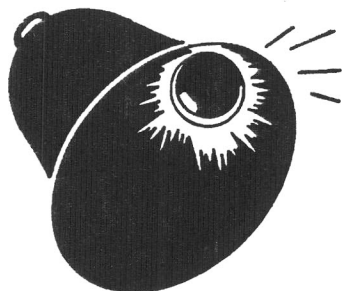




# The Journal

Volume 10 Number 3 Published by the Milton Historical Society

December  
1995



## *Eat, sing and mix —help ring in '96*

An enthusiastic midnight crowd is expected to help ring in the New Year at Victoria Park.

Two popular Legion members – RCAF veteran Bruce MacNab and Army veteran Fred Johnson – will ring in the new year. They, along with Mayor Gordon Krantz, will be on hand from 11.30 to greet celebrants.

The Army, Air and Sea Cadets will be there, too, to help with the tolling. We'll sing a few songs including, of course, the traditional "Auld Lang Syne".

Afterwards the Kinsmen will serve hot chocolate and doughnuts in Hugh Foster Hall.

Jim Dills started the bell-ringing tradition here almost 30 years ago. There were no spectators; Jim made a personal gesture. Then publisher of *The Canadian Champion*, he climbed into the tower at the Town Hall on Main Street and tolled the midnight bell to mark Canada's centennial year.

This is the same bell that Bruce and Fred will toll at midnight Dec. 31.

## **Society asks protection for Ag. Museum collection**

At its Dec. 5 meeting our executive protested lack of plans to preserve the Agricultural Museum collection when closure of the museum in Milton was announced.

The motion was unanimously supported by the members. Copies were sent to Premier Michael Harris, Culture and Recreation Minister Marilyn Mushinski and Halton North MPP Ted Chudleigh and the Ontario Historical Society.

The motion declared that "Milton Historical Society strongly protests the closing of the Ontario Agricultural

Museum without assurance that the collection of artifacts, the reference library and archival material, built up over a 20 year period, will continue in provincial ownership and be protected and accessible to present and future generations of the Province of Ontario whose citizens have paid for development and maintenance of this resource.

"The Society recommends that the Museum, its property and collection, could be shut down but remain in place at minimum cost until finances permit its re-opening for the benefit of the citizens of Ontario and Canada."

## **Bring movie memories to Jan. 18 meeting**

What are your memories of the Princess (Roxy) theatre on Main Street that entertained us for so many years? Do you have souvenirs? What about your all-time favourite movie?

Bring your things and thoughts to our Jan. 18 meeting. We'll spend a few minutes reviewing 100 years of movie-making.

But most of the program will depend on your participation. Experience tells us we'll have another lively show-and-tell.

## **Legion plays major role in New Year's Day levee**

We'll see plenty of colour and variety at the New Year's Day levee at the Town Hall, which is co-ordinated by Milton Historical Society. Mayor Gordon Krantz and Councillors will greet visitors from 1:30 to 3:30.

Thanks to the Milton branch of the Canadian Legion the event will evoke the spirit of service to Canada.

Legion flags will be much in evidence. So will poppy displays and winning posters from the veterans' competition in local schools.

Our display of *Milton Remembers World War II* and a selection of our books will underline the service theme.

Entertainment will be supplied by the Milton Air Cadet Services band.

The Legion's Dominion Command has sent dramatic videos of wartime action. Service uniforms displayed will include that worn by decorated RCAF veteran Bruce MacNab.

Volunteers led by Jessie Hamilton will work with the Legion Ladies Auxiliary to be sure no one goes hungry.

This is a great way to march smartly into the New Year. See you there with your friends.

## **Society donates \$1,000 to restore cemetery**

The Society is making a \$1,000 donation to help restore the Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte Street.

The decision was taken at the Dec. 5 executive meeting. The donation was made on condition the \$9,000 project—mostly to stabilize headstones—would be completed in 1996.

A committee, including Society representatives, is hopeful other groups will contribute since town funding for the total project is not likely available.

## More than 30 members attend Grace Church centennial talk

The challenge for our Sept. 21 speaker was to condense 150 years of church history into 60 minutes. Rev. Mark McDermott, rector of Grace Anglican Church, easily met the compression test. And he even found time for the future.

People at Grace have been marking the 100th anniversary of the stone building. Lord Aberdeen, the governor general, arrived by train in early June 1895 to lay the cornerstone. The \$6,000 structure was completed within six months; the debt was paid off in 1917.

The stone sanctuary replaced the original wooden church built some 40 years before and which today serves as

the church hall. Joseph Martin, son of pioneer miller Jasper Martin, donated the site.

Other points made by our speaker:

- Lord Aberdeen didn't rely on a prepared text at the cornerstone ceremony – he directed amusing comments at several listeners who had climbed nearby trees for choice "seats".
- The Canadian Champion estimated that more than 3,000 were in Milton for the celebration a century ago.
- The original Grace Church congregation was formed in 1844; Bishop Strachan, a towering figure, paid a visit in 1855.

- A white picket fence around the original church was removed after a young boy died from injuries suffered when he was impaled on a fence post while sleighing.

- A 1990s restoration program for the stone building will cost more than \$100,000. Within the next few years the 320 church families will face additional costs for replacing 1923 wiring and putting in an oak floor.

- Two years ago the Martin family installed a plaque in the sanctuary honouring their ancestors Jasper and Sarah Martin, who were among the first Milton settlers.

## Want to craft your Family Story? Speaker offers all the tools

If you were thinking of cultivating a family tree, genealogist Margaret Williams offered a wealth of advice at our Nov. 16 meeting.

Margaret, who lives in Oakville, has been busy tracing her own and other families for 15 years. She still considers genealogy the "world's greatest hobby".

One of her memorable experiences came from an exchange of letters with a researcher in New Zealand. They became good friends and visited Belfast together to search out common ancestors.

The speaker displayed a table full of books, forms and other helpful documents. Her more than 30 listeners also received copies of two basic forms issued by the Ontario Genealogical

Society – a Family Group Sheet Research Form and a Pedigree Chart.

Margaret described how people could make use of government records, such as the registration of births, marriages and deaths. These records in Ontario date from July 1, 1869. Census records in Ontario are available from the early 1800s.

An active member of the Halton/Peel Genealogical Society, Margaret told how the group has registered names of those buried in well over 100 of the more than 200 cemeteries in Halton and Peel Regions. Some of our members, including Alex Cooke, Marion Detlor and Lois Knight have also taken part in this project. These records are made available to the public at nominal cost.

## Laura Secord returns for our March 21 program

Something quite different will play itself out at our March 21 meeting in Hugh Foster Hall.

We'll see a new play created by the Mississauga South Historical Society in which an accomplished actress plays Laura Secord. Through Laura's "interviews" with the audience we learn a lot about the early 1800s and the Niagara area. The novel format has been warmly received.

Our member Ruth Taylor will appear to give information related to her family history – Ruth's great-great-grandfather, Daniel Pickett, married Elizabeth Ingersoll, a sister of Laura Secord.



### Milton Historical Society

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

The Journal is published three  
times a year.

#### Annual Memberships

Single \$7; Family \$10; Students \$5;  
Life \$60

## Look what I found!

Antique-lover Bert Zwolman has converted an unusual repair job into a fascinating souvenir. It started when Bert was repairing a rocking chair owned by a long-time Milton family, the (Ted) Baileys.

Bert stripped off the outer fabric and there – right in the middle of the chair back – was a section of printed burlap, "Milton Milling Co. est. 1820." Obviously it was part of a bag used by the pioneer Martin mill to package poultry feed.

Bert believes the burlap was in place about 40 years before he uncovered it. He had the piece mounted and framed. Jim Dills displayed it at the November meeting.

## ***Marsha pleased with support for Waldie Blacksmith Shop***

Marsha Waldie is encouraged by wide support of efforts to restore the family blacksmith shop that operated on James Street for more than 100 years.

An architect who studied the shop believes it is the only building in Ontario constructed of "rubble-filled walls"; the technique was developed hundreds of years ago.

The architect made general cost estimates of the various stages of reconstruction; more detailed studies are now being made.

Consensus among supporters is that the building should be a (part-time) "working" shop rather than a museum.

Supporters include heritage organizations, ferriers, the Old Time Blacksmith group, the Downtown Business organization, tourist promoters and the "horse" industry.

What is not clear, Marsha says, is how this support can be converted into the substantial dollars needed for restoration.

## ***It took more than fifty years but we now know how Peter died***

Six weeks after the Second World War in Europe ended, Peter McLaren, 20, of Campbellville was reported missing in Burma (now Myanmar). His aircraft disappeared after dropping supplies to the Allied army.

On Nov. 23, 1995 his sister Elinor Brown of Campbellville learned that Peter's remains and that of five RCAF crew mates had been found in a mountainous jungle region. Elinor got the word from relatives who had read newspaper reports. They told how a hunter found the wreckage of the shot-down Dakota aircraft five years ago. The word eventually reached the Veterans Affairs Department.

Elinor had mixed feelings. She was relieved to know just how Peter had died. But she was upset that Veterans Affairs had not reach her before releasing the news.

The family has been here about 150 years, she said, and is well known. And certainly the Milton branch of the Canadian Legion could have given the government information about the family.

Among local airmen who also took part in the Burma campaign is Lyle Dales of Derry Road. Lyle and Peter

McLaren were good friends before the war. Elizabeth Davies, Campbellville, is a niece of the dead airman.

When the airmen's remains are retrieved they will be buried in Taukkyan War Cemetery near Rangoon, Myanmar.

The earlier official report is included in *Milton Remembers World War II*, which was written by Ken Lamb and published early this year by the Society.

## ***Bob Mackay was long-time member***

Bob Mackay, who joined our Society in 1979, died Nov. 7. A native of New York City and a veteran of the U. S. Air Force, Bob came here at war's end and married Adeline shortly afterwards. In 1950 they moved into the Pearl Street home built in 1851 by land developer Mathias Teetzel.

Bob was chair of the Milton Library Board when the present building was put up.

Adeline (Fraser) Mackay is a Milton native. Her father, William, built the red brick house at the southeast corner of Court Street and Woodward Avenue.

## ***Alex's book of Biogs went on sale Oct. 19***

As a genealogist Alex Cooke has spent many years gathering information about Miltonians. Now he has made it available to all of us in *Milton Area Biographies*. The book – edited by Brenda Whitlock – made its debut at our Oct. 19 meeting.

Lively interest kept Ed Goodall busy collecting money and Alex signing books.

All of the more than 100 biographies are of Miltonians who died before 1931. Alex has enough in reserve for a later book on more recent residents.

To make *Milton Area Biographies* more useful to researchers all of its pages have been punched for a three-hole binder. Buyers can choose either a book with binder at \$25 or just the bound pages at \$18.95.

Pages are not numbered; the biographies are arranged alphabetically. This will avoid confusion when pages of the second edition are inserted. The book includes a registration form so that purchasers may be notified when the next book comes out.

*Milton Area Biographies* is on sale at Smithbooks, Milton Mall, and at Harris Stationery, Main Street. It may also be ordered from Milton Historical Society, Box 85, Milton, L9T 2Y3; please add \$3 to listed prices to cover mailing.

## ***Students excited about Chris Hadfield's visit***

There's plenty of excitement about the Milton parade (tentatively Dec. 17) for Canada's space hero Chris Hadfield. Especially at Percy Merry School on Britannia Road.

Chris started school there before moving on to Milton District High School. He visited the youngsters last May and the day after Atlantis landed the students received space medallions from the family on "Hadfield Day".

A display case in the school lobby shows photos of the astronaut and the Atlantis spacecraft.

## World War II campaigns are re-lived in Milton Legion's Remembrance Hall

The wartime exploits of many Miltonians are brought to life in the recently-opened Remembrance Hall in the local Legion Building. Official opening by Mayor Krantz and MPP Ted Chudleigh took place in late October.

The hall is open from 3 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Visits at other times may be possible; check with custodian Bill Maskel (878-6079) for off-hour visits. Enter by the Pearl Street door. There is no admission charge.

Many local service people have donated photos and other mementoes of

the Western Europe, Italian, Dieppe and other battles.

Planning of the third-floor exhibit room was directed by Legion members Jack Charlton, Dick Clement, Fred Johnson and Bruce MacNab.

## Winning home recipe is one step at a time

Bob and Nadia Jarvis are this year's winners of the President's Award for home maintenance. The award recognizes efforts to maintain the exterior of homes built at least 75 years ago.

Bob grew up on "Rebel Farm", Dundas Highway at 16 Mile Creek, the legendary hiding place of William Lyon Mackenzie during his flight after the 1837 uprising. He credits this historical background with his decision to buy an older home when he returned to Canada from the United States about 11 years ago.

The Jarvis home is on Pitfield Road, just south of Steeles Avenue and east of Highway 25. The original log house built in 1870 has been incorporated into the much larger stone home that is now surrounded by recently-built townhouses and apartments. Many Miltonians will know it as the Joyce family farm.

When Bob and Nadia took it over the home had been vacant for about a year and was serving as a teens' hang-out. Although structurally sound, Bob says, the place was a sorry sight.

But by tackling one project each year the Jarvis family has got rid of the backlog, but they're fully aware that homeowner's work "is never done."

## Streets tell stories Hear them Feb. 15

Many Milton street names are like chapter headings in our local history.

At our February general meeting we'll get the life stories of "Elizabeth", "Brown", "Harrison", "Jasper", "Joseph", and many others who left their names on our thoroughfares.

Jim Dills will lead the program using material developed over the years by Jessie Hamilton and fellow researchers Jack Charlton and Alex Cooke.

## Oct. video kindles family memories

Three historic videos by Dr. Les Meszaros got a warm reception from 50 members at our October meeting.

Two communities – Ancaster and Grimsby – got their start in the late 1700s, settled mainly by Empire Loyalists. The Grimsby video featured the roles played by Grimsby people during the war of 1812.

The third work, about Matilda and Thomas Simpson, had special meaning for our long-time member Laura Dixon.

In 1818 the Simpsons settled on 100 acres bordering 12 Mile Creek and played important parts in the young community.

Later the Simpson farm became the site of an explosives plant of the Canada Powder Company. Still later – in the 1920s – the site was bought by Laura's father, Charles Prudham, and used as a pasture. He in turn sold it to W. D. Flatt who founded a resort that became today's Cedar Springs Community.

The program showed why Meszaros videos, made vivid by Mary's water colours, have won many awards.

## Brief Notes

The Canadian Legion's list of Miltonians who served in World War II shows more than 500 names. Now member Eleanor Coulter of Lacombe, Alberta, has offered two more. Dr. Bruce Freed enlisted while working with Dr. C. K. Stevenson here. That was after delivering Eleanor's twins in 1941. The second nominee is Rowland Musick, a farm worker who came here from Prince Edward Island in the late 1930s. Rowley, injured while fighting in Italy, married after returning here but died shortly after the war.

Former member Jean Robertson and husband, Hartley, have moved to a seniors' apartment in Palmerston. Jean reports that Hartley's health has improved since the move this summer. The Robertsons have relatives in the Palmerston district.

Naval Veteran Bruce Kitchen and Ken Lamb took part in an Armistice service at Holy Rosary School. Ken later spoke to a class at Sam Sherratt School about our book "Milton Remembers World War II".

## Have you renewed your membership?

Make a resolution to renew your membership this month.

Whether you attend meetings or not your membership keeps *The Journal* coming and helps support the ongoing work of the Society.

If you can't make our Jan. 18 meeting please send in your cheque now: \$10 for families, \$7 for individuals. Mail to Milton Historical Society, Box 85, Milton Ont. L9T 2Y3.





# The Journal

Volume 10 Number 2

September  
1995



*Final checking of "Milton Remembers" was done at the printers by Ken Lamb and Don Hayward to meet the May release date of the Society's newest book. Publications chair Ed Goodall reports the book has found wide acceptance and approval by the Legion members and those directly involved. He is hoping for another "sell out" by the end of the year and advises purchase now to avoid disappointment. The 140-page, 170-picture volume sells for \$19.95.*

## Grace Church speakers pick century highlights for September meeting

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of its "new" building rector Mark McDermott and archivist Susan Farrant have been combing through records of Milton's Grace Anglican Church. We'll hear about their fascinating finds at our September 21 meeting.

The Governor General, the Earl of Aberdeen, arrived by CPR train June 4, 1895 to lay the cornerstone for the limestone church on Main Street. (Church members marked the event June 4 this year by parading from Victoria Park to the church.) The first service was held in the building in November 1895.

For more than 40 years before that

the congregation had been holding services in the original church on the Main Street site, now the church hall.

The congregation today has about 300 families.

## Expanded guide for heritage walkers

By the time you read this the new version of our walk book should be off the press.

Editor Jim Dills says the guide is an expanded version of the sold-out book published six years ago. It describes more buildings and includes additional illustrations.

With the book in hand it's easy to take a self-guided tour of the downtown area – the Town Hall, the mill pond, Main and Martin and other nearby streets.

The 20-page volume gives background on more than 40 properties, including a number of plaqued historic homes.

We've printed 1,000 of the books. Look for it at our September meeting. At just \$2 a copy it's a real bargain.

Milton Historical Society  
meets  
the third Thursday of  
most months  
at Hugh Foster Hall

Coffee at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting at 8 p.m.

All Welcome.

Come and bring a friend

## Milton Council kills Region museum study for use of historic Sproat House on Mill Pond

The frustrating search for a new site for Halton Region Museum has hit another roadblock. Its most recent prospective site – Sproat House on Milton's mill pond – has been firmly crossed off the list.

Built in 1856, the Margaret Street house served as a Ladies' Seminary in its earliest years. Later it was home to many notable residents, including inventor/industrialist P. L. Robertson, who lived there until his death in 1951.

At a late-June meeting the Milton Town Council defeated a proposal for an architect to make a technical study of the site's suitability as a museum. Maximum cost was to have been \$60,000. This study would have been a follow-up to nine months work by more than 20 members of a steering committee, including George Wachmann of our society.

The Council's decision put an end to the study group, officially known as the

Halton Region Museum Feasibility Study Steering Committee.

No one knows when a new site proposal will be brought forward. For many years museum representatives have been dissatisfied with the present site in Kelso Conservation Area. They have stated that the buildings are not properly equipped to protect the artifacts and that a site within a conservation area that charges an admission fee discourages museum visitors.

## Our April map night had good sense of direction

More than 40 members and friends enjoyed dozens of maps at our April 20 meeting.

Tim Kingsbury, Brenda Whitlock, Jim Dills and Alex Cooke needed every available table in Hugh Foster Hall to display maps covering 200 years of southern Ontario history. One of the earliest included the 800 acres in Nassagaweya owned by Tim's great-

great-great grandfather. Tim's home is on part of the original holding.

Jim Dills' slides included Milton's 1927 fire maps and one that blocked out the holdings of the four early land developers. Jim pointed out that the boundaries of Milton remained the same from incorporation in 1857 until 1953.

Craig Reid showed a 1951 map of "some watersheds of southwestern

Ontario" issued by the Provincial government. He saved it from his days on the Burlington Planning Board.

Barry Lee was delighted to learn about Reid's treasure and immediately arranged to make a copy of it. It was just what he had been looking for to help him in his work with the Grand River Conservation Authority.

## May meeting gets taste of auctioneering magic

Ward Brownridge has been a successful auctioneer for almost 30 years. At our May 18 meeting he showed us why.

About 35 members listened intently for close to an hour as Ward recalled amusing and dramatic episodes. He also told of the sinking feeling he sometimes had when he expected to sell an item for several thousand dollars and had trouble getting a \$100 opening bid. But persistence usually won the day – and a substantial price.

Our speaker showed he is not just a seller. Over the years he has bought numerous items at auction. Treasures he brought to the meeting included a huge broad-axe, a long-handled collection box and a cattle "poke", which is fitted around the animal's neck to keep it from slipping through the fence.

A few of Ward's many recollections:

- Two small paintings—a raccoon and a skunk—by a teen-aged artist sold for \$2,000 each. The artist: Robert Bateman who lived in this area for decades before

moving a few years ago to the Gulf Islands near Vancouver.

- A set of six chairs sold for a total price of more than \$4,000. Ward opened by stating that the eventual buyer would not have to worry about seeing another similar set. A woman in the crowd said she had seen an identical set.

"Where?", asked Ward. "In the Henry Ford Museum."

As Ward says, "You can't buy advertising like that."

- A buyer of a racing pigeon had stuffed the bird in his pocket where it smothered. Ward indicated that the man's bid for a refund was snuffed out.

- At a recent sale Ken Hassard bought a mousetrap for \$35. If he had an qualms about the price Ken at least had proof the trap worked: the contraption held the dried-out remains of two mice.

## Genealogy means lots of busy days for the recently retired Ken Wilson

Ken Wilson has been retired from the London Free Press for a few years. But he's more than busy as chair of the London and Middlesex Genealogical Society.

More than 300 attended the group's district meeting this spring. And, as hosts, they are already preparing for the provincial seminar in 1998. More than 800 genealogists are expected.

Ken's interest in family history stems

from his great-great-great grandfather John Youart. He built a home about 150 years ago on Guelph Line north of Brookville. It's one of the earliest stone houses in former Nassagaweya Township.

Ken says a lot of John Youart's descendants live in the Milton area, including Ken's cousin Lois McPhail of Mill St. John came to Canada from north Yorkshire.

## Family ties, lime kilns topics for Alex Cooke

Alex Cooke has shown again that he can speak on a wide variety of historical topics.

In May at Ebenezer Church (Guelph Line) he put on his genealogical hat in a presentation to the Nasagaweya Historical Society. About 30 members showed great interest in district marriage registers and cemetery records.

Many took notes on entries of personal interest.

A week or so later Alex was at Halton Region Museum talking to public school students about the nearby Christie and Robertson lime kilns. The six youngsters from Robert Baldwin School (Wilson Avenue) tested Alex for about 90 minutes. They also visited the kilns.



### Milton Historical Society

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

The Journal is published  
three times a year.

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

## Alex Cooke's first biographies go to printer this fall

Alex Cooke's important new reference book is on its way.

Over the past several years Alex has put together more than 200 biographies of Milton area people. About 100 of these – people who died here before 1930 – will make up the first volume. We should see it before the end of the year. Brenda Whitlock served as editor.

"To make the book easier to use by researchers we are producing it in loose-leaf format," says Jim Dills, who has

worked closely with Alex on this project. "This will allow for the insertion of new pages as research turns up additional information on prominent Miltonians."

Those purchasing the first volume will have the opportunity to register so they can be notified when the next volume is issued, probably next fall. Because it is largely a reference work just 250 copies are being produced so purchasers will want to place orders early.

## June 24 visit gave us five hours in mid-1800s

It's hard to imagine a better way to experience the mid-1800s than to visit the Westfield Heritage Centre. At least that's what about a dozen of us felt in late June after our tour of the 32-acre site operated by the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority.

Soldiers in mid-19th century uniforms were everywhere – marching, practising field tactics, even undergoing a court martial and suffering in the stocks.

Elsewhere we watched acrobats, marionettes and magicians – all part of Dr. Augustus Keoneger's Circus Maximus, as performed two centuries ago.

But for us first-time visitors the true stars were the volunteer interpreters (Friends of Westfield) and the dozens of heritage buildings brought to the Centre from many parts of southern Ontario over the past 35 years. A few examples:

- The former railway station from nearby Jerseyville on the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Line. It was the first building on the site. In the railway sale Brantford teachers Glen Kilmer and Goldie MacDonell beat out the only other bidder. But they faced their first crisis when the railway insisted that the station be moved right away. The risk-prone pair re-acted by purchasing the 32

acres near Rockton. (Glen is still active—he was a visitor the day we were there.)

- The Episcopal Methodist church that served its Mountsberg congregation for 115 years. These days many couples choose to be married there.

- The D'Aubigny Inn from Brantford. It's eight upstairs beds are unused these days but it's still serving delicious meals.

- A drugstore operated by Dr. Beatty at Kilbride.

- A log school from the mid-1800s. Formerly in Brant County, it was dismantled and re-assembled on the site, log by log. Here Cecil Hamilton, a friend of Marjorie Powys and a life-long educator, was the storyteller. He typified the dozens of enthusiastic "Friends" who were so anxious to tell us about their "historical homes."

The Centre, which at one stage had to cease operations for six years because of financial problems, is now a co-operative venture of the Friends, the Hamilton-Wentworth Region and the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority. It is open on Sundays and holidays. Major attractions include the U.S. Civil War Re-enactment in mid-August and "Christmas in the Country" the first three weekends in December.

## Video Master Les Meszaros to screen new gems

At our Oct. 19 meeting celebrated producer Les Meszaros will show us the results of several busy months of video-making.

Les didn't have to go far from his Cedar Springs Road home to film the story of Thomas and Matilda Simpson. They arrived in 1818. Thomas, a cavalryman in the Napoleonic wars, was granted 100 acres on 12 Mile Creek, now the site of Cedar Springs Community.

Four years after their arrival the Simpsons helped build a log church (Presbyterian) at No. 5 Highway and Guelph Line.

Les' Oct. 19 program will also include a recently-completed video about Grimsby and its role in the war of 1812.

## Jan. 18 your chance to tell about movies

Movies first came into our lives 100 years ago and we'll celebrate the event at our Jan. 18 meeting in Hugh Foster Hall.

To open the program Ken Lamb will spend a few minutes describing some of the major developments in movie-making history. Then it will be show-and-tell. We'll all have a chance to talk about the good times and scary times we've often bragged about.

We expect many fascinating tales about the movies shown for so many years in the Roxy (Princess) Theatre on Main Street.

If you have any movie programs, posters or old movie magazines please bring them along.

## More than 100 attend Reunion at Pinegrove

Reta Woodley attended the June 24 re-union of the former Pinegrove School in rural Georgetown (Fifth Side Road, east of 9th Line). More than 100 attended. The school closed in 1963 and now serves as a community centre.

**Marion and Bruce MacNab** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 11. Scores of friends greeted them at the Italian Canadian Club hall; among them was the Maltese Consul. Bruce won the Distinguished Flying Medal for his service in the epic Battle of Malta and recently received a 50-year commemorative medal from the consul.

**Betty Ann Wolder** of the Milton Choristers was among several Milton singers who toured the Netherlands in May as part of the 200-voice Celebration Choir. The tour by the Southern Ontario choir marked the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II and emphasized the role of Canadians in the liberation of Holland. Betty Ann's husband, Theo, took photos and wrote an article for the St. Paul's United Church newsletter.

**Mabel Coulson**, one of the early members of the Society, lost her husband, Harold, four months ago. Both Mabel (Wigglesworth) and Harold represent pioneer Halton families.

**Ad Woodley** is still smiling – and driving. He easily passed the compulsory driving test on his 80th birthday.

Late in June **Dave and Jean MacLachlan** hosted 38 members of the Clan MacLachlan Society in their Oakville home. Among the guests was **Tom MacLachlan** of London, England, who founded the Society, which is growing fast in Canada. On his mother's side, as we know from his recent presentations at our meetings, David is a descendant of pioneer Milton miller **Jasper Martin**.

The "**Robertson** screw-driver" was one of the Canadian inventions illustrated during the Canada Day celebrations in Ottawa. Master of ceremonies Kurt Browning, the skater, hoisted a huge model of the tool on the nation-wide tv broadcast. Inventor-industrialist **P. L. Robertson** arrived in Milton in 1908 to establish the firm that played such a prominent role in the lives of hundreds of Miltonians. A national figure, "P. L." lived here until his death in 1951.

## Notes in passing

After taking a summer break **Lois Knight** is back at work on her history of Hornby. In the past two years she has collected huge files and scores of photos about the community going back to 1821. There's no publication date in sight but Lois knows it will be a challenge to fashion her mountain of material into a book of practical size.

**George Wachmann's** plan to establish a rural seniors community is getting international attention. This summer two major broadcasters – CBC and BBC – interviewed him about the 139-acre site on Britannia Road. It's just west of Lowville United Church and across the road from a golf course. The plan calls for 39 homes to be purchased by seniors within the next year or so; the project has been incorporated as the Lowville Seniors Community Ltd.

**Walt Elliot's** family is prominent in a recent book *Historical Plaques and Cairns in Bruce County*. The book describes the foundry built by William Elliot in the 1870s in Chesley. In 1883 he built a grist mill in the same community.

The 200th anniversary of the Ontario Register Bill in mid-summer had special meaning for **Jack Charlton, Alex Cooke, Jim Dills** and **Tim Kingsbury**. Our researchers develop a lot of material for various books and projects from registry office records. **Alex Cooke** is our "expert" in the area. Ceremonies to mark 200 years of Ontario land records were held in

Milton and more than 50 other registry offices in the province. Registrar **John Menard** presided at a brief ceremony. Speakers included Mayor **Gord Krantz**, **Jim Dills** and MPP **Tom Chudleigh**.

## Choose the past as a present for Christmas

Never in the past has so much of Milton's history been available in print for the enjoyment of this generation and as a family pass-along.

**A Walk in Historic Milton, the County Town of Halton 1853-1974** - Just released in an expanded version the booklet provides general background on the town plus more than 40 buildings.

Copies \$2

**Directory of the Members of the Municipal Council of the Town of Milton 1857-1993** - A compilation of the members fully indexed for quick reference.

Copies \$5

**Milton Remembers World War II 1939-1945** - Interviews recount war experiences and notes reflect wartime Milton. 140 pages, 170 photos.

Copies \$19.95

**Milton Area Biographies** - A soon-to-be-released reference on more than 100 people from Milton's past who died before 1930. Publication price and date are not known yet.

**Moments in History, Reflections of Halton's County Town 1833-1865** - A 200 page illustrated hard back book of "moments" which reflect the growth and development of the Milton area.

Copies \$39.95

**Most books are available from Smithbooks in Milton Mall or Harris Stationery in downtown Milton or at our meetings.**





# The Journal

Volume 10 Number 1 Published by the Milton Historical Society

April  
1995



-Photo by Graham Paine, Courtesy Canadian Champion  
*Heritage Award winners, front to back, Vera and John Delacourt, Doris and Don Priddle, Chris Burnett and teacher Donna Funnell. The awards were presented during Heritage Week in February. (See story on page 3)*

## Let's find our own way to map program bring along your favourite April 20

Tim Kingsbury and Jim Dills will enter new program territory at our April 20 meeting in Hugh Foster Hall. For the first time since the Society was formed more than 15 years ago an entire program will be devoted to maps.

It will be mostly show-and-tell. Please bring along your favourite map of the Halton area and tell us a bit about its history.

One of the prize exhibits from our archives will be the elusive fire maps of 1927 Milton. As we know Jim and Tim recently spent many hours in Ottawa and London arranging for copies before the maps themselves were uncovered in the attic of the Delacourts historic home right here in Milton.

## Our newest book "Milton Remembers" off the press in May

The Society's book "*Milton Remembers World War II*", in production for almost two years, comes off the press early in May.

The timing fits neatly with major Milton Legion events to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war. And our publications director, Ed Goodall, plans a special launching at our May 20 meeting.

The project has expanded from the original concept. Our first intention was to record about 15 interviews of war experiences and keep the tapes and transcripts in our archives. But we decided that our work complemented service records compiled by the local Legion Branch. The Legion agreed and reinforced its support with funds to publish the book.

Many of the book's "characters" appeared at our February meeting. The men and women whose experiences fill most of the pages include members Bruce MacNab, Mike Ledwith, Ken Hassard and Rodney Ramsden.

Ken Lamb wrote most of the text. Don Hayward supervised design. And Jim Dills selected photos and with a desktop publisher's magic set the type and brought all the elements together in a 140-page, 170 picture volume.

## Question Heritage reps

At our March meeting members were given an opportunity to question Paul Attack and Colin Best about the proposed move of Halton Region Museum from Kelso to Sproat House on the millpond.

Colin, chair of the feasibility committee on the move, and Paul, Halton Heritage Director, answered about a dozen questions. Subjects included traffic and attendance patterns, environmental aspects and size of the addition.

## H. Comber elected president

Helen Comber, formerly membership director, was elected the Society's eighth president at our January meeting. Helen succeeds Marjorie Powys who served the traditional two years; a framed plaque was presented to the retiring president.

Employed as senior secretary to judges at the Brampton Courthouse, Helen and her family came to Milton ten years ago from Mississauga. Whenever she wants to consult with her predecessor she won't have far to go - she and Marjorie live side-by-side in plaqued homes on Mill Street.

Helen is strongly in support of efforts to preserve the Waldie blacksmith shop on James Street. Other priorities include proper maintenance of the Pioneer Cemetery (Bronte Street) and projects to raise the Society's profile and increase membership.

Other changes in the executive: Frank Sisson, formerly LACAC liaison, succeeds Helen Comber as membership director; Bruce Carlin, who joined a few months ago, succeeds Brian Walton as

## Bid now for May and auctioneer talk

When auctioneer Ward Brownridge speaks to us **May 18** in Hugh Foster Hall he'll relate some of the highlights in his 27-year career.

Over the years Ward has presided over scores of estate sales in Peel and Halton. Some started at 6 p.m. and lasted until two in the morning; others needed two days. Some sales raised \$250,000.

Sales for well-known families handled by Ward included those for the Posts, probably the earliest landowners in the Trafalgar/Highway 5 area; several members of the Breckon family, and the two-day event in Milton about 15 years ago for Bessie Smith.

Because he expects we'll be curious about specific sales and the subject in general Ward has scheduled a question period to follow his talk.

publicity director, Brian joining special events with George Wachmann; Gail Richardson succeeds Brenda Whitlock as archivist.

Continuing members of the executive are: Jack Charlton, Alex Cooke, Jim Dills, Jessie Hamilton, Tim Kingsbury, Ken Lamb, Audrea Lear-Costigan, Marjorie Powys, and Marsha Waldie. Don Pelz and Dorrie Greig, both Milton Heritage (LACAC), and Mabel Parker, Nasagiweya Historical Society, attend meetings as liaison members.

## Senior songsters usher in New Year

Seniors took the spotlight at the Mayor's New Year's Day levee in the Town Hall.

Songs by about 20 choristers from Milton Seniors' Activity Centre (Childs Drive) produced a special resonance in the historic halls. Joyce Hayward directed the singing.

Mayor Gordon Krantz and Audrea Lear-Costigan greeted more than 100 visitors in front of the gorgeous Christmas tree. Many youngsters attended with their parents.

## Living history visit planned for June 24

Don and Ruth Taylor are arranging a visit to Westfield Village for Saturday **June 24**.

This is a "living history" community established near Rockton by a local heritage group. Many period buildings have been moved there from the Hamilton area; "residents" dress in a style that emphasizes the 19th century atmosphere. (Some of the scenes in the "Anne of Green Gables" tv series were shot there.)

Travel details will be announced at our coming meetings. If you need information before then please call the Taylors (335-8848).

## All went well in show and tell

A stimulating variety of historic and some pre-historic items appeared at the show-and-tell session at our Jan. 19 meeting.

About 30 members enjoyed the 16 presentations.

Ad Woodley told how he unearthed a collection of stone arrowheads from his father's farm just south of where the Milton hospital now stands. Ad learned to distinguish the sound made by the plow blade's contact with an arrowhead. He collected dozens of the souvenirs and many years later learned that some may date back to 500 B. C.

We'll describe the other items in our next issue.

## Helen, Marjorie lead at Christmas party

About 30 members took part in the Christmas party at the Combers' historic home on Mill Street.

When it looked like we might miss out on carol singing Marjorie Powys sat down at the piano and Helen Comber gave a spirited performance as song leader.

Cathy and John Hoover attended to accept a plaque for outstanding maintenance of their historic home.

Thanks to members' generosity no one went home hungry.



**Milton Historical  
Society**  
P. O. Box 85 Milton, Ont.  
L9T 2Y3

**The Journal is published  
three times a year.**

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

## Great day, big crowd for annual Heritage program

On a mild sunny day the turnout at our Heritage Awards program Feb. 19 was the best ever.

Jim Dills entertained about 45 on his hour-long history walk of downtown Milton, more than twice as many as had taken part in any of the four previous strolls.

When the walkers returned to the awards program at Hugh Foster Hall many had to stand because about 70 already were seated.

Bruce MacNab, a member of the Society and winner of the Distinguished Flying Medal in the decisive North African and Malta battles of World War II, gave the key talk. Bruce described how Hitler came to power in Germany; he also related dramatic and amusing episodes from scores of wartime flights.

Other aspects of the 90-minute program:

- The entire proceedings were filmed by the Halton Community Seniors for their March tv program (Channel 4).

The history walk portion was presented the following night.

- Town Crier Ralph Wilding again jolted people to attention to open the proceedings.

- Walt Elliot presided; awards were presented by Mayor Gordon Krantz, Society president Helen Comber, Heritage Milton (LACAC) chair Dorrie Greig, Brad Clements and MPP Noel Duignan.

- Marsha Waldie and her sister, Gail, were in costume at a many-sided display of the 130-year-old family blacksmith shop on James Street. Others who set up displays: Milton Heritage (LACAC), Milton Seniors' Activity Centre, Grand River Conservation Authority, Sam Sherratt School and Don and Doris Priddle, winners of the architectural award.

- Jessie Hamilton and Treasa Lamb fed the multitudes thanks to contributions from many members.

## War tales fill Hugh Foster hall as prelude to new Society book

More than 50 people crowded Hugh Foster Hall Feb. 16 to hear first-hand reports of war experiences. They also learned about our soon-to-be released book about Second World War memories.

More than a dozen guests - all of whom are "characters" in the coming book - recalled war memories. They included RCAF veterans John Brown, Jack Dawkins, Bruce MacNab, Ken Marshall and Ralph Merkley and Ed Goodall, RAF. Barb and Lorne Havard, Ken James, Ed Jones and Rodney Ramsden (U.K.) "represented" the Army. Ken Hassard and Bruce Kitchen told Navy stories.

Nelly Lorenz described her five hungry, scary wartime years in Amsterdam;

Marie Clements, "stranded" in Britain when the war started, became a meteorologist with the RAF; Norma Kitchen helped produce Lancaster bombers at AVRO, Malton.

Marjorie Brown and Eileen Jones came here as war brides.

Jim Dills introduced more than a dozen exhibits. Several were loaned by Heather Jones, daughter of Bob Murdock, including the Military Medal won by Bob in the Italian campaign. Another exhibit was one of the memorial trays presented by the Town to families of those killed in the war.

Please invite a friend to our  
April 20th meeting.

## Heritage Award Winners for 1994

Seven persons were recognized at the Heritage Award ceremony Feb. 19.

### Architecture

Don and Doris Priddle did a masterful job of restoring their stone house in Nassagaweya (Guelph Line, north of 20th Side Road). Their display showed how the home has appeared at various stages over the past century. Locally it is sometimes referred to as the Ward or Esterbrook House, after former owners.

### Archives

Vera and John Delacourt donated a full set of coloured fire maps containing detailed information about Milton buildings and streets. The maps, buried for more than 60 years in the attic of the Delacourt home (Woodward and Martin Streets) were produced in 1927 by the Canadian Fire Underwriters organization.

### Education

Teacher Donna Funnell of Sam Sherratt School guided two grade eight classes in fashioning miniature clay houses of the Victorian period. They used our book *Historic Homes of Milton* as a project reference.

### Visual

Campbellville artist Chris Burnett is half-way through a plan to produce five paintings on Halton heritage subjects. Her second showing Milton Fairgrounds was displayed at the Awards ceremony. She now is working on a painting of the Chisholm farm (Sixth Line and Campbellville Road). Limited edition prints are sold.

### Writing

Douglas Sloane of Etobicoke produced an attractive book about the White and Sloane families of early Milton. (A copy is now in the Society's archives.) Douglas is the grandson of Richard White who came to Milton in the 1870s and who was editor and owner of The Milton Reformer for more than 50 years.



## "Fighting Joe" Martin, a native of Milton, battled the CPR and John A. Macdonald

A fifth generation member of the Canadian Martins paid tribute at our March 16 meeting to a battling ancestor.

David MacLachlan, Oakville, recalled some of the highlights in the career of Joseph "Fighting Joe" Martin. Born in Milton in 1852 "Joe" was a railroad telegrapher and a teacher before becoming a lawyer in Portage-la-Prairie, Manitoba. He was the first Liberal elected in Winnipeg.

Both as a member of the Manitoba Legislature and later in Parliament he fought bitter battles with Prime Minister John A. Macdonald on bedrock issues. "Joe" championed the view long held by many Westerners: Macdonald's high-tariff policy enriched the CPR and eastern

manufacturers at the expense of the West.

Another classic issue was education. "Joe" was instrumental in Manitoba's rejection of separate schools, David said.

Later "Joe" moved to British Columbia where he briefly served as Premier. One of his victories there was to establish rail links with the northwest U.S. to compete with the CPR.

His fourth and final legislative battlefield was the House of Commons in Britain. After that he returned to Vancouver and his life-long law practice. He died there in 1923.

Our speaker clearly admired his great uncle's grit. (David's grandfather was a brother of "Joe".)

He lost many election battles and championed some lost causes, David said, but he never gave up.

He also enjoyed some of the good things a prosperous law office provided, including a Rolls Royce he brought back from Britain. In his will he left substantial bequests to many relatives. He died a bachelor.

A copy of his hand-written will was among family records presented to President Helen Comber for our archives.

Members enjoyed the speaker's table-top photo display: pioneer miller Edward Martin was there, so were David's grandchildren and at least one member of all five generations in between.

Coming in May '95  
Our newest book  
2 Years in Preparation

Just  
**\$19.95**

### Milton Remembers

## World War II

This book's 140 pages and more than 170 photos describes the war's impact on Milton, a very small town in the 1940s.

Veterans tell what it was like to fight in the air, on land and at sea. Others relate how they survived years in prison camp or in enemy-occupied territory. The book contains memorial photos of more than 30 servicemen who were killed and identifies more than 500 local men and women who enlisted. Plus dozens of stories and photos of how Miltonians met the challenges at home.

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

I wish \_\_\_ copies of *Milton Remembers World War II* at \$19.95 a copy. (No PST or GST). My payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please add \$4 for mailing outside central Halton area.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# The Journal

Volume 9 Number 3 Published by the Milton Historical Society

January  
1995



*David MacLachlan, a descendant of Jasper Martin's third son, Edward, presented President Marjorie Powys with a copy of the Martin genealogy and a book on Fighting Joe Martin in November. He will be back on March 16 as guest speaker on the Martin family with emphasis on "Fighting Joe."*

## Martin genealogies, book, added to archives

A great-great grandson of pioneer miller Jasper Martin has donated two significant genealogies to the Society's archives. Donor is David MacLachlan of Oakville, a descendant of Jasper's third son, Edward.

One of the records he donated at our November meeting listed descendants of Edward and his brothers John and Joseph. This covers the period 1797 to 1949. The second gift includes Edward's descendants up to 1994.

David MacLachlan also has donated a copy of the book "Fighting Joe Martin." Born in Milton, Joe moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan and later to Western Canada. He served briefly as Premier of British Columbia; he also served in the Manitoba legislature and in the Canadian and British parliaments.

He was active politically from the late 1800s until about 1915. His experience in serving in four legislatures is believed unique.

## Milton's fire maps of 1927: One story, two great plots

A set of Milton's 1927 hand colored fire underwriters maps is firmly installed in our archives.

It's a fine historical asset that outlines every building in the municipality of that date. How we got the maps is a story with two plots. There's the diligent-researcher-covers-thousands-of-miles version – and the equally stirring you-never-know-what-you'll-find-in-your-attic story.

The first stars our researcher Tim Kingsbury. He and Jim Dills had been on the trail of the maps for months. The maps give an amazing amount of information about Milton as it was almost 70 years ago – location of homes and business buildings, their design and what they were built of. There's also valuable information about road widths.

In the search Jim had found black and white versions of the maps in the National Archives in Ottawa. But Tim had a tip that London England might be a good place to look for the colored ver-

sions. On an overseas business trip soon after, Tim found his prize. He arranged to get coloured reproductions via slides of the six maps.

Meanwhile back in Milton, Jim was following up a message from Frank Sisson; the Delacourts (Woodward and Martin) had found some maps well back and hidden in their attic. Their home is about a two-minute walk from our archives in the Sproat house.

Vera Delacourt arranged a viewing for Jim. He was stunned. He knew right away these maps were a perfect match for Tim's slides and their clarity and

generally good state of preservation reflected all the information conveyed in the water colors applied so long ago.

Vera and John promptly offered to donate the maps to the growing Historical Society archives.

So who put the maps in the attic? Bess Robinson lived in the house twice – as a child with her aunt and uncle and later with her husband, Mel. Bess says the most likely explanation is that the maps belonged to her uncle Tom Coxe who was a Town councillor and lived in the home in 1927. (Coxe Boulevard in Milton is named after Tom.)

*Start 1995 off right . . .*

*by taking part in the Mayor's Levee  
at Town Hall, New Year's Day.*

Doors open at 1.30 p.m. Enjoy our own version of a tradition that has been observed for centuries.

## Jim Dills extracts drama from Victoria Park's past

Today we see Victoria Park as a peaceful place. But in the past it has known bitter conflict and horrifying executions.

At our Oct. 20 meeting Jim Dills, reading extracts from his book, "Moments in History," dramatized many chapters.

Members sat in rapt silence as Jim described two public hangings in front of the court house. In 1862 an estimated 700 residents – a huge crowd for a small community – watched the death writhings of 18-year-old Edward Keenan.

Some years later the original bandstand – only a few yards from where the scaffold had stood – produced far happier memories. Ad Woodley laughingly recalled playing there in the early 1930s with the Milton Brass Band.

Jim described the tough political battle waged in the mid-1800s by MP John White to have Milton named Halton's county town. The choice was not popular with Oakville voters and White lost his seat at the following election.

But as the county town Milton became the site of the all-important courthouse (1855) and jail. Hundreds of people working in the service sector here today likely owe their jobs to John White's political wiles.

Over the years the four-acre gift to

Halton County by Hugh Foster played many roles. It had tennis courts at one time; today it favours play equipment for children. Other features are the war memorial, the World War 1 cannon, the bell from the original Town Hall and the bandstand recently moved from Allendale. At the southeast corner the former jailer's house now is the Women's Place shelter.

The site was named Victoria Park in 1909, eight years after the Queen's death.

Jim didn't mention it but Victoria Park has close ties with the Milton Historical Society. Our organization, spearheaded by Jim, came together to save the vacated courthouse from demolition. Several years and \$3,000,000 later (1985) a courageous Council officially opened it as our Town Hall.

This was soon followed (1988) by renovations to the original Registry Office building now known as Hugh Foster Hall and home to many community group meetings and events.

### Committee looks at Sproat House for Halton Museum

A steering committee is meeting every two weeks or so to consider the Sproat House on Margaret St. as a possible site for Halton Region Museum. It is now located in Kelso Conservation area.

Our committee representative, George Wachmann, says discussions are at an early stage. Eventually the committee will report to the Region and Milton councils on whether they consider it is feasible to locate the museum in the historic Margaret Street building.



### Milton Historical Society

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

#### Executive

President - Marjorie Powys  
 Past President - Walt Elliot  
 Treasurer - Jessie Hamilton  
 Secretary - Marsha Waldie  
 Membership - Helen Comber  
 Special Events - George Wachmann  
 Liaison - Audrea Lear-Costigan  
 Program - Don and Ruth Taylor  
 Archivist - Brenda Whitlock  
 Genealogy - Alex Cooke  
 Research - J. Charlton, J. Dills, T. Kingsbury  
 Publications - Ed Goodall  
 LACAC Liaison - Frank Sisson  
 Journal Editor - Ken Lamb  
 Publicity, Promotion - Brian Walton

#### Annual Memberships

Single \$7; Family \$10; Students \$5; Life \$60

## New video, gifts to archives make for a memorable program

The premiere of Dr. Les Meszaros' video about the Boston Church at our Nov. 17 meeting attracted a lot of attention. More than 50 attended, including about 15 members of the Boston congregation.

Two important gifts to our archives made it a truly remarkable evening. John and Vera Delacourt of Milton and David MacLachlan, Oakville, made the archival presentations. (See separate stories.)

The video traces the history of the

### *Heritage Milton (LACAC) sparks new effort to save Waldie shop*

Another effort is under way to preserve the Waldie Blacksmith shop. Beginning in 1865 the family operated the James Street shop for more than a century.

For a long time Marsha Waldie and her sister, Gail Brown, have been searching for a way to restore the deteriorating building.

Heritage Milton chair Dorrie Greig is leading the new drive. She is putting together a committee to consider the various aspects, especially the means of funding. The Town has agreed to spend up to \$2,500 on a feasibility study.

It you would like to take part in the discussions please get in touch with Marsha at 878-1146.

### *Society loses A. McNiven*

Alex McNiven, a member for several years, died this summer. A widower, he is survived by two daughters.

Alex, a World War 11 army veteran, served 30 years in the Ontario Provincial Police. Many will recall his good-humored talk two years ago about some of his police exploits.

Presbyterian congregation since its formation in 1820. A log church on the Third Line site in the former Esquesing Township was completed in 1835. It was later moved to make way for the present stone building; its cornerstone was laid in 1868.

In the mid 1800s the church was named after Rev. Thomas Boston, of Ettrick, Scotland, hometown of some of the local congregation.

The experience of Les Meszaros in producing some 80 historic films and videos was evident. So was the skill of his wife, Mary, who produced dozens of paintings for the production.

Milton piper Gail Brown provided a stirring close for the video. In full uniform she marched around the historic church playing "Amazing Grace." Gail is pipe major of the Milton Optimist Band.

The program included three other videos made by "Team Meszaros" – about Lowville, Milton and the 162-year-old Stewart House (Third Line).

## Meet many special guests at end-of-war program Feb. 16

At our Feb. 16 meeting you'll learn how the Society plans to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. And you'll meet many of the project's "stars."

We've been interviewing Miltonians for more than a year about their war memories. The tapes and transcripts, and the narrative chapters based on them, are ready for our archives.

But the fun part is that more than a dozen of the people interviewed will be our special guests, including Society members Bruce MacNab, Mike Ledwith and Ken Hassard.

We'll have an opportunity to swap memories with them and to recall special moments of wartime Milton.

An added feature is a complete edition of a pictorial history of the war. This

## *New and tried, true get together Jan. 19*

We'll get several versions of "show and tell" at our Jan. 19 meeting in Hugh Foster Hall.

President Marjorie Powys will give the traditional report on the Society's doings in 1994. This will be Marjorie's last appearance as president. She's stepping down after two years at the helm.

Also stepping down after many productive years is archivist Brenda Whitlock.

Nominations chair Walt Elliot has been busy preparing for the election to be held at the January meeting. Walt would be more than happy to receive your nominations. Call him at 876-3377.

Following the brief business session we're all invited to "show and tell."

The idea is to talk about a family treasure – cushion, tablecloth, medal – or whatever. Come prepared to take part in the fun.

Previous sessions of this type have been most popular and we certainly want to preserve the tradition.

bi-weekly glossy magazine appeared throughout the war in Britain.

Rodney Ramsden, one of those interviewed for the project, will bring his set of 15 bound volumes which may be the only complete set in Canada.

### *Martin St. couple wins housing award*

Cathy and John Hoover of 104 Martin St. are being honored for keeping their heritage home in excellent condition.

Since moving into the home two years ago the Hoovers have installed a board and batten exterior and a wooden fence.

The award, presented at our Christmas party, is for houses at least 75 years old. The Hoovers' home was built more than 130 years ago.

## Briefly noted . .

Alex Cooke, Ed Goodall, Marjorie Powys, Brian Walton and Marsha Waldie served at our display mid-September at Milton Mall. Our features included photos of historic homes and our recently-published book containing names of all Milton councillors since the town was incorporated in 1857.

It was a sad September for two members. **Jack Charlton's** sister, Gladys Vassallo (Trimble) died in Cambridge. And **Audrey Newell** flew to Britain for the funeral of her father, Eddie Baker, in south London. Until 1994 Eddie, who was 94, visited Milton every year to see the family.

**Ruth Taylor** had an exciting experience during our September tour of Joseph Brant museum. A display described the 10 communities that became part of Burlington 20 years ago. The write-up on Lowville named Ruth's maternal great-great-grandfather, Rev. Daniel Pickett, as founder of that community. Born in Connecticut in 1771 he settled in this area in the 1790s.

During the fall **Marion Dettlor** and **Merv Wilson** underwent serious operations. By late November they were on their feet again – in time for the Christmas hustle.

**Len McNeil** had warm memories a few weeks ago when former member **Glenna Bradburn** was appointed chief of police in Guelph. Many years before Glenna was born, when Len was a school principal near Lindsay, he used to ride to school with a boy who later became Glenna's father.

"Milestones and Millstones" was the title of **Jim Dills'** recent talk to the local University Women's organization. Jim reviewed the significance of the mill, the county town designation, relief from the isolation, the twin pillars of religion and education and the shifting industrial development of the community with a glance at the personalities along the way.

## Joys and Jitters are part of museum's moving experience

More than 20 members found their way to Burlington's Joseph Brant Museum Sept. 15 to learn of some of the joys and jitters involved in moving a large building 300 feet.

### Heritage winners honoured Feb. 19

The honouring of four local winners will be the high point of the Milton heritage celebration at Hugh Foster Hall Sunday, Feb. 19. The event will be staged from 1.30 to 3.30.

Winners will be acclaimed for preserving heritage through education, photography, writing and architecture. They will be selected by representatives of our Society and Heritage Milton (LACAC).

The program includes displays by local heritage organizations and if weather permits a historic walk in the downtown area.

The unique awards – metal plaques attached to limestone salvaged from the historic Bruce St. School – were first presented in 1990.

### *They muddied water so good-bye 500 carp*

The Town drained the millpond in November and removed more than 500 carp in hopes of making the water clearer.

Bottom-feeders, the carp were blamed for keeping the mud stirred up in the shallow pond. The idea now is to replace the carp with bass; fishing will be permitted.

Trout are stocked for the children's weekend derby in spring but the water becomes too warm in summer for trout to become year-round residents.

The Town work included some repairs to the dam at the pond outlet.

**1995 Memberships  
may be paid during the  
January meeting**

The July move provided space for expansion of Joseph Brant hospital.

We saw a video of the smooth operation: a single tractor pulled the large white building on a path of wooden planks. A confident contractor had recommended that none of the contents had to be disturbed. But provincial authorities opted for caution: every single piece was removed.

That caused a few jitters. So did the slow-drying concrete foundation, which meant that 17,000 artifacts couldn't be moved in time for the official opening by the Lieutenant-Governor.

When we were there a lot of work still remained to be done in most display areas.

Guide John Tipper gave us background on the building. Constructed about 60 years ago, it is a smaller replica of the house built in 1800 by Joseph Brant. A staunch ally of the British in the U.S. War of Independence, he was among the first residents of the area. He died in 1807.

Only a few of Brant's possessions are in the museum. We saw a sword, some dishes and an enormous silver medal presented by the British.

## *Society donates new microfilm to library*

Our Society has donated microfilm of the Gore District Municipal records to Milton Public Library. The census, assessment and collector's records cover the counties of Brant, Halton, Waterloo, Wellington and Wentworth. Some date from an Erin census of 1824-26 for instance. The Nassagaweya census of 1842 is included; so are the census and assessment records of Nelson Township for 1830, 1832 and 1834. Access to the five reels is made easier by an index which the Society provided to the Library's reference section. Reels 3 and 4, for example, include Trafalgar Township with records back to 1816.