



# Outlook

Volume 8 Issue 3

Issue Number 191, March 2003

## Preserving our agricultural heritage

by Lewis Zandbergen

What began as a dream for a handful of folks involved with the International Plowing Match almost a decade ago, has taken root and evolved into a class A museum telling the story of our agricultural past.

Harry Danford, man of many talents, and most notably a former MPP, provided an excellent overview of the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage in Stirling; he was speaking at the Heritage Day meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society on Monday, February 17.

"The thought of the agricultural museum started right after we had the International Plowing Match in Stirling in 1986," said Mr. Danford. "It was very successful and after it was over we sort of sat back, took note of what happened and there was a group of people in the area who felt it was really important—the importance of agriculture on rural living and the impact it had on this whole area."

Mr. Danford went on to say that the significance of the rural way of life might not nec-

essarily mean anything to the generations to come; they may not be as well-informed about agriculture because until a few decades ago agriculture was the primary occupation of large numbers of rural residents. Agriculture was a family affair. Therefore the educational aspect of the museum was the primary reason for its establishment.

"They tried to first find a location. This proved difficult. There was a plan to put the museum in Stirling and have it tie in with the train station. That didn't work out. There was also a proposal to have it at the bottom of the Oak Hills; there was the possibility of having land donated there. There was a problem of access by the public and it was felt that made it a less than ideal site. So there were a few years when the project was actually put on hold."

In the interim the people involved in the museum project continued to plan. Eventually the site at the Stirling Fairgrounds was made available.

"In 1998 we were fortunate enough to meet with the Stirling Agricultural Society and we worked out an agreement that we would have a portion of their property to place our buildings and locate a museum on."

There were several advantages to locating on the fairgrounds: the land was owned by the municipality so there would be no annual taxes; there was water on the site; there was already electricity on the site and the added attraction of the annual fair and other events at the fairgrounds would provide a steady stream of people.

"Now that we had a location, it was time to get planning. We had not tried to raise any funds because there really wasn't a lot of purpose. A handful of people around Stirling, who worked on the project, went to the bank and borrowed \$50,000 to put up the first building."

Mr. Danford held up a small drawing of the proposed ten-year plan of building. Various components of the site would be added as the need arose and would eventually form a square-shaped series of buildings enclosing a small courtyard.

In the summer of 1998 a 30-foot by 40-foot insulated structure rose on the site. It was

to be the main building which at the time served as meeting area and a shop for refurbishing antique equipment; it was located at what would become the northwest corner of the "square," just east of the old exhibit building (which dates to about 1920).

"By the end of that year [1998] money, contributions and support were coming in. The note was paid off at the bank, the \$50,000 loan was covered, and we were in business."

Building continued in the following years and the museum began attracting serious attention.



Harry Danford spoke about the Stirling-based Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage at the Heritage Day, Monday, February 17, meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society.

Lewis Zandbergen photo

**Next Meeting  
Tuesday,  
March 18, 2003**

**Guest Speaker  
Sam Brady**

**Topic**

**75th Anniversary of  
BCIVS**

**Refreshments**

**Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.  
Monthly meetings are  
held in the Auditorium of the  
Quinte Living Centre**

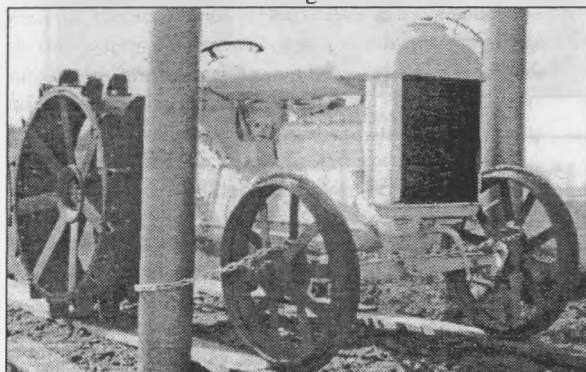
**370 Front Street, Belleville**

"The next building was devoted entirely to the dairy industry because it was the most important part of agriculture in Hastings County over the years. That included the cheese industry. This area was well noted for its world-famous cheese. In those days a lot of cheese was shipped to the United Kingdom and we were highly regarded for our quality cheese.

"In 2000 we raised a building for the tractors and that's where we display all the tractors. It was built 200 feet long and 40 feet wide; all our buildings are 40 feet  
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 wide. We were fortunate at that time that a number of local owners of antique tractors in this area—and I'm talking about Hast-

ings, Prince Edward, Northumberland—were anxious to have a place to display these tractors and make better use of them. We built the building and they brought the tractors.”



This gleaming 1926 Fordson tractor sits at the entrance to the Stirling Fairgrounds, the home of the Hastings County Museum of Agricultural Heritage

There are actually so many fine antique tractors in the area that the display in the building is changed from time to time. As Mr. Danford said, this rotation of exhibits is unusual. Most museums with similar displays rarely change them and you could go for ten years and see the same equipment on display.

“At present we have about sixty members in the tractor club and probably about forty of them will be on display at any given time.

“In 2001 we added another building; it's 140 by 40 feet and it holds harvesting equipment. We also added an extension to the original building.”

A short video, still in the production stages, was shown. With narration by Roy Bonisteel, the video showed many aspects of the museum and laid out a few plans for the future. A “main street” is being proposed; visitors would be able to stroll down the board walk and peer into grocers, hardware, drug stores and other assorted businesses of the middle of the last century.

The museum's short life has been filled with triumphs and enjoys considerable local support. Donations continue both in the monetary and the physical with new acquisitions waiting in the wings to take their places among the many exhibits.

While not a museum in the traditional  
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## New members always welcome

# Psst. Tell a friend you've already joined and you'd like them to come aboard

Please complete this form, or a photocopy of the form if you wish to save your 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 \_\_\_\_\_

I also enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 toward the work of the Society

### Membership Categories

Individual	\$ 20
Family	\$ 25
Senior/Student	\$ 15
Senior Family	\$ 20
Life Member	\$150
Corporate Sponsor	\$ 50
Women's Institute/Organization	\$ 20

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



Michael Shaw is usually quite shy but when Ernie Parsons attended the Hastings County Historical Society meeting on Heritage Day, Monday, February 17, Michael, who is the society's treasurer, stepped up to the podium to accept a cheque for \$1,000 from MPP Parsons. The funds will assist the Historical Society in its work preserving and recording the history of the area.

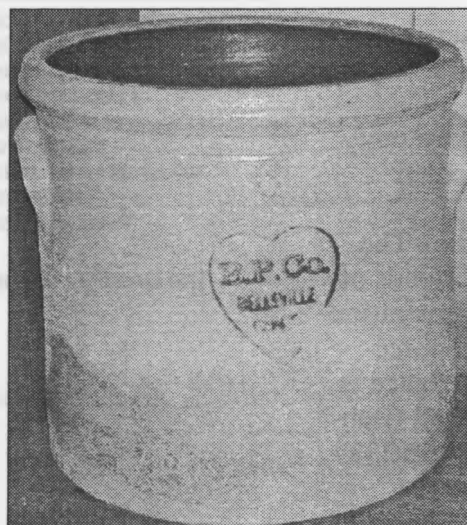
## Hastings County Historical Society Officers, 2003

Executive committee	Name	Phone	E-mail
Past-president	Hazel Shaw	969-1900 (h), 969-7400 ex 2403 (o)	hlloyst@qhc.on.ca
President	Orland French	969-8354, 969-4481 (fax)	ofrench@littlebrickbookhouse.com
Vice-president	Open		
Treasurer	Michael Shaw	969-1900 (h)	
Secretary	Pat Press	966-7281	Pjblpress@aol.com
<b>Directors</b>			
Membership	Elizabeth Mitchell	968-4498 (h), 966-6731 (o)	emitchel@bellevillelibrary.com (assist Pat Press)
Archives	Elizabeth Mitchell	968-4498 (h), 966-6731 (o)	emitchel@bellevillelibrary.com (assist Gerry Boyce)
Fund-raising	Open		
Publicity	Bill Hunt	962-4611	billafint@kos.net
Public relations	Vera Morton	966-4859	
Outlook co-ordinator	Lewis Zandbergen	395-3022 (h), 395-3015 ex 42 (o)	lewzan@reach.net
Program	Doug Knutson	962-5498 (h), 962-7045 (o), 966-5461 (fax)	wind@reach.net (assist Elizabeth Mitchell,
	Vera Morton)		
<b>Appointed executive advisor positions (non-voting)</b>			
Heritage	Gerry Boyce	968-5023,	gerry.boyce@sympatico.ca
Picture archivist	Betsy Boyce	966-5475	
Genealogical	Adele Dibben		
Landscape	Hazel Shaw	969-1900	
Building research	Lois Foster		
North Hastings	Luke Hendry	332-2300,	luke_@hotmail.com
Minus 100 co-ordinator	Allan Montgomery		

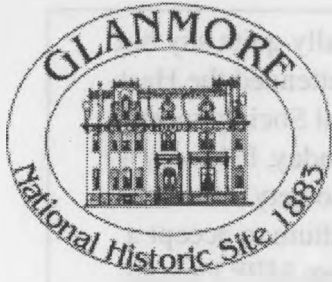
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sense, with siding of steel and displays made up of a combination of artifacts and reconstruction, it nevertheless vividly portrays a simpler time and once one gets past the "smell of newness" one can be transported with ease into the middle decades of the last century.

Life on the farm is the pivotal focus of the exhibits; it's a time many of us can remember thereby providing an easy point of reference for visitors in a way larger pioneer villages cannot. For example we can't really put ourselves in the life of a pioneer at Upper Canada, Black Creek Pioneer or Lang Pioneer Village. We have no real connection. The Hastings County Museum will provide that vital link to our farming heritage.



Does anyone know anything about the B.P. Co. of Belleville, Ont.? The owner of this crock would like to find out more about the company and perhaps date this artifact. Any information would be welcome and can be addressed to Lewis Zandbergen by e-mail at <lewzan@reach.net> or by telephone at home 395-3022 or work 395-3015 ex 42.



# GLANMORE

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

## Celebrating 30 Years

### Victorian Gardening Workshop

Saturday, April 5, 2003 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Belleville Recreation Centre,  
116 Pinnacle Street



Speakers include: Dennis Pollock, Head Gardener, Black Creek Pioneer Village; Michael Rutland, Chef, and Co-Owner, Rivendell Herb Farm and Dorothy Duncan, Historian

#### Workshop Topics Include:

- The Victorian Period in Ontario From Garden to Table
  - Seedsman, Nurserymen and Nurseries in S. Ontario in the Victorian Era
  - Herbal Show and Smell
- Go forth and Garden! You too can have unity, harmony, and variety in your garden

This special event is co-sponsored by The Ontario Historical Society and the Friends of Glanmore National Historic Site. Registration fee is \$30 and includes a kit of resource materials, coffee breaks, and lunch. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. Call Glanmore National Historic Site at (613) 962-2329 for more information.

### Sitting Pretty The History of the Toilet

Now on Display at Glanmore National Historic Site

No one can deny that the toilet is an exceedingly important feature of our lives. Yet how many people can trace its history? The exhibition "Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet, now showing at Glanmore National Historic Site, explores this theme through interactive components that show the development of the toilet from the very first chamber pot, to the outhouse, to the invention of the toilet itself.

#### The exhibit features:

An interactive toilet seat trivia quiz; the evolution of toilet paper with a collection of toilet paper holders; a life size outhouse complete with audio component with a collection of humorous outhouse stories; a section that explores chamber pot designs, commodes and closet stools; a

panel system discussing the history of public washrooms; an example of a cutaway toilet, showing its working parts and the evolution of the toilet as we know it today.

An exciting school program which combines the history and science curriculums is available to accompany this exhibit. This exhibition is part of the Travelling Exhibition Partnership Project collaborative and was created by the Guelph Museum.

#### Don't miss out!

Sitting Pretty: The History of the Toilet promises to be fascinating and fun and will be on display at Glanmore National Historic Site, 257 Bridge Street East, Belleville only till May 5. Call (613) 962-2329 for information.

Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton.

Please address mail to General Delivery, Cannifton, Ontario K0K 1K0

Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, June, September,

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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 April 2003 issue is March 21, 2003**

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