



Outlook

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What's New in the Newspapers?

by Richard Hughes

We all know that, as the song says, "The times they are a-changin'." But if you look at the *Daily Intelligencer* newspapers from the turn of the twentieth century, the stories not only illustrate how much daily lives have changed, but in many cases, have to bring a smile to your face.

"Considerable amusement was caused this morning by the action of a stray cow which wandered along Front Street and finally entered a dry goods establishment walking nearly the length of the place before it was tackled and driven out by the proprietor."

"The police this morning received a message from Trenton that a lad had taken a stage for this city and was intending to run away from home. It appeared that the boy, who was 12 years of age, jumped upon the back of the stage and his presence was not noticed until Bayside post office was reached. He was left there in charge of friends and taken back home this afternoon when the stage returned."

"Truant Officer Arnott this morning rounded up some boys who were playing truant. One, a lad named Burke, was taken to the police station and put in the cells for a few minutes. He was let out on promising to attend school regularly. In his rounds the inspector came upon two children who were unable to attend from the fact they had not proper clothing or shoes. Mr. Arnott stated to an *Intelligencer* reporter that if these articles were left at the police station by any

person inclined to contribute the same, he would see that the children received them, so as to attend school."

"Boys in the city who smoke the deadly "coffin nail" should stop sometimes and consider the effects of the indulgence in that weed. Not long ago, a resident of London, Ont. ran amok in that city and when an effort was made by a policeman to prevent him from doing harm, he deliberately shot at the constable but fortunately the bullet went wide and the constable escaped. He was brought up for trial, and in explanation stated that the shooting was the result of his being crazed by smoking cigarettes."

"Ottawa: The members of the Ottawa Plumbers Union went on strike yesterday to enforce a demand for 30 cents an hour and a Saturday half-day holiday without pay. The maximum now is 27 1/2 cents and the employers offer 28 1/2 cents and refuse the half holiday."

"A pathetic story comes from St. Petersburg in regard to the war. While thousands of soldiers are at the front fighting for a cause which they know to be wrong, their wives and children are starving and begging in the streets. Well may one ask, how long will the down-trodden people of Russia tolerate these things? When will there be an up-to-date representation of the French Revolution in the land of the Czar?" [The answer is 12 years and 7 months until the revolution of October 25, 1917.]

"In magistrate's court: 'The case of John W., accused of allowing his hens to trespass upon the property of Benj. S., was enlarged for a week.' 'Timothy H. was given a week to clean out his pig pen or condign punishment would be his.' " [condign = severe or well-deserved]

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“This morning, Mr. T., driver for Messrs Tickell & Sons [undertakers] started for Napanee with a load of caskets. When a short distance outside the city limits, on the Kingston road, the load upset and the caskets were sent in all directions.”

“In magistrate’s court: ‘Mr. Fairman, trotting over lower bridge, dismissed.’ ‘Mr. T. was charged with running a pool table without a licence. Case dismissed as the table belongs to a club.’ ”

Pandemic Year Three – Again

by Richard Hughes

By the middle of March, we will enter the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we all surely look forward to its rapid decline in the coming months and a much brighter summer ahead of us. We often hear people declare that they have never seen anything like this, which is true, but this is not the first time that our whole society has been laid low for a long period of time by a flu pandemic. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic has followed a remarkably similar path to the last great pandemic, the Spanish Flu. That pandemic set in during 1918, returned with terrible vigour in 1919 and cut a third path of death and suffering through Canada in 1920.

The worst year of the Spanish Flu was its first year, 1918, when there were over 3,000 deaths in Ontario in October, 2,600 in November, almost 1,600 in December and 1,500 in January. In February 1920, the health authorities reported 20,000 cases of influenza and 2,000 deaths. They noted that this was still a heavy toll of sickness and death, but it was generally considered to be in a declining situation.

In 1920, the Belleville Board of Health reorganized the volunteer association of citizens which had been so important in the earlier years of the pandemic in mobilizing health workers and, very importantly, in assembling teams of volunteers to convey these health workers across the city to the homes of the sick. It was noted that, in many cases, whole families were taken ill, so it was vital that medical help be brought to these households. Even in this third year of the pandemic, 50 percent of the school children were absent either due to sickness or as a precaution. Also, 30 percent of the teachers were absent. In February all churches, schools, theatres and places of

public assembly were closed; however, they were reopened on March 7.

In spite of these large numbers of sick and dying, the health authorities did not consider the 1920 flu as an epidemic on the same scale as in the 1918 and 1919 seasons. They were confident that the health measures being promoted by radio and newspapers would “strip the ‘flu’ of much of its effectiveness.”

The measures promoted in 1920 are fully reflected in the recommendations that we are hearing in 2022; namely, avoid contact with persons (we now call it social distancing), avoid indoor crowds such as in theatres, buses; keep hands clean and out of the mouth; work in clean fresh air, among others. At that time, the authorities listed some other items that we do not hear today, such as avoid expectorating in public places; change handkerchiefs frequently; keep your feet warm; wet clothes, being dangerous, must be removed as soon as possible and avoid chilling the body.

But not all was gloomy in 1920. A Detroit newspaper reported, “United States marshal Henry Behrendt was authorized in a telegram from Washington to furnish free of charge to all reputable physicians whiskey to be used in the treatment of influenza cases.” Maybe not as efficient as vaccination, but it would certainly go down well! Recall, this order went out in January 1920, just a few months after Prohibition had been enacted in the U.S.

Source: The Daily Intelligencer



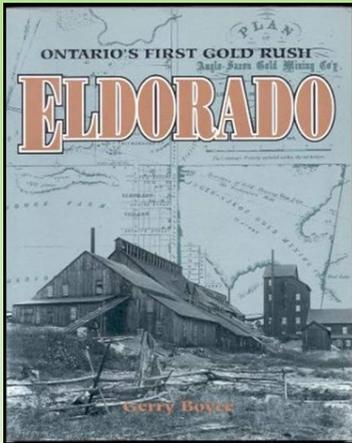
Year three saw Belleville’s first vaccine centre at Loyalist College.

Photo taken in April 2021 by Donna Fano

It's Reading Time Again

by Michelle Hutchison

Time has sprung ahead and spring will soon be here! May we recommend these books to take advantage of those longer evenings ...



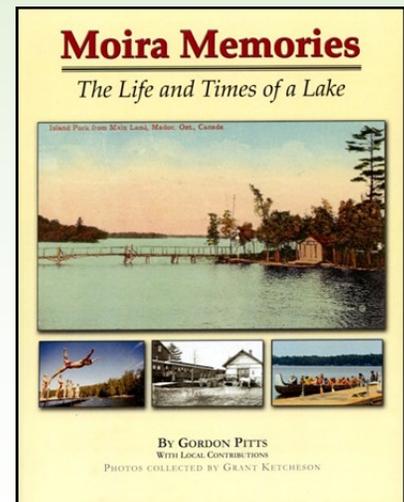
Gold: speculation, success, squabbles and swindles! Who knew that Hastings County had a gold rush of its very own? Almost overnight, Eldorado sprang to life. Thousands, the influential, the businessmen, the prospectors, flocked to Eldorado to try their luck. And some were—lucky, that is. It was 1867. Confederation was in its infancy. This was a bonanza in a newly minted country. Gold mining companies were springing up all around the area. Everyone wanted a piece of the pie. But, the gold was hard to access. Although mining activity continued into the 1900s, the “rush” eventually petered out to spurts confined to large mining companies with capital behind them. Seeking to correct misconceptions and omissions about the so-called “Madoc Gold Rush,” author Gerry Boyce embarked on a project to set the record straight. *Eldorado* tells the little-known tale of boom and bust in the southern end of Hastings County’s Canadian Shield.

\$30 160 pages

Do you remember the stories you heard while growing up? The folklore, the tall tales that your grandparents or parents wove like a tapestry? Did you ever wish that someone had written them down? Well, that’s exactly what author Gordon Pitts has done. He tells of the life and times of a lake, from what he calls the “heyday” of simpler times to the present. It’s sort of a story of coming of age. Written as a tribute to a place where the author goes to recharge, *Moirá Memories* preserves those stories that might otherwise be lost to the sands of time. First-hand stories and newspaper reports, replete with photographs, gathered with care, all come together to make a lake real and to keep the memories alive for years to come.

\$20 100 pages

Find both of these fine books, along with many others at the Hastings County Historical Society bookstore, housed at the Community Archives in Belleville.



It's Annual General Meeting Time

The Hastings County Historical Society is a registered charitable organization and, as such, is required to hold an Annual General Meeting each year where members have the opportunity to hear reports on the operation and financial status of the Society and elect the Board of Directors for the

coming year. Normally, these are held in March in conjunction with the monthly Public Presentation at Maranatha. Of course, again this year, under the rules and restrictions of COVID-19, such an assembly is not possible. So, we are going virtual as we did last year.

We will hold our Annual General Meeting using the Zoom format on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. Information on how to register for this Zoom meeting

will be provided closer to that date on our website (www.hastingshistory.ca).

The meeting will consist of a presentation on the activities of the Society by the President and on the financial status by the Treasurer. There will also be an election of the Board of Directors at that time. Nominations for the Board should be provided ahead of time (email president@hastingshistory.ca) due to the complexity of holding a normal process over Zoom.

The full Annual Report 2021 is available on our website. If you have any questions about the AGM process, please feel free to send them along by email to president@hastingshistory.ca

Richard Hughes, President



A Report from the President

by Richard Hughes

The year 2021 was the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic with a continuation of the lockdowns and limitations affecting all aspects of our lives and activities. For the Historical Society, it brought further challenges and demands as the Board of Directors sought to develop and deliver programs to the benefit of the whole community while fully respecting the safety protocols of the authorities and the health and well-being of our members and friends.

Previous to the onset of COVID-19, the Society maintained several community-wide, public programs that had become very popular with a large number of people. Our Public Presentations at Maranatha, held nine times a year, had built up a large following, averaging 125 persons per month. These events featured a guest speaker but also book sales, displays, information booths, and were a very popular social gathering for our friends and members. They looked forward to coming out in a comfortable setting and enjoying an informative social evening. Also, for several years the Society's spring Historical Bus Tours had grown from one bus to two, and were always fully sold out. These outings

provided a pleasant day in the country in the beauty of early spring, visiting local historical sites and learning more about our area. For many years, our annual fundraising program was the Celebration of Local History Banquet. This event always featured nationally known speakers and was always a complete sell-out, with the table sponsorships raising funds for the next year's operation.

Also, victims of the COVID-19 lockdown were the special public programs like the creation and installation of memorial brass plaques. Previously, six plaques had been installed in Downtown Belleville and seven installed across Hastings County. These were major public events with participation of the municipalities and the public. For 2019, an additional four memorial plaques had been created, three for Quinte West sites and one for Albert College. These plaques were manufactured but, due to the lockdown, have been held in storage. The Society has a long history of participating in community events across the County, with displays and period costume participation, forming many partnerships with other groups.

With the sudden and complete change of direction, the Board of the Society decided to concentrate on developing programs that could be undertaken by the whole community from their homes or out in the open spaces. Our main vehicle for communication, the monthly newsletter *Outlook*, continued to be published, never missing an issue. News, coming events and, importantly, very informative and entertaining historical stories kept our contact with members and friends across the County. We created a Memories Project, inviting people to write short stories recalling their younger years and times that have passed. With so many people homebound, we established a series of historical documentaries on our YouTube channel featuring films made by videographer Sean Scally. Working in partnership with the Belleville Public Library, we brought a monthly series of guest speakers through Zoom. These were later made available on our YouTube channel. Also, the 25 videos in the series Road Trips in Hastings County continued to be available on YourTV's YouTube channel.

During the spring and summer, as it became possible to get out in the open spaces, the Society created a program Stroll of Discovery: Riverfront Trail which

guided walkers along the Moira River from Meyers Pier to Highway 401, pointing out sites of historical interest along the way. This booklet proved to be very successful in encouraging our community to get out into the fresh air, get some exercise and learn about our city.

Several other programs were initiated in 2021 and are being developed for rollout in 2022. In the hope that 2022 will bring relief from the two-year shutdown, the Historical Society will be rolling out these new programs and will be bringing forward the very important public programs which have been on hold for the past two years.

In a word, during 2021, the Society has continued to be very busy, shifting its directions, moving from major public events to programs which the community can take part in while following all safety protocols. It has continued to be very active and dynamic under the circumstances and will be ready, when the sun once more shines, to resume its leading role in bringing the heritage of Quinte to all of our community.

Copies of the 2021 Annual Report and the 2021 Annual Financial Statement are available at the Community Archives or by emailing

president@hastingshistory.ca

Treasurer's Report

by Dan Atkinson

The 2021 year was another challenging one for the Society due primarily to COVID restrictions. Our ability to generate income was once again severely restricted, thus reducing our cash flows. Nevertheless, the Society did manage its financial resources as best it could during the year with the result that our cash position at December 31 was only \$4,000 less than the previous year while revenues were lower than 2020 by \$3,500 and \$23,606 less than those in 2019.

The Balance Sheet continues to show a strong position primarily because of the aforementioned Bank position. I should also note the Prepaids are down this year because of ongoing book sales of two publications: *The Commodores* and *Belleville in the*

First World War whose authors we have partnered with in a cost/revenue sharing agreement. Other than that, we have no liabilities of note—in fact we have HST still to be received from the Federal government.

The Statement of Revenue and Expenses (or Profit and Loss) as expected shows a reduced level of operations as one would expect during this pandemic period. There were no fundraising activities, but our memberships and donations held up very well thanks to our strong membership base. As a result of the decreased revenue streams, the Board held the Society's expenses in check with the result that we basically operated at a break even for the year. The one exception I should point out is that we have a Grant expense of \$5,000 this year—in fact, this was monies returned to the City of Belleville for a particular project they had originally granted to the Society several years ago which is now operating as a City project.



Quinte Welcomes Royalty

by Richard Hughes

The excitement level rose to a crescendo all across the Quinte region on October 12, 1951, when the radiant 25-year-old Princess Elizabeth and her handsome husband, Prince Philip, arrived by train. The Canadian National station was jammed with 10,000 to 15,000 adults and at least 3,000 children. A colourful scene greeted them with a dozen Mounties in their red serge, many Union Jacks and Red Ensign flags fluttering in the breeze and countless flags waving wildly in the hands of the children.

It was a brief visit at Belleville station, just 15 minutes, with introductions to local dignitaries and waving to the jubilant crowds. A highlight was the presentation of Mohawk chief Tayaloteka who displayed the communion silver set, a gift to the Mohawks from Queen Anne in 1714. The Princess and Prince also signed the chief's bible. The thousands of school children were thrilled to see the beautiful young princess and showed it with great exuberance.

Waving farewell from the back platform of their 10-car train, they departed for Trenton and an even larger event. Under the bright October sun, the Royal

couple descended from their train to a sea of colour; first the row of red-coated Mounties, then an honour guard of sea cadets and the railway platform decked with colourful bunting and countless waving flags. A police motorcycle escort then led the Royal procession through the streets of Trenton with great crowds waving flags and cheering loudly. The crowd was estimated at 50,000 persons. One hundred buses and four special trains had carried about 11,000 school children from all across the region, including 2,000 from Picton and 7,000 from Peterborough.

The entourage proceeded to the RCAF base where 10,000 persons had assembled to witness a series of ceremonies: inspection of an honour guard and taking the salute in a marchpast. The highlight was the unveiling of the imposing memorial gates erected to commemorate the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan of the Second World War. Under that plan more than 130,000 aircrew had graduated in Canada, including at Trenton and Mountain View.

The entire Quinte region, and well beyond, had experienced a once-in-a-lifetime thrill of being part of this momentous occasion. School children, in particular, had witnessed history and gained a memory that would stay with them for life.

While the young princess and her charming husband would take home many memories of this tour, one that would surely be at the top of their list was an evening of square dancing arranged by the Governor General in Ottawa. After some private lessons in this North American specialty, about 70 guests gathered for an evening with fiddles, accordion and guitars with a



Mayor Dr. Richard Potter of Belleville, Ontario, presenting people to Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip during the Royal visit, October 12, 1951

CABHC HC04302

square dance caller. The Royal couple and their guests were attired in colourful checkered costumes, with dirndl skirts and rainbow blouses.

Getting back to Quinte, this was not, of course, the first Royal visit to Belleville. On May 23, 1939, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, on the first tour to Canada by a reigning monarch, stopped at our city. About 25,000 people flooded the CN Station. The silver and blue streamlined train glided into the station at 9:30 p.m. as the immense crowd sang, "God Save the King." After some delay, the Royal couple came out onto the train platform as the crowd broke into a riotous cheer. They waved and smiled at the crowd for some time, then withdrew into the darkness of their rail car, and slowly the train continued on its course towards Toronto.

The Quinte area has an immense wealth in its geography—its bay, lakes and forests—and in its history with monumental events like these Royal visits high on the list.

Footnote: At the time of this visit, Princess Elizabeth's father was in ill health and had undergone lung surgery. It was just 3½ months later that he died, on February 6, 1952, at the age of 56.

Source: *The Ontario Intelligencer* newspaper, October 12, 1951, and other sources.



Where's the College on College Street?

by Orland French

If you go looking for the college on College Street in Belleville, you will hunt a long time and be disappointed. It was moved to Dundas Street West in 1926.

What was once the Belleville Seminary, and later Albert College, was founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Methodists were one of the first active Christian organizations in the little town of Belleville on the Moira River, founding the original Bridge Street Methodist Church (now United) in the heart of downtown Belleville in 1815.

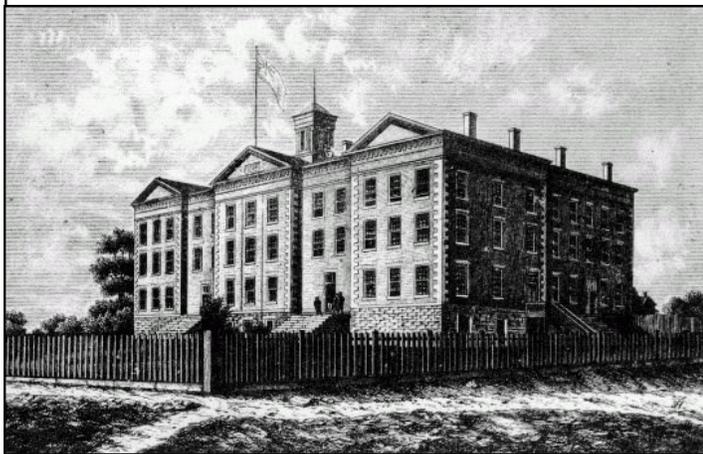
Belleville Seminary opened in 1857 on what is now College Street East. It quickly established a strong academic record under the direction of the Reverend Albert Carman and received a university charter in 1866. The Reverend Carman was a militant advocate for Methodist education. The seminary struggled financially but under Carman's leadership it was

moderately successful. Upon his election as Bishop in 1874, he became a strong supporter of union among the various Methodist denominations. This was achieved in 1884 at a uniting General Conference at the former Tabernacle Methodist Episcopal Church, located on what is now a parking lot under the Belleville Water Tower. (It was sold and demolished in 1995.) After Methodist reunion, Carman became general superintendent of the Methodist Church, a post he held until he retired in 1914.

When the seminary had become a degree-granting institution, it was renamed Albert University in honour of Prince Albert, the Prince Consort of Queen Victoria. With the creation of the Methodist Church in 1884, the school federated with Victoria College in Cobourg. It should be noted Victoria College became Victoria University federated with the University of Toronto. Its first president was none other than the Reverend Egerton Ryerson, whose name and reputation have been sullied in the current era of political revisionism.

In 1925, The Methodist Church joined with the Presbyterian and other smaller denominations to form the United Church. The United Church was formed, in part, with the intention of closing some of the redundant old churches. However, congregations tended to cling to their home churches and some of the existing brick structures in Belleville still survive, barely, today.

When Victoria College was chosen as the official university of the newly formed Methodist Church in 1884, Albert College became a private collegiate. It was re-established in the elegant structure now overlooking the Bay of Quinte on Dundas Street West. Today it is the oldest co-ed independent



Sketch of Albert College, 1870

Fadedgenes, Methodist Church in Canada website

boarding school in Canada. As a private school, its educational services are renowned. It has an annual enrolment of around 300, with students coming from the local area and 20 countries around the world.

And what about its early legacy? You can still find a remnant on its original site on North Park Street at College Hill United Church. In recognition of its heritage, Albert College sold the site for the new United Church congregation in the 1950s for \$1.



Belleville's Grand New Hotel Opens

by Richard Hughes

Let your mind wander back to 1895 when the 17-year-old City of Belleville was experiencing its own *Belle Epoque*, with increasing affluence and growing optimism. The future was golden. And the residents looked with pride and amazement at the super-modern Hotel Quinte, just newly opened at the corner of Pinnacle and Bridge Streets.

The city had suffered a great loss when the Dafoe House Hotel, on the same site, had burned in 1886. That same hotel, originally built in 1847, had also burned to the ground in 1855 and was rebuilt in 1857, only to succumb again in 1866. The site lay empty for over 20 years until 1888 when a group of leading citizens, with the aim of giving Belleville, once again, a first-class hotel, purchased the land. The group was led by Henry Corby Jr., M.P., W.H. Biggar, M.P.P. and John Bell, Q.C. A stock company was organized in 1893 and in just two years, a three-storey structure, with every modern convenience was ready to receive guests—the Hotel Quinte.

Reflecting the times, the Pinnacle Street entrance was created as a ladies' entrance leading to a luxurious waiting room where ladies could make known their business to the clerk in charge. The Bridge Street entrance led to a reception area featuring massive chandeliers as did the dining room which could accommodate 200 guests. These chandeliers and all lighting throughout the hotel were very modern, fitted for both gas and electricity.

A key selling point of the hotel was the fact that, of the 62 guest rooms, there were no "dark rooms," that is, rooms without windows. This was critical for fire safety as access was directly on to the streets or to fire escapes. Another fire safety device in the hotel

was an alarm which could be sounded from the office. Previously, guests had often panicked before they really knew what was happening. The rooms were luxuriously furnished by the London Furniture Company, all solid oak, and with “hair mattresses” and “five-frame Brussels carpets.” And, at the end of each corridor on both floors, the hotel featured toilets and bathrooms. At that time, hotels were frequented by many commercial travellers who would set up displays in the rooms. The new Quinte made special provisions for the sample rooms, through adjoining rooms.

A very special feature of this grand hotel was the observatory on the roof which would accommodate over a hundred people, giving a spectacular view of the city and the harbour. Another modern feature was an electrical device connecting the office to each room which would give a “wake up” signal. The guest could touch a button to signify that the signal had been received.

Of course, every grand hotel required a first-class kitchen, and the Quinte boasted one of the best chefs in Mr. Harry Cussan, who had worked in Toronto hotels. Even the barman was recruited in Toronto and a well-known billiard and pool expert was in place to serve the guests in the Billiard Room. In sum, the Hotel Quinte, opening in 1895, was clearly one of the finest hotels in Ontario and a jewel in the crown of the Belleville community.

Postscript: This beautiful hotel burned in 1907 and was quickly rebuilt and reopened in 1908. Tragedy revisited the hotel in 2012 when a devastating fire wrote the final chapter to the Hotel Quinte.



First Hotel Quinte with flags and bunting circa 1900 CABHC

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