



# Outlook

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## Steve Paikin of TVO's *The Agenda* Guest Speaker at HCHS Banquet

By Bill Kennedy

Steve Paikin of *The Agenda*, TVO's flagship current events program that has been running five nights a week for the past decade, was the guest speaker at the Hastings County Historical Society's 2015 annual banquet held on October 24<sup>th</sup> at Belleville's Travelodge Hotel. Paikin, a graduate of the University of Toronto and Boston University where he received his M.A. in broadcast journalism, has been the moderator for numerous federal and provincial leadership debates. He won the Silver Screen Award at the U.S. International Film and Video Festival for his documentary *Return to the Warsaw Ghetto* and is the author of several books on politics. Steve Paikin holds honorary doctorates from three educational institutions and is an Officer of the Order of Canada.



**Presenter Steve Paikin**

Photo by Bill Kennedy

To the delight of his sold-out audience on Saturday night, he painted humorous and colourful vignettes of his work in journalism where he has been active for over thirty years. When Penguin Publishers asked him if he had a book in mind he would like to write, he said he did, but that it was one which he believed wouldn't interest them, namely a book about the positive side of politics and politicians. To his surprise, the publisher agreed. Some one hundred interviews later, his book, *The Life: The Seductive Call of Politics* was published. A huge success, the book was followed by a second one that described the opposite view, *The Dark Side: The Personal Price of a Political Life*.

Many years ago when his son Zach was eight years old, broadcaster Paikin took him to a campaign rally for provincial Liberal Party leader Dalton McGuinty. McGuinty, who was delivering his speech from atop a picnic table,

kept repeating, "we gotta get rid of [Conservative Ontario Premier] Harris ... we gotta get rid of Harris ...". When young Paikin picked up on the refrain, the TV cameras and microphones swung in his direction. Asked by the local candidate to repeat what he'd just said, Zach cheerfully replied, "We gotta get rid of Harris! We gotta get rid of Harris!" Broadcaster Steve Paikin's first thought was, "There goes my job!"

When Terry Grier ran as an NDP candidate in the Toronto area back in 1972, the Party asked his wife, Ruth, to run for a local municipal office. She declined, saying that as wife and a mother of three children, she would not have the time. She was told it wouldn't matter, that she didn't have to do anything, the only purpose being to have more campaign signs around town promoting the name Grier. Ruth Grier relented and ran for office, went on to election victory and spent the next twenty years in politics while her husband lost his seat two years later!

One of Paikin's toughest interviews was one he did with renowned Canadian author Mordecai Richler some years ago. To every question he asked, Richler would give about a ten-second response, and when the interview ended, the author yanked out his earpiece and left his chair before the camera had time to close the shot. "He couldn't wait to get out of there," said Paikin. To this day, he has no idea what the problem was, and it still rankles.



**Peter Newman, Orland French and Steve Paikin** Photo by Richard Hughes

And as for earpieces used during interviews, Paikin said he has made it abundantly clear to his staff that he is to be addressed through the device only if absolutely and unequivocally necessary. His full attention has to be given to the interviewee. He does not want to be listening to two voices at once and then discover that he has lost the thread of what the person in front of him was saying.

In one of his closing remarks, Paikin expressed high praise for Peter C. Newman who attended his presentation, saying that Newman, the author of many political books, was a great inspiration to him in his own career as a journalist and author.



## Albert College Archives 150 Years of History

*By Bill Kennedy*

The archives of Albert College in Belleville were the subject of the Historical Society's public presentation in October. Archivist Neil Smith, a former student of the school, provided an overview of the college's 150-year history with numerous stories and photographs of its progression through the years.



**Two school archive volunteers meet—Donna Fano from Sir James Whitney School and Neil Smith from Albert College. Neil was the presenter for the October public meeting.**

*Photo by Bill Kennedy*

Neil connected what can be seen as its origins all the way back to the American Revolution and the subsequent migration of Methodist Episcopalians to Canada following the conflict. Back in the mid-1800s, education was the purview of government and churches, and Albert College began as Belleville Seminary on College

Street, a name it kept until 1866. It was divided into the primary section for younger students, the advanced section for older students taught such subjects as chemistry, geography, botany and moral philosophy, and the ladies section where music, languages, drawing, painting and sewing were taught. It wasn't until 1900 that the first teacher for physical education was hired.

In its early years there were both day and resident students, the latter paying \$2.00 per week for room and board. In addition, they had to provide their own candles or oil lamps for lighting and quilts for their beds. While teachers were not easy to find (some coming from the United States), over the years the college produced some illustrious figures. One was faculty member John Macoun who was educated in the fields of botany, engineering, metallurgy and geography and who advised the Canadian Pacific Railway to lay its track through the more southerly Rocky Mountain route via Rogers Pass. Another was Ella Gardiner who, contrary to studying the music, sewing and drawing allocated to the college's ladies section, received her B.A. and eventually became college principal.

In 1889, an increase in student population prompted renovations to the college. These included the additions of steam heat, baths and lavatories. A few years later, in 1896, the construction of Massey Hall enlarged the size of the college by over 4,500 square feet, and at the turn of the century a pipe organ was installed. A fire in Massey Hall would eventually destroy many student records. The college's latest addition is the Parrott Junior School built in 2003, which goes from kindergarten to grade six.

Neil's presentation was peppered throughout with many historical photographs of the college as well as some college artefacts on display that included college crests and a 1927 football. The photographs and the written records of the college's history are available for public review on site. Today the college houses students from twenty countries.



## King George High School in Stirling, Part 3 Hastings' "Hoosiers"

*By C.W. Hunt with Sue Winfield, CEO/Head  
Librarian of Stirling-Rawdon Public Library*

The postwar years saw many changes at the old Stirling High School—most, if not all, were positive and welcomed by both students and staff.

In 1946, the first full year after the end of World War II, enrolment stood at just 131 students. Peak enrolment of 150 had been reached in 1929, and would not be reached again, but despite the relatively small enrolment, many firsts were achieved.

For example, in 1946/47, a girls' interscholastic softball team was organized which won the Centre Hastings High School championship, beating out both Tweed and Madoc.

In 1950, the Stirling High School Board voted to join the Centre Hastings High School area. This was recommended by the Ministry of Education with the aim of bringing the small schools up to standard. This meant that a full-time shop teacher and a full-time home economics teacher would be hired for the Stirling school. More importantly, it resulted in a system of buses organized to transport students to the various high schools in Centre Hastings at no cost to the parents or students.

The Stirling-Rawdon Junior Band was organized at the school in September of 1959. Fourteen instruments were purchased and another twenty-two were loaned to the students by the Stirling Citizens Band. Despite the school's small enrolment, some fifty students participated in the band which began practices in October of that year and put on its first concert on March 11, 1960, when it participated in a village variety show.



**King George High School in 1960-1961** *Courtesy of Jamie Troke of Ekort Realty*

However, sometime prior to these accomplishments, the Board had determined that the old building had to go. It had reached the end of its useful life. In 1960, the old school began to be slowly demolished and a new modern two-storey school was continuously erected on the same site. However, one part of the old building was retained and tied into the new building. This was the twenty-year-old addition which included a gymnasium, a home economics room and the shop. By the fall of 1961, construction was complete, and the new building was opened for students.

The new school offered four- and five-level courses in agriculture, languages including Latin and English, physical education, politics, history, geography, business, economics and mathematics.

Interscholastic sports included boys' senior and junior football, junior soccer, junior and bantam basketball, as well as girls' senior and junior basketball and volleyball.

A wide range of clubs were organized including art, chess, drama, photography and Christian Fellowship. There was a band as well as a choir—the latter being directed by Mr. Don Armstrong.

But the greatest achievement, indeed, the most unlikely accomplishment in the school's long and storied history, took place in the fall of 1966 when the Stirling Golden Hawks senior football team won the COSSA football championship. And they won it against schools ten times their size, including schools from Belleville, Peterborough and Bancroft.

The smallest school in the area had beaten the giants. It was fodder for a movie, and indeed, the movie *Hoosiers* featuring Gene Hackman was based on the same theme. But this was Ontario, not Indiana, USA, so no movie was ever made. But it was a memorable event for Stirling.

Virtually the entire town turned out for the victory parade featuring a team of dray horses hauling a hay wagon carrying the entire team through the village. A memorable dance was held in the school gymnasium that evening.

A year later, rumours began circulating that Stirling's beloved high school would be closed, and despite protests, letters to the editor and the support of an entire community, the bureaucratic machine was held in check for only a year before the Stirling-Rawdon District High School came to a close in June of 1968. Since then, Stirling secondary school students have been bused to either Madoc or Belleville.

The Church Street school was converted to an elementary school and served in that capacity until 2013 when a new elementary school was opened in Stirling. Along with the other Church Street elementary school, it was recently sold by Jamie Troke, owner of Ekort Realty in Belleville, to a foreign group who will operate the two schools as a private English immersion school for Chinese and Indian students. One school will be converted for use as a residence while the other will return to classroom use. Two to three hundred foreign students will be accommodated. So the halls of Stirling's former high school may soon ring again to the chatter of teenagers bustling between classes.

Some noteworthy graduates of the old school include Ned Potts, who rose to be CEO of Union Carbide; Lorne Johnston, who became Deputy Minister of Education and

George Post, who was a professor of economics at Queen's before rising to the top of the federal civil service where he was Secretary to the Cabinet. He and his wife, Shirley, who is a recipient of the Order of Canada, are retired and living in Peterborough.

## Santa's Workshop Animated Display

*By Donna Fano*

Santa's workshop was an animated Christmas display measuring 8 feet wide and 7 feet tall. It featured four elves, Sir James, Sawdust, Spike and Dinger, all at work building toys. The display was built by the woodworking class at Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf (SJW) in 1979. Three Deaf boys: Kevin Fitchett, Jim Campbell and David Raffer were given the project under the direction of Stan Bramley, a woodworking teacher who taught from 1962 to 1986.



**The animated display, run by a transmission motor, was given to the Fosters in 1979.** *Photo by Donna Fano*

That same year in 1979, the workshop was set up at Rita and Don Foster's house on Emily Street in Belleville to add to the collection of the Billy Foster Christmas Display in memory of their son, Billy, who was killed in a car accident. In 1993, the whole display along with Santa's workshop was then sold to the Belleville Sports and Recreation Department and donated to the City of Belleville to be displayed on Pine Street and MacDonald Avenue at Alemite Park.

In 2002, the workshop had become run down and needed repair work and painting. SJW School asked the Belleville Sports and Recreation Department of Belleville to return the workshop to the school for a make-over. The

wood was already twenty-three years old and needed replacing. As a result, the old workshop was dismantled so the pattern could be copied. SJW decided to make two workshops, one for Belleville and one for the school. Twenty-five Deaf students and five staff worked on the display over a three-month period.

The woodworking classes replaced an elf on the left-hand side with one that had a hand that waved "I Love You" in American Sign Language to reflect Deaf culture. Previously, an elf named Sir James, was shown with a body hearing aid carrying a board over its shoulder. Sir James was renamed Elf after the movie *Elf* came on the scene in 2003. The classes also added a Grinch to the little room at the top of the display.

The renovated workshop for Belleville was completed in time for the lighting ceremony in the SJW courtyard in 2003. Mr. Glover, from the Belleville Sports and Recreation Department, was invited to come and receive the new workshop. Tyler Keddy, a grade 12 student, presented it to him on behalf of the school. The workshop was dedicated to Stan Bramley who is remembered for his many years of service to the school. He was well liked by staff and students.

In 2004, SJW's own workshop was completed. It was put in the school's courtyard to add to their Festival of Lights. Later the school had different plans for the courtyard and removed it as the yard needed work. It now stands in the corner of the dining room at SJW, well protected from the weather. It is turned on during the school's turkey dinner at their Unique Christmas concert every year.

In 2012, Belleville's Santa Workshop was moved to Jane Forrester Park along with the rest of the Billy Foster display. Belleville continues to exhibit a piece of SJW School's history created thirty-six years ago.

## The Little Church on the Front Road

*By Vern Whalen*

They are easily recognized buildings as we drive the county roads of Eastern Ontario. Normally they have three windows on each side and possibly a steeple. They are unique-looking single-family dwellings, usually right off the road. Although expertly renovated, one does not need much of an imagination to discern the old country church of a bygone era.

For the past 142 years, such a church has stood about a mile east of the Point Anne Lane on Old Highway 2. The

tiny red brick church has a pointed white steeple with a small bell tower. There are three gothic-style windows on each side and one on each side of the white front vestibule. Attached to the back of the church and slightly shorter is a wood-framed parish hall.



**Little Church on Front Road**

*Photo by Vern Whalen*

Sadly, in the grass in front of the church is a sign which reads that the venerable Front Road United Church is for sale.

On May 15, 1873, the Trustee Board of Kingston Road Wesleyan Methodist Church of Shannonville Circuit purchased a quarter acre of land on lot 24 East in Thurlow Township from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cooper for \$25.00. A red brick edifice was constructed by parishioners in six months for the total sum of \$1800.00. The original church trustees were Messrs. Ware, Vivian, Gibson, Ridley and Diamond.

Originally named the Kingston Road Wesleyan Methodist Church, it was officially dedicated on December 22, 1874. The morning service included a sermon preached by Rev. James Elliott of Kingston. The dedicatory services were conducted by the same Rev. Elliott and Rev. William Briggs. The trustees then formally presented the edifice to the Methodist Church. The new church was to be part of the Bridge Street Church circuit in Belleville. Over the years the church was part of various circuits (groups of churches) in Belleville. The circuit supplied ministers for services.

By the mid-1890s, the church became known as the Front Road Church. About this time the stretch of road from Belleville through to Tyendinaga Township was known more as the Front Road than as Kingston Road. It was actually the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession of Thurlow Township and thus the "front road."

In 1925, there was a union of Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches in Canada to form the

United Church of Canada. Hence the church became known as the Front Road United Church. At this time a new United Church was built in nearby Point Anne. Over the course of the next sixty years the two churches were closely connected. As discovered in the United Church Archives, in 1970 there was a combined total of 144 parishioners in the two churches. Services at the churches were conducted by Rev. Gordon Crossfield.

Over the years modifications and renovations were completed on the church. A front vestibule measuring 8 feet by 8 feet was added as was a church hall in 1936. The latter was constructed with the help of fundraising by the church's Ladies Aid. The group which was formed in 1917 was initially led by Mrs. George Greatrix and Mrs. Belle Clazie. They worked hard organizing lawn socials, pie socials and fowl suppers to support financing of the new hall.

The Clazie family, which had a farm located across the road from the church, were very active supporters. A handy carpenter, Allan Clazie made a sign for the front of the church, an oak communion table, a hymn board, a baptismal stand as well as tables and chairs for the Sunday School.



**Interior of Little Church on Front Road**

*Photo by Vern Whalen*

Sunday School was always an integral part of Front Road United Church as early as 1890, and the first Superintendent was William Clazie. Some of the Sunday School teachers over the years included Arthur Cooper, Arthur Clazie, Maurice Bradshaw, Mrs. Noble Brown, Clinton Brown, Miss Lois Taylor and Miss Lois Bradshaw. The group raised money over the years for various projects including curtains, bibles and the electrical wiring of the hall.

Times changed. Belleville grew closer and attendance at many churches dropped as we entered the twenty-first century. Services became less frequent, but the church

continued to stay active through the stubborn support of erstwhile parishioners like Jack Shorey, Doug MacLaurin, Doug and Mary Chisholm of Point Anne, and of course, the nearby current Clazie family.

Finally the verdict was rendered in early 2014 by the Kente Presbytery, the local governing body of the United Church. There would be a closure of the Front Road United Church. And so in July of 2014, Dr. Hal Wilson conducted the very last service at the church, after 141 years of use to the faithful of the area. Surely it was a sombre occasion when the doors finally closed after so many years of worship.

In conclusion, if you are interested in renovating a well-built and lovingly maintained old country church into a family dwelling, the asking price is \$149,000.

However, to the few thousand devoted parishioners of over fourteen decades, the value of the Front Road United Church to their lives has been—priceless.



## ON THE HOME FRONT

Excerpts from *The Intelligencer*, November 1915

By Laurel Bishop

**November 8:** “80<sup>th</sup> Battalion Reach Belleville. Many men in khaki who have enlisted for overseas service in defence of the British Empire were to be seen upon the streets of Belleville this afternoon. This was owing to the fact that members of A and B Companies of the 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion who have been in camp at Barriefield for some time, arrived here and will remain here for some time. There were 530 all told, composing officers and men, and were under command of Lt.-Col. W.G. Ketcheson. ... The men quickly detrained and marched from the station to the barracks on Pinnacle street where they will be quartered during their stay in the city. Lt.-Col. Ketcheson led his brave soldiers, and during their route of march were repeatedly cheered by citizens who were fortunate enough to witness their arrival. When the city hall was reached Mayor Panter approached Lt.-Col. Ketcheson and on behalf of the citizens of the city extended a hearty welcome to the officers and men and expressed the hope that their stay in the city would prove to be both pleasant and profitable. The Mayor was by the commanding officer thanked for his kind expressions. The men then proceeded to the parade ground in connection with the barracks and were put through some manoeuvres previous to entering the building for dinner, for which, it is needless to state they were prepared. The dinner was provided by the members of the Ladies’ Rifle Club, and was all that could have been desired. Many of the ladies assisted in serving

dinner and their efforts were much appreciated by the men. After dinner the men were dismissed and allowed their liberty to go about the city.”

**November 10:** “Mail for Canadian soldiers in France and England, if it is to be delivered before Christmas, ought to leave Belleville before the end of this month. ... Every parcel must carry a customs declaration properly filled out and securely attached. ... Mail for prisoners of war in Germany and Austria goes absolutely free. Newspapers, however, may not be sent. .... Tobacco is a good article to send.”

**November 13:** “We have learned from a reliable source, that Bombardier (Pat) H.E. Yeomans of this city, who left with the 34<sup>th</sup> Battery, in August, 1914, has been promoted to the rank of Corporal and has also received the D.C.M. for bravery on the field at the battle of Ypres. This is the second time that he has received promotion since being at the front. ... ‘Pat,’ as he is familiarly called, is a son of Dr. Yeomans of this city, and his host of friends will be pleased to learn that his valuable services have been fittingly recognized.”

**November 15:** “The opening of the Pollyanna Tea Room Saturday afternoon and evening was an event which could be recalled with great satisfaction and pleasure. The Pollyannas are twelve little ladies banded together to help further the patriotic cause. A ‘Fairyland’ it is with its gorgeous decorations of flags, maple leaves, barberries, brilliant and artistic lights adding greatly to its beauty. Too much cannot be said of the Pollyannas themselves. Their costumes were most attractive! Middy suits trimmed with red and white caps with the ‘Red Cross’ seal. Their gracious and courteous manner was freely commented upon by those who visited Fairyland. The tables were very attractive, bouquets adorning the centre of each. ‘Fairyland’ is not complete without music. Beautiful were the selections rendered through the agency of ‘our friend’ the ‘Victrola’ during afternoon and evening.”

**November 22:** “Under the auspices of the 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion oversea Band, a concert was given in Griffin’s Opera House last evening, which proved to be a great success. The spacious building was inadequate to accommodate all who desired to attend, hundreds being turned away. ... Twelve Russians who are connected with the Battalion rendered in their native tongue some selections which the vast audience thoroughly enjoyed. They also under the able instruction of Sergt. Kuprow gave a fine exhibition of the Russian drill and bayonet charge, showing their mode of attacking the enemy from in front and behind. This was a feature which all present thoroughly enjoyed. ... The pleasing entertainment closed with the National Anthem by the band. The proceeds of the silver collection amounted to upwards of \$70, which will be applied to Battalion

purposes.”

**November 22:** “Canada’s War Loan. In our advertising columns today will be found particulars concerning the issue of \$50,000,000 five per cent bonds, Canada’s war loan, about which a good deal has been said and written lately. We have a peculiar pleasure in congratulating the Government upon the issue of this domestic loan, as The Intelligencer has always advocated the borrowing of money at home instead of raising it in England or the United States. ... There is every reason to believe the loan will be very popular, and that the sum will be easily subscribed.”

**November 24:** “Absent, Yet Not Forgetting. Colonel Ponton has received from the Belleville Old Boys’ Association of Toronto a cheque for \$25. to be applied in sending Christmas presents to the Belleville boys now doing duty for the Empire in France and Belgium, and will hand this sum over to the two organizations which have this specially meritorious work in hand.”

**November 25:** “The 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion is to have a tag day on Saturday, November 27. A number of young ladies of several societies organized in this city, have consented to take charge of it. Every person who is on the street will be tagged by a young lady, and will, of course, be expected to purchase a tag. There will be no limit to the price, every person giving as much as his conscience will allow him to. The money will be devoted in behalf of the men entirely, and a good response is urgently requested.”

**November 27:** “Coming to Scott’s Theatre. The official motion pictures of Canada’s Fighting Forces in Europe. ... These films are the only ones of their kind and have the authorization of the Canadian Government. They picture the exploits of the Canadian divisions leaving Canada, crossing the Atlantic, arriving in England. ... They also show the arrival of the Canadian wounded from the front; the Canadian hospitals in England. ... All true Canadians should see these films and give the boys who are now in the trenches, their hearty applause.”



## Rededication Ceremony at Rawdon Township Cenotaph

*By John Lowry*

Close to one hundred people gathered at the Rawdon Township Cenotaph in Harold in the Township of Stirling-Rawdon on the evening of October 23rd, 2015 for a formal rededication service of the cenotaph.

The service, organized by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 228 (Stirling), was preceded by a candlelit parade

of veterans and family members to the site. A short memorial service was conducted by Padre R. Smith following which family members placed their memorial candles at the base of the cenotaph as the names of their relatives were read aloud.

The service included the unveiling of two recently cosmetically restored German MG08 war trophy machine guns that have now been returned to their rightful place flanking the cenotaph.



**Candles in memory of the lost ones were placed on the Cenotaph.**

*Photo by Bill Kennedy*



**German war trophy machine guns were beautifully restored.**

*Photo by John Lowry.*

## It Is Membership Renewal Time!

With this month’s *Outlook*, you have received your membership renewal form. We would appreciate your completing the form and mailing it back as early as possible. If you are not a member, now is the time to sign up.

Your membership is very important to us as it shows your support for the work of the team of volunteers at the Historical Society and helps us bring you all of the programs and activities that we undertake during the year. The nine issues of *Outlook* you receive will be filled with great historical stories, coming events and reports to both entertain and inform. But most of all, you are supporting the development and promotion of the great heritage of our region, and for that, we say “Thank You.”

*Tales from the Hastings Woods:  
Exploring Centre Hastings*

## Hastings County Historical Society ANNUAL BUS TOUR Saturday, May 28, 2016

Come away on **Saturday, May 28** for a day of fun and exploration in a luxury Franklin touring coach, and hear all the wacky and wonderful tales from pioneer life in the thriving villages of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Centre Hastings, as only historian Bill Hunt can relate them! He's been collecting these wonderful tales for decades and can't wait to share them with you!

You'll explore the colourful secrets of communities such as Thomasburg, Tweed, Actinolite, Malone, Queensboro, Madoc, Eldorado, Bannockburn and Deloro.

Your \$70 ticket includes a comfortable touring coach ride, lots of fun, loads of new information and a delicious lunch. Book early as these tours always sell out fast!



### Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

#### Topic: Last day of School: a Final Tour of BCI&VS Filmed by Doug Knudsen

Last Day of School: a Final Tour of BCI & VS" with Eugene "Jeep" Lang. Jeep was present at the opening ceremonies of Belleville (Ontario) Collegiate Institute and Vocational School back in 1928. On June 17, 1997, the last day the building was officially a "school", Mr. Lang led this fascinating "bottom to top" exploration of BCI - the last visual record of this venerable Belleville institution.

**Date: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2015**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Maranatha**

**100 College Street West, Belleville**

(Please use rear parking lot and back entrance and go to Meeting Room)

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