



Outlook

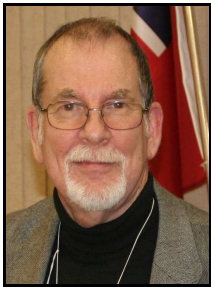
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President's Annual Report 2010

By Orland French



This was the year the Hastings County Historical Society moved into the 21st century. No more carrier pigeons and smoke signals for us! Almost simultaneously the Heritage Centre was equipped with a telephone, an Internet connection and working computers. Some of our volunteers learned how to scan and store digital photographs, and began work on making our thousands of photographs more accessible to the public. Plans for the new archives building include many more pieces of electronic gear to move us even further into the modern age.

Some progress has been made on creating the new community archives on Church Street, but the progress requires a great deal of patience. Belatedly the City of Belleville has decided to do its "due diligence" and review the requirements of the building, and the consequent cost, before proceeding further. This is an essential step, of course, but one that should have been taken when, or even before, the building was required.

Meanwhile, fund-raising to meet the Society's obligations in this venture have been proceeding. Your president and vice-president have invited a number of potential donors to participate in

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Historical Society Directors for 2011



Left to right: Bruce Bedell, Diane Sule, John Lowry, Mary Jane Throop, Bill Kennedy, Vera Morton, Orland French, Mike Shaw (absent: Dick Hughes and Anne Rector)

The Kilties ~ Greatest Scottish Band In The World! A Command Performance



Melissa Wakeling, education and marketing coordinator for Glanmore Museum, Belleville, addresses the Society on the Kilties Band. *Photo: Nick White*

The Kilties Band originated in 1898 as an offshoot of the 48th Highland Band of Toronto. The band's conductor was W.F. Robinson (pictured right) and because its business manager, T.J. Power, was from Belleville



it was often thought to be a Belleville band, but in fact only six of its members came from this city. Another misconception was that it was a pipe band, likely the result of the kilts worn by band members and its billing as the greatest Scottish band in the world. It was actually a brass and woodwind band with bagpipes as an additional feature. Included in Melissa Wakeling's presentation were actual (scratchy) recordings of the band's music from about 1904.

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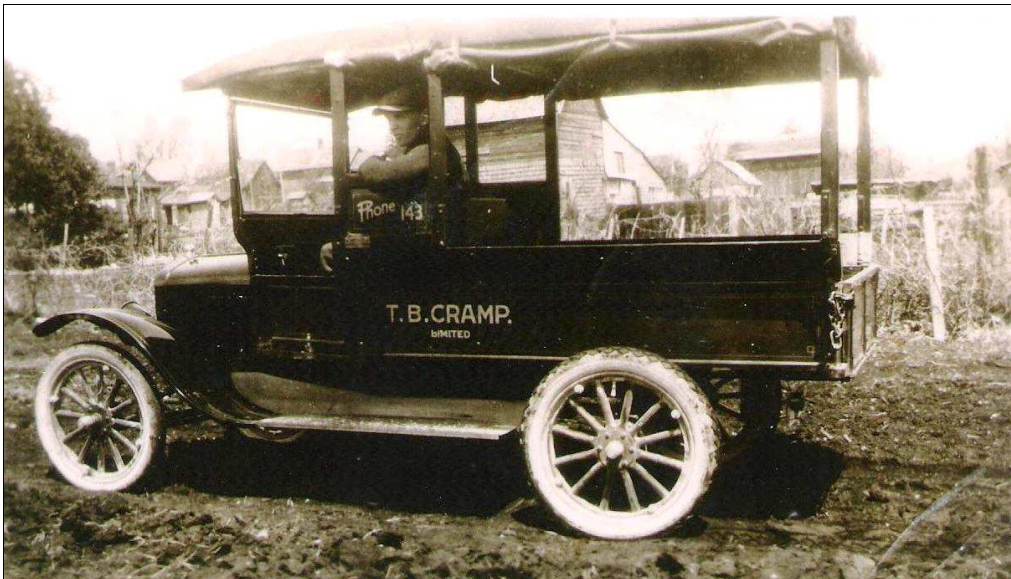
Samuel Gordon Montgomery

Blacksmith & World War I Army Veteran

Story and Photos by Allen Montgomery



Home and blacksmith shop of Samuel Gordon Montgomery in Dulcimaine, Leeds County, Ontario. Beginning in 1892 the blacksmith shop, formerly a cheese factory and post office, operated for sixty years.



The photo of twenty-one year old Sam Montgomery seated behind the wheel of this smart looking vehicle was taken in Orillia in 1917. Sam served aboard the Canadian hospital ship H.M.A.T. Araguaya during World War I. It ferried wounded troops back to Canada and the United States from the trenches of France.

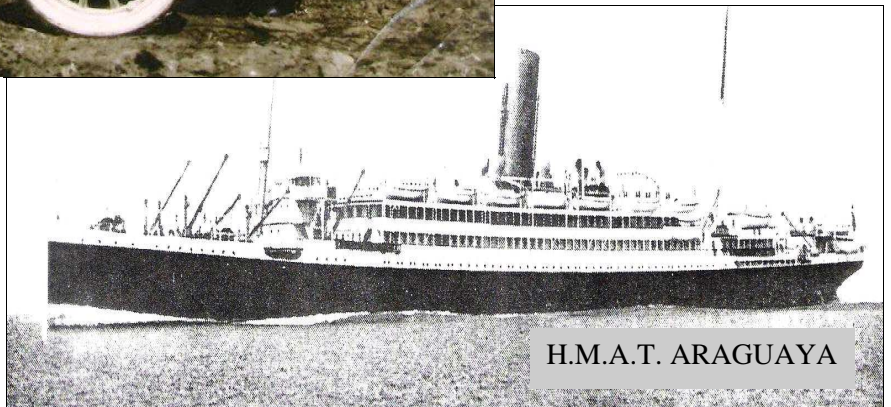
My father, Samuel Gordon Montgomery, was born on October 7, 1896. He was raised in Victoria County, Ontario and learned the blacksmith trade while employed in the lumber camps near Orillia.

On May 15, 1918 he joined the Canadian Army Expeditionary Force at Kingston. He served on the Canadian hospital ship *H.M.A.T. Araguaya* during its final six crossings of the Atlantic, from Liverpool to Halifax and Portland, Maine, the last being in April 1919. Each crossing required a number of days, most often a rough journey for staff and the wounded, shell-shocked and gassed troops.

The *Araguaya* was obtained by the Canadian government from the Argentina Admiralty in September 1917 as a hospital ship to replace the *Letitia*. The *Araguaya* made a total of fifteen sailings beginning in September 1917. During that time it transported 11,613 troops back to Canada.

My father served aboard this ship with two fellow comrades from Hastings County, the late **Chancey Sills** and **Harry Sears**, both from the Thomasburg area.

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Samuel G. Montgomery

Cont'd. from page 2

Samuel Montgomery was discharged on August 20, 1919 by reason of demobilization. To further expand his knowledge as a blacksmith he was hired as a trades helper at Dulcemaine in Leeds County.



Allen Montgomery

He then spent a year in Blackstock, Ontario, returning later to Dulcemaine (at Lansdowne, Ontario) where he purchased the blacksmith shop and continued operating as a business from November 1923 to the mid 1950s. The building where the shop was located started out in the 1840s as a cheese factory and post office. In 1892 the property became a blacksmith shop and continued in this capacity for the next sixty years.

Editor's Note: Do you have a story to tell about your ancestors that you would enjoy seeing published in Outlook? Contact Outlook editor Bill Kennedy. Personal stories like this one about Allen Montgomery's father give an immediacy to our past that makes the reading of history the more enjoyable.

BUS TOUR

A bus tour is being planned for May 7, 2011 highlighting Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Trill. More on this in later *Outlook* issues.

President's Report 2010

Cont'd. from page 1

supporting the renovations of the archives. By the end of 2010, an amount in excess of \$50,000 had been raised within a three-month period. This included a few substantial donations from individuals. The largest donation so far has been \$30,000, realized from the Parrott Foundation. This is in addition to the \$50,000 given by the foundation two years ago. Our goal is to raise an additional \$150,000 as the Society's share of the costs, to add to the \$100,000 we already have in the bank.

Of course, the Society was very pleased with the appointment of **Sharon White** as the new community archivist. As a former director of the Historical Society, Sharon is well aware of the role of the Society in the creation of an archives. She will continue to be the lead figure in the transition period.

I would particularly like to mention the dual role played by Vice-President **Richard Hughes** in the archives project. Not only is he a key factor in fund-raising, but he also chairs the archives advisory committee which reports to the city and county councils and the historical society.

As president, I wish to thank all our volunteers for making the Hastings County Historical Society one of the most successful in the province. These volunteers include the army of **Archive Angels** who are seen hovering around the Heritage Centre on Mondays. There are many other volunteers as well – the executive and directors of the board, the members who take minutes and who balance the books, the wizards who organize and understand our information technology, the people who plan programming and other monthly duties, and who organize events like bus tours and banquets.

Overall, HCHS is a lively organization, one that would be the envy of many historical societies in much larger centres. I am privileged to be working with such a talented and energetic group.

The following commentary is based on segments from the annual reports of other Society directors and members.

Richard Hughes, Vice-President

During the year the Vice-President was responsible for two major activities; the coordination of the annual banquet, which is the main fundraising event of the year, and serving as the Society's representative on the Archives Advisory Committee. This committee considered and formulated proposals on numerous topics during 2010, including the hiring of an archivist, proceeding with architectural work for the new archives building, official naming of the building, naming of the reading room, development of a logo and setting an operating budget. The deliberations of the Archives Advisory Committee will continue in 2011.

Sharon White, Archivist

In 2010 the Archives became settled as a part of the new "culture" mandate of the renamed Recreation, Culture and Community Services Department of the City of Belleville, and a professional Archivist was hired in May. One month later, a draft Management & Operations Plan for the new Community Archives was approved in principle, with a vision for an integrated Archives program for the three partners. In November a tripartite agreement between the City, Hastings County, and the Historical Society was put in place regarding the role of the Society in the new archives. The Archivist has begun implementing new collections management systems, with new shelving and numbering schemes.

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Belleville Opera House Third Largest In Province Research by Lois Foster



Theatre patrons, your chariots await you! The Griffin Theatre, inaugural 1884, no longer stands near the corner of Bridge and Church Streets. It was at one time the Belleville Opera

The *Toronto Mail*, Saturday, November 27, 1886 contained the following article about the Belleville Opera House, also known as the Griffin Theatre.

This institution, of which every citizen of Belleville may justly feel proud, ranks third as to size in the province, and is without exception one of the most beautiful, convenient and secure temples of amusement in the Dominion. It is a substantial brick structure with massive stone foundations, and, although isolated, is conveniently located on the corner of Church and Bridge Streets, in close proximity both to the residential and business portions of the city.

It is very nearly fire proof; the Boynton furnaces by which it is heated are placed in a cemented floor, while the stage is protected underneath by a sheathing of asbestos inflammable paper. In the event of fire, however, there is no possibility of danger either to audience or actors, there being no less than 8 escapes or exits. The stage is 37 by 56 feet, beneath which are located the dressing rooms and a large hall. There are 8

House, the city's second opera house, the first one being destroyed by fire. According to the report below Belleville was one of the best show towns between Toronto and Montreal.

proscenium boxes, and, as the house is built on an incline, the auditorium and galleries have sufficient slope to enable the occupants of between 1200 and 1300 seats to obtain an uninterrupted and distinct view of the stage.

The acoustic properties of this house are not excelled by any public building in Ontario. Situated in a rich and populous district, and surrounded by prosperous villages, Belleville enjoys the reputation of being one of the best show towns between Toronto and Montreal, and is a favourite halting place with all first class companies, not only on account of its location, but for the liberal and hospitable treatment extended to them by the present management.

The Belleville Opera House was erected by a joint stock company in 1884 at a cost of \$20,500, but in 1886 Dr. B. S. Willson became sole owner. The doctor, who is one of the leading physicians here, and has a large and lucrative practice, has been a resident of the County of Hastings for over 30 years. He is a large property owner, and one of the most enterprising liberal and public-spirited citizens of Belleville.

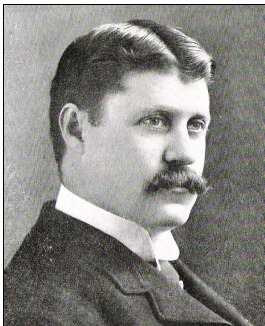
Kilties *Cont'd. from page 1*

The band had a choir and teamed up with the Clan Johnstone Scottish Dancers. One of those dancers was six year old Gene Lockhart who went on to fame and fortune as a Hollywood movie actor.



Kiltie Dancers

The band toured the world in its heyday. During the summer it played out of doors and in the winter toured the vaudeville circuit where decent money could be made. The receipts for a Madison Square Gardens performance totalled \$7,000, a sizeable sum back then. A London newspaper advertised the band's fame by headlining that it had created a furor in America, home of the most unmusical people in the world! It gave a command performance at Balmoral Castle for King Edward VII.



T.J. Power

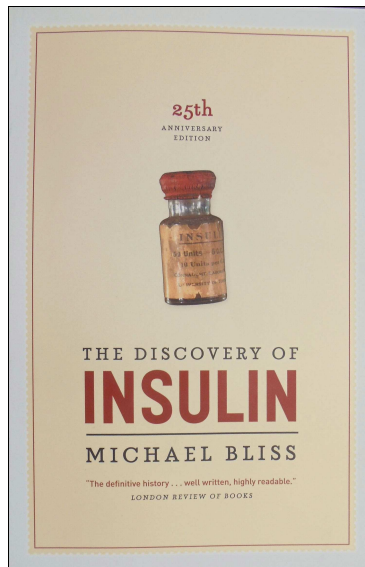
By 1911 the band had had its day. Its business manager, Mr. Power, went on tour with a troupe of performing elephants. Clan Johnstone retired to Belleville where it opened a dance studio that stayed in business until 1938.

James B. Collip Insulin Collaborator

By George Pierce

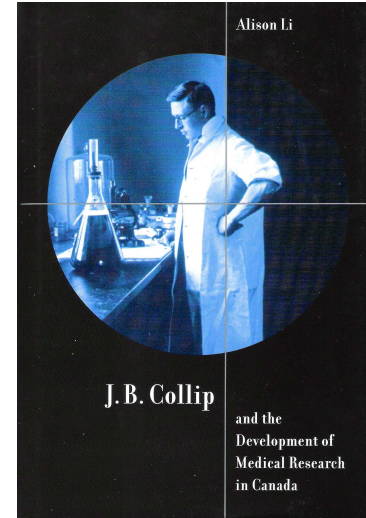
An interesting local source of information about medical research scientist James Bertram Collip (1892-1965) is available at the Belleville Library. The item is referred to as the Biographical Scrapbook. It can be accessed by request to Information Services on the second floor.

Over the years library staff members have clipped items from news media and placed them in the "Collip" section of this scrapbook. In addition, they showed further interest by going on the internet to secure a copy of Collip's biography that was prepared in 1971 by professors of the University of Western Ontario. This item was made to be included in the biographies of "Fellows of the Royal Society." This is considered a good starting point and should be appreciated by those interested in local history.



Next, consider reading the 2007 anniversary edition of "The Discovery Of Insulin" by Michael Bliss, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Toronto. Bliss also recommends a book by Alison Li titled "J.B. Collip

and the Development of Medical Research in Canada."



It would be very interesting for some organization in this community to support an invitation to Bliss to come to Belleville and speak on J.B. Collip.

Articles will continue in *Outlook* in our effort to develop remembrance and recognition for internationally renowned scientist J.B. Collip here in the community where he was born and raised.

This article is one of a series of articles by Outlook contributor Dr. George Pearce of Belleville on medical research scientist J. B. Collip's collaboration in the discovery of insulin.

Family Day At The Archives - See Page 6



Belleville Map, 1816

Family Day at the Archives – Monday February 21, 1-4 pm

At the Hastings Heritage Centre
154 Cannifton Road North, Cannifton
(Map on the website at www.hastingshistory.ca)

The Historical Society's Archives will hold a **special open house** on the afternoon of the Family Day holiday, with heritage displays and short presentations by the Archive Angel volunteers on a variety of topics, including local history and the planned new Community Archives.

Some of the **"Treasures from the Archives"** will be on display and we will tell visitors the stories behind them. Included will be:

- Our **oldest document** (we think) – an 1815 land grant patent with a big red seal
- Early **photographs** and **pictures** of how it was "in the olden days"
- A **map** of Belleville in 1816 and a survey plan of the Memorial Arena site before it was built
- Family **letters**, diaries, ledger books, **newspapers**, and more.

Our archives aims to preserve our documentary heritage for **future generations** so these treasures are usually kept packed away safely, but we will bring some of them out for viewing on this **special occasion**.

All are welcome (young children should be accompanied by adults). **Be informed and entertained!** Bring the family! There is **never an entrance fee** to visit the Archives.

Regular hours of opening

The Archives is **open for visitors** and researchers on most Monday and Thursday afternoons, 1-4 pm, and at other times by appointment. (It is usually closed on statutory holidays.) It is best to call or email ahead of your visit if you have a specific request. Contact the Hastings Heritage Centre and Archives by phone at 613-962-1110 or email: archives.hastingshistory@gmail.com

Archivist Sharon White can be reached at the Heritage Centre on Mondays and Thursdays or at other times by email to: swhite@city.belleville.on.ca



Thrilling Fight for Life With Shipwreck and Frost Dramatic Narrative Told by a Former Belleville Boy

J.M. Macoun has Arrived at Ottawa from 1250 Mile Journey Through the Far North Full of Dangers and Adventures

(Research by Lois Foster)

These were the dramatic headlines in *The Intelligencer* one hundred years ago, January 1911. Macoun's father, John Macoun, who emigrated from Ireland as a young man in the 1840s, was a self-taught botanist, chair of Botany and Geology at Albert College, and western Can-

ada explorer (see Outlook issue for November 2009 for a story about his life and a photograph of his house at 19 Pringle Drive, Belleville). But back to his son, James and the following newspaper report.

"After walking over 800 miles on snowshoes in a fight against death by freezing in the far north country, Mr. J.M. Macoun of the Geological Survey, and son of Prof. John Macoun, Dominion Botanist, formerly of Belleville, arrived in Ottawa last night. Along with him came Mr. M. Savary of the Hydrographical Branch of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and Mr. Harry Ford of Ford's Harbour, Labrador, both of whom had been with him on the long snowshoe tramp.

"But the snowshoe tramp was by no means the only way in which Mr. Macoun and his companions had to fight against death. Previous to that they had been shipwrecked away up in

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Macoun

Cont'd. from page 6

Hudson's Bay and there also they had to make a strenuous battle for life.

"In order to get back to civilization, that is, the part of civilization that a railroad town represents, they had to go over 1,250 miles, 450 in life boats and a whaling vessel, the rest across country on snowshoes... The account of Mr. Macoun's experiences is as thrilling as a novel."

With this introduction the paper now commences to tell the whole story, beginning with his departure from Halifax on July 2, 1910 aboard the steamer "Stanley," which was taking hydrographical survey parties north, one to Churchill and one to Nelson. Macoun's task was to collect flora and fauna specimens (as his father had done) on the west coast of Hudson's Bay north of Churchill where he intended to hire an Eskimo crew. Changing steamers in Cape Breton they arrived in Churchill on July 25 aboard the "Jeanie" and worked in that vicinity over the following month.

Then disaster struck. On September 9 while lying at anchor one of the Jeanie's two anchor chains broke in the teeth of a 90 mile an hour gale. The second gave way at half past ten that night.

"The vessel was in charge of Mate Entle, 70 years old. Knowing that the second chain would part, he had made every preparation. The jib was hoisted at once and the vessel put before the wind and beached at the only spot on the coast that was not sheer rock. It was so dark on account of the heavy snow that was coming down that Entle could not see his men, and the wind was so strong that they could not hear his orders. Fortunately it was full high tide and the bow was well up on the beach before the stern struck... The thermometer was then two above zero."

Everyone disembarked safely. It took seven days to repair the life boats that had been washed away and damaged in the storm. They were the only way for the fourteen men to get back to their base at Fullerton 150 miles away. By the time the repair work was finished "the bay had frozen over and it took us two days longer to break our way out."

In the next issue of Outlook we'll join Macoun and his companions as they depart Churchill in December 1910 to follow a frozen river on snowshoes in their bid to reach civilization. Don't miss it!

Annual Reports

Cont'd. from page 3

Gerry Boyce Workshop Coordinator

The Archive Angels sponsored the Canadian Day celebration at Zwick's Island and created special displays for the Society's annual banquet in October and a Renaissance Club event at the St. Theresa Catholic Secondary School. Special displays included a series of 14 panels (designed by Mary Jane Throop) featuring the historical role of women over the years and fourteen panels highlighting our First Nations history, which were featured at the annual banquet in October. At year's end there were nineteen full-time volunteers as well as several part-time volunteers whose work in helping preserve our history amounted to well over 2,000 hours.

Mary Jane Throop Photo Collection

The year 2010 saw the installation of three new computer work stations at the Heritage Centre. A digitization project is underway for photographic images. To preserve these images it is important to correctly scan once and thereby have many copies to suit a specific research request or exhibit. The images are saved in a series to designate the HCHS collection. Each series of numbers was saved in its own file folder until the "Inmagic" database system

is in place. There have been several requests from the public for digital images and it is important to train our volunteers how to scan, create records as well as to reply to research requests online.

Elizabeth Mitchell Membership & Minus 100

As of December 2010 the Historical Society had 209 members. Membership is recorded under different categories such as individuals, families and seniors. One of the Society's distant and long time members is the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The library has a huge collection of genealogical material. A feature of every general meeting is a brief look at life in Belleville 100 years ago as gleaned by volunteers each month from the library's *Intelligencer* microfilm.

Bill Hunt Tour Coordinator

The June 2010 bus tour of Northumberland County included a chocolate factory, brewery, and a cheese store. The cheese store is part of the only farmer-owned cheese factory remaining in Eastern Ontario.

Doug Knutson Program Coordinator

Each year speakers address the Society meetings and banquet. Speaker topics for 2010 included mining history, the Empire Theatre restoration, the O'Hara Mill conservation
Cont'd. on page 8

Peter C. Newman New HCHS Member

Peter C. Newman is the newest member of the Hastings County Historical Society. He recently moved to Belleville where he is beginning work on a book about the Loyalists.

Mr. Newman, who emigrated from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia in 1940, served as a reporter for the *Financial Post* and was editor of the *Toronto Star* and *MacLean's Magazine*.

He has written numerous books including *The Canadian Establishment*, *The Distemper of Our Times*, and *The Secret Mulroney Tapes: Unguarded Confessions of a Prime Minister*. In 2009 he was appointed Visiting Professor of Distinction at Ryerson University. He is the recipient of the Order of Canada. Information about Mr. Newman's accomplishments can be found online.

Annual Reports

Cont'd from page 7

region, Edison's concrete piano, and Flora MacDonald speaking on her work in Afghanistan.

Bill Kennedy, Outlook Editor

In 2010 *Outlook* expanded to eight pages as a result of volunteer contributions to its content. More stories about local personal history with a Hastings County connection are always welcomed from Society members and the public. It is expected that in the near future members can choose to receive their *Outlooks* online.

Nick White, Information Technology

Migrating from a "pen and paper" to a networked electronic system is a challenge for any organization and particularly so for an organiza-

tion that is operated by part-time volunteers of varying knowledge and interest levels. The focus has been to work with each volunteer to determine their particular needs and then establish a procedure to accomplishing these. The Society's existing website was maintained throughout the year and a new layout with a number of additional components has been designed and is undergoing testing for launch in early 2011.

Mike Shaw, Treasurer

This year the Banquet provided a net revenue of \$7,250. The bus tour brought in \$625. The Banquet proceeds plus a Parrott Foundation grant of \$30,000 plus other grants and donations have increased the Archives Fund from \$110,000 at the end of 2009 to \$157,370 in 2010.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Speaker
Steven Lloyd

Topic
Canadian Antique Decoys

Monthly meetings start at 7:30 and are held in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre, 370 Front Street, Belleville

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR MARCH ISSUE OF *OUTLOOK* IS FEBRUARY 25, 2011

Hastings County Historical Society Directors

President	Orland French
Vice-President	Dick Hughes
Treasurer	Mike Shaw
Secretary	Diane Sule
Membership & Outlook Distribution	Vera Morton
Photo Collections Manager & Workshops Leader	Mary Jane Throop
Publicity	Bruce Bedell
<i>Outlook</i> Editor	Bill Kennedy

HCHS Website www.hastingshistory.ca
Heritage Centre Phone No. 613-962-1110

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HCHS MEMBER ADDRESS