



# Outlook

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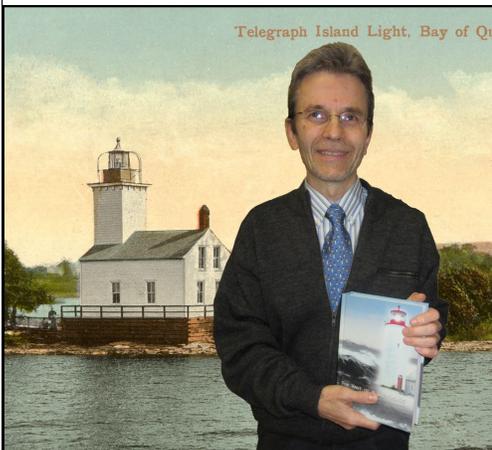
Issue 306 April 2016

## Lighthouses in Bay of Quinte Region

### New Book Recounts Their History

*By Bill Kennedy*

Lighthouses hold a special place in our imaginations. Stories about them have been handed down through generations of families and communities. Our continued fascination with them can be found in today's great disseminator of knowledge, the internet, where references to them abound. They are a significant aspect of our history, a history which, in the northeast region of Lake Ontario including the Bay of Quinte, had all but disappeared until the recent publication of the book *For Want of a Lighthouse* by Marc Seguin. His presentation at the Society's March public event attracted over one hundred people and brought back to life a largely forgotten piece of our heritage.



**Marc Seguin,  
speaker for  
Tuesday  
night's public  
presentation.**

*Photo by  
Donna Fano*

Seguin, a Prince Edward County resident, holds a degree in history from the University of Western Ontario and has worked with local heritage groups including the lighthouse preservation organization Save Our Lighthouses. He noted that in the 1800s, villages along the Kingston-Belleville-Presqu'île line were dots of civilization in a vast tract of wilderness where shipping was indispensable to their survival. And shipping through the Bay of Quinte and in the

dangerous waters around Prince Edward County needed lighthouses, structures for which government money was not always readily forthcoming. The Murray Canal, linking the Bay of Quinte with Lake Ontario, would not open until 1890.

Belleville business tycoon Billa Flint had a steam sawmill and a large warehouse at the mouth of the Moira River on top of which he erected his own light, the first on the Bay of Quinte. Later on, in 1851, Belleville erected a wood and tin dome whose light, it is said, could be seen nine to twelve miles away in fine weather. In 1864, the request was made for a number of lighthouses to be built. Understanding that the hazards to navigation were real, the provincial government agreed and allocated 3,700 in Upper Canada dollars for the undertaking. Five lighthouses were proposed. That allowed \$740 per lighthouse, an amount that meant each lighthouse could be no more than eight feet tall! The project collapsed. When a tender was subsequently let for a Bay of Quinte lighthouse, all quotes were in excess of the \$1,500 allowance. Material and labour alone, light excluded, was over \$2,800, with the final cost coming in at \$4,344.42.

By the early 1870s, Belleville was handling 150,000 tons of cargo every year. As for the Murray Canal, it was to begin construction in 1882 with government approval for the first \$50,000 of an estimated total of \$721,000. The lowest bid, however, was 1.1 million dollars. Completion date was set for 1885, which turned out to be five years too soon. The canal allowed ships to bypass the dangerous passage around the county where a number of ships had already sunk with lives lost in bad weather. In the first ten weeks of operation, the canal handled over 100,000 tons of cargo and 12,000 passengers.

The building of the canal subsequently led to the construction of eight lighthouses. This generous undertaking was undoubtedly precipitated in part by the 1879 disaster wherein it was reported that four boats had sunk with the loss of thirty-one lives. It turned out to be far fewer, but the point had been made. It is believed that by the turn of the century, the Bay of Quinte region boasted the greatest concentration of lighthouses in the world, resulting in a

remarkable light path over sixty-five nautical miles long. Today there are nine lighthouses owned by various organizations (e.g., Parks Canada, Canadian Coast Guard) still standing in the area, all of which are in need of funds to sustain them. The estimate for the Presqu'ile Lighthouse is one million dollars' restoration work. It will be an uphill battle to save even some of them. You could buy one for a dollar, says Seguin, but be prepared for the ensuing maintenance costs.



## Gerry Boyce: A Life in History Part 2: A Home for Hastings History

By Lindi Pierce

The date was October 1, 1957. Gerry Boyce, new social studies and history teacher at Quinte Secondary School, spotted an ad in *The Intelligencer* announcing a meeting to discuss the formation of a historical society—not the first attempt over the years. Gerry recalls thinking, "This is my first year of teaching. I'll be so busy. I can't take on any more." But he went.

"As I walked along Bridge Street, this fellow came up William Street and turned toward City Hall." Gerry wondered if he might be going to the same meeting. He sat near the man, one of the dozen people who attended. It was Tom Ransom. Gerry can't recall if Lee Jourard was at the meeting, but by the end of the year each had purchased his one-dollar membership in the fledgling Hastings County Historical Society, and were comrades-in-arms.



**1958 Fall Fair Exhibit: Beneath the Grandstand. Ernie Pigden, Gerry, Tom Ransom** *Credit: HCHS album*

The rest, as they say, is history. By 1959, Gerry was chair of a committee working to develop the Hastings

County Museum.

"We needed a museum, and knew that Shire Hall on Church Street, the headquarters for City Council and the treasurer's and clerk's offices, was being vacated." The 1873 Registry Office was ideal, with 3000 square feet of space and three substantial vaults. The committee approached the County. Erle Denyes, well-respected County Clerk and HCHS member, argued effectively for the transition and Council approved. The Hastings County Museum opened in the summer of 1961; Hastings history had a home.

So began the time when Gerry's life "revolved around BCI, the Registry Office and St. Andrew's Church." Gerry recalls that the massive iron skeleton key to the Registry Office was kept on a hook just inside the entrance to the Gaol Warden's office. He remembers prisoners tending the terraced front lawns, and the smell of cooked cabbage, as he popped in to pick up the key.



**1961 Opening Ceremonies -Hastings County Museum - former Registry Office** *Credit: HCHS album*

Things began to take shape. Gerry recalls inheriting the County's massive ornate leather-covered worktable. Volunteer Tom modified jewellery store display cases donated by antique dealer Tom Wrightmeyer, HCHS's first president in 1957–58. The society's first meetings were held on the second floor of Shire Hall. Four museum curators laboured at a dollar an hour: Dorothy Sargent and Dora Elvidge were assisted by two high school students, Mary Lou Toms and Barbara Weese.

The artifact collection kept growing. Erle Denyes donated a valuable Hastings County mineral display. Public donations trickled in, from farm equipment to quilts, kitchen tools to school books. Volunteers even found treasure in the dump, including a priceless old tool box containing carpenter's planes and other handmade tools. In the distant future, these items would form the Regional Collection at Glanmore.

In 1957, Robin Jeffrey, later Belleville Mayor and HCHS president, was looking for a home for the Could-

ery Collection. Earlier Mayor Jack Both's council had accepted the collection consisting of some 1600 pieces of European and English fine art and furnishings, the bequest of former Belleville resident Ann (Docter) Salaman. These precious objects were in storage; they needed a home where they could be displayed.

Heritage awareness—and the collections of artifacts and documents—continued to grow. Collections storage was always a challenge. HCHS member and treasurer Diane Zegouras offered space in the now demolished Zegouras Food Warehouse for a wooden canoe, ox yokes, and dasher churns. Sir James Whitney staffer and HCHS member David Bentley arranged storage space in the campus's empty Gibson Hospital and Palmer House ("which we shared with a dead pigeon").

A fine new home for the Museum was found in 1971. Sadly, about that time the Registry Office was lost, demolished for a parking lot. The land registry records it contained were dispersed to Queen's University, the Ontario Archives and the Marilyn Adams Centre in Ameliasburgh.

Glanmore, a Belleville stately home designated a National Historic Site was being sold. It was proposed that Glanmore be purchased for a new museum. The Second Empire beauty was purchased jointly by the city and county, using grants from the lottery corporation and Parks Canada. The City financed some renovations. Once again, volunteers pitched in. Gerry recalls his Moira shop teacher colleagues and students assisting with wiring and other jobs, and serving as tour guides.



**1983 Glanmore Opening**

*Credit : HCHS album*

Gerry was at the HCHS helm for the August 1971 opening of the Hastings County Museum at Glanmore. "We were still working the night before," recalls Gerry. "A half-dozen people were hanging Couldery paintings, dusting artifacts. We were always concerned about the paintings in the billiard room, as people *did* occasionally play with the pool cues." The Couldery collection was more interac-

tive then!

Then as now, the society promoted history through public displays. An old photo shows volunteers Tom Ransom and Rodger Greig in front of the Church Street museum, loading a Victorian marquetry credenza onto the top of Gerry's Nash Rambler for transport to a home show at the Armouries. Gerry fondly recalls early museum events: displays of Frank Foley's music box collection, Rodger Greig's puppet shows and Tom Ransom's magic lantern shows.

Meanwhile the burgeoning collection of historic photos and documents was looking for a permanent home; the fledgling archives had finally come out of the closet at 236 George Street.

The Historical Society had a close relationship with the Library; meetings were held there and "everybody fitted in quite nicely." In 1973, with the Society's purchase of their first storage cabinet, the archives of the HCHS found a home in the Belleville Library basement. Gerry treasures the thank-you letter from chief librarian Olive Delaney: "I know that I shall always feel that it was you who made it all possible."

Several filing cabinets later, in 1983, Quinte MPP Hugh O'Neil officially opened the archives in the Canadiana Room in the library's new addition.



**1983 Archives stored in Belleville Public Library's Canadiana Room - with MPP Hugh O'Neil** *Credit: Gerry Boyce*

A 1993–97 document recovery project in the attic of the former Gaol Governor's house swelled the Archives collection. Lois and Paul Foster and Gerry had "carte blanche to save what we could" for the archives. They found the register of the Home for the Friendless, "what an awful name." It contained sad stories requiring sensitive han-

ding, such as the death of historian William Canniff in the institution, and was discarded. "It's one of the few things I regret getting rid of."

Ironically, a heritage plaque commemorating the illustrious medical/history writing career of that Thurlow boy is affixed to the façade of the archives' next home, the 1873 Thurlow Township Hall, in Cannifton. The Hastings Heritage Centre opened there in 2001. In a historic twist on a ribbon-cutting, historically costumed Lee and Eleanor Jourard raised a 'tollgate' to open the building. An army of volunteers marched in, that indispensable team who have carried out the work of the Archives—fundraising, public education, cataloguing, digitizing, research—throughout its history. But mice and bats triggering the alarm system, water leaks threatening, the growing archives collection—all prompted the eventual search for a permanent location for the Archives.

Several plans were floated throughout ensuing years; it's



**2001 Opening Hastings Heritage Centre** *Credit: Gerry Boyce*

been a marathon. Gerry stayed the course and will be at the finish line on April 7, a proud member of the crowd at the opening of the Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County in its new home at Belleville Public Library. "I can hardly wait."

If organizations can be said to have a memory, then Gerry Boyce—and the albums and research files, boxes and binders, finding aids and indexes he has created—might be considered the memory of the Hastings County Historical Society. Gerry has served for decades as director and more recently as the historical advisor to the Society; he is the historians' historian. HCHS President Richard Hughes notes that Gerry is "still frequently called upon for guidance and information of an historical nature, not only by the Society but by many local groups and organizations."

Gerry reminisces: "When I came to Belleville I thought there were one or two things that were needed. A local

history book. A museum. An archivist. A home for the Archives." Looking back, it would appear that you've done alright, Gerry Boyce.



## ON THE HOME FRONT

### Excerpts from *The Intelligencer*, May 1916 *By Laurel Bishop*

**May 9, 1916:** "At 8:30 this morning on the barracks parade ground a muster parade of the 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion was held at which every man received a copy of the New Testament and a devotional booklet from his own denomination. The New Testaments were secured from the Upper Canada Bible Society by Mr. Sharpe of the Military Y.M.C.A. ... They are a military edition, neatly bound in khaki and convenient in size. ... His Worship Mayor Ketcheson presented a Prayer Book secured from the Bishop of Kingston by the Chaplain, Capt. Ketterson, to every Anglican soldier. Following this the remainder of the men were issued a neat packet containing an attractive book given to the soldiers jointly by all the non-Anglican Protestant denominations. ... As the Roman Catholic soldiers are being looked after by their church, every man has some token of goodwill from his church to take along with him."

**May 11, 1916:** "Lieut. Derwent Wood, A.R.A., is developing one of the oddest occupations that has sprung out of the war. He is manufacturing new faces for those that have been destroyed or horribly disfigured by shell-fire, and men who have seen some of his handiwork declare that it is wonderful. It is said that such wounds as have been inflicted in this war have never been known before. They are the result of high explosives, for the most part, though expanding bullets have left their own dreadful impression upon many soldiers. In other wars men wounded as have been those treated by Lieut. Wood died from their injuries. Thanks to the improvement of medical art, these wounds though horrible, are frequently not fatal. ... One of the earliest cases he treated was that of Driver Ferguson, a member of the Canadian Field Artillery, who was wounded at Ypres."

**May 13, 1916:** "Save Your Coppers. Beginning with Monday next those purchasing tickets at the Opera House or The Palace Theatre will require to pay the following addition: On ten cent tickets, one cent extra; from ten to fifty cents, two cents extra; from fifty cents to \$1.00 five cents extra; over one dollar ten cents extra. These additional items in no way benefit the theatres, as extra expense is attached to the issuing of special tickets and other items contingent upon the war tax."

**May 15, 1916:** "It was truly a patriotic demonstration that attended the leave-taking of the 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion from our city on Saturday night. ... Crowds gathered from every section, immediate friends visited the soldiers at the Armouries; knapsacks were packed; blankets rolled, and at the allotted hour, headed by the new celebrated band, led by Lieut. H.A. Stares, the boys swung into the street, down Bridge, up Front, as far as the upper bridge, and return, the waving of handkerchiefs and lusty cheers making the welkin ring. In the ranks headed by the Battalion band, led by Bandmaster Hinchey, were the boys of the 155<sup>th</sup>, determined to stay by their comrades to the last. ... It was the final tribute to those who were giving all—perhaps even to their lives—for home and country."

**May 16, 1916:** "At the Khaki Club. Eleven hundred parcels of ham and tongue sandwiches were made for the men of the 80<sup>th</sup> for their journey to Halifax. Each parcel contained four sandwiches. Twelve hundred oranges and twelve hundred boxes of Player cigarettes were put on board the train. The Khaki Club was splendidly helped in this work, both by cash and workers."

**May 18, 1916:** "The Hon. Col. Sir Adam Beck is coming to Belleville Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, to purchase Army Horses. This will give the farmers a chance to sell their horses, and it will also give the citizens a chance to show their appreciation of Sir Adam Beck for what he has done for the Public and Hydro Electric, and what he is doing as Director of Remounts."

**May 20, 1916:** "Tag Day a Great Success. Pedestrians upon the streets of the city today were besieged by fair young ladies, who were offering for sale small flags, the proceeds of which were for the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Donors gave cheerfully to the cause and flags were sold by the hundreds if not thousands. The cause was a worthy one, hence its popularity."

**May 20, 1916:** "To Bar Wives Visiting England. London. Mainly on the grounds that their presence in England has tended to hamper the efficiency of the men, the Canadian agent-general yesterday passed a resolution calling upon the provincial governments to take prompt steps to discourage officers' and soldiers' wives from coming to this country until the end of the war. There are over 3000 wives now in the United Kingdom, and this summer is being increased during the next two or three months at the rate of 1000 a week. Immediately they arrive they communicate with their husbands, who, perhaps have only just returned from the trenches, urging them to obtain a further few days' leave. ... In not a few cases they have communicated with the commanding officers direct without the knowledge of the husband to whom such behavior causes some anxiety. It is far better, said he, for wives to remain in Canada with their friends than to come here on the off

chance of seeing their husbands and of spending several months among strangers."

**May 22, 1916:** "Maj.-Gen. Hodgins, adjutant-general, Ottawa, has sent out to all units in Canada the following letter: 'beg to call your attention to the fact that it is very noticeable that troops of the Canadian Expeditionary Force do not pay compliments to nursing sisters. It is, therefore, requested that you will cause all troops under your command to be instructed on this subject. Nursing sisters hold the rank of lieutenant and are entitled to the compliments of that rank.' "

**May 25, 1916:** "Empire Day Loyally Recognized in Belleville. ... Flags, large and small decorated business houses and private residences; the well-regulated juvenile had his personal supply of fireworks; the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion headed by the band and bugle corps, made Front street and return in a most creditable parade. Then the crowd, like a rolling wave, headed for Victoria Park, where the morning sports were scheduled, in the form of water races, foot races, bicycle contests. ... Mr. E.G. Porter, K.C., M.P., was called upon to give the opening address of welcome. ... The speaker said he had been requested on behalf of the commanding officer and other officers of the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion to say a few words of welcome, which gave him much pleasure to do so. ... Many had a personal interest in the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion and other Battalions which had left to do their bit. All were intensely interested in the success of the allies who are endeavoring to put down this terrible war, and bring it to a successful issue. To all present he (the speaker) would again extend a cordial welcome, and let joy abound. (Applause)."

**May 31, 1916:** "Belleville's Farewell to the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion. The soldier boys of Belleville have left our midst, and their absence is keenly felt. The members of A. Company of the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which was mobilized in this city, left this morning for camp at Barriefield, and their going away will not soon be forgotten. ... To the lively strains of martial music the boys were marched up Front street as far as Victoria avenue, when they reversed and proceeded down Front street to Dundas street, and thence to the Canadian Northern Railway station where they entrained for Kingston. ... About the station thousands had gathered to bid adieu to the brave lads who were going to camp to equip themselves for active service at the front for King and Country. The occasion was a memorable one. ... The greater portion of A. Company is composed of Belleville boys, who in addition to leaving loved ones, left many admiring friends. At 11.30 the second train moved off and upon this train were members of the 155<sup>th</sup> Battalion from Bancroft, Coe Hill, Marmora, Picton and Trenton. The

bugle band of A. Company accompanied them. The battalion went to Barriefield in full strength numbering 1160 officers and men, and there is not the slightest doubt that it will be if not the best, one of the best battalions which will compose the camp at Barriefield.”



## The Exciting Move to the New Archives!

*Written by Donna Fano*

After weeks of packing by the volunteers at the Heritage Centre, Community archives, we were ready for the exciting move to the new Community Archives at the Belleville Public Library.



The very first boxes from the centre have arrived and are being unloaded at the loading dock.

*Photo by Donna Fano*



*Donna Fano*



*Donna Fano*

Disassembling the shelves at the centre and assembling them in Vault C at the new archives took time!



Three moving trucks arrived early Monday, March 21st to handle the big move over the three-day period.

*Photo by Amanda Hill*



The movers worked well together to get all the heavy furniture out.

*Photo by Amanda Hill*



Both the boxes and shelves were all labelled ahead of time to help the movers place each box on the correct shelf. That made the move go smoothly.

*Photo by Donna Fano*



*Donna Fano*

The reading room was chaotic but we are slowly getting organized! We plan to be ready for the big opening on April 7! More photos of the move will be shown then.

Join the City of Belleville, the County of Hastings and the Hastings County Historical Society

... for the opening of the  
**Community Archives**

April 7th, 2016 10:00am at the John M. Parrott Art Gallery in Belleville Public Library, 254 Pinnacle Street, Belleville.

Please RSVP [archives@cabhc.ca](mailto:archives@cabhc.ca)

## HCHS at Belleville Seniors' Fair



From left to right Historical Society Directors Mary-Lynne Morgan, President Dick Hughes, Diane Sule and Bill Kennedy were participants at the annual Belleville Seniors' Fair where they promoted the Society's and the Archives' work in Hastings County. The fair was held March 23rd at the Quinte Sports & Wellness Centre. It is an annual one-day event that always enjoys excellent attendance.

*Photo by Marilyn Hughes*



Please call in to see us while we get ready for our official opening in Archives Awareness Week, April 4th-10th. Public tours of the new Archives will take place that week and you can sign up for these in the Archives or online (see <http://cabhc.ca> for details). We will be open for researchers again on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1pm to 4pm, from April 12th.

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## Condolences ...

The Historical Society lost two dear friends recently with the passing of **Lewis Zandbergen** on February 21 and **Katharine Mills** on March 12. **Lewis** served for several years as director, *Outlook* editor and all-round energetic and devoted volunteer. His love of local history also led him to volunteer duties with historical bodies in Stirling and with the Ontario Genealogical Society. Over the years he gained many friends who will miss his dynamic presence.



**Katharine Mills** passed away at the age of 86 after a long career as a teacher and more recently as the bright and cheerful volunteer with the Archive Angels. Katharine possessed an irrepressible smile and sense of humour that brightened every room she entered. A dear and devoted friend of the Historical Society, Katharine will long be remembered. There will be a memorial service for her in the Spring. Details to be announced.



## We've Moved.....

The Historical Society has moved its office to the Library/Archives building at 254 Pinnacle Street, Second Floor, Postal Code K8N 3B1.



## HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL DIRECTORS & OFFICERS

**Officers**

President	Richard Hughes
Vice President	Vern Whalen
Treasurer	Grant Harrison
Secretary	Mary-Lynne Morgan

**Directors at Large**

Stanley Jones	Bill Kennedy
Diane Sule	Jim Kennelly

**Ex-officio:**

Gerry Boyce (Historical Advisor)  
Orland French (Past-President)  
Amanda Hill (Acting Archivist)

**Sub-committees**

Bus Tours	Bill Hunt (Research)
	Mary-Lynne Morgan (Administration)
County Liaison	Jim Kennelly
Education	Bill Kennedy
Exhibits/Events Co-ordinator	Jim Kennelly, Stanley Jones
HCHS Website	Orland French
Membership	Elizabeth Mitchell
Outlook Production	Donna Fano (Co-editor)
	Laurel Bishop (Co-editor)
Outlook Distribution	Elizabeth Mitchell
Programs	Vern Whalen
Public Relations (Print/Radio/TV)	Mary-Lynne Morgan
Sale of Publications	John Lowry
HCHS Website	<a href="http://www.hastingshistory.ca">www.hastingshistory.ca</a>
Heritage Centre Phone No.	613-962-1110

Hastings County Historical Society has its offices in the Library/Archives building at 254 Pinnacle Street, Second Floor, Postal Code K8N 3B1. *Outlook* is published eight months of the year for members and friends of the Society. Submissions can be sent to

**[outlook.hastingshistory@gmail.com](mailto:outlook.hastingshistory@gmail.com)**



## Hastings County Historical Society Presentation

### As We Celebrate The 80th Anniversary The History of CFB Trenton Speaker: Major Bill March CD Air Force History Historian

Since 1936, Trenton has been the home to Canada's premier air force base. Hear about its glorious history and impact on the Canadian Armed Forces as well as its involvement with the Quinte Area.

**Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2016**

**Time: 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Maranatha**

**100 College Street West, Belleville**

(Please use rear parking lot and back entrance and go to Meeting Room)

Member Designation