

OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 188

SUMMER 2013

OHS Welcomes New Affiliated Member: Kensington Market Historical Society

In November 2012, the OHS incorporated Toronto-based Kensington Market Historical Society (KMHS), continuing in its mission to empower historical societies across Ontario to save their local history.

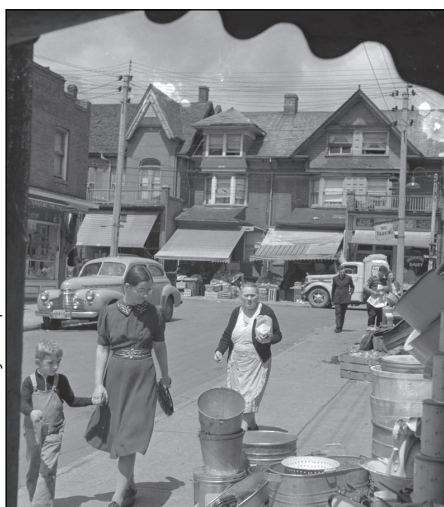
The objectives and interests of the KMHS are to collect and disseminate knowledge pertaining to the cultural, historical, and artistic context of Kensington Market's past. The organization intends to initiate primary research using documentary records and oral histories related to the neighbourhood. Opportunities for collaborative projects, such as streetscape inventories and urban archaeology, are also actively being pursued. KMHS has a preservationist and archival orientation, and takes particular interest in artefacts, records, and built structures that might otherwise be lost.

KMHS acknowledges and takes seriously the difficulties and nuances of recording community memory and the potential biases of historical narrative. At the same time, it recognizes the need for locally based educational and research resources, and for improving upon the quality, breadth, and content of those materials. KMHS is committed to making its work accessible by means of public events, print publication, and by maintaining an online presence.

Kensington Market, as far as can be determined, has never had such an historical society to speak on behalf of residents past and present, or to develop a documentary resource devoted to circumstances and perspectives especially linked to the area.

"We hope to develop a strong

Photo Ronny Jaques



Street view of Toronto's Kensington Market, circa 1940s. Library and Archives Canada, R3133-510-7-E.

presence in the residential and commercial communities of Kensington, and a trusted reputation within the broader academic and archival community. The support of The Ontario Historical Society has enabled us to take our first steps towards these goals," remarked KMHS publications chair Jonathan Lofft.

In March, 130 people attended KMHS's inaugural event at the Lillian H. Smith branch of the Toronto Public Library, featuring guest speakers Jean Cochrane, author of *Kensington*, and Rosemary Donegan, author of *Spadina*.

KMHS held its first AGM at the same venue in May, where five officers were elected and three committees were struck. Stewart Scriver, long-time resident and entrepreneur, shared his unique reminiscences of five decades of life in Kensington Market.

Visit www.kmhs.ca to learn more or join the growing membership base of the KMHS.

OHS to Launch Online Project to Strengthen Ontario's Heritage Community

Alison Little, Program Manager
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Since 1888, The Ontario Historical Society has sought new ways to reach out to its members, partners, and friends in the heritage community. 125 years later, the OHS plans to develop a web portal, map, and webinar series for an increasingly diverse audience.

Beginning in fall 2013, the "Strengthening Ontario's Heritage Network" project will include

a series of training and general interest webinars, an interactive map, an online discussion forum, a document-sharing portal, and a monthly community feature. These resources will increase the Society's online presence, provide valuable tools for members and affiliated societies, and create opportunities for collaboration and communication across the province. Casting a wider net online to promote this exciting web project will connect new faces and perspectives to our discussions and collaborations, enriching Ontario's heritage community.

The project will feature an interactive map that will plot the over 1,600 contacts currently a part of the Society's popular Ontario Heritage Directory Online. As a heritage tourism tool, this map will raise the profile of cultural groups across the province.

The web portal will allow members to upload and share content, improving the resources and sharing tools available to heritage organizations. A web forum will give users the opportunity to reach out to colleagues sharing similar challenges, and to discuss, promote, and celebrate achievements in heritage work. OHS' goal is to improve the ways in which Ontario's heritage community interacts, discovers, and collaborates.

Learning and skill-development

will be the goal of a series of webinars, which will present valuable information on topics directly relevant to heritage institutions and organizations in Ontario. Each webinar will be led by industry professionals with ample time for participant questions, and will also be made available for viewing afterwards through the OHS website.

**Do you have a webinar idea?
Tell us what you'd like to see!**
Email alittle@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca
to make suggestions and take
part in our webinar survey!

Finally, in early 2014, the OHS will launch "Your Local History," a monthly regional feature that will shine the spotlight on a single community in Ontario and its heritage activities. Information on events, volunteer opportunities, photos, and videos will be shared through the new web portal and across social media feeds. Organizations featured will benefit from a signal-boost by the OHS, and portal visitors will be exposed to new and exciting regional heritage work on a regular basis.

As a result of this project, Ontario's heritage organizations and institutions will become better connected with the OHS, its resources, and the institutional knowledge the province's heritage community. There will be an increase of accessible and current information published on the OHS website for the benefit of all people interested in learning about and promoting Ontario's local history.

The "Strengthening Ontario's Heritage Network" web portal, map, forum, and webinars will be launched in phases, beginning in autumn 2013. Watch for news in the *OHS Bulletin*, on the OHS Twitter (@OntarioHistory) and Facebook feeds, and our website.

OHS would like to acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport through its Museums and Technology Fund.

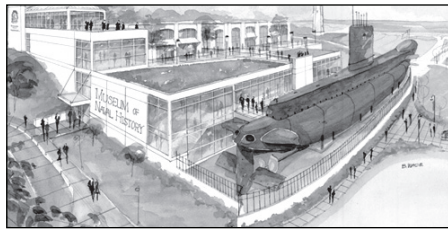
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The Ontario
Historical
Society



Founded
1888

www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

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President's Report

Dr. Brad Rudachyk, President
president@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

Thanks to the marvels of the internet and tablet technology, I have the good fortune to be writing this as I overlook my back garden on a gloriously bright July morning. It's one of those days you would swear that you can actually see the morning glories grow.

On Saturday, June 22nd, your society held its 125th annual general meeting. Our gracious hosts were the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The day was a resounding success; we were privileged to be a part of the official opening of their impressive new community centre. We were also pleased that the Hon. David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and Mr. Bob Rae were able to attend.

The Society also wishes to thank the event's keynote speakers, Dr. Don Smith and Dr. Allan Sherwin for their engaging and informative sessions. Congratulations to the City of Toronto Museum Services and MNCFN on the launch of their new "First Nations and the War of 1812" exhibit, which was unveiled during the day's festivities.

Thanks to Chief Bryan LaForme and the New Credit Band Council for making the OHS feel most welcome. It is always good for the Society to be out and about; it was especially so that day, since it was the first time since 1898 that we met in the area. Thanks, as well, to master of ceremonies Max King. His patience and good humour gently kept us on time over the course of an extremely busy day. And, last

but not least, thank you to director Carolyn King and our wonderful staff who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to not only make the day possible, but to go so smoothly.

At the AGM, we bid fond farewell to board members Linda Kelly and Jim Leonard. Their keen minds, wise counsel, and unflagging good humour will be sorely missed. Thank you, Linda and Jim. The Society is the better for all of your efforts. On a happier note, we welcomed Dr. Michel Beaulieu and Allan Macdonell to the board. We look forward to working with them over their terms.

Our Honours and Awards ceremony was well-attended and flawlessly orchestrated. Congratulations to our nominees and recipients. There is so much talent and energy across the province being devoted to our history and heritage. Thanks to awards committee chair Dr. Ian

Radforth, our volunteer judges, and Andrea Izzo for a job well done.

I would like to welcome our new program manager, Alison Little. Alison is already hard at work putting together a series of professional development and general interest webinars, which will launch this fall (see page 1). This is very exciting, as your Society continues to expand its internet presence.

Speaking of the digital world, I would be remiss if I did not provide an update on our special 125th Anniversary campaign to raise \$125,000 to digitize our back issues of *Papers and Records* and *Ontario History*. So far, we have raised over \$28,000. To all who have already contributed, thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated. This is a most worthy project that will prove a huge boon to the study of our province's history going forward. Please do consider helping out as best you can.

In closing, I wish everyone a restful, rewarding, and safe summer. You know, I'd swear those morning glories have grown at least a quarter of an inch.



Photo: Andrea Izzo

The OHS was honoured to host its 125th Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony in partnership with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation (MNCFN). Pictured on June 22nd at the grand opening of the MNCFN Community Centre are (from left): MNCFN Chief Bryan LaForme; OHS Director and former MNCFN Chief Carolyn King; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Hon. David Zimmer; OHS Executive Director Rob Leverty; and OHS Director Dr. Alison Norman.

Executive Director's Report

Rob Leverty, Executive Director
rleverty@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

I am pleased to report that the OHS Board of Directors recently incorporated three more not-for-profit historical corporations. Congratulations to all the volunteers who donated their time and skills to incorporate The Glengarry Pioneer Museum (2013), The Penetanguishene Historical Society, and The Friends of the Educational Archives Serving Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties through affiliation with the OHS.

Since October 2012, the OHS has incorporated thirteen new not-for-profit historical corporations as the Society responds to an unprecedented number of requests from citizens across Ontario to help them protect and preserve the history of their communities and regions.

I am thrilled to report that the Society recently launched an electronic index of all the articles and book reviews that have been published in our scholarly journal *Ontario History* since 1899. This index provides instant, universal access to a treasure of diverse scholarship on Ontario's history. Please visit www.ontariohistorical

society.ca/index.

The creation of this new electronic index would not have been possible without the generous assistance of the Sault Ste. Marie Museum and the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. I would like to thank Christopher Nitsopoulos for compiling and producing an index for the last twenty years of Ontario History, and the Department of Canadian Heritage for providing

his employment funding through the Young Canada Works program.

The OHS will now focus on the digitization of all the articles and book reviews published since 1899 in *Ontario History* in order to make them electronically available to the general public. This is an enormous project that will modernize our scholarly journal. We are deeply grateful to everyone, including our member organizations and institutions, who have supported the digitization of *Ontario History* by generously donating to the Society's 125th Anniversary Fund.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!

Congratulations 2012-13 OHS Honours and Awards Recipients!

Dr. Ian Radforth, Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee of the OHS is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012 Honours and Awards, presented June 22, 2013 in Hagersville:

Scadding Award of Excellence
Old Durham Road Pioneer Cemetery Committee

President's Award
Unterman-McPhail Associates

Dorothy Duncan Award
Rolph, Buchanan, Wylie & McKay Historical Society

Carnochan Award
Janie Cooper-Wilson and Joyce C. Lewis

Cruikshank Medal
Dr. Gabriele Scardellato

'Awards' cont'd page 3 ...

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SINCE MAY 2013

Ajax Public Library

Andrew Beveridge

Russ Boychuk

Adele Chatelain

Michael Commito

Friends of the Educational Archives Serving Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties

The Glengarry Pioneer Museum

Halton Hills Public Library, Georgetown Branch

Italian-Canadian Archives Project

Guy Legault

Ken Leland

Allan J Macdonell

Donald Macleod

Ann Martin

Regan McFarlane

James McTavish

Penetanguishene Historical Society

Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands

Doug Tracy

Casey Vinkle

Gail Warner-Metzlaff

Wasaga Beach Provincial Park

DONORS

N.B. list does not include 125th Anniversary Fund donors

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Cathy Willoughby

The New Toronto Historical Society will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary of New Toronto on Saturday, October 5th, with a historical walk beginning at 1 p.m. at St. Margaret's Anglican Church on 6th Street. The walk concludes with a celebratory tea at St. Margaret's. Learn more at www.newtorontohistorical.com.

Congratulations to Friends of Freeman Station (FOFS) on the creation of a wonderful 1:24 scale model of the historic Burlington train station. FOFS conducted two days of public outreach at the local shopping mall to promote this model and historic photographs: www.freemanstation.ca.

The United Church of Canada has announced its Toronto-based archives are on the move, and will re-open on September 16th at the new location at the Toronto Christian Resource Centre, 40 Oak Street, with parking and easy access to public transit: archives@united-church.ca.

The Simcoe County Historical Association has announced the Andrew Hunter Award 2014 for a student essay, between 3000 and 5000 words, in English or French, written during the 2013-14 academic year on some aspect of Simcoe County history. Essays must be postmarked by April 21, 2014: simcoecountyhistory.ca.

The Bruce County Historical Society (BCHS) has launched a new research project to compile military information on Bruce residents who have served in the armed forces. If you have information or can assist with the project, contact Dorne Fitzsimmons at 519.368.7168 or dcf@bmts.com.

Bronte Historical Society is also appealing for information about buildings that were previously located along the Bronte Bluffs near the present location of Sovereign House, where a broad selection of artists are exhibiting this summer. Rubble indicates there were buildings and families nearby. Information: 905.825.5552.

Postcards are popular! Two recent publications include *Postcard Memories of Orillia*, by Marcel Rousseau, that contains rare visuals of Orillia families, dwellings, and businesses of more than a century ago: 705.329.1908. *A Postcard History of Bruce County* has been launched by the BCHS and features pre-1948 postcards, a lasting reminder of many

memorable locations, buildings, streetscapes, and events: 519.934.2270.

The Archives of Ontario's new exhibit, *Perceptions of 1812: Identity, Diversity, Memory* is now open at the Helen McClung Exhibit Area. This free exhibit, curated by Ryerson University's Dr. Ross Fair, explores the personalities, politics, and legacy of this crucial conflict, using pieces from the Archives' own art collection – which consists of approximately 2,600 artworks in a wide variety of media installed in more than 200 locations throughout the province.

As always, Ontario's heritage world is buzzing with events; here is just a sampling:

August 24-25: Uxbridge Historical Society's Heritage Days Festival at the Uxbridge Heritage Centre, 7239 6th Concession Road, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Visit uxbridgescotthistoricalociety.ca

August 25: Annual Monarch Butterfly Tag & Release, sponsored by the Port Hope and District Historical Society: 905.885.2981

September 6: "Pedal for the Past," a 50- or 100-km cycle through beautiful Oro-Medonte, or a 25-km ride on the historic Oro-Medonte Rail Trail, sponsored by the Friends of The OPP Museum as a fundraiser for the Orillia-based museum: 705.330.4178

September 14: Tour of the S.S. *Keewatin* at Port McNicoll, sponsored by the SCHA: 705.721.9401

September 18: Prince Albert Cemetery Walk, 7 p.m., sponsored by Lake Scugog Historical Society: lakescugoghistoricalociety.com

October 3: "We are not alone, OHS at 125" lecture by Janet Cobban, OHS past president at the Duff-Baby Interpretation Centre, Sandwich, sponsored by Windsor's Community Museum Volunteer Group: 519.253.1812

October 16: "Bikes in summer, skates in winter!" lecture by John McKenty, author of *Canada Cycle & Motor: the CCM Story*, at St. John's United Church, Oakville, 7:30 p.m., sponsored by The Oakville Historical Society: 905.844.2695

October 26: "We are Nobody's Babies" Annual Banquet with guest speaker, The Hon. Sheila Copps, PC, OC, author of *Nobody's Baby*, at the Travelodge Hotel in Belleville at 6 p.m. Sponsored by Hastings County Historical Society: 613.961.7772

Smogville: The Politics of Toronto's Air Pollution during the 1950s," *Journal of Urban History*

J. J. Talman Award
Dr. Stuart Henderson, *Making the Scene: Yorkville and Hip Toronto in the 1960s*

Donald Grant Creighton Award
James FitzGerald, *What Disturbs Our Blood: A Son's Quest to Redeem the Past*

Huguenot Society of Canada Award
Jennifer Lanthier, *The Stamp Collector*

Preserving the Memory of Canada's Literary Sweetheart



Photo Barbara Pratt

Jennifer Carroll (left) sits with artist Wynn Walters, who created a maquette mock-up for a bronze statue commemorating Lucy Maud Montgomery unveiled by LMMSO last summer. Carroll portrays Montgomery in an original one-woman show, *Maud of Leaskdale*, which plays at the Historic Leaskdale Church near Uxbridge until August 25, 2013. Visit lucymaudmontgomery.ca for ticket and time information.

Jennifer Carroll
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The day was full of storms and black clouds. Furious sheets of rain assaulted the steaming ground in intervals, never quite able to break the heat of that summer night. The clouds broke and blue skies appeared just as cars rolled into the parking lot and hands reached out in meeting and for a glass of wine. I sit in full costume, next to Lucy Maud Montgomery's granddaughter, wilting under the lingering heat. Kathy stands on stage, gesturing toward garden blueprints and my ears ring with her measured words. She speaks for the Society, and what she speaks of resonates throughout the room.

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario (LMMSO). They call themselves 'The Maud Squad' – a name that could not be more fitting, for the group is remarkable and seemingly unstoppable. Tonight they unveil plans for a new garden at the Leaskdale Historic Church, its centrepiece the commission of a life-size bronze of the famed Canadian author. Kathy stands, addressing an impassioned audience, and touches on a major theme that guides the purpose of the society: public art. My memory touches back to the preceding summer, while filming a promotional video for the LMMSO in the manse where Maud lived and wrote for fifteen years.

As The Maud Squad carefully and beautifully restored the manse to the days when Maud lived and worked within it, they uncovered a boarded-over staircase from the kitchen to the upstairs. Her meticulous journals and numerous photographs made for excellent blueprints, and now the manse stands, proud, a reflection of the history it endured.

The same goes for the church that peers at the manse from across the street. In 2006, the LMMSO purchased the building where Maud's husband ministered for sixteen years, and within five years they had paid off a \$200,000 mortgage, and transformed the space into an

interpretive centre, arts initiative, and tearoom. Both of these spaces are public art in themselves, bringing to life so vividly the memory of a remarkable woman

In 2011, the ladies decided to set their ambitions even higher, and that's where I came in. A play was commissioned to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Maud's arrival in Ontario. The show is now in its second season at the Historic Leaskdale Church. In the infancy of the project, they turned to Conrad Boyce as writer and director who, in turn, circled right back to Maud. Who better to tell the compelling story than the very woman who lived it? And so Maud of Leaskdale was born from the journals Maud kept her entire life.

From her arrival at Uxbridge's train station to the day she packed up her parlour to leave, Maud's days in the Ontario countryside were chronicled in exacting detail, bringing her daily life into a vivid light. As I walk the stage, night after night, Maud's words flow out of me into the golden light of her husband's sanctuary, nestled in the countryside she so often cited as the ultimate inspiration. Her words ring in the air she once breathed. Her acerbic wit recounts the events that formed the scaffold of her life. Her infamous turns of phrase reveal the surprising depth of joy and tragedy she endured. And the show continues, bringing her voice back to Leaskdale by popular demand.

So on this stormy summer night I sit in the audience in full costume, wilting under the lingering heat, and watch The Maud Squad put yet another feather in their cap, using Maud's favourite medium: nature. And the LMMSO does it in such style, encompassing and preserving our history, involving the community and local artists, and bringing to life great Canadian stories waiting to be told. Is there anything these women cannot do?

Editor's Note: The LMMSO incorporated through affiliation with The Ontario Historical Society in November 2004. Learn more about this organization at www.lucymaudmontgomery.ca

"Awards" from page 2

Joseph Brant Award
Dr. Allan Sherwin, *Bridging Two Peoples: Chief Peter E. Jones*

Alison Prentice Award
Dr. Katrina Srigley, *Breadwinning Daughters: Young Working Women in a Depression-Era City*

Fred Landon Award
Justice Robert J. Sharpe, *The Lazier Murder: Prince Edward County, 1884*

Riddell Award
Dr. Owen Temby, "Trouble in

Dr. John Carter

OHS Museums Committee
drjohncarter@bell.net

Editor's Note:

"Museum Milestones" is compiled and coordinated by Dr. John Carter, who invites members of Ontario's museum community to prepare articles, and who will also provide editorial comments and footnotes pertaining to important happenings across the province. Please send articles and ideas to drjohncarter@bell.net.

Museum Milestones

The Elgin Military Museum officially opened its *HMCS Ojibwa* exhibit on July 6. The lead article in this edition of Museum News provides more information about this exciting project. Take a drive to Port Burwell to see this newest addition to Ontario's community museums' rich resources. For more details contact media@projectojibwa.ca.

Do you like barns? If so, consider purchasing the Essa Historical Society's 2014 barn calendar.

Support this novel fundraising initiative; contact 705.458.9971 or teddylee@rogers.com.

50 years ago, the Dufferin County Historical Society presented its first exhibition at the Orangeville Curling Club; it has been 25 years since the Dufferin County Council adopted the historical society's collection and created the Dufferin County Museum and Archives. Activities to commemorate these accomplishments are taking place throughout 2013. Contact the DCM at 1.877.941.7787 for additional details.

2013 marks the 175th anniversary of the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion. Good news for those having an interest in this

often overlooked chapter of our province's history: a revised 2nd edition of *To the Outskirts of Habitable Creation* is now available. In my estimation, this is the best reference book written from an American perspective about the 1838 Upper Canadian Rebellion and the transportation of North American political prisoners to Van Diemen's Land. Contact author Stuart Scott at stupat@q.com to obtain a copy. Dr. Scott spent many years researching and writing this fascinating book. Thank you Stuart for your recent generous donation of research materials to the James Gibson Library at Brock University.

A retirement open house was held in February for Susan Hewett, to celebrate her 30 years working with Grand Bend's Lambton Heritage Museum. Dave Benson, Director of Museums for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, is also departing from the museum world after working 35 years in the sector. Both Susan and Dave began their long museum careers at the John R. Park Homestead. All the best to both of them in their future endeavours.

The Town of South Bruce Peninsula's Municipal Heritage Committee is offering an agricultural-themed seminar on September 14th at the Warton Arena. "Rural Roots" will feature informative sessions presented by Dr. Dorothy Duncan, Mabel Williamson, and Dr. John Carter. Barn-related artifacts from the personal collection of Jim Barfoot will be on display, and a variety of books on rural life, food, and architecture will be on sale. Admission is free.

Birth of a New Museum: Museum of Naval History

Melissa Raven

Elgin Military Museum
media@projectojibwa.ca

297.5 feet long, 5 stories high, elegant, imposing, hiding secrets of the Cold War. Such is the *HMCS Ojibwa*, Canada's first Oberon Class submarine – not a sight one would immediately associate with the Great Lakes, much less with the tiny harbour of Port Burwell on Lake Erie's north shore. But there she sits, the first artifact of the Museum of Naval History. The story behind the acquisition of this decommissioned cold warrior is almost as long as the boat itself.

It began innocently enough in 2009, when the Elgin Military Museum of St. Thomas, Ontario, approached the Department of National Defence (DND) in search of a tank to add to their collection. The somewhat tongue-in-cheek response from DND was that no tanks were currently available, but would the museum be interested in a submarine instead?

HMCS Ojibwa was built in the Chatham dockyards in England and commissioned to the Royal Canadian Navy in 1965 in response to growing apprehension about the Cold War. Although glorified in movies, little was actually known about the activities of the submarine service at the time. They left harbour in the dark of night and returned the same way, their crews coming and going dressed as regular dock workers. It was for good reason that the service was known as the "real secret service," families often not even knowing that their loved ones served on submarines.

Ojibwa participated in many clandestine actions during her 34 years in service, before being decommissioned in 1998. The Oberon Class boats, known as "O-boats," were recognized for their astonishing capacity for stealth, making them key players for Canada and NATO during the Cold War. Even now, few Canadians are aware of the remarkable and often dangerous missions they undertook.

Jim "Lucky" Gordon, a sonar operator and long-serving submariner described these missions: "During my time in *Ojibwa*, we

might have to slip into hostile harbours and remain undetected while gathering audio and visual intelligence on military facilities, warships, and submarines. The atmosphere would be electric, with absolute silence throughout the submarine. We would move stealthily under Soviet warships close enough to photograph their hulls and underwater equipment through our periscopes or we might quietly surface to land special agents in small folding boats, or lock them out through the one-man escape trunk while still dived, always in the cover of darkness, to carry out clandestine activities ashore, then rendezvous with them for the recovery."

How could a military museum turn down an opportunity to save this extraordinary piece of Canadian history? Project *Ojibwa* was born to acquire, move, mount, preserve, and present *Ojibwa* as a museum, but it quickly became evident that the submarine alone was not enough to tell the whole story. The original plans for a simple support building morphed into discussions to build a full-fledged Museum of Naval History with a focus on the Cold War.

In May 2012, the transfer of *HMCS Ojibwa* to the Elgin Military Museum was finally approved, and thus began a delicate and challenging transfer from Halifax via the St. Lawrence River.

Ojibwa spent the summer in the shipyard, undergoing an exterior restoration. The toxic anti-fouling coating was removed and all tanks were cleaned and certified. Permanent exhibit cradles and temporary transport cradles were affixed in preparation for her final move. The museum brought together an experienced and dedicated engineering team to spearhead the move. Their mettle was constantly tested and, even in the final weeks, new challenges kept arising. From Hurricane Sandy to the lowest



An artist's rendering of the new Museum of Naval History, which will be designed as a showcase for the application of "green" technology in a museum setting, including a green roof and energy-saving lighting. *HMCS Ojibwa* is located steps from the beautiful Port Burwell beaches and historic lighthouse. Drawing by Barry Wade, from the collection of the Elgin Military Museum.

lake levels in decades to an unexpected old sea wall, one by one, the hurdles were overcome. The Museum will be forever grateful for the dedication and extraordinary efforts of the engineering team and large contingent of volunteers.

Appropriately, *Ojibwa* left the Heddle Yard in the early hours of a very foggy morning on November 19th, 2012. By the time she reached the entrance to the Welland Canal, the sun had come out, along with huge crowds of people. Traffic jams greeted her along the length of the canal; one Seaway representative claimed to have never seen as large a crowd to view the passage of any vessel in the history of the canal.

Ojibwa arrived in her new home

at Port Burwell on November 20th and over the following five days, the barge was moved into place along a specially built 600-metre road.

Work on the interior restoration continued over the winter. Due to overwhelming demand, 'Inside the Fence' tours of the boat's exterior began on Easter weekend.

Ojibwa officially opened on July 16th, and continues to welcome visitors. Located just a short drive south of Highway 401, this unique museum is within day-trip distance of many major centres in Ontario and the northern US. It features special programs and facilities for bus tours and school groups. For more information, visit www.projectojibwa.ca.



Photo Rob Levery

In April, the OHS participated in the annual Spring Meeting of the Voyageur Heritage Network (VHN), hosted by the Dionne Quints Museum (DQM) in North Bay, presented in partnership with The Ontario Historical Society and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Pictured (from left) are: Kimberley Lyon, Museum Director, DQM; Serge Ducharme, OHS Museums Committee Chair and VHN President; and Dr. Dorothy Duncan, OHS volunteer and guest speaker, who made a presentation on the 50th anniversary of the TransCanada Highway.

Saturnia Documentary Captures Personal Stories of Italian-Canadian Immigration

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
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Saturnia was directed, written, and produced by Ferdinando Dell'Omo and Lilia Topuzova; in co-production with Doclab; in Association with Omni Television; with the support of The Mariano A. Elia Chair at York Univesity, Fondazione Ansaldo, Genova-Liguria Film Commission, and Pier 21 Museum, Halifax. Director of Photograpy Maya Bankovic; edited by Juan Baquero; original music by Ivo Paunov. A Still Ocean Films Inc. Production. DVD copies can be purchased at www.stilloceanfilms.com; \$20.

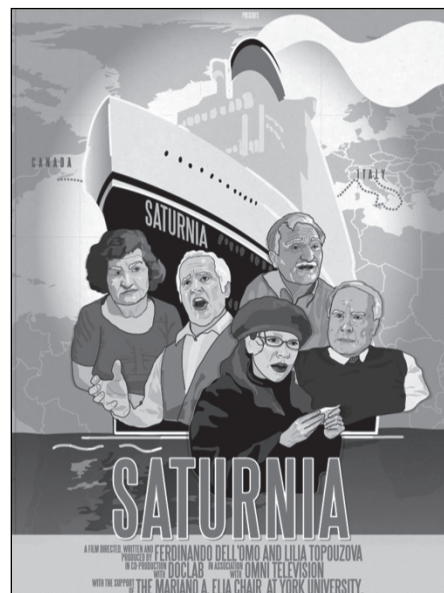
On the recently passed Canada Day, my family got together, as we always do, for our celebratory dinner. At a table festooned with little flags and maple leaf napkins, and the usual all-too-much platters of “Canadian” [barbecue ribs], Italian [tortellini], and vegetarian culinary options, four generations were represented. The elders were my parents, who arrived by ship from the northern Italian city of Veneto in 1948 [father] and 1952 [mother]. My siblings and I are Canadian-born, as are our children, and my grandchildren. But my children can count postwar Dutch-Flemish immigrants on their father’s side, and my grandchildren, in addition to their Italian-Dutch-Flemish heritage, are also Chinese-Vietnamese on their father’s side; his parents were among the first “Boat People” to find refuge in Ontario.

I doubt that this multicultural familial mix is anything unusual in today’s Canada. It’s just the way things are for many of us, in a nation peopled by immigrants, and a province whose post Second World War history is in so many

ways the combined stories of those arriving from other nations. What made me aware of what I take for granted at any given family occasion was the impact of my grandson’s prayer for Canada, learned in his third-grade classroom and proudly recited by heart when we sat at the dining table. The prayer was the standard litany of gratitude for all that we have as Canadians, the natural beauty and abundant riches, our freedom, our opportunities. My 83-year-old father, invariably stoic, unemotional, and unforthcoming, was surprisingly moved to a rare disclosure. He told Alex that he could not have chosen better words to describe his own feelings about Canada.

My father arrived 65 years ago, under his uncle’s sponsorship, disembarking from the *Roma* at Pier 21 in Halifax. Like so many others who made the journey at various times throughout the twentieth century, he was a young man from a small rural village, all too aware of the massive responsibility of “making it” and bringing over his widowed mother and seven siblings to start anew in the wake of war, displacement, and hopelessness. Yet, despite the very real hardships that immigration entails, it was hope that filled and sustained him from the beginning. Being here was daunting, but here he was taken in by his uncle’s family, quickly apprenticed, had money in his pocket, saved to purchase a tiny house in the Ward (Guelph’s Italian neighbourhood), after a couple of years, sponsored his immediate family, and, nearly five years after his departure, brought over and married his fiancée. The contrast to the desolation left behind was such that he felt that “Canada was paradise.” This unexpected passing revelation by an old man, now entirely blind and physically

frail, to his nine-year-old great-grandson, caught what it means to leave home and “make home,” a process that historians and social scientists generally consider on a mass scale with an eye to its larger sociohistoric and political repercussions. On the human, personal, subjective level on which we live our histories, this is how it feels.



With this recent moment fresh in mind, I sat down, historian and first-generation Canadian, to watch this documentary film about the *Saturnia*, one of the largest immigrant passage ships to set sail from Italy in those postwar years of anxiety and hope comingled. The film gracefully captures the ambivalence and ambiguity at the heart of the immigrant experience. The opening scene is simply shot, honest, and thought-provoking. We see an Italian-born Rosa Calenzo, probably now in her seventies, seated on a sofa against a heap of colourful cushions. She speaks directly into the camera, in Italian, and tells us that she arrived in this ‘magnifico paese’ [magnificent land] in 1961 aboard the *Saturnia*. She was 17 years old, travelling alone to meet a fiancé to whom she was bequeathed by her parents at the age of 15. She pauses. She matter-of-factly confides that, in many ways, she did not actually find this to be a “magnificent land.” With remarkable self-insight, she discloses that she consciously created this “fantasia”

in order to encourage in herself the positive attitude that she would need to make a success of her new life in her new home. We will later learn that her fiancé, settled in a crowded Montreal apartment with other family members, was from her village, but otherwise known to her only by photograph. That this sort of “arranged marriage by photograph” was fairly commonplace in those days in her southern Italian region, and that, although she belonged to a loving happy family that was relatively well-off, her parents, like so many others, felt that “America” represented their children’s best future. As a dutiful daughter, albeit a spirited one, she went to meet, and make, her destiny.

This simple opening scene immediately makes us feel that “knot,” often unacknowledged, suppressed, hidden, or denied, that grounds the personal stories of immigration and therefore shapes its larger history. The thread that stitches together the various stories highlights the personal search of Michelle Alfano, Hamilton-born writer and daughter of a Sicilian immigrant who arrived on the *Saturnia*. In her forties now, she realizes how much of her father’s experience was a mystery to her, an absent presence that shaped their family life but was never openly discussed. His early death when she was sixteen means that she cannot now go to him to piece together his story, so much part of her own.

The film, which clocks in at just under one hour, relates Michelle Alfano’s determined quest to uncover her father’s story by relating it to the stories of other *Saturnia* passengers, including Calenzo and a select few who settled in Edmonton, Vancouver, and Toronto. All seniors now, they are able to recount vivid memories of both old country and new, and especially of the passage and transition between them. These personal features are filled out with historic footage of the *Saturnia* in Mediterranean and

‘Saturnia’ cont’d page 6 ...

Letter to the Editor: “Change the Curriculum”

As an educator and member of The Ontario Historical Society, I must point out a crisis in this province when it comes to how Ontarians understand their parliamentary democracy. At the core of this crisis is the curriculum provided by the Ministry of Education to teachers of Ontario’s high school Civics course.

On June 7th, 2013, the Ontario Ministry of Education released the revised elementary curriculum for Social Studies and History. Canada’s Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy were included, as suggestions, in the new document for the first time in nearly 20 years. While this is encouraging, there remains real concern over the updated high school curriculum documents (including the only dedicated government course, entitled “Civics,” Ontarians must take in order to receive

their high school diplomas), which still remain in bureaucratic limbo.

Ontario high school students take Civics (CHV20) in their grade 10 year. This mandatory, half-credit course is currently saddled with a curriculum that should raise some eyebrows considering what its expectations are for our students in order to for them to demonstrate a successful understanding of the subject. There are lots of points about being a global citizen and understanding a variety of different beliefs and values – all good pedagogy – however there are only a few lines emphasizing the need to understand the actual system of government and democracy enjoyed by Canadians. In fact, the key overall expectation reads:

“Students are expected to describe the main structures and functions of municipal, provincial, and federal government in Canada.”

What this means is up to the interpretation of individual classroom teachers – and many of whom are themselves mystified by the system.

The very fundamentals of Canadian democracy – constitutional monarchy, having a written and unwritten constitution, responsible government – are integral to understanding its structures and functions. Yet, when the Ontario curriculum is explored further, there is no mention of the constitution, Sovereign, governor general, lieutenant governors, prime minister, cabinet, premiers, or responsible government. Furthermore, there is a definition of Parliament given in the document’s glossary that is incorrect: “An elected assembly responsible for passing legislation and granting the right to levy taxes. In Canada, the federal legislature consists of the Sovereign’s representative, the Senate, and the House of Commons.” Only the House of Commons is elected, and the Sovereign, not her representative, is part of our Parliament. A better definition would be: “The

federal legislature of Canada consisting of the Queen (represented by the governor general), the Senate and the House of Commons.”

Textbook companies in the private sector take their cues from provincial curricula and, since Ontario has the largest audience of students, they carry the greatest amount of influence. With a curriculum that does not provide specific guidance on what the foundations of Canada’s democracy are, the textbooks being used by students (including those on the province’s coveted “Trillium List”) are uniformly filled with egregious errors. Truly, what is not mentioned in Canadian textbooks is almost as misleading as what is.

Provincial curricula are reviewed routinely and, in Ontario, the Civics course now finds itself on the desk of Minister of Education Liz Sandals as part of a seven-year review process. Since 2010, there has been an effort by citizens, political scientists, university

‘Curriculum’ cont’d page 6 ...

Cemetery News

Marjorie Stuart, Editor
marjstuart@sympatico.ca

The volunteer Unregistered Cemetery Committee would like to provide the following updates about its activities:

- Information about unregistered cemeteries in Frontenac and Glengarry Counties have been submitted to the Provincial Registrar of Cemeteries;

- A display table was held at the OHS's 125th AGM and at the OGS's Conference; we learned of several unregistered cemeteries;

- We will be speaking at a meeting of the OGS Quinte Branch in October.

Concern has been raised recently regarding the condition of the **Servos Cemetery** in Niagara-on-the-Lake, as well as the **H. Bruce McLeod Farm Cemetery** and **St. Luke's Cemetery**, both in Stormont County. In each case these cemeteries have been assumed by the municipality and are registered with the Province. When a municipality takes over an abandoned cemetery, they also assume all liability. Sadly, these cemeteries do not come with bank accounts. The municipality is responsible for general upkeep such as grass cutting, as well as public safety. This includes the stabilization of monuments. Stabilization and the restoration of a monument are quite different. For reasons of public safety, a monument may be laid down. This isn't always best for the tombstone, but the liability must be considered. We have suggested to descendants that they contact the municipality regarding their concerns. Perhaps descendants can work with officials to restore their ancestors' tombstones.

Congratulations to the Brant County Council, the property owner, the Six Nations, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, and the Haudenosaunee Six Nation Confederacy for their sensitive handling of an aboriginal burial site in Brant County. It is proposed that the site, discovered during construction, be severed from the property and declared **Oxbow Aboriginal Cemetery**. It will be maintained in

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE OHS CEMETERY DEFENCE FUND!

The resources of the OHS are constantly challenged as we try to defend threatened cemeteries across the province. We can't do it alone. All donations receive a tax receipt.

perpetuity by the County.

The Ontario Heritage Trust continues to recognize the burial sites of former premiers. A plaque was recently unveiled commemorating The Hon. Thomas Laird Kennedy in Mississauga's **St. John the Baptist Cemetery**.

A large number of the descendants of Charles and Annie Brown met to pay tribute and commemorate the lives of their ancestors. The Browns were early settlers in the black community of Port Ryerse and the surrounding area, and contributed much to its establishment and success. A service of thanksgiving was held in Port Ryerse Memorial Church followed by the unveiling of a monument in memory of the Brown Family in **Memorial Church Cemetery**.

Descendants of Rev. Peter Macnaughton have worked with the City of Vaughan to register their family burial ground which was established in 1878. Registration provides protection under the *Funeral, Burial and Cremation Act*. This cemetery was threatened many years ago when a large housing development was proposed for the area, and is now administered by the City.

The City of Hamilton and Hamilton Civic Museums are sponsoring free public tours of **Hamilton Cemetery**, held every Saturday until November 16th. The themes for this year's tours are: Firefighters, the War of 1812, Civil War, Masonry, and Disasters.

The Town of Halton Hills has indicated that they will register the **Barnes-Humberstone Cemetery** with the Ontario Government. They will be working with Heritage Halton to ensure that the local history associated with the site will not be lost.

A website for the War of 1812 Veteran Graveside Recognition Project has been launched at 1812veterans.ca. The Historic Military Establishment of Upper

Canada has taken on this project to ensure that War of 1812 veterans receive long-overdue recognition. It is planned to place commemorative plaques at burial sites and to post biographies on the website.

A Closure Notice for a portion of **Lawrence Pioneer Cemetery**

in Barrie was received. A quick response from the Simcoe Branch of the OGS provided the information that an archaeological assessment had been completed, and confirmed that this was an unused section of the cemetery.

Three Brothers, War of 1812 Veterans Buried in Forgotten Cemetery

Bernie Buechman
cassy@nrtco.net

Not far from our hometown of Pembroke lies a small forgotten cemetery located approximately 300 metres south of Highway 17 on the left-hand side of Sutherland Road. Roughly 100 by 66 feet in size, it has long been known as the McDonald burial ground. Other family names represented in burials there include McLeod, Papin, Livingston, and Costello.

Over a year ago, I took on the job of volunteer caretaker to keep the cemetery in a respectable condition. Being interested in family history, I researched the families buried within this cemetery buried there.

The cemetery itself contains only four markers that were erected, but there are many unmarked burials.

During my research into this cemetery, I found out that three McDonald brothers – William, John and Walter, who all served in the War of 1812 – are buried there. Records such as township papers, land petitions, and obituar-

ies from local newspapers helped to confirm the McDonald brothers' military service.

I find it incredible that three brothers, who are heroes, are buried on Sutherland Road in a neglected cemetery in "the middle of nowhere. These men served in a war that was a foundational conflict in the creation of Canadian nation.

The cemetery is a registered and owned by the Township of White-water Region. It is now known that the McDonald brothers buried in this cemetery served with the Glengarry Fencibles, or simply the Glengarians or Glengarry Light Infantry, between 1812 and 1816.

So, if you are travelling on Highway 17, take a little detour and learn some history about how we became Canadians thanks to three brothers and three heroes worth remembering and fighting for.

A celebration and unveiling of a commemorative stone will take place September 15th at 1:30 p.m.

**Originally published in Timberline, newsletter of the Upper Ottawa Genealogical Group.*

"From the Bookshelf" Review (from page 8)

Memento Mori: Classifying Nineteenth Century Ontario Gravestones

Laura Suchan. 2012. Paper; 86 pp. \$17. lsuchan@sympatico.ca

Suchan's *Memento Mori* is an updated version of her earlier publication on the classification of nineteenth-century gravestones, as applied to five Oshawa cemeteries. Suchan, Executive Director of Oshawa Community Museum, makes a strong argument for the importance of attention to the often-neglected motifs, as well as the biographical data, represented on gravestones. Part of the problem has been the absence of a standardized classification system to allow for accurate recording, comparisons with other gravestone engravings, provincially and regionally, and larger evaluations. She hopes to remedy the situation by offering a set of simple categories based on the gravestone motifs that she has herself examined. This useful and interesting book sheds light on early Ontario society, art, and culture, suggesting how contemporary trends in visual arts and religious practices, evolving slowly over the century, are directly reflected in the period's gravestones. At the same time, as she reminds us, gravestones indicate the biographical as well as the socioeconomic status of the individuals they commemorate.

"Saturnia" from page 5

Canadian ports, Vancouver as well as Halifax, some of which comes from the period's "propaganda" films that promoted the wondrous ease of travel and the adventures of immigration. There are also segments of "home movies" as well as old photographs showing family moments in childhood, at departure, in homes old and new, at weddings, and at christenings. Another linking element is the thoughtful commentary provided by the ship's long-time Italian captain, Bruno Stupari.

In the end, Michelle Alfano recovers a sense of her father's "voyage," inasmuch as she is able to do so by tracing the histories,

large and small, that constitute the many criss-crossing voyages of the great immigrant ship *Saturnia*, described by one awestruck immigrant as looking incredibly like "a mountain in the ocean." Most of the immigrants interviewed appear to have found the "fortuna" they came for, at least by the personal definitions of fortune that are most meaningful. Calenzo remains enigmatic to the end, bringing back my initial sense that the immigrant story is intrinsically woven through with ambivalence and ambiguity, however well it all turns out. The producers, directors, writers, and participants of this film are to be commended for leaving it as true as it can be.

"Curriculum" from page 5

professors, teachers, and even the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy to restore the fundamentals of Canada's parliamentary democracy to its curricula. In May, Member of Provincial Parliament Mr. Bob Bailey stood in the Ontario legislature and questioned the Minister of Education if she had met with us to address our concerns [No] and if she intended to before the new documents are released [So far there has been no meeting].

It is commendable that the Ministry of Education is pushing for a more "issue-based" and active curricula, but it must also be balanced with explicit references

to the key aspects and fundamentals of our system of government. The revised expectations of Ontario's Civics course need to include references to our constitution – both written and unwritten – as well as the independent Canadian Crown and the development of our parliamentary democracy.

This is our last chance for another seven years; I urge Ontarians to contact their MPP to voice their concerns.

Learn more about this issue, as well as read all of my correspondence with the government, at www.canadiancrown.com.

*Nathan Tidridge, OCT
July 16th, 2013*

From The Bookshelf

Dr. Cynthia Comacchio
ccomac5702@rogers.com

"OUR TOWN:" LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL HISTORIES

The four titles in this category readily demonstrate that interest in local and provincial history is thriving. Certainly OHS members and *Bulletin* readers will find much of interest in this edition's reading list.

Unholy City: Vice in Windsor, Ontario, 1950

Patrick Brode. Essex County Historical Society, 2012. Paper; \$15. mmarkham1@cogeco.ca

Along the Shore: Rediscovering Toronto's Waterfront Heritage

M. Jane Fairburn. ECW Press, 2013. Paper; 429 pp. \$33. ecwpress.com

Country Air: A Portrait of McNab

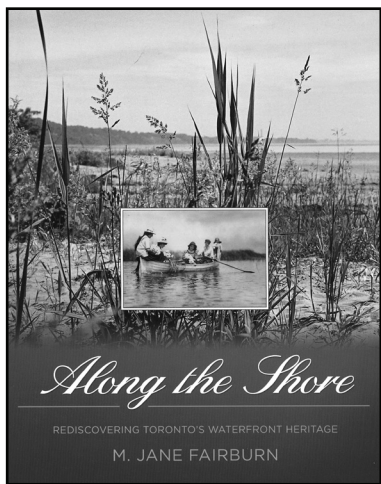
David F. Hemmings. Bygones Publishing, 2013. Paper; 274 pp. \$20. bygonespublishing.com

Claybelt Chronicles, v. 7: Memories Gathered from Temiskaming Seniors

Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum, White Mountain Publications, 2013. Paper; \$30. wmpub.ca

Brode's intriguingly titled *Unholy City* explores the "underworld" elements of border town Windsor, Ontario, during one eventful year as the "happy days" decade began. Delving into local newspapers and archival records, Brode provides an entry into the petty criminality – gambling, prostitution, bootlegging – that Windsor's location, so convenient to American crime syndicates, evidently fostered, often with the complicity or actual involvement of the police, city officials, and community stalwarts. As he explains, 1950 is a pivotal date because that year saw the instigation of two special inquiries that particularly highlighted police "indifference." Yet Windsor, he concludes, if uniquely situated on the border, was not so much an "anomaly" – Winnipeg, for example, had a similar level of "alternative recreation" to offer – as it was testimony to the fact that the postwar "golden age" of domesticity is more mythic than real.

Along the Shore, Fairburn's lovely exploration of Toronto's waterfront, comes just in time to remind citizens of the city and the province precisely what is at stake



as discussions about waterfront development unfold. Focusing on the four communities at lake's edge – Scarborough, the Beach, the Island, and the Lakeshore – Fairburn takes readers through the shore's geological pre-history, its Indigenous past, the periods of early contact, European colonization and settlement, to the present, with the waterfront serving as the city's "front door to the world," in the words of former Mayor David Miller. As Fairburn concludes, this is a long-neglected heritage, and here she offers an opportunity for readers "to experience the history that lives along the shore." ECW Press must be applauded for the lavish production: more than 200 images, in colour and black and white, including photographs, maps, archival documents, artistic renderings, family records, and print ephemera, make this publication a must-have for Torontonians and anyone interested in the city's history.

Hemmings' *Country Air: A Portrait of McNab* takes us out of bustling city life and into the past and present of rural Ontario, "backbone" of the province. As Hemmings reminds readers in his preface, "Along the back roads of the Niagara Peninsula are once thriving villages all but forgotten." McNab is one of these, and Hemmings' book acknowledges the ambivalence that surrounds this "forgotten" status. Present-day residents of the hamlet, located between the busy centres of St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake, are content to remain "off the map," so to speak, in order to preserve their community's quiet "country air". Yet clearly it is important to recognize the community's historical presence in the larger provincial and regional pasts. Hemmings chronicles the community's development from the late eighteenth century arrival of the Loyalist McNabb family, for

whom it is named, largely through the lens of its prominent families. For those wondering at the spelling, the author helpfully points out that "McNab was the clan title and McNabb represented the family name." Photographs, maps, and appendices provide much rich historical detail.

Finally, *Memories Gathered from Temiskaming Seniors* is the seventh volume in the Claybelt Chronicles series produced by the Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum, located in New Liskeard. This lively compendium of memories resulted from the dedication of four summer student interns, along with some of the museum's board members, who interviewed seniors and captured their vital stories about growing up, or coming to settle in, the southern Little Claybelt region. It is a necessary reminder of the value and importance of capturing these memories to fill out the historical record with the voices and oral histories of "ordinary" people.

OUR LIVES: BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

The continued interest in biography, for writers and readers alike, supports the view that this is a well-established category of historical writing that draws Canadians into their collective past through the individual life stories that ultimately compose our larger history.

Another Country, Another Life: Calumny, Love and the Secrets of Isaac Jelfs

J. Patrick Boyer. Dundurn, 2013. Paper; \$25. dundurn.com

Forgotten Hero: Alexander Fraser

Ron W. Shaw and M. E. Irene Spence. The Authors, 2012. Paper; 170 pp. \$25. fraserforgottenhero.com

Joe Salsberg: A Life of Commitment

Gerald Tulchinsky. University of Toronto Press, 2013. Paper; 183 pp; \$25. utppublishing.com

Any biography that features calumny, love, and secrets cannot help but be a draw, and J. Patrick Boyer's *Another Country, Another Life*, an examination of the "other life" of Isaac Jelfs, delivers on its promise. As Boyer reveals, Jelfs was in many ways the prototypical unassuming law clerk in England. He served in the Crimean War, made his way into a prestigious New York law practice, became a stalwart community member, married well, and had a daughter. Yet, in 1869, he shed himself of that identity and lifestyle, and fled

with his pregnant lover and their young daughter to a whole new identity, and life, in the Muskoka wilderness. Jelf's story would make a fascinating subject for any historian, but Boyer, as the protagonist's great-grandson, is particularly drawn to uncover his steps and the reasons for his many manifestations. This is a compelling life story, in terms of both history and mystery, with a richly-drawn context about the fledgling province of Ontario in the early post-Confederation years.

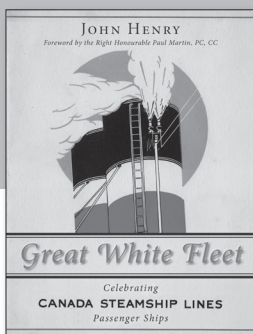
The authors of *Forgotten Hero* have produced a carefully-researched chronicle of the life of Alexander Fraser (1789-1872), "a story that needed to be told," as they demonstrate. M.E. Irene Spence became interested in Fraser when she married into the family that resided in his home, Annsfield, near Perth. With local military historian Ron W. Shaw, they unearthed the often-buried historical details concerning a man whose quick career trajectory in the British army saw him rise from drummer to the officer ranks in five years. Fraser served in the Battle of Stoney Creek, where he was noted to have "gallantly advanced" his troops against the American forces. He later played a number of important community leadership roles in the Perth Military Settlement. The authors have also included detailed appendices, including tables and charts that will be very helpful for local historians, military historians, and genealogists.

Queen's University Professor Emeritus Gerald Tulchinsky is the pre-eminent historian of the Jewish experience in Canada, with an impeccable record of award-winning publications to uphold that status. This intellectual biography of Joseph Baruch Salsberg is another masterly addition to his scholarly record. A Polish-Jewish immigrant to Ontario, eleven-year-old Salsberg arrived in Toronto with his family in 1913. By the age of 13, he was working full-time in the dismal conditions of Toronto's garment factories, eventually becoming a capmaker.

'Bookshelf' cont'd page 8...

Editor's Note: The prices of books may or may not include shipping or taxes. All prices are in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted.

How do we select books to be reviewed? Our criteria are simple: we review all recently published books relating to the history of this province that are sent to us by publishers, authors, and readers. To submit a book to be reviewed, forward a copy to: "From the Bookshelf," 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2.



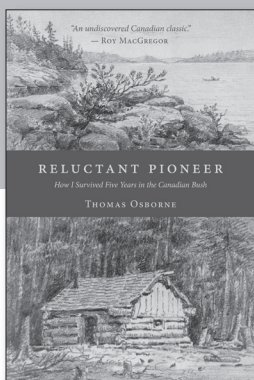
GREAT WHITE FLEET

Celebrating Canada Steamship Lines Passenger Ships

by John Henry
144 pages | \$30 HC | 96 b&w & 26 colour illustrations, maps & sidebars

The passenger steamers of the Canada Steamship Lines were known as the Great White Fleet. No fewer than 51 steamers comprised the passenger fleet at the company's inception, and its network of routes was awesome. Nearly

half a century after the last passenger boats sailed, this book will provide a window into a wonderful lost way of life.

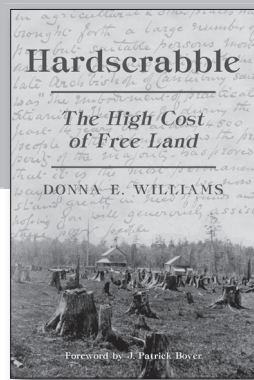


RELUCTANT PIONEER

How I Survived Five Years in the Canadian Bush

by Thomas Osborne
264 pages | \$24.99 TP | 40 b&w illustrations

In the 1870s in Ontario's Muskoka, teenager Thomas Osborne endured starvation, freezing, accidents with axes and boats, and narrow escapes from wolves and bears. Decades later, after moving to the United States, Osborne wrote down all his adventures in a graphic memoir, four years before his death in 1938.



HARDSCRABBLE

The High Cost of Free Land

by Donna E. Williams

208 pages | \$22.99 TP | 15 b&w illustrations, maps, bibliography & index

A tale of deception and adversity, *Hardscrabble* tells how unscrupulous politicians, emigration agents, and philanthropists lured impoverished emigrants to farm the Muskoka backwoods in the 1870s. What these new settlers weren't told was that their land was situated on the rocky Canadian Shield.

DUNDURN

f @dundurnpress | dundurn.com

But he was also early drawn into labour activism, Zionist politics, and the radical Jewish left, quickly ascending to leadership roles in the Communist Party and the Workers' Unity League. Salsberg's fierce dedication to human rights gave him an influential position in the Jewish-Canadian community, which he served capably as a Toronto city councillor, as a member of the Ontario legislature, and as a hard-hitting journalist. His thirty years of active participation in the communist movement ended resoundingly in 1957, however, when, like so many other members of the "Old Left," he became disillusioned by clear evidence of Stalinist anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. More than the story of one man, however fascinating, this biography captures the social and political climate of the times from the perspective of those whom class and "race" had relegated to the margins.

BATTLE STORIES: WAR AND MEMORY

Despite our cherished self-image as a "peaceable kingdom" and a "peace-keeper" nation, we have an active history of battlefield participation, in Canada and overseas, as recent publications about wars long past and more recent capably attest.

Carstens and Sanford are known to *Bulletin* readers for its earlier joint publication *Searching for the Forgotten War – 1812* (reviewed September 2012). Just as the 1812 volume traced the war by means of its commemorative "markers," *The Republic of Canada Almost*, deftly blends material culture and historical geography to transport readers through the decades of social and political upheaval following the Treaty of Ghent to until the Confederation that signified the birth of the Dominion of Canada. Along the tumultuous way, the authors remind readers of how much that "impossible dream" was motivated and advanced by American designs on the

DUNDURN Welcomes Book Proposals
on historical topics from OHS members.
Visit dundurn.com for submission guidelines.

The Republic of Canada Almost

Patrick Richard Carstens and Timothy L. Sanford. Xlibris, 2013. Hardcover; 571 pp. \$35; www.therepublicofcanadaalmost.com

1812: A Guide to the War and Its Legacy

Terry Copp, et al. Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, 2013. Paper; 264 pp. \$35. wlu.press.wlu.ca; canadianmilitaryhistory.ca

The Flames of War: The Fight for Upper Canada, July – December 1813

Richard Feltoe. Dundurn, 2013. Paper; \$20. dundurn.com

Doing Canada Proud: The Second Boer War and the Battle of Paardeberg.

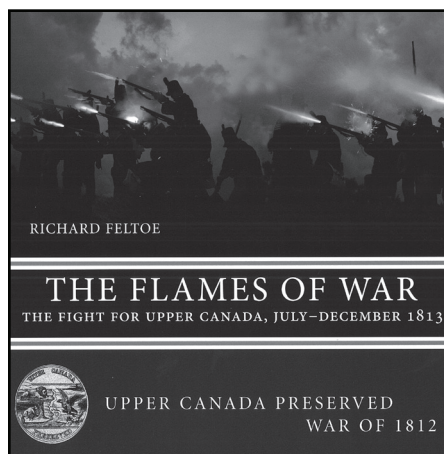
Colonel Bernd Horn. Dundurn, 2012. Paper; 104 pp. \$20 dundurn.com

vulnerable provinces of British North America.

Acclaimed military historian Terry Copp, founder and director of the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies, has led a team of enthusiastic students and Centre workers to produce *1812: A Guide to the War and Its Legacy*. In the manner of the Centre's very popular battlefield guides to European sites that saw Canadian troop engagement during the world wars, this richly illustrated book packs a great deal of historical and geographical context between its covers. More than simply a guide to historic sites, although the Tour section does that admirably, this project begins with History, a concise but comprehensive overview of the Anglo-American conflict's roots in the Treaty of 1783, as well as the strategies and operations of both sides, with close attention to First Nations involvement. There is a summary

of the events surrounding the Treaty of Ghent that ended the war in the summer of 1814, as well

as an interesting foray into its immediate aftermath, the negotiated "peace" that is often neglected in histories of the war. The carefully-detailed "Tour" section emphasizes the war's legacy, not only in the obvious sense of preserving the colonies for the British, but also in terms of how it has been remembered, commemorated, and memorialized – in short, how it has been "shaped and reshaped" according to "the changing tides of memory." As well as providing an impressive historical overview, this book is an excellent roadmap for summertime historical excursions.



The third volume in the six-part Dundurn series, *Upper Canada Preserved*, continues Feltoe's lively chronicle of key battles in the War of 1812 (see "From the Bookshelf," February 2013, for reviews of the first two volumes). *Flames of War* covers the second half of the middle year, a tense and literally pivotal six months during which each side advanced toward apparent victory, only to fall back. The escalation of American and British forces in this "back and forth" campaign also intensified the losses suffered by armies and civilians on both sides. This volume, as the others published in the series, is effectively illustrated with numerous reproductions of historic etchings and paintings alongside contemporary photographs of artifacts and locations,

as well as maps detailing battles and tracing troop movements.

The latest in Dundurn's *Canadians at*

War series, *Doing Canada Proud*, by Canadian Forces officer and military historian Colonel Bernd Horn, is an informative introduction to the key events and issues of the first battle fought by the Royal Canadian Regiment in the South African War. The battle at Paardeburg Drift, as the title affirms, saw the RCR fighting capably to bring about the first major British victory in the Anglo-Boer conflict, a turning point in a war that had proved far more difficult than the British had assumed it would be. Also significant, as Horn concludes, is the Regiment's contribution to nurturing an incipient English-Canadian nationalism.

Memento Mori: Classifying Nineteenth Century Ontario Gravestones

Revised/updated. Laura Suchan. 2012. Paper; 86 pp. \$17. lsuchan@sympatico.ca

Inheritance in Ontario: Wills and Other Records for Family Historians

Jane E. MacNamara. Dundurn, 2013. Paper; 138 pp. \$20. dundurn.com

"DOING" HISTORY: HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION

The dedication to genealogical research and historic preservation of our society, its individual and associate members, is well-served by these recent "how-to" guides.

Please see page 6 for review of Laura Suchan's Memento Mori

Inheritance in Ontario, by well-known genealogist Jane E. MacNamara, is the most recent entry in Dundurn's invaluable *Genealogist's Reference Shelf* series. Like the other series imprints, this one will prove indispensable to all contemplating, or already immersed in, the complicated web that is family history. MacNamara offers a clear, step-by-step roadmap to the relevant court records, estate files, archival materials, and online sources that, individually and collectively, uncover the stories that we seek about families, estates, and legacies. For the significant number whose bequeaths were not handled in court, she suggests how newspapers, she indicates how land records, and manuscript records can help to bring forward the information sought.

The *OHS Bulletin* is the newsletter of The Ontario Historical Society (OHS).

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institutions and non-member individuals for \$31.50; and to non-member organizations and institutions for \$42. Membership inquiries should be directed to Christina Perfetto at members@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

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