

The



Journal

Volume 4, Number 3

September 1, 1989

Our Walking Tour Booklet Is Step Ahead for Milton

How is our Walking Tour booklet getting along since we introduced it at our May meeting?

All reaction so far is favorable. People like its appearance and all the community background supplied by author Jim Dills and fellow researchers Alex Cooke and Jack Charlton. Certainly no one considers it overpriced at \$1.

The Downtown Business Improvement Area not only gave us substantial financial support but also publicity during its "Midnight Madness" celebration in June. Jack Charlton led a walking tour that night. MPP Walt Elliot, one of Jack's walkers, later wrote a note expressing appreciation of the Society's work.

We sold about 30 booklets at the DBIA event and about 20 more at the July celebration in Rotary Park. It is also selling quite well at the Library, Harris Stationery, Spice of Life, Chamber of Commerce, Town Hall and the Regional and Agricultural Museums.

Having produced 2000 copies we don't expect to reprint for a couple of years. Ideas for wider distribution are welcome. The booklet would be an economical "card" if



Main Street, Milton, Ontario, looking west, 1889

you're contacting a former resident of Milton. With its sketches it would be a kindler of fond memories for many.

Over the next few years we expect to considerably broaden our publishing activity. Under consideration is a collection of Mel Robinson's columns from *The Champion*; a driving tour booklet; a review of how Milton streets got their names; and compilations of subjects discussed at our monthly meetings.

Share Your Memories At Our September Meeting

We're departing from our usual format at our September 21 meeting. We're sharing memories of the Second World War, which began 50 years ago this month. We hope to make the evening itself a historic event as well as an interesting program.

We're inviting veterans to share the evening with us. And young local musicians are being asked to perform "White Cliffs of Dover", "Lili Marlene", and other wartime tunes.

During the evening we'll tape people's recollections of the War. Come along and contribute your memories and become part of our Oral History records.

The Class of '13 Is Toast of '89

Laura Dixon and five friends made up an entire first grade in 1913. Seventy six years later they all still keep in touch.

The Seniors Magazine recently carried a story about the six class-mates. Since then Laura and her pals are receiving good wishes from far and wide.

They attended Dakota school, later called Cedar Springs, on Cedar Springs Road, about a mile and a half south of Kilbride. It is now a house.

Laura's friends are Eva Edington, Burdge Gunby, Sam Newell, Eva Watson and Gladys Wilson.

Aerial Shots are High Point Of Our Display in Rotary Park

Aerial photos of Milton, taken in 1953 by local photographer Ross Pearen, attracted scores of people to the Society's display at the Milton/Canada Day celebrations July 1 in Rotary Park.

The photos, part of Jim Dills' collection, were taken at a time Milton was ambitiously promoting itself as a site for industry. The shots showed large areas of land undeveloped where subdivisions and factories are now located.

In those days few people realized that Milton would face such spectacular growth in the next 36 years. One picture showed Halton Centennial Manor as the only structure east of Ontario St.

Many of the visitors to our display bought copies of the Walking Tour booklet and took copies of an information sheet about the work of the Society.

Summer Pot Pourri

Comings and goings over the summer:

Ad Woodley was named "Volunteer of the Month" for June at Centennial Manor where he is in charge of the greenhouse.

Shirley Dills upgraded her already considerable skill in china painting during a one-week seminar at Cazenovia College, New York State.

Dorothy Gould has become owner and operator of Blue Springs Flower Shop, Mill St. Acton.

Tod Laing retired from teaching at Meadowvale West Public School in Peel at the end of June.

Ken Wilson, our London Ont. member, is working on a history of the northern part of Nassagaweya in co-operation with the Township Historical Society.

A reenactment of a U.S. Civil War battle created plenty of excitement during the July 1 celebrations at the Regional Museum. Jean Butts, Alex Cooke, Jessie Hamilton, Joe Henderson and Tod Laing helped feed and entertain the crowd.

Do You Think Its Contagious? Here's Another Walking Tour Book

The Streetsville Historical Society this spring published a 26 page walking tour Booklet, "Discover Historic Streetsville."

It describes 65 buildings and contains 22 photographs, all but two of them of buildings no longer in existence.

The booklet, which sells for \$3, may be obtained from the Streetsville Society, P.O. Box 598, Streetsville, Ont. L5M 2C1.

Lots of Variety, Music for Visitors to Oakville

About a dozen members and friends drove to Oakville June 11 for the picnic-in-the-park sponsored by the Historical Society there.

Perfect weather. Good music by the Oakville Concert Band and other groups. Interesting visits aboard the pollution-control vessel from the Inland Waters Centre at Burlington and two majestic sailing ships. The latter vessels take teenagers on two week training sessions on the Great Lakes.

Some of us were even in time to tra smiles with the Lieutenant-Governor Linco. Alexander.



Milton Historical Society

P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont., L9T 2Y3

President - Ken Lamb

Past President - Len McNeil

Vice President - Dorothy Gould

Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton

Secretary - Marjorie Powys

Programs - Tod Laing

Publicity & Promotion - Jean Butts

Membership - Audrea Lear-Costigan

Special Events - Addison Woodley

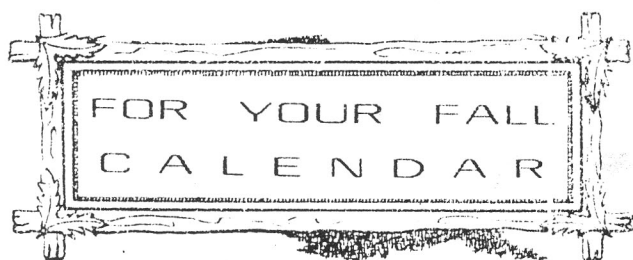
Librarian/Archivist - Brenda Whitlock

Research - Jack Charlton, Jim Dills.

Genealogy - Alex Cooke

Annual Memberships

Family \$10 Single \$7 Student \$5.



Bill Gregg Ensures Another Interesting Evening

One of Ontario's great moral and political issues is the topic of our October 19 meeting. Temperance is the subject; Bill Gregg the speaker.

"This is a fascinating topic," Bill says. "I've been doing a lot of work on it."

This guarantees an exciting evening. As we know from his talk last fall on the 1837 uprising, Bill is an outstanding speaker. And his many years as a student and professor of history give him unusual range and perspective.

For many decades temperance was a burning issue as Ontario communities tried to come to terms with alcohol. They didn't succeed - we're still digging graves each week for "problem" drinkers and their victims- but it has been an epic struggle.

We must hear Bill Gregg on this: 7.45 p.m. October 19 in Hugh Foster Hall.

Can You Take A Bit of Nagging About Our Meeting on Horses?

For countless thousands of horse racing fans in North America, Milton is perhaps best known as the home of the Mohawk Raceway.

But why is this popular track here rather than elsewhere? And who were the people responsible for keeping this area in the forefront of racing over the years?

These are just two of the many questions we'll have answered at our November 16 meeting. We expect to have a number of horse owners and lovers with us for the evening. And we've invited Lloyd Chisholm, prominent Campbellville horseman, to be our main speaker.

Don't miss this session - you may even get some tips on what's hot at the track and what's not.

Joe Henderson and Alex Cooke Star in Museum Sunday Programs

Joe Henderson and Alex Cooke are playing an important part in a series of oral history programs at Halton Region Museum.

Joe will be the speaker Sunday September 17 at 2 p.m. He will describe his life on a farm as well as his experience as a blacksmith. Joe is a native of Nassagaweya.

Two weeks later Alex Cooke will recall what it was like to grow up in our town. He will also talk about his experience in real estate and other businesses.

Third speaker, Sunday October 15 will be Ella Patterson who has spent her life in this area. Ella, who writes a column about Omagh doings in The Champion, has many memories of farm life.

These Sunday afternoon programs are a new venture for the Museum. Those who attend will have an opportunity to question the speakers. Serving of hot cider should also help turn on the flow of memories.

Society Offers Oral History At Seniors' Centre

Beginning this month the Society will offer an Oral History program at the Seniors' Centre in Milton.

Our idea is to interest the participants in various aspects of oral history. We'll offer suggestions on how to conduct an interview. And we'll invite the seniors to contribute to a number of tapes for our records. The 90 minute program is scheduled weekly for an initial period of ten weeks.

If you have ideas for this project or would like to take part, please get in touch with Ken Lamb 878-6391.

ARE YOU FAITHFULLY recording the names of people in your photographs? Sorting your pictures is a great winter activity and they'll mean a lot more to others if you list the people in the picture itself.

REMEMBER THE ARCHIVES when you look through your picture collection or memorabilia. The Historical Society has established the local archives to preserve documents and pictures that open the windows on the past. Call Brenda Whitlock if you have a contribution or bring it to the next meeting for more to see.

Historic Rambles in Vacation Land By Ken Lamb

If you happen to find yourself in Southampton or Owen Sound one of these days you may be interested in a couple of side trails that proved interesting for Treasa and me.

First Southampton. For a few hours we traded one of Canada's finest beaches (Sable) for walking tours of this lovely Lake Huron port. The Information Office next to the Town Hall provides free brochures and town maps. Two full tours and two side-tours on one sheet of paper. Now that's economy!

We toured an excellent variety of historic and architectural sites. And we even found a Milton connection, sort of. One of the local home-owners apparently was very nervous about backing his car out of the garage. His answer was to install a switching apparatus that turned his car right around, a full 180 degrees. He could then forget all about reversing - at least from his garage.

In one of his columns in The Champion, Mel Robinson described the same kind of apparatus installed by one of Milton's early motorists.

During our walkabout we had a fine example of the power of suggestion. We made a right turn at an intersection, as indicated in the brochure. We were invited to inspect a remodeled school. I convinced myself, but maybe not Treasa, that the remnants of the original building were still quite evident.

A few moments later we found out that the brochure was mistaken. It should have asked us to turn left, not right. And my "former school house" suddenly became just another bungalow, unworthy of mention, even in the official text.

We reported the misprint to the Information Office and were told our correction would be just in time for the reprinting. The Office co-ordinator, Gladys Thompson, took the opportunity to pass her best wishes to friend John Lawrence of Milton's Chamber of Commerce.

On to Owen Sound and another typographical error. This one cropped up on a plaque to Victoria Cross winner Thomas William Holmes. His is one of three Victoria Cross plaques in front of the Owen Sound library; the others honor Billy Bishop, a native of the town, and David Wm. Currie.

The Holmes plaque must have been completed when officials noticed the mistake. To put things right they printed one word "Private" on a piece of metal and welded it

over the original word. Unfortunately the "Private" is a different color from the rest of the inscription and it looks like a patch job. Maybe the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Board will find enough money soon to give Private Holmes a proper write-up.

Just a word about Billy Bishop, who won the Victoria Cross for downing more than 70 planes in World War I.

The home his family lived in for about 100 years in Owen Sound is being made into a museum. Lots of work still to be done but parts of it are open to the public.

When we dropped by a museum official was painting the porch. He dropped his brush to show us around.

A lot of the family furniture is still in place - and in good repair. And the "Miller" ceilings are intact. In the early 1900s a local contractor installed about 40 such ceilings in the area. Each home had a distinctive ceiling design. Making the design, transferring it to the ceiling and painting took about six months.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM LIBRARY IS A RARE RESOURCE ON OUR DOORSTEP

Now in its 15th year, the library at the Ontario Agricultural Museum is a rare resource.

It was established as a function of the Museum. But it serves a much wider audience, including media, collectors and other libraries.

"We're probably the best source in the Province for people doing research on agriculture or rural life in Ontario", says reference and research librarian Susan Bennett. "Since that's our field, we don't lend out our material."

Media typically call on the library for background on farm subjects and to locate historic photos. Collectors often want to comb through product catalogues for precise details on their latest acquisitions.

Susan, who directed our "Oral History" workshop last fall joined the library in 1979. She took a history degree at Queen's and later learned library skills at Sheridan College. Susan grew up in Elgin County.

The other member of the library staff is historical researcher Lynn Campbell, who Jim Dills said was quite helpful to him when he was studying the operation of early mills in preparation of the program on Martins and the Mill.

Milton Will Miss Interest of Carl Martin

Carl Martin, who died at the beginning June, played many roles in this community. And, of course, he and Marie for many years have been strong supporters of our Society.

The last time most of us saw Carl was at our meeting last fall when Jim Dills gave a presentation on the Mill, the Mill Pond and the Martin Family. Although he had been ill often during the past few years, Carl didn't show it that night. And many people who had known him during his long life sought him out to exchange greetings.

Carl was a direct descendant of Jasper Martin, the English immigrant and Crown land holder who built a mill here in the 1820s. The mill was important to the farmers in the area and became the commercial core around which a community grew.

Carl began his career as a medical doctor. Several years later when the family mill was on the verge of being sold, he set aside his stethoscope, bought the mill and tuned in to the business tempo. With tremendous energy and determination he weathered the depression years and was an early developer of medicated feeds.

In the public arena he held many of the most significant posts, mayor, reeve, and Warden of Halton County. He played important roles in education on school boards, and brought great foresight to the Conservation areas where his knowledge of the area led to the development of the Kelso Conservation Area. For many years he was active in the Conservative Party and he was often consulted on area needs.

We extend sympathy to Marie and family members and look forward to Marie's continuing participating in our Society.

Moments in History

Latest Attempt to Bring the Past Alive

A column appearing in The Champion titled "Moments in History" by Jim Dills is another attempt to make the past palatable.

Each segment - about 22 have appeared - identifies a single event and builds the detail around it.

Researchers Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke are keeping Jim on track.

It's a short column at about 500 words but the objective is to deliver local history in a form which people won't put off reading if they are interested.

P.L. Robertson Plaque Listed in Ontario Guide

P.L. Robertson, one of Milton's most prominent people, now has a place in the "official" list of Ontario's historic figures.

His story is briefly told in the Heritage publication "Discover Your Heritage - a Guide to Provincial Plaques". This is the first time Milton has been listed.

Past President Len McNeil was instrumental four years ago in having two Ontario plaques installed to honor "P.L."

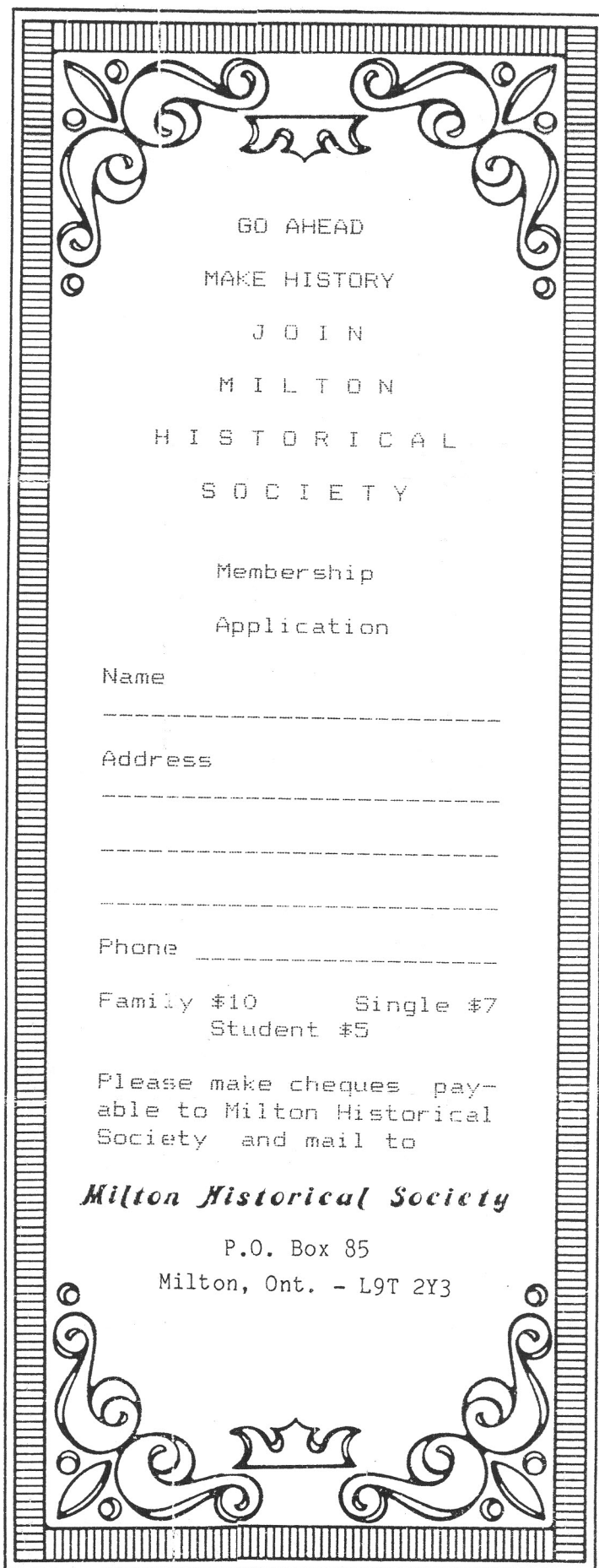
One is on Bronte St. just north of the Robertson-Whitehouse plant and adjacent to the first machine shop building. It features the industrial side of the man who invented the socket-head screw. The second plaque is at Margaret and Martin Sts. commemorating the many years that "P.L." lived in the 'John Martin House'.

A Word From The Archives

Brenda Whitlock 876-4989

We would like to thank many of you for your donations to the Archives - Tom Howard for the Milton Tribune Supplement (thanks to all others who also offered this; Lillian Thomas for many photographs taken in and around Milton during the past thirty years; Ad Woodley for two Milton High School Yearbooks 1923-24 and 1931; Jean Butts for a copy of the Milton Centennial Souvenir Program, a series of articles on notable Milton homes published in The Canadian Champion in 1974 and also a recent article on P.L. Robertson which appeared in The Burlington Spectator (this is particularly appreciated as we have very little on P.L. in the files). Jim Dills is on our permanent 'thank you' list for donating many things, including a High School Yearbook for 1950-51. We are still looking for more yearbooks.

According to articles appearing in The Canadian Champion in the 1930's, the Milton Historical Society in operation at that time collected various items of interest - a book of poems by Henry McMaster, a letter from Mr. W. Panton of Vancouver giving details of early church life in Milton. The Secretary of the organization was Mr. R. M. Clements. Does anyone know what happened to the collection of items belonging to the Historical Society of that time - we would love to see these things and perhaps make photocopies.



GO AHEAD
MAKE HISTORY
JOIN
MILTON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Membership
Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Family \$10 Single \$7
Student \$5

Please make cheques payable to Milton Historical
Society and mail to

Milton Historical Society

P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont. - L9T 2Y3

The



Journal

Volume 4, Number 2

April 3, 1989

WE'RE HOSTS TO HOMETOWN HISTORY WORKSHOP

We expect visitors from many parts of southern Ontario at our Hometown History workshop April 15 in Hugh Foster Hall.

Executive Director Dorothy Duncan of the Ontario Historical Society will direct the six-hour program.

Our Society's role is to provide the meeting place and to make sure guests don't go hungry or thirsty (coffeely speaking).

Sandy Lucs, education co-ordinator at Halton Region Museum, and Jim Dills of our Society will be co-operating in one of the presentation sections.

If you would like to help out in staging the event or sign-up as a participant please get in touch with Ken Lamb or another member of the executive.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Seven people took out memberships at the Society's display in Milton Mall Feb. 25. Obviously persons of impeccable judgment, they are Dieter Claer, Ed Parsons, Lydia Royce, Vera Willman, Gertie and Merv Wilson, all of Milton and Lillian Krywaniuk of Speyside.

Other equally discriminating people who are first-time members in 1989 include: Cliff Hardy, Ken Hassard, Dennis Newcomen and Dorothy and Wally Pethick.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CHUCK

If the spring cleaning urge strikes and you're clearing out drawers and boxes, remember that items for the Milton archives are always welcome.

Such things as pictures, books, diaries, etc. can be very precious for research and the preservation of our heritage.

Contact Brenda Whitlock (876-4989), Ken Lamb (878-6391) or Jim Dills (878-6061).



THE ROAD IS OPEN TO MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

Mark the dates on your calendar. Meetings are normally held at Hugh Foster Hall in the historic heart of Milton. Coffee available 7.30. Meeting starts at 8 p.m.

NEW DIRECTOR AT MUSEUM

Paul Attack has just been appointed Director of Heritage Services and will administer the Halton Region Museum.

Formerly the Manager of Policy Planning in the Planning and Development department, he will be responsible for guiding the development of the new Halton Heritage Centre. He was appointed by Rash Mohammed, Commissioner of Planning and Development for Halton Region.

Paul says the immediate agenda calls for improvements to the current museum's exhibit area and public programs. Work will also begin immediately on recommending a site and obtaining funding for the proposed Halton Heritage Centre. Consideration will be given to redesigning the Centre to fit into a manageable financial package while keeping in mind the directions from the Museum Feasibility Study.

A concerted effort will be made to consult with each heritage group in Halton to discuss co-operative ventures. The emphasis will be on Halton being helpful to existing heritage organizations while raising the overall profile of heritage interest in Halton.

APRIL 20 MEETING IS ON JOHN WHITE

One of the most colorful politicians and businessmen ever to make his home here - John White - is the subject of our April 20 meeting.

Jim Dills will highlight several aspects of a varied career which saw White moving across the pages of history with George Brown of The Globe and William Lyon Mackenzie the Rebel.

COURTING PETER MCWILLIAMS

When this issue went to press Tod Laing was trying to finalize arrangements for our May 18 meeting.

The most likely prospect is that lawyer Peter McWilliams will tell us about some of the memorable trials that have taken place in Milton courts.

OAKVILLE VISIT PLANNED FOR JUNE

Special events director Ad Woodley is completing arrangements for a visit to Oakville on Sunday, June 11.

He is hoping to tour the Custom House Museum and the Erchless home, to get some idea of the big changes planned there, as indicated elsewhere in this newsletter.

When details are completed, announcements will be made at regular meetings and by telephone.

WE WEREN'T SMALL AT THE MALL

Jim Dills' "recently historic" photos and Brenda Whitlock's growing collection of High School year books were distinct hits at the Feb. 25 Open House at Milton Mall. They attracted scores of visitors to the Society's display.

Ad Woodley, in charge of our special projects, designed a panel to display the photos to best advantage. For most of us this was an impressive feat but Ad says it was no big challenge for someone who spent 30 years as a carpenter. For about six hours Ad hovered within a few feet of the display, inviting passersby to identify the photos or trading memories of growing up in Milton and area.

Others who did a stint at the display were Alex Cooke, Jim Dills, Dorothy Gould, Jessie Hamilton, Ken Lamb and Brenda Whitlock.

**JEAN RUDDALL DRAWS A BIG CROWD
AND AN EARLY AUDIENCE ON SCOTCH BLOCK**

Probably for the first time in the Society's 11-year history, people arrived at the January meeting a full hour before the starting time.


These were residents of the "Scotch Block" anxious to hear Jean Ruddall's tales of the Esquering pioneers.

At 7 p.m. half a dozen enthusiasts were stamping their feet in the cold, waiting for the doors of Hugh Foster Hall to open.

They were soon joined by many friends who, together with our regular members, brought the attendance to more than 60, one of the Society's largest turnouts.

ALWAYS TIME TO BRING AND SHOW

Members are always welcome to bring pictures, items or other material to show at the regular meetings. Tell us about it or ask us about it. Together we might be able to understand history more accurately.



Milton Historical Society

P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont. - L9T 2Y3

President - Ken Lamb

Past President - Len McNeil

Vice President - Dorothy Gould

Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton

Secretary - Marjorie Powys

Programs - Tod Laing

Publicity & Promotion - Jean Butts

Membership - Audrea Lear-Costigan

Special Events - Addison Woodley

Librarian-Archivist - Brenda Whitlock

Research - Jack Charlton, Jim Dills

Genealogy - Alex Cooke

Annual Membership

Family \$10 Single \$7. Student \$5.

LEN MCNEIL IS ON THE "P.L." CIRCUIT

Within the past several weeks past president Len McNeil has spoken to three groups on "The Robertson Legacy".

Len's presentation includes slides about the life of P.L. Robertson, the inventor and industrialist, as well as a taped interview with Gordon MacKenzie, adopted brother of the inventor, who was associated with the Robertson firm for 50 years.

Len's talk dealt with three aspects of "P.L.'s" life: a) his gifts to the town; b) his invention of the "socket-head" screw and the significant industry that resulted; and c) his book, which is credited with helping nations adopt the gold standard in the 1930s.

Presentations were made to the Halton Region Museum and to the Nasigewaya and the Burlington Historical Societies. Jim Gilbert, now retired after a long career with the Robertson firm, accompanied Len.

Len spearheaded a major effort by the Society which led to the installation of two historic plaques in 1986 - one at Margaret and Martin Streets identifying the long-time residence of "P.L." on the millpond (now the John Martin House); and the other on Bronte St. at the Robertson-Whitehouse plant, relating to "P.L.'s" industrial invention.

BRENDA AND JEAN IN FINE VOICE FOR SOCIETY'S FIRST "HERITAGE HOOT"

Brenda Whitlock - just ahead of Jean Butts - won the Society's first "Heritage Hoot" - a series of 20 more-or-less historical questions - at our February 16 meeting.

The contest was just one of several features at the meeting held as part of Ontario's Heritage Week.

Jack Charlton, Alex Cooke and Jim Dills collaborated in a presentation outlining the history and development of Main St., woven around published recollections of 1849.

At another stage in the program several members commented on photos, postcards or school yearbooks they had brought.

Accidentally, one of the "Heritage Hoot" questions stated that Mark Twain came within 100 miles of a well-known Milton family; it asked the audience to name that family. A number of members identified the Clements family (Mark Twain was born Samuel Clemens). Among those who spoke out on this "teaser" was Brad Smith, town councillor and long-time member.

A reminder

TIME TO JOIN

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Where history and fellowship are still fun.

Membership available
at each meeting or
by mail to Box 85
Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3

Single \$7, Student \$5

Family \$10,

SUGGEST YOUR PROGRAM IDEAS

If you've got a good idea for a Historical Society program pass it along to Tod Laing.

Programs are planned some time ahead and your suggestions are welcome now for the fall schedule.

BIG RESTORATION PROJECT FOR OAKVILLE MUSEUM

Oakville is receiving provincial grants of more than \$370,000 for restoration of the Custom House museum and the adjoining Erchless residence on the Lake Ontario shore. The funds come from the cultural and improvement program, Ministry of Culture and Communications.

The extensive project will provide much additional space for exhibitions, display, storage and other purposes and will make an integrated museum of the two buildings. Members of the Oakville Historical Society will continue to operate the project on behalf of the Town of Oakville.

Erchless is being restored to the style of the 1920s. That was the era of the late Hazel Chisholm Mathews, member of the pioneering Chisholm family. She renovated the Custom House beginning more than 50 years ago; during this work she discovered a wealth of documents about Oakville's early days.

Her well known book "Oakville and The Sixteen" - now unfortunately almost impossible to buy - was published in 1953.

Museum officials expect the renovation project to be completed before the end of 1991.

SECOND WORKSHOP WAS GOOD FUN

Eight members enjoyed themselves at the second "Oral History" workshop February 28.

This time Susan Bennett and Lynn Campbell of the Ontario Agricultural Museum library were "hands on" instructors.

They gave everyone an opportunity to work with the Society's new tape recorder and with a video camera loaned by the Museum. There was a bit of nervous tittering but no one suffered terminal stage fright.

This workshop and the one in the fall were organized by Dorothy Gould to enable us to record Milton's story in voices and photos as well as the written word.

LEN MCNEIL HONORED BY TOWN

Past president Len McNeil accepted a plaque from the Town at the April 3 Council meeting.

The award marks Len's service to tourism as our Society's representative on the Halton Visitors Association. Len will continue to serve in that area, following a shift in the structure of the organization.

BILL GREGG HAS MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT 1837

When it comes to condensing history no one does it better than Bill Gregg.

At our March 16 meeting Bill squeezed material that could have filled a full college term into a 45 minute talk. By the end of the evening people had heard many fascinating aspects of the 1837 uprising.

As a military event it was pretty much of a fiasco, Bill said, but indirectly it helped bring about some much-needed reforms in Ontario.

About 35 people attended, including visitors who had a special interest in Bill's presentation.

AS OTHERS SEE US

Milton rated a ten-line item in the second edition of the Canadian Encyclopedia.

"The area was opened to settlement with the purchase of the Mississauga Tract from Indians and creation of the York Road (Highway 5) to London," the item states.

It also recalled that Martin's Mills was the original name before becoming Milton in 1837 and that the Robertson "socket-head" screw was developed here.

LET'S MAKE A SPLASH FOR FOUNTAIN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Do you have any suggestions for celebrating the 100th birthday of a special fountain?

It was installed on Main St. outside the former Town Hall May 28, 1889 and for generations refreshed both horses and people. For the past few months it has held a new place of honor outside Hugh Foster Hall.

One suggestion for celebrating was to bring in a horse or two - or perhaps an ox - to provide appropriate centennial atmosphere. If you have an idea that is perhaps less exotic but more manageable please get in touch with special events director Ad Woodley.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

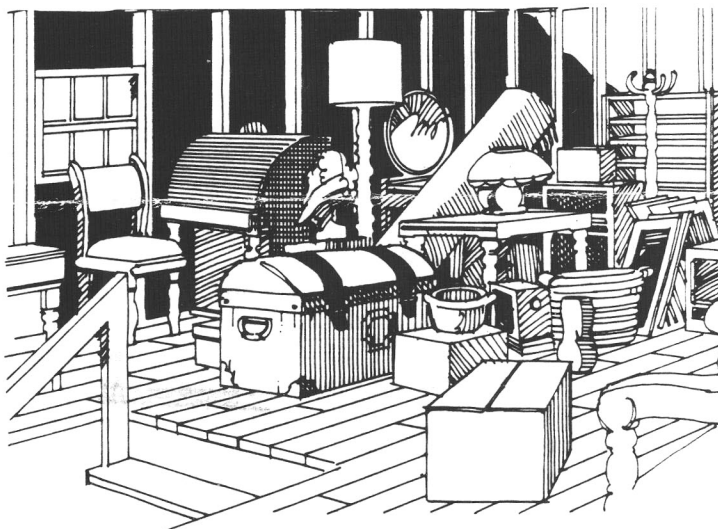
Your membership is our major source of funds in support of our developing archives and local history projects.

TWO NEW MEMBERS

JOIN SOCIETY EXECUTIVE

Two new members have joined our executive. Tod Laing has taken charge of programs and Ad Woodley is director of special events.

Eleven executive members carry on from the previous year. Dorothy Gould is assisting in membership as the Society aims for 100 members this year.



IT'S spring and that often signals a special cleaning. If you're into the attic and come across 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.

~ The



Journal ~

Volume 4, Number 1

January 3, 1989

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S TRIBUTE HANGS IN HUGH FOSTER HALL

At the official opening of Hugh Foster Hall November 21, the Society ensured that visitors to the Hall will understand what the man meant to this community.

Our donation, which was presented by President Ken Lamb to Mayor Gordon Krantz, is a framed picture with three elements. One is a portrait of Hugh Foster; another element is a copy of the 1853 letter, in Hugh's handwriting, offering four acres to Halton for County Buildings. The third element is a concise biography of the pioneer cooper and land developer.

Our tribute to this historic figure now hangs in the Hall which takes his name.

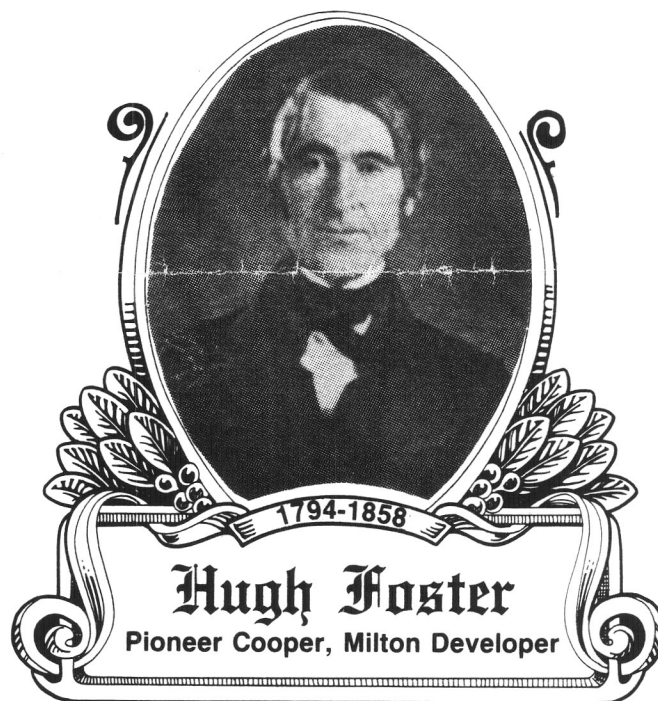
Research by Jack Charlton, Alex Cooke and Jim Dills was compiled and convinced the Town to name the hall in honour of Hugh Foster. The elements for the framed picture were gathered with the co-operation of Halton Region Museum and from the town's Semi-Centennial Book published in 1907 which contained the only known picture of Hugh Foster.

MILTON COUNCILLORS OVER 130 YEARS ARE NEARLY ALL ACCOUNTED FOR

Brenda Whitlock, our Librarian and Archivist, has just about completed a special project she undertook for the Society on behalf of the Town.

The job is to track down and list all those who served as Councillors since the town was founded. Main source of the information was the Council minutes, which were handwritten in the early years. This part of the work was straightforward, Brenda says, and went quickly. But it was more time-consuming when missing municipal minutes forced her to roll through the Canadian Champion issues on microfilm at the Milton Library.

Only a few details remain to be cleaned up before the list will be complete and adequate recognition can be given to the many who have served during the town's incorporated years.



FOSTER NAME IS GONE BUT THE DESCENDANTS LIVE ON

Although no Miltonian carries the family name, there are plenty of proud descendants of Hugh Foster in this district.

Six of them were present at the official opening of Hugh Foster Hall: Linda Wilson, an employee of the Town; her children, Tammy, Sheila and Keith; her father, Charles Jones, and her uncle Ed Jones. Another uncle, Bert Jones, could not attend because of illness.

"We're living within a stone's throw of the original homestead," Linda says. "I'm the great, great, great granddaughter of Hugh Foster. My children are the seventh generation to make their home in this town." She says the original homestead was on what is now King St., between Bell and Bowes Streets.

In a quick calculation, Linda accounted for 16 Hugh Foster descendants in the Milton-Guelph area. Family names included Wilson, Jones and Armstrong.

"There are others in Toronto and elsewhere," she says, "but I've lost track of the numbers."

MILTON IS FOCUS FOR HOME TOWN HISTORY

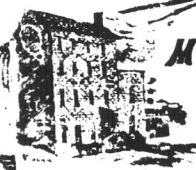
People from many Ontario towns who want to write local histories will come to Milton April 15 to learn how.

Our Society is sponsoring a "Home Town History" workshop in co-operation with the Ontario Historical Society. Over the next month or two all of us will have an opportunity to take part in planning the event.

Under the arrangement for the six-hour workshop we provide the meeting place - Hugh Foster Hall - as well as lunch and coffee. We also promote the program to ensure that enough people attend.

OHS is responsible for speakers and other aspects of the program. Dorothy Duncan, OHS Executive Director, will be in Milton as a speaker and workshop leader.

Each year the Provincial Society, in co-operation with heritage groups, holds a series of workshops throughout Ontario. Jim Dills, Jean Butts, Brenda Whitlock and Ken Lamb attended five of the workshops in the 1988 series.



Milton Historical Society

P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont. - L9T 2Y3

President - Ken Lamb

Past President - Len McNeil

Vice President - Dorothy Gould
Chairperson of Programs

Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton

Secretary - Marjorie Powys

Membership - Audrea Lear-Costigan

Publicity and Promotion - Jean Butts

Librarian - Brenda Whitlock

Research - John Charlton, Jim Dills

Genealogy - Alex Cooke

Annual Membership
Family \$10. Single \$7. Student \$5.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

By Brenda Whitlock

Thanks to the Town for donating two photographs of the official opening of the Town Hall in 1985 and also to Jim Dills for a copy of *The Canadian Champion*, Milton Centennial Edition, 1957. Thanks also to Jim for donating a number of programs, yearbooks etc. which were printed by Dills Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. in the 1950s-1970s. All these donations are being catalogued and put in our room at the John Martin House.

We are still looking for a copy of the Supplement to the Milton Tribune: "Milton: the early days" published in August 1981 so if you have a spare copy you would like to donate, we would love to have it.

We are trying to make a collection of High School Year Books. We have ASTRA (the year book of the Milton District High School) for the years 56-57, 59-60, 62-63, 63-64, 64-65. If you can fill in any of the gaps we would be grateful. We are also hoping to collect more school class photographs (with names of the students!).

We are also looking for old voters' lists, histories of any local organizations (i.e. Masonic Lodge, Oddfellows, Rebeccas, IODE, Rotary, Lions, Kinsmen etc.) old photographs of parades, houses, industries, stores, sports events, etc. (they should be labelled so we know who's who and what's what). If you feel you can't bear to part with the originals, could you loan them to us for copying?

If you can help with the above in any way, please contact Brenda Whitlock (876-4989), Ken Lamb (878-6391) or Jim Dills (878-6061).

'THE JOURNAL' HAS ANNIVERSARY TOO

This issue of *The Journal* marks three years of life for this publication. The first issue was February 15, 1985.

Inspiration for the name is the town's first newspaper, *The Halton Journal*, founded in July 1854. The last known issue was April 23, 1888.

This is also issue No. 12 if you're keeping track. The Volume and Issue numbers on the front are hard to calculate since publication is sporadic and so we announce a new numbering system and we make note of it so future historians will understand what we've done.

Each year will begin a new volume with each issue within the year appropriately numbered.

This, then is Volume 4, Issue No. 1 since it is dated January 1989.

JANUARY MEETING ALL ABOUT "SCOTCH BLOCK" AND THE "NEW SURVEY"

Jean Ruddell, of Georgetown, will give us a lively rundown on past doings in the Scotch Block at our January 19 meeting.

Jean has been a keen student of the district. Her family settled in the Block shortly after land became available in the early 1800s and farmed there for three generations.

Jean says everyone agrees that Steeles Avenue was the southern boundary of the Block. But the other limits are not so finely drawn. She thinks of the Block as extending from the Fifth Line west to Town Line and north to 15th or 17th Sideroad.

Following Jean's talk, Alex Cooke will give a short presentation on the Crown Lands in the Milton area including some of the Scotch Block area.

In 1806 the first area surveyed in Halton ran from the lakeshore north to the Lower Base Line. That's about six kilometres south of Derry Road. The "new survey" that Alex will touch on extended from there to north of Acton and included all of Nassagaweya and Esquesing as well as the northern parts of Trafalgar and Nelson townships.

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE MIXES WITH MAINSTREETING IN FEBRUARY

Our February 16 meeting will recognize the celebration of Heritage Week and Jack Charlton will be telling us something about the early development of Main Street.

It's pretty well accepted that George Brown, who operated a general store, was the first Main Street merchant, Jack says. He was also the town's first mayor in 1857.

Other early businesses were Thompson House, and Hampton House. These were nothing like present day hotels, Jack says. To find out why come to the February 16 meeting.

The Heritage celebration promises to be something of a different style of meeting where you'll have a chance to get involved. You could start now by looking out any early pictures of the town, your school class, buildings or anything from the past (over 10 years old) that you've kept and could bring to show others.

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome at Milton Historical Society. Your membership is our major source of funds in support of local history.

STILL SECOND THOUGHTS 150 YEARS LATER

Bill Gregg promises us a new slant on a fascinating period when he addresses our March 16 meeting.

He will speak on "Upper Canada Rebellion 1837 - Success or Failure?"

Dr. Gregg wears many hats. Academic, local historian, land developer, collector of military vehicles par excellence, former president of the Nasagieweya Historical Society.

Just as important he's an excellent speaker as he has demonstrated in previous talks to our Society.



HE WAS WHITE BUT STILL COLORFUL MAKE A DATE WITH HIM NOW

Our April 20 meeting will be devoted to John White, a giant of a figure in this region during the latter half of the 19th century.

Born near Omagh, in County Tyrone, Ireland in 1811, he came to Canada as a boy. Beginning in 1851 he represented Halton in the federal House many times. A farmer and horse-breeder, he frequently won the Queen's Plate. He was a prominent figure in the Militia.

Researchers Jim Dills, Alex Cooke and Jack Charlton are assembling plenty of information about this colorful figure who crammed many adventures into his 86 years.

From the desk of...

PRESIDENT KEN LAMB

REVIEWS PAST YEAR OF ACTIVITY

One of the jobs - and joys - of being President is the opportunity this time of year to assess our collective health and direction. To march into the New Year, so to speak, with a stethoscope in one hand and a compass in the other.

When looking back on 1988 I think first of the families of the three members who died during the year: Mel Robinson, Bus Norrington and Cecil Chisholm. We miss these people as friends and as strong contributors to our organization.

Another strong impression is that the past year had an iceberg quality. What we saw was only a small part of the whole. Specifically:

- * A tremendous amount of research was done. Some of it surfaced in programs given by Jim Dills, Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke. Some came to light in the naming of Hugh Foster Hall. Still more of their research will bear fruit this year in a walking tour brochure of downtown Milton, other publications, a variety of programs and other activities.

- * A lot of time and effort went into our library and archives. Brenda Whitlock acquired a room at John Martin House, where she is expanding and organizing our reference material. For years to come this effort will help people, both Society members and others, to paint a colorful and accurate picture of Milton.

- * More than a dozen members took training in oral history - some at a workshop sponsored by the Ontario Historical Society, but most at our own fall workshop organized by Dorothy Gould. We will have a second workshop early this year. We also are purchasing recording equipment, which should be delivered this month. Again, last year's efforts will deliver concrete - or at least audible - results in 1989.

We'll review the year in more detail at our January 19 meeting. Your comments and suggestions will be welcome.

At this point, however, I want to put aside the stethoscope and bring out the compass. What direction will we take in 1989? And what are some of the factors that will guide us?

Within a few years when present restric-

NEW JERSEY IS NEW HOME

FOR ERNIE BUCHNER, FORMER MUSEUM CURATOR

Ernie Buchner, who was curator of Halton Region Museum for almost six years, left two months ago to take a new position in the United States.

He is now executive director of Montclair, New Jersey, Historical Society and head of its Israel Crane Museum. He is working with more than 500 volunteers at this private institution.

In another recent change at the Region Museum, Morris Sorenson left for a new educational post at the Port Carling Museum. He'll be developing a school program there--probably along the lines of the very successful Kelso program which in 1987 attracted 5000 students.

The Region is advertising to find replacements for Ernie and Morris. Both had spoken to our Society on a variety of topics over the past few years.

tions on our town's growth have disappeared, everyone expects Milton to spurt ahead again. As we know, Mississauga is trying to prepare for 100,000 more people within five years. We're right next door. We probably couldn't stem the tide of growth even if we wanted to.

But we can do something to strengthen our own identity. Who wants to be Toronto's bedroom? We have our own heritage here - our spiritual castle that's home to a unique cast of local characters.

Our job is to put these characters on stage. And to make sure they play to a full house. If we do that we'll make a solid contribution to the well-being of the people here and those to come.

It's a broad horizon. Clearly we have our work cut out. We want to search out and recognize more of our pioneers. To celebrate them in various types of publications.

We want to record our present - in sound, type and pictures - as a guide for future historians.

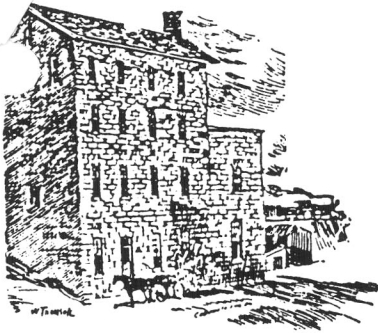
We also want to keep close contact with our Town Hall friends, who have such an impact on all our lives.

All of this means there's enough work, satisfaction and fun for every one of us. A task for ever taste.

Our annual elections January 19 are the ideal time to volunteer. Please don't be shy.

Warmest wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

- Ken Lamb



WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING YOU JOIN
US FOR AN ACTIVE AND EXCITING 1989.

Milton Historical Society

P.O. BOX 85
MILTON, ONTARIO L9T 2Y3

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP	-	INDIVIDUAL	\$7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLASSIFICATIONS		FAMILY	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
		STUDENT	\$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
		INSTITUTIONAL & SUSTAINING	\$60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE

TELEPHONE NO. _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH CHEQUE OR MONEY
ORDER TO THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, AND YOUR MEMBERSHIP
CARD WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.