



# Outlook

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## Quinte Sailor Jack Braidwood, Born in Russia, Veteran of two World Wars, Boat Builder, Author and Tall Ship Circumnavigator of the Globe!

By Bill Kennedy



Dick Bird (above) prepares for his "Jack Braidwood" presentation to the Historical Society. Dick sailed with Braidwood on the Bay of Quinte. Photo: Doug Knutson

The son of a British engineer, Jack Braidwood was born in St. Petersburg, Russia near the turn of the 20th century where he heard the first shots of the Russian Revolution. During the First World War his duties included that of Russian translator aboard a Royal Navy aircraft carrier. In Braidwood's 1976 book "Never Lose Steerage Way" there is a very early photograph of him sailing on a Russian Lake, so his love for the sport was already established when,

following the war, he emigrated to Canada and began building boats in Toronto. Some of his best writing in the book, Dick said, was about sailing the *Aphrodite*, a boat built for racing, on the Bay of Quinte.

Braidwood married Gwen Lazier, a Belleville girl. It was Gwen who rode her horse "Tip" from Belleville to Washington, D.C. to invite President Calvin Coolidge to the 1924 celebration of the 140th anniversary of the landing of the United Empire Loyalists at Adolphustown.

Braidwood's eighteen month voyage around the world was aboard the *Yankee*, a 100 foot long steel sailing vessel that drew 12 feet of water.



Exhaust from the two diesel engines she housed was carried aloft via the hollow metal masts to be dispersed at the top. It was the fourth round the world voyage for the *Yankee's*

skipper, Irving Johnson, who would make a total of seven trips. Braidwood's travels took him many places with one voyage being



filmed in its entirety and it was portions of this film that Dick showed his Historical Society audience. The volunteer crew paid \$4,000 per man for the privilege of serving aboard. While Gwen didn't sail around the world with her husband she did act as first mate on other trips and perhaps this was just as well. On another *Yankee* voyage the acting first mate was eaten by a crocodile somewhere in the vicinity of Australia.

On Pitcairn Island in 1948, where descendants of the crew of the famous ship *HMS Bounty* still live, Braidwood carved a tiller for his boat from a piece of driftwood. He saw the Easter Islands, the Galapagos Islands, the Solomons and Guadalcanal. In Burma he shot film  
*Cont'd on page 3*





## Dignitaries Attend Ball At Fort York

Captain John Meyers and Mrs. Polly Meyers Guests at Queen Charlotte's Birthday Ball

Captain and Mrs. Meyers (a.k.a. Doug and Carolyn Knutson of Belleville) attended the recent ball given at Fort York in celebration of the birthday of Queen Charlotte.

Entertaining in the Canadas in the late 18th and early 19th centuries always included a ball for the Queen's birthday. The Fort York gala, replete with music, food and dance was inspired by this tradition. An elegant Georgian buffet supper was served to the accompaniment of music played by live musicians.

The uniform Doug is wearing is that of a captain in the Loyal Rangers at the end of the American Revolution. The military rank and unit represent Meyers's position at the cessation of hostilities. Doug has made a documentary of Meyers's career called "Damned Rascal" and will be showing sneak previews of it on February 20 at the Trenton Library and on February 25 and the Wellington Library.

Carolyn's dress is called a "sack-back" dress popular in the mid to late 1700s. It is also her wedding dress. She wore it to the first HCHS banquet. Both the uniform and the dress were made by Debbie Turrall.

The guest speaker at the ball was Robert Henderson, former military curator for Canada's National Historic Sites. His topic was "From the Royal Court to Canada: The Impact of Germans on Regency Society."

## The Hungerford Smallpox Epidemic of 1884

Recently the H1N1 flu virus gripped the world and we saw a flurry of activity by medical authorities to thwart its advance. Fortunately for us we have the resources today for the rapid development and production of antiviral medicines.

In 1884 smallpox flared up in a severe epidemic in Hastings County's Hungerford Township. It claimed at least 45 lives in 202 reported cases. Local efforts to stem the disease were initially unsuccessful and its spread throughout Ontario seemed likely. The newly established Provincial Board of Health swiftly undertook fumigation, enforced isolation and mass vaccination. The

disease was contained, proving the value of public measures applied consistently under coordinated direction. Ontarians are its recipients.

Late last year the Ontario Heritage Trust and the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre unveiled a provincial plaque honouring the many people who lost their lives during this outbreak.



## President's 2009 Annual Report

Many years of observing governments in action, as a journalist, have still not prepared me for the snail's pace at which the Community Archives is developing. At the end of 2008 we were hoping our volunteers would be working in the new Community Archives downtown within the year; at the end of 2009 it seemed dicey whether occupancy could even occur in 2010.

Vice-president Richard Hughes, now occupying the worthy and influential position of chair of the Archives Advisory Committee, described in detail the pace of progress in his article in the January 2010 issue of *Outlook*. Still, the pain of delay was offset by a single moment in December when I opened an envelope from the John and Bernice Parrott Foundation Inc. and found a \$50,000 cheque. This grant, for which the HCHS had applied earlier in the year, will go a long way towards furnishing the archives with computers, desks, shelves and other essential elements.



Treasurer Mike Shaw enjoyed a surrealistic moment when he deposited two cheques for the Society: one for \$50,000 and the other for 56 cents. He says the teller never batted an eye.

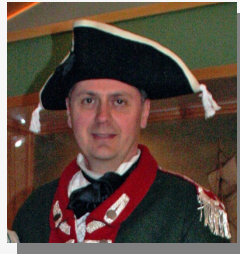
Once again we enjoyed a wonderful evening at the annual banquet at the Ramada Inn. Speaker Charlotte Gray was marvellously entertaining and informative. Thanks to the detailed advance work by the Banquet Committee under the able direction of Vice-Chairman Hughes, the evening went off with hardly a hitch. Well, yes, the piano player showed up and asked, "Where's the piano?" but we soon found him a keyboard.

The Hastings County Historical Society still continues to operate at a

### Notice

A preview of the documentary "Damned Rascal" on the career of John Meyers (see page 2 story) will be shown on February 20 at the Trenton Library and on February 25 at the Wellington Library.

The documentary is by Doug Knutson who provides the photos of the Society's speakers for *Outlook*.



high level of energy. Doug Knutson provided a line-up of stimulating speakers who drew 40 or 50 people to each of our meetings. Our board of directors numbered 10, which is large, and our volunteer Archive Angels under the enthusiastic direction of Heritage Advisor Gerry Boyce continued to collect and produce materials to support our various enterprises such as the Canada Day Festival at Zwick's Park.

Thank you to all those who make the Hastings County Historical Society a success. May we soon be celebrating the opening of a Community Archives Centre.

- Orland French  
President, HCHS

### The Nautical Mile

In view of our story about Jack Braidwood we should explain for landlubbers that a nautical mile, or sea mile, represents one minute of latitude on the map of the earth. It is 6,076 feet or 1.15 statute miles. The term "knots" for nautical miles per hour is used because originally a ship's speed was determined by heaving a float over the side on a line tied with knots at exact intervals and counting the number of knots passing through the sailor's hands in a measured period of time.



### Braidwood *cont'd from page 1*

of elephants hauling teak logs. On one occasion he jumped into the rolling sea with a live shark that the crew had hooked to help get it onto the deck.

In 1939 the Royal Canadian Yacht Club produced about 50 sailors who went off to fight in the Second World War. Jack trained as a bomb demolition ex-

pert and also commanded a "Fairmile" (left), a high speed 112 foot long submarine chaser employed for coastal command.

If adventure means longevity it worked for the Braidwoods. Jack was 89 years old when he died and Gwen was over 100 when she was a guest of honour at a Belleville event in 2005. She died last year.

## HCHS Directors and Friends Enjoy Front Row Seats at Saturday Night Bulls Game



Hastings County Historical Society directors and their friends had front row seats in the Investia hospitality suite at a recent Belleville Bulls game. They're all smiling because the Bulls beat the Saginaw Spirit. The suite was donated for the evening by Jim Langille and Investia Financial Services. Jim and Investia are frequent sponsors of the Historical Society.

*Photo: Orland French*

## Ontario Women's Institute

The Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario and the Ontario Genealogical Society recently signed an agreement to digitize and place online the rural histories known as the Tweedsmuir Histories.

Since 1920 the Ontario Branches of the Women's Institute have been gathering local history and preserving it in book form. Because the WI is largely a rural organization, these are histories of small communities. There are about a thousand of them, comprising an estimated half million pages of Local Ontario history. They are one-of-a-kind and only a few have been photocopied or digitized. Many are in delicate condition and are at-risk documents.

The project is expected to take at least three years and as the histories are digitized they will be placed on the OGS e-Library where anyone can borrow and read them.

In the late 1940s Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the former Governor-General of Canada, encouraged the creation of local histories by each WI branch, thus the name, Tweedsmuir Histories.

### Notice

Heritage Belleville  
Proudly Presents  
Author C.W. Hunt  
Speaking On The  
Topic of

*Quinte's Little Known  
Aeronautical History  
and its Forgotten  
Heroes*

Date: Thursday, Feb. 18  
Time: 7:15 P.M.  
Place: Belleville City Hall  
169 Front Street  
Council Chambers,  
4th Floor

Free Admission, Everyone  
Welcome. For information  
call 613-967-2369; email  
jeremytylerdavis@yahoo.ca

## Outlook Newsletter 2009

Nine issues of *Outlook* were published in 2009, January through June and September to November. The dominant story throughout the year was the relocation of the Hastings County archives.

Other stories included the world travels of the famed Belleville Kilties Band in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the publication of books by Gerry Boyce and Bill Hunt, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Belleville reminiscences of E.S. Vandewater and the arrival of Methodism in Ontario.

Topics by guest speakers for the year included the importance of heritage as presented by students from St. Theresa Catholic High School Renaissance Society, antique clothing, Allison House Museum and Archives in Adolphus-

town Museum, and the famous Great Escape from Stalag Luft III during the Second World War by a bomber pilot who was there and survived to tell us the tale.

Each issue of *Outlook* is normally finalized within two weeks of the Society's monthly meetings. Stories and photos for *Outlook* are most welcomed; for example, accounts from residents with family histories in Hastings County. Material for *Outlook* should be received by the editor within 10 days of the last monthly meeting if it is to be included in the next issue.

Our monthly newsletter looks to inform its readers about current affairs related to local historical matters and to relive past events of Hastings County through old newspapers stories, photographs, maps and documents and the reminiscences of its citizens.

- Bill Kennedy  
Editor, *Outlook*



## Photo Collections

By Mary Jane Throop  
HCHS Photo Collections Manager

There were several smaller donations to the Photo archives in 2009. These included images of the construction of the Norris-Whitney bridge, sports, Ontario Business College Classes, scenic and family photographs. Work continues on preparing *The Intelligencer* negatives for storage using negative sleeve holders.

Beth Green and two other volunteers have been choosing possible photographic images for the book proposed by President Orland French and approved by the Board. The book will contain about 120 interesting images from the Hastings County Historical Society's photo archives collection.

## Mark Rashotte on Stage HCHS February Speaker

The restoration of the Empire Theatre into a lively entertainment centre is a perfect example of recycling old architecture and preserving our heritage. That's the theme of this year's Heritage Week, and who better to discuss the practical application of that theme than Mark Rashotte?

Mr. Rashotte is the real estate entrepreneur who brought cultural life to a desolate stretch of Front Street. He bought the former McCarthy Theatre from Gerry Bongard, who had operated Stephen Licence Ltd. sporting goods out of it for years. Mr. Bongard had preserved the essentials of the theatre's architecture, hoping that someday someone would restore it to its original grandeur.

Mr. Rashotte has done that. He also established his real estate offices in a building to the north, across a parking lot known as Empire Square. The open space of the lot is often used as an outdoor venue for concerts in the summer.

At the Society's general meeting on Tuesday, February 16, Mr. Rashotte will pick up this theme as he presents an illustrated talk on the restoration and success of the Empire Theatre. He'll be speaking in the auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

- Orland French

Donna Fano is the volunteer who has done the scanning of photographic images from the collection, including some of the oversize panoramic photographs. She copied the images to a CD disk for storage, since all the work was downloaded to her laptop as a temporary use until the Archives has its new computer system and software in place.

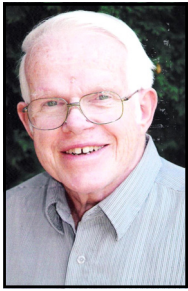


This photo of Myrtle Alice Winsor and the somewhat faded one of the Winsor family on page 8 are but two of the thousands of photographs of Hastings County's pictorial history that will soon find a home in the new archives building on Church Street. In the family photo Myrtle is the little girl standing on the right. This photograph, donated by her daughter to the Heritage Centre, is dated 1912.

Donna will also obtain the dimensions for the construction of a photo work station similar to the Sir James Whitney's lab. This will be used for photographing from a height above a flat photo image using a digital camera, no matter what the size. This will work especially well with oversize pictures and the image can be downloaded into a computer.

## Hastings Heritage Centre Volunteer Time Exceeds 2,000 Hours in 2009

By Gerry Boyce



The Archive Angels (our volunteer archive workers) are looking forward to moving into the former Irish Hall on Church Street in downtown Belleville - less than two blocks away from the Society's first museum and archives in the former Hastings Land Registry Office. However, they continued to be enthusiastic and busy at the current Hastings

Heritage Centre in Cannifton. During 2009 they held 44 regular Monday afternoon workshops, as well as several smaller work sessions. In addition, the Angels sponsored the Canadian Confederation Centennial Checkers Challenge as part of Belleville's Canada Day celebration at Zwick's Island and created special displays for the Annual Banquet in October and a Renaissance Club event at St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School.

### Friends of the Archives of Ontario Grant

Thanks to a grant from the Friends of the Archives of Ontario, Mary Jane Throop was able to design and supervise the Angels' creation of a series of 14 display panels featuring local authors of the past and present. The display was a highlight of the Historical Society's annual banquet last November.

### Archive Angels

There were fifteen regular Archive Angels at year's end as well as several other part-time Angels who helped out at special events. Volunteers contributed a total of about 2150 hours of time in 2009 in helping to preserve our county's history. Our sincerest thanks to them.

Special thanks to Paul Fleming, our neighbour in Cannifton, for his assistance in checking the building several times each week on our behalf. Also, to Sharon White for her professional advice, Dick Hughes for chairing the committee working toward the new archives facility on Church Street, and Orland French and the other members of the executive for support throughout the year.

In 2009, we said goodbye and thank you to Marion Fisher, our faithful long-serving picture archivist, who has retired. The Angels miss her.

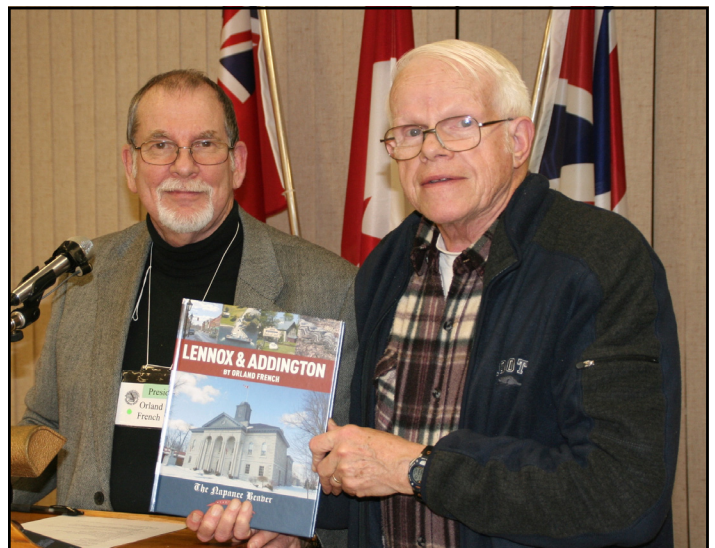
Several Archive Angels have been working on sorting and filing the millions and more negatives and prints donated two years ago by *The Intelligencer*.

Researchers continue to consult our resources both in person and by phone, regular mail and e-mail. We assisted more than researchers (mostly genealogists seeking their roots).

### Archival Donations

Our thanks to the following who donated materials to the Archives in 2009: Bruce Bedell, Belleville City Clerk's Office, Belleville Fire Department, David Bently, Jane Bond, Gerry Boyce, Peggy Cameron (St. Catharines), Peter Chisholm (Chisholm Lumber Co.) Lois Foster, Glanmore National Historic Site, Bill Hunt, Ruth Mary James, Mary E. Kennedy (Elginburg), Susan Kilbride (Hawaii), Fran Knelson (Delburne, Alberta), Gayle M. Gwitt (Acton), Lars Miranda (Thompson, Manitoba), Allen Montgomery, Bruce Palmateer, Lloyd Pigden (Oshawa), Betty and Gord Priest, Diane Sule (in memory of Mike Sule), and Mary Jane Throop. Additional donors from 2009 will be listed later.

## New Lennox & Addington Book Presented to HCHS Archives



President Orland French presented Gerry Boyce with a new copy of *Lennox & Addington* for the Society's archives. The book was produced by French for the *Napanee Beaver*, which is celebrating its 140th anniversary. Copies of the *Lennox & Addington* are available from French, the *Napanee Beaver* and Greenleys. A similar book on Hastings County was produced by French in 2006.



## Building the Archives In a Day

By Orland French

I've discovered why Rome wasn't built in a day. It's because the emperor included an archives. Otherwise they'd have laid the first foundation stone in the morning and been celebrating their new city by nightfall. You might wonder what a brand new city would put in its archives, but let's not quibble.

Belleville and Hastings are moving incrementally closer to having a new community archives. On January 25 city council reconsidered its rash decision last fall to withhold funding for an architect and an archivist, and after some consideration approved the funds for both.

An architect will be engaged to draw up plans for renovation of the former Irish Hall on Church Street to accommodate the archives. An archivist will be hired to work with the architect and plan and co-ordinate the move.

This will be handled by the knowledgeable souls at city hall, guided by the Archives Advisory Committee chaired by the Society's own Richard Hughes. Vice-president Hughes made a commendable presentation to council on January 25, going so far as to explain in detail the difference between a librarian, who some councilors felt might supervise the archives, and an archivist. After all, they both file paper, don't they?

Looking for an apt comparison, Mr. Hughes suggested that one would not go to a dentist instead of a doctor to treat an internal ailment. After all, they're both doctors, aren't they?

If you've been by the Irish Hall



This lonely, nameless building on Church Street is soon to become the Belleville / Hastings Community Archives. It was formerly the Irish Hall.

*Photo : Orland French*

lately, you'll notice that it is dressed rather plainly. The sign on the front has been removed, leaving the building appearing to be an orphaned, nameless edifice on Church Street. Watch for a large banner across the front proclaiming it to be the "New Community Archives".

Our role now as a Society is to raise the money we promised, to equip the archives with furnishings and electronic gear, and to pick up some of the cost of renovations. We're well on our way, with a relocation fund of \$100,000 available. We hope to raise another \$100,000 or so from a public subscription campaign and an application to the Trillium Foundation. If you are eager to write a cheque to support the archives, our donations office is open.

## Upcoming Society Presentations

The restoration of Belleville's Empire Theatre is February's topic. Upcoming presentations at future Society meetings include Edison's Concrete Piano: Great Inventors and their Flops, the McLeod Dam Hydro Project, the History of Belleville Armouries and the O'Hara Mill.

Stayed plugged in to your past. Come out to the Historical Society meetings for informative and interesting talks on all kinds of topics.



## The Winsor Family

This photo is identified as the Winsor Family of Oak Lake, circa 1890s. The elderly gent wearing the hat and sporting a beard is Grandpa William Winsor. The woman is Lillie Winsor and behind her with the tie is L. Bidwell. The seated children are Frank and Maurice. Standing are Gilbert and Myrtle who is shown at a later stage of her life on page 5.

Cataloguing photographs like these form part of the work carried out every week by the Heritage Centre volunteers who put in over 2,000 total hours in 2009.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

Speaker  
Mark Rashotte

Topic  
Empire Theatre Restoration

Monthly meetings start at 7:30 and are held in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre, 370 Front Street, Belleville

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR MARCH ISSUE OF *OUTLOOK* IS FEBRUARY 26, 2010

## Hastings County Historical Society Directors

President	Orland French
Vice-President	Dick Hughes
Treasurer	Mike Shaw
Secretary	Diane Sule
Membership & Outlook Distribution	Vera Morton
Photo Collections Manager & Workshops Leader	Mary Jane Throop
Publicity	Bruce Bedell
Outlook Editor	Bill Kennedy
HCHS Website	<a href="http://www.hastingshistory.ca">www.hastingshistory.ca</a>

Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton. Please address mail to General Delivery, Cannifton, ON, K0K 2K0. Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society. The editor, Bill Kennedy, can be reached at 613-962-5991, or e-mail <kennedypec@hotmail.com>

MEMBER ADDRESS