

## What's Been Happening at Glanmore?

*by Gary Nicoll*

At our public presentation in March we welcomed Jennifer Lyons, the Museum Services Manager to talk to us about "what's been happening at Glanmore National Historic Site?" For many of us it will have changed a lot since we last visited, but Jennifer was speaking about the changes in the last 14 months. This past year marked the 140th anniversary of the building of Glanmore and the 50th year of the Museum's existence at Glanmore. Sounds like a good reason for a party. So, they had one on July 15th. An anniversary fair with tents set up on the lawns, events for families and children, music acts, a cake cutting ceremony and tours of the museum. They had 800 visitors touring the home that afternoon.

This home was a family residence for four generations and was well cared for and preserved throughout the 85 years prior to its sale in 1971. As a result of stories about the anniversary, Anne Faulkner, the last surviving member of the family got in touch with the museum. She lived in British Columbia and was unable to attend the event. However, she wanted to donate some family heirlooms and archival

material to the museum. Thus, in September, 15 boxes of materials arrived and two weeks of processing new old material took place and many items were added to the Phillips/Burrows/Faulkner Collection.

Another fine donation was made to Glanmore from an onsite museum that existed for years at Belleville General Hospital. This is the Dr. Birchard Collection and included material from the Edith Cavell Nursing Alumni Association (a collection regarding the Nursing school programs at the hospital).



In 2021-2023, a restoration project was undertaken to restore the carpet in the dining room and principal bedrooms. The old strongly red carpets were removed, and a pattern that resembles the carpets in the old black and white

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Website: [HastingsHistory.ca](http://HastingsHistory.ca)

photos from 1900 was commissioned. These were made on a hand loom by The Grosvenor Wilton Carpet Company (Est. 1790). Jennifer showed us before and after photos of the dining room and the main bedroom. A great improvement was evident.

In June of 2023, the life of Glanmore and other parts of the East Hill was complicated by the arrival of the cast and crew of Murdoch Mysteries for the shooting of one of their episodes. Jennifer had photos of all the care that was required to cover their new carpets, protect the walls and woodwork and light fixtures of the house while shooting of the television show went on in Glanmore.

Live History, a theatre company that specializes in creating and running interactive stories based on History, in historical settings like Glanmore, held an event last October. The attendees were caught up in an adventure based on a job interview for a highly desired position. The event was a great success and there are plans to bring them back—a show we should watch for and attend.

The museum is also presenting a quilt exhibit, “Stitched Together” featuring 33 quilts from the Museum’s Regional Collection. It will be at Glanmore until September 1st.

On TikTok, you are able to visit Jennifer at [jenniferlyons@Glanmorenhs](https://www.tiktok.com/@jenniferlyons@Glanmorenhs), to enjoy the series “Historic Bad Ideas.” There are over 230,000 people currently subscribed to Glanmore’s content on TikTok, with several of their videos capturing millions of views.

With so much taking place over the course of 14 months, Jennifer encouraged all of us to watch for their programs.



## Bus Tour to Historic Kingston Sites

*by Gary Nicoll*

On Saturday May 4th, our bus will leave Belleville at 8:30 and we will be driving to Kingston’s waterfront near Kingston General Hospital. The Murney Martello Tower Museum is opening that day to accommodate our bus tour. The museum usually opens in mid-May. This Martello tower is one of three in Kingston, four if you include one on Cedar Island, a small island off the shore from Old Fort Henry. There are only ten of these in Canada, and about 140 around the world. Britain copied a tower on Corsica that they had great difficulty destroying during a naval battle in the 1790s. The navy did not succeed in taking the tower, but a land-based attack did work. There were two cannons in the tower and only one faced the sea which made it less effective. The design was perfected by the British and used in coastal locations around Britain and throughout their empire. The Murney Martello Tower (built in 1846) is community owned and is operated by the Kingston Historical Society. It is well restored and a pleasure to tour. There are many fascinating engineering features to take note of, including the rotating cannon platform, and a gunpowder room in the basement. There is a dry moat. It is like a machine though it is just a building.



Murney Martello Tower

We will then travel a few blocks and visit the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes. The collection covers Canadian Marine Heritage from Thunder Bay to Montreal. It includes Archives, an artefact collection of instruments, tools and equipment used by mariners; artwork, photographs and material from the Canadian Shipping Companies and Shipbuilders throughout the Great Lakes area. The museum is located in the old Kingston Shipyard buildings, the original 1890 Pump House with machinery onsite for pumping out the recently restored adjacent dry dock.

In the dry dock, there is now the very interesting S.S. *Keewatin* moved from Lake Huron to Kingston in October of 2023. It is an Edwardian passenger steamer built in 1907 in Glasgow by Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering. It was owned and operated by CP Ships from 1907 to 1965. It is being restored to its earlier Edwardian look, and that restoration is currently underway. It is impressive to walk either or both sides of this unique ship. One of only two of this type of vessel remaining anywhere in the world.



**SS Keewatin coming in to Marine Museum Drydock 2023**

After this we will have lunch near the City Hall and Market in downtown Kingston. Lunch is a boxed lunch provided by Pan Chanco Bakery, famous in Kingston. It was a bakery opened by Zal Yanovsky and Rose Richardson as an outlet for the baking they made popular at the restaurant Chez Piggy that

opened in 1979.

We will then be touring the Kingston City Hall. It was built in 1844 to serve as the home of the government of the United Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. It is a neoclassical stone building designed by George Browne. It was always the combination of a government centre and the local marketplace. It has had portions of the building restored over several decades in the twentieth century. A very beautiful building inside and out. Still obvious that it was to be more than a small city's City Hall.

We will then be doing drive bys of the foundations of Fort Frontenac, the historic village of Barriefield across the river from Kingston, and then just north of the 401 we will drive by Kingston Mills, the first set of docks and associated buildings like a blockhouse that marks the beginning of the Rideau Canal leading to Ottawa. Then home again.

It should be a great day. Please join us. Tickets are \$80 a person. Lunch is included in the cost as are entrance fees to sites. Tickets are available at the Archives. We have about 20 to 25 spots remaining. Please join us.



## Glanmore National Historic Site

Running until September 1<sup>st</sup>, Glanmore presents a stunning array of quilts, some dating to the 1840s, on display throughout the house exhibiting the highlights of the long tradition of quilting as a collaborative process.

On Saturday, April 20 at 2 p.m. landscape architect Victoria Taylor will speak on the delights of native, naturalistic and heirloom plantings – what might be possible on a city lot. Tickets required (Free to holders of museum membership). Self-guided house tour included.

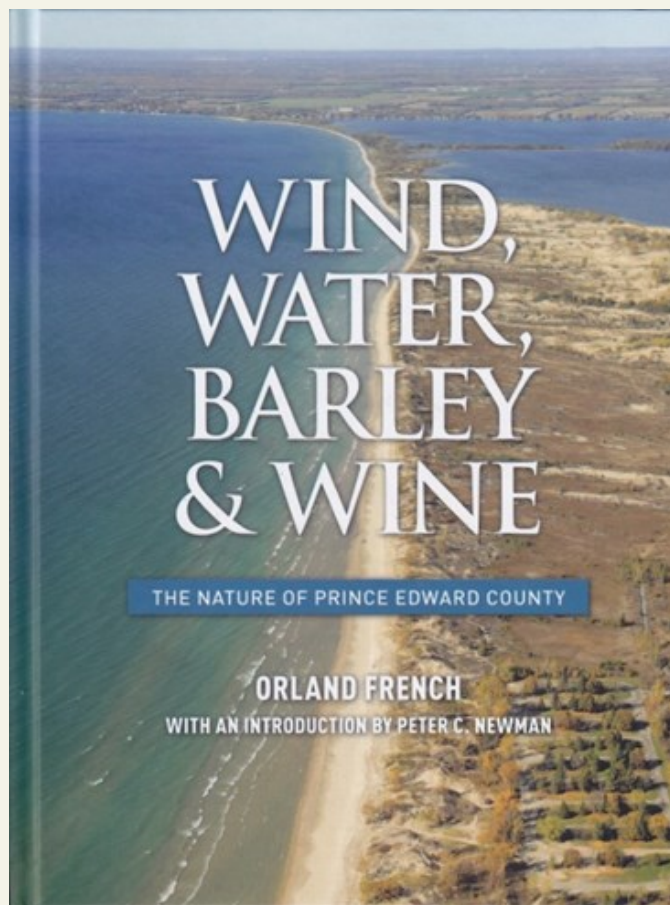




## It's Reading Time Again

by Michelle Hutchison

Spring has sprung! The lengthening evenings give us more daylight for reading! May we recommend this newest addition to our bookstore shelves?



It's unique! It's amazing! If you're a "local," you might just take it for granted. Tourists flock here to taste the wide sandy beaches, the food and the drink. But, there's so much more to "The County." This peninsula that bravely marches into Lake Ontario has a varied and storied history. It is home to an ever-growing population and the opportunities of hopeful entrepreneurs seem endless. Whether it was the rough wilderness that faced the earliest British settlers, the crop-filled fields or the now-famous flourishing wine industry, nature and its geography has played a major role in every aspect of development in Prince Edward County. Author, Orland French, helps to uncover little-known secrets and well-known facts; he dispels some myths about the vagaries of this land of *Wind, Water, Barley & Wine*. Prince Edward County has been at its best and at its worst; it has seen boom times and bust times; it has seen fame and tragedy. For the people, the flora and the fauna, "The County" needs no other definition.

**160 pages    \$25**

You may find this fine book, along with many others, at the Hastings County Historical Society bookstore located at the Community Archives on the second floor of the Belleville Public Library. Check out our on-line bookstore at [hastingshistory.ca](http://hastingshistory.ca)





## FREE PUBLIC PRESENTATION

BY PERFORMER-SONGWRITER  
STEPHEN BRUCE MEDD



### If Lilacs Could Sing: Ballads from the Quinte-Napanee-Kingston areas

Stephen Bruce Medd is a performer and songwriter of original and adapted Folk ballads and spiritual songs. He will be playing selected songs from a recent compilation inspired by the history of our region.

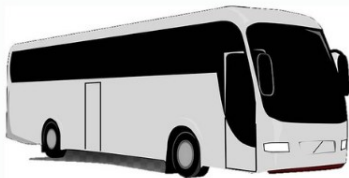
Tuesday,  
April 16, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

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



## Bus Tour

Take a trip with us to historic Kingston on  
**Saturday, May 4th, 2024**



**Cost: \$80 (lunch included)**

Buy tickets at Public Presentations  
or from the Community Archives





# Out-of-Print Books Now Available Online

by Amanda Hill, Archivist

Members of the Hastings County Historical Society were closely involved in the production of two significant volumes relating to local history in the late 1900s. One was Gerry Boyce's 1967 book, *Historic Hastings*, which is full of information on the history of Hastings County, its communities and people. With the permission of Gerry's family, we have now digitized Gerry's "source copy" and placed it online.

This copy contains Gerry's hand-written annotations about the primary and secondary historical sources he used for composing the text, including references from Library and Archives Canada (which was called the Public Archives of Canada, or PAC for short, at the time), the Archives of Ontario and various newspapers and published books.

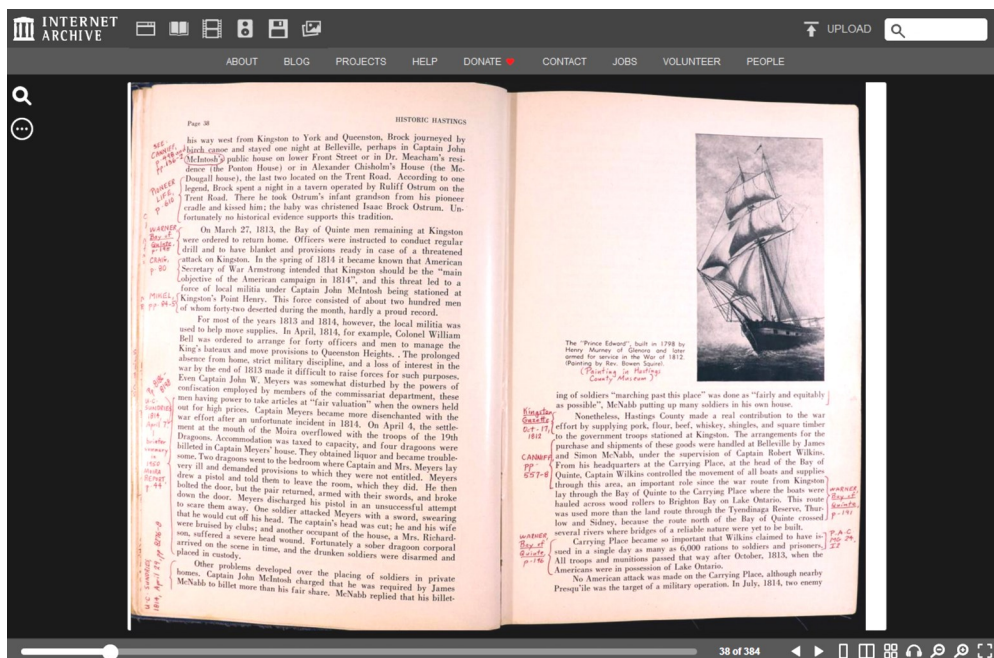
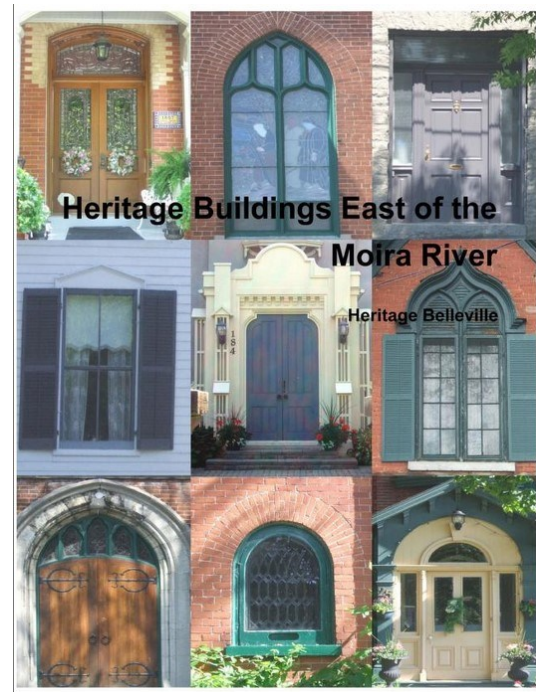
The other volume now available is *Heritage Buildings East of the Moira River*, which contains over 400 descriptions of older buildings on the East side of Belleville. This book was published by Heritage Belleville and used research from the Historic Structures Committee (later called the Building Research Committee) of the Historical Society. It was first published in 1991 and was

revised and reprinted in 2012.

Both volumes are now available from the Community Archives' pages on the Internet Archive, where they can be searched and also downloaded in various formats:

*Historic Hastings*: <https://archive.org/details/historic-hastings-source-copy>

*Heritage Buildings East of the Moira River*: <https://archive.org/details/heritage-buildings-east-of-the-moira-river/>



## The Picnic – 1920s Style

by Richard Hughes

Times have changed and lifestyles have evolved – and not always for the better. It seems, in the 2020s, people are staying closer to home, maybe through the magnetic powers of the internet, computer games and social media. But, if you take a look at the lifestyles of the 1920s, you will find some social events that you might wish we still had today.

Massive community picnics were held through the summer as church and social groups as well as businesses arranged full-day outings for their members. For example, the Holloway-Tabernacle Union Sunday School carried its members via the steamer *Brockville* to Twelve-O’Clock Point for a day of games, socializing and a great meal. The

Salvation Army packed seven trucks to transport their Sunday School to Oak Lake for their full day of boys’ and girls’ races and games.

The St. Michael’s Parish picnic drew about 2,000 people to the Grove Picnic grounds (Sidney Street). Booths were set up for games, candy and refreshments, music resounded across the grounds and a long list of races and games filled the day. In the afternoon a baseball game entertained the large group, followed by a full dinner and then an orchestra provided music well into the evening for modern and square dancing.

Social clubs also gathered their members. The Belleville Daughters and Maids of England carried their member families by trucks to the Sandbanks for swimming, baseball and games. The Belleville Hardware and Lock Manufacturing Company brought 200 of their employees and



Steamer *Brockville* at Massassauga Point with passengers for picnic

Credit Deseronto Archives HMR2-06-34



families to Massassauga Park by the yacht *Say When*. In addition to the usual races for the kids, the men of the various departments competed against each other in baseball games and tug-of-war.

The largest employer of the area, Grand Trunk Railway, needed two steamers, the *St. Lawrence* and the *Brockville*, to carry 2000 people to Massassauga Point. Along with the usual kids' races, novelty events were the smoking race with clay pipes, and the married men's race, as well as a baby show. Through the whole day, music was provided for dancing in the pavilion. The highlight of the day was a ball game between the Grand Trunk Railways team (Ontario champions in 1919) and the York Nationals of Toronto.

Another popular event during the summer was the Aquatics Days at Victoria Park. Boat races were held for "dinghys, freaks and punts." Apparently, they presented quite a display on the Bay of Quinte as they followed a course near the park. A highlight of the day was the small boys' swimming race from the government dock (Myers Pier) to Victoria Park. First prize was fifty cents!

As a personal note, I can recall, around 1950, the Houston Lumber Company on St. Paul Street, loading up several of their trucks with area families and taking us to Oak Lake for a day's outing. Benches along the sides of the completely open-top trucks provided seating while the warm, summer wind added to the excitement as the city families enjoyed the countryside.

Times have changed by the 2020s and the large, group, social events of the 1920s are relegated to history. Progress has made life so much more comfortable and easy, but some things have been lost that added a lot to daily life.



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Hastings County Historical Society has its offices in the Library/Archives building at 254 Pinnacle Street, Second Floor, Postal Code K8N 3B1. *Outlook* is published nine months of the year for members and friends of the Society. Submissions can be sent to:

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