



The Journal

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

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Telephone 905-875-4156

March 2016
Vol. 31 Issue 1

Spring Edition



O.A.B.A. Meets At The Waldie Blacksmith

O.A.B.A., Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association, held their February, 2016, membership meeting in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop with our MHS blacksmiths, Larry Maughan and Darwin Hourie, hosting. O.A.B.A. members share knowledge through demonstrating blacksmithing techniques to each other.



MHS ANNUAL GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016



On April 9, 2016, from 9:00am to 2:00pm, the Milton Historical Society will be holding our **Annual Garage Sale** at our headquarters at **The Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street, Milton.**

We will accept donations of almost anything, **except** large pieces of furniture and used clothing. Donations may be left at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop on Wednesday or Saturday mornings, between 9:30am and 12:00pm, or phone (905) 876-2651 or (905) 875-4156 for pick-up.

Items, which are not sold, will be donated to the Milton District Hospital Garage Sale. All proceeds will go toward the maintenance of our historic building.



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President's Message *from Mandy Sedgwick*

As the new MHS president, I'm looking forward to working with the MHS Board and I would encourage all MHS members to get involved in the goings-on at the Archives and the Blacksmith Shop.

There will be no shortage of events and projects, big and small, with which to lend a hand. Our volunteers are golden!

I welcome all suggestions, so please don't hesitate to contact me through the Society with your ideas.

Rent The MHS Carriage Room

The Carriage Room is available to be rented. It is suitable for small board and executive meetings, workshops and lecture-type meetings. The room comfortably accommodates 25 people, seated.

For rates, bookings and more information, please contact MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.



***You are Halton
and we'd like
to meet you!***

To commemorate the 200th anniversary of the 1816 founding of Halton County, the Heritage Services Section of the Regional Municipality of Halton is creating a new travelling exhibit.

Entitled ***Who is Halton?***, it will be on display in the fall of 2016 in the Rotunda at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, and will travel to other locations in the Region after that.

Heritage Services staff have been conducting interviews throughout the Region, capturing personal stories and memories of life in Halton. These stories, told by the residents of the region, will be placed in the exhibition alongside interviews with historical figures.

You are invited to come by **The Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton, on either Wednesday, April 13 or Thursday, April 14, 2016**, to share your stories and to explain what Halton means to you.

To reserve a specific time to meet, ***please contact Claire Bennett, Assistant Curator and Collections Coordinator, Halton Heritage Services, at claire.bennett@halton.ca or 905-825-6000, Ext. 3441.***

To access an electronic version of the interview questions, follow and share this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GB2LVYD>.

Thank you for your continued support in promoting and sharing this Region's history. We look forward to hearing your story!

Victoria Park Upgrade Project

The Town has reviewed all comments and have developed a preferred concept plan based on the following three goals:

1. Improve function of existing park features:

Walkway Improvements – Replacement of uneven walkway surfaces to ensure safe passage through the park, including meeting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requirements. The existing main diagonal walkway will be widened to better accommodate safe two-way traffic.

Gazebo – The existing gazebo will be reviewed for minor repairs/maintenance if required.

Park servicing (electrical/lighting) – The condition of the existing pathway lights and electrical system will be assessed for restoration and improved function (as per current standards).

Drinking fountain – The feasibility of improving the function of this existing feature will be assessed.

Central focal feature – The Town will look into the feasibility of incorporating a scaled down water feature, that would require less maintenance than the existing feature, for incorporation into the central seating area.

(continued on next page)

2. Protect and enhance the park's heritage, identity and character:

Commemorative Park Items maintained, protected and repaired (if required) —

- i. Cenotaph
- ii. War Trophy (WWI German gun)
- iii. Commemorative trees and benches
- iv. Library bell and plaques

Interpretive signs and plaques — New signs and/or plaques will be added at key locations explaining the importance of significant features and the park's history

Trees —

- i. The trees within Victoria Park will continue to be professionally assessed and, where feasible, measures will be implemented to ensure tree health well into the future. This may involve the removal of trees in very poor health trees or heavily infected with Emerald Ash Borer.
- ii. The addition of new trees will ensure a mature, healthy canopy into the future.
- iii. Mature ash trees that are in good health will be reviewed for the feasibility of injecting an insecticide that controls Emerald Ash Borer to prolong their life.
- iv. Existing trees will be protected during construction, so that they are not adversely affected by park upgrades and any layout changes will not negatively affect their health.

3. Provide upgrades to ensure the continued enjoyment of the park:

Play area — The play area will be in approximately the same location, but more central to the park. Play elements will be

in keeping with the character of the park.

Seating — Additional seating in key areas will be incorporated into the design (Cenotaph/playground/walkways), while maintaining the existing open space within the park.

Cenotaph — An expanded gathering space will improve the function of the Cenotaph area for Remembrance Day ceremonies. An additional secondary walkway will be added to link the main pathway to the war trophy (WWI German gun) and the Cenotaph. Space will be maintained for seasonal floral displays (annual flowers) as per the existing layout.

Central seating area — The central walkway will link directly to a seating area with benches, picnic tables and play feature as a passive gathering area.

Pedestrian entrances — Pedestrian entrances will be designed to provide control of vehicle access into the park and accent the prominent park entry points, including at the intersection of Brown and Mary Streets, King and Bell Streets and the entrance off King Street.

Please consult the Victoria Park project page on the Town of Milton website for additional information on the park redevelopment and to review the preferred concept plan:

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

Pending Council approval, the project will begin in the 2016 construction season and Victoria Park will not be open for public use during this time.

Milton and the Legacy of the Martin Family

by Sandy McInnes

Milton may have been named in honour of the poet, John Milton, but it was also named for the "mill town" that it was and it owes its very existence to one courageous and industrious family, the Martins.

Jasper Martin and his wife Sarah (Coates) left Newcastle, England on May 17, 1818. They were both just 21 years of age and with them were their 3-year-old son, John, and his 4-month-old brother, Joseph. They arrived at York (now Toronto) in August, 1818, and lived there for three years. In 1820, a third child, a girl, was born, but died in infancy.

While they lived in York, Jasper received 100 acres of land from the British Crown, which was described as Lot 14, Concession 2, Township of Trafalgar, Halton County, in the District of Gore.

On October 15, 1821, Jasper, Sarah and family settled on the property allotted to them and, in addition, purchased another 100 acres of land from one Joseph Whitefield, who subsequently returned to England.

Young Jasper was clever, industrious and forward thinking and he recognized almost immediately that there was a need for a grist mill to serve the pioneer settlers in the district. He was soon hard at work erecting a simple frame building and, by 1822, had a grist mill in operation. In 1825, he followed this with both a saw mill and an ashery.

Early settlers to this area endured many



hardships and the Martins experienced more than their fair share. Only the bare details exist, but the sad facts are that both Jasper and Sarah lived tragically short lives. Sarah passed away at age 33 and Jasper died at age 36.

Five children were born to them during the short span of their lives: the aforementioned John and Joseph, the infant, Hannah, who passed away, and two more boys, Edward and William, both of whom were born in Milton.

Jasper Martin was responsible for the damming of Sixteen Mile Creek and the creation of the mill pond. The work for this was done entirely by hand but, as the need for depth increased, ox drawn barges were employed to remove the mud and silt.

According to one local story, during a flood, the bank of the pond gave way.

(continued on next page)

Living close by was an old woman, who kept pigs and apparently, as the waters rose, the woman, her pigs and some buildings floated down the creek together.

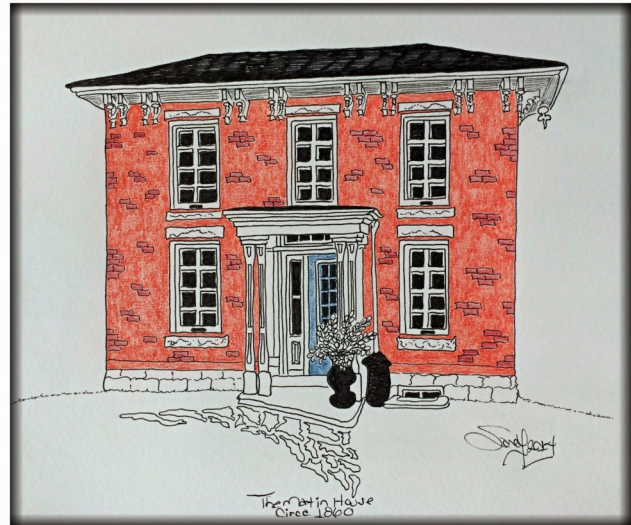
After Jasper Martin died in 1833, his sons carried on the operation of the grist and saw mills. For all the prosperity that the pond and the creek brought the Martin family, it also brought them tragedy. In 1846, youngest son, William, was drowned in the pond and eldest son, John, later drowned in the Martin Street creek in 1871.

The mill building, which is pictured in my sketch on the previous page, was built in 1856, the year before which Milton was incorporated as a town. This mill was powered by the mill pond and by Sixteen Mile Creek, which fed the pond.

At some point in time, Joseph Martin went to Australia and during that time the mill was operated by a local man, John White, and by John Martin.

The mill was in operation from 1856 until 1963, when it was destroyed by fire. Occasionally during this time, others may have operated or rented the mill, but it was always owned by the Martin family.

The Martin family are rightly regarded as the founders of the town for, if it were not for Jasper's ingenuity, the mill pond and mill town - "Milton" - would never have come into existence.



Although the mill itself is now gone, one needs not to look too far to see reminders of the Martin Family. The mill pond and its grounds are situated in the centre of the old town and are a beautiful area now called Centennial Park, which is frequented by many.

Adjacent to the park is Martin Street, named for the family and, sitting proudly on Martin Street, facing both the pond and the park, is the stately Martin family home, built in 1860 by Jasper's son, Joseph.

The original Milton Town Hall is a short distance away, also built by Joseph in 1865 for the princely sum of \$5,000.

While the mill that created Milton is but a distant memory, the rich legacy of an intrepid pioneer family, the Martins, will live on forever in the town, which many of us now call home.

Follow Sandy McInnes on his blog at sandymcinnnes.blogspot.ca.

MHS Corporate Memberships Are Now Available

We have our first Corporate member! MHS extends a warm welcome to **Laughton Management of Milton, Ontario**, and thank them for their interest and support.

MHS annual Corporate membership fees are \$100 for companies, who have 10 or fewer employees, and \$200 for companies, who have 11 or more employees.

There are some memberships, which have not yet been renewed for 2016. We should hate to lose interested members. If you have not yet renewed your MHS membership for 2016, kindly complete the form on the last page of this Journal and forward it, with your membership fee, to the **MHS, Attention: Sue Platt**.

Thank you.

Marking Milton's Historic Properties

This program is offered by the Milton Historical Society for property owners of historic commercial, residential, industrial, civic and religious buildings, who recognize the importance of their building to Milton's history.

The owner receives a written report of the property along with an historic plaque, which is to be mounted on the historic building. There are now in excess of 150 buildings, which are marked with our white and black plaques. Our Plaquing Director, Marsha Waldie, and her team have recently completed three properties:

25 Victoria Street

Built in approximately 1880 by Henry Watson, who was a druggist residing on Sarah Street. Mr. Watson may have had this home built as a rental property. The house was originally a one-storey home, with the second storey being added in 1899. Albert Roach, the station agent for the G. T. R., resided here with his wife, Alice, and family.

33 Victoria Street

Built in approximately 1890 by Sydney Young, who also owned the two lots just to the east of this one. He operated a planning mill on these lots. In 1891, Mr. Young, along with John and Robert Steward, John Hunter and Duncan Dewar, were the principal stockholders of the Ball Electric Light Company, Milton's first electric plant, which was located at the northwest corner of Victoria and Elizabeth Streets.

212 Main Street

In 1853, Samuel Fordham Taylor purchased this property along with some other lots to the west. He was a tanner and currier by trade and operated the Samuel Fordham Taylor Tannery on this property before the street had really developed. This business was one of the earliest industries of Milton.

To learn more about MHS plaquing, visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca, email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

Book Donation: *They Shall Not Grow Old*

Mrs. Lyle Dales has donated a book to the Milton Historical Society archive, which is entitled *They Shall Not Grow Old*. It is a memorial to all those Canadians, who took part in the R.C.A.F. during the Second World War.

It contains a short biography of each of the 18,000 Canadian airmen and airwomen, who wore the R.C.A.F. uniform and who lost their lives between September, 1939, and August, 1945. *Thank you to Mrs. Dales for her donation of this important reference book.*

Donation of Rare Photograph

The MHS would like to thank Mr. Ed Whitlock for his recent donation of a rare photograph of the Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Company Limited, which was located in the Kelso area.

Thank You to Floyd Paul

We would like to express our thanks to Mr. Floyd Paul for contributing his time and expertise in maintaining our building. We appreciate all of his hard work.

Local Honey from Willow Grove Heritage Farm

Karin Tomosky Chambers, our MHS Secretary and resident apiarist, is generously donating \$2 to the MHS from every \$12 jar of honey that is sold by the MHS.

Karin's bees work hard throughout the warmer months to make this honey, which is pure 100% Ontario, extra white honey. It is raw, unpasteurized, unfiltered, unheated and contains edible pollen and beeswax (which forms a cap on the honey).

To purchase this local honey or for more information on Willow Grove Heritage Farm, contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

MHS ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR FOR CANADA'S 150TH

The Milton Historical Society is planning to print a 15-month calendar in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary.

It will be available for purchase in September, 2016, and will feature many historic photographs of old Milton, which have never before been published.

Rev. Canon Robert Brownlie and *The Art Of C. W. Jefferys*



On Thursday, March 17, 2016, the MHS guest speaker, the Rev. Canon Robert Brownlie, presented on *The Art Of C. W. Jefferys*. Born in Rochester, England, in 1869, Jefferys arrived in Toronto, Ontario, with his family around 1880. This prolific and influential artist had an intense interest in history and his reputation rests principally on his accurate and meticulous portrayal of early Canadian life.

Curling In 1871 — *An excerpt from the Georgetown Independent*

“February 23, 1871.

CURLIANA. --- A friendly game was played on the 21st, between the Milton and Esquesing clubs, at Stewarttown, resulting in the defeat of the Miltonians by a majority of 20 points. The following is the score:

MILTON.	ESQUESING.
Rink No. 1.	
E. Morse	F. Dundas
Wm. Panton	-- Neilson
John Sproat	H. Toast
John Dewar, skip – 17	Capt. Johnston, skip – 35

Rink No. 2.	
George Burrows	George Hardy
James Waldie	Dougald McKechnie
Joseph Martin	A. Neilson, jr.
G. Wilkinson, skip – 21	Abram Stark, skip – 24

Rink No. 3.	
R. Hawthorne	A. Neilson, sen.
James Frazer	Henry Ross
Wm. Scott	Wm. Shanks
J. Martin, skip – 22	W. Wilson, skip – 21

A game was also played at Milton on the 17th, between a rink of the Esquesing and one of the Milton club, resulting in favor of the latter by a majority of 10 points.”

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 17, 2016 - Monthly Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. **7:30pm** refreshments with guest speaker at **8:00pm**. *The Art Of C. W. Jefferys* by Reverend. Canon Robert Brownlie.

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - Annual Garage Sale at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. **9:00am to 2:00pm**. Donations may be left at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop on Wednesday or Saturday mornings, between 9:30am and 12:00pm, or phone (905) 876-2651 or (905) 875-4156 for pick-up.

Thursday, April 21, 2016 - Monthly Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. **7:30pm** refreshments with guest speaker at **8:00pm**. *The History of Canadian Broadcasting* by Kealy Wilkinson, Executive Director of the Canadian Broadcasting Museum Foundation.

Thursday, May 19, 2016 - Monthly Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. **7:30pm** refreshments with guest speaker at **8:00pm**. *The Osler Castle of Collingwood* by Sandy McInnes.

Thursday, June 16, 2016 — June Potluck at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. Doors open at **6:00pm**, dinner is at **6:30pm**. *Developers Of The Early Subdivision Plans In Urban Milton* by Marsha Waldie and company.



The Milton Historical Society

Preserving Milton's History For Future Generations

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Email: info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca Telephone: 905-875-4156

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(Check all categories that apply)

____ New Member

____ Family \$40

____ Youth (Free)

____ Renewal

____ Single \$25

____ Corporate (10 or fewer employees) \$100

____ Corporate (11 or more employees) \$200

____ Yes, I wish to receive the Journal newsletter and other e-communications and I understand that 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

Please make cheques payable to: Milton Historical Society

Please mail completed form and remittance to:

Milton Historical Society

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Thank You!



The Journal

Milton Historical Society

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

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June 2016
Vol. 31 Issue 2

Summer Edition



MHS celebrated the arrival of summer with the annual June Pot Luck Supper on Thursday, June 16, 2016.

This year we visited St. Stephen's Church in Hornby, Ontario. The church, built in 1837, is located on the south side of Steeles Avenue, between the 8th and 9th Lines.

It was a beautiful evening and our delicious supper was followed by a tour of historic St. Stephens Anglican Church and Cemetery by Mr. Ken Whaley.

We thank you, Ken, for an excellent tour!

St. Stephen's Anglican Church Cemetery is the interment location for Thomas Racey (1791-1881) and his family. Thomas served in the War of 1812-14 and married Helen Nelles, the daughter of the Honourable Abraham



Nelles of Grimsby. Thomas was also the Land Deed Registrar for Halton and lived in Milton.

Also interred at St. Stephen's is Major Leslie E. Bradley (1889-1979), who served in WWI and who was awarded, among other metals, a Belgian Croix de Guerre for valour on the battlefield. He served from 1914 through 1919, fighting at Ypres, Vimy Ridge and Passchendaele, to name but a few battles.



MHS ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR FOR CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY



The Milton Historical Society is producing a 15-month calendar in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary.

It will be available for purchase beginning in late August, 2016, and will feature many historic photographs of old Milton, which have never before been published.

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Contributing Editor: Barbara Fitzsimons



President's Message *from Mandy Sedgwick*

From: info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2016 12:14 PM

To: Premier Kathleen Wynne; David Oraziatti; Indira Naidoo-Harris; Gary Carr; Mayor G. Krantz; Colin Best ; Mike Clutte ; Rajiv Warikoo

Subject: Closure and Relocation Land Registry Office

Importance: High

Milton Historical Society highly objects to the upcoming closure and relocation of the Halton Land Registry Office from Milton to Region of Peel, Brampton.

This decision will be a serious detriment to the research services provided by all Halton Regional Historical Societies, all four municipal heritage committees, Halton Regional Museum, our local genealogical society, Halton residents pursuing personal family genealogical information, local land surveyors, developers seeking information on Halton property and the list goes on.

Can the Ministry not relocate the Land Registry Record Office within Halton Region and **NOT** in Brampton/Peel Region?

Halton Land Records need to remain in HALTON - our heritage and history is important to everyone.

Sincerely,

Mandy Sedgwick

President, Milton Historical Society

2016 MHS Annual Garage Sale Successful!

The MHS Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, April 9, 2016, was a great success!

All proceeds are for the maintenance of our historic building.

Special thanks to Pam McLean, Gloria Brown and the dedicated team of hard-working MHS volunteers, who contributed to the success of this event!

**Town of Milton Council
Notice of Statutory Public Meeting
Main & Mill Street Condominium Proposal**

**Monday, June 27, 2016, 7:00pm
Mattamy Theatre, Milton Centre for the Arts
1010 Main Street East, Milton**

Call to Action to oppose this application. Share the information with others.
Plan to attend and support *Save Old Milton* Steering Committee.

You are asked to submit your concerns for the record in writing to:
Mr. Christian Lupis, Sr. Manager, Planning Dept., Town of Milton,
email: christian.lupis@milton.ca.

You can also forward your submission to **Town of Milton Council,**
email: executiveservices@milton.ca.

One can also make a verbal presentation regarding this issue
at this Council Meeting.

*(The Town has installed two notice boards for the upcoming meeting re this proposal:
one on Mill Street and one on Main Street, at Bumpers.)*

Gone But Not Forgotten: 13 Charles Street
by Marsha Waldie, UE.

Charles Street was named after Dr. Charles Gardener. Number 13 is located at the intersection of Charles and Mary Streets. Today this site supports a short strip mall, just north of The Canadian Legion Building. Dr. David Robertson, MD, owned the property in 1868. He served as Milton's MPP from 1879-92 and was the Land Registrar of Halton from 1897-1912. The property was transferred to his son Dr. Wm. Edgar Robertson, in 1814. Wm. Edgar served as a medical missionary in China for many years. He has been recognized on the Town of Milton's Walk of Fame at the Town Hall. This home was demolished in 1987.



*To learn about MHS plaquing,
visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca,
email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca
or call (905) 875-4156.*

The Anderson Fonds Project with *Richard Laughton*

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In January, 2016, The Anderson Fonds, a collection of over 100 photographs, were donated to the Milton Historical Society by the **Glanbrook Heritage Society** of Binbrook, Ontario. The photographs came from a collection held by Colin and Carol Anderson of Mount Hope and Oakville, Ontario, and were originally owned by Robert Anderson Jr. of Milton (Nassagaweya).

The photographs depict various sites, where Canadian soldiers saw duty during World War I, including Ypres, Courcellette and Mons. A number of photographs related to Milton Soldiers, Cedric Harrop and Frederick Walsh, are included.

To find out more about *The Anderson Fonds Project*, refer to the MHS website by following this link:

<http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/military/project-reports/the-anderson-fonds/>.

To view the photographs on the website in the different categories, please use the drop-down menu at the top of the page. For example:

Military / Project Reports / The Anderson Fonds / Anderson Fonds: Grave Sites.

For many years, the MHS has been working on the digitization of documents, photographs, audio recordings and video records, which are contained in the MHS archives.

The MHS website contains a complete list of the Images Archives, Video Archives, Audio Archives and Digital Publications.

There are also a number of videos, which are related to the Town of Milton, available via YouTube, and which are listed on and linked from the MHS Social Media page.

By way of a digitization process, the MHS is also working on the archiving of historic 8mm films of life in early Milton. If you have 8mm film, which you want to share with the MHS, please contact us at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or drop in and visit us at the MHS archives during scheduled hours.

We also welcome contributions of photographic material for the Milton Images Project or any other audio or visual heritage product you may possess.

If you are not ready yet to donate your material or copies of your material to the Milton Historical Society, you may wish to consider the option of adding a *Genealogical Will* to

your estate. This simple one-page document can be prepared and left with your other estate documents. If you wish assistance with completing a genealogical will, please contact the MHS at your convenience or refer to the MHS website.



The colours of the 75th Toronto Battalion leaving La Hulpe for England.



*Tara Hill Cemetery at Albert, France.
(This is now Bapaume Post Military Cemetery.)*

Official Opening of New Boyne Public School

Friday, May 6, 2016, marked the official opening of the new Boyne Public School, which is located at Louis St. Laurent Avenue and Farmstead Drive in Milton.

Local dignitaries, including Mayor Gord Krantz, MPP Indira Naidoo-Harris and representatives from the Halton District School Board, spoke to all of the children

and staff, who were gathered in the school's gymnasium for the occasion.

Milton Historical Society was represented by archivist, Brenda Bousfield.

She spoke briefly about the history of the original Boyne Public School, which is still standing at Regional Road 25 and Britannia Road in Milton.

This colourful poster was presented to Boyne Public School Principal, Peter Marshall. The poster, which is framed and has stories and pictures of the early school, is now on display in the foyer of the new school.

Boyne Public School (S.S. #1) 1869 - 1957

THE FIRST BOYNE SCHOOL was built in 1828 upon the ground donated by one Peter Schram. Families sending children to school agreed to pay the teacher seven shillings and sixpence per head every three months, and single men to be boarded out with the children's parents. The first teacher was J. Dickinson, from New York State. The second came from Pennsylvania and is said to have had "a great knowledge of loads and hoop-snakes." There was also William Frees who was accustomed to use the strap unmercifully. One day, acting on the theory they might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb, young Willie Pettigrew and two other boys pried open the teacher's desk, took out the hated strap, dropped it into the old box stove and watched with delight as it was consumed by the flames. The aftermath is not recorded! Excerpt from *Halton's Pages of the Past* (Gwen Clarke)

BOYNE IS NAMED for the Boyne River in northeast Ireland, where the famous Battle of the Boyne was fought in 1690. It has been written that the community originally wanted to honour one of its earliest settlers and first postmaster, a man named McLarnen, and call it McLarnenville but the name was considered too long. Boyne is situated approximately 2 kilometres south of Milton on Regional Road 25 and was settled about 1818. The settlement once had a woolen mill, saw mill, school house and post office, which operated out of McLarnen's home and opened about 1861. Bowes Methodist Church, located immediately north of Boyne (now St. Clair Masonic Temple), was named for Joseph Bowes who gave the land for the church and cemetery. McLarnen operated a blacksmith shop on the northeast corner, which was taken over by Richard Dolby about 1880. In 1925 Dolby's son, George, tore down the old blacksmith shop and erected the block building that served as a garage and gas station for many years. Excerpt from *Halton's Heritage* (John McDonald)

BOYNE—A small post office station in the township of Trafalgar, county of Halton. Distant from Brant's a station of the Great Western railway, 8 miles, the S.E. from Hamilton 21 miles. Mail daily. Population about 20.

Bigger Charles, farmer
Bousfield William, farmer
Bowers Joseph W., farmer
Crozier Thomas, farmer
Dolby Joseph, farmer
Emmett Stephen, weaver
English William, farmer
Hunter James, farmer
James Archibald, farmer
Langrell William, farmer
McCartney Henry, farmer
Main James, farmer
Pettigrew Samuel, farmer
Robinson Andrew, farmer
Sherwood James, farmer
Standish Joseph, school teacher
Wallhouse John, butcher
Waugha Cha, postmaster, carriage maker

BLACKSMITH SHOP

LOVELLS DIRECTORY 1871

CIRCA 1922

BACK ROW: (left to right) Ethel Pell, P. Thompson, Edith Jarvis, Edith Dolby, Bertha Perry, Miss Stewart, Rose Pell, Eva Crozier, Alice Perry, Wilma Henderson.

CENTRE ROW: Clarence McCready, Norman McCready, Jack Thompson, Doug Dolby, Jack Jarvis, Harry Crozier, Addison Woodley, Mel Dolby, Stewart Thompson.

FRONT ROW: Dorothy Jarvis, Ruth Thompson, Ada Armstrong, unknown, Daisy Pell, Helen Sloan, Jane Royner, Jean Armstrong, unknown, Marjory Sloan, Billy Gilbert, George Perry, John Perry.

Courtesy of Milton Historical Society

Stone Buildings of Milton with Sandy McInnes



When I moved to Milton in the fall of 2014, one of the first things that captured my interest was the wealth of beautiful stone architecture in town. As an artist and lover of stone houses and structures, I appreciate each and every one for its individual character. However, there are two buildings in particular, who have captivated both my heart and imagination.

Not surprisingly, the first building on my list is our magnificent Town Hall, sitting on Court House Square, overlooking Victoria Park. It is actually referred to as *New Town Hall* when, after an extensive renovation in 1985, the seat of municipal government was moved here from its Main Street location.

It was originally known as the *Halton County Courthouse* and sits on four acres of land, which was donated to the County by prominent early settler, Hugh Foster. The main structure was completed in 1855 at a cost of £2,975. The building has always resembled a majestic castle and, even though it is

indeed not a castle, its fortifying appearance was built to convey solidity, permanence and the "strength of the law." A later addition was made to the north side, along with a courtyard addition, both which increased the size of the jail, most likely to accommodate the inmates — and the hangings! Yes folks, you heard me: hangings! In addition to serving as the courthouse, pioneer justice was also doled out here. There were, in fact, three hangings on record as having taken place at this spot.

The first took place in 1858, when Thomas Corner was publicly hanged for the murder of two women. The next occurred in 1862, when Edward Keenan was hanged for the murder of his own mother! The last known hanging was in 1882, but was not public. It was for the murder of a man and his daughter and the condemned was one Michael O'Rourke. I must say that, every time I pass the Town Hall, it gives me pause for thought!



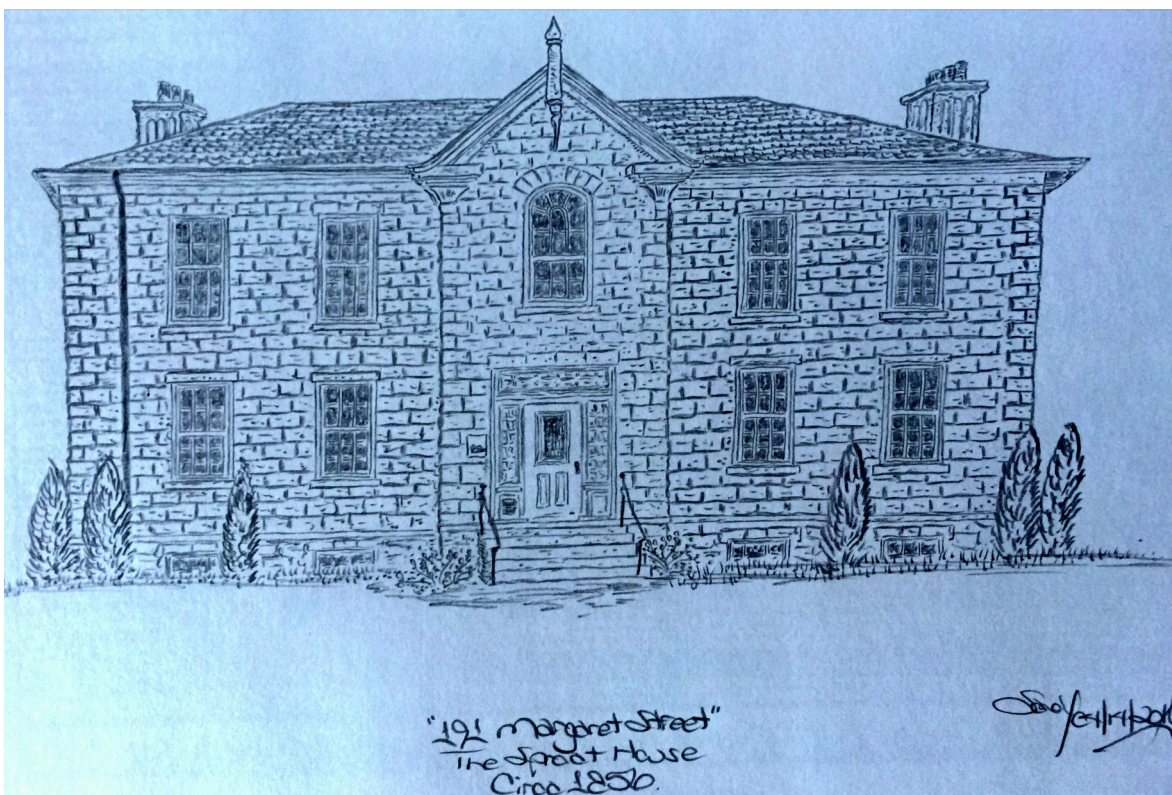
The next stone structure that I simply adore is the magnificent Sproat House at 191 Margaret Street. It was constructed in 1856, a year after the Court House was built, and sits on a prime piece of land adjacent to Livingston Park and overlooking our beautiful Mill Pond. It was built by John Sproat who, along with his brother, Adam, emigrated to Canada from Scotland in the early 19th century. Mr. Sproat was known, not only as a farmer and a wise investor, but as a dedicated contributor to his community.

The home originally functioned as a ladies' seminary, but over the years was called home by several different prominent Miltonians. Among them were Thomas C. Matheson, who was a Crown Attorney, Thomas C. Livingston, the developer and namesake of Livingston Park, and Peter L. Robertson, the inventor of the socket head screw. The home has been well maintained throughout the years and, like the Town Hall, occupies a

prominent spot in our beloved town.

Not only are these magnificent structures beautiful, they are also the products of our very surroundings. The stone for these buildings, as well as others in town, were quarried from the nearby Niagara Escarpment. Stone was a popular building material favoured by the early Loyalists and the sturdy, clean cut blocks of these beautiful buildings convey status, wealth and security. They are also a testament to the dedicated craftsmanship of the stonemasons, who were responsible for their construction.

Unlike our modern building methods, the stones for these structures were cut and shaped by hand and raised with good old-fashioned muscle, sweat and scaffolding! An endearing and little-known fact is that usually the builder would place a penny, which was minted in the year of construction, somewhere within the walls, as a testament to his work and to forever denote the date of construction.



MHS Corporate Memberships Are Now Available

MHS annual Corporate membership fees are \$100 for companies, who have 10 or fewer employees, and \$200 for companies, who have 11 or more employees.

There remain some memberships, which have not yet been renewed for 2016. We should hate to lose inter-

ested members. If you have not yet renewed your MHS membership for 2016, kindly complete the form on the last page of this Journal and forward it, with your membership fee, to the **MHS, Attention: Sue Platt.**

Thank you.

Now Donations and Payments to MHS Online

The MHS is pleased now to offer online donation on our website www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca !

It's an efficient way to make a donation to the MHS and, as a registered charity, the MHS is able to offer tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. To make a donation of any amount of your choosing, please click on the

PAY DONATION BUTTON shown on each page of the site in the **HEADER** or **FOOTER** and follow the directions.

MHS uses all financial contributions to fulfill the goals and objectives of the organization. No funds are allocated to pay the Volunteers that work tirelessly to fulfill the MHS obligations to preserve Milton's heritage!

Notes from the Archives *with Brenda Bousfield*

As we re-organize and add to our ever-growing MHS Archives collection, **Karen Pettit** has very graciously donated her family collection of *Mary Pettit*, who was Warden for Halton County.

MHS ARCHIVES NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

We have set up two computer workstations in accommodation of the digitizing of our MHS slide collection. Some simple training will be given to those individuals, who would like to assist us with this digitizing project.

*If you would like to volunteer in the MHS Archive,
please contact MHS at*

info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

Thank you!

Looking Ahead to Look Back by Jim Dills

How far back do you go to be historical? Reference recently an article in the *Canadian Champion*, which provided some strong links to current times — and the article was from March, 1983.

Then current administrator at Halton Region Museum, Ernest Buckner, outlined wide-ranging plans for the Museum. He hoped to increase the number of visitors in 1982 from 7,000 to 20,000, although he set no time limit. He had plans to develop programs in schools and to increase the number of volunteers to act as guides, researchers and display artists. He planned to revive the organization *Friends of Halton Museum*. Another goal was to eventually create an archive to preserve written records of the area.

Sound familiar? Representatives of the Museum were recently at the last meeting of the Milton Historical Society inviting individuals to participate in recording recollections.

At the meeting in 1983, Val Grimshaw was returned as president of Milton Historical Society.

Other officers named were Audrea Lear-Costigan, Don Hayward, Jessie Hamilton, Jean Butts, Robin Barbetta, Mel Robinson and Ken Lamb.

Adding to History

Like most families, you probably took a lot of pictures of events in Milton as children grew up. Today those pictures, that would also reflect recent Milton events, could be helpful at the Milton Historical Society Archives. Most photos are now digital and they will disappear soon, as houses are down-sized and collections are abandoned. Photos from the 1970s and 1980s could help carry on the Milton story.

Please look over your collection for photos that depict streets, buildings, events and particularly major changes, like construction of an underpass or a Main Street parade. Identify them and consider donating them to the MHS now for the benefit of future residents.



1953 Santa Claus Parade passing the McKersie & Thatcher Funeral Home in the background. Finlay McCallum leading the band. Milton Arena in the distant background on the left.

Local Honey from Willow Grove Heritage Farm

Karin Tomosky Chambers, our MHS Secretary and resident apiarist, is generously donating \$2 to the MHS from every \$12 jar of honey that is sold by the MHS.

Karin's bees work hard throughout the warmer months to make this honey, which is pure 100% Ontario, extra white honey. It is raw, unpasteurized, unfiltered, unheated and contains edible pollen and beeswax (which forms a cap on the honey).

To purchase this local honey or for more information on Willow Grove Heritage Farm, contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

Samuel Fordham Taylor, 1820 - 1906, Tanner, Currier. *by Marsha E. Waldie, UE.*

An excerpt from *Milton Area Biographies, Volume 4* (unpublished).

Samuel Fordham Taylor was born in England in March, 1820. In 1834, he purchased one of the first pieces of land to be sold by Henry Huffman, who owned the land located south of Milton's Main Street. Today this would be comprised of address numbers 190 through 212, fronting Main Street and, to the rear, on Mary Street, lots 8, 9, 11 and 19 in block 8 of the Foster Survey.

His occupation was that of a tanner and currier and the Samuel Fordham Taylor Tannery was one of the earliest industries in Milton and was located where Tony's Barbershop stands today. It was located on the aforementioned lots in the 1850s before the street had been developed.

In Montreal, on August 20, 1846, Mr. Taylor married Christianna Scott, who was born in 1822 and who died in 1900. They raised four children: Frances M., Samuel W., Jane W. and Christianna. The Taylor family resided on lot 9, which today is 190 Main Street, and the original house forms

part of the present structure at this location. Samuel later owned property on James Street and in 1865 appears to have built 57 James Street.

Samuel was a member of Milton Town Council from 1867-77. He also served on the Milton Mechanics Institute and Library Association.

He eventually sold his properties and left Milton in the 1880s, first residing in Walkerton, Ontario, then North Dakota, USA, and finally Alberta.

Mr. Taylor died in 1906 in Alberta, where he had been living with his daughter, Frances, and son-in-law, John Cumming. He was interred in Claresholm Cemetery. We assume that his wife, Christianna, may have been interred in Lake Township, Ramsey County, North Dakota, USA.

Research Sources:

K. Hogg/M. Waldie, The Canadian Champion, Milton Historical Society Archives, Moments in History by Jim Dills, Town of Milton Municipal Council by Brenda Whitlock, Census of Canada, Ancestry.ca

Rent The MHS Carriage Room

The Carriage Room is available to be rented. It is suitable for small board and executive meetings, workshops and lecture-type meetings. The room comfortably accommodates 25 people, seated.

For rates, bookings and more information, please contact MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

The Osler Castle of Collingwood by Sandy McInnes

A good crowd turned up at the MHS monthly meeting held in the Carriage Room on Thursday, May 19, 2016, for a fascinating multi-media presentation on the Osler Castle of Collingwood, Ontario, by our very own Sandy McInnes. Sandy is a local artist, writer and historian, who grew up in Collingwood but, who now calls Milton his home. It is the good fortune of the MHS that Sandy is our member.

He brought to life the story of Britton and Caroline Osler and the Osler Castle, which they built in Collingwood in 1893 and 1894. He spoke about the family, the construction and architecture of the castle and about the history of the castle and the surrounding area.



*Osler Castle, Collingwood, Ontario,
by Sandy McInnes.*

Thanks for a great evening, Sandy!

Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 16, 2016 — June Potluck at St. Stephen's Church in Hornby. Doors open at **6:00pm**, dinner is at **6:30pm**, followed by a tour of the historic church and cemetery by Mr. Ken Whaley.

Monday, June 27, 2016 — Statutory Public Meeting re Proposed Downtown Condominium Complex, **7:00pm** at the Mattamy Theatre, Milton Centre For The Arts, 1010 Main Street East, Milton.

For more info, visit <http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/historic-buildings/heritage-at-risk/downtown-historic-core/>.

Saturday, August 27, 2016 — MHS Canada's 150th Birthday Calendar goes on sale. **For more information, please contact MHS at** info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca **or call (905) 875-4156.**

Thursday, September 15, 2016 — Monthly Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room. Doors open at **7:00pm** with guest speaker at **7:30pm** and refreshments to follow. *Finding The HMS Erebus: The Franklin Expedition* by Scott Youngblut.



The Milton Historical Society

Preserving Milton's History For Future Generations

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Email: info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca Telephone: 905-875-4156

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(Check all categories that apply)

☐ New Member

☐ Family \$40

☐ Youth (Free)

☐ Renewal

☐ Single \$25

☐ Corporate (10 or fewer employees) \$100

☐ Corporate (11 or more employees) \$200

☐ Yes, I wish to receive the Journal newsletter and other e-communications and I understand that 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

Please make cheques payable to: Milton Historical Society

Please mail completed form and remittance to:

Milton Historical Society

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Thank You!



The Journal

Milton Historical Society

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Telephone 905-875-4156



MHS To Introduce New Book

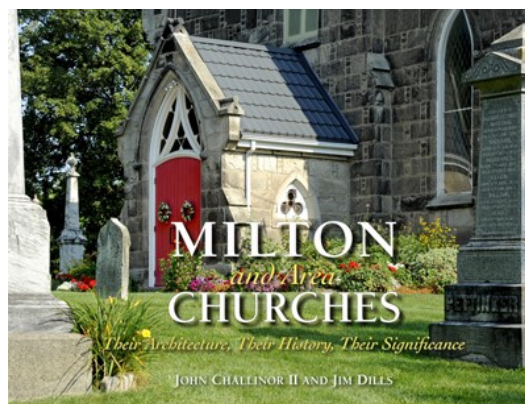
September 2016
Vol. 31 Issue 3

**Fall
Edition**



MHS will introduce its newest coffee table book at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop on Saturday, October 29, 2016, 10am to 12pm, when the first copies go on sale. Participants in its preparation will be on hand to sign copies.

Four years in preparation, the book features the research and text by John Challinor II and Jim Dills, matched with the professional photography of Peter K. Burian, Bob McDonald, Mike Schram, Mike Streeter and Michael Todd. All work has been contributed on a volunteer basis.



Milton and Area Churches will be similar in format to the earlier *Milton Streets*, which sold out so quickly, when it was introduced in 2007.

New Book cont'd on Page 2



MHS ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR FOR CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY



The Milton Historical Society has produced a 15-month calendar in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary, Milton's 160th and MHS's 40th!.

The calendars are **now available** at a cost of \$10 each and feature many historic photographs of old Milton, which have never before been published.

To purchase yours, visit the Milton Historical Society,
email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

New Book from Page 1

Thirty Milton and area churches are profiled in the new book, with emphasis on their architecture, history and significance. In addition, churches, which have been either repurposed or torn down, are presented as part of the development of churches.

For the Milton Historical Society, the book recognizes that “the church”, in its various denominations, was the first community centre. “It came before educational institutions, fraternal lodges or service clubs. Its buildings appeared in waves and its activities were the communal “glue” for early communities.”

“This book attempts to recognize and celebrate our inheritance of a wonderful group of historic buildings, which were built in various eras.”, the authors emphasize.

Milton and Area Churches was written, in part, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Dominion of Canada, the 160th anniversary of the establishment of the Corporation of the Town of Milton and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Milton Historical Society.

The 130-page book includes more than 180 color photographs, in addition to many historical photos of early churches, which have been demolished. A limited number of books will be printed and will sell for \$40 each. Be sure to purchase your copy on October 29!

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Contributing Editor: Barbara Fitzsimons



New MHS YouTube Video Gallery



Visit the new MHS YouTube video gallery by clicking on the YouTube icon at the top centre of the home page of the MHS website. Select any one of five videos posted there for your enjoyment. We thank our MHS webmaster, Richard Laughton, for helping to establish the MHS on social media. Also, join us on LinkedIn, follow us on Twitter and Like us on Facebook!



President's Message *from Mandy Sedgwick*

As autumn begins to arrive, we at the MHS are looking forward to an event-filled season:

Our monthly program chair, Bruce Carlin, has lined up some fascinating topics for our Thursday evening guest speaker series.

We now have our MHS Anniversary Calendar available for purchase and, at the end of October, we will be releasing our next publication, *Milton and Area Churches*.

On October 1st and 2nd, the MHS will once again host the Milton Area FASM Studio Tour.

Presently the MHS bus tour, on October 22, to St. Marys, Ontario, is virtually sold out, as only half a dozen tickets remain unpurchased...so, get your tickets now!

MHS archive volunteers are busy reorganizing to better preserve artifacts and information and to provide assistance to those, who contact us.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all ,who volunteer for the MHS in various ways, whether it be on the executive board, in the archives, in the shop or in assisting with events and displays.

Our Society is only as strong as its members and there is never a shortage of work or of areas, in which one can become involved.



Old Town Hall Fountain For Humans and Horses *submitted by Marsha Waldie*

On March 28, 1889, The Royal Templers of Temperance donated a water fountain to the Town of Milton. The Templers were a group of temperance workers during this time period.

They felt that the cool, clear water pouring forth from the fountain might quench the thirst and help to reduce the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The fountain stood, for many years, in front of our original Town Hall at 251 Main Street East. It was used by both humans and horses and, in days long past, it was located at the side of Main Street, so that horses could also drink from the trough. It was moved back



closer to the building around 1953.

This historic cast iron fountain, which has a beaver at the bottom of the pedestal, has been moved several times. It was moved to the property of the present Town Hall, which is located at Victoria Park Square, and placed by the back door of Hugh Foster Hall.

A few years ago, it was moved again, closer to the south side of Town Hall and is now used as a flower container. It's hoped that this important artifact will be moved into the re-developed Victoria Park to a prominent location with signage.

Jan Mowbray Receives 2016 Milton Senior Of The Year

Mayor Gord Krantz presented the 2016 Milton Senior of the Year award to the Milton Historical Society's own Jan Mowbray at the Town of Milton council meeting on June 27, 2016.

The Government of Ontario designates June as Seniors' Month to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of the province's seniors.

Established in 1994, the Senior of the Year Award honours one outstanding local senior in each municipality in Ontario and is presented during Seniors' Month every June. A community-wide call for nominations for the Senior of the Year Award took place in early 2016.

A long-time Milton resident for over 28 years, Jan has demonstrated leadership and dedication in her service to the Milton community. Jan presently sits on the MHS executive committee as a Past President.

Jan and Marsha now must make a date to tour the town with their lifetime Sr. bus passes. ;O)

Please accept our congratulations, Jan!!



Jan was presented with a framed certificate from the Town of Milton, honouring this award from the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat. She will also receive a lifetime transit pass from Milton Transit.

Condo Development Proposal Turned Down

The condominium development proposal was turned down by Town Of Milton Council. Town staff advised, in their June 27, 2016, meeting, that council should refuse the needed official plan and zoning bylaw amendments because the proposed development would be located on a high-risk floodplain and, in staff's opinion, isn't consistent with provincial or Conservation Halton (CH) policies.

While the developer's lawyer asked for a deferral of the matter to allow more time for discussions with CH, council chose not to grant the request. Council went on to hear from about a dozen residents, including representatives of the citizens' group Save Old Milton and the MHS. A petition, which opposes the development and which contains 2,772 signatures, was presented.

We understand that the proponents have appealed to the OMB and we will continue to monitor the situation.



The development and fabrication of *Who Is Halton?* is nearing completion. The Halton Region Museum wishes to thank the many people, who took the time to lend their words and stories to this project. Without their contributions, this exhibition would not have been possible.

The *Who Is Halton?* exhibition will be open until the end of November, 2016, at the Halton Regional Centre, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, and will travel to libraries throughout Halton Region into 2017.

Now Donations and Payments to MHS Online

The MHS is pleased now to offer online donation on our website www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca !

It's an efficient way to make a donation to the MHS and, as a registered charity, the MHS is able to offer tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. To make a donation of any amount of your choosing, please click on the

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Local Honey from Willow Grove Heritage Farm

Karin Tomosky Chambers, our MHS Secretary and resident apiarist, is generously donating to the MHS 17% of all sales by the MHS. Jars are \$12 and \$24.

Karin's bees work hard throughout the warmer months to make this honey, which is pure 100% Ontario honey. *To purchase this local honey or for more information on Willow Grove Heritage Farm, contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.*





In September, 2016, a new World War One Cenotaph was created on the Grote Market in front of the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, Belgium. The Cenotaph is located adjacent to the German War Cemetery at Lange-mark Poelkapelle.

The Cenotaph will commemorate everyone involved in the conflict, both military and civilian, on all sides — all those who died, all those wounded, all those displaced and, of equal importance, their families and their communities.

In the war of 1914-1918, blacksmiths and farriers were indispensable in sustaining the war effort on all sides. On September 1 to 6, 2016, hundreds of blacksmiths from around the world gathered at Ypres to remember all those affected by the war and to create in one week, a Cenotaph based on the internationally recognized icon, the Flanders Field Poppy.

Up to 2000 poppies were forged from steel and arranged at the Poppy Cenotaph site, in rigid formation around its base, to echo and pay homage to the serried ranks of grave-stones and crosses honouring the dead in graveyards throughout the region.

There is one white poppy to remember those that suffered from shell-shock and were called cowards. These soldiers were not cowards, but “Victims of War”. The poppies are arranged to enable visitors to touch the Poppy Cenotaph to encourage them to take ownership.

Blacksmiths across Canada organized poppy-forging events with school groups, com-

munity groups and the general public, as a way of publicizing the WWI Cenotaph. The intention was to facilitate conversation about the history of WWI, the sacrifices made, the lives lost and the impact around the world and across generations, by literally forging a physical connection between the present and the past.

OABA (Ontario Artist Blacksmith Association) participated in fundraising and sponsorship of this initiative and, on May 7, 2016, **Larry Maughan, one of our resident MHS blacksmiths**, participated in a poppy-forging gathering of OABA blacksmiths and families, which took place fittingly in Guelph, Ontario, at the birthplace of Lt.-Col. John McCrae, who wrote his famous poem *In Flanders Fields* in a dug-out near Ypres in April 1915.



In Guelph, Larry Maughan, left, looks on as a fellow blacksmith forges one of the many poppies for the Cenotaph in Ypres, Belgium. The house, in which Lt.-Col. John McCrae was born, is in the background.

Milton Soldiers of Evergreen Cemetery – Why are they there? by Richard Laughton

The following article is one in a series of articles that will appear in the MHS Journal on a quarterly basis. These stories relate to the Milton Soldiers, who served in the Great War of 1914-1921 (First World War). These articles are hyperlinked, so that further details can be researched from the [On-Line MHS Journal](#).

Soldiers of the Great War, who paid the ultimate sacrifice, would be expected to be found buried in the [Commonwealth War Grave Commission](#) (CWGC) cemeteries in Belgium and France. However, there are four (4) men of Milton, who met the strict requirement to have a CWGC headstone, and they are buried in the Milton Evergreen Cemetery. There is an additional soldier, who died of war injuries, but is not an official CWGC casualty, as he died “too late”. To be officially commemorated, the [CWGC Criteria](#) are that the person must have died during the war, in service or of causes attributable to service, during the period 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921. Remembrance Day is based on the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, but that was not the end of the war. The last of the Canadian troops in the Great War of 1914-1921 left the battle zone of Northern Russia in September 1919. The Versailles Peace Treaty was ratified on 19 January 1920 and the legislation that cancelled the declaration of war was passed on 31 August 1921.

[Private William James Allen #141847](#) is buried in Blk-050 Lot-6 8 1. He joined the 20th Halton Rifles (Canadian Militia) on 3 August 1915 and was transferred to the 76th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. After basic training in Canada, he was shipped to England, during which time he was hospitalized for chronic kidney disease. As a result of his ailment, he was shipped back to Canada on 16 August 1916 and was declared medically unfit for service on 17 February 1917. He died of chronic nephritis on 18 March 1917. Although Private Allen did not serve in active combat in the war, he met the CWGC criteria and is thus officially commemorated by a CWGC Headstone. He responded to the call of duty and served his country proudly.

[Private Edmund Adolphus Cooper #3112559](#) is buried in Blk-026 Lot-1 5 1. He was the only Milton casualty of the Great War, who did not voluntarily attest, but rather was drafted under the Military Service Act on 10 October 1918, during the final days of the action. Private Cooper was drafted into the 2nd Battalion, Canadian Garrison Regiment, units that were formed in the later stages of the war to provide protection of the Canadian fortresses as Halifax, Esquimalt and Quebec City, or to act as guards at internment of detention camps. While in training at Exhibition Stadium in Toronto, he became ill and was never able to serve in an active capacity. He died on 14 December 1918 of influenza complicated by bronchial pneumonia. His death was attributable to service and thus he is commemorated by a CWGC headstone in Evergreen Cemetery.

[Trooper Harold James Dent #551217](#) is buried in Blk-046 Lot-1 2 2. He was an American by birth and arrived in Milton when he was 4 months old. He and his parents moved west in 1912, where he attested to the Fort Garry Horse cavalry of the Canadian Expeditionary

Milton Soldiers of Evergreen Cemetery – Why are they there? cont'd.

Force on 28 October 1915. Private Dent served on active duty in France from February 1916 until he was wounded in the chest during a raid to cut the German wire with Bangalore torpedoes on 8 July 1917, a brave action for which he was awarded the Military Medal. The shrapnel was successfully removed from his chest and during his recuperation he took leave to return to Canada to visit his family prior to accepting an Officer's Commission in the Imperial Army. It was during his trip home that he succumbed to complications from his wounds, while in transit in Halifax on 18 April 1918. His father met his remains in Milton and he was buried in Milton Evergreen Cemetery. Trooper Dent is not memorialized on either the Victoria Park or the Haltonville Cenotaph, although his grave site is marked by an official CWGC headstone.

[Private Alfred James Evans #663090](#) is buried in Blk 053 Lot-4 7 1. An original of the 164th Canadian Infantry Battalion from Milton, he was subsequently transferred to the 102nd Battalion of the 11th Infantry Brigade, 4th Canadian Division. Privates [Denyes](#) and [Crowe](#), also Milton soldiers killed in action, served in the same unit as Evans. They are both buried in CWGC cemeteries in France. Private Evans was injured by a high explosive shell or gunshot wound to the left arm and jaw in the Battle of Bourslon Wood, during Canada's Hundred Days ([audio text](#)). Although he received extensive medical and dental treatment, he was discharged as medically unfit in August 1920. He lived past the final date of the war on 31 August 1921 and survived until 29 June 1925. There is no doubt that he died of his wounds, but he lived too long to be commemorated under the CWGC criteria and thus does not have an official headstone, nor is he recorded in the CWGC records. Private Evans is remembered on the Victoria Park Cenotaph.

[Corporal William Maddocks #302221](#) is buried in Blk-050 Lot-1 7 1. A local boy, he attested to the 40th Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery as a blacksmith. Although he was not shot or blown up by a shell, he served actively with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, ensuring the delivery of the mounted units, until he was seriously wounded by repeated kicks from a mule to his lower back and abdomen. His back was broken. Corporal Maddocks was discharged medically unfit on 24 May 1919 and returned home to Milton in a plaster cast, his status for nearly 2 years. There are references to Maddocks at work in Milton until his death from spinal meningitis on 18 January 1920. Corporal Maddocks is officially commemorated by the CWGC and named on the Victoria Park Cenotaph.

The Service Records of all the Milton Soldiers of the Great War, whether casualties or not, are currently being digitized by Library and Archives Canada. Digital copies are posted on the [MHS Web Site for the Milton Soldiers](#) as soon as they are available.

If you are in attendance at the Remembrance Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery on November 11, 2016, you will see that the five (5) headstones mentioned in this article will be marked by a small orange pylon. Please take a few minutes to pay your respects to these brave men of Milton Ontario.

Our Vanishing Heritage

by Sandy McInnes

I have never understood what North Americans have against heritage. In Europe, there are majestic structures, which have survived unscathed for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, yet here, we savagely butcher anything that seemingly stands in the way of "progress." And at what cost is progress? Here in Milton we need look no further than our own backyard, where several beautiful old homes and farms are in danger of being demolished, all in the name of progress.

If we fail to appreciate and comprehend that from where we have come, how can we ever understand our future? It does our ancestors and ourselves serious disrespect, when we plow under, without regard, the structures that have helped to shape our collective futures.

It's so very sad that we have ringed this town like a fortress with soulless subdivisions, which lack any sort of architectural integrity, and the very methods by which they were constructed ensure that, in all likelihood, they will not last even one hundred years.

I like to make a point of visiting, photographing, drawing and painting these threatened markers of time, so that at least, in some little way, a part of their memory is preserved and honoured. It's ever so sad that the walls, which have seen lives lived and loved, wars fought and lives lost, are so carelessly disregarded and discarded.



When will we ever learn that we need to preserve these treasures and not tear them down, bulldoze them or hide them away?



Town Hall cupola in Heritage Park, Milton

We are fortunate that there are some structures, which do manage to escape the wrecking ball. Even if they survive, some treasures end up hidden away from public view. A perfect example of this is the beautiful cupola, above, from our majestic former Town Hall on Main Street. This gorgeous piece of woodwork has, for years, stood tucked away on the museum grounds near the Kelso Conservation area. With the archives soon to be relocated, it would be a marvellous gesture if this structure were to be donated to the Milton Historical Society or to the Town of Milton and moved to a more prominent location, where it could be better viewed and honoured.

We must do more than plunder and push away our heritage. In doing so, we are doing a vast disservice not only to ourselves, but to the folks whose lives and hard work are responsible for crafting the beautiful town we all now call home today.

House on west side of Tremaine, just north of Lower Baseline.

Summerless Year In the Milton Area

by Jim Dills

It was hot this summer, eh?! Let's turn the calendar back to "The Summerless Year."

From the recollections of Benjamin D. Waldbrook, recorded by W.L. Smith, we're told:

"The spring of 1816 opened with as fair prospects as have ever appeared at the same season since, but the sunshine of the year's morn was followed by a long night of black despair.

"Snow commenced falling in June and, until spring came again, the whole country was continuously covered by a wintry blanket. Practically nothing was gathered in the way of a crop. Everything rotted in the ground. There was no flour and there were no vegetables. People lived for twelve months on fish and meat: venison, porcupine and groundhog, being varied with the thin meat of cattle slaughtered, because there was no vegetation to sustain them. Hay was sent from Ireland to save the stock of the starving people in Quebec and some hay brought here sold for forty-five dollars per ton. Happily the year 1817 was as prolific as the year before had been barren. Happily too, there was a considerable migration in 1817 from Nova Scotia, which had escaped an affliction that appears to have been confined to Ontario, Quebec and the Eastern States. The newcomers from Nova Scotia brought with them potatoes that provided seed, not only for themselves, but for neighbours in Ontario, who were without seed. These potatoes had a blue point and our Ontario people gave them the name "blue noses".

There were other problems. "About 1833, army worms came in countless millions. They literally covered the ground and trees were left bare of foliage as in mid-winter. At the doors of houses, they swarmed like bees at the entrance to a hive. About the same time, a deluge of frogs fell upon the

land. In the blazing heat of mid-day sun, these rotted and filled the air with poisonous vapors. For a time, this province was cursed with a West Indian climate. Cholera developed and people died by the hundreds.

"Some ten years before this, and prior to the time covered by my recollection, I have been told that a tornado swept over a section of Milton about half a mile wide. The tornado was preceded by a roar, like that produced by an unbroken roll of thunder, and the earth itself seemed to quiver as with a convulsion. Cattle, warned by instinct, rushed from the woods to clearings and crouched close to the ground. The storm broke with an indescribable fury. Logs were whirled from the ground like straws and, in a moment, the air was filled with flying debris and dust.

"There was one humorous episode during the storm, which narrowly escaped being a tragedy. A young woman, named Eliza Harrison, was hanging out a washing as the storm broke. The next thing her mother saw was Eliza and the line of clothes whirling in the air above the tree-tops amid a cloud of branches and dust. Strange to say the girl landed in the field several hundred yards away, very little hurt." This would have been near Bronte Street and Main Street, where some of the Harrisons had their farm.

More recent writing suggests that the Summerless Winter was the result of a volcanic eruption on the Indonesian island of Sumbwa. Mount Tambora erupted in the spring of 1815 and the ash and dust went high into the air. It was the largest eruption in recorded history and had the effect of cooling the planet's surface.

Sources:

The Pioneers of Old Ontario by W. L. Smith

Canada's History: The Big Chill by Alan MacEachern

MHS ARCHIVES NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

We have set up two computer workstations in accommodation of the digitizing of our MHS slide collection. Some simple training will be given to those individuals, who would like to assist us with this digitizing project.

*If you would like to volunteer in the MHS Archive,
please contact MHS at
info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.
Thank you!*

Time Capsules: Bytes From The Past *collected and edited by Jim Dills*

August, 1894 -- McDonell, the rope walker, who styles himself "The Hero of Niagara", came here on Saturday 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.

Rent The MHS Carriage Room

The Carriage Room is available to be rented. It is suitable for small board and executive meetings, workshops and lecture-type meetings. The room comfortably accommodates 25 people, seated.

*For rates, bookings and more information, please contact MHS at
info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.*

Canada's Streetcars

an historical review by Bill Thompson

A fascinating evening was had by all on Thursday, September 15, 2016, when Bill Thompson gave his historical review on Canada's Streetcars at the MHS monthly meeting in the Carriage Room. Bill has been involved in museums and historical preservation for the past 25 years and has served on the Board of the Grimsby Museum and been a member of the Halton County Radial Railway for 25 years. He is also a member of the Grimsby Historical Society.

Bill spoke about the development of the streetcar from its early horse-drawn days to the end of general use in the mid-twentieth century and about some of the communities served by the streetcar.

Halton County Radial Railway



He also shared some of his personal collection of over 600 street scenes, which show the operation of streetcars from coast to coast in Canada.

Thank you, Bill!

Calendar of Events

Thursday, October 20, 2016 — Monthly Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room. Doors open at **7:00pm** with guest speaker at **7:30pm** and refreshments to follow. *Bev Dietrich, from the Guelph Museum, will speak about Victorian Mourning Traditions.*

Saturday, October 22, 2016 — MHS Bus Tour to St. Marys, Ontario. For info and to purchase tickets, please contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

Saturday, October 29, 2016 — New Book Launch and Signing, Milton And Area Churches, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room. Starts at **10am.**

Thursday, November 17, 2016 — Monthly Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room. Doors open at **7:00pm** with guest speaker at **7:30pm** and refreshments to follow. *Speaker to be announced.*

Thursday, December 15, 2016 — Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room. Doors open at **6:00pm**, dinner is at **6:30pm.**

Thursday, January 19, 2017 — Annual General Meeting at The Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room. Doors open at **7:00pm**, meeting commences at **7:30pm.**



The Milton Historical Society

Preserving Milton's History For Future Generations

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Email: info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca Telephone: 905-875-4156

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(Check all categories that apply)

☐ New Member

☐ Family \$40

☐ Youth (Free)

☐ Renewal

☐ Single \$25

☐ Corporate (10 or fewer employees) \$100

☐ Corporate (11 or more employees) \$200

☐ Yes, I wish to receive the Journal newsletter and other e-communications and I understand that 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

Please make cheques payable to: Milton Historical Society

Please mail completed form and remittance to:

Milton Historical Society

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Thank You!



The Journal

Milton Historical Society

16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

Telephone 905-875-4156



December 2016
Vol. 31 Issue 4

**Winter
Edition**



‘Tis The Season ... To Renew Your MHS Membership!

Annual Individual Fee is \$25

Annual Family Fee is \$40

Annual Corporate Fee is \$100 (10 or fewer employees)

Annual Corporate Fee is \$200 (11 or more employees)

Membership fees can be remitted:

In person every Wednesday and Saturday morning,
from 9:30am to 1:00pm, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop.

By mail to MHS, 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

By PayPal online at www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Contributing Editor: Barbara Fitzsimons



MHS ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR FOR CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY



The Milton Historical Society has produced a 15-month calendar in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary, Milton's 160th and MHS's 40th!

The calendars are **available** at a cost of \$10 each and feature many historic photographs of old Milton, which have never before been published.

To purchase yours, visit the Milton Historical Society,
email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

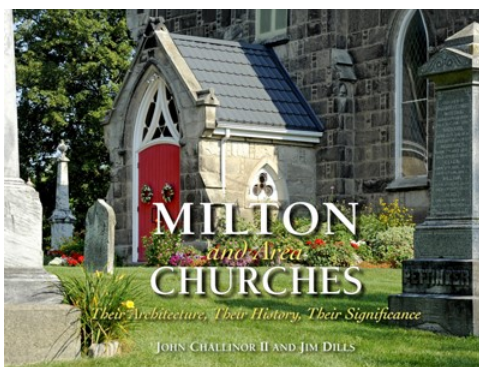
New MHS Book Now On Sale!



MHS introduced its newest coffee table book on Saturday, October 29, 2016, when the first copies went on sale.

Four years in preparation, the book features the research and text by John Chalinor II and Jim Dills, matched with the professional photography of Peter K. Burian, Bob McDonald, Mike Schram, Mike Streeter and Michael Todd. All work has been contributed on a volunteer basis. *Milton and Area Churches* will be similar in format to the earlier *Milton Streets*, which sold out so quickly, when it was introduced in 2007.

Milton and Area Churches was written in part to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Dominion of Canada, the 160th anniversary of the establishment of the Corporation of the Town of Milton and the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Milton Historical Society.



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*The books sell for \$40 each.
To purchase your copy of this limited edition,
visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca,
email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca
or call (905) 875-4156.*

Heritage Week Event: Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony

The Town of Milton's Walk of Fame Program, which was developed by Milton Historical Society as a legacy project in recognition of the community's 150th anniversary in 2007, will celebrate its 10th anniversary in style with eight individuals slated for induction along the hallowed hallway at Town Hall on Sunday, February 19, 2017, at 2:00pm.

Besides recognizing eight of the community's best and brightest, the 2017 edition of the Walk of Fame will honour the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Society, the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada and the 160th anniversary of the establishment of the Corporation of the Town of Milton.

MHS President, Mandy Sedgwick, and Walk of Fame founder, John Challinor II, will be masters of ceremony for the afternoon, assisted by Mayor Gord Krantz. All past Walk of Fame inductees and their fam-

ilies will be invited to attend, along with all citizens of the community and representatives from Milton Council, the Regional Municipality of Halton, the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada.

In addition to the induction ceremony, a few surprises are in store for Society members, so mark the date in your 2017 calendars and plan to attend what will be yet another very special afternoon in the storied history of our community!



2017 Blacksmithing Classes

All classes will take place at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, Milton. Each class size is limited to 2 to 4 students.

2017 Basic Beginner Level One classes are scheduled to take place on March 18, April 22, May 27, June 17, October 21 and December 2. The cost is \$125.

2017 Beginner Level Two class is scheduled to take place on November 17, 18 and 19. The cost is \$300.

A registration form and liability waiver form must be signed by all students and payment is due at least 2 weeks prior to the start date of the course.

Payment can be made online at <http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/>. Select the *Donate* button and, in the field titled *Purpose*, type in "Blacksmith Course [date] Registration Fee". Payment can also be made by cheque payable to the *Milton Historical Society*.

For more information:
visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca,
Schedule, Blacksmith Classes.
You may also email
info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca
or call (905) 875-4156.

Marking Milton's Historic Properties

76 King Street, Lot 5 Block 6, Foster Survey, built 1888.

Most of the land in this part of town was originally owned by Hugh Foster, Esquire. Mr. Foster emigrated to Canada in 1816 from Ireland. He was a cooper (barrel maker) by trade and established the first cooperage in Milton. He, along with Henry Huffman, purchased the south side of Main Street. Mr. Foster eventually bought out Huffman and took ownership of the entire south side in this area.

Hugh was born in 1794 and died in 1858. As a land developer, he registered his survey and began selling off lots. This particular lot was sold in 1863 to Finlay McCallum, who held procession until 1883, when his estate sold it to George Andrews. Mr. Andrews owned the lot until 1888 and then sold it to Mr. Thomas Ford.

Mr. Thomas Ford hired local carpenter and builder, John Hunter, to construct this heritage home in 1888. Mr. Hunter built several homes in the Milton area. He came to Milton around 1875-76 and went into business as a builder/contractor, owning a planing mill, sash and door factory. It is interesting to note that, while doing restorations, the family discovered that the lumber had "DH" stamped on it. The home went through a major restoration after a fire.

Thomas Ford was born in 1861 near Nelson Village, Nelson township, in the county of Halton, and died January 7, 1940. He had married Christina McEachern, who was born in 1868 in the township of Erin. She died February 26, 1925, and they are both interred in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. The Fords raised seven children in this historic home. Their children were Thomas Elgin, John Alexander, Neil Gordon, Margaret Marie, Russell Andrew, Mary Christina and Milton Eric.

Christina and Thomas were members of Knox Presbyterian Church. Thomas was a teamster, who drove a dray wagon working for Henry Peacock and then

Palmer Book. He delivered all the large parcels from Eaton's and Simpson's right to the door. He also met all passenger trains for an express company.

Following the death of Christina and Thomas, the home was registered in 1954 to their son Neil Gordon Ford Sr. and his wife Irene (Evans). Neil G. was born in 1897 and died July 8, 1961. Irene was born in 1904 and died January 22, 1955. Both are interred in Evergreen Cemetery. Irene was a homemaker, while Neil worked at the P. L. Robertson Screw Factory. Irene and Neil raised their family in this heritage home. Their children were Neil Gordon Jr., Mary Anne and Norma.

In 1968 the home passed to the third generation of the Ford family. Neil Jr. and his wife, Margaret "Barbara" (nee Tasker, February 4, 1934 – December 19, 1994), were married May 5, 1961. They raised three children here as well. Their children were Rhonda Leeann, Mark Neil Thomas and John Andrew. Barbara was a homemaker, community volunteer and loved to knit home-made sweaters, mittens and the like for the church. She was the daughter of Olive (nee Peacock June 9, 1903 - January 11, 1988) and Harold Tasker (May 5, 1892 - August 12, 1967).

Today Mark, along with his wife, Marnie, and daughter, Emily, reside in this heritage home with Neil. Neil worked for McDonnell Douglas/Boeing as a heat treater until his retirement. He had also worked as a stone mason, roofer and at P. L. Robertson Screw Factory.

Neil is very involved as a member of the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservers Association. He is an individual, who can turn his hand to anything. Neil is extremely proud of his family heritage and enjoys talking to people about Milton's history.

***To learn more about MHS plaquing,
visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca,
email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca
or call (905) 875-4156.***

Christmas Snowballs

Ingredients:

2 cups sifted flour
 ¼ cup sugar
 ½ tsp salt
 1 cup butter
 2 tsp vanilla
 2 ½ cups finely chopped nuts

Instructions:

Sift flour, sugar and salt together then work into the butter and vanilla. Add 2 cups of nuts and mix well. Shape into ½ - inch balls. Roll half of the balls in the remaining ½ cup of nuts and half of the balls in powdered sugar. Place on greased cookie sheets and bake in a moderate oven at 350F degrees for about 40 minutes.

1914 Christmas Card Postmarked Campbellville, ON



2017: A Year Of Celebrations

As we begin this New Year, brought to mind are the many historical events, which we are about to mark with celebrations within our Society (40 years), our Town (160 years) and our Country (150 years).

The Milton Historical Society was founded in 1977. The Society came together to help preserve the then Halton County Court House, which was scheduled for demolition. The Town of Milton was encouraged to acquire the property for \$1 and to restore the structure for use as its new Town Hall. Our Society continues to play an active role in preserving our town's history through publications, educational programs, plaquing of heritage buildings, collecting archival materials in our archives and through the use of new social media initiatives such as Facebook, Twitter and our MHS website.

In 1853, it was decided that Milton would become the County Town of the new County of Halton. Today we know the area as the Region of Halton. Our Town was incorporated in 1857 and the first council meeting was held on July 4, 1857. George Brown was the first mayor, John White was the first reeve and the following were our first council

members: John Martin, William Smiley, Edward Martin, Joseph Bell, James McGuffin, William Robson and William Hill.

Canada's sesquicentennial (160 years) will be celebrated on July 1, 2017. The British North America Act of 1867 brought together Ontario and Quebec and joined them with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to form a confederate state called the Dominion of Canada. The name of the new four-province country was suggested from a reading found in the 72nd Psalm: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea," and thus it became "one Dominion under the Name of Canada". Our country's first Prime Minister was Sir John A. MacDonald. Over the next several decades, other provinces and territories joined the Confederation, with Nunavut being the last to join in 1999.

We look forward to your participation in the various events scheduled for the coming year!



Warmth of Winter - watercolour on paper by local artist and MHS member, Sandy McInnes.

"This simple frame home at 48 Bell Street is one of my favourites. Built in 1874 by Thomas H. Lavery, this charming house was also home to two generations of Milton's pioneer Martin family. I pass by it frequently as it sits across from Victoria Park. It was recently purchased by a wonderful family, who have thoughtfully restored it using nothing but period and natural products. They have a marvellous Christmas light display and that is how I chose to capture it."

Downtown Condo Update

As you will recall, the Town of Milton turned down the development back in June. The development group then went to the Ontario Municipal Board to appeal this decision. On Tuesday, Dec 13, the OMB held a pre-hearing on the issue. In attendance were lawyers for Conservation Halton, Region of Halton, Town of Milton and Sargent Farms, all concerned with this application. There were also several citizens, who indicated they wished to also address concerns and support the Town's decision regarding flood plain provincial regulations. The lawyer for the developers asked that the hearing be delayed as the issue around the Conservation Halton permit is still outstanding. Conservation Halton closed the file several months ago, as per their policies and procedures. It would appear that the developers now plan to take this to court. The OMB set another pre-hearing for June 29, 2017, 10am at the Town Hall. We will provide updates as things move forward.

Kodak Carousel Slide Projector Wanted

MHS is looking for a working Kodak Carousel slide projector to be used with our slide collection. If you happen to have one hidden in the closet not being used and would like to donate it to MHS, it would be very much appreciated!

MHS Genealogy Club

MHS would like to start a members' Genealogy Club, where interested individuals could meet monthly to network and share their knowledge with each other. If you would be interested, please let us know.

Oral History Interviews

MHS is also looking for interested members to do some oral history interviews. If you can help, please let us know. Thanks!

What is this?



This item was recently donated to the MHS archive and we have no idea what it is. If you are able to identify this item or if you wish to make a guess, please email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156 with your answer.

MHS Saturday Morning Round-table Discussions

All are welcome to participate in upcoming open Saturday morning round-table discussions on a series of defined history subjects.

Discussions will take place in the MHS Carriage Room, subjects, dates and times still to be confirmed. The public is welcome to attend and bring any pertinent documents and/or books. The objective is to provide a forum, in which individuals and families can talk about and/or receive information on a specific subject.

For more information, visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca, email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

No exams, no costs, just social discussion over a complimentary cup of coffee.

Now Donations and Payments to MHS Online

The MHS is pleased now to offer online donation on our website www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca !

It's an efficient way to make a donation to the MHS and, as a registered charity, the MHS is able to offer tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more. To make a donation of any amount of your choosing, please click on the

PAY DONATION BUTTON shown on each page of the site in the **HEADER** or **FOOTER** and follow the directions.

MHS uses all financial contributions to fulfill the goals and objectives of the organization. No funds are allocated to pay the volunteers, who work tirelessly to fulfill the MHS obligations to preserve Milton's heritage!

Local Honey from Willow Grove Heritage Farm

Karin Tomosky Chambers, our MHS Secretary and resident apiarist, is generously donating to the MHS 17% of all sales by the MHS. Jars are \$12 and \$24.

Karin's bees work hard throughout the warmer months to make this honey, which is pure 100% Ontario honey. ***To purchase this local honey or for more information on Willow Grove Heritage Farm, contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.***



The Hunt For Captain Bastedo At Ypres

by Richard Laughton

The following article is one in a series of articles that will appear in the MHS Journal on a quarterly basis. These stories relate to the Milton Soldiers, who served in the Great War of 1914-1921 (First World War). These articles are hyperlinked, so further details can be researched from the [On-Line MHS Journal](#).

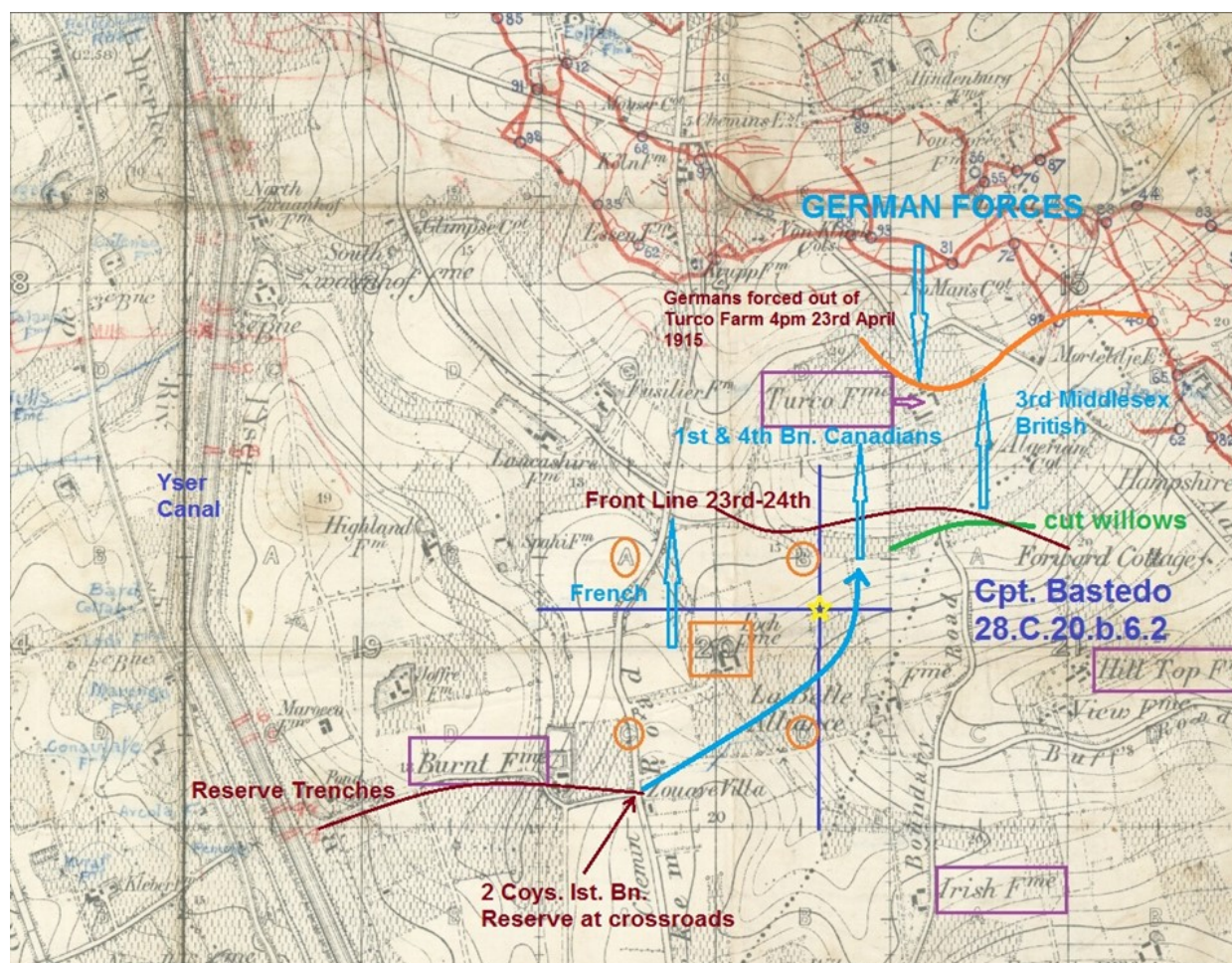
Captain Alfred Carbert Bastedo paid the ultimate sacrifice on April 23, 1915, on the opening days of the 2nd Battle of Ypres. Although sporadic attempts to use noxious substances had been tested by the Germans in 1914, this was truly the first use of poisonous gas in a major military action. The remains of Captain Bastedo may have been recovered from the battlefield, but they have yet to be identified, thus he is commemorated on the [Ypres \(Menin Gate\) Memorial](#) as having *no known grave*.

Captain Bastedo was one of the first men born in Milton to enlist in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF). He had been a leader with the pre-war militia unit “20th Halton Rifles” for more than 6 years. At the outbreak of the war, he had just completed his 3rd year of study at University College in Toronto. He was on summer vacation, visiting his fiancée (*Grace Craig*) in the Ottawa area, when war was declared in August 1914. He announced to his friends that he was going home to join his regiment and to serve his country. Captain Bastedo would be instrumental in the recruitment of dozens of young Milton men, who would serve with him in the early days of the war or subsequently attest to the [164th Infantry Battalion](#).

Complete details of Captain Bastedo’s attestation to the CEF and subsequent, albeit short service in the Great War, are available on-line from Library and Archives Canada ([Bastedo File](#)). He attested at the training camp at Valcartier, Quebec on September 22, 1914. Initially with the 4th Battalion (1st Brigade, 1st Canadian Division), he was transferred, after further Officer’s Training, to command a Company of the 1st Infantry Battalion on April 2, 1915. He would be killed in action at Ypres within 2 weeks. Prior to his death, the war had already claimed 886 Canadians (*512 in Belgium, 129 in France, 137 in Canada, 104 in the United Kingdom and 4 elsewhere*). Bastedo was the 13th CEF Captain to fall, 8 of whom had been lost in Belgium in April, 1915.

The 1st Infantry Brigade was still training in Army Reserve at Vlamertinghe (*2 miles west of Ypres*), when the Germans launched the first gas attack on April 22, 1915, near St. Julien. The 1st and 4th Battalions would be brought back across the Yser Canal to assist in the repulsion of the German advance north of Ypres, along the Pilckem Road. The 1st Battalion would cross at the Pontoon Bridge and pass through the Aid Station at Burnt Farm. It was near here, at Essex Farm, that John McCrae would write the famous poem, *In Flanders Fields*, only a few days later. Captain Bastedo may have been treated for his wounds at the same aid station and later buried in the [Essex Farm Cemetery](#), from which many graves were subsequently lost. There are many other cemeteries in the area, including likely candidate sites at [New Irish Farm Cemetery](#) and [Divisional Collecting Post Cemetery](#), as well as less likely sites at Track X Cemetery and Buffs Road Cemetery. All are being searched for any records relating to an Unknown Captain of the 1st Canadian Infantry Battalion.

We do know that Captain Bastedo fell at Trench Map Coordinates **28.C.20.b.6.2** (GPS Coordinates: 50.8774, 2.8938 or [50°52'38.63"N 2°53'37.69"E](#)), which is marked below, along with the path of the 1st and 4th Battalions to block the German advance. Some reports say that he was buried at this location in a battlefield grave and others say that he was wounded there, but taken to an aid station, where he subsequently died. All possible locations are being checked. The detailed documents related to the search can all be found in his file: [Bastedo, Alfred Carbert – Captain](#).



Soldiers lost in the Great War (WWI) with “No Known Grave” are commemorated on a number of memorials, based on where they were when they fell. The Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres records the names of 6,928 Canadians, who gave their lives in Belgium (including French Flanders). The Vimy Memorial in Pas-de-Calais, France, lists the names of 11,161 Canadians, many of whose remains were recovered, but not identified. To date we have recorded the names of 203 Canadians, who served in the British Air Services (RFC, RNAS, RAF) and who have yet to be identified. Another 193 Canadians are listed on the Halifax Memorial, as they were lost at sea or have unknown burial locations in Canada (*died in training, died of wounds, accidental deaths*). Although not part of Canada at the time of the war, the names of 587 Newfoundlanders are named on the Beaumont Hamel Memorial (*The Somme, France*).

The ability to now locate and identify men, who were lost in the mud and blood of battle more than 100 years ago, is a direct result of the digitization of the archives of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and of our work to computerize the searches by mining the data from the servers ([The Unknown Project](#)). The key to the work is to identify possible candidates based on the information contained in their casualty reports, which is then compared to the CWGC “Concentration Reports”, as well as site specific information from Battalion War Diaries and Period Trench Maps. For example, this concentration report has details on men found at the location, where the remains of Captain Bastedo were last seen (CWGC COG-BR [Document 1814102](#)). These remains, exhumed in August, 1925, are within 300 yards of the last sighting of Captain Bastedo. It could be him, but this is not conclusive, thus more work is required.

ST. JEAN - LES - YPRES 61-13E
BOESINGHE 191-13E

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CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).

ALL CROSSES ERECTED. 1/71/17.E. dated 24-8-25.

BURIAL RETURN.

Name of Cemetery of Reburial DIVISIONAL COLLECTING POST CEMETERY EXTENSION. 28. C.21. c.04

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
2.	C.	4.	28. I.33. a.9.4.	No.	UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER.	Clothing.	No. "FF"
2.	C.	5.	28. C.20. b.1.3.	No.	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER.	Numerals.	No. "FF"
2.	C.	6.	28. C.20. b.1.3.	No.	UNKNOWN CANADIAN SOLDIER. 4/Canadians.	Numerals. Clothing.	No. "FF"

CANCELLED BY CERTIFIED REPORT
 Initialed *[Signature]* **ENTERED** 4/7/25
 Richard Stiles,
 Registration Officer,
 No. 1. Area, I.W.G.C.
FILED CHECKED 4/5/25

This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

For more information about the activities of April 23, 1915, that relate to this case, please check the on-line MHS Journal [Winter 2016 Vol. 31 No.4](#) and click on the links:

[Captain Bastedo Research File](#)
[The Battle of Ypres, 1915 – Nicholson Text](#)
[The Gas Attack – 22 April 1915 – Map 1](#)
[Closing the Gap – 23 April 1915 – Sketch 7](#)

Since December 24, 2014, our research, which is spearheaded from Milton Ontario, has led to the identification of more than fifty (50) Canadian men, who served in the First World War and who previously had no known grave. Detailed reports have been filed with the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) to ensure that these men will be properly commemorated at the cemeteries, where their remains were recovered. Work to locate the grave site of Captain Alfred Carbert Bastedo continues each day while we are searching. A future edition of these articles will deal with the similar case for [Private Frederick Baguley](#), of the 16th Battalion (Canadian Scottish), who was lost at Vimy.

Links to various formats of reports, which have been submitted and catalogued to date, are accessible at: [The Unknown Project: Investigative Reports Completed](#).

Snow and Ice by Sandy McInnes

In the 21st century, most members of our community see one of our most valuable resources, our beautiful Mill Pond, as a place to walk their dogs, to jog or as a place to relax and unwind in the stunningly beautiful surroundings. Few actually may realize that this scenic centrepiece of our town has been so much more than simply a key spot for recreation.

The pond, which was created by Jasper Martin to generate power for his mill to foster economic development for our early community, was both a necessity and a source of fun. Much like it is today, many folks once fished from the plentiful waters fed by Sixteen Mile Creek. Fishing was not simply a source of recreation, but was also a necessity in the absence of the convenience of the grocery stores we all enjoy today.

As the seasons turned over, usage of the pond was perhaps greatest when Mother Nature turned on her deep winter freeze. As the temperatures dropped and the snow swirled about, the surface of the pond would freeze over to a thickness that we seldom see in the present day. Children and courting couples alike would strap on their skates and glide about its frosty gilded surface. One would imagine that many a game of shinny was played out under both the sun and the stars and that perhaps even a future figure skating champion enjoyed a turn on its slick icy surface. Children on toboggans, both store-bought and home-made, would take advantage of the steep slopes on the northeast side of the pond, adjacent to Livingston Park, sliding from the top of the hill to the frozen surface of the pond.

Not only was the pond necessary for the operation of Martin's mill, a good source of fish and a wonderful place to enjoy leisure activities, it was



also a great benefit to the community in that it provided a natural means of refrigeration. Long before our fancy internet-enabled refrigerators, there was the humble ice box. Looking like a fancy piece of furniture, the ice box usually consisted of two distinct sections: a lower one in which to store the food and an upper chamber in which to store the ice. Both sections were lined with galvanized metal and the ice used would come from the frozen pond.

During the winter months, teams of men would venture out onto the frozen surface of the pond with horses and cutters in order to carve out large blocks of ice. These ice blocks would then be stored for the year, buried partly in the earth and covered in either sawdust or straw to provide insulation to help preserve the ice as long as possible. In the right environment, these blocks could last for several months or longer, which is probably inconceivable to many folks today.

Be it for recreation, luxury or simple pioneer necessity, our Mill Pond was and is the crown jewel of our town, as it continues to serve generations of Miltonians. May it do so for many more years to come!

Happy holidays, everyone!

Ice Palaces Came With The Cold

by Jim Dills

For generations, the arrival of cold weather meant outdoor activities. In Milton, the cold weather heralded hockey. Wherever a patch of ice could be found, boys (and sometimes girls) with sticks chased a puck around on the frozen surface. A large patch of ice drew a large crowd, so the Milton Mill Pond often had youngsters scurrying about, after they had cleared snow from a large enough area. Taking the activity indoors became desirable, however, even on uncertain natural ice, that sometimes didn't remain solid for a full game.

And so, in Milton, the sports scribes of generations ago came to call the local arenas "ice palaces". Milton's first ice palace was located on Mill Street, where the ice was shared. The local curlers had graduated from the curling rink on the flats of the Sixteen Mile Creek, just north of the Main Street bridge, and the skaters had come inside from the outdoor, wind-whipped cold of the Mill Pond.

The needs of curlers and skaters were not very similar and the Curling Club on Mill Street, privately built and managed, was predominantly for the curlers. Ladies and men, however, played hockey there on natural ice. It wasn't until 1921 that the substantial Brown Street Arena was built by a consortium of local businessmen. For the next generations, it was the local ice palace and setting for the local stars and their fiercely fought battles for titles.

Fred Armstrong purchased the Brown Street Arena in 1947. As many of the star hockey players had been away defending the country anyway, it had been used to store wool as a wartime measure during the bitter days of World War II. Fred installed

artificial ice and the seasons could be planned. The plant also included ice making and allowed delivery of the ice to homes for food preservation, just ahead of the dominant electric refrigerator.

It's doubtful that the ice plant ever made money for Fred and the whole package was finally sold by his estate to the town at a deflated price after a crippling 1955 fire. The municipality got into the arena business gingerly, agreeing to fix it up and buy it for \$85,000, if voters supported the purchase during the next election. 93% voted in favour of the town purchase.

It was marvelous to have an ice surface that could be counted on. There was no ban on smoking though and, by the end of the second period, a haze hung over the ice, almost obscuring the time clock. The dressing rooms featured a central stove and bare-bench seating. When familiar rivals played (Milton-Georgetown), the cheering rocked the foundations and tempers frequently flared into crown fights. Minor hockey got going with dependable ice and schedules because, during the Fred Armstrong era, he allowed Saturday morning free for minor hockey.

When the Brown Street Arena was demolished in 1978, its replacement, the Memorial Arena on Thompson Road, was a great physical improvement, but was located a long way away from the convenient Milton Inn. (The Milton Inn later burned and was demolished in 1973.) There were later ice palaces. The John Tonelli Arena was built in 1976 (renamed for John Tonelli in 1985) and the first part of the Milton Sports Centre was built in 2003 and then expanded in 2011.

(continued)

For the youngsters that skated, fell and shot pucks on the ice at the Brown Street Arena, the experiences will never be forgotten. The multi-purpose, heated areas and limited seating of the current crop of today's ice palaces will never take on the atmosphere of those earlier venues, where the cheering sometimes seemed to break the sound barrier and the crowd pressing into the dressing rooms was boisterous and loud. Those, who are still around from those days, will have their own stories to tell.



Minor hockey in the old Brown Street Arena, with its artificial ice, was a winter highlight for many. In this 1953 photo, Coach Harold Learmont (right) chats with his Canadiens after participating in a special evening event.

From the left, you might recognize B. Crisi, J. Knight, W. Easterbrook, J. Peddie, K. McIntosh, G. Elwood and D. McCutcheon. — Champion Photo.

Rent The MHS Carriage Room

The Carriage Room is available to be rented. It is suitable for small board and executive meetings, workshops and lecture-type meetings. The room comfortably accommodates 25 people, seated.

For rates, bookings and more information, please contact MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

‘Til Death Do Us Part: Victorian Mourning Rituals *by Bev Dietrich*

Bev Dietrich, who is the curator of the Guelph Civic Museum, was our meeting speaker on Thursday, October 20, 2016.

Victorian mourning had two stages: deep or full mourning and half mourning. Each stage had its own rules and customs, from the length of mourning time for each individual involved, to the type of clothing they were expected to wear.

Ms. Dietrich described the use of black jewellery and mourning beads, coffin plaques, coffin alarms, stationery, flowers and the popularity of death photography. Hair wreaths were another oddity. Human hair was never thrown away, but kept in a spool and later fashioned into elaborate wreaths.

Victorian era funeral traditions were steeped in superstition and were sometimes downright ridiculous.



Some of the superstitions included carrying the body out of the house feet first, for it was believed that, if it was carried out head first, it could look back and beckon others to follow it into death.

Bev explained how many aspects of Victorian funeral customs have set the stage for today's traditions.

Thanks, Bev, for a most informative and entertaining evening!

Calendar of Events

Meetings commence at 7:30pm, with doors opening at 7:00pm and refreshments following. Meetings take place in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Carriage Room, 16 James Street, Milton. For more info, visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca, contact the MHS at info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca or call (905) 875-4156.

Thursday, Dec 15, 2016 - MHS Members' Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.

Thursday, Jan 19, 2017 - Annual General Meeting *and Show And Tell*.

Sunday, February 19, 2017 - Milton Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony, 2pm at Town Hall.

Thursday, Feb 16, 2017 - Monthly Meeting,
Speaker, David Hobden: Where's Merton? Lost Villages of Halton.

Thursday, Mar 16, 2017 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker, John Duignan: Milton Postcards.

Saturday, April 8, 2017 — MHS Annual Garage Sale. *More details to come!*

Thursday, April 20, 2017 — Monthly Meeting,
Speakers, John and Laura Hughes: History of Springridge Farms.



The Milton Historical Society

Preserving Milton's History For Future Generations

www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

Email: info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca Telephone: 905-875-4156

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date: _____

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Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES

(Check all categories that apply)

☐ New Member

☐ Family \$40

☐ Youth (Free)

☐ Renewal

☐ Single \$25

☐ Corporate (10 or fewer employees) \$100

☐ Corporate (11 or more employees) \$200

☐ Yes, I wish to receive the Journal newsletter and other e-communications and I understand that 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

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I wish to make a separate donation to the society in the sum of _____.

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The Milton Historical Society is a registered charity #110041358RR0001

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Thank You!