



Outlook

Volume 6 Number 1

Issue number 173, January 2001

Tweed Heritage Centre climbs to new heights

by Elizabeth Mitchell

Evan Morton believes every community has a rich history which must be preserved. If we do not preserve the past, we cannot appreciate the present, and we will not have a future.

The Tweed Heritage Centre had its beginnings with a display of historical documents and artifacts gathered together for Tweed Old Home Week in 1978. As a result, people felt the need to preserve these things, which until then had been stored in people's houses.

Ten years later, in 1988, the Tweed Heritage Centre was formed. When the Tweed Police Force was disbanded in 1990, the Tweed Heritage Centre's collection, much of which had been stored in Evan's house, found its first home in the vacated police building. Shortly after, a new municipal building was being built, and the Historical Society was able to move their collection into the basement, which they used from 1991 to 1994. When space again became a problem, the former Houston House became available, and proved to be an ideal location, with lots of room and wonderful grounds.

The collection continued to grow, as people from all over heard of the Heritage Centre, and donated objects. Three years ago, a couple who came to the museum for a tour expressed their amazement that there was such a collection in a place the size of Tweed. However, the man said there was one thing they were missing — a sprinkler system. If they ever had a fire, they would lose everything. The visitor was a retired fire chief from Burnaby, British Columbia.

This prompted the Historical Society to embark on Project 2000 — the building of an 8,000-square-foot, two-storey annex which would include five major galleries, an auditorium, seminar room, archives room, and storage area. Fund-raising plans included raising \$25,000 by selling building blocks at \$100 each, and applying for a federal government millennium grant. When their grant application was turned down, they realized

they would have to raise \$50,000 themselves. They have now raised almost all of this amount from the community. In addition, they were able to get a Trillium Foundation grant of \$25,000 from Ontario to renovate the existing Houston House building to be a visitor centre and an arts centre where the work of local area artists can be displayed.

Always looking ahead, Evan recently proposed a plan to get an old CPR dining car to use as a tea room. Tourism is important to Tweed, and the addition of a tea room would make the Tweed Heritage Centre attractive as a halfway stop for tour buses travelling between Toronto and Ottawa. They haven't found their dining car yet, but Evan is hopeful.

Meanwhile, Evan and the other volunteers are working hard to move the museum artifacts from Houston House into the new Heritage Centre galleries, and to bring order out

of the temporary chaos. They hope to have the official opening in April or May of 2001, when the flowers are in bloom and the grounds are looking their best.

Telling the audience that he was just here to whet our appetites so we would come to Tweed to visit the Heritage Centre, Evan finished his talk by showing us some display materials, including some early booklets on Tweed. His enthusiasm for history was evident throughout his presentation. "You'll never be bored working in a heritage centre," he said. "You're learning all the time."

Evan expressed the hope that the accomplishments of the Tweed Historical Society (and there are only about 36 members) will inspire other small communities to establish heritage centres to preserve their past. "When you have a vision, commit yourself to it, and don't let the politicians and naysayers deter you."

Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 16, 2001

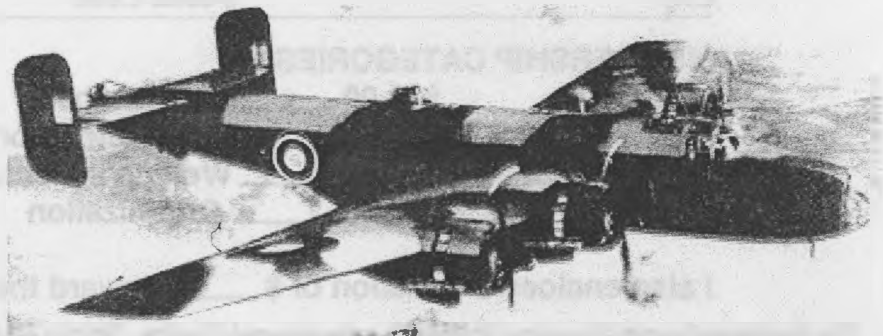
Guest Speaker

Bill Titula

History of the Halifax Bomber

Refreshments at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting begins at 8 p.m.



Gleanings: A History of Campbellford/Seymour

edited by Margaret Crothers, Ann Rowe and Barbara Samson-Willis
559 pages, photographs, maps, end notes, references, indexed,
published by Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society

Once in a great while a book comes along that's a delight to the eye, to the mind and to the touch. And while it's not good practice to judge books by their covers, the cover of *Gleanings* is definitely apropos to the rest of the book. It just feels like a good book and it doesn't disappoint.

Gleanings is the latest history of Campbellford to hit the market; timing couldn't have been better for it was released in plenty of time for Christmas gift giving 2000. Anyone interested in the history or genealogy of the area will find this tome filled with fascinating people, places and events. But copies are going at a steady pace and potential purchasers should be on the ball and buy now. (Buy an extra copy, you'll find the first worn out from constant thumbing to look up names and dates.)

The elegant little volume is crammed to the covers with history, beginning with the very dawn of the 19th century and leisurely sweeping the reader along to the present day. Along the way we meet people who are brought to

life through the written word, characters who inhabit almost every small town and even share in some of the town's more, shall we say, disparaging episodes. In addition, the book pays homage to many of the hamlets and crossroads communities which provide colour and depth to the tapestry of the amalgamated municipality.

There's also a tinge of sadness in the loss of what has gone before. Photographs of the mills which once lined the banks of the river just below the bridge give only a fleeting glimpse of a variety of buildings, some of which dated to the early- to mid-1800s.

Especially fascinating is the final chapter which is headed Vignettes. The first story relates the events of an April Saturday in 1968. The tale was reprinted from the Saturday, April 20, *Toronto Daily Star*, and has all the elements of a typical account of a wild west showdown. Police Chief Sammy Baird, tough but fair, had stood up to a mob clamouring for the release of three prisoners and had the Riot Act read. This account is followed by a few ghost stories and a rather tedious telling of the history of Allan Mills. The team at the Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society has done a bang-up job of recounting the story of the community in such a way as to never be dull. A tip of the top-per goes to the group from this historian and

genealogist.

It's tough to be critical about such a satisfying and grand volume but I do have a couple of niggling problems. There should have been even more photographs and maps (I know, I'm being greedy) and there are several inconsistencies and chronology problems but nothing really serious.

I was also pleased to see usually ignored members (in particular the proofreader) of a writing team included in the acknowledgements page. Proofreading is an often thankless, underappreciated chore and it's only appropriate that those of us who perform the task of proofreading books and articles finally be given credit for our contribution.

However, even the most dedicated proofer can slip up. Check out page 11 and the Billy Bronson story. No matter how many different ways I subtract 1781 from 1804, I keep coming up with 23, not 13. And why is Billy spelled two different ways? There are a few spelling blunders elsewhere, some sentence constructions could have been reworked and the word "that" is used way too many times but even we proofreaders aren't perfect.

All in all, *Gleanings* is a fantastic new resource for local history buffs who should feel indebted to the members of the Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society for their excellent production.

The New Millennium is finally here! Keep up with highlights of the last.

Ensure Outlook continues to be part of your historical reading. Subscribe or renew now!

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

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The Hastings County Historical Society is a Registered Charity. Official receipts for Income Tax purposes will be forwarded to you with your membership card.

County News

by Gerry Boyce

Welcome to the third millennium - As readers of *Outlook* are aware, this writer has supported the view that a millennium is not over until all of the 1,000 years have passed. Accordingly, the new millennium began on January 1, 2001, and not a year ago. We hope that you celebrated in a suitable fashion.

Still sorting - Society Workshops continue at the Hastings Heritage Centre (formerly the old Thurlow Town Hall) in Cannifton. Four workshops were held late in 2000 and the next one is scheduled for Monday, January 15, 2001, from 1:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Almost a dozen volunteers showed up for one or more workshops and more are needed. We're sorting old 19th Century Belleville *Intelligencers* and Ontarios from the Mika Collection, trying to fill in gaps in the files of these papers for several key years. Complimentary tea, coffee and soft drinks are provided along with fellowship and the excitement of discovering interesting tidbits from our history. Further information is available from Gerry at 968-5023.

Thanks to David Bentley, Susie Boyce, Adele Dibben, Joan Douglas, Lois Foster, Beth Green, Mary McConnell, Katharine Mills, Luella Parkhurst and Lewis Zandbergen for helping at one or more workshops. Elizabeth Mitchell, our archivist, is advising the committee and Glanmore curator Rona Rustige came to check out the city records we store. Thanks also to Hazel Lloyst for providing a vacuum cleaner for the Heritage Centre.

Wanted - the Hastings Heritage Centre needs folding banquet tables (for working with archival materials, not food) and a good quality stepladder. Contact Gerry at 968-5023.

CD unveiling - Betsy Boyce, our picture archivist and author of *The Rebels of Hastings* will be the guest speaker when the Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society meets at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, in the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre in Ameliasburg. Betsy will deliver the annual Crouse-Wanamaker Lecture (which honours the memory of prominent Ameliasburgh genealogists). Betsy's topic will be "Sir Mackenzie Bowell, The Accidental Prime Minister." Betsy's "book on disk" will be unveiled. It covers the life and times of Bowell, publisher of the *Intelligencer*, MP for Hastings North and Prime Minister of Canada (1894 - 1896). A special invitation is extended to our members to attend.

And - Speaking of Prime Minister, the Kingston Historical Society will celebrate Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday on January 11 with a dinner (with suitable toasts) and guest speaker Professor Donald Smith of the University of Alberta. Professor Smith, an expert on the history of the Mississaugas of the Bay of Quinte,

has spoken to our Society. His topic is "John A. Macdonald and Aboriginal Canada." The venue will be the officers' mess at the Royal Military College. Contact Alan MacLachlan (549-8841) for details.

Still educating - Did you know the Society continues to provide reference materials to local schools? In December we distributed 325 complimentary copies of *Belleville's Heritage Volume II* to 20 schools. Several copies of Betsy Boyce's *Rebels of Hastings* also were sent. Recipient schools in Hastings County were in Batawa, Bayside, Belleville, Bird's Creek, Stirling, Madoc Township, Tweed and Tyendinaga Township. Thanks to Susie Boyce for helping to pack the books; we wish her well as she joins the Metropolitan Toronto Police Service.

Book of the Month - Society member Paul Foster deserves congratulations for his excellent 348-page history of Moira Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 11 G.R.C. Founded in 1801 with Captain John Walden Meyers as the first master, this Masonic Lodge celebrates its bicentennial this year. Thanks to the efforts of Paul and his wife, Lois, this book offers a first-class account of the people and places

associated with Moira Lodge, together with a detailed chronology of its activities. For further information contact Paul or Lois at 968-2715.

"Certificated" - Congratulations to Evan Morton, the energetic curator of the Tweed Heritage centre, who received a Heritage Community Recognition Program Certificate of Achievement from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Cartographers needed - Hastings County is changing. Municipal restructuring continues to change the county's face. effective January 1, 2001, the village of Marmora and the Township of Marmora and Lake united; voters opted to name the new municipality Marmora and Lake. The Township of Bangor, Wicklow and McClure united with the townships of Herschel and Monteagle to form the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. And the townships of Carlow and Mayo united. Hastings County Council continues to shrink.

Historical Township names cease to exist, but some citizens held celebrations to remember the past. For example, Monteagle residents held a "final Celebration Meeting" and reception in Maynooth in mid-December.

On the Internet - Orland French (author, publisher and Society member)

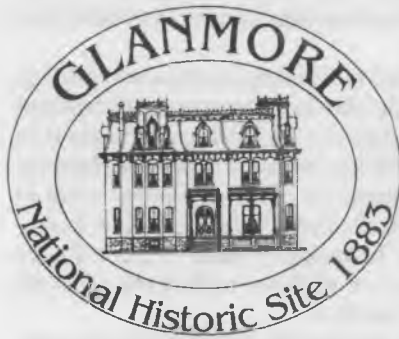
has set up a "promotional Internet site for local history and books of local interest."

It's <www.littlebrickbookhouse.com> and well worth a look.

Last call - A copy of Betsy Boyce's *Rebels of Hastings* (the story of local activities during the Mackenzie uprising of 1837) is being offered to a reader who can find the flaw in this item relating to Belleville's Millennium Time Capsule. It identified C.W. (Bill) Hunt's book on Prohibition as "Booze, Boats & Billious." Call me at (613) 968-5023 with your answer. Five correct answers already have been received. The draw will be held at our January meeting.



From our past. On January 17, 1977, the Society held its Annual Meeting in the drawing rooms of Glanmore. Guest speaker Gerry Boyce spoke on ways in which members could participate in the celebration of Belleville's centennial as a city in 1978. Gerry and Society president Pat Bennett examined an 1874 Bird's-Eye view of Belleville (reprinted by the Society and still available for sale for \$5). Incidentally the town's minute book for 1874 shows that on June 29 the council approved the purchase of 100 copies for \$100 from Mr. Stone. In July each council member received 5 copies with the mayor receiving 10 and each town officer 1 each.



G LANMORE

National Historic Site

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

Heritage Week Celebrations
February 18 - 25, 2001
Celebrate your community's
heritage at Glanmore
National Historic Site
Heritage Day Open House
Monday, February 19
1-4 p.m.
Call 962-2329 for more
information

Special Exhibit

Canada at Play:

100 Years of Toys, Games and Sports

March 17 to May 6, 2001

Mark your calendars for this very special exhibit coming from the Royal Ontario Museum. Canadian children have always worked hard to have fun. This exhibit takes a look at how the games we play and the toys we have enjoyed have changed little over the past 130

years. Toys from Glanmore's collection will also be featured. This is an exhibit that will appeal to both young and young at heart.



HEIRLOOM QUILTS WORKSHOP

Wednesday, February 21, 2001

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Identify the patterns on your heirloom quilts. Learn about dating, cleaning, repairs and storage of antique quilts in this hands-on workshop with museum experts. Cost is \$25. Spaces are limited so call 962-2329 to pre-register today.

Outlook is published 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. Thank you to *The Community Press* for its assistance.

PLEASE NOTE!

The Deadline for the February issue is January 20, 2001

mailing label