



The Journal

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

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Spring Edition



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Reg Cressman accompanied by his wife Katherine receives Education Award from Mayor Krantz at Heritage Day awards.

Heritage Award Recipients celebrated.

The Milton Historical Society recognized several deserving candidates at the Heritage Day ceremonies held Feb 21st at the Halton Region Museum Alexander barn.

The Milton District Hospital Auxiliary received a Writing Award for completion of their Golden Anniversary Project which resulted in a book and CD about the history of the first 50 years of this important fund raising organization. Present to receive the award were John Conway, Dorothea Downs, Jo'Anne Schilling, Sheena Drennan and Karen Keir.

A second writing award was presented to Jim Dills and Gloria (Stark) Brown for the publication of Halton's Scotch Block. This latest publication of the Milton Historical Society is a valuable collection of information about the early Scottish pio-

neers of this area, their schools, churches, social activities and the important contributions they made to the community.

An education award was presented to Reg Cressman who recently retired from the position of General Manager of Country Heritage Park, a post he occupied since 1998. Reg provided the leadership during a difficult period in the history of the park when the Province divested itself of the property. Through the hard work of the staff Country Heritage Park has established itself as a important part of the community by bridging our agricultural history with today's society through the many educational activities and special events held there.

Congratulations to all the award recipients. Milton is a richer community because of your efforts. We also thank Halton Region Museum for welcoming us to their Heritage Day events.

President's Message:

Well, spring is almost upon us as we note the days get longer and with the sunshine adding that extra bit of warmth.

Our society is also gearing up as we move into a new decade in this century. We look forward to your involvement in various activities or

events over this next year as we forge ahead to preserve Milton's history. The society will need your assistance in various ways. Our society can only be successful if everyone does a little bit. We are in the process of developing teams to help with our operation and some of you have already volunteered to be involved. Please, take the time and talk to one of the Directors – for without volunteers we don't have a Society.

You are encouraged to help with:

- Sat. mornings in the Blacksmith Shop or Carriage Shop Exhibit
- helping with monthly meetings: setup or the goodies
- helping with oral histories, an important aspect of our research
- helping with the garage sale (Date to be confirmed) or donating items, all monies towards painting the exterior.
- bring a guest to our meetings who might enjoy the program and want to join
- helping with special events or projects eg. Victoria Day fan-flags sales, Doors Open May 29, Heritage Day/Week activities, Walking Tours etc.
- helping in the archives
- perhaps you or a friend might consider renting the Carriage Room for a function
- helping with other aspects

The Society has just recently received additional newspaper reels and we now have the Canadian Champion from 1862 – 1983. You are encouraged to drop in and make use of our Society Archives. Check out what is available! We thank the Archive team for the great job they do.

The latest historical item for sale by the Society is the 1858 T. C. Livingston Map of the Town of Milton, showing all the streets and buildings located in what was known as the South and North Wards. Remember members receive discounts on all our sale items.

This year we are planning a heritage bus tour and Mirella will be letting you know the details as they develop.

We encourage you to keep checking our Web Site for updates: www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca.

Thanks to Richard Laughton who looks after our site. Lastly I want to take a moment to thank all those who assisted with the recent Heritage Day Awards, the Ont. Artist Blacksmith Assoc. luncheon and to those who now make up the Board of Directors. Thanks also

to Darwyne, Larry and Mike for their help in running our Blacksmith Classes and the shop area.

Your 2010 Board of Directors

Here are your new board members.

President— Marsha Waldie
 Past President/Journal Editor—Bruce Carlin
 Treasurer—Helen Comber
 Secretary—Kaye Hogg
 Special Events—Nancy Cuttle
 Membership—Edna Laird
 Publications—Gloria Brown
 Building/Supplies—Mandy Sedgwick
 Publicity/Marketing/Research—John Challinor
 Monthly Meetings—David Hobden
 Heritage Milton Representative—Mirella Marshall,
 Mandy Sedgwick

Change is a constant in Milton by Jim Dills

Let's turn Milton's clock back 50 years for a quick look at the town of that era when some of the community's "firsts" were being recorded and growth was bringing about a period of change.

In late 1959 Highway 401 opened between Milton and Brampton providing the first major east-west linkage for the town to the Toronto area. Until then traffic moved along Highway 5 or the Queen Elizabeth Highway at Oakville and Bronte.

The new Milton District Hospital had opened in the last months of 1959, built after major fund-raising efforts and local initiative. It was a major plus for the community and its first public hospital. Children had been born for years in the Raspberry Nursing Home and Milton Private Hospital while others traveled to Hamilton or other communities.

In the opening days of 1960 Mike Ledwith announced his plans for expanding his grocery store and a new factory—James H. Matthews—was being erected on Nipissing Rd.

Weather, as usual played a part and the town had to dig out of a snow storm which was described as the worst in 16 years.

There was building though, as the town changed. A new curling club was planned, another industry—Felling Zinc Oxide—located where construc-

tion has begun for the new Main St. underpass, was planning a new office building. An addition to Halton Manor was opened and the Gospel Hall on Ontario St. was opened.

The early steps in conservation were being taken as the Authority agreed to purchase the Alexander Farm where the Kelso Conservation Area is now located. The government approved the Kelso Dam project on that site in June of that year.

Rural schools were disappearing as Bell's and Kilbride joined the list to be served by the new consolidated schools. A tender was accepted for the new Brookville School and Milton's municipal officials decided the town should have its first Recreation Commission. Change was a constant in the community 50 years ago lest we all forget.

Blacksmith Shop News

The Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association held their annual meeting and blacksmithing demonstration at the Waldie blacksmith shop Feb 13th. There were about 40 members who came to learn new smithing techniques, socialize and have some fun. Chili was cooked and served by volunteers from the Historical Society and sold at lunch.

It's a sure sign of spring when the blacksmith courses get started. One day Beginner blacksmith courses are booked for March and April and there is a three day advanced course to be held at the beginning of May.

The Milton Mantle Clock by John Duignan

Even though I have lived in Milton my whole life and try to collect all things Milton I was very surprised that there was a clock named after Milton. But sure enough there is and I luckily managed to get hold of one. It was manufactured by the Arthur Pequegnat Clock Company of Kitchener, Ontario.

The company operated from 1904 to 1940. Since Kitchener was known as Berlin up until 1917 this Milton clock had to have been manufactured after that date. The Milton is about 14 1/4" high and 10 1/2" wide and was produced in three wood finishes- golden oak, fumed oak and mahogany. Someone painted my specimen black for some unknown reason so that will have to be stripped off.

The Pequegnat Clock Company had a very clever

mar-



A Milton Mantle Clock,



Label for the same clock, photos by John Duignan

keting strategy of producing different models named after different towns and cities in Canada. So there was the Stratford, Montreal, Orillia, Hamilton and so on. Each had a unique design and the Milton model is quite distinct in styling. So keep your eyes open and look inside the back panel for the Milton label. But be prepared for a price shock as all Pequegnat clocks are highly sought after by clock collectors. But who knows you might just find one in your basement or attic!

From the Archives

Congratulations to Brenda Whitlock, our archivist for her selection as the winner of a Community Heritage Contribution award for Milton. Brenda has dedicated countless hours of volunteer time and expertise and leadership for the Milton Historical Society archives. Our society is the richer for her contributions.

Brenda is one of 111 volunteers who were recognized across Ontario in 2009. Each winner receives a certificate of recognition and a pin honouring their service.

Jim Dills has kindly donated a Toronto Star picture taken on Sept 22, 1984 at the funeral for Constable David Dunmore (Toronto Police) who was killed on duty. Four thousand policemen from across the country attended the funeral and the photograph shows them marching down the main street in front of St. Paul's United Church.

Thanks to Marsha, Kaye Hogg and others who got the itch to reorganize the layout of the archives so that a better use of space has been achieved. Well done ladies.

A full size 1858 Tremaine's Map of Halton County originally donated by Alex Cooke to the MHS has been mounted on a large frame (5' by 3') and will be mounted on one of our walls shortly.

Also, copies of the 1858 T.C. Livingston colour map of Milton (11" by 17") are for sale \$13.50 MHS members, \$15.00 non-members. Thanks to Finley McCallum who saved the original map from being destroyed



President Marsha Waldie, and Past resident Bruce Carlin present Ontario Heritage Trust award to Brenda Whitlock

early motorcar being test driven in the Milton area.

In the early 1900's, automobile demonstrators were in Milton every day, trying to make sales and giving free rides. In this picture post-card circa 1915, my grandfather, Clarence A. Hill is at the wheel next to the unknown salesman. In the back seat (left) is Clarence's father, Charles Eli Hill, of Peru, Esquewing with family friend Stanley Buck of Milton.

Seven more inducted into Milton's Walk of Fame By JOHN CHALLINOR II

Seven more prominent Miltonians were inducted into the community's Walk of Fame during the Mayor's Levee at Town Hall on New Year's Day.

The latest inductees are actor Matthew Banks, internationally recognized Scottish bag pipe player Gail Brown, Christian musician Father Mark Curtis, decorated American Civil War battlefield surgeon Dr. Clarkson Freeman, professional angler Bob Izumi, professional wrestler Peter McMullen and medical doctor and missionary Dr. William Edgar Robertson.

They join athletes Harry Barnes, Bruce Hood, Mike Kasycki, Bob Kranstz, Darlene Kranstz, Peter McDuffe, Enio Scisizzi, Tiger Ali Singh, Tiger Jeet Singh, Leon Stickle, John Tonelli and Ed Whitlock; businesspeople Allan Burton, F.H. Deacon, Susan



Early Cars in Milton from Judy Houston

Thanks to Judy for sharing with us this postcard of an

Delacourt, Jim Dills, P.L. Robertson and Bertram Stewart; artists and entertainers Peter Appleyard, Albert Casson, Ernie Coombs, David James (Smith) Elliot and Douglas Leiterman; public servants Betty Kennedy and the Honourable James Snow; and health and science professionals Chris Hadfield and Dr. Wallace McCutcheon.

Family members of those inducted on January 1, 2010, were thrilled. "It was an absolute trip of a lifetime for both myself and my Dad," said Kyle Freeman of he and his father, Les, who traveled from Red Deer, Alberta, and Fleming, Saskatchewan, respectively to receive the induction award on behalf of their grandfather, Dr. Clarkson Freeman. "It was such an honour and we are glad we didn't miss it. The Town of Milton and, especially Mayor Gord Krantz and everyone at Milton Historical Society, made us feel like Royalty.

"I hope Milton Historical Society and the Town of Milton don't take for granted just what great people you are and the important role you're playing in keeping this great country's history alive," he added. "I hope to come again some time during the Summer months to enjoy your beautiful area."

The Walk of Fame, a legacy program established during the Town of Milton's 150th anniversary celebrations by Milton Historical Society to recognize Milton's best, became a permanent and very visible part of the community's history with the official opening of the Town Hall expansion in October 2009.

In future years, working with Milton Council, Milton Historical Society will make Walk of Fame member recommendations. Once ratified by Council, those approved for induction will be formally recognized and inducted at Town Hall.

Unlike most community recognition programs, Walk of Fame members will only be inducted as worthy nominees are identified. The Walk of Fame will not be an annual program.

The criteria to become a member of the Walk of Fame is as follows:

Nominee must be born in Milton or spent formative or creative years here;



Walk of Fame—New Year's Day 2010. Front row (l to r) Marsha Waldie, Brenda Whitlock and Kaye Hogg. Back row (l o r) Ed Whitlock, Les Freeman and Kyle Freeman

Nominee must have lived in community for minimum of ten years;

Nominee's accomplishments must be national and/or international in scope;

Nominee's achievement must be best-in-class in his/her best-in-class field of endeavour and extended for minimum two calendar year period.

Nominee's achievement must fit into following fields: athletics, arts and entertainment, business and industry, government and public service and health and science.

To have a member of the community considered for nomination, please contact Milton Historical Society by telephone at (905) 875-4156 or via email at milton-historicalsociety@bellnet.ca

2010 Membership Renewals

Renew your membership, you don't want to miss out on receiving your MHS Journal. Membership dues help the society to continue the work to preserve our local heritage. We welcome the following new members; Steve Adams, Colin Baird, Carol Kerr, Marc Sim, Bob Stoutley, David Wilson, Robert Wilson

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Double Memberships are \$35.00

Students—Free

Get ready to celebrate!

The last week in May... we're painting the Town red white and blue

Victoria Day falls on Monday May 24th

and

Doors Open Milton is on Saturday May 29th

Milton Historical Society will hold our

Flag and Fan Sale

Saturday May 8 & 15th

10am -3pm

You will be able to purchase at reasonable prices

Pleated Fans of red, white & blue

Lengths of red, white & blue cotton bunting,

Union Jack & Canadian flags

We'll even help you figure out what you need and give you mounting instructions.

Just bring the measurements of the area you want to decorate and, if possible, a photo.

Calendar of Events

March 18th MHS General meeting—Vintage Post cards by John Duignan \$5.00 chili dinner.

March 20th Level One Blacksmith Class

April 15th MHS General meeting—Guest speaker to be confirmed.

April 17th Level One Blacksmith Class

May 20th MHS General meeting—Guest speaker to be confirmed.

The 2nd annual **Doors Open Milton** will take place on Saturday **May 29th from 10am to 3pm.** Milton Historical Society will be participating with an open house featuring our wonderful blacksmiths, a Royalty Exhibition and book display and a tour of the archives. We will need lots of volunteers for this fun event. Please contact Mirella Marshall at 905-878-1892 to see how you can help.

Flag & Fan Sale

Waldie's will be decked out in red, white and blue again to celebrate Victoria Day and Doors Open Milton. We are going to encourage everyone on the Main Street to decorate their buildings for the Historic Walking Tours on May 29th.

If you know of anyone downtown or in the Character area who wants to decorate their place, please tell them about the Flag and Fan Sale on May 8th & 15th.

If you can help us with the sale please call Nancy Cuttle at 905-875-1364.

June 5th—10 am Horticultural Exhibition. We invite you to join the Milton and District Horticultural Society celebrate their 100th anniversary.

Aug 14th 10 AM—Steam Era Exhibition. We invite you to join us as Milton Steam Show celebrates their 50th anniversary.

Sept 11th—Milton Fair—Dairy-Creamery exhibition

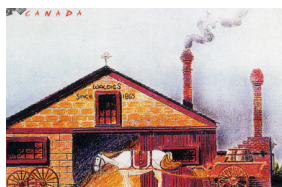


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Summer Edition

June, 2010 Vol. 25 Issue 2



(L. to R.) Marsha Waldie, Principal Wendy Spence and Ken Lamb

dents. There are about 400 students enrolled at this time. The building is located at 840 Scott Boulevard and is very attractive with lots of windows and a nice view of the escarpment.

President's Message

Our Society has had a number of activities over the last few months which have been very successful in raising funds to assist with the painting of our facilities exterior this year. We thank all who have been involved in helping with these events. Volunteers are important!

I hope you were able to check out last months Royalty Exhibit in the Carriage Shop Room as we celebrated the month of May leading up to Victoria Day. The exhibit team now has a great display which opened June 5th celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Milton and District Horticultural Society. We also note that there are other community groups celebrating milestones this year as well. Knox Presbyterian Church celebrates 155 yrs. of service, Evening Star Rebekah Lodge # 79 is celebrating 105 yrs. and the Milton Steam Show Assoc. is celebrating 50 yrs. Congratulations to all.

Our next two exhibits will be on the Milton Steam Show opening Aug.

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P.L. Robertson Public School Official Opening

The P.L. Robertson Public school held it's official opening on May 21st and three members of the Milton Historical Society were in attendance to mark the occasion. President Marsha Waldie, Jim Dills and Ken Lamb represented our society.

As part of the event a framed picture of P.L. Robertson and a copy of Ken Lamb's book were presented to the school. The school was very pleased to receive these two items. P.L.'s daughter and grandson also attended the opening as well as the Mayor and two representatives from the P.L Robertson company.

The new school is a public elementary school and a dual track French immersion school for Kindergarden to Grade 7 stu-

14th and followed by Milton Fair/Dairy-creamery opening Sept. 11th. Please drop in!

Milton Doors Open returned on Sat. May 29th, participating locations in our community welcomed visitors from around the province. A number of our members welcomed and show-cased our facility as part of this event. Good comments by all were expressed. Thanks to all who helped.

We need your help to cover the Blacksmith and Carriage Shop on Sat. mornings 9:30 – noon through the summer. If everyone volunteered for one Sat. it would be a great help. Please let us know when you can assist.

The United Empire Loyalist Assoc. of Canada just held their 96 Annual General Meeting June 3 - 6 in BC. Some of you will know their President, Mr. Fred Hayward UE, who has been elected for another year. Fred was born and raised in Milton and now lives in Oakville. On Sat. June 19th the Hamilton Branch of this Association will hold their annual Loyalist



Remembrance Day Service at this loyalist monument located at 50 Main St. E., Hamilton, Ont., at 11 am. It stands in front of the Court House in Prince's Square. The loyalists were a major force in the development of our Country and today this organization continues to share that history

We express our thanks to Mirella Marshall for coordinating our Heritage bus tour this year. Great day had by all in attendance.

Jim Dills, Ken Lamb and I were invited to the official

opening of the new P. L. Robertson Public School on Friday May 21st. On behalf of the Milton Historical Society we presented Principal Wendy Spence with a copy of Ken's book on P. L. and a super picture of P. L. which Jim supplied and Shirley helped to frame. The school is certainly top of the line and acknowledges P. L. Robertson's contribution to our community for future Milton citizens.

Last but not least, it is with sadness that we say our farewells to Teresa and Ken Lamb, who will be leaving our community for the north. Both have been members of our Society for many years and have contributed much over the years to our standing within the community. Ken has been involved in all of our publications in one way or the other and responsible for taking the lead and writing two. He also served as our President. Teresa has always been involved in various events working in the background and assisting in other areas as required, always ready to help. Their dedication has always been very much appreciated and we will all miss them. Our good wishes go with you both - take care and God Bless!

I hope everyone has a great summer and we will see you at our Sept. General Meeting on the 16th.

Marsha Waldie

Change is a Constant in Milton

Turn back the clock 50 years by Jim Dills
(Second of a two part submission)

After purchasing the former Catholic Church on Pine St. the United Steelworkers Local 4970 (PLR) burned the mortgage in June to confirm their ownership. Today the building serves as part of the central Library complex.

The Rotary Park playground opened as the Rotary Club moved ahead with limited development and the town turned down a municipal vote on whether to build an auditorium on the Martin St. school. It was to be some years later before an auditorium was added to a school

The town got into the garbage business in a big way when it bought its first garbage packer. Prior to that collection had involved men throwing the garbage on

to a truck by hand.

Like any period in the town's past dramatic changes were taking place. In 1960 the Martin family sold their interest in the Mill around which the town grew.

There was always sports though and that year the Campbellville ball club won the Intermediate B title. It was the sixth Ontario championship in eight years.

By October Milton Plaza was expanding to 10 stores including a new Loblaws and merchants were worrying what effect the new commercial development would have on the downtown area. A new addition to the post office was required, however, and construction began in October.

The Fire Brigade, outfitted for the Remembrance Day parade in their new uniforms, was all still volunteers and raised money for the annual Santa Claus parade that it co-sponsored with the Milton Legion.

And by the time the year 1960 ended the 401 highway was opened from Milton to Preston and the CNR railway track was to be routed around the town with overpasses at Main St. west of Bronte, on Steeles Ave. and across Highway 25.

Change was a constant in the community 50 years ago lest we all forget.

St. George's Church, Lowville by Judy Houston

In this 1914 postcard, my grandfather George Orville Thomas (1870-1926) is constructing the bell tower at St George's Anglican Church Lowville. George, his brothers and father Samuel Poole Thomas (1844-1905) conducted the business - S. THOMAS & SONS, CARPENTERS AND BUILDERS. That heading is on an 1890's business form on which George Thomas pens a thank-you to Mr. & Mrs. J. Rowland, relatives he stayed with while working in British Columbia. On returning home to Burlington Ontario, he writes, "my first job was in Milton, to set frames for the church there..." (possibly Grace Anglican Church, built in 1895, as the family was Anglican),

After their father's death, the sons continued in the trade, building homes, barns, etc. in the Halton/Wentworth area and throughout Canada. In 1922



St George's Church Lowville – construction of the bell tower.

George and his wife Bertha purchased a 256 acre farm on Mount Nemo, where the family began harvesting and selling apples locally and to jam making businesses like Smith of Burlington and Nicholson & Stetler of Waterdown.

Milton and District Horticultural Society celebrates 100 years

2010 is the 100th anniversary of the Milton Horticultural and District Society and society members have created table top exhibits showing pictures of members and their flower arrangements and special events over the years. Kay Bounsall is preparing a collection of as many past presidents as she can locate so if you know of any please pass them along.

The Horticultural display was set up in the Waldie Blacksmith shop meeting room for the June 5th Milton Street Festival. Gloria Brown of our historical society framed some historic photographs of flowers around the town including some beautiful shots showing flower beds by the Old Post Office at Main and Martin and the old Martin Mill. These photographs have been magnified in size and are well worth the visit to see them.

The first officers and Board of Directors in 1910 were as follows; President – Mr. Higginbotham (Druggist)
1st V.P. – James Dent
2nd V.P. – J. M. Bastedo
Directors – R.J. Hare, E. Syer, H.P. Wanzer (Sec. Treasurer)

The role of the society was to encourage the beautifi-

cation of streets, parks and member properties and this continues as a key goal. The early society operated up until the 1940's when it ceased operations due to the war years. In 1949 the new club was organized and named The Garden Club of Lowville, Milton and Hornby. Membership was listed at 51 with an annual fee of \$1.00. In 2010 membership has increased to over 200.

Most Miltonians have seen the beautiful gardens in the old prison yard of Town Hall or the flowers at the Library and the gardens planted at Chris Hadfield park. We wish the Horticultural society a successful centennial year and best wishes for the future.

Thanks to Kay Bounsall for providing the articles on the history of the Horticultural society

FROM THE ARCHIVES – June 2010

Various members of the Archives group are working towards a complete history of the commercial buildings on Main Street between Bronte and Ontario. The plan is to have a listing of the stores with owners and tenants for each property together with photographs taken at various stages throughout the years. This will result in a "Main Street Property Book" with photographs, description of the property history, and a listing of the shops, stores and businesses in that property over time. Information on the various businesses is being collected from old newspapers, school year books, old cook books from churches and various organizations etc. plus Chamber of Commerce annual business directories, MHS files and photos, various MHS books, publications and DVDs. We are getting help from old photographs supplied by Jim Dills and Marsha Waldie and hope to receive additional information from people such as Brad Clements and John Duignan. Our starting date for the information is 1840 or thereabouts. If you think you have any old Main St. photos, receipts, ads., flyers, etc. which would help fill in blanks in our listings we would be happy to hear from you.

We have received a major donation from Glenn Castle regarding the Peacock/McDowell family including the family bible, some wonderful scrap books which entertained us greatly because they covered the 1950s, 60s and 70s, various photographs, marriage certificates etc. and some autograph books, one dating from the 1800s. Mrs. Margaret Lawson gave us an original "Halton Women's Institute Cook Book" dated



Fran Gravel at the 100th anniversary Milton Horticultural Society display.

1912 for which many thanks. We received from the Magee family a number of scrap books which were kept by their mother, Marjorie Magee, and numerous photographs. The scrap books show the rich musical life that Mrs. Magee led and the amazing variety of events which took place in Milton in the era of the Fifties and Sixties.

We have received e-mails from across the continent from descendants of our early families. Many of these have been accompanied by scans of photographs – people seem very happy to send scans of their old photographs although unwilling to actually part with the actual photographs. We have heard from two descendants of James Rixon, one from the States and one from Manitoba. We have received scans of pictures from a descendant of the Brush family also scans from a descendant (Mrs. Duplassie) of William J. Armstrong who built the house at 186 Sarah Street. Mrs. Duplassie has also given to the Society her grandmother's wedding dress, headdress and shoes from 1910.

Jim Dills also donated two portfolios of early Canadian Prints issued in 1967 by Confederation Life entitled Gallery of Canadian History and a pile of early sheet music.

Finally, we would like to thank Gayle Waldie for generously donating a shredder because we had become concerned about consigning some papers to recycling.

Brenda Whitlock, Walter Eadie, Marsha Waldie, Gloria Brown and Kaye Bounsall.

Volunteer Request: We require someone to assist in the archives with genealogical requests that we receive. If you are interested please let Brenda know.

Visitors to the Archives remember early blacksmithing by Jim Dills

The MHS Archives gets a lot of visitors, some from distant places, but all with the common interest of Milton. Some even remember when the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, now headquarters of MHS Archives, was a busy farming centre.

One of the recent couples to visit was John and Margaret Willmott. In conversation John remembered the difficulty he felt in leaving Rose Hill Farm (corner of Derry and Highway 25) in August 1973. He was the fifth generation of Willmotts on that farm and his seven children would have been the sixth. He arranged to visit the home for another look. He also connected with the Archives with a promise of more photos and family detail to add to the local collection. Today the farm is town-owned land with plans for a major park area. John hopes the house will be preserved in tribute to the pioneers who settled the area.

Today John and Margaret live in Saskatchewan where they went to farm. They also have four great grandchildren.

John has made a name for himself in the western province as a dedicated promoter of Saskatchewan's and Canada's cattle industry. He had a significant role in the resurgence of the Angus breed serving from 1987-92 as general manager of the Canadian Angus Association. He was the only person to be president of the Canadian Angus Association from two different provinces, once in Ontario 1969-70 and once in Saskatchewan 1985-86. He was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2005.

In 1965 Margaret established Topmast Kennel that is now recognized as one of the top Newfoundland dog kennels in the world. She has shown many champions and sold breeding stock all over the world.

Overwhelmed by the changes in the area of his farm John remembered walking to the Bruce St. School along the present regional road 25 when it was a gravel road.



Ken and Treasa Lamb enjoying a hearty meal at our recent Elora bus trip.

Farewell Ken and Treasa

Two long time members and supporters of the Milton Historical Society will be leaving the Milton area and moving to Owen Sound over the summer. Ken and Treasa came to the Milton area in 1980. They have been very active in the Milton community including the Milton Seniors Activity Center, the Milton Historical Society and the local Horticultural society to name a few. Ken has been an active member of the Milton Historical Society including President, Journal Editor, Vice President – Programs and publicity. He has also written history books including *Milton Remembers World War II* and *P.L. Robertson - Inventor of the socket head screw*. Ken has also edited several other publications, he carried out Oral history interviews and started the annual Heritage Awards ceremonies. Thanks to both Ken and Treasa for all their support and contributions to the MHS.

As I Recall, A Memoir by Ed Goodall.

A popular activity at the Milton Seniors Activity Center is the Walking Club ably conducted by Dot Gould. It was just after we moved to our present facility in 1994, that the Walking Club came into being. Organized by Ken and Treasa Lamb, two experienced hikers and members of the Bruce Trail Association, who had, over a period of time, hiked the trail from Tobermory to Niagara (Queenstown).

For us Senior's, a leisurely walk for two to three hours on a Monday afternoon was challenge enough. It began with a driver or car pool to a predetermined location then a hike along the trail with Treasa naming every wild flower encountered. Some of the locations we explored were Henley Falls, Crawford Lake, Mount Nemo, Limehouse Conservation Area and of course, Kelso. A great way to keep fit while enjoying the scenery that the escarpment has to offer. Ken also taught bridge at the Seniors Center and was a contributor to the Seniors Newsletter and Treasa convened the Book Club.

Flag and Fan Sale

Thanks to Nancy Cuttle for organizing the Flag and Fan sale. It takes a steady hand to get the decorative fans and bunting across the U.S. border. A good number of individuals and companies purchased and set up their flags and bunting for the Victoria Day weekend.

Guest Speakers

Our guest speakers this spring spoke on a variety of topics including Mr. Ray Peacock who spoke on the history of H.M.S. Ontario which sailed Lake Ontario in 1779-1780 moving soldiers and supplies for the British. The boat was lost in a storm in 1780 and lay hidden until June, 2008 when she was found sitting intact. Ray built a replica model of H.M.S. Ontario over several years as a winter hobby.

John Duignan entertained at our March meeting with his collection of Milton and area postcards accompanied by music of the era. We all enjoy looking at these images from our past although we did razz John about the music. Thanks for a great presentation. John con-



Royalty Display in conjunction with the Flag and Fan sale

tinues to expand his collection of the postcards which capture images from this bygone era. You can always see some of his postcards if you walk by his Main street business.

Author and historian David Beasley spoke to the society about his ancestor Richard Beasley (1761-1842) who led an exciting life as a fur trader, a colonel in the York militia and who in his political life represented Burlington Heights in parliament. Richard has published several books about early Canadian History including "From Bloody Beginnings".

Welcome New Members

Jean Sterritt
Ann & Richard Loker
Barbara McMullen
Single Memberships are \$20.00
Double Memberships are \$35.00

Milton Historical Society MONTHLY PROGRAMS

June 17th Bob Stoutley The Ancestors in his Attic!

August 14th 10 AM Steam Era Exhibition—We invite you to join us as Milton Steam Show celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Sept 11th 10 AM Milton Fair, Dairy Creamery exhibit

Sept 16th Mike Curry
Introduction to Blacksmithing - A hands on Demonstration in the Wldie Blacksmith Shop

Oct 21st Jim Dills Samuel Pantene

Nov 6th 10 AM Winter/Christmas exhibition—Winter and Christmas Parades & Concerts

Nov 18th Walter Eadie Tales from the Alex Cooke Archive - A Hands on INtroduction to one of the Milton Historical Societies best kept secrets.

Dec 16 Potluck Dinner



The Journal

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

Sept. 2010, Vol. 25 Issue 3

Fall Edition



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St. Paul's Update

There have been a number of developments over the summer concerning the future of St. Paul's church. Below is a chronology of key events. An all candidates meeting has been scheduled for September 14th to highlight heritage issues in Milton prior to the municipal election. Details of the meeting are listed on page 6 of this Journal. Everyone is welcome.

June 6, 2010 Part of Message delivered by **Kathy Sellers, Chair of Council**, at the services on Sunday June 6.

Projectcore has determined that it is not economically viable to re-develop our property while retaining all or part of the sanctuary. As a result, Projectcore has informed us that they are unwilling to spend any more time or money developing further plans until they are assured that the existing buildings can be removed from our property.

The way that we can resolve this impasse is to apply to the Town of Milton for a demolition permit. If a demolition permit is granted by the town, the developer will then be in a position to take the next steps to re-develop.

June 18, 2010 **St Paul's Church Council** submits an application for a demolition Permit

July 8, 2010 **Heritage Milton Meeting** Application for Demolition Permit referred from Town Planning.

As one of 6 delegations, Preserving Milton's Heritage committee presentation requests Heritage Milton to recommend Council pass a Notice of Intention to Designate.

Heritage Milton Resolution: "Heritage Milton requests a heritage assessment for St. Paul's Church, a post-fire structural engineers report and a copy of the St. Paul's Church's binder, that contains the inventory of heritage artefacts that are proposed to be retained, is submitted as soon as possible, so that they can be reviewed by Heritage Milton in context with the demolition application. "

July 19, 2010 **Town Council Meeting** Motion passed: *THAT report PD-051-10 be received for information;*

AND THAT Milton Council endorse Heritage Milton's request that additional information should be submitted as part of the demolition notification required under the provisions of S.27 of the Ontario Heritage Act for St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main Street East, Milton; namely an updated Heritage Impact Assessment, an updated Engineers report and details of the retention and reuse of any heritage elements that are proposed to be retained;

AND FURTHER THAT Milton Council endorse Heritage Milton's request that a Heritage Impact Assessment should be submitted as part of the demolition notification required under the provisions of S. 27 of the Ontario Heritage Act for 101

*Main Street East, Milton;
AND FURTHER THAT the St. Paul's United
Church be requested, if necessary, to re-submit /
amend their demolition request to omit any parts
of the existing church structure that are proposed
for retention.*

President's Message:

I welcome you back as we move into the fall following a great summer. I want to remind you that if you or your friends have any documents, photo's, family histories or even stories that relate to Milton's please contact our volunteers in the archives.

One of our essential missions is to inspire public awareness and appreciation for a sense of belonging in the present through connections to the past and the responsibility we have for the future.

The Milton Historical Society in connection with the, "Preserving Milton's Heritage Committee" will be hosting an **All Candidates meeting** for those running for Town Council Tue. Sept. 14th, 7:30 pm at the Historic Milton Fairgrounds. This will be an opportunity to find out where the candidates stand on various heritage/historic issues and concerns both **urban** and **rural**. The St. Paul's situation has certainly highlighted other heritage issues throughout the Milton area.

Protecting our heritage is becoming an important concern by the heritage community throughout Ontario and indeed throughout the Country. For example Toronto will be host a mayoralty debate on heritage; St John's NFLD will be hosting a Heritage Canada Conference on Endangered Places of Faith Roundtable. It has been noted that Toronto's Heritage Downsview Hangers and Hamilton's historic Century Theatre, were needlessly lost due to unenforced property standards bylaws.

Many Municipalities are moving towards dedicated Staff Heritage Planners and programs to assist with preservation. Our Official Town Plan has now broadened its scope on heritage.

The Heritage Canada Foundation has released the 2010 top ten endangered places and worst losses lists with Brantford heading the list. So please mark the above date on your calendar.

In this issue Nancy Cuttle will update you on the situation regarding our efforts to preserve St. Paul's Historic Church Sanctuary.

Note: Our society does have signs available "Preserving our Heritage", please contact us and we

will see you receive one.

I want to express my thanks to all who have volunteered over the summer months. Volunteers are vital to our operation and success. If you have not had the time to help, please consider volunteering.

Please note the upcoming date for our Historical Book Fair, which will be held Sat. Dec. 4th, 10 am – 2 pm. This is a great opportunity to pick up that Christmas present.

I look forward to seeing you all at our Sept. 16th meeting, 8 pm.
Marsha Waldie J

Waldie Blacksmith shop gets a facelift!

The entire exterior of the blacksmith shop and archives received a fresh coat of paint this summer. All the wooden exterior walls have been repainted to make the building look good as new. The front plaster face of the blacksmith shop has been repaired to seal cracks and this has also received a fresh new coat of paint.

This renovation project was made possible through fund raising efforts earlier this spring including a garage sale, book sales and individual donations. Thanks to Mandy Sedgwick for co-ordinating the renovation work at the shop.

Milton in the 1970's by Jim Dills

Smile and remember the early 1970s. Perhaps an event of the past triggers a thought today. Were things that different?

In 1970–40 years ago—assessment of local properties was moved to the provincial level and the age of the local assessor disappeared. Lifestyles were changing too. It was news that the Charles Hotel was opening a dining room and cocktail lounge and the first woman—Mary Clarke—was named to head the local Chamber of Commerce.

Council of the time was adamant that the customary 50-foot-lot continue for subdivisions and Main St. reconstruction had to be stopped since the stone veneer on the MacNab building at the corner of Charles and Main was threatened. The town later bought the building for \$20,000 and demolished the historic building to clear the corner.

The town's first industrial plaza was established on part of the former Harrop farm and in 1972

Barber-Greene Co. turned the sod for its new plant there. The Chicken Villa opened on Main St. at Commercial where it continued for many years.

Rail passenger service was on the way out. CPR wanted to discontinue the service from its Court St. station while a 1267-lot subdivision was approved by the town for the north-east quadrant—Dorset Park.

As the next year of 1971 checked in the council was faced with planning a sewage plant expansion to serve an anticipated population of 28,500. The council also agreed to a two-year term for council members to begin in 1973.

Milton Plaza, now Milton Mall, extended south from the original cluster of stores while Council shunned fluoride in the water supply beginning a controversy that has continued. The hospital wasn't always busy and a wing was closed temporarily since it wasn't busy enough. In 1972, however, a far-seeing board bought 20 acres of land for future expansion at \$4,000 an acre.

1971 also saw the legal drinking age lowered to 18, the Eaton's catalogue office, a long-time downtown Milton fixture, closed and the first cross walk went into operation at Ontario St. and Mountain View.

When the town was shifted in the Toronto-centred plan it was to allow for growth in population for 20 to 25,000 people.

Conservation was moving ahead with the official opening of the Scotch Block Dam and the building of the Hilton Falls dam. It was just about a year later when the new rubber dam installed at Scotch Block dam partially collapsed sending a surge of water down the Sixteen Mile Creek and flooding roads and bridges.

Probably nothing attracted quite so much attention, however as the required reading of the Riot Act by Mayor Brian Best to quell what police determined was an unruly Hallowe'en crowd of vandals. Even the daily papers were interested.

Road patterns were changing and Martin St. was officially extended north of Base Line (now Steeles Ave.) to Highway 401.

Businesses were changing. The Main St. Sel-rite Store operated for so many years by Charlie and Mabel Clark was sold to E.J. McCready. Bell Bros. sold their automobile agency, after 26 years at the corner of Martin and Steeles Ave. to Vogel and Boedecker of Plaza Motors. A new player in the local business world was Fifth Wheel truck stop that opened in late 1972.

The Chamber of Commerce Farmers' Market



Join us at the September MHS general meeting with blacksmith Mike Currie and learn about the art of bronze casting.

opened for the first vendors and buyers in July 1972 and survived its first years with leadership from Andy Frank and George Swann who were there every week on the site where the expanded Milton Town Hall stands, prior to the market's move to Main St.

September 1972 welcomed completion of the reconstruction of Main St. with a giant street dance and ribbon-cutting.

Conservation was tightening its grip on the community when flood-line restrictions were imposed by the province. Council passed the first phase of the channellization project that paved the stream for more rapid flow so drainage from the Dorset Park area could be re-directed to the stream. Building was continuing with the first residents moving in to Dorset Park in August 1972. In fact the town's building department had to be expanded to two with the engagement of Cecil Jackson to assist Building Inspector Ray Olan.

Heritage issues were not unknown. Not everyone was in favor when the Ontario Housing Corporation and the town bought the Bruce St. school site. Seniors' Housing and a new library were planned for the site after demolition of the large stone building.

Indicative of the pace of building a community of 1000 new homes was planned for the south-east section (Timberlea) of town. A second phase of homes in the Victoria Wood project of 197 homes was approved. The Third Line got a new name honoring former Mayor G.F. Thompson as the built-up town moved east.

A town by-law in November 1972 outlined the duties of the clerk and required that the individual live in Milton.

Twiggged your memory? That was just the first three years of the 1970s. Tell us what you remember.

Historical Society Receives Grant

The Milton Historical Society has received a grant from the Milton Community fund to help us facilitate our mandate of preserving and promoting our local heritage. Thanks to Mandy Sedgwick, John Challinor for taking the lead in the co-ordination of this successful proposal. We also thank Walter Eadie, Brenda Whitlock, Bruce Carlin and Marsha Waldie who supplied information to assist Mandy and John

Alex Cooke Memorial Award Winners

Every year the Milton Historical Society provides \$100.00 financial awards to graduating students from Milton's three local high schools. The awards are handed out to students who have achieved high marks in history and who will be pursuing college or university studies in social sciences. This year's award winners include Stephani Bright from Bishop Reding High School and Maia Pattison from Milton District High School. At press time the award recipient for E.C. Drury High School was yet to be selected. Congratulations to the graduates

Ontario Commercial Yearbook and Gazetteer

1906. Contributed by Judy Houston

MILTON.

Trafalgar Township, Halton County.

Population, 1,342. On G.T.R. and

C.P.R. Telegraph, express. Banking,

money orders. Assessed value

of real and personal property and

income taxable, \$420,575.

Rate of tax, 19 mills. Town Clerk, Robert

Coates. Town Treasurer, H. Campbell.

Postmaster, Robert Stewart

Agricultural Implements - Benson, E. F.;
Willmott, John.

Bakers - McKay's Sons, P. M

Banks - BANK OF HAMILTON;
METROPOLITAN BANK.

Barristers - Chisholm, Victor; Dick, W.;
Elliott, J. W.; Hollinrake, C. E.

Blacksmiths - Bundy & Hahn; Waldie, Alfred;
Weir, Thomas E.

Books and Stationery - Featherstone,
E. C; Higginbotham & Co.

Boots and Shoes - McDougald, A.;
Potchett. Michael; Winn & Co.;
Wilson, Thomas.

Brick Manufacturers - Lewis, C. J.;
Milton Pressed Brick Co., Ltd.

Carpet Manufacturers - Canadian
Carpet Co.

Carriagemakers - Bundy & Hahn.

Coal and Wood - Bradley, M.; Peacock,
J. H.

Confectioner - Fletcher, Mary

Contractors - Bradley, John; Ford &
Bradley; Hunter, John;
Lansborough, James.

Creamery - Gallagher, L. L.

Dairy Machines - Clark, A. E. (Mrs.)

Druggist - Higginbotham & Co.

Dry Goods - Lawson, John.

Electric Lighting - Milton Electric
Light and Power Company.

Flour and Feed - Hannant, John T.;
Hume Bros.

Flour Mill - Springgay, R. W.

Foundry - Beatty, John A.

Furniture - Burling, Richard.

General Stores - Bastedo & Co.;
Hemr Bros.; Hollinrake & Son.

Grain - Irving. John.

(To be continued in next Journal edition)

65th Anniversary of VJ Day Remembered

By Jim Dills

Umbrellas were out as citizens gathered despite hazy rain in Victoria Park with Legion members to mark the 65th anniversary of the end of World War II on August 22. Veterans Lyle Dales and Murray Boyd placed the symbolic wreath and other veterans were recognized by Service officer Laurie MacNab.

Events planned for the afternoon in the park were moved to the Legion due to the inclement weather. Buglers Ray Waters and Ray Jones and the Milton and District Pipes and Drums provided the music. Legion president Bob Williams presided.



Come and celebrate Canada's 2010 Year of the British Home Child with us!

The Brantford County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will be holding an open house on

Saturday, October 23rd from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday, October 24th from 1 to 8 p.m.

Smokey Hollow Estates, 114-118 Powerline Road, Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

Opening ceremonies will be on Saturday at 11 a.m. Admission \$2.00 per person.

- Come, meet and talk with other descendants. Renew acquaintances. Make new friends.
- Put faces to the names on Rootsweb, and wear your t-shirt and a name tag so we'll know you! - - Everyone welcome!
- At 11 a.m. on Saturday meet MP Phil McColeman.
- We'll have displays, trunks and the Memorial Quilt made by Gail Collins, St Catharines
- Be sure to bring your research binder or a display. There's lots of room.
- There'll be BHC books and pins for sale.
- Our adjacent library will be open.
- Meals will be available both days at \$7.00 per person.

Saturday: lunch 12-2, dinner 4-6 & Sunday: dinner only 4-6

map - <http://brantcountybranchogs.ca>, <http://brantcountybranchogs.ca/RoadMap.html>

email - brantogs@bellnet.ca phone - 519.753.4140

In order to get an idea of the number of people who plan to attend, please contact the following people, and, if possible let them know which day, or perhaps the weekend.

Janice Harris (Brantford) echarris@ican.net Central

Your are invited to attend our
All Candidates/All Wards meeting
"Addressing Heritage Issues"

Tuesday September 14th from 7:30-9:30pm
Milton Fairgrounds Hall #1

Milton Historical Society in conjunction with **Preserving Milton's Heritage committee** has invited all candidates running for Milton Town Council to present their views on the importance of the protection and preservation of our heritage areas.

Following candidates' prepared responses to a given set of questions; members of the public will be encouraged to direct their heritage questions to specific candidates.

Walk, cycle, or drive to our historic fairgrounds
Learn what your new candidates and incumbents think about preserving our history.
Ample Parking Admission is free

Milton Historical Society

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Fall 2010 Events

Sept 16th A hands on Demonstration in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Sept. 16th, 8 pm - Blacksmith Mike Currie "The Art of Bronze Casting" Mike will share the history of the fine art of bell-making. He will also demonstrate this art as he casts a bell. This historic art goes back to the early centuries!

Oct 21st Jim Dills will educate and entertain us with his story about "Samuel Panton, Milton's Travelling Man". There will also be two guests from the United Empire Loyalists attending this meeting.

Come and celebrate Canada's 2010 Year of the British Home Child with us!

Saturday, October 23rd from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 24th from 1 to 8 p.m.
Smokey Hollow Estates, 114-118 Powerline Road,
Brantford, Ontario, Canada

Nov 18th Walter Eadie, from our own Archives will give us a first hand insight with "Tales from the Alex Cooke Archive" - A Hands on Introduction to one of the Milton Historical Societies best kept secrets.

Tuesday, Nov. 30th
Knox Presbyterian Church will be hosting their St. Andrew's Luncheon at 12 noon. Guest speaker will be

local historian Mr. John McDonald. John has been doing extensive research on William Halton and will present some of the background on this investigation - "In Pursuit of William Halton". The County of Halton now known as the Region of Halton was named after him. All proceeds going to the Knox Restoration Project.

Saturday, Dec 4th Milton Historical Society Book Sale will be held from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Waldie Blacksmith shop. This is a great opportunity to pick up a Christmas present for a friend or family.

Dec 16 Join us at our annual potluck Christmas dinner and celebrate the festive season. There will also be an artifact guessing game for this year's party. See you there.

Memberships

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Double Memberships are \$35.00

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, mailed to the Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4 or e-mailed to the miltonhistoricalsociety@bellnet.ca.

Journal editor Bruce Carlin



The Journal

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

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Dec. 2010 Vol. # 25 Issue 4

Winter Edition



Archives volunteer Shigeru Otsuka with the new storage cabinet of the MHS archives.

newspaper clippings. If you have any information related to past businesses located on Main street, please let the archives know.

The archives also contains Milton Maps, old store invoices, business directories and a microfilm collection of the Halton Journal and The Canadian Champion. Walter reminded us that the archives is interested in photos or other donations of heritage items. The Milton Images website boasts an inventory of some seven thousand images which are accessible via the internet to all who have an interest and internet connection. The photos can be scanned and returned to the owner of the property if they want to keep possession of the image.

The Milton Historical Society has purchased new equipment for the archives with this years grant from the Town of Milton. There are three new monitors, one new computer, a new projector and a new electronic recorder for oral histories. After the presentation members were invited upstairs to the archives to view some of the collection and to ask questions. Many thanks to Walter and to all the archives volunteers who continue to organize and inventory the pieces of our past.

Finally, the society is considering holding an oral history workshop in

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Archives News

Our very own Walter Eadie spoke about the role of the Milton Historical society archives at our November meeting. The archives are named after Alex Cooke who was a historian, researcher and a genealogist. Our archives have over 750 family names on file ranging in content from a newspaper clipping to published books about the family. Walter also spoke about some of the mens and ladies organizations that were part of Milton's early social fabric.

The archives also contain land and property records. A current project of the archives focuses on Milton's Main Street. An inventory of the various commercial enterprises that have occupied Main Street addresses over the years is being put together from old business directories and

the New Year. If you are interested in learning how to conduct oral histories please let us know.

We thank Bob Dixon (Ruth Taylor's brother) for his donation of a large wooden storage cabinet to the archives. The cabinet was originally used in the Land registry office beside the Town Hall. When the registry office moved up to the Steeles avenue location the cabinet was moved as well. Staff decided that the cabinet had outlived its usefulness and it was moved to one of the Regional works buildings and later it was decided to send it to the landfill site. At that point Bob decided to take the unit home where it stayed for a few years and it has now found a new home in our archives much to the delight of our archives staff.

Presidents Message:

The Spirit of Christmas: R. M. Young

I have a list of people I know
All written in my memory book
And every year at Christmastime
I fondly recall this list
And this is when I realize
That those names are a part
Not only of my memories
But of my very heart
For each name stands for someone
Who has crossed my path some time
And in that meeting they've become
A treasured friend of mine
And once you've met some people
The years can not erase
The memory of a pleasant word
Or a friendly face
So when I send this greeting
That is addressed to you
It's because you're on that list
Of folk I'm indebted to
And you are one of many folk who
In times past I've met
And happen to be one of those
I don't want to forget
And whether I have known you for
Many years or few
In some way you have a part in
Shaping things I do
This, the spirit of Christmas, that
Forever and ever endures

May Christmas leave its richest blessings
In the hearts of you and yours.

Wishing you all Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2011!

Marsha J

Going to Church 153 years ago by Jim Dills

It's Sunday and time for church—the year is 1857,
when Milton was incorporated as a town.

The light dusting of snow isn't heavy enough to hitch up the cutter, but father and I have the wagon ready for the trip to church. As the oldest at 12, I've been helping him. Roads have frozen so at least mother, father, sisters Jane, Sarah and I will avoid the mud.

The town that is springing up doesn't have very good roads and we'll go along the Base Line before we reach the roadway down toward the heart of the town. That takes us past the new Free Presbyterian Church. I understand they laid the corner stone at the Martin St. building and John Martin gave them the site quite close to where he's building his new stone house.

Our Methodist brick chapel is just five years old but it took some time to finish it with the new floor. The stoves will be on today so we'll be comfortable for the service. Rev. Francis Coleman, who came to us at the change of ministers in the summer, came to this country from Cornwall, England in 1834. He tells us some interesting stories of his youth, but he preaches firmly Biblical messages.

There's talk of a union Sunday School which would bring all of the town's young people together, but in the meantime we'll attend the Bible Class with our parents after the morning service. We'll have to rush home to do the "chores" if we are to have tea and be able to return for the evening service. The days have turned dark early now and with a new moon it's hard to see our way clearly.

There's a new store I see on Main St. as we pass. Father says there are five taverns, five churches, three schools and a library as well as a foundry, four blacksmiths, a steam saw-mill and two wagon makers.

I hear Father and Mother talking about the Innkeeper,

Frederick Hamburgh, who was charged with having sold liquor on Sunday. Mr. Hamburgh and his brother were known tipplers and gamblers. They were so upset about Mr. Winter giving evidence against them that they placed his effigy on a tree in front of his bar room door and amused themselves by firing at it with guns.

A most serious story has been heard of though. Thomas Corner attacked two women he was living with. One died and the other is expected to. They only whispered about this though and I'm not sure of all the details.

Father put the wagon and horse in the shelter at the nearby hotel and we settled into the chairs in the chapel. I can't remember the topic that Rev. Coleman preached about but I did enjoy the hymns led by Mr. Johnson Harrison. He has a wonderful singing voice. I also like the chance to see all the other families. Since we go to a small country school it's nice to meet the kids from the town school. We're getting ready for the Christmas Concert and won't that be a great time with recitations, solos, stories, plays and prizes for our memory work.

It's surprising how soon it is time to leave for home. Father gets the horse and wagon and we all pile in for the journey. The rest of the day will be quiet, until time for the evening chores. We'll have a chance to look at some of the new books father and mother borrowed for us.

With the jostling of the wagon and the crisp air I must have dropped off to sleep. Is it really 2010?

Milton Book Fair

The second annual Milton Historical Society book fair was held on November 27th at the Waldie blacksmith shop. We had a number of organizations participating including the Nassagaweya Historical Society, Esquesing Historical Society, Authors Jim Dills, Dave and Kaye Dills and John McDonald and also Rick and Sandra Roberts of Global Genealogy.

There was a very nice tea organized in the meeting room for lunch. The room was decorated with colourful tablecloths, table arrangements and other Christmas decorations on the walls and in the display cabinet. Meals were coordinated by Gloria Brown with assistance from Pam McLean, Gayle Waldie, Kay

MHS publications are still available for Xmas shopping

Bounsall and Kay Hogg. There were lovely floral arrangements provided by Brown and Brethet floral company. A number of our members also donated food.

The sales of books and food and memberships totaled over eleven hundred dollars. Thanks to all the volunteers for their efforts and to the customers for supporting this event.

Milton Newspaper Pages and People

Jim Dills has added to the historical record of the Town of Milton by writing a book about the history of Milton's early newspapers and the people who published them. There have been eleven newspapers published beginning with the Halton Journal of 1855 to the only remaining Milton newspaper the Canadian Champion which celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. The book includes biographies of the people who owned and operated the newspapers. The Dills family played a major part in the success of the Champion leading it from the 1940's until 1978. It is an interesting read about the politics, technology and people who represent Milton's newspaper history.

Historic Books Reprinted

Two previously out of print publications have been reprinted thanks to scanning technology and a specialized printing machine located at the McMaster University bookstore. Out of print books can be scanned, reprinted and bound resulting in a true copy of the original book. The out of print publications once again available include the Milton Semi-Centennial book of 1907 which is a soft cover book with a short history of Milton along with many photos of some of the early settlers and some of the prominent commercial and residential buildings of early Milton. The other book is the History of Boston Church 1820-1920 which recounts the history of the church and includes information about the families living in the immediate area. It is also a soft cover book that is 138 pages in length. A limited number of reprints have been produced and are available for sale.

The Boss is Back in Town!

by John Duignan

Before everyone gets too excited, no, Bruce Springsteen is not coming to Milton. The Boss I am referring to is a McClary cast iron heating stove from the original CPR Station on Court Street. (The CPR station is now a house on Commercial Street.) Standing about four feet tall with a top plate diameter of around 28 inches the stove was manufactured by McClary of London, Ontario. The stove came back to Milton from its last home in Flamborough. The owner, Gerrit Van Grunsven, a long time former resident of Milton, contacted his sister Mary Wigglesworth to see if someone in Milton would be interested. He felt the stove belonged in Milton. When Mary spoke with Marsha she passed along my phone number and the rest as they say is history.

Preliminary research confirms the date of manufacture matches when the Credit Valley Railway line came to Milton in 1879. The CVR later was incorporated in the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Boss is a truly impressive stove but not for the faint of heart. As can be imagined it weighs a ton. After much penetrating oil and struggle the stove did come apart for internal cleaning. Disassembled, the stove is a little more easily moved. The components still weigh quite a bit though. I will have to think long and hard about where I am putting it because once reassembled it's not going anywhere any time soon. McClary should



The "Boss" McClary Cast Iron Stove

have named the Boss the Herniator!

Ontario Commercial Yearbook and Gazetteer 1906.

Submitted by Judy Houston

MILTON.

Trafalgar Township, Halton County. Population, 1,342. On G.T.R. and C.P.R. Telegraph, express. Banking, money orders. Assessed value of real and personal property and income taxable, \$420,575. Rate of tax, 19 mills. Town Clerk, Robert [Coates?]. Town Treasurer, H. Campbell. Postmaster, Robert Stewart.

Furniture - Burling, Richard.

General Stores - Bastedo & Co.;
Hemr Bros.; Hollinrake & Son.

Grain - Irving. John.

Grocers - Freman, S.; Griffith. G. A.;
McKay's Sons, P. M.; Tock, Andrew
(Mrs.)

Hardware - Clements, W. B.; Dewar
Bros.; Storey, George.

Harness - Little, Wm.

Hotels - Commercial Hotel;
McGibbon House; New Royal Hotel.

Insurance - Campbell, J. M.; Lawrence,
[W?]. A.

Jeweler - Marchand. Emil.

Lime Manufacturer - Robertson & Co.,
D.

Livery Stable - Anderson, Robt. B.

Live Stock - Featherstone, John

Marble Works - Weir, William.

Meats - Chisholm. A.; Parsons, Thos. E.;
Patterson, George; Wales, Frederick.

Musical Merchandise - Kelly, Margaret
(Mrs.)

Newspapers - Canadian Champion;
Reformer, The.

Paints and Oils - Pearen, Frank.

Photographer - Featherstone, E. C.

Physicians - Anderson, R. K. ; Wickson,
D. D.

Planing Mill - Somerville & Co.

Printers - Panton. Wm.; White, Richard.

Produce - Atkinson. Jesse.

Pump Manufacturer - Lindsay, W. D.

Sewing Machines - Hartwell, Geo.

Stoves and Tinware - Conway, John;
Earl. E. F.

Tailors – [Barnett?], John;
Bews Sons, Wm.

Undertaker - Burling, Richard.

Betty Brownridge (nee Ruddell) 1924-2010

It is with heavy hearts that we learned of the recent passing of Betty Brownridge (nee Ruddell) at the age of 86. Betty was well known in historical circles of Halton Region especially in Esquesing township where the Brownridges have lived for several generations. Betty spent countless hours collecting information about genealogy of North Halton and this research led to a series of newspaper features known as the Shoebox Memories in the North Halton Compass in the 1990's and 2000's.

The articles featured very prominently as a two page spread in the center of the paper. These articles are available online today by googling Shoebox Memories of Halton. Betty also wrote a history of the Hamlet of Ashgrove and recorded information about the early cemeteries of the area. Betty was known to have a filing cabinet on wheels and would dig out records from boxes in her car much to the delight of those lucky enough to receive a record from her about a local ancestor. Betty's enthusiasm and love of local history will be missed and her contributions to documenting local heritage are appreciated by all with an interest of local history both this generation and for all those to follow.

165 and Counting by Marsha Waldie

One of the activities carried out by the MiltonHistorical Society is the plaquing of historic homes and buildings. Over the years two books have been published on the histories and architectural features of older homes in Milton. Recent structures which our

society has researched and plaqued this fall through our Program include

- 90 Thomas Street - 1920
- 86 Mill Street - 1853
- 247 Woodward Street - 1924
- 52 Miles Street - 1913 initial two room home 1927 expanded structure.

We also have four new houses pending completion, which will bring us up to a grand total of 165 heritage buildings that our society has recognized. Our thanks go to Marsha for her efforts in this area.

St. Paul's Church Update

An all candidates meeting was organized by the Milton Historical Society in mid-September to discuss the issue of heritage preservation in the Town of Milton. There was a large turnout of about 200 people who listened to over 20 councillor and mayoral candidates speak on their views towards preservation of our heritage. The event was an opportunity to shine the spotlight on heritage affairs during an election year. The master of ceremonies was Principal Ian Jones of M.D.H.S. At this time the request for designation of St. Paul's church is pending. Thanks to Nancy Cuttle and Marsha Waldie for leading this initiative.

Annual Meeting

Please join us at the annual meeting of the Milton Historical Society on Thursday, January 20th. Our elections for the executive members will be held. There are currently openings for a Marketing and Publicity Coordinator as well as a Program Coordinator. Also, thanks to the efforts of Walter Eadie the constitution of the Milton Historical Society has been reviewed and revised. We encourage all members to read this updated constitution which has been included with your Journal as we will vote to adopt it at the annual meeting. After the annual meeting there will be a Show and Tell and all members are invited to bring a historic article that has a funny or interesting story.

Welcome New Members

Jennifer Smith, Janet Cross, Rick DiLorenzo
Marilyn Hardsand U.E.

We will be selling 2011 memberships beginning at our Christmas potluck dinner. Please continue to support the activities of the society as well as taking advantage of 10 % discounts on the purchase of our publications and other sale items. Your membership also supports our monthly meetings and your subscription to the MHS Journal.

Single membership \$20, Family membership \$35

2011 Calendar of Events

Dec 31st New Year's Eve – **Sing out the old, Ring in the new**

Join the New Year's revellers by the bandshell in Victoria Park at 11:30 PM for a songfest led by the Milton Song Spinners. There will also be refreshments, special guests and of course the traditional bell ringing. This event is organized by the Milton Historical Society and the Mayor's office.

Jan. 19th Launch of the Halton digital newspaper archive 10 AM Halton Hills Cutlural Centre, Georgetown

Jan 20th – Milton Historical Society Annual meeting and Show and Tell

Feb 12th – Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association (O.A.B.A.) annual meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith shop

Feb 17th – MHS General meeting and guest speaker Jim Dills will educate and entertain us with the story of Samuel Panton, Milton's Traveling Man." Heritage Week – Heritage Milton is planning to have a guest speaker on the topic of historic home renovations. Details to follow

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day and MHS General meeting.