



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



*Walk of Fame Recipients and Representatives
(l to r) Ruth Roberts, Mary Chisholm, Norman Etheridge, Alana Callan and daughter
photo Jan Mowbray*

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Milton Walk of Fame Ceremonies

The 2013 Milton Walk of Fame ceremonies was held on Saturday, March 2nd in the Milton room at Town Hall. There was an excellent turnout of family, friends and Walk of Fame alumni. There was a strong turnout of local politicians including MPP Ted Chudleigh, Regional Chairman Gary Carr and Mayor Gord Krantz as well as councillors Cindy Lunau, Mike Cluett and Arnold Huffman.

A moment of silence was held in honour of two Milton Walk of Fame inductees Enio Scisizzi and Douglas Leiterman who passed away in 2012.

There were four recipients who were inducted into the Milton Walk of Fame this year, Kevin Callan, Lloyd Chisholm (posthumous), Norman Etheridge and Ronald Roberts (posthumous). John Chal-

linor II was the Master of Ceremonies and was aided by Milton Historical Society president Jan Mowbray in reading the bibliographies of each inductee followed by handing out the award. After the presentation of the award the inductee or the person accepting the award on their behalf gave an acceptance speech.

After the awards and speeches the recipients and their families were escorted to the Walk of Fame hallway to have their photos taken beside the floor tile that was engraved with the name of the inductee.

Thanks to John Challinor II and Jim Dills for getting together names of three of the award winners and thanks to Gloria Brown and Marsha Waldie for researching the accomplishments of Lloyd Chisholm and nominating his name. (continued page 3)

New Executive for 2013

President - Jan Mowbray
Marsha Waldie - Past President - Plaquing
Treasurer - Susan Paul
Secretary - Karin Tomosky
Membership - Kay Bounsall and Sue Platt
Publicity /Marketing - Barb Fitzsimons
Publications - Gloria Brown
Monthly Programs - Jennifer Smith
Special Projects - Pam McLean
Journal/Blacksmiths - Bruce Carlin

Walk of Fame recipients (continued from page 1)

Kevin Callan (1958 -) Outdoorsman, Author

Milton native Kevin Callan is the author of 13 books, including the best selling "The Happy Camper," the incredibly popular series of paddling guides, and most reviewed "Wilderness Pleasures: A Practical Guide to Camping Bliss." On a regular basis, Mr. Callan presents across North America and has been a key speaker at all major North American canoe events for more than 25 years. He is also a frequent guest on radio and television, and field editor for Explore. His writing and photography appears in Canadian Geographic and Ontario Nature and he writes a regular column for Canoe roots Magazine. Mr. Callan has hosted several pilots and assisted with BBC, Ray Mears and the Discovery Channel in film projects. He is also a frequent host on a number of morning shows (Canada AM, Breakfast TV, Ottawa A, Ottawa Roger's Daytime) and hosts his own CBC Radio show coast to coast titled "The Happy Camper." Mr. Callan is a winner of four National Magazine Awards and three film awards. He was also made Patron Paddler for Paddle Canada.

Lloyd Chisholm (1911 – 1992) Livestock Industry Executive, National Cattle Judge

Lifetime Campbellville resident Lloyd Chisholm served as a Director and President of the Canadian Guernsey Cattle Association (1961); a Director of the Canadian Live Stock Records Corporation and member of its Record Committee from 1961 to 1969, serving as Chairman in 1966; and judged cattle across Canada for many years, most notably at the Canadian, Pacific and Atlantic National Exhibitions as well as the Calgary Stampede. Mr. Chisholm was recognized for his contributions to agriculture in many ways, but most notably through his induction into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in the Builder Category (1991); the Canadian Standardbred Horse Society Award for Outstanding Accomplishment (1984); the Standardbred Breeders Association (an award is presented in his name annually); and earning Royal Grand Champion – all Canadian cow -- at the Royal Winter Fair, where he also served as Chairman, Dairy Cattle, for a period of time.

Norman Etheridge (1927 -), Aircraft Maintenance Engineer



Walk of Fame presentation.

From l. to r. Halton Region chair Gary Carr, MHS president Jan Mowbray, Mary Chisholm accepting on behalf of Lloyd Chisholm, Mayor Gordon Krantz and MPP Ted Churleigh

The Avro Lancaster had impressive flying characteristics and operational performance and was, arguably, the most famous Allied bomber aircraft of World War II. It demonstrated superbly its right to fame with the daring and precise raids on the Ruhr dams in May 1943 and also the sinking of the German battleship Tirpitz in November 1944. Thousands of Canadian aircrew and other personnel served with the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Air Force's Lancaster squadrons in England. And, thousands of Canadians at home worked at Victory Aircraft in Malton, Ontario, where they produced more than 400 Lancaster Mk X's. In total, more than 7,300 Lancasters rolled off the production lines in Britain and Canada. Only two in the world still fly today – and thanks to long-time Milton resident Norman Etheridge's technical leadership and 11 years of single-minded focus, one of them regularly flies out of the Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, Ontario. Museum officials and others associated with warplane aeronautics have steadfastly maintained that Avro Lancaster FM-213 would not have returned to the air on September 11, 1988, without the leadership, technical knowledge and determined hands of Mr. Etheridge. His leadership was recognized in 2012 when he was inducted into the Canadian Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Hall of Fame. Mr. Etheridge was further recognized by the Aircraft Maintenance Engineers Association of Ontario in 1986 with the Robert McCombie Award, which was given to him by his peers for longstanding, outstanding professional work. His recognition and achievements are on display at the National Aviation Museum in Ottawa. Mr. Etheridge also led the refurbishment of an original Air Canada 1937 Lockheed 10A – CF-TCC, which was

used to celebrate the airline's 50th anniversary in 1986 and is still operable today. During his aeronautics career, he has maintained and refurbished numerous important and historic aircraft types, including Kenting B-17s, DC-4s, Jet Commanders, a Merlin 2A and a de Havilland DHC-6.

Ronald Roberts (1925 - 2012), International Insurance Executive, Hockey Executive

Campbellville native Ronald Roberts served as Chairman of the Board, President and other high profile executive roles with the American Insurance Association during a 25-year career in the insurance and finance industries in the United States. He also served as Executive Director and General Counsel of the World Hockey Players Association, negotiating more than 100 contracts for professional hockey players and coaches in the WHA and, later, the National Hockey League. Mr. Roberts represented WHA players in negotiations for the 1974 USSR-Canada Summit Series. He also served on the Board of Directors of Hockey Canada. Mr. Roberts, a World War II veteran who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1943 to 1945, earned degrees in business administration and law from the University of Michigan, where he also played hockey. During his athletic career, he played hockey for Milton Merchants, Galt Red Wings and Scotland's Dundee Tigers.

Anne J. MacArthur Elementary School Another First

Milton now has a school which is named after the first women, whom young students can look up to and be inspired that all things are possible!!

President Jan Mowbray and past president Marsha Waldie lobbied for Anne J. MacArthur's name to the Halton School Board executives at a meeting in early-March to select the name of the next elementary school in Milton.

Jan and Marsha gave a presentation on the accomplishments of Anne J. MacArthur as a teacher and politician. (See summary of Anne's accomplishments next paragraph). The powerpoint presentation was put together with the assistance of board member Jennifer Smith.

There were five names nominated and Anne was selected on the first ballot. The Anne J. MacArthur elementary school is to be constructed on Farmstead road



Anne J. MacArthur

just south of Derry road and is scheduled to open in the 2013-14 school year. Gloria Brown and Kay Bounsall attended the nomination meeting in support of the nomination. Congratulations to everyone who helped with the nomination process!

Anne J. MacArthur (nee Campbell) 1909-1998, Was born in 1909 in Nassagaweya (Milton) on the family farm and raised in Nassagaweya (Milton). The Campbell's were very early settlers in the area. She attended rural schools in the area as well as Milton High School, the University of Toronto and the Ontario Teachers College.

She was a wife and mother and was a member of St. David's Church where she & her family were very involved over the years. She is interred in St. David's Church Cemetery. Anne taught Sunday School and was a teacher for over 30 yrs. Her teaching career included the Training School for Girls in Galt, Port Arthur High School, during the war at Cambridge, England, at the school for Mentally Challenged in Toronto and in Milton 27 yrs (Martin St. High School & Milton District High School).

In 1973 she retired and there were over 900 students, former students, colleagues and other supporters who attended her retirement celebration. She touched the lives of thousands of students and was always encouraging them.

In 1965 she entered politics in Nassagaweya Township, Halton County. Anne served as a Councillor starting in 1965 and was also the Deputy-Reeve and Reeve of the township (only women to do so) in 1969. In 1973 she was Warden of Halton County (forerunner of the Position of Chairperson of the Region of Halton, today the Region of Halton, a first for a woman.

Anne MacArthur served as Mayor of the Town of Milton 1974-1976 (only women to do so) and also served as a Councillor for the town in 1978. She was one of the founding members of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Anne worked on the Ontario Government Pits & Quarries Legislation Act of 1970. She prevented further defacing of the Escarpment. She was a defender of our Escarpment from day one and she was never afraid to hold her own with her male counterparts – a trail blazer as it were for her gender.

She enjoyed antiques and operated an antique Shop in Campbellville, Anne also enjoyed her garden, cribbage, traveling, reading, history and the Toronto Blue Jays. She help shape the landscape of our Community and touched thousands of lives. She was a mentor to many students and colleagues alike. She gave the 1st half of her life to teaching and the 2nd to her community serving.

Family Day at the Milton Historical Society

The MHS opened the doors of the Waldie blacksmith shop on Family Day for families to learn about local history. The activities included displays of historical artifacts, word puzzles and colouring pictures for youth. The archives were also open for anyone who wanted to visit and learn about our collection and Walter Eadie was on hand to answer questions.

Ann Kornuta gave a presentation about Milton's Historical inventory of buildings using her IPAD computer which was hooked up to a projector and allowed Ann to narrate as she showed her paintings as well as some historical photographs of some important buildings of Milton. This presentation is a great combination of colourful art and historical pictures.



Ed and Brenda Whitlock pose with the oil paintings of Barbara Wilmott and Joseph Bowes.

There was also an audio visual display of photographs of Milton images that was organized by Stuart Hill. Thanks very much to Larry Maughan and Darwyne Hourie who came to Milton to demonstrate the art of blacksmithing. There were refreshments for visitors. A big word of thanks goes out to Gloria Brown and Kay Bounsall for organizing the Family Day events. Well done!

Official Portrait Unveiling

The official unveiling of the oil paintings of Barbara Wilmott and Joseph Bowes was held on February 23rd. A short history of the two early settlers was told, followed by the story of how the paintings found their way from New Zealand to Milton and then the official unveiling. Thanks to Jan, Mandy, Mirella, Gloria and Marsha who helped coordinate this event.



March Blacksmith class participants (l to r. Liam Fitzsimons, Darwyne Hourie instructor, Bob Gross, Larry Maughan (instructor) and Rachel Boone

Farewell to the Canadian Penny

(by Daniel Schwartz, CBC News)

Penny, Canadian — Passed away peacefully on Feb. 4, 2013, when the Royal Canadian Mint stopped distributing the copper-coloured coin. The penny's demise had been anticipated since March 29, 2012, when federal Finance Minister James Flaherty announced in the budget that his government had decided to phase out the smallest denomination of Canada's currency.

The Canadian penny traces its origins to 1858, when the then-province of Canada adopted the decimal system for its currency. Initially, it was struck at the Royal Mint in Great Britain. That penny had Queen Victoria on the obverse (or "heads") side and a vine of maple leaves on the reverse (or "tails") side.

Dominion of Canada coins were first issued in 1870, but the penny, then made from bronze, didn't join the family until 1876.



This penny is worth over \$400,000. The 1936 Canadian dot cent has a small, distinctive dot below the date to indicate it actually was made by the Royal Canadian Mint in early 1937, due to the dies prepared for 1937 minting going out of date because of Edward VIII's abdication in December 1936. Only three 1936 dot cents are known to exist. (Heritage Auctions/Canadian Press)



John McKenty entertained our members with his presentation on the history of the CCM company at our February meeting.

Moved to Canada in 1908

Penny production moved to Canada in 1908, when the Ottawa branch of the Royal Mint opened. Countess Grey, the wife of Canada's governor general at the time, struck the first penny at the mint's official opening on Jan. 2. Until 1997, [the penny's composition](#) was at least 95.5 per cent copper.

From 1920 to 1936, the reverse side design featured two maple leaves, but that changed in 1937, when the current maple twig design was adopted. The design was the work of English artist George Edward Kruger Gray, whose initials, KG, appear to the lower right of the maple twig.

For Canada's centennial year, 1967, the penny's reverse design featured a rock dove. Since 1858, there have been five different designs used on the reverse side, including a period between 1911 and 1920 when the original vine design was augmented with the word "Canada." The obverse side has always featured a likeness of the reigning monarch

Welcome New Members

Brenda Bousfield, Carol Burne, Jane Fraser
Bev Hewitt, Marion Marshall, Anila Naeem
John Tovey, Delina Valdez, Mary Wrigglesworth

Membership renewals are due now. Attached on page 7 please find a form, fill in your information and return it to the office. Thanks.

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Double Memberships are \$35.00

St. Paul's United—Renovation Update

Restoration work continues at the St. Paul's church on main street. The middle floor of the Education building has been lowered so that it is now on the same level as the sanctuary.

The atrium area will be enlarged and an elevator will take people from the street level to the top, atrium or lower floor level.

There will be new electricals, plumbing, heating and air conditioning installed as well as more accessible washrooms. To view progress updates and pictures of the renovation go to <http://stpaulsmilton.com/>

Publications

Due to the success of the Milton 35th anniversary cookbook which sold out before Christmas, another 150 copies have been printed and are available for sale. If you are still looking for a copy of this illustrated cookbook, drop by the blacksmith shop for your copy. There are lots of interesting recipes and historic photographs of the Milton area.



Heather Arnold and Marsha Waldie enjoying some fresh air on the outdoor ice rink at the home of Karin Tomosky and Larry Chambers.

Old Fashioned Skating Party

Many thanks to Karin Tomosky and Larry Chambers for hosting an afternoon of skating and refreshments at their home in early March. The ice on their outdoor pond was in very good shape in spite of the big snowstorm a few days before the event. The sun came out and temperatures were seasonal so it made for a

Neighbours and members of the MHS had a chance to socialize and enjoy refreshments and drinks in the main dining room. The Jarvis brothers who grew up nearby remembered visiting the home when they were at a young age. Larry and Karin gave impromptu house tours as well. A fine time was had by all.

The sun came out and temperatures were seasonal so it made for a pleasant afternoon for the skaters and all went well with only a few minor falls.

April	13	9 am-2 pm	Annual Garage Sale – Donations accepted at the shop evening prior.
	18	6:30 pm	Monthly Meeting Tea Event followed by Guest Ken Weber, The Wives of the Prime Ministers
May	4 & 11	9:30 am- Noon	Flags, Fans and Bunting Sale
	16	8 pm	Monthly Meeting TBC
June	20	TBC	Monthly Meeting TBC

YEAR: 2013

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM
16 JAMES ST., MILTON, ONT. L9T 2P4
TELEPHONE: 905-875-4156
WEB SITE: www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

New:

Renewal:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Membership Fees: Please mail or deliver your Membership Application to
_____ Single \$20.00 Milton Historical Society at 16 James St., Milton, Ont.
_____ Double \$35.00 L9T 2P4
_____ Student Free Donations to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Foundation assist
in maintaining & operating this interpretive centre in the
Heart of Milton. Donations of \$10.00 or more are income tax
Deductible and receipts are available.

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

_____ Blacksmith Shop Interpreter, Assisting : _____ in the archives _____ with exhibits _____ with
social times _____ phone committee _____ walking tours _____ school tours _____ researching local
history _____ staffing during open hours VOLUNTEERS are a vital component to our
Society's Success



The Journal

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

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

June, 2013 Vol. 28 Issue 2

Summer Edition



Our May guest speaker on the Avro Arrow, Mr. Steve Shaw is thanked by our Program Coordinator, Jennifer Smith

are really interested in what we do; they are fascinated by the workings of the Blacksmiths. It is a part of Milton's history that we need to keep alive. Please help us to keep the doors open.

New Events

Be sure to watch the Milton Historical Society website, and this newsletter for some new fun and exciting events on the MHS roster. For instance, Fred Johnson, one of the volunteer blacksmiths, and by nature an historian, will be starting up Ghost Walks and Historic Walks this year. Information will be forthcoming as soon as the details are firmed up. We will be collaborating with the Milton Public Library on at least one program this year. Plans are in the works for an October dinner in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Blacksmith Shop rebuild.

In 2014 MHS will host Milton Doors Open, which has been on a two-year hiatus. We are putting together a roster of ten interesting sites to visit. More information will be available later this year. We won't meet during July or August but do stop by and say hello. We always welcome member's visits.

Have a great summer!

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President's Message

By Jan Mowbray

On behalf of the Board of the Milton Historical Society, Greetings!

It's been a busy winter and spring but the planning doesn't stop. We at the Milton Historical Society are looking forward to a busy summer and fall - we hope to see you at any one of our events.

But first....

Help! Can you give us two hours on a Saturday morning over the summer to help greet visitors to the Blacksmith Shop? We need you. You may or may not know that we are 100% volunteer-run, which means we are totally dependent on volunteers. If you can give us two hours, please send us an email or call the Historical Society, or drop in some Saturday morning. Visitors to the Blacksmith Shop

Waldie Blacksmith Shop Restoration Tenth Anniversary this Fall

It's hard to believe that it will be ten years this September that the restored Waldie Blacksmith shop has been welcoming members and the public to view the art of blacksmithing, to make use of the archives and to be entertained and educated on historical topics by our monthly guest speakers. Plans are underway to celebrate the anniversary in October, details will be forthcoming.

The idea of restoring the Waldie Blacksmith shop had been the subject of some animated discussion by MHS members over the years. Mr. Alfred Waldie who was the last working blacksmith from the Waldie family had hopes that one day the blacksmith shop might be reopened as a museum. On more than one occasion there had been efforts made to try to get the ball rolling for the blacksmith shop restoration. In 1995 Heritage Milton LACAC held a meeting to discuss restoration, but there was not enough support to get the restoration on track.

In May of 1998, Marsha and Gayle Waldie gave a presentation about blacksmithing to our general membership meeting. Shortly thereafter, the goal of restoring the blacksmith shop picked up steam when the MHS executive members passed a motion to strike up the "Waldie Blacksmith shop restoration committee" to move forward to scope out how much the project would cost.

At the time of these discussions, the Milton Historical Society was holding their monthly executive meeting in the party room at 81 Millside drive where member Jessie Hamilton lived at the time. The monthly member meetings were held at Hugh Foster hall and before that at the Bruce street library. The society's archival items were stored in the basement of the Milton Seniors Activity center.

Mandy Sedgwick led the restoration committee and coordinated the tradesmen who were hired to work on the restoration. Mandy and her group spent countless hours planning, budgeting, overseeing the work and seeing that the entire project kept moving forward.

Tom Murison of Murison Restoration was the princi-



School children from Holy Rosary Elementary School helped to paint the hoarding and draw interest to the restoration project. In the top center is the fundraising thermometer.

pal contractor and worked closely with local builder Mac Phillips. The masonry work was completed by Peter Devine. The first step of the restoration was to shore up the building so that no further deterioration of the structure could occur and this shoring work was completed in late 2000.

An archeological dig by Mr. John Light of Parks Canada was completed of the old outhouse at the back of the shop as well as the north side of the shop by the outdoor forge. A number of interesting artifacts were recovered including a variety of medicine bottles and an old clay pipe. Today, some of these artifacts are on display in the shop.

The restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith shop was an ambitious undertaking due to the dilapidated state of the building. Most of the structure had to be rebuilt but efforts were made to save and reuse all parts of the structure that were still structurally sound. When structural parts had to be replaced, the new parts were made using the same building techniques used for the original structure, for example wooden beams would be hewn using a broadaxe. Today, it is impossible to tell which beams are originals and which ones are replacements. (In the September Journal, read about the story of the fundraising and marketing of the restoration project)

War of 1812—The second year of the conflict

The second year of the War resulted in the spread of hostilities. York or present day Toronto was invaded for a short time early in the year by the American army and looted. Fort George, a key British stronghold in Niagara was abandoned by the British in May of 1813. The following is an excerpt from the Government of Canada website on the Battle at Stoney Creek on June 6, 1813 followed by an article by Daphne Smith of the Burlington Historical society on a failed attack of Burlington heights in the summer of 1813.

The Battle of Stoney Creek, June 6, 1813

On May 27, 1813, following the Battle of Fort George, the British abandoned this fort along with Fort Erie and retreated towards their post at Burlington Heights in present-day Hamilton, Ontario. The Americans consolidated their position at Niagara and then sent an army to pursue the British with plans to destroy the remnants of their army at Burlington Heights.

On the night of June 5, 1813, the Americans stopped for the night at Stoney Creek, planning an attack on Burlington Heights the following day. The British realized that the Americans would likely be successful in a daylight attack on their position on the heights and planned a bold counter move. In the early hours of June 6, 1813, they launched a vicious bayonet attack on the American encampment at Stoney Creek.

The British were outnumbered by the much larger American army but had surprise on their side. American generals Winder and Chandler were captured and the Americans were thrown into disarray. The British retreated before sunrise so that dawn would not reveal the small size of their army.

The Americans retreated back towards Fort George, stopping at the Forty Mile Creek (Grimsby, Ontario) late June 6th, while their officers argued tactics. They were still there on June 8 when attacked by British ships on Lake Ontario, and Haudenosaunee warriors and Upper Canadian militiamen who had followed their retreat from Stoney Creek. The Americans retreated back to the safety of Fort George.

ABORTED ATTEMPT ON BURLINGTON HEIGHTS AT THE OLD OUTLET

From Burlington Historical Society " Burlington Connections to the War of 1812" Daphne Smith

A second attempted attack by the Americans on Burlington Heights occurred in July 1813 at the old Outlet. The Americans, in reprisal of their defeat at Stoney Creek and aware that a cache of stores lay at Burlington Heights, became intent on destroying the depot after learning that the fortification was only marginally guarded.

On July 27, 1813 American Commodore Isaac Chauncey summoned his fleet of 2 ships, 1 brig and 11 schooners and sailed to the Head of the Lake, anchoring offshore on the evening of the 29th. The fleet was supported by several hundred infantry under the command of Colonel Scott. Two parties were sent ashore where they surprised some area residents who revealed that the British had received reinforcements in the past day or two and that there were from 600 to 800 men at the Heights under Colonel Harvey's command. The next morning the Americans landed their troops to reconnoitre the British defenses for themselves. Upon finding the British entrenched on high ground and defended by cannon fire, they retreated thinking themselves outnumbered and with insufficient boats to cross the bay. There is some evidence to support the fact that a ship tried to enter the Outlet but was thwarted. Having never navigated this area of the lake before, Chauncey's attempt at crossing the outlet netted the realization that the water levels were too shallow to allow passage. The Americans satisfied themselves by destroying a small fortification near the Old Outlet then withdrew back to their ships. When their forces had re-embarked, they weighed anchor for York.

In a letter Aug 1, 1813 from Justice Powell at York to Prevost:

... "The squadron [referring to the Americans] had landed a few men on the Beach supposed with the Intent to attack the Depot at Beasley's but Maj Maule had had the precaution to embarrass the outlet so that their craft could not pass, upon which they reimbarked and proceeded to York" (22)

(22) Wood, William. Select British Documents of the Canadian War of 1812, Vol II. Toronto: Champlain Society, 1920- 1928. p. 190

Clements, John Barr

Roving Reporter, Traveller

1877-1906

(This is one of the biographies that will form part of the Milton Area Biographies, Third edition which is scheduled to be published in the Fall of this year.)

Many single men and families from Milton heeded the call to “go west” a century ago. For many it was to begin life anew with countless success stories reported back to those who remained in town.

At the beginning of the 1900s John Clements kept Milton readers informed about the Yukon, Vancouver and the west coast of the United States. Tragedy however, ended the reports.

Born March 22, 1877 on a farm “east of the community of Milton,” the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Clements, he went to western Canada about 1898. He was one of a family of five brothers and two sisters.

Letters to his parents were regularly published in the pages of The Canadian Champion and provided something of a travelogue. This was a window on the distant places to which Miltonians had moved.

In late 1899 a telegraph line finally connected Dawson, Yukon to British Columbia. At Christmas Jack Clements wrote a letter from Dawson, Yukon Territory trying to fill in the gaps in his parents’ knowledge of the area. The weather was a natural subject.

“One Sunday evening here at the full of the moon it registered 62° below, the coldest for two years, it was not the hottest day I have ever seen either, still I did not feel uncomfortable... I think I have felt the cold in Ontario just as much as I have here... I and the other fellows have been out in the mountains for two weeks on a hunting tour and spent Xmas in the hills of the Klondyke but it was a Merry Xmas for all that. I hung up my sox on Xmas eve, but only to get dry.” By way of warning he offered: “Don’t let Milton (Clements) get it into his head to come up here. One is all our family can afford to have run around.” The success of the hunting in the Klondyke was important. “We brought down five Caribou Deer all shot the one day, I killing one of them, so now we will have fresh meat all winter and not have to pay six bits per pound.”

A later letter in March 1901 acknowledged a reply from his father that “was only twenty-four days coming.” He was out of work but “I made good



money last summer and have lived pretty well so far on it, however, I expect to start work on Monday. A mine owner has offered my partner and I, one month grub stake and 75 per cent. of all gold taken out; so if we strike a pay streak we may make money, and if we don’t we are none the losers. The claim just opposite is taking out five dollars to the pan (shovel full). ... Wednesday night one man lost thirty-seven thousand dollars on the gambling tables, then he went home and shot himself...”

Later in 1901 Jack Clements moved to Teller City, 150 miles further west than Nome, Alaska travelling onboard the steamer “St. Paul.” In 1902 he was in San Diego, California after leaving Alaska.

In 1906 the reports ended. The news was bleak. John B. Clements had been lost in the wreck of the “Valencia” off Vancouver Island on Jan. 24th 1906. Frank Connors, who left on the last raft and was saved, was quoted as saying he saw Mr. Clements standing on the deck and asked him to go on the raft. He refused, saying he would stay with the boat. A short time later the mast fell and all on board were drowned. The search for bodies went on but out of 117 lost only 21 had been found by the time of a February report. At 29 years of age he was the first to die of a family of five brothers and two sisters. He was a waiter on the “Valencia,” on which he was taking a

trip to fill in time.

Life had changed on the home front too. Jack's father William had resigned after serving as secretary treasurer of the Halton Agricultural Society for 18 years and 11 years as secretary of the Plowmen's Association, sold his farm and moved to a farm in Clarkson where the parents received the sad news of their son's death.

Research: Jim Dills/Brad Clements/Marsha Waldie

Sources: The Canadian Champion
Brad Clements

Members News:

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of two of our members this spring. Marjorie Powys passed away on May 27th. Marjorie was an active community volunteer: She was president of the MHS in 1993-94. She was also a Milton High School Teacher for 17 yrs, a Past Milton Library Board trustee, & Town Councilor in 1972 and Halton Deputy Reeve in 1973 and Regional Councilor from 1974 to 1976. Marjorie was also past President of the Evergreen Cemetery Board; Past Board member Children's Aid Society, a Past Milton District Hospital Board member and served on the Milton Seniors Centre Board to name but a few areas that Marjorie contributed to our community. She was also a member of the IODE, Evening Star Rebekah Lodge and loved to travel!

We also lost John Bradley on May 12th. John was a longtime member of the Historical Society and husband to Emma Lou Bradley. John was a dairy farmer in the Milton area for many years. John and Lou donated some valuable artifacts to the historical society over the years including an old time wall mounted crank telephone that is over one hundred years old as well as a 1935 Milton area telephone book. John was very friendly and fast to break into a smile or a good laugh and he will be missed by his family and friends.

Omagh School Bell Dedication

Residents of the village of Omagh including former school students gathered at the Omagh public park on Britannia road on June 8th to dedicate a stone monument with a replica school belfry in honour of the former community school known as S.S. # 6 Trafalgar



S.S. #6, Omagh, 1942 (Picture courtesy of Trafalgar Historical Society archives).

township or the Omagh school. The red brick school was built in 1876 and demolished around 1968. Members of the Leriche family helped to lead the effort to create the memorial which will include the school bell. Former students took turns ringing the bell at the ceremony. Our secretary, Karin Tomosky Chambers represented the Milton Historical Society at this occasion and received a copy of Douglas Leriche's memoirs of living in the village of Omagh for the Milton Historical Society archives. Thank you Karin!

Publications Coming Soon - Milton Area Biographies – Vol. 3

There are over 125 new Milton area biographies that have been compiled by Marsha Waldie with research assistance by other society members. The launch of this latest edition is planned for sometime late Fall and will be similar to earlier volumes compiled by the late Alex Cooke. This third edition will highlight the lives and accomplishments of past Miltonians who during their life contributed to our Community

Heritage Matters

You may have noticed over the last few months in the Canadian Champion some historic photographs of Milton Area buildings. This project is a collaboration between Heritage Milton and the Milton Historical Society and the purpose is to promote understanding and appreciation of heritage properties. The photos are published in the Tuesday edition of the Champion and will continue through the year. Thanks to Brenda Bousfield, Jim Dills, Marsha Waldie, Gloria Brown

and Mirella Marshall for helping with research for these images.

Welcome New Members

Ann McFarquhar, George Morley

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Double Memberships are \$35.00

Society horses around at Farmers Market

In a bid to promote awareness of history and heritage matters, society volunteers have two engagements scheduled at the Farmers market. The first outing was in early June and the next outing will be June 22nd. A display of society books, membership forms and fans were set out and resulted in some 200 dollars in sales. Our trusty blacksmith shop horse was rolled out and proved a great drawing card to our booth. Thanks to Jan and Barb Fitzimons for helping organize and volunteer at the booth. Well done Ladies!

Society e-mail address is changing

Our new e-mail address as of July 1, 2013 will be

info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Also, you can follow Milton Historical Society activities by viewing our facebook page and twitter account.



Believe It or Not

Here are some facts about the 1500's

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children — last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it — hence the saying, “Don't throw the baby out with the bath water”.

The Milton Historical Society Journal is published four times/year and serves to keep members informed of the activities of the society. If you would like to submit articles or have suggestions please feel free to contact us by telephone 905-875-4156, by e-mail info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca after July 1st or by dropping by our office at 16 James street, Milton. Bruce Carlin—MHS Journal editor. bdcarlin@gmail.com

Milton Historical Society

Upcoming Programs

Upcoming News

June 24th – Mr. Don Smith. “Mississauga Portraits”, a history of the Mississauga people in Oakville. 7 PM at the Oakville public library.

June 29th Garden Sale Waldie Blacksmith Shop 9 AM – 3 PM. Vendors will be selling an assortment of crafts and antiques and collectibles. All are welcome

June 28, 29, 30 Tall Ships Signature Event at Hamilton

July 1 Walking Tour of Glen Williams led by Mark

Rowe. Meet at Williams Mill, Main Street, Glen Williams 10 AM. (Esquering Historical Society)

July 6, Tour of Dundurn National Historic Site, Hamilton. Pre-register \$20.00.

July & August - Saturday mornings – Blacksmith on duty

September 19th 8 PM Monthly general meeting

Oct 6, 7, 8 10 AM – 5 PM – FASM studio tour show.

Oct 17th—Monthly general meeting celebration of the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith shop. Ceremony followed by a dinner, details to follow



The Journal

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

Sept, 2013, Vol. 28 Issue 3

Fall Edition



Potluck dinner (l to r rear row) Steve Adams, Don Taylor, Ruth Taylor, Eva Adams and the Adams children.

President's Message

Well, another summer is behind us. I can't believe how quickly summer, which seemed to stretch out ahead of us, is already history. Did you get everything done you intended to? I know I didn't.

Ghost Walks

September, for many organizations, including the Milton Historical Society, begins the new speaker/presentation series after the summer hiatus, and we have an excellent calendar of events. Starting this month, instead of a speaker on September 19th, MHS member Fred Johnson will hold the first of a series of Milton Ghost Walks. You can read about it elsewhere in this newsletter but it's worth repeating that this first Ghost Walk will be free to MHS members, \$5 for non-members.

Monthly Speaker Presentations

Milton's history was impacted by external events and which will be addresses by a

variety of presenters. For good balance, we will also have several speakers whose topics will be Milton-specific. We hope to see you on the third Thursday of each month – for the speaker session, refreshments and friendships - new and old.

Tenth Anniversary of the Blacksmith Shop

October is an important month in the history of the Blacksmith Shop, and the Milton Historical Society – it's the tenth anniversary of an amazing amount of dedication, commitment, work, time, volunteers and fundraising to remake, rebuild, restore the Blacksmith shop to the functioning venue it is today. Please join us for dinner – it's only \$25.

There is more information about the dinner included in this newsletter. That's it for now. On behalf of the MHS Board, we look forward to a seeing you soon.

Jan Mowbray

June Potluck Dinner - Members in costumes makes for a memorable evening!

If you were to mistakenly pull in the driveway of Karin Tomosky and Larry Chambers on June 24th at dinner time you could be forgiven for thinking you had arrived at Black

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Creek Pioneer Village or Westfield Heritage Village. The theme of this year's potluck was to dress up in clothes of the early pioneers as well as some more recent fashion trends. Some twenty members came dressed in period costume and this made for a very colourful evening.

The costumes ranged from sheriff Larry to some ranch hands and among the ladies there were lots of long summer dresses and even some costumes from the roaring twenties worn by Nancy Cuttle and Mary Jane Wingfield.

The June potluck dinner was hosted by Karin Tomosky and Larry Chambers on a beautiful June evening. There was food aplenty for all to partake and there were approximately thirty members and friends who came out to enjoy an outdoor meal and social outing. Karin also arranged for a number of games including croquet and a bean bag toss.

There were take home gifts for all members. The Canadian Champion sent a photographer who snapped a group picture. Everyone enjoyed the evening and you will find some photos taken from the evening in this edition of the Journal on page 7. Thanks again to Karin and Larry for all the work involved in hosting the June potluck dinner.

Waldie Blacksmith Shop Restoration – Anniversary Celebrations!

It has been ten years since the Waldie blacksmith shop and archives reopened for use by the Milton Historical society and the public. Publicity efforts and fundraising had to take place first before the restoration work could begin and these efforts started years before the renovations.

Fundraising Efforts

There was a wide variety of innovative fundraising efforts held to raise funds for the restoration. Early efforts included historic house tours with costumed interpreters. There was also an Antiques Roadshow event where people could have their antiques appraised for a small fee. Donation buckets were set up around local businesses for people to contribute. Jack Hardy built a fundraising sign made of wood and with a scale to indicate progress towards the goal. The



September 28, 2002 Opening of the Waldie blacksmith shop. (L to R) Gayle Waldie, Ted Chudleigh, Mandy Sedgwick, Edna Waldie (seated) and Marsha Waldie and Mayor Krantz. Phase 2 of the restoration which included the meeting room and archives was completed in 2003.

wooden “Waldie Blacksmith” shop horse which is brought out on special occasions for publicity purposes was also built by Jack Hardy. There was also a golf shirt and T-shirt embroidered with the Waldie Blacksmith shop logo sold as a fundraising effort.

The society applied for grants and was successful in obtaining a grant of \$75,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and a grant of \$50,000 from the Town of Milton Community fund. There was still a significant amount of money that needed to be raised. A letter writing campaign was launched to local businesses with an appeal for financial support or donations of materials or services for the blacksmith shop. There were approximately two hundred businesses and individuals who donated moneys to help towards the total renovation cost of \$225,000. Audrea Lear-Costigan used her extensive business contacts to help bring in donations.

Publicity Efforts

As part of the restoration efforts, society members arranged publicity and marketing efforts in order to build public awareness and support among the local citizens and businesses. Publicity was prepared on the history of the shop and the Waldie family. Research and collection of information on the blacksmith shop and the Waldie family was organized and thanks to the efforts of our members the local news picked up the story. There were a series of articles published in pub-

lications including "The Canadian Champion", Country Routes, Tackaberry Times, Downtown Milton, The Compass and even the Toronto Star to name some of the print publications. We were successful in getting the story out locally.

Konrad Richter painted and donated a drawing of the Waldie Blacksmith shop as well as a logo for the shop which was used for our brochures, signs, letterhead, etc. Member, John McDonald was instrumental in the production of a full colour "Discover Waldie Blacksmith shop" brochure as well as sandwich board signs which are used to inform the public when the blacksmith shop is open.

In summary, the publicity and marketing efforts to gain support for the Waldie Blacksmith shop restoration were successful as over 200 individuals and companies contributed funds or services in kind to an approximate value of \$100,000 for restoring the shop. In 2013, we can look back and be thankful for the vision and courage to undertake the Waldie Blacksmith shop restoration. We are beneficiaries of a working blacksmith shop, meeting room, archives and headquarters of the Milton Historical Society. Thanks to all who helped with the publicity and fundraising efforts for the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith shop. We couldn't have done it without you!

As part of the celebrations, there will be a dinner at the Knox Presbyterian church for our October 17th general meeting. Doors open at 6:30 PM with dinner at 7 PM. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Names and money are due by Oct 4th and can be dropped off at the Blacksmith shop on Wednesday or Saturday mornings or payment made our secretary Karin Tomosky or our treasurer Sue Paul. For more information call 905-875-4156.

Milton's Citizen of the Year - Longtime Member of the Milton Historical Society!

Congratulations to Marsha Waldie on her selection as Milton's Senior Citizen for 2013! Marsha was presented her framed award by the mayor at Town Council on June 24th. A large group of supporters, family and friends were on hand for the presentation.

Marsha was recognized for her leading role in a number of organizations. She has been the President of the Milton Historical society and has held many other



Family, friends and well wishers celebrate Marsha Waldie's award as Milton Citizen of the Year for 2013! Story on page 4

executive positions over the years! Marsha has overseen the Historical home plaquing program for our society and has helped with our publishing efforts, most recently with the Volume Three of Milton area biographies.

She has also played a key role in the restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith shop from the early days drawing attention to the historic and unique blacksmith shop that was worthwhile to restore and actively participating in the restoration efforts and she continues to play an important role in the day to day operations of our office. The Historical Society is very lucky to have such a dedicated member.

Marsha has been an active member of the Milton Horticultural society for almost 25 years and she has served on the Board of Directors of the Milton Evergreen cemetery for almost 20 years. She is a leader at her church and was very active in the successful restoration of the Knox Presbyterian church which was completed this spring.

Marsha is also a member of the fraternal organization, the Rebekah Lodge #79 in Milton, with a long tradition of service to the community. She has held the title of Past Noble Grand 3 times, and has been Past District Deputy President. She also balances her volunteer work while keeping active and is a keen curler at the local club. Marsha also makes time to make visits to friends who may be isolated due to poor health or other medical conditions.

Alex Cooke Memorial Award Winners – 2013

Congratulations to the following student recipients of the Alex Cooke Memorial Awards. This \$100 award is given to a high school graduating student who has high grades in history and who is planning on pursuing their studies in history or the social sciences.

The 2013 winners are as follows; Craig Kielburger Secondary school recipient is Christina Rambharose. Bishop Reding High School recipient is Luke Stefou and the Milton District High School recipient was Heather Sadler.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Thanks to Shelagh Isnor of Peter McQuaig Insurance for donating a large panoramic photograph of 200 WWI soldiers that was found at their office. The picture was taken on Jan 15, 1918 on Victoria street in Toronto where the soldiers were at an "Exhibition Camp". The soldiers are in full uniform standing in six rows on the steps of a large stone building. The picture is about three feet wide by one foot tall. The names of the soldiers are unknown but some of them may be local and we will try and cross reference the picture against individual photographs in the Milton World War I book.

Thank to the Milton Public library for a donation of an old microfilm reader to the Milton Historical Society. This donation was made possible through our partnership with the library which has been facilitated by our president, Jan Mowbray. Richard Laughton has installed the microfilm reader. Stuart Hill also donated a computer component that allows broader use of our microfilms for research purposes.

Milton Lawn Bowling Club keeps on rolling—100th anniversary.

The Milton Lawn Bowling club is celebrating 100 years in existence this year. The local club has its home on Commercial street between Main and Pine. Over the years the Milton Bowling club has collected approximately 50 district and provincial championship pennants and had their 100th anniversary celebration on August 24th. The Milton Historical Society has some photographs of some prominent Miltonians who have been members of the club over the years.



Pictures of just a few of the Miltonians to be featured in Volume 3 of Milton Area Biographies - clockwise from top left Orpha Fitzgerald, Paul Brush, William Hall Ptolemy and Anne J. MacArthur.

Congratulations to the oldest if not one of the oldest sporting clubs in Milton.

Saint Paul's United Church restoration progressing!

The most recent updates from the St. Paul's United church website outline the progress of the restoration over the summer time. The roof support work on the sanctuary has been completed and the St. Paul's community building has had windows enlarged, brick restoration completed, drainage upgrades and installation of the new sprinkler system.

The scaffolding on the south and north sides of the church have come down to indicate that the brick restoration at these sites has been completed. Also the the sanctuary has a new roof and new copper flashing along the roof lines in time to protect it against the elements of winter.

Society website gets a new look!

The Milton Historical Society website has received a fresh new look and user friendly layout. The home page features a colour photograph of the Waldie blacksmith shop and a toolbar or table of contents at the top of the same page. The table of contents includes information about all of the society activities including our publications, our biographies, calendar of events, our house plaquing program, information about our archives and much more.

The new website also now has an easy to use search field where you can type in a key word and you will be transported to the relevant pages of our website. Thanks to Richard Laughton for the new user friendly website <http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca>.

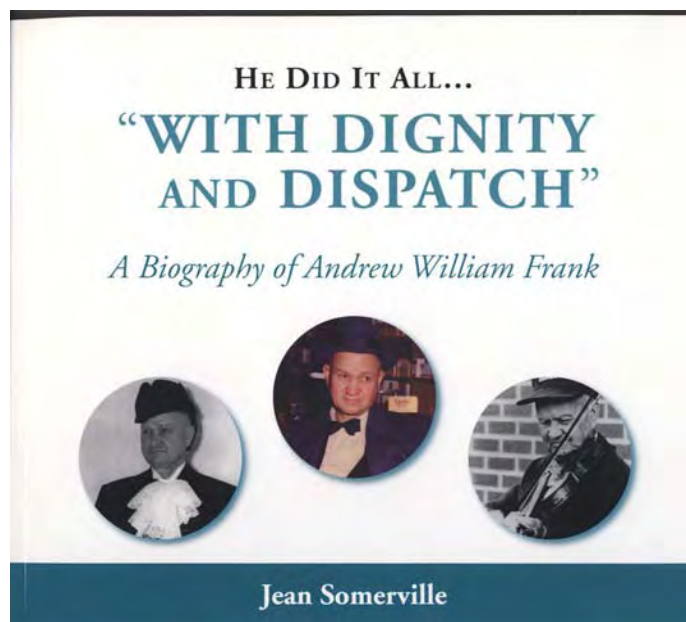
Blacksmith shop welcomes visitors over the summer.

Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time and talents to welcome visitors to the archives and blacksmith shop over the months. A special thanks to Fran Gravel who volunteered several weekends this summer. Without volunteers we would not be able to provide these important services to our visitors. If you are able to help with a few hours of time on a Wednesday or Saturday morning or able to help set up at our monthly meetings, please let us know by leaving a voice message at 905-875-4156 or an e-mail to info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca.

We had approximately two hundred and fifty visitors who signed our registration book this summer. The visitors came from all parts of Canada and some from as far away as Australia and the Phillipines.

Publications—Milton Area Biographies Volume 3 nearing completion.

The third volume of Milton area biographies is scheduled to be released this Fall. There are a total of 160 Miltonians who are featured in this new volume. The biographies feature Miltonians who were leaders in the community including teachers, doctors, labourers, politicians, farmers, etc. The book is planned to be launched in time for Christmas shopping; details will follow as they become available.



The book has been compiled by: Marsha E. Waldie UE with Technical Support Layout: Jennifer Smith UE. Editing has been provided by John Duignan, Karin Tomosky Chambers and Gayle Waldie with Research Assistance from Kaye Hogg, Gloria Brown, Brenda Whitlock, Jim Dills, John Challinor II and Susan Henderson

Biography of Andrew Frank release September 29th

Jean Somerville's new book *He Did It All With Dignity and Dispatch: A Biography of Andrew William Frank* will be launched on Sunday September 29, 2013 (1:30-4:00 pm) at Ebenezer United Church on the Guelph Line (just above Brookville).

The soft cover book provides a unique insight into the life and times of Andy Frank who overcame considerable obstacles and hardships and succeeded in many endeavours in business and entertainment. In spite of no formal education Andy became the Sheriff of Halton County and served in this position for 12 years. The book contains over 150 pages and is filled with wonderful photographs that help chronicle the life of a great humanitarian and devoted family man who was also very supportive of the Halton community. The book retails for \$35.00.

War of 1812—American Victory at Battle of Lake Erie in September, 1813

(Excerpt from Government of Canada War of 1812 website)

During the spring and summer of 1813, the Americans had been building a flotilla of war vessels to challenge the British for control of Lake Erie. By September 1813, the British on the Detroit frontier were in dire straits. Supplies from the east were severely curtailed following the American occupation of Niagara. The British Lake Erie flotilla was undermanned and did not have enough cannons to fully arm the British naval vessels. The garrisons of Fort Malden and Fort Detroit and the First Nations allies and their families were facing a shortage of food. To ensure that a supply line remained open, the British had to control Lake Erie and to do so they had to defeat the American Lake Erie fleet. On September 10, 1813, British Commodore Robert Barclay attacked the American fleet under the command of Oliver Hazard Perry off the coast of Ohio at Put-In-Bay and was defeated.

The US navy had nine vessels and the British had six. The British casualties were 41 killed and 94 wounded and the surviving crews numbered 304. The American casualties were 27 killed and 96 wounded. The British commander Barclay lost a leg and part of his thigh in the battle and one arm was left permanently useless. The strategic impact of this battle was very large as it meant that Lake Erie was controlled by the Americans for the remainder of the war. The control of the lake allowed for American success later in 1814.

Once his vessels and prizes were patched up, American Commander Perry ferried 2,500 soldiers to Amherstburg which was captured from the British without opposition on September 27, 1813. A second force of 1,000 American soldiers marched on Fort Detroit and it too was surrendered without a battle. British commander Henry Procter destroyed the shipyard at Amherstburg and the military buildings of Fort Malden and retreated up the Thames River towards Burlington Heights, much to the scorn of Tecumseh who nonetheless accompanied the British on their retreat.

A pursuing American army under General William Henry Harrison overtook Major-General Henry Procter's force near Moraviantown in present day Chatham-Kent and defeated the British in the Battle of the Thames on October 5, 1813. Tecumseh was killed in action but Procter was able to escape, arriving later at Burlington Heights.

The Americans would remain in control of the Detroit frontier for the rest of the War (though northern Michigan remained in the hands of the British. Many of Tecumseh's allies returned to their homes and made peace with the Americans, while others joined the British on the Niagara frontier.

Welcome New Members

McLaren Brown and David Kiddle

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Double Memberships are \$35.00

Milton Historical Society—Calendar

September 19th—MHS general meeting—Ghost Walk led by Fred Johnson meet at Waldie Blacksmith shop at 7:30 PM. Fee \$5 for non members

Sept 28th 7 PM Welsh Singer Gwyndaf Jones sings at Knox Presbyterian church, tickets \$10 available at Recycled Reading or Knox church.

October 5th 2 PM—Harvest Tea at Ebenezer United church 12274 Guelph line, Campbellville, includes a mobile Millinery museum display, tickets \$25, to reserve a spot call 519-837-9288 Nasagiweya Historical Society

October 17th Tenth Anniversary dinner of the completion of the Waldie Blacksmith shop restoration at the Knox Presbyterian church, 6:30 doors open, dinner at 7 PM cost \$25.

Nov 7th Open House for the donors to the Waldie Blacksmith shop restoration in celebration of the tenth anniversary. Displays and refreshments will be available.

November 21 - MHS general meeting 8 PM at the Legion Remembrance Day Hall.

December 19th— 6 PM—MHS Christmas Potluck dinner at the Waldie Blacksmith shop.

June Potluck Dinner !



Larry Chamber and son Adam relax and take in the



June potluck (l to r) May Johnson, May Bell and Eleanor Jackson enjoying good food and good company!



(l to r) Diane Jarvis, Pam MacLean and Shirley Dills



(l to r) Nancy Cuttle, Gloria Brown and Margaret Lawson



Mary Jane Wingfield and Nancy Cuttle enjoying our June potluck.



Bruce Carlin and Ruth Taylor enjoying the summer evening



The Journal

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

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Winter Edition



MHS members Gayle Waldie and Pamela McLean serving customers for Milton Area Biographies, Volume 3 recent book launch.

of Milton Biographies, written and compiled by Marsha.

If you haven't yet purchased your copy, you may do so at the potluck dinner, December 19th or you can make alternative arrangements by phone or email.

As I look back on 2013, there are many thanks to offer:

- Thanks to all those who contributed treats to our monthly speaker sessions;
- Thanks to the phone callers who contact all those without email, keeping them up to date on MHS activities;
- Thanks to all those who helped set up the room for those same sessions;
- Thanks to each of the board members who all dedicate much of their time to the success of MHS;
- Thanks to the blacksmiths who contribute their time demonstrating their craft in the Blacksmith Shop;
- Without wishing to single out anyone in particular, I would make an exception in thanking Fred Johnston for the start up of the Haunted Walk program, which will be expanded in 2014.
- Thanks to all of you who attend the monthly speaker events. Whether you attend one or all of them, or somewhere in between, we enjoy seeing you; we appreciate the

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President's message – MHS

As 2013 ends, we can look back on a productive and successful year for the Milton Historical Society.

We celebrated the anniversary of the monumental task of the rebuild/restoration of the Blacksmith Shop 10 years ago. We opened the shop for the Provincial Family Day with activities for the family which included the historic portrait launch; we had a wonderful array of speakers for our monthly events; the annual garage sale, pictorial exhibits coordinated and arranged by Gloria in the Carriage Room; ongoing blacksmith classes and the Book Fair.

We're closing out the year with Marsha adding a new descriptor to her list of accomplishments – that of author. December 8th was the launch of the third volume

support. I would offer each of you a challenge: to bring a friend (or two, or more) to any monthly speaker session. It might translate into new memberships for the Society - memberships are our foundation.

Members advocate for our very existence. For every guest you bring to an MHS speaker presentation, we'll enter your name into a draw. And, for every guest you bring who *joins* the Milton Historical Society, we'll put your name into another draw. Two chances for a prize just for bringing a friend!

It's been a pleasure to serve as the Milton Historical Society Board president. On behalf of the board, I look forward to seeing you at the annual Christmas Potluck on December 19.

Jan Mowbray,

Waldie's Restoration 10th anniversary Celebrated !

Our October general meeting was a celebration of the ten year anniversary of the completion of the Waldie Blacksmith shop. Jan welcomed everyone to the event and Mandy Sedgwick and Marsha Waldie spoke about the challenges and sense of accomplishment of the restoration. Mandy was the leader for the blacksmith shop restoration and worked closely with Tom Murison, the builder, and Peter Devine, the stone mason.

We watched a slide presentation of photographs taken before, during and after the restoration work. Our two blacksmith volunteers, Larry Maughan and Darwyne Hourie were on hand to join the celebrations. There were sweets and coffee and tea served. It was a fun evening for all to watch the transformation from the



Mandy Sedgwick speaking to our members at the 10th anniversary celebrations and a celebratory cake to mark the occasion!

shuttered and empty building to the modern operational blacksmith shop and archives we enjoy today!

Thanks Mandy and Marsha for the stories and anecdotes of the restoration and to Tom MacDonald for organizing all the photographs and to Gloria Brown for printing and displaying copies of the photographs in the carriage room.

Alice Munro – 2013 Nobel Prize for Literature Submitted by Gloria Brown

Most people will have heard that Canadian author, Alice Munro won the 2013 Nobel Prize for Literature. How many know of her connection to Halton's Scotch Block?

In her 2006 book, "The View from Castle Rock" she tells the story of her ancestors, "The Laidlaw Family" coming to Canada.

On Sept 19, 1819, James Laidlaw (in his 60th year) arrived at York (Toronto) from Ettrick, Scotland. With him were his 3 sons, Andrew, Walter and James and daughter Mary. They applied for Land Grants and eventually obtained 300 acres in Esquesing Township. The early settlers in this area were very religious. The first service, conducted by a travelling minister (Mr. Jenkins) was held in a clearing on Andrew Laidlaw's farm (Lot 6, Con 4 Esquesing Twp.) with a maple stump as a pulpit and the settlers sitting on logs. They soon decided they needed a meeting house and land for a burial ground. Land was purchased from Andrew Laidlaw for this purpose.

A fourth son William, came to Canada in 1834, but decided to go to Illinois with his family. He died shortly after settling there. His family then returned to

Esquesing. In 1852, William's sons took up land near Blyth, Ontario. Alice Munro is a descendant of this family.

Towards the end of the story, she tells that the Laidlaws are buried in the graveyard of Boston Church in Esquesing, in Halton County within earshot of Highway 401, north of Milton. The graves are on the north side of the church.

MHS Archives – Clothes Iron collection

Do not use, admire only !

The donation from Lou-Anne Lynn of a set of antique irons to the MHS archives is very kind and generous on her part. We get to enjoy the interesting shapes and sizes knowing that none of us have to ever pick them up and use them! Also, there is the fact that some of the early irons had a blacksmith connection with the manufacture of some of the early models.

One of our archives volunteers, Anila Naeem, has photographed, researched and catalogued each individual iron and documented her findings. The collection consists of thirty irons ranging in age from the mid to late 1800's to the early 1900's. The older irons include delta shaped flat iron with metal handles that range in size and weight according to their intended use. There is a range of styles including flat irons, box irons and chimney irons as well as Coleman liquid fuel steam irons which came later and were in use until the World War II.

From the 17th century, flat irons came into use and consisted of delta shaped pieces of iron that were heated on stoves or over fires and then used to iron clothes. The home owner would usually have several flat irons heated up to do their ironing. One hot iron would be used to iron the clothes and rotated out when it cooled down. Meanwhile the other irons would be heating up ready to use. The early irons would be forged by blacksmiths and were usually all metal so the users would have to use some cloth to insulate their hands from the heat of the iron's handle. In time, wooden handles were introduced to make ironing a little safer.

Ironing was hard work due to the weight of the iron itself and one had to be careful that the iron temperature was not too hot to burn the fabrics. As well, the irons had to be kept oiled so they would not rust and



A brass box iron with wooden handle donated to the Milton Historical Society.



Notice the chimney design on this charcoal box iron.

you had to be careful not to place hot irons too close to liquid fuels.

Flat irons gave way to box irons or charcoal irons in which charcoals would be placed into a box attached to the iron so that the iron would stay hotter longer. Some of the fancier versions of these box irons had a tube or chimney to direct smoke away from the clothing. In time the charcoal was replaced by metal inserts that would be heated in a fire and then taken out and put into the iron box. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, irons that were heated by fuels such as kerosene, whale oil or even gasoline were introduced.

One of the more well known irons was the Coleman gasoline blue iron. These irons had an open flame in the base of the iron and the fuel supply meant that these irons would stay warm for a long time. In time the gas irons were replaced by electric irons which are in use today. With many of the new fabrics which need no ironing, it raises the question as to how much longer clothes irons will remain in use.

Milton Area Biographies Launch

The weather outside was cold but inside the Waldie blacksmith shop there was coffee and sweets and the fireplace gave off plenty of warmth to visitors attending the Book Launch of Milton Area Biographies, Volume 3.

Our President, Jan Mowbray thanked Marsha Waldie for the hard work and her perseverance in researching and completing the Milton Area Biographies, Volume 3. Marsha thanked her mentors Alex Cooke and Jack Charlton, now both deceased, for showing her how they conducted research for previous biographies. Marsha also thanked those who helped her to complete the current book, including Kaye Hogg, Jim Dills and Jennifer Smith. Marsha also commented that all 161 people contributed to make Milton what it is today, regardless of what position in society they held.

Sales of the soft cover book were brisk on the day of the launch and that bodes well for the future. The soft cover book retails for \$35 and includes a one to two page biography and photograph of the person and their key accomplishments. It is a must read for anyone who wants to learn about the lives of citizens of an earlier time in Milton.

December, 1813 Fighting between Britain and USA— The burning of town's and villages leaves many homeless. (The Burning of Newark - from "The Discriminating General" War of 1812 website.)

The year of 1813 ended with acts of retribution against the citizens of Newark or what is now known as Niagara on the Lake. Newark was the first capital of Upper Canada and the first meeting of the legislature took place in 1792. The capital was moved to York in 1797 due to the close proximity of the American border. Following the British defeat at the Battle of the Thames, the Niagara area was abandoned by the British and the Americans moved in and occupied the town.

American sympathizer, Joseph Willcocks and his Canadian Volunteers punished some prominent loyalists by looting and burning their homes and sending some to prisons in the United States. British Colonel John Murray hearing of the arrests and attacks against the loyalists led a force of 380 regulars to Forty Mile



Researcher and author Marsha Waldie speaks at the release of Milton Area Biographies, Volume 3

creek to set up a base. The British chased the Americans to the Twenty mile creek and then to the Twelve mile creek and finally to Fort George.

The American commander Brigadier General George McClure was in a tough position with the populace unhappy with the treatment that the area Loyalists had received; also the enlistment period of his troops was running out, so his decision was to cross the Niagara river back to the safety of Fort Niagara in the United States.

At dusk on Dec 10th, 1813, Joseph Willcocks and his Canadian volunteers and the American Militia men told all the inhabitants of Newark to get out of their homes while they could. Willcocks had obtained an order from the American commander to burn the town to the ground. It seems that Joseph Willcocks was looking for revenge against his former neighbours for the way they treated him after he switched allegiance to the American army. The weather was very cold and there was two to three feet of snow on the ground.

Women and children watched 149 homes burn to ashes. There were four hundred refugees who were left to fend for themselves to try and find shelter. The British saw the smoke and glow over Newark and reconnoitered the area and drove out the remaining Americans and Canadian volunteers. When Murray's forces arrived at Newark every building but one was burned to the ground. There was furniture out in the streets from residents trying to salvage some belongings. Some of the refugees sought refuge at Fort George on the Canadian side of the border and some found shelter at Butler's barracks and some at

neighbouring farms.

The next morning at light the extent of the damage to the town could be seen and there were also bodies of women and children found in snowdrifts. The British troops were angered by what they observed and within the next month the towns of Lewiston, Buffalo and Black Rock in New York state were torched. The citizens on the American side did have time to collect their valuables and to evacuate to safer parts of New York. Fort Niagara on the US side was also captured and a good number of American soldiers lost their lives in the attack.

For his part in the burning of Newark, the American commander George McClure was relieved of his duties and dismissed from the US Army.

Blacksmith Shop News

The last of the blacksmithing classes was held in mid November. Over the course of the year, there were four introductory blacksmith classes and one intermediate course provided. Most of the courses were filled and there is already interest for 2014 spring course offerings. Many thanks to our instructors Darwyne Hourie and Larry Maughan. Thanks also to David Brandow and Fred Johnson for their volunteer coverage at the blacksmith shop this year. The shop will be closed until the spring except for the February meeting of the Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association.

Elections MHS Board and Annual Meeting

All members are invited to the annual meeting of the society on Thursday, January 16th. The elections for the executive members will be held and the President's report will be tabled.

For 2014, the secretary and treasurer positions will not be voted on since these are two year positions and both incumbents have completed their first year. All other positions will be open for nominations including President (2 year term), Special Events, Journal, Publicity/Marketing, Building Maintenance, Membership, Publications and Monthly programs planner. Two of our current board members, Jennifer Smith and Kay Bounsall will be stepping down from their positions



Artist depiction of burning of pioneer homes at Newark.

and we thank them for their contributions to the society. Following the annual general meeting there will be a Show and Tell; everyone is invited to bring an article for discussion.

2014 MHS memberships are now available

You can renew your 2014 membership in person or by sending in your renewal form on page 7 of this newsletter along with a cheque made payable to the Milton Historical Society. We are open Wednesday and Saturday mornings. You can also renew your membership at the annual general meeting.

Single Memberships are \$20.00

Double Memberships are \$35.00

Students—Free

Welcome New Members!

The Milton Historical Society welcomes new members Qaiser Rehman, Wilma Tyrer, Karen Ho. Invite your friends or acquaintances to come and enjoy our programs and interesting slate of guest speakers and topics.

Waldie Blacksmith shop winter decorations

Thanks to Mandy and Mirella for contributing pine boughs to decorate the shop. The boughs and bright red ribbons are hanging from the front doors or they decorate the window sills. There is also a string of pine boughs running the full length of the wooden fence next to the shop. With the recent snowstorm, it is a beautiful sight.

Holiday Open House Festivities!

Many thanks to Karin Tomosky and Larry Chambers for opening their home to friends, neighbours and members of the Milton Historical Society. There was an assortment of salads, main dishes and desserts for visitors. There was a chance to socialize and a TV going for those who wanted to check the leafs hockey game! What a great way to get into the holiday spirits!



Best wishes for the holidays and the New Year !



The Waldie Blacksmith shop decorated for the holidays!

Milton Historical Society MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Dec. 31st at 11:45 PM at the Historic Bell in Victoria Park, Ring in the New Year with Mayor Gord Krantz

Jan. 1st from 1 to 3 PM, Mayor and Councillor's New Year's Day Levee at Milton Town Hall

Jan. 16, 2014: AGM + 'Show & Tell'

February 8th OABA Annual General meeting and blacksmith demonstration at Waldie Blacksmith shop

Feb. 20: Author Jean Rae Baxter will be speaking about the Black Loyalists

March 20: Doug Massey and Keith Clark will be making a presentation on the Battle of Beaver Dams Project

April 17: Mandy & Mirella will be talking about their experiences moving heritage buildings.

May 15: Andrew McCausland will be giving us a history of the McCausland Company and taking us on a tour of the stained glass windows his family have installed and maintained at Grace Anglican Church



Jennifer Smith thanks our November guest speaker Bob Elliott at Milton Legion's Remembrance Hall!

YEAR: 2014

**MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FORM**
16 JAMES ST., MILTON, ONT. L9T 2P4
TELEPHONE: 905-875-4156
WEB SITE: www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

New:

Renewal:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone #: _____
E-Mail: _____

Membership Fees:
____ Single \$20.00
____ Double \$35.00
____ Student Free

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

Donations to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Foundation assist
in maintaining & operating this interpretive centre in the
Heart of Milton. Donations of \$10.00 or more are income tax
Deductible and receipts are available.

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

____ Blacksmith Shop Interpreter, Assisting: ____ in the archives ____ with exhibits ____ with
social times ____ phone committee ____ walking tours ____ school tours ____ researching local
history ____ staffing during open hours VOLUNTEERS are a vital component to our
Societies Success