

The



Journal

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Reader is Encouraged to Relive "Moments" in New Milton History

When he turned over his book to the printer in July Jim Dills reached a goal he set when he retired five years ago.

That goal was to produce a local history with meticulous attention to research and illustration. We'll see the result in "Moments in History - Reflections of Halton's County Town 1833-1864."

Jim expects to receive the hard-cover, coffee-table volume within the next few weeks. It has some 200 pages and more than 130 illustrations gathered from a dozen archives and museums.

"The work is unique in that it encourages readers to share in 'moments,' which reflect events from the period. Those events were selected to cover the political, social, judicial and municipal changes of the era. They attempt to give local history life, rather than becoming a dry recital of dates," Jim says.

The book covers the formative years of the town from its status as a mill town to its designation as the county town and finally its incorporation as a town in 1857. Along the way the people that made it happen appear on school boards, in social settings, in heated political contests, at hangings and in court.

It tells about local "greats" like miller Jasper Martin and politician John White and

recalls some of the spicier political doings. The book also covers the Fenian "scare", public hangings, the Queen's Plate horse race, temperance rallies and dozens of other subjects that helped shape our community.

"The picture search was probably more difficult than the original research", Jim says. He researched as far west as Winnipeg and as far east as Ottawa in the search. In the end the illustrations also include specially-made sketches and maps created to portray the community at a specific time.

The text takes the form of more than 90 episodes or 'moments'. All but one of the well illustrated 'moments' is told on two pages.

The 1000-entry index will be a welcome addition to future researchers since it contains familiar names that can be traced quickly to a specific activity. The hard-cover, sewn binding will insure a long life for the limited number of volumes to be available.

Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke have been major players in the research that has been spread over a number of years. The book itself is simply the tip of the research iceberg. Backing it up are hundreds of hours of property, newspaper and biographical research.

(Continued on Page 6)



Everyone Has Budget Problems Including the Halton Heritage Centre

Plans for the Halton Heritage Centre have been well laid. But there's no idea when they will be carried out.

That was the "one problem" cited by Halton Heritage director Paul Attack as he finished his presentation at our May 20 meeting.

Since the talk came the day after the tough Ontario budget Paul suggested that most of us would understand.

Original plans were for the Heritage Centre to be in operation by 1995, at the Highway 25 site south of Britannia Road (near the Region's landfill operation). Paul gave no estimate of a new timetable for construction.

The Centre would replace the current Regional Museum in Kelso Conservation area. Estimated cost is \$7 million; operating the Centre would cost about \$600,000 a year. Centre activities are expected to contribute about \$150,000 towards those costs.

The number of full-time employees would increase from six at the start of operations to about 13 five years later. Six full-time people are now working at the Kelso museum.

Paul's presentation included a rundown on some of the shortcomings of the Kelso site. The museum's location within a conservation area has been a continuing problem, Paul said. People have to pay to enter the Conservation property and it's hard for them to understand why they should have to pay again to get into the museum.

Another problem is that the museum is effectively "hidden" behind a much larger and more prominent Ontario Agricultural Museum. And although thousands of people pass the Regional museum each year, they're intent on skiing, picnicking or swimming, and not many find their way into the museum.

Perhaps most important, though, is that the 120-year-old Alexander barn is not large enough for modern museum programs and not properly equipped to protect the museum's 35,000 artifacts.

The speaker gave a detailed description of the facilities planned for the Heritage Centre. He described how exhibits would present a dynamic record of Halton's heritage as well as insights on how our past affects our lives today and tomorrow.

Paul was introduced by George Wachmann, our representative on the Centre's advisory board. George mentioned that the Halton Region had approved all current plans for the Centre. The only problem is where to find \$7 million.



Milton Historical Society

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Past President - Walt Elliot
Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton
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Jim Dills Takes Us Behind the Pages In Talk About New Book on Old Milton

Cries of "Author, Author" will sound through historic Hugh Foster Hall at our Oct. 21 meeting.

That's the night Jim Dills introduces his just-completed book, "Moments in History - Reflections of Halton's County Town 1833-1864." (See separate story for details about the volume).

Jim will show slides based on illustrations in the book. He will also recount some of the satisfactions - and frustrations - that go with writing local history.

The Role of the Farm Fair Is September Meeting Topic

Farm fairs have been a big part of people's lives in this area.

At our September 16 meeting we'll hear from Ismey Bird who has been active in the Georgetown fair for 50 years. Ismey and her husband, John, have been farming on Trafalgar Road near Ashgrove (10th Side Road) since the 1940s. Ismey taught at the Ashgrove School for eight years.

"The Georgetown Fair was one of the first half dozen in Ontario," Ismey says. "Our local agricultural society has put together photos, newspaper articles, prize lists and other records that give a good idea of what the fair meant to local people."

These records will be part of her September presentation. One of the photos of special interest to us shows Craig Reid in 1946 when he was president of the Georgetown Agricultural Society. The Society celebrated its 100th anniversary that year.

Ismey is expecting us to take part by recalling highlights of Milton Fairs. Our speaker may have a few special memories, too, because she has often exhibited at Milton.

He will also talk about the help he received from his wife, Shirley, and other Society members - researchers Alex Cooke and Jack Charlton, designer Don Hayward and wordsmith Ken Lamb.

Jim, of course, is no stranger to local histories. He played a key role in "Historic Homes of Milton" written by Jack Charlton and published by the Society early last year. And as former publisher of the weekly newspapers in Milton and Georgetown and associated with the Acton paper he made a special point of encouraging articles and booklets on local history.

Jim expects to receive the first copies of his book just before our October meeting. And, no doubt, he'll be happy to autograph copies purchased by members at the meeting.

Speakers, Memories Galore At Night of 7 Presidents

At our Nov. 18 meeting we'll often hear "Remember when?" and "Why don't we?"

To mark our 15th anniversary all those who have served as president will be invited. Marjorie Powys will try to keep accidents to a minimum as past leaders elbow their way to the podium.

Jim Dills was the first president of the Society. Then came Val Grimshaw, Don Hayward, Len McNeil, Ken Lamb, Walt Elliot and, of course, Marjorie.

This will be a time to recall some of the things we did right and pinpoint some of the goals still to be reached. Everyone will have an opportunity to put forward a pet project.

It promises to be fun and thought-provoking. Everyone at the session will receive a certificate with seven presidential signatures, which could make it of inestimable future value. No guarantees, of course.

Ag. Museum Finds New Ways To Push Ontario Food Story

In the late 1800s farm families made up more than 90 percent of the population; today only three per cent of Canadians live on farms. Not surprisingly, many people today have no idea how food reaches the supermarket shelf.

At our June 17 meeting in the Agricultural Museum Susan Bennett told us why this situation is dangerous for farmers and what the museum is doing about it. A research and reference librarian, Susan has worked at the Milton museum since it opened in 1979. It is the only museum in the province devoted wholly to agriculture.

Susan's food theme was a natural for our potluck supper. More than 40 attended and the room-length table in Puslinch Hall could barely hold all the goodies.

The speaker stressed the importance of the museum's work with children. In 1992 some 34,000 students represented almost half the total attendance.

The staff sends advance material to teachers to help them prepare for museum visits. Similarly the buildings toured and the do-it-yourself activities are carefully planned.

A separate program "Agriculture in the Classroom" is available to youngsters throughout the province.

Susan was enthusiastic about the five-day "Dairy Days" show in June. Daily attendance exceeded 1,000, including children.

This event was typical of the effort being made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to bring together all sectors of the industry - farmers, processors and manufacturers. Susan called it "forming partnerships."

The "Fall Festival of Food", to be held Sept. 12, is another example. People from many sectors of the food industry will meet the public and distribute samples.

The final show of this recession-shortened season, the Christmas Craft Fair, will be

held Sept. 25 and 26. It features hand-made items from across the province.

A continuing attraction is the quilt collection in the Administration Building. Prize-winning entries from more than 20 provincial competitions make a striking display. These quilts formerly made up the Canada Packers collection.

The speaker was introduced by Ad Woodley, who formerly worked at the museum as a carpenter and keeper of the oxen. Lou Bradley presented Susan with a plaque in appreciation of her talk.



New Path at Millpond Begins Big Spruce-Up

If you haven't strolled by the Milton millpond lately you have a treat waiting.

A major spruce-up is under way. Already there is plenty to see on Martin Street and on the north shore of the pond.

New limestone to protect the shoreline has brightened up the Martin Street view. At the north end a new sidewalk has been built along Margaret Street leading to the house John Sproat built. Improvement to the house grounds include flowers, a new garden stairway and a metal railing.

The big addition, so far, however, is the new path skirting the north side of the pond. It extends to the railway tracks and then circles back to the Sproat house. The path has a wood-chip surface.

Next project is to try to improve the pond's water quality. This work will be done in consultation with the Halton Conservation Authority. At present the water is muddy, partly because of the bottom-feeding carp.

Speaker Tells of Joys, Trials as a Pioneer Community Nurse

When Audrey Lyle came here in the 1940s she started two new lives - personal and professional.

At our April 15 meeting she shared some of her career problems and many light moments.

Halton County was among the first to bring in community health nursing and Audrey was on the ground floor. One of four original nurses, her territory was Nassagaweya and Acton.

For someone who had rarely left downtown Toronto, rural Halton was an entirely new world. Audrey was warmly accepted but it took some time to get used to neighbours' intense interest in her comings and goings.

"I never saw so much 'country' in all my life," Audrey says.

It was a busy time visiting families with youngsters starting school, setting up immunization and well-baby sessions, selling concepts of preventive medicine.

"We were an umbrella service, helping people from the cradle to the grave," she says.

Eradication of polio was the most significant event in her more than 20 years in the

health unit.

"It took time for people to accept that everyone should be immunized. Most teachers supported the program from the start. But I can still remember the families who opposed it."

Audrey worked hard to become part of the community. She even judged baby contests and skipped rope with kids in the schoolyard.

She also kept an ear tuned to long-time residents. One cherished bit of advice: "The mind can only absorb what the seat can endure."

An Acton woman explained her great faith in the diagnostic skills of Dr. Kenney. "He used to be a veterinarian," the woman said, "and the horses couldn't tell him what was wrong."

Audrey recalled an unpopular diagnosis she made at Acton High School: head lice. Worse still, a big dance was only a week away and Audrey ruled there could be no lousy dancers. Fortunately persistence paid and all the young people glided onto the floor lice-free. Audrey banished the community comb in the washroom.

Our speaker spent more than 20 years as a community nurse. She has lived in Milton since her arrival in Halton 47 years ago. Her late husband, Ted, was born here.

Historic Interest Not Clear But Cars Impressed Students

Jim Dills and Ken Lamb registered a first in late April when they conducted a walking tour for about 25 students from France. The High Schoolers and two teachers were from Thonon-les-Bains near Lake Geneva in eastern France. They were returning a visit by a group of 15 and 16-year-olds from Milton District High School.

Although it was hard to discern the French youngsters' historic interests, they were clearly impressed by the size of the cars on our streets. And by the fact that wolves were still found in our wilderness.

Briefly

We know Speyside as a tiny crossroads community at Highway 25 and No. 15 Sideroad. (And, of course, the home of Lillian Krywaniuk.) But a century ago it was a busy place. Seven streets housed the people who worked in several hotels, a tannery, stone quarry, two general stores, shingle mill, sawmills and post office. A recent issue of the Esquesing Historical Society's newsletter reprinted this information from Gwen Clarke's "Halton's Pages of the Past."

Class Deserves High Marks For History of Drumquin, Omagh

Thirteen girls and boys of Percy W. Merry School (Britannia Road) have written a delightful history of Drumquin and Omagh. The hand-painted and crayoned cover promises a lot. The 60 pages inside deliver the goods.

Briefly. . .

Helen and Len McNeil are holding a reception Saturday, Sept. 11 to celebrate 50 years of marriage. The event will be in Graham Hall, St. Paul's United Church, Main St., Milton. The McNeils would be happy to greet friends from the Society. The reception is from 2 to 4.30 p.m.

Artist Chris Burnett of Campbellville has produced a second painting with a historic theme. This time her subject is the Milton Fair. Reproductions went on sale last month. Her earlier work on Campbellville Village was offered in an edition of 500 reproductions.

Oakville Historical Society members have been busy improving their new home at 110 King Street in that lakeshore community. The move to the cottage was one part of the agreement that ended a long-standing dispute between the Society and the Oakville administration.

Alex McNiven lost his wife, Laura, in June. Laura had been residing in Allendale for two years. A native of Erin township, Laura (Wilson) came to Milton at the age of 15 and worked in the Registry Office here until she married Alex in 1933.

Jim Dills has dedicated his forthcoming book to his wife, Shirley, and his late father, George Arlof. Jim says Shirley "shared willingly in the agony and the excitement of bringing to life some authentic local history." His father, who encouraged Jim's interest in local heritage, co-authored and published "Acton's Early Days" during the depression.

"Our Community History" got its start in June 1991 when Sam Dennison walked into the school. He lives in Drumquin, Omagh Tyrone County Northern Ireland. And he was curious about how Drumquin and Omagh happened to appear on a map of southern Ontario.

He soon learned that some of his ancestors had come to this area in the early 1800s. His questions inspired the youngsters - guided by teacher Barbara Dolling - to write "Our Community History."

Many people in the area gave the youngsters a hand. Alex Cooke visited the classroom to talk about local history. Lois Knight, a genealogist, gave the students local cemetery listings as well as information about Drumquin she had collected for her own history-in-progress on Hornby.

The grade sixers also made much use of the taped interviews of Mrs. Percy Merry. Lou Bradley recorded these talks in a dozen or more sessions a few years before Mrs. Merry's death in 1984.

We'll have this history at our September meeting. Make sure you see it.



Reader is encouraged. . .

Continued from page one

Jim is clearly excited about the arrival of the book. But he knows from his many years in publishing that the job is only half done. The remaining half is sales. He'll have to sell hundreds of copies to re-coup the money he has invested.

Unlike "Historic Homes of Milton", which was published by the Society, "Moments" has been entirely financed by Jim.

And Jim is anxious to get on to other local history projects.



Marjorie Powys is Elected Seventh Society President of MHS

Marjorie Powys, a member since the Society was formed in 1977 and former membership secretary, was elected president at our Jan. 21 meeting.

A retired teacher and former Town Council member, Marjorie is active in a wide range of community activity. A native of the area, Marjorie lives on Mill Street in one of our "Historic Homes."

Five members were elected to the executive for the first time. Lou Bradley takes on the new position of co-ordinating oral history. She will identify the types of interviews most useful for historical purposes. Lou is a former school teacher. She and husband, John, live on Court St. where they moved after selling the family farm.

Helen Comber follows Marjorie Powys as membership secretary. The Combers live next door to Marjorie, also in a 19th century "historic" home.

Ed Goodall succeeds Marion Detlor in publications. He will look after continuing sales of "Historic Homes" and the walking tour booklet and develop marketing plans for future books and videos. An RAF veteran, Ed retired last year after a 40-year career in the aviation industry. His wife, Carolyn, phones many members each month with meeting reminders. They came to Milton more than 30 years ago.

Jennifer Passfield takes on the publicity position held formerly by Marie Sutcliffe. A native of Orillia, Jennifer came to Milton three

years ago. For ten years she was co-ordinator of the former "Miss Canada Pageant."

Frank Sisson will be our liaison with Milton LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee): this is another new position. Frank retired from a transportation firm last fall. He has been a Milton resident for more than 40 years.

The other continuing members of the executive are Walt Elliot, past president; Jack Charlton, Jim Dills, research; Alex Cooke, genealogy; Jessie Hamilton, treasurer; Tod Laing, secretary; Audrea Lear-Costigan, municipal liaison; Craig Reid, programs; George Wachmann, special projects, Brenda Whitlock, archivist and Ken Lamb Journal Editor.

Walt Elliot's Contributions Recognized by Nomination

Walt Elliot, our past president, was runner-up to Milton's Citizen of the Year. The award was presented to Joe McCann Apr. 3 at a banquet to honour winners in several categories.

Walt was nominated for his many contributions to community service, including fundraising and leadership roles in organization for needy youths and adults as well as campaign leadership for the local United Way.

Other MHS members have been honored in the past: Mike Ledwith (1963), Stan Allen (1974), Jim Dills (1977), Ann Ptolemy (1984), Len McNeil (1986), and Rose Harrison (1988).

Society Works at Strengthening Heritage

By Marjorie Powys, Pres.

"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee." -Deut. 32: 7

We are striving to follow this ancient Biblical admonition. It is important to give children a knowledge of their heritage. Ken Lamb and others have stirred up enthusiasm with school children and we will continue to offer our services including tours.

Lou Bradley will be interviewing people on tape to record our history and these will be available to members and stored in the Archives by Brenda Whitlock. She will welcome early pictures of Milton and its citizens or other artifacts

you might come across in your "spring cleaning."

Audrea Lear-Costigan drew my attention to Tommy Hutchinson's witty account from the 20s entitled "Up and Down the Main Street." The storekeepers and businessmen of the era are named and described briefly beginning with the town clerk, Mr. George Albert Hemstreet "who had a kindly twinkle in his eyes." He includes hockey: "Rummy (Chisholm) plays on the Milton Hockey team which gives some good exhibitions at the old rink on Mill Street. Gord Farlow, Did Brush and Rummy are the old reliables on the team."

Our dedicated and indomitable researchers, Jack Charlton, Alex Cooke and Jim Dills continue to search out reliable and accurate information which is essential to our purposes.

It is good to see people recognized who have renovated historic run-down buildings. People who have maintained their homes for generations and added to the beauty of the town by so doing, deserve to be recognized too. We are preparing a certificate to honour those who have worked to keep their property and buildings a credit to the town over the years.

All the executive members display hard work, enthusiasm and imagination in carrying out their duties. If you know of people who would be interested in joining the Milton Historical Society call Mrs. Helen Comber our Membership Convener at 876-1872.



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Ad Helps With Historic Move

Ad Woodley spent many hours helping residents move from Halton Manor to the new Allendale building.

Ad and other volunteers were on hand throughout the week of March 22 as 200 residents settled into the new two-storey residence.

For the past several years Ad was volunteer in charge of the now-demolished greenhouse at the Manor.

April Meeting to Hear Health Unit Pioneer

One of the women who helped introduce public health nursing in Halton will be our April 15 speaker. The program starts at 8 p.m. in Hugh Foster Hall.

Audrey Lyle came to the area in 1947, a nursing graduate of Women's College Hospital with post-graduate work at the University of Toronto. She was on the ground floor of public health nursing in the County. For 13 years she served with the Halton Health Unit and Children's Aid.

Audrey will reflect on her many-sided life: well-baby clinics, school visits, immunization programs and much more.

In the early years Halton had four public health nurses, one for each township. Audrey worked in Nassagaweya/Acton and later served throughout Halton.

Our speaker has lived in Milton since arriving in Halton; her late husband, Ted, was a life-long resident.

Our June 17 Program: Pot Luck at Ag. Museum

In what looks like a budding tradition, we're holding our June 17 meeting at the Agricultural Museum, Milton Heights.

Program director Craig Reid is asking members to contribute to a pot luck supper. Please bring your own plates and utensils, along with your contribution of hot dish, salad, dessert, or whatever.

We'll meet in the Puslinch Township Hall, where we had our lively dinner last June. We'll sit down at 6.30 p.m.

Our speaker will be Susan Bennett, research librarian at the Museum. Susan, who has been featured in some of our earlier programs, will tell us about changing Museum activities.

Craig is arranging for a tour of the Museum grounds before supper. The tour will start at 5.30 p.m.

Paul Attack Updates Heritage Centre Plans

Paul Attack brings us up to date on plans for the Halton Heritage Centre at our May 20 meeting in Hugh Foster Hall. Paul is Halton's director of heritage services.

Not surprisingly, the recession has cast its shadow on plans for the Centre. Paul will tell us how pencil-sharpening may affect the shape of the final structure and the construction schedule.

The original plan was to have the Centre in operation by 1995.

The Heritage Centre site is next to the landfill operation (Highway 25 and Britannia Road).

Ruth Allen Pays Tribute To 22 Years of Service

At our March 18 meeting Ruth Allen came well prepared to tell us about Halton Manor.

Ruth brought scores of photos and documents about the institution, especially the years 1956 to 1978, when her late husband, Stan, was Administrator. Her display included three large scrapbooks which Ruth has donated to the Society's archives.

The timing was exactly right. Four days after Ruth spoke 200 Manor residents began moving into the new two-storey building on Ontario St. Its name, Allendale, recognizes the wonderful service given by Ruth and Stan.

Stan was a hands-on leader - there was little he didn't know about or take part in. This could mean substantial risk such as accompanying disturbed and knife-wielding residents to hospital. On a sunnier note, Ruth recalled a worried search for a missing woman that ended when she was found in a room safely and presumably happily asleep beside a male resident.

Our speaker was accompanied by her daughter June Beeney of Georgetown, who contributed several personal Manor memories.

Program Revives Dramatic, Poignant Incidents

Ad Woodley's presentation in St. Paul's United Church in February sparked many memories. The congregation, originally Methodist, was founded in 1852; the present sanctuary dates from 1891.

About 30 members braved bitter weather to hear Ad reminisce about his 70 years in the congregation. Perhaps a bit chilled, Ad told how people used to squeeze to the front of the church for warmth. That was when heat entered the church through large ducts at the front of the sanctuary.

He remembered when the pipe organ operated on water power. The Church paid the town 15 cents per 1000 gallons. A few renovations and generations later - the most recent improvement to the organ cost \$100,000.

"Thank goodness it's all paid for", Ad commented.

He recalled how the pews used to be rented by the year and that one of the minister's duties was to collect the money owing.

Before Ad joined St. Paul's a New Connexion Methodist congregation had a church at 193 Queen St., (now a private home). On joining the Wesleyan Methodists the congregation sold its building and used the money to pay off the debt on the harmonium at the Wesleyan Methodist church.

The audience contributed memories of their own. Bruce MacNab told of a church member (the late Jack Irving) who wanted to break his engagement. His fiancée insisted that the marriage take place. The groom-to-be said he would honour his promise but would never speak to her again. And so far as church members could observe he never did.

But the same man could be eloquent when he wanted to be. When the minister asked him to comment on a controversy in the congregation, he replied, "If things go on this way I'm going to quit religion and join the Anglicans."

Marjorie Powys contributed the dramatic protest of a choir member who felt she had been

slighted. The woman arrived at choir practice to find a coveted seat of honor assigned to another singer.

The enraged member stalked to the rear of the choir and sat on the floor. She stayed there all evening. And she never sang with the choir again.

Historic Homes Topic For Milton Rotarians

Talking local history and describing the Society's book *Historic Homes of Milton* to Milton Rotarians in mid-January was something of a home-coming for Jim Dills.

Jim was a member for more than 30 years and president more than 35 years ago. He was introduced by Charter member and Society Auditor Mike Ledwith.

Besides renewing friendships, Jim talked about the frame, stone and brick construction of local homes and with slides illustrated "homes which are living reminders of our past". He encouraged members to be aware of the history that surrounds them and appreciate the contribution of earlier settlers.

Walt Elliot Recalls Family's Early Years

At our Feb. 18 meeting Jim Dills presented Walt Elliot with a pen in appreciation of Walt's two years as president.

Walt took the occasion to recall his family's Canadian origins. The Elliots arrived in Perth (eastern Ontario) in 1814. They quickly founded successful lumber and grist mill operations.

But later disaster struck when U.S. customers failed to pay for lumber shipments.

In the mid 1800s the family moved to the district west of Owen Sound where they founded the town of Chesley.

Standing Room Only At Heritage Program

It had nothing to do with St. Valentine's Day but our Feb. 14 Heritage Awards program won a lot of hearts.

The fourth annual event attracted the largest audience yet - more than 100, including more than 30 Society members, five members of Milton Council and MPP Noel Duignan.

Some of the features of the program, jointly sponsored by Heritage Milton LACAC and our organization:

- Eight Heritage displays: our own created by Jim Dills depicted 100 years of telephone service in Milton (1993); Halton Region Museum; Steam Era; Nasagieweya Historical Society; Heritage Milton LACAC; Ruth Allen's three scrapbooks of Halton Manor; Halton Conservation Authority; a photo record by Julie and Tim Kingsbury of their award-winning home restoration.

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

1992 Heritage Award Winners Announced



Architectural Conservation Julie and Tim Kingsbury for a ten-year restoration of their 130-year-old stone home on Second Line (west of Guelph Line) and north of 25 Side Road. It has been in the family since before the First World War; Julie and Tim bought it in 1982. MPP Noel Duignan made the presentation.

An honorable mention went to Phyllis and Ken Moore for restoring their timber-frame farmhouse in Moffat. Presentation was by Dorrie Greig, chair Heritage Milton LACAC.

Heritage Education Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers' Association. Since 1961 this organization has staged its Steam-Era show over the Labor Day week-end at Milton Fairgrounds. Total audience over the years is about 500,000. The show has parades, demonstrations of old-time farm skills and outstanding collection of

steam tractors and other antique farm machinery and equipment. These have made a tremendous contribution to preserving our agricultural heritage. Mayor Gordon Krantz presented the award to Association President Neil Ford.

Heritage Photography: Rex Sutcliffe volunteered to photograph the houses featured in "Historic Homes of Milton" Vol. 1, published by the Society early last year. More than 60 homes were illustrated. It took Rex 18 months to make sure all were shown to best advantage. The work done by Rex played a large part in the success of the book. It also provided a lasting record (the photos are also in our archives) of many of our heritage homes. This award was presented by our president, Marjorie Powys.

Heritage Writing: June Andrews has had a strong influence on our local history. Her book "Footprints," which appeared in 1992, marked the 150th anniversary of the congregation of St. John's Anglican church, (Guelph Line and Tenth Sideroad). About 10 years ago June was editor of "Nassagaweya", a history of families in Campbellville and area. The book's index of more than 1900 names gives some ideas of its scope. It was published by the Campbellville Historical Society. Milton Councillor Barry Lee made the presentation.

Sanitized Ball and Chain Stars at New Year's Levee

Scores of visitors at the Mayor's New Year's levee couldn't wait to visit the old solitary confinement cell in the Town Hall basement.

Minus bars, well-lit and nicely painted, it didn't look especially frightening. You might not notice the lack of windows. And designated prisoner George Wachmann looked far from deprived.

George's main worry was to keep people from touching the ball and chain loaned by the

Regional Museum. When he moved them he carefully donned white gloves. Later, packing the heritage items for return to the museum, George looked like he was wrapping late Christmas presents.

Don Martin, who began a 16-year stint as jail guard in the early 1960s was as interested as anyone else in the basement doings. But he had no eye-witness accounts. Don had never seen the ball and chain and didn't know about the basement cell.

He speculated that the restraints had been needed earlier when prisoners worked in the nearby gardens or brought in wood for the furnaces.

The basement visit was one of several changes in the levee program. Guided tours included a first floor area where a former two-man cell now is used for records storage.

Hugh Foster Hall was not open for the levee program this year.

Another new note: a string quartet of present and former members of Halton Youth Symphony played for three hours on the second floor.

Refreshments were served in the Committee Room on the same level, where Jessie Hamilton, her daughter, Carol, and Lillian Krywaniuk were in charge.

Mayor Gordon Krantz was well pleased with the attendance, estimated at about 200. On hand as tour guides were Councillors Colin Best, Gerry Brooks, John Challinor, Brad Clements, Ron Furik, Barry Lee and Art Melanson.

Halton Region Museum had a panel display in the Committee Room; many visitors leafed through books containing photos of LACAC's inventory of historic Milton buildings.

Walt Elliot and George Wachmann represented the Society in program planning.

Standing Room Only at Heritage Week Event

Continued from Page 5

- Town Crier Ralph Wilding of Tottenham got the ceremony off to a dramatic start with high-decibel bell ringing and crying.

- Jim Dills led some 20 guests on a historic walk of the downtown area. As the group returned to Hugh Foster Hall, a woman walker exclaimed: "It was great - I can't wait for next year so long as Jim Dills is the leader again."

- Pianist Laurie Walker played background music for two hours.

- Three former winners attended: Janet Quinton, representing Friends of Halton Region Museum, and Joe Henderson - both had won the education award - and Len McNeil the photo award.

The event was covered by The Canadian Champion, The Spectator and the Nassagaweya News.

Members who organized the event or took part in the program were Ruth Allen, Helen Comber, Jim Dills, Walt Elliot, Carolyn and Ed Goodall, Jessie Hamilton, Don Hayward, Lillian Krywaniuk, Marie Sutcliffe, Jennifer Passfield, Marjorie Powys and Co-ordinator Ken Lamb.

For Wonderful Variety You Can't Beat "Show and Tell"

More than half those present took the stage for our Jan. 21 "Show and Tell" program. They gave us almost 90 minutes of wonderful variety.

Helen Comber showed a "coronation cup": as you drained the last drop a likeness of Edward VII appeared on the bottom of the cup. Ken Hassard demonstrated a "patented electro magnetic" machine for treating nervous and other diseases, literally a shocking device.

Jennifer Passfield told about early troubles the Salvation Army had in Milton and in Oakville where a circus tried to use elephants to turn back Army "soldiers." Jennifer spoke as a great-great-granddaughter of William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army.

Jack Charlton told how research found that M.P.P. John White had lived in the building now occupied by the Canadian Legion. Alex Cooke showed a map of Milton of 1858, the year after the town was incorporated.

Frank Sisson asked for help in identifying an auction purchase. Frank bought it as a gaily decorated sewing basket; members felt it began farm life as a butter container.

Other "numbers" on the program: Len McNeil (heirloom dishes and early school texts); Peggy Reid (pioneer mortgages); Craig Reid (pond ice tongs); Joe Henderson (farm tools made by a blacksmith); Ruth Lockie (lace collar worn by her mother); Ed Goodall (100th anniversary -1993- of telephones in Milton); Lou Bradley (one-time CPR station at Hornby); Marjorie Powys (homey verses from autograph book).

We Join the Throng At the Milton Mall

Seven members greeted visitors March 6 at the Community Day in Milton Mall. Handling the queries were Alex Cooke, Jim Dills, Walt Elliot, Ed Goodall, Jessie Hamilton, Jennifer Passfield and Marjorie Powys.

Our display was built around a photo collection celebrating 100 years of telephone service in Milton. Jim Dills, who put together the display, says the first telephone office was in the Higginbottom Drug Store and there were 14 phones in 1893. Jeanette's Shoes is located there now.

Briefly Speaking

Phyllis Moore, who earned honorable mention for Architectural Conservation was delighted with her award. Her metal plaque was mounted on a slab of pine salvaged from the original Brookville community hall. Bill Gregg salvaged the wood when the hall was extensively renovated several years ago. Twenty years ago Brad Clements salvaged limestone from the historic Bruce Street School; each year he donates some for our Heritage Awards.

Nostalgia Was the Theme At Our Christmas Party

Our Dec. 18 party was billed as an old-time Christmas and it was exactly that.

About 30 members and friends took part with enthusiasm, although four-year-old Katie White, probably the youngest person ever to attend one of our meetings in Hugh Foster Hall, napped after sampling the goodies. Katie is the granddaughter of Audrey Newell.

Helen and Len McNeil, playing the piano and mouth organ respectively, led the carol singing.

Lou Bradley and Peggy Reid gave readings - Peggy, "The Cremation of Same McGee"; Lou, "The Old Wooden Tub" and "Christmas Day."

Ann and Walt Elliot, Peggy Reid and Ken Lamb were the mixed-up players in a "radio" farce.

- Hazel (Dredge) McConnell of Robert Street got plenty of help when she rang in the new year at Victoria Park. Husband Mike, sons Murray and Wayne and Mayor Gordon Krantz helped her toll the heavy bell. Hazel's Dredge grandparents came to the area to farm in Nassagaweya. The McConnells came to Milton more than 50 years ago - Mike worked many years in the P.L. Robertson plant.

- Now it can be told. Ken Hassard's father was a druggist in Acton. When things were slow Ken and his brother went to war. They unpacked bottles of soda water, squeezed off a few rounds and put the bottles back in the cartons. Neither father nor customers found out - all fizz, no fuss.

- The Halton Region Museum is preparing a new exhibit on the highlights of Halton's history. It covers events from earliest days. Opening is May 17.

- The Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers' Association was well represented at the February ceremony. Gordon Krantz invited Association secretary Gordon Rayner and treasurer Gordon Hume to join Neil Ford for the award presentation.

- Two of Jennifer Passfield's ancestors were household names in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. "General" William Booth founded the Salvation Army in 1878. His daughter "Maréchale" (Marshal) Catherine Booth-Clibborn, established the Salvation Army in several countries including France, Switzerland and Belgium. She was Jennifer's great-grandmother.

- The third volume of "The Selected Journals" of writer Lucy Maud Montgomery, published last year, have special local interest. ("Anne of Green Gables" is the best-remem-

bered of numerous Montgomery books.) Craig Reid remembers Maud Montgomery - wife of Presbyterian minister Ewan Macdonald - as his Sunday School teacher in Norval in the late 20s. Craig's cousin married Chester, the older Macdonald boy. Milton lawyers W.I. Dick and Thomas Hutchinson are mentioned in "The Selected Journals".

- Don Martin, the former jail-guard who attended the New Year's levee, is not related to the pioneer mill family. He calls himself "one of the poor Martins." Don was born on Appleby Line south of Campbellville Road; he attended Richmond School which was torn down and reconstructed at the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

- Town Crier Ralph Wilding, a guest star at our Heritage Awards program Feb. 14, will compete in the world "crying" championship this June in Markham. Ralph expects 125 international competitors, not including Gordon Krantz.

The Mayor tested our ear drums with an explosive "Hear Ye, Hear Ye" when introducing Neil Ford, winner of the Education Award at our Heritage program.

- A book draw among members has raised \$47 for the Ontario Historical Society's building fund. At our March meeting speaker Ruth Allen drew the winner's name - Marjorie Powys. The book is about the "ruins" collected by former prime minister Mackenzie King for his summer home in the Gatineau near Ottawa.

- Jim Dills, Walt Elliot, Mayor Gordon Krantz, Rose Harrison and Ken Hassard have been honored for their service to the community. Stan Allen and Lloyd Chisholm were recognized posthumously. They have received medals commemorating the 125th anniversary of Canadian confederation (1992).



The



Journal

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Election of New Slate Takes Place in January

After our election at the Jan. 21 meeting, the Society will have a new-look executive.

Walt Elliot has decided to step down after the traditional two-year term. Marjorie Powys, vice president and membership director, has been nominated to succeed Walt.

Marion Detlor (publications) and Lillian Krywaniuk (cemeteries) have retired and Marie Atcliffe, although willing to help in some capacities,

won't have time to continue as publicity director.

Past president Ken Lamb will submit nominations at the January meeting. He would welcome additional nominations. These may be made at the meeting or by telephone (878-6391). Please make sure that the person nominated has agreed to serve.

Don't be shy about putting your own name forward. If you have ideas on new projects this is your opportunity to head them up. In addition the Society would welcome help in such fields as school contacts; LACAC liaison; walking tours; house-tour planning; videotaping; pioneer interviews; membership-building; special events.

Meet Heritage Winners At Our Feb. 14 Event

The government still hasn't proclaimed a holiday to mark the importance of our heritage. But we do have Heritage Week in mid-February and we are working with Milton LACAC to arrange another suitable celebration.

Winners of Milton's Heritage Awards will be recognized in a ceremony in Hugh Foster Hall Sunday Feb. 14. First held in 1990, the awards honour individuals or organizations in four heritage areas: architecture, education, visual arts and writing.

The event starts at 1.30 p.m. It's an opportunity to meet the winners, view displays, and exchange views with many representatives to their heritage groups.

If you want to suggest a nominee in any of the categories place contact Ken Lamb (878-6391) or Jim Dills (878-6061).

Here's Your Opportunity To Brag About Family Lore

Many of us have a special piece or family treasure we'd love to talk about.

The Jan. 21 meeting is our chance to "show and tell". The choice is yours: jewelry, furniture, dishes, land documents, tools—anything that touches on local history.

We'll also call on Halton Region Museum to lend some prize pieces for the event.

Judging by a similar program a few years ago, we can look for great entertainment. Come and share the fun - it's not often you can be both a speaker and a spectator at the same program.

Police Chase, Flames, Exciting Program

Alex McNiven hasn't done much public speaking since the 1960s. But 40 members found at our November meeting that he has lost none of his skill.

Alex, a member of a pioneer district family (McNiven Road, west of Campbellville, is named after them) spent more than 30 years in the Ontario Provincial Police.

He told an amusing story about demonstrating to a group of doubting and drinking Windsor lawyers that the breathalyzer really worked.

Alex then shifted to drama - to a case he handled shortly after returning from overseas army service. Three members of the notorious "McDonald" bank-robbing gang had broken out

of Kingston penitentiary. Although Quebec police reported them cornered in the Laurentians, Alex had solid information the robbers were in this area where they had earlier hijacked a load of liquor.

Carefully choosing proper shells for a 12-gauge shotgun, Alex set out alone. This was before local police had car radios.

"I often wonder how many police cars would be dispatched on a similar call today," Alex said. "Five? ten?, each with at least two people.

"In any event, when I spoke to veteran policemen in the area I could tell they were skeptical of my information. After all, I was a young constable and they had heard about the Quebec search."

But Alex was right. The Quebec police came up empty. Local evidence mounted up - a stone license plate, stolen car, a bank robbery in Windsor. And suspicion that the gang had crossed the river into the United States.

Police never did catch the gangsters. Eventually, however, Lauzon's body was found in Louisiana. McDonald vanished. (Alex suspects he was killed by Louisiana criminals who resented competition.) Minelli gave himself up to Canadian police and returned to penitentiary.

Our second speaker, Malcolm Phillips showed a short silent movie of the Martin mill fire in 1963 and subsequent demolition. This mill was built in 1856-57, a few yards from both Jasper Martin's pioneer grist mill and the recently-demolished structure.

Malcolm's later father, Bill Phillips, had operated a body shop next to the Martin St. mill.

"Emissions from the mill played havoc with his paint jobs," Malcolm told us. "He hated it and used to say, 'If that mill ever burns down, I will take a movie of it.'"

He kept his promise and we saw the dramatic results at our Nov. 19 meeting.



Milton Historical Society

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President - Walt Elliot
Past President - Ken Lamb
Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton
Secretary - Tod Laing
Membership - Marjorie Powys, Annie Drew
Special Events - George Wachmann,
Lillian Krywaniuk
Publicity - Marie Sutcliffe
Liaison - Audrea Lear-Costigan
Program - Craig Reid
Archivist - Brenda Whitlock
Genealogy - Alex Cooke
Research - Jack Charlton and
Jim Dills
Publications - Marion Detlor

Annual Memberships
Single \$7. Family \$10
Students \$5 Life \$60

Gather in Historic Church for Our February 18 Meeting

Ad Woodley has chosen a new setting for our Feb. 18 program.

For this meeting only we'll meet in St. Paul's United Church, Milton. Starting time is 8 p.m. as usual.

Ad will recall some of the dramatic and humorous episodes in the life of St. Paul's, which began as a Methodist congregation 140 years ago.

Ad will also lead us on a tour of the 101-year-old sanctuary. (The building was completed about six months before the nearby Knox Presbyterian Church.) He'll pay special attention to several memorials marking both joyous and tragic events of the past century.

Ad is among the longest-serving members of the church. He has been attending since moving to Milton as a young boy some 70 years ago.

St. Paul's is on the north side of Main Street, between Martin and Bronte Streets.

History of Manor in Photos Topic of Our March Meeting

Big changes are under way at Centennial Manor, an important part of Milton's recent history. About 200 residents are moving into a large new building and most of the one-storey wings soon will disappear.

At our March 18 meeting we'll see a matchless record of the Manor's development since it opened 40 years ago. Ruth Allen will comment on scores of photos and other records she and Stan collected over the years.

Stan, who died six months ago, was appointed administrator of the Manor in 1957; he served 20 years.

We'll also hear about some features of the modern building and what some of the residents think of their new home.

The meeting starts at 8 p.m. in Hugh Foster Hall.

YOUR CALENDAR

Thurs. Jan. 21 - Annual Meeting and "Show and Tell." Bring an item to talk about. Hugh Foster Hall. Coffee 7.30 p.m. Meeting 8 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 14 - Heritage Week and Presentation of Heritage Awards at Hugh Foster Hall 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. History Walk at 1.30. Awards at 3 p.m.

Thurs. Feb. 18 - History of St. Paul's with Ad Woodley. Meet at St. Paul's. Program at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Thurs. Mar. 18 - History of the Manor with Ruth Allen. Hugh Foster Hall. Coffee 7.30 p.m. Meeting 8 p.m.

Neighborhood News

Books are breaking out all over. Mary Manning, archivist of The Streetsville Historical Society, has produced her fifth "The Streetsville Cenotaph - A Village Memorial." The cenotaph was unveiled July 1, 1926. Mary Finlay, granddaughter of designer Samuel Finlay, was one of the early book purchasers.

Mark Rowe, Esquering Historical Society, has authored a history of Georgetown. The Society calls it "the first authentic history of Georgetown from native occupation to the close of 1991."

Burlington Historical Society has just published "Burlington: the Growing Years." It complements an earlier book on the town's pioneer period.

Halton Hills LACAC has proposed the "Moorecroft" home in Acton (68 Church St.) as an historic site. Two of the prominent people who lived there: H.P. Moore, owner and editor of the Acton Free Press for 50 years and Wesley J. Beatty, active in politics, community service and business (president of the Beardmore tannery).

Lloyd Chisholm, 80 Made His Years Count

Lloyd Chisholm, whose ancestors settled locally in the early 1800s died Oct. 11. At 80, he had been fighting cancer for ten years.

He leaves his wife, Mary (Thompson), a Milton native, and their daughters Lenore, Toronto and Frances, who lives on the Eighth Line, Trafalgar. Long-time Society member Eva Chisholm is a cousin.

Lloyd's family was one of many who came to the area from the Roxboroughshire and Perthshire districts of Scotland. His mother's family, the Moffats, were also pioneers in the Milton district. The stone house on the family farm is the third home to be built on the property.

Born at Limehouse, Lloyd spent all but his first year on the pioneer farm settled by his mother's family. (Southwest lot, intersection of Campbellville Road and Sixth Line).

It had been a 200-acre farm. Today it occupies 50 acres; the government expropriated the remainder when highway 401 went through. The portion of the original farm south of the highway is now part of Kelso Conservation area.

The government paid \$200 an acre. Lloyd considered that ridiculously low. Mary shares that bitterness.

Most of us knew Lloyd for his keen interest in horse racing. (He spoke to us on that topic a few years ago.) But his interests and achievements were many, including serving on the Nassagaweya township council.

"He contributed a lot," Mary says. "He always made time to help out.

"Lloyd is largely responsible for bringing Mohawk Raceway to this area. He wanted to have a first-class racing operation and he was concerned that people here might be willing to settle for less. He approached the Ontario Jockey Club and showed them what this area had to offer. It took the racing authorities only a few weeks to decide to build the track on the Guelph Line site."

Mary says Lloyd also conceived and sold

How Mary Met Lloyd

Mary Thompson was driving past the Chisholm farm in 1962 when she spotted a horse caught in the fence.

"I stepped out and with my 'Volkswagen' pliers I opened the fence and freed the animal. I then walked up the lane where I met Lloyd and Dr. Heslop. I told them what happened."

Lloyd thanked her for her interest. Shortly afterwards Lloyd showed interest, too. He invited Mary to lunch, the first step in their 30-year journey together.

the idea of the Sire Stakes, a series of high-prize thoroughbred races on various Ontario tracks.

His own racing career began in 1953. He became well known at Mohawk as well as in Buffalo, Montreal (Blue Bonnets), St. Catharines and Toronto (Greenwood).

He bred many horses. One of them, "Shakin' and A-Movin", a two-year-old standard bred, was named 1991 filly of the year. Other substantial money winners trace their bloodlines to the Chisholm farm.

The training track at the farm is still active: a potential star "Rothko", a boarder at the farm and winner of two of his first three races at Mohawk, worked out there almost every day.

"Lloyd was deeply committed to improving livestock of all types," Mary says. "He was the only person ever to serve two consecutive years as Chair of the Livestock Records of Canada, (an organization that keeps track of registered animals.)"

He showed animals for many years; he was a director of the Royal Winter Fair where he often judged animals. He was active in the Jersey cattle breeders' association and worked hard on the campaign to eradicate brucellosis, a serious cattle disease.

Early Surveys Weren't Perfect But Who Wants Jog-less Roads?

Surveyor Fred Cunningham, our September speaker, has great respect for his predecessors who laid out north Halton more than 160 years ago.

Sure, a perfect survey would have eliminated a lot of the jogs on local roads. But imperfection has its good points: by "measuring long", as they were told to do, the surveyors gave most 100-acre landowners a "bonus" of four or five acres.

"I take my hat off to the line fences," Fred said in his Sept. 17 presentation at Hugh Foster Hall. "They have served us very well."

Fred covered historical aspects of surveying in Halton. Tom Pakowski, a colleague who recently purchased Fred's business here, described modern surveying techniques.

Fred explained that surveys in north Halton were based on Dundas Road (Highway 5), built for military purposes by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe in the early 1790s. After 1812 the northern parts of Nelson and Trafalgar townships were surveyed; the Nassagaweya and Esquesing surveys were completed by 1817.

"The north-south lines marking the east and west township boundaries were surveyed very accurately," Fred said, "using the most precise techniques then available. The measurements in between - those marking out the individual lots - were done by the 66-foot surveyor's chain."

The crews - usually local farm boys - first measured from east to west. After every five lots they set aside the 66-foot road allowance. When they reached the western boundary they started measuring in the opposite direction. Often the allowance established by the east-west survey didn't line up with the west-east allowance. That's why north-south roads often "jog" at the east-west concession roads.

Other points made during the evening:

- Many local roads were not part of the original survey. These are known as "given roads", often built for commercial reasons. Martin and Main Streets are examples.

- Trafalgar Road also was not part of the original survey. It was put in place earlier to transport oak and pine timbers south to Lake Ontario. It was laid out to avoid steep creek valleys.

- Early surveyors had to be especially careful with their instruments. If broken, transits had to be sent to England for repairs.

- Tom Pakowski described the role of satellite communication in modern surveying and the use of light rays in precise measurements. Today surveys can be done quickly. But costs haven't come down. Why? In the 1950s Fred paid about \$400 for an up-to-the-minute transit; Tom paid some \$14,000 for his computerized set-up.

- When he chaired the Oakville Planning Board in the 1950s, Ad Woodley asked some pointed questions about "imprecise" surveys. Fred remembered those questions when making his September talk. In an aside to Ad he noted that the limitations of the original survey were at the heart of Ad's problem.

- Fred credited Napoleon for opening up this area. When the French sealed off the Baltic area in the early 1800s the British Navy had to find new sources of pine and oak timbers. Our district helped fill the bill.

The speaker's display included a surveyor's chain, the transit Fred bought when he started his Milton business and a rock "monument" (a marker placed between concessions). Tom showed the modern surveyor's tools, all of which fit easily into a small briefcase.

Our Display at Milton Mall Sparks "P.L." Facts, Foibles

Our display on industrialist P.L. Robertson ensured steady traffic Sept. 12 at Milton Mall's open house.

People showed keen interest in photos of the Robertson plant (Bronte St.). Many closely examined a 1951 staff photo to pick out themselves, parents or relatives from the hundreds of employees shown.

Another popular item was a photo album of a visit by "P.L." to his family in Scotland. For those interested in industrial progress, two books covered minutes of directors' meetings held from 1907 until the 1940s. All entries were in beautiful handwriting, usually accompanied by "P.L.'s" classic and flourishing signature. The minute books were donated to our archives a few weeks before the open house.

Our display appealed for a copy of "P.L.'s" book about the gold standard. In the 1930s the local industrialist corresponded with President Franklin Roosevelt and other world leaders about his ideas for solving the world depression.

Quite a few visitors shared their recollections. One recalled how kids made sure they visited the Robertson home (Margaret Street) on Hallowe'en to collect a nickel from a well-stocked bowl. Another remembered how "P.L." made sure family men were kept on the payroll during factory slowdowns.

Alex Cooke Gets Unexpected Gift

Alex Cooke found a surprise package in his mail about three weeks before Christmas.

It was a plaque from the Heritage Centre in Ottawa recognizing his work during the Canada Day celebrations last July 1. After a few telephone calls Alex learned that the Regional Museum had put his name forward.

Alex contributes hundreds of hours each year to the Friends of the Museum.

Briefly Historical

- In the 1970s Lou Bradley interviewed Amy Merry many times. The six tapes now in our archives have been popular lately with researchers. Amy was the wife of local school board chairman Percy W. Merry—the Britannia Road school is named after him. Amy's family, the Howes, obtained a crown grant on the Sixth Line (near Bethel Church).

- Jack Charlton is concerned that the new seniors residence on Ontario Street may have missed the mark in naming its nine living areas. Two of the area, or houses, are named after the former townships of Trafalgar and Nelson. Jack can't understand why there is no similar recognition of Esquesing and Nassagaweya.

- Lois Knight is now planning to complete her history of Hornby by the fall—in time for the '93 Christmas season. Lois expects the work to run about 120 pages; it will include many historic photos.

- A family tree is like a Canadian winter—it goes on and on. But it's a lot more interesting. That's what Bill and Carol Gregg have learned. Recently Alex Cooke was able to confirm that two of Bill's great grandparents were buried in the old Oakville Town Cemetery on Sixth Line. Bill's tree includes the Wyeth family of New England, whose best-known member is the painter, Andrew. Bill also learned that the first Gregg in Canada was his great-great grandfather, also Bill. He was a Presbyterian minister, who came here in 1843. During the late 1840s the minister's father wrote many letters from Ireland describing the terrible famine. Bill has donated ten of the letters to the Ontario Archives.

- Treasa and Ken Lamb got more than they bargained for when they visited Oxbow Books in Georgetown for a copy of the new book on the town. They ended up sharing a front-page photo (Halton Hills This Week) with author Mark Rowe.

George Atkins' Anecdotes Make History Live

"We need to connect the people history with natural history", George Atkins declared and proceeded to do just that when he spoke to our October meeting.

He recalled wondering what those hard heads (round rocks) were doing in his farm field. Then he found out they were brought by the glacier age 25 million years ago. Similarly the scratches in the outcropping of rock along Highway 401 by Mountsberg were caused by the glacier, a mile high mountain of ice as it moved from the Laurentians almost along the route of highway 401.

After all that pressure the earth is springing back up at the rate of one inch every century.

The naming of Rattlesnake Point dates back to December 10, 1813 and near the end of the War of 1812. The Americans left Fort York and the lakes were starting to freeze over. A ship put in to harbour at Bronte. A couple of navies took the telescope and disappeared. From their

perch at Rattlesnake Point they could see the ship and knew they were free when it sailed. Rattlesnakes were balled up hibernating for the winter and so the name was applied to the point.

And so for nearly two hours George Atkins told the stories of Halton, the ability of individuals to influence history, discoveries in the natural history of the area that still affect our geography.

He told about the stay of William Lyon Mackenzie in a cave on his property by the Twelve Mile Creek and the validation of the story.

The program concluded with a video "Bronte to Acton" made by students and tracing the history of the communities along the way.

Marjorie Powys was prompted to remember her father telling of the military knocking at the door of the Bowes family (next door to the present Masonic Hall on highway 25) looking for Mackenzie as he escaped after the disastrous rebellion of 1837.

It was an evening of anecdotes and George admitted he had only gone through a few pages of his notes.

Program Director Craig Reid handled the introduction of George.

Experts Give Course In Our Local History

The grade seven students of St. Peter's School took a special subject Dec. 1 - local history. Mayor Gordon Krantz, Jim Dills and Ken Lamb gave the course.

First the mayor led a 90-minute tour of the Town Hall, ending up in the Council chambers. Here the youngsters had a chance to "test" the chairs normally occupied by the Councilors and the mayor himself.

Jim and Ken then led the 34 girls and boys on a one-hour walk. Stops included the "jail-yard" gardens, Victoria Park, St. Paul's United Church, Waldie's Blacksmith Shop, the millpond and the old town hall.

Jim and Ken left the scholars and teacher Lou Masi headed -briskly- for Harvey's restaurant.

Two New Year's Features

Something new—and perhaps scary—has been added to the Mayor's levee on New Year's day at the Town Hall.

For the first time the guided tour will include the basement haunts and a "converted" cell that recalls the building's historic role as a jail. The event is being held from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

Again this year the old town bell will ring in the New Year at Victoria Park. The New Year's Eve proceedings get underway at 15 minutes to midnight.

Two Years Go Quickly When You're Having Fun

by Walt Elliot, President

It doesn't seem like two years since Len McNeil called to invite me to stand for election for President of the Milton Historical Society. The two years have been most enjoyable and have passed very quickly.

In each year the monthly program has been informative and enlightening. Bill Gregg and now Craig Reid have done an excellent job of lining up speakers with talent. My favorites have been local people who have discussed some aspect of local history like Fred Cunningham speaking about how the area was surveyed.

The special events such as the trips to Ireland House, Queen's Park, The Radial Museum and The Agricultural Museum nicely balanced the programs held in Foster Hall.

Since the primary goal of The Historical

Society is to collect and store items of local history it was gratifying to see a steady flow of items into the archives, most notably a significant set of minutes from The P.L. Robertson Manufacturing Co. obtained by Alex Cooke.

Jack Charlton, Jim Dills and Alex Cooke provided the most satisfying item of my two-year stint as president. Historic Homes of Milton Volume 1 went to press and became a best seller thanks to their hard work and dedication. One thousand copies were printed last January. The 100 or so copies still available will be sold very quickly. It is hoped the second volume will be as well received.

Marjorie Powys has consented to run for President in 1993. I wish her well. She is assuming a pleasant duty presiding over an experienced group of fine people all of whom have a keen interest in local history.

Two New Historic Plaques At Hilton Falls

Two new plaques at the Hilton Falls conservation area emphasize both man-made and natural features.

One of the markers at the observation area overlooking the falls describes the role of the Escarpment's water power in southern Ontario's development. Many water-driven mills operated until the early 1900s.

Three sawmills operated at Hilton Falls between 1835 and 1867, all for brief periods. The plaque illustrates a mill built in the 1850s by Dr. George H. Park, a physician. Ruins of the structure are clearly visible across the stream on the opposite shore.

Glass bits recovered in a 1991 "dig" indicate a covered mill with several windows; ashes showed that oak and pine were the most common trees sawn.

The second plaque highlights Hilton Falls' role as a natural environment park. One of the largest forest tracts in southern Ontario, the area includes headwater of several tributaries of

16-Mile Creek. Drawings show a few of the birds, butterflies, animals and plants found there.

The plaque also refers to the United Nations' recognition of the Niagara Escarpment as a 'biosphere reserve', indicating a protected landscape with defined areas of residential and commercial use.

Jack Charlton Tracks Down New Set of Historic Homes

We don't know when the second volume of our "Historic Homes" will appear but Jack Charlton already has researched more than a dozen "new" houses. Here's one:

- A two-storey home on the south side of Mill Street between Elizabeth and James Streets. Present owners are Olive and Joseph Bergin. Built in 1857, the year the town of Milton was incorporated, the structure served as a Temperance Hall in its early years.