

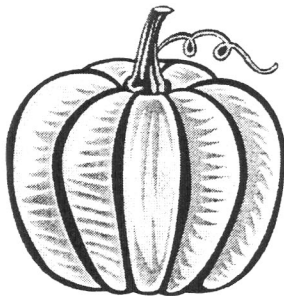


# The Journal

September, 2007

Volume 22 Issue 3

**Fall  
Edition**



*PL Robertson descendants Victoria and Ron Hobb, and author Ken Lamb*

## Inside this issue:

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## Ancestors Day in Milton

Milton's Pioneer and Evergreen cemeteries welcomed visitors recently to meet some of Milton's famous citizens from the past.

Volunteers from the Milton Historical Society were dressed in period costume and stood by the grave of the person who they were representing. The interpreters greeted visitors and provided a short biography about the person that they were representing.

Some of the famous former citizens represented included Peter McKay, Dr. McCutcheon, Miss Bastedo, Margaret Maxted, Edith Dick and several others.

In addition to the costumed interpreters there were self guided maps available. There were also interpretative signs placed around the cemetery with a short bibliography for the person. The Acton Brass band played music to celebrate the occasion.

The highlight of the day was a memorial service at the grave of P.L. Robertson. Rev. Howard Sullivan spoke about P.L. and his role in Milton's history. A special brass plaque to recognize P.L. as the inventor of the socket head screw was unveiled. Special guests included PL's daughter Victoria Hobb and grandson Ron Hobb. Mayor Krantz represented the town

and spoke about the significant roles played by our ancestors. Ruth and Don Taylor prepared a display with old newspaper articles and a family tree for her ancestors.

Many thanks to Marsha Waldie for coordinating Ancestors Day and to all the volunteers who assisted with the day's events.

This special event was one of the activities that the MHS has taken on for Milton's 150th anniversary.

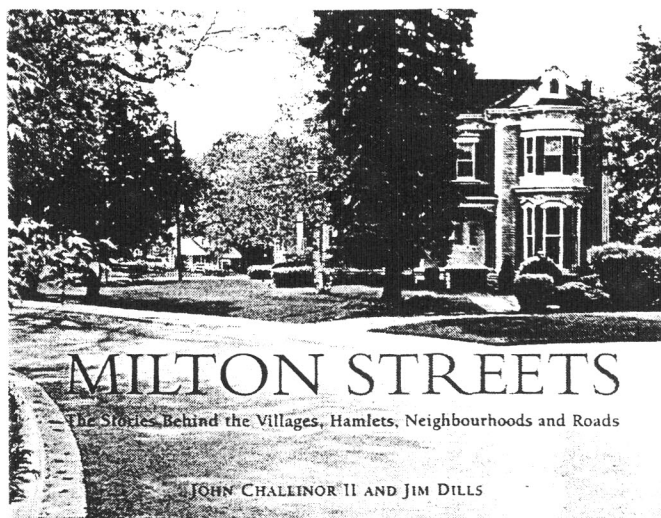
## 150th Update

### Milton Walk of Fame Inductees

The following group were the initial inductees to Milton's Walk of Fame on Canada Day. A booklet of biographies on the individuals was printed and can be viewed at the archives. If you missed the Canada Day celebration there will be another ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments once the Walk of Fame is completed at the Town Hall expansion in the Fall of 2008.

Peter Appleyard-Vibraphonist, Harry Barnes-Triathlon, Lt. Colonel G. Allan Burton-Businessman, Albert Casson-Artist, Ernest Coombs-Television Mr. Dressup, Col. Frederick Herbert Deacon-Stock Broker, Susan Delacourt-Journalist, Jim Dills-Newspaper Publisher, David James Elliott-Actor, Col. Chris Hadfield-Astronaut, Bruce Hood-Referee, Mike Kaszycki-Hockey player, Betty Kennedy-Senator and Television, Robert W. Kranstz-Jiu Jitsu, Darlene Kranstz-Jiu Jitsu, Douglas Leiterman-Television, Dr. Wallace McCutcheon-Physician, Peter McDuffe-Hockey Player, Peter Lymburner Robertson-Industrialist, Enio Scisizzi-Hockey Player, Tiger Ali Singh-Wrestler, Tiger Jeet Singh-Wrestler, James W. Snow-Politician, Bertram G.H. Stewart-Agriculturalist, Leon Stickle-NHL Linesman, John Tonelli-Hockey Player and Ed Whitlock-Marathon runner.

The nomination process for future Hall of Fame in-



ductees will involve the Milton Historical Society researching nominees and making recommendations to Town Council. For more information about the process and for nomination forms, contact the MHS.

### Milton Streets Book arrives this Fall!

John Challinor II and Jim Dills have teamed up again to produce a book about the streets, neighbourhoods, surveys, villages and towns that make up Milton. Milton Streets is a book about the names of the places we all know so well in our town. There is a short description about the person, object or place that was used in the naming of the 600 streets and locations in the book.

The hard cover book is 128 pages in length. There are 60 beautiful full page colour photos of well known rural and urban street scenes taken during the various seasons.

The photographs were taken by five Milton area photographers, Mike Streeter, Peter Burian, Grant Rush-ton, Mike Schramm and Bob McDonald. The 600 locations include both historic neighbourhoods as well as some streets yet to be built.

The book will be released in early November at a retail price of \$40.00. Plans are in the works for book signings. This book will make a nice Christmas gift for family or friends. Milton Streets is about our ancestors, the development of Milton and the beauty of the homes and roads in the community.

## Person's of Interest

The research committee sent out 250 biography forms in March to members of the Milton community. The completed forms will be used for future reference to help facilitate future publications such as the Milton area biographies series of books. At this time 50% of the forms have been returned completed. If you or someone you know would like to complete one of these forms, please contact John Challinor II at the MHS.

## New Booklet – Town of Milton Celebrating our Municipal History 1857-2007.

This publication builds on the original Municipal Directory prepared by Brenda Whitlock. Jim Dills has updated the list of municipal officials so that it spans the complete 150 years of the Town. There is also a brief forward about the early history, the Symbols or Seals of the early town, (cont. page 5)

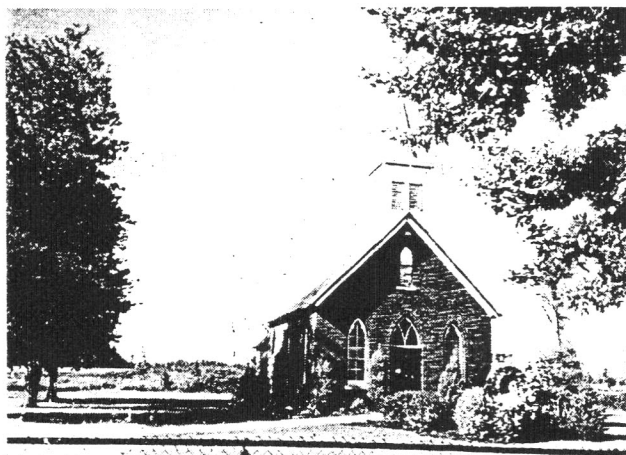
# St. Peter's Mission

submitted by Ed Goodall

Irish immigrants began to settle in the 8th and 9th line area of Trafalgar township as early as 1818. In 1819 two young settlers, Bartholomew O'Connor and Charles O'Hara walked the forty miles to Dundas to persuade a Father O'Reilly to come to their colony to celebrate Mass at Mr. O'Hara's cabin on the 9th line. In 1823 a log church was constructed on site six of the 9th line, donated by a Mr. Dan Highland. Soon a large congregation assembled with people coming from as far as Brampton and Georgetown areas. A meal of roast venison and potatoes with fresh baked bread would be prepared to be enjoyed after the service.

Many of the families are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church, like Catherine Robinson from Owens County, Ireland who died in 1875 at the age of 52, pre-deceased by her husband James who died in 1869 aged 53 and Kelly Keevan from Kings county, Ireland who died in 1857 aged 57. The whole of the McCarron family lie here, with Erwin who died in 1886 aged 80, son John in 1893 aged 49, William in 1890 aged 6 months, Susan in 1849 aged 8 and Catherine in 1885 aged 48 years.

As the 1820's drew to an end the land under cultivation was producing a poor yield of crops and many of the men in the area left to seek employment elsewhere. In 1826 the digging of the Welland canal got underway which provided steady employment and 25 young men were lured away by the prospect of earn-



ing a steady wage.

In 1850 the original Chapel was replaced by another frame church. The congregation then consisted of about 50 families. By 1880 the railway age had arrived precipitating the exodus from rural areas and leaving only nine families in the ninth line area.

The present St. Peters mission with its brick structure was built in 1882 but the Church was forced to close in 1890 due to a declining congregation. In 1938 the church was re-opened when the Holy Rosary, Milton was first established in the Parish. In 1982 the church received its third reconstruction when it was moved back from the road and given a new foundation with further renovations completed in 1995.

## Chef at Home with Reni McDonald

The earliest Thanksgiving in Canada goes back to the English explorer, Martin Frobisher, who had been trying to find a northern passage to the Orient. Although he did not succeed, he did establish a settlement in present day Newfoundland. In 1858 he held a formal ceremony, to give thanks for surviving the long journey. This is believed to be the first Thanksgiving in Canada and the first in North America. Other settlers continued with these ceremonies.

Over the years many dates were used for Thanksgiving Day. In 1957, Parliament proclaimed ... "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed ... to be observed on the second Monday in October."

As with any celebration and holiday, food plays a big part and on Thanksgiving Day, families and friends gather for the traditional dinner including turkey and pumpkin pie. The following recipe can be prepared a day ahead and then baked just before serving. Enjoy!

### Squash Casserole

5 1/2 cups butternut squash, cooked and mashed  
 1/2 cup finely chopped onion  
 1/2 cup melted butter  
 1/2 breadcrumbs  
 1 tbsp. sugar  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 2 eggs, beaten

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Combine squash, onion, 1/4 cup of the melted butter, 1/4 cup breadcrumbs, sugar, salt and pepper. Stir in beaten eggs and turn into a greased 1 1/2 quart casserole. Drizzle remaining butter over the top and sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake, uncovered for 45 minutes or until centre is set. Serves 8 – 10.



*Where was this picture taken? Send your response to [milton-historicalsociety@bellnet.ca](mailto:milton-historicalsociety@bellnet.ca) or drop your answer in MHS mail along with your name.*

### Archival Tidbits

Sam Bews was in the clothing business for many years and had a store on Main street in Milton. Following are some sales taken from the store ledger records dated in September, 1897. You may recognize some of the names.

R. S. Hemstreet - 1 doz pairs black gloves \$10.50  
 Chas. Jones Sr. – Suit \$ 18.00  
 J. M. Bastedo – To repair vest \$0.28  
 Mr. Chisholm – Tie \$0.40  
 Ross Armour – Suit \$15.00  
 Archy McDowell – Cloth overalls \$0.75  
 Rev. D. W. Snider – Repair pants \$0.50  
 Paid Nightwatchman – \$0.60  
 Samuel Hetherington – \$3.25 for pair overalls  
 D. Featherston \$28.70 – For 2 1/2 cothouade  
 Rev. David Darling \$16.00 – Suit  
 Mrs. J. Hawthorne \$2.50 – cloth trimmings

The archives is a treasure trove of interesting historical artifacts. Items include a Certificate for Regular Attendance for Thomas Crozier, dated Dec 23, 1864. We have also a 1909 document from the Board of Trustees of the Milton Public School a certificate of condolence to Mrs. McDowell on the death of her husband, Thomas McDowell. The archives are open Wednesdays and Saturdays or by appointment.



The recent Milton District High School re-union attracted a number of visitors to the archives looking for information in old yearbooks as well as other archival information. Hopefully, we will get some more records from visitors to this event.

The Archives is looking for a volunteer to help with all the activities needed to keep the collection in top form. If you can spare some time, please let Brenda Whitlock know.

### Blacksmith Shop News

Halton Region has produced a heritage brochure highlighting historical destinations across the region. The brochure is in full colour, attractively laid out and includes a map and short description of each heritage attractions as well as contact information and a summary table of the activities at each of the locations. The Waldie Blacksmith shop is included in the brochure and this kind of exposure should help to draw more visitors to our site!

There will be two blacksmith courses held this Fall, one an introductory and the other a level two course.

Thanks to Gloria Brown for organizing two flea markets at the blacksmith shop this summer. These events raise funds to support operations of the shop.

A painting of the Waldie Blacksmith shop has been completed on the hoarding that surrounds the Town Hall expansion. Thanks to member Nancy Cuttle.

### Milton Historical Society Website Updated!

Members are invited to visit our new website [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca). Our member Richard Laugh-ton has taken on the leadership and the progress with this new site has been very satisfying. The society expresses our sincere appreciation for the time and effort put into its development.

### Heritage Award Nominations

The Milton Historical Society invites nominations for projects completed in 2007 that capture our rich heritage. (cont. next column)

The award categories include Educational, Writing and Visual Arts. If you know of a project that you believe is worthy, pick up a nomination form from the blacksmith shop and fill it out. The forms should be submitted by December 21st, 2007. The award presentations will be held in February, 2008.

(Milton 150th continued)

a description of the Coat of Arms, Milton's Motto and the Town Logo. The booklet is printed in two colours and includes both a chronological and alphabetical index of municipal officials. The book has a full colour cover of the current council chambers. The booklet is available for sale at \$10.00.

### Amazing Race

The Milton version of the Amazing race will be held Saturday, October 13th around the downtown core. There are over 80 teams who will compete to solve puzzles, complete physical activities and learn about the history of the town. Prizes will be awarded to the top teams.

### Choral Classics

The Milton Choristers begin their season with a concert Nov 17th at Knox Church. Jim Dills is preparing a powerpoint presentation to add a provide photographs of our heritage.

### Alex Cooke Memorial Awards

Congratulations to Taralyn Kerr from Bishop Reding High School, Caitlin Ward from Milton District High School and Sarah McCutcheon of E.C. Drury High School. These students are the recipients of the 2007 Alex Cooke Memorial Awards.

The Alex Cooke memorial award is given to a graduating student who has achieved high academic standing in high school history and who will be pursuing post secondary studies in social sciences.

## Calendar of Events –

September 20 th 8 PM MHS General Meeting Barbara Rusch – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

September 29/30 – Fine Arts Society of Milton studio tour

October 18 – 8 PM Wallace Gray – Pioneer Tools Part Two

October 20 – Historic Church Tour \$10.00 for passport – Milton area

October 20 – Level one blacksmith course

November 15 – 8 PM Ken Lamb – Milton Remembers WW1

November 16, 17, 18 Blacksmithing Class – Level 2

November 17 – Choral Classics – Knox Church

December 20 – 6 PM Christmas Pot Luck Dinner



The Journal is a publication of the Milton Historical Society and is published 4 times/year and serves to keep members informed of the activities of the Society. If you would like to submit items to the Journal they can be dropped off at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop or mailed to Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4

Journal Editor Bruce Carlin



# The Journal

December 2007

Volume 22 Issue 4

## Winter Edition



*Jim Dills, John Challinor II, Jessie Hamilton and Mirella Marshall celebrate recent Milton Streets Book Launch at the Waldie blacksmith shop.*

### Inside this issue:

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The official launch of the Milton Historical Society's newest book, "Milton Streets" took place November 10th at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

Mirella Marshall greeted guests and thanked the authors, photographers, financial backers and others associated with the project.

Authors Jim Dills and John Challinor II proudly unveiled the publication. This project was a number of years in the making and we thank them for their persistence.

Thanks go to Andrin Homes, Century Grove Homes, Royalpark Homes and the Tiger Jeet

Singh family for their financial backing.

Long time member Jessie Hamilton was given a copy of the book in recognition of her role as the person who came up with the original idea as well as her research assistance.

The five area photographers who provided the sixty colour photographs used in "Milton Streets" were in attendance. They were recognized for the quality of their photographs and for allowing the pictures to be used in the book at no charge.

Representatives from the publisher Boston Mills Press also attended the book launch.

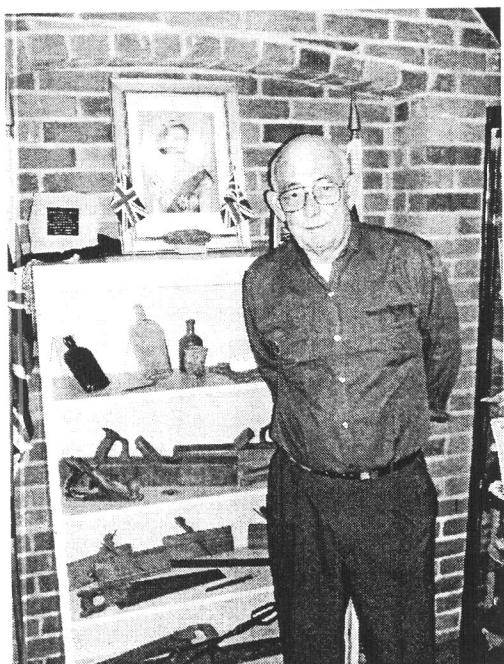
This hard cover book contains descriptions and photographs of the people and places used in the naming of the 600 streets, surveys and neighbourhoods and hamlets and villages that form the municipality of Milton.

Guests to the launch were able to have their personal copies signed by both the authors and the photographers.

There have been numerous book signing events at the Milton Mall as well as other retail outlets. The books are priced at \$40.00. MHS members can purchase the book at Waldie's blacksmith shop at a member's discount price of \$36.00. Sales of the book have been brisk. Profits from the book sales will go towards funding ongoing Historical Society activities.

## MHS General Meetings

Wallace Gray was our guest speaker for October. His topic was on the Pioneer Use of Water. Wallace grew up in the area near Erin on a farm and had a career in manufacturing including work on the Avro Arrow. The pioneers used water power for a range of purposes including grinding grain, sawing lumber and making flour. Most of these mills are now gone but some have been restored and put to new uses



Wallace Gray



*Milton Streets Team Front row (L to R) Authors John Challinor II and Jim Dills. Back row (L to R) Photographers Bob McDonald, Grant Rushton, Mike Schram, Mike Streeter and Peter Burian.*

such as restaurants. There were a number of different inventions developed to harness the power of water. These took the form of the well known water wheels as well as turbines. Water wheels were about half the efficiency of the turbines in converting the weight of the water into a rotating force.

Wallace spoke about some of the local mills and their points of interest. In the Alliston area, there is the Nicholston Dam and a 100 horsepower turbine on the Nottawasaga river. The Aberfoyle mill or Puslinch mill is located on highway 6 north and operated from 1859 to 1952. In 1867 James Mullen won a gold medal at the World Exhibition in Paris, France for oatmeal produced at the mill.

Hilton Falls was the location of a water powered sawmill built in 1835 but it was not successful and closed in 1836.

Alex McCann built a sawmill in 1838 in Campbellville. The large quantity of trees in the area provided an ample supply for the mill. Unfortunately once the trees were cut the water table lowered and creeks would go dry and some of the mills would then have to close.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority estimates that there were 65 mills on the Credit River during the period 1860 to 1880. (cont. next page)

In 1846 Gooderham & Worts built a mill near Hillsburg which included a 24 foot diameter over-shot wheel that was 75% efficient.

During the 1940's and 1950's electric power arrived in many parts of Ontario and this was the end for many grist mills. At least one enterprising owner purchased a grist mill and built a better generator and sold electric power for a time. Eventually the plant was sold to Ontario Hydro.

Wallace's talk highlighted the important role of water power and the enterprising pioneers who harnessed it.

### Milton Remembers the Wars

Our November guest speaker was Ken Lamb, author of several local history books including Milton Remembers Word War II.

Locally, the Royal Canadian Legion actively leads remembrance activities. Poppy sales in the area bring in close to \$ 45,000 annually. The money is used to purchase wheelchairs and other needs for the veterans. There are currently about 80 veterans at the Milton Legion and about 700 members.

Milton Remembers World War I was released last year and includes records and photographs of local

soldiers.

In nearby Guelph, the McCrae house commemorates the life of John McCrae, the doctor and soldier of World War I who penned the famous poem, "In Flanders Fields". In Milton there is a memorial cenotaph and peace gardens. In November 2007 a number of Milton cadets attended the Vimy Ridge memorial in France for remembrance day activities.

The Victoria Cross has been awarded to 94 Canadians since its inception, 70 times in the first war and 16 in the second war with the remainder awarded in other wars. Ontario soldiers have been the recipients for 20 of the total.

Hilda McKinley is a war bride who is active at the Milton Seniors Activity center. She recalls the royal treatment received on ships transporting the war brides overseas and being taken aback by the sheer size of Canada. The brides were not fully briefed about the their new country and ill prepared for the winter. Sometimes they were not welcome as they were considered another mouth to feed. Hilda recalls working on nearby farms harvesting strawberries and tomatoes. In time she adapted to her new country and became active in hobbies and activities such as the Girl Guides. Thanks to Ken for helping us to remember the wars and efforts to preserve

## From the Archives submitted by Brenda Whitlock

We would like to welcome Walter Eadie as our latest volunteer in the Archives.

Walter has offered to help with the organization of the Family History files. These need constant care and attention which I have been unable to give. It is particularly important that they are well organized now that the members of the Research Department, having successfully dealt with Milton Streets, are now turning their enthusiastic attention to Volume 3 of Milton Biographies! We do welcome volunteer help in the Archives – we have a lot of other files that need tidying up!

Probably because of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the

Town of Milton, we have received numerous donations this summer – in fact so many I have almost lost track of them. Photographs have been scanned, discs burned, pictures downloaded on to Milton Images and are now gradually being catalogued. We have received much information regarding the Volunteer Fire Department, Milton District High School, various community organizations and a large, very interesting donation, from the daughter of Mrs. McGrogan of the Milton Business College etc. etc. etc. We do thank everyone. We get many enquiries from near and far regarding genealogy, P. L. Robertson, many requests for our books and your donations make it possible to handle these.



## Chef at Home with Reni McDonald

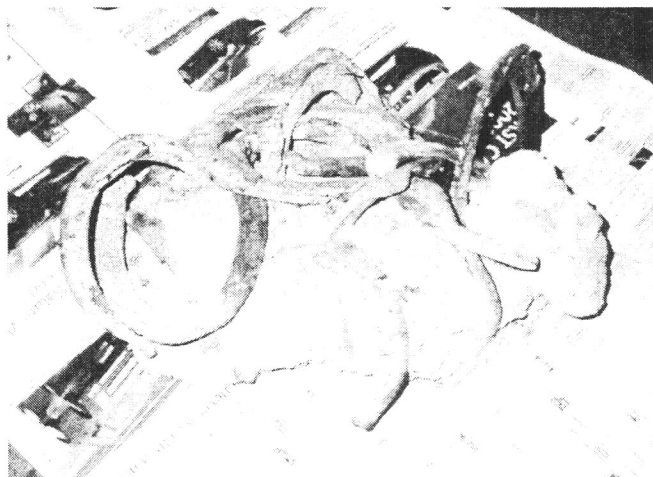
Christmas is a time of celebrating with family and friends. We continue to follow our own traditions and customs that have been handed down through the generations as well as starting new ones of our own.

Food plays an integral part during the festive season. Recipes have been exchanged through the years and we all have our favourites. If your family is like mine, they prefer the traditional dishes prepared for Christmas dinner. If you get tired of never-ending turkey sandwiches and soup, here is a recipe for using up the remaining Christmas turkey. It makes an easy dinner and you won't feel like you're having leftovers. Enjoy and Merry Christmas!

### Turkey Tetrazzini with Almonds

1 tbsp. butter  
 2 cups sliced mushrooms  
 1/4 cup chopped shallots (or onions)  
 1/3 cup flour  
 2 cups milk (or cream)  
 2 cups chicken broth  
 1/3 cup sherry  
 2 1/2 cups chopped, cooked turkey  
 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan  
 4 cups hot, cooked spaghetti  
 1/2 cup slivered almonds, toasted  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
 cooking spray  
 2 tbsp. freshly grated parmesan

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Melt butter in a large pot, over medium heat. Add mushrooms and shallots. Sauté 5 minutes and then stir in flour. Gradually add milk, broth and sherry, stirring with a whisk until blended. Bring to a boil stirring constantly, then reduce heat and simmer for about 8 minutes continuing to stir. Add turkey and 1/2 cup parmesan and cook for one minute. Remove from heat and add pasta, nuts, salt pepper and nutmeg. Spoon mixture into a 3 quart casserole that has been coated with cooking spray and top with remaining parmesan. Bake for 40 minutes. Serves 4 – 6.



*Remnant of Waldie wall - reinforced.*

## Waldie Reinforcing

submitted by Larry Maughan

The above photo is of a piece of the old wall around part of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, showing the rubble stone construction reinforced with horseshoes. As of Dec/07, this remaining sample was by the south wall back of the "Iron Man". Tom Murison who started the Shop restoration told of his choice of rental equipment to demolish these walls before rebuilding. He could choose a more powerful, compressed air jack hammer, but instead chose an electric jack hammer, expecting the old aged rubble to fall apart. The horseshoe reinforcing made his work more difficult.

These rubble walls were constructed by the Waldie blacksmiths and their employees because the timber frame bottom members at soil level rotted. They would have had many left-over horseshoes. The author also realized that this is around the time that concrete reinforcing was starting. A blacksmith shop is where all things current are discussed. – the blacksmiths would have been aware of this new technology.

To find out more, the author talked to his brother Mike, who was one of three Professional Engineers at Toronto Township before it became Mississauga. He told me of a Bowstring bridge which the engineers recommended against destroying –

rather plaque it. To find it, cross the QEW northbound on Dixie Road. Dixie turns right or east, comes to a stop-light, and turns left. If one continues straight or east 3 or 5 blocks with some wiggles, one reaches a dead end. Park and walk down the path to the 1909 Bowstring bridge crossing the Etobicoke creek which is the border between Mississauga and Etobicoke or Toronto.

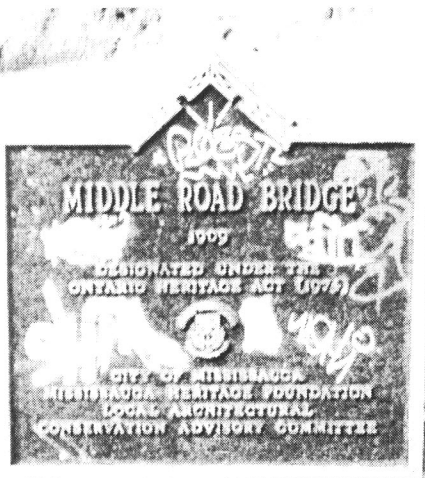
Mike also reported from on-line Wikipedia (when I try I couldn't find this!), an 1850's patent for reinforced concrete railway bridge railings, and a 1880's complete building of reinforced concrete in the U.S. west, built for 20 mule team borax (still sold under that name). The author knew of a 1916 Bowstring bridge (the design is based upon reinforced concrete) in Guelph on Stone Road east. The author also lived by the Caledonia 9 span Bowstring bridge, dated 1927.

Ah! Blacksmiths and their exposure to related technologies!

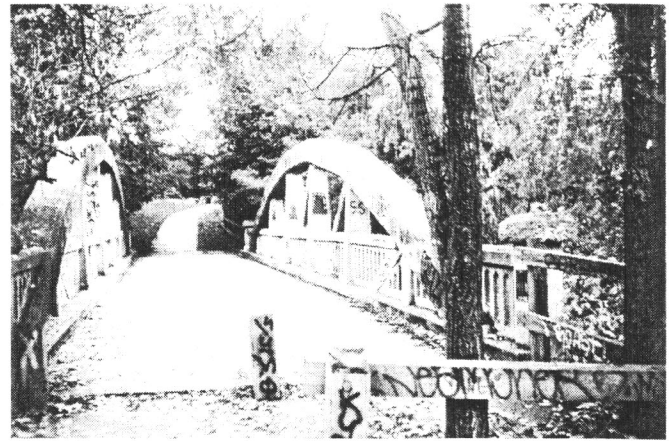
## Blacksmith Shop News

The Waldie Blacksmith shop has once again been the staging area for horse drawn wagon rides during the month of December. Visitors have watched the blacksmiths ply their trade, there have been crafts for the young ones and warm cider and cookies for all. Thanks to the D.B.I.A. for their role in organizing this event.

The Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association will hold a workshop Feb 9th at the Waldie shop. We welcome them



*The Plaque*



*The Mississauga bowstring bridge.*

## Historical Tidbit: Research by Jim Dills

From the Canadian Champion Nov 9, 1922

The Milton Worsted Yarn Spinning Mills Co.'s building on Commercial street has for a long time been too small for its needs, has been run with day and night shifts and has had more orders than it could handle. In order to increase its output and add new lines of manufactures, it has bought the shoe factory on Main street from its owner, the Corp. Of Milton. Men are busy now cleaning it out and removing what is left of the old machinery. The Co. will have the interior of the building remodeled at once, with a new floor in the basement and the upper floors strengthened to support a complete outfit of new machinery which it is expected will all be on hand in Feb. after which manufacturing will begin as soon as possible, with a large number of new operators.

**Quiz:** Who was the first Doctor to serve residents at the Halton Centennial Manor and also Chief Physician when the Milton District Hospital was opened?

Answer: See page 6.

**Obituary:** Canadian Champion Jan. 1941

Mrs. David Kenney: One of Milton's oldest residents Mary Susan Clarkson, wife of David Kenney, died on Wed. Jan 22 after a brief illness in her 83rd year. (cont. page 6)

#### Obituary (cont.)

She was a member of Grace Anglican Church and for many years an active worker in the W.A. She was interested in music, being a pianist of ability. She was the daughter of George Clarkson and Deborah Teetzel Book and was born at Milton where she lived all her life. She is the last of a long line of Dutch settlers who came to Grimsby in 1798. Surviving besides her husband are four daughters and two sons. The funeral took place from Grace Church on Sat. with interment in Palermo cemetery.

#### Quiz Page 5

Answer Dr. George E. Syer 1898-1976

**Website: Milton Soldiers:** Check it out

[miltonsoldiers.blogspot.com](http://miltonsoldiers.blogspot.com)

#### Calendar of Events – MHS

January 1 Mayor's Levee  
2 PM to 4 PM Hugh Foster Hall

MHS General Mtg Thursday JANUARY 17. 8 PM  
"INTELLECTUAL AND SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENTS IN EARLY MILTON"  
with John McDonald

MHS General Mtg Thursday, FEBRUARY 21. 8 PM  
"HALTON RADIAL MUSEUM"  
with Shara Spencer

Sunday, Feb 24th 2 PM  
Milton Heritage Awards Hugh Foster Hall.

MHS General Mtg Thursday, MARCH 20. 8 PM  
"DEADLY WOMEN OF ONTARIO"  
with Cheryl MacDonald

MHS General Mtg Thursday, APRIL 17. 8 PM  
"PLACES OF MEMORY  
Exploring Historic Cemeteries in Canada"  
with Jane Irwin

#### Heritage Award Nominations

Nominations are welcome for Heritage projects completed in 2007 in the fields of writing, education and visual arts. Nomination forms available at the blacksmith shop and the MHS website. Submission Deadline Jan 11, 2008.

#### Membership Renewals 2008

2008 Memberships will be for sale at our January meeting. Your membership fees support the activities of the historical society. An annual single membership is \$20.00, double is \$35.00 and student is free.

#### New Members

Welcome to Owen Degen, Mackenzie Dahms, Barbara Rankin, Pamla McLean, Janis Hodgins, Marlene Turner and Patti Young.



The Journal is a publication of the Milton Historical Society and is published 4 times/year and serves to keep members informed of the activities of the Society. If you would like to submit items to the Journal they can be dropped off at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop or mailed to Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario

Journal Editor Bruce Carlin

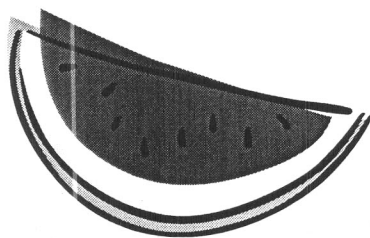


# The Journal

June 2007

Volume 22 Issue 2

## Summer Edition



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*Fran Gravel greets visitors at the MHS Victoria Day Decorations Sale Photo Peter Burian*

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers from the Milton Historical Society the homes and businesses of Milton were festively decorated to celebrate the recent Victoria Day holiday.

Lead organisers Nancy Cuttle and John McDonald co-ordinated the purchase of decorative bunting, fans, miniature Union Jack flags and flowers in bright red, blue and white colours, prepared and hand delivered advertising flyers and arranged for a sales day Saturday, May 12th.

The Waldie Blacksmith shop was the base of operations for this successful decorating event. Customers came to the shop to have their bunting custom cut and to get installation tips. They were able to also purchase flowers, fans and flags. There was excitement

and a sense of anticipation as homeowners looked forward to decorating their own homes.

When the Victoria Day holiday arrived there were many festively decorated local businesses and homes. Since the holiday passed the decorating bug has spread and more homes and businesses continue to decorate their premises. Milton Greenhouses and Fitzgerald Insurance arranged very nice store front displays of Queen Victoria pictures, books and of course varied Union jack decorations. Victoria park has been decorated as well as Milton's old town hall.

The historical society is encouraging people to leave up their decorations until the beginning of July in recognition of both Canada Day and Milton's



150th anniversary celebrations.

This event has been very successful for the first year and it is hoped that the decorating of homes and businesses will become an annual event in Milton. Thanks to all who helped make this a big success.

## 150th Celebrations

The Milton Walk of Fame project was the main attraction at the recent Canada Day opening festivities.

This project has been spearheaded by John Challinor II and Jim Dills. The goal of the Walk of Fame is to recognise local individuals whose accomplishments in their careers have been at the national or international level. A list of nominees was presented to Milton's 150th Master committee for consideration and submitted to the Town Council for formal approval. The candidates' accomplishments span a wide range of careers from agriculture, business, music, communications media and sports.

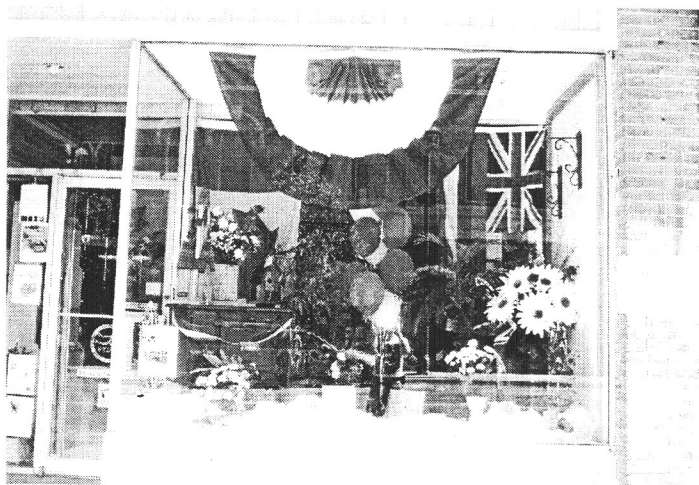
There was a formal recognition ceremony at the Canada Day celebrations including a parade of the inductees down Main street in vintage automobiles and followed by formal presentations at the main stage. A large crowd of supporters was on hand to celebrate the twenty seven inductees. Local VIP's assisted in the ceremonies. Souvenir Walk of Fame programs were handed out to the public and after the formal recognition ceremonies, there were autograph signing ceremonies with inductees.

Congratulations to our own member Jim Dills for his selection to Milton's Walk of Fame. Jim was the President of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association (CCNA) in 1988 and travelled across Canada sharing his knowledge and experience with members of the press community. This is a very well deserved award!

Volunteers from the MHS assisted in the ceremonies with cake cutting and in reading short biographies for each of the inductees. Many thanks to all who helped with this successful event.

When the Town Hall expansion is completed in 2008 there will be a suspended walkway connecting the current town hall with the expansion. (cont.)

The floor tiles on this walkway will include the names of the inductees as a permanent salute. It is hoped that there will be many more names of Miltonians added in the future.



Milton Greenhouses Storefront Display pleases the eye!

## Come out and meet Miltonian's from the Past!

Come out to our local cemeteries and meet some figures from the past! Both the Pioneer cemetery on Bronte Street North and Evergreen cemetery will have costumed interpreters acting the character of real Miltonians from the past.

The event will be held July 8th from 1 to 4 PM. At 2 PM at Evergreen cemetery there will be a special unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the accomplishments of P.L. Robertson, inventor and business man who established his screw manufacturing business in Milton in the early 1900's.

In addition to costumed interpreters, the Acton Citizens band will provide music. Graves of veterans of both World Wars will be marked with flags. In addition citizens are encouraged to place flowers at the graves of their loved ones.

This event is being supported by McKersie-Kocher funeral home, J. Scott funeral home, Creative Memorials, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Milton Horticultural Society and Evergreen Cemetery board.



## Milton Street Festival enjoyed by many

Milton's Main street was the scene of a giant party June 9th. The event followed the Farmer's Market and featured musical entertainment, displays and a variety of vendors. Gloria Brown organized an Antiques Flea market at the Waldie Blacksmith shop. There were more than a half dozen vendors displaying their treasures for sale. There was a large turnout for the street festival and the blacksmith shop had a steady stream of visitors all day long. The vendors reported good sales. Thanks Gloria for co-ordinating the Antiques Flea market.



Helen Comber and Gayle Waldie at Antiques Flea Market

## From the Archives submitted by Brenda Whitlock

More and more thanks to be handed out ..... Gary Ellis of Rockwood donated four Centennial 1957 glasses and also items of local ephemera (blotters etc.). Ephemera is always interesting and helps build up a picture of how life was conducted at a certain period – receipts and bills from local businesses, doctors' and dentists' bills etc. Mr. Ellis also donated a small section of the hand rail at the old town hall – he worked there briefly when they were renovating the building.

We must also thank Doug Vaughan, Flora Sloski and Ken and Ginny Johnson. They have all kindly lent photographs to us in order than they may be scanned and put onto our web page. After scanning, the photographs were returned to their owners. We would be pleased to hear from other people who have interesting old photographs connected to Milton and are willing to lend them to us but not donate them.

Thanks are also given to the remarkably energetic and hard working group of Marsha and Gayle Waldie and Gloria Brown for spring cleaning the Archives. . Things are spic and span for a few months at least.

We do appreciate a donation from Kathleen (Beasley) Johnston consisting of items which be-

longed to Dean Johnston from his period of service in the Korean War. These are the first items we have received in connection with the Korean War and we are most grateful. Mrs. Johnston also loaned a number of photographs which were scanned and put onto our web page and then returned to her. She donated a copy of the "Robertson Socket-head Review" to add to our collection. These newsletters are interesting reading and we are always happy to have additional copies. Mrs. Johnston also donated a wonderful silk postcard sent from a military camp in England in WWI by her father to her mother in 1917. We are so pleased to receive all these items.

Kay Bounsall has been busy with her camera and we thank her for pictures of the Mayor's New Year's Levee. She is also taking pictures of buildings in her area which are going up or coming down or sometimes both at the same time! We hope she is keeping an eye on the massive undertaking across from her house – the Town Hall extension.

We welcome help from Richard Laughton who has scanned all of our papers connected with the work done by John Challinor and Jim Dills for their book "Milton Remembers World War I". We now have all this research on discs.

Shirley Chisholm has donated old legal documents

relating to her husband's family and the farm on the corner of Twiss and Derry. She has also loaned photographs of the farm house when it was first built and how it looks today. Jim Dills is scanning these for us. Many thanks Shirley.

Thanks are also extended to Mr. John White of Burlington who donated a Milton Centennial glass, some tin type photographs, some Milton Centennial money and a letter to Mr. James Hollinrake of Milton dated the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1874 regarding Mr. Hollinrake's insurance in which it was regretted that the premium could not be reduced. 'Twas ever thus!

John McDonald has been working on a presentation to the Milton Arts Council on culture, entertainment etc. in Milton. This appears to have started small but is growing larger by the minute and there will soon be enough material for a book or two!! It is gratifying to see the more obscure corners of the archival collection being used.

Again thanks as always to Jim Dills, Marsha Waldie, Gloria Brown, John Challinor, etc. etc. for all the help they have given.

Brenda Whitlock, Archivist

## Port Hope Beautiful Historic Town

Thirty people hopped on a bus to tour Historic Port Hope recently. The weather was perfect for visiting with sunny skies and nice weather.

Our tour guide Steve Shap, a life long resident of Port Hope made our visit most interesting and enjoyable.

Highlights of the tour included a tour of the Capitol Theatre which is Canada's only remaining Atmospheric Theatre. It was built in the 1930s in the design of a medieval castle on the exterior of the building and inside the walls are painted to show landscapes of trees and hills and at the front of the Theatre are two watch towers on either side of the stage.

Steve told us stories of some of Port Hope's famous



The Capitol Theatre in Port Hope was a key destination for the recent bus trip.

citizens including a Joseph Scriven who came to the town in 1820 from Dublin, Ireland. He was a religious man and a bit eccentric and also had his share of misfortune including a fiancée who drowned on the eve of their wedding and a wife who died from pneumonia one week after being baptised in the waters of nearby Rice Lake. Joseph Scriven wrote a poem that became a famous church hymn "What a Friend we have in Jesus".

We also learned the story of Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Williams who commanded the Midland Battalion at the Battle of Batoche, Northwest Territories against the Louis Riel and the Metis. The Midlanders broke through the lines during the battle and this marked the turning point in the battle. Unfortunately, Lt. Colonel Williams succumbed to sickness shortly after the battle. In recognition of his role at Batoche, some 10,000 people attended the funeral. A monument was unveiled by Sir John A. Macdonald.

We went on a one hour bus tour to view some of the historic homes, churches and other well known land-

Marks. We went on a one hour bus tour to view some of the historic homes, churches and other well known landmarks. Port Hope has an abundance of historic buildings that seem to be well cared for by the residents.

We enjoyed lunch at the RAILSIDE restaurant and then spent the remainder of the afternoon free to visit the historic downtown. A fire had broken out on the roof of one of the commercial buildings the previous week and although there was smoke and water damage, it appears that the building structure itself did not suffer major damage.

Many thanks to Marsha for organising this bus tour to a very historic and beautiful part of Southern Ontario.

### **Chef at Home with Reni McDonald**

With the hot, hazy days of summer here at last, we look towards easy to prepare meals that won't heat up the kitchen. There is one ingredient I'm sure most of you have a box or two of in your pantry and with it, you can make an endless variety of salads, appetizers, entrees, relishes and desserts.

In 1897, Pearl B. Wait, a carpenter and cough medicine manufacturer from New York, developed a fruit flavoured version of gelatin. His wife, May Davis Wait, named it Jell-O. The first flavours were orange, lemon, strawberry and raspberry. In 1899, Wait sold the business to a neighbour for \$450.00. In 1905 Jell-O gelatin production began in Canada. In the early 1900's Jell-O was served to immigrants entering Ellis Island as a "Welcome to America." Gelled salads became very popular around the 1930's. This led to the introduction of Lime Jell-O, a flavour well suited to salads. To-day there are more than 158 products sold under the Jell-O brand name which belongs to USA-based Kraft Foods.

### **Great Aunt Luise's Jellied Salad**

- 1 large package of lime Jell-O
- 1 1/2 cups boiling water
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 – 8 oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup diced cucumber, peeled and seeded
- 1 tsp. worchestershire sauce

Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Chill until it begins to thicken. Stir in the rest of the ingredients. Pour into a mold or bowl and let set well before serving. Enjoy!



Nancy Cuttle and her Jasper Martin sculpture.

### **Jasper Martin sculpture a 150th tribute**

Inspired by Milton's 150th anniversary and using her artistic training as a sculptor Nancy Cuttle has created a sculpture of Jasper Martin and recently displayed it at the Main street festival in June and at the June Potluck dinner.

The sculpture depicts Jasper Martin arms crossed and with a proud look on his face. The clay sculpture stands about 18 inches tall on a piece of limestone from the Bruce Street school. It took three months to complete.

There are no known drawings or paintings of Jasper Martin and he passed away before the discovery of the camera so there was no image to work from. Nancy looked at images of the descendants of Jasper Martin to come up with her understanding of how he may have looked. (cont. next page)

Nancy has also penned a poem in tribute to Jasper Martin

## **Jasper Martin Sends Word Home**

The year is 1826, too long since I have sent word home.

Good wishes to our many kin throughout county Northumberland.

With Sarah and our four fine sons we've settled well in eight short years.

Trafalgar County is our home in this The Canadas.

At close of day, we praise the Lord and thank the King;

One hundred acres ours to work, I own the land, and we are free.

This is a harsh and rugged land, the season's do explode.

Short summer yields its gentle glow to exploding trees of red and gold,

The endless months of snow and ice, vanish in rush of water and flies.

And the harsh earth holds our Hannah dear taken from us within a year.

At close of day, we praise the Lord and thank the King;

The air is fresh, I own the land, and we are free.

But oh the mud, the fickle mud, too hard at frost, too soft at thaw,

We must do something with the mud.

The trees, the trees, the endless trees as far as one can see.

We chop and burn from dawn to dusk and still there's more to clear.

My sawmill cuts them into planks, my ashery makes the lye.

We take the trees to build our homes, the ashes make us soap.

At close of day, we praise the Lord and thank the King;

The trees are mine, I own the land, and we are free.

But oh the mud, the dusty mud, not even soap can clean the mud.

We must do something with the mud.

Rocks and boulders everywhere in every shape and form,

Methinks God practised pitching ball with rocks from all the world.

We build our firm foundations, line our paths with gathered rock,

The limestone cliffs will serve us well when masons come to build.

At close of day, we praise the Lord and thank the King;

The rocks are strong, I own the land, and we are free.

## **Calendar of Events – MHS**

July 1st – Canada Day and Milton's 150th anniversary at Milton Fairgrounds and also Milton's Walk of Fame Recognition ceremony. Come out and enjoy!

July 8th Cemetery tour 1 to 4 PM at Milton Pioneer cemetery on Bronte St. N. and at Milton Evergreen cemetery on Ontario St. S.

August 19th Victoria Park Walking Tour 2 PM

September 20th 8 PM MHS General Meeting

October 20th Milton Historic Church Tour 10 AM to 4 PM

## **New Members**

Welcome Michael Currie, Nora Zylstra-Savage, Margaret Mulley, W. McMullen, Lillian Krywaniuk, Susan Plath, Susan Butson, Sue Klip, Hannah Lynch, Stephen Ball, Phil Prestidge, Amy Hunter, Brenda Hicks, Donna McLaughlan, Charmaine Essey, Christian Pariente, Marg Saliba, Roxolana Toews, Pam McLean.

The Journal is a publication of the Milton Historical Society and is published 4 times/year and serves to keep members informed of the activities of the Society. If you would like to submit items to the Journal they can be dropped off at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop or mailed to Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario or e-mailed to [Miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca](mailto:Miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca)

Journal Editor Bruce Carlin





# The Journal

March, 2007

Volume 22 Issue 1

## Spring Edition



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*MHS welcomes in Milton's 150th anniversary at the annual Mayor's Levee*

## Milton's 150th Celebrations underway!

The year 2007 marks the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Milton. The celebrations kicked off New Year's eve with the traditional bell ringing ceremony at Victoria Park. Special invited guests included the designer of the 150th logo Michelle Job and the Milly the Millstone mascot.

The Milton Historical Society helped to recognize the occasion at the Mayor's Levee on New Year's day with members dressing as former prominent Miltonians and providing short biog-

raphies on their life accomplishments.

The former Miltonians were selected from the very earliest history up to the more recent. Jasper Martin played the role of his ancestor and founder of Milton and by no coincidence also with the same name. The other members included Sarah Priscilla Waldie, PL Robertson, Mayor Mike Ledwith, the mayor for Milton's Centennial celebrations, Elizabeth Harrison, Jane Darling, Edith Dick, Margaret Maxted, Captain AC Bastedo, Mayor George Brown and Myrtle Fields.

The Council Chambers were fes-



tively decorated with 150th anniversary posters, balloons and displays. Visitors were also entertained by the keyboard music of talented local musician Carl Steinhauer.

The Mayor and several councillors participated in the event and greeted visitors in the Main floor lobby. There was also a special Milton 150th pin given to visitors to commemorate the event. Visitors were encouraged to register in the 150th guest registry and indicate their country of origin.

The Milton 150th anniversary committee had a display with merchandise for sale and Milly the Millstone the 150th anniversary mascot mingled with the crowd. The Halton Region Museum set up a display and an activity table for the children. Country Heritage Park provided a "Guess the Artifacts" contest.

A special 150th anniversary cake with logo was baked up for the occasion and enjoyed by all. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this a memorable salute to our 150th.

## 2007 Milton Heritage Awards

The Milton Historical Society and Heritage Milton joined forces again this year to recognize local organizations and citizens who have completed Heritage Related projects in the past year. The MHS awarded a Writing Award to Jim Dills and John Challinor II on their completion of the Milton Remembers World War I book. A visual arts award was presented to Community Living North Halton for the creation of the 50th anniversary quilt which depicts their role in the community. The quilt has garnered many awards at local fairs. Congratulations to both aware winners.

Heritage Milton provided the recognition for architectural awards. The award recipients provided short powerpoint presentations including before and after shots and provided interesting and entertaining comments on



Performers from Milton Youth Theatre Productions entertain At the 2007 Heritage Awards.

their renovation projects.

Mandy Sedgwick and Mirella Marshall received a restoration of a Designated building for 151 Robert street and the Home received a Designation Plaque at the same time. This home was previously located on Mary street and was moved to its new location. Job well done.

Adam and Elva Mead of 103 Thomas Street and Jabez Nicholson and Holly Smith of 11773 Guelph Line received awards for restoration of non designated buildings.

Kimberly and Glen English were recognized for the wonderful restoration of the Country Mile retail store at 276 Main Street east, formerly the Kentucky Fried chicken restaurant.

John Challinor II was also recognized for his many years as Council representative on Heritage Milton.

The Milton Youth Theatre Productions entertained the audience with several numbers from "The Music Man" musical. Our bagpiper for the day was Mr. Glenn Brown. Thanks again to the volunteers who made this day a big success. Special thanks to Ken Lamb who acted the part of Milton's First Mayor George Brown and recounted some key events from 1857.

## 150 th Celebrations

Winterfest 2007 was held early in February at Memorial Arena to celebrate winter activities. In spite of extremely cold weather, some brave souls participated in Snow Soccer and Snow Baseball.

Members of the Milton Icehawks Junior A hockey team were on hand for a road hockey demonstration. A special 150th anniversary ice sculpture was sculpted and Special guest and former NHL Goal-tending Great Johnny Bower was on hand to sign autographs.

Entertainment was provided by the Bishop Reding Choir and members of the Accapella Showcase.

For those who preferred indoor activities, the Leisure Center Pool and Indoor Skating rink were open and many families took advantage of the free activities.

## School Contests

The MHS is partnering with the Town of Milton to encourage local school students to participate in celebrations of this special year. We are sponsoring a Class Art Contest to depict significant events in each of Milton's last 15 decades. Classes have until Mid May to submit their timelines. Winners will receive \$100.00 to use for a class celebration lunch.

## Walk of Fame

This project has been spearheaded by Jim Dills and John Challinor II. Local residents who have achieved national or international recognition in the fields of Athletics, Business, Science and Entertainment will be recognized with plaques in the walkway that will connect the Present Town Hall with the addition that is to be built. Milton Town Council will review the nominations for approval shortly.

# From the Archives

submitted by Brenda Whitlock

Another busy time at the Archives and many generous people to thank. Kaye Hogg lent us photographs etc. for our display on Schools. She has now donated a number of them to our permanent collection. Many thanks Kaye.

To Kay Bounsall, thanks for a selection of items including an old hook of pictures of Oakville, a disc of photographs taken at the New Year's Levee 2007, invoices and items from various stores in Milton, a history of the Denyes School and much else.

Thanks to Joan Chisholm for various items including items connected to the Order of the Eastern Star, old newspapers including one describing the reunion held on the occasion of the closing of the Bruce Street School, clippings and magazines concerning the local Womens Institutes.

To Sheila Dolby for school art books belonging to the three Douglas brothers Jack, Harry and Elmer. These were completed by the boys when they at-

tended the Milton High School on Martin Street in the 1930s. The Douglasses later farmed on the west side of Highway 25 opposite Bowes cemetery.

Thanks to Eleanor Jackson for a poster for Ken Dick's election campaign in the elections of 1957 and 1958. This is in beautiful condition and we really appreciate this donation relating to a distinguished Miltonian who, as most of you know, recently passed away.

Thanks to Ray Waters, Flora Sloski and to Ken and Ginny Johnson for lending photographs from their respective family collections which we were able to scan and return. If people do not wish to actually donate photographs to us, it is quite possible for us to scan them for future reference.

Marsha Waldie donated a framed calendar from The Brigden Manufacturing Co. of Hornby. It is for the year 1955. It is an attractive picture and is now hanging in our meeting room. She also gave us a history of the Boston Church. Many thanks Marsha.

(Archives – Continued)

We really appreciate all the work that Dean De Fazio of SNAP newspaper has done for us. When he first launched the free monthly newspaper, Dean approached us and offered us free space in the paper to promote the Historical Society. We are able to put one of our pictures with caption in the paper in this way together with information regarding the Society. He also sends one of his photographers to many of our events and for all of this we are grateful.

Brad Clements in turning out his basement and we are holding discussions about items he may wish to donate to us including the records of Milton Hardware. We have received from Al Kiernan and the owners of Home Hardware, a copy of the book "Exploring our past: The story behind Milton Home Hardware". This is a beautifully produced book with much information and many photographs. It also contains photographs of advertisements, invoices, bills etc. It is a very impressive accomplishment.

Thanks to Shirley Coulson for the donation of a reprint of the Halton County Atlas.

From Shirley Hall we have received a large donation of photographs of the Wilson family. Not only are there family portraits but also pictures of the Hornby L.O.L and the Milton High School Cadet Corps. Thank you very much Shirley.

John Challinor, Jim Dills and Marsha Waldie have begun research for a third volume of Milton Biographies. You may be being contacted for specific photographs, reminiscences and genealogical background!

We have, as usual, received many requests for information, pictures etc. but space does not allow full details. Suffice to say that we are pleased that our Archives are being used and that we are most grateful to all donors for making this possible.

Again many thanks for all those who have helped us. Brenda Whitlock, Marsha Waldie and Gloria Brown.

Editor Note: Thanks to Brenda for supplying CBC television with photos and illustrations from PL Robertson archives collection for the special "Canada's 50th Greatest Inventions" show aired in January.



PL Robertson Retirees and years of service (L to R) George Hard-sand, 45 yrs, Fred Leaver 43 yrs and Bruce Kitchen 45 yrs shown here at recent Milton Home Hardware History Weekend Feb 24-25.

### **Robertson Socket Head Fastener A Great Canadian Invention!**

CBC television held a special production early in January dedicated to the 50 Greatest Canadian Inventions. A sample of Canadians from across Canada were given the chance to vote on what they believed were the greatest Canadian inventions.

The program counted down from the 50th invention and moved forward to inventions with ascending numbers of votes. I must admit I missed the first few minutes of the show and the countdown was to 48 when I turned on the television. To my initial dismay when I saw the Ardox Spiral Nail selected as the 46th greatest invention for a moment I thought the Robertson Fastener might have gone before the nail. I hoped not!

I continued watching with anticipation and watched the Ski-Doo, the Electron microscope, the Canadarm go down. We were down to the top 10 greatest inventions! As it turned out the PL Robertson screw was voted in as the 8th Greatest Canadian Invention. Not bad for a device invented almost 100 years ago. There is a project for 2008, the 100th anniversary of the Robertson fastener!

A number of famous Canadians gave their personal reviews on the inventions including hometown astronaut Chris Hadfield on the qualities of the Robertson fastener. A fun show to watch!

## Milton FD History Illuminates

Ron Townsend shared the results of his research efforts into the history of the Milton Fire Department at our January meeting.

The history of many Ontario towns and cities includes some significant fires in their downtown areas in the early stages of the town's development. Milton has been no stranger to these fires. Jasper Martin's original wood grist mill was an early victim of fire and was replaced by the stone grist mill in the 1850's.

In the early years there were volunteer fire brigades and fire preparedness by-laws. Buildings had to have 2 buckets full of clean water dedicated for fire fighting. In the year of Milton's incorporation By Law # 12 was passed and Milton's first fire brigade and hook and ladder company was formed with powers to conscript people to help fight fires and fines of 5 schillings for those who refused.

Milton's first hand pumper unit dated back to 1855. It was basically a water pump on wheels, water was poured into a basin and hand pumping created the pressure to shoot the water out the end of the hose. Other notable fire apparatus purchased included a 1915 Buick for carrying hoses, a 1922 International which is still mobile and in 1946 a Fargo was purchased.

A major development in 1888 was the opening of Milton's municipal water system. A reservoir was established up on the escarpment off of main street along with a pipeline feeding into Milton. The elevation of the escarpment ensured that the water pressure in Milton was very high.

The alarm for early fires was the Town Hall Bell. Once telephone service came to Milton, number 100 was the Fire Emergency Call number. When this number was dialed, there would be 7 operators listening in on the details and they in turn would call the firefighter homes.

A number of MHS members like Marsha Waldie and Lynne Bundy Davis shared some of their early memories of their fathers who were Milton Firefighters years ago. Thanks Ron for the history!



(L to R) Captain Larry Brassard, Dorothy Hadley, Harold Coulson, Kathleen Johnston, Ron Townsend

## Cemetery Art

Cemetery Art was the subject of our February meeting. Guest Speaker Regina Haggio from the Dundas Valley School of Art spoke about the symbolism of art on headstones. There are two symbols that have figured prominently in artwork of early headstones. The weeping willow tree was a common image that symbolized both mourning and new life. Clasped hands were also common and they symbolized the Christian belief of the resurrection and connection with heaven. Regina's talk was full of detailed insights into many other symbols of cemetery art.

## History of Home Hardware

Al Kiernan and Mary Varley from Milton Home Hardware and Building Supplies shared their store history at our March meeting. As part of celebrations for the 150th anniversary, Al spearheaded a project to research the history of the Hardware Store from its earliest beginnings to the present. Milton Home Hardware is one of the oldest retail stores in the Town of Milton. The history of the hardware store includes the names and photographs of the owners beginning with Duncan and Adam McKay in the 1880's. The store started operations on Main street and included several moves including the Milton Mall and present Steeles Avenue locations. (Cont.)



The book includes the home locations of the store owners, early advertisements and the history of the Milton Home Hardware Logo. A list of all current and past store employees includes over 350 names. A special anniversary display has been constructed to show early tools, products, advertisements and other historic artifacts of the store. The display is at the blacksmith shop and will be moved to a variety of locations to highlight Milton's special anniversary. Congratulations to Home Hardware on their anniversary project.

### **Dr. James Cobban**

Milton's Pioneer Doctor Buried in Bronte St. Cemetery: part of a story published

By J. Dills which appeared in our April 7, 1986 Journal.

Dr. James Cobban is one of the town's pioneers who rests in the Pioneer Cemetery on Bronte St. Born in Aberdeen Scotland, Sept. 27. 1802, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts at the age of 16. During the time he attended lectures in medicine he was also an apprenticed pupil of Alexander Irvine M. D. from 1816 until the end of his curriculum.

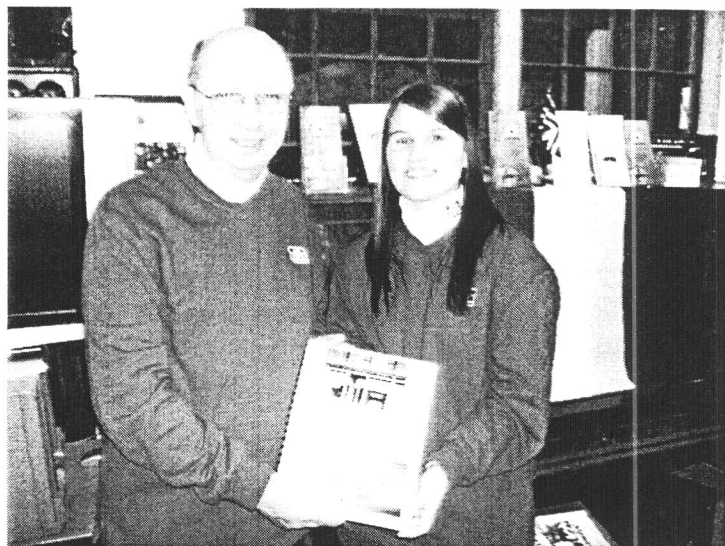
He went to London to complete his medical education and on Oct. 5, 1821 he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Dr. Cobban practiced in Greenland then went to Jamaica where he practiced for 9 yrs arriving in Canada in 1832.

In Nov. 1832 he was "gazetted" and announced that he had taken up residence on the 16 Mile Creek and would serve residents of the area. His home was on Commercial St. at the south east corner of Heslop and he farmed the land in that area.

At this time he was the 3<sup>rd</sup> pioneer doctor between the city of Hamilton and Toronto, the two others being at St. Ann and near Port Credit.

Dr. Cobban died Feb. 21, 1857 in the same year Milton was incorporated as a Town.



Mr. Al Kiernan and Mary Varley from Milton Home Hardware proudly display the results of their history project.

The Milton Historical Society will be hosting a special Day, which will honour those who helped to build the community we know today. On Sun. July 8<sup>th</sup>, this event will encourage residents to visit: The Pioneer and Evergreen Cemeteries. Watch for further information regarding this special day as we celebrate Milton's 150<sup>th</sup>.

### **What's In A Name?**

By Jim Dills and John Challinor II

This Idea started many years with our member Jessie Hamilton beginning the process. Since then Jim and John have documented and continued adding to the Towns Street and Neighbourhood data base.

-Alexander Crescent (Dempsey) Named in 2000 for William Alexander (1864-1951), a local farmer and grain merchant who served as a Milton Councillor in 1897 and 1898. He also served as a school trustee in 1913.

Dempsey: This neighbourhood was named for a prominent farming family, whose family members were led by patriarch John Dempsey, a native of Ireland who filed his petition for land at York in Dec. 1818 and received his Crown land title by July 1836. This area is bounded by Hwy 401 to the north, the Canadian National Railway tracks to the south, Thompson Rd. to the west and James Snow Parkway to the east. (cont. p.7)



## Chef at Home with Reni McDonald # 1

*(A new addition to the Journal Thanks to Reni McDonald and enjoy)*

Many changes have occurred in the field of cooking since the days of our grandmothers.

Meals were prepared according to what was locally in season. Until electric refrigeration in the early 1900's keeping food fresh was not an easy task. To make food supplies last through winter, meat was canned, cured, salted and smoked. Fruits and vegetables were preserved or stored in a root cellar. Commercial canning of fruits and vegetables was introduced in the late 1800's.

At this time of the year the production of maple syrup is very much in season and popular as a sweetener in many recipes. I have adapted the following recipe to reflect modern ingredients. For example: to-day's flour is of a much lighter consistency and eggs are larger. Enjoy!

### Maple Raisin Muffins

2 cups bran	2 tsp.
baking powder	
1 1/4 cups buttermilk	2 tsp.
baking soda	
1 large egg, beaten	1 tsp.
ground cinnamon	
1 1/4 cups pure maple syrup	1/2 cup
vegetable oil	
1 cup all-purpose flour	1 cup
raisins	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a mixing bowl, combine bran, buttermilk and egg. Mix well, add maple syrup and mix again. Let stand for 5 minutes. In another bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet mixture. Stir in the oil and raisins and mix until just blended. Fill large muffin tins 3/4 full and bake for 20 – 25 minutes.



(What's in a Name cont. from page 6)

-Charles Street (Old Milton) Named for Dr. Charles Gardner, a local medical doctor who registered a small subdivision in the Main-Charles area in 1853. He was the first president of the Milton Mechanics' Institute (Library). In 1857 he left Milton to become resident superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital.

### **MHS Annual Bus Trip**

There is much to see and do in Port Hope. This historic town is nationally acclaimed for a designated heritage conservation district Main Street. Shopping is second to none, rumoured to be the antique capital of rural Ontario with numerous antique and specialty shops. You don't want to miss this fantastic trip! See Marsha to register. The date is Saturday, June 16th, Departure 8 AM, Return 7 PM. Cost to be confirmed. First come, first served.

### **MHS Flower, Flag and Bunting Sale**

Victoria Day will take on an extra special look beginning this year thanks to the lead of Nancy Cuttle and John McDonald. MHS will have a sale of Hanging flower baskets with red, white and blue flowers, Union Jack flags, and historical Red, White and Blue decorative bunting to celebrate the anniversary. The event will take place at the Waldie Blacksmith shop on Saturday, May 12th from 9 AM to 4 PM. It is hoped that businesses and historic homes will participate in celebrating the historic roots of Milton. A sample bunting is on display in Carriage shop.

## Blacksmith Shop News

Thanks to Floyd Paul for donation of picture of Blacksmith Shoeing a Horse. The OABA held their annual meeting on February 10th. Thanks to the volunteers who made the Chili and helped oversee the day. Approximately \$500.00 was raised on the day's events for shop rental, food sales and shirts.

There was a Level 1 blacksmith course held Saturday, March 24th which included a Father and Son combination. The next course scheduled is for April 21st. Registrations welcome.

### Special Thanks

To our treasurer Helen Comber for all her efforts in completing the finances for the 2006 year.

## Calendar of Events

April 19th General Meeting 8 PM "Memories of Nas-sagaweya" by Jean Somerville  
 April 21st Blacksmith Course  
 May 12th Flower, Flags and Bunting sale  
 May 17th General Meeting 8 PM "Queen Victoria, First Lady of 19th Century"  
 June 16th MHS Bus Trip to Port Hope  
 June 21st Pot Luck Dinner 6 PM

### New Executive

Welcome Ken Keates Heritage Milton Liason and Nancy Cuttle Special Events!

### New Members

Welcome Ellen Montcalm, Arnold McDuffe and Mary O'Neill. 2007 Memberships are due. In order to continue receiving your Newsletter and 10% discount on purchases of MHS books and promotional items, please renew today!



## Milton Historical Society

16 James St., Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4

Telephone 905 875-4156

Web Site: [www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)

☐ New ☐ Renewal

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Fees

\_\_\_ Double \$35  
 \_\_\_ Single \$20  
 \_\_\_ Student \$0  
 \_\_\_ Life \$700

Please mail or deliver your Membership Application to Milton Historical Society at 16 James St., Milton, Ont. L9T 2P4

Donations to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Foundation assist in maintaining and operating this interpretive centre in the heart of Milton. Donations are income tax deductible and receipts are available.

The Waldie Blacksmith Shop, established in 1865 at 16 James St., Milton, has been restored for educational programs.



*I want to help Milton Historical Society by volunteering:  
 I've indicated my interest -*

\_\_\_ Blacksmith Shop Interpreter

\_\_\_ Assisting in the Archives

\_\_\_ Conducting Walking Tours

\_\_\_ As a Society Speaker

\_\_\_ Assisting with Special Events

\_\_\_ Staffing during open hours

\_\_\_ Assisting with school tours

\_\_\_ Researching local history