

# OUTLOOK

The Newsletter of THE HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1418 - BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO  
K8N 1N3

March 1, 1986

1. Our MARCH 18th meeting will <sup>be</sup> something out of the ordinary. We'll be hosting members of the SEVENTH TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY at a joint meeting planned for the Auditorium of the QUINTE LIVING CENTRE at 370 Front Street, Belleville. There'll be displays, coffee, and a half-hour social time at 7:30 P.M. and the general meeting begins at 8 P.M.

We want to welcome the members of our fellow society, to salute them for their work on the preservation and restoration of the old S.S. 12 school at Ameliasburgh (Roblin's Mills), to honour them for their publication in 1984 of an excellent 750-page history of the township, and to learn more about this historic township.



*7th Town was named after Princess Amelia- daughter of King George III*

## 7th Town/ Ameliasburgh Township

Past  
&  
Present



Compiled by:  
7th Town  
Historical Society

There have been close ties with Ameliasburgh Township since the beginning of Loyalist settlement. For example, in early years the County of Hastings and the Township of Ameliasburgh elected a single representative to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. James McNabb was that representative from 1816 to 1820.

MARION CALNAN of the Seventh Town Historical Society is in charge of that society's part of the program on March 18 and she reports that BRUCE GRAHAM will be presenting a multi-media introduction to the township's history, featuring a large number of historic and contemporary slides. It promises to be an excellent evening.

2. For those of our members and readers who are not familiar with the Seventh Town Historical Society we are pleased to provide these details taken from the pages of the 7th Town/Ameliasburgh Township Past & Present volume.

We are pleased to note the success of the society with respect to the school and history projects.

We are also pleased to record the names of the society's presidents since its inception in 1969: LORAL WANAMAKER (1969-71), MAC WALLBRIDGE (1971-72), FRANCES YOUNG (1972-75), MILDRED WANAMAKER (1975-77), BRUCE GRAHAM (1977-78), DAISY WANNAMAKER (1978-80), RON DICKENS (1980-82), and the REV. MAURICE McLEOD (1982 to the present).

Several of the regulars at our general meetings, such as JOHN WANNAMAKER (who sends in news relating to the Seventh Town Historical for OUTLOOK) hail from Ameliasburgh and are strong supporters of that society. John has been their secretary since 1981; he maintains his interest in Hastings County as the result of attending elementary school in Cashel Township.

3. We are inviting our guests to bring copies of the Ameliasburgh history to the meeting on the 18th. This will be your chance to peruse and, perchance, purchase a copy.
4. As you read ahead in OUTLOOK look for the answer to this puzzle. If you find the answer, send it to the society before the meeting or bring it with you. You could win a prize on the 18th. Here's the puzzle, with a thank you to ELAINE PRESTON for the idea:

Can you find the name of the prominent member of the Hastings County Historical Society whose name is spelled incorrectly in this issue of OUTLOOK.  
[Mistakes in past OUTLOOKs don't count.]

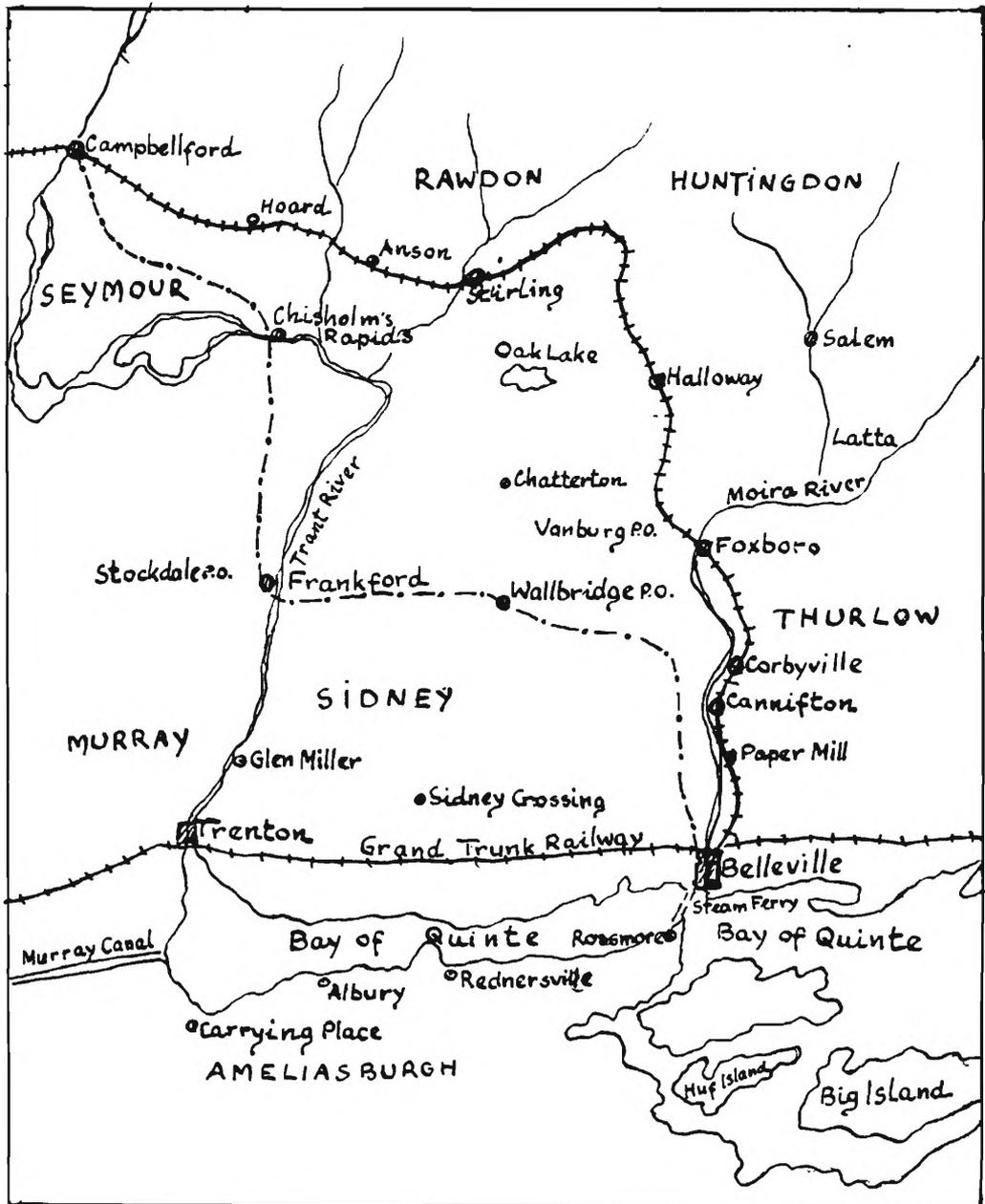
### The Seventh Town Historical Society

The Ameliasburgh Township Council on April 28, 1969, called a meeting for the purpose of initiating an Historical Society in the township. As an outcome of that meeting, The Seventh Town Historical Society was formed with the following executive: President— Loral Wanamaker, 1st Vice-President— Martin Hamelink, 2nd Vice-President— Reginald Barber, Secretary/Treasurer— Sharon Vanclief. Members enthusiastically began researching and preparing papers of village, church, school, cheese factory, farm and family histories, with the objective that eventually these could be incorporated into a history of the township. By the end of the first year the society had a membership of 56.

One of the first projects of the society was the erection of a plaque at the site of the Roblin Mill. This was achieved on June 27, 1971. The first bus trip was taken that year also, to several historical spots in the Kingston area. This was so successful that bus trips became an annual event. Pot luck suppers for the June and November meeting have also become an enjoyable tradition. As well as many papers by the members, guest speakers, slide presentations, demonstrations such as stencilling and weaving, and displays of collections such as bells, music boxes, buttons, clocks, guns and bottles, have provided varied and interesting programs.

Realizing the historic value of the old S.S. 12 school, the society has worked toward its preservation and restoration under the dedicated leadership of Daisy Wannamaker and a very energetic building committee. Another committee is working on the original objective of the society, that of publishing a book concerning the history of the township. This is the Bi-centennial project of the Historical Society.

5. Our HERITAGE DAY Celebration in February was a decided success. Despite weather that could have dampened the occasion and put a "freeze" on things, more than 70 members and friends turned up to celebrate our railway heritage. HELMA MIKA spoke of the Grand Junction Railway (whose route is pictured below) and NICK MIKA told of our first Canadian railroad - the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad (based on technology from Great Britain). LES LENNOX expressed our thanks for their interesting talks.



map from "The Grand Junction Railway" by the Mikas

This map shows the Grand Junction's route as adopted by the board of directors via Wallbridge's Mills (Halloway) and Stirling to Campbellford, and the route proposed by Joseph F. Way via Frankford and Chisholm Rapids to Campbellford.

Mika

6. Thanks to MIKA PUBLISHING, several of those attending on Heritage Day won prizes, including copies of "The Grand Junction Railway", other Mika books, and sets of attractive silkscreened pictures of locomotives - both C.N.R. and C.P.R. Because of this generosity and the continuing work of the Mikas in promoting local and Canadian history, the Society named MIKA PUBLISHING as PATRON of the Society for 1986. This is the first such honour bestowed by the Society in its 29-year history.
7. JULIA ASHBERRY featured the event in the Intell on February 20th. Interestingly enough, the Intell figured prominently in our meeting. BILL HAMBLÉN gave us MINUS 100 and explained that in 1886 the Intell spent considerable time explaining how the accounts of the February flood in downtown Belleville were twisted by the Toronto Globe with respect to the depth of water in City Hall, the ability of the Queen's Hotel to function despite the water, etc.
8. A reminder to others who have given a MINUS 100 presentation over the years. Please let us have the original or allow us to make a copy so that we can add these unusual reports to our archives.
9. Winner of the prize for the Mika silkscreened prints of locomotives at the February meeting was ELIANE PRESTON, who correctly identified the building in the last OUTLOOK as the former Pinnacle Street Methodist Church, located on the west side of Pinnacle Street on the site of the present Legion Hall. Built in 1847, the church building ceased to be used for church purposes after the erection of Bridge Street Methodist Church and was used as a passenger station by the Grand Junction Railway.
10. Our Society is not alone in featuring a MINUS 100 report at most meetings. The Cobourg and District Historical Society newsletter "Historically Speaking" notes that the Cobourg society has a similar feature. Its members also enjoy "Myths, myths, and more myths", a chance for members to correct inaccuracies in historical facts before they become entrenched in our history. Should we devote part of the occasional meeting to a similar purpose?

## Fourth year for heritage celebrations

This week's Heritage Day activities marked the fourth year the Hastings County Historical Society has joined other Canadians to celebrate the official day of historical recognition.

Society president Gerry Boyce says there are approximately 20 local organizations concerned with the history of the Hastings County and the Quinte area.

Boyce says there is "a lot of activity. Twenty-five years ago you'd only find two or three such organizations."

There are historical societies in Belleville, Trenton, Stirling, Madoc and a new committee in Bancroft—to name a few. Museums, genealogical societies, United Empire Loyalist associations, LACAC's and a local chapter of Save Ontario Shipwrecks are some of the other organizations dedicated to preserving local history.

The historical society's meeting, held at the Quinte Living Centre, also honored the contributions of publishers Nick and Helma Mika to preserving local history.

Boyce says directors wanted to mark the Mikas' "tremendous amount of research they continue to do in local history and their contribution of many books regarding the history of Ontario," so the Belleville residents were named the first patrons of the Hastings County Historical Society.

The Mikas, who presented some of their recent and upcoming works at the meeting, will be considered patrons of the society for the current operating year.

11. In the last OUTLOOK we reported on the election of the nine directors of the Society for 1986. Now we are pleased to include a list of executive officers elected at the first meeting of the board. Other officers are still to be appointed. For example we welcome volunteers to assist with the membership campaign, the arrangement of archival materials in the Canadiana Room of the Corby Library, and the undertaking of a "Today in History" research project that would see volunteers working (usually at home) to draw up lists of events that would be useful in preparing calendars of significant, local, historical events.

If you are interested in any of the three areas, phone the president at 968-5023 or drop him a note soon.

12. HERITAGE DAY brought many historical events to this area. A major highlight was the official opening of the "Discover Hastings County" exhibit in the HASTINGS COUNTY MUSEUM. Local dignitaries on hand for the occasion were JACK ELLIS, M.P. for Prince Edward-Hastings; JIM POLLOCK, M.P.P. for Hastings Peterborough; NEIL ROBERTSON, Mayor of the City of Trenton; GEORGE ZEGOURAS, Mayor of the City of Belleville; MARY SIMONDS, Curator-Manager of the Museum, who served as chairman for the afternoon; and this writer, who brought greetings from our Society. Representing Hastings County Council were two members of the Museum Management Board - Reeve DANIEL KELLY of Faraday and Reeve BILL MONK of Marmora.

To quote Mary Simonds, "We want people to get out and discover Hastings County which is so very rich in history. We hope some of the exhibits and artifacts here will help people get interested in the history of the county and will inspire them to go out and find some of the history of Hastings for themselves." Hats off to the Museum Management Board, the Museum staff, and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture's Heritage Branch for making possible this excellent display and resource centre. Work is ongoing on one feature of the display - a series of maps of the various townships to show historical sites (such as old mines and mills) and directions for getting to them.

13. Also on display at the Hastings County Museum is a new exhibit entitled "An Elegant Table", featuring British porcelain, silver, and glass, 1770-1840, from the collections of HAROLD GOOD of Centreville and the museum itself. Mr. Good organized and mounted the exhibit and wrote the catalogue accompanying the display. This display continues until April 16.

## New executive

The new executive directors of the Hastings County Historical Society, who were appointed this week, include: Gerry Boyce, president; George Super, vice-president and education officer; Marion Fisher, secretary; Adele Dibben, treasurer; Betsy Boyce, picture archivist; Bill Hamblen, assistant education officer; and Chester Hull, Quinte Arts Council representative. Others chairing special society committees include: Lois Foster, building research committee; Alice Deline, genealogical research committee; and Alice Dibben, stone building on Station Street committee.

14. A further feature of the HERITAGE DAY WEEKEND was a meeting of the QUINTE REGION BRANCH of the ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO. RODGER GREIG described basic architectural styles and LOIS FOSTER illustrated them with reference to buildings in Belleville. Some 70 persons attended this event whose timing, unfortunately, coincided exactly with the opening of the "Discover Hastings County" exhibit at the Hastings County Museum.
15. Your Society has maintained an active interest in the discussions surrounding the future of Belleville City Hall, the Cablevue Building, and the Market Square. LOIS FOSTER, the chairman of our Building Research Committee, made an excellent presentation before City Council and at the public meeting. The directors have asked City Council for a second opinion with respect to possible use of the Cablevue Building. Some individual members have made known their concerns; for example FRED ETHIER addressed the public meeting and forcefully pointed out several reasons for council to consider all the possibilities. Obviously all parties appreciate that council wants to preserve the historic nature of City Hall and, at the same time, provide better working conditions for staff and better public access to the building. Our members and friends should continue to monitor the situation and look for a satisfactory solution to the question.

History buffs are delighted to see that many of the people speaking out on the question of the City Hall and the surrounding properties are not members of this Society or of other heritage groups. There is strong support from business interests and the general public for the preservation of historic buildings.

The editor of the Intell noted (in an editorial on Feb. 15) that "The public interest generated by these issues is heartening." In fact, there was so much mail to the Intell on the topic that only part could be printed before the public meeting.

16. Another encouraging note on an historic local structure appeared in the Intell in mid-February:

## CNIB plans restoration of old building on riverside

The Moira River Conservation Authority has approved leasing to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind the old stone building linked to Belleville's early industrial efforts on the Station Street bank of the Moira River.

The CNIB has plans for extensively restoring the now-ramshackle structure into a district office, training centre and sales outlet for crafts by the blind.

A number of uses have been unsuccessfully pondered for the building--mostly by local historians anxious to preserve it as a heritage site--since the MRCA acquired it in the 1970s. The conservation agency needed the riverside land for construction of the Lott Dam. The building and surplus land left after the dam's completion was leased to the city for greenbelt.

The MRCA will act as agent for the CNIB in leasing back the building from the city.

17. Still with the Intell, this summary of events relating to history generally and Hastings County in particular:

## Historical

Travelling around Ontario is an experience enhanced by the historical links with the province's various communities.

Wayside plaques -- for anyone taking the time to stop -- provide a wealth of information: everything from school and church beginnings here in Belleville and commemorative material about hymn writer Joseph Scriven over Rice Lake way, where he was a private tutor, to cheese production (like The Big Cheese) at Ingersoll. And from hockey legends such as Howie Morenz, of Mitchell (northwest of Stratford), to a stone roadside marker near the Franco-Ontarian community of St. Joseph (north of Grand Bend) in memory of an early Seaway pioneer.

Of such, too, in microcosm, is the history of our own Hastings County which can range from the pioneering sagas of Susanna Moodie to the first discovery of gold in Ontario at Eldorado.

We think of such historical lore in connection with the Discover Hastings County exhibit at the museum. Indeed, if dollar-exchange woes are getting to vacationers, where better in the holidays-at-home milieu than to contemplate what the county environment offers.

The Heritage Week exhibit at the museum is a fascinating one to anyone interested in the county, whether already well versed in the background of this area or just starting out in the process of discovering home turf.

As Hastings County Museum curator Mary Simmons has put it: "We want people to get out and discover Hastings County .... We hope some of the exhibits and artifacts here will help people get interested in the history of the county ...."

Certainly we can relate to that, for there is much to be enjoyed and discovered. There are even some other, peripheral and contemporary legends, even verging on the bizarre which might be considered in this context. Like brief flings with rock concert happenings in Centre Hastings, UFO sightings and all. Maybe even things that go bump in the night which Gerry Boyce and his county historical society doubtless would like to investigate should anyone have wind of them. Or is that the realm of the psychic folk?

In any event, both the museum exhibit and the county await our pleasure ....

Feb. 20/86

18. It's nearly March Break for schools and we're pleased to note that the Hastings County Museum is again offering a March Break Program for children, from March 10 to 14. For information contact the museum at 962-2329.
19. Still on the topic of schoolchildren at the Hastings County Museum, the February 21st Intell featured the museum's Schooldays Program. Museum education coordinator MARILYN BUCHOLTZ was pictured with students from St. Michael's Junior School. The student wearing the sign around his neck didn't seem too happy; did the sign read "Indolence" or "Dirt" or what? (Schools in the 1820s used signs of this type as a punishment for various offences.)

20. News in brief from around the county . . . the TRENT PORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY celebrated HERITAGE DAY on February 17th with special displays at the Dufferin Centre; two days later the society was addressed by BILL HUNT of Belleville on rum running on Lake Ontario and history buffs around the lake are eagerly awaiting the publication later this year of Bill's book on the subject . . . the TRENT PORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY has sponsored a successful art contest in Trenton's schools relating to "Heritage Day and What It Means" . . . the UNITED EMPIRE LOYALIST ASSOCIATION OF CANADA is holding its 1986 Convention at Belleville's Ramada Inn from May 15 to 18; it's being hosted by the Bay of Quinte Branch and an interesting program is being arranged, including genealogical research assistance, all-day bus tours of historic sites in this area, and an ecumenical church service in the Royal Chapel of the Mohawks at Tyendinaga, using the communion silver given by Queen Anne and Queen Elizabeth II . . . the Corby Library's Brown Bag Lunch on Wednesday, March 19, features the editors of "Susanna Moodie - Letters of a Lifetime", namely Elizabeth Hopkins, Carl Ballstadt, and Michael Peterman . . . the TWEED NEWS featured an interesting poem by PADDY WHALEN on "That Old Moira River keeps on rolling", relating to the lumbering years . . . also featured in the TWEED NEWS was a 200 year-old tree recently cut and turned into lumber, more than 600 board feet; there can't be too many trees this size and age still standing . . . LOYALIST COLLEGE continues to give prominence to paintings by the REV. BOWEN P. SQUIRE of Trenton; college brochures feature "The Arrival of the Loyalists", a painting donated to the college by Rev. Squire in 1982; this painting shows the arrival of the U.E.L.s at Weller's Bay and the establishment of the Kente settlement, and is currently exhibited in the Anderson Resource Centre of the Kente Building on the main campus of Loyalist College . . . the February newsletter of the KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY notes that the culture of Canada's native people is being given a "high profile" by BRANT MARACLE and NORMA MARACLE; he is a poet and lecturer and his wife is an artist specializing in beadwork; their display of authentic crafts is located on the east end of the Tyendinaga Reserve . . . the SENIOR FRIENDS OF THE TWEED PLAYHOUSE, a group of senior citizens and retired persons who banded together in 1983 to provide programs for the historic Playhouse, received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Hon. LILY MUNRO, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Culture, on February 14; LES BRADY, chairman of the Tweed group, accepted the award . . . JEAN RICHTER of Purdy in north Hastings, one of the contributors to "Historic Hastings" in 1967, continues to publish a weekly column in the "Bancroft Times"; it's a fascinating account of life and happenings in the small community of Purdy; keep up the good work, Jean . . .

21. We regret to report the death on January 28 of ROB COLLINS, member and friend. Rob was a member of our Local History Class at the Quinte Living Centre and also took the Native Studies and Canadian Government courses with me at the Centre. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family.

22. Our thanks to ELIZABETH RICHARDSON of Lindsay for a donation to the Society in memory of GLADYS ROLLINS. The gift has been placed in our LIVING TRUST FUND.

23. OUTSIDE the borders of Hastings County, but of special interest to our members . . .

MARY GREIG, a former executive member of our society, was acknowledged in the "Toronto Star" on February 5 for passing along a January 6, 1840, letter from Helen Macaulay relating to recipes of the 1840's; the letter was featured in the "Canadian Cookbook" column written by the Star's Elizabeth Baird . . . the PRINCE EDWARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY paid tribute to the late JEANNE WELBANKS MINHINNICK earlier this year; an accompanying picture showed RODGER GREIG and JIM MUSGROVE, longtime members of our Society, cutting the cake in celebration of the second anniversary of the Prince Edward County Archives . . .

the LENNOX AND ADDINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM continues to advertise effectively through small classified ads, such as the one at right . . .

the LENNOX AND ADDINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM also advertises "The Wearing of the Green", a special slide show and information on St. Patrick's Day - its history and traditions, on Monday, March 17, at 7:30 P.M. . . .

NAPANEE TOWN HALL has been designated of national historic and architectural significance, as a result of a study of Canadian town halls by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada . . . the KINGSTON BRANCH of the ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is holding CONVERSAZIONE III on Saturday, April 19; for information contact the branch at P.O. Box 1394, Kingston, K7L 5C6 . . . many thanks to LAWRENCE KELLS for supplying information and photos of the hamlet of Whitney in the 1920s; BOB LYONS of Bancroft has researched and written about Whitney and is planning a book . . .

COUNTY MUSEUM Hours, Monday through Friday, 12 till 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1 till 4:30 p.m. Reading room open Tuesdays and Thursdays. Museum closed Sundays. November through March and holidays, October through April, 97 Thomas St. E., Napanee. 354-3027. 3c

24. Sincere thanks to: CHESTER HULL and LES LENNOX who manned a display when the Queen Mary Centre held "Open House"; they report sales of literature and memberships were encouraging . . . RUTH GNAEDINGER for preparing a recent OUTLOOK for mailing . . . ADELE DIBBEN, MARION FISHER, GARY STAPLEY, and GEORGE SUPER for helping in archives workshops in the Corby Library . . . and future thanks to the volunteer who would like to research the original minute book for the Belleville Waterworks Company, celebrating its Centennial this September . . . and more future thanks to anyone who can provide MRS. CARMAN GIBSON of Plainfield (477-2818) with information on Trinity Church at Roslin (now in its Centennial year).

and ELAINE PRESTON

25. EARLY METHODIST RECORDS: A transcription of the earliest Methodist records for the Bay of Quinte area held by the United Church Archives. Contains baptisms and some marriages for the Smith's Creek Circuit (covering Belleville to Whitby), 1805-1844; the Bay of Quinte Circuit, 1835-1846; and the Napanee Circuit, 1843-1853; the latter two covering Fredericksburg, Napanee, Ernestown, Camden, Richmond, and Tyendinaga. The book is soft cover, spiral back, over 90 pages of entries, fully indexed. Some genealogies included. Prepublication price until May 1, 1986 is \$10 plus \$1.65 postage and handling in Canada (or \$4.45 postage and handling outside Canada). After May 1, the price increases to \$12.50 plus postage and handling. Only 750 copies will be printed and they will be available after May 1, 1986. To order send cheque or money order payable to "Bay of Quinte Branch, U.E.L. Association" and mail to MRS. VANESSA BACOLA, 6 Thorncliffe Drive, Belleville, Ontario, K8P 4L4.

26. A REMINDER . . . Registration is taking place now at B.C.I.V.S. for the Local History Course I have been teaching for the past few years. Join the adults who have enjoyed the class. Call B.C.I.V.S. at 962-9581 or this writer at 968-5023.

27. Have you forgotten??? A red mark in the square below indicates that we can not find any record of your fees being paid for 1986. If you have sent them in the past few days, please disregard this mark. If you sent them earlier, please drop us a card or a call so that we can check our records. [Errors can happen and we're only human.] If you have forgotten to send the fees, please do it today, so that you will continue to receive **OUTLOOK** and enjoy the other benefits.



(A)  
CHECK TYPE  
OF MEMBERSHIP  
DESIRED

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

(B)  
LIFE  
\$100

Enclosed is a donation of . . . . . dollars.  
Send receipt

NOTE: PLEASE RETURN THIS section (including the mailing label) to the Hastings County Historical Society, P.O. 1418, Belleville, Ontario. If there is any error in the printed name or address on the label, please correct it. Many thanks. *[We don't want this to be your last OUTLOOK]*

YOUR monthly quota  
of exciting news and  
views, dots and dashes  
from the folks at the

HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 1418  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 5J1

Hope to see you  
at our meeting  
on March 18.

*Gerry Bayes*

