



# Outlook

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## Trillium Foundation Grant Adds \$34,500 To Community Archives Fund



On hand for the presentation of the Trillium Foundation grant on July 8 (L to R) were Education Minister Leona Dombrowsky, Tyendinaga Township Reeve Rick Phillips, Councillors Pat Culhane and Garnet Thompson, Honorary Capital Campaign Chairman Peter C. Newman, and Historical Society Acting President Dick Hughes. The ceremony was held at what will soon be the new site of the County Archives.

## Plowing for Patrons In Hastings County

By Orland French

Since we call ourselves the Hastings County Historical Society, we should get more of the mud of the county on our shoes and sandals. So there we were at the Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show in August, flying the flag of

the Society as we promoted the community archives project.

It might be safe to assume that few people above the 401 have heard of our archives project, even though the County is one of our partners. Our display of archival farm photos from around the County drew in the curious, although a few approached the exhibit so tentatively they

seemed afraid history would bite them.

For two days, volunteers from the Society staffed the booth within the larger tent of Hastings County. Our photo on page 2 shows archivist Sharon White and former Society president Hazel Lloyst, also our campaign consultant, ready to meet the crowds. Volunteers Richard Hughes, Diane Sule, Nick White, Bill Kennedy and President Orland French also took turns welcoming visitors. Your president spent some time touring the entire tent city at the plowing match, shaking the bushes for potential donors to the Archives Capital  
*Cont'd. on page 2*

## Senator Mike Duffy Banquet Guest Speaker



Senator Mike Duffy is this year's guest speaker at the Historical Society's annual banquet on October 29th at the Ramada Hotel, Belleville. See page 4 for details.

## Plowing for Patrons *Cont'd. from page 2*

Campaign. These would include any long-established Hastings County businesses who should have an interest in protecting the history and heritage of the County. A



Archivist Sharon White (left) and Capital Campaign consultant Hazel Lloyst take the Society's message to the Tweed ploughing match.  
*Photo: Nick White*

surprising number of business people, even from outside Hastings, were interested in supporting our project.

The final stage of the campaign is ramping up. Over the summer members of the Society received a letter of appeal from the president, asking them to consider a special donation to help us reach our goal. He might have seemed overly ambitious, but it never hurts to ask. Participants in the Project 100 campaign of a few years ago received a special letter asking for a generous contribution.

Throughout the summer, a number of photos have appeared in the *Intelligencer* to report the generosity of some of our supporters. One of these noted the delivery of a cheque for \$34,500 from the Trillium Foundation, presented by MPPs Leona Dombrowsky and Lou Rinaldi. Others have been received from banks and other institutions. The anonymous building on Church Street has finally been identified as the future home of the archives, after a banner-raising ceremony in June. Downtown, volunteers staffed the Archives Capital Campaign office on Front Street Tuesday to Friday throughout the summer. Occasionally, a generous cheque clutched in the fist of a devoted patron would wander in the door.

Our website is up and running ([www.unlockthearchives.ca](http://www.unlockthearchives.ca)) on which you will find pho-

tos and updates of activities on the campaign. It's even got a place where people can pledge support.

The campaign road is a long and winding trail, but when the archives are open, it will all seem worth it. We can use more volunteers - you might think you don't like asking for money but it can be a very energizing experience. We're not selling soap or aluminum siding, we're offering citizens - our friends and our neighbours - an opportunity to play a role in preserving our community's history. They should be honoured to be asked.



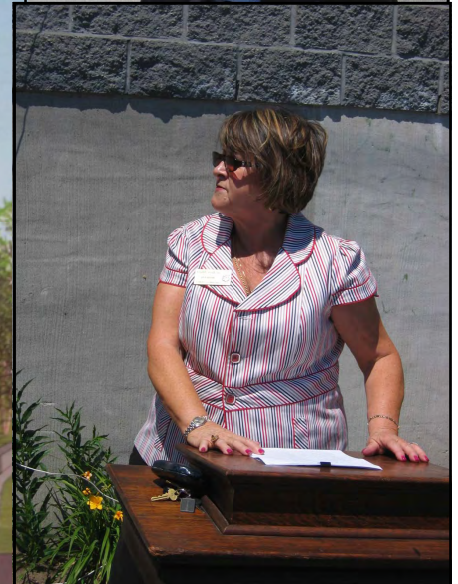
Capital Campaign Chairman for the Archives Fund, Orland French, indicates the near \$650,000 mark already reached in the campaign's drive to raise one million dollars for the new community archives on Church Street in Belleville. The banner in the photograph on page 3 now adorns the building where the archives will be housed. And the jester's hat, you ask? The photo was taken on Canada Day at Zwick's Park where the Historical Society was a participant. *Photo: Bill Kennedy*



## Another Step Forward for Community Archives Banner Unveiling and the Trillium Grant



This past June and July two events were held at the future home of the Community Archives of the City of Belleville and County of Hastings. The unveiling of the banner shown below and the presentation of the \$34,500 grant to the Archives Capital Campaign fund by the Trillium Foundation. The photo on the left shows (L to R) MPP Lou Rinaldi, Historical Society Acting President Dick Hughes, Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky and Trillium Foundation regional representative Bonnie Pelletier. The plaque from the Minister commemorates the Trillium grant. Clockwise the other photos are Mayor Neil Ellis, Hastings County Warden Jo-Anne Albert, the new archives building, and Master of Ceremonies for the event, Lee Jourard.



## “My Lord, I Must Have Orders”

By Elaine Preston

When Belleville resident Elaine Preston read about Bill Hunt's family connection to the Duke of Wellington in the May 2011 issue of *Outlook* it reminded her of a piece of her own family history on the same topic. Her grandmother, Florence (Pattyson) Thurston kept a little black book in which she wrote short family stories as well as noting



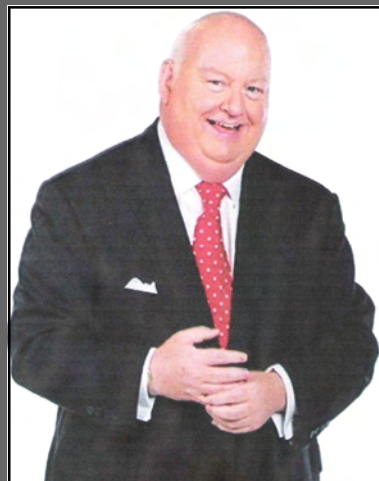
Florence (Pattyson) Thurston

the price of such things as eggs and milk. The following item from that book written by Florence Thurston reads as follows:

“My grandfather's brother Sam Fulton was Aide-de-Camp to the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo. Then he was killed while galloping with a message from the Duke to the officer. In his pocket was found the Duke's Orders “Stand Firm.” There [were] two messages in his pocket - (the second) one from the officer to the Duke saying “My Lord, I must have orders” - the reply note was “Stand Firm.”

Sam Fulton was Elaine Preston's great great uncle.

## Hastings County Historical Society Annual Banquet & Celebration Of Heritage



Guest Speaker  
**Senator Mike Duffy**

Topic: “The Political History That Doesn't Get Written”

Mike Duffy honed his skills as a political commentator over several years with the CBC and later as host of the CTV program “Mike Duffy Live”. He is a member of the Canadian Broadcasters Hall of Fame. In 2009 he was appointed to the Senate of Canada, representing his home province of Prince Edward Island.

Place: Ramada Hotel, Belleville  
Date: Saturday, October 29, 2011  
Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. with Dinner at 7:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$50.00 /person

Book Now - Tickets are available at Greenley's Book Store, Front Street, Belleville or from Richard Hughes 613-961-7772 or Vera Morton 613-966-4859.

Proceeds to the *Unlock Your Archives! Discover Your Treasures Capital Campaign*.



## Busy Summer for the Society



The photos on this page represent different activities in which the Historical Society was involved over the summer months. In the top left photo Peter C. Newman discusses one of his books with Archives volunteer Marney Black which she won as a prize at the “An Evening With Peter C. Newman” event held in

June at the Belleville Club. Gerry Boyce, Sharon White and below them Dick Hughes at the Trillium Foundation ceremony. In this very busy time for the Society, acting president Hughes finds himself juggling a lot of details relating to Society work, balloons aside. At the Society’s June meeting John Lowry, Mary Jane

Throop and Hazel Lloyst served ice cream and strawberries to their guests who were also treated to a virtual computer tour of the new archives by architect Ray Zaback. The tractor was one of dozens of old tractors on display at the Hastings County Plowing Match and Farm Show where the Historical Society had a display. At the lectern to the far left Orland French (see page 1 article) addresses attendees at the unveiling of the sign proclaiming the home of the new archives (see page 3).

## Agnes Murphy ~ Reflections On My Life, Part 5

This is the fifth and final excerpt in our series on the life and times of Belleville resident, nurse and hospital administrator Agnes Murphy as recorded in her autobiography which she wrote in 2010 at the age of ninety.

While I was in Moose Jaw a big renovation program was inaugurated and a new wing was built for the hospital. I had the privilege of planning the new Obstetrical Department - a project I loved as it gave me the opportunity to put into practice the various things I had learned and seen in my travels, through my attendance at conventions and tours of hospitals, etc. The doctors, nurses and public all loved the new facilities and were



Agnes Murphy with *Outlook* editor Bill Kennedy at her home in Belleville earlier this year where she recounted with a delightful sense of humour some of the events of her life.

most generous in their praise and approval of the accommodation, the standard of care it facilitated and the pleasant atmosphere it afforded. Word spread even as far as Saskatoon where the Dean of Nursing at the University was quoted as urging her class members to "visit the facility if possible," as she recommended it as a "model" to be copied! Labour spent in securing such a set-up was rewarding indeed in the wake of such support.

I began to feel something like the man in the Gospel story told by Jesus, who thought he "had it made" and could now take it easy, rest and be merry, but fate had planned otherwise. I

looked forward to enjoying my work in my new department, with everything the way I liked it, when all of a sudden I received notice... I was being transferred back East again to my Alma Mater as Administrator and First Assistant to the Superior, with a mandate to "plan and supervise the construction of a new wing" to the old, outdated and hazardous hospital owned and operated by the Sisters in Brockville, Ontario. What a shock! For the first time I questioned the assignment and asked if it could be reconsidered. The reply came by Night Letter that it was "the decision of our General Council." So I had no choice but to obey.

Another Sister who had been transferred to Montreal was to accompany me on my trip east, so we decided to take an overnight cruise on the Great Lakes enroute. It took us from Fort William to Port McNicol, near Midland, where we planned a few days stay at the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland. During supper at the hotel on our first evening a couple of Catholic priests who were there came to meet us. We discovered they were from parishes near Brockville. When they realized I was the newly appointed Administrator they began to prepare me for what problems I would have to face. What they told me made me feel like turning around and running back to Moose Jaw. I had not been informed of any such problems.

When I finally visited the Mother House for a briefing I was assured I would receive a warm welcome in Brockville, that some plans for the new building were already underway, and that the job would be a relatively easy one. Nothing could have been farther from the truth! The Superior, who had been Superior for about six years as well, was remaining; she would be also Chairman of the Board. The business manager had only a high school education - no training in accounting, so was poorly qualified for the position. The hospital was much "In the Red." The fire department had ordered the building inspector to examine the building as it did not meet the fire regulation standards. Rapport with the local news media was very poor. The Advisory Board had fallen apart and the first steps to be taken when a building project was to get underway had not been done; namely to obtain the necessary "permission" from the different levels of government, to investigate information concerning government grants that would be available and the selection of an architect / construction company. In short it was necessary to start from scratch.

Conflict between the Pastor and the Superior/Administrator was evident and the change in the administrative set-up, which brought about my appointment there, was the result of



pressure exerted by the Archbishop on the Mother House to send “a qualified person to take charge.” The Superior General was a school teacher and was not versed in hospital matters, but there were on Council two Sisters, nurses, both of whom had served two four-year terms as Administrator in Brockville over the years. They had apparently coasted along without doing anything to upgrade the conditions or operate in a manner approved by OHIP who had threatened to cut off payments if things did not soon improve. That was the news I was given by the OHIP financial representative on his first visit after his arrival. However, I was not permitted by the General Council to make this known to the Sisters. Serious and quite drastic changes were necessary, which were painful in some cases to the staff, and as they were unaware of the situation, felt a resentment and even rebellion towards such hardships.

I felt I had encountered a hornets’ nest. My image became that of the Big Bad Wolf. I did experience 100% cooperation from the medical staff and with some friends in the Ladies Auxiliary dating back to my training days there. My first priority was to remedy the financial situation. It meant hiring a qualified accountant, a purchasing agent, a stores manager, and an executive housekeeper, as the place greatly lacked cleanliness.

In the space of four-and-a-half years I was able to secure the necessary permission from the government to build, obtain promise of grants, find a good architect and building company, have plans drawn up and approved by the government, and see the first phase completed, including an official opening ceremony, plus get a good start on the second phase.

We began a planned reunion of former graduates from the School of Nursing that had previously existed. With the help of the Ladies Auxiliary I planned a big garden party to raise some funds. Priests from neighbouring parishes persuaded their congregations to pitch in, too, and it became a huge success! The weather was accommodating, the food was great and it became a real team effort. Everything seemed to be going well with the project.

However, the stress, especially from the criticisms of the Sisters, took its toll. It began to affect my health. High blood pressure, strokes and heart attacks are prevalent in my family genes. Warning signs of some of these ills were becoming evident. My doctor strongly recommended a prolonged rest and change. I was granted a two-year leave. One was free to take on a job and was subject to the local Bishop only. One

might say the inability to endure criticism displays a lack of humility, but when it is accompanied by a lack of support and cooperation to the point where one is made to feel ostracised it can make one unhappy and bitter unless one proves to be a heroic saint. I was not a heroic saint and did not wish to become unhappy and bitter. After a couple of months rest an opportunity to take on a new position with the hospital in Guelph came along. I applied and was accepted immediately and was delighted to discover the Administrator had been a classmate when we took the course in Hospital Administration some years earlier. He gave me such a warm welcome and was very cooperative in any requests for changes I made.

There is more to Agnes Murphy’s story. For example, she toured Europe, took the wheel of the *Express of Canada* in mid Atlantic, landed two jobs at two different Toronto hospitals in one day, and was designated a one-woman choir at a funeral in a little Alberta prairie church. This record of her life is now a permanent part of the Hastings County archives and if you would like to learn more about her adventures you can read about them there.

The Hastings County Historical Society extends its sincere appreciation to Agnes for allowing us to share her life in the pages of this newsletter.

## Canada Day Checkers Challenge



Participants at the Historical Society’s annual Canada Day checkers challenge contemplate their next moves.


## Preparing for the Move

Have you loaned or donated furniture or equipment to the Historical Society? As part of the preparations for moving out of the Hastings Heritage Centre in 2012, we are cleaning out some of the items that will not be needed in the new building and offering them back to owners and previous owners. If you think you are in this group and have not heard from us, please get in touch with archivist Sharon White ([swhite@city.belleville.on.ca](mailto:swhite@city.belleville.on.ca)) or 613-962-1110 **by September 20th**. Items not claimed or identified as "wanted" by that time will be made available to other Society members or interested groups, with the remainder going to a charity shop or otherwise disposed of.

Are you interested in acquiring any of our surplus items? We expect to have a few filing cabinets, tables, desks, chairs, miscellaneous racks and shelves, and some electronic equipment available—all in "as is" condition—mostly older style and well used. Please contact Archivist Sharon White to view or request items or to get more information.

## Bridge Street United Church Foundation

This past July the Bridge Street United Church Foundation made a contribution of \$4,890.00 to the archives campaign fund. On hand for the presentation were Rev. Dr. William D. Smith of Bridge Street United Church, Tom Britton, Grants Committee Chairman for Bridge Street United Church, Town Crier, Bruce Bedell, and Historical Society president Orland French. Read President French's article on page one for an update on archive funding.



### Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

**Special Guest Speaker:**  
**Chuck Naphan**  
Of City of Belleville's Environmental and Operational Services

**Topic: What's In Your Sewers: True Stories from Belleville's Mysterious Underground**

Learn about streets without sewers, outhouses still in use, private sewers, and sewers constructed of flat rocks or paper and tar.

**Date: Tuesday September 20, 2011**

**Time: 7:30 pm**  
**Location:**  
Quinte Living Centre Auditorium  
370 Front Street, Belleville

**Everyone Welcome, Bring a Friend**

### Hastings County Historical Society Directors

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HCHS MEMBER ADDRESS