



Outlook

Volume 7 Issue 7

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Future generation will thank you for your foresight in recording stories of the past

by Lewis Zandbergen

There has long been an awareness that our fairly recent history is slipping by and few attempts—at least on a large scale—are being made to use today's technology to adequately preserve the past for our collective futures.

There is immense importance in providing an accurate and first-person retelling of the vital legacy our older citizens can give us. This fact was brought to the attention of the Hastings County Historical Society members at the September 17 general meeting.

On hand to recount his aim to record at least some of the stories handed down through the generations was Don Edwards. He stressed the point that we need to ensure we do not forget the past.

By taping stories our parents and grandparents and even great-grandparents (should we be so blessed) can relate about their childhoods, the Depression years, the agony of war and the affluence of the post-war years we will pass on to our children a priceless legacy.

During his presentation Mr. Edwards played portions of his acclaimed production *Quintessentially Quinte*, a tape recording which brings bits of the past to light through reminiscences and stories.

Don Edwards is convinced that there's a growing need to pay more attention to the collection and preservation of our oral history. He reminded those of us who toil in ink that books are extremely time-consuming and if they concern local history the rewards come more

from the satisfaction of recording history than in the inflation of our bank accounts. Also, books tend to cover the realm of social history rather than telling the stories of living memory. Because we are an aging society there is now a need more than ever to record, collect and preserve our storied past.

Mr. Edwards alluded to the events of September 11, 2001, and described the amount of video-

tape—hundreds of hours—shot that day. Properly archived that resource would provide a priceless resource several decades in the future. According to Mr. Edwards every major American university has an oral history component in place.

Canada's own War Museum, in Ottawa, has over 500 oral histories regarding World War II.

These days we have many opportunities to get started on the collection and preservation of oral histories.

And it's surprisingly easy to accomplish; anyone and everyone can commit to tape the reminiscences of their forebears.

Armed with a simple, inexpensive cassette recorder visit the seniors in your family and get them to talk about the past. A hint though: the recording device should be as unobtrusive as possible; some people tend to freeze when faced with a microphone. These days recorders using mini cassettes are the preferred method; the recorders can easily be slipped into a pocket and an hour or so of conversation can be caught for posterity. Please do let your interview subject know that you are taping them, however, it may avoid embarrassment later. And make sure the setting is a comfortable quiet one. Someone trying to transcribe the recording will have to be able to hear the conversation clearly. The turkey dinner at Thanksgiving or Christmas with cutlery clattering in the background or the noise of children playing with the latest toys makes the memories less distinct—al-

though there is something to be said for recording even mundane family events for future generations; that's for videotape though.

Among the bits of *Quintessentially Quinte* Mr. Edwards shared was Janet Kellough's heartfelt rendering of the Hay Bay tragedy in which a group of young people drowned while crossing Hay Bay to attend a Sunday service. For those unfamiliar with it, here is the story verbatim from a pamphlet published some time ago. The story was also retold in *The Hay Bay Guardian* of 1994.

"Sunday morning August 29, 1819, and a prayer meeting was begun by those who had come early, in the Methodist Chapel on the south shore of Hay Bay. Thirty-five-year-old Rev. Isaac Puffer and his assistant, James Wilson, had resolved on holding a special Quarterly Meeting there. The scene was thus recorded by G.F. Playter:

One was now engaged in prayer, and had just uttered the petition that "it might be a day long to be remembered," when a shriek was heard, another and another. The prayer was stopped, and some ran up to the pulpit to look out, and saw the youths struggling in the water. All ran to the shore, and some plunged in to render assistance. Eight were taken to the shore. Ten bodies were yet in the water. A seine was prepared, and so the bodies of these unhappy youth, a few hours earlier so blithe & cheerful, were brought dripping to

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 15,
2002

Guest speaker

W.C. Bill Hunt

Topic: Belleville's early
aircraft industry

Refreshments

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held in the
Auditorium of the Quinte Living
Centre

370 Front Street, Belleville

the land. One was not recovered until the next morning. No public worship was attended to, but preparations for the solemn funeral.

"News of the disaster soon spread far, and a great congregation gathered on Monday Morning. Nine coffins were laid in the cemetery across the road from the church. Mary Cole was buried in the family plot on the north shore across Hay Bay.

"It was a great tragedy that

affected the whole Bay of Quinte area. Even forty years later the relation of the story brought sighs and tears."

The victims of the drowning were: Peter Lent Bogart, 17; Elizabeth Clark; Mary Cole; Mary Jerusha Detlor, 20; Jane Sophia Detlor, 12; Jane German, 18; John German, 20; Huldah Madden; Elizabeth McCay and Matilda Roblin, 18.

John W. Hodgson 1915-2002

John (Jack) W. Hodgson, a former secretary of the Hastings County Historical Society, passed away May 3, 2002. He was born February 19, 1915. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, son James, daughter Meribeth, grandchildren and a great-grandson.

The condolences of the Hastings County Historical Society are extended to Mr. Hodgson's family.



Monument erected in 1961 in memory of the ten victims of the Hay Bay drowning. The date of the tragic event should read August 29, 1819. *from the Hay Bay Guardian June 1994*

Don't Forget! It's time to renew

Please complete this form, or a photocopy of the form if you wish to save your newsletter, and bring it with your payment to the Society's next general meeting (third Tuesday of each month except June July, August and December), or send it by mail to the Hastings County Historical Society, 154 Cannifton Road North, General Delivery, Cannifton, Ontario K0K 1K0

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Postal Code _____

Membership Categories

Individual	\$ 20
Family	\$ 25
Senior/Student	\$ 15
Senior Family	\$ 20
Life Member	\$150
Corporate Sponsor	\$ 50
Women's Institute/Organization	\$ 20

I also enclose a donation of \$ _____ toward the work of the Society

The Hastings County Historical Society is a registered charity. Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be forwarded to you with your membership card



Join
**THE HASTINGS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
for a
**SOIREE,
COLONIAL BANQUET
& AUCTION**

Renowned chef Renata Bishop will provide an authentic Colonial Banquet

6:00 p.m. Saturday, November 2, 2002

Bay of Quinte Yacht Club

Victoria Park, Belleville

Special guests from the past interviewed by
roving reporter Roy Bonisteel



Auction of collectables, antiques and
new items conducted by

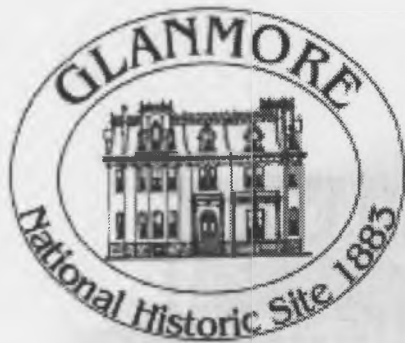
Auctioneer Extraordinaire Boyd
Sullivan



Silent auction throughout the
evening

Tickets \$30

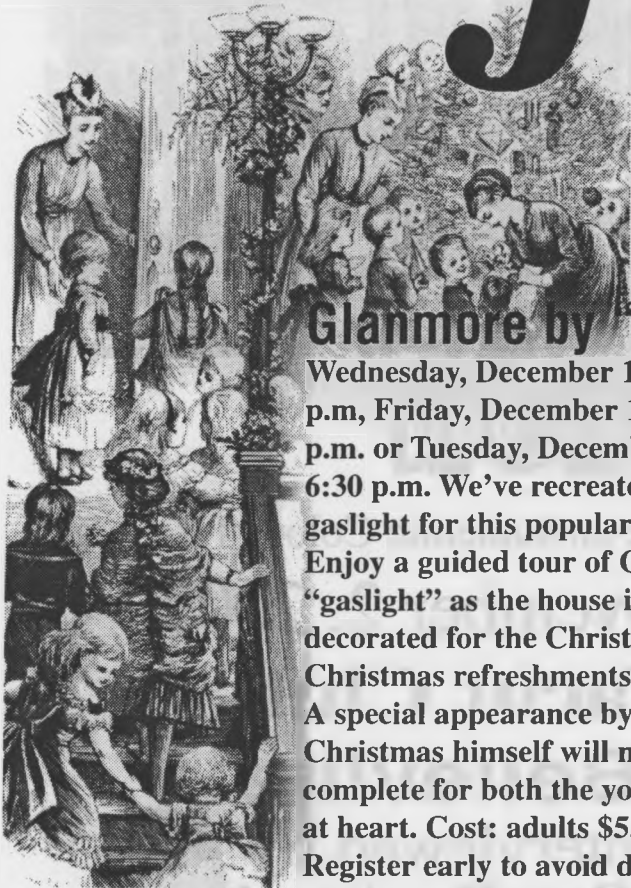
For tickets call Hazel Lloyst-Shaw 969-1900 (please leave message)



GLANMORE

National Historic Site

257 Bridge Street East,
Belleville, Ontario K8N 1P4
(613) 962-2329



Glanmore by "Gaslight"

Wednesday, December 11, 2002, at 6:30 p.m, Friday, December 13, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday, December 17, 2002, at 6:30 p.m. We've recreated the look of gaslight for this popular holiday event. Enjoy a guided tour of Glanmore by "gaslight" as the house is beautifully decorated for the Christmas. Traditional Christmas refreshments will be served. A special appearance by Father Christmas himself will make the evening complete for both the young and young at heart. Cost: adults \$5, children \$2.50. Register early to avoid disappointment. Call (613) 962-2329.

Holiday Events at Glanmore

Register now for holiday events at Glanmore National Historic Site and avoid disappointment later!

Friends of Glanmore Holiday Craft Sale

Mark your calendar for this exciting Holiday Craft Sale to be held Saturday, November 30, 2002, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m! Just in time for the holiday season, the Friends of Glanmore will be hosting a variety of local artisans selling their lovely handmade crafts and gifts. Admission is free with donation to food bank. Glanmore is located at 257 Bridge Street East, Belleville. Call (613) 962-2329 for more details.

Victorian Santa Claus Workshop

Sunday, December 8, 2002, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$25. Add charm to your holiday decor with a Victorian Santa made at Glanmore's popular Christmas decoration workshop for adults. Your Santa Claus will be constructed from natural materials such as pine cones and moss and features a natural wool beard. This handsome Santa is adapted from craft instructions found in the December 1867 edition of Harper's Bazaar. Register early as spaces are limited. Call (613) 962-2329 to pre-register.

Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society.

It is edited and produced by Lewis Zandbergen.

Anyone wishing to submit articles or information may contact the editor at 613-395-3022, or E-mail lewzan@reach.net

Thank you to The Community Press for its assistance.

PLEASE NOTE!

The Deadline for the November 2002 issue is October 18, 2002

mailing label