



Outlook

Volume 6 Number 5

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This is how a book project should come together

by Lewis Zandbergen

There's little doubt that amalgamation has influenced many decisions for people lately. One of the unfortunate side-effects of the trend to merging municipalities is the loss of identity many small communities could experience. However, even there the amalgamation cloud has a silver lining. The rural municipality of Campbellford Seymour became an entity some time ago and further amalgamation has pulled Hastings village and Percy Township into the melange.

However, rather than forgetting the rural communities which were vital to the past, the Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society took the opportunity to put together a new book. Thus was born *Gleanings: A History of Campbellford/Seymour*. One of the book's editors was on hand at the Tuesday, April 17, meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society to lay before those assembled the process through which the proposal became reality.

Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society President Ann Rowe, herself a Campbellford native, related some of the history of the Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society and how it has been fortunate to acquire an 1857 stone building from the municipality for the nominal fee

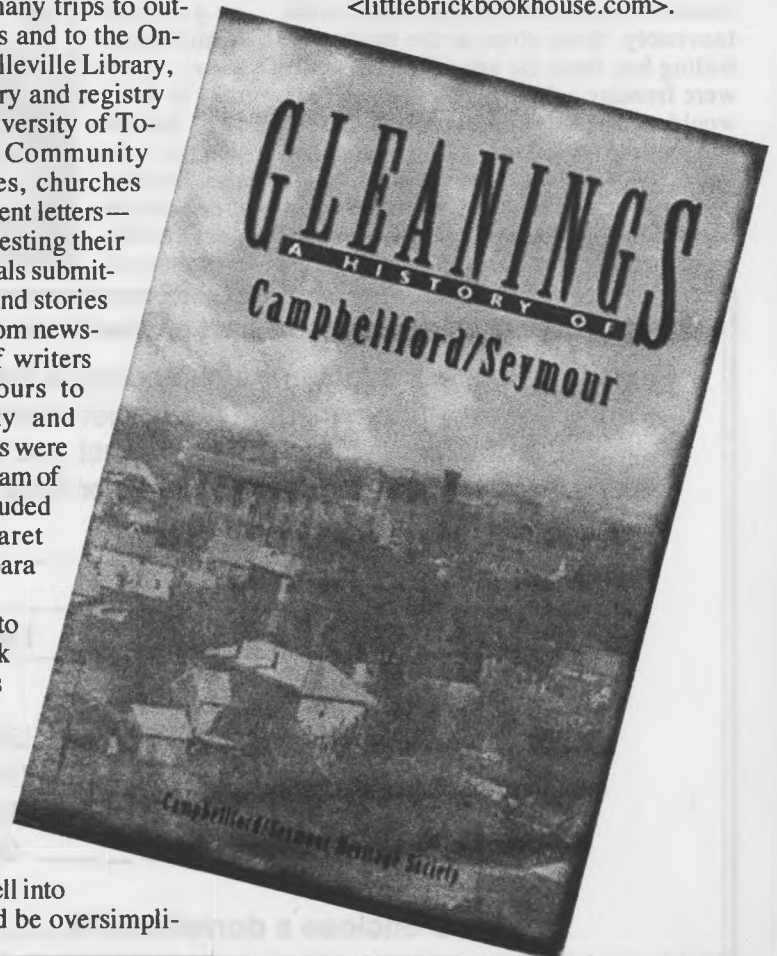
of only one dollar per year. She also told of the receipt of a \$24,500 Trillium grant which will enable the group to renovate and put into use an old barn which is on the same property. (Many in the audience who are intimately aware of the Hastings County Historical Society's ongoing struggles to acquire and maintain a permanent site for its growing collections, displayed unmistakable signs of envy.)

Ms. Rowe went on to describe the process of collecting the histories of the various communities—Pethericks Corners, Stanwood, Burnbrae, Allan Mills—which make up the town and township. Research involved many trips to outlying communities and to the Ontario Archives, Belleville Library, the Cobourg library and registry office and the University of Toronto Archives. Community groups, businesses, churches and schools were sent letters—almost 200—requesting their histories. Individuals submitted recollections and stories were “gleaned” from newspapers. A team of writers worked many hours to ensure continuity and gradually the pieces were put together by a team of editors which included Rowe, Margaret Crothers and Barbara Samson-Willis.

Then it was time to shop the book around to various publishers, acquire funding to print the book and seek municipal support for the project. To say the pieces fell into place easily would be oversimpli-

fying, but the committee overcame any roadblocks and the result was *Gleanings*, a book of 560 pages, over 100 photographs, maps, and vignettes of life through the 200 years of Campbellford/Seymour settlement.

And things continue to purr along for the Campbellford/Seymour Heritage Society. Sales of the book stand at around 2,000 and the society is comfortably in the black. *Gleanings: A History of Campbellford/Seymour* is available from the Heritage Society, at Chapters and W&R Greenley Booksellers in Belleville and through Orland French's website <littlebrickbookhouse.com>.



Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2001

Guest Speaker

Sue Smith

Topic: 125 Years of
The Bay of Quinte Yacht Club

Refreshments at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting begins at 8 p.m.

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

Remembering one-room schools and their teachers

Ontario 1933 - "Teacher wanted for rural school, all grades and caretaking, willing to mind lending library evenings and Saturdays; also take Sunday school class and play organ for church services. Protestant required; female preferred."

From the beginning of the 19th century and until in the 1960s, many Canadian were educated in one-room schoolhouses. Their teachers, often no more than a few years older than the students themselves, were courageous and determined young women.

Teachers faced physical discomforts, loneliness and isolation, unruly students, and stubborn school boards. Nonetheless, teaching was one of the few occupations open to women at that time and many women loved the freedom and independence of working for a living.

The first one-room schoolhouses were hastily built without much thought for comfort. The lighting was often poor and in some schools, open windows meant that students spent more time killing flies than they spent on their studies.

In the winter, a single cantankerous stove would be expected to heat the entire room. Inevitably, those close to the stove were boiling hot, those far away from the stove were freezing cold. Mischievous students would occasionally add gun powder or shotgun shells to the fire to liven up a dull morning.

When the day was over teachers did not go home to luxury. Some teachers lived in one-room "teacherages" built on land adjacent

to the schoolhouse. This was private but lonely. Others boarded with local families. Depending on the family and their home, this could be a wonderful experience, or it could be dreadful.

Some young teachers found the loneliness unbearable. One student remembered that: "Even as a kid I couldn't understand how a teacher could do it, live out in the middle of nowhere ... I sometimes used to walk to the teacherage when there was no school. It was a long way, but no one objected. I think they felt someone had to visit the teacher."

Rural school teachers had enormous responsibilities. Classes could be large and the students were of all ages and abilities. Successful teachers were practised jugglers—doing arithmetic with one grade, geography with another, and reading with a third—all at the same time.

Occasionally they held the lives of their young charges in their hands. When an unexpected winter storm arrived they'd have to decide whether to send the children home in potentially teacherous

weather or keep them at the school and have their parents worry all night long.

Despite their grave responsibilities, teachers often had little freedom in their own classrooms. School trustees exerted enormous control over the lives of teachers. They told them what subjects to teach and how to teach them and sometimes even advised them which pupils were to pass or fail.

Even worse, could fire a teacher on a whim. Teachers were sometimes dismissed because they offended the wrong pupil, or because a local person desired the job.

Drawbacks aside, teaching could be an exciting career for a young woman. Most village school teachers enjoyed the challenges of teaching, the status and respect that came from being a community school teacher, and the opportunity to experience life away from home.

Students at Moira School in 1897



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

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/	
Senior Family	\$20.00 _____	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.

County News

by Gerry Boyce

Wow - This is your chance to help name a future Belleville street. The deadline is May 18. Thanks to Frank Walkling who submitted an appropriate name at our April meeting.

The winner of the 1874 Bird's-Eye View of Belleville is Shirley Chisholm Sutherland of Gloucester. Shirley's name was drawn at the April meeting. She correctly identified the theme for this year's Heritage Day and Heritage Week as "The Heritage of Transportation."

How appropriate - Bill Hunt (the reporter who covers our meetings for *The Intelligencer*, won the regular draw at the April meeting. His prize was a copy of the special edition of the Intel of June 30, 1967. The edition celebrated 100 years of Canadian Confederation.

An error corrected - Contrary to last month's column, Mary McConnell is still a vital member of the Picture Archives Committee. She continues to assist Betsy Boyce and Marion Fisher in the important work of cataloguing our growing picture collection.

Workshops - Archival workshops continue at the Hastings Heritage Centre in Cannifton. The next ones are scheduled for the Monday afternoons of May 7, 14 and 18. (For information contact Gerry at 968-5023). At our last meeting, 12 participants agreed that the Society should continue discussions with representatives of the Quinte Cultural Centre about the possible relocation of the Society's archival collections to the basement of the proposed Centre in the former BCI&VS.

You can still win - Identify the prominent Canadian journalist/politician picture in the last Outlook and notify Gerry at 968-5023 before the May meeting. The prize is an 1874 Bird's Eye View of Belleville.

Readers are invited to submit original articles and photographs for inclusion in upcoming editions of Outlook.
 Photos should be high quality reprints *not* photocopies. **Do not send originals!** Articles may be E-mailed to the editor at lewzan@reach.net. Include the article in the body of the E-mail *not as an attachment*. Hand-written submissions welcome. Send mail to Lewis Zandbergen, Outlook Editor, P.O. Box 1481, Stirling, Ontario K0K 3E0



BELLEVILLE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR STREET NAMES

The Belleville Planning Advisory Committee is preparing a new list of potential street names which can be used to name new streets (or public places and facilities). The Committee has identified our community's cultural heritage as a priority for assigning new names, and is preparing a list of the names of citizens who have made historic contributions to community life through endeavours such as agriculture, arts and culture, business, education, professions, politics, sports and recreation, and volunteer sectors.

The Committee is requesting the input of citizens in nominating persons who have made historic contributions to community life. If you wish to make a nomination, please complete the following form and mail it to the address noted below.

**BELLEVILLE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 NOMINATIONS FOR STREET NAMES**

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

REASONS FOR NOMINATION:

(Please be brief - point form is fine. Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Please submit on or before May 18, 2001.

CONTACT NAME: _____

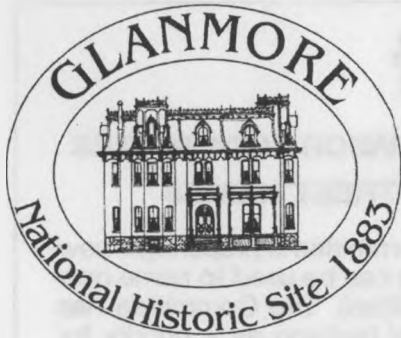
ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (h) _____ (w) _____

Thank you for assisting the Committee in recognizing those who have contributed to our community development.

Councillor K. Manderville, Chair
 Belleville Planning Advisory Committee
 Street Name Subcommittee
 Planning Section
 Development Services Department
 City Hall
 169 Front Street
 Belleville, Ontario
 K8N 2Y8

Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of the late Jeane Stephenson.
A resident of the Quinte Living Centre, Jeane was a supporter of our Society for several years.



GLANMORE

National Historic Site

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

May is Museum Month!

Celebrate your local Museum
this May! Join us at
Glanmore National Historic Site
for an open house on
Friday, May 18, 2001
International Museums Day.



The Museum will be open for
tours from 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Admission is free and re-
freshments will be served!

Visit the Ontario
Museums Association
website to find out about
other May is Museums Month
events taking place across
the province:
www.museumsontario.com

Garden Delights School Program

Get set for a delightful Victorian garden party with this fun-filled school program for grades K to 6! Students will dress up and learn all about Victorian social etiquette while enjoying homemade lemonade. Then they will play popular 19th century outdoor games

such as hoops, stilts, croquet and ring toss. If it is a rainy day, don't worry, we have popular turn of the century indoor games for the children to play. Spaces are limited so book your class visit to Glanmore today by calling Melissa Wakeling, Education Co-ordinator at (613) 962-2329!

Bleecker Portraits Conserved

Conservation work has recently been completed on three charcoal portraits of the Bleecker family from the collection of Glanmore National Historic Site. The framed portraits depict William Bleecker (1823-1910), his first wife, Janet (Sierichs) Bleecker (1827-1884), and second wife, Sarah Jane (Stewart) Bleecker, (married in 1887). William Bleecker was a noted Belleville citizen and businessman, operating the Bleecker Sawmill on Moira Street. He was the grandson of Squire Bleecker, reportedly the first magistrate in Ontario and, also, Captain Meyers, one of this area's earliest settlers. Two of the portrait frames showed signs of blistering heat damage and subsequent water damage, presumably as the result of a fire. The frames were carefully cleaned and repaired and new acid-free mats fitted for each portrait. The cost of the conservation work was generously paid for by Mrs. Evelyn Murphy, the original donor of the portraits and granddaughter of William and Sarah Bleecker.

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 September Issue is August 20, 2001

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