kelman to assist and finally offered the factory's warehouse as a meeting place if security regulations of the plant were properly adhered to. Not only that but Dave took pains to invite all retirees of the plant while I made sure all the necessary dignitaries were invited and together we planned the program. Dave's outstanding contribution to our project was very much appreciated.

After the unveiling of the Heritage Plaque by nonagenarian and former plant president Gordon McKenzie on November 18, 1986 the town of Milton was richer because of the honour estowed on one of its former much-respected citizens. Ontario's heritage was richer because of the recognition of one of its most successful entrepreneurs. As far as I am concerned, as your president, I experienced a great feel of satisfaction for the supreme efforts of the members of our historical society all of whom stood straight and tall. Personally I was very happy to see our town on the map of Ontario as a municipality deserving of a Heritage Foundation Plaque.



LONG-RANGE PROJECT

Jim Dills has started preliminary work on a history of Milton. But, says Jim who retired a couple of months ago, it's a long range project and he has no idea when he will complete it.

Jim, of course, has a lot of material on hand but he feels there are a lot of "holes"

o fill. He has started to sort it out, begun egular visits to the archives and is trying initially to "recreate" some understanding of the work of the first surveyors and the early settlement patterns.

"The search is so fascinating I may never get down to the writing", Jim worries.

RECOGNITION FOR OMAGH AND BOYNE?

The Society is trying to win increasing recognition for Omagh and Boyne.

President Len McNeil has written to Provincial Authorities in an effort to have commemorative signs placed on the appropriate highways. But so far no reply from Queen's Park to these efforts on behalf of these historic centres.

ZIMMERMAN ENCORE ON THE ARCHEOLOGICAL FRONT

There's a good chance that more archeological work will be done in 1988 at the old Zimmerman village.

The mass of artifacts gathered during the dig this year is now being analyzed by archeologist Bill Frankling for a report to the Ontario Government.

Bill and Morris Sorenson of the Regional Museum gave an interesting program on the Zimmerman project at our October meeting. Alex Cooke has traced scores of Zimmerman family members and many yards - literally of those records were on display at the October session.

Morris Sorenson says he's hopeful a new group of landowners will give permission for more sifting and sorting come spring. That and renewed funding - will make for a digger's delight.

DECISION ON REGIONAL MUSEUM MAY COME IN JANUARY

A decision on the future of the Regional Museum may come early in the new year.

The consultants are now fine-tuning the report they first presented to Museum representatives in November. Museum curator Ernie Buchner believes the Regional Council may well decide the issue immediately after receiving the consultants' report and other studies next month.

Basically these reports will explain what's involved in keeping the Museum at its present location in Kelso and what would result from moving it. Ernie feels the information being presented to the Council will be complete enough to allow a quick decision on the alternatives.

Ernie emphasizes that the advisory committee will have an important role in the process. Len McNeil, as president of our Society, is a member of that committee. Page 4

NOSTALGIA FOR THE FAMILY FARM "MAN BEHIND THE PLOW"

Our November program "Man Behind the Plow" brought warm memories for many of those who attended. The reminiscences presented in the one-hour program were distilled from more than 200 hours of recordings made by the Ontario Archives in co-operation with the University of Guelph.

The photos and the recollections came from four areas of the Province - the Essex region; Niagara; Dufferin County and the New Liskeard area. Scenes were from the late 1800's and the early 1900's. One of the most striking impressions was that a great many people lived and worked in rural areas in those years. Most people earned their living on farms then; today less than four per cent of Canadians are directly employed in agriculture.

Archivist Roger Nickerson gave an interesting rundown on the oral history aspect of the Archives. Indicentally, if you know anyone with the family name "Nickerson", the person is probably related to Roger. He believes all the Nickersons trace their origins to the ame family that came to this continent about .00 years ago.

WHO'S BEING STUNG HERE?

Eddie Greenspan, the ubiquitous crimina. lawyer, is taking credit for closing the old Milton courthouse 10 years ago.

In a radio interview with Vicki Gabereau a few weeks ago, Eddie explained in great detail how he was conducting a case when he spotted a wasp in the courtroom. Apparently terrified, he quickly gathered his papers and departed.

As Eddie described it, court officials hurried after him and tried to persuade him to carry on. But Eddie said there was no way he would share the limelight with a wasp.

The way Eddie tells it, this incident probably had a direct bearing on the closing of the former Halton Courthouse in Milton which has now been transformed into our beautiful \$3,000,000 town hall.

DUNDURN BY CANDLELIGHT

+ Our Christmas visit December 16 to Dundurn Castle, arranged by Special Events Chairperson Shirley Dills is a sell out with the 24 reserved places filled in quick time. Victorian decorations, candlelight, carols and Christmas treats are part of the two hou program.



LEARNING AT THE MUSEUM

+ More than 800 students from grades 3 and 4 are taking part in the special Christmas program at the Regional Museum during December.

INTERESTING READING

+ Two substantial volumes have just been published about neighboring communities. "Brampton: An Illustrated History" (304 pages) by Helga V. Loverseed, covers the town's first 100 years. Publisher is Windsor Publications Ltd., Burlington. And the University of Toronto Press has produced "Steel City, a Geography of Hamilton and Region" (384 pages). Authors are M.J.Dear and L.G.Reeds.

MILTON TOWN HALL FEATURED

+ The Burlington Spectator, in its issue of October 31, featured a full page color photo of the Milton Town Hall as their November calendar page.

88 IS CENTENNIAL YEAR

+ The Ontario Historical Society is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1988. One of its projects is a special slide presentation that will be available to groups such as ours. Our Society will be sponsoring special activities to mark the Centennial.

STILL TIME FOR SUGGESTIONS

+ The Ontario Historical Society will be making a fall 1988 presentation to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture on revisions to the Ontario Heritage Act. Although there already has been a lot of consultation on the subject the OHS will welcome further ideas from Societies or individuals.

WALKING TOUR BROCHURE OBJECTIVE

+ Jim Dills is reviewing some of his background material on downtown buildings as a prelude to putting together a walking tour brochure. Such a brochure would be an ideal project for the OHS celebration.



TOP ARCHEOLOGIST SPEAKS AT CRAWFORD LAKE

Bill Gregg, in his role as head of the Nasagiweya Historical Society, has invited us to a special program at Crawford Lake Conservation Area **Tuesday September 8.**

The speaker is Bill Finlayson, Director of the Museum of Indian Archeology, University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Finlayson has guided the continuing archeological program at Crawford Lake for more than 10 years. He is an authority on Indian settlement throughout this part of southern Ontario and uniquely qualified to give us a picture of how "Miltonians" lived five centuries ago.

The program - to include slides as well as our of the nearby Indian sites - begins atm. in the auditorium of the Crawford Lake Visitors' Centre. That's on Steeles Avenue, just east of the Guelph Line.

Sounds like a rare opportunity. Not to mention the fun of meeting members of the Nasagiweya and Campbellville Societies.

CINDY LEBROCQ OPENS SOCIETY'S NEW SEASON

Cindy LeBrocq, of Oakville, gets our fall program off to a strong start at Milton Public Library, **Thursday September 17.**

Those who attended Cindy's presentation on china a few years ago will know what a delightful way she has with an audience.

This time Cindy will give a lively and light-hearted look at early gardens of Upper Canada. Price lists from the old days will give a good idea of the plants available then and will show just what inflation has done to prices over a few generations.

If this background sounds a bit familiar, s because Cindy was set to speak to us in April but had to cancel out.

As usual we'll get together at 7.30 p.m. for a half hour of coffee and socializing before Len McNeill calls the new season to order. Don't miss the fun. 1867 AND ALL THAT

The Ontario Historical Society has organized a two-day conference at Black Creek Pioneer Village to mark the 150th anniversary of the 1837 Rebellion. Dates are October 2 and 3 - a Friday and Saturday.

It would be hard to imagine any aspect of the Rebellion - military, social, religious, whatever - not covered in the two days.

Twenty-five speakers are listed, along with a dozen workshops, and a performance of "1837, the Farmers' Revolt", by the Theatre on the Move. There's even a Rebel Supper Friday evening featuring authentic 1837 recipes followed by "Toasts to the Causes" and . music by Muddy York.

More detailed information is available from the Ontario Historical Society (416) 226-9011



Rebels drilling in North York, 1837

-The Journal -

HALTON REGIONAL MUSEUM POPULAR SPOT WITH VISITORS

Halton Regional Museum is heading for another record attendance this year.

Curator Ernie Buchner says that if visitors continue at the current rate the 1987 total should reach 12,000. That would be up more than 2,000 over the previous high recorded last year.

Ernie says the group studying the future of the Museum will be presenting its feasibility study to the Regional Council by early November.

The Council's key decision will be whether to keep the Museum at its present site in the Kelso Conservation Area or to locate it elsewhere. Either solution will involve heavy spending since the present buildings need extensive renovations to bring them up to Provincial standards.

Whatever the decision, Ernie says it will be mid-1988 at the earliest before any physical work is under way.

Kilton Historical Society P.O. Box 85 Milton, Ont. - L9T 2Y3 President - Len McNeil Past President - Don Hayward First Vice-President - Ken Lamb Promotion, Publicity Second Vice-President - Marjorie Powys Chairman of Program Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton Secretary - Jean Butts Membership - Audrea Lear-Costigan Special Events - Shirley Dills Research - Val Grimshaw Annual Membership Family \$10., Single \$7., Student \$5.

GRIMSHAW'S "NEW" HOUSE DATES BACK TO "JUST" 1874

The new Grimshaw home moves Val and John "ahead" 40 years but they're still comfortably historical.

The former school house on Second Line, just south of Eden Mills was built in 1874 of limestone, fieldstone and granite. Students attended the one-room structure until 1960. Val and John uncovered two blackboards, one covered with the name of students, the other with a history lesson.

In recent years it has been a summer home but Val and John have completed substantial renovations for year-round use.

They moved in mid-July from Tremaine Road where they had been 13 years. That was an 1834 farmhouse carefully restored by the Grimshaws.

MILITARY BACKGROUND OF AREA REVEALED AT LORNE SCOTS MUSEUM

Several car loads of Society members had a special tour of The Lorne Scots Regimen Museum, tucked away near the Armoury on a side street in the heart of Brampton.

Curator E.F. Conover opened the Museum specially for the group. The interest was evident as members pored over uniforms, photographs, battle items and other memorabilia from the long history of the regiment.

Among the artifacts that caught our attention were: a Fenian Raid Medal, the uniform worn by Surgeon McCulloch of the Halton Militia in the 1850's and the uniform of Capt. George Chisholm who led troops from Oakville at the battle of Queenston Heights in the war of 1812-14. In the Upper Canada Rebellion he led troops to Toronto to help put down the rebellion. And there's a painting of him wearing that uniform in the Officers' Mess in the adjacent armouries.



GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY - 1880

September 1, 1987

-The Journal -

Alex Cooke is one of the major players in a historical project centred on the 19th century village of Zimmerman. Halton's Regional Museum and Board of Education are sponsoring the work.

Alex says the village, just west of Apelby Line near No. 2 Sideroad, had about 100 residents during its heyday from 1820 to 1880. It had a grist mill, two sawmills, a general store, post office and other attributes of a thriving settlement. It gradually dwindled and virtually disappeared when the threestorey Zimmerman grist mill burned in 1914.

This summer adults and students have been carrying out an archeological dig at the site. Archeologist Bill Frankling, Bell School Line, is in charge of this aspect.

Alex is doing his research in association with the Regional Museum. He has pretty well completed the Zimmerman family tree. Loyal to the British cause in the American Revolution, the family arrived in the Niagara district from New Jersey in the late 1700's and later settled in Halton. Henry P. and Johnson Zimr rman founded the village of that name. A sin, Peter, built a home in Burlington-it's now a hotel on Brant Street. Alex says many descendants of the original family still live in Milton and other parts of Halton.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM AT MILTON GETS MASSEY-FERGUSON ARCHIVES

The library/archives at the Ontario Agricultural Museum is the new home of the Massey-Ferguson Limited archives.

For generations the firm was a household name in this country. Now, of course, the slump in the farm implement business has reduced it to a shadow of its former greatness. Even the name has disappeared - the firm is now called Varity Corporation.

In any event the records are an important addition to the already extensive archives at the Museum. Good new for researchers.

1988 A CENTENNIAL YEAR FOR ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Plans are well advanced for marking the Ontario Historical Society's centennial in 1988.

A committee is preparing a slide/sound presentation which will include photos from the Ontario Archives and the OHS photo col- (lection as well as new material. It will be ready for showing in the fall.

The OHS slogan for the centennial is "1888-1988: From the Past for the Future".

Audrea Wilson of Goodwood, Ont. came up with that slogan to claim first prize in the OHS contest.



WALTON HOME - FARM & RESIDENCE OF JAMES ZIMMERMAN, (CON 2, N.D.S. LOT 6 NELSON T?) (This Property for Sale - consisting of 112 Acres - 8 Acres, Orchard, Address, Zimmerman P.O.)

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THE LORNE SCOTS

(Taken from a "Brief History of The Lorne Scots")

The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin & Halton Regiment) is one of the oldest infantry regiments in Canada, tracing its history back to the 1790's when the first Militia was raised in what was then the British Colony of Upper Canada. They were part of the sedentary militia which was formed to protect the young Colony.

In the war of 1812-14 the Flank Companys of the sedentary militia from what was to become the Counties of Peel and Halton were called out to help defend their homes against the American invaders and served with General Brock at Queenston Heights, Lundy's Lane and the Capture of Detroit.

During the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837 the 2nd Regiment of West York Militia which was raised in what was to become the County of Peel and the 8th Gore Militia from Halton County were placed on service and served at York and Niagara.

The year 1866 brought about a revival of interest in the Militia companies of Peel, Dufferin and Halton Counties. Agitators in the U.S.A. using the feeble pretense of freeing Ireland planned to annoy Britain by attacking Upper Canada. On January 1st of this year a General Order was issued calling out on active service the Rifle and Infantry Companies located at Brampton, Albion, Derry West, Orangeville and Grahamsville and in Halton the Companies at Oakville, Stewartown, Georgetown and Norval and they left for the Niagara Frontier. The Fenians were repulsed but not before the authorities became painfully aware of the lack of training and equipment and it was decided to completely reorganize the militia.

On the 14th of September 1966 the 36th Peel Bn was authorized and on the 18th of September the 20th Halton Bn of Infantry was formed. Thus began the two regiments which some seventy years later were to be reorganized and become the Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment).

1837 REBELLION REMEMBERED

AT BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE SEPTEMBER 28 - OCTOBER 3, 1987





Yes, it's time to invite you all to the big celebration.

Whether you've been a member since Day 1, whether you have just joined, or whether you've been away for awhile. Or even if you just think local History might be your thing. Come along.

The event will be in our usual location at Milton Library. The evening will formally begin at 8 p.m. but many of you know Jessie has the coffee pot on by 7.30 p.m. It's Thursday May 21.

What's in store?

A real mixture.

A little bit of history will be on the program as Len McNeil presents his slide presentation - The Arms of Milton. Some of you might remember this is the first program the Society held. President Len will be reviving this particular program with some interesting revisions.

There'll be a look ahead. How will Milton have changed in the next 10 years? Councillor Brad Clements will provide his insights on projects that are ahead, developments to watch for, and events that will be changing the evolving face of the town. With Brad's involvement at the local municipal council level and at the regional level, look for a knowledgeable presentation.

Expect a little fun with Milton Trivia. Jim Dills has promised to pull together some trivia trials with a local twist that you can compete on in groups. Bring your thinking caps.

We'll also be raiding Jim Dills' archives to arrange picture walls. That means you'll have plenty to look at if you get there early or stay late. And if you pass all the check-in points while you Walk the Wall, Don Hayward has prepared a keep-sake certificate to attest to the fact that you did indeed Walk the Wall at the Society's 10th anniversary. And to add a personal note, the certificates will be signed by each of the Society's Presidents.

Ken Lamb is preparing the inevitable Time Capsule and you'll want to be involved in that.

Shirley Dills is organizing the anniversary cake to add the required calories to the evening and there will be plenty of time for socializing.

The most important ingredient will be your presence. Do come. This is your night to be involved.



Gala Day

The two separate ceremonies held November 8 - one honoring the inventor P.L. Robertson and the other commemorating the pioneers buried in the Bronte Pioneer Cemetery - were outstanding successes.

A gentle rain was falling as Val Grimshaw conducted the graveyard ceremony marking the 100 - foot cairn imbedded with many pioneer gravestones. Despite the less - than- auspicious weather many people were on hand. A youthful member of the Martin family helped

eil the cairn.

Immediately after this event the P.L. Robertson ceremony took place in the Robertson -Whitehouse warehouse across Bronte Street. More than 250 people attended , including many retired employees of the firm. All had received letters of invitation from the manager, David Lepore. The firm's careful planning was a major factor in the success of the event.

Richard Alway, who represented the Ontario Heritage Foundation, was impressed with the celebration. He said it was the best attended plaquing ceremony he had ever attended in 1986.

Two plaques were installed that day -- one on Bronte Street to mark the P.L. Robertson Manufacturing Company and the other at Martin and Margaret Streets, recalling the long years Mr. Robertson had spent in the John Martin House on the Millpond.

Mr. Lepore says P.L. Robertson's square recessed screw is still a mainstay of the local plant. The new plaques will help ensure

' `t succeeding generations of Miltonians
' `l be aware of the man's outstanding achie.ents.

Val Grimshaw spearheaded the Pioneer Cemetery project. For her, the November ceremony culminated several years of perseverance and hard work.



STEAMING ALONG

Please note that our next meeting will be held <u>Wednesday</u>, <u>March</u> 25, instead of our normal third Thursday of the month. Sherwood Hume, well - known local railway buff of long standing, will be our speaker. Sherwood is vice - president of the recently formed Ontario Rail Club.

He'll tell us of the Club's plans to operate historical railway vehicles over track the Club is installing at a site between Beeton and Tottenham. He'll also describe what's involved in restoring steam locomotives.

Sherwood and his son Gorden restored the locomotive used for Pierre Berton's TV serial "National Dream ". Some members will recall the delightful presentation Sherwood made to us on this subject a few years ago.

STROLLING IN THE MALL

Many community service groups set up displays at the Milton Mall Saturday, February 14. Our display - Jim Dills' historic photos and Len McNeil's slides of the P.L. Robertson Day and Pioneer Cemetery programs - attracted plenty of attention.

Some visitors spent up to 30 minutes examining the exhibits and chatting. -The Journal -

CHISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

The Ontario Agriculture Museum has lined up a full program for the coming summer. A three - month exhibit (June 15 - September 17) will feature contributions made by various cultural groups to rural Ontario. It's called " Multiculturalism - A Rural Perspective "

The season opens May 19. The first feature, June 14, is the antique car show sponsered by the Historical Automobile Society of Canada. Closing event is the Christmas Craft Fair, which has been moved ahead several weeks to the Septemnber 19 - 20 weekend. Society members Ad Woodley and Marion Detlor displayed stained glass work at last year's Craft Fair.

Members will be glad to know that the roof of the former Milton school house has been completed. This latest addition to the Museums's roster of historic buildings will be open to the public this summer.





LEN MCNEIL, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Although he's not saying much, his broad smile shows that Len McNeil greatly appreciates being choosen Milton's Citizen of the Year. It would be hard to imagine someone with more wide - ranging interests and fields of service than our president.

Len, now serving his second term as head of the Society, was a founding member. He earlier served as vice - president in charge of programs and as director of research. Before coming to Milton he was a member of the Ontario Historical Society.

For many years he has been active in the Canadian Cancer Society. His many positions have included President of the Milton Unit and Education Director for the Central Ontario District. Since 1974 he has been driving cancer patients to medical appointments in Toronto. He also has driven countless miles for the Meals on Wheels organization.

Len, associatted with the Masonic Lodge f many years, became Lodge Master here in 1975, the year following his retirement from the department of Education.

At St. Paul's United Church his contributions are legendary. He served many years as Clerk of Session. Currently he is treasurer and vice - chairman of the Board of Trustees and secretary of the membership committee as well as making a key contribution to the deliberations of the church concil.

Len has contributed to the Milton and District Horticultural Society in various capacities. He was president for two years and still serves as auditor.

He is a Founding member of the Milton Curling Club and you can find him on the ice each Monday evening throughout the winter.

By profession, Len is an educator. He came to Milton in 1958 as Inspector of Schools for a large district including Milton and areas to the west and north. Before that he was a principal for a school in Peterborough.

A native of Janetville, near Lindsay, earned his B.A. at Queen's and his education degree (B. Paed.) at the University Toronto.

Those who have seen any of the numerous McNeil Slide Shows will not be surprised that Len and Helen are keen members of the Toront Guild of Color Photography.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEARS 10TH ANNIVERSARY IT REALLY THAT LONG AGO?

It was in March 1977 that a public meeting was held in Milton to consider establishing a local historical society. A founding meeting was held in May of 1977 and the first programs and activities were initiated.

With a constitution, drafted by Len McNeil, fees established, and general endorsement of the need, the executive was elected with Jim Dills as president, Len McNeil as first vice president, Lyn Gonneau as second vice president, Pamela McLean as secretary and Roseann Felsbourg as treasurer. Councillor Brad Clements presided for the election.

Subsequent presidents have been Val Grimshaw, and Don Hayward with Len McNeil serving currently.

But what has happened in those intervening years.

Programs and special events have been held, but several very significant things have been accomplished.

One of the first concerns was the r servation of the old Court House which we n proudly see as the town's new Municipal Building. Undoubtedly the Society's concern raised the profile of that building so it was possible for the municipal officials to undertake the finest rennovation program there.

Many homes have been dated and appropriate plaques attached indicating the historic significance of them.

The Pioneer Cemetery was greatly improved with the gathering of the cracked stones and assembly of them in a cement cairn.

P.L. Robertson's contribution as an early industrialist in the town was finally recognized. A plaque was erected by the first machine shop where P.L. began production of his invention, the socket head screw. His home in the community was also marked with a special plaque.

The town's Local Architectural Advisory Committee was also established at the persistent urging of the Historical Society.

There have been many other activities o those 10 years; sponsorship of the Canac pavillion at the Festival of Countries, the arranging and staffing of the first Mayor's Levee, two very successful house tours, work on the town's 125th anniversary, assistance with the Bicentennial Celebration, a



Sunday in the Park featuring a band concert and church service, a number of group history walks often as part of the program of other groups, gathering and framing the pictures of the mayors of Milton since the town's incorporation, a heritage policy for the town's official plan, hosting workshops, mounting displays and so the list goes on.

There have been many other involvements but this is not an attempt to write a complete history of the Society.

Perhaps it is sufficient to say that much has happened because there is a Historical Society. Opportunity abounds for more with the involvement of more members.

But, yes this is the 10th anniversary. It is time to celebrate. Watch for it.



QUICKLY NOW, WHERE IS IT?

The Halton County Atlas of 1875 illustrates this residence of Dr. Clarkson Freeman. Dr. Freeman was one of the early doctors in Milton and was the son-in-law of Dr. Cobban, the first doctor in Milton. This residence is still there. Look on Charles St. Page 4

PIONEERING IN THE GARDEN

Cindy Le Brocq, of Oakville, our speaker <u>Thursday, April 16</u>, has done a lot of research into early gardens of Upper Canada. She has put together an informative but light - hearted program on seeds and such.

Among other things, she'll pass out price lists showing what pioneers paid for trees and plants. Pioneers could plant an orchard for what we pay these days for one decent speciman. Of course in those days a dollar represented many hours, days, of work.

Anyway, come and hear all about it. As we know from her earlier talk to us about early china, Cindy is a lively and entertaining speaker.

ROOTS BY MAIL

Margaret Williams at our February meeting gave some interesting tips on how to trace our ancestors by mail. Margaret, who came to this country from Britian 29 years ago, has been firing off letters to genealogical societies in the U.K. for the past ten years. She says she has become thoroughly addicted in her efforts to track down the various by nches of her family tree.

argaret says her overseas contacts have gone to alot of trouble to help her. A resident of Oakville for the past 14 years, she is a member of the Halton - Peel Genealogical Society.



IT'S spring and that often signals a special aning. If you're into the attic and come aross pictures of old Milton, don't throw them out. Call the Milton Historical Society so they might be preserved. Old pictures tell so much about the past they are an important part of the town's history. Alert your friends too.

