



# Outlook

Volume 12 Issue 3

Issue Number 224, March 2007

## Chisholm company observes 150th year of operation

The Chisholm Lumber Mill of Roslin, Ontario will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2007. To help commemorate this historic milestone it has produced an excellent picture calendar of its past. The nostalgic calendar cover watercolour of the mill was painted by Debra Tate-Sears.

The calendar contains a variety of photos. There is an aerial shot of the mill site beside the Moira River and a collage of photos of the various bridges that have crossed the river at that point for over a century. There is an early 1900s photo of Joseph Merritt Chisholm, his wife, Minnie, and their son William Harvey Chisholm. A reproduction of a 1904 postcard from GTR station agent G. Burton advises J.M. Chisholm that a flat car has been placed at Corbyville for him to load his lumber and would he "please load as soon as possible."

In the latter half of the 19th century lumbering became the lifeline of many settlers according



Chisholm Lumber Mill by Debra Tate-Sears.

to a Hastings County Limerick Township history. During the winter a man could earn as much as 15 dollars a month plus room and board. The accommodations were poorly chinked log bunk structures that held up to 50 men who slept on plank beds in a single room.

### Next Meeting

**TUESDAY, March 20,**

2007

### Speaker

Steven Duff

Speaker bio on page 4.

### Topic

Dr. Alexander Milton Ross

Refreshments

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly meetings are held in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre  
370 Front Street, Belleville



Logs in the river at Chisholm's

### Please Note!

The Deadline for the April 2007 issue of Outlook is March 23, 2007

# Belleville Churches Celebrate Anniversaries

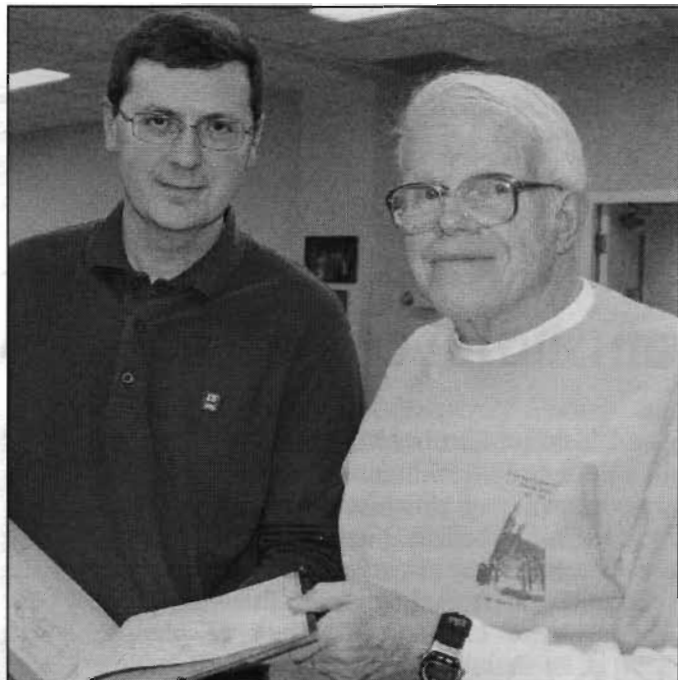
Two Belleville churches will celebrate special anniversaries this year. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is 175 years old and Victoria Avenue Baptist Church will commemorate one hundred years at its current site. The Society speakers for the February meeting, Gerry Boyce and Doug Knutson, presented a history of the churches from their Belleville beginnings up to the present to an audience of about sixty people.

The first minister assigned to St. Andrew's was a man named John Howard but he died before ever reaching Belleville. The Church of Scotland then sent out Reverend James Ketchan in 1831 who, upon his arrival, resided in Kingston, then moved on to Toronto and Niagara Falls, only arriving in Belleville when he was assured that the church had been built. By 1843 Ketchan had established preaching stations in Huntington and Tyendinaga, but in time soon found the work too strenuous and returned to Scotland. Keeping a minister continued to be a problem during St. Andrew's formative years. After serving a brief stint in Belleville James George felt it was his solemn duty to return to Scarborough, Archibald Walker entered a mental hospital and following his first year M.W. McLean took a leave of absence.

In 1871 it was decided that a bigger building with a seating capacity of 446 people was needed and construction got underway at a cost of \$14,000. In the decades ahead finances would prove to be a problem from time to time but in September 1939 the church mortgage was burned. Eventually St. Andrew's gave a committee of twenty-four women the job of looking after the church's finances and its interior condition and in 1965 women were granted the right to hold the position of church elders.

The Baptists were one of the first groups to stand for the separation of church and state and today the Baptist Church, each church being a self-governing entity, is the largest in the United States. The first Baptist in the Quinte area was missionary Asa Turner from New York who arrived here about 1795. Today missionary work and evangelism play a big role in Baptist Church activities with missionaries in two hundred countries.

In his presentation Doug Knutson began with the origins of the Baptist Church in England in the early 17th century and the application in the year 1818 by Baptist Mathias Ross for a lot on which to build a church in Belleville. The permit was granted but the building was never wholly completed, the church remained inactive and eventually the congregation disappeared. No further Baptist work is recorded for forty years. It wasn't until 1873 that W.S. Patterson commenced his ministry



Doug Knutson (l) and Gerry Boyce were the guest speakers at the February 20 meeting of the Hastings County Historical Society. Their topics were the histories of St. Andrew's Presbyterian and Victoria Avenue Baptist Churches.

with the Belleville Baptist Church, the Workingman's Temperance Hall being used as the initial venue for Sunday worship. In 1896 the church moved from a property it held on Moira Street into the roller skating rink at the corner of Victoria and Pinnacle Streets with mortgage and remodeling costs totaling \$6,200. Ten years later the cornerstone was laid for the building of a new church at the same site and it stands there today. Its construction is based on that of the church on Wentworth Street in Hamilton. In 1949 the Church purchased additional property and started its Fairway Avenue Sunday School.

Some of the current church furniture, Doug reported, was made by one of the church's former ministers and the stained glass windows are all memorials. A detailed history of the church can be found in *A Century of Service - 1873 / 1973* by Veva Robson who was Hastings County Historical Society's first president.

## Addendum

The following paragraph was omitted from the president's report in the February edition of Outlook.

"Our Outlook publication has continued with the appointment of Bill Kennedy as editor. I would like to thank Lewis Zandbergen for his years as editor and production manager. Lewis will continue to put the publication together in his lively fashion. Look for an on-line version in colour coming soon."

**Letter to the editor:**

# Marine museum future uncertain

Dear Editor:

I am writing to inform the Great Lakes Marine Enthusiasts that the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, in Kingston Ontario, is in peril!

The Museum sits on a site which is leased from the Federal Government. The City of Kingston acts as their property manager. The site is leased to the museum for a nominal fee. However, the museum's lease is up for renewal in November of this year. The Federal Government wants the City of Kingston to take over some properties but has offered only a package deal involving a local lift bridge etc. The City does not want the package offered. If the lease is not renewed, the museum has had to set up an exit strategy. This would most likely be the end of the museum and the retired *CCGS Alexander Henry* would probably go to a ship breaker. All the money and effort put into improving this site would have been a waste.

This is the last Canadian Marine Museum dedicated to the Great Lakes Shipping Industry. Their collection of artifacts, photographs, blueprints etc. is invaluable. The site is of historical significance as well. The ship-

yard was opened in the 1890s by Sir John A. Macdonald, our first Prime Minister. I am sure many of you have used their web site for research and have visited this museum.

The Toronto Marine Museum has been lost and we do not want to lose this museum as well. Toronto has offered some of their collections but with the situation here, this can not be accepted. With the possible loss of site, many grants can not be applied for or will not be approved. This will lead to financial problems for the museum which could cause its demise as well.

I urge all marine enthusiasts on both sides of the border to sign the petition which can be accessed at the marine museum web site, <[www.marmuseum.ca](http://www.marmuseum.ca)>. The full story is listed there.

I urge the individual Canadian marine enthusiasts and Canadian Marine Societies to contact their federal representatives to push to solve this problem.

Capt. Ron Walsh  
Master Minor Waters  
Kingston Ontario



## Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years . . .

Before your Society opened the Hastings County Museum in Belleville in 1961, it arranged displays at the Quinte Exhibition. Volunteers in the first display (1958) included Bev and Gerry Boyce. The display under the grandstand included newspapers, maps, artifacts and pictures. A sign sought donations of pictures and today, the Society has more than 50,000 pictures and negatives. The largest collections are from Mika Publishing and the *Quinte Weekly News*. Watch for more pictures of early Society events in future editions of *Outlook*.

## Front Page News Items from the past

*Belleville Weekly Intelligencer*,  
January 1881

A number of Sitting Bull's warriors have come to Fort Buford to surrender and it is expected they will be followed by their Chief who was at the mouth of the Milk River.

The first detachment of engineers and workmen have left Paris for Panama where they will begin construction on the Panama Canal.

The King of Italy who is "traveling in the strictest incognito as the Count of Pavia" is about to visit France and England. Sounds like an oxymoron to us.

The recent cold snap has frozen orange trees in Florida.

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## Publishing a century of memories

Congratulations to Lois Wishart on the publication of her book, *The Girl with the Navy Blue Eyes*. Lois, who is 99 years old, has provided an interesting record along with many pictures of life in Belleville from 1930 to 2000. Lois grew up in Quebec and then came to Belleville as a new bride when her husband started a position with the Entomology Laboratory (also known as the Bug House). A dam on the Moira River is named to honour the Wisharts for their contributions to the community.

Her book is available at Glanmore and the Quinte Conservation office and all revenue is being donated to these organizations. The 144-page book, bound in a handsome hardcover and containing many excellent family photographs, sells for \$25. Also included is a DVD in which Lois talks about her book and shares some of her memories. For Lois, born on July 2, 1907, and for all of us, this is a splendid centenary project.

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## Rum Runners' haunts bus trip planned

The next Society bus trip should generate a lot of interest. Bill Hunt has arranged a bus tour of Prince Edward County's rum runners' haunts and hideouts! Tickets for this event will be on sale at the regular meeting Tuesday, March 20.

The date is Saturday, May 5, 2007. The tour will depart from the Bay View Mall at 8:30 a.m. and return no later than 4:30 p.m. The carrier is Foley Bus Company from Madoc. The price per person is \$60.00. Lunch will be served, likely at the Port Milford (South Bay) United Church. There will be pit stops and coffee breaks at Tim Hortons in both the morning and afternoon.

There is a tremendous interest in this trip so we suggest you call Vera Morton at 966-4859 early. We will be advertising this trip in *County Magazine* in the spring. Sales of Bill Hunt's latest book on the rum runners indicate a pent up demand for this trip to The County.

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## An exciting roster of speakers lined up

**March 20** "Hunter of Dreams," bio of Dr. Alexander Milton Ross

**April 17** "What We Hold Dear," Alderville 1st Nation history, Ruth Clarke

**May 15** "Meyers Rebellion," & other Meyers books, Connie Brummel Crook

**September 18** TBA

**October 16** HCHS 50th anniversary

*Our speaker this month ...*

## Steven Duff to highlight the life of Dr. Alexander Milton Ross

Steven Duff is the author of *Hunter of Dreams*, a historical novel that celebrates a relatively unheralded citizen of Hastings County, Dr. Alexander Milton Ross. Dr. Ross became heavily involved in the activities of the Underground Railroad in the 1850s and 1860s and numbered among his associates such notables as Harriet Tubman, Josiah Henson, and John Brown.

Ross was a true Renaissance man, engaged in human rights, medicine, and natural sciences, and he used his research into flora and fauna as a rationale to travel extensively in the Deep South. The reality was that he was expanding his Underground Railroad network to apprise slaves of its existence and to assist them in their flight to safety in Canada. Ultimately, Alexander Ross' work brought him to the personal attention of Abraham Lincoln, who commissioned him as a U.S. agent during the Civil War, in which role Ross apprehended a Confederate agent carrying 82 pieces of classified documents and correspondence. Alexander Milton Ross was responsible, directly and indirectly, for the successful escape of several hundred slaves.

Mr. Duff, a retired music teacher-turned-writer, will be bringing copies of *Hunter of Dreams* for sale at \$28.95, signed for each purchaser. *Hunter of Dreams* has stirred up considerable interest in the historical community and Mr. Duff's most recent speaking engagement was at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Centre in Cincinnati.

Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton.

Please address mail to General Delivery, Cannifton, Ontario K0K 1K0

Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, September,

October and November for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society.

It is edited by Bill Kennedy and produced by Lewis Zandbergen.

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