

TOURNAL Preserving Milton's History

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Milton Historical Society









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Milton's New Year's Eve Bell-Ringing Tradition



he Town of Milton's annual tradition of the New Year's Eve bell-ringing, by which Milton ushers in each New Year, was begun by Jim Dills, MHS member, historian and retired publisher of the local Milton newspaper, The Canadian Champion. In 1967, Jim originated the bell-ringing ceremony as a special way to mark the 100th year of Canada's confederation.

Milton's Town bell hung in the original Town Hall from 1893 to 1985. It was the Town's third bell and was cast by Blimer Bell Company of Cincinnati. It was sounded three times daily, at morning, noon and evening, on Sundays it rang out as call to worship and it had also been used as the Town fire alarm.

In 1967, the Town bell remained installed at the original Town Hall at 251 Main Street East. The first New Year's Eve bell-ringing attracted a small gathering, but the ceremony grew in popularity over the years and Milton Mayor, Gordon Krantz, has continued the festive tradition since 1981. After the Town Hall moved to the renovated courthouse and jail building in 1985, the bell was moved and installed on a stone cairn in Victoria Park.

Last year's bell-ringing for 2017, the year in which we marked the 150th year of Canada's confederation and also Milton's 160th birthday, was the first to take place in the newly-restored Victoria Park.

The honorary bell-ringers for 2017 were Nancy Cuttle, Town Liaison for the MHS, and Bob Williams, President of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Nancy and Bob and their respective associations were recognized for their partnership, leadership, vision and effort in the restoration of Victoria Park. The park restoration project improved the function of existing features, protected and enhanced the park's heritage and it upgraded elements to ensure continued enjoyment of the park for generations to come.

Residents and visitors are invited to join Mayor Krantz on Sunday, December 31, 2017, at 11:45pm, in Victoria Park, in front of Hugh Foster Hall, for a festive gathering and a proud and enthusiastic bell-ringing to celebrate 2018. The honorary bell-ringer for 2018 is Kelly Scanlan, a Milton fire-fighter and an Invictus Games medalist.



Mayor Gord Krantz and Veterans Helping Veterans founder, Fred Smith, oil up the bell at Victoria Park in 2015, in preparation for the New Year's Eve bell-ringing that evening. -- Canadian Champion

2017: Year In Review

by Sandy McInnes and Barbara Fitzsimons

his year, 2017, has been a successful and active year for the members of the MHS. It began, of course, with the Milton Town Council's New Year's Levee and the MHS Annual General Meeting in January.

Well-deserving MHS volunteers. Bruce Carlin and Gloria Brown, were honoured by Society President, Mandy Sedgwick, and Milton Mayor, Gord Krantz, at the Milton Walk of Fame Induction ceremony in February, just prior to the kick-off of the tenth anniversary of the Walk of Fame, a celebration that also acknowledged the 160th anniof the founding versarv the Corporation of the Town of Mil-150th ton, the anniversary of the creation of the Dominion of Canada and the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Society.



The MHS Monthly Meetings were well -attended and most engaging. speakers and topics included David Hobden with Where's Merton? Lost Villages of Halton, John Duignan with

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2017: Year In Review (continued)

Milton Postcards, John and Laura Hughes with History of Springridge Farms, Nancy Cuttle with Milton Heritage Plan, Mark Ford with Ford Family History and Jennifer Smith with History of Film.

The ever-popular MHS Annual Garage sale took place in April and was a great success, thanks to some generous donations and to all the hard work and co-ordination of our MHS volunteers.

2017 has seen a huge growth in the popularity of the MHS blacksmithing program. Bruce Carlin, MHS Blacksmithing Coordinator, increased the number of instructors and expanded the class schedule. Blacksmiths, Mike Armstrong and Megan Carter, have joined MHS blacksmithing instructors, Darwyne Hourie and Larry Maughan, to accommodate the larger number of students.

Jim Dills' twice monthly *Milton Memories Roundtable* series was a resounding success. It was a great opportunity for individuals to share their stories and pictures and to listen to others report on aspects of Milton's fascinating history.





The MHS thanks Diane and Mons Jensen and their niece, Samantha, for an evening of history and hospitality as they graciously hosted the MHS Annual June Members' Potluck Dinner at their home, which is the historic *Craiglea House*, located on Third Line, just north of the Boston Church in Halton Hills.



The house was built by prominent pioneer, John Stewart, and it can be boasted that William Lyon Mackenzie held a meeting there for his Reform party on August 12, 1837, where he spoke to the voters of Esquesing from the steps of *Craiglea House*. In fact, he dined in the same dining room in which we dined and spent the night in one of the bedrooms overhead.

(Continued on page 4)

2017: Year In Review (continued)



The summer brought Canada Day celebrations (and cake) to the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, MHS members dressed in period costume at both Milton's 150 Celebration at Victoria Park and at the MHS Ancestors' Day at Milton Evergreen Cemetery, the MHS Childrens' Summer Colouring Contest and the continuation of the monthly MHS Milton Farmers' Market book table.

The MHS Members' Fall Harvest Supper was held in September at the beautiful heritage home of Mirella and Jim Marshall. We wish to thank Mirella and Jim for their generous hospitality and we also thank Richard Brown, who slaved over a hot BBQ, for all the tasty burgers and sausages.





The fall saw the MHS and Waldie's Blacksmith Shop participate in the Fine Arts Society of Milton's (FASM) 19th Annual Milton & Area Studio Tour and Doors Open Halton – both on the same day! MHS members also participated in Doors Open Halton activities at the Milton Town Hall.

Also in the fall, the MHS hosted several guided Historic Milton Walking Tours. The accompanying Walking Historic Milton guide books are newly published and now on sale. The official launch of the guide books will take place in April, 2018, when more Historic Milton Walking Tours are planned to take place.

In mid-December, the MHS held a Holiday Sale at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room, with all proceeds going to the Society. Thanks go to Jim Dills for contributing books from his personal collection, to Mark Ford for contributing his wonderful birch bark candle sets and thanks to all the MHS volunteers for their hard work in making the day fun and successful.

The year will finish, of course, with the MHS Members' Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner, just before Christmas, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room and then the traditional Bell-Ringing in Victoria Park will take place on New Year's Eve.

It is time to renew your MHS Membership for 2018

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 12:00pm, at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. By mail to MHS, 16 James Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 2P4

By PayPal online at www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca

MHS Acknowledges Our Corporate Members

The Milton Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generous support of our Corporate Members:

Laughton Management Corporation – since 2016 J. Scott Early Funeral Home – since 2017 Andrews Crops Incorporated – since 2017

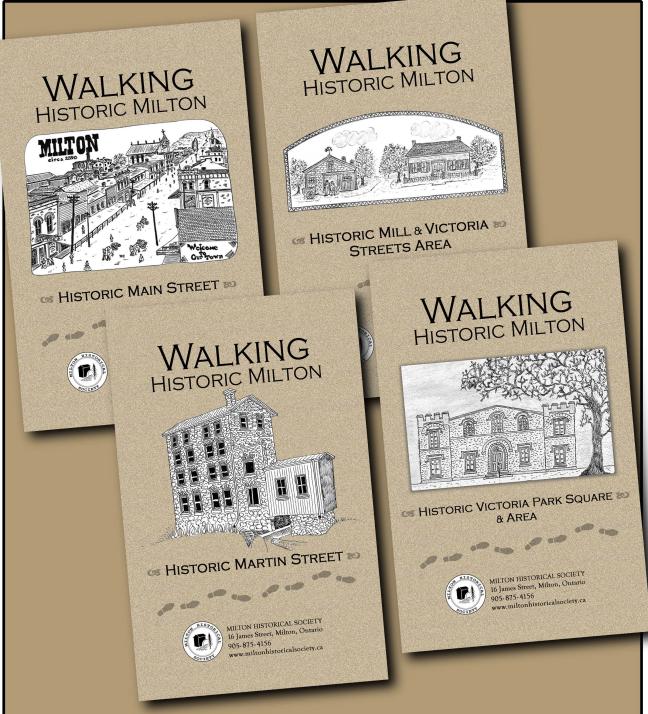
Through their support, organizations and their employees have the opportunity to participate in the preservation of the history of the Town of Milton and surrounding area and to learn more about the origins of our Town. In recognition of their contributions, their company information is posted on the MHS website and in the MHS Journal newsletter. Thank you!

Community Foundation of Halton North (CFHN)

This past year the Milton Historical Society has set up a foundation under Community Foundation of Halton North (CFHN). One can donate to the foundation on behalf of the Milton Historical Society and CFHN invests that money on our behalf.

Each year, from the donations that have been invested on behalf of the MHS, we will receive an annual grant of 3.5% of interest made. If you would like to make a donation or would like more information please contact us.

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





Walking Historic Milton BOOKS \$7.00 each or 4/\$25.00

OS Available at Milton Historical Society, 16 James Street 💨

Blacksmithing Classes - 2018 Schedule

Both Beginner and Intermediate blacksmithing classes have been scheduled for 2018. One must register for a class in order to attend it. Beginner level or previous experience is a prerequisite for the Intermediate level course. All classes take place at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street, Milton.

Beginner Level Classes:

Saturday, 9am - 5pm.

2018 classes are scheduled for March 17, April 21, May 19, June 2, September 15, October 20, November 3 and December 1. Cost is \$200.00.

Beginner students will learn how to light and maintain a fire in a coal forge and will be introduced to forging tools, hammering techniques and proper tool use. Instructors demonstrate two or more beginner level projects and students will follow by making their own projects to take home.

Intermediate Level Classes:

Friday, 6pm - 9pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9am - 5pm. **2018 classes are scheduled for June 22 -24 and November 23 - 25.** Cost is \$500.00.

Intermediate students will return to the forge for two and a half days to improve their blacksmithing skills. They will practice what has been learned in the previous class level and will be introduced to traditional joinery, striking techniques and forge welding. Students will complete various projects throughout the weekend or make one project with various forged elements.

Class size consists of 4 students and 2 instructors. Blacksmithing instructors are Darwyne Hourie, Larry Maughan, Mike Armstrong and Megan Carter.



Blacksmithing class in progress at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop with blacksmith, Darwyne Hourie, instructing at the anvil.

As individual classes are filled, the MHS Blacksmith Coordinator, Bruce Carlin, works with the instructors to determine if it is possible to add new classes.

There is no guarantee of new classes, but we encourage interested parties to check the MHS website for newly added classes.

Please note that the website is updated frequently to indicate how many available spaces remain in each class. All classes have 4 open spaces unless otherwise marked.

Please read the *Course Information* on the MHS website and always confirm that there are available class spaces **prior** to remitting payment.

For blacksmithing information visit www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca/dates/blacksmith-classes/
You may also email info@miltonhistoricalsociety.ca
or call (905) 875-4156.



The Heritage Corner: An Update on Heritage Happenings in Milton with Nancy Cuttle

n this year of anniversaries, namely the 150th for Canada's confederation and the 160th for the establishment of the Town of Milton, we were involved with many celebrations. In recognition for its contribution to the Victoria Park Restoration Project, the MHS rang the bell at midnight at the Mayor's New Year's Eve bell-ringing ceremony and we participated, dressed in period costumes, at the fabulous official park reopening ceremony in July. We were pleased also to submit a letter of recommendation for the Parks and Recreation Ontario's *Award of Excellence Park or Facility Design*.

The Downtown Study Report, which identifies opportunities for redevelopment and revitalization, continues:

Recommendation 2: Building on the Existing Heritage

It is imperative, as the Town grows as a community, that the historic Downtown core continues to evolve and remain relevant. The Downtown needs to be a place where all residents have the opportunity to appreciate and feel connected to Milton's history. There are both significant built heritage resources and significant history evident in the Downtown core, which need to be celebrated and enhanced. It already has many attributes, which contribute to its sense of place. These attributes simply need to be recognized in a more comprehensive and coherent manner.

Check out this document, which was prepared by Anne Fisher, on the Town of Milton website. It's a wonderful reference for our Heritage properties. You may see your home listed!

http://www.milton.ca/en/build/resources/ Appendix-3_Downtown-Study-Final-Report-2.pdf



MHS members enjoy official re-opening ceremonies for Victoria Park in full period costume.

Left to right: Kathy Lawday, Richard Brown, Marsha Waldie, Nancy Cuttle, Gloria Brown, Wendy Schau, Bruce Carlin and Gayle Waldie.

Anne Fisher has been our primary contact with Town of Milton Planning for many years. We were sad to see her leaving that position to work with Halton Hills as their Heritage Planner, but delighted that she now will become more involved with the MHS. We have begun a new working relationship with Milton Heritage Planner, Cecilia Nin Hernandez, and Jill Hogan, Milton Director, Planning Policy and Urban Design.

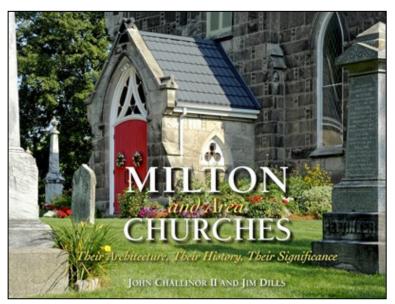
MHS has also established a new relationship with the Halton Region Heritage Services. Their capable staff will be working with the MHS on the revitalization of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room and also on the policy and procedures development and reorganization of the Alex Cooke Memorial Archives. An initial presentation will be made at the MHS Annual General Meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

We're pleased to have developed these positive working relationships with both levels of government.

Nancy Cuttle is the MHS Liaison with the Town of Milton and with Halton Region Heritage Services.

Milton and Area Churches: A Great Gift for Christmas 2017!





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.

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*.

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.

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.

Local Honey from Willow Grove Heritage Farm

Karin Tomosky Chambers, our MHS Secretary and resident apiarist, is generously donating \$2 to the MHS from each jar of honey sold. 500 ml jars are \$12 each. Karin's bees work hard throughout the warmer months to make this 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.



Molasses Ginger Cookies

Cream together:

3/4 cup shortening 3/4 cup white sugar.
Add one egg and mix well, then add 4 tablespoons of molasses and cream together well.

Sift together:

2 cups all-purpose flour
½ teaspoon ginger
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground cloves Pinch of salt

Add to cream mixture and mix very well.

Roll rounded teaspoons of dough into small balls, then roll each ball in white sugar. Place on lightly greased cookie sheet **or** cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

Bake in 350°F oven for 8-10 minutes.

Christmas Card Post-Marked December 23, 1903





The Train Accident and Sole Great War Soldier In Ebenezer United Church Cemetery 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 <u>On-Line MHS Journal</u>.

This is the story of Private James Lachlan Kingsbury #663268, who attested to the <u>164th</u> <u>Canadian Infantry Battalion</u> on the 24th of January, 1916, in Campbellville (Township of Nassagaweya). He was the son of Gilbert and Harriett Kingsbury.

As part of the "Milton Soldiers' Project" of the Milton Historical Society, every attempt has been made to locate the burial site of each soldier that is commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC: Kingsbury). Kingsbury is also commemorated on the Canadian Virtual War Memorial, where researchers have added additional photographs and documents (CVWM: Kingsbury). A profile of Private Kingsbury is also located on the web site of the Milton Historical Society (MHS: Kingsbury). Private Kingsbury is one of many hundred Canadian soldiers, who died before they ever made it to Europe to fight in the Great War, whether from sickness, accidents or "friendly fire". Many soldiers made it from Canada, but were similarly killed while training in England.



The Circumstance of Death file for Private Kingsbury states:

When returning to camp from four days pass, deceased attempted to leave the train while same was in motion. He was facing the direction the train was going and fell on his face clear of the wheels. Removed to the hospital tent of the 198th Bn., where he died at 9:30 P.M. Tuesday September 12th, 1916.

At the time of his death, the Toronto Star reported that he had been killed when he jumped from a C.P.R. train. He fell under the wheels and was instantly killed. This differs from the "Official Report" noted above.

The story of Private Kingsbury is unique to Milton, as he is the only soldier of the Great War that is buried in the <u>Nassagaweya (Ebenezer) Cemetery</u>. His grave stone is located beside the Kingsbury family stone and is the 7th stone from Guelph Line, in the 1st row by the south fence (GPS coordinates 43°33'2.66"N 80° 4'25.22"W).

KILLED BY TRAIN AT CAMP

Pte. Kingsbury of the Halton Rifles Lost Life at Borden.

Special to The Star.

Camp Borden, Sept. 13.—Pte. L. J. Kingsbury of the 164th Halton Rifles, of Campbellville, Ont., while attempting to jump off a C.P.R. train before it reached the station last night fell under the wheels and was instantly killed. He was single, 19 years of age, and the body will be removed to his home. A court of inquiry will probably be held.

The Train Accident and Sole Great War Soldier In Ebenezer United Church Cemetery (continued)

The headstone for Private Kingsbury, which rests beside the family stone, was found to be in need of refurbishment or replacement. We notified the CWGC Ottawa Agency of this situation and are pleased to now be able to report that a new headstone was installed at the Ebenezer Cemetery in September, 2016. Our thanks to the CWGC for their ongoing care.





Prior to enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, James Lachlan Kingsbury was a farmer in the Campbellville area. He was only 18 years old when he attested to the 164th Battalion. From <u>his records</u>, we know that he was a Methodist, was 5' 10 ½" tall, 170 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He was a big lad for that time in the CEF.

The 164th Battalion was one of 260 numbered battalions, which were formed Canadawide, to form the infantry of the "Canadian Corps" of the <u>Canadian Expeditionary Force</u>, plus a few named battalions (PPCLI, RCR, and the Canadian Mounted Rifles). In addition to these, there were "Canadian Troops", which included groups such as the Artillery, Cavalry, Engineers, Supply, Transport and Medical. The men of the 164th often attested in groups, envisioning that they would serve together at the front, as part of the "great adventure". As history demonstrated, the casualties far exceeded what was expected and, thus, the vast majority of the numbered battalions were broken up in order to provide the much needed reinforcements at the front. The 164th was one of a very few of these numbered battalions that retained a War Diary.

John Meek wrote of the 164th Battalion in his 1971 book, <u>Over the Top – The Canadian Infantry in the First World War</u>, the rights to which were secured to produce the digital version in April 2009:

During the months of December, 1915, and January to April, 1916, recruiting was brisk and, at the end of April, the Battalion had a strength of about 800 all ranks. From that time on, it was increasingly difficult to secure men and consequently the 164th Battalion never reached full strength. On June 5, 1916, the Battalion was mobilized at Orangeville Fair Grounds, remaining there under canvas until July 6, when they were moved by train to Camp Borden. The Battalion remained at Camp Borden until October 16, 1916, and, on this day, they began their long trek to the city of Hamilton, Ontario, for further winter training.

Private Kingsbury died 7 months before the 164th Battalion sailed from Halifax for Liverpool aboard the <u>RMS Carpathia</u>, just 2 days after the assault on Vimy Ridge. We know, from the service numbers in series 663xxx, that the fellow original 164th Battalion Milton area men, who died in the Great War, were Melville Bonus, William Cartwright, Meacham Denyes, James Elliot, Alfred Evans, William Kerns, Stanley Lancaster, William Roberts, and Elmer Tuck. Many others were fortunate enough to survive Hill 70 and Passchendaele in 1917, and Amiens, Arras and Cambrai to Mons in 1918.

MHS Calendar of Events

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

Thursday, December 21, 2017 - MHS Members' Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.

Arrive at 6:00pm, dinner at 6:30pm. At Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room.

Thursday, January 18, 2018 - MHS Annual General Meeting. Election of executive officers and a presentation from Halton Region Heritage Services.

Thursday, February 15, 2018 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker, John Challinor II, highlights Milton Walk of Fame inductees in celebration of Heritage Month.

Saturday, February 17, 2018 - Ontario Artists Blacksmith Association (OABA) Annual Meeting. At Waldie Blacksmith Shop and Carriage Room.

Thursday, March 15, 2018 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker, Marsha Waldie: History of the Mayors of Milton..

Saturday, March 17, 2018 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Saturday, April 7, 2018 - MHS Annual Garage Sale. Date to be confirmed.

Thursday, April 19, 2018 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker to be confirmed.

Saturday, April 21, 2018 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Sunday, May 6, May 13, May 20 and May 27, 2018 - Walking Historic Milton Tours.

Thursday, May 17, 2018 - Monthly Meeting, Speaker, John McDonald: The Amazing Fleming Family, Pioneers of Milton.

Saturday, May 19, 2018 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Saturday, June 2, 2018 - Blacksmithing, Basic Beginner Level One. 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Thursday, June 21, 2018 - MHS Members' Annual June Potluck Dinner. Location to be confirmed.

Friday, June 22 - Sunday, June 24, 2018 - Blacksmithing, Intermediate Level Two, Friday 6:00pm - 10:00pm, Saturday 9:00am to 5:00pm.



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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:	HTO
Name:	11-7-9 3/
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
	beive the Journal newsletter and other e-communications and I hat I can unsubscribe at any time.
	VOLUNTEER
Join (our volunteer team. Please circle your interest(s):
EXECUTIVE - W	EBMASTER - FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR - RESEARCH
ARCHIVES – 1	NEWSLETTER - PUBLIC OUTREACH - MEMBERSHIP
	DONATION
wish to make a se	eparate donation to the society in the sum of
	ipt will be issued for all donations totaling \$25.00 or more. listorical Society is a registered charity #110041358RR0001
Diagrama	also abassus morrable to. Wilton Historical Conjetus

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!