

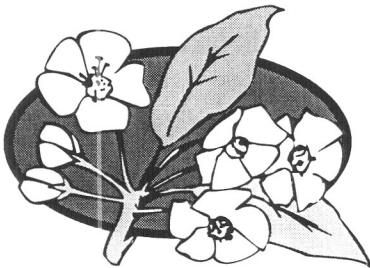


# The Journal

March, 2008

Volume 23 Issue 1

## Spring Edition



2008 Heritage Awards (From L to R. Bruce Carlin, Jasper Martin, Jim Dills, Nancy Cuttle, John Abrams, Mandy Sedgwick, John Challinor II, Mirella Marshall, Judy Hunter, MPP Ted Chudleigh, Mayor Gord Krantz, Dr. Ivan Hunter, Janis Hodgins, Brian Tyers (Photo by Shirley Dills)

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### Milton Celebrates Heritage!

The Milton Historical Society and Heritage Milton recognized individuals and organizations recently as part of Heritage Week celebrations.

The highlights included special recognition of the Town of Milton and the Fine Arts Society of Milton (F.A.S.M.) for their participation in Milton's 150th anniversary events celebrated last year.

The Town of Milton was recognized for sponsoring Milly the Millstone mascot, the 150th logo and merchandise and for support of special events including a Winter festival, the Main Street Festival,

Milton's Amazing Race and Santa Claus parade to name a few.

F.A.S.M. was recognized for sponsoring a 150th celebration arts contest depicting various images of Milton both historic and modern. F.A.S.M. also coordinated the Town Hall expansion hoarding project which saw a variety of historic scenes painted on the plywood panels.

The other MHS award winners included Nancy Cuttle for her Jasper Martin sculpture, Jim Dills and John Challinor II for the "Milton Streets" publication, Guardian Angels Elementary School for the Educational

Award and Milton Home Hardware for their store history publication and for creating a Historic Hardware display case that was moved to a number of sites during 2007.

Heritage Milton presented awards to Mandy Sedgwick, Mirella Marshall and Manuel Maciel, Dr. Ivan and Judy Hunter and John and Kelly Abrams for renovations of inventoried residential buildings. Laurie Wells received an award for renovation of an inventoried and Jasper Martin was recognized for renovation of an inventoried commercial building.

Entertainment was provided by local youth under the direction of Judy Hunter. Thanks to V.I.P.'s Mayor Krantz, MPP Ted Chudleigh and Betty Kennedy representative for MP Garth Turner. Special thanks to Helen Comber, Gloria Brown and Marsha Waldie for helping with the refreshments and display arrangements.

### **2008 Milton Historical Society Executive.**

Here is your new executive.

President: Bruce Carlin

Past President: Mirella Marshall

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Helen Comber

Historic Home Plaquing: Marsha Waldie

Membership: Edna Laird

Program Co-ordinator: John McDonald

Publications: Gloria Brown

Research: John Challinor II

Waldie Foundation: Mandy Sedgwick

Town Liason: Audrea Lear Costigan



John McDonald was our January guest speaker.

### **Guest Speakers entertain and educate!**

John McDonald's topic at our January meeting was titled "Intellectual and Social Development in Early Milton." We know that the early pioneers worked long and hard hours to get established in a new land.

One of the earliest social occasions would be the agricultural fairs where farmers would display their animals, grains and produce. The Milton Fairgrounds became the home for these agricultural celebrations. This tradition continues today even though the types of displays and events have evolved.

Milton's Victoria Park was an early center for musical entertainment with a bandstand established in 1909. The Milton Brass and Reed Band performed concerts here. There were also theatrical events such as the well known "Chautauqua" that would tour small towns in the summer.

The original Town Hall for many years hosted social event including The New Year's eve ball, the Fireman's ball, Political meetings as well as moving pictures. (cont.)

In 1894 a brick addition was added to the back of the Town Hall and this became the home of the Milton Public library for a number of years.

The Princess Theatre was opened in 1912 to show moving pictures. The original wooden building was lost in a fire and was rebuilt in 1916 and it was the site of both talking pictures, minstrel shows and other live local theatre. Today, the Galaxy theatre entertains with several theatres open to the public.

Ross Pearen was a very prominent person in Milton's local theatre scene. He directed several theatre productions including "Smith Steps Out". Ross was also a mayor of Milton and was the Chair of the 100th Anniversary celebration committee.

Milton's First Newspaper, The Halton Journal was published in 1855. There were a succession of other papers and today the tradition of Newspapers continues in the form of "The Canadian Champion" and "The Compass" as well as "Community Events" publications such as "Snap Milton".

Other organizations that have played a role in Milton's social and intellectual development included "The Mechanics Institute" which preceeded the Public Library system. There have been a number of So-

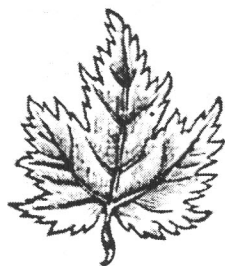
cial Clubs in Milton. There was the Victoria Club for Women and the Gentlemens Club for the men. The Victoria Club members included prominent women from the community. The Historical Society has copies of programs dating back to the early 1900's. Meetings involved both musical entertainment and discussion of historical and current events.

John highlighted one of the key figures in Milton's Social scene who has not received the credit he deserves. Thomas Chisholm Livingston was born at Hornby in 1835, one of eleven children. Thomas was an Ontario Land Surveyor and had a senior position in an Insurance company. He retired to Milton in 1908 and decided to build a park, known as Livingston's Park. This park was located on the North side of Livingston Park. A bandstand was constructed, lights installed, rental boats were available as well as refreshment stands. There were also movie pictures and fireworks. Thomas Livingston can be seen on early postcards of Livingston Park. Unfortunately, Livingston Park suffered financial problems and the park went bankrupt.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bastedo of Milton went to France where she painted and taught students. Today, the Fine Arts Society of Milton (F.A.S.M.) is the local organization that promotes artists locally. The Milton Historical Society through the work of then executive member Frank Sisson can claim some credit for the creation of F.A.S.M. as local artists were invited to display their art work at the 1997 Mayor's Levee.

The Social entertainment scene continues to evolve. Milton Concert Productions, Women of Note, The Milton Choristers, Country Heritage Park, Halton Region Museum, the Mohawk Raceway and individual entertainers such as Peter Appleyard, Ken Walsh, Steve Kakabos and others provide entertainment and education to the local populace.

## The Victoria Club



Milton, Ont. - - 1909-1910



Our February guest speaker Shari Spencer on the "Halton Radial Railway"

## Guelph Radial Railway on Track!

There is much writing and lots of talk about the need for more and better public transit in the Toronto area. Shara Spencer was our guest speaker from the Halton Country Radial Railway museum which is Ontario's only Operating Streetcar Museum.

The Toronto area Age of Rail took place in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The Toronto and Suburban Railway Company was formed in 1894 with the merger of two earlier streetcar companies. The earliest lines included one along side Weston road to the village of Weston and another line that ran beside Dundas road to Lambton Mills Park.

In 1911 Sir William Mackenzie, owner of the Toronto Railway Company and the Canadian Northern Railway purchased the company. In April 1917, a 74 kilometre line was built from Lambton Mills to Guelph. A passenger terminal on Keele street just north of Dundas. In 1918 the Mackenzie group of companies went bankrupt and the Toronto suburban became a part of the Canadian National Railway system. The company's streetcar routes were sold to the Toronto Transit Commission in 1923 and the Guelph branch became a subsidiary of Canadian National

Electric Railways. With running rights lost on Dundas, the company relocated its tracks to a private ROW from Lambton Mills to a proposed new terminal at St. Clair Avenue and Keele Street. In 1925 the company purchased Eldorado park, an 125 acre amusement park on the Credit River just west of Brampton. This park was purchased with the hope that it would bring passengers from the city out to the country. The Guelph Line was not profitable and by July 1931 the CNER defaulted on its bond interest and fell into receivership. To recoup losses, the rail line was cut up and sold for scrap.

The present Halton County Radial Railway was formed in 1953 by a group of men who wanted to save the TTC streetcar 1326 from being scrapped. Over the years a number of other street and radial cars have been acquired and restored. A piece of property on the original Guelph Radial Line was purchased. The tracks were replaced and today visitors can go on a streetcar ride along the original ROW. This museum opened up in 1972 and has expanded to include the Stop 92 Gift Shop. The museum arranges a number of other special events for the public including a Halloween Spooktacular. We are planning to have our June Potluck event at the Halton Radial Railway. Stay posted for more news.

## Chef at Home with Reni McDonald

As with the Easter Bunny, the Easter egg predates the Christian holiday of Easter. The exchange of eggs in the springtime is a custom that was already centuries old when Easter was first celebrated. Eggs traditionally symbolize rebirth, rejuvenation and immortality and therefore are associated with Easter. They were often wrapped in gold leaf or coloured brightly by boiling them with the leaves or petals of certain flowers.

The most famous Easter eggs are the jeweled and enameled Faberge eggs that were made for the Russian tsars. In the early Christian calendar eggs were forbidden during Lent, making them popular on Easter Sunday. Today, children hunt for coloured eggs and place them in Easter baskets along with the modern version of chocolate, candy and plastic Easter eggs.

Besides boiled eggs, favourite Easter foods include hot cross buns, ham, lamb and asparagus. The following recipe is easy to prepare and will go well with Easter dinner. Enjoy!



### Asparagus Vinaigrette

1 1/2 lbs. asparagus	salt and pepper to taste
3 tbsp. lemon juice	2 green onions, chopped
2 tbsp. olive oil	1/2 lb. cooked small shrimp
1 clove garlic, minced	2 hardboiled eggs,
coarsely chopped	
freshly chopped parsley	

Trim asparagus to remove woody ends and peel the stalks if necessary. Boil water in a skillet and add asparagus. Cook until barely tender, about 3 minutes. Drain, refresh in cold water and spread out the asparagus on a clean kitchen towel to absorb excess water. Whisk together lemon juice, olive oil, garlic, salt and pepper. Stir in green onions and set aside. Arrange asparagus on serving platter; drizzle with half of the dressing. Scatter shrimp and eggs over top; drizzle with remaining dressing and sprinkle with parsley. The ingredients can be prepared ahead of time and assembled just before serving. Serves 6 - 8.

## **Blacksmith Shop News**

The Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association (OABA) held a very successful February meeting at Waldie's blacksmith shop. Over 50 blacksmiths from across the province braved wintry conditions to hold their workshop. Thanks to the MHS cooks, Helen Comber, Marsha Waldie, Gloria Brown, Gail Waldie, John Challinor II for the heart warming chili. Such were the numbers and appetites we will have to cook more chili for 2009.

## **Historic Properties Plaquing Update**

The society has just recently added the following properties to our plaquing program; 246 Sydney Street, 157, 151 and 85 Robert Street, 336 Pearl Street, 108 Mill street and Marsha is working on four additional ones.

## **Evergreen Cemetery**

The cemetery is starting a new program this year and are looking for volunteers. We are asking individuals to adopt a grave, which means you would be looking after the planting and watering of said grave. For more info, please see Marsha.

## **Milton Biographies, Volume 3**

Milton Biographies, the two-volume collection of more than 200 biographies of Miltonians past that was written by the late Alex Cooke, is about to become three volumes.

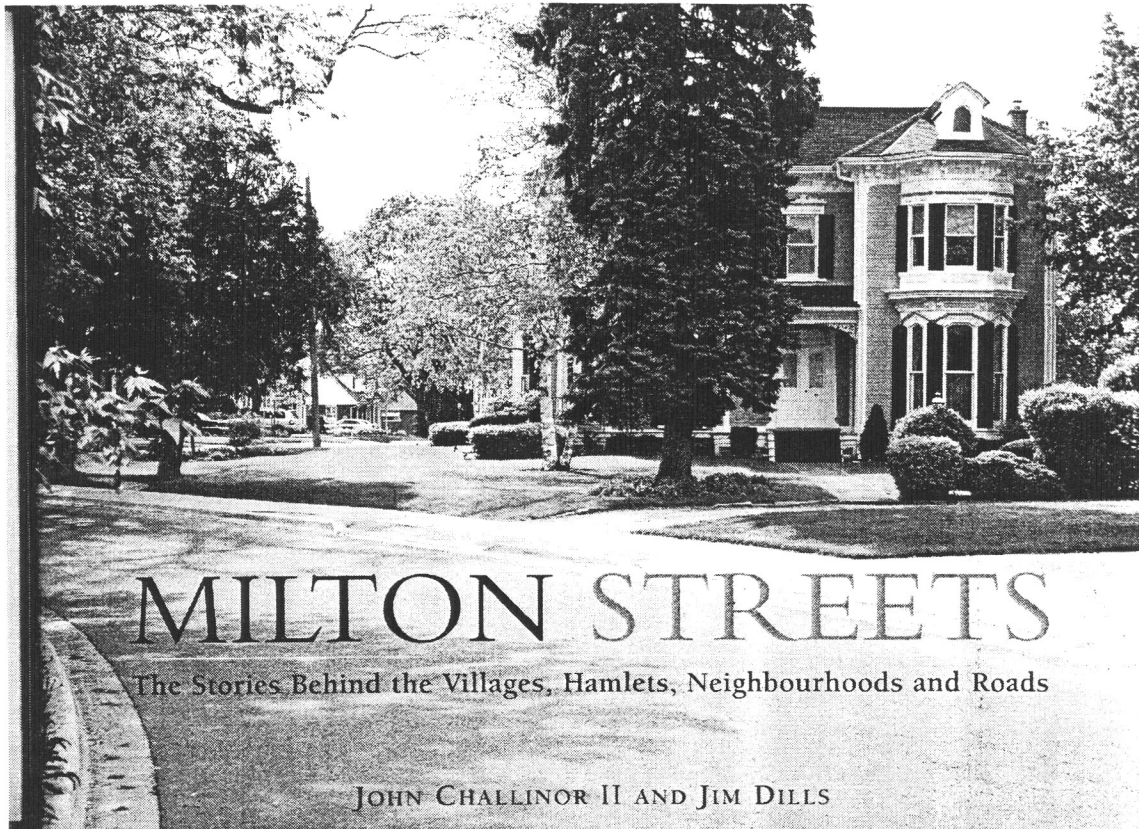
Local historians Jim Dills, John Challinor II, and Marsha Waldie, are collaborating on yet another book of history -- Milton Biographies, Volume 3. Milton Biographies, Volume 1, was published by Milton Historical Society in 1995 and Volume 2 was published two years later, in 1997.

In between their other book projects over the last few years, the long-time Society members sat down and identified 250 Miltonians who figured prominently in the community we know and love today and who should be subjects of a biographical review. Given that each volume of Milton Biographies contains approximately 124 biographies, Jim, John and Marsha have identified enough subjects to write volumes 3 and 4!

At this writing, Volume 3 is about 25 percent completed. As much as Jim and John would like to complete the project just in time for the important Christmas gift-giving (and book selling!) season, that appears unlikely. Genealogical research, which forms the basis of biographical writing, is the most intense and exacting form of historical accounting. Several sources are typically required to be tapped in order to create an accurate and complete biographical account. In addition, portraiture-type photography is also required for each subject. Start saving your pennies now for Christmas 2009 so you can purchase the third in the limited edition series of local biographies -- Milton Biographies, Volume 3.

## **Welcome New Members**

Angelo DeMedicis, Janis Hodgins, Al Kiernan, Robert (PIE) Lee, Mike Schram, Kassandra Goencz, Jaimee-Rae Authier, Charlie Gall



# MILTON STREETS

The Stories Behind the Villages, Hamlets, Neighbourhoods and Roads

JOHN CHALLINOR II AND JIM DILLS

The Milton Historical Society wishes to thank Milton Home Hardware, Harris Pro Stationary, Spice of Life, Recycled Reading, Global Genealogy, The Milton Mall and A Country Mile for their promotion and sales efforts for the Milton Streets publication. You all did a great job!

## **Milton Streets book almost sold out**

Milton Streets, one of the hottest-selling gift items in Milton over the Christmas season, is almost sold out.

Of the 850 books Milton Historical Society had available for sale, only about a dozen copies remain of the coffee table-quality pictorial history of local villages, hamlets, neighbourhoods and roads. And, there are only a handful left for purchase through the Society's retail partners.

Miltonians who were putting off buying one for themselves until after Christmas, thinking the Society would put them on sale and reduce the \$40 price, had better make their purchase over the next few weeks because it appears very likely that the book will be completely sold out. As one of the benefits of membership, Society members can purchase the book for just \$36 – a 10 percent discount.

To order your copy and avoid disappointment, please call the Society at (905) 875-4156 and leave a message, stating your name and telephone number and how many copies of the book you'd like set aside for purchase.

## **Calendar of Events**

April 17 "Old Canadian Cemeteries: Places of Memory" Jane Irwin.

May 3rd – Fans and Flags will be for sale to decorate homes and businesses in advance of Victoria Day Sales will be held Sat. and Wed. beginning May 3rd .

May 15 "History of the Brant Inn" Stewart Brown

June 19th 6 PM " Potluck Dinner" Halton County Radial Railway 13629 Guelph Line, North of 25 sideroad.

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



# The Journal

Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, Canada L9T 2P4 Telephone 905-875-4156  
www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

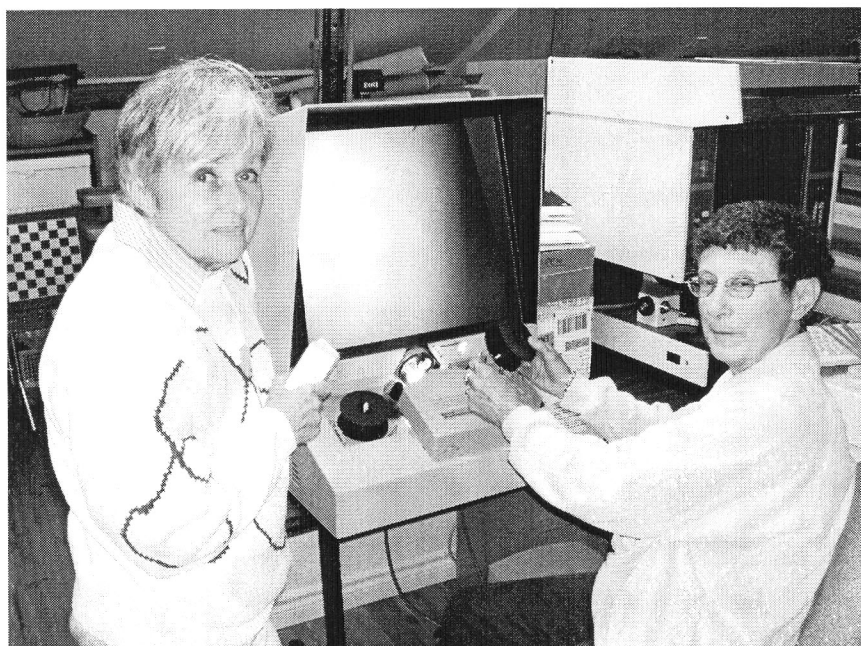
June, 2008 Volume 23 Issue 2

## Summer Edition



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*Helen Comber (standing) and Marsha Waldie (seated) view recent donation of microfilm reader and newly purchased reels of the Canadian Champion on microfilm.*

### Microfilm reader and microfilm donated to the Archives

The Milton Historical Society was the recent benefactor of a microfilm reader donated by the local Land Registry office. Thanks go to land registrars Mr. Jeff Gilbert and Mr. Bob McKain and Ms. Sherri Arpa

The donation would not have been possible without the strong working relationship between our member Marsha Waldie and Land Registry office staff. Marsha is a frequent visitor where she researches local homes as part of our society's House Plaquing program.

The Kodak Startech Reader will enable archives staff and interested

members to view microfilm records of local newspapers and related records in the comfort and convenience of the archives.

We would also like to thank Brenda Whitlock from our Archives for a generous donation which has allowed the Milton Historical Society to purchase 36 reels of The Canadian Champion Newspapers from the 1860's to 1969. These new reels complements microfilm copies of the Halton Journal acquired earlier.

Thanks also go to Gordon Bates for the donation of two wooden nail kegs from the Milton Barrel company and to Patricia-Comeau Young for her donation of Tools of the Trade. Finally, we thank Tommy Hutchinson's

stepdaughter, Joan, who has donated a painting of the Bruce street school painted by Tommy Hutchinson.

## Milton Historical Society Persons of Interest Program Continuing

About half of the 250 persons of Interest Program forms that were sent out by Milton Historical Society research chairman John Challinor II a year ago have come back fully completed.

The Society's Persons of Interest Program will provide valuable information for future historians who decide to write an article or publish a book about those individuals who made a significant contribution to our community. John is following up with those who have yet to complete their forms while identifying new subjects to forward forms to.

"If there's one thing I've learned over the last seven years that I've volunteered with the society, it's this: It's extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to undertake a genealogical accounting of someone's life after they've passed away," said John. "It's far better to identify key people in our community today while they're still alive and work with them to complete their genealogical history. Even then, I'm finding that the process is requiring that they do additional research with their family members because they don't know, off-hand, a number of key details about themselves."

John has encouraged everyone who has completed a form to keep a copy with their other important personal papers, like wills and investments, for the benefit of future family members.

Once each Persons of Interest Program form is completed, it is filed and stored in the Society's archive for future reference.

If you would like a form to complete, please contact John through the Society's office at Waldie's Blacksmith shop or by calling 905-875-4156 or via e-mail at [miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca](mailto:miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca).

On a related note, work is in the early stages for a Milton Biographies third edition. This will join earlier editions published in the mid 1990's by Alex Cooke



The Carriage Room is the site for a photo exhibit this summer

## Early Portraits capture images of early Miltonians.

Gloria Brown has organized a photographic exhibition that includes photographs by some of Milton's Early Photographers.

Milton had some fifteen known Photographers to service the local population over the period from 1864 to the 1920's with the peak period being between the 1870's and 1900.

Some of the photographers who have their works on display include G. Burrows and J. A. Cockburn, F. K. Hunter 1909-1915, and D.M. Reid who ran his business between 1889-1897. There are several interesting portrait photographs by Featherston who used unique props such as mirrors, ornate furniture and objects held by his subjects.

There are photographs of some well known Miltonians including Dr. Clarkson Freeman and his granddaughters along with a photo of Ross Pearen in his youthful years. Ross Pearen was very active in the community including his service as a town councillor, reeve and Mayor of Milton.

There are also some examples of ferrotype photographs and some old style cameras. In looking at the photographs, it is unfortunate that some do not have names or dates and this serves as a reminder that if you have old photographs to take the (cont. p. 3)



time to identify the people and date the photograph so that they will have more meaning to future generations.

## 2007 Financial Report

Attached to the back of this newsletter is a one page summary of the General Account Activity for the Milton Historical Society for the year ending Dec 31, 2007. The entire report may be viewed at the archives and will also be available at the September general meeting. We encourage all members to review the information.



# House Plaquing

submitted by Marsha Waldie

22 Court St – Lot 12 Block 8 Teetzel Survey

Built 1929 is one of the homes recently researched as part of the Society's House Plaquing program. Here are some excerpts from Marsha's research.

James W. Blain and his wife Mary Elizabeth (nee Skelton) purchased this lot in 1906. James was born in Scotland and arrived in Milton in 1905. The family owned all the land along Court St. on the west side between Main and Pearl Streets.

James started a feed, flour and coal business on the south side of Main St. between Charles and Commercial. James and Mary were members of Knox Presbyterian Church and Mary was involved with various ladies groups in the Church.

Mr. Blain built his family home on the south-west corner of Main and Court St. in the early 1900's (today Tielemans Interiors).

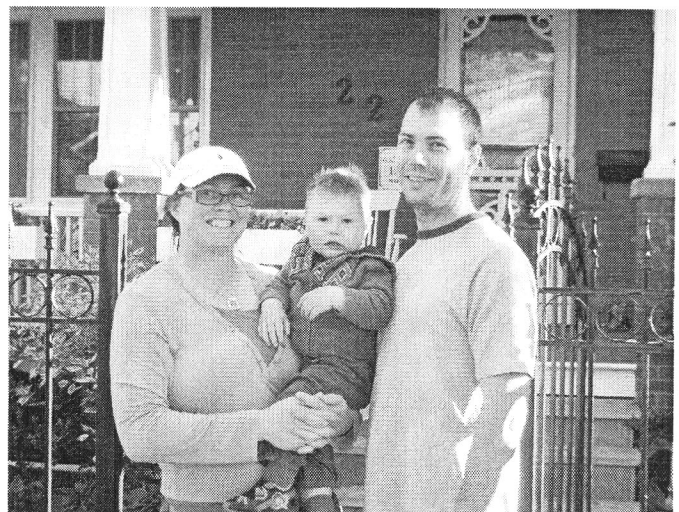
The lot at 22 Court St. contained a barn in which James kept his delivery wagon and a team of horses. In 1929 the barn was taken down and the present home built by contactor John Maxted.

In 1939 the home was transferred to their daughter Dorothy who in turn rented the home to various

families. Edgar Foster and his wife Kathryn rented the home for a number of years. Mr. Foster was involved in education in Milton for 36 yrs. He became known as "Mr. Education" and was respected by many of his students.

In the early 1950's the home was rented by Manual and Marguerite South and in 1971 it was sold to Mary and Gordon Wigglesworth.

Three other owners have owned the home between 1979 and 2007 when the present owners purchased the home. Kimberly and Jesse Paulson and their son Owen love the home and neighbourhood. They enjoy living in Milton which reminds them of where they grew up.



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

With the arrival of summer come picnics, barbeques and casual, relaxed outdoor entertaining. Barbequing is a great way to feed a crowd. The popularity of backyard cooking is reflected by the enormous selection of barbeques now available. If you don't have a backyard, you can buy a small portable model and go to a park or conservation area near you and still enjoy the outdoors. Whatever your choice, the food can be prepared in advance so you can relax and enjoy the day too.

Now that it's berry season, I thought I'd pass along a recipe that has always met with rave reviews when I serve it. It's easy to prepare and can be made early in the day and kept refrigerated. Raspberries happen to be my favourite, but you can use any berry that you prefer or even a combination. I make this dessert year round and frozen berries work well when fresh ones aren't available. Enjoy!

### **Raspberry Macaroon Parfaits**

- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 8 crumbled macaroons
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries, thawed

Toast the almonds and cool completely. Whip the cream with the vanilla extract. Fold in the macaroons and almonds. Layer the whipped cream mixture and raspberries in alternating layers in parfait glasses. Reserve a few raspberries to garnish the top. Refrigerate until serving time. Serves 4-6.

## **Restorations:**

Many of our heritage churches are finding that maintenance problems have crept up after more than 100 years of service to the community. Grace Anglican went through their restoration journey starting in 1998 and have certainly done a fine job.

St. Paul's United Church has been struggling with



(L. to R. Councillors Jan Mowbray, Mike Boughton and Cindy Lunau pose with a chocolate strawberry bush at a special United Way "Councillor's Dinner" this spring.

restoration issues and the direction in which they will be following in the near future.

Knox Presbyterian Church is about to embark on a Restoration/Refurbishing Project and have begun fundraising events to assist with their project.

Our town's Historic Churches need our support and encouragement. They are major architectural elements on our Main Street and a corner stone which connect us from our past to our future. Their spires, towers and steeples have been beacons of hope, places of social events and have offered comfort to many generations of Miltonians.

## **From the Archives**

The Milton Business College was located on Martin Street and operated in the 1930's and the 1940's. The original frame two storey building was built by Finlay Chisholm about 1904, however it was destroyed by fire in the 1970's. A new multi-residence was built on this site at 93, 95, 97 Martin Street. There are four boxes of documents on the college in the archives for viewing.

## Blacksmith Shop News

The Blacksmith Shop has purchased a used anvil in order to retire another older anvil which will be kept in the shop as a historic artefact.

Colourful fans, bunting and flags were available for purchase in early May leading up to the Victoria Day Weekend. Approximately \$500 of items were sold and a number of homes were decorated in colourful Victorian colours. Thanks to Nancy Cuttle and the volunteers who helped with the sales.

The shop was open to the public for an Antique Flea market again on June 7th for the Milton Street Festival. Arts Milton held their annual Meeting where members enjoyed a game of comedy improv with some tools of the trade.

**100th Anniversary of the P.L. Robertson Company.** (Excerpts from the book "P.L. Inventor of the Robertson screw" by Ken Lamb).

It was on April 6, 1908 that the P.L. Robertson Manufacturing Company directors voted to accept the Milton Town Council tax free loan of \$10,000, an exemption to certain taxes, water at eight cents per thousand gallons for up to 4,000 gallons a day, maintenance of a roadway to the company premises, and assistance in the disposal of sewage. The proposal had been signed by the Mayor and the town clerk and included the town seal.

There had been strong competition between other municipalities to secure a deal with the company. Milton's grant and personal support of Milton resident Frank Hadley and friend to P.L. were instrumental in completing the deal.

Shares were issued, construction on a one storey brick building started before the end of June 1908 and in late August two machines arrived from England, one for the machine shop and one for making screws. Business grew rapidly over the years and the company became a major employer at its peak with over 500 people on the payroll in the 1950's.



*The Teachers and the Student, (Left to right) Larry Maughan, Darwyn Hourie teach Phillip Wells blacksmithing this spring.*

The Milton Historical Society through the leadership of Nancy Cuttle is working with the company now known as Robertson Inc. to celebrate the occasion. Tentative plans are to have live music, displays and refreshments at Victoria Park square on September 20th. Our society is looking for ideas on how this event can be celebrated, all ideas are welcome. Stay tuned for details in the fall.

## Doctor Robert K Anderson 1860-1950

Submitted by Ed Goodall

Doctor Robert K Anderson practiced medicine in Milton for forty years. He was born in Trafalgar Township in 1860 and attended University of Toronto graduating in the year 1888. After taking some post graduate studies in Edinburgh, New York and Chicago, Doctor Anderson settled in a house on Main Street at the North West corner of Court Street.

In 1899 he became interested in politics and was elected to Town Council after serving one year as Auditor for the town. After four years as councillor, in 1904 he was elected as Mayor, an office he held for a further four years. During this time he also served as chairman of the Hydro Electric Commission and was a School  
(cont. page 6)

(Dr Anderson) Trustee.

In 1912 he arranged with Sam Henson to have a house built at 69 Martin street just across from the Martin house. He and his wife Lawrina were blessed with two children, a boy and a girl.

In 1917 Doc Anderson stood for Conservative Member of Parliament and was elected to the House of Commons representing Halton. He was re-elected four times until his retirement in 1935.

During the First World War Doc Anderson was concerned about the young men from Milton going to war in Europe. Although born in Canada his ancestors were from England and Ireland. In 1920 he obtained a memorial trophy, a captured German 77 mm Canon which he had placed between the Main Street Town Hall and the Old Post office. In 1924 it was moved to Victoria Park as he lobbied to have a cenotaph built at that location amongst heavy opposition from local politicians. In 1925 he had his way and three large blocks of granite were brought in and surmounting this is the eight foot figure of a soldier in full battle uniform.

It poured with rain on September 5th, 1926, the day of the unveiling but three thousand people turned out and the ceremony was performed by Colonel Henry Cockshutt, who was Lieut. Governor of Ontario, at the time.

After retirement from politics, Doc Anderson continued his practice for a few more years but died on July 3rd, 1950 at the age of 90, survived by his daughter Marjorie.

## Calendar of Events – MHS

July 1st – Canada Day Festivities at Milton Fairgrounds. If you can volunteer with cake cutting ceremony, please contact Bruce Carlin.

September 18th General Meeting 7:30 PM at Waldie's Blacksmith shop



Dr. Robert K Anderson 1860-1950

Sept. 20th – 100 th Anniversary Celebrations P.L. Robertson at Victoria Park Square.

October 16th General Meeting 7:30 PM at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop.

## MHS Executive News

We welcome Janice Stoner to the executive of the Milton Historical Society. Janet will be assisting the executive with Marketing and Publicity .

## New Members.

We welcome the following new members

Glen Aiken  
Lorraine Dennis  
Jaimee Ree Authier

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Journal Editor Bruce Carlin



# MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## GENERAL ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2,007	2,006
Revenue		
Memberships	\$ 955	\$ 1,977
Programmes	1,860	2,938
Donations	2,390	9,233
Donation in-kind	760	660
Publications (gross: \$62,700)	20,278	14,013
Fund raising (gross: \$14,731)	3,394	1,519
Gift shop	126	1,004
GST refund	4,054	
Investment income	734	486
Total Revenue	34,551	31,830
Expenses		
Office/meetings	111	744
Events		1,325
Scholarship	300	300
Advertising	2,449	639
Professional fees	600	600
Utilities	2,671	3,328
Insurance	4,364	2,708
Maintenance		105
Property taxes	452	
Building lease	1	1
Membership	95	235
Journal	345	108
Resource centre	2,955	5,456
Bank charges	587	385
GST	701	1,399
Total expenses	15,631	0 17,333
CASH AND ASSETS (USED)/PROVIDED	\$ 18,920	\$ 14,497

Unaudited - See Notice to Reader  
Padgett Business Services



# The Journal

Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4 Telephone 905-875-4156  
www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Dec. 2008 Vol. 23 Issue 4

## Winter Edition



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*Nancy Cuttle from the MHS and Ron Hobbs, grandson of P.L. Robertson cut 100th anniversary celebration cake.*

## P.L. Robertson 100th anniversary!

Members of the Milton Historical Society, retirees of the Robertson Incorporated company and P.L.'s daughter and grandson came together to celebrate the 100 year anniversary at our December meeting.

The event coincided with our yearend potluck dinner and was held at Hugh Foster Hall. There were displays including photographs, a slide presentation, videos and early versions of the Robertson socket head screw driver and other memorabilia.

Mayor Krantz shared greetings and his recollections. As a boy he sometimes walked along the railroad tracks behind P.L.'s home and he remembers well the influential role of Mr. Robertson. Although Mayor Krantz never worked at P.L.'s he had many friends who did and this company was an important employer in the early to mid 1900's.

Ken Lamb gave an overview of the history and some of the accomplishments of P.L. and welcomed past retirees to recite their memories P.L. and the company.

Bruce Kitchen recalled how he watched P.L. going to the Post Office daily. One day he decided to stop P.L. and ask him for a job so P.L. told Bruce to meet one of the management and he started shortly thereafter. One of Bruce's jobs was to sweep the floor around some of the machines and shovel the shavings into a bin. On one occasion as Bruce was throwing a shovel full of cleanings through the air, P.L. came walking by at exactly the wrong moment and was on the receiving end of the floor cleanings. P.L. stopped and said, "Sorry my fault". As Bruce remembers he made a friend that day.

Others remember going to P.L.s home at Halloween since he was giving out nickels to the children and they made sure to go there first to make sure that P.L. did not run out of the prized coins. One of the retirees was the first woman to work at the company.

Victoria Hobbs and grandson Ron

Hobbs shared their recollections. Victoria Hobbs would sometimes meet with her father in Toronto, her memories of him were that he was a good man. She recalls that there were some spiritualists in Toronto who she feels were trying to trick P.L. out of his money but P.L. was pretty astute and avoided this potential pitfall.

Ron Hobbs never met his grandfather and has mixed feelings. P.L. has been nominated to the Canadian Manufacturing Hall of Fame and this will be decided at a meeting in the spring of 2009 in the city of Windsor.

There was a 100th anniversary celebratory cake to mark the occasion. There was also a petition circulated to all participants to put forth P.L. Robertson as a name for a future school in the Milton area and this garnered approximately 50 signatures. Interested parties may sign petitions at the Blacksmith shop or at Fitzgerald Insurance Co.

Thanks to all who helped organize this event in particular Nancy Cuttle for her leadership and persistence, Ken Lamb for his work as Master of Ceremonies and to Treasa Lamb and Lou Bradley for picking up supplies, tablecloths and setting out all the food. Our thanks also go out to the family members, the dozen or so retirees who joined us and shared their stories about P.L. and to those who shared items for display purposes.

### **Former MPP Jim Snow's autobiography re-released by Milton Historical Society**

By John Challinor II

Former Ontario Cabinet Minister and local Member of Provincial Parliament Jim Snow's autobiography is being re-released by Milton Historical Society, accompanied by a just-completed epilogue detailing the last 18 years of his remarkable life.

MHS Board member and local historian John Challinor II has obtained permission from the Snow family to re-release Mr. Snow's autobiography, entitled, "*Mr. Jim, From Esquesing, The Land of the Tall Pines. The Personal Recollections of James W. Snow,*" as well as author the epilogue.

Mr. Snow and Mr. Challinor were friends and long-time members of the same political family, the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party. Mr. Challinor had assisted Mr. Snow with the marketing of the book when it was originally published in 1990.

"Whether you enjoy reading local books of history or have an interest in the workings of government, this is

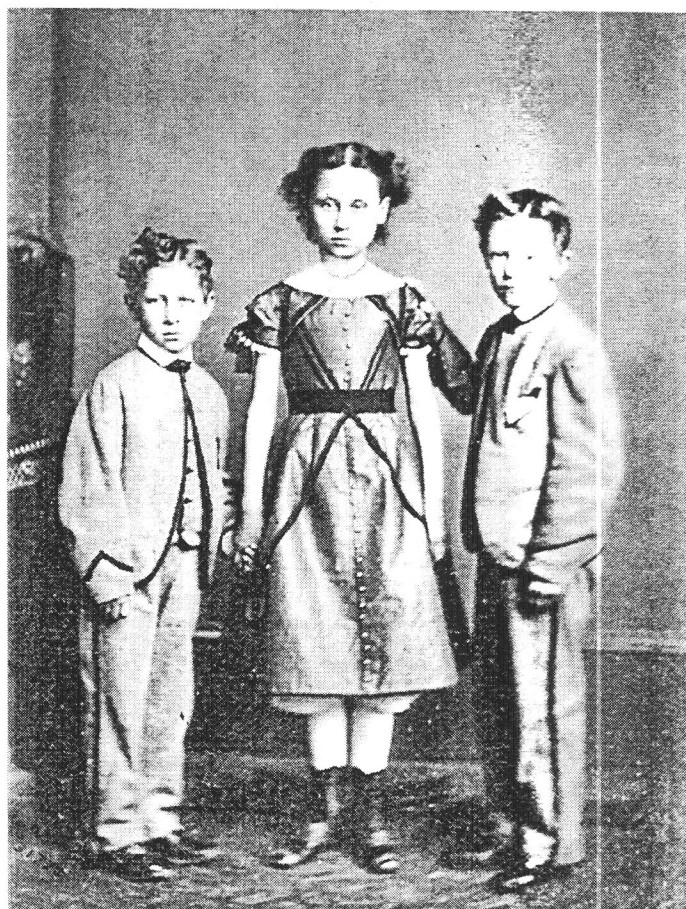
a great personal chronicle of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Halton and Ontario written by Jim Snow, our most accomplished elected representative," said Mr. Challinor. "Given Jim's recent passing in September, this book will permit everyone in Milton unusual access into the remarkable business career and accomplished political service of a guy who simply got things done.

"The short epilogue completes the autobiography by filling in the blanks about the type of individual Jim was – and the tremendous contributions he continued to make to Halton, Ontario and Canada right up to the end of his life."

Mr. Snow's autobiography will be available at Harris Stationary and Milton Historical Society's offices at Waldie's Blacksmith Shop for \$20 per copy. All proceeds go to the Society's fundraising efforts in support of the shop's upkeep.

### **From the Archives** by Brenda Whitlock

For the past few years, the MHS photographs have



*Martin Children (l to r) Fred, Lucretia and Charles). Charles was the father of Dr. Carl Martin. Photo circa 1870. been appearing on a web page, Milton Images.*

These Images are shown world-wide. As a result we have been receiving many queries from such places as the United Kingdom, the U.S.A., Australia and, of course, many from other regions of Canada. We recently received a comment from Pam Burt in New Zealand who was amazed to see a picture of one of her ancestors on our page – Jane Maunder. Jane Maunder married Joseph Martin in 1855 and came to live in Milton. She was the mother of Charles W. Martin who was father of the late Dr. Carl Martin. Pam gave us further information on the Maunder family and also sent scans of the family.

We would like to thank Ruth Taylor for two books recently donated to the Archives – “The Pickets of Lowville” and “The Denyes Family 1750-1982”. Ruth and Don have given us much information and as well many photographs in the past which have enriched the Archives tremendously.

We would also like to thank Brad Clements for donating six metal wheel rims. These are now gracing the Blacksmith Shop where their presence lends considerable authenticity to the scene. Brad and Joanne have also been generous donors to the Society over many years. Thanks also to donations from Wallace Grey, Evelyn Oaks and Deb Quaile.

The executive of the Milton Historical Society has instituted a system of fees for archival services provided. Members of the Milton Historical Society and students are not subject to any fees for use of the archives. Other clients will be charged a minimum fee of \$25.00 for research conducted by volunteers or for photographs provided.

#### **Military Mails**—Insights on early battles

Our guest speaker for our October meeting was David Hobden, a local Miltonian who loves collecting stamps and enjoys history including Canadian military.

David has an interesting hobby of collecting Military mail some of which date back to the early military conflicts on the new continent. The very earliest mail was both envelope and letter combined on one piece of paper. This means that the envelope details and the contents of the letter itself are all on one piece of paper and are valuable historical documents.

He presented a chronological review of early Cana



*Charles Martin circa 1920*

dian History and some key battles and historic dates. David intertwines military mail from the time of these key events to provide the perspective of a military officer or soldier at that time. Some of these letters had been mailed to acquaintances back in Europe or to some of the early colonies such as Boston.

Ship letters moved by boat and Packet letters over land. The price of mailing letters for the British military could be quite expensive, a letter sent from Fort Erie to Scotland cost 8 schillings or in today's currency about \$300 dollars.

Milton had an active militia and soldiers here were part of the Second Gore. David has one of the earliest known pieces of mail postmarked from Milton. The letter was dated November 30, 1838 and was penned by George A. Brown to a Mr. Chisholm in Oakville requesting payment for salary for 18 volunteer militia members.

#### **Col. John McRae**—A man of many talents

Ken Irvine from the McRae house in Guelph presented to us an overview of the life and time of Colonel John McRae at our November meeting.



John McRae's grandparents came to the Guelph area from Scotland. They started a lumber mill in the Puslinch area and were very successful. This was followed by a woolen mill in the 1860's in Guelph which employed more than 200 employees at its peak and the quality of their wool won medals at renowned agricultural fairs. John's father was more interested in the military and being a gentleman farmer. This influenced John and at the age of 16 he was selected as the best trained cadet in Ontario. He liked to read and also liked to sketch and was a very bright child. He went to the University of Toronto for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the age of 17. He was very active in the glee club, rugby club and the militia. John wrote many letters home to his mother and he was fond of a young lady named Alice who died at a young age and this was said to have affected him very deeply. Fortunately these letters have been kept for future generations. John had some close lady friends in later life but never did marry.

John taught math and English at the University of Guelph at the age of 18. He was influenced to study towards a medical degree at the U of T. He ended up going to McGill University in Montreal and did his internship at John Hopkins hospital. He was known as being very compassionate, kind hearted and had a love of animals. He would sometimes sneak in a cat to a patient to provide them friendship during a hospital stay.

In Montreal, John became friends with some prominent writers including Lucy Maud Montgomery and Stephen Leacock. He also knew Lord Grey. John had an adventurous side and went on a ship expedition to try and find a port on Hudson's Bay.

When WWI broke out, John was in Europe and cabled back that he wanted to enlist in an artillery unit and he was made the physician for an artillery unit. He was 41 years old. Col. McRae was close to the front lines and was at Ypres during the first poison gas attacks and this was one of the worst experiences in his life, he lost a very close friend killed by a bomb. John read the service at his friends funeral and the day afterwards he wrote the poem "In Flanders Fields". John did not survive the war, he contracted pneumonia and worked himself too hard and he was felled by meningitis and on January 28th, 1918 he passed away. There was a full military funeral and he

was buried in Wimereux cemetery in France.

The poppies that we know so well today result from a campaign started by a French woman to raise money for orphans. Col. McRae's medals were sold at an auction and acquired by Millionaire Mr. Arthur Lee who in turn donated the medals to the McRae house.

## Blacksmith Shop News

Our resident blacksmiths Darwyn Hourie and Larry Maughan hosted a one day introductory blacksmithing course in November. They also demonstrated to a local Milton cub pack how steel is heated up and forged on the anvil starting with round bar steel and forming them into hooks.



*Walter Eadie and Kaye Bounsall answer archival questions from Milton cubs*

The Milton cub pack visited Waldie's blacksmith shop as part of their history badge. All the cubs were instructed on three themes including Blacksmithing and the Waldie family history, the life of early Pioneers interpreted by Linda Naranjo and Archives led by Kaye Bounsall and Walter Eadie.

There were about 35 cubs and their leaders who participated in the evening. Thanks to all who helped to make this a success.

## Thank You Home Hardware !

Milton Home Hardware contributed several boxes of Christmas garland and colourful bows for the decoration of the blacksmith shop. The windows sills and

**Chef at Home** with Reni McDonald

With the Holiday Season approaching and all the entertaining that goes with it, I thought appetizer recipes would be appropriate. I have made this stuffed mushroom recipe for years. It's always been popular. You can make it ahead of time and keep refrigerated; then just bake and serve. The smoked salmon spread is easy to prepare, can be made ahead and will keep for several days – if it lasts that long.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas. Enjoy!

**Stuffed Mushrooms**

18 large mushrooms  
1 small onion, chopped  
2 tbsp. butter

1 can of shrimp, rinsed and drained  
salt, pepper and cream  
grated parmesan cheese

Clean mushrooms. Remove stems and chop. Sauté onion in butter and stir in chopped mushroom stems. Chop shrimp and blend in with salt, pepper and enough cream to bind everything together. Spoon filling into mushroom caps and sprinkle with cheese. Bake in preheated 375 degree F. oven for 20 – 30 minutes or until piping hot. ( You can also substitute lobster, crabmeat or smoked oysters for the shrimp.)

Many thanks to Reni McDonald for her recipe contributions to The Journal over the last few years. Unfortunately, personal commitments prevent her from continuing this column and we will miss her favourite recipes.

the wood picket fence next to the shop look their festive best.

ciety website.

**Moffat History Released**

The Nasagieweya Historical Society has released a book on the history of Moffat as recounted by long-time residents Don and Catherine McMillan. The (*Moffat history continued*) book recounts the role played by key businesses, the railway, sports teams and musical performers of the area. The book is available for \$10.00.

**Nominations sought for Heritage Awards**

The Milton Historical Society and Heritage Milton sponsor Heritage Awards early each year to coincide with Heritage Day in February. We are seeking nominees in three categories, Writing, Visual Arts and Education. If you know of any worthy projects produced locally that tell the story of our local heritage in words, art, models, or education projects then please take a few minutes to nominate the person or group. 2009 Nomination forms are available at the Waldie Blacksmith shop or online at the Milton Historical So-

**Milton Streets Request**

The Milton Streets book published for Xmas, 2007 proved to be a very popular book and it sold out by late spring of 2008. We are keeping a list of names of people who have expressed interest in purchasing Milton Streets and our hope is that in the coming year that it can be reprinted and that this list can be used at that time to contact interested parties. If you or someone you know are interested in purchasing a copy please provide name and telephone number to Gloria Brown or e-mail [miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca](mailto:miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca).

**Milton History Moments**

140 yrs ago from the Canadian Champion Dec. 10th: Annual meeting of the Milton Curling Club at Thompson Hotel on Fri. evening. Report showed a balance of \$8.65 in the hands of the treasurer. Officers elected - Pres. Dr. Robertson, Vice Pres. Dr. Street, sec. & tres. Wm Scott, Patron John Sproat, Chaplain Rev. R. Tremayne. Committees J. Clements, E. Van Allan, Jos. Martin, James Stewart & James Waldie. Tues. and

Fri. of each week were agreed upon as play days so long as the ice holds. Note: They would have been playing on the Mill Pond !

## **United Empire Loyalists**

Congratulations to Frederick H. Hayward UE on his selection as the new President of the United Empire Association of Canada president. Fred was born and raised in Milton.

## **Scotch Block**

Jim Dills and Gloria Brown entertained and informed a large luncheon crowd recently at the Knox Presbyterian church. They shared information that they have gathered about the history of the Scotch Block. Jim and Gloria are working towards publishing a book about the settlement and people of the Scotch Block. Congratulations on a job well done. The monies raised will go towards a fund for restoration activities of the church.

## **New Members**

Welcome to Audrey Allison  
Remember that 2009 memberships will be due in January, 2009. Dues will be gladly received at the January general meeting.

## **Milton Historical Society MONTHLY PROGRAMS JANUARY-JUNE 2009**

January 1st 1:30-3:30  
Mayor's Levee at Hugh Foster Hall  
Welcome in the New Year with displays and refreshments.

THURSDAY JANUARY 15  
Annual Meeting and "MEMORIES AND THE RESTORATION  
OF SS#7 NASSAGAWEYA SCHOOL"  
with Laurie Wells

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19  
"PICTURES & STORIES OF OLD NASSAGAWEYA"  
with Audrey Allison

Are you interested in playing a leadership role on the Milton Historical Society? Consider sharing your management skills by joining the executive. We will hold elections at the January meeting and all positions are open for nominations.

Single Memberships are \$20.00  
Double Memberships are \$35.00  
Students—Free

## **Volunteers**

The Historical Society depends on energized and motivated volunteers to operate the archives and to organize special events and walking tours.

Why not put your talents to good use with the historical society. We currently need help with the archives for 2009. We are looking for someone who can come in on Saturday mornings to help reply to archival requests and respond to questions from the public. Orientation will be provided.

## **Seasons Greetings**

At this time of year we be thankful for the many blessings we have in this country. Happy Holidays to all.

THURSDAY MARCH 19  
"MARITIME HISTORY OF THE GREAT LAKES"  
with Walter Lewis

THURSDAY APRIL 16  
"A HISTORY OF THE LORNE SCOTS"  
with Richard Ruggles

THURSDAY MAY 21  
"EXPLOITATION OF THE DIONNE QUINTUPLETS:  
A CANADIAN TRAGEDY"  
with Donald Zaldin

THURSDAY JUNE 18  
MHS ANNUAL "SUMMER POT LUCK DINNER"  
All meetings (unless otherwise noted) are held at The  
Waldie Blacksmith Shop,  
16 James Street Milton at 8:00 pm



# The Journal

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www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

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## Fall Edition



*Milton Historical Society members prepare to board TTC streetcar earlier this summer at the Halton County Radial Railway. (Photo by Steve Dills)*

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### Electric Streetcars – Still Running after all these years!

Our members took a step back in time at the June potluck dinner held at the Halton County Radial Railway. The event started with a potluck dinner in the museum followed by rides in a variety of electric streetcars from different eras. We travelled on two different TTC street cars vintage 1920's and 1950's. The train conductors were dressed in period costumes and provided insight into the operations of the streetcars. The TTC streetcars were designed to move commuters efficiently and cost effectively, they were large but spartan.

Members also had the opportunity to sit in the London and Port Stanley

railcar # 8 built in 1915. In contrast to the TTC cars, the Port Stanley railcar features beautiful wooden walls, stained glass windows, chandelier style lighting and a smoking section. This railcar is a relic of a time when citizens of London would leave the city to travel to Port Stanley to enjoy music and other attractions on the shores of Lake Erie. Twenty six members drove to the museum north of Milton to experience electric train travel.

The Halton County Radial Railway carries passengers through the forests along the original rail lines of the Toronto Suburban Railway running between Toronto and Guelph. This museum and its volunteers are to be commended for their impressive col-



lection of railcars and dedicated volunteers.

## WWI Soldiers Remembered

The First World War ended 90 years ago this year. Although there are only a few soldiers who are still alive from that war, some details of the lives of these soldiers are now easily available to all thanks to archival records and internet resources.

The Milton Historical Society website has a section which is dedicated to Milton Soldiers from World War I. This website began as a Web blog that was developed by one of our members Richard Laughton. This Blog contains links to other websites such as the Veteran Affairs Canada which includes details on soldiers military service, a link to the First World War Book of Remembrance in Ottawa, digital photo collection and burial information. There is a link to the Library and Archives Canada website where the signed Attestation Papers for each soldier are available for viewing and finally there is also a link to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website which lists the location of the burial plot for each soldier.

Richard completed the index for all the Milton soldiers listed on the cenotaph at Victoria Park Square in 2007 and he is currently working to compile similar information for those soldiers listed on the Haltonville cenotaph. In addition, the MHS archives contain photocopy records of WWI soldiers for research or viewing.

Finally, we would like to express thanks to Richard and his company Laughton Management Company (LMC) for sponsoring and maintaining the Milton Historical Society website

## P.L. Robertson 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

It is a testament to the success of the Robertson socket head screw that the company established in 1908 in Milton is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in business this year. Robertson Inc. today has two manufacturing facilities, one in China and the other in Montreal as well as three sales/warehouse facilities in Milton, Calgary and Port Coquitlam.

For those interested in the history of the Robertson



P.L. Robertson in his office around 1940

Manufacturing Co. there is an excellent book entitled "P.L. Inventor of the Robertson Screw" researched by MHS member Ken Lamb. This book tells the story of the early years of the company and describes the colourful personality and business ambitions that made P.L. the success he became.

P.L. was an inventor, a businessman and his success created many jobs and brought prosperity to the then small Town of Milton. The Robertson Manufacturing Company was the town's major employer for many years. Today the company's presence in Milton has changed significantly. The manufacturing facilities have been closed and those buildings demolished.

The website for the company lists over a dozen choices of fasteners based on the application needed. There are deck screws, wood screws, concrete screws to name but a few. All the products bear in common the square recess. This simplifies working because the deep recessed square helps prevent the screw driver bit from slipping out of the screw saving time and energy. An additional benefit of a secure fastener is less potential to damage the article being worked on. The Robertson screw and screw driver are little changed from those of a century ago.

The Milton Historical Society will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of P.L. Robertson at our December general meeting which has been moved up to Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. We hope to have displays and invite past and present employees

## Jessie Hamilton Celebrates

Jessie Hamilton, well known Miltonian and long-time member of the Seniors Centre and the Milton Historical Society, celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday Sunday, Sept 7 at the Brookville Hall.

Master of Ceremonies was John McDonald, Jessie's nephew- Both being members of the Service family which was celebrating its re-union.

Among those on hand to wish Jessie well were public personalities Gary Carr, Ted Chudleigh, Gordon Krantz and Garth Turner. Jessie was born about two months before the end of the First World War; her husband, Robert, died in 1963. Jessie has spent all her 90 years in Halton



85 Robert Street

## House Plaquing

submitted by Marsha Waldie

85 Robert St. – N/S Lot 9 Block 6 Foster Survey, Plan 7

James Landsborough became the owner of lot 10 and this lot about 1887. He came from Scotland and served as a Town Constable in 1890. He was a first class carpenter and a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, "the old Kirk" located at approx. 54 Main Street.

James was also a member of the Milton Home Circle No. 71 and Milton Men's Club in which he was in charge every evening in 1906 of the reading room.

Milton Historical Society researcher, Jack Charlton, indicated through his past research that some of the building materials used in 85 Robert Street were taken from the original Quatre Bras School SS # 2, Esquesing.

Mr. Landsborough built this heritage home in approximately 1885 and carted the materials from the school.

In 1901 the home was sold to John Hanley who had lost his wife Mary Ann (nee Tindill) in 1893. The family had farmed in Esquesing and are interred in the Boston Church Cemetery.

The home remained in the family following John's death in 1907; however by 1939 John Storey had purchased it.

Margaret (nee Nugent) and Joseph E. Timbers bought the home in 1946. The home remained in their family until 1991. Mr. Timbers was a butcher and worked in a shop on the Main Street. They had a family of five and were members of Knox Presbyterian Church. One of their sons, Gordon, is a Presbyterian Church Minister in a small community north of Toronto.

The home past through various other owners and is today owned by Tara (nee Faggion) and Gareth Llewellyn and their daughter Gwen. They have been busy doing some cosmetic fixups and plan some further renovations in the near future. They are very proud of this heritage home.

Journal Editor's Note: Many thanks to Marsha for the many hours of research she logs for each of the homes that are plaqued. Our community is a richer place as many heritage homes proudly display the original homeowners name, occupation and date of construction of the home. There are approximately 150 homes that have been researched and two books published since the beginning of the plaquing program.

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

The Milton Farmers' Market has been providing us with a unique shopping experience for over 35 years with over 40 vendors. The abundance of fresh, local produce – as well as flowers, meats, cheeses, seafood, baked goods and pottery, just to name a few – is amazing.

It's a "foodies" paradise. The current trend in cooking is all about shopping locally and eating what's in season. A trip to the Farmer's Market makes that easy.

Now that local apples are in season this recipe is a favourite at our place. You can use your choice of apple and the recipe can easily be doubled – just bake it in a larger pan. This is delicious served warm with ice cream or cheddar cheese. Enjoy!

### **Apple Crisp**

6 cups peeled, cored and sliced apples  
 2 tbsp. white sugar (more if apple is tart)  
 1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
 1/4 cup butter or margarine  
 3/4 cup brown sugar  
 1/4 cup flour  
 1/2 cup oatmeal  
 1/4 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Place sliced apples in greased 8x8 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with white sugar and cinnamon. In a bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar. Blend in flour, oatmeal and salt. Sprinkle mixture on top of apples and bake for 40 – 50 minutes.



(L to R – Eileen Montcalm and Mary O'Neill with John Mæxted's level)

## **From the Archives**

The Milton Historical Society recently acquired a construction level and Baseball Bat donated by Harold Coulson. The level belonged to John Mæxted who was a bricklayer and building contractor in Milton. He was involved in building several downtown stores, Knox Church, old Post Office, and homes in the Milton area. The bat belonged to Conrad Totelzka 1887-1963, who was a major sports personality in Milton and he used this bat. Mr. Coulson also donated a number of other items to the archives eg. old letters, documents etc. related to Milton's History.

Many of you know Robert Sandowsky who has been closely associated with the Halton County Radial Railway for many years. Bob is a train photographer and when he learned we were interested in local train pictures, he put together a disc of a dozen picture including one of the "Peanut", a self propelled diesel passenger train and mail car connecting Hamilton and Milton.

These photographs are full colour and excellent quality and include a variety of CN and CPR trains of different eras including both freight and passenger trains and steam and diesel powered engines. (see next page for an example).

Jim Dills has received a DVD for us of a movie taken in Milton in 1949. The movie lasts for about 45 minutes. Thanks to May Johnson for her donation of the Galbraith and Co. Dry Goods Store accounting books.

Brad Clements has also donated a two sided wooden sign from the Milton Business College as well as some iron wheel rims which the blacksmiths will recycle into new items.

## Oral History

We are looking for volunteers to conduct oral interviews with residents of Milton to capture details of life from earlier times. Just today, a woman came to the blacksmith shop and recounted how she was a student in the Bell School in June of 1933 when a powerful storm caused the chimney to collapse in on the school burying her temporarily under debris from the school. These local historical stories are important pieces of heritage that we would be wise to record and archive. Interested, please let us know. We will supply equipment and supplies to help you with this task.

## Heritage Award Submissions Sought

Have you read a good historical article, poem or book recently about local heritage? Have you seen art work capturing Milton's unique heritage and natural beauty or become aware of some special heritage related class projects by local schools? If your answer to any of the above is Yes, then please consider nominating the person, group or class that has completed a heritage related project for a 2008 Heritage Award. Nomination forms can be picked up at the Waldie Blacksmith shop and should be submitted by December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

## Blacksmith Shop

There is an introductory blacksmithing course scheduled October 25th. The course participants learn fire lighting, hammering techniques, drawing out steel and complete a simple project.

There is also a Level Two blacksmithing course Nov. 14 to 16th. In addition to skills learned in the Level 1 course, heat-treating and tempering will be introduced.



*CPR Chicago Express passenger train at Milton – March 15th, 1954. Photo by Robert Sandusky.*

## Alex Cooke Memorial Award Winner

Congratulations to Kristina Siverson of M.D.H.S. for being selected the winner of the Alex Cooke memorial award. This award is for \$100.00 and is one of three awarded annually to each of the Milton High Schools. The award recognises a graduating student with high academic standing in history and who is pursuing studies in the Social Sciences.

## Milton Tidbits

The Canadian Champion is now publishing a monthly publication entitled "Focus". The MHS was approached to prepare a column known as "Milton Tidbits". Each month there are a dozen historical items unique to Milton that are prepared and which follow along the lines of "Did you know that". The MHS archives are used to supply the heritage facts which usually involve street names, prominent personalities, business and geographic items of interest. If you have any Milton Tidbits you would like to see published, please forward them to the MHS, care of the Journal editor.

## English Nursery Rhymes

We are all familiar with "Ring Around the Rosy" but did you know its origins?

The answer is smallpox. Smallpox displays a "ring" around the infected sores. "Hush Ah" refers to a sneeze and "All fall down" refers to the final outcome.



## Volunteer Summer Help

Thanks to those volunteers who greeted visitors to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop over the summer period. We receive many positive comments about the blacksmith shop and how Milton is fortunate to have a building of this nature open to the public. It is a confirmation that the society members and blacksmiths provide an excellent learning experience which is appreciated.

## Calendar of Events – MHS

(All meetings below are Milton Historical Society events held at the Waldie Blacksmith shop. Speakers begin at 8 PM, coffee and squares at 7:30 PM.

We are looking for 2 to 3 members to help set up the meeting room each month. The set up of the meeting rooms is done usually on Wednesday evening.

“Paper Trails of the 19th Century:  
Intimate Portraits of a Vanishing World”  
with Barbara Rusch  
Thursday September 18th

Halton – Peel Genealogical Branch Meeting  
Lost villages of Toronto and Trafalgar Townships  
Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008 @ 2 PM  
Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy St. Oakville

“In Defense of the Border:  
Canadian Military Mails”  
with David Hobden  
Thursday October 16th

“In Flanders Fields:  
The Life and Times of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae”  
with Ken Irvine  
Thursday November 20th

“MHS Christmas ‘Pot Luck’ Dinner  
Celebrating the P.L. Robertson Centennial in Milton”  
Hugh Foster Hall  
Wednesday, December 4 at 6 PM



## MHS Executive News

We welcome Kaye Hogg to the executive of the Milton Historical Society. Kaye will be the secretary of the society.

## New Members.

We welcome the following new members

Alicia Dusil  
Fred Johnson  
Anne Taylor

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