

Issue 94

June 1991

# Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Tuesday Sept. 17  
7:30 p.m.

Salute to Tweed  
on its Centennial,  
1881-1891

Meeting at Tweed  
Details in the  
September issue of  
Outlook

## The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Quinte Branch Third Sunday Walking Tours

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Quinte Branch, will help celebrate the Tweed Centennial by holding its Third Sunday Walking Tour in Tweed on Sunday, June 16, 1991. Meet at the Tweed Playhouse at the corner of Jamieson and Colborne Street at 2 p.m.

Tea and cookies will be served after the Tour.

**There is no charge and everyone is welcome.**

Information:  
(613) 969-0734  
or (613) 476-7221

## Hastings County Historical Society Volunteers Recognized

A ceremony of significance to all volunteer organizations, but of special interest to the Hastings County Historical Society, was held in Kingston on April 24th. This was the Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Ministry of Citizenship and the Ministry of Culture and Communications. Our Board of Directors had nominated four Members of our Society who were duly recognized by receiving Service Awards Certificates and Pins.

Lois Foster received a 15 year pin (the highest given) for her continuous work on building research. Betsy Boyce and Alice Deline each received a 10 year pin for their on-going work, Betsy as Chair of the Picture Archives Committee and Alice Deline as chair of the Genealogy Committee. And if you didn't recognize "Allen Hull" in the newspaper report, that was A. Chester Hull, who received a 5 year pin for his special contributions as a member of the Board of Directors and budget and financial advisor to the Board.

"The Intelligencer" in its editorial on April 29th, paid tribute to all fortytwo Quinte Area volunteers listed at the Volunteer Service Awards Program. It highlighted the long-time dedication of vol-



Elizabeth Mitchell, Information Services Librarian receives from publicity chairperson Jean William, an expression of appreciation for her address "Treasurers of the Canadiana Room" to the Hastings County Historical Society. (See General Meeting story next page)



Alice Deline, Chester Hull, Lois Foster, and Betsy Boyce

unteers Bessie Marsh (Humanitarian Organizations), Estella Burkett (Hastings County Museum) and Lois Foster (Building Research).

The Intelligencer summed it up by saying "the commu-

nity owes a debt of gratitude to people like Marsh, Foster, and Burkett, and to the 39 other volunteers from this area."

# What was Happening 100 Years ago?

## Minus 100 takes us back to May 1891.

**E**ven Gerry Boyce, our most experienced and accomplished researcher and writer, had to explain that the 1891 *Intelligencer* for this date was incomplete. This does happen but we must remember what a storehouse of historical information the microfilm and back issues of local newspapers are in general terms.

Gerry's research into other newspapers and other May issues of the *Intelligencer* revealed that there was much of interest happening. News items were a potpourri of good news and bad news.

Poor 17 year old Sarah had been given a one year prison term in Toronto "for receiving chickens, knowing them to have been stolen". Sarah was seriously injured (perhaps fatally) trying to escape from Mercer Reformatory. On her rope of blanket strips, she lowered herself from her fourth floor cell. She had had to

spread the window bars on her cell. But when she got as far as the third floor, she surprised other inmates. Their screams startled Sarah and she fell to the ground, breaking her back.

Closer to home, on the morning of May 21, the sixth hanging took place at the Hastings County Goal. Irish immigrant, James Kane, was executed for the knife-murder of his estranged wife. Kane's final moments were described by the *Intelligence*: "...at 8:19 the man was jerked into the air some six feet. The body rebounded with a lurch and turned round

and round."

As in 1991, 1891 was a census year. Census officers, bound to secrecy, were unable to give figures on Belleville's population. The *Intell* estimated the number at 9,950, a large number considering "the decay of lumbering" - the virtual wiping out of that industry - the loss of the axe factory, the stove foundry, etc.

The *Intell* article on the census concluded: "Let all people of Belleville unite in praising and crying up our lovely and progressive little city, instead of, as some of them have done - decrying and running it down - and the effect will be beneficial to the place and to all who have an interest in its welfare."

## General Meeting Hastings County Historical Society, May 21, 1991

**A**t the May meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society, Elizabeth Mitchell, Information Services Librarian Belleville Public Library, (See picture on first page), told us all about "the Treasures of the Canadiana Room." Elizabeth gave us a very comprehensive listing of the many resources of the Canadiana Room for a researcher, and brought several books and articles for our examination, including several of the books published in

recent years by authors using the library resources and also the Historical Society files of archival material.

Among the wealth of materials available to researchers are the Hastings County Directories, 1861 to 1889, and the City Directories thereafter. There are records of births, deaths and marriages, cemetery records, County atlases of Ontario, c. 1878, and in microfilm early city directories, city assessment rolls, township records,

The *Intelligencer* from 1861 (with some missing) and many copies of family histories. Elizabeth emphasized that library staff are there to

help the researchers. She was introduced by Beth Green and thanked by Jean Williams.

## Historic Quinte

### House Designated

This 1875 two-storey brick home at 288 William St. in Belleville - owned by Gordon and Audrey Davies - is now an historic structure designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The home, built on land once owned by John Meyers, is now protected from demolition or architectural changes that would alter its historic aspects.



# County News

by Gerry Boyce

**A PROFITABLE EVENING** - The May 7th book launch was a success in many ways. We received a cheque from the Godfreys for \$140 (as our commission on book sales) that more than offset our expenses.

**A SOUVENIR BOOKLET** has been sent to the Godfreys. It includes congratulatory messages from members of parliament and Society members.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY MARY McCONNELL** has received many renewals in recent weeks. Welcome back to those readers who missed the last issue. We invite new members.

**A CORRECTION** - The strawberry social at the Hastings County Museum (billed as "Strawberries and Strauss") is from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. JUNE 19. (Ignore the incorrect data in the last OUTLOOK.)

**CENSUS NEWS** - At its Annual Meeting in Kingston on May 25, the Ontario Genealogical Society presented the first copy of the Index to the 1871 Census of Ontario for Hastings-Prince Edward to Ann Rowe. The 217-page book lists every head of family and any individual bearing a surname different from that of the head of the family. Data includes age, sex, birthplace, religion, ethnic origin, and occupation, as well as the municipality and page reference. It's an important book for genealogists and historical researchers. Congratulations to the Quinte Branch compilers under coordinator Roy W. Bruce. Several of our members helped, including Dorothy Ashton, Eleanor Botting, Janet Clare, Leona Hendry, Ann Rowe, and Marlene L. Vaughan. The price is \$28.50 to O.G.S. members and \$35.50 to others.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ANN ROWE** for a super presentation at the O.G.S. Conference on "Tracing the British Emigrant Children". We are delighted that Ann has agreed to give the talk to our Society. Other Hastings' genealogists at the conference includ-

ed Laura Bush, Arnold Duke, Marilyn Harry, Ann Rowe, Penney Stevens, and this writer.

**OOPS - AN EAGER READER** has found an error in Roy Bonisteel's new book, *There was a time...*, highly recommended in the last OUTLOOK. It's on page 186. Can you spot it?

**ANOTHER READER** suggests that I surely was mistaken about the complaints about members of the Tweed and Area Historical Society being "too noisy" in their new accommodation in the basement of the municipal building. "Historians just aren't noisy people ... nose, perhaps, but not noisy." Scout's honour ... The Tweed News said they made too much NOISE. In any event, there have been no further complaints and the village has extended insurance coverage to the Heritage Centre so that it can be open to the public.

**MIKA PUBLISHING COMPANY** has done it again. The Splendour of Prince Edward County is an extremely attractive, 120-page book exploring the beautiful buildings and landscape of The County. It combines a hundred excellent colour pictures by Nick Mika; a thoughtful, pungent, occasionally critical text by Rodger Greig (well known for his walking tours including several for our Society in the 1960s); an historical introduction by David Taylor, well known Prince Edward historian; and a spritely forward by Eleanor Lindsay, a recent Warden. The book retails at \$30 and is so recent it nearly missed the OUTLOOK insert.

**OUR INSERT** lists more than 30 books on local history available from Mika Publishing. Nick and Helma have been strong supporters and patrons of the Society since 1961 and we thank them for the generous discount they are offering our members and readers.

**THE MADOC HISTORICAL FOUNDATION'S HOUSE TOUR** was a success on May 19. Buildings included the house built by

Thomas Cross, first reeve of Madoc Village and a warden of Hastings County. It's now the residence of Sharon and Alan Danford. He's the enthusiastic president of the Madoc Historical Foundation.

"**HISTORICAL NOTES**" is the heading of a monthly column appearing in *The Madoc Review*. It's contributed by the Madoc Historical Foundation.

**THE CARRYING PLACE** at the "junction" of Northumberland, Prince Edward, (and almost Hast-

*Continued on Page Four*

**THE "WISHING TREE LODGE"** on County Road 12 in Hallowell Township is pictured in Nick Mika's new book. It was published a week too late to be appreciated by one of the owners of that historic building.

Jim Musgrove died on May 10. A longtime member and supporter of our Society, Jim helped us establish the first Hastings County Museum on Church Street. I remember him "lending" us Milt Robson, Francis Trumble, and the floor cleaning equipment from Moira Secondary School to help prepare the building for the official opening. Later, Jim was very active with the Prince Edward County Historical Society, especially its archives. Our sympathy is extended to Corinne and the family.

## The Book Launch

The May 7th party to launch *BURN THIS GOSSIP* was a great success. Sheldon and Judith Godfrey did a super job of revealing the real

George Benjamin, or Moses Cohen as he was named by his Jewish parents in England.

Several special guests (who hold the same positions in 1991 that Benjamin held in the 1800s) brought greetings to the Godfreys. These guests included David Albert, President of the Sons of Jacob Congregation; Bill Whitelaw, City Editor of *The Intelligencer*; Gary King, Clerk of Thurlow Township; Bill Moreton, Belleville City Clerk, who brought the village's minute book kept by Benjamin in 1836; Captain Robert Bradford of the Canadian Forces and co-author of a book on Ontario's forts (Benjamin also was an author); Edgar Carman of Cobourg, Immediate Past Grand Master of the Grand Orange Lodge of Ontario East; Steve Geneja, Land Registrar for Land Registry Office # 21; Dr. Lloyd Jones, Superintendent of Instruction for the Hastings County Board of Education; Larry Hartin, Reeve of Hungerford Township and Warden of Hastings County; and Mayor George Zegouras of Belleville.

Congratulatory letters came from MPPs Elmer Buchanan and Hugh P. O'Neil, MP Lyle Vanclief, and nationalist-publisher Mel Hurtig of Edmonton. Also former Intell owner and publisher H. Myles Morton sent a letter reflecting on the paper over the years.

The evening ended with a cake decorated by Ruth McMillan to resemble the book cover.

A super evening.

## The Media and the Society

Your Society has attracted much favourable media coverage as a result of the book launch. Not only was there considerable advance publicity, but afterwards *The Intelligencer* devoted a full page to the book and there were extensive articles in *The Community Press* and *The Tweed News*. Also, the authors were guests on Milt Johnston's CJBQ Open Line Program and an interview was taped for Channel 4 on (Quinte) Cablevue.

# County News

by Gerry Boyce

*Continued from page three*

ings) counties will be the site of the Kente Portage Festival from July 19 to 21, featuring regiments in authentic military garb, pioneers, canoes, crafts, concerts, and much more. Kente Portage Festival president Paul German is building a replica of the original blockhouse (as built during the War of 1812).

A FIRST IN BELLEVILLE as City Council, at the request of Heritage Belleville, has taken steps to "designate" the historic cemetery on the site of the Kinsmen Park on Dundas Street East. The land was consecrated on March 3, 1828, by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

THE QUINTE ARTS COUNCIL is to be congratulated for its excellent issue of Collage, featuring the activities of member groups, such as our Society and the Madoc Historical Foundation. Copies are available (free) from

the QAC office in the "Queen Mary School".

IRISH IMMIGRATION TO NORTH HASTINGS is the topic of a fascinating article in the March issue of Ontario History. Written by Pauline Ryan, a native of Thurlow Township now completing a master's degree at York University, the 15-page article sheds new light on Irish settlements: Umfraville, Doyle's Corners (Maynooth), and the O'Brien Settlement. The scholarship is sound and the author has made use of a wide variety of valuable sources; although she does put the Eldorado gold rush in the wrong decade - it took place in 1866-67.

HISTORICAL FICTION can be entertaining. Stirling writer Lewis Zandbergen proves that in a short story in Eight by Two (a collection of writing by Ted Walczak and Lewis). "The Crossing" is intended as part of a larger work

based on the lives of Sylvester and Mary Faulkner, who settled in Sidney Township circa 1813. It combines adventure, suspense, suppressed emotions, and ethnic friction.

DUNGANNON CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS included the Reeve's Dinner on May 17. Special guests were citizens and former citizens who were at least 80 years of age. Reeve Martin West presented certificates to all the honoured guests, the oldest person present being Ed McLean. County Warden Larry Hartin read excerpts from the county minutes of century ago and Mike Burns (former Bancroft postmaster) was the guest speaker, describing the early postal system.

JACK ANDERSON of the Dugannon Centennial Committee has compiled a tentative list of names of all those from the township who served in Canada's Armed forces. The committee is looking for additional information on names, prior to building the War Memorial. If you have information or questions on names (or wish to contribute financially), contact Jack E. Anderson at R.R. 1, L'Amable K0L 2L0 or phone 613-332-1599.

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS TO BURLE SUMMERS, winner of the Sir Mackenzie Bowell Award as Hastings County's "educator of the year". Burle has always been a supporter of our Society and his wife, Kay, was a recent speaker on the topic of Belleville Fair history.

ED GAREAU's article in The Trentonian (May 22) gives a good outline of the activities of Trenton LACAC and the Trent Port Historical Society. Ed wrote a series

on how Trenton streets were named and now he plans to write about Trenton's history and older buildings. His articles are well worth keeping.

SHOPPING AT THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM? Look for delightful notecards with reproductions of watercolours by our own Susanna Moodie (1803-1885): Morning Glory and Honeysuckle and Goldfinch and Thistle.

PRINCE EDWARD'S CANNING INDUSTRY is the subject of a 14-page article by Peter Lockyer (Ottawa radio and television journalist) in the Spring issue of Material History Review, published by the National Museum of Science and Technology, Ottawa. The historical account is complete with pictures of eleven labels from Prince Edward canning factories: Boulter, Miller, Bloomfield, Morde, Hyatt, etc.

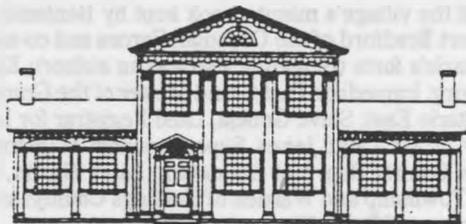
## More Reminders

June 23: Rededication of restored River Valley Pioneer Cemetery, Sidney Twp.

June 28 - July 1: Tweed Summer Festival Heritage Display

July 21 ACO Walking Tour, Smithfield

Aug. 18: ACO Walking Tour, Consecon



## BARNUM HOUSE MUSEUM

*cordially invites you to its  
Grand Re-Opening  
on June 22nd, 1991 at 1:00 p.m.  
Highway 2, Grafton, Ontario*

*A Strawberry Tea will be served  
in a Garden Party Setting.  
(416) 349-2656*

# Outlook

The Hastings County Historical Society Newsletter

Outlook is published monthly for the Friends and Members of the Hastings County Historical Society. It is edited & produced by Joe VanVeenen. Anyone wishing to submit articles or information can contact the editor at 613-969-0001, between 9-5, or visit him at Design Perfect Communications, 121 Dundas St. East, Belleville, Ont.