

HCHS 3/1/137

# Outlook

## Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 15  
1996

Auditorium  
Quinte Living Centre,  
370 Front Street, Belleville

7:30 Coffee

8:00 Meeting

**Guest Speaker**  
Stan Wiggins

**Topic**

**The Commodores  
Orchestra**

**1928 to the present**

Well known in local musical and business circles, Stan Wiggins was born in Belleville and has spent his entire life in the community. He attended Queen Mary Public School and graduated from Belleville Collegiate Institute and Vocational School before going on to attend Queen's University where he studied medicine in 1944-1945. He then graduated from the Ontario Business College and was offered a position as a teacher in that institution. The death of his grandfather, C.J. Symons, intervened and Stan took over the operation of Chas. J. Symons Men's Wear which he managed for the family in order to liquidate the stock. When this was completed he went to work for London Life and has been self-employed as an agent ever since.

He is best known for his contributions to the local music scene where he is a fixture. In addition to managing the Commodores Orchestra, Stan plays lead trumpet for the Concert Brass and is the founder of the Quinte Brass Quartet in existence for the past dozen or so years. Last year he founded the River City Jazz Band. Stan will chronicle the history of the famous Commodores from the early beginnings in 1928 but with particular emphasis on the period since he joined as trumpet player in 1941.

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## Computers and history

The often frustrating yet immensely satisfying hobby of genealogy was the topic of the regular monthly meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society on Tuesday, September 17. Guest speaker Peter Zandbergen provided an enlightening and engrossing presentation regarding the



The Hastings County Historical Society speaker for the regular monthly meeting in September was 16-year-old Peter Zandbergen who spoke about the absorbing topic of genealogy. Peter outlined sources for family history and spoke about the advantages of using the computer to build a family history database. At the end of his presentation, Peter unrolled the computer printout of his maternal ancestry chart; it stretched from one end of the room almost to the other and dates to 1625. Peter then hunkered down and elaborated on some of his Faulkner family forebears.

collection and storage of genealogical information.

Peter began his talk by outlining the simple steps one can take to embark on the road into the past. Simply writing down your name, the names of your brothers and sisters and then your parents and grandparents is a first step. Fill in the dates to the best of your knowledge and then approach family members to provide more details. Filling in the blanks can be fun and even a bit educational; fostering pride in a person's ancestry is one of the satisfying results of engaging the whole

family in genealogical pursuits.

Dealing with the information found in archives such as the microfilm of newspapers and census records was outlined. Peter feels the Belleville Public Library on Pinnacle Street in Belleville is an invaluable source of information about one's ancestors and even their occupations. It's a great place to begin your research once you have a few names and dates to go by. The next logical step would be to access the information contained in the archives of the Ontario Genealogical Society in the Marilyn Adams Research Centre in Ameliasburgh. A further source for family names cited was the Mormon records in Salt Lake City, Utah. A familiarity with computer printouts is indispensable when dealing with the Mormon (or Latter Day Saints) records which come from all over the world.

Peter then went on to detail some of the pitfalls ancestor hunters can get into. He warned of the preponderance of marketing ploys such as the well-known family history "scam" operating out of large cities which purports to give you information about your family. "When you receive the book it turns out to be nothing more than a glorified phone book listing all the names and numbers of people with the same last name as yours." According to Peter, a family coat of arms is another ploy to divest you of your hard-earned cash. *Continued on page 2.*

**Architectural  
Conservancy  
of Ontario**

**Quinte Region Branch  
Calendar**

Sunday, October 20, Concession  
3, Stirling to Moira  
Sunday, November 17, Brighton

# Canoe Lake Algonquin Park: Tom Thomson and Other Mysteries

written by S. Bernard Shaw, 156 pages, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, indexed

Nature, boating and hiking have never been my strong suits. I see nothing in spending days paddling about on remote northern Ontario lakes and rivers (no matter how "glorious" the scenery), have no desire to spend time with only a sheet of canvas between me and the elements and if I want to go for a walk I'd rather take in a small town streetscape or steep myself in the historic architecture of a city like Kingston; there's infinitely more romance in its old stones than in any chunk of backwoods "preserved nature." (Isn't that an oxymoron?)

When I received the review copy of *Canoe Lake*, I remained dispassionate, figuring it was a book extolling the virtues of the northern reaches of the province. Its subtitle, *Tom Thomson and Other Mysteries*, however, piqued my curiosity and I tentatively opened the pages. What followed was a thoroughly absorbing read.

Beginning with a background of the park and nicely tying in historical perspectives, Shaw has come up with a book which blends the park's attractions with its historical significance—a significance I had not realized until I read this book.

Chapter 3, entitled *The Drive to Bankruptcy*, written by Gary Long, details the influences on the Canoe Lake area by David Gilmour. This enterprising lumberman conceived and carried out a grandiose plan for transporting timber from Canoe Lake to the family's mills in Trenton—regardless of the fact the route lay in two different watersheds and involved "artificial" waterways. The tale of Gilmour's obsession and its inevitable outcome, given the price he paid for the standing timber and the costs associated with the carrying out of the scheme, provide a historical aspect few are familiar with and serves only to whet the ap-

petite for more Algonquin history.

The chapters dealing with the death of Tom Thomson are,

tion being paid to events surrounding his death at the age of 39 in 1917. Several hypotheses surrounding his demise

of foul play in Thomson's death and is quite assured in his assertion that Thomson lies buried in his native Owen Sound.

Algonquin's status as a provincial park was accorded in 1893 and almost immediately a move was made to preserve the park's pristine beauty. Since then succeeding provincial governments have tried to erase all evidence of man's presence in the area either in history or the present. Rather than incorporate the human influences of years past, provincial ministries have tried to rid the park of historic sites. Their propensity for allowing nature to reclaim settled areas of the park show a blatant and disturbing disregard for the sacrifices made by pioneers in the area. Like it or not incursions by trappers, lumbermen, miners

and early settlers are woven into the park's evolution. I find the ministry's plans misguided and shortsighted.



Chapter three of *Canoe Lake* deals with Gilmour's attempt to bring logs from the Canoe Lake area to Trenton to feed the Gilmour mills. The expense of the plan was a direct cause of the Gilmour Lumber Company's bankruptcy.

however, the highlight of the work. The Algonquin period of the painter's short life is examined in detail with special atten-

and subsequent anomalies regarding his final resting place are investigated. The author, however, dismisses any idea

from the audience. Peter answered a few questions about sources and storage of information and then was thanked by Tom Allison. After the formal meeting guests stayed to talk and exchange genealogy ideas.

## Computer makes genealogy easier

*Continued from page 1.*

Gathering the information about your family is just the beginning however. Once you have hundreds of scraps of paper with the details on them, it comes time to organize the facts so they're easily accessed. Peter has found the use of the computer a great help and touched on the software system he uses.

"Using Reunion is simple. You begin much the same way you did as when you started to write your family out. Reunion comes with a companion program called Superchart ... [which] ... uses the information from the Reunion family file to create your family tree."

Peter also briefly outlined the

use of the Internet in genealogical research. At the end of his presentation Peter unfurled his maternal ancestry chart which stretches an impressive 16 feet and is about 18 inches high; there were audible gasps

## Birthday of the month:

John Mercer Johnson was born in Liverpool, England, in October of 1818. He moved to New Brunswick at an early age, was educated at Northumberland County grammar school and was called to the bar in 1840. In 1850 he was elected to the provincial assembly. He was solicitor general, postmaster-general and then attorney-general. One of the Fathers of Confederation, in 1867 he was elected MP for Northumberland. He died in 1868.



# County News

by Gerry Boyce

**Changing times** - We are living in fast-changing times. Kingston and Frontenac County are moving toward a major restructuring and hope to add part of Lennox and Addington County. That county's council, in an attempt to prevent the loss of Ernestown Township, has held two weeks of almost daily meetings. The result is a proposed new Lennox and Addington County with the present 13 municipalities becoming four municipalities: the Township of Addington Highland, the Township of Stone Mills, Loyalist Township, and the Town of Greater Napanee. Historical Adolphustown Township will become Ward 1 of Greater Napanee and the village of Bath will become Ward 2 of Loyalist Township, etc. The county-approved changes now go to the municipalities for consideration.

Restructuring talks are also taking place in Prince Edward, Northumberland, and Hastings Counties. Can you predict or imagine what Hastings County will look like in the year 2000? Will there be a Hastings County? Will the county be split in two or three parts? Will parts of Northumberland and Prince Edward be included?

**You could win** - I welcome suggestions as to what Hastings County (including Belleville and Trenton) will look like in 2000 A.D. The person who submits the most interesting and imaginative prediction on municipal boundaries will receive FREE an autographed copy of my *Eldorado: Ontario's First Gold Rush* (value \$21.55) in time for Christmas reading or giving. Send your predictions (written or sketched) to Gerry Boyce, 173 Bridge Street East, Belleville, Ontario K8N 1N3 by November 15. We reserve the right to reproduce your comment or drawings in the January 1997 issue of *Outlook*.

**Lois Wishart** deserves much credit. A longtime supporter of the O'Hara Mill Museum and Conservation Area, she has provided for a \$10,000 donation to ensure that the 1840s O'Hara homestead and adjacent historic buildings will be open for the 1997 season. Hats off to Lois and others who are supporting heritage projects whose operations have been hit by financial cutbacks.

**Evan Morton**, the energetic Tweed deputy-reeve, newspaper columnist, historian, and curator of the Tweed Heritage Centre, has been honoured by the province. He's received an Ontario Heritage Foundation Community Heritage Achievement Award. It recognizes his countless hours of volunteer effort, particularly in the heritage field. Incidentally, one of the Heritage Centre's newest (and largest) acquisitions is the cabin that stood atop the Ministry of Natural Resources Hungerford Fire Tower. It was built around 1957 and towermen used it and five other towers in the Tweed Fire District to detect fires.

Ontario Heritage Foundation Community Heritage Awards have also gone to Al Danford of Madoc, Arthur Dunn for his work in Marmora and to Gerry Boyce.

**Janet Lunn**, of Hillier, is one of only 22 recipients this year to receive the province's highest honour, the Order of Ontario. Her production of children's books led to her award. With her late husband, Richard, she co-authored *The County: The First Hundred Years in Loyalist Prince Edward* (1967). Janet is presently working on a new book based on the Loyalists.

"**Heraldry in the Quinte Region**" is the title of an interesting article in the September/October issue of *Umbrella* published by the Quinte Arts Council. John Greenshields intro-

duces the origins of heraldry and relates it to the "Grants of Arms" to the United Empire Loyalist Association, the City of Belleville, and Loyalist College. A member of the Heraldry Society of Canada, John is a freelance writer/researcher living in Stirling.

**Umbrella** also features an article by *Outlook* editor Lewis Zandbergen on the destruction of Stirling's "Heart" by fire in August 1908. The fire led directly to the village's purchase and conversion of the former woollen mill for use as a fire hall.

**Jay Farrar**, a soldier who served in the Northern Army during the American Civil War, has been remembered. Re-enactors from the Civil War Round Table of Greater Kingston fired off muskets in a 21-gun salute in Farrar's honour as 60 descendants gathered at the Victoria Cemetery in Tweed. A large gravemarker shipped to Canada by the Civil War Round Table organization was unveiled. An American by birth, Farrar came to Canada in 1890, bought a furniture store in Tweed, and later lived in Trenton.

"**Pioneer cemetery needs a friend**" was the heading for Kathy Everson's article in *The Community Press*. Kathy describes the concerns that 73-year-old Eunice Jolley has for the pioneer cemetery atop the hill overlooking St. Mark's Church in Cannifton. Unable to personally undertake the cleanup and restoration of the cemetery (overgrown with poison ivy and other weeds, and with broken stones), Eunice is hoping someone will be able to help. She can be reached at 966-2978.

**Wanted** - Information on the origins of the name "Nigger Island" (now Makatewis Island) in the Bay of Quinte south of Bayside. New owner Terry Howes welcomes information. Call Gerry at 968-5023 if you can help.

**Samuel Greene**'s memory was honoured at the end of summer as former Ontario School for the Deaf student Eugene Fowler and his son, Rob, ran and rollerbladed from

Kingston to the Belleville Cemetery to raise funds and awareness about Greene. The first deaf teacher in Ontario, Greene died tragically in 1890 when, while teaching some youngsters to iceboat, he fell and fractured his skull. School alumni raised \$6,000 to restore the base of Greene's monument.

**Were you there?** *The Tweed News* recalls that 25 years ago (September 11, 1971) Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau dropped in to Belleville for a brief visit, as part of a two-day helicopter tour of central and eastern Ontario.

**The third annual auction** in support of the restoration of Trenton Town Hall is planned for October 24 at Tommy's Restaurant in Trenton. A wine and cheese reception will precede the auction. Call Wendy at 392-0600 to donate auction items or purchase tickets.

**John W. Meyers U.E.**, a founder of Sidney Township and Belleville, will be remembered when a plaque is dedicated to his memory at the old stone industrial building (on the site of Meyers' 1790 mills) on Station Street in Belleville. The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 27. The plaque is provided by the Ontario Heritage Foundation; Belleville's Parks and Recreation Department and Heritage Belleville are participating in the event. Guests will include Meyers family historian and author Jane Bennett Goddard, U.E. Society members and friends are cordially invited to attend. You may wish to bring a chair and wear suitable clothing for the outside ceremony.



Do you remember this man?



# Your County Museum

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

We heartily congratulate and thank our volunteers who are scheduled to receive Volunteer Service Awards from the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation on Wednesday, October 23, 1996, 7:30 p.m. at Kingston City Hall:

Gerry Boyce 25 years	Helen Horne 15 years
Margaret Wiggins 25 years	Katharine Mills 10 years
Lois Wishart 25 years	Lorne Albertson 5 years

## Upcoming Special Events

October 21, 1:00, Bridge at Glanmore. Call Ann at 966-7478 to book a table.

October 23, Michael Harrington, Senior Conservator of Furniture and Wooden Objects at the Canadian Conservation Institute will speak on the care of furniture. Co-sponsored by Sagonaska Kiwanis. Call 962-2329 for more information.

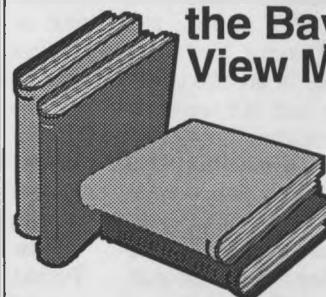
October 31, 9:30, Christmas Programme Education Workshop.

During the week of October 28 we will be looking for volunteers to help us with decorating glanmore for the Christmas season!

Spaces are still available for our fall education programme Harvest Festival which runs October 1 - 18. Grade one to six children will investigate early methods of preserving food and explore kitchen artifacts. Students will examine the process of cheese making, create a corn husk doll and discuss the history of this craft.

Celebrate Canada's Thanksgiving Day October 14

**October 9 - 11  
Auxiliary Book Sale fund raiser at the Bay View Mall.**



## Extension granted

The museum was very pleased to receive a Young Canada Works Programme extension. Sean Purdy will continue to work in the areas of collections management and care until the end of the year.

## Cheesy history

A new exhibit in the Breakfast Room features the history of cheddar cheese in Hastings. The making cheese. The made possible by Norm McWaters Pollock and was developed in support of the Cheese Capital of Canada's Cheese Route.



Outlook is published monthly for the Friends and Members of the Hastings County Historical Society

Mr. and Mrs. B. Wright  
5 Sunset Drive  
Belleville Ontario  
K8N 1Y4

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