



# Outlook

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## Sheila Copps on Heritage, Vision and Women in Politics

*By Bill Kennedy*

As the guest speaker at the Hastings County Historical Society's annual fall banquet, former Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, Sheila Copps, told her audience that Canadians are the caretakers of their own house. "To plan for tomorrow," she said "we need to understand our history." Our footprint in time is brief, and we must ask ourselves if we will be able to tell our grandchildren that we nurtured our heritage. History is about the long game, and while local volunteers are doing their part, governments at every level need to be active participants in this important goal.

Lack of a national vision regarding our past has meant paying little more than lip service to historical events. A move in the right direction started with the formation of the Historic Places Initiative in 2000. Its goal was to make it financially viable to maintain

downtowns. It brought fresh ideas to the table, but lack of sufficient funding curtailed its promotion, and in 2011, the program was eliminated. Governments by and large have been the drivers of history, but the federal government's role in heritage conservation today in this country is practically non-existent. A lack of national vision has contributed to the exodus from small town Canada.



Hon. Sheila M. Copps, PC, OC

Copps spoke of the need for more women in politics at the national level. "Women approach politics and problem solving differently," she said. "We see the value in nurturing what we have." Women have made political progress over the past quarter century, but they continue to battle inequities in the workplace. She gave the example of her daughter who will be graduating from university with the knowledge that under the current state of affairs, she can expect to earn 21% less than a man in the same job. In another example, she said that on average, women teaching at University of Toronto and University of Calgary earn \$21,000 a year less than men.

Sheila Copps is not a stranger to Hastings County. She recalled summer family gatherings at Tweed's Stoco Lake, with the four girls bunking in one room of the cottage while the boys camped out in the tent. They went swimming and hunted frogs, which they sold for five cents apiece. "Summers in Hastings County are part of my DNA," she said. *More pictures on page 2*



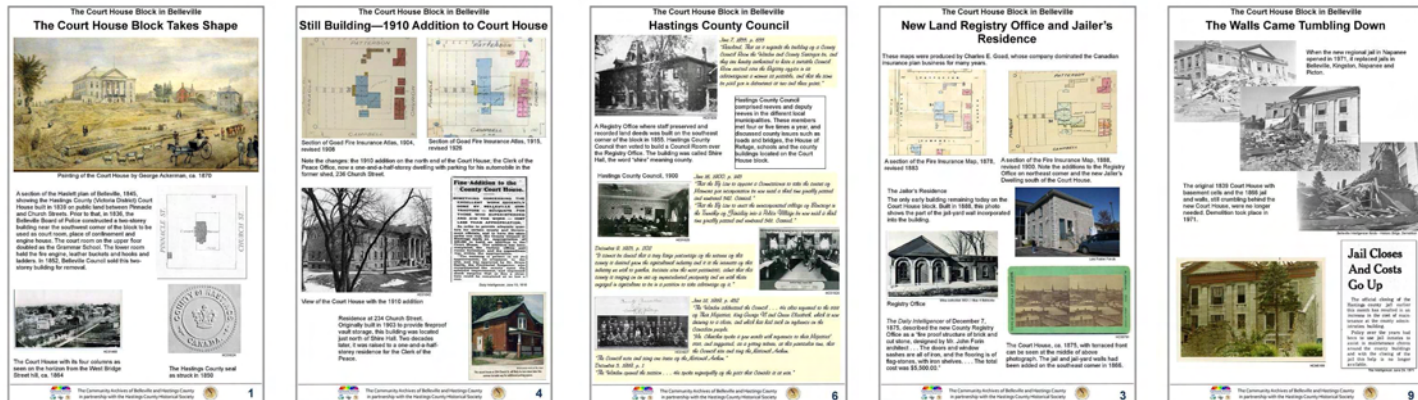
*Left to right:* Bernice Jenkins, Mayor of Bancroft; Margaret Walsh, Councillor of Tyendinaga Township and of formerly Warden, Hastings County; Bonnie Adams, Reeve of the Township of Carlow/Mayo; and Vivian Bloom, Mayor of Hastings Highlands







# The History of Belleville's Court House Block—a New Poster Exhibit



For the last few months, Kieran Delaney (left), Laurel Bishop (centre) and Lois Foster (right) have been busy researching the history of Belleville's court house block.

The result is a magnificent set of nine posters (five of which are shown above) which illustrate the changes that have occurred from the construction of the first building in 1836 to the erection of the current building and, with the exception of the Jailer's residence, the razing of all the old structures.

Bounded by Campbell Street, Pinnacle Street, Patterson Street and Church Street, the block has been central to the life of Belleville for over one and a half centuries, the scene of hangings and controversy and the administrative centre for Hastings County.



Photo Nick White



## Notes from the Archives ... On the Move!

No. 3 in a series, by Sharon White, Archivist

The Community Archives expects to have a new home in the Belleville Public Library building by this time next year. The library is a solid modern structure with accessible washrooms and elevators, good security and other desirable features.

What renovations will be required?

There will be some new interior walls and furniture, but the most critical changes will be the creation of special areas to store the archival materials. We are aiming to have a facility that meets accepted professional norms for a fully functional archives at the regional level. This means enclosed storage “vaults” specially equipped for archival preservation.

The storage vaults will be dark when not in use,

which means filling in some exterior windows.

The vaults will be equipped with a fire suppression system and new lighting. The floor load capacity in the library is already fairly high (about 150 pounds per square foot), but the planned renovations will augment this to support the weight of the archival records and shelving.

We want to maintain the temperature in the storage vaults very close to 18 degrees C, with a steady relative humidity around 40–45 percent. This is a challenge in our climate, where the relative humidity can be near 0 percent in winter and up to 100 percent in summer. Add to this the need for good air filtration of particulates and contaminants and good ventilation to eliminate stagnant air pockets. A new mechanical (HVAC) system to achieve the controlled environment required for archival preservation will be a major budget item in the renovation project.

## Hastings County and the Great War

By Bill Kennedy

Following Bill Hunt's presentation of *Minus 100* at the Society's October 15 meeting, Bill Kennedy re-counted stories of the military service of Hastings County men and women who served in World War I.

Next year marks the centennial of World War I. In remembrance of this conflict, the Historical Society has prepared a poster exhibit and a one hour presentation telling the stories of some of the people from Hastings County who served overseas between 1914 and 1918. Their contributions and sacrifices are indicative of those made by over 600,000 Canadians in battles like Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, Ypres and the Somme. Over 59,000 would not come home.

Belleville's first casualty of the war was eighteen-year-old Leo Ross who was killed in action on April 30, 1915, in Canada's first major engagement of the war, the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium. Ross was a gunner manning an artillery piece when an enemy explosive landed close by detonating the shell in his gun. The Second Battle of Ypres (there were five in total) saw the first use of chlorine gas on the Western Front. In a letter home to his mother shortly before his death Leo told her to "nip in the bud" his younger brother Jack's enthusiasm for the war as he believed Jack did not have the physique. A fifty-six-line poem was written in honour of Ross and reads in part:

"It was only a step for his boyish feet  
From the lights and sights of old Front Street  
To the Langmarck hell that dimmed the sun  
Where he stood like a man and died by his gun."

One year later, a North Hastings Private named Frank Leveridge, age 26, landed in France and found himself embroiled in the Battle of St. Eloi Craters. The



**Patriotic posters were used to encourage recruitment.**

British had tunnelled under the German front line, planted dynamite and detonated it in an explosion that was heard in Folkestone, England. Five days later, Canadian troops, including Leveridge, were sent in to relieve the exhausted British in conditions of mud, cold, rain, and chaos. The explosion had destroyed battlefield landmarks and neither the front line soldiers nor their officers knew where they were or what ground the enemy held. Leveridge would lose an arm and a month later succumb to his wounds. He lies buried in France 250 kilometers from his son who was killed in action in Normandy in World War II.

Belleville nursing sisters Celestina Geen and Harriet Stacy served at the Canadian hospital in Kent, England, and on the Continent. They may have worked at some point with Dr. George Sills from Tweed. He would lose his life on June 27, 1918, after the hospital ship on which he was serving, *Llandovery Castle*, was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat off the coast of Ireland. The ship was transporting Canadian wounded back to Canada. There were fourteen nurses on board, none of whom survived.

The success of Canadian troops at Vimy Ridge was due to both Canadian fighting spirit and the meticulous planning of Brigadier-General Arthur Currie and his staff. Hastings County men Arthur Tufts, David Forneri, John Kennedy and David Green were among the combatants. The many cenotaphs throughout Hastings County commemorate the contribution of all who served.



**Speaker Bill Kennedy in company with Canada's World War I Minister of Militia and Defence, Sam Hughes. This photo of Hughes appeared in the June 1915 edition of the Belleville High School magazine "Elevator."**



## The 2013 “Heritage Hastings” Art Show



A view from the sidewalk (complete with reflections of passing cars) showed a busy scene inside the Belleville Art Association Gallery at 392 Front Street.

The verdict is in: "A fabulous show! . . . really interesting, we loved it!" By all accounts, the joint exhibit by a partnership of the Community Archives and Hastings County Historical Society with the Belleville Art Association is a great success.

The show includes 35 paintings by Art Association members plus 19 poster panels that show the original photographs, the related painting, and a brief statement from the artist about why the photo was chosen or their personal perspective on the subject.

Our President, Richard Hughes, says, "The juxtaposition of the paintings with the pictures that inspired them gives a fresh insight into both. I am impressed with how the old pictures are given new life and reborn with dynamic colours."



Archivist Sharon White and Society President Richard Hughes with one of the display panels



From left to right: Audrey Thomas, Shirley Dazé, Jean Kapusta, Helen Steinberg, Cynthia Solomon, Tom De Hann, Saga Sabin, Sandi Warren Marrow

And from Archivist Sharon White, "The photographs in our collections

are wonderful and I'm thrilled to see how the artists have used them. Many thanks to all the volunteers at the Archives who contributed to this project by assisting the artists in selecting and researching the photographs or creating the display panels." The artists seemed equally positive. The opening reception on October 17th was well attended and several paintings were sold.

The exhibit continues at the Belleville Art Association Gallery, 392 Front Street, Belleville, until November 9th.

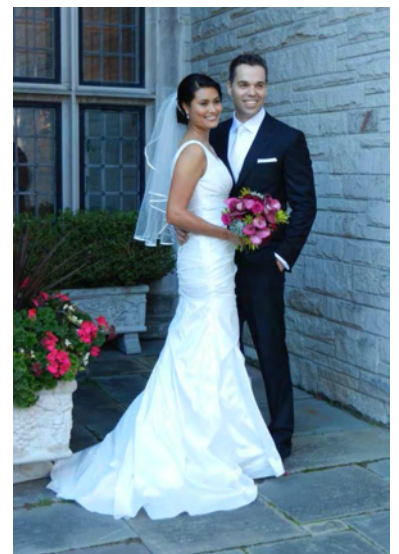


## Historic Weddings

We send our congratulations to our Historic Society members Elizabeth Mitchell and Brian Milroy who tied the knot on September 28, 2013.

Also congratulations go to Donna Fano/ Dan Choi's daughter Emily Choi on her marriage to Joe Diubaldo on the same day in Toronto.

*Elizabeth's bridal photo was made with photo HC00315 and her face inserted with a photo-editing program.*







It was great weather for Culture Days in Belleville and we were there. In collaboration with the Museum, the Society and Community Archives participated in **Doors Open Belleville** to display our rich and varied history. With a show of books and six new 2013 poster exhibits, we welcomed over 200 visitors at the Belleville Armoury at Pinnacle Street and Bridge Street East.



Setting up the displays in the morning.



Another great event and appreciation to Al Cleary, John Lowry, Nick White, Breanna Brethour, Laurel Bishop, Lois Foster, Diane Sule, Marney Black, Kieran and Jeanne Delaney, Adele Dibben, Barb Throop and Sharon White who were there to set up and greet visitors and to all those who have spent so much time in the last few weeks helping to prepare for the event.



Photos Nick White



Photos Nick White



## The Land Beneath Our Feet Symposium

*pictures and report Nick White*

A capacity crowd participated in the land symposium on Saturday, October 26th at the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre. The event was organized by the Deseronto Archives Board with support from our Community Archives and Historical Society as well as the Town of Deseronto and the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.

Right: Marlene Brant Castellano, Professor Emeritus of Indigenous Studies at Trent University, Officer of the Order of Canada, and a Mohawk grandmother, delivered a thoughtful and inspiring keynote address.



Below: Hastings County Warden Rick Phillips, Deseronto Mayor Norm Clark and Chief Donald Maracle of the Mohawks of Bay of Quinte (pictured below) welcomed the attendees.



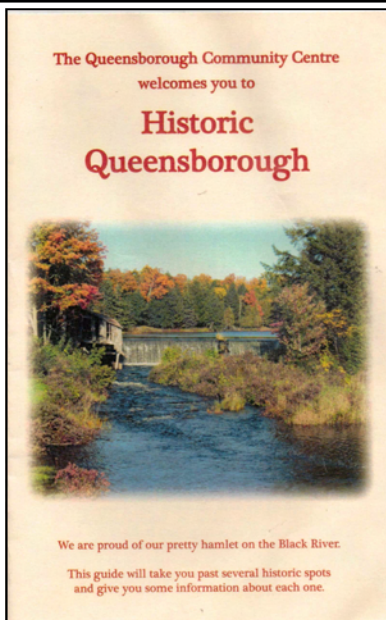
Right: The Blanket Exercise, facilitated by a representative from KAIROS, taught participants about the problematic history of Aboriginal communities since contact with settler peoples.



Above: Archivists Amanda Hill (centre) and Sharon White (right) in discussion with Richard Turtle of EMC News during a break in the proceedings.

Right: Marlene Brant Castellano, Mike Bossio, Keith Sero, Amanda Hill, Mark Brinklow and Ed File led a panel discussion during the afternoon.





This 16-page booklet features the hamlet of Queensborough and is available for \$3.00 from Elaine Kapusta, [elainekapusta@hotmail.com](mailto:elainekapusta@hotmail.com) or (613) 473-1458 and Katharine Sedgwick, [sedgwick,katherine@gmail.com](mailto:sedgwick,katherine@gmail.com) or (613)473-2110.



## Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

### Special Guest Speaker: Ed Burt

**Topic:** Ed Burt, of Oceanscan, speaking on "The Efforts to Recover the Remains of *HMS Speedy* Which Sunk Off Presqui'ile Point in 1804." Hear the amazing stories of the decade-long efforts to locate *Speedy* and recover the artifacts and remains of this ship after 200 years on the bottom of Lake Ontario.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 19, 2013

**Time:** 7:30 p m

**Location:** Quinte Living Centre Auditorium  
(North Corner Door)  
370 Front Street, Belleville

**Bring a friend!**

**Website:** [www.hastingshistory.ca](http://www.hastingshistory.ca)

**Email:** [president@hastingshistory.ca](mailto:president@hastingshistory.ca)

## Deadlines for Submission to the January *Outlook* Newsletter

Jan. 2 - Final submissions of articles and photos for the January *Outlook* newsletter are due. Early submissions are most welcome before the Christmas holidays as the Heritage Centre is closed for two weeks.

Jan. 8 - *Outlook* newsletter goes to the printer

Jan. 13 - Newsletters are picked up and the preparations for mailing are done by Archive Angels.



Donna Fano - *Outlook* Editor

### HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORS

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Past President	Orland French
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Exhibits & Displays	Mary Jane Throop
Programs	Vern Whalen
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Public Relations, Radio & TV and Society Towncrier	Bruce Bedell
County Coordination	John Lowry
Bus Tours	Bill Hunt / Mary-Lynne Morgan
Director-at-large	Diane Sule

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Historical Advisor	Gerry Boyce
Archivist	Sharon White

#### Other Committees

Membership	Elizabeth Mitchell
Information Technology	Nick White
Outlook Editor	Donna Fano
Outlook Co-editor	Laurel Bishop
HCHS Website	<a href="http://www.hastingshistory.ca">www.hastingshistory.ca</a>
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Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton. Please address mail to 154 Cannifton Rd. North, General Delivery, Cannifton, ON, K0K 2K0. *Outlook* is published eight months of the year for members and friends of the Society. The editor, Donna Fano, can be reached at the below email address, [<outlook.hastingshistory@gmail.com >](mailto:outlook.hastingshistory@gmail.com)

Member Designation



# Point Anne Is Alive and Well . . . Again!

By Vern Whalen and Richard Hughes

Sunday, October 6, the sleepy village of Point Anne is overflowing, cars lining both sides of the main street for a kilometre, great crowds assembled in the firehall and tumbling out into the street. Is this an old home week or a visit by Bobby Hull? No, it is the launch of the new book by Vern Whalen, *Point Anne: History of a Cement Factory Village*. Over 350 people have travelled from far and wide to hear about this new book and to obtain their own signed copy.

It all began over a year ago when Vern Whalen came to the Historical Society with his long-held dream of assembling the history of his home town, the home of giant smoke-belching cement factories for 100 years, but equally the home of so many colourful people, amazing sports teams and a close-knit community social life. The Historical Society eagerly agreed to publish the book and Lafarge Cement came on board as a sponsor.

The story begins with the first settlement and the early realization that the apparently endless supply of limestone adjacent to the Bay and Lake could feed the ravenous appetites of the newly emerging cement industry. Ultimately two cement factories were established, and from them grew a dynamic factory village, fully self-sufficient and with a busy social and sporting life. Among the proud residents were nationally known artist Manly E. MacDonald and hockey stars Bobby and Dennis Hull. It all came crashing down in October 1973 when Canada Cement Co. decided to close the factory and remove all company housing.

On this damp and chilly Sunday afternoon, our political leaders lauded the achievement and its author, while great crowds of current and former residents exchanged warm hugs and handshakes as they recalled tales from the past. The first-time author was humbled by the experience. Although the great factories and the dynamic village passed into history 40 years ago, they will now, through Vern Whalen's book, live on forever.

But this is only the beginning of the story. The first printing of the book arrived from the printer on October 1 and was completely sold out by October 10. The demand from across the Quinte area, and well beyond, exceeded all expectations. Books were ordered from as far away as British Columbia and Nova Scotia. A second printing was ordered immediately, and the printer went into overdrive to meet the demand. Again, that second printing sold out completely two days after it was delivered. Back to the phone to order a third printing. However, by the time it was delivered, it was not sold out completely, although orders on hand already covered a third of that printing.

Everyone associated with the production of this excellent history of a colourful town and even more colourful residents is both pleased and proud of the way this book has been received. It can only serve as an incentive to pursue more of our history in print.

The books are on sale at Heritage Centre, Bayview Variety Gas N Go on old Highway 2, Quinte Arts Council, Roluf's Camera and Travel.

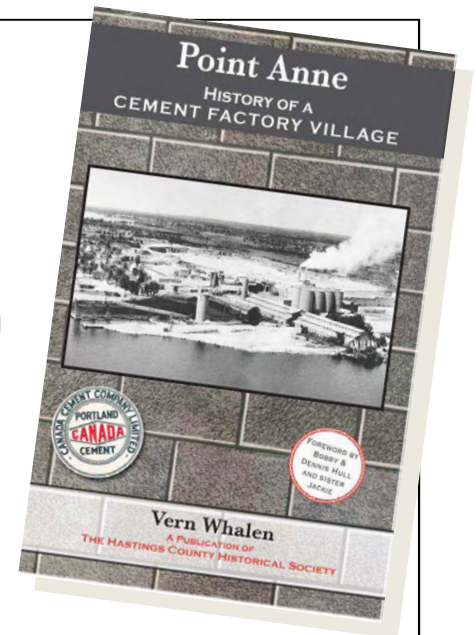
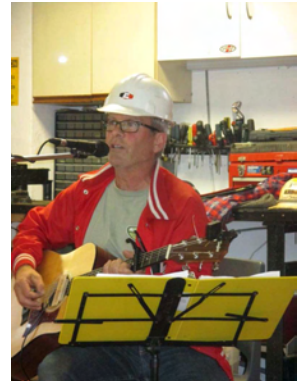


Photo at the left - Mayor Ellis handing Vern a plaque congratulating the creation of the book launch. Approximately 350 people were on hand to attend the exciting event.

More photos on page 10





## A Message from the Historical Society Team

*By Richard Hughes*

In many newsletters we see the monthly message from the chairman, but this is a message to you from the entire team that makes the Historical Society function.

As we approach the end of 2013, we can look back with great pride and satisfaction on our achievements. We just held one of the greatest annual banquets ever, a sold-out event with interesting displays and dynamic guest speaker. Our eight monthly public presentations brought interesting and enjoyable nights out, with quite a variety of speakers. Then there were the special displays, like Canada Day and Doors Open Belleville where we worked in conjunction with the Community Archives. The historic bus tour was a major success, doubling in size this year. And, we must recall the amazing launch of our new book on the history of Point Anne which went into three printings in the first month.

All of these activities involve many hands working together to create the finished product. You might be surprised to know that the monthly public events involve at least 8 to 10 people, each with a special task. The banquet and historical displays involve two or three times that number of people. But, they say, many hands make light work.

The great success of the Historical Society in the past encourages us to do more to bring the amazing history of our region to the public. There are so many possibilities for challenging and useful projects. However, there is a key to long-term success: to keep an organization fresh and dynamic, there must be a constant injection of new ideas and energies. We have been successful in this respect, with some great people joining in the tasks in the past few years. But we must also look to the future!

You can see where I am going! Right now, as we start planning for 2014, we need to continue bringing fresh ideas and interesting approaches to our projects. If you enjoy the monthly events, the special displays, the annual banquet, etc., would you consider giving a hand to keep it all moving forward and upward? Ask any of the present team how they enjoy putting together the projects and how we have a lot of fun doing the work of the Society.

Let's talk! You can contact me at the November public presentation, or by phone at 613-961-7772 or by email at [rmhughes@cogeco.ca](mailto:rmhughes@cogeco.ca).