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Outlook

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When the Macs ruled the rinks and trains ran on Pinnacle Street

The past brought to light with new technology

by Bill Kennedy

The Belleville MacFarlands hockey club returned from their 1959 world championship victory in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to parade along Front Street in Belleville at the October 2005 meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society. Cheering fans crowded the sidewalks as the players passed by seated on the backs of open convertibles.

This nostalgic step into the city's past was the main focus of the Society's October guest speaker Paul Clare of PH Productions, Shannonville. The MacFarland pictures and many others enjoyed by the audience of nearly 60 people were the product of eight-millimetre home movies taken by local residents over a period of more than half a century and transformed by Mr. Clare into digital reproductions he could present on the meeting room's large



Paul Clare of PH Productions

screen television. The show began with black and white panoramas of downtown Belleville in 1942 and as the years rolled by audience members increasingly became participants in the scenes unfolding before them, calling

wore with strings hanging down from the earflaps are explained, presumably, by the fact that games were to be conducted out doors. When they landed in Toronto on their return the camera caught the Malton Airport sign above their heads.

out the names of people and places they recognized after so many years. There were shots of the latest 1940s cars and of Cannifton Road where you could see something of Stoney Lonesome or Hillcrest as it is known today. Back then it had no sewers and was considered a tough section of town.

Another scene captured the last regular run of a train on Pinnacle Street about the mid-1960s. It's shown motoring slowly along the track with some of its crew sitting on top for the historic event. In 1963 no less a passenger than John Diefenbaker made a whistle stop in Stirling, stepping down from the train car in his greatcoat and fedora to mingle with the voters and wagging his finger at somebody. There was a cruise in a motorboat on the Bay of Quinte and scenes of the Belleville waterfront when huge, white storage tanks marked the spot where the marina now sits.

The MacFarlands were filmed in Prague, not skating and scoring goals, but sitting at café tables. They were obviously ready to play at the drop of a puck, however, for they were dressed in uniform, skates and all. The red hats they

Front Street saw the Scottish Highlander Pipe and Drum march in full regalia, kilts, sporrans and busbies delighting the eye and right behind the cubs and scouts and pretty girls twirling batons.

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Next Meeting

TUESDAY, November 15,

2005

Speaker

Bill Kennedy

Topic

The Garn Dobbs Letters

Refreshments

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

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

370 Front Street, Belleville

Please Note!
The Deadline for the January 2006 issue of Outlook is December 20, 2005

Like travelling back in time

Continued from page 1.

City firemen battled to save the Diana Grill restaurant, streams of water pouring into the flames, but to no avail.

Moving beyond Belleville Mr. Clare took a few minutes to show some additional footage of the building of the Golden Gate Bridge and Hoover Dam. Measured against today's standards these immense engineering projects would have given the resident safety officer ulcers. Hard hats and steel-toed boots were not in fashion and when swinging hundreds of feet in the air a worker hung on to whatever was handy. No safety lines or harnesses could be seen.

Another exciting clip was the wild ride in a Spitfire as seen through the lens of its gun camera during a training mission over Scotland in World War II. The footage was rough, the flashing lines and blotches in the film adding to the realism as the quarry weaved and dodged, running in and out of cloud in the attempt to elude its pursuer.

All in all it was as exciting as a time machine; the audience travelled back to a wondrous time which many of us could remember vividly. Paul Clare who created this time-machine is to be congratulated for the wonderful work he is doing in preserving some of Belleville's past on the modern equivalent of film.



Sergeant Garn Dobbs' letters offer a frank, detailed, first-hand account of his military service from 1917 to 1919.

A letter home from Sergeant Dobbs

At our meeting on November 15, Bill Kennedy, an enthusiastic member of our society and the "Archive Angels" will be reading excerpts from 40 letters written by Garn (Garn) Dobbs of Belleville concerning his experiences in the First World War. Garn sent the letters to his sister and brother. Here is a sample from the first letter written to his sister Millie from Seaford Camp (England) on June 13, 1917.

"Dear Sister,-

Well: here we are at our destination at last and some trip we have had. I intended writing you sooner but thought I would wait until we reached our camp wherever it was to be. We didn't know

which camp we were heading for until we were almost ready to board the train here in England and there is a couple of dozen different camps her, you know. But to start from the beginning. We left Belleville on Sat. May 26 about 1 P.M. and had a very nice send-off at the station. Nell and the Folks were up at the station with the crowd in spite of my persuasion to try and keep them away. Dad had to go back to work and couldn't wait until the train left. Well: we cut down through Quebec, New Brunswick & Nova Scotia and we could almost tell what province we were in by the reception we got from the people. Through Quebec, the population were very silent and took no more notice of the troop trains than if they freight but in the other provinces, we got the glad hand all the way through. There were six or seven trains ahead of ours and some of them had windows broken by stones thrown through by the people from stations in Quebec. There had been rioting in Montreal that night over the conscription bill and we were hoping they would let us get off and have some fun but nothing doing; we weren't allowed off the train at all until we reached Halifax."

We are indebted to Garn Dobbs' daughter, Dorothy Bowes, of Belleville, for making copies of these important letters available to the society. They total some 400 pages in length and have been carefully preserved in a Laura Secord candy box by the family for many, many years.

The beginning of Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day got its start as an idea when J. W. Johnson, the MLA from West Hastings which included Belleville, put forward a motion in the Legislature of Ontario that "henceforward November 11 of each year be recognized as Thanksgiving as it was the day the Armistice was signed. The idea *The Daily Intelligencer* noted on November 16, 1918, was "being universally endorsed all over Canada by press and public." The Government of Canada later set aside that date as Remembrance Day and was so honoured in Canada from 1923 until 1931. As far as we know, John Wesley Johnson, our local MPP, was the first public figure to bring this idea forward to a Legislature before it was later adopted by Parliament.

Johnson, who was the principal of The Ontario Business School, was also the MLA who pushed the idea of women's suffrage year after year in the Ontario Legislature until it was finally passed, coming into law in 1918. John Wesley Johnson was a Conservative and a member of the Orange Order. Before entering provincial politics, he had been mayor of Belleville.

News from the Hastings Heritage Centre

In conjunction with Loyalist College's Photojournalism Program, we have begun an innovative co-operative program. More than 20 students of Prof. Frank O'Connor have visited the centre to examine the picture collection. Each student selects two pictures relating to a topic the student has selected, makes digital images of them on a scanner, and prepares a description of them. The scanned images and descriptions can then be used for displays and will form the basis for a digital picture archives at the centre. With 40 students participating in the project we expect to have 80 pictures processed.



The "Archive Angels"

Our archive angels are very important to the work of the society. We would like our members and friends to become familiar with these volunteers and we will be featuring pictures of them. In this issue we feature Lois Foster, researcher, author, and active member of the society for some 30 years. Thanks for your help, Lois.

An Invitation
 If you are attending the meeting on November 15 and have any small items or pictures relating to "The Great War" (1914-1918) you are invited to bring them to the meeting so that our members and guests can see them.

Internet Activities

Randy Saylor, a Toronto member of our society, has been very busy putting Sidney Township records on the Internet. These include the first Sidney Township Minute Book (1790-1849), the deed and an article on Whites Church, the Henry W. Yager Fonds of letters by a Hastings County member of the Upper Canada House of Assembly in the 1830s, etc.

Internet users are invited to consult this information and to assist in checking and adding to it at: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~saylormowbray/>.

Randy is also overseeing a project by the Canadian Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers) to transcribe a number of their old minute books and registers. They are seeking volunteers to assist. The first book to be done is the Adolphustown Monthly Meeting book of 1798-1813. Further details are on his web site.

Our Sympathy

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bruce Bedell (the Society's Official Crier), his wife, Catherine, and the Bedell family on the death of Bruce's brother Glenn. Glenn was the son of Frank and Vera Bedell, members of our Society in the 1960s, and was a veteran of the Royal Canadian Navy in World War II. A memorial service was held October 13 in Brampton.

Did You Know?

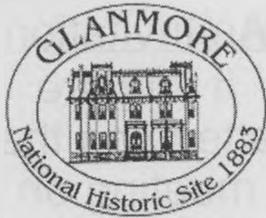
To explorers and geographers of the nineteenth century, Africa was known as the dark continent and frequently referred to as "blackest" Africa. Today the percentage of Africa that is wilderness is 28 per cent. Surprisingly, the percentage of North America that is wilderness is 38 per cent.

Canada has the largest French-speaking population that never surrendered to Germany.

The Hudson's Bay Company once owned over ten per cent of the Earth's surface and is the world's oldest Company, having been established in 1670.

Canadians invented Ski-dos, jet-skis, Velcro, zippers, insulin, penicillin, Zambonis, the telephone and short wave radio.

It was a Canadian who invented Superman, wrote the Hardy boys, and another who created Rambo. O.K. we admit, they're not great inventions but not generally known either.



GLANMORE

National Historic Site

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

Victorian Tree Decoration Workshop

Sunday, November 27 - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$20. Create an assortment of beautiful Victorian inspired paper Christmas tree decorations at this fun adult craft workshop held at Glanmore. Ornaments include season's greetings fans, an elegant paper doll and a floral keepsake envelope. Looking for something to do with the kids while you participate in our craft workshop? Seasonal games, crafts, refreshments and storytime will be provided for children of workshop participants. (Additional cost of \$3.50 per child) Spaces are limited, Call Glanmore National Historic Site for information (613) 962-2329.

Glanmore by Gaslight

Thursday December 8, Tuesday, December 13 or Thursday December 15 at 6:30 p.m. We've recreated the look of gaslight for these popular evening tours at Glanmore National Historic Site. Enjoy a guided tour of more by "gaslight" as the house is beautifully decorated for Christ-



mas. Traditional holiday refreshments will be served. A special appearance by Father Christmas himself will make the evening complete for both the young and young at heart. Tickets: Adults: \$6.00, Children \$3.00 These evenings sell out quickly, purchase your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Call (613) 962-2329 for information.

Couldery Relative Visit to Glanmore

A descendant of the Couldery family visited Glanmore National Historic Site in October. Rosemary James, the great-granddaughter of Bertram Couldery's brother Claudius, from Worthing, West Sussex, in England, made the trip to Canada specifically to visit Glanmore. James was in Belleville for almost a week, visiting Glanmore and looking for clues about her family in the museum's Couldery Collection. According to museum curator Rona Rustige, this is believed to be the first time a member of the Couldery family has visited the museum.

The Couldery Collection is named for Bertram and Cecilia Couldery, from England, who actively collected fine art and furnishings in the late 1800s and had a second home in Belleville in the 1890s. Ann Docter Salaman donated this internationally significant collection, consisting of approximately 1600 pieces of fine art, furnishings and decorative artifacts, to the City of Belleville in 1955.

An informal reception was held in honour of James on October 14. The Friends of Glanmore presented James with two prints of paintings by Horatio Couldery and Belleville City Councillor Selma Bochner made a presentation of a Belleville history book on behalf of Mayor Mary-Anne Sills and members of Council. James has provided Glanmore with new information and photographs of the Couldery family which will be very useful for ongoing museum research.

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, 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

Thank you to The Community Press for its assistance.

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