



# The Journal

[Milton Historical Society](#) 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario L9T 2P4 Telephone 905-875-4156

April 2015 Vol. 30 Issue 1

## Spring Edition



Recently revised display of Historical Society at Milton Town Hall

President's Message	p1
2015 MHS Executive	P. 2
Canadian Flag 50 years	P. 2
World War I News look back	P.3
Heritage at Risk	P. 4
Ken Lamb obituary	P.4
2014 Financial Statement	P. 5
Calendar of Events	P.6

## President's Message

As I write this, it would appear that the worst of winter is behind us. It's been a long tough winter for many.

What's in the future? While we can't predict the weather, we can say there is a great deal ahead that has the potential to change the entire face of Old Milton. Many of you will have heard of the proposed development for Downtown Milton on Mill Street, between James and Martin Streets. While no one would deny the need for more people downtown, the idea of a cluster of high rises, the tallest of which is to be 18 stories, rather boggles the mind.

There are a great many signatories opposed to the development in its current rendition. Whatever goes to council needs to reflect the historic nature of our downtown – that's the bottom line: something that reflects the character of old Milton.

It has yet to go to council so at this point it is all conjecture.

Meanwhile, as ever, MHS members continue to plan, develop and present fundraising programs such as the garage sale; entertaining programs such as the monthly speaker series; and the ongoing and invaluable work in the archives.

On behalf of the board of the Milton Historical Society, I can say it would give us great pleasure to welcome you to any or all of the upcoming events.

Jan Mowbray



## Here is your 2015 MHS Executive!

At the January general meeting the executive for 2015 was elected and the results are as follows. Congratulations to the new executive of the Milton Historical Society.

President—Jan Mowbray is in her second year of her two year term

Treasurer—Sue Paul

Secretary—Karin Tomosky

Plaquing/Past President—Marsha Waldie

Membership—Susan Platt

Heritage Milton representative—Mirella Marshall

Publicity/Marketing—Jennifer Smith

Monthly Programs—Barb Fitzsimons

Publications—Gloria Brown

MHS Journal/Blacksmith programs—Bruce Carlin

Special Programs—Pam McLean

Waldie Blacksmith shop Maintenance—Mandy Sedgwick

## Canadian Flag celebrates 50 years!

On February 15, 1965 our national flag was raised for the first time on Parliament Hill. Canada was just two years away from centennial celebrations when the maple leaf flag was made official by Royal Proclamation. There were 3,541 entries submitted for consideration as the new flag. The Prime Minister of the day, Lester B. Pearson encountered much opposition from the Diefenbaker conservatives and from veterans who had fought under the Red Ensign flag.

In Parliament, the debate lasted for six weeks with a filibuster or delay by the Conservatives and this was followed by the Liberals invoking closure. The final vote was 163 to 78 and on Jan 28th, 1965 Queen Elizabeth II signed the Royal proclamation. In 1996, February 15 was declared National Flag of Canada Day and has been observed every year since.

## 2015 OABA annual meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith shop

The Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association (OABA) held their monthly meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith shop on Feb 14th, 2015. There was a big turnout for



this event, about 60 people in total. Milton Historical Society executive members helped prepare and serve coffee and chili. The high numbers that turned out led to a shortage of chili, we called Tim Horton's and fortunately they were able to supply an additional 20 chili lunches with buns on very short notice!

## Time Capsules Bytes from the past:

collected & edited by J. Dills

Aug. 1894

McDonell, the rope walker, who styles himself “the hero of Niagara,” came here on Sat. and sent “sandwich” boys around the town advertising a free performance in front of the Bennett House (La Toscana) in the evening. A fairly large crowd gathered to see the performance.

McDonell ran a wire cable from a third storey window in the Bennett House, along the roof of the Champion Office (164 Main St. E.) to a chimney and thence at a slight angle to a tree in the rear of the office.

The cable was wound around a tree and when the crowd gathered was tightened with a crank until the strain upset the chimney. The bricks fell on the roof with a tremendous noise and slid off on top of Dr. Campbell's office with a crash that started Richard Jones, harness maker, next door, outside on the double under the impression that he was being made the victim of a dynamite outrage.

This wire cable performance greatly interested the spectators, particularly George Hume, the owner of the demolished chimney, and it completed the entertainment. McDonell explained that he was unable to tighten his cable sufficiently to make it safe to walk on and then took it down. He left for Toronto on Monday.



## 2015 Family Day activities at the Waldie Blacksmith shop

Thanks to Milton Historical Society volunteers for helping organize displays for the 2015 Family Day holiday at the Waldie Blacksmith shop. Thanks also to Darwyne Hourie for demonstrating blacksmithing to our visitors.

There were refreshments served including hot apple cider and hot chocolate. There was also a wide variety of craft items for children to paint or create. We spoke to visitors about blacksmithing and the town history. The numbers of visitors was not large but those who came to Waldie's enjoyed the hospitality and education experience at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.



Barb Fitzsimons helps a family during the Milton Family day open house at the Waldie Blacksmith shop.

## May 13, 1915 - WWI Canadian Champion Headline Captain A.C. Bastedo killed – Other Halton Soldiers Injured

In the first list of casualties in the battle of Langemarck published on April 26<sup>th</sup>, the name of Captain Alfred. C. Bastedo appeared among those of the wounded. In the cable received by his father John M. Bastedo, now of Toronto, it was stated that particulars would follow. They did not follow. Mr. Bastedo repeatedly applied for them to the Militia department but was informed in each case that nothing further had been heard. Mr. Bastedo's cousin, S.T. Bastedo, Superintendent of the Annuities branch of the Post Office department, then began an independent enquiry and on Tuesday morning he received the sad news that Captain Bastedo had been killed in action on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. They received official confirmation on Tuesday evening.

Captain Bastedo was the younger son of John M. Bastedo. He was 28 years of age, was born in Milton and lived here up to about three years ago, when his father retired from business and removed to Toronto. Captain Bastedo then entered Toronto University as an art student and was in his fourth year when the war broke out. He was one of those who received their degrees before leaving for Europe. Having held a commission in the Milton company of the 20th Halton rifles for five years, latterly as its captain, he volunteered. On his service being accepted, he enlisted 33

men here. When he went to Valcartier he was given a commission as lieutenant of the Halton company of the 4th Battalion, commanded by Major Ballentine. His efficiency as an officer soon led to an appointment as assistant adjutant followed by promotion to the rank of captain, and a transfer to another company, of which he was given command.

When the Canadians left Salisbury for France Captain Bastedo was sick in hospital and was left behind. On recovering he took a course in the Officers' Training school at Tidworth after which he was appointed to the transport service. He made several trips between England and France. Preferring combatant to non-combatant duties, he applied to be sent to the firing line. He was then sent to the front and given command of a company of the 1st Battalion, a decided compliment, as it showed that his worth was understood and appreciated. The last heard of him before the battle was in a letter to his father dated April 23<sup>rd</sup>, just as he was going into the firing line. He seemed to have a premonition of death and bade his parents a last farewell. The Champion had received a card from him, dated a few days earlier, in which he promised a letter for publication and hinted at interesting campaign particulars. No doubt he intended to write after getting settled in his new command and death prevented as no letter came from him. Several interesting letters from him had been published.

Captain Bastedo's memory will be honoured in Milton and by Varsity as that of a hero who died for the Empire and the cause of freedom and of a clean living young man against whom there was no reproach. There is general and deep sympathy for his bereaved parents and family.

Captain Bastedo is the only Halton soldier so far reported killed, but it is feared before many days elapse we shall hear of more. Halton soldiers whose names have been added to the list of wounded are: Lance Corporals Frank James Sloane, Milton and James Dockery, Milton Heights and privates Ernest W. Stewart and Sheridan, of Milton. Roy Stephenson, E. Greenwood and J. Cockington, Burlington and Harry Scott Harwood, Acton.

### **Garage Sale—Spring Cleaning**

Thanks to all those who donated items for our annual Spring garage sale on April 11th, especially Mrs. Fay who donated three car loads of items. There was a wide range of items on sale and sales were very good. The proceeds go to support the society.

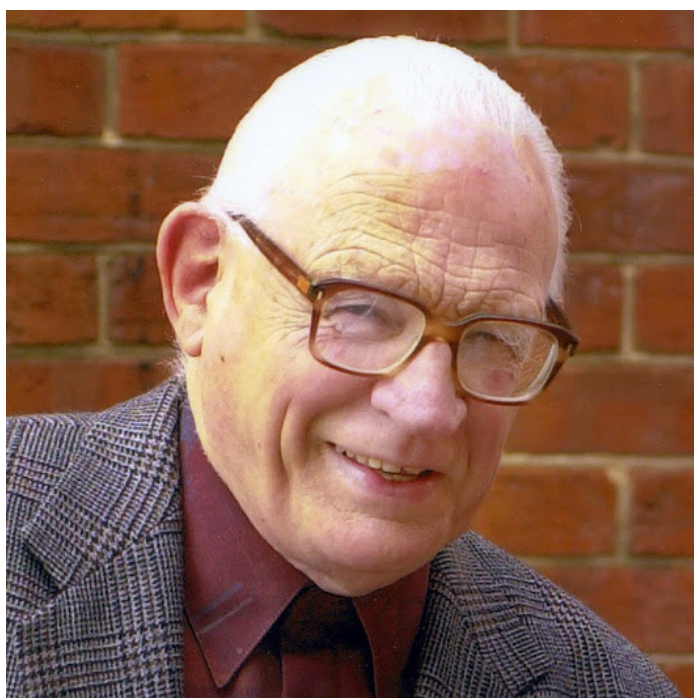
### **Heritage at Risk: Milton's Downtown Historic Core**

The Milton Historical Society along with many in our community has become aware of the proposal to build a huge two tower condo complex along Mill street from James street to Montgomery lane. This is in the heart of our Heritage Character district. There are some historic buildings which could be at risk if this proposal is approved. The developers are hoping for approvals and building completion in approximately 5 years. A petition is available at Milton Historical Society 16 James Street, Fitzgerald Insurance 216 Main street or on line at [www.saveoldmilton.com](http://www.saveoldmilton.com)

### **Ken Lamb—1923-2015**

From the Canadian Champion and Jim Dills

Passed away on February 10, 2015 in Owen Sound, Ontario, at the age of 92. Beloved husband of Treasa (nee Charlton). Remembered by children David (Claire), Carole (Steve), Christine (Andrew) and Graham (Megan). Ken was also blessed with 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Born in Montreal, Ken was the son of the late Olive and Arthur Lamb



Ken Lamb—2003 Photo by Graham Paine of The Canadian Champion.

and was predeceased by his brother George and son Murray. Ken was very active in the Town of Milton for over 30 years.

Ken was the President MHS for three years, 1988, 1989, 1990 and past president 1991-2. He authored "Milton Remembers World War II" (1995); "P.L. Inventor of the Robertson Screw" (1998), and he edited most MHS publications including "Memories of Milton" written by Mel Robinson (2003) and was editor of the Society's Journal for a number of years.

As a result of Ken's research on P.L. Robertson a 30-minute History Television documentary about the life of Mr. Robertson was produced and P.L. was later inducted posthumously into the Canadian Manufacturer's Hall of Fame.

Ken was recognized by the Ontario Heritage Foundation Community Recognition program for Lifetime Achievement in 2006.

Prior to coming to Milton from his native Montreal, Ken was with British United Press, Shell Oil and DuPont Canada. In Milton he was a president and board member of Milton Seniors' Activity Centre. In 2005 he received a Province of Ontario Senior of the Year Award for his work with the Centre.



## 2014 Financial Statement

### MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSETS

AS OF DECEMBER 31

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
	\$	\$
<b>BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>		
Cash in bank	7,646	11,273
Fixed assets	360,385	361,632
Investments	51,259	50,716
	<u>419,290</u>	<u>423,621</u>
<b>CASH AND ASSETS PROVIDED/(USED) BY OPERATING AND CAPITAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
Current year activities (see page 4)	(1,854)	(4,135)
Change in accounts payable	(196)	(196)
	<u>(1,854)</u>	<u>(4,331)</u>
<b>BOOK VALUE OF ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<u>417,436</u>	<u>419,290</u>
<b>COMPOSITION OF ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>		
Cash in bank	17,109	7,646
Fixed assets	359,134	360,385
Investments	41,193	51,259
	<u>417,436</u>	<u>419,290</u>

Unaudited - See Notice to Reader

Padgett Business Services

## 2015 Memberships—New Members Welcome

Welcome to Jane and Tony Trischler and Mr. and Mrs. Satish Tarachandra and Margaret Wilkes and thanks to all our regular members who have renewed for 2015. Have you renewed your Milton Historical Society 2015 membership? Please see Susan Platt for renewals. Single membership is \$20.00 and Family fee is \$35.00.

## Knox Presbyterian Church 160th Anniversary

A series of [celebrations](#) are scheduled in 2015.

## Local Historical Society MONTHLY PROGRAMS

### Milton Historical Society

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 8 PM – Waldie Blacksmith Shop – James Street, Milton

Our Speaker Series guest speaker will be Mr. Bert Andrews from Andrews Scenic Acres. Lauraine and Bert purchased 100 acres in 1980 to develop as a Berry Growing farm and over the years it has expanded to other crops as well as a winery.

### Oakville Historical Society

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:30 to 9 PM at St. John's United church at Dunn and Randall in Oakville

Ron Brown, "Queenston to Kingston-the Hidden Heritage of the Lake Ontario Shore"

### Halton Peel Genealogical Society

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2 PM Oakville Public Library 120 Navy Street, Oakville

Linda Reid — Toronto Branch OGS "Using Autosomal DNA Tests to Confirm (or Deny) Relationships and Ancestors"

### Esquesing Historical Society

Wed. 13 May 2015 LOCAL ADVERTISING MEMORABILIA

Join our list of presenters by registering with the Society to say a few words about something you own from a local business – matchbook, wooden yard stick, calendar or receipt. The show and tell meeting will include a brief slide show from our collection



Jim Dills displays an old Halton county map to the MHS January Show and Tell meeting..

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

### Milton Historical Society

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> 8 PM – Waldie Blacksmith Shop – James Street, Milton

"Sitting Pretty: the History of the Toilet". The curator of the Guelph museum, Bev Dietrich will lead an interesting and humorous talk about the history of out-houses, public washrooms, chamber pots and toilet paper.

### Esquesing Historical Society

Wed. 10 June 2015 GLEN WILLIAMS WALKING TOUR

Mark Rowe, author of *Glen Williams: An Oasis in the Credit Valley* will lead a walking tour of the village. He will point out buildings of importance to the history of the village and to the people who lived there. Note the earlier start time!

GLEN WILLIAMS TOWN HALL, 1 Prince St., Glen Williams, 7:00 p.m.

### Milton Historical Society

Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM – Potluck Dinner to be held at the home of Brenda & Allan Bousfield at 12478 Sixth line, Nassagaweya. [Historic lumber](#) is a family owned business with over 35 years experience in reclaiming early Canadian homes and barns.





# The Journal

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

June 2015 Vol. 30 Issue 2

## Summer Edition



John McDonald at the Milton Farmer's market

President's Message	P. 1
MHS Farmers Market	P. 1
From the Archives	P.2
Heritage at Risk	P.3
Heritage Potluck Dinner	P. 4
WWI Milton area casualties	P.4
Heritage Master Plan	P.5
Calendar of Events	P.6

## President's Message

By Jan Mowbray

Dear Members,  
It has been a long cold winter and in some respects, a long cold spring.

We are still looking for volunteers to help in the Archives on a Wednesday of a Saturday morning – if you can help a couple of hours a month, let us know. The Historical Society is entirely dependent upon volunteers. You don't have to be an expert in any particular area for your help to be of value. Drop in sometime – let's talk.

By the way, have you checked out the Milton Historical website recently. There is a lot of new information to be found there.

If you have any thoughts for events or pro-

jects, let us know. We are always interested in what interests you. Thank you for your support of YOUR Historical Society. It's your support that keeps us going. Have a great summer.

## MHS Monthly Table at the Milton Farmers' Market and 2015 MHS Childrens' Drawing Contest

by Barbara Fitzsimons

For several years, MHS volunteers have been hosting a monthly book table in the Saturday morning Milton Farmers' Market. The Milton DBIA generously allows the MHS to set up a table and displays in the market stall space on the south side of Main Street East, in front of Casa Americo restaurant and directly across the street from The Flower Mill florist.

While the purpose of the market table is to sell MHS publications, even more, the table provides a valuable opportunity to create awareness of the MHS and to engage the community in its heritage mission through interaction with residents and visitors in the Milton Farmers' Market. We enjoy lively conversations with long-time residents, who love to tell stories about their families and the area, and with newer residents who, in embracing Milton as their new home, are of-

ten anxious to know about the history and culture of the town and region.

We have assisted with inquiries regarding the MHS archive, blacksmithing classes, house plaquing, heritage restoration, the ongoing MHS biographies research and publishing project, the MHS monthly speaker series, memberships, programs and family visits to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and MHS Carriage Room — to name a few.

Our photo display boards of historical Milton have become one of the most popular attractions at our market table, second only to the childrens' attraction to our MHS market mascot, the giant wooden horse and blacksmith wagon made for the MHS by Jack Hardy in 1999. The childrens' eyes go wide as we explain to them that there was a time when there were no automobiles and rather people had to travel by horse. Inevitably the families head around the corner to the shop for a visit.

We have terrific fun when MHS member and author, John McDonald, comes along to sign his books and when Jan Mowbray, MHS President, is in attendance as MHS spokesperson and self-appointed "market dog inspector", but the 2015 MHS Childrens' Drawing Contest, is sure to be our most exciting market endeavour this summer. Gloria Brown has organized the drawing contest, where children in three different age categories can take a walk around town and draw or paint their favourite Milton historic building for submission to the MHS contest by August 1, 2015. There are three prizes in each age category and entry forms can be found on the MHS website and, of course, at the monthly MHS table at the Milton Farmers' Market.

The remaining MHS 2015 Milton Farmers' Market Saturdays are July 11, August 29, September 19 and October 10. We thank all who volunteer with the market table and more volunteers are always welcome. If 7:00 am is too early for some, we'd be grateful also for volunteers, who are able to come to help later in the morning and even just for an hour or so. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Barbara Fitzsimons at [sherk.fitzsimons@sympatico.ca](mailto:sherk.fitzsimons@sympatico.ca) or call the MHS at (905) 875-4156 and, if you're at the market on one of our table days, please do drop by for a visit!



Allan Bousfield and son John spoke about their Historic lumber business at our June potluck dinner.

## From The Archives

We are asking members to assist with helping to cover the archives on Sat. mornings 9:30 am to noon. We would certainly go over things so you know how to locate info. etc.

Please let me know even if you can only assist with one date it would be appreciated. Dates available include July 11, 18 Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, Sept. 5, 19. Contact Marsha Waldie if you can help.

## Help Save Milton's History

The Milton Historical Society is interested in having family genealogical material and would like to ensure that it is not discarded but preserved for following generations to enjoy. We ask that you please consider having it donated to our Historical Society. We all know that too often we learn of family members destroying these treasures perhaps not realizing the effort and research time spent collecting it.

Please follow the link to "[My Family History – Genealogical Will](#)" on the Milton Historical Society website. If you complete and sign this form making sure you tell family members, The Milton Historical Society will preserve the information so that all benefit.



## Heritage At Risk

It has been brought to our attention that 111 Mary Street is now at risk. The owners are looking to remove this heritage home. The requested heritage impact study which was requested by Heritage Milton indicates that the home is of cultural value and has significant local cultural heritage due to its architectural and historical or associative value.

The house was home to Edwin F. Earl a former Mayor of Milton, Halton County Reeve, Milton Fire Chief as well as serving on numerous community boards. The study also indicated that it should be left in situ and Heritage Milton supports this assessment. It is also a major part of the landscape which surrounds our historic Victoria Park. The Milton Historical Society also supports this evaluation and would support designation should the owner pursue a demolition permit.

## Milton Historical Society Video Archives Expands

Thanks to Richard Laughton for adding the Milton's Main Street video onto our website. There are now five videos available for viewing. The videos available for viewing now include the Main Street video, A Different Time - Milton's Victoria Park, Martin's Mills - The Founding of Milton, Restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Profile of P.L. Robertson Screws and Drivers. To view any of the videos go to the following link <http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/the-archives/video-archives/>

The MHS has also purchased a small quantity of CD's of Milton's Main Street video and they are available for sale at the Blacksmith shop.

## Loyalist Cemetery Plaquing: (Deforest Pioneer Cemetery, Derry Road)

The Hamilton Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada working with the Town of Milton will be placing a plaque on Saturday, August 29th at 2 PM in recognition of a loyalist interment.

Isaac Deforest was a loyalist and was imprisoned with his son, Abraham. As the story goes, while escaping Isaac was shot but Abraham escaped to Canada. Abraham was given 200 acres in Nelson Township, Halton County. He died Dec. 8th, 1842, he and his wife Elizabeth are both interred in the Deforest Pioneer Cemetery.



111 Mary Street building

## Milton Historical Society Facebook:

Become a MHS facebook follower and enjoy the many photo's, comments which have become popular with social media. Our own Emma Leeder has been adding many photo's and happenings regarding our history. A big thank you to Emma!

## Thanks Richard and Brenda!

The Milton Historical Society expresses our thanks to both Richard Laughton (our website & social media support) and Brenda Bousfield (bi-weekly photo's re: Champion) for their efforts in assisting with our outreach to the community in sharing Milton's history.

## Victoria Park Design Concepts

The Town of Milton is planning to make changes to Victoria Park to make it more accessible for the public. There are a variety of design concepts available for viewing on the town website at

<http://www.milton.ca/en/play/victoriapark.asp>

The town is also in the midst of carrying out a study of the Downtown to make improvements while preserving the historical center of Milton. A public meeting was held on June 29th to present town plans.

## The Flower Mill Historic Photo display

Passers by strolling the sidewalk in front of 141B Main street east which is the site of The Flower Mill can view the storefront display of historic photographs of Milton's Main street. Also, a link to the video of Milton's Main street walk created by Jim Dills can be viewed on the Flower Mill Facebook page.

## Heritage Potluck Dinner

Our thanks go out to Brenda and Allan Bousfield and their son John for hosting the MHS members for our June potluck dinner. The dinner was held in the showroom of their Historic Lumber company located near Acton. We enjoyed our meals using the custom built dining tables and chairs of the showroom. After the meals Allan told us about the family business that has been in operation for 35 years.

Historic Lumber will dismantle historic buildings such as barns and homes and recover building materials such as lumber, brick, windows, etc. The recovered building materials are repurposed as building materials for new homes and could end up as wood flooring, fireplace mantles and related building features.

John has specialized in building custom furniture from recovered lumber and the resulting furniture includes beautiful tables and cupboards. After the dinner and talk by Allan and John, members were free to tour the grounds and see the workshops and inventory of building materials used in their business. Hats off to the Bousfield's for recovering heritage building materials and giving them a new life in today's homes.

## The Governor's Road

by Mary Byers and Margaret McBurney

The MHS archives contain a number of published local history books which are available for members to borrow for their own reading pleasure. The Governor's Road is a paperback book that tells the story of what we now know as Dundas street from Mississauga to London. This road was constructed on orders of John Graves Simcoe and construction began in 1793. This road was built to link Lakes Ontario, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie and was built inland as protection against attack by American navy vessels.

The authors describe some key historical events that occurred at the various towns and villages along the route. There are numerous photos of historic stately homes, churches and public buildings and a chapter is dedicated to the major towns including Oakville, Trafalgar village and Nelson village and includes refer-



The Brown Road Military cemetery near Festubert, France burial location for Private Thos Williams of Milton.

ences to William Lyon MacKenzie's escape from Toronto and some of his possible hiding spots in the area. The book is just under 300 pages long and it would make for a nice summer read. Contact our archives if you would like to borrow this book.

## World War I

### Milton Soldier Casualties - June 16, 1915.

We are 100 years removed from World War I but we should not forget those who fought and gave up their lives in the first world war. Attached are excerpts from the Milton Historical Society WWI soldiers website, research by Richard Laughton and from the Milton Remembers World War I book by John Chalinor II and Jim Dills.

The Milton Canadian Champion wrote about two Milton area casualties who died June 16, 1915 as a result of a heavy bombardment in battle. Both soldiers were part of the 4th Battalion (1st Division, 1st Brigade). In June of 1915 the 1st Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force was mid-way between Ypres and Arras of Northern France near Festubert and Givenchy. On June 15th the Canadian's were at Givenchy and the 4th Battalion (1st Division, 1st Brigade) was just north of La Basse Canal.

The unit War Diary reports there was a heavy bombardment by the enemy against the Canadians on June 15, 1915, followed by relative quiet on the 16th. Perhaps Private Harrison was killed on the 15th, as that



is when the giant mine was exploded at “Duck’s Bill” and heavy bombardments followed by both sides. There are no particulars given in Private Harrison’s service record and no casualty lists in the war diary. Private Septimus Harrison's name is listed on the Vimy Memorial.

Private Septimus Harrison, # 11092, was born in Shap, Westmoreland, England in 1880 and was 5'8" and was married and his attestation papers show that he had served 12 years in the Royal Artillery and his home is shown as Moffatt. He was a carpenter by trade and was easily identified by tattoos on both arms of the flags of Britain and the United States. Private Harrison received the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal, posthumously. His family received the Memorial Cross. Private Harrison was a Milton area soldier who was registered with the 20th Halton rifles and helped to guard the armouries on Martin street.

The other Milton casualty was Sydney Williams soldier # 11188 and he was interred at the Brown road military cemetery near Festubert, France. Sydney Williams was born on May 31, 1896 in Canning town, London, England and attested or enlisted into the Canadian Expeditionary Forces at the start of the war on September 22, 1914 at Valcartier, Quebec military base. In Sydney's attestation papers, his occupation was listed as operator (He was a machinist at the P.L. Robertson company in town) and he was single and just 18 years of age. Sydney's father was Thos Williams and his address was listed as Milton, Ontario. Sydney was 5'5" tall and had brown eyes, a dark complexion and dark brown hair and was listed as a member of the Church of England.

## **A Heritage Master Plan for Milton**

Submitted by Nancy Cuttle

Way back in the fall of 2012, Council approved the formation of a Heritage Master Plan for the Town of Milton. A Heritage Master Plan provides a comprehensive review of the quantity and quality of the cultural heritage resources that exist and develops priorities and recommendations regarding how the Town can best identify, conserve and celebrate its cultural heritage resources.



Private Septimus Harrison has his name and military number engraved on the Vimy Memorial, Vimy, France.

Many communities have Heritage Master Plans that have been formulated at considerable cost by consultants who are experts in the field. Council voted to use the expertise that is available within our community and approved the formation of a volunteer Ad Hoc Task Force to prepare a Heritage Master Plan for Milton.

The Task Force is chaired by Nancy Cuttle with a strong representation of committed volunteers who bring academic and practical knowledge in research, architecture and data collection as well as a commitment to the preservation of Milton’s heritage. The equal representation of members from Heritage Milton, Milton Historical Society, and Nasagieweya Historical Society has fostered new working relationships and sharing of information previously scattered across the Town of Milton.

The Task Force members were finally appointed in May of 2014 and have been researching the information available from archives, publications and the Heritage List of properties and meeting monthly in the Carriage Room. The following Milton Historical Society members have participated on the task force

or shared their knowledge: Brenda Bousfield, Anila Naeem, Emma Leeder, Karin Tomosky and of course, Marsha Waldie.

We have approached our research by asking the following questions:

What cultural heritage resources and conservation opportunities do we have?

Who sets and who implements the guidelines for cultural heritage preservation?

What are the conflicting and complimentary areas of opportunity?

Who holds the history of Milton?

What are the options and recommendations for preserving our heritage?

In a rapidly expanding community with potentially conflicting priorities, this project has become a monumental and long overdue undertaking. It is our goal to present a document that will serve as a resource for Council, staff and the public in understanding the complexities of heritage preservation and provide recommendations for the steps that need to be taken to ensure a balanced approach to the conservation of our cultural heritage.

*God willing and the creek don't rise*, (I learned that from a wise Nassagaweya farmer) we'll be presenting our report to Council in November.

Nancy Cuttle  
Ad Hoc Task Force Chair  
Milton Heritage Master Plan

## Waldie Blacksmith Shop Designation

The Milton Town Council made a motion to designate the Waldie Blacksmith shop at the May 11, 2015 Town Council meeting. For details, see Item # 8 of the minutes. (Minutes May 11, 2015) . Our Waldie Blacksmith shop is open for visitors to enter on Saturday mornings from 9 AM to 12 PM. Watch blacksmiths ply their trade.

## Calendar of Events

August 15th Heritage Day 11 AM to 5 PM Come celebrate the 100th anniversary of Trains and Streetcars at Halton County Radial Railway museum

Saturday, August 29th 2 PM. There will be a plaquing ceremony at the Deforest cemetery located at Der-



The Vault Jewelry store on Main street (previously Gold Connection) has donated this attractive glass jewelry case. Thanks to John Duignan and John McDonald for the transport and assembly to the Waldie Blacksmith shop.

ry road and Walker's line (Northwest corner).

Wed. Sept. 9th, 2015 A STROLL DOWN RUFUS ADAMS' FARM LANE Join Mark Rowe, author of *Acton: The History of Leathertown* as he leads a walking tour of Bower Street, the former farm lane of Rufus and Maria Adams, a founding family of Acton. Meet at the Acton Town Hall, Willow street 7:00 PM.

September 17th - MHS General meeting—Tour of historic home reproduction of the Featherstone at 962 Stouff Crescent in Milton. This property is southeast of the intersection of Derry road and Hwy 25 and is accessible only from Yates Drive.

September 26, 2015, 10AM-4PM  
Annual Trafalgar Heritage Fair  
Heritage displays, activities and BBQ.

October 15th Milton Historical Society general meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith shop 7:30 PM tea and refreshments with guest presenter at 8:00 PM.

Halton Regional Museum—Flights of Folly—Learning from the passenger pigeon has been extended to the Labour Day weekend.





# *The Journal*

[Milton Historical Society](#)

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Telephone 905-875-4156

Fall 2015

Vol. 30 Issue 3

## **Special Notice**

Due to a change in the staff preparing and publishing *The Journal* the Fall 2015 issue (Vol. 30 Issue 3) was not prepared.

The Winter 2015 Issue contains all of the information that was moved over from the Fall issue.

This notice has been inserted here so that in the future we are not back looking for the Fall 2015 issue.

This page will appear on the web site and in the PDF consolidation for 2015.

Richard Laughton  
MHS Web Master

[web@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:web@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)



# The Journal

[Milton Historical Society](http://MiltonHistoricalSociety.com)

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Telephone 905-875-4156

December 2015  
Vol. 30 Issue 4

## Winter Edition



### Contents

President's Message	P. 1
T. C. Livingston	P. 2
Blacksmithing	P. 3
Milton Memories	P. 3
Archive Donation	P. 3
Edwin Earl House	P. 4
John Kipling Grave	P. 4
DeForest Cemetery	P. 5
UEL Plaque	P. 5
Featherstone Home	P. 6
MHS Book Fair	P. 6
Larry Celebrates 90	P. 7
Colouring Contest	P. 7
Christmas Potluck	P. 8
Calendar	P. 8
MHS Membership	P. 9
Application Form	P. 9

## President's Message *from Jan Mowbray*

We have come to my final message for this great Newsletter. My second and final term, as president of the Milton Historical Society, is winding down and I want you all to know how proud I have been to represent the Society. I've learned a lot about this town that, even as a resident of twenty-nine years, I did not know. It's been a great learning experience and I've met some wonderful people.

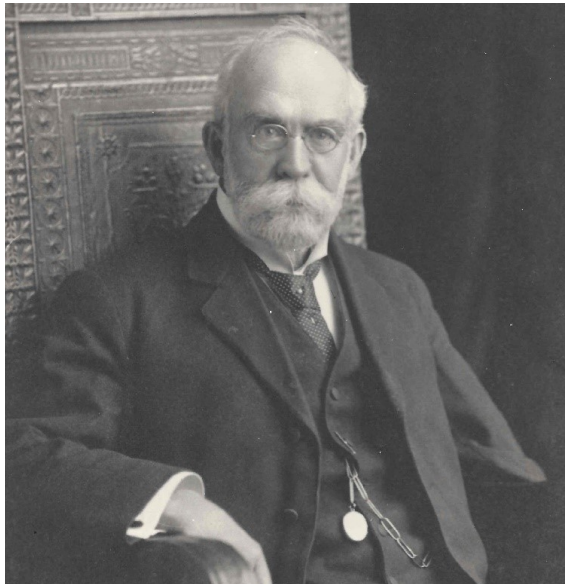
In some of my earlier President's messages, I have often stressed the importance of membership, volunteerism and fundraising. Membership gives us purpose and, as a member-run organization, we are always in need of volunteers and of new ways to fundraise, so that Society programs can continue.

My successor's term will begin at the January 2016 Annual General Meeting. The MHS executive has been a driving force in the Milton Historical Society for many years and I know the new president will do well at the helm. However, as the paths that lie ahead are navi-



gated, they will face those same ongoing challenges – and they are stiff challenges. In order for the Milton Historical Society to be sustainable, fund-raising and membership are critical. We are only as strong as our membership.

I wish the new Board well as they work to preserve Milton's history and I wish you all the best in the New Year.



## Thomas Chisholm Livingston

One of Milton's earliest promoters and an entrepreneur of national significance has been forgotten through the passage of time. Historian and local author, John McDonald, is currently researching the life and times of Thomas Chisholm Livingston, who was born in the Milton area in 1835. He was the son of John Livingston and Elizabeth Chisholm and was one of the first land surveyors in these parts. It was T.C. Livingston, who compiled the 1858 map of Milton, one of the earliest views of town. After serving his apprenticeship in Milton, he eventually relocated to Hamilton and, changing careers, succeeded in the insurance business, operating under the name Livingston & Moore for many years.

By the 1880s, Livingston moved to Western Canada and it was during this time that he owned significant parcels of land in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Niagara Falls. In about 1907, Livingston returned to Ontario and purchased lands in Milton adjacent to Martin's mill pond. He subsequently opened a lovely park on the site with tennis courts, lawn bowling facilities, canoe rentals on the pond and a band stand, which was complete with electric lights at a time when hydro power was in its infancy. At great sacrifice he invested heavily in Living-

ston Park, had colour postcards printed and promoted the town with an early form of tourism. Passenger cars loaded with people looking for relaxation and entertainment would travel to Milton from Toronto and Hamilton on the two railway lines to visit his wonderful playground. Livingston not only promoted early Milton through tourism, but was, in part, responsible for industrialist P.L. Robertson relocating his screw manufacturing works from Hamilton to Milton in 1908, thus creating one of Milton's first large scale industries, which employed generations of local families through the years. It was during this time that Livingston also envisioned an electric rail line running north-south through Milton (from Oakville to Guelph).

Livingston married twice and had a total of six children. His eldest son became Police Magistrate for Brantford, Ontario. Another son started as a prominent lawyer in Hamilton and eventually moved to Vancouver, where he established a flourishing legal firm, authored important legal texts, published books of poetry and had great political ambitions. His only daughter, Alice, returned to Milton with Livingston in 1907 and, at one time, operated a studio for art classes in the Dewar Block at Main and Martin Streets. Livingston, by that time twice a widower, lived in the Sproat House with his daughter. This lovely stone house, which is situated on the north shore of the mill pond, was built by John Sproat in 1856 as a Ladies Seminary. It is there that Thomas Chisholm Livingston lived from 1908 until his death in 1913. P.L. Robertson purchased the property from the Livingston estate in 1917 and lived there until his death in 1951.

*Anyone, who has stories, photographs, documents or any memorabilia that relate to T.C. Livingston, Livingston Park or P.L. Robertson, is asked to contact John McDonald at [haltonsketches@sympatico.ca](mailto:haltonsketches@sympatico.ca) or at (905) 693-8990.*

*Watch for a final paper on "The Life and Times of T.C." in spring, 2016.*



## 2016 Blacksmithing Classes

Blacksmithing classes are continuing in 2016 at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop under the instruction of blacksmiths, Darwyne Hourie and Larry Maughan.

There are two class levels, a limit of two to four students can be accommodated in each class and both are introductory classes, in which students learn the traditional art of blacksmithing. Students must have completed the Level One class in order to take the Level Two class.

Students will be provided with an anvil, hammers and safety gloves and must wear natural fibre clothing (cotton or wool), a hat, leather shoes/boots, gloves and bring their own brown bag lunch. Some of the skills and techniques taught include fire lighting, hammering and drawing out steel. Students will complete various projects, which they will take home.

### Basic Beginner Level One

Dates: March 19, April 23, May 28 and October 22 (Saturdays).

Time: 9am-5pm Cost: \$125.00

### Beginner Level Two

Dates: November 11, 12 and 13 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday).

Time: Fri 6-10pm, Sat/Sun 9am-6pm

Cost: \$300.00

ALL students must sign a liability waiver. Fees are due two weeks prior to the course start date. (Cheques payable to: Milton Historical Society.)

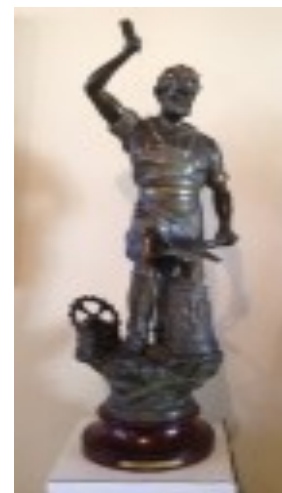
***For more information or to register, contact Bruce Carlin at the Milton Historical Society or email [bdcarlin@gmail.com](mailto:bdcarlin@gmail.com).***

## Donation to MHS Archives

This bronze statue of a working blacksmith is Czechoslovakian and is the latest donation to our MHS archives.

It stands about three feet tall and has been donated by Mr. Ed Janusas of Hamilton, Ontario, and was delivered to the archive by Mr. Janusas' daughter, Angela, and her husband.

The Milton Historical Society wishes to thank Mr. Janusas and his family for this wonderful gift, which is certainly appreciated!



## Memories of Milton Project

The Memories of Milton project is being undertaken by Milton Public Libraries in partnership with the Milton Historical Society. If you have stories of Milton, which you would like to share, then please join the *Memories of Milton* project in order to preserve these stories for the benefit of future generations.

Stories can be submitted in writing and oral stories can be recorded digitally. Photos, letters and historical documents can be submitted for digital scanning. Materials will be collected and included on a website for access by the entire Milton community.

***For further information, please visit:***

***<http://mpl.on.ca/>***

***[a\\_programs.php#memories](http://mpl.on.ca/a_programs.php#memories)***

***or contact [Katrina.mitchell@mpl.on.ca](mailto:Katrina.mitchell@mpl.on.ca).***

***Alternatively, you may leave a message for Katrina at (905) 875-2665 and she will return your call.***

## Edwin Earl House At Risk

The 1874 house (*right*), which is located at 111 Mary Street in Victoria Park Square and which is the house of Edwin F. Earl, a former Mayor of Milton, is at risk of being demolished by its owner, who wishes to build a garage/coach house, which would be attached to the existing house at 107 Mary Street.

According to a resolution passed on November 12, 2015, Heritage Milton strongly objects to the minor variance application, as they don't consider this to be a minor variance, but a distinctive change to the Character Area and to the historic lot fabric of downtown Milton. They recommend that the property be designated in order to save it.

Heritage Milton supports the findings of a heritage impact study, which indicates that the house is of cultural value, has local cultural significance due to its architectural, historical and associative value and should be left in situ.

The Milton Historical Society also supports this evaluation and would support designation should the owner pursue a demolition permit.

At the Milton Council Committee of the Whole meeting on November 23, 2015, motion to designate the property was deferred. The owners have decided to put their variance application on hold in order to investigate alternatives that would not involve demolishing the Edwin Earl house.

***All delegations are invited to return if and when Council deals with the matter again.***



## A 100-year-old Mystery Solved!

MHS archivist, Kay Bounsall, helped to solve a one hundred-year-old British mystery by simply clipping out information from old newspapers received by the MHS Archive.

There had been a long-running controversy, in the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, as to the location of the burial of John Kipling, who was the son of famous author, Rudyard Kipling. John Kipling had gone missing in 1915, during World War I, in France.

Kay gave a newspaper clipping to Richard Laughton, who is a World War I expert and who then passed the information along to his contacts. As a result of the information that Kay Bounsall discovered, an investigation followed and, after one hundred years, the final resting place of John Kipling was finally located.

The news was reported in the London Times newspaper in the United Kingdom.

***WAY TO GO, KAY!***

## United Empire Loyalist Plaquing at DeForest Cemetery, Milton

On Saturday, August 29, 2015, a special ceremony was held at DeForest Pioneer Cemetery, Milton, by the Hamilton branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada (which also represents Milton). A Loyalist burial plaque in honour of Loyalist, Abraham DeForest, UE, was unveiled.

The cemetery was originally a family plot, but grew to include other families who resided close to the original DeForest family homestead. One of the earliest markers is that of Abraham DeForest, UE (1767-1842).



*Doug Coppins, UE, Chair of the Hamilton branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, unveils the plaque.*

*Pat Blackburn, UE, (left), President of the Hamilton branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada and Marsha Waldie, UE, (right).*



*DeForest family descendants.*



## Marking Historic Properties



Our latest historic plaque is for the Kennedy/Featherstone Historic Home.

William and Lexey Kennedy had this mid-nineteenth century heritage farm house built in 1864. It is a rare example of a stone cottage in the regency style.

Today we know it as the Featherstone House, as Emerson Featherstone and his family owned it and lived in the house from 1885 until 2007.

Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes partnered with Mattamy Homes to reconstruct and conserve this lovely historic home, which is now located on Stoutt Crescent in Milton.

At the MHS General Meeting, which took place on Thursday, September 17, 2015, participants went on an outdoor walkabout of the Featherstone House property to observe the results of the restoration and to view the newly installed commemorative sign.

The visit was followed by refreshments at the Waldie Blacksmith and Carriage Shop and a chance to view displays of historic photos and renovation pictures and to hear a talk about the history of the home.



*MHS members examine the newly installed commemorative sign.*

## MHS Annual Bookfair

The 2015 MHS Annual Bookfair was hosted on Saturday, November 28, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. Stuart Hill was on hand with book binding demonstrations and our MHS authors, along with our neighbouring historical societies, were well-represented.

The Milton Historical Society acknowledges the participation of Nassagaweya Historical Society, Burlington Historical Society, Trafalgar Historical Society, Oakville Historical Society, Halton Region Museum, Paul Anderson, Stuart Hill, John McDonald, Jim Dills and Wayne Podrats.

*A special thanks to Gloria Brown and Pam McLean for organizing the Annual Bookfair this year.*

## Larry Maughan's 90th Birthday

Larry Maughan, of Hamilton, Ontario, has been a volunteer blacksmith at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop for many years and MHS members got together with Larry in the Carriage Room on Saturday, October 24, 2015, to honour him and to celebrate the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.



Bruce Carlin also visited at the home of Larry's daughter, Kate Morrison, when she held an informal tea in Larry's honour on Saturday, October 10, 2015, also in celebration of Larry's milestone day.

***Happy 90th, Larry!!***



## Winner of 2015 MHS Childrens' Drawing Contest

The 2015 MHS Childrens' Drawing Contest drew to a close on August 1, 2015. In order to win, children were to draw or paint their favourite historic building in Milton for submission to the contest.

The talented winner, 8-year-old Chloë-Anne, chose to draw the house on 25 Victoria Street, Milton, and won a copy of the MHS publication *Memories of Milton* and \$20 for her efforts. Among her favourite things about old Milton are going for frozen yogurt on Main Street and visiting the Mill Pond. Chloë-Anne and her brother, Spencer, visited the MHS to show off her masterpiece and to claim the prizes.

***Congratulations, Chloë-Anne !***



## **Christmas Potluck Dinner 2016**

MHS members and friends joined in the Christmas celebrations at the annual Milton Historical Society Potluck Dinner on Thursday, December 17, 2015, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. The games, music, carols, delicious food and good cheer were enjoyed by all and non-perishable food items were collected for the local food bank.



## **Calendar of Events**

**Thursday, December 17, 2015, 6:30pm** - Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room.

**Thursday, January 21, 2016, 8:00pm** - Annual General Meeting and Show And Tell at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room.

**Thursday, February 18, 2016** - Monthly Meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. **7:30pm** refreshments with guest speaker at **8:00pm**.

**Monday, February 22, 2016, 10:00am - 2:00pm** - Heritage Day Open House at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. Heritage displays and activities.

**Thursday, March 17, 2016** - Monthly Meeting at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. **7:30pm** refreshments with guest speaker at **8:00pm**.





# The Milton Historical Society

Preserving Milton's History for Future Generations

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

email [info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca) 905-875-4156

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### **Membership dues** (Check all categories that apply)

\_\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_\_ Family \$40

\_\_\_\_ Youth Free

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_\_ Single \$25

\_\_\_\_ Yes, as a new member I wish to receive the Journal and other e-communications and understand I can unsubscribe at any time

## **VOLUNTEER**

Join our volunteer team - please circle your interest(s)

EXECUTIVE- WEBMASTER - FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR - RESEARCH

ARCHIVES- NEWSLETTER- PUBLIC OUTREACH - MEMBERSHIP

## **DONATION**

I wish to make a separate donation to the society in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_

A Tax Receipt will be issued for all donations totaling \$25.00 or more.

The Milton Historical Society is a registered charity #110041358RR0001

Mail completed form and remittance to:  
Milton Historical Society  
16 James St. Milton, On  
L9T 2P4

Please make cheques payable to  
The Milton Historical Society  
Thank You