


OUTLOOK



The Newsletter of THE HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1418 - BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO
K8N 5J1

Christmas Season 1985

1. Greetings to our members and readers from the directors and executive of the Society. Although this is really the January '86 edition of OUTLOOK, we're bringing it out early because of the difficulty of having it printed during the Christmas season, the need to confirm numbers for the ANNUAL DINNER in January, and the hope that many members will have a few minutes over the holidays to sit down, relax, and enjoy the contents of OUTLOOK. Some of you who live at a distance and are unable to attend our regular meetings may be moved to drop a line to the editor.

An INVITATION

2. Please accept this as your personal invitation to attend the ANNUAL DINNER to be held on TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1986, at 6 P.M. in the Dining Room of the QUINTE LIVING CENTRE at 370 Front Street, Belleville. This will be a full course Roast Beef Dinner (although chicken can be requested in advance). Tickets for the dinner are \$12.50 each and must be purchased at least one week in advance. Use the handy order form near the end of OUTLOOK and be sure that your order reaches us before Monday, January 13.
3. The ANNUAL MEETING will be held immediately after dinner, commencing at about 7:30 in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre. If you're unable to come to dinner, plan to attend the Annual Meeting. It's an Annual Meeting with a difference: highlights on a great many activities given by a great many people with a great many pictures and prizes. We guarantee a fast-moving evening.

Come to the Annual Meeting prepared to hear about:

- . the continuing research of the Building Research Committee, including a brief talk by ELAINE PRESTON on a mystery building
- . ALICE DELINE's revelations on Genealogical research
- . Membership news from ISABEL WRIGHT; was 1985 another record year?
- . GEORGE SUPER's news on our writing contests
- . LEONA HENDRY's research for Minus One Hundred
- . BETSY BOYCE's continuing discoveries
- . and much, much more.

4. Seldom has a meeting of the Society attracted as much favourable press. Our SUSANNA MOODIE CELEBRATION on the anniversary of the writer's birth - December 6 - was highlighted in the local media. Even CJBQ contributed with a notice on the "Birthday Club" show. The Intell's coverage included an editorial, a detailed news item, and a followup letter.

Remembered

Susanna Moodie was born Dec. 6, 1803.

This famous city resident and literary personality of pioneer times died 100 years ago this year. Coming to these parts from her native Britain, Susanna Moodie immortalized the ups and downs, the triumphs and tragedies of those earlier times in Canada.

The best known, probably, of her works in this vein was "Roughing It In The Bush," which chronicles life then from the immigrant boats' arrival and quarantining procedures in the St. Lawrence to the rigors of cabin life in Ontario.

Remembering the Moodie life and times at their meeting this Friday, the Hastings County Historical Society will also be honoring the University of Toronto Press and three writers who have just published a book based on Susanna Moodie's letters. Most of these letters, a society bulletin points out, were written from Belleville and give a fascinating account of life here in the mid-19th century.

The authors and the program are as follows: Carl Ballstadt (Department of English at McMaster University) - "The Trials and Tribulations of a County Sheriff -- Dunbar Moodie;" Elizabeth Hopkkins (Department of English at Glendon College, York University) - "First Families of

Belleville as they interacted with the Moodies;" and Michael Peterman (Department of English at Trent University) - "Susanna, George Benjamin, and The Intelligencer."

An extract from one of the letters, to an old friend in England, affords a glimpse of life as it was for Susanna Moodie here in 1868:

"So here we are -- living in a little cottage with just room enough to hold us, but beautifully situated on the edge of our lovely bay, with a fine common in front covered with noble trees through which we see the spires of Belleville about a mile distant, and for which we pay a rent of 12 pounds per annum I have no garden -- and I dearly love flowers and tending them. but I have learned like dear St. Paul to be content with little or to abound.

".... I have 19 living grandchildren and 5 in heaven. Oh you would never recognize the Susy Strickland of old, in the stout, careworn matron, but my heart is still young."

Such chronicles from one of our own in times past are of absorbing interest not only to members of the historical society, but to anyone who is a student of that period and of the evolution of our society. A far cry in every respect from our own somewhat mixed-up times and fascinating from many a standpoint.



Letter box

Moodie legend

Editor
The Intelligencer

On behalf of the Hastings County Historical Society I would like to thank The Intelligencer for the excellent editorial and news coverage of our Dec. 6 Susanna Moodie Celebration.

It was a unique occasion. In addition to participation by the three authors of the new book dealing with Susanna's letters -- Carl Ballstadt, Mike Peterman, and Elizabeth Hopkins -- and greetings from Mayor George Zegouras and Hastings County Museum curator-director Mary Simonds, we were delighted that representatives from the Susanna Moodie Elementary School were present to bring greetings. Teacher Gary Gayda was accompanied by students Angel Brix, Judy Nobes, and Terry Parkin. Although the candles on the birthday cake were extinguished BEFORE the celebrants blew them out -- some present detected the presence of Susanna in this act -- the singing of "Happy Birthday" brought the evening to a fitting conclusion.

We thank The Intelligencer for its excellent coverage and assume that this favorable publicity indicates that the feud that existed between Susanna and George Benjamin (the paper's publisher in the 1840s and 1850s) has been brought to an official end.

Best wishes for the holiday season.
Cordially.

Gerry Boyce
President, 1985

Dec. 5/85

Dec. 12/
85

Moodie book history lesson

By JULIA ASHBERRY
Staff Reporter

A new publication, *Susanna Moodie: Letters of a Lifetime*, contains, as one member of the Hastings County Historical Society says, "some pretty good gossip."

Editors Carl Ballstadt, Elizabeth Hopkins and Michael Peterman discussed their volume last night at a gathering organized by the local historical society in honor of Moodie's birthday, Dec. 6, 1803.

Ballstadt, who called the one-time Belleville resident, Moodie, "a continuing presence in Canadian culture," focused his discussion on the difficulties faced by the author and her husband, Dunbar Moodie, during their time spent in Upper Canada in the 1800's.

"The Moodies were always on the brink of financial disaster," said Ballstadt, a member of the English department at McMaster University, Hamilton. Susanna Moodie's letters indicated that money was owed to the couple by many people, with some debts outstanding for more than 12 years.

In addition, the Moodies were faced with costly lawsuits and the "ultimate" suit" which caused Dunbar to resign from his position as sheriff of Hastings County in 1863, said Ballstadt.

His research concluded that "the stress was so great in the conditions of (Dunbar's) office that he sought an out" prior to the professionally damaging lawsuit.

Peterman, of Trent University's English department, explained how Susanna defended her husband's professional difficulties through a constant written battle with George Benjamin, editor of *The Intelligencer*.



The authors prepare to cut the attractive cake created by RUTH McMILLAN



BALLSTADT



HOPKINS

Peterman said *The Intelligencer*, often printed unfavorable accounts of the county sheriff who supported the Reform party. He added that newspapers of the 1840's, in general, "practiced weekly character assassinations."

The book's third editor, Hopkins, of Glendon College, York University, Toronto, discussed the social adjustments the Moodies made from 1839 to 1868—their years spent in Belleville.

"The Moodies were seen as upstarts and outsiders when they arrived," she said. But, as time passed, Susanna seemed to do "a lot of fence-mending" and in her later years she wrote fondly of her friendships that had developed with other Bellevillians.

Politics, slavery and railroads are some of the topics covered in Susanna's letters. In addition, spiritualism is mentioned—in fact, Hopkins said the Moodies were known to participate in the occasional seance with other Bellevillians.

In addition to welcoming speeches from Mayor George Zegouras and the historical society's Gerry Boyce, the editors were greeted by Mary Simonds, curator of the Hastings County Museum. Simonds also read from a letter of Moodie's that is ironic—considering the purpose of Friday's event.

While more than 120 people gathered at the Quinte Living Centre to commemorate Moodie's birthday, Simonds read a sad letter to Catharine Parr Trall, written in 1858. On the occasion of her 55th birthday, wrote Moodie, her daughters had neglected to remember or acknowledge the date.



PETERMAN

Dec. 7
85

5. In other news in brief from the Moodie Celebration . . . JANE HULL brought in some attractive wildflower paintings done by Susanna . . . CHESTER HULL expressed the Society's appreciation to the writers and then won the draw for a copy of the new book (courtesy of the University of Toronto Press) . . . more than a dozen autographed copies of the book were purchased by celebrants . . . NICK MIKA was present and provided several other excellent books as draw prizes . . . ZETTA HARRIS and MYRTLE REID proved that single digit numbers could win the draw as they held winning numbers "1" and "8" and took Mika Publishing books home . . . Mayor GEORGE ZEGOURAS took time from a busy schedule to congratulate the authors; he was accompanied by DIANE ZEGOURAS . . . MARY SIMONDS of the Hastings County Museum read an excerpt from Susanna's writing, reminding us that she [Mary] had also read extracts from Susanna's work on the "Sketches of Our Town" program on "Belleville", shown on CKWS-TV on December 2nd . . . GARY GAYDA and students ANGEL BRIX, JUDY NOBES, and TERRI PARKIN represented Susanna Moodie Elementary School at the celebration, although school mascot "Susie Moo" was unable to be present . . . RUTH McMILLAN's cake was a real hit, aesthetically and gastronomically . . . the auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre proved to be an excellent site for such a celebration . . .

6.



Have you ever wondered who attend the meetings and celebrations the Society sponsors? If so, these statistics from the Susanna Moodie Celebration will interest you. If you couldn't care less, then jump ahead to item # 7.

The following statistics are based on the 86 people we know attended the celebration:

- (1) 77% were residents of Belleville
- (2) 25% were residents of the Quinte Living Centre
- (3) 3% were residents of Thurlow or Sidney
- (4) 3 per cent were residents of the City of Trenton
- (5) 1 per cent was resident of North Hastings
- (6) 7 per cent were residents of Prince Edward County
- (7) 4 per cent were from outside Hastings and Prince Edward
- (8) 73 per cent were members; 27 per cent were not
- (9) 11 per cent were executive members of the Society
- (10) 1 per cent represented a women's institute
- (11) 4 per cent were elementary school students; 2 per cent were regular high school students; and 18 per cent were adult students taking B.C.I.V.S. courses
- (12) 26 per cent actively participated in planning or presenting the evening's program

7. As noted briefly in the last OUTLOOK the November meeting was a decided success. Those writers who took part not only told the audience about what they had written, but also about why and how they had written. The Intell's JULIA ASHBERRY highlighted the evening in a four-column article under the title "Hastings history is their inspiration". This picture shows some of the successful writers, notably (from left to right) PAT HARTMANN, DOROTHY ASHTON, ANDREW McDONALD, JEAN TOWNSON, and BEVERLY-JO MANN.



Public response to the meeting has been enthusiastic. For example, the Society has subsequently provided copies of Andrew McDonald's report on "The Gilmour Influence" to the City of Trenton, the Trenton Library, and the Trenton High School. In each case the copy was requested by the organization. Perhaps in the future we can make the reproduction of these reports and writings a part of our regular activities.

8. MIKA PUBLISHING continues to publish books of particular interest to the student of local history. The most recent one deals with Belleville's own railway and HELMA MIKA will be speaking about the Grand Junction at our HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION on February 17th. NICK MIKA will be showing pictures from another railway history they are planning. Reserve the 17th.

THE GRAND JUNCTION RAILWAY

by Nick and Helma Mika

Known as "Belleville's Own", the Grand Junction Railway, chartered in 1852, was built between Belleville and Peterborough in the 1870s. Designed as a vital link in the grain route from the Georgian Bay to the St. Lawrence River and the Atlantic seaboard, it eventually included a feeder line into the mineral-rich district of northern Hastings County. Soon after its completion, the Grand Junction was swallowed up first by the Midland Railway and then by the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada.




187 pages, size 8½ x 11½
softcover, illustrated

Price \$25⁰⁰

9. Congratulations to MIMA KAPCHES, a member of our Society for the past three years. The Ontario Archaeological Society recently recognized Mima for her "considerable contribution" during her four years as president of that society. She is said to have guided that society into "a new era of professionalism and responsibility". Members will remember with appreciation Mima's talk to our Society a few years ago, relating to her researches as an archaeologist with the Royal Ontario Museum.
10. Ontario Archaeology, the quarterly of The Ontario Archaeological Society, highlights the results of Trent University's field school at the Marmora Ironworks in the summer of 1984. GRAY GRAFFAM of the university's Department of Anthropology deals with the research into this historic site and also includes a bibliography of literature relating to it. We hope to include a report on this fieldwork as part of next year's Society program. If you are interested in this report, the O.A.S. publication number is 43 and you should read it in conjunction with Gray's notes in the society's Arch Notes #85-6, since the main article left out reference to ARTHUR DUNN's earlier work on the Marmora Ironworks.

11. We regret to announce the death of a longtime supporter and member of the Society. GLADYS ROLLINS provided many pictures for our archives and also loaned pictures for the Sidney Township history prepared by the students at Bayside Secondary School in 1984.

We also record the death of JEANNE WELBANKS MINHINNICK of Picton. An historical furnishings consultant and an internationally recognized authority on 19th century life in Ontario, Jeanne played a major role in the creation of Upper Canada Village and was a consultant on the restoration of Macaulay House in Picton. Many members will remember her talk to members of our Society a few years ago.

12. From the mail bag . . . Christmas greetings from M.P. BILL VANKOUGHNET (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington) featuring a pen and ink sketch by RUTH BROOKS of his home in Napanee . . . Christmas greetings from the Hon. LILY MUNRO, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Culture . . .
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- The Quinte Report from the Hon. HUGH O'NEIL listing recent government grants in Quinte Riding, including a grant of \$3,125 to our Society for the purchase of microfilms and file and card cabinets for our archives in the Canadiana Room of the Corby Library . . . a letter from MURRAY IRWIN, principal of B.C.I.V.S., thanking the Society for providing awards for excellence for two students in the Local Studies course: PEGGY McCORMICK and MARLENE VAUGHAN . . .
- and notes from 16 schools (more letters are arriving daily) responding to our offer of resources for school programs.

13. Our recent appeals for helpers to assist the Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society in checking the 1871 Census Returns have paid off. Five members and friends responded - DOROTHY ASHTON, JANET C. CLARE, LEONA HENDRY, MIKI RUSE, and MARLENE VAUGHAN. I'm sure that ROY BRUCE (476-7532), the co-ordinator of the program, would welcome assistance from other volunteers as well.
14. We continue to be indebted to volunteers for many reasons. For example, JANET C. CLARE, LOIS FOSTER, and RUTH GAW assisted in the fall to ready OUTLOOK for mailing. Other members have volunteered for the winter months. As well, we have more than a dozen members who assist on a regular monthly basis by delivering OUTLOOKS. Other volunteers are invited to contact me at 968-5023, especially if you can deliver OUTLOOKS on Belleville's West Hill, around Keller Drive. We'll be saluting these volunteers at the Annual Meeting in January and at our April meeting which falls in Volunteer Recognition Week.
15. The lower half of this sheet is for your use in ordering tickets for the Annual Dinner or for renewing membership for 1986. Fees can also be brought to the Annual Meeting.

YES, I am interested in supporting the work of the Society during 1986. I am enclosing the membership fee of _____ dollars for the following category of membership.

TYPE	SINGLE PERSON	FAMILY
REGULAR	\$7.	\$10.
SENIOR CITIZEN	\$5.	\$7.
STUDENT	\$5.	XXXXXXXXXX

LIFE	\$100.
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Name Telephone

Mailing Address

. Postal Code

I would also like to make a donation of _____ dollars to help in the activities of the Society. Please send a receipt for Income Tax purposes.

I/We wish to attend the ANNUAL DINNER at 6 P.M. on Tuesday, January 21, 1986 in the Quinte Living Centre Dining Room. Enclosed _____ dollars for _____ reservations at twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) per person.

Names of People _____

Address to which tickets should be sent _____

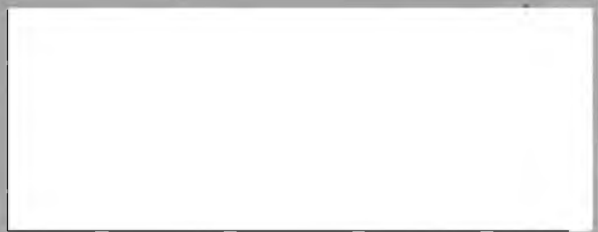
NOTE: Payment must reach the Society by January 13

Check this block if you would prefer chicken instead of roast beef.

16. News in brief . . . Hastings County has a flag of its own; County Council selected a design submitted by Stirling area resident AARON KELMAN, featuring the county's "armorial design" on a white background flanked by green and blue vertical bars; the colours represent forestry and vegetation, and water . . . writer BOB LYONS did an interesting article for the Intell on the county's armorial design . . . WANDA SINE allowed the Society to make copies for our archives of interesting letters and other documents relating to the Reid and Pitman families . . . local residents enjoyed the TV film "Belleville" on December 2nd, including some 70 pictures from the archives of the Society . . . the C.N.I.B. is considering the possible use of the old stone building on the Meyers Mill site on Station Street on the banks of the Moira; the Moira River Conservation Authority has been approached . . . Belleville L.A.C.A.C. has developed the Certificate of Commendation program to recognize owners of buildings who have gone out of their way to ensure the original architectural style is preserved . . . the Quinte Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario held a walking tour on December 15th to tour Glanmore and the Finkle residence at 252 Bridge Street East in Belleville; about 25 members braved the snow to participate . . . PAUL KIRBY, a Loyalist College journalism student, is researching material for a book, "Champions All", which will detail the many facets of Belleville sporting past and present; he can be reached at 962-5956 . . . ALICE DELINE reports that the "S.O.E." noted in the October OUTLOOK stood for "Sons of England", while "A.O.U.W." was the "Ancient Order of United Workman"; we're still looking for the meaning of the letters M.C.R. . . . Families, volume 21 number 2 (1982) has an interesting article on the Ancient Order of United Workmen . . . when you see ELAINE PRESTON be sure to ask why it's a "mystery" building she's talking about at the Annual Meeting on the 21st . . . that's it for now; have a great holiday season and hope to see as many as possible at the Annual Dinner and Annual Meeting on January 21st

Gerry Boyce

SEASON'S GREETINGS
 from the executive
 of the one and only
 HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 1418
 Belleville, Ontario
 K8N 5J1



Remember to register early for the ANNUAL DINNER