



### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, March 18  
1997**

*Auditorium  
Quinte Living Centre,  
370 Front Street, Belleville*

**7:30 Coffee**  
**8:00 Meeting**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**Keith Matthie**  
**Topic**  
**Changes in  
Agriculture over  
50 Years**

Keith Matthie grew up on a farm in Hallowell Township in Prince Edward County, and graduated from Agricultural College in Guelph in 1951. He spent most of the next 44 years in various agricultural departments of the federal government. Meanwhile he continued his involvement in the operation of the family farm which he inherited from his father. He retired in 1995 and the farm is now operated by Keith's son, Richard.

Keith has been a member of various provincial marketing boards including the Ontario Grape Growers, The Ontario Asparagus Growers, and The Tender Fruit and Vegetable Growers Marketing Board. From 1977 to 1979, he was the executive assistant to the Minister of Agriculture Eugene Whalen. He ran his own consulting firm in Ottawa for several years.

Mr. Matthie brings a unique perspective to the changes in agriculture having both the practical hands-on farmer's view and the experience of dealing with the macro picture from various executive positions in both federal and provincial governments.

# Outlook

Volume 2 Number 3 Issue number 142, March 1997

## Skipping through the history of local curling

by Lewis Zandbergen, with additional data

The monthly meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society was held in the auditorium of The Quinte Living Centre on Monday, February 17, Heritage Day, 1997. After announcements from society president Elizabeth Mitchell and a glimpse of life of 100 years ago, the guest speaker, Bill Riley, was introduced by Anne Acton.

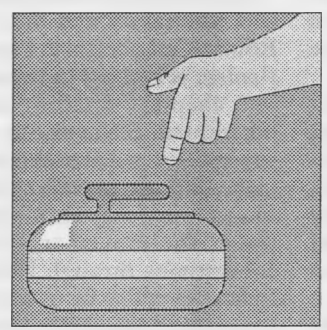
William E. Riley is a well-known photographer in the Quinte area and was instrumental in reviving the curling club 40 years ago. He has been active in the club ever since and was skip in 1984, the year the Quinte Club won the Ontario Championship.

William Riley was born in Thunder Bay. After graduating from Grade 13 in 1941, he enlisted with the RCAF where he learned his photographic skills. In 1945 he was demobilized in Trenton and decided to set up a photography business in Belleville. He operated the business from 1945 until 1990 when he retired. During those years Bill Riley became acquainted with literally hundreds of people in this area. He was assisted in his research on the curling club by Anne Acton and Mary Livingston.

Bill spoke about the history of the Quinte Curling Club. After dispelling the myth that the Quinte Club is the oldest sports club in Ontario, Bill went on to relate events of the past century in the Belleville area.

Beginning with a brief explanation of the sport of curling and its

inherent mannerliness, Mr. Riley went on to outline the formation of the first clubs in Mon-



treau and Quebec. Curling was brought from Scotland to Lower Canada, some say by the soldiers of General James Wolfe's command at Quebec during the winter of 1759-1760. The Royal Montreal Club was founded in 1807 and in those days the sport was most likely played on the ice of the St. Lawrence River. At times wooden "stones" of maple surrounded by a band of iron were used; ordinary river stones were also used but these proved too "sticky."

Mr. Riley then switched geographical areas and concentrated on the sport here in Ontario. The first area clubs were founded in Kingston (1820), Fergus (1834), Toronto (1836) and Galt (1838). The November 26,

1857, issue of the *Intelligencer* reported on a meeting held locally to organize a curling club. However, ten years were to go by before the first rink, called the Belleville Curling Club was set up under the presidency of James Brown, a local MP, on December 16, 1867.

Bill went into some detail regarding the growing pains of the club which was re-formed in 1957 and which now has its headquarters at the Quinte Exhibition and Raceway grounds. He told of the troubles the club had getting an underground stream on the fairgrounds under control thereby preventing the ice from heaving in winter.

On display in the auditorium were mementoes collected from the Belleville club's past. After the presentation, audience members spent some time poring over these artifacts. Bill Riley was thanked for his informative talk by Edna Wright.

**Architectural Conservancy  
of Ontario**  
**Quinte Region Branch**  
1997 series of walking tours  
Mar. 16 - Trenton's West End  
Apr. 20 - Annual Conference  
May 18 - Corbyville/River Road  
June 15 - Milford/Black Creek  
July 20 - Glenwood, Picton  
Aug. 17 - Boat Trip  
Sept. 21 - Marlbank  
Oct. 19 - Spring Brook  
Nov. 16 - Bellevue, Kingston

From the editor's bookshelf

by Lewis Zandbergen

## The "Gentle" Johnston/es

by Russell C. Honey  
392 pages, indexed, illustrations, appendices, maps published by Fallsbrook Publishing Company

One of the exciting bits about being on the trail of ancestors, is being able to tell everyone about your heritage. And when that heritage is intertwined with the very development of a country, it is sufficient cause to be doubly proud. Even the prejudices which the author might carry because of his close association with the family, pale to insignificance in the overall scheme of the work.

Russell Honey's excellent and detailed volume regarding the Johnston/e family and its involvement in the development of the country now known as Scotland was a great read and not nearly as dry as one might have suspected it could have been; it should appeal equally to genealogists who wish to learn more about the Johnston/es or historians who just want to read a capsule account of Scotland's "growing pains." But if you're looking for a list of Johnston/es with whom you may be re-

lated, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed.

Mr. Honey lays the groundwork in an overview of the inhabitants of Scotland and the influences which affected the makeup of the people. Along the way the reader meets luminaries such as William Wallace, Robert de Bruce, St. Patrick and even Jefferson Davis; I won't tell you how the president of the Confederate States of America fits into the book—you'll have to read that for yourself.

The conversion from paganism to Christianity and then from Roman Catholicism to Presbyterianism is laid out in two excellent chapters detailing among other things the extent to which superstition and abuses occurred in the sixth and seventh centuries. In successive chapters Mr. Honey traces the movements of the Johnston/es through Northern Ireland, detailing for us several of the exciting chapters in his family's rich past. Further adventures in the New World (North America) and then Australasia awaited the clan Johnston/e.

*The Gentle Johnston/es: The Story of the Johnston/e Family* is well written; it is scholarly and yet never talks down to the reader. I

did find the constant reference to stories to follow later in the book a bit annoying; it's almost as if the author was afraid of losing his reader. Never fear: an engrossing subject delightfully presented cannot but help keep a reader going.

There are a few spelling mistakes which do bring the reader up short. In the chapter entitled *The Early Johnston/es*, on page 109, the spelling of a 13th century king of Scotland switches back and forth between Balliol and Baillol. However, the publisher's proofreader is more to blame for this than the author. In the chapter entitled *The Battle of Dryffe Sands*, Lockerbie is spelled both Lockerbie and Locherbie; the index says it's Locherbie. Any reference books I've consulted spell it Lockerbie even though there is another village nearby which has the same prefix and is spelled Lochmaben. Ah the vagaries of language.

Illustrations in the book are provided by Mr. Honey's wife, Marrie, and lend a bit of charm to the volume. Unfortunately there aren't nearly enough of them and instead of being included in the front of the book,

they should have been scattered throughout the narrative. This is an annoyance in the book business and it's a practice which irks me; I imagine this was the publisher's way of cutting corners but it doesn't improve the overall effect of book at all. (The opposite of this practice is the *National Geographic* magazine's chafing habit of splitting blocks of text with page after page of pictures which sidetrack the reader, but I digress.)

Tucked into the back of the book are several delightful surprises. Quotes from *The Enniskillener*, a newspaper published in Enniskillen, prove the Johnstons were a force to be reckoned with. There's also a discourse on the shillelagh, without which "... An Irishman cannot walk or wander, sport or fight, buy or sell comfortably ..." A series of appendices round off this book in admirable style.

Whether you are a Johnston/e or not, a Scot or child of the Emerald Isle or not, a genealogist or not, you will thoroughly enjoy this informative, at times moving, at times ribald, volume—I promise.

This is just a reminder that there are still some members who have not sent in their dues. We've reprinted the form once more for your convenience.

The Society would appreciate receipt of your membership renewal as soon as possible. New members are also welcome. Please complete this form and bring it with your payment to the Society's next general meeting, or send it by mail to the **Hastings County Historical Society, P.O. Box 1418, Belleville, Ontario K8N 5J1.**

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Individual	\$15.00 _____	Life Member	\$150.00 _____
Family	\$20.00 _____	Corporate Sponsor	\$ 50.00 _____
Senior/Student	\$10.00 _____	Women's Institute/ Organization	\$ 15.00 _____
Senior Family	\$15.00 _____		

I also enclose a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ toward the work of the Society.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

*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

**Heritage observances** - Heritage Day and Heritage Week were celebrated in various ways. Our society held a successful Heritage Day event: Bill Riley spoke on the history of the Quinte Curling Club. Belleville City Council and Heritage Belleville presented Certificates of Commendation to the Quinte Construction Association for its work in preserving the Stone Building on the Meyers' Mill property, the City Centre Committee and its consultants for the improvements to the Belleville Market Square, and David Bentley, the long-time secretary of Heritage Belleville who is very active with the Quinte Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and the local Scouting Museum.

Heritage Belleville held an open house to consider ways to save the Filliter Building at 298-300 Front Street. Downtown Belleville saw the completion of the fifth mural saluting local heritage; located on the rear wall of W&R Greenley Booksellers it salutes local authors of past and present.

*The Intelligencer's* Jennifer Bell prepared a good article on heritage activities (including an excellent photo of Moodie Cottage). Andre Philpot authored a "Hastings County Heritage Week Quiz for readers of *The Marmora Review*. The Trent Port Historical Society saluted heritage-minded citizens. A *Trentonian* editorial focused on local heritage efforts and praised the work of Wendy Ouellette and her "group of dedicated volunteers" in that society, as well as historian Peter Ferri, and others.

*The Community Press* featured a lengthy review of

Russell C. Honey's book *The "Gentle" Johnston/es*. The review, written by *Outlook* editor Lewis Zandbergen, is reprinted on page two of this newsletter. Women's Institutes celebrated the 100th anniversary of the movement on February 19. Finally, our Society held a successful workshop in the Hastings County Museum for area heritage groups. It's encouraging to see such groups working together.

And congratulations go to our president Elizabeth Mitchell who, as Information Services Librarian for the Belleville Public Library, prepared a column on the wealth of heritage resources housed in the Canadiana Room of the Corby Public Library.

**Grants evaporating** - Lower provincial grants to heritage groups (including the HCHS) are affecting programs. Our so-

ciety passed a motion on Heritage Day calling on the province to reconsider its plan to cut funding by another 25 per cent.

**First underwear** - An unusual item from Barney Moorhouse's column in the *Bancroft Times*, reprinted from March 1908: "Had Never Slept in a Bed - A boy eight years old who had never worn underclothing or slept in a bed until the other day, passed through Peterborough to Toronto from Tweed in charge of the Rev. R. Burns, says the *Examiner*. This boy is one of the L—— family of Tweed, whose mother died recently while giving birth to a child in the absence of the father who, on being sent for a doctor, spent his time otherwise. This little lad had been accustomed to sleeping on the ground under the house, although he sometimes enjoyed the luxury of a snooze under the stove. He donned his first suit of underwear the other day, when the Children's Aid Society of Tweed came to his

assistance."

**Postscript:** Last month we noted the importance of a book by John Thurston (Ottawa writer, researcher and editor). *The Work of Words: The Writing of Susanna Strickland Moodie* was said to provide "the first comprehensive examination of the whole of Moodie's writing" and revolutionize Moodie scholarship. New comes word from Clyde Bell and Jennifer Heffernan of *The Tweed News* that John's father, Oscar Thurston, lives in Tweed. The family should be very proud.

**Honoured** - Congratulations to Lloyd (Bud) and Shirley Price of Actinolite, featured in *The Tweed News* for community service. Bud was a director of our society in the 1960s and is the treasurer of the Tweed and Area Historical Society in 1997.

**No Hastings?** - Restructuring remains in the news. There are suggestions that the County of Hastings may cease to exist, perhaps to be replaced by a board of management. Stay tuned for further details.

## Gerry's Memories Contest Winner

The suspense ends! Rosella J. Clancy of the Stirling area is the winner of the "Book and Coin Prize" for her personal story about life in Hastings County. Honourable mentions and coin prizes go to Rosella for *First Impression 1936-37* (a reminiscence about Eggleton Public School) and J.W. 'Jack' Hodgson of Belleville for *1941 Revisited*. Look for an extract from Jack's article in the next *Outlook*. The judges selected this reminiscence.

### Singing, while the house burned, 1946

Anyone who has enjoyed living in a farming community can appreciate the standard of values. A neighbour's need, gave cause to rally support, whether in illness or for a fire. (Community men assisted each other, threshing, snowploughing the roads and woodcutting, while their wives anticipated a quilting bee as a time to upgrade their skills and enjoy friendly conversation.)

Understandably, a Sunday morning fire at Nathan Clarke's Concession 9, Lot 35, Sidney Township, home received a quick response. The men, realizing that the frame structure couldn't be saved, removed the first floor's furniture and scattered it some distance from the leaping flames. The or-

nate pump organ, a family heirloom, was placed on a grassy area, along the township's gravel road.

After church, Mother and I walked to the Clarke homestead, where we viewed a smouldering, burning mass—a disturbing scene. Soon I slipped away from the older folk and approached the organ, which I had played when visiting in this home.

Before I had an opportunity to make a selection, Nathan was by my side to sing his favourite hymns. Nathan and I, Rosella Fitchett, must have made a strange sight. One was singing, the other was accompanying on the organ, while a home burned."

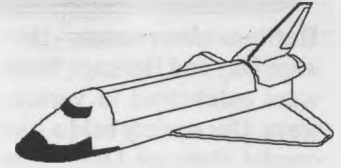


# Your County Museum

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

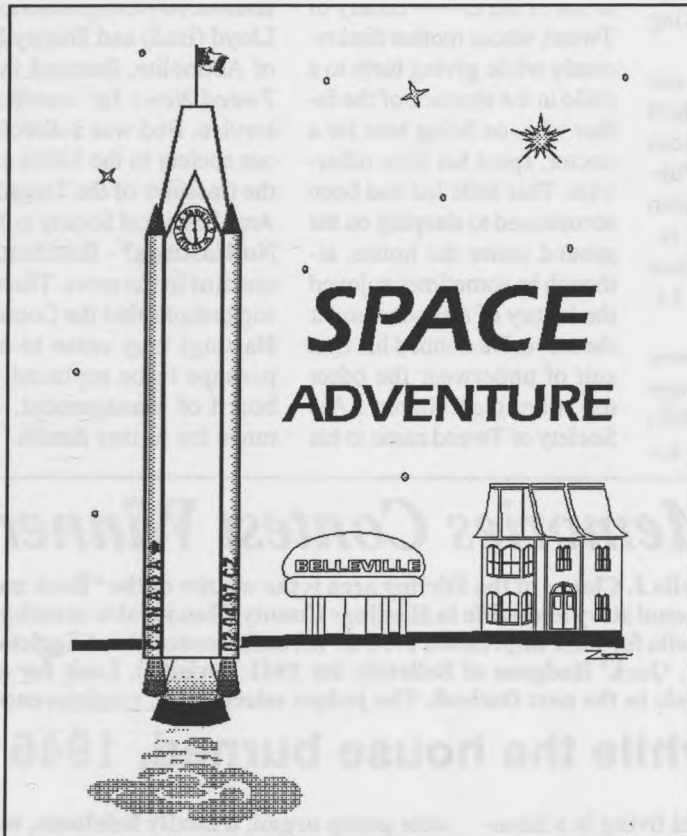
Introducing!

## Space Adventure



Well, Christine is at it again with another fund-raising exhibit!

This exhibit runs from May 2 to July 1. Unlike "Dinosaurs" Christine is compiling this exhibit herself with components from various locations. Highlights include: The Canadarm display from the National Museum of Science and Technology and the Terence Dickinson Photo Gallery.



### March Break Reminder

Monday, March 10 to Friday, March 14

Mornings - Seeds in Disguise

Children's programme at 9:30 each morning

Cost is \$3.00 Please call 962-2329 to pre-register

School program Tuesday, March 18, to Friday, April 11.

Afternoons - Behind the Scenes Tours

At 1:30 each afternoon we are offering our annual "Behind the scenes" tour.

Regular admission charges apply

### Welcome to Andre Scheinman

We wish to welcome Andre Scheinman, Heritage Preservation consultant, to the Site Restoration Project.

Andre specializes in this type of project and has undertaken a wide range of preservation projects involving some of Ontario's most significant buildings including Kingston Hall, Queen's University and St. Michael's Church, Belleville.

Through his training and extensive experience in architectural conservation he will provide and integrate all of the project components including architectural and historical research; site investigation; condition assessment; restoration planning; drawings and specifications; and a site review. Watch for project updates.

### Kudos

**Congratulations to Ann Isbister - Volunteer of the Week in January. Awarded by Volunteer Quinte**

**Many thanks to volunteer Jean James for her generous donation toward Glanmore's Site Restoration Project.**

Outlook is published monthly 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 can contact the editor at 613-395-3022, Fax 613-395-4695, or E-mail [lewzan@connect.reach.net](mailto:lewzan@connect.reach.net)

mailing label