

OUTLOOK

The Newsletter of THE HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1418 - BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO

JUNE 1, 1983

1. ANNOUNCING - with much pleasure and pride - the publication of BELLEVILLE'S HERITAGE: VOLUME II.

Our Historic Structures Committee has done it again - successfully completed another book recording some 50 buildings of historical and architectural significance.

To celebrate the occasion, bring your family and friends to our CELEBRATION on TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1983, in the Auditorium of the QUINTE LIVING CENTRE at 370 Front Street, Belleville.

The evening will start with coffee and fellowship at 7:30 P.M., a very brief meeting at 8:00 P.M., and the introduction of the book at 8:15 P.M.

Committee Chairman ELAINE PRESTON will then introduce the members of the committee: SHIRLEY BIRCHARD, LOIS FOSTER, BETH GREEN, MARY HALL, and MARY McCONNELL.

There will be brief slide presentations by BETH GREEN on two of the buildings (including the West Harrison Block on Front Street, now occupied by Noonday Graphics), LOIS FOSTER on 129 South John Street, and ELAINE PRESTON on the McIntosh-Ridley House.

Special invitations have been issued to the owners of the 50 or more buildings and representatives of various heritage groups.

About 8:45 P.M. the books will go on sale at a special price of \$2, there'll be a heritage cake to share, and strawberries and dip. Committee members will be available to autograph the books.



THE MCCURDY COTTAGE
307 Church Street

Jonathan McCurdy, born in New Hampshire in 1801, married Mary Frank of Williamsburg in 1822. In 1827 Mary and Jonathan and their family moved to Belleville and purchased Lot 37 on the east side of Church Street for 15 pounds.

The McCurdys built a one-and-a-half storey frame home here overlooking the village and the Moira River. Jonathan was a stone mason, and by 1831 had built a large stone block of stores on the west side of Front Street, north of Victoria Avenue. By 1847 he had added Church Street Lots 38 and 36 to his estate. Thus his property included that on which Tabernacle Church now stands, and it extended to the bottom of the hill, and east to Hillcrest Avenue.

If our early maps of Belleville are accurate, the first McCurdy home appears to have been slightly to the south of the present one, and larger in size. The property was divided during the 1870's, and daughter Marietta received the homestead lot. The present house may date from that time. Marietta married Captain Charles Canning Crysler in 1863, a grandson of the family who lived on Crysler's Farm during the decisive battle of November 1813.

The property at 307 Church Street remained in the possession of the McCurdy descendants until 1969 - a total of 142 years. Jonathan's son James sold part of his share in 1877 to the Methodist Congregation, who built the present Tabernacle Church. In 1887 James sold the part facing Hillcrest Avenue to the Belleville Water Works who wished to erect a water tower.

In the gable ends, the frame detailing shows where the roof was raised to a steeper angle.

Photo Credit - Molly Bramley Building No. 18

SALE

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2. Our Special Celebration on June 21st will be your only chance to purchase BELLEVILLE'S HERITAGE: VOLUME II at the special price of \$2. Thereafter, the book will cost you \$2.50, still a modest figure considering the excellent descriptions and pictures, but plan to attend on the 21st and pick up several at the special price.
3. For those members who are unable to attend the Celebration, the book will be available at the Hastings County Museum and local book stores. OR write to Elaine Preston at 46 Plaza Square, Belleville, Ontario, Canada, K8N 4J3, enclosing \$3 for each copy you wish sent by mail.
4. Our GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS for the next three months go to three members of the Historic Structures Committee who have helped prepare the first and second volumes of BELLEVILLE'S HERITAGE. Congratulations to LOIS FOSTER, BETH GREEN, and MARY HALL.
5. A tip of the hat too to the many sponsors who helped finance the new book. They'll be acknowledged on the 21st, as will WINTARIO and the ONTARIO MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND CULTURE, for the substantial support we have received.
6. A reminder that a few copies of VOLUME I of BELLEVILLE'S HERITAGE are still available. The price is \$2 and they can be purchased on the 21st or from leading book dealers in Belleville (including the Hastings County Museum and the Belleville Chamber of Commerce).
7. As noted in earlier OUTLOOKs, a workshop on BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMMING IN YOUR COMMUNITY is being held in the Hastings County Museum on Saturday, June 11. This workshop will demonstrate to community groups how they can research, plan, and carry out effective heritage programmes to celebrate Ontario's Bicentennial in 1984. One session will deal with funding sources for special programming.

Speakers will represent the Ontario Historical Society, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, the Office for Ontario's Bicentennial, and Black Creek Pioneer Village. Sponsors of the workshop are the Ontario Historical Society, the Hastings County Museum, and the Hastings County Historical Society. The registration fee for members of the Ontario Historical Society is \$10; for others it's \$15. If you are interested, it is IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONTACT MARY SIMONDS IMMEDIATELY at the Museum (962-2329). The list of speakers is impressive!

ATOUCH OF HUMOR



8. We are planning our June 21st PARTY as a PRELUDE to CANADA WEEK. Society members are asked to check local newspapers for full details on the events in Belleville, Trenton, and other centres. Of special interest to members in the Belleville area are the following three notes.
9. Begin the CANADA WEEK CELEBRATION with a 19th CENTURY GARDEN PARTY at GLANMORE, the HASTINGS COUNTY MUSEUM, on SUNDAY, JUNE 26th at 1:30 P.M. The program at 2 P.M. will highlight greetings on Glanmore's 100th Birthday and its 10th as the County Museum [our Society can be proud of its role in establishing the museum in '73], the Belleville Concert Brass, the Sweet Adelines Chorus, the Trentones/Barber Shop Singers, a "Heritage Fare" Booth of the 19th century, cooking, fish pond, Puppet People with Joan Charbonneau, a string ensemble, and a Museum "Open House" with slide and video shows. Special refreshments are available. There's free admission to the event. Bring a lawn chair and plan to enjoy the afternoon. Music is courtesy of the Belleville Federation of Musicians, M.P.T.F. and the Recording Industry.
10. As part of CANADA WEEK, the Society's GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEE and the CEMETERY RECORDING COMMITTEE will man an information booth on Tuesday, June 28th, Wednesday the 29th, and Thursday the 30th. The booth will be located on the ground floor of Century Place. PAT BENNETT, ALICE DELINE, JOAN BUXTON, and ISABEL WRIGHT will be on hand to answer questions relating to genealogical research and our cemetery recording project. Copies of recorded cemeteries will be on sale.

These committees are extremely active. The article (at right) appeared in the Intelligencer last week and helped attract 20 interested persons to the workshop in the St. Thomas Anglican Church Cemetery on Sunday, May 29th. Only a small number of the participants are present members of the Hastings County Historical Society, an indication that this aspect of our program is reaching an interested public. Several participants are now working on the St. Thomas and Elmwood Cemeteries, among others.

Our thanks to the Intelligencer for its continuing support and coverage of our activities.



Gravestones at cemeteries are one way to learn the history of an area. That's one thing Pat Bennett, (standing), and Alice Deline look for. Bennett, chairman of the cemetery recording committee of the Hastings County Historical Society, and Deline, chairman of the genealogical committee, were looking at stones in St. Thomas Cemetery this week. On May 29 they're holding an open session on the subject at St. Thomas for anyone interested. Time is 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

(Photo - Penny Gordon)

11. Also in CANADA WEEK, July 1st will see the placing of a plaque by PARKS CANADA on the MOODIE COTTAGE on West Bridge Street in Belleville. This will recognize the contribution of Susanna and Dunbar Moodie to Belleville, Hastings County, and Canada. This writer is pleased to have been asked to participate in the ceremonies on the 1st. Belleville's LACAC is helping to arrange the event. Watch the press for details on time. Better still, pick up a copy of the CANADA WEEK PROGRAM, soon to be released, with news of walking tours and other events.

12. News of a TOUR. The Hastings County Museum is sponsoring a BUS TOUR to the Royal Ontario Museum to see THE SEARCH FOR ALEXANDER. The bus will leave the Hastings County Museum at 4:00 P.M. on WEDNESDAY, JULY 6. Dinner is available at the Café ROM and the tour starts at 8:00 P.M.



The bus will leave the Royal Ontario Museum at 10:00 P.M., so that you can see the other areas of the newly renovated museum after the SEARCH FOR ALEXANDER Tour. Cost per person for bus and tour is \$18 up to June 20th and \$20 thereafter. Contact the Museum (962-2329) for reservations.

13. A DECIDED SUCCESS. That was the opinion of the 80 or so members and friends of the Society who attended on May 10th when DR. RON VASTOKAS of the Department of Anthropology of Trent University spoke on the SACRED ART OF THE ALGONKIANs, a study of the Peterborough Petroglyphs. Ron outlined the background to these fascinating rock carvings and his wife, JOAN VASTOKAS, an art historian, spoke on the possible interpretations of these works of art. Certainly Ron and Joan are to be commended for their excellent research and presentation on this major monument of native art that sheds light on the spiritual and intellectual life of the creative people who carved the many figures.

We can be proud to count Ron and Joan as residents of Hastings County, since they reside in the Queensborough area.

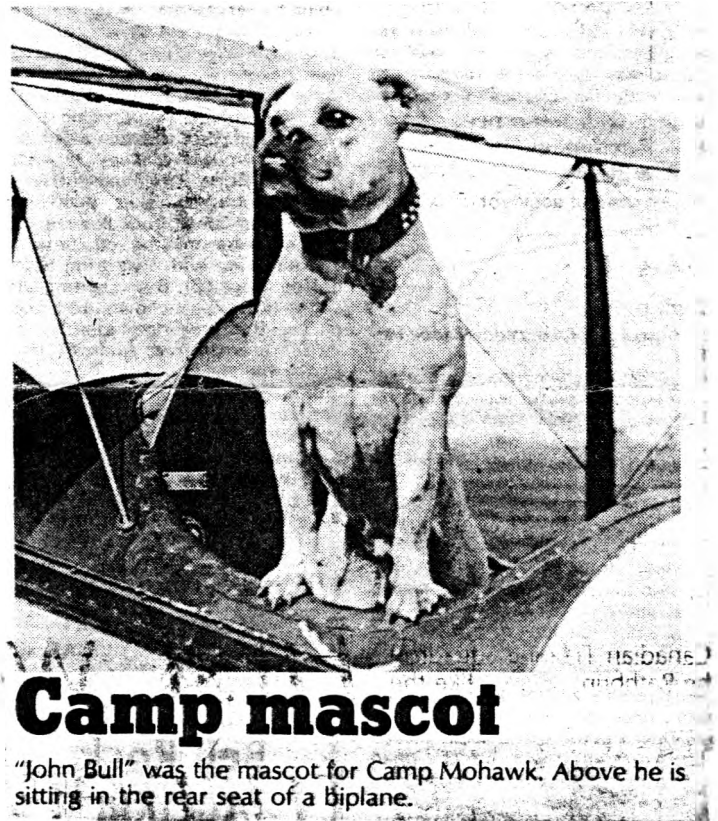


14. Speaking of Queensborough, Ron Vastokas noted that JEAN HOLMES of that community is doing research for a book on ELZEVR TOWNSHIP. If any readers have information of use to her in this commendable task, she can be contacted at R.R. 2, Madoc, KOK 2K0.

15. WOW . . . Did AL SMITH's talk on CAMPS MOHAWK AND RATHBUN ever attract good coverage in the press. On May 7th the Intelligencer devoted almost half a page to the topic and then on May 11th The Napanee Beaver gave it two full pages, including 16 pictures. We reprint the SMALLEST of the 16 pictures.

It's obvious that there is tremendous interest in the history of these two training camps and we encourage Al to get the material ready for the printer as soon as possible. This material is bound to be the basis for a very successful book.

Incidentally, Al sends his thanks to the many people who provided information following the meeting. A special thanks to SHEILA CHAPLINE of New York City, who recalled that the airmen (including noted dancer Vernon Castle) had been visitors at Glanmore during World War I.



16. We regret having to include the following notices; however, they are serious concerns to people interested in local history.

A. The HASTINGS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION appears to have dealt a serious blow to the EDUCATION PROGRAM of the HASTINGS COUNTY MUSEUM. The 1983 budget eliminated all funding to the museum, which, since 1974 has received an annual grant to enable it to offer services to the schools. These grants have enabled the museum to provide education kits for student use in the schools, to offer week-long programs on pioneer topics once a month, to give guided tours to students throughout the school year, and to provide an inschool museum program in the northern schools. The loss of the \$4,661 grant this year "will have a calamitous effect on the services we will be able to offer schools", according to Museum curator Mary Simonds. Concerned Society members should contact their school trustees to see if this decision can be reconsidered.

B. The possible closing of the Belleville Collegiate Institute and Vocational School may have a serious impact on that school's LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAM. This program is unique in Hastings County. It was begun almost 10 years ago by BOB NORRIS and other teachers, who saw the value in such a course at the secondary school level. The course has received special Ministry approval and this Society has provided several hundred dollars worth of resource materials. A major advantage to the present location is the proximity to the downtown area, so that students can easily visit the earliest parts of Belleville; in fact, B.C.I.V.S. is built on the original eastern boundary of the town of Belleville. In addition to several walking tours, students hold joint sessions with senior students resident in the QUINTE LIVING CENTRE at 370 Front Street, on such topics as local education in the the early 1900's, the local impact of the two world wars and the Great Depression, and what the principal changes have been in this area over the past 50 years. A major part of the course is the study of the development of education over the years, and students at B.C.I.V.S. have the advantage of studying this topic in a building that stands on land set aside for school use in 1816, on land where the county's first grammar or secondary school was located (1850).

17. In the next OUTLOOK look for word on the student projects on local history. GEORGE SUPER and the judges will be looking at these in the next few days. Next fall will see the start of a series of student reports on topics of local interest and increased stress on BICENTENNIAL MATTERS. Meanwhile, we hope to see you at the June 21st CELEBRATION or at some of the CANADA WEEK events. In any event, have a happy and heritage-centered summer.

Gerry Boyce

MORE MESSAGES OF IMPORTANCE
from the friendly folk
of the one and only
HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1418
Belleville, Ontario

NEXT MEETING AND
CELEBRATION on JUNE 21st

COME OUT AND SEE WHAT'S
IN BELLEVILLE'S HERITAGE:
VOLUME II



Mr&Mrs C.L.R.Wanamaker
R.R. 1,
BELLEVILLE, Ontario
K8N 4Z1