

## Next Meeting

**Tuesday,  
Oct. 18,  
1994**

Auditorium of the  
Quinte Living Centre

**7:30 Coffee  
8:00 Meeting**

### GUEST SPEAKER

James H. Love U.E., Ph.D.  
associate Professor, Faculty  
of Education Brock Univer-  
sity at St. Catharines,  
Author and World Traveller.

### TOPIC:

**"Rebels and School-  
books: Textbook Policy  
in Upper Canada  
after 1837"**

This will be an entertaining,  
enlightening, well-paced,  
succinct and clearly audible  
talk. H.C.H.S members,  
historians, teachers and  
public are cordially invited.

*Members and all those  
interested in this fascinat-  
ing aspect of Canadiana are  
cordially invited.*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Mr. Brian Tackaberry**

Almonte, Ontario

**Mr. William J. Allen**

N. Tonawanda, New York

We Gratefully Acknowledge  
The Support Of Our Corporate  
Members As Follows:

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of Education.

ISSUE 121

OCT. 1994

# Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society

September Meeting

## Tweed Steel: A Surprising Discovery

HCHS 3/1/121

**M**embers of the Hastings County Historical Society met at the Quinte Living Centre on September 20, 1994 for the first meeting of the new season. President Leona Hendry reminded members that the annual meeting (a dessert social) would take place in November.

Featured speaker was Evan Morton, curator of the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre, which he founded 5 years ago. Using a magnificent collection of documents and photographs concerning the Tweed Steel Works, he related the surprising story of the steel company.

In 1889 the Tweed Machine Shop was founded by the Leal Brothers. In the beginning they made steel troughs for water or hogs, "something new, something long wanted" to quote their advertisement. In 1904, W. Gordon, owner of the hardware store, took over. By 1911 he had 12 employees who worked 60 to 75 hours a week at 15 cents an hour. By this time they were mak-

ing water closets.

In 1912 they expanded for gasoline tank production, since the automobile was gaining in importance. By the 1930s these tanks were made with glass cylinders so the customers could see what they were getting.

The company continued to grow, having branched into steel and enamel bathtubs, until in 1920 their sales amounted to \$125,000 annually and they were paying their employees 25 to 50 cents an hour. Three years later their assets were \$325,000 and they had begun to take over other companies. By this time they had built the Tweed water tank.

In 1930 the company became the W. Gordon Steel Works and they were making steel fireplaces and snowplows. In 1932 the works was gutted by fire and rebuilt. In 1939 the name changed once more to become the Tweed Steel Works. In 1961 fire struck again and in 1964 we see the Tweed Steel Works (Eastern) Ltd. with the focus on steel fireplace forms.

By 1979 the peak had passed and, sadly, by 1994 the plant relocated to London Ontario.

Following his presentation Evan spoke with members as they toured the Tweed Steel Works exhibit.

**Jean Williams**

### CANADA REMEMBERS

## Tulip Tribute Project

It was announced at the September meeting by President Leona Hendry that the Hastings County Historical Society Board has decided to participate in this project with the Belleville Parks Board. The tulips will bloom in Lions Park next spring in commemoration of Canada's part in the liberation of Holland. Local planting will be matched bulb for bulb in Ottawa.

# Some Gleanings From Minus 100

A Regular Feature Of Our Monthly Meetings

If you think yesterday's newspaper is only for recycling or wrapping fish and chips, think again. Try reading 100 year old papers on microfilm at the library to present a vintage view of the news. It makes an afternoon of interesting reading. Here are several items from the - 100 presentations of a few recent years.

**FEBRUARY 13, 1893** A letter to the Editor of the *Intelligencer* extolled the forests of Ontario as "a dream of beauty and a source of invaluable wealth" and pointed out that "the trees which grew by the force of nature were a heritage of the race who inhabited the land and not the sole property of any one generation."

1891 This was a census year; Belleville population was 9,916

## THE LOCAL SCENE

Henry Corby Jr. was campaigning for re-election to the Dominion government. The last piece of steel had been erected the previous day to complete the Bay Bridge. It was believed to be the longest bridge in Canada. It cost about \$95,000. The current Norris Whitney Bridge took about the same amount of time from conception to completion and cost over 13 million dollars.

**OCTOBER 19, 1892** The Women's Christian Association, who founded and also operated the hospital for many years, reported at their Annual Meeting that in the past year 192 patients had been

admitted. There had been 12 deaths and eleven cases of typhoid treated.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 1889** The telephone was a status symbol — three citizens were listed as having acquired one.

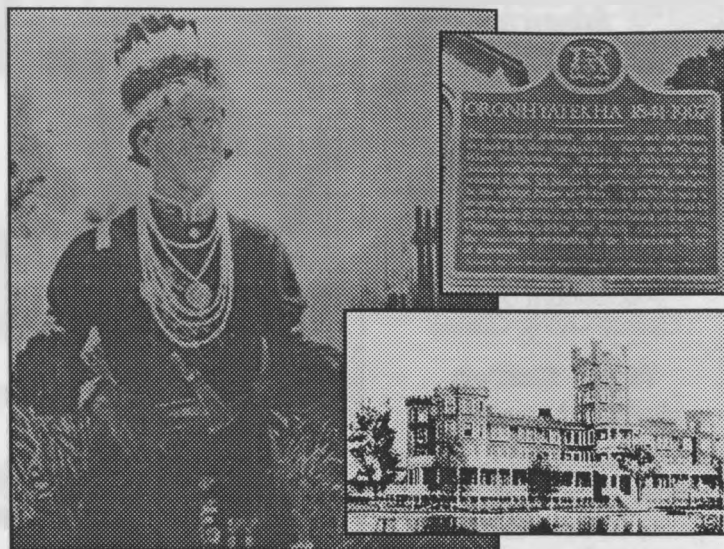
**NOVEMBER 18, 1891** There were 26 ladies in attendance at the Belleville Business College. This was the largest number of ladies in attendance at any business college in Canada. Belleville had a ward system. Eleven candidates were running in Murney Ward, 8 in Coleman, 14 in Ketcheson, 9 in Bleecker, 6 in Samson, 6 in Foster and 10 in Baldwin.

## THE LAW, CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

**APRIL 19, 1894** Nathaniel Easton — for non-support of his wife was ordered to pay her \$1.50 per week.

## DID YOU KNOW ???

**MARCH 1891** That the famous Beatrice Lillie attended St. Agnes School for girls in Belleville. It was at the corner of Bridge and Ann Streets. Charlotte Kuntze shared the reminiscences of her late father, William Finkle, on Belleville when he was a boy. Mr. Finkle said that Bea Lillie used to sing a song called "Splash me, Splash me" at a five cent show on Front Street. Beatrice Lillie became a famous English Comedienne. When Mr. Finkle was a young lad there were 7 mills at the mouth of the river. Also in Belleville there were 16 hotels, 1 brewery and the ruins of 3 more.



Photographs Courtesy of The Picton Gazette

**MAY 1891** Dr. Oronhyatekha, his wife and daughter were departing for Edinburgh where the good doctor was to be honoured for his work with the Forrester's Lodge.

**Mary McConnell**

**New members for the Hastings County Historical Society Board are urgently needed. If you can assist in any way please contact our President, Leona Hendry at 968-6731.**

## DON'T FORGET!!!

Our annual meeting is no longer in January. The annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 15, 1994. Added attractions will be Maurice McLeod, to appraise and discuss all the antiques, collectibles and treasures we are confident you will bring. Desserts of various kinds, tea and coffee, will be served after.

## ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO (A.C.O.) QUINTE REGION BRANCH

The Quinte branch of the A.C.O. will be conducting their monthly walking tour in

## Hastings village on Sunday October 16.

Hastings is on the Trent River, north of Warkworth, east of Campbellford and is on the Trent Severn Waterway. Both the canal and lumber industry precipitated a boom in this settlement between the early 1850s and the late 1880s.

Many mills and related industries, churches, and fine homes were built.

Meet at 2 pm at the Town Hall parking lot, at the top of the hill, corner of Bridge and Albert Streets (over the bridge).

# County News

By Gerry Boyce

## GOING, GOING, GONE ...

The historic document described in last month's *Outlook* has been sold. Titles Book Store in Belleville sold the typed, annotated report prepared for the CPR and CNR by Walter J. Francis in April, 1920, relating to that year's Belleville flood. A generous member of our Society had offered to purchase and donate the 54-page report (with 25 identified and dated photos of flood scenes) but it had already gone. Hopefully, the new owner will allow interested researchers access to it.

**WOW ...** Bev, our son Eg and I recently visited the enlarged RCAF Memorial Museum at CFB Trenton. It's impressive. We were pleased that museum curator Earl Hewison and active supporter Bob Norris were on hand to offer comments. Members will remember Bob as the teacher of Local Studies at BCIVS circa 1980. Some 12,000 visitors have passed through the museum doors in its first 10 weeks.

**MARMORA VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP COUNCILS** continue to debate whether to proceed with building a centre that would include a library and space for other activities (including heritage displays). *The Marmora Herald* (Sept. 20) included lengthy letters offering opposing viewpoints. Three former Marmora Public Library librarians supported the plan while "A concerned citizen" anonymously opposed it, suggesting that the heritage train station might be a more

appropriate museum. It could be an election issue on November 14.

**TWEED COUNCIL** has written a letter to the Tweed & Area Historical Society giving support in principle to the Heritage Centre. Council is examining the society's proposals for the centre's funding and ownership.

**ROB WALKER's** "Museum Corner" in *The Bancroft Times* (Sept. 13) featured a dentist chair and equipment from the mid-1920s. The artifacts belonged to Dr. Irwin E. Fonger, who began practising dentistry in 1923 in Hamilton, Ontario, and moved to Bancroft in 1949. Also in the museum's dental collection is a foot pedal dentist's drill belonging to Dr. Harryett. The drill operated on the same principle as a foot pedal sewing machine, and was used in areas where there was no electricity. These pieces of equipment may not have been part of "Painless Dentistry", but they were improvements over earlier days.

**PROF. MICHAEL PETERMAN** of Trent University has been a popular speaker at our meetings on the Moodies: Dunbar and Susanna. His present focus is on Susanna's sister, Catharine Parr Traill. A book, *Selected Letters of Catharine Parr Traill* (U. of T. Press), is expected in 1995 and this fall the University of Ottawa Press brings out *Forest and Other Gleanings - the fugitive prose of Catharine Parr Traill*. The latter includes sketches, articles and short stories. Mike is also preparing a

Scholarly Edition of Catharine's *The Backwoods of Canada* for Carleton University Press. It's "an extraordinary record of pioneer life by one of Canada's most remarkable women." We look forward to a return visit by Mike. Incidentally, he's an avid sports fan and was impressed with the energetic play of the Belleville Bulls (especially the Secord-Cleary-Tracze line) when they recently defeated the Peterborough Petes.

**HEAVENS ON FIRE - ORONHYATEKHA** is the title of a book being prepared on the life of Dr. Oronhyatekha, the outstanding Mohawk leader with close ties with the Tyendinaga Territory, Foresters Island in the Bay of Quinte, and Frankford. The well-illustrated first chapter of the book-in-progress appeared in *The Napanee Beaver* on August 31. Authors are James B. Maracle of Church Lane, RR 1, Deseronto K0K 1X0 and Allan H. Gale, Box 115, Newburgh K0K 2S0. They are seeking vignettes from local people recalling Oronhyatekha and his legacy. Publication is at least a year away and the authors are seeking a publisher.

**STEVE GENEJA** is the author of *The Cruiser Uganda*, the story of Canada's only World War II cruiser. The book includes his personal recollections as a member of Uganda's crew and follows the ship through its campaigns in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Pacific. A Belleville native and Corbyville resident, Steve was in charge of the Hastings County Land Registry Office for many years. Congratulations, Steve.

**SIDNEY BAPTIST CHURCH** recently celebrated its 165th anniversary. To help mark the occasion, Lewis Zandbergen wrote a column for *The Community Press* (Sept. 20), describing the church's "long and colourful history." Built in 1878, the present building was lit by coal-oil lamps until 1941. Plans call for restoration of the bell tower.

**DEPRESSION SCRIP ...** The Trent Port Historical Society's newsletter contained copies of a set of "relief certificates" issued by the Corporation of the Town of Trenton in the 1930s. Resembling banknotes, they were issued in five denominations, from five cents to one dollar. A merchant conducting business in town could redeem the certificate without charge at the local bank of Montreal. What a difference between the welfare system then and now!

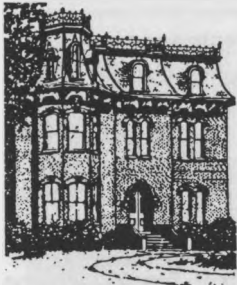
**IS VIOLENCE TODAY** worse than in past years? Consider this note from *The Bancroft Times* of 1902, reprinted in Barney Moorhouse's column: "Eric Sharp, the fifteen year old son of a Kingston grocer, deliberately shot and killed Beatrice Holland, fourteen years of age, because she snatched his hat off at school."

**THE MARMORA HISTORICAL FOUNDATION** has produced a series of four historical postcards, including Marble Cliff Inn and the Royal Hotel. Contact Anne Philpot at 472-2245 for information.

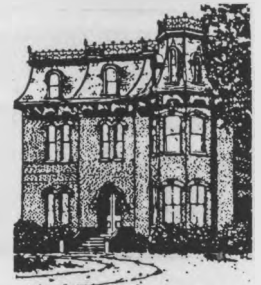
**JENNIFER-ANNE GILMOR**, former curator/manager of the Hastings County Museum, has graduated with honours from the U of T's Bachelor of Education Program. Congratulations.

**SEVERAL MEMBERS** attended the service in Bridge Street United Church to celebrate the life of Leona Riggs, longtime Society member. Eugene Lang gave a fitting summary of her life and contributions. Dr. Greg Butler played "Lullaby", a recently discovered song composed by Leona, with words by Greg's grandmother. Dr. Hal Wilson expressed thanks to Jack and Charlotte Kuntze for their friendship to Leona. The Kuntzes frequently brought her to our meetings.

SINCERE SYMPATHY to the family of the late EDNA (KETCHESON) WELSH, formerly of the Corbyville area, a strong supporter of our Society for many years.



# Your County MUSEUM



257 Bridge St. East, Belleville, Ont. K8N 1P4 (613) 962-2329

## HASTINGS COUNTY OUTREACH

Glanmore, Hastings County Museum is pleased to donate 15 black barrier/stands to the Stirling Historical Society. Glanmore, Hastings County Museum would like to extend congratulations to the Belleville Sports Hall of Fame on the acquisition of a beautiful new exhibit case and the implementation of its first display. The display focusses on the Belleville MacFarlanes and their national success.

## WELCOME TO RETURNING AND NEW VOLUNTEERS

Glanmore, Hastings County Museum would like to welcome all those volunteers, both returning and new, who are joining us for our 1994 - 1995 season. As always we look forward to a dynamic and exciting year.

The staff of Glanmore, the Hastings County Museum bid farewell to Christine Zaporzan a former education coordinator. Best wishes Christine!!!!!! The museum staff welcome Debbie MacFarland our newest education coordinator. The Museum is also fortunate to have six students working on various projects through the fall and winter. Terry Hawley and Thor Jespersen are with us on placement one day a week from Loyalist College General Arts and Science Programme. Paul Hollingsworth and Derek Pattimore of Bayside Secondary and Trisha Colburn from Centennial are on Co-op placements at the museum. Finally, Alex Nicholson is with us on a student grant programme.

## 1994 HOME CHILDREN REUNION

Dr. Barnardo's emigrated some 30,000 boys and girls to Canada between 1882 and 1939. Many more arrived by way of other agencies. Marchmont Home, in Belleville, was one of the "way stations" for these "little immigrants." The 14th annual home children reunion was hosted by the Hastings County Museum on September 18, 1994 and was attended by approximately 60 guests. Special guests included Padre Horne, Rev. Utley, Mr. & Mrs. Lorente from Heritage Renfrew Home Children Committee, Mrs. Bradford head of Barnardos After Care in England and her husband Steve. The museum would like to extend a special thanks to all those who made the day a success. The Hastings County Museum Auxiliary worked very hard to provide excellent food, refreshments and presentation.

**Thank you for your efforts.**

## HONOURABLE MENTION RECEIVED FROM THE BELLEVILLE GARDEN CLUB

Trillium Awards and Honourable Mentions are given by the Belleville Garden Club in recognition of resident's efforts to make their property exceptional as viewed from the street. The Museum has received an Honourable Mention for the presentation of its grounds this summer. Thanks go to the our summer students, Alex and Michelle, and our custodian Mac, for their hard work.



# Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society Newsletter

Outlook is published monthly for the Friends and Members of the Hastings County Historical Society.  
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