



The Journal

PUBLISHED BY THE MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Spring 2003

Volume 18 Issue 1

President's Message

As I write this message, there is snow on the ground and the temperature is hovering around the zero mark. Spring still seems like a long way away. I hope that by the time you get this Journal Spring will have sprung and the winter cold will be a distant memory.

MHS members have been busy since Jan. 1/03 as you will see in the following pages. Elections were held in January and there are a couple of changes to the executive.

Jim Dills has resigned from the Research position. We are going to miss Jim. He has been a leader with MHS since the beginning (25+ years). Although he won't be on the executive we know he will still be attending the general meetings and perhaps give a presentation or two. Jim can now focus his attention on the Mel Robinson book, which has been in the works for some time.

Jim would also be happy to offer guidance to anyone wanting to take on the Research position.

Thanks Jim, for all your contributions.

We now have a Journal committee - Ken Lamb and Ed Goodall - however, the Journal Editor position is still open. I thank all the contributors for this edition of the Journal. If you know of someone that would be interested in taking on this challenge or if anyone would like to submit an article, please contact myself or one of the executive members. It has been suggested that the Journal be reduced to a newsletter that would come out once or twice a year. Would love to hear your thoughts.

Mirella Marshall
President



WILLIAM LITTLE'S SADDLE SHOP, 208 MAIN STREET, CIRCA 1900

April First

submitted by
Ed Goodall

Known as April Fools or All Fools Day since the 1500's, it is a day when the unwary would be sent out for a left-hand screwdriver or a can of striped paint. In 1582, when the Gregorian Calendar was introduced by the church and the New Year was moved from March 25 to January 1st, some people in Europe continued to celebrate the New Year from March 25th to April 1st and not accepting the change and thus were mocked by their friends as being April Fools. The tradition began in France and quickly spread to the rest of Europe by the 1600's. Today the

pranksters are mostly students who are want to pin a notice on someone's back which reads "Kick Me". Some April Fools receive sympathy from their peers, like twelve yearold Alvin who considered that if Wilbur Wright could build a flying machine out of bicycle parts, so could he. Alvin strapped his fathers step ladder to his bike handlebars and covered it with his mothers drapes to form the wings. Unfortunately the Lift/Drag Ratio was well outside the envelope and all Alvin got was a severe reprimand when he put a large dent in the side of a Police Cruiser. Fortunately his enthusiasm did not wane for he went on to invent a number of useful gadgets.

inside...

The Milton Police Force
A Long awaited Book to be published
Upcoming Events and more

Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall

by Marsha Waldie

This heritage building sits on the west part of Lot 12 in Block 8, Foster Survey and east part of Block A. Today we better know it as the structure which sits east of Knox Presbyterian Church and was previously owned by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

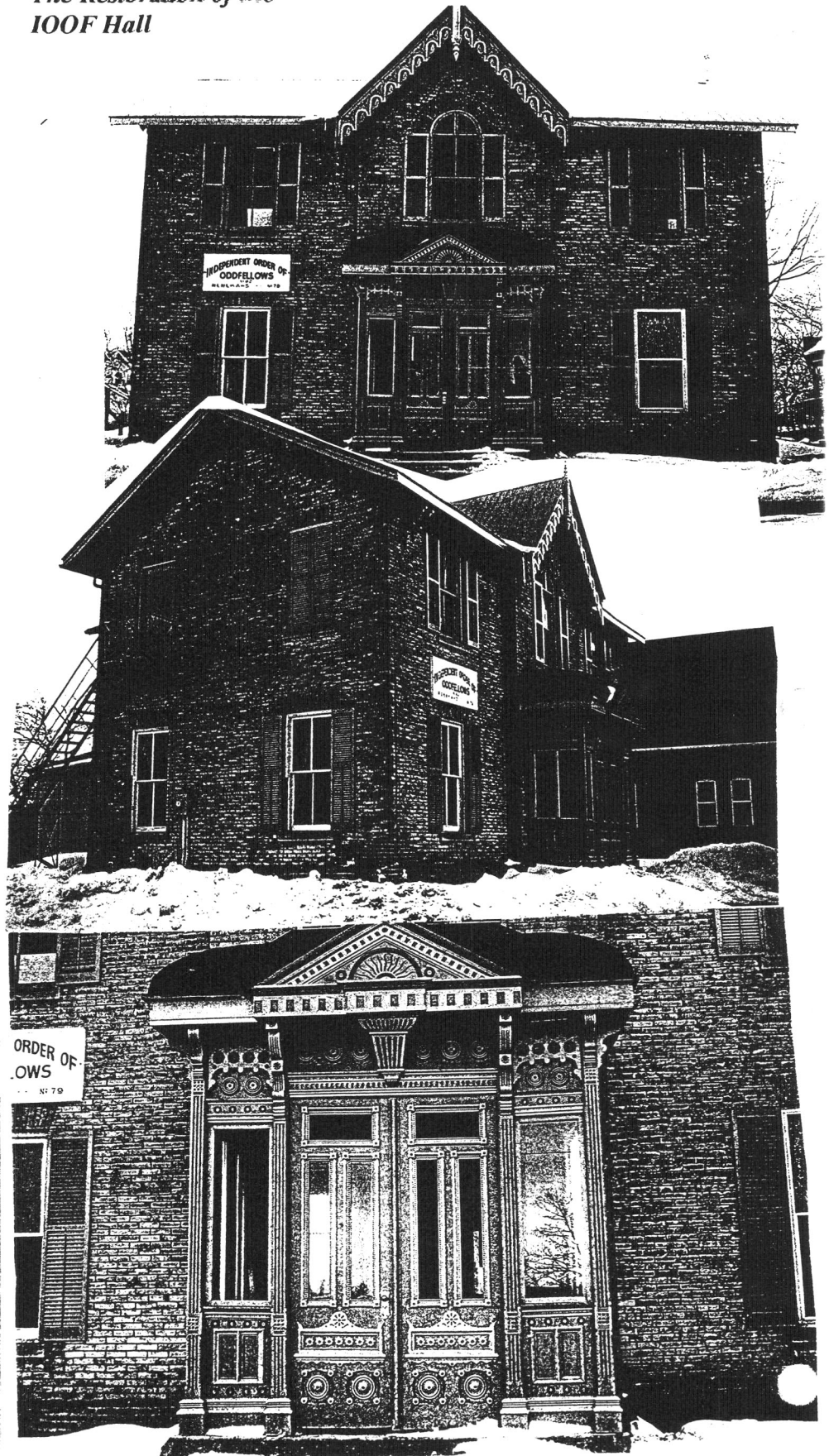
W. L. P. Eager built it as a private residence, known as Roselawn between 1877 - 1879. In 1890 Mr. Eager made a deal with Knox Church to purchase their Manse at 95 Martin St. in a transaction that included the purchase of the property on which the present church stands together with the adjacent house. This house became the next manse.

The property was sold by Knox in 1924 to the IOOF Lodge #92, which was first established in 1872 and held their meetings further east at 198/200 Main Street. As we know this lovely building has been removed from the downtown historic landscape and a vacant lot is now exposed.

In 1905 Evening Star Rebekah Lodge #79 was instituted and eventually held their meetings in this hall. The ladies assisted their brothers in the upkeep and maintenance of the hall. Many socials and card games have been held here over the years for members and the general community at large.

As you know, recently this historic building has once again been sold and it would appear that the new owner is restoring it to its original glory. The unique entrance and the gingerbread has been restored and we can only wait to see what other elements and use the structure will hold. We hope to keep you informed as time goes along.

The Restoration of the IOOF Hall



The Milton Police Force

Source: Milton Canadian Champion

Revised by Ed Goodall



The Milton Police Department was instituted in 1857, when Daniel M. Bowman was appointed Chief Constable with a salary of twenty pounds per year. His job was to enforce all Town By-Laws, Criminal Law, to serve summons and warrants and attend sessions of the Mayors Court and Council meetings. He was also responsible for all monies arising from fines or fees in the discharge of his duties and paid into the Towns Treasury. In 1860 the Chief's salary was converted from pounds to dollars for a sum of fifty dollars a year and the duty of Pound Keeper was added to his roster.

Mr. Bowman was succeeded 1873 by Michael Conway who began with an increased salary of sixty dollars a year. Mr. Conway was awarded the additional title of "Inspector of Licences" for an added twenty dollars a year and this entailed his periodic inspections of Taverns, Inns, Alehouses and any other establishments that provided public entertainment. The population of Milton was 1400.

In 1883, Stinson Bradley was appointed the third Police Chief Constable with a new salary structure of twenty five dollars a year but was allowed to keep all fees collected from court convictions.

John Crow became Chief Constable in 1889 with the additional appointment of "Sanitary Inspector", providing him with an additional ten dollars a year. He was required to furnish the Board of Health with reports.

In 1892 M.S. Bradley was appointed Chief Constable with James Davidson being made his Night Watchman to assist him. Mr. Davidson was on duty nightly from 8:30pm in the winter and 9:30 pm in the summer, until the town bell struck 7 am in the morning. He received 100 dollars per year.

In 1893, Thomas Currie replaced Mr. Davidson while Mr. Bradley remained Chief until 1907, when he was

succeeded by William Chapman and Mr. Chapman received the additional appointment of "Truant Officer" reporting to the Public School Board.

In 1915 Charles R. Jones became Chief Constable with a remarkable raise to \$50.00 per month. In addition to all other duties, Chief Jones was required to periodically visit the reservoir in the capacity of Waterworks Inspector.

"There were three executions in Milton during this period, two in Victoria Park and one in the courtyard."

Three years later, W.A. Chapman was hired as Chief but his starting salary shrunk to \$12.50 per month, however he remained in the position until 1930 when Dan McMullan took over with the added duties of "Water Inspector", "Weed Inspector" and "Poll Tax Collector" for a salary of \$65.00 per month.

Melvin Hatfield succeeded Mr. McMullan in 1933 with a salary of \$60.00 per month.

There were three executions in Milton during this period, two in Victoria Park and one in the Court Yard.

Penalties for minor offences ranged from \$2.00 to \$20.00 or one week or 30 days in Jail.

Two prisoners escaped from the jail one night, by scaling the wall of the courtyard. A sleigh and a team of fast horses was waiting outside. The other escapee slipped out one night and the town's first jailer, a man named Lauke, lost his job.

By 1943 the population of Milton had climbed to 2000 when Frank McNiven became the Chief constable at a salary of \$100.00 a month. He received the additional responsibilities as "Assessor and Enumerator", "Relief Officer" and "Register of Aliens" in a wartime society.

in a wartime society.

1946 brought change when William George Canning became Chief Constable at \$125.00 a month with Vincent Mallon being appointed Night Constable and the added title of Traffic Officer - salary \$116.66 per month.

1948, Douglas L. Caniff was appointed Chief at a salary of \$125.00 a month and in 1949 Hugh Warmington took his place. That same summer Sam Hall became Night Constable and was promoted to Chief in 1951 with an increase to \$200.00 a month. Ted Babiuk took over as Night Constable.

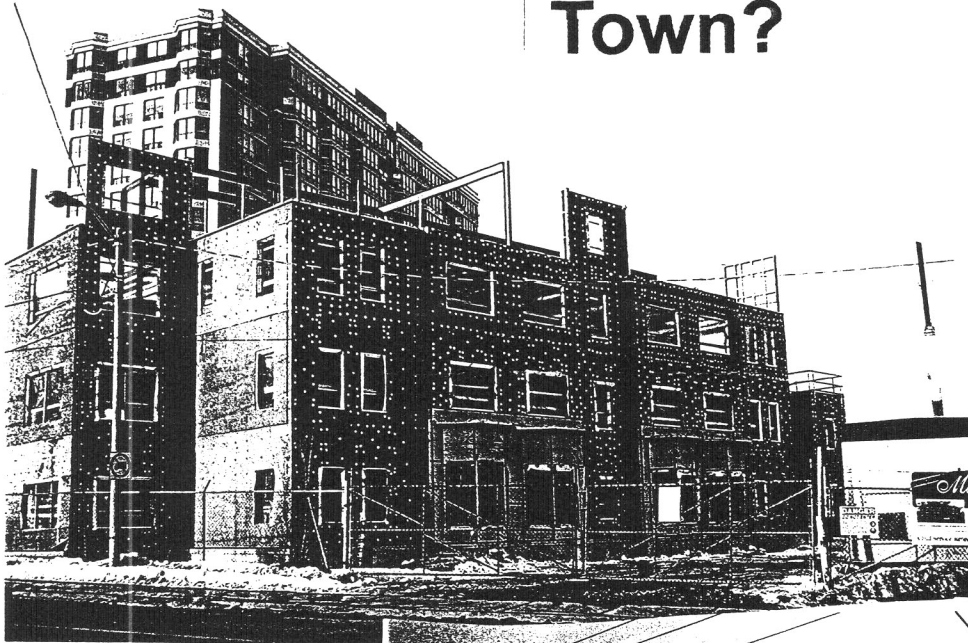
The population in 1951 stood at 2460 and was to increase to 4410 by 1956. Town Council made arrangements with the Ontario Provincial Police for four of their constable to police the town. The town paid their salaries and provided an office. Other expenses were covered by the OPP.

In 1960 the Milton population had reached 5520 and it became necessary for Town Council to hire 33 year old, Murray Ray Andress as Chief of Police and for him to raise a force consisting of Sargent Robert Moreau, Constable Keith Robertson and Constable Len Pickett. Ray Andress, a former OPP officer from the Dundas Detachment, was born in Cultus, Ontario. He remained Milton Police Chief for twenty years in which time there were three murders in the town. The Halton Regional Police Force came into being a 1974 with 400 men region wide and 25 men to police Milton. Ray Andress was made a Staff Inspector in the new force. In 2000 a new police station was built in Milton at 500 Childs Drive.

*Have you got
your draw
tickets yet?*

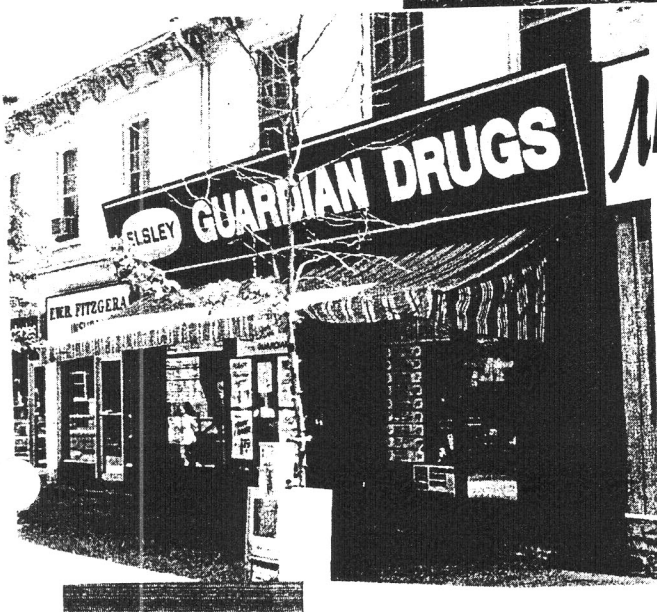
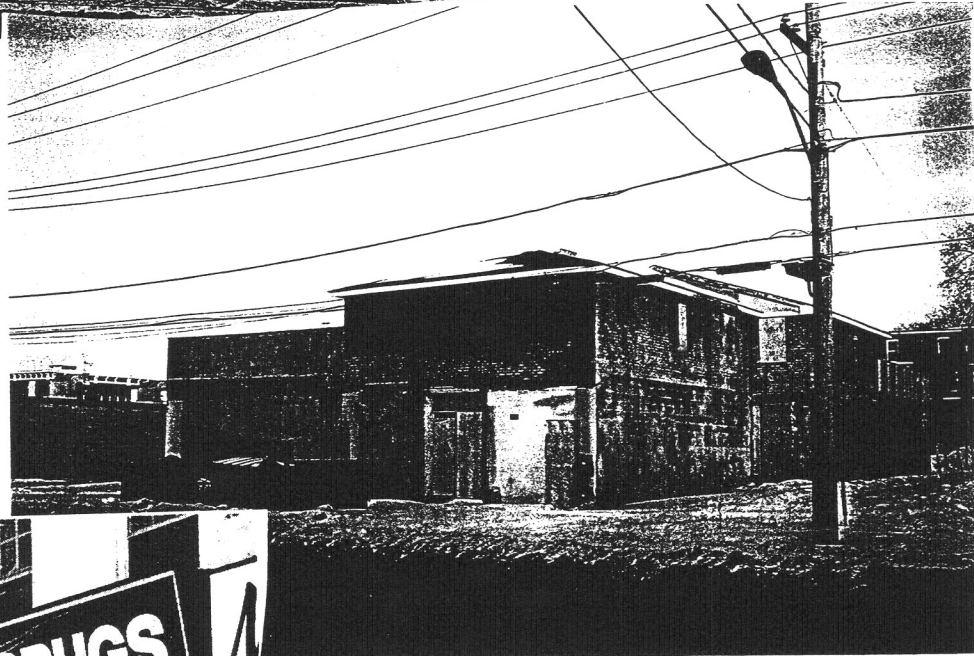
*Call Marsha
905-878-1146*

What's New Around Town?



Martin St. The building of
Martindale Gardens

Mill St.
A New Restaurant



Main St.??

"Milton Memories"

by the late Mel Robinson
submitted by Jim Dills

Publication this fall of "Milton Memories," by the late (G.M.) Mel Robinson, will mark a long-anticipated accomplishment. What began as a series of newspaper columns in 1977 and was intended as a later book began in discussions between Mel and then-publisher of The Champion, Jim Dills.

Circumstances changed and the book failed to materialize although Mel's columns continued. Regrettably Mel died in 1988 and his wife, Bess, in 1995. In the late 1980's Ken Lamb and Jim Dills of the Milton Historical Society talked with Boston Mills Press about publication. Other projects got attention, however, and now 12 Society-books later the columns and recollections which Mel wrote will emerge to illumine the early years of 20th century Milton.

Born in Hamilton, Mel Robinson came as a two-year-old to Milton in 1909, attended public and high schools in Milton and lived in homes on Sydney, Robert and Victoria streets. He later attended Toronto Normal School and taught in Guelph, at Dufferin School on the escarpment and several other rural schools in Milton area as well as Milton's Bruce Street school.

Mel's hobby of writing resulted in the contribution of many articles and pictures to the Kingston Whig Standard, several Maclean-Hunter trade magazines and the Family Herald. In 1957 Mel took a position as the head of the Commercial Department of Streetsville Secondary School. The family moved to Milton and purchased his wife's childhood home at the corner of Martin and Woodward streets. While teaching Mel continued his writing and authored two business textbooks, which were used in Ontario's secondary school system. After his 1973 retirement Mel wrote the



"now 12 Society-books later the columns and recollections which Mel wrote will emerge to illumine the early years of 20th century Milton."

series of more than a hundred columns for The Canadian Champion between 1977 and 1981 about the history of Milton while incorporating his own memories of people, places and events.

Bringing the text to life is a project that has been involving many volunteer society member hours.

The text has been typed for computer work by Marsha Waldie, Helen Comber and Marjorie Powys. Ken Lamb has been editing and updating place references in the 100,000 words of text. Jim Dills has been obtaining releases and searching out photos to illustrate the work.

John Duignan has made photos from his priceless collection available as have individuals, Milton Historical Society archives through Brenda Whitlock and Gail Richardson, and Halton Region Museum through curator Linda Twitchell.



A young Mel Robinson

Computer design of the book to the pre-print stage is progressing as Jim Dills works to marry the photos and text in a suitable format. The book is expected to be available in the fall.

MHS EXECUTIVE 2003

PRESIDENT - Mirella Marshall
PAST PRESIDENT - Helen Comber
SECRETARY - Helen Comber
TREASURER - Lynne Bundy Davis
MEMBERSHIP - Sue Paul
PROGRAM - John McDonald
WALDIE RESTORATION - Mandy Sedgwick

RESEARCH - Open
PLAQUE PROGRAM - Marsha Waldie
GENEALOGY - Ruth Taylor
PUBLICITY - Vee Lapstra-Keates
MARKETING - Ingrid Kreisel
TOWN LIAISON - Audrea Lear-Costigan
ARCHIVIST - Gail Richardson
SPECIAL EVENTS - Bruce Carlin
PUBLICATIONS - Gloria Brown
SOCIAL - Jessie Hamilton
JOURNAL EDITOR - Open -Temp. Mirella Marshall

JOURNAL COMMITTEE - Ed Goodall, Ken Lamb
LOGISTICS - Brad Madill
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE - Carolyn Goodall, Lou Bradley, Gerri Faggion, Mike Ledwith.

MHS WEBSITE
www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

MHS PHONE #

905-875-7354

Charitable Gifting/ Planned Giving

By Edward B. Seduikis, CFP

Few people realize the value of astute charitable gifting. Aside from the altruistic values for making the world a better place after you are gone, there are certain tax benefits that you can receive if you are open to deferred charitable gifts. There is a multitude of ways to give/donate, including:

Gifts of land or property, securities, mutual funds, inventory, service, annuities, life insurance, ecological gifts and so on...

As an example:

1) A gift of life insurance may be set up so that the charity is the beneficiary of the policy. You could request that the premiums you pay annually on your policy be considered a donation, receiving the tax receipt and corresponding tax deduction every year as a result. Conversely, another way to arrange this is to pay the premiums but not request a tax receipt every year. If the relationship is maintained, upon your death, the charity received the insurance proceeds (bypassing probate) and issued a tax receipt to your estate that can be used to offset taxes owing (up to 100% of your income in the year of death and proceeding year)

2) RRSP's, RRIF's and life insurance policies should never have a charity as their beneficiary, since the charity will be prohibited from issuing a charitable receipt. For a charitable receipt to be issued following death, the donation must be made by the executor or administrator of the estate in accordance with a specific bequest direction in the deceased's will. The executor or administrator cannot elect to make a donation without such a bequest appearing in the will.

3) Major Cash Gifts and Interest-Free Loans - The option that offers the most immediate benefit to the donor and to the charity is a Major Cash Gift. Cash Gifts qualify for an immediate tax receipt that can offset

tax payable on income and capital gains. The receipt can be used over the next five years if needed, since claimable charitable donations cannot exceed the limit of 75% of net income in any one tax year.

Certainly because of some complicated situations, when planning for a charitable gift, it is always a good idea to consult with a financial planner to determine what method or type and amount would best suit the needs of the contributor. If constructed properly, charitable gifting is a win/win for everyone.

Edward B. Seduikis is a Certified Financial Planner with the Donaldson Financial Group in Milton

TIMELESS TREASURE COOKBOOK

How a small idea can grow into a big project was demonstrated at the Milton Senior's Activity Centre, when two ladies thought they would like to create a cookbook geared to the need of Seniors'. Maisie MacKay and Mavis Hutter asked the Centre members for recipes and received an overwhelming response. After a lot of editing and computer work they found a cookbook publisher in Winnipeg and wondered how they were going to sell his minimum quantity of 300. By the end of 2002 they had sold three printings of 908 copies. In January of this year Senior's member, Kathleen Blinch sent a letter and a copy of the cookbook to "Good Times Magazine". The magazine published a review and the orders have been pouring in since, from Prince Edward Island to Kamloops B.C. to the tune of 350 to date, making a net profit of \$6,500.00. From small beginnings great things may grow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 17 2003
"Nassagaweya Historical Society"

An overview of the history of Nassagaweya.

Hugh Foster Hall 7:30pm

Thurs. May 15, 2003
"The Limstone Kilns of Lime house" 7:00pm sharp

A walking tour and slide presentation illustrating the significance of the lime industry in early Esquesing. Limehouse Community Hall Limehouse.

Wed. May 28, 2003
An evening with all the Historical Societies in Halton hosted by the Oakville Historical Society. To be held at Knox Presbyterian Church, Dunn & Lakeshore use Dunn St. entrance
Oakville 7:30pm
"Let's have a good show of MHS members!"

Thurs. June 19, 2003
MHS Potluck Dinner
A special program including the annual "pot luck" that marks the beginning of summer.
Waldie Blacksmith Shop
16 James St. Milton
6:30pm

Our Members Hear About Historic Churches

by Ken Lamb

We learned a lot of local church history when our January general meeting was held at Grace Anglican Church and our February session at Holy Rosary Church.

Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott of Grace Anglican explained the significance of various features in the sanctuary, which was built in 1895. A recent project has provided an interior connection with the original wooden church on the site. The much-revamped original building now serves as the church hall.

Rev. McDermott described the recent renovation program, including slate-roof repairs which cost about \$100,000. But, he said, it was the first significant roof repair since the Governor-General of Canada presided at the official church opening more than a century ago.

At Holy Rosary, Father Dave Wilhelm, the pastor, told us there were five Catholic families in Milton when the first mass was celebrated in the O'Hara family home in 1822. The first Catholic church here was built in 1859 on Pearl St: today that building serves as a day-care centre.

The present church on Martin St., consecrated in 1966, was the first church in Hamilton diocese to wholly conform to the new liturgy established at the Second Vatican Council (1962-65). Holy Rosary Church, with seating capacity of 750, serves a congregation of 3,000.

Audrea Lear-Costigan Receives Award

At our Christmas get-together at the home of Jim and Shirley Dills, Audrea

Lear-Costigan, Bill Rowney and Tom Logie were recognized for outstanding work in raising funds for restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

Audrea (Bill and Tom were not pre-

sent) accepted a hand-crafted glass anvil from Society president Mirella Marshall.

Audrea, who also serves as the Society's liaison with the Town, is a long

Bank Anniversary Was Special for Mike Brad, Don and Jim

The recent 100th anniversary celebration of the Bank of Nova Scotia on Main St. struck a special chord for Mike Ledwith and the Clements brothers Brad and Don.

The brothers' grandfather, William Bradford Clements, was appointed manager - it was then the Metropolitan Bank - when the branch opened in 1903. He remained there until he retired in 1934.

Brad appeared at the ceremony in 1800s -style garb borrowed from Jim Dills. Brad brought his grandfather's bank desk and other memorabilia to the celebration.

Mike Ledwith recalls that a bank employee visited him the very day he opened a tiny store next to the bank just after World War II. (Mike served in the Canadian Navy) Mike borrowed a few dollars that day and enjoyed the bank's support for more than 25 years. During that time Mike constantly expanded the business until it became a full-service grocery operation, later known as Quality Greens.

Work Horses Are Play Horses Now But They Still Need Good Shoes

Although we rarely see a horse on our streets these days there are still plenty of them around- especially in the Milton area.

Carrie Doyle, a director of the Ontario Ferriers Association, at our March 20 general meeting gave us a colourful account of the 3000 -year history of horses, blacksmiths and ferriers.

Just for Grins

submitted by
Mirella Marshall



There is the story of a pastor who got up on Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign: "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"You know" said the boy. "Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing! KEEP SMILING

Why don't blind people take up sky diving?
It scares the dog!

Main St.
**** APRIL FOOLS

(I guess some days I have the mentality of a 12 year old)

Heritage Day 2003

Bronte Cemetery Designated

A plaque will soon be installed at the historic Bronte St. Cemetery to identify it as a designated property under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Jennifer Reynolds, the Town's director of community services, accepted the government award at the February heritage awards ceremony.

Our Society for many years has had a special concern for the site. In the 1980s we co-operated with the Town in having many broken gravestones brought together in a concrete memorial on the grounds.

Jennifer Reynolds accepts award for the Bronte Cemetery



Heritage Winners Named At Annual Event

Lou Bradley and Mandy Sedgwick, both prominent Society members, shared the limelight with several others at our annual Heritage Awards ceremony Feb. 22 in the Milton Seniors' Centre.

Lou was recognized as author of "Mrs. Merry's Memories". The late Amy Merry was a well-known resident of the Hornby area where Lou and John farmed for many years.

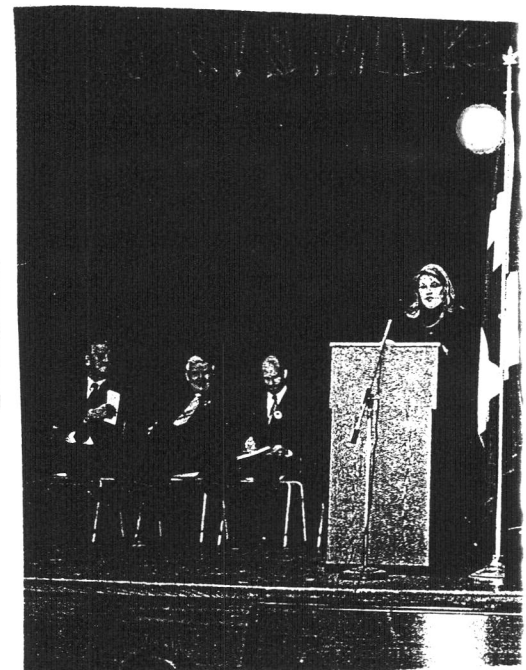
In the 1970's Lou recorded a series of interviews with Amy about her memories of life in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Bradley and Merry families knew each other well as fellow Hornby farmers. In addition, Lou was a teacher at a school where Amy had taught many years earlier.

Mandy Takes A Bow

Mandy accepted an award from Heritage Milton (LACAC) on behalf of the Milton Historical Society for Restoration of a non-designated building. Mandy headed the Society's committee that raised more than \$200,000. to restore the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. Mandy and her committee joined the long battle waged by the Waldie sisters, Marsha and Gail, to save the shop that had been operated by the family for more than a century.

While thanking the many supporters who have contributed to the restoration, Mandy stated that her committee had more work to do. More funds are needed to install heating and ventilation systems at the shop.



Mandy Sedgwick says "thank you"

The goal is to have this work done in time for the Society's archives to be moved to the shop this summer; the archives now are in the Seniors' Centre.

Other Heritage Winners

Deborah Quaile, who helped prepare Mrs Merry's tapes for publication, shared the writing award with Lou Bradley.

Dr. Andrea Rowbottom won the visual arts award. Andrea was leader of the group who recently organized the very successful "On the Way to Bethlehem" program at Country Heritage Park.

Teacher Corrie O'Driscoll and the Grade 3 students of E.W. Foster School took the education award. The students prepared a many-sided report on their visit to Country Heritage Museum.

Heritage Milton (formerly LACAC) awarded a plaque to Jude and Tiffany Stewart for building an in-fill home on Miles St. A Heritage Milton award also went to Tsvet and Anne Marie Tsokov for renovating a non-designated historic home.

E.W. Foster Grade 3 Students - winners of Education Award



*Bruce Carlin
M.C.'s Heritage
Day event*



Did you know?

Joyce Hayward Recognized

We didn't know it at the time, of course, but our pianist at the Christmas party at the Dills home was soon to win a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joyce Hayward earned the Chamber of Commerce prize for many years of outstanding service as music teacher, choir director pianist and community volunteer.

Joyce also spearheaded the Canadian visit of a male choir from her Welsh hometown. The group sang to packed houses in Milton and other southern Ontario towns.

Ever since we initiated the Heritage Awards program more than ten years ago, Brad Clements has provided the limestone bases on which the metal citations are attached. He still has quite a bit of the historic stone on his farm. But he's not sure how long it will last because it is sometime difficult to break it to a proper size for our awards. Brad salvaged the stone in the early 1970s when the Bruce St. School was demolished. Part of his supply also was used to build the Victoria Park cairn that houses the old Town Hall bell.

Debrah Quaile
and Lois Merry
McDougall
show off their
awards



Volunteers Wanted

We will soon be putting together committees to organize the operation of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. You may be called on to help. We thank you in advance for your participation. If there is a certain area you would prefer to work in please call Mirella 905-878-1892 or fill out form below and mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Area of Interest

Waldie Shop Interpreter

Walking Tour Guide

Facilities care

Donations to the Archival Collection:

MHS continues to expand it's collection through donations. If you have papers or photographs of historical interest that you would like to consider giving to the Society, please contact our Archivist Gail Richardson 905-878-0431

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR DRAW TICKETS YET?

A draw will be held at the June Pot Luck for lots of great prizes. Money to go towards restoration of the "Robert Hawthorne Cutter"

For tickets to sell or buy call Marsha Waldie 905-878-1146 It would be great if

everyone took one book to sell.

"Many hands make light work".

MEMBERSHIP

FEES

If you haven't renewed your membership March 30/03 is the cut-off date. In future, due to increase costs The Journal will not be sent to anyone whose membership has lapsed.

Thank you.

DON'T FORGET

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

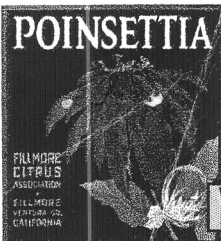
e mail _____

I would be willing to volunteer _____

Area of interest: Waldie Shop _____
 Archives _____
 Research _____
 Other _____

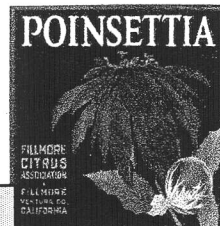
Single	\$10.00/yr
Family	\$15.00/yr
Lifetime	\$75.00/yr

Send Cheque to:
Milton Historical Society
P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3



The Journal

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Winter 2003

Volume 18 Issue 3

President's Message

I can't believe 2003 is coming to an end.

Three years ago I was just coming on board as president setting big goals and ideas.

The biggest challenge, of course, was the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith shop which will also be the new head quarters and archives for the Milton Historical Society.

We celebrated the 25th anniversary of the society together.

We now have a voice on Heritage Milton (formerly LACAC) and thanks to very talented members, three more books have been published.

January 1st 2004, we will again be co-hosting the Mayor's Levee and in February the Heritage Awards.

Marsha Waldie has a bus tour planned for the fall and John McDonald will be lining up some great programs.

I will be stepping down as president in 2004 and you will have a new leader. I will, however still be on the executive as past president (you can't get rid of me that easily). Unless we find a journal editor, I will continue to publish the journal with the help of Ken Lamb and Ed Goodall and anyone else who would like to be part of our team.

I would like to thank the members for their kindness, patience and support over the past three years. A special thank you to the MHS executive who never let me down and no matter how much work had to be done, never complained. Being president has been a very enjoyable experience. Wishing you all a very healthy, safe and happy holiday season.

Mirella Marshall
President



Ring In The New Year



Congratulations to Ed Goodall one of our long time members. Ed has been given the honour of ringing in 2004. The ringing in of the New Year will take place at Town Hall, New Years Eve at midnight, of course. The evening is open for all to share good wishes and refreshments.

Memories of Milton Book Launch

An enthusiastic group of about sixty MHS members gathered at the Sweetwater Grill, 8 Martin St. on Sunday October 19th, to launch the latest publication "Memories of Milton". This soft cover book with it's 175 archival photos was written by the late Mel Robinson during the 1970's in a series of articles for the Canadian Champion. Editors Jim Dills and Ken Lamb were on hand to sign purchased copies. Mel's children, Margaret Wilson and George Robinson, were also present at this event.

Mel had a sharp eye as he recalled the events of small town life decades before. This is one book you will want to add to your collection of Milton history books.

The book has already sold several hundred copies and we are confident that the Christmas season will show a rise in sales. Thanks to a grant from the Milton Community Fund and the time donated by members, the book will realize a considerable sum for our Society.

For those who did not make it to the launch the book is available from the Milton Historical Society, Spice O'Life and local bookstores. The book sells for \$24.95.



Top L-R Ken Lamb, Margaret Wilson, George Robinson, Jim Dills



First Residents Enter Martindale Gardens

By Ken Lamb

Martindale Gardens, the assisted-living building on the downtown site where town founder Jasper Martin built his first mill in 1821, welcomes it's first residents in mid-January. The four storey building on Martin Street opposite the Mill Pond has 77 suites and rooms.

The volunteer group has been working on the project for seven years.

Construction began about 18 months ago after Credit Unions supplied \$6,000,000 in loans.

Ann Ptolemy was one of the first to call for a new seniors residence following demolition of The Halton Centennial Manor. Brad Clements is vice-chair of the board (Carl Reichert is chair). Mike Ledwith has given strong support; Mike and Vera expect to be future Martindale residents.



World War I

by Ed Goodall

Jim Dills, along with John Challinor and a few helpers, has been researching the 71 names that appear on the two cenotaphs in Milton. They are the casualties from the First World War that were recognized in November as the Milton Historical Society paid tribute to the local men who gave their lives in the name of freedom.

They are still looking for photographs of casualties of WWI list on the cenotaph of Victoria Park and Haltonville. If you have photos to lend please call Jim Dills at 905-878-6061.

House Plaquing Update:

submitted by Marsha Waldie

Over the last two months two heritage homes have been presented with a plaque. Our total is now ten. This brings us a little closer to publishing a "Historic Homes" Vol. III.

54 Main Street was built in 1911 by Robert Brandon, President of the Brandon Pressed Brick and Tile Co. This home is on the historic property which once housed, "The Old Kirk" St. Andrews Church. The first Church to be built in Milton and associated with the Presbyterians.

112 Mill Street was built in 1908 by Louisa White, wife of M.P. John White for their daughter Sarah Ellen Palmer. When Sarah died in 1929 the home was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Cavell and was in the family until 1963.

Speaker Gives Life To Many Ghost Towns

At our November 20 meeting, Ron Brown gave a lively account of how many promising centres turned into ghost towns. He cited fires, industrial failures, railway decisions and many other causes.

He mentioned Speyside and Zimmerman but gave no details.

Ron has been writing about unusual features of Canadian towns for 40 years. His most recent book "Downtown Ontario" describes main streets of more than fifty towns, including not-so-distant Alton, Galt and Glen Williams.



Milton's Growing Fast Thanks to Water Pipe

The latest road markers put Milton's population at 43,000. That's an increase of about 12,000 since 2001 and shows the results of the pipeline built to bring Lake Ontario water to Milton's new suburbs. (Older parts of town remain on Municipal wells).

In 1861, four years after the town was incorporated, our population was 905. In 1901 we reached 1372 and a half century later we had grown to 2451.

By 1986 our population of about 32,000 had reached the practical limit that could be supplied by wells.

What's Happening?

Country Airs to Play At New Year's Levee

Cheered by recent electoral success, Mayor Gordon Krantz and Town Councillors will greet residents at the New Year's Day levee. The traditional welcome will be held from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Town Hall.

The council chamber will be decorated with some of the photos that appeared in our most recent book "Memories of Milton".

Our Bruce Carlin, who planned the event, says delicious goodies will be served and The Milton Country Airs, the six performers who were a hit at the Milton Fall Fair, will be performing.



2004 Programs

NEW YEAR'S LEVEE

New Year's Day Levee will be held in Council Chambers at Milton Town Hall New Year's Day
Starting at 1pm.-3:30pm
Bruce Carlin is looking for volunteers to help out. Anyone interested can call 905-875-4588

JANUARY MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR WED. JAN 14

Ed Goodall has arranged for the Milton Historical Society to attend a presentation about the archives and history of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch.

Due to scheduling considerations the meeting has been changed to Wednesday January 14 (not the usual 3rd Thursday of the month) starting at 7:30pm at the Legion Hall on Charles St.
Elections will also be held this evening.

Our Heritage Winners To be Named Feb. 15

Winners of our annual Heritage Awards will be honoured at Hugh Foster Hall on Sunday afternoon Feb. 15, on the event of Heritage Week.

Plaques will recognize excellence in visual arts, writing, school programs and architectural achievements. Our plaques are unique in that they are attached to slabs of limestone salvaged by Brad Clements from the former Bruce Street School. Many generations of local kids attended the school that was located where the Town Library now stands.

The Heritage Awards program is jointly supported by our Society and Heritage Milton (formerly LACAC).

Elections to be Held At the January Annual General Meeting.

For nominations please fill out form below and send to:

**Milton Historical Society
P.O.Box 85
Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3
Attention: Helen Comber**

Nomination Form

I would like to nominate

Name: _____

For the position of: _____

Nominated by _____

MHS EXECUTIVE 2003

PRESIDENT - Mirella Marshall
PAST PRESIDENT- Helen Comber
SECRETARY - Helen Comber
TREASURER - Lynne Bundy Davis
MEMBERSHIP- Sue Paul
PROGRAM - John McDonald
WALDIE RESTORATION- Mandy Sedgwick

RESEARCH- Open
PLAQUE PROGRAM- Marsha Waldie
GENEALOGY- Ruth Taylor
PUBLICITY - Vee Lapstra-Keates
MARKETING-open
TOWN LIAISON - Audrea Lear-Costigan
ARCHIVIST - Gail Richardson
SPECIAL EVENTS - Bruce Carlin
PUBLICATIONS - Gloria Brown
SOCIAL - Jessie Hamilton
JOURNAL EDITOR - **Open** -Temp. Mirella Marshall
JOURNAL COMMITTEE - Ed Goodall Ken Lamb
LOGISTICS - Brad Madill
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE -Carolyn Goodall, Lou Bradley, Gerri Faggion, Mike Ledwith.

MHS WEBSITE
www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

MHS PHONE #
905-875-7354

Volunteers Wanted

We will soon be putting together committees to organize the operation of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. You may be called on to help. We thank you in advance for your participation. If there is a certain area you would prefer to work in please call Mirella 905-878-1892 or fill out form below and mail.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Area of Interest

Waldie Shop Interpreter

Walking Tour Guide

Facilities care

Donations to the Archival Collection:

MHS continues to expand it's collection through donations. If you have papers or photographs of historical interest that you would like to consider giving to the Society, please contact our Archivist Gail Richardson 905-878-0431

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE

It is time to renew your membership. Thank you for your support in the past and hope you will continue to support the society in the future. We urge you to choose an area of interest and volunteer.

**"Many hands make light work".
So don't be shy!
Come to the meetings and bring
a friend - even if they are not
members.**

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

e mail _____

I would be willing to volunteer _____

Area of interest: Waldie Shop _____
Archives _____
Research _____
Other _____

Single \$10.00/yr
Family \$15.00/yr
Lifetime \$75.00/yr

Send Cheque to:
Milton Historical Society
P.O. Box 85
Milton, Ont. L9T 2Y3



The Journal



Fall 2003 Published by The Milton Historical Society

Volume 18 Issue 2

President's Message

by Mirella Marshall

This morning I woke up to a cool crisp morning. Fall is here! It's been a wonderful summer - the kind of summer I remember as a child. The kind of summer that forces you outside looking for a shady spot, because it was too hot to stay inside. (We have no air conditioning)

The "blackout" although inconvenient gave us a taste of what life would have been like before electricity. Neighbours met for the first time, the stars were magnificent, husbands talked to their wives, kids to their parents (no TV or computer) and we learned to appreciate and hopefully, conserve power. This was the summer of 2003.

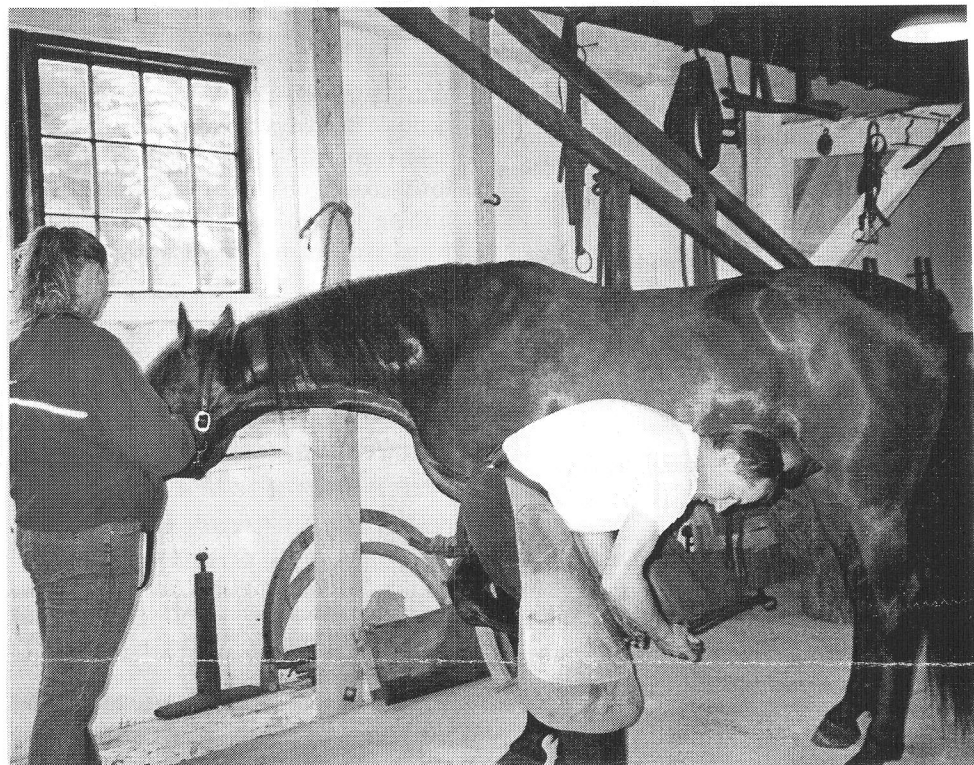
As we move into fall, people are back into their "normal" routine. The weather is still fabulous for us to enjoy. The MHS executive haven't had much of a break but look forward to publishing our new book "Memories of Milton". This is made possible by the Milton Community Fund who has given us a \$17000 grant. The book launch is set for Sunday, October 19 at the Sweetwater Grill Restaurant in downtown Milton.

There has been some activity at the Waldie Shop and thanks to Ken Lamb and Ed Goodall we are publishing another Journal.

John McDonald has some interesting programs lined up - I hope members will make a point of coming out to hear the speakers AND please bring along a friend or two.

MHS is helping Milton Fall Fair celebrate it's 150th Anniversary. We are manning a display on it's history and are looking for volunteers Sept. 26-28.

I encourage many to participate. If interested please call me 905-878-1892.



Farrier, Gregg Birett, demonstrates to the kids attending OHRIA summer camp, how a horse is shod

MHS EXECUTIVE

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RESEARCH-

PLAQUE PROGRAM- Marsha Waldie

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JOURNAL EDITOR -Mirella Marshall

SOCIAL-Jessie Hamilton
TELEPHONE COMMITTEE
Carolyn Goodall, Gerri Faggion, Mike Ledwith

Would you like to receive correspondence by e-mail? Send your address to
jmcdonald@rbhinc.ca

Passings

Laura Dixon Mourned

Author and poet and long-time Society member, Laura Dixon, died July 6, 2003. Laura (Prudham), 95, who was named after a legendary relative, Laura Secord, spent her entire life in Halton. She supported numerous heritage and community activities: her legacy includes three books of poetry and a history of Kilbride United Church.

Laura's daughter and son-in-law Ruth and Don Taylor are well known Society members.

Walt Elliot Bereaved

Walt Elliot, former Society president, lost his mother, Audrey (Cain) Elliot, July 27, 2003.

Audrey grew up in the Desboro area about 15 kilometers north of Chesley, the town founded in the mid-1800s by Walt's great-great-grandfather Adam Elliot, prominent industrialist and builder.

"Memories of Milton"
Book Launch
Sunday Oct. 19, 2003
2pm-4pm
at Sweetwater Grill-
Martin St.
beautiful downtown
Milton

Heritage Preservation??

by Mirella Marshall

Recently town council passed a motion to do a feasibility study on a "Heritage Subdivision" in the town of Milton. With many heritage buildings threatened by new development we applaud and commend town council on this move. What is disturbing though, is that a month later when owners of 147 Mary St. were asked to do a heritage assessment on a house that is believed to be historically significant, town council voted 6-2 to

entrusted with a responsibility to care and maintain them for all to enjoy. To preserve them is a form of respect to the craftsmen who built them and the people who lived in them.

As MHS has plaqued over 130 buildings in Milton I think I can say that many owners have lived up to their responsibility. To those who have not, "shame on you!"

In light of the events of the last year and a half it seems that it's easier to issue demolition permits than to encourage preservation. In conclusion, I'm afraid we've lost another one.

How do we deal with these issues? There is a municipal election coming up. Ask your candidates where they stand on heritage preservation. I am not suggesting we be fanatics - but reasonable. Preserving the historic buildings that already exist could benefit this town significantly. I dare say that the charm of our heritage area has much to do with drawing newcomers to Milton.

I could go on about this subject until - oh wait — the cows *have* come home. I guess "*that's all folks!*"

Who voted against waiving the heritage assessment you ask??

Ken Keates
 Cindy Lunau

John Challinor (absent)
 Rick Day (absent)

..owners of historic or architectural treasures have been entrusted with a responsibility to care and maintain them for all to enjoy.

waive the assessment. (owners have applied for a demolition permit) Is council sending mixed messages??

Heritage Milton (formerly LACAC) has reason to believe that 147 Mary is possibly one of the oldest structures, in its original location, in Milton.....we will never know.

We should be concerned about what will replace this little house - across from the well preserved historic Town Hall. Let's hope the Town of Milton is also concerned!!

To most people, 147 Mary St. is an "eyesore". Okay.. it has *not* been maintained and it isn't architecturally spectacular. It is suspected that a farmer/pioneer/ early Milton settler *maybe* even Hugh Foster, built the house between 1828-1830) (this information is not confirmed) Take a moment to look at this house through the eyes of someone with a little vision. There is no reason that with some TLC it couldn't be restored or rehabilitated to stand proudly with all the other homes and buildings in that area *and* still have commercial value.

I believe owners of historic or architectural treasures have been

Mel Robinson's Book Gets Community Money

Jim Dills, our founder and first president, recently accepted on our behalf a \$17,000 grant from the Milton Community Fund. The money is to fund a book containing Mel Robinson's historic columns. It will appear in October.

Between 1978 and 1981, Mel wrote approximately 150 columns, including many personal memories about Milton in the early 1900s. Jim arranged for the columns when he was editor and publisher of *The Milton Canadian Champion*.

What's New at the Shop?

The Blacksmith Shop has moved a step closer to filling its roles as the Society's archives centre and venue for school tours and other events.

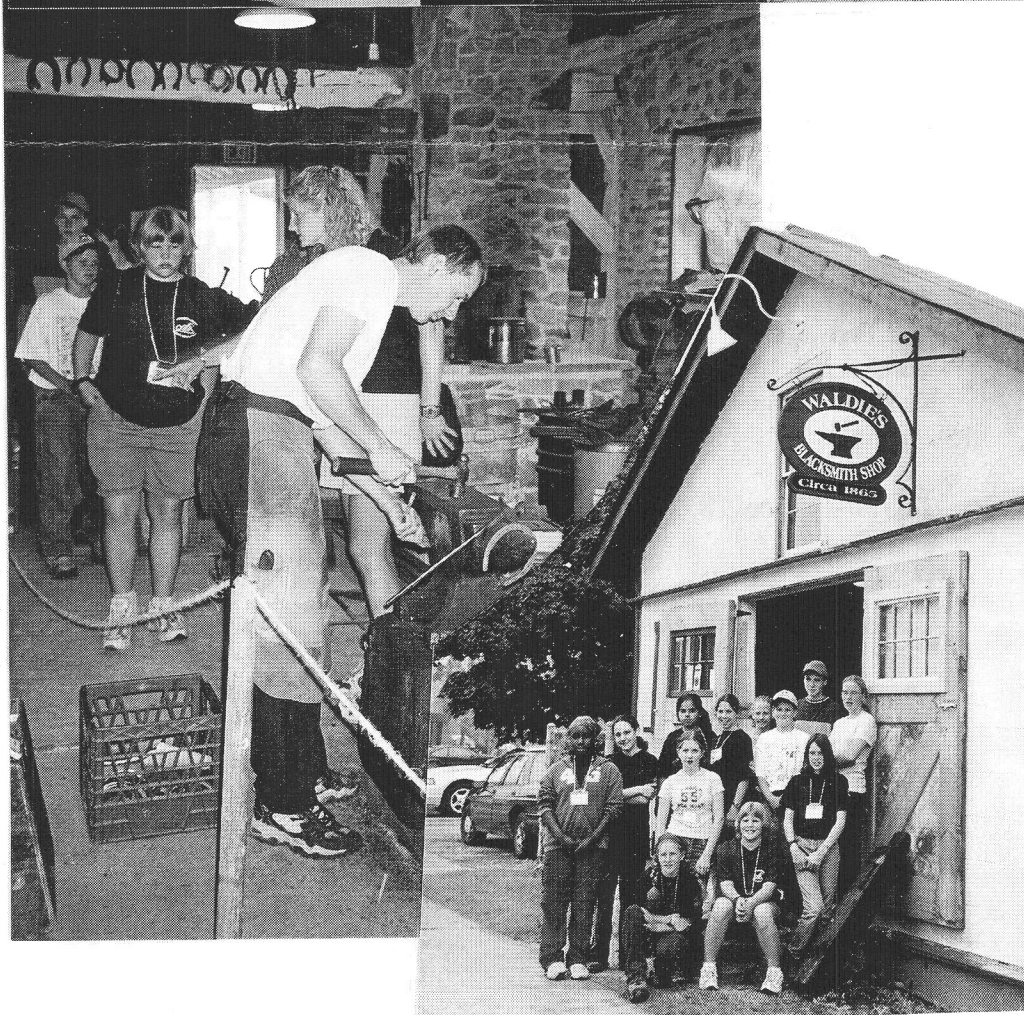
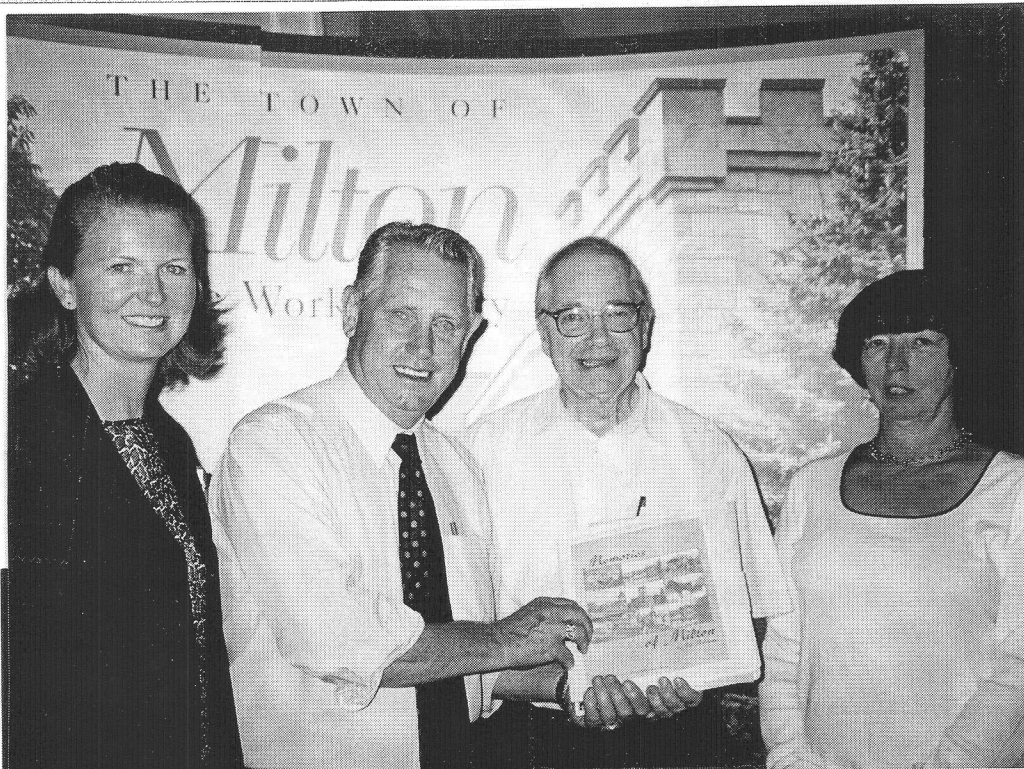
The Trillium Foundation, a provincial body, has granted \$75,000 to the project: \$35,000 for heating, air conditioning and wheelchair accessible washroom; and \$40,000 to fund the part-time position of building coordinator and archivist for two years.

Archivist Gail Richardson is interviewing candidates for the job, which includes responsibility for the shop and the second floor archives.

Mandy Sedgwick, chair of the committee responsible for the shop project, reports that trenching and roofing projects are scheduled for the next few weeks. Meanwhile the committee is working with the Town to obtain occupancy permits, which will allow regular public access to the building. The committee is optimistic that the new funding will accomplish this with the next few months.

At present each event, such as the exciting July visit of the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association (OHRIA) day camp youngsters to watch a "shoeing", requires a Town permit.

Photos for this publication were taken by Ingrid Kreisel



Upcoming Programs Fall 2003

Thursday Sept. 18, 2003

7:30pm

Hugh Foster Hall

"Memories of Milton"

Editors Jim Dills and Ken Lamb will provide a glimpse of a new publication based on a series of historical newspaper articles written by Mel Robinson.

Thursday Oct. 16, 2003

7:30pm

Hugh Foster Hall

*Milton Agricultural Society
150th Anniversary*

Members of the Milton Agricultural Society will give highlights of the development of the local agricultural society and the Milton Fall Fair at this very special time in it's history.

Thursday Nov. 20, 2003

7:30pm

Hugh Foster Hall

"Ghost Towns of Ontario"

Ron Brown will talk about his research and the many stories related to his series of books "Ghost Towns of Ontario"

Thursday Dec. 18, 2003

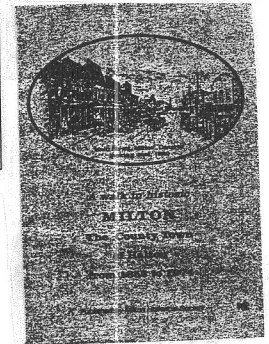
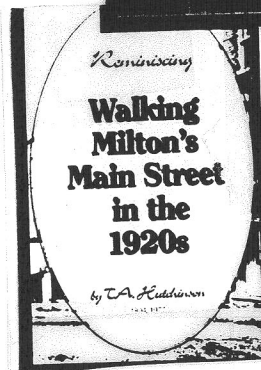
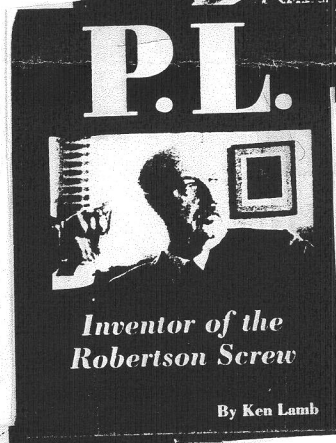
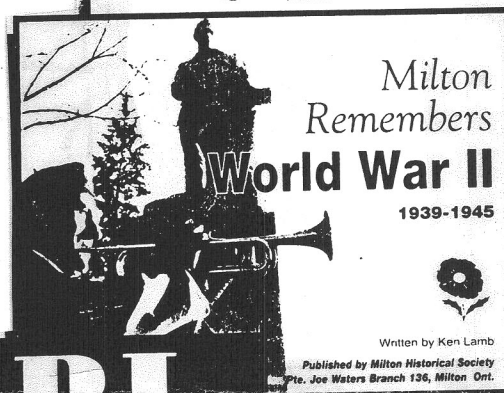
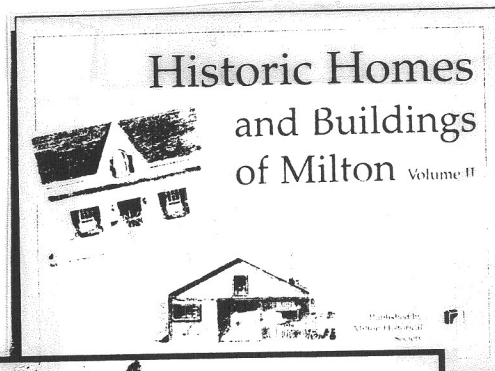
6:30 pm

Location TBA

Christmas Potluck Dinner

Join Milton Historical Society Members for the annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner complete with Christmas carols.

Thinking of Gift Giving? Think MHS Publications



2004 MHS Elections

It will soon be time to elect an executive.

If you would like to nominate someone or would be interested in a position please send your nomination to:

Milton Historical Society
P.O.Box 185
Milton, Ont. L9T2X3
or e-mail it to Helen Comber at
helen.robert@sympatico.ca