

New Hastings County Historical Society Website Launched

On August 1st, the new website for the Hastings County Historical Society was launched. The Society has been working on this project for the last two years. A committee was tasked with a study of the existing website with the job of modernizing it and making it work better for the Society and its many members.

We want to thank those most actively involved, Gerry Fraiberg, a former director and vice-president of the Society, and current directors, Steve Young and Stanley Jones, as well as Amanda Hill, the archivist of the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County. Countless hours have been spent working on the proposal and then on the implementation of the ideas to upgrade our website. We worked with Ken Dickson and Sarah Orr of Snap360, a website design firm based in Belleville. We also want to thank them for their work and interest in helping us achieve a website that matched our plans.

Go and visit the website at hastingshistory.ca. Explore the new features, the improved Bookstore, the addition of the Historical Plaques website we had maintained as a separate site in the past, the video section, our activities section and many others. The entire website reflects our new graphic design that you have been seeing in our new logo, *Outlook* newsletter and our promotional coffee mugs and pins.

We are very excited about the updates and will be working to keep the website up-to-date in the future. Keeping Coming Events current, the Society's news freshly published in a timely fashion, adding stories regularly, adding to the Bookstore on a continuous basis and working to maintain the quality of the website will become a regular part of the Board's meetings held most months of the year. The website is an ongoing project and needs additional material added, and we will be doing that work. But it was time to launch the site and make it available to all members of the Society. Your thoughts and feedback on this project are always welcome.

We encourage you to visit and explore the website at hastingshistory.ca.

Follow the activities of the Hastings County Historical Society online



Facebook: @HastingsHistory



Twitter: @CountyHastings



Instagram: @HastingsHistory

Website: HastingsHistory.ca

Our Special Events in the Fall

by Gary Nicoll

The Hastings County Historical Society has been busy preparing for a group of special events this fall.

We are re-launching our Bus Tour Program. On September 30th we will be having a bus tour visiting Historic Brighton and Area. Local Brighton historian Dan Buchanan who has spoken at our Public Presentations before, most recently about "The Lighthouses of Lake Ontario," will be conducting the tour of his home town. The stories will be many and fascinating. See the flyer in this issue of *Outlook*.

On September 23rd, there will be a public unveiling of a new historical plaque in Stirling Rawdon to honour Dr. James Faulkner. See the flyer in this newsletter.

On September 19th, the public presentation at Maranatha (to be at 7:00 PM this time) is dealing with the history of the Hasty P's. Again, see the flyer for more information.

In October, the public presentation is a three-part special, with murders and a trial in Tyendinaga from Jim Kennelly, stories of Downtown Belleville hosted by Connie Carson, and some lost history of the original curling club in our area, the Belleville Curling Club, started in 1867 and disappearing in 1934; rediscovering where the roaring game was played presented by Gary Nicoll.



Interesting Positions Open at the Historical Society

Have you ever thought of joining the great team of volunteers who operate the Historical Society and bring so many great programs to our community? Currently we have two interesting positions open.

Membership Coordinator

This person cares for all aspects of the membership in the Society. This includes receiving membership applications directly, by mail, or electronically, processing them by placing all information (name, address, etc.) on a spreadsheet, passing payments to the Society treasurer and maintaining lists of those who wish to receive the newsletter in paper form or electronically. The membership activity is mostly in the November to January period, with some through the year.

Outlook Newsletter Mailing Coordinator

This person receives the list of members who wish to receive paper copies of the newsletter and from that list, prints envelope labels. They then prepare envelopes by applying the address label, return address label and postage. They also pick up the *Outlook* newsletter from the printer each month (nine times a year) and deliver packages of 50 envelopes and newsletters to the two or three volunteer mailing people. They also allocate 80 newsletters for the schools and apply address labels to the newsletters and drop them off at the School Board on Ann St. There are no newsletters in July, August or December.

If you are interested in either of these two positions or looking to volunteer in some other capacity, please contact any of our Board of Directors or email or phone/text Gary Nicoll, current President of the Society at garynicoll@gmail.com or at 613-848-1184.



“Service to the Community” Marked Elizabeth's Life

Tribute to Elizabeth Mitchell

by Orland French

One day when Elizabeth Mitchell was assessing and filing some materials at the Archives Centre, she came across a surprising article about herself. You see, Elizabeth, according to her training, was supposed to be in a classroom. Except that, by choice she was working in the Belleville Public Library.

She had trained at the University of Toronto Faculty of Library Science for two years, then worked in the Royal Military College Library in Kingston before winding up in the reference room of the Corby Library in Belleville. It was where she preferred to be.

Later in life, she worked as a volunteer in the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County. In the midst of filing and assessing newspaper clippings, she discovered a clipping from the Belleville *Intelligencer* of November 1974, which quoted herself as saying,

“One of the nice things about working in the reference room is that it is a popular place for high school students to do homework. There are also a number of elderly people who come to read magazines and newspapers, and that makes for a pleasant atmosphere.” A photograph with the article shows her at work in the library.

Those pleasant days in the archives came to an end recently with Elizabeth's death. She died of a brain tumour after a short stay at Hospice Quinte. Elizabeth passed away on July 17, 2023, at age 77, with funeral on July 26 at her beloved St. Thomas Anglican Church. A large crowd of friends and admirers paid tribute to her popularity as a strong and independent woman who loved her community. The *Intelligencer* obituary recalled

how she sang, stitched, played the organ, gardened, painted and sketched her way through life.

Elizabeth Kathleen Mitchell was a stalwart and true member of the Hastings County Historical Society. For years she held guard over the membership records on the society. It was an appropriate way for this society volunteer to use her skills in managing spreadsheets and data. Past-President Richard Hughes commented, “For several years she managed the very heavy membership duties and kept impeccable records and ensured that all members were recorded and recognized. She was extremely well organized and carried her heavy duties always with a bright and cheerful disposition.” Her steady contribution no doubt contributed to the growth and success of the Society.

Elizabeth held sway at the entrance to the meeting room, with her box of membership IDs ready to be pinned on the lapels of arriving members. Getting some of us forgetful folk to turn them in at the end of the meeting was one of her clean-up chores.

The gatekeeper of the Historical Society has moved on to challenge a Gatekeeper of a Higher Calling. I'm sure she had no trouble presenting her credentials as a Complete and Quiet Citizen of the Quinte Community.



**Elizabeth Mitchell
in the Corby
Library, November,
1974**

Photo courtesy Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County



YOU'RE INVITED TO A



Plaque Unveiling Ceremony

To celebrate the life and achievements of
Stirling-born Dr. James Faulkner (1877-1944),
physician and Ontario Minister of Health

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

11:00 AM

4285 Stirling-Marmora Road, Harold

Contacts: Roxanne Hearn 613-395-3380
Gary Nicoll 613-848-1184

Some Vignettes from *The Intelligencer*

by Richard Hughes

What were the people reading in their evening newspaper a hundred years ago? Here are a few samples:

In the early 1900s it was common practice for the homeless to go to the police station where they were given a cell for the night. However, these were not long-term accommodations. In the cold winter of 1913, a stranger, who had sought two

nights protection at the police station, reported in for a third night, but was locked up and charged with vagrancy. Next morning, he was brought before the magistrate, promptly convicted and sentenced to six months in the Central Prison.

The courts were also presented with a charge of theft in January 1912. A local man, some six weeks earlier, had been at a barber shop on McAnnany Street for a shave and after he left, he noticed that his tie pin was missing. The pin was located at the barber shop and the employee who took care of the customer was charged with theft. The magistrate saw grounds for a trial and the employee was held in jail.

The old saying that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned proved true in Detroit in 1912 when a former Belleville man was taken before the courts on a charge of breach of promise. He had “paid attention” to a lady for ten years but then “threw her over” and married another lady, from Belleville. The judge awarded the jilted lady \$6,000 or the equivalent of almost \$190,000 today.

On a more positive side, in 1912 a raise in pay was granted to the junior clerks at the local Molson Bank. Their starting salary was raised to \$300 per annum. The newspaper considered this a generous move, amounting to a wage of \$1 per day which would take into consideration the high cost of living.

Also, on the topic of the high cost of living, it was reported that the price of a pair of chickens on the Belleville market had risen to \$1.50. Even a single chicken could cost up to \$1. The reporter questioned just where the prices of our edibles were going to stop. There would appear to be validity to this concern as \$1 in 1913 would equal \$31 today.

In 1913 the Canadian West was opening and was considered a land of opportunity. A report to the Central Emigration Board in London said that the opportunities for matrimony were immense. If a woman went out west, her chances of matrimony were almost inevitable. The reporter said she had received seven proposals of marriage in seven weeks. Another story concerned a group of 45 girls who went from Vancouver to Montreal and 40 of them were married on the way. Only 5 of these girls reached their destination.



Evan Morton

August 3, 1941–August 3, 2023

On August 3, our community lost one of its most talented, generous and hard-working historians

with the passing of Mr. Evan Morton. He established the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre in 1988, and he devoted his life and immense energies to assembling both the artifacts and the rich documentary history of Tweed and Hungerford Township. The museum portion, with countless artifacts, brings the past to life and fascinates and educates generations of local folks and visitors while the genealogical collection is a priceless assembly of stories and histories of local families. Evan Morton was a kind and thoughtful man who loved his community. His legacy will continue to enrich Tweed and Hungerford for many years to come, and he will always be dearly remembered by his many friends.



The Ironmasters of Upper Canada



Sean Scally Presents

Photo by Doug Knutson, Windswept Productions

In June, we were pleased to have Sean Scally, a local historian and film documentary maker show his 2020 documentary made to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Marmora and its ironworks. Although available online, it was great to see it on a larger screen. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the film and the question-and-answer period that followed the showing. Sean explained how he was able to assemble

drawings and cuts from other films that showed what the mines and the ironworks would have looked like in the 1820s when Charles Hayes and then Peter McGill started and then ran Ontario's first ironworks. The challenges were enormous and proved too large to overcome. Sean showed us and then spoke about the failed attempts to

restart the mine and the ironworks. It was a great evening. If you were unable to attend, you can watch "The Ironmasters of Upper Canada" on YouTube. It is well worth the hour.



PUBLIC PRESENTATION

By researcher

NEIL BURRELL

The Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment: 80th anniversary of the Sicily Landing of 1943



Operation Husky was the codename of the invasion of Sicily and Italy during the Second World War. Retired Captain Neil Burrell, CD, will explore the involvement of the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment through veterans' stories of heroism, sacrifice, and luck.



**Tuesday,
September 19, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

**Maranatha Church Auditorium
100 College Street West, Belleville
Enter by main front doors**

It's Reading Time Again

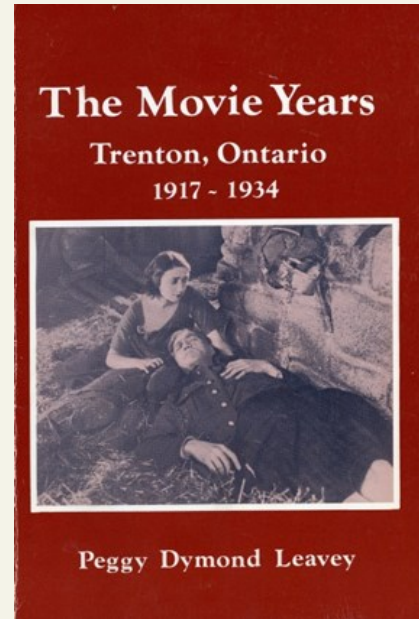
by Michelle Hutchison

September already! Where did the summer go? The lengthening of the evenings calls for an easy chair and a good read. How about trying one of the following?

How did a little town in Southern Ontario get a street with a name like this? Film Street. A short street in Trenton was once the bustling hub of the early movie industry in Canada. Its history began in the era of silent movies and, at one point, this movie studio was predicted to make Trenton the "Hollywood of the North." As she weaves her tale, author Peggy Dymond Leavey draws on the memories of those who were there. She tells the stories of many local people and how their lives were affected by the incursion of the movie industry. Although it lasted a mere 17 years, this plant was the only one in Canada to last more than a year or two. *The Movie Years Trenton Ontario ...* a short street, perhaps, but Film Street has quite a story to tell.

96 pages

\$10



The Americans assumed that victory would be easy. Their forces greatly outnumbered those of the British. They would oust the British from North America permanently. This turned out to be a simple case of wishful thinking. Instead, The War of 1812 raged on. It was a seasonal war, subject to the vagaries of winter and the Great Lakes. Fighting, when it happened, was fierce, often with great loss of life on both sides. In 1813, while the Americans occupied Queenston, officers were billeted in the home of James and Laura Secord. They became privy to an American plan to ambush British troops and destroy the outpost at Beaver Dams. In an amazing feat of courage and endurance, Laura Secord walked thirty kilometers (nineteen miles) to warn Lt. James Fitzgibbon of the impending attack and changed the outcome of the war. Author Peggy Dymond Leavey chronicles the life and times of *Laura Secord Heroine of the War of 1812*. Laura Secord, a true Canadian heroine by any person's standards. Not just another box of chocolates!

224 pages

\$15

These fine books, along with many others, can be found in the Hastings County Historical Society bookstore at the Community Archives on the second floor of the Belleville Public Library.

150th Anniversary of the Belleville Cemetery

by Gary Nicoll

On a sunny Saturday morning in mid-June, the Belleville Cemetery held a celebration marking its 150th anniversary. Dan Atkinson, a director and the treasurer of the Hastings County Historical Society also serves as President of the Belleville Cemetery. Dan and Dick Hughes worked on a plan to use historical re-enactors to provide a walking tour of some of the multitude of grave-stones/tombs in the cemetery. Well-known and/or significant men's and women's graves were selected for the tour.

One hundred fifty attended the public speeches featuring Dan Atkinson and some local politicians. Afterwards Dan and Gary Foster, an expert on the history of monuments and gravestones led two groups on the cemetery tour.

Our members and some of their friends dressed in historically appropriate outfits. We were all assisted in this by Lori Brown. Pat Peterson, Richard Coveney, Susan Kinsella, Bill Kennedy, Debra Tosh, Tony McGrath, Jim Kennelly, Sam McGowan, Connie Carson, Patti Greer, Jonathan Nicoll, Dick Hughes, and myself, Gary Nicoll, all dressed up, boned up on our temporary alter egos and acted out or related the stories of these people for five minutes or so, at each gravesite.

A great job by all those involved. The details of the gravesites and individuals chosen for the tour were printed in a booklet that the Belleville Cemetery produced. It is on our new website in the "Walks" area.



Dan Atkinson delivers speech.

Photo by Gary Nicoll

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HASTINGS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Vice-President	TBA
Treasurer	Dan Atkinson
Secretary	Dick Hughes

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Ted Bradford	Connie Carson
Michelle Hutchison	Stanley Jones
Jim Kennelly	Steve Young

Ex-officio:

Dick Hughes (Past-President)
Amanda Hill (Archivist)

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Exhibits	Stanley Jones
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	Jim Kennelly
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Website	Heidi Rooke
Website Development	Amanda Hill
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