



# Outlook

Volume 7 Number 4

Issue number 184, April 2002

## Quinte Women of Distinction

Tracing her family roots, and a resulting new-found interest in history led Alison Walker to be one of the co-chairs of the team that has been working on the book *Quinte Women of Distinction* for the last year and a half, along with co-chairs Joan Butler and Jennifer Fisher, and over half the members of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Belleville and District. This is a book that needed to be written, a record of women's achievements in the social, economic, and cultural fabric of this area, describing the lives of Hastings and Prince Edward County women who have made a difference over the last 250 years.

After seeing similar books from CFUW branches in Brant County, Welland and Waterloo, the local CFUW decided that this would be a worthwhile venture. Members thought of names and got suggestions from historians, authors, and many other people. A press release in local newspapers from Picton to Madoc garnered over 100 names. Criteria were established for choosing the women whose biographies would be included. They had to represent all areas of Hastings and Prince Edward County, and a wide variety of endeavours; they had to be deceased; and they had to be women who had made a difference, locally, nationally, or internationally. The women who

will be in the book span a wide range of eras and vocations. Some had many academic degrees, others had little education. Some lived in mansions, others, like Anna Leveridge, in shanties with dirt floors. Many had tragedies and heartbreaks, but they were not defeated. They just got on with their lives. The lives of these

women were an inspiration to all who worked on the book.

CFUW members descended on the libraries and archives, and turned up so much information that it was hard to pare down the list of names. Friends and relatives shared information, letters, diaries, and pictures. Information turned up unexpectedly when they thought they would not be able to find much. For example, an interview on the local radio station brought a quick response and lots of information from descendants of Eva Curtis, the 24-year-old switchboard operator who bravely stayed on the job, relaying messages,

during the 1918 explosion at the British Chemical Company in Trenton.

The writers learned a couple of lessons during the preparation of the book.

First, if you think your life might be interesting in the future, write your autobiography now, and have it

kept for the future. Keep letters and labelled photographs. With our modern tendency to use the telephone and E-mail instead of writing letters, our history is evaporating.

Second, they learned they should have been more ruthless in cutting the list of names; 70 is daunting. In fact, so much information was gathered on so many lives that a sequel is already being planned. They have started files on women to be included in the next book, and are inviting the public to contribute.

The purpose of this project is to leave the community something tangible of historical value, honouring the women who are an important part of our heritage. The CFUW will be donating copies to area schools and libraries because it is important for children

*Continued on page 2.*



(Clockwise from the top) Eva Curtis, Phillipa Faulkner and Olive Delaney are just three Quinte Women of Distinction

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Guest Speaker

Barb Monk

Topic

Upper Canada Trade Faire

Refreshments at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting begins at 8 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre

370 Front Street, Belleville

The Hastings County Historical Society, General Delivery, Cannifton, Ontario K0K 1K0

## Quinte Women of Distinction launch to be held in October

*Continued from page 1.*

to read this history. The biographies are in chronological order, so that the book will give an overview of the history of the region, and a record of the early settlement of this area. Some of the pioneer women wrote their memoirs, so that we have a record of early days in their own words. Others in later chapters, such as Jeanne Minhinnick, were passionate about preserving the history of the area. Marine heritage is represented by Minerva McCrimmon, and the Fox sisters were part of the mid-nineteenth century Spiritualist movement in this area. The book includes artists Aileen Cherry and Philippa Faulkner, musicians Leona Riggs and Gena Branscombe, teachers Nellie Merry, Jessie Tuit, and Diane Zegouras, and Olive Delaney, long-time chief librarian at Belleville Public Library. Lives of doctors in the period from 1887 to 1987 illustrate the changes for women in medicine over a century.

The book is now at the editing stage. *Quinte Women of Distinction* will be launched in October 2002, during Women's History Month. There will be two launches, one in Hastings County and one in Prince Edward County; 1,500 copies will be printed. Advance sales start April 1. Until June 30, the price will be \$30, and after that it will sell at the regular retail price of \$35.

# WANTED

Volunteers to assist in the Archival Programs of the Hastings County Historical Society

1. **At the Hastings Heritage Centre** in Cannifton on alternate Mondays from 1 to 4 p.m. (please see calendar on page 3) to:

- to catalogue manuscript, printed and picture materials
- file, index, sort and label
- plan and assemble display panels
- assist visiting researchers
- meet people interested in local history and its resources
- share a pot of tea and cookies with other volunteers

2. **At the Belleville Public Library** (in the Canadiana Room) at a time you select to:

- arrange new materials in the Society's archival collection
- update and create index cards
- double check files etc.

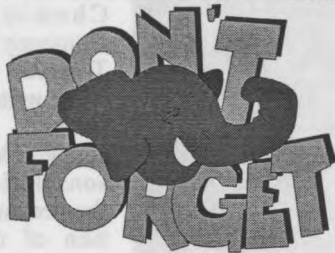
3. **At your place of residence**

at a time you select to:

- input data (from handwritten lists) into your PC to create
- carry out research into topics of value to the Society

If you would like to help with any of these activities come to one of the workshops or call Gerry Boyce at (613) 968-5023.

The Hastings County Historical Society appreciates your assistance.



## It's that time again. Time to renew!

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.*

# A letter from the Ontario frontier

Coe Hill Mines/Wollaston/Dec. 12th/87

My dearest Mother and all

I was glad to get the long looked for letter. It seems a long time from one letter to another, as it does to you I dare say. Many thanks for sending the Post Office Order, which I got all right, and which comes in nicely for Christmas. I haven't sent it to Mr. Tivy's yet, but I have no doubt he will take it of me.

I am sorry your hands keep so bad. This weather must be very trying to you. We are having much such a winter as you are having, plenty of rain and dull damp weather, not much snow on the ground. It was raining and freezing yesterday so everywhere is as slippery as glass.

We are all as usual, thank God, and going on much the same. David is still at home at work. We had a raising bee since I wrote last, to raise a stable. We had six men. It is a nice large stable, would hold 8 cows if we had them, and a large loft at the top to hold hay. It is nearly finished now. The boys did the chief part of it.

I hope we shall in a year or so have a houseraising. We have some logs out, and are going to get some singles (which are thin boards of pine like slates) for the roof. It will take some time to get all ready for it.

Florence has left Mr. Blackburn's as they set up keeping a boardinghouse and David would not let her stay. She was at home a week, then Mrs. Tivy sent for her to go there; said she could be there for the winter and go to school. They are very kind, are they not; after that, I think she is going to help in the house and store. I am sure she is comfortable as they are always so kind to all young people. It is nice for her to go to school.

Gertie is staying at Mrs. Robert Hewton's for the winter. I suppose the school will open at New Year's, but I don't think

that I shall send the little ones during the winter; it is about a mile and a half away. There is going to be a service there on Christmas Day. We have a Church of England minister now. He lives some way off and has a long round of preaching, so he will not come very often. He has been to see me once, but I believe I told you this when I wrote last.

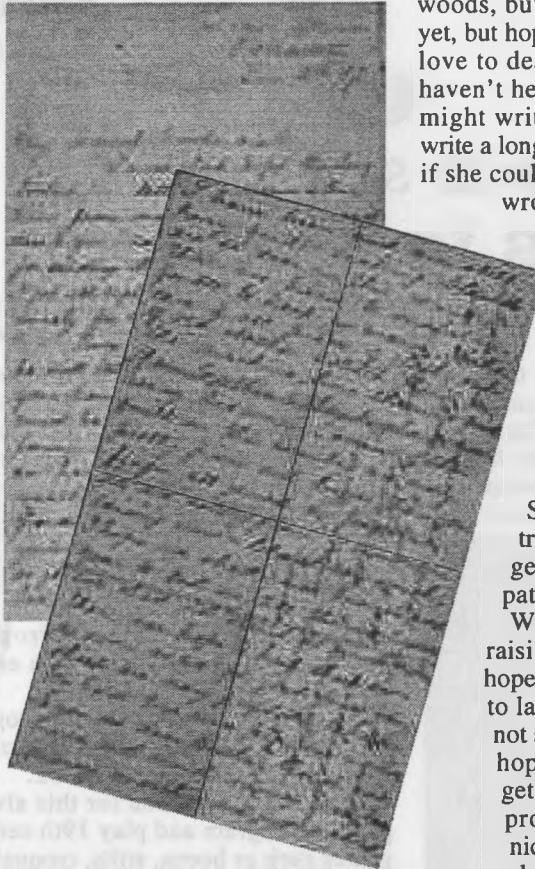
We have lots of deer around us in the woods, but have not been able to get one yet, but hope to do so before long. Give my love to dear Fanny, I hope she is well. I haven't heard from them for months, she might write now and then. I think I will write a long letter to Mrs. Anderson. I doubt if she could have got my first letter that I wrote.

I have been, and am still busy at quilt making. Blankets are so dear in this country that we have to make up quilts to keep warm. I take care of all pieces of cloth out of old clothes and stitch them on the machine, line them and quilt them together and they make warm, heavy bed covering. Some of the quilts in this country are very pretty, pieces not bigger than your finger all joined in patterns.

We are eating flour of our own raising now and like it very much. I hope we shall raise enough next year to last till the next comes. We shall not stand at much expense then. We hope to keep sheep as soon as we get good fences up. Sheep are very profitable to keep. We have two nice pigs, one is mine. So you see, dear Mother, though we have not much money, we have money's worth, and are jogging along.

I have no news, so will conclude with love to Father and you all. Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

From your loving daughter  
Anna



One of the letters from Anna Maria (née Godbolt) Leveridge to her mother in England has been reproduced here (above) with the text typed out. To save space and postage the last part of the letter was written at a right angle to the first lines.

From your loving Anna: *Letters from the Ontario Frontier* by Louis Tivy University of Toronto Press 1972

*The Hastings County Historical Society's sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Reverend Canon Shirley Wood, a long-time member of the Society, who passed away January 14, 2002 in his 93rd year. According to the Society's records the Reverend Wood had been a member since 1976.*

**The Hastings Heritage Centre operated by the Hastings County Historical Society in the former Thurlow Town Hall, 154 Cannifton Road North, Belleville, Ontario K0K 1K0 will be open for researchers on the following Mondays in 2002 from 1 to 4 p.m.**

**April 8 and 22  
May 6 and 27  
June 10 and 24**

**September 9 and 23  
November 4 and 18  
December 2**

Further information available from Gerry Boyce at (613) 968-5023



# GLANMORE

National Historic Site

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

Last chance to see exhibit

## Passages to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad

This is your last chance to see the fascinating exhibit Passages to Freedom: Secrets of the Underground Railroad. This special travelling exhibit, on loan from the Welland Historical Museum, will be on display at Glanmore National Historic Site until April

21, 2002. Passages to Freedom explores the experiences of the more than 40,000 black refugees who, during the 1850s, entered Canada from the United States via the network of aid known as the Underground Railroad. The exhibit features stories of cap-

ture, slavery, escape and freedom and highlights strength, spirit and ingenuity of fugitive slaves. Don't miss out! Glanmore is open Tuesday to Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call (613) 962-2329 for more information!

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

## Garden Delights School Program

Garden Delights School Program Spaces are still available for an end of year class visit to Glanmore.

The Garden Delights school program is offered for Kindergarten to Grade 6 from May 14 to June 21, 2002.

Join us in the Garden for this always popular program and play 19th century games such as hoops, stilts, croquet and badminton!

Tour Glanmore to see our spectacu-

lar Victorian mansion and learn how Victorians used flowers and herbs from the garden in their everyday lives.

Plus make a simple garden craft to take home. Parlour games and other indoor activities will be featured on rainy days. Book your class visit early to avoid disappointment.

Call Melissa Wakeling, Education Co-ordinator at (613) 962-2329.

Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November 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 May 2002 issue is April 20, 2001

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