



Outlook

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Hastings County Historical Society 50th Anniversary!

Celebrate With Us!

The Hastings County Historical Society will be 50 years old this month!

Join us as we celebrate this historic event at our annual banquet on **October 27, 2007**. Entertainment will be provided by the mellow Dan Bone Trio.

Location: The Banquet Centre, Alhambra Square

Tickets: \$45

Order Tickets at: 613-966-4859



Bruce Bedell, seen here as Col. John Prince, entertained HCHS members with a first person biography of this colourful figure from Canadian history. See story inside.

Telling tales of the '50s - by Orland French

Fifty years ago I was a teenage lad growing up in a small village in Simcoe County. I doubt if I knew much about Hastings County but I certainly had heard of the Soviet Union. That scratchy beep from Sputnik I in October, 1957 woke up the world. The space race was on.

Recently I downloaded the Sputnik beep from the Internet (those are two terms unknown in 1957) and was awash in memories of my dad standing transfixed in the kitchen, a look of bemusement on his face as he listened to the radio reports of Earth's first artificial satellite.

It was quite a jump from the world of Fords and Chevies. My dad was a Ford fan in a village of GM genuflectors. But frequently we got a look at the new Ford Edsel as Doc Patchell flashed through Waverly from his practice in Elmvalle to the hospital in Midland. He must have covered the 16 miles in less than ten minutes. These are two of the memories I'll be bringing to the Historical Society's annual banquet on October 27. Bring your own stories and we'll swap tales of the '50s.

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Anniversary Meeting

**Tuesday
October 16
2007**

Speakers

**Past Presidents of
the Hastings
County Historical
Society**

**Meeting begins at
7:30 p.m. Monthly
meetings are held
in the Auditorium
of the Quinte Living
Centre, 370 Front
Street, Belleville**

John Prince, "No Surrender"



John Prince, ca 1866: In a letter to one of his ministers in the summer of 1866 John A. Macdonald wrote "I have your note about Col. Prince's Bill. I shall endeavour to put it into shape, but as he sent it to me it is one of the most incomprehensible documents you ever saw." Below, the dueling pistols used by Prince and Wood on the morning of Feb. 11, 1839. See Diary, Page 3



John Prince was born in Hereford, England, in 1796 and practiced law there for a number of years. Unfortunately, his father Richard Prince, who at the height of his powers was said to have been worth £150,000, had a taste for "sharp practice and tax evasion." He was frequently in trouble with the law and had to be bailed out financially by his son on a number of occasions. Quite possibly John's decision to emigrate was due in part to the perceived threat he felt posed to his reputation and finances by his father. In 1833 he sailed for Upper Canada with his wife and children and bought property on the bank of the Detroit River at Sandwich near Windsor.

Despite being considered haughty and aloof by his colleagues Prince soon became a leading citizen in the community and in 1836 stood for election and won. In parliament he introduced legislation and was of the opinion that English attorneys deserved special consideration. His philosophy was that what was right for John Prince was right for everybody. Two years later he became a Lieutenant Colonel of Militia and was active in attempting to thwart what he saw as the rebellious actions of William Lyon MacKenzie and his followers. In defiant response to American officials, whose attempts to stop MacKenzie's so-called patriots had been ineffective, he ordered the execution of five prisoners taken at Windsor and then lived in fear of retaliation. Later in life he would come to the conclusion that he had fought on the wrong side.

In 1859 he was offered the judgeship of the District of Algoma in Sault Ste. Marie and he arrived there the following year at the age of sixty-five. He traveled extensively throughout the district, which he spoke of as the Siberia of North America, by paddle wheeler, canoe and on foot. One day on inspecting his land he reported that the "wolves are again ravaging the young cattle and (I have) set out traps along the back farm. Had the misfortune to catch my left forefinger in one almost severing it and unable to get medical assistance cut it off with my paring knife."

John Prince was a man of great ability and biased judgment, a duelist who shot a man in the jaw, a recluse and entrepreneur, a farmer, soldier and parliamentarian. In his tumultuous life he had more than once thought of suicide as a solution to his family and professional woes. A few months before his death in 1870 Prince wrote to John A. Macdonald that "my motto is No Surrender until the last summons comes."

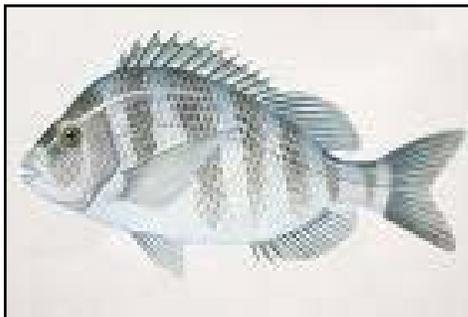
A Plea For Cross Wives

On Monday, October 10th, 1887 the Daily Intelligencer reported under the heading of *A Plea For Cross Wives* that "a city clergyman remarked the previous evening that the spread of Methodism was very much due to the violent temper of the wife of John Wesley, which caused him to leave rather than endure a constant turmoil. We have often heard praises of the wife, good, tender and true, but this is the first time that we have praise of a virago. Even mosquitoes are made for some good purpose we are told and it may be that a scolding wife may be a blessing in disguise."

The Yankee Drummer, A Fish Story

Sergeant Joseph Maiden, whilst fishing down the Bay of Quinte near Massasauga Point last night with a line, hooked a twenty-two pound stranger which he was unable to name upon landing. The bones of the jaw were studded with teeth which a dentist pronounced to be ivory. There were also two stones in the head (ivory, of course) near the eyes, which are said to be good for rheumatism if carried in the pocket. The Sergeant says he has heard the fish called "Yankee Drummer" at Niagara, but as the stones in the head have the imprint of the maple leaf, it is evident that this is only another instance of the Yankee's attempt

to steal Canadian fish. The fish is no doubt a white bass or sheepshead and is not uncommon in the bay. *From the Daily Intelligencer, October 29, 1887.*



Glanmore Museum Opening, July 7,

Platform guests, the RCMP and costumed guides are shown at the opening of the Hastings County Glanmore Museum thirty-four years ago

Photo by Parks Canada.



HCHS Beginnings

Daily Ontario, Feb. 19, 1884: Chief Justice Sheldon, one of the most distinguished members of the celebrated Historical Society of Buffalo, was in town to discuss the organization of an Historical Society for Belleville. Judge Sheldon explained in very eloquent and expressive language the many advantages resulting from such a society.

The Intelligencer, Sep. 16, 1955: Historic Hastings county last night stepped closer to having its past and present preserved for the future. Informally, a group

of district people sat down in the auditorium of King George public school and decided to found the Hastings Historical Society which will have as its purpose the preservation of the county's annals and historical background in general.

The Intelligencer, Oct. 2, 1957: A small group of citizens interested in preserving the district's historical highlights met last night in the city hall and accomplished the groundwork for the newly-formed Hastings County Historical Society. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Irene Haig.

Diary of John Prince

Entry for 11 February 1839: A snowy morning. Rose at 5 and accompanied Capt'n Rudyerd to the place of meeting. We arrived there half an hour before the Enemy. Very cold. Mr. W.R. Wood was attended by Lt. Cameron, & I by Rudyerd. Distance 12 paces. At the first shots my Pistol miss fired. On the 2nd shot I hit Mr. Wood in the Jaw & the ball lodged there. He missed me both shots. Home by 8 to breakfast. I sent him (Wood) in my sleigh, & Rudyerd and I walked all the way.

Toronto Globe, April 5, 1848 ~ John Prince

We have a letter from a correspondent in Kent stating that it is expected that Mr. Malcolm Cameron will be opposed in that County—and by whom? By Col. Prince!!!

Our correspondent must have been imposed upon. There is but one constituency in the British Empire that would have anything to do with that unprincipled man—the County of Essex, in Upper Canada.



Canada Day Follow-up

The Hastings County Historical Society had another successful Canada Day this past July. The checker games were a big hit as usual with eighty-five participants and more than two hundred games played according to the checker slips deposited in the box. The most games played prize went to Jeremy Williams (21 games) followed closely by Josh Bly (19 games). The BLOG Bucks prizes awarded to the winners were donated by the Belleville Locally Owned Group. Winners of Canada Day gift bags which were donated by the Society and Gerry Boyce were Alexandra Boyce and Troy Juby.

Scavenger Hunt winners were Matthew Midland of Belleville and Mason Bald of Trenton. They each received MP3 Players courtesy of Red Ball Radio. Another winner was Delaney Blake of Belleville who received a bicycle computer courtesy of Doug's Bicycle Sales and Service.

The total number of entries counted up for the scavenger hunt was a hundred-and-one, three quarters of who came from Belleville. Other areas represented included Trenton, GTA, Stirling, Oshawa and Peterborough.

Although the total number of participants was up about 400% from last year, we can and should be able to increase it dramatically next year by having:

- (1) several places where forms can be picked up
- (2) election-type signs (similar to this year's answer signs) advertising the event
- (3) One or more additional prizes

See you again next year at Canada Day!

Calling Card Etiquette

Back in the 18th and 19th centuries the "calling card" was an integral part of civilized society. Here are a few examples of proper card etiquette.

> On making a first call leave your card with the servant. You will be allowed (maybe) to see the hostess only after she examines your card.

> When the doorbell rings the servant on duty should have the card tray on the palm of his hand ready to present.

> A young lady can have a card of her own after having been in society for a year.

> A gentleman should never fold the corner of his card despite the temporary fashion. Some European gentlemen, on the contrary, fold the upper right corner to indicate that they have delivered the card themselves.

> When you make a call do not examine the cards in the house-holder's card basket in the foyer. You have no right to investigate as to who calls on a lady.



Cards also contained a variety of acronyms, in French, of course, to express particular sentiments.

The letters p.f. meant "pour féliciter" (congratulations), p.f.N.A. for "pour féliciter Nouvel An" (Happy New Year), and p.p.c "pour prendre conge" (to take leave).

A genteel life indeed, reminiscent of a Thomas Hardy novel.

Hastings County Historical Society Directors

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Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton. Please address mail to General Delivery, Cannifton, Ontario K0K 2K0. Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society. The editor, Bill Kennedy, can be reached at 613-962-5991, or email <kennedypec@aol.com>

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