



Outlook

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President's Message

This year, after serving our Society for a decade, Orland French has decided that it is time for a change. He is not leaving, just changing chairs and roles as he becomes past-president. This continuity is very important for the Society as Orland possesses the rare combination of an amazing, wide-ranging imagination with the boldness and daring to move his ideas to reality. The Society has profited immensely from Orland's talents.

I recall clearly Orland tugging at his beard a few years ago and saying that we can lead the way to create a new archives for our community, and ultimately convincing the city and county that this was not only needed, but achievable. Also, our fabulously successful annual banquets are his creations. These banquets have brought us many famous speakers, provided great entertainment for our members, and raised a very large amount of money for the Society. As he completes his decade at the helm, Orland can take great satisfaction in leaving a very strong Hastings County Historical Society, a great team of directors, and a bright future for the development of our local heritage.

For my part, coming from a long bureaucratic career, about twenty-five years each with the Government of Canada and the United Nations system,

(Cont'd. on page 2)

Archaeological Discoveries At New Courthouse Site

By Bill Kennedy

When the decision was made to proceed with construction of the new courthouse building on Coleman Street in Belleville, one of the first requirements was to have an archaeological assessment of the site carried out.

Ground Truth Archaeology, a Kingston firm that specializes in development-driven Stage 1 to 4 archaeological assessments, was contracted to undertake the work. Nick Gromoff, Senior Archaeologist and owner of the firm, presented the findings at the Society's February meeting. Nick was formerly Senior Archaeologist with the Cataraqui Archaeological Research Foundation and holds a BA degree in Prehistoric Archaeology and an MSc degree in Anthropology. His presentation, which included many photographs of their findings, drew one of the largest crowds (111 people by actual count) ever to attend a Society meeting.

The work begins with a background study, Stage 1, then moves to the assessment of the property to locate possible archaeological sites. This is Stage 2. At Stage 3 the limits of the site are determined. Stage 4 is invoked when the site is determined to be such that it must be preserved and protected. *(Cont'd. on page 2)*



Nick Gromoff of Ground Truth Archaeology captivated his HCHS audience of well over one hundred people with his presentation on the findings at the site of the new courthouse in Belleville. The story is on page two.

President's Message

(Cont'd. from page 1)

I might claim certain abilities in administration, but creativity has never been a strong card for a bureaucrat. Thank goodness for Orland and the strong team of directors.



Orland French (left) becomes Society Past-President as he hands the gavel to new President, Richard Hughes, at the Society's Board of Directors meeting in February.

For 2012 we already have a great program of activities, including an amazing series of speakers for our monthly events and our participation in several community activities; watch for the publicity announcements about these. The key goal of the Society remains the development of the great history of our area and the promotion of activities related to this history. These will certainly be front and centre for everyone active in the work of the Society in 2012. And in this regard, I hope that many more members will come forward and offer some help, and equally important, offer ideas and suggestions on how best to achieve our goals.

Richard Hughes
President, HCHS

Archaeological Discoveries

(Cont'd from page 1)

Ground Truth Archaeology determined that there have been structures on the site since the early 1800s. Numerous old maps were reviewed showing the progression of various buildings, an example being one lot identified as Lot Number 8. Finds included Bank of Upper Canada coins from the 1850s, silver English shillings and a variety of bone, brass and glass buttons and hunting buttons with hounds and foxes on them. There were ceramic plates, one with a chicken foot design, pottery, pieces of smoking pipes, hair and lice combs, and a brass drip plate for a candle. Bones giving evidence of the meals consumed by the residents included those of white-tailed deer, ducks, geese, turkeys and the now extinct passenger pigeon. Sea food remnants were from cod and haddock bones and oyster shells from the east coast. See page 8 for photo of plate found at site.

*“Of all national assets,
archives are the most precious;
they are the gift
of one generation to another
and the extent of our care of them
marks the extent of our civilization.”*

Sir Arthur G. Doughty
Dominion Archivist, 1924

Evidence of the presence of many children at the location was suggested by the discovery of numerous slate boards and pencils: perhaps the building had once housed a small school. In 1836, the lot had a £50 mortgage on it under the name of one Tusan Laflamme. Then the lot passed through a number of owners, and in 1867, sold for \$520.00. In another location evidence of an abattoir was discovered. A water well was also unearthed.

The extraordinary turnout for Nick Gromoff's presentation is an excellent reminder of the importance of preserving our past. The significance of the Society's Capital Campaign drive for funds to equip the new Belleville and Hastings County archives could not have been more clearly underlined. It is in all our interests to make the drive a success.

THE SHADY SIDE OF OUR HISTORY

by C.W. Hunt

Beginning with this issue of *Outlook* we will investigate the seamier side of our city's history. But we won't confine our disclosures to the so-called "fair city of Belleville." Trenton, Bancroft, Deseronto, Marmora and spaces in between will not escape our probing pen. But don't worry, readers, your dark and sordid secrets are safe with us. It's your ancestors we'll be writing about.

Our first tale goes way back, almost a century. With that in mind we warn that some of the language is shockingly racist, specifically where it deals with those of Asian descent. We ask for your forbearance, but we quote the language of the period to demonstrate the ignorance and prejudice then prevalent in Canada against Orientals. The following is excerpted from page one of "The Intelligencer" for Monday, December 15, 1913.

BELLEVILLE POLICE RAID OPIUM DEN YESTERDAY SEVEN CHINESE ARRESTED

Lot of the Deadly Drug Seized Along with Opium Pipe and Smoking Appliances.

After carefully laid plans covering several weeks, the local police headed by Sergt. Harman, assisted by Constables Thompson and Corrigan, rounded up seven Chinamen in the Hong Lee Laundry on Upper Front Street (today it is located on the north side of the entrance to the foot bridge over the Moira River) where opium smoking has been known to have been indulged in for some time past and has been under police surveillance. . . . the officers found evidence of the pipe being recently used in a room containing three beds in the back of the front shop One individual was somewhat groggy, showing unmistakable signs of having been "hitting the pipe," and enjoying the effects of the juicy poppy which gives to the misguided user dreams of heavenly bliss, Chinese gods and many heavenly dinners of chicken and birds nests' soup, followed by a dish of sharks' fins and other delicacies only known to members of the Celestial Empire .

It was shown clearly that, in addition to the place being a laundry and an opium den at one and the same time, it was also a veritable arsenal - revolvers, a rifle, and much ammunition being found by the police. The place was also

in a most unsanitary state. In the cellar a large number of fowl were running about and the smells were snaggy and varied. . . .

The parties charged were Hong Lee, aged 25, alleged keeper of the premises; and the found ins were Lee Wing, 31; Lee Jim, 29; How Lee, 48; Charles Lee, 21; Lee Sing, 35 ; and another named Mack who absolutely refused to give his first name (the reporter probably meant he refused to give his LAST name).



This photograph from the Hastings County archives is identified as Belleville, August 26, 1908. We don't know what the occasion is but the crowd standing outside the Hong Lee Laundry on Front Street is listening to a band. Many of the children in the foreground have turned around to look at the camera. In the distance on the road to the right is a horse and wagon.


Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County (HC05722)

The case was deferred until Friday evening where it was heard by Magistrate Mason in the Police Court, then located at the rear of City Hall. According to *The Intelligencer* of the following day, the court was crowded with spectators including a large number of Chinese men.


As the newspaper reported, "Hong Lee in his evidence testified that he was not aware that opium was being smoked on his premises. He denied that he "hit the pipe."

However, the other arrested persons testified that they had smoked opium on his premises although none admitted to paying for the privilege and none admitted to obtaining opium from Hong Lee. The Crown produced an oriental witness connected with the Attorney General's Department who came down from Toronto and testified that some of the drug seized at the laundry was (Cont'd. on page 5)

Special Arts Event Coming Soon! Belleville Art Association



Community
Archives of
Belleville and
Hastings County
Photo HC04058
on left and
painting by Tina
Osborne on right



History in Brushstrokes

March 12 to April 7, 2012

Belleville Art Association Gallery
392 Front Street, Belleville

The Hastings County Historical Society, the Belleville Art Association and the Community Archives have assembled a fantastic collection of art and photos of the Hastings County Area. Local artists have supplied about 35 artistic interpretations of historic scenes which the Historical Society has matched with heritage photos and appropriate descriptions.

Opening Public Reception
Saturday March 17th 2-4 pm
Come Take A Look - Free Admission

— Bus Tour —

A Bus Tour organized by Bill Hunt is planned for Wednesday, June 6th. The bus will leave from the Sears furniture store at Quinte Mall. The itinerary includes a walking tour of the historic Cobourg waterfront with stories about Susanna Moodie and her sister Catherine Parr Traill, the Northumberland County Court House, and the Cobourg Grand Trunk railway station built in 1911.

In the afternoon there will be a visit to beautiful Victoria Hall where the architecture and history of the building will be explained. It houses a replica of London's Old Bailey Court House. Time permitting, there will also be a visit to the home of Marie Dressler.

Tickets are \$60.00 per person (less than last year) and will be available for sale by April 1 at Greenley's or Society meetings. *Outlook* will keep you posted about this event.



Forget your hotdogs and cold beer. What could be better after the ball game than a juicy slice of watermelon? And if you happen to be one of the players it could attract admiring fans. (See Richard Hughes "baseball moms" article on page 6).

As our readers know, the Society is running its Capital Campaign to raise funds for the new community archives on Church Street. It will become the repository for the timeless photo shown above and for the more than 50,000 other photographs and hundreds of documents, maps, newspapers and other materials currently on file at the Heritage Centre in Canifiton. "They are the gift of one generation to another."

Charles Street Oil Strike!

The Klondike gold rush, already well underway by 1898, was not the only place in the country that year where Canada was being tapped for its wealth. In the minutes for the City of Belleville for May 16, 1898 the following is recorded: *The street surveyor was instructed to "take the best means of disposing of the water flowing from the well being sunk for oil near the northern terminus of Charles Street."*

"Outlook" would welcome a follow-up to this terse directive if some intrepid researcher would like to try digging for more information. It could be of particular interest to the current owner of the Charles Street property.

Seventh Town Historical Society President Ian Riley Re-elected



Ian Riley (left), President of Seventh Town Historical Society, Ameliasburgh, presents Bruce Bedell with a certificate in appreciation for his presentation on the War of 1812 at the Society's annual meeting and elections in January. Bedell is Belleville Town Crier and a Seventh Town member. Despite inclement weather there was an excellent turnout for the meeting that saw President Riley elected for another term.

Shady Side

(Cont'd. from page 3)

opium and that the pipe seized on the premises had been used regularly as an opium pipe.

Hong Lee was ordered by Magistrate Mason to pay all the costs in the case which amounted to a total of \$108.50. The costs were paid by the defendant and the charges against the other six men were dismissed. All defendants were then released from custody.

The reporter wrote that Sergeant Harman and Constables Thompson and Corrigan were to be congratulated for "ridding the city of this joint of iniquity." He neglected to write that smoking opium had been legal in Canada as recently as 1908 and was not an offence carrying a prison sentence until 1911 when the Laurier government, concerned about the use of opium, cocaine and other alkaloids passed the Opium and Drug Act which provided for a fine of up to fifty dollars and a month in jail. There was also a growing back-lash against Orientals, partially because they were a source of cheap labour. As the country had slipped into a depression there was much working-class resentment with Chinese immigration.

The government had responded in 1885 with a head-tax and, in 1923, passed The Chinese Immigration Act which effectively barred all Chinese from migrating to Canada. Other groups were also restricted, but only Chinese were subjected to virtually total exclusion.

Belleville was not exempt from this prejudice. In January of 1922 a debate was held at Bridge Street Methodist Church on the question posed, "That Canada allow no further immigration of Orientals into this country." The debate took place at a right-wing, racist forum; Methodism was a reform movement aimed not only at saving souls, but at improving the life of the unfortunate in our society. Those involved in the debate included a judge, a teacher from Albert College, a medical doctor and a minister. Yet despite the forward looking and moderate views of the church members, the motion to completely exclude Orientals from migrating to Canada was only narrowly defeated.



Hastings County Historical Society Presents

**A Nautical History of Belleville
and Quinte Area**

A Dinner With Guest Speakers

The Atalanta - 1881 Americas Cup: Paul Adamthwaite

Adventures of Freeman Burrows: Dick Bird

History of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club: Susan Smith

Rum Running in Quinte: Bill Hunt

Observations of a World Sailor: Peter C. Newman

Date: Saturday, March 24th, 2012

Social Hour 6 to 7 pm Dinner at 7 pm

Location: Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, Victoria Park

Tickets \$30 from:
 Hazel Lloyst 613-969-1900
 Orland French 613-969-8354
 Richard Hughes 613-961-7772
 and Greenley's Book Store

Visit Our Website: www.hastingshistory.ca

Photographs May Sleep, But They Never Die

By Richard Hughes



One of the greatest accomplishments of the Historical Society over its 55 years has been to assemble a fabulous collection of photographs, numbering in the thousands. Everyone is fascinated by those great photos, which have frozen daily life in Belleville and Hastings County since the late 1800s.

Late last year I met our long-serving former MPP, Hugh O'Neil, and I recalled seeing in the *Intelligencer* a picture of his family celebrating his mother's 100th birthday. I said that my mother was also marking her 100th. Hugh asked if I had seen the picture of his mother's baseball team in the *EMC* newspaper, which I had not, but I commented that my mother also played baseball in the late 1920s. Hugh kindly sent me a copy of the baseball team picture and to my shock and amazement, standing right beside his mother on the armouries lawn was my own dear mom (G. Gibbs, fourth from right). This was the American Optical Company team of about 1927.

My passion for genealogy led me to research the team members to see what had become of their lives since their teen years as baseball players. Most of these young ladies worked at the American Optical, and most remained in Belleville where they married, had families and, with the exception of our two mothers, have passed on.

While fuller details will be placed on file at the Community Archives, along with the photo, here are a few of my findings. Sisters Winnifred and Gladys Halsey were among the ten children of Victor and Rosina Halsey. Winnifred married Gerald O'Brien, while Gladys married Ernest Palmer. Helen Smith, daughter of Harry and Margaret Smith, married John Casey, a well-known railroader and ball player with the Grand Trunk. Regrettably, Helen died at just 48 years of age while her hus-

band, Jack, was tragically killed in 1966 when struck by a car. Violet Frickey, whose father Henry worked at the McLaughlin Garage on the corner of Coleman and Bridge Streets, later married George Bell and moved to Peterborough.

The two "girls" still with us, Lena O'Neil and Gwen Semark, are now in their 101st year. Remarkable! Both have lived through an incredible period in our history – the roaring twenties, the dirty thirties, the war years, and the boom years that followed and into the twenty-first century.

The other "girls" in the photo were E. Edison, E. White, L. Page, M. Stapley plus manager Mr. L. Goodfellow; they will require further research.

Certainly Hugh O'Neil and I have had wonderful warm memories, seeing our mothers as teenagers, young athletes and team members. This photo is also historically relevant, showing the Belleville armouries in the 1920s, telling of the activity of a local company and the sports scene of the time.

I wonder how many other photos with equally important stories are stored away in shoe boxes in closets or in long-forgotten boxes in the attic? Worse, how many will be sent to the dump or to the blue box when we downsize or die? Old photos are not dead, they are just sleeping, and we all can give them long, new lives by placing them in the Community Archives. Think about it! Archivist Sharon White says the Community Archives welcomes donations of photographs, documents, maps and other material related to Belleville or any part of Hastings County. Get in touch with her at 613-962-1110 or swhite@city.belleville.on.ca.

A Disease as Old as Mankind Belleville's James Collip Develops Life-Saving Extract

By George Pearce, C.D., M.D.

Editors Note: This article is one of a series of articles by Dr. George Pearce that "Outlook" has published on the subject of the immense contribution James Collip made to the discovery of insulin. Previous articles about Collip and his work can be found on the Society's website.

Diabetes mellitus is probably as old as mankind. An early Hindi document of 400 BC speaks of "honeyed urine."

Aretaeus of Cappadocia (around 150 AD) left a description: "Diabetes...not...very common to man. It consists of a moist and cold wasting of the flesh and limbs into urine...patients never cease making water,...The disease is chronic....marasmus produced is rapid, and death is speedy." (Translation by Francis Ward.)

This situation prevailed over the ages. Gradually humankind struggled to enlightenment as science developed, and was embraced. The cardinal features of diabetes mellitus are these: thirst, excessive urination, excessively high blood and urine sugar levels, metabolic keto-acidosis. If untreatable it leads to coma and death.

In Europe, in 1889, two scientists demonstrated that diabetes mellitus occurred in dogs following surgical removal of the pancreas. This brought others to focus on that organ, and it was found that purified fraction derived from an extract of pancreas often would ameliorate the features of diabetes and prolong the lives of the test subject animals. Many other research scientists, employing variations of this model, lead to an accumulation of further helpful knowledge.

By the end of WWI Toronto had become an advanced medical centre that was capable of undertaking serious research projects. F. G. Banting, M.C., M.D., who had been planning to set up practice in London, Ontario, became motivated to pursue an idea for a research project. It was suggested that he seek arrangements to carry this out

in Toronto. This was agreed to and Professor J.J.R. Macleod of University of Toronto appointed C.H. Best to assist Banting.

The work on this project commenced in May 1921. A pancreatic extract it produced was providing some encouraging results in dogs, but was not considered safe or reliable enough for use in humans. Professor J.J.R. Macleod, who was in charge of the project, decided to allocate more funds and technical expertise so that work on the project could continue.

An expert biochemist, J. B. Collip, was invited to join the group. Working independently, and using abattoir provided cattle pancreas, Collip was able to produce a "safe for human use" relatively purer extract.

Up to this point in time, Type 1 Diabetes had remained a fatal condition. Collip experimented on rabbits to assay the effects of the extract on the blood sugars. In January, this extract proved successful and life-saving for a patient already seriously ill with diabetes mellitus.

Banting, Best, and Collip took out a patent on the process used by Collip, and transferred it to a newly formed "Insulin Committee of Toronto" which was structured to administer the licencing of the production of the extract that became known as "Insulin".

This great benefit to humankind that took place in Toronto in 1921-2, led to the first Nobel Prize for Canada being awarded jointly to Banting and Macleod in Medicine and Physiology in 1923. Banting shared half of his financial benefit from the award with Best, and Macleod shared half of his with Collip. Much more important, however, was the fact that millions of sufferers from diabetes could look forward to a more normal and healthier and productive life! One authority has calculated that 15 million human beings lives have benefited from this discovery. Banting, Best, Collip, and Macleod are often referred as: "The Insulin Discovery Collaborators."

Historian and author, Emeritus Professor, University of Toronto, Michael Bliss, who has researched and written several books on this subject, is someone I consider to be our most authoritative and reliable source for further interpretation of more detailed information on this subject.

(Cont'd. on page 8)

Archaeological Artifact



This is a portion of a plate (circa mid 1800s) that was found on the site of the new courthouse (see pages 1 and 2). Its black pattern may be indicative of a family in mourning. Other finds included a British officer's belt buckle, a Royal Artillery button embossed with three cannons, and "tons" of cutlery.

As Old as Mankind *(Cont'd. from page 7)*

There are abundant archives at Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, Toronto, and much of this is available online and at the University of Alberta. I have not yet had the privilege to check Western or McGill Universities collections.

The writer would be pleased to receive further information from others.

This epic discovery should receive more recognition in Canada. The participants would be considered historical figures and eminent role models.

As Collip was born and received his early education here in the Belleville area, it would be appropriate for the citizenry and their officials to establish some commemorative to this great benefactor of humankind here!



Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

Special Guest Speakers:

C. W. (Bill) Hunt and Mike Shaw

Topic: **Quinte's Irish Rumrunner:
A Profile of Booze Baron Ben Kerr**

Hear the fascinating story of rumrunner and booze baron Ben Kerr. This presentation will include a half-hour film dramatization produced for Irish National Television.

Date: Tuesday, March 20th, 2012

Time: 7:30 p m

Location: Quinte Living Centre Auditorium
(North Corner Door)

370 Front Street, Belleville

Everyone Welcome, Bring a Friend

Visit Our Website: www.hastingshistory.ca

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MEMBER ADDRESS