

Outlook

ISSUE 73 DECEMBER 1988-JANUARY 1989

The Newsletter of **The Hastings County Historical Society**

P.O. BOX 1418 - BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO K8N 5J1

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 17th JANUARY

ANNUAL DINNER at 6:00 p.m.
ANNUAL MEETING at 7:30 p.m.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the ANNUAL DINNER in the Dining Room of the Quinte Living Centre at 370 Front St., in downtown Belleville. Due to its popularity last year, the menu again features chilled tomato juice, Quiche Lorraine with buttered broccoli spears, assorted salads, rolls and butter, cherry cheesecake, tea or coffee or milk. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please complete the reservation slip in this issue of OUTLOOK and mail in promptly with your cheque for receipt prior to January 10th.

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held after dinner, commencing at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre. If you are unable to come to dinner, do plan to attend the Annual meeting anyway. You will receive a copy of the Society's Annual Report for the year 1988. Chester Hull will be presenting the 1989 budget for your approval. The Nominating Committee (Gerry Boyce, Janet Hoyer, Bernard Wright) will introduce the proposed new Board of Directors and we will be saluting the two directors who are retiring from the Board. Reports will be brief. There will be displays and draw prizes. One feature of the evening will be the "Minus 100" look-back at events of 100 years ago in Belleville to be presented by Bill Hunt.

PROGRAM FOR THE COMING MONTHS

— SUNDAY, 5th FEBRUARY —
OPEN HOUSE AT GLANMORE
2-4 p.m.

Display of student entries - ancestral lineage charts by grade school students of Hastings County. Prizes to be awarded by the Education Committee of the Historical Society. In celebration of Heritage Week - February 19 - 25.

MONDAY, 20th FEBRUARY

Heritage Day celebration at the monthly meeting in the Quinte Living Centre. Special guest speaker to be announced. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Coffee and displays from 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 25th FEBRUARY

Heritage Showcase in Belleville sponsored by the Ontario Historical Society. Our Society will be participating. Details to follow.



GERRY BOYCE HONOURED

As the recipient of the 1987 Belleville Cultural Award, Gerry Boyce was recognized as the city's most outstanding cultural contributor. The award was presented at the City Hall rededication ceremony on Sunday, 30th October by Mayor George Zegouras to a very surprised Mr. Boyce. Gerry was nominated for the award by the Directors of this Society based on his qualifications as a noted historian, author, educator and citizen of Belleville for over 30 years. He was presented with an oil painting by the well known Tweed artist, Poul Thrane who was commissioned to produce an original award specifically for Gerry Boyce. Congratulations, Gerry!

GIFT TO Q.L.C.

Each year, the Hastings County Historical Society makes a gift to the Quinte Living Centre to express its appreciation for the use of its fine facilities for the Society's monthly meetings. At the Nov. 15th meeting, a cheque for \$500 was presented for the purchase of a suitable stereo sound unit for the residents' lounge. Mr. Stan Wilson of "Seniors in Action" accepted the donation on behalf of Q.L.C.

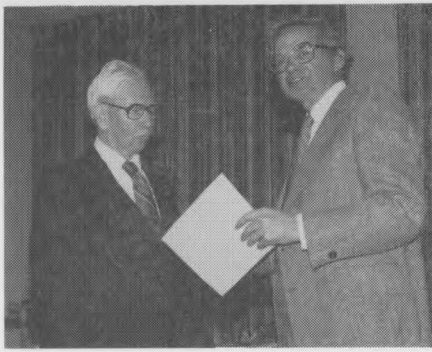
GIFT OF SHELVING

A generous gift of new shelving from the City of Belleville has been gratefully received by the Society. It will be used for the organized storage of archival Treasurer's Records of Belleville which were taken into custody by the Society in August. The records are in storage at the Sir James Whitney School. Our appreciation has been expressed to Mr. C.J. Belch, Chief Administrative Officer of the City.

ONTARIO LAND REGISTRY OFFICE RECORDS

In a bulletin on this subject issued in July 1988, the Archives of Ontario advised that it had been decided not to select for retention any original instruments dated after 1867. The original instruments and deeds were reported to have now all been micro-filmed and are available for access in the Land Registry offices throughout the province.

Great concern was expressed at a recent meeting of the Society's Board of Directors at the proposed destruction of these documents dating from 1868 to 1947. As a result, letters have gone to the archives and to the minister responsible from Beth Green, Chairman of our Archives Committee, on behalf of the Society. A 6 month delay in implementing the decision has been requested in order that those interested may if desired, assist in formulating a strategy to provide long-term quality storage for the documents. The Architectural Conservancy Toronto has also written along similar vein to the same officials.



Receiving Awards in the Adult Writers contest are Bill Hanthorn (presented by Bernard Wright) left, and William McGee (presented by Jean Williams).



From A Reliable Keyhole...

LOCAL HISTORY ACCOUNTS IMPORTANT TO HERITAGE

Intell. - Nov. 18/88

Hastings County's amateur historians continue to record snippets of local heritage with flair.

Their research and recollections, submitted to the Hastings County Historical Society's annual adult writing competition, serve to entertain and educate. Their research may also educate and entertain generations to follow.

The historical writing competition entries have enabled the society to accumulate "a fund of knowledge and insight," said a society education officer, Janet Hoyer. The top 1988 writing awards were presented to Belleville resident William McGee and Carrying Place resident, Bill Hanthorne.

The name of Bill Hanthorne should, by now, be familiar with many Quinte-area history-lovers, including members of the local society, said Hoyer.

Hanthorne's colourful tale cited his experience in the Coe Hill swamp area during the early 1900's, when teams of horses transported large loads of logs on sleighs along "swamp roads".

These swamp roads were chosen winter routes for logging transportation when regular log roads ran into difficulty in hilly sections.

Swamp roads went over holes, lakes, rocks and other potential summer obstacles. Hanthorne's writing reveals.

At age 13, in 1917, Hanthorne says he worked as a "chickadee," on various roads projects. Basically, he was a "Joe-boy" who helped keep roads tidy - and that often meant clearing manure from the roads, he told society members at the Quinte Living Centre Tuesday.

Local artist and writer William McGee was the evening's second award-winner for his submission, which is based on an article written by his former great great aunt, Maria.

McGee, who said his writing project proved personally informative, is a Queen's University graduate.

McGee's submission, with hand-drawn illustrations, focused on the building of the first church in the Ridge Community.

In his search, he discovered tidbits about a former North Hastings resident, including a "Mrs. Norman of the Jordan," who had worked as a nurse under Florence Nightingale.

Book Review

BELLEVILLE CITY HALL: from 1973 to 1989; by Gerald E. Boyce; Mika Publishing Company, Belleville, Ontario, 1988.

Hot off the press in time for Christmas giving (this reviewer worked with the author's proof copy!) comes a chronology of a truly Bellevillian project: a book about the restoration of our City Hall. The book chronicles not only the story of a city hall, but also its people and its early life as it is centred in the Market Square. We find Gerry Boyce, well known to most of us, telling us the story of those settlers to this region who were proud enough for its destiny to involve itself in a centre for government, markets, meeting house for diverse groups, cultural centre and police work.

Belleville is not new to turmoil and disagreement between its peoples and its government: they are very discriminating in their tastes, yet wish to retain the cultural flavour which makes its city hall quite unique. We see this story traced from its inception to the present day, where we have played-out scenario between modest, frugal and heritage-conscious citizens and their elected politicians.

This is the kind of richly illustrated book which is worth reading on a lazy Sunday afternoon and then compels you to take a good look at the downtown core whilst shopping on Monday with a new sense of vision for what the small city with a central City Hall is all about.

Reviewed by Mike Hoyer

HISTORIC FORTS OF ONTARIO

Captain Robert Bradford, the historian of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and the curator of its museum at the Belleville Armouries, provided a most interesting account of the research undertaken in the writing of his new book, "Historic Forts of Ontario" at the Society meeting on Tuesday, 15th November. His book is published by Mika and a book review appeared in the last issue of OUTLOOK.

Captain Bradford was introduced by Chester Hull and appreciation expressed by Bernard Wright. Betsy Boyce, the Society's Picture Archivist, provided a well-researched look-back at events 100 years ago in Belleville on "Minus 100". A number of good books donated by Nick Mika were won as door prizes. There were no winners in picture guessing contest in last month's OUTLOOK.

Editor Mike Hoyer discloses that the picture was taken from Gerry Boyce's book "Historic Hastings", it depicts St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in Madoc shortly after the church opened in 1877-78.

At the meeting on 15th November, entrants in the Society's heritage writing competitions were also recognized. See adjacent account from the Intelligencer of Nov. 18th.

This issue marks a new column which will be a catch-all of tidbits of information and requests, as they are sent to us. So keep your eyes open and mark your calendars. ...We have a request from SUSAN BRAY, the activity director at BELCREST NURSING HOME. She would like to start a program for the residents there with a monthly presentation on some historical topic. They need volunteers to do this. So if you are interested please call Sharon at 968-4434. ...HUGH MacMILLAN who spoke to us in the winter, was back at it; this time in Cobourg in September. ...The KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY had invited us to an evening to honour historical authors, on November 30th. Unfortunately, we didn't get the message in time for our last issue. Hope the meeting went well. ...Congratulations to GERRY BOYCE for winning the 1987 Cultural Award. We are proud of you Gerry!! ...BCI through the efforts of Gerry awards a HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL AWARD annually, for outstanding achievement in the local studies course. The 1988 winner was TODD DAFOE. He wins a 1989 membership to the Society and three historical books. Congratulations Todd! ...Our year end thanks to JULIA DRAKE who faithfully covered our meetings and reported them in the INTEL. We apologize for not giving her credit for an article of hers which we reprinted in the fall. ...As we look back we are sorry our column HISTORIC OUTLOOK did not continue in the Quinte Weekly News. Not enough reader reaction and response with articles made it worthwhile to the editor. So, if you like something, you have to let the person who did it for you, know you appreciate it. Sounds fitting in this Christmas season, doesn't it? ...Speaking of which, this completes my first year as Editor of OUTLOOK. We hope you are happy with the trend we have gone, and makes your membership dollar seem well spent. Let us know!!! ...BERNARD WRIGHT was at an auction recently and picked up an old photograph of an older home on Moira St., for peanuts. He has since given this beautiful photo to the HCHS archives. ...ACO meeting for January '89 is on the 15th, 2:00 p.m. at the Belleville City Hall. So if you missed it last month, this is your time to get in. ...So long for 1988, and onto 1989. Best wishes to all...from the executive of the HCHS, and the editor of Outlook.

John Anderson
Pheta Hull
Mary McConnell
Janet Hoyer
Mike Hoyer
Betsy Boyce
Janet Hoyer
Bernard Wright
Jean Williams