



# Outlook

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## Dean of local historians and 50 years in history

by Lewis Zandbergen

I feel at somewhat of a disadvantage here because I could not attend the Heritage Day, February 19, general meeting; I was looking forward to Ed Burt's presentation on diving for shipwrecks because I have rather strong opinions on the way marine artifacts are being treated in these days—but that's another story.

I am sorry to have missed the replacement speaker as well. It has been my pleasure to know Gerry Boyce for the past decade or so since we worked on the Sidney Township 200 project. Gerry is considered the dean of local historians: he is meticulous in his research; dedicated to local history and a person with definite high standards when it comes to preserving our past for future generations.

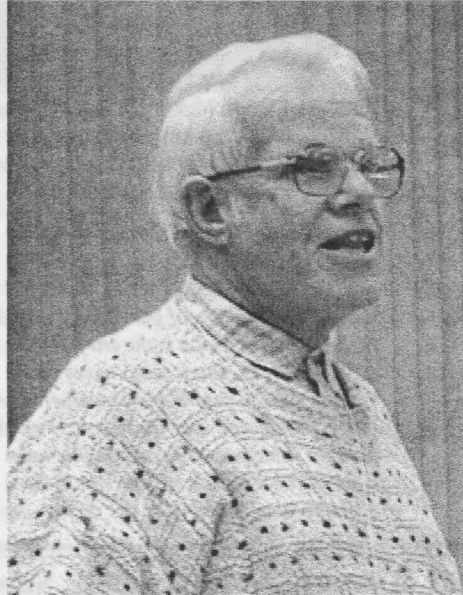
Apropos to the evening Gerry chose to recount the highlights of his "Fifty Years in the Trenches of History," a paper he presented at a symposium Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario's History held April 14, 15 and 16, 2000.

Trenches, as Gerry says, "suggests a military theme ..." and serving in the "army" of the historically enamoured has at times seemed like war.

Influenced by a grandfather who was instrumental in saving the Hay Bay Methodist Church, parents with an abiding interest in

history and an uncle who reorganized the Lennox and Addington Historical Society, Gerry has carved his own niche in the milieu of local history.

After receiving his primary and secondary education in his hometown Hamilton



schools, Gerry went on to McMaster where after four years he was recommended for a position as graduate assistant at the University of Manitoba. In 1956 and 1957 Gerry was a student teacher at the Ontario College of Education.

Gerry began teaching history in Belleville schools at a time when the Grade 13 departmental examinations were still a vital part of the curriculum. These gradually gave way to a grading system based on a whole year's work instead.

Tremendous changes were occurring in the 1960s as a shift in methods of teaching and methods of learning became knowledge oriented instead of simply learning dates and names. New course resources included not only revised text books but also vertical files and audio-visual resources such as films. Gradually the "Students began to think and act like historians." In following years the

formerly obligatory Grade 9 British history courses were being replaced by courses which concentrated on Canada's multicultural heritage and native studies.

Gerry has derived great personal satisfaction from his five decades involved in the learning and teaching of history; not the least of these is the special courses in history he taught at the Quinte Living Centre; one of the graduates was Sally Mossman.

He continues to guide the Hastings County Historical Society as it strives to preserve and interpret the past. His work seems never-ending as he involves himself with sorting and cataloguing collections which have been donated to the Hastings County Historical Society.

Gerry summed up his presentation at the symposium last year saying he has seen great strides forward in local history. When he arrived in Belleville in 1957, "... there were few local history books, no historical society, no Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), one active museum facility (O'Hara Mill), and no genealogical group. Fortunately, there have been tremendous gains over the past fifty years: more than eighty local history books now fill a bookcase, six historical societies, two LACACs and a branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, fifteen operating or projected museums, two genealogical groups." Gerry credits the Canadian Centennial celebrations of 1967, publishing companies willing to take on local history books and reprint older resource materials and increased interests in family histories as spurring an awakening to the delights of local history. However, his optimism is tempered with reality: historians and preservationists face increased competition between heritage groups for volunteers, higher standards for museums, declining government support, and limitations on history in the classrooms.

"We have won several skirmishes and battles ... but we need to sustain and encourage the heritage movement."

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 20,**  
**2001**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**W.C. "Bill" Hunt**  
**Topic: Women In Politics**  
**Refreshments at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting begins at 8 p.m.**

# Generous donation tops up fund for addition to research centre

by Lewis Zandbergen

**Ameliasburg** - It's not very often that events at the normally staid meetings of the Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society induce the audience to rise and give anyone a standing ovation. However, the meeting held Saturday, February 17, was very different. For some time now the Seventh Town Historical Society which owns, in trust, the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, has been collecting funds to build an addition to the present building to house its ever growing collection of artifacts, genealogical and historical books, pictures and preservation equipment. Until last Saturday, the fund was still \$12,000 short of reaching its goal. Jim Swenor, who has been a long-time volunteer as well as a member of the branch, caused a ripple of excitement as he presented a cheque for \$12,000 to the Seventh Town Historical Society president Ian Reilly, U.E.

"Volunteer Jim made the donation just prior to the meeting," said Mr. Reilly. With approval of the Quinte Branch OGS President Marilyn Harry, Mr. Reilly addressed those at the meeting, "I accept this donation, not only on behalf of the Seventh Town Historical Society, but on behalf of everyone who volunteers or does research at this library. Thank you Jim for this very generous gift." The proposed addition to the Centre will house the Hastings County Land Records, a micro-filming lab and a micro-film/microfiche reading room. It is expected the expansion will be ready by the summer of 2001.



Seventh Town Historical Society president Ian Reilly was happy to accept a cheque for \$12,000 from long-time member and volunteer Jim Swenor. The cheque topped up the building fund and work on an addition to the centre will begin in the near future.  
Lewis Zandbergen photo

*The Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre is a fabulous resource for anyone researching family history. It houses a collection of genealogical and historical data which is the envy of many other facilities. But it takes many volunteers to run the centre. New members are always welcome and there are several ways to join: persons can become members of the Friends of Marilyn Adams, a group concerned with the day-to-day*

*running of the centre. They can also join the Seventh Town Historical Society which plays a large part in overseeing the collections. Membership in the Ontario Genealogical Society is a third option. Presently, those wishing to serve on the board of directors of the Quinte Branch OGS must be members of the OGS as well as the branch. Call the centre at (613) 967-6291 and find out how you can join. The centre also has a website <www.quinte-kin.com> which allows you to take a look before committing yourself.*

## Ensure Outlook continues to be part of your historical reading. Subscribe or renew now!

Please complete this form, or a photocopy of the form if you wish to save the newsletter, and bring it with your payment to the Society's next general meeting (third Tuesday of each month except June, July, August and December), or send it by mail to the Hastings County Historical Society, 154 Cannifton Road North, General Delivery, Cannifton, Ontario K0K 1K0

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual	\$20.00 _____	Life Member	\$150.00 _____
Family	\$25.00 _____	Corporate Sponsor	\$ 50.00 _____
Senior/Student	\$15.00 _____	Women's Institute/ Organization	\$ 20.00 _____

I also enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the work of the Society.

*The Hastings County Historical Society is a Registered Charity. Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be forwarded to you with your membership card.*

# County News

by Gerry Boyce

## Day by day through Heritage Week

Hundreds of people celebrated Heritage Day (February 19) and Heritage Week:

**February 16** On Friday (the 16th) I introduced the staff of the Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit to "Local Haunted Houses" at its Staff Education Day. Several stories of supernatural events had medical implications.

The next day (the 17th), about 30 members of the Belleville and District Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women attended a workshop in the Corby Library Gallery to further plans for a book on "Quinte Women of Distinction." It was an exceptionally well-organized and helpful event.

History was made Saturday when James Swenor of Belleville donated \$12,000 to top up the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre building fund. The gift enables the 7th Town Historical Society to extend its research centre to house the Hastings County Land registry records, a microfilming lab, and a microfilm and microfiche reading room.

Carol Bauer's "Arts in Quinte" page in *The Intelligencer* on Sunday (18th) highlighted local heritage events for the week and featured "The Heritage of Transportation" the official theme of Heritage Week 2001.

The Bay of Quinte Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario welcomed Ron Brown to its meeting on the 18th. The author of

**February 18** books on vanishing communities and railroads, Brown presented a fascinating look at Ontario towns which have lost their main streets amid major economic shifts. He warned that Belleville's once-booming downtown core could be next unless an all-out rejuvenation plan is begun. He advised citizens to combine history and a marketing theme to develop a proud heritage business district.

A crew from TV Ontario's *Studio Two* was in Belleville and Prince Edward County on Monday (19th) to work on a program highlighting supernatural aspects of local history. They visited Campbell Monument company (where Susanna Moodie's tombstone is being redone) and Glanmore (to capture stories of the house). The program is

**February 19** schedule for Tuesday evening, March 13, between 8 and 9 o'clock, but confirm the time with Glanmore (962-2329).

When you're watching the *Studio Two* program on March 13, you may hear some strange squeaks and other noises in the background. Don't worry. There are squeaky floors in Glanmore and visitors were passing by the library door. The museum was celebrating an open house and two tours highlighted the world of servants at Glanmore. Education Co-ordinator Melissa Wakeling says this was the first time that Glanmore has interpreted the servants' history. She also reports that there was good attendance during the week.

Monday's *Intell* carried an article by Betty Workman on Huntingdon Township's White Lake School (built 1895) and its importance to the community. Now a private residence, the "restored" school was the scene of a "Bell Ringing Party" to celebrate its crowning touches—a belfry and bell.

Monday evening, some 50 members and friends of our Society celebrated Heritage Day. I spoke on "Fifty Years in the Trenches of History," based on a talk I gave in Toronto last May at a three-day symposium "Celebrating One Thousand Years of Ontario History." The Ontario History Society has now published the symposium papers in a 343-page volume (ISBN #919352-37-5).

Sheila Lathe, one of the participants in the writers' workshop on Saturday, accepted this writer's invitation to attend our February meeting and, happily, won the draw for a free 2001 HCHS membership. Con-

**February 20** gratulations and welcome, Sheila.

On Tuesday, Derek Baldwin provided excellent coverage of our Monday meeting in *The Intelligencer*. The account even included a flattering colour picture of the speaker. Certainly no mean feat.

Dan Atkinson, new president of the Belleville and District Chamber of Commerce and a past chair of the Bay of Quinte Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Heritage Belleville, spoke

**February 21** at the Corby Library's Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday (21st). Dan told of the importance of our heritage architecture and need for municipalities (such as Belleville) to preserve and promote heritage aspects of the downtowns. He showed examples of appealing architecture in Picton, Wellington and Belleville (including the Filliter Block, the Corby building and the Cosy Grill) and identified W & R Greenly Booksellers, the Urban Herb and Richard Davis Men's Wear as good examples of what a business can do to fix its facade.

Also on Wednesday, I had the pleasure of speaking to the Carmel Women's Institute at Audrey and Carl Brethour's lovely home in Thurlow Ward, overlooking the frozen Moira River. Members told of supernatural or unusual events (as the roll was called) and I spoke about supernatural aspects of the local area. I first spoke to the Carmel WI on February 19, 1959—more than 42 years ago. How quickly time passes! WIs in this area are celebrating their 100th birthday this year and continue to perform valuable services to their members and communities. Hats off to the Women's Institutes.

While I was "ghostifying" with the Carmel WI, Glanmore was the scene of a successful Heirloom Quilts Workshop. Participants learned about dating, cleaning, repairing and storing antique quilts, under the guidance of Melissa Wakeling, Education Co-ordinator.

**February 25** The Ontario Heritage Foundation confirmed it has approved a \$100,000 grant for the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte to perform exterior restoration of the historic Christ Church on the Tyendinaga Territory. The foundation presented its first installment of the grant to the Band Council on Sunday (25th).

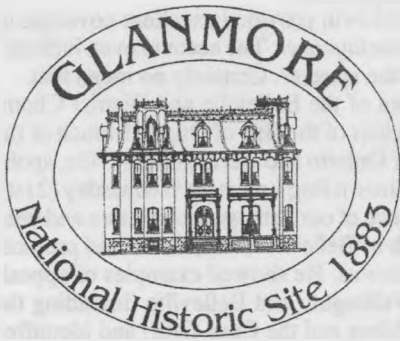
*The Tweed News* this week highlighted further improvements at the Tweed Heritage Centre. Evan Morton has many workers performing the variety of tasks needed to complete the new addition and set up displays and archives.

At the conclusion of Heritage Week (25th), our Society held another workshop at the Hastings Heritage Centre in Cannifton. The next one is scheduled for March 12. Call me at 968-5023 for details.

Your chance to win a reprint of the 1874 Bird's-Eye View of Belleville. Tell me what the official theme for Heritage Day and Heritage Week was this year. Phone 968-5023 or write to 173 Bridge Street East, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 1N3. The draw will be at the April meeting. Here's a hint: the answer is in this article.



Former presidents assembled to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our society in 1987 were (l-r standing) Rodger Greig, Judie Preece, Ed Buckley, Bob Brennan, Frank Foley and Gerry Boyce. Seated are Irene Haig (chair of the initial meeting October 1, 1957) and Pat Bennett.



# GLANMORE

National Historic Site

257 Bridge Street East,  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 1P4  
(613) 962-2329

## Canada at Play: 100 years of games, toys and sports

The world of Canadian toys is explored in this fascinating exhibit, from the Royal Ontario Museum, on display at Glanmore National Historic Site until May 6. In the dead of winter or the heat of summer, outside, inside or in your mother's parlour, Canadian children have always worked hard to have fun! Despite astonishing developments in science, medicine and technology during the last century, some things remain comfortably constant. The games we play, our children's toys and sporting activities we have enjoyed have changed very little over the past 130 years. Children still play with dolls, farm sets and rocking horses. Checkers, Parchisi and Snakes and Ladders continue to brighten rainy afternoons. Skating, tobogganing and hockey remain integral parts of Canadian winters. Toys from Glanmore's collection will also be featured. This is an exhibit that will appeal to both young and young at heart!

**International  
Museums Day  
Open House  
Tuesday, May 18  
Glanmore  
National Historic  
Site will be open  
free of charge  
from 1 p.m. to  
4:30 p.m.**

## Wanted:

## A shopping cart full of cash register tapes

Save your A and P and Ultra Food and Drug cash register tapes for Glanmore! The Friends of Glanmore are collecting cash register tapes as an ongoing fund-raising project. Funds raised from the save-a-tape program will be used to support Friends of Glanmore projects such as the conservation of Glanmore's extensive art collection. Donate your tapes by placing them in the Friends of Glanmore's collection bin right at the grocery store or save them up and bring a bundle of tapes in to Glanmore National Historic Site!



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Outlook is published for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society. It is edited and produced by Lewis Zandbergen. Anyone wishing to submit articles or information may contact the editor at 613-395-3022, or E-mail [lewzan@reach.net](mailto:lewzan@reach.net). Thank you to *The Community Press* for its assistance.

**PLEASE NOTE!**  
The Deadline for the April Issue is March 22, 2001

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