

# THE HERITAGE GAZETTE OF THE TRENT VALLEY

## VOLUME 11, NUMBER 2, AUGUST 2006

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Trent Valley Archives .....	2
President's Report .....	2
Sites for the International Plowing Match, Ontario, 1913-2006 .....	3
Sites of World Ploughing Contests, 1953-2006 .....	4
Peterborough's International Plowing Matches .....	4
Poster 1931; Peterborough Plowing Match 1941 [with map]; Plowing Match is of Interest To All; Welcome to the International Plowing Match	
Cobourg 1953: The First World Plowing Match .....	John Jolie 5
"The Golden Plough" .....	Elwood Jones 6
Peterborough County Plowmen's Association 1967 .....	6
International Plowing Match Peterborough 1964 .....	7
Henry Batten Farm Scene of Many Plow Matches; 300 Exhibitors to show Products; Women Will Pitch In at Huge Tented City; Plowing Match Familiar to Resident on Ontario; Many Trophies Donated For For Farm Improvements; Chilly Opening For Plowing Match; Extensive Frost Damage as Mercury Drops to 20; Many Juniors Among 450 Entries in Competitions; MGM Plans to Film Plow Match; Victoria Girl Queen of Furrow; Tented City Protected Against Fire; Princeton Man Winner Ontario Title	
International Plowing Match Peterborough 2006 .....	10
Peterborough 1851 .....	W. H. Smith, <i>Canada</i> 11
DeLaval 1911 catalogue cover .....	12
Barns: Our Vanishing Rural Heritage: Something to Ponder .....	Dr John C. Carter 13
The Barns of Smith Township .....	John Marsh 14
Barn Plans and Outbuildings .....	14
Early Peterborough Fairs and Exhibitions .....	Elwood Jones 16
Farmers Attend!! [1823] .....	TVA Foster Russell fonds 19
Researching Agricultural History at the Trent Valley Archives .....	20
The Agricultural Society of Otonabee and Asphodel [1850] .....	Thomas Carr 20
Plowing Match poster 1866; Peter Hamilton plow	
Don't Mortgage Your Farm [1887] .....	William Telford 22
Origin of Cavan Blazers [1904] .....	One Who Was There 23
Queries .....	Diane Robnik 24
Peterborough monument?; Heffernan Family Reunion; Peterborough's First Daguerrean Artist? Leahy; Roseborough; Pogue	
Farm Union Militancy: Ontario Farmer's Union, 1952-69 .....	Bruce Dodds 26
History of the Rural Publishing Company [and minutes 1909] .....	27
Delivery Day – Massey Harris Farm Machinery, Lakefield, 1911; Changed Hands: Peterborough Mills being featured in new book; McAllister Milling Company letterheads; Up the Burleigh Road ... beyond the Rocks	
Millbrook's Municipal Hall, 1850 to 2005 .....	Larry D. E. Lamb 30
Peterborough October 1884: Real Estate for Sale .....	Peterborough Examiner 33
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Peterborough Branch .....	34
Archives and Ideas: 2006 AAO Conference .....	Elwood Jones 35
Sports Walk Worthwhile .....	Bob Feaver, Peterborough Examiner 36
Lang Pioneer Village: the Lumber Industry in Peterborough County .....	Barbara van Viezen 37
News and Views: Trent Valley Archives .....	38
Charles Barrons; Bethany Celebrates 150; Peterborough Pathway of Fame; Doors Open Peterborough Agricultural Fairs; International Plowing Match; Peterborough Fire Department History; Quaker Oats Fire Commemorative Plaque; Historica Fair Feature on Madeleine Brown; Dr Barclay McKone; County Of Peterborough Recognition Awards; Fourth Line Theatre; Peterborough Lions Club Turns 70; etc	
Trent Valley Archives; Nexicom Communications .....	Inside covers

## Trent Valley ARCHIVES

Fairview Heritage Centre  
 567 Carnegie Avenue  
 Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1  
 (705) 745-4404  
[admin@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:admin@trentvalleyarchives.com)  
[www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com)

## Trent Valley ARCHIVES

Fairview Heritage Centre  
567 Carnegie Avenue  
Peterborough ON K9L 1N1  
(705) 745-4404  
admin@trentvalleyarchives.com  
[www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com)

**Reading Room open**  
**Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4pm**

### Board of Directors

Heather Aiton-Landry  
Bruce Fitzpatrick  
Stephen Guthrie  
Elwood Jones  
Susan Kyle  
Doug Lavery  
Wally Macht  
John Marsh, President  
Gina Martin  
Chris Minicola  
Marjorie Shephard  
Toni Sinclair

Keith Dinsdale, Andre Dorfman  
Martha Ann Kidd, Alice MacKenzie  
Don Willcock

### Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

Elwood Jones, editor  
[ejones55@cogeco.ca](mailto:ejones55@cogeco.ca)  
Keith Dinsdale  
Martha Kidd  
John Marsh  
Gina Martin  
Diane Robnik  
Don Willcock

### Trent Valley Archives

Diane Robnik  
Associate Archivist  
[admin@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:admin@trentvalleyarchives.com)

The information and opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Trent Valley Archives or its directors.

©2006 Trent Valley Archives

Any copying, downloading or uploading without the explicit consent of the editor is prohibited. Classroom use is encouraged, but please inform the editor of such use.

## President's Report

Peterborough is often regarded as the gateway to the Kawartha Lakes, and, indeed the lakes of cottage country are a major attraction for those of us fortunate to live in this area, or for tourists. Further north, the county has been deemed sufficiently wild to designate it for protection as Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Provincial Park. But the southern part of Peterborough County is primarily a rich rural landscape, rich in heritage, rich in culture, and still agriculturally productive. Native people hunted, fished and farmed in the area for thousands of years, as evident at Serpent Mounds Park on the shore of Rice Lake. In the early 1800s, European settlers gradually pushed the farming frontier north, even into the more challenging Shield areas that make up the northern parts of the County. This struggle to exploit and settle the Shield environment is revealed in a new book authored by Doug and Mary Lavery entitled "Up the Burleigh Road...beyond the boulders." It has just been published by TVA and is available from us, or local bookstores for \$30. By 1900, farms dominated the landscape of the southern part of the County. Numerous farmhouses and barns from this period enhance the landscape today. Several years ago I began a photographic inventory of such historic features in Smith and Ennismore townships. A few of these photos are reproduced in this Gazette. This year a more detailed inventory is being undertaken in the rest of the county by the Kawartha Heritage Conservancy.

Given the historic and current importance of agriculture in the county, and growing interest in agri-tourism, it is hardly surprising that the area was chosen to host the 2006 International Ploughing Match. This is a major event, sponsored by the Ontario Plowmen's Association. A history of the Association from 1911-2000, entitled "God Speed the Plough" is available from the Association for \$20. The first ploughing match was in 1913, and it was first held in Peterborough County

in 1931. It will be run from September 19-23, 2006 on several farms between Keene and Mather's Corners, and is expected to attract about 100,000 people. For over a year, over 30 committees have been planning to ensure its success. It will be a fitting tribute to our agricultural heritage and economy.

The Trent Valley Archives were invited to participate in this event. Accordingly, we agreed to prepare this special issue of the Gazette on the agricultural history of the County of Peterborough. It features various time periods, most parts of the County, historic photographs, and information on the history of the International Ploughing Match. I congratulate Elwood Jones, the editor, on producing this exceptional issue, and acknowledge the financial support for it of the County.

As well, a display is being prepared to illustrate the evolution of the land-scape of what is now designated as Peterborough County. A great variety of archival resources are being used for this. They include: land records, survey descriptions, old photographs, family papers, newspapers, township histories, and historic tape recordings. The resulting chronological panorama will begin in the Ice Age, emphasize the nineteenth and twentieth



centuries, and envision the future. The story will be told on several scales. It will focus on the site of the Ploughing Match and Peterborough County, but key provincial, national and global events will be identified to provide context. What have been

the key events in the evolution of rural Peterborough County? What technologies transformed the landscape? Who played a major role; was your family involved? Send us your suggestions. Come to the Ploughing Match, see the TVA display in the County tent and see if you agree with our version of the story.

*John Marsh*

## Sites for the International Plowing Match, Ontario, 1913-2006

- 1913 Sunnybrook Farm, Toronto, York  
 1914 Sunnybrook Farm, Toronto, York  
 1915 Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Wellington  
 1916 R.J. Fleming Farm, Pickering, Ontario  
 1917 Oak Park Stock Farm, Brantford, Brant  
 1918 Central Experimental Farm (cancelled), Ottawa  
 1919 English and O'Brien Farms, Chatham, Kent  
 1920 Ontario Hospital Farm, Hamilton, Wentworth  
 1921 Ontario Hospital Farm, Woodstock, Oxford  
**1922 County Farm, Lindsay, Victoria**  
 1923 John Goodison Farm, Sarnia, Lambton  
 1924 R.H. Bull & Sons Farm, Brampton, Peel  
 1925 Ontario Hospital Farm, Brockville, Leeds  
 1926 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, Welland  
 1927 Toronto Municipal Farm, Toronto, York  
 1928 Carmichael Bros. Farm, London, Middlesex  
 1929 Government Farms, Kingston, Frontenac  
 1930 Downey Twp. Hwy. 7, Stratford, Perth  
**1931 Monaghan Twp., Hwy. 28, Peterborough**  
 1932 Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Carleton  
 1933 Derby Twp., Owen Sound, Grey  
 1934 Maryvale Farm, Wexford, Toronto, York  
 1935 Seneca Twp., Caledonia, Haldimand  
 1936 Cornwall Twp., Stormont Co., Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry  
 1937 Beatty Bros., Fergus, Wellington  
 1938 Minesing, Barrie, Simcoe  
 1939 Ontario Hospital & adjoining farms, Brockville, Leeds & Grenville  
 1940 Ontario Hospital & other farms, St. Thomas, Elgin  
**1941 N. Monaghan Twp., Hwy. 28, Peterborough**  
 1942 - 1945 No Matches Due to War Restrictions  
 1946 Port Albert Airfield, Goderich, Huron  
 1947 Hemlock Park Farms, Kingston, Frontenac  
**1948 J.C. Chambers Farm, Lindsay, Victoria**  
 1949 H.W. Amy's Farm, Brantford, Brant  
 1950 Nottawasaga Valley Farms, Alliston, Simcoe  
 1951 Farm of John R. Hargreaves, Woodstock, Oxford  
 1952 Carp Airport, Carp, Carleton  
**1953 Counties Home Farm, Cobourg, Durham-Northumberland**  
 1954 John Randall & other farms, Breslau, Waterloo  
 1955 John Rahm & other farms, Blythwood, Essex  
 1956 Heber Down & other farms, Brooklin, Ontario  
 1957 Mike Lizon & other farms, Simcoe, Norfolk  
 1958 Armand Clouthier's Farm, Crysler, Stormont  
 1959 R.B. Hannah & other farms, Dundas, Wentworth  
 1960 Thos. Humbe & Sons & other farms, Springfield, Elgin  
 1961 Farley Vermilyea & other farms, Belleville, Hastings  
 1962 Norman Barber & other farms, Owen Sound, Grey  
 1963 Conn Smythe Farms, Caledon, Peel  
**1964 Henry Batten & other farms, Peterborough**  
 1965 Massey Ferguson Farms, Milliken, York  
 1966 Jas. Scott Farms, Seaforth, Huron  
 1967 Jos. Cochrane Farm, Barrie, Simcoe  
 1968 Jack M. Gilchrist Farm, Guelph, Wellington  
 1969 Ross Kelley Farm, Paris, Brant  
**1970 Claire Farr & other farms, Lindsay, Victoria**  
 1971 Harewood Acres, Nanticoke, Haldimand  
 1972 Olli Zehr Farm, Sebringville, Perth  
 1973 J.D. McGuagan Farm, Alvinston, Lambton  
 1974 W.T. Craig Reid Farm, Georgetown, Halton  
**1975 Edward Ransom & Charles Robson Farms, Oshawa, Rg. Mcpl. Of Durham**  
 1976 Earl Johnson & other farms, Walkerton, Bruce  
 1977 Gerald Greenless & other farms, Kingston, Frontenac  
 1978 Jim Armstrong & other farms, Wingham, Huron  
 1979 Ian Maynard & other farms, Chatham, Kent  
 1980 City of Woodstock, Hartley Farm, Woodstock, Oxford  
 1981 Gordon Atkinson & other farms, Barrie, Simcoe  
 1982 Alan Scott & other farms, Lucan, Middlesex  
 1983 Garnet Ralph & other farms, Richmond, Ottawa-Carleton  
 1984 J.D. Ross & other farms, Teviotdale, Wellington  
 1985 Wm. F. Brandish & Sons Ltd., St. Thomas, Elgin  
**1986 Sutherland Dracup & Richardson, Stirling, Hastings**  
 1987 John Lowe Family & other farms, Meaford, Grey  
 1988 Augustin Walch & other farms, Stratford, Perth  
 1989 Hi-Way Farms & other farms, Belle River, Essex  
 1990 Emmott Telfer & other farms, Paris, Brant  
 1991 Aywon Acres & other farms, Petrolia, Lambton  
**1992 Mildred, George & Brenda Graham & other farms, Lindsay, Victoria**  
 1993 Johnston Family Farm, Walkerton, Bruce  
 1994 Gary and Bev Smith, Renfrew County  
 1995 Floyd and Doreen Moyer, Ayr, Waterloo Region  
 1996 Craig and Arlene Yager and other farms, Selkirk, Haldimand-Norfolk Region  
 1997 Kerr Family Farm, Ivy, Simcoe County  
 1998 Ball Family Farm, Sunbury, Frontenac County  
 1999 Earl, Linda and Michael Becker and other farms, Dashwood, Huron County  
 2000 Lewis and Mae Day and Morris Day, Erwin G. Musselman and Other Farms, Elora, Wellington County  
 2001 Navan, Ontario. Ottawa-Carleton  
 2002 Glencoe, Ontario, Middlesex County  
 2003 Carleton Place, Lanark County  
 2004 Meaford, Grey County  
 2005 Listowel, Perth County  
**2006 Otonabee, Peterborough County**

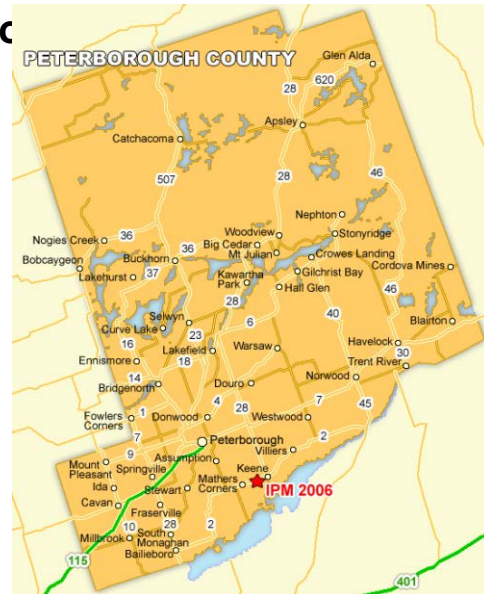
## Peterborough's International Plowing Matches

Before

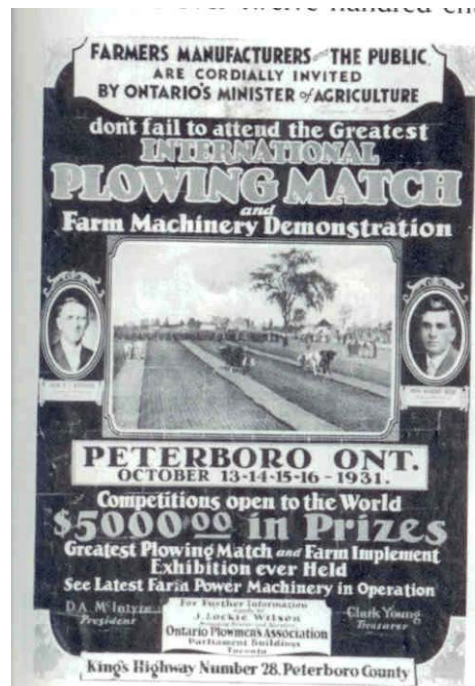
2006,

## Sites of World Ploughing Co

- 1953 Cobourg, Ontario, Canada
- 1954 Killarney, Republic of Ireland
- 1955 Uppsala, Sweden
- 1956 Shillingford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, England
- 1957 Feebles, Ohio, USA
- 1958 Honenheim, Stuttgart, Germany
- 1959 Armoy, Antrim, Northern Ireland
- 1960 Tor Mancina, Roma Italy
- 1961 Grignon, Paris, France
- 1962 Dronten, East-Flevoland, Netherlands
- 1963 Caledon, Ontario, Canada
- 1964 Fuchsenbigl, near Vienna, Austria
- 1965 Ringerike, Norway
- 1966
- 1967 Christchurch, New Zealand
- 1968 Salisbury, Rhodesia
- 1969 Belgrade, Yugoslavia
- 1970 Horsens, Denmark
- 1971 Taunton, Somerset, England
- 1972 Mankato, Minnesota, USA
- 1973 Wexford, Republic of Ireland
- 1974 Helsinki, Finland
- 1975 Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
- 1976 Bjertorp, Vara, Sweden
- 1977 Flevhof, Biddinghuizen, Netherlands
- 1978 Wickstadt, near Friedberg, Germany
- 1979 Limavady, Northern Ireland
- 1980 Christchurch, New Zealand
- 1981 Wexford, Republic of Ireland
- 1982 Longford, Tasmania, Australia
- 1983 Harare, Zimbabwe
- 1984 Horncastle, Lincolnshire, Great Britain
- 1985 Sdr. Naera, Fyn, Denmark
- 1986 Olds, Alberta, Canada
- 1987 Marchfield, Austria
- 1988 Amana, Iowa, USA
- 1989 Kleppe, Norway
- 1990 Zeewolde, Flevoland, Netherlands
- 1991 Myroe, Limavady, Northern Ireland
- 1992 Albacete, Spain
- 1993 Vastraby Gard, Helsingborg, Sweden
- 1994 Outram, New Zealand
- 1995 Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya
- 1996 Oak Park, Carlow, Ireland
- 1997 Geelong, Victoria, Australia
- 1998 Altheim / Landshuf, Germany
- 1999 Pomacle, France
- 2000 Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England
- 2001 Eskjaer, Denmark
- 2002 Bellechasse, Switzerland
- 2003 Guelph, Ontario, Canada
- 2004 Ballykelly, Limavady, Northern Ireland
- 2005 Prague, Czech Republic
- 2006 Tullow, County Carlow, Republic of Ireland



Peterborough County hosted three plowing matches, all in North Monaghan township. The first, 13-16 October 1931, was held at the Highway 28 farm (con 12, lot 4) of R. Torrance Lillico and his



neighbors. The annual events were called International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Demonstration beginning in 1926. The event began in fair weather but ended with three days of rain. There were 505 plowmen competing, and visitors

were billeted mostly in farm homes. All the hotels within driving distance were full with plowing match visitors. In the Tented City, the largest tent was 100 feet long, and the exhibits of household devices and farm machinery were impressive. Peterborough's Senator Frank P. O'Connor, founder of Laura Secord chocolates, brought his Clydesdales from Maryvale Farm in Scarborough to highlight the planned daily parades. DeLaval had a marquee tent with dairy cows to demonstrate their milking machines.

Torrance Lillico's farm was the scene, also, for the 1941 International Plowing Match. Gasoline rationing had some impact, particularly on travel, but the military exhibits were exceptional. There were 326 horse entries and 313 tractor entries. For the first time, there was a class for girls aged 13 to 18. There were many displays from local farming organizations. The Governor General, the Earl of Athlone, accompanied by Princess Alice, gave the featured address. Premier Mitch Hepburn was guest speaker for the closing awards banquet.

The International Plowing Match, 7-10 October 1964, was held near Brealey Drive and Lansdowne Street, on the farms of Henry Batten and his neighbours. Premier John P. Robarts and the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon William A. Stewart opened the event, particularly remembered for the cold temperatures and frozen water pipes. There were 23 entries in the horse-drawn plow section; 396 in the tractor section. Visitors were carried to the site on tractor-drawn wagons. There was a daily parade of floats, bands, and new cars, trucks and farm equipment. Most visitors stayed in hotels and motels. The host county received the gate revenue but provided the site for the Tented City, plowing, parking, team tractors, utilities and the awards banquet.

Peterborough was justly proud of the great local effort in providing three memorable International Plowing Matches. 2006 promises to be even more intense, and successful.

## **Peterborough Plowing Match 1941**

Peterborough County hosted the International Plowing Matches in 1931, 1941, 1964 and now 2006. Other Victoria County was the site of the meets in 1922, 1948, 1970 and 1992. Durham County was host in 1953 and 1975. Hastings County hosted in 1986. Clearly the Ontario Plowman's Association liked to move the plowing match around to different parts of the province, and east central Ontario has hosted the International Plowing Match once a decade since 1922.

The Trent Valley Archives has a nice run of the Peterborough Review from the 1930s to the 1970s and the following story was preparatory to the 1941 match, which ran from 14 to 17 October. It is a very interesting flashback.

## **Plowing Match is of Interest to All**

*Peterborough Weekly Review, 9 October 1941*

Plowing is big business. It is the basic operation in the greatest of all industries, without which no other industry can carry on.

The International Plowing Match to be held in North

Monaghan township this month is more than just a contest between plowmen. It is a demonstration of efficiency in the business of cultivating the land, and the saving of manpower and machine power, every unit of which is so important at the present time.

The big plowing match is more than that again. It includes the greatest display and demonstration of agricultural machinery and equipment to be seen anywhere in the country – not excepting the Toronto Exhibition.

It is a semi-sporting event plus an exhibition that should be seen by every city resident as well as every farmer in the district.

These and many other interesting facts about the International Plowing Match to be held on October 14-17 were included in a very interesting and informative address delivered to the newspapermen of the city and district who were guests of the Peterborough City Council at a dinner at the Peterborough Golf and Country Club last Thursday evening [26 September].

Mr. Carroll stressed the importance of efficiency in agriculture as well as in all other industry at this time as a prime factor in bringing the war to a successful conclusion as quickly as possible, and stated this as the main reason for carrying on with the big annual plowing match, which he hoped would continue each year of the war as it has done for so many years past.

"We cannot beat Hitler by not doing things," was one of Mr. Carroll's apt statements.

## **Welcome to the International Plowing Match: Civic Dinner will Mark Closing of Great Plowing Match Gathering Here**

*Peterborough Weekly Review, 9 October 1941*

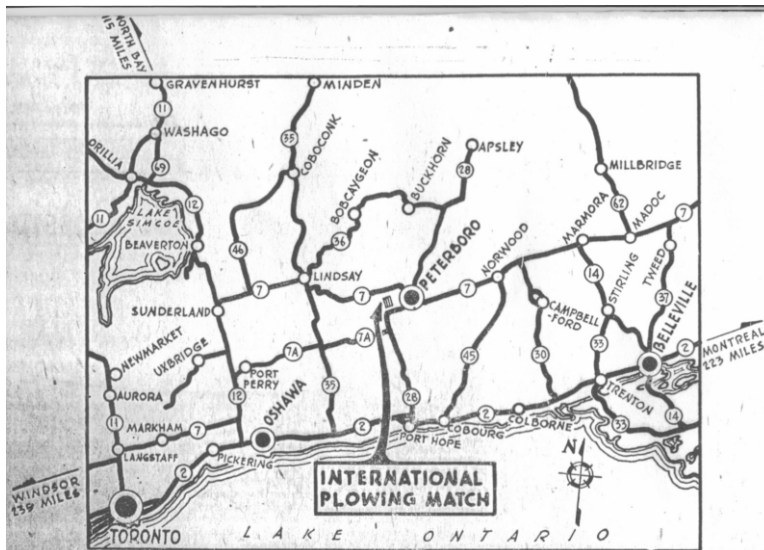
The annual International Plowing Match being held at Peterborough next week, October 14-17, is the biggest event in the lives of many farm folk in Canada and the States.

It is international in every sense of the word, as numerous contestants come from Uncle Sam's domain, and naturally this makes for keen friendly rivalry all around.

The big event is under the auspices of the Ontario Plowman's Association, and very substantial prizes are put up for competition which is never lacking.

It is ten years since this big international event was held in Peterborough County, at approximately the same place where it is held this year. Started in 1913, the yearly plowing match has grown in importance year after year, until it now rallies thousands of farm folk and others. The local committee is headed by Geo. A. Gillespie, as chairman, with Frank C. Paterson, as secretary-treasurer.

In addition to the actual plowing competitions with both horses and tractors, there will also be interesting and educational demonstrations daily at 10 a.m. and 2.15 p.m., covering farm drainage, cultural implements, row crop tractor, oxen, pick-up slice baler, horse-shoeing competitions and multiple hitch. Other educational exhibits and demonstrations will include the Ontario Department of Health, Dental Association, Forestry Department, Crop Improvement Association, Cheese Producers' Association, Whole Milk Producers' League, Concentrated Milk Producers' Association, Extension and Publicity Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, grading of farm products and livestock associations.



## Cobourg 1953: The First World Plowing Match

*John Jolie, Historically Speaking 2003  
Cobourg and District Historical Society*

2003 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World Ploughing Match. Plowing matches go back about 200 years. In England, John Christian Curwen founded the Workington Agricultural Society and spent his life promoting agricultural innovation in England, including competitions. The idea of farming contests spread over the Atlantic and soon our region had similar events.

The plowing matches gained enough stature that a decision was made to make competitions an international event. It was at the 1951 British Plowing Match in Stirling, Scotland, that Canada was awarded the honour of holding the first world event and Cobourg was to be the host community! Invitations were sent out to National Champions from around the world.

Admission to the grounds is free but there will be a charge of 25c for parking for each car, truck and other vehicle. There will be a great variety of exhibits, including agricultural implements, commercial, etc. There will also be a large marquee where visitors may meet their friends and rest a while. All are assured of a warm welcome. Tea will be served in the marquee free of charge during the afternoon from 1 to 4 o'clock. This marquee is erected and looked after through the courtesy of the T. Eaton Company Limited.

The Plowing Match will bring a number of personalities to the city, including the Hon. J. G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture; the Hon. P. M. Dewan, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, J. W. MacRae, of Alexandria, and others. The Hon. Senator J. J. Duffus, who has taken a very active part in Plowing Matches for many years back, will be present, Hon. Senator Iva Fallis, as well as Gordon K. Fraser, M.P. for Peterborough West, Alex L. Elliott, M.P.P. for Peterborough County, and many others, including several prominent agriculturalists and manufacturers from the United States and all parts of Canada.

For those who have never attended a plowing match there is a real treat in store, especially if the weatherman should lend his co-operation. In addition to farmers from here, there and everywhere who will be in attendance with their families, there will also be thousands of other interested spectators, and, given favourable weather, this year's International Plowing Match should eclipse all previous records for attendance.

The big event will conclude with a dinner given by the City of Peterborough on the last day, when the prizes won at the match will be distributed.

Local plowmen have been hard at work ever since the event was scheduled to be held here, and it is expected that farmers of Peterborough County will make a creditable showing against the numerous experts from a distance who will be taking part in the various events.

There will be about 130 teams of horses used, besides the many varieties of tractors.

Our local committee used the land owned by the county, on which the Home for the Aged stood (William, Burnham and Elgin). The property stretched northwards past the 401 (not yet in existence). Foster Russell, publisher of the Cobourg Sentinel Star, was the Chairman of Publicity for the event and his book is my main source for this story. Russell, a person who did not understate news, noted that to host the first plowing match meant 'that Cobourg will have the honour .. Never before given to any town in Canada ... something that no other town or city can claim in the whole universe.'

Governor General Vincent Massey travelled from his home at Batterwood, north of Port Hope and opened the matches on 6 October 1953. Massey proclaimed that events such as these gave farmers the chance to see new techniques and to get back to the 'roots in that ancient fellowship of the soil.' The view from the top of the hill, taking in the large tent city, must have been impressive. Seven nations were represented. The large number of volunteers and organizations indicated the extent of the involvement by local citizens. Many of the thousands of visitors were fed by church groups. Bands from all over the county performed. It was noted that the Timothy Eaton tent poured 24,000 free cups of tea. Many local residents brought out their rural family heirlooms for display. From all accounts, the Plowing Match was a huge success.

Two years later, to commemorate the event, the stone cairn was erected. Prime Minister Lester Pearson and Paul Martin Sr, Minister of Health and Welfare, attended the ceremony. The monument stands immediately in front of the recently realigned Elgin Street, in front of the Golden Plough. The unveiling of the cairn was on 12 September 1955. Paul Martin Sr was the keynote speaker. Then, within a few weeks, Martin went off to New York and made an address to the UN General Assembly. His UN speech was reported in the Cobourg Sentinel Star, 6 October 1955. Here is a small part of Martin's speech to the world body:

Mr President ... two weeks ago I had the pleasure of visiting the Canadian community of Cobourg ... and of dedicating a cairn of peace in commemoration of the First World Plowing Match held here two years before. I mention this ... because atop the cairn was a Golden Plough bearing the inscription: THAT MAN MAY USE THE PLOUGH TO CULTIVATE PEACE AND PLENTY ... WHAT BETTER SYMBOL

COULD BE FOUND FOR OUR DETERMINATION TO  
BRING ABOUT THE BIBLICAL PROPHECY: THEY  
SHALL BEAT THEIR SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

...

In commemoration of the event, the Home for the Aged was renamed the Golden Plough Lodge. The organizing committee at the time preferred to use the old spelling, plough.

## "The Golden Plough"

*Elwood Jones*

The Trent Valley Archives has a DVD copy of the film, "The Golden Plow". This 31 minute documentary was produced by the Imperial Oil Company, which was a sponsor of the World Ploughing Match. Imperial Oil supplied oil and gas for the tractors; a sound truck; and the special awards: the Golden Plow for best in the world and the Silver Plow for the best in Canada. Imperial Oil was also a film producer, producing professional documentaries related to oil exploration but perhaps most ambitiously, the 1960s "The Newcomers". The film is in the Imperial Oil Archives now housed in the Glenbow Archives in Calgary.

The film is delightful and will appeal to anyone the least bit curious about the 1950s. Canada has changed considerably over the half-century, but Niagara Falls is still our great attraction. Also the World Ploughing Match has been held annually since 1953, and is this year being held 29 and 30 September at Tullow, County Carlow, Republic of Ireland. This will coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Ireland's national ploughing championships. The Golden Plough which was awarded the annual champion at the World Ploughing March for 36 years is now on display at the Helena Thompson Museum, Park End Road, Workington, in Cumbria, England. The British Ploughing Association was formed in 1951, and Albert Hall, a farmer from near Workington who was a regular BBC commentator on farming issues, was a key figure in the developments, and served as its general secretary for the first 20 years, and helped establish the successor Society of Ploughmen in 1972. Canada has been a regular participant, and Canadians won the World Ploughing Match on at least two occasions; farmers from Sweden lead the way with 13 victories. When Cobourg was chosen to host the first World Ploughing Match a Canadian, Mr Carroll, was president of the World Plowmen. In 1953 the International Plowing Match was immediately followed by two days of the first World Ploughing Match. Never again were both plowing matches held together. Canada did however host the World Plowing Match three more times, at Oshawa, Caledon and at Olds, Alberta.

TVA hopes to show "The Golden Plow" to different audiences between now and the end of the International Plowing Match. The film opens with British Ploughmen arriving at Montreal where they were greeted at an official banquet by Mayor Camilien Houde, and by Donald Fraser of Imperial Oil. They then toured to Ottawa (the film incorrectly dates the Rideau Canal to 1812 rather than to 1826) where they were greeted by the Hon James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture. The delegation was entertained by brass bands of the Young Farmers of the Future and the Six Nations; and later by a Scottish band. A trip to Niagara Falls is squeezed in, and

Mohawk Indians inducted Alfred Hall into the Mohawk tribe with a new name meaning "the Great Plowman". After trips to Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College and a typical country fair, the delegation went to Cobourg. The film covers the building of the tent city, the official opening of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary International Plowing Match and the inaugural World's Ploughing Match. The Ontario Plowmen's Association was anticipating 100,000 visitors. We get to see many of the contestants, and also children, women and visitors taking in the sights of the midway and the various exhibits by appliance dealers, farm implements and a modest midway with some rides, meant to appeal to younger people. There are excellent crowd scenes, and thanks to good football jackets I noticed a group from Tweed. Canada had two representatives at the World's; there were 18 contestants from 11 countries. The Canadians finished first and third; the other spots were taken by plowmen from Norway, Sweden and England. The film was narrated by Ted Allan, who wrote the script, and he concluded the match was about one man's skill and the world's dream of peace and plenty.

For details about the film showing, contact TVA at 705-745-4404.

## Peterborough County Plowmen's Association

[The 1967 pamphlet *History of Farm Organizations of Peterborough County* includes the following comments about the Peterborough County Plowmen's Association. ]

The Ontario Plowmen's Association was formed in 1911. Peterborough County Plowmen formed their Association in 1913. The first secretary was Fred Campbell, of North Monaghan. In 1915 a match was held in Asphodel Township within a half a mile of this year's match. The 1967 match will be the 50<sup>th</sup> held in the County.

At first a team of horses and a single plow were used, then along came a double plow with two or more horses. The tractors appeared in the 1920s. First they were all trailer plows but at the 1966 Match there were very few trailer plows, mostly all hydraulics used. Only one team and a single plow appeared.

The Peterborough County Plowmen's Association is made up of men interested in competition in plowing. There has been some keen competitions among the plowmen. Straightness of furrow, uniformity, strike out or crown, finish, evenness at the ends are all in the knack of good plowing.

There is Home Plowing competition held before the Match in which two acres with strike outs and two finishes are plowed. This has been a very close contest. In the last few years the Plowmen's Association has been looking after it. In the years gone by the Junior Farmers have looked after this Competition. The competitors are usually boys and girls in their early teens.

At the 1966 Banquet the Warden of the County said that where there is good plowing it is usually the sign of a good farmer.

There have been three Provincial Matches in the county all held in North Monaghan: 1931 and 1941 on R. T. Lillico's farm and 1964 on Henry Batten's farm.

Two men from Peterborough County have served as President of the Ontario Plowmen's Association: the Hon. J. J. Duffus in 1926 and Howard Quinn in 1954. [Joseph Slattery,

1975, was the third.]

The J. H. Burnham M.P. Cup was given in 1915 for the highest scoring land each year. In 1954 the cup was presented permanently to Harold Collins, who had won it 12 times.

The presidents are not known for the first dozen years. Since then the presidents have been R. T. Lillico, 1925-26; Sidney Bennett, 1927; Hon J. J. Duffus, 1928-35; Howard A. Quinn, 1936-41; Walter Thorn, 1942-44; Alex Huston, 1945-46; Vern Campbell, 1947-50; Henry Batten, 1951-53; Reginald Ferguson, 1954-55; Harold Collins, 1956-58; Gordon Bradfield, 1959-64; and Joseph Slattery, 1965-67.

## International Plowing Match Peterborough 1964

### Henry Batten Farm Scene of Many Plow Matches

*Peterborough Examiner*, 1 October 1964

Henry Batten is "Mayor of Tent City" for the International Plowing Match.

His farm [across from Rock Haven Motel on Lansdowne] is bounded by Sherbrooke Street West and Brealey Drive. Although this is the first time a tented city has been on the Batten farm, his was one of the farms on which plowing was done at the last International Plowing Match in Peterborough County in 1941. Also, shortly before Mr Batten moved to the location, there was plowing there at a still earlier International Plowing Match in 1931. In addition there have been several county matches at the farm since he bought it 32 years ago.

Mr Batten was born on a farm near Warsaw in Dummer Township. Since moving to Peterborough district his farm was always in North Monaghan Township until recent years when part of the township was annexed to Peterborough. His place was on the boundary of the annexed area and resulted in his farm home now being in the city and his farm buildings and farmland being in North Monaghan. The farm was originally 125 acres. In recent years, he sold some of it including the part on which Crestwood Secondary School was built. Mr Batten still has 100 acres.

His is a dairy farm with about 60 head of Holsteins. His crop is hay, oats and some wheat. He also has some 20 head of beef cattle on his ranch property in the Warsaw district.

Like many thousands of others, Mr Batten is enthusiastic about this year's International Plowing Match. He has been vitally interested over the years in all plowing matches including the International and tries to attend as many as possible. "Everything indicates that this could be the largest to date — providing there is good weather for four days," he said.

His wife is also enthusiastic about the match. "Like my husband, I am interested in most everything at the match," she said. Mrs Batten is a retired schoolteacher and her teaching career included about 20 years at Brealey's School, near the Batten farm. They have two sons, Richard, a Peterborough lawyer and John, who

lives in Kitchener and works for a Canadian Business magazine.

## 300 Exhibitors To Show Products

*Peterborough Examiner*, 2 October 1964

The International Plowing Match is likely to equal past records of the annual event, according to the information branch of the Ontario department of agriculture. The branch reports that more than 150,000 are expected to visit the exhibit area and observe the plowing contests during the four days.

The match will be opened at 2 pm on 7 October by Ontario Premier John Robarts, who will be introduced by William A. Stewart, Ontario minister of agriculture.

Approximately 300 exhibitors and 30 caterers or more have purchased space in Tented City and approximately two miles of frontage space has been reserved.

Plowmen from all across Ontario are busy practicing in readiness for the event. There is an indication that the entries which are now arriving will be higher than usual. A large number of counties and secondary schools will be entering teams.

A number of special events have been planned, including a class for county wardens on Wednesday. Approximately 20 county wardens will be taking part. The "Queen of the Furrow" contest will be on Thursday. The Peterborough County entry is Ferne Bolton, RR 9, Peterborough, president of the Peterborough County Junior Farmers Association. The horseshoe pitching contest will be on Friday. The mayors' plowing class will be on Saturday with at least 15 Ontario mayors taking part.

One of the major events will be the Ontario championship contest in plowing. It will be open to those who have excelled in county matches. This will take place on Saturday. Two winners will qualify to enter the 1965 Canadian contest being planned for Ontario.

The information branch of the Ontario department of agriculture reports that the Peterborough County local committee, under the chairmanship of Dick Stewart, has everything in readiness for the big event.

## Women Will 'Pitch In' At Huge Tented City

*Peterborough Examiner*, 2 October 1964

There will be lots for women to see at the International Plowing Match.

The women's program will include flower arranging, hair styling demonstrations, fall fashions of dresses and furs, a cooking school, home demonstrations concerning painting and decorating, and other demonstrations that will appeal to women. The demonstrations, by local business firms, will be done during the four days of the match. A tent with accommodation for 200 will be set up for this women's program. It will be complete with seats and stage platform.

In another section, the huge Tented City will have more than 300 exhibitors and a number of the attendants will include women. The Tented City is laid out in street sections with approximately two-and-one-half miles of streets.

Many women will assist in various eating establishments along one of the streets known as "Caterers' Row." Women of Lakefield United Church will have what is called the "Provincial Dining Hall." It will be open to the public but will also be used as a dining hall for officials of the plowing match. The headquarters section of the Ontario Plowmen's Association is located nearby. Other catering groups in the area will include

the Lakevale Ladies Aid; St John's Anglican Church Guild; Emily Township; Fairview United Church; Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; and the Warsaw Women's Institute. There will also be other eating establishments in the Tented City.

## Plowing Match Familiar To Resident On Ontario

Earl Lowes, *Peterborough Examiner*, 3 October 1964

Soil cultivation in Canada for the purpose of growing food dates back to about 1604. The first record of plowing was in 1629 when a man by the name of Guillaume Couillard used a team of oxen and set his home-carved plow into Quebec soil.

The idea of plowing contests came to Canada with the thousands of immigrants from Britain who arrived looking for free land prior to 1800. The first plowing match on record was held in 1823 near the present village of Ste Martine, about 30 miles southwest of Montreal. Seven Old Countrymen and five French Canadians competed....

Ontario has a record for the longest organized and most frequent plowing matches. As far back as 1842, there were reports of matches. In 1846, the first provincial exhibition was held in Toronto and a special feature of the fair was a plowing match held on a farm on Yonge Street in the vicinity of St Clair Avenue.

Fall fairs were not suitable places for holding plowing matches because it was difficult to find suitable land conveniently located near fair grounds. District plowing associations began holding their matches separate from fall fairs.

In 1911, officers of some of the plowing associations met in Toronto and formed the Ontario Plowmen's Association. Two years later, they held their first provincial match on a farm now the site of Sunnybrook Hospital. There were 31 competitors with horse drawn plows. There was also one competitor with a plow drawn by a tractor. The early-day tractor was a curiosity but did not plow at the match as it was the only tractor entry. The match was so successful that it was decided the provincial match would become an annual event. It was held on the same farm the next year but since has been rotated throughout various parts of Ontario. In 1919, regular classes for tractors were added to the program. As tractors became more popular, they eventually became the main attraction.

There are now more than 70 county plowing associations affiliated with the Ontario Plowmen's Association.

In 1926, the name of the annual match – called the Provincial Plowing Match – was changed to the International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Demonstration.

All provincial matches in eastern Canada are held in the fall. Provincial matches in western Canada are held in the spring season.

## Many Trophies Donated For Farm Improvements

*Peterborough Examiner*, 3 October 1964

A total of 199 farmers, two villages [Lakefield and Norwood], and two communities [Warsaw and Keene]

entered the farmstead improvement competition held in connection with the International Plowing Match....

In the fall of 1963, brochures containing rules and other details were mailed to farmers and others throughout the county. The brochures offered suggestions for improvements including cleaning up and removing old machinery, trash, and buildings that were falling down; painting the house and farm buildings; painting name on mail boxes; planting shrubs, trees, flower beds and lawns; fencing the farmstead; and repairing existing fences. It also included tidying up the main entrance to farms, villages and communities so as to present an attractive first appearance to the thousands of visitors as they pass en route to the plowing match.

Eight township councils donated sums of money to winning contestants within each township. Each reeve and deputy-reeve of the eight townships donated a trophy to the winner of Class One and Class Two within their respective townships. Where there was no deputy-reeve, a councillor donated a trophy.... Fred Stenton MP donated a trophy to the grand champion winner in Class 1. Rod Webb, MP, donated a trophy to the grand champion winner in Class 2. Keith Brown, MPP, donated a trophy to the winner of the Village Competition in Class Three. [Charles Flynn and Wellington Sutton donated trophies for the reserve champions.] Mr and Mrs Harry Seymour, 1183 Chemong Road, were engaged by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, to judge the competition. Judging started 24 August. The committee [is chaired by] Arnold Stevenson, RR 2, Norwood.

[The Class 1 township winners were Orland Brown, Asphodel; R. D. Wilson, Belmont; Cephas Bolton, Douro; Howard Harnden, Dummer; James Gifford, Ennismore; Norman Lillico, North Monaghan; Francis Walsh, Otonabee; Harry Blewett, Smith. The Class 2 township winners were John Page, Asphodel; Randle Vansickle, Belmont; Charles S. Brown, Douro; Ted Rose, Dummer; David Gifford, Ennismore; William Robson, North Monaghan; John Stewart, Otonabee; Don Moore, Smith.]

## Chilly Opening For Plowing Match

Dick Sadleir, *Peterborough Examiner*, 7 October 1964

"Brrrrr" was the most frequent greeting among early risers who braved near freezing temperatures for the opening of the International Plowing Match today. Owners of trucks and tractors crossed their fingers as they pushed starters on their machinery. Fingers numbed as workers applied blacking to the tires of show machinery. In some cases, motors just refused to turn over.

The people with the right answer were the operators of the tented city's more than 14 eating establishments. They doled out gallons of hot coffee to workers and visitors. One operator said he didn't expect many soft drinks would be sold. "If the weather stays brisk, you can call coffee the official drink of the plowing match," he said.

Perhaps the most sensibly attired bodies at the plowing match were of the heavily furred animals at the department of lands and forests booth. Fox, lynx, marten and a black bear cub were well prepared for the cold, wearing fur coats any woman would have envied.

There was ice a quarter of an inch thick on an artificial pond at the Canadian Industries Ltd exhibit. The pond had been filled Tuesday night as part of the mammoth display showing various uses of plastic materials and fertilizers. When exhibitors came to the grounds this morning they found the polythene-lined pond frozen over and six inches of ice

protruding from the hose.

The match had its first fire shortly after the gates opened today, but thanks to quick action by department of highways men, the fire department was not called. In an attempt to keep warm while they worked, some exhibitors lit a small fire and set the bottom of a hydro pole blazing. Men from the highways department exhibit across the street rushed in with hand extinguishers to put out the fire.

The Examiner was on the tented city streets early today. In conjunction with an old-fashioned medicine show presented at the British Petroleum exhibit, barkers were passing out reprints of The Peterborough Examiner of 20 October 1864. The medicine show is complete with period costumes, sleight-of-hand demonstrations and an authentic-looking Indian chief.

[Ed. Note: This *Examiner* reprint was discussed in an earlier *Heritage Gazette*, but the occasion for its reprinting was unknown.]

## Extensive Frost Damage as Mercury Drops to 20

*Peterborough Examiner*, 7 October 1964  
Temperatures dropped to 20 degrees in the Peterborough area Tuesday night, bringing extensive frost damage. Last night's cold snap was in contrast to the official temperatures reported at the city filtration plant for 7 October 1963. That day registered a high of 78 and low of 52 degrees. Last year, 28 degrees was the lowest temperature registered both in September and October....



nted city 1964 ploughing match — farm of Henry and Mildred Batten

## Many Juniors Among 450 Entries in Competitions

*Peterborough Examiner*, 7 October 1964  
Judging of the first classes of competition in 1964 International Plowing Match began at 10 am today. Nine former plowing champions, farmers themselves, are the judges. A competitor plows a "land" which is about two-thirds of an acre for tractor classes and one-third of an acre for horse classes. He is judged on six different factors with a possible score of 100 points.

A breakdown of the points available: Crown (which represents the first 12 furrows in tractor competition or six furrows in horse competition) — 15; Straightness of furrows — 15; Covering of the grass or stubble — 20; Firmness, evenness and uniformity of the furrows — 25; Ins and Outs (how and where the plow is "dropped into the land" and taken out) — 5; Finish (the last six furrows, and the very last one in particular) — 20. Twenty-eight of the 32 classes are for tractor competitions. ....

Canadian plowing champion Donald Dunkeld, Claremont, is plowing at the match all four days, including the Ontario championship on Saturday. He won the Dominion title in Prince Edward Island in September and will compete in the World Plowing Match in Norway next year. ...

## MGM Plans to Film Plow Match

*Peterborough Examiner*, 7 October 1964  
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer representatives will be in Peterborough Saturday to film portions of the International Plowing Match. Floyd Lashley, secretary-manager of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, told a meeting of the association's directors

Tuesday night that MGM's branch in Toronto has chosen to film the match "because of the special colors here in the area." The film will be shown in movie houses as secondary features both in Canada and the United States. "I have seen their movies of this nature and they do a splendid job," said Mr Lashley.

## Victoria Girl Queen of Furrow

Dick Sadleir, *Peterborough Examiner*, 9 October 1964  
... A radiant Victoria County miss, Shaaryn Wylie, was crowned 1964 Queen of the Furrow after a long day of speeches and plowing. The 18-year-old winner is the daughter of Byrnell Wylie, Oakwood, who has topped the horse plowing events for the past two years. There were 14 competitors, a number double that of any contest in the history of the match.... Janet Henderson, of St George, Ontario, was named second.

Ferne Bolton, RR 8, Peterborough, was second lady in waiting.

The new queen was crowned by Miss Faye Sharpe, Dairy Princess, and the 1963 Furrow queen, Mrs J. William [Elizabeth Barker] Macmillan, of Kentville, NS....

## Tented City Protected Against Fire

*Peterborough Examiner*, 9 October 1964

The tented city at the International Plowing Match is well protected against fire. The Ontario Fire Marshal's Office has a display tent set up on Headquarters Avenue, along the west boundary of the city, in conjunction with the Peterborough Fire Department. Two pumpers – one from No. 2 station on Monaghan Road South and the other from the Ontario Fire College, Gravenhurst – are available for any emergency. The city pumper is manned by a captain and three firemen throughout the day. The city normally provides protection for North Monaghan Township, where the match is being held, under an agreement between the two municipalities. The Fire Marshal's exhibit shows various pieces of fire fighting and rescue equipment.

## Princeton Man Winner Ontario Title

*Peterborough Examiner*, 13 October 1964

A western Ontario farmer Saturday afternoon won the Ontario plowing championship at the 1964 International Plowing Match. Charles Bonney, RR 1, Princeton, is a former provincial and Dominion champion, and World Plowing Match competitor. He won the Ontario title in 1959, qualifying him to compete at the Canadian match in 1960, which he also won. Going to the World match in 1961, he placed well up among the leaders. Runner-up for the Ontario championship was Douglas Reid, RR 5, Brampton, who came second last year. Bonney and Reid will represent Ontario at next year's Canadian match in Milliken. Third place was taken by Keith Robinson, RR 4, Cookstown. Competitors had to contend with a cold north wind as well as the soil. Stones made the plowing rough for some of the entries. Otherwise, there were no complaints about soil conditions. Gordon Bradfield, RR 6, Peterborough, only competitor from the county, ... placed 16<sup>th</sup>, winning \$25 cash....

Fred Holmes, 193 Aylmer Street, was in charge of gate admissions in 1931 and 1941, when the IPM was held on Torrance Lillico's North Monaghan farm. Total paid attendance in 1931 was 2,922; in 1941, 8,294. [*Examiner*, 9 October 1964] Hampered by cold weather, attendance for 1964 was about 50,000, or half the prediction. [*Examiner*, 13 October 1964]

Daily parade was more than one mile long on Thursday. [*Examiner*, 9 October 1964]

## International Plowing Match Peterborough 2006

For the first time since 1964, Peterborough is hosting the International Plowing Match; for the first time ever the IPM is in Otonabee Township. This is a big event, and organizers are anticipating 100,000 visitors will be on hand. The City and the County have made

major contributions to the success of the event, and many of the committees are working through them. Several businesses have given their support, including Darling Insurance and Pepsi QTG (still Quaker to local people). In addition to the many plowing events, organizers have been planning activities and services to meet the diverse needs of competitors, families, rural and urban visitors.

Norm Blodgett and John Dunford are heading up the organization. It seems as if every logistical issue has a committee. Committees related to Antiques and Historical; the county exhibit; the tented city; entertainment; and education are planning events and exhibits that will be of especial interest to readers of the *Heritage Gazette*. Trent Valley Archives is giving its support in various ways, including the production of this special issue which will be sold at the IPM; many people will receive copies through the organizers. John Marsh is heading a team to produce a large time-line exhibit which will fill a wall in one of the tents. This will place the site in context for the many visitors. We plan an exhibit of materials related to agriculture that are available at TVA. We plan to share the film on "The Golden Plow" but at press time details were not available. Lang Pioneer Village is running an exhibit on Peter Hamilton agricultural implements (see HGTV, February 2006 for details). As well, their volunteers and others will be giving live demonstrations on saw mills, hand hewing of logs, grain threshing, rope making, wool spinning, butter making, horse drawn corn binder, and blacksmithing. A restored 1950 Farmall Cub tractor will be raffled. In addition to musical entertainment, there will be a number of demonstrations in the Theatre Tent. Gail Corbett will talk on Barnardo Children and Carol Koeslag on keeping farm and family stories alive.

A rural expo has been a key component of past IPMs and it looks as if the Peterborough version will be rich, informative, entertaining and diverse. We hope to see you there. The Trent Valley Archives will need volunteers to help with their promises, so contact Diane Robnik or John Marsh if you have suggestions or can help both before and during the IPM.

## Peterboro 1851

W.H. Smith, *Canada: Past, Present and Future, being a historical, geographical, geological and statistical account of Canada West*, Toronto, Thomas Maclear  
45 Yonge St, 1851, II 227ff Q

This County, lately the Colborne District, comprises the following townships: North Monaghan, Otonabee, Asphodel, Belmont, Dummer, Douro, Smith, Ennismore, Emily, Ops, Mariposa, Eldon, Fenelon, Bexly, Verulam, Somerville, Harvey, Burleigh and Methuen.

Ops, Emily, Asphodel, Dummer, Belmont, Eldon, Fenelon, Verulam, Harvey, Douro, Burleigh, Methuen and Smith were opened for sale in 1821.

The County is traversed by a chain of lakes and rivers, extending from the north-west to the south-east, most of which are navigable to a certain extent. These lakes and rivers discharge themselves through the River Trent into the Bay of Quinte. The most westerly tributary of this chain is the river Kai-ash-qua-ve-cong, which enters the County (from the unsurveyed land to the north) in the township of Bexley, where it discharges itself into the Balsam Lake; from thence a channel, about a mile long, leads into Cameron's Lake, in the township of Fenelon; before entering Balsam Lake it receives the waters of the "Burnt River" (a singular name, reminding one of Joe Miller, and the man "who set the Thames on fire") the sources of which are within a few miles of the head waters of some of the tributaries of the Madawaska. From Cameron Lake another stream of river, about a mile in length, leads to Sturgeon Lake. On this river is a fall of twenty-two feet, known as Fenelon Falls. The Scugog River discharges itself into the southern extremity of Sturgeon Lake, in the township of Fenelon, after having traversed the township of Ops; the lake then enters the township of Verulam, which it divides into two portions. At the eastern extremity of Sturgeon Lake is an island, called Bobcaygeon Island; there is here a fall of nine or ten feet, and a lock and dam have been constructed by the Government; they are now, however, out of repair. Two bridges cross the water at this point. From Bobcaygeon you reach Pigeon Lake, which receives Pigeon Creek in its south-western corner. Buckhorn and Mud Lake, which may be considered irregular extensions of the same piece of water, are all on the same level. [228] Mud Lake, so called from its containing about three feet of water, and twenty or thirty feet of mud, is said sometimes, in the middle of summer, to become so thick from the evaporation of the water, that it is almost impossible to pull a canoe through it. This lake extends to within six miles of Peterboro, and a good road has been made to connect the two; this road it is intended to macadamize.

At the eastern extremity of Buckhorn Lake are falls, known as Buckhorn Falls, where a bridge and dam have been constructed. This dam raises the water in Buckhorn Lake, Mud Lake, Pigeon Lake and Pigeon Creek, rendering the borders of a large portion of the latter stream marshy. To the east of these is a long irregularly shaped lake, different portions of which are

known as Clear Lake, Salmon Trout Lake and Stony Lake. The western portion being clear of islands is called by the former name; the eastern portion, marked on the map as Stony Lake, is principally stony about the edges, the rest of the lake is full of rocks and islands of red granite, varying in size from an acre downwards. Stony Lake receives a small stream, which has its origin in White Lake, a considerable sheet of water, situated principally in the township of Methuen.

From the southern extremity of Clear or Salmon Trout Lake al these accumulated waters make their exit under the name of the Otonabee River, which, after a rather serpentine course, and receiving a few minor streams, discharges itself into Rice Lake. This Lake, which derived its name from the large quantity of wild rice growing in its shallows, is a fine sheet of water; it receives several small streams; and the name of the current, after emerging from the eastern extremity of the lake, again becomes changed, and is called the Trent. Its course still continues very serpentine. Its western portion separates Asphodel from Percy; and a bridge has been constructed between the townships at Crooks's Rapids; also at the same place a lock on the Asphodel side, and a slide for timber on the Percy side. The forming of the dam at Crooks's Rapids has converted the whole of Rice Lake and the Otonabee River up to Peterboro into "still water." The banks generally for this distance are rather low; above Peterboro, and below Crooks's Rapids, the streams are rapid, and the banks tolerably high. The Trent is navigable from Rice Lake to Heely's Falls in Seymour, except when the water is very low. At the latter place a slide has been constructed; and the Trent is there joined by the Crow or Marmora River. About two miles lower down, at Middle Falls, is another slide. About three miles below the Middle Falls a bridge has been constructed across [229] the river; and a short distance below the bridge, at Rannay's Falls, is another slide. These slides are all in the township of Seymour.

The town of Peterboro, lately the district town of the Colborne District, and now the County town of the County of Peterboro, is situated on the Otonabee River; the principal portion in the township of North Monaghan, and the remainder, known as the "Scotch Village," on the opposite side of the river, in the township of Otonabee. A handsome and substantial bridge connects the two; and the village is, to all intents and purposes, part and parcel of the town, with the single exception that, not being within the prescribed limits of the corporation, the inhabitants are not liable to be assessed for corporation rates.

The situation of Peterboro is pleasant, and the scenery picturesque. Near the centre of the town is a small hill or knoll, on the summit of which the court-house and jail are erected. There are three grist mills within the town (including the Scotch Village), having an aggregate of ten run of stones; also an oat and barley mill, four saw mills, a woollen factory, carding and fulling mill, brewery, distillery, four foundries, two axe factories, three tanneries, &c. A newspaper, the "Weekly Dispatch," is, as its name implies, published weekly; and the Montreal Bank has an agent here. The town itself has a daily post; and the villages east and west receive a mail twice a week.

There are five churches, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Roman Catholic; the two first and the last are of stone, the Methodist of frame, and the Baptist of brick. During the season a steamboat runs daily from Peterboro to the south shore of Rice Lake, from whence stages convey the passengers to Port Hope and Cobourg. Immediately below the town is an expansion of the river, forming a pond or small lake.

Including both sides of the river, Peterboro contains about 2200

inhabitants. It has improved considerably within the last few years; the stumps have been cleared from the streets, and a much better class of buildings erected. A new town hall and market place have lately been built; and a cemetery containing four acres has been formed a little south of the town.

North Monaghan, which is a small township, contained in 1850 675 inhabitants and two saw mills; 2474 acres were under cultivation, and 10,000 bushels of wheat, 10,000 bushels of oats, 13,900 bushels of potatoes, 6,400 bushels of turnips, 3,900 pounds of maple sugar, 2,800 pounds of wool, and 1,600 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.[230]

From Peterboro to Metcalfe, in the township of Emily, is about 14 miles. The country is hilly, and the soil gravelly. Through the front of Smith and Emily, on the road to Metcalfe, most of the settlers are Protestant Irish, with a few English; they have good farms, generally well cleared. In the back of the townships the settlers are principally Irish Catholics. The village of Metcalfe is situated on Pigeon Creek, where there is a fall of about six feet, and contains a grist mill with three run of stones, saw mill, carding and fulling mill, distillery, tannery and post-office. There are two churches, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic.

The township of Emily is improving. In 1845, 5,399 acres were under cultivation; in 1850 it contained 2,461 inhabitants, 7,753 acres were under cultivation, and 23,900 bushels of wheat, 18,000 bushels of oats, 29,000 bushels of potatoes, 23,000 pounds of maple sugar, 7,000 pounds of wool and 9,000 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.

From Metcalfe to Lindsay is about fourteen miles. A large portion of the road is level, and the soil of clay, with a few small swamps by way of variety. The village of Lindsay is situated a little north of the centre of the township of Ops, on the Scugog River. A lock has been constructed to connect the navigation of Sturgeon Lake with Scugog Lake; and a steamboat was engaged plying on these waters during the last season. The village of Lindsay contains about three hundred inhabitants, a grist mill with three run of stones, saw mill, carding and fulling mill, a foundry, ashery, tannery and Roman Catholic church.

When the first International Plowing Match was held, DeLaval was established in Peterborough, with very modern facilities and a superb factory. According to this 1911 catalogue they were even earlier committed to making better separators rather than cheaper. Several major companies connected with agriculture were based in Peterborough, and some still are. [Elwood Jones private collection]

The township of Ops is settled principally by Roman Catholic Irish, with a few English and Scotch. The soil is mostly clay; and there is a good deal of drowned land in the township. The timber is principally hardwood, and a large proportion is white oak; and large quantities of staves are made in the township. The banks of the Scugog River are generally low; the locality of Lindsay, however, is an exception, as they are here about thirty feet high. The site of the village was, when first settled, very swampy, but the clearing up of the land, by exposing the surface to the action of the sun, has completely and effectually dried it. The township of Ops has lately made considerable progress; the quantity of land under cultivation having more than doubled since 1845, when it comprised 4,379 acres. In 1850 this quantity had increased to 9571 acres; the township contained 2,233 inhabitants, and 22,000 bushels of wheat, 23,000 bushels of oats, 5800 bushels of peas, 28,000 bushels of potatoes, [231] 8000 bushels of turnips, 21,000 pounds of maple sugar, 6,000 pounds of wool and 7,000 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.

The adjoining township of Mariposa is becoming well-settled, principally by Scotch, English, Americans and Protestant Irish. The land is generally of excellent quality, and the timber principally hardwood. In 1850, it contained 2863 inhabitants, one grist and two saw mills;



and 70,000 bushels of wheat, 41,000 bushels of oats, 14,000 bushels of peas, 33,000 bushels of potatoes, 31,000 bushels of turnips, 38,900 pounds of maple sugar, 10,500 pounds of wool, and 4,000 pounds of butter were produced from the crop of 1849.

In the township of Eldon, to the north of Mariposa, the land is of mixed quality. In the north of the township much of the timber is pine, in the south there is more hardwood; the south also is the best settled. A good road has been made through the township from Balsam Lake to Lake Simcoe, but the settlement along it has not been very successful. In 1845, 2,875 acres were under cultivation; in 1850 the township contained 1,189 inhabitants, 5,265 acres were under cultivation, and 11,700 bushels of wheat, 14,000 bushels of oats, 18,000 pounds of potatoes, 7,500 pounds of maple sugar, and 4,500 pounds of wool were produced from the crop of 1849. ... [234]

We were told in Peterboro, that the road to Port Hope by the new bridge over the Otonabee River was seven or eight miles nearer than the old road, and that it was at least as good: we, therefore, in order to see the interior of the township of Otonabee, resolved to try it. The first mile from Peterboro, over a sandy and gravelly soil, was very good; after that, however, we found the country but little settled, and the road bad. About half a mile before reaching the bridge (ten miles and a half from Peterboro), the road had been graded and freed from stumps, and was tolerably good. With the exception of these two portions, the road the whole distance was either hilly, stony or stumpy, with the exception of about a mile of swamp traversed by bad corduroy. ...

## Barns: Our Vanishing Rural Heritage: Something to Ponder

*Dr John C. Carter  
East York Foundation*

American author and historian Eric Sloane is well known for his publications dealing with reverence for the past. As he has correctly pointed out, barns as a part of our built heritage have been neglected and overlooked, and at best remain a curiosity for many. Sloane has argued succinctly that barns are a sign of a good life and ought to be remembered.

The preservation of barns and outbuildings in Ontario is a challenge that faces municipal heritage committees (formerly local architectural conservation advisory committees), historical societies, archives, heritage centres, and museums across the province. As we drive along the concession roads and highways, the number of abandoned farms, crumbling outbuildings, and collapsed

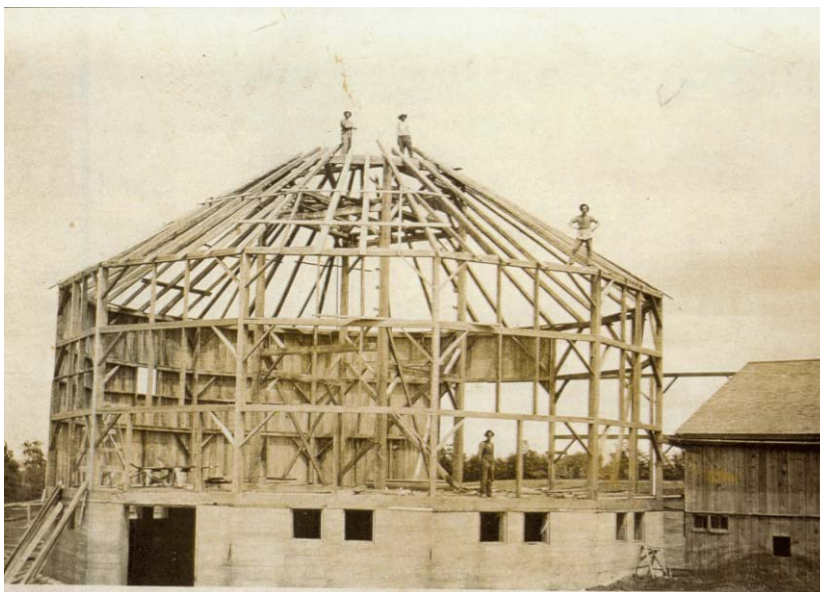
Can we really comprehend the architectural importance or the historical significance of these structures? Can we truly empathize with the struggles that our ancestors experienced in the design and construction of these massive wooden structures? Do we recognize the true social importance of a barn raising bee or the position of esteem that an expert barn framer held in the community, when his skills and expertise were called upon to erect these buildings? which could lead to designation, preservation, or identification.

In an editorial published in the *Canada Farmer*,<sup>15</sup> January 1873, the importance of farming was underlined: "Agriculture in its several branches has been, and is now the foundation on which rests the entire industrial fabric of Ontario. On its prosperity all classes depend - and with a good crop or a bad one, business operations, the abundance of money, and the social comforts of our whole people rise and fall, as do the waters of the sea with the flow and ebb of the tide."

Some heady stuff then, put unfortunately with the passing of time the magnitude of the importance of an agricultural society in Ontario has greatly changed. This should then be a call to all of us for collective action!

Our combined task should be to help preserve the remaining vestiges of our built rural heritage in any way that we can. While we cannot hope to physically save all barns and related agricultural outbuildings and landscapes, we should at least make the best effort possible to accurately record these rapidly disappearing resources. All local heritage groups should concentrate on developing an inventory of barns, outbuildings, silos and landscapes in their immediate vicinity. A camera, video camera, tape measure, and a tape recorder are some of the essential tools required. A ring binder containing photos and relevant historical and architectural information is a useful format for compiling and preserving this research. Raising awareness can be facilitated through this process, one that has already been followed by historical societies and heritage groups on Manitoulin Island, in the Districts of Muskoka, Kenora and Algoma, and in Lambton and Wellington counties.

Considering the listing or designation of barns and rural landscapes is another possible course of action for municipalities and their municipal heritage committees to take. This has been done for barns and



barns present us with a stark visual reminder of our rapidly vanishing rural roots.

farmsteads in the Region of Waterloo, Region of Peel, and Oxford County. More municipalities should designate or list their rural built heritage resources as local heritage groups proceed with documentation projects.

While nineteenth century barns and outbuildings may have become redundant because of the technological revolution in today's modern agriculture, a concerted effort should be made to find other uses for these structures. In several cases, non-agricultural uses such as an antique shop, art gallery, theatre, winery, gift shop, restaurant, or residence have resulted in the complete recycling of former barns. Such decisions have infused new life and purpose into these buildings which in many cases had been threatened with demolition.

Raising awareness of the plight of our rural built heritage resources is another way to assist with their preservation. The Education Committee of Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) and various municipal heritage committees, museums, archives and local heritage/historical societies, have sponsored workshops on these topics. Slide presentations, lectures, discussions and publications have broadened the awareness of participants to lend a hand in this important task.

The challenge remains to establish then proceed with a systematic, province-wide process of recording reuse of barns and outbuildings throughout the province of Ontario. Such initiatives might result in good news about barn raisings, instead of bad news about barn razings!!! A worthy initiative that we all should ponder and then take action on.

*Dr. John C. Carter, a museologist and historian who has documented the barns and agricultural buildings of Ontario for more than 20 years, was guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting of the Trent Valley Archives in April 2006. He is Director of Heritage for the East York Foundation, and a former Executive Member of the Toronto Preservation Board. The picture of a twelve-sided barn under construction is printed courtesy John C. Carter.*



## The Barns of Smith Township

*John Marsh*

John Marsh has been taken many pictures of the distinctive farms of Smith Township, near Peterborough. His ongoing project will take him to the barns of Otonabee Township, around the area where the



International Plowing Match will meet in September 2006.

*The first two barns are on the ninth line of Smith; the third is*



near Selwyn; the fourth is on Chemong Road. The cover picture is also by John Marsh and was taken of a farm on the fifth line of Smith. The Trent Valley Archives building is in Smith Township at the junction of the fourth line and the Centre Line of Smith; these are now known as Woodland Drive and Carnegie Avenue, respectively.

## Barn Plans and Outbuildings

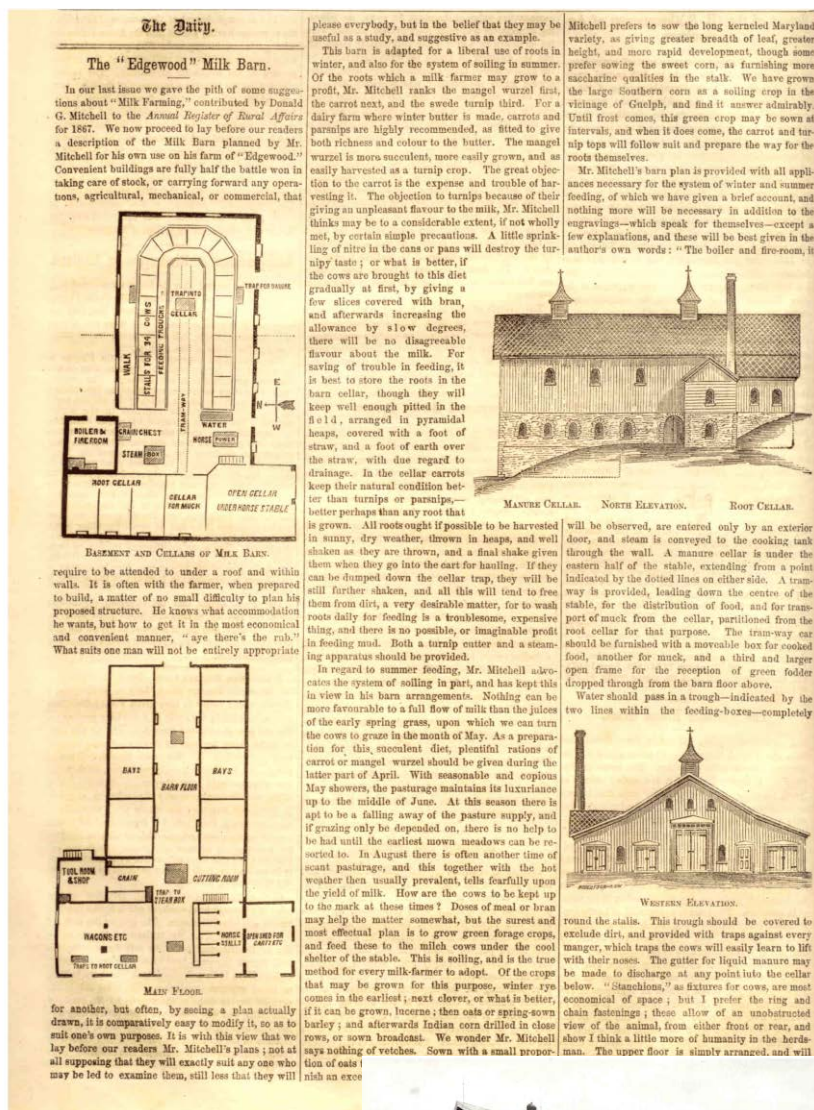
Several books and publications provided guides to farmers who wished to build barns. Bryan D. Halsted (1852-1918) interesting 1889 book, *Barn Plans and Outbuildings*, has been reprinted recently. He advised farmers to plan the location in advance and determine needs carefully. Barns are not easy to move. He advised building upon a rise of ground so that a cellar could be accessed from behind. Barns should be neither too close nor too far from houses. He recommended grouping outbuildings together in contrast to earlier practice that spread buildings around the farm. The size of the barn should reflect the farmer's calculations of his need; half measures are better than no measures. Then farmers need to consider the final appearance. They should be neat, pleasing and "impart an impression of comfort and completeness upon all who see them." Barns are about convenience and impression. His first example is the barn of David Lyman of Middlefield CT, for which he included the overview and the layout of the hay floor, or hayloft.

Browsing through the *Canada Farmer* 1867 yielded some interesting examples of barns. Donald G. Mitchell had given advice in the previous year, and the January issue contained floor plans and elevations for a milk barn at his farm, "Edgewood"; the article does not mention where Mitchell lives. One can clearly see the various considerations that went into Mitchell's planning. Note that he uses roots very liberally for his milk cows and the root cellar is very important. Notice also the water system, and the boiler and fire room is entered only from outside. The editor of *Canada Farmer* did not recommend this barn for others, but did note it was simple and economic.

The *Beatty Barn Book*, published by Beatty Bros. Limited of Fergus, Ontario, promoted Beatty Barns which seemed to be the state of the art in 1920s Canada. The book includes Beatty barns from across Canada, but Ontario barns featured were from such farms as Lady Eaton's farm at Eversley; of Walker Sons in Walkerville; and, the City Dairy farms of Toronto. These three are also from Ontario. The first is a very simple barn recently completed in Donlands. The second is from a pig farm in Duncan

and suggests some intricate control of the pig pens. The third barn, quite large, is from the farm of Bryan Macaw of Smiths Falls. All barns are not created equal and can be for special purposes. By the 1920s, the standards of efficiency and simplicity had expanded. Also the barns were less picturesque than the earlier barns.

There is a sense in which the barns are huge artifacts that can be read for meaning. They could be read for meaning



by neighbors; they can be read for meaning by modern researchers. Barns met several needs and one can infer those needs, and also consider the little extras that were really for neighbors to see. Look at the barns on site as John Marsh and John C. Carter have done. But also include some research in archives in sources such as those noted here. Architectural plans, such as blue prints, can be helpful when available, and a few were printed in the *Beatty Barn Book*.

## Early Peterborough Fairs and Exhibitions

Elwood Jones

[Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from Elwood Jones, *Winners: 150 years of the Peterborough Exhibition*, Peterborough, Peterborough Agricultural Society, 1995. The book can still be obtained from the Peterborough Agricultural Society office on Lansdowne Street just west of the George Street entrance to Morrow Park. This gives a good account of agricultural exhibitions in this area before 1867, and makes clear that Peterborough's exhibition began as the Colborne District Fair in 1843. Through various reorganizations, the fair became one of Ontario's four most successful fairs, and except when the grounds were used for training soldiers during World War II, the fair has been an annual tradition in Peterborough for over 160 years.]

An 1851 fancy fair was expected to be fashionable, of high quality and novel, a rustic *fête champêtre*. Such an event, in aid of St. John's Anglican Church, was held just west of the town of Peterborough, at Merino Farm, where James Wallis practised the latest farming methods. Omnibuses, carriages and cars plied people to the centre of the farm, where tents and marquees were decorated with flowers and foliage and flags and banners. Inside the tents, there was clothing, braided work, books, fancy and ornamental work, and German toys. Refreshments, including "cakes and pastry, cooling beverages, and fruits both native and foreign," were "freely available". A band was in continual attendance. Fireworks and the rising of a large Mongolier balloon highlighted the opening evening. Fair patrons were able to buy agricultural implements and "many specimens of improved stock." The ploughing match, on the second day, was open to all competitors. Money was raised

by



donations to the refreshments stand, and by an admission of 7½ pence; children, half price. "The fancy fair," the fine poster proclaimed, "being held in the county, the attendance of all engaged or interested in the culture and improvement of land, is both expected and desired."

James Wallis, the university-educated squire of Merino Farm, styled himself a "practical farmer". He became noted for his landscape designs, he made furniture and sought opportunities to introduce new farming techniques to his neighbours. He was, also, an investor in grist mills in Fenelon Falls, of which he was one of the founders, and of the mills at the centre of Peterborough. The fancy fair provided an opportunity for Wallis to show his model farm. The entertainment was likely arranged by his wife, Louisa (née Forbes), who was noted for her voice and her generosity. The fancy fair provided the latest fashions in an entertaining and educational setting, and the event generated excitement in all the fair-goers. It was everything a fair ought to be.

Most fairs were less interesting, but by the 1850s the world had new standards against which to judge fairs. The great international exhibition in London, England, in 1851, showed the industrial progress of England beneath the glass and steel of the Crystal Palace. At World's Fairs, nations sent their best and their most representative artisans and goods to boast of their great discoveries and exceptional craftsmanship. And people came in large numbers to be excited and informed. Peterborough's fairs, such as the Merino fancy fair, might be modest by comparison, but it could be fun, exciting and educational for those "engaged or interested in the culture and improvement of the land."

Peterborough seems always to have been the site of markets, fairs, shows and exhibitions. These "periodic gatherings of buyers and sellers in an appointed place, subject to special regulation by law or custom" were very special to a community. Opportunities to buy and sell were very essential to local commerce, and after the arrival of the Robinson settlers in 1825, Peterborough was the largest settlement in the area north of Rice Lake. Peterborough's market square was laid out in 1825, and was the site of regular farmers' markets almost immediately.

Once buyers and sellers were gathered in comparatively large numbers for a market or an agricultural show, the crowds became magnets for other opportunities. Trades and crafts people could show their wares; manufacturers could exhibit their latest lines. Games of chance and entertainment, food and drink, were natural accompaniments. When all of these things happened together it was truly a fair.



In one way or another, the market, the fair and the exhibition were public showings of goods with the intent of making sales. Still there were differences. A market was

an opportunity to sell goods at an appointed time, subject to some regulations to protect consumers. A show was a competitive event in which farmers pitted their best livestock against the best others had. A fair was an event that featured arts and crafts, usually in combination with a show, and probably entertainment of some sort; it was synonymous with the English term "fancy bazaar." At an exhibition, industrial manufacturers and their salesmen promoted machinery of interest to farmers and consumers. These distinctions were blurred, and fair and exhibition were frequently interchanged, even in Peterborough.

In the English tradition, fairs were associated with religious festivals with some regularity. In the American colonies, and probably in Upper Canada (now Ontario), something akin to fairs was associated with the court days. When court days were four times a year, the quarter sessions provided an opportunity to appeal to wider markets; people came to town when it was possible to transmit business. Howard Pammett reports lumber-drive gangs attended quarterly fair days in Peterborough. By late 1837, the town had a pattern of spring, summer, fall and winter fairs, usually held the first Tuesday of March, June, and September and the Tuesday before Christmas. There were other special events, such as the Merino fair, or the celebration of the fifth anniversary of the arrival of the Peter Robinson settlers that doubtless qualified as fairs. Peterborough had the advantage of a central public square that after 1851, when Peterborough became a town, was the site of a town hall or market hall which could anchor these fairs.

Peterborough was Robinson's seat of administration in 1825, and Peterborough's claim to prominence north of Rice Lake was sealed with the decision to make Peterborough the seat of the new Colborne District when its court house was completed, a long four years later in 1842. When the districts were replaced by counties in 1849, Peterborough remained the seat of the new county. The fledgling district had an annual fall fair almost immediately, the first being held in 1843 on the Court House Green. Many of the people who helped organize the fairs of the Colborne District Agricultural Society and of its successors came from Smith township, especially from the southern reaches, much of which today lies within the bounds of the city of Peterborough: besides Conger, active members from Smith included names like Garbutt, Walton, Milburn, Gilmour, Mann, Darling, Fowler, Moore, Stewart, and Tully.

The link to the Court House was more than coincidental. The three acre park, convenient to the centre of the town, was set aside as a park, in perpetuity in 1847, virtually the last act of the old Colborne District Council. The leading promoters of the fair were Wilson S. Conger, the sheriff, and W.H. Wrighton, the bursar. Conger served as president, and Wrighton as secretary, through the 1840s. They started the local district society in 1842, and both represented the Colborne District for the founding of the Provincial Exhibition in 1846; indeed, Conger spoke feelingly about having travelled 150 miles to attend the meeting, and would accept no other outcome of the proceedings. Conger had been sheriff in Cobourg before coming to Peterborough in 1842, and doubtless brought his enthusiasm for fairs from Cobourg.



*View from Court House Park, site of the earliest Peterboro fairs.*

Conger was exceptionally active in public life. In addition to being president of the Colborne District Agricultural Society from its formation in 1842, he was also the sheriff of the new district, 1842-9, and of Peterborough county, 1849-56. He had been in municipal politics in Cobourg, and by the 1850s he had served in Peterborough, as councillor, mayor and MPP. Conger reported that the district agricultural society, of which W. H. Moore and Thomas Benson were vice-presidents, had about 400 members. On the other hand, he wished the district had more township agricultural societies. Still there had been many improvements locally during the five years of his presidency. There was improvement in the quantity and quality of wheat and flour. As well, there were now eight flour mills and about 50 threshing mills, of which 30 had been manufactured at a Peterborough foundry. Conger felt the agricultural society deserved credit for the improvement in cattle breeding, but reported failure in efforts to improve horses. Agricultural societies were intended to improve agriculture and Conger never doubted they would. Conger even competed in the occasional fair, winning first for his fancy fowls in 1860; his wife won for her knitting in 1858.

The group of organizers that surrounded Conger and Wrighton contained many remarkable men, some of whom would have lifetime connections with this fair. The treasurer was Robert Nicholls, owner of Peterborough's major mercantile house. The leadership from Smith Township, which included T.T. Milburn, Thomas Bell, Lewis Davies, Thomas Benson, Emanuel Mann, Michael Sanderson, Jr., William Moore and John Walton, provided continuity that

lasted to the 1880s. Captain James Wallis, host of the 1851 fancy fair, was one of the early directors of the Colborne District Agricultural Society, and his connection would prove a lifetime one.

By 1851, Peterborough became the county town, and was officially incorporated as a town. John Walton emerged as the perpetual president, serving from 1851 to 1870, and J.W. Gilmour was secretary until the early 1860s. The board of directors for the agricultural society had remarkable continuity; as late as 1884, when James Campbell died, the local press noted there were still three members who had served since 1856: John and Joseph Walton and Isaac Garbutt.

Fairs in the 1850s seem to have been anchored by the Court House Park and by the Market Square, separated by two town blocks that provided space for some exhibits and concessions as well as opportunities to sample tavern fare. That changed in 1863 when the Peterborough Horticultural Society, with its first 21 year lease, undertook to beautify the park in the manner then fashionable in the United States where courts were built with parks.

The Town of Peterborough, then, held quarterly fairs from 1837 until into the twentieth century. These fairs had poor reputations from the outset. Fairs were considered to have evil effects on morals. The St Bartholomew's fair in London, England was abolished as a public nuisance by 1855. The local fairs of Paris disappeared with the French Revolution in 1789. *The Canadian Agriculturalist* considered local fairs to be relatively rare as late as 1852. The Peterborough *Sentinel*, December, 1838, has a fine description: "The fairs at Peterboro and Cavan this month were well attended, and the show of cattle at both good, but money scarce. The breed of horses in the back country is decidedly improved and we feel confident that in Cavan, Emily and this neighbourhood strong and active horses could be found.... A fine horse, which was brought up from the front to the Cavan fair to challenge the whole back country, was beaten by a young horse belonging to Widow McCall of Emily...."

Sandford Fleming had difficulty selling some of his maps of Peterborough at the Peterboro spring fair, 7 March 1848. He observed, perhaps not impartially, "The fair passed away without a fight, but there was not much business done, these fairs do but little good." It is surprising that Fleming was selling maps at a spring fair. Other societies which held quarterly fairs usually sold livestock and provided a labour exchange at the spring fairs.

The idea that fairs were linked to violence was apparently widely held. In Peterborough, local newspapers complained regularly, much as the Peterborough *Despatch* did in September 1847:

The fairs organized by agricultural societies were considered to be quite different, for they were inspired by efforts to improve farming by example and teaching. Upper Canada had agricultural societies as early as 1806, in the Home District around Toronto, and by the 1830s most districts has an agricultural society. Before the opening of the new court house in 1841, Peterborough was part of the Newcastle District whose agricultural society

was active through the 1830s. As agricultural societies received grants from the provincial government, they were organized around political constituency boundaries. The Newcastle District was divided in 1851 to create Peterborough and Victoria counties; and politically, Peterborough county had two members after 1854 and by Confederation it had two county agricultural societies. The Peterborough Fair has been the major fair of the agricultural society organized in the west part of the county. The East Riding fair was held in Norwood from 1866, and its successor continues to be one of the finest agricultural fairs in the province.

With the Baldwin Act of 1849, Ontario developed a three-tier system of local government which the agricultural societies followed. By 1854, there were about 45 county societies and some 175 township societies. There were always people who worried that small township fairs stood in the way of top quality regional fairs, but the reigning wisdom was that the more fairs, the more likely their educating influence would be felt on farmers.

A major objective of agricultural societies was the promotion of fairs, which were likewise organized in three tiers: local, county and provincial. During the 1850s and 1860s, the main county fair was usually in Peterborough. Township fairs were organized by societies that often included farmers from more than one township. For example, Dummer and Douro; Smith, Harvey and Ennismore; Otonabee and Asphodel, sometimes with Dummer and Douro organized local fairs. The Peterborough fair was always a district, county or riding fair, and therefore the major local fair.

The provincial fair was expected to attract winners from the township and county fairs. These exhibitions rotated to different cities, and Peterborough area farmers rarely went further than those held in Cobourg. The 1846 Provincial Exhibition was held in Toronto, Wednesday, October 21. It was sponsored by the Provincial Agricultural Association, and by the government, through the agency of the Board of Agriculture for Canada West, and was intended to give "agriculturalists and manufacturers with a show place for their products." The prize list was considered generous at \$1600, and the number of entries was about 1150. The exhibition was held near King and Graves (now Simcoe), surrounding Upper Canada College; the cattle exhibit was in a meadow just north of the college. The exhibit of stoves and furnaces was apparently impressive, and many of them were of Canadian design or improvement. More than 200 people attended the public dinner at Government House. In subsequent years the provincial exhibition was held in Hamilton (1847, 1853, 1860), Cobourg (1848, 1855), Kingston (1849, 1856, 1859), Niagara (1850), Brockville (1851), Toronto (1852, 1858, 1862, 1866, 1870, 1874, 1878), London (1854, 1861, 1865) and Brantford (1857) but never in Peterborough. In due course the provincial exhibition was eclipsed by the Canadian National Exhibition which has met annually in Toronto since 1879.

We have Sandford Fleming's impressions of attending three of these provincial exhibitions. Fleming entered several articles (presumably engineering drawings done with Scobie and Balfour, his Toronto associates) and crayon figures in the Cobourg fair; he "Got 1st prize for crayon drawing £2.10." He met Cobourg people with Peterborough

connections during the set-up day, while he toured the fair grounds with "Mr. Scobie and Mr. Hind". Two days later, 5 October 1848, "The show grounds were crowded this day [and I] saw a great many Peterboro friends." He was among 500 who attended the dinner for prizewinners and judges and others associated with the fair. He attended the steeple chase, which was held about two miles below town; he "went down in the Hon. Z. Burnham's carriage." He also spent 12/6 on the bazaar at the fair.

In 1850, Fleming attended the provincial exhibitions at Niagara, and at Montreal and won prizes at both for his lithography and for his model of Toronto harbour. His brother, David, received a second in wood carving at Montreal. The steamer, "Lord Elgin", plying from Kingston to Montreal was "very much crowded with passengers going to Montreal to see the Provincial Exhibition...."

Fleming's spare description is rather informative. The provincial fair was an opportunity to meet people of fairly high standing, and Fleming was very sensitive to establishing contacts. The agricultural show was supplemented by shows in other areas, and the prizes were sufficiently generous that Fleming could feel he had covered his expenses. He actually spent money buying things at the bazaar. Although no horse racing was tied to the provincial exhibitions until 1865, the steeple chase appears to have been linked to the exhibition. The components of early fairs were present in Cobourg, 1848.

The Provincial Exhibitions were certainly the cap of the Ontario fair system, but they were not without complaints. When it was held in Toronto for four days of September, 1852, over 30,000 people attended. However, the grounds on the west side of College (now University) between Queen and Dundas were inadequate. The crowds were not adequately accommodated, and there were many complaints of seeing little as one was pushed down narrow aisles. Moreover, exhibitors complained about poor visibility and of water damage from leaky canvas roofs.

The characteristics of modern fairs were very evident already. They had to appeal to rural and urban visitors. The exhibitor needs the audience.

Editor's note: The foregoing was excerpted with permission from the book Elwood Jones, *Winners: 150 Years of the Peterborough Exhibition* (Peterborough 1995) pp 1-14.

---

## Trent Valley Archives

567 Carnegie Avenue

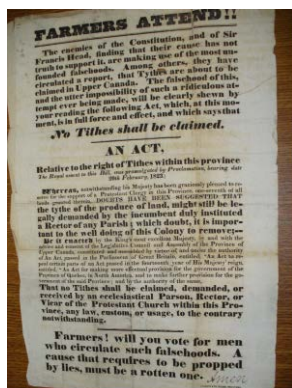
Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1

705 745-4404

[admin@trentvalleyarchives.com](mailto:admin@trentvalleyarchives.com)

*Without archives there is no history.*

---



ridiculous attempt ever being made, will be clearly shewn by your reading the following Act, which, at this moment, is in full force and effect, and which says that

*No Tithes shall be claimed.*

AN ACT,

Relative to the right of Tithes within this province

*The Royal assent to this Bill was promulgated by Proclamation bearing date*

*20<sup>th</sup> February, 1823*

Whereas, notwithstanding his Majesty has been graciously pleased to reserve for the support of a Protestant Clergy in the Province, one-seventh of all lands granted therein, DOUBTS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED THAT the tythe of the produce of the land, might still be legally demanded by the incumbent duly instituted a Rector of any Parish, which doubt, it is important to the well doing of this Colony to remove; -

Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of the Province of Upper Canada, constituted and assembled by virtue of and under the authority of An Act, passed in the Parliament of Great Britain, entitled, "An Act to repeal certain parts of an Act passed in the fourteenth year of His Majesty's reign, entitled, "An Act for making more effectual provision for the government of the Province of Quebec, in North America," and to make further provision for the government of the said Province; and by the authority of the same, That no Tithes shall be claimed, demanded, or received by an ecclesiastical Parson, Rector, or Vicar of the Protestant Church within this Province, and any law, custom, or usage, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Farmers! Will you vote for men who circulate such falsehoods. A cause that requires to be propped by

FARMERS ATTEND!!

The enemies of the Constitution, and of Sir Francis Head, finding that their cause has not truth to support it, are making use of the most unfounded falsehoods. Among others, they have circulated a report, that Tythes are about to be claimed in Upper Canada. The falsehood of this, and the utter impossibility of such a

lies, must be a rotten one.

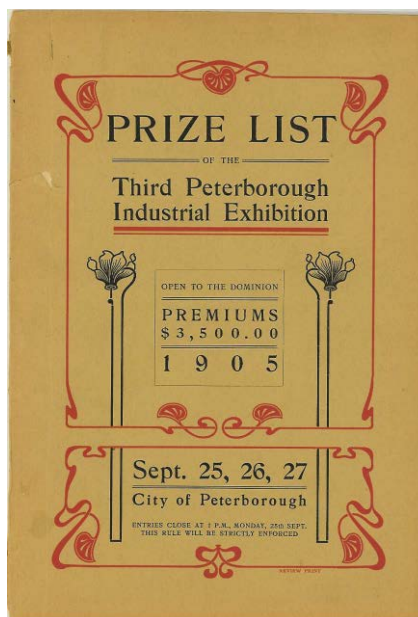
Amen

COLLINS AND WARD, PRINTERS

*This document [currently on loan to the Trent Valley Archives] is in Cobourg Public Library, Foster Russell fonds, Series A, volume 5, file 99.*

## Researching Agricultural History at the Trent Valley Archives

The Trent Valley Archives, founded in 1989, has acquired an impressive collection of documents related to all aspects of local history, family history and archives. Our collection has related primarily to the five counties comprising the old District of Newcastle – Haliburton to Belleville, Bancroft to Oshawa, Cobourg to Peterborough. The Peterborough County land records cover every rural property in the county. We have atlases, maps and plans. A map directory showing farm ownership in 1924 are useful. Archie Tolmie's papers on Victoria County include lots of information on farms in that area. Our collection on the Peterborough Exhibition includes useful notes and photocopies of stories related to farming and fair exhibits. Our impressive newspaper collections include the run of the Havelock Standard and several Lakefield newspapers as well as isolated issues of Peterborough newspapers. Our photograph collections include photographs of the countryside. Some show up in family papers; others are part of our major research collections, such as those of Martha Ann Kidd and Gerry Stephenson. The Stephenson fonds is a veritable canoe history archives and provides useful information on recreation, athletics and cottage life. We have lots of government reports, in our several private libraries and in our



workroom. We have posters. We have fire insurance plans for Peterborough, which allows us to see the lay-out of manufacturing companies specializing in grain or agricultural implements. Our items are arranged by source and so it often takes imagination to find just the right thing. But it is worth the effort.

Memberships in Trent Valley Archives are available for \$40 plus GST. Membership benefits include research questions and opportunities, invitations to special speakers and events, and a year's subscription to our quarterly magazine, *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*.

---

## The Agricultural Society of Otonabee and Asphodel 1850

Thomas Carr, President, *Peterborough Weekly Despatch*, 14 November 1850

---

Your Committee are of opinion that much inconvenience and even loss to the Society, have arisen from the lateness of the period at which the annual supplies, such as plaster, seeds, &c., for spring use, have been voted by the Committee, and from the consequent shortness of time allowed for the purchase of these articles, which did not admit of opportunities for careful enquiry and judicious selection, and occasioned them to be purchases in too hasty a manner. To remedy this evil, your Committee recommend that the Annual Meeting may be held, officers for the ensuing year appointed, and a Committee of Management formed, on such day in October annually as you may please to appoint; by which means, the whole winter will be at the command of the managers for enquiring about seeds and other articles, and for the purchase of them. The crops of this year, had the season of harvest been more favourable, and had our Potatoes escaped the rot, would have been both abundant and remunerating. Of the wetness of the harvest, as such an event is of rare occurrence in this climate, we have little reason to complain. The mysterious and fatal disease, which, from time to time, attacks and occasions the partial, and sometimes nearly the total, destruction of the potato crop, the cause of which has been investigated both by men of science and able practical farmers, seems to be the result of one of those secrets of nature, which we are forbidden to know. The soils upon which the potato crop of this year has best succeeded, have been light and dry, or the heavier intermixed with much black mould. To the occasional failure of crops, as to other disappointments in life, brought about by the dispensations of Providence, or those operations of nature which we cannot control, it is our duty and interest not only to submit, without murmuring, but such occurrences should so stimulate our exertions, that, by persevering prudence, increased industry, and better management, we may render the succeeding year's crop so productive as to compensate the deficiency of the past. The funds of the Society for this year, arising chiefly from a balance of last year's transactions, have been expended in the purchase of Plaster, Seeds for a change &c. A premium was awarded for the introduction of Ayrshire and Devon Cattle, but none have been procured. As cultivated seeds seem to suffer deterioration by being used for a length of years in the same locality, a change appears occasionally necessary but, in making this change the greatest care should be taken to select, as far as possible, kinds suitable to our soil and climate, and, at the same time, of superior quality. As plaster greatly promotes the growth of Clover and other broad-leaved plants, and even preserves the freshness and verdure of pastures, during the summer droughts, your Committee recommends the use of it to be continued. They also beg to call your attention to better breeds of Stock, and to improved implements of husbandry, not forgetting stump machines if a useful and efficient kind of the latter could be procured. The only good variety of Spring Wheat, which we have to sow in the ensuing year is the Fife Wheat. The other varieties have become so subject to rust, as to be unfit for seed. A new variety, therefore, of good quality, and not subject to rust, might, could it be obtained, be desirable. This consideration, however, will occupy the attention of the next Committee. Your Committee cannot help remarking, that in the

making and saving of manure, we are, in this neighborhood, behind the spirit and practice of the age in which we live. By locating our dunghoops upon ridges and high ground, we suffer the liquid manure, the richest portion, to escape, while the leached and worthless remnant is applied to the land - that is, we permit our tea and coffee to flow away, perhaps into some stream on its course to the ocean, and retain only our tea leaves and coffee ground. We have hitherto been cultivating a fresh and virgin soil, and many of us have still such soil to resort to; but we should not forget, that new land, like ourselves is daily becoming old and exhausted; and that, like ourselves, it requires food to enable it to support its labours. Let us then profit by experience, and, whilst our land is fertile, let us not, if possible, suffer it to become barren and unproductive for want of manure to prolong its fertility. Your Committee are glad to learn that a By-law has been passed, by the Council of this Township, to encourage, or rather mildly to compel, the gradual extirpation of noxious weeds. Such a Bylaw was necessary, and, if wisely and moderately enforced, may do much to promote the welfare of Agriculture. It may be found fault with, as all laws are, by some but it is to be hoped that all judicious and enlightened farmers will not only give it their support, but will even use their best endeavours to carry its provisions into effect. If Canada thistles, and other pernicious weeds be allowed to grow unmolested as they do at present, and annually to shed their innumerable seeds, they will in a few years, take forcible possession of half the Township. Weeds not only shade crops, but also, if permitted to run to seed, do, from the multitude of their seeds, extract more nourishment from the soil, and consequently exhaust it more rapidly, than cultivated plants. It should never be forgotten that any given weight of weeds will extract, at least as much nutriment from land, as an equal weight of grain. What farmer then may we be permitted to ask, who truly loves his most useful, manly and noble profession, would not infinitely prefer viewing his rich fields covered with clean, thriving, luxuriant crops, delighting his eyes, cheering his heart, and eventually rewarding his natural and pleasant toils, by filling his barns with the purest and best of produce, which it delights him to carry to market? Who, we may again ask, would not prefer such a view, to beholding other fields, equally fertile in soil, and wanting only clean and careful culture to yield abundant crops, abandoned to the growth of thistles and other filthy weeds, which not only multiply upon the land they occupy but of which the seeds are dispersed over all the neighbourhood? The eradication of weeds must be the work of time, as it has been the work of time to disseminate and establish them; but this necessary and useful improvement can never be completed, until it has been once fairly and resolutely undertaken. The Agricultural improvements which the Committee recommend to their brother farmers are rough, will require much toil and sweat, and will, like the destruction of weeds, occupy many years. These improvements are, clearing the fields thoroughly of stones, stumps, and roots, forming good and sufficient fences, with gates leading from one field to another;

erecting commodious barns, and comfortable stabling or outhouses for stock of all kinds. These improvements, going on one after another, and field by field, ought to be succeeded by draining, and deep ploughing or subsoiling - especially by draining upon low and wet lands' for, to plough deeply or subsoil such land, without previous draining, is to waste valuable labour. Deep ploughing or subsoiling, as soon as the fields will admit of it, cannot be too highly recommended. Its advantages are, 1st, free

*Poster for an 1866 plowing match to be held in Otonabee Township, not too distant from the site of the International Plowing Match for 20006. (From collections of Chris Minicola)*

access to the air and its acids to disintegrate and prepare the subsoil for the nourishment of vegetables, 2nd, freedom for plants to send their roots deeper, in all seasons, in search of food and, in dry seasons, in search of moisture; 3rd, a passage for the escape of surplus water after heavy rains. It must be allowed, however, that deep ploughing or subsoiling is most beneficial where the subsoil is very compact, or has formed or what is called a hard or iron pan, into which roots cannot penetrate. Having thus far, recommended the improvement of the soil, we may perhaps be permitted, before closing this report, to say a few words on the improvement of the mind; because the improvement of the mind conduces very powerfully to all other improvements. We live in an age, in which not only knowledge and science, but also (what is perhaps of still greater importance to human welfare and happiness) humanity and benevolence are advancing with gigantic strides. National, political, and religious, animosities and hatreds (those pests of former ages) are also beginning to soften down and give way; although perhaps more slowly than the friends of mankind could desire. In short the more civilized portion of the human race is, by the rapidity and certainty of steam communication, and the wide and increasing diffusion of knowledge, undergoing a mighty change for the better; and we, though situated on the outskirts of society, must change with it. Whilst the ball of improvement is rolling on, we must not content ourselves with being idle spectators. The Agricultural class, although forming the majority of inhabitants in every country, have in all past ages, been pointed at by the finger of scorn, and branded with ignorance; stupidity, and clownishness. From this state of mental and moral degradation, condemned to incessant toil, chiefly for the benefit of others and humbled, oppressed and contemned, by the higher classes, they had no means, until lately, of emancipating themselves. In this age, particularly in this country, the case is widely different. Here at least, we are controlled only by the laws of the land, and by those decent and proper customs and usages, which for the benefit of society prevail among all civilized people; to which laws and customs, we ought to yield a cheerful and ready submission. Under these salutary restraints we have entire freedom of speech and, action. We can, when it suits us, remove from one locality to any other; we can abandon one occupation or profession, and embark in a different one, at our pleasure we can speak or write with the utmost freedom, and, if our observations or writings merit attention, they will be listened to, or read - and if we have talents, and choose to cultivate and improve them, we may rise to the highest offices. Our minds resemble fields, varying in soil, and fertility, but unimproved. All demand cultivation to render them productive; but the sterile, having fewer advantages from nature require the most.

The abilities, bestowed upon us by the author of our nature, are however widely different. Many appear almost to be devoid of talents. While some, according to the Parable in Scripture, have one, some two, and some even five talents. But of whatever number they may consist, we may be assured that they were bestowed upon us to be improved and exercised. Those, for instance who possess the noble faculty of reason, without improving or exercising it, are highly culpable; because they bury their talent in the sand, and it neither benefits themselves, nor others. But those who enjoy the same faculty, and dare not either to improve or exercise it are still more blameworthy; because they not only bury their talent in the sand, but are slaves to the habits, opinions and prejudices of those who surrounding them. Such persons are subject to a reign of terror.

To conclude, we can improve our minds by reading and reflection and in establishing Schools, and in educating our children. During six months of the year, the varied beauties and wonderful *Peter Hamilton plow (Lang Pioneer Village)*

operations of nature are before our eyes - we can refine and humanize our hearts by admiring the former, and enlarge and improve our minds by studying and contemplating the latter. No occupation is so healthy, so agreeable, or so varied, as that of the farmer. Whilst the mechanic, the merchant, or the manufacturer is confined to dull and unhealthy apartments, the farmer enjoys the pure air, the clear sunshine, the verdant fields, and can study and admire the infinitely varied works of his creator.

Another important reason for recommending education and the acquisition of knowledge is, that we enjoy the happiness of living under a constitutional form of government, in which legislating, as it does, for all classes, each class should be, in



proportion to its numbers, fairly represented. Such ought to be the case; but we may venture, without fearing contradiction, to assert that, in Canada, the Agricultural class containing a majority of the

inhabitants, is rarely represented by a member of its own body. Now why should so great an evil exist? It is because farmers have neither sufficient education nor intelligence to represent their own class and therefore, must throw themselves into the arms of lawyers, who, of all men, seem to be the most unfit, by their education, their pursuits, and their want of fellow feeling, to represent an agricultural community. In these times when the best publications, both in the arts and sciences, and all other subjects, are so cheap and so abundant, any person, who has had a common education, may, if he possess only a strong inclination, and avail himself of his leisure hours, become his own instructor. But, if we have no taste for learning ourselves - if we are too old and too stiff to bend our minds to knowledge - or, if we are too thickly coated with ignorance and prejudices to be able to break the crust, we ought, if at all possible, to give our children superior advantages, and to enable them, not only to become good farmers, and worthy members of society, but also to be their own Magistrates, Councillors, and Members of Parliament. Our system of teaching is yet very defective. Children are taught to read English, as parrots talk it, without understanding the language, or gaining the ideas intended to be conveyed. By such a mode of instruction, the knowledge to be obtained by reading is, in a great measure, denied to them. Besides they ought to be guided, at an early age, to the study and contemplation of the appearances and productions of nature, the most delightful and the most profitable of all studies.

Our Normal Schools will, however in process of time, rectify the errors, and supply the defects, of the present system of education. All young people have neither the inclination nor the capacity to pursue learning, and penetrate into the depths of science, but the Wise Author of nature has so formed us, that, if all had the advantage of a good common education, a sufficient number would soon be found to elevate themselves above the rest, to take their proper rank and station in Society, and to become the pride and ornament of their age. During the course of this report, we have respectfully ventured to point out many improvements both to the soil and to the mind. We do not hesitate to say that they will, ere many years, or at least many centuries have elapsed, take place, but, thanks to the quarreling, fighting, and destroying propensities of our ancestor they are yet in their infancy. We have much satisfaction, however, in observing that a desire of knowledge, and a spirit of improvement, are now prevailing in our neighborhood, and (what affords perhaps more pleasure) that the inhabitants, taking them generally, are peaceable, industrious, kind-hearted, and hospitable. Your Committee conclude with an earnest wish that every improvement, whether in our farms, or in our minds may increase our charitable and friendly feelings towards each other, and may make us both wiser and better.

## Don't Mortgage Your Farm

*William Telford*

You farmers rich and poor give ear, to what I say attend;  
Don't angry get, I do not wish one farmer to offend.  
The simple truth I mean to state though some on me may frown;  
'Tis: lay no mortgage on your farm – take warning by Clark Brown.

He is one 'mong thousands more, whose brightest hopes have waned,  
By that one act the cup of ruin, they to its dregs have drained.  
Extravagance, their direst foe, ambition yields the charm  
That draws them on till they have signed first mortgage on their farm.

When times were good, and crops likewise, prosperity prevailed;

Some spent as if good times would last and crops had never failed,  
But darker times and shorter crops their ruinous power displayed,  
And not a few that lived too fast in sorrow stood dismayed.

They lived in pomp and pride at home, with dazzling show outside,  
Though they should borrow cash to float them o'er fair fashion's tide.  
Though living far above their means, it gave them no alarm,  
They kept up style, though they should give a mortgage on the farm.

The home-spun grey is laid aside – it looked so awful mean,  
The shining broadcloth takes its place, more stylish to be seen;  
The rumbling waggon stands at rest, they love to ride on steel,  
The glittering carriage sets them off, it looks much more genteel.

Contracted debts, like time or tide, go swiftly rolling on,  
Their reckless course shows them, too late, their hopes and farm are gone;  
The day has come – around that home large crowds of neighbors swarm,  
The auctioneer sells off the stock – the mortgage holds the farm.

The picture's dark to not a few; a brighter side appears.  
Thousands have labored, saved, and lived free from all mortgage fears;  
Though living plain in dress and style, still happy and content,  
Shrewd, cautious, careful, watching well where every dollar went.

The farmer, family, frugal wife, make one industrious band,  
From year to year they toil and save, a little keep on hand;  
No puffed up pride can them ensnare, new fashions yield no charm,  
Their rule is: live within our means and mortgage not the farm.

Economy, with care and tact, their chiefest daily rule,  
In spending, living or in dress, down to the farming tool;  
The boys don't put on airs, nor in their broadcloth strut about,  
Nor daughters in their silks parade – they feel content without.

No dollar without care is spent by either man or wife –  
No, not on costly luxuries, but needful things of life;  
While Fred, and Sis, young Dick and Kate, each bears a willing arm,  
To add unto their wealth and keep the mortgage off the farm.

And not a few have hardships shared, when adverse fortune frowned,  
They toiled and saved – today they rest – wealth has their labor crowned;  
Ask their experience, they will tell words we should not forget:  
"We'd sooner ride in the old ox-cart than sink the farm in debt."

Yes, farmers, train your sons to work, if not to hold the plough,  
To earn an honest livelihood, though sweat rolls from their brow;  
Teach them to save, what e'er they make, 'twill never do them harm,  
But keep the sheriff from the door – and the mortgage off the farm.

[William Telford (1828-1895), the Bard of Smith, wrote clever poetry that often appeared in local Peterborough newspapers. *The Poems of William Telford – Smith*, Peterborough, 1887, pages 43-44. A modern selection was produced by the Smith Township Historical Society.]

## ORIGIN OF CAVAN BLAZERS

A FAIR AND CORRECT SKETCH OF THESE EARLY SETTLERS:

Some Very Interesting Information from a Historical Point of View; Object Which the Blazers had in View

*One Who Was There*

*Peterborough Review, 14 September 1904*

*with thanks to Don Cournoyea*

The following letter has been supplied for publication by Lieut.-Col. H. C. Rogers, and will be of interest from a historical point of view.

There appears to be some very erroneous and unfair ideas prevalent among, or in the minds of a great many people, as to who these people known as "Blazers" were, the objects they had in view, why they existed, what they did, and who they were.

My reason for writing this paper is, that before the last of those who ultimately knew the "Blazers" pass away, their aims and objects, that a fair and correct sketch of them, and their doings, shall be left for the use of those who will come after us, and may desire to know something of the early settlers of Cavan, and their descendants and doings.

They were never an organization or association in any form or manner, and originated in this manner:

In 1846 that part of Cavan forming the eastern quarter of the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> concessions, then known as "Egypt," now as Fraserville and neighbourhood, was affected with an epidemic known as "Intermittent Fever," as that part of the country was low and swampy, clearings small, people poor, and only one doctor, the late Dr Brodie, in the township. The number of sick rapidly increased, and many died. Nearly every household was affected. The harvest came on, and the poor people, were by reason of the sickness unable to save their harvest. The young men on these concession lines, which were on high and healthy ground, came to the conclusion that something must be done to assist their sick neighbours, and that thing which they could do easiest and most efficiently was to cut and save the harvest, then ripe. About twenty of the sons of the eldest and most respectable farmers in the section started to do what they could, and every second night at least, and sometimes two or three nights in succession, these young men, who worked in their own harvest fields every day, went out, first to those most in need, then others in succession, cut and stooked their grain, and when dry enough, drew it to the barns of those who had barns, or stacked it. Fortunately, it was fine harvest weather, with moonlight, and the boys were able to get a lot of work done. Many of the well-to-do farmers had a man or two hired, to assist in their harvests, and these young men were just as willing, and capable, of assisting, as the others, and turned out and took their share of the work.

As the young men had not enough horses at home to accommodate a large number, and as there were no buggies to be had, and wagons were too noisy, every man went on horseback; often two on one horse, one rake, and as saddles were only owned by the well-to-do part of the community; one saddle for one horse was the rule. There were first not enough saddles to go around. Those having saddles were not always willing to lend, and consequently, as the old saying is, "necessity knows no law," and a saddle for each horse was a "necessity," the boys borrowed, without the formality of asking, all the saddles they needed, and by

that means took away the need of refusal by the owner. Some of the people who had unwillingly contributed saddles were very wrath, and said hard things. Among them was a wealthy but stingy old farmer, who was the possessor of four good saddles, one for himself and one for each of his three sons. As it would have been waste of time to ask for the "loan," the only thing left to do was to borrow, without loan, which was done. He made a great fuss, and tried to get summonses or warrants issued, but as he could not name the parties guilty of borrowing his saddles he could do nothing. As he had published his opinion on the boys near and far, and they, of course, heard of it, a few of them meeting one night; someone suggested that he should be "admonished and advised to keep his mouth closed." A notice was accordingly written to him and a man sent to nail it on his door, which was done. It was nearly as follows:

"To Mr \_\_\_\_\_. It has come to the knowledge of the young men, who are trying to save the crops of their weak and dying neighbours, you are slandering better men than yourself, and accusing them wrongfully of various crimes. Now, this is to give you notice, that unless you stop this thing at once, we may pay you a visit, and if we do, you will never forget it." Signed by the order of the Committee. BLAZES, Secretary."

He read the signature "Blazers," not "Blazes," and thus the name of "Blazers" was fixed on them. His saddles and all other borrowed saddles were returned to the owner in as good condition as when borrowed, as soon as the harvest was over. The harvest of 1847 found the settlers of the same location afflicted in the same way, but to a less extent, and the "Blazers" did as they had done in the previous harvest when necessary.

Another instance of disinterested kindness I may mention. In the neighbourhood was a well-off farmer, who had a family well grown up, two fine, good looking girls the oldest. The father and mother, meeting another old couple at a fair, here in Peterborough, from the same place in Ireland, and being the same Christian and surname, men and women came to the conclusion to unite the families once more by the son of one marrying the eldest daughter, unmarried, of the other, and completed the arrangement as far as they could. The father and mother of, and the prospective son-in-law, were to come to the home of the young woman the following Saturday, when all arrangements for the wedding were to be closed. Saturday brought the visitors, and the young people were introduced to each other, all arrangements were completed and it was agreed the marriage should take place on the following Monday, week. The old people and son left for home, to return on the next Saturday. They were prompt on time with the intended bridegroom, the license obtained, minister engaged, and wedding to take place at 10 a.m. Monday – (next day.) The poor girl, who was a great favourite in the neighbourhood got word sent to the "Blazers" of her position, and they knowing there was another very respectable young man, who lived about twenty miles away, very much in love with the young woman, and whom she was willing to

marry, sent a man on horseback to him on Sunday, with a message from her to come and save her. He started at once with a team and waggon, got to a certain place arranged, and was met by about a dozen of the boys. In the meantime the boys had discovered that the girl had been locked up in her room in one end of the house on the third floor, and a long ladder was obtained and carried three miles by relays of men, set up against the window, and a young man, well known to her, ascended the ladder. The poor girl was sitting on her bed crying. As soon as the window was opened he got in, told her to put her hat and wrap on, as Sam was outside with a team and waggon, and about a dozen boys, all of whom she knew, were on the ground to assist. He at once tied up her bed, bedding and clothes, ran them down the ladder, where they were picked up by the boys waiting and trotted off to the waggon. She was then assisted down and man on each side took her arm and trotted her off to the waggon, where her lover was waiting. A couple of the oldest and best known of the boys got in. They drove to the office of the issuer of marriage licenses and got a new license, then to an old minister's residence, got him up, where they were married, and were escorted to their waggon, and started on the journey before daylight, and while the intended bridegroom was quietly sleeping and no doubt dreaming of future bliss. Many guests and the minister, who was to have assisted in perpetuating the name of the two families; but after waiting for a long time for the bride to come down, her mother went to call her, only to find she had gone, and so had everything in the room, except the old "four poster," and the straw which had filled the straw tick.

To put it mildly, the two old couples were as mad as the new bride and her husband were happy, so they concluded they would not give her the marriage portion intended. The boys heard of the determination, and at once concluded they must be admonished and given to understand that unless she was treated as her eldest sister had been at the marriage, the matter would be taken in hand by the "Blazers," who would see justice done in the premises. It had the desired effect, and the following Sunday night two of her brothers went with two cows, and on Monday morning the old people visited the store in which they dealt, and the writer had the satisfaction of selling to them considerable over \$100 worth of necessary articles for a young couple beginning in the world; and when the old people got acquainted with their new son-in-law they were quite satisfied. Now, these are the kind of things they did, and never can it be truthfully said did they, or any one of them, descend to a mean or vicious act.

About this time some scamps, not in any way connected or related to the Blazers, or any of them, committed some depredations, such as shaving horses' tails and manes, cutting cows' tails, etc., but it was conclusively proven that these acts were committed by a couple of scoundrels who had been following a threshing machine and who did not belong to Cavan in any way. They cleared out and nothing of the kind has ever happened since in the township.

Another false impression I desire to correct: that is, that the "Blazers" were organized to drive Roman Catholics out of Cavan. This is an impudent and malicious falsehood, which can be proven by the fact that on several occasions the young men hired by the fathers of these "Blazers" were among the most willing helpers and always went when an opportunity to do so occurred. In fact, one family of Roman Catholics lived for many years on the 9<sup>th</sup> line, the

head of the family working a great part of his time for "Rev Samuel Armour," the rector. Everyone liked and respected him and his family, and when stricken down with his last illness one of the boys came into town for "Father Butler" and brought him to their dying neighbour. "Father Butler" stayed at "Rev Mr Armour's" all night; they had always been very intimate friends, and he was driven home by one of the boys next day. The funeral was one of the largest seen in that neighbourhood. Then, there were several families of Roman Catholics who lived in the township for many years – some of them over 70 years. There were the Redmonds, the Fitzgeralds, the O'Briens, the Cunninghams, the Heofighans, the Powers, Maguires and Ryans, with others whose names I have forgotten. These men were as highly respected as any other decent families in the township. Patrick Maguire, Esq., was for years clerk of the Township Council, one of the old magistrates in the county, connected for forty years with the militia, and rose in the regular way to be Colonel of the battalion. At his house service used to be held by the Roman Catholic priest from Peterborough or Port Hope, and sometimes by the late Father Coyle of Emily, who was an old schoolmate and bosom friend of Rev Mr Douglas, Presbyterian minister, and many a time have I seen him and Father Coyle, who visited him once a year at least, on horse back together riding round among old friends they had known in Ireland.

Our late neighbour, Joseph Redmond, was born in Cavan, on the farm his mother and father lived on for about seventy years, and was well known and respected in Cavan as he was here.

These facts should dispose of the idea that Roman Catholics were the special objects of the dislike of the Blazers.

Those men who were the Blazers have nearly all passed away, only three or four of them now living, as far as I know. Like all other young people they were impulsive and sometimes may have acted to some extent without consideration, but always with the intention of helping the weak or helpless.

ONE

WHO WAS THERE.

## Queries

*Diane Robnik*



A member sends this three generation picture of Mrs Middleton, Irene Thirnbeck and Agnes Thirnbeck. The picture was taken around 1922 when Mrs Middleton visited Peterborough from Saskatchewan. They are standing in front of a monument that has a moat-shaped pond at its base and is topped by a gas lamp fixture. Does anyone know where this monument might have been?

#### HEFFERNAN FAMILY REUNION 2006

Saturday, **5 August 2006**, 10AM - 7 PM  
at Beavermead Park, Peterborough  
Ashburnham Drive

on East side of Peterborough, just north of Lansdowne St.

Reunion being held for the descendants of Grand-parents John Heffernan and Agnes Francis Ryan. The families are Gert & Bert Lynch, Tom & Kay Heffernan, Frank & Rita Heffernan, Liz and Leo Keogon, Agnes and Harry Lynch, Joseph (not married). Bring your own food, drinks and lawn chairs. Bring any old family albums and pictures as well as any updates to the Heffernan family tree. We have rented the large pavilion at Beavermead Park. There will be several picnic tables under the pavilion. Public washrooms are provided by the park. No alcohol is allowed in park because of insurance reasons.

My grandfather John Heffernan was born in Otonabee Township on 1 April 1874, the fourth oldest child of Thomas Heffernan and Bridget Allen (my great grandparents). John married Agnes Francis Ryan from Douro, the daughter of Patrick Ryan and Elizabeth Sullivan on 22 June 1903.

Their six children were Gertrude born 22 Nov. 1904, married to Albert Lynch from Hastings. Thomas Patrick, my father born 28 Nov. 1905, married to Kathleen Hartwick of Peterborough. Frank born 2 Aug 1907, married to Rita Scollard of Peterborough. Elizabeth born 8 April 1912, married to Leo Keogon from Hastings. Agnes born 23 July 1914, married to Harry Lynch from Renfrew. Joseph born 22 July 1915, not married.

My grandmother Agnes Ryan was born on 22 May 1883 in Douro and died on her birthday in 1918 at the age of 35. My grandfather John farmed at Lot 20 Con 11 in Otonabee Township and together with his sons, farmed 400-500 acres at the time. John Heffernan did a lot of custom work and travelled around the neighbourhood with a mill also called a thrashing machine mill and steam engine, thrashing various grain crops like wheat, oats, barley etc. The steam engine was replaced by an International gas tractor model 22-36 sometime in the 1920's, so the job became easier to move the mill from farm to farm with the gas tractor. The International 22-36 gas tractor had steel lugs for traction whereas the steam engine only had smooth wheels. As I recall my dad told me that the belt pulley horsepower of the steam engine was only 14 horsepower whereas the International gas tractor was rated at 36 horsepower at the belt pulley.

My grandfather John remarried because the children were quite young when Agnes died. John married Sarah Burns from Grafton on 19 June 1923 at St. Michael's church in Cobourg. I was just old enough to know my step grandmother Sarah before she passed away on 4 Feb. 1950. Sarah Heffernan (Burns) nee McGuire is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Grafton with her first husband James Burns. My grandfather John Heffernan passed away on 8 Feb 1935 and is buried in St. Peter's cemetery with my grandmother Agnes Ryan.

My great great grandparents John Heffernan and Elizabeth Kingston emigrated to Canada from Mitchelstown, County Cork Ireland in 1845 with their 10 children: Cornelius m. Honora Murray, Patrick m. Elizabeth Slattery, Johanna m. Laurence Doherty, John m. Johanna (Judy) Allen, Michael, Bridget m. Edward (Ned) O'Brien, William m. Ellen Coveney, Catherine m Thomas Slattery, Thomas m Bridget Allen - my great grandparents and Florence m. Thomas O'Brien. Thomas and Catherine were twins.

John Heffernan and his family stayed with his brother Patrick Heffernan and wife Margaret Doherty at E 1/2 Lot 29 Con 9 Otonabee township on the 8th line, just north of today's Highway # 7 and later moved to W 1/2 of Lot 29 Concession 9 on the 9th line, just south of Highway # 7.

Patrick Heffernan and Margaret Doherty emigrated to Canada from County Cork Ireland in 1825 with Peter Robinson on the *Regulus* and moved to Indian River on the third and fourth line of Asphodel about 1857.

For details contact Paul Heffernan, 705-742-1060, [p.heffernan@sympatico.ca](mailto:p.heffernan@sympatico.ca)

Paul Heffernan

#### PETERBOROUGH'S FIRST DAGURREAN ARTIST?

*Weekly Despatch, 18 October, 1849*

Address to Mr. Milne,

The following is a copy of the Address presented to Mr. Milne previous to his departure from this Town.

Peterboro, 24 December, 1849

Dear Sir, Having had the opportunity of availing ourselves of your professional services, we cannot permit you to leave Peterboro, without expressing our high estimation of your talents and ability, and our cordial wishes for your success and prosperity.

Robert J. C. Taylor, James Wallis, Thos. Benson, J. Edwards, D. McFarlane, John Hall, A. MacPhail, Jas. Hall, Walter Sheridan, District Clerk, William Bell, W.S. Conger, Sheriff, C.D.A.S. Fowler, J.P., Geo. Frederick Orde, Thos. Fortye, W.H. Wrighton, R. Nicholls, F. Ferguson, John Rousby, Daniel Griffith, Charles Perry, Robert Ridley, James Ryan, F. Almond, E. Burnham, John J. Hall, J.L. Hughes.

To R. Milne, Daguerrean Artist  
Peterboro

(Reply)

Gentlemen: I sincerely thank you for this unexpected mark of your esteem. I feel happy to know that I have given satisfaction and hereafter, in the exercise of my profession, I hope I may experience from others, as much kindness as I have received during my residence with you.

I am your obedient servant,  
R. MILNE

[This is an early visit by a professional photographer.]

#### Leahy

Looking for information on the Leahy family of the Peterborough area. I have traced back as far as Ellen J. Leahy born 21 June 1856. I believe her parents were James Leahy and Briget (unknown). Bridget was born 24 June 1833 in Ontario and died in Minnesota in 1911. James and Bridget had at least 4 children: Ellen, Catherine, Mary, and Michael.

### Roseborough

Looking for the gravesites of the original Alexander Roseborough Sr., who died 17 September 1856, and his wife Margaret Elliott (no death date) - who came in 1819 to Smith.

### Pogue

Looking for information on William Greig, village blacksmith and his wife, Helen Louise McLean (known as Nellie). Her father James? McLean owned the country store in Mount Pleasant.

## Ontario Farmers' Union, 1952-69

*Bruce Dodds*

The Ontario Farmers' Union was important social movement that emerged in the years following World War II. Founded by concerned farmers in Grey County, the OFU grew in response to rapid economic and social change, and achieved key advances for farmers, particularly in the areas of marketing and farm safety nets.

Despite fears of post-war depression, farm prices climbed to near record highs in the late 40s, sparking a huge wave of farm investment and modernization. In the early 1950s however, prices plunged sharply and farmers began agitating for new ways to raise income and protect



their interests.

At first unaware of the larger, long-established farmers unions in western Canada, the OFU's founders soon made common cause and began aggressively organizing locals in the counties south of Georgian Bay. Before long, OFU organizers had made their way around Lake Simcoe to Victoria, Ontario, Durham and Peterborough counties. By 1955 there were some 50 locals between Beaverton and Belleville. By 1969, the OFU had founded 399 locals and was active in almost every farm district in Ontario.

The upstart OFU was built around three basic principles. First, unlike the provincial federations of agriculture, membership was voluntary and direct; individual farmers became dues-paying members, not co-ops or commodity organizations on their members' behalf. Secondly, the OFU, though independent politically,

was aggressively outspoken with governments and committed to lobbying politicians of all

*Left to right: OFU President Gordon Hill (Huron), OFU women's president Mearl Hopkins (Norland), Mike Maloney (Keene) and Henry Nokes (Peterborough), about 1960*

stripes, not just the party in power. Finally, the function of the farmers' union was to *educate* and *agitate* – to energize agriculture at its farm base by developing and disseminating new ideas associated with unrest and discontent at the grassroots.

OFU leaders admired labour unions and sought to learn from them. Members envied union's organizational discipline and economic power, and their willingness to use them in their members' interests. The OFU pursued similar power in support of parity, a popular farm union policy that demanded farm prices high enough to cover overhead and other business costs and to allow farm people a standard of living comparable to people in other sectors.

Another important feature of farm unionism was its commitment to women's equality and participation. The OFU provided for women's executive positions at almost every level and relied on women leaders to contribute policy and speak publicly on behalf of the OFU as a whole, not just on "women's issues". Four of the OFU's five women's presidents came from the counties north of Lake Ontario: Evelyn Prosser from Blackstock; Mearl Hopkins of Norland; Jeanne Williams of Springbrook; and Veronica Opsitnik, Pontypool.

OFU radicalism and calls for parity brought the organization into frequent conflict with other farm organizations, especially the existing Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Ironically, OFU members at first trod the same well-worn path of conventional farm politics – earnest speech making, exhaustive brief preparation, heartfelt lobbying – that other organizations had pursued with limited effect through the 1950s and early 60s.

All that changed in 1965 when 1500 angry OFUers converged on Ottawa to demand higher prices. Soon OFU-led demonstrations began popping up all over Ontario, led by industrial milk producers who had seen no price increase in a decade, though costs had skyrocketed. This milk campaign spawned dramatic tractor demonstrations in 1966 that forced Agriculture Minister Bill Stewart to



implement a price subsidy to address producer concerns.

In 1967, the OFU co-sponsored a massive rally in Ottawa with Quebec's Union catholique des cultivateurs to press the need for a new government approach to farming. Attended by some 25,000 farmers, it was the largest demonstration on Parliament Hill to that time. In 1968, the OFU returned to Ottawa, this time on tractors, to demand better corn prices, while OFU beef producers petitioned the Farm Products Marketing Board for a comprehensive beef marketing programme (rejected by Minister Stewart). And in 1969, the OFU sparked a property tax moratorium that wrung significant reductions in education levies from the Ontario government. Other OFU demonstrations took place in support of food processing workers and to demand creation of Medicare.

The OFU joined with other provincial Farmers' Unions to found the National Farmers Union (NFU) in 1969.

The OFU holds an important place in Ontario farm history for four reasons. The first is the sheer scope of its work and activity. Membership, at peak, was some 10,000 farms and OFU activism affected almost every segment of agriculture, challenging traditional deference and go-it-alone individualism, especially in marketing, that had for too long prevailed in rural Ontario. OFU members paid for their organization out of their pockets, not through check-offs or municipal grants. Ordinary farmers also bore the brunt of membership work, canvassing the concessions every year, exchanging views with their neighbours and keeping local activity levels high.

Secondly, the OFU restored an effective opposition in Ontario agriculture, a role that had fallen into disastrous disrepair in the 1930s and 40s. OFUers were aggressive organizers and used their power to keep ideas alive, even when governments and other farmers refused to act. When, in the mid-1960s, farmers finally agreed new policies were needed, it was the Farmers' Union that forced politicians to act and to keep their promises.

Thirdly, farm unionism identified corporate control of the economy as the central threat to national prosperity and true economic democracy. The OFU promoted a radical small business political perspective - one all but unknown today - which challenged the vulnerability of small producers to big business and championed aggressive policies and alliances with other vulnerable sectors, such as labour, to even the balance.

Finally, farm union militancy was the hammer behind creation of many of the democratic marketing and safety net structures which emerged in those years. The OFU's use of mass protests and tractor demonstrations was controversial both within and outside of agriculture, but it helped give Ontario agriculture a new confidence and grassroots dignity that had been sorely lacking for many years. Though never Ontario's biggest farm organization,

the OFU showed farmers they didn't have to be the biggest to make a big difference.

The Ontario Farmers' Union worked hard to increase farmer representation and bargaining power and advance rural interests. OFU members should be remembered for these contributions, for their courage, and for their deep commitment to grassroots farm organization.

*Bruce Dodds is a writer/researcher and organizer based in Leeds County in eastern Ontario.*

*"For the Love of The Land", a travelling museum exhibit about the Ontario Farmer's Union, opens at the Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, 51 Stuart Street in Hamilton, Ontario on 10 September 2006. For details: 1-905-522-3003 or [www.wahc-museum.ca](http://www.wahc-museum.ca)*

## History of the Rural Publishing Company

The following document was given to the Trent Valley Archives by the Queen's University Archives in Kingston. The document tells of a most interesting Peterborough enterprise which published national magazines from offices in Peterborough. At this time, 1909, the business was located at 173 Simcoe Street, in the building long associated with Kingan Hardware, and now Home Hardware. We also know that the offices were later in Sun Life Building, at the north-east corner of Hunter and Water; in 1925 124 Hunter Street West was home to the Rural Publishing Company as well as the Horticultural Publishing Company Limited. The major tenant for the next forty years would be the Hill, Weddell and Hills general insurance agency. There was a Rural Publishing Company in New York City's Times Square from the 1890s to perhaps the 1950s. Trent University Archives has several issues of the *Canadian Horticulturalist* from the 1890s to 1921; some were jointly tied to Canadian Beekeeping.



## The Rural Publishing Company, Limited.

A meeting of the Directors of The Rural Publishing Company, Limited, was held in the office of the Company, 173 Simcoe St. Peterboro, Ont. on Tuesday, December 28, 1909, those present being Messrs Ballantyne, Dargavel, Gillespie, Reid and Cowan. Mr E Kidd, of North Gower, a shareholder was also in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and on motion were approved.

Mr Cowan submitted the notes of The Dairyman Publishing Company, Ltd. with The Crown Bank for \$3000, and with the Bank of Ottawa for [\$]1250, and of The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd., with the Dominion Bank for \$3000, dated respectively December 4, 1907, March 28, 1908, and December 14, 1908, all of which had been paid off in full. It was reported that the liability of the Directors for the Company which had at one time been \$10,000, had now been reduced to \$4820. Mr Cowan gave a history of the year's work of the Company, showing that while the paper had been greatly improved, the expenses of the Company had been reduced as compared with 1908, by

over \$3000. A statement showing the receipts and expenses of the Company for the past five years, was submitted and discussed.

The fact that the receipts showed a steady increase and that the expenses, after showing a rapid increase for four years, had shown a decrease on the fifth year, was noted and considered encouraging. Mr Cowan reported that the receipts for 1909 would probably be \$18,500 or \$18,600.

The eight special issues published during 1909 carried \$1700 extra advertising, or an average of \$210 an issue more than the regular issues of the paper. In this way, they had more than paid for themselves, as well as providing a feature much appreciated by the subscribers. Reference was made to the illustrated supplement, the second one of which was shown at the meeting, and the first two of which had been published this year. Mr Cowan stated that he found that these supplements were proving very popular and they also were paying for themselves. During 1910, he hoped to get out about ten of these supplements. He was sanguine that before long, these supplements would prove very profitable as well as popular.

The policy of the paper from now on, he considered should not be to enlarge the paper, so much as to improve its editorial matter. For 1910, he anticipated, that the expenses of the Company should be reduced by another \$1000 and the receipts increased by from \$3000 to \$4000, which would make a great improvement in the position of the Company.

The proposed agreement with the Review Printing Company and The Rural Publishing Co, was discussed carefully and fully. An agreement providing for the purchase of \$16,000 of stock in The Review Printing Company, on certain conditions was submitted and read clause by clause. Mr Cowan reported that a wealthy shareholder of The Review Company had expressed his willingness to spend \$45,000 for the purchase of the best site in the city and the erection of a splendid new building for the joint companies, should the agreement be ratified. Mr Cowan further reported that a majority of the shareholders of The Review Company had expressed their approval of the agreement.

During the

discussion of the agreement, it was suggested by Mr R Reid, that a clause should be inserted in the agreement, restricting the Review Company from using articles from Farm & Dairy, without the permission of the Rural Company. This was agreed upon. It was felt that before the agreement with the Review Company was finally ratified, that the Examiner Printing Company should be consulted and given an opportunity to state what it would be willing to do in the form of a new contract.

It was moved by Mr Dargavel, seconded by Mr Reid, that the managing Director be requested, and he is hereby requested to negotiate with the Examiner Printing Company to ascertain the best possible terms that could be made at the expiration of the present contract for the printing of Farm & Dairy, and that he report to this Board, or to a meeting of the shareholders of this Company. Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr Reid, seconded by Mr Dargavel, that this Board approves of the proposed agreement between the Review Company, and The Rural Publishing Company, and hereby authorizes our managing Director to take such other steps in connection therewith, as may be necessary, preliminary to submitting the same to the meeting of the shareholders of this Company, for their approval. Carried unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned.



### Douro-Dummer Historical Society

Roberta Thompson reports the Douro-Dummer Historical Committee wishes to update its information on local abandoned cemeteries. It requests information about who is buried in the English Line Cemetery north of Warsaw or in the Centre Dummer Cemetery. As well any information about the Bible Christian Churches in Douro-Dummer or the Baptist Church at Centre Dummer would be welcome. If you have information contact Diane Robnik at 745-4404.

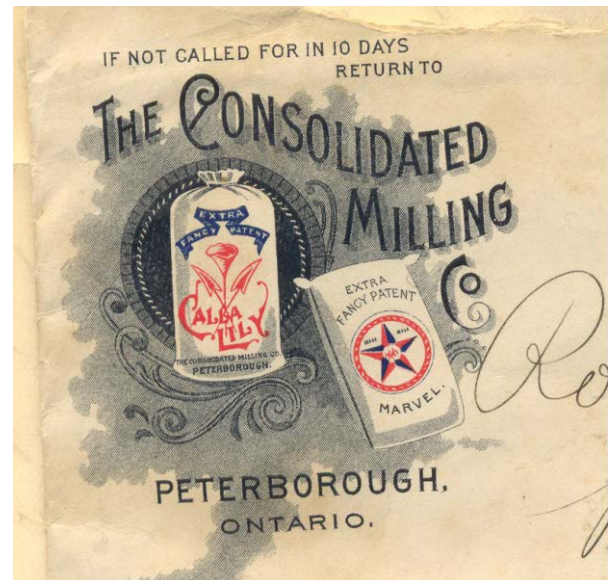
### Delivery Day -Massey Harris Farm Machinery, Lakefield 9 March 1911

Thursday of last week was "Massey Harris Day" in Lakefield. Mr. Wm. Batten, the popular agent for the company in this district, holding his annual spring delivery of farming implements on that day. Farmers came from near and far to receive their implements and the delivery was the largest held here in twenty years. The procession of farmer's sleighs, loaded with the bright coloured implements was a very credible one and would have been much larger if two car-loads had not been delayed between here and Toronto and only arrived on the noon train. The value of the implements delivered was over \$5000 and the larger part of them was paid for as soon as delivered. Mr. Batten was assisted in the delivery by Mr. George White, assistant manager, and Mr. Corbitt from the head office, and Mr. W.E. White, general agent over this district. Mr. Andrew Stevenson looked after the delivery of the car load of handsome buggies. Mr. Hunt the company's official photographer was present and took a number of photos of the delivery. The company entertained the farmers and their wives to dinner at the different hotels. Mr. Batten fully sustained his reputation as one of the best agents in the employ of the company.

*Photo: The parade of new Massey Harris farm equipment was an annual event from 1902. This picture dates from around 1910. (Courtesy: Murray Batten via Andre Dorfman)*

### Peterborough Mills being featured in new book

Diane Robnik has produced a handy reference book to the various mills in the Peterborough area from earliest times to the present. Her mills are lumber mills, saw mills, flour and grist mills and occasionally others. The book is designed as a starting point for future research. It has been very difficult, for example, to follow particular mills through various changes of name, and of location. She has been aided in this spirited effort by the holdings of the Trent Valley Archives and by local history books. Many



people shared unusual photos and local traditions.

Some of the mills were very large. Even Quaker Oats had competition from local mills such as Peterborough Milling Company, Campbell Milling and from the McAllister



Milling Company (successor to the Consolidated Milling Company).

For full information contact Diane at the Trent Valley Archives, 705-745-4404.

### Parkhill School Peterborough Reunion

Parkhill School is having a reunion in September 2006. The school was one block north of Parkhill and one block east of Fairbairn Street. The building has been converted to apartment use. But its history in the 1950s and 1960s will be celebrated at a reunion next month. If you attended Parkhill School or know people who did, then please contact Diane at the Trent Valley Archives, 745-4404.

## Millbrook's Municipal Hall, 1850 To 2005

Larry D.E. Lamb

When the sale of the Cavan, Millbrook, North Monaghan Township Hall at 1 King St., East, Millbrook, Ontario to The Nexicom Group, became public knowledge, I became interested in the history of this structure. During my preliminary research on the Hall I noticed there seemed to be little written about the building. *The Green and Pleasant Land* had some information and some of it was contradictory and in what I believed to be, in error. The more I researched the Hall, the more I saw the start of an interesting History emerging. More than the structure itself, there were real people connected to the story and their story was missing. It had become lost and was missing from our memories. I hope this project will help us to reconnect with our proud past. When one researches a project, where do you start? The people who were connected with this building are long gone and the stories and history are faded memories. I had a date of 1880 from *The Green and Pleasant Land*. I knew where the minutes of the Cavan Council were, all I needed now was time to read the ledgers, a notepad, and lots more time.

*The Green and Pleasant Land* (112) has the wording of the Deed that started the story of our Municipal Hall. A copy at the Millbrook Cavan Historical Society states:

September 10, 1850 Jas Deyell to Municipal Council of Cavan for the consideration of 5 shillings, with a desire to promote the welfare and convenience of the inhabitants did convey a parcel containing one half acre (+or-), being part of the N.E. ¼ of Lot 12, Con 4. Commencing in the rear of said concession at the N.W. angle of Thomas Cunningham's lot, then South 24 degrees West, one chain to an allowance of road where the plot intended to be described commences. Then, South 16 degrees East, 5 chains. Then South 74 degrees West, 2 chains. Then North 16 degrees West, 2 chains more or less to the allowance of road in rear of said concession. Then North 24 degrees East, 2 chains (+ or -) to place of beginning. Together with all houses, out houses, buildings, streams, etc., pertaining thereto ----- For the purpose of erecting thereon a Town Hall or Public building.

Witnessed by Mathew Knowlson and James? Fitzgerald

Signed by John Deyell ( X ) His mark  
10<sup>th</sup> Day September 1850

*The Green and Pleasant Land* (112) states that the first Town Hall was at 1 King Street East, a Frame building costing \$500. It lists the date of construction at 1844 – 45? Was it constructed before or after the land was acquired? Page 113 has a photo of the present Town Hall and I have a copy of a photo of the old Fire Hall; both show a two storey wood frame structure in the background. Was this the original Town Hall? You decide.

These notations (with ledger page numbers) are from the minutes of the Cavan Township Council. The members of the 1873 Cavan Township Council whose decisions led to the erection of the new Hall were William H. Sowden, reeve; Richard Staples and Abraham Webster, Deputy

Reeves; William Fallis and Richard Fallis, Councilors; and the Township Clerk was J.W. Soothern.

The first discussion on the new Town Hall was found in the ledger dated 1872 (45). On Friday, 11 July 1873, the Cavan Council on a motion of Mr. Richard Fallis, seconded by Mr. Richard Staples, agreed that a Public Meeting be held on Saturday, 19 July 1873 for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinions respecting the erection of a new Town Hall. No record is found of that public meeting, but one suspects it was the topic of much conversation in Cavan Township because three days later there was another council meeting. On Wednesday, 23 July 1873, (47) the Clerk (J.W. Soothern) read a Copy of a Resolution unanimously passed at a Public Meeting of the Ratepayers of Cavan held at the Town Hall on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, for the purpose of considering the question of building a new Town Hall. It was moved by Mr. Robert Vance and seconded By Mr. Isaac Gardiner "that the council of this Township be requested to build a new Town Hall on the present site therefore in the Village of Millbrook at a cost not exceeding \$5000." The Clerk was instructed to advertise for tenders for brick and new stone for a new Town Hall and also for removing the present Hall (frame structure) and Drill Shed off the Town Hall lot. Messrs. Vance and Gardiner were not council members; were they members of the ratepayers committee?

On Tuesday, 12 August 1873, Cavan Council received and opened the tenders. George Moffatt offered to deliver 50 Cords more or less of first class field building stone for the new Town Hall at \$3.50 a Cord. (What were the dimensions of a cord of stone?) Robert Huffman offered to remove the present Town Hall and Drill Shed off the Town Hall lot, for \$60 and \$50 respectively. (50) William Fallis, seconded by Richard Fallis, moved "that the tender of George Moffatt for furnishing stone for the foundation of the New Town Hall be accepted." Motion was carried. (51) Then R. Staples, seconded by Richard Fallis, moved "that the tender of Robert Huffman for removing the present Town Hall be accepted." It was carried with Abraham Webster opposed. Then Wm Fallis, seconded by R. Staples, moved "that the Drill Shed be given to the Cavan Agriculture Society and the Millbrook Company of Volunteer Militia for the purpose of an Agriculture Hall and Drill Shed provided that the building be removed forthwith and in case the above offer is not accepted within ten days, then the said building be sold by public auction."

On Saturday, 23 August 1873, the Cavan Township Council meeting Richard Howden submitted a claim for \$53 additional for completing the Drill Shed, apparently recently built. (53) R. Staples, seconded by Wm Fallis, moved "that the Drill Shed be moved back off the Town Hall lot as far as the front of the Town Hall (frame structure) and that the tender of Robert Huffman for removing same be accepted provided the building be removed within one week." An order was issued for the Treasurer to pay Robert Huffman \$60 for removing the old Town Hall. Later in the meeting, the Clerk was instructed to prepare a lease on the land behind the Town Hall lot to be occupied by the old Town Hall and Drill Shed. The land was to be leased from the Reeve of the Township, William H. Sowden, for nominal rent until 1875. Thomas and William Sowden had many parcels of land throughout Millbrook and the moving of the old Town

This is a detailed historical map of the Deuell Mill area in New York. The map features a grid of streets and several labeled locations. At the top, a large banner reads "HUTCHINSON". Below this, the name "CAVAN" is visible. The map shows a network of streets including "ST. JOHNSTON", "ST. WOOD & KEES", "ST. DEYELL", and "ST. PLAN". A prominent feature is the "DEYELL MILL" itself, depicted with a large, circular structure. To the right of the mill is a "Cemetery" with several numbered plots (A, B, C, D, E). Other labels include "J. Johnston", "Wood & Kees", and "Est J. Deuell". The map is oriented with North at the top, and the streets are shown in a grid pattern. The overall style is that of a historical cartographic print.

At Council on Monday, 2 March 1874 Wm Russell seconded by R. Staples, moved "that the Reeve sign an order for the Treasurer in favour of William Bateson, Contractor, for the sum of Four Hundred Dollars, on account of material delivered for the New Town Hall." (67) This was carried, and Bateson delivered \$400 worth of material for

the new Town Hall. The accounts show additional materials were delivered on 2 April for \$100, 11 May for \$600, and 6 July for \$400. John Dean delivered the balance, 35 cord of stone, to Town Hall, this valued at \$47.50, also on 6 July. Toilets for the town hall arrived 12 August. The account books continue to show items related to the building of the Town Hall through October.

On Tuesday, 19 November 1874, William Scott made a verbal application for a portion of the basement of the Town Hall for a butcher shop. (86) It would appear the Hall was larger than the needs of the council at that time. Also, as an alternative to refrigeration the Hall basement with its thick stone walls would have been a cool location for storage of meat. No discussion is recorded on Council's answer to Mr. Scott.

The Orders on the Treasurer record Mr. William Bateson receiving on account of Town Hall contract another \$700.00. John Dean for work on Town Hall lot with a team of horses received \$3.00. J.W. Soothern, agent for Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company was paid \$25.50 for insurance on the Town Hall. There was a payment 2 months later for more Insurance, perhaps for the old Hall.

At council, 16 November 1874, W. Irwin of Millbrook received permission for installing a stove in the town hall; two stoves installed cost \$75.78. (88, 91) There was no mention of a central heating system in the council minutes. This must have been installed later. On 14 December, G. Hetherington was paid \$20 for insurance on town hall; G. Hetherington was paid \$20 for Insurance on the Town Hall; and John Dean was paid \$1.50 for work (Leveling) on the Town Hall lot. William Bateson received on account \$300. (91) On 23 December Council another \$200 to Bateson, and instructed J. W. Soothern to advertise the sale of the old Town Hall and the Drill shed for 31 December at 2 pm. (92) When Council met on 31 December, William Russell, seconded by R. Staples, moved, "that the following Orders be issued on the Treasurer, Mr. Andrew Moffatt, 2 days with a team removing stone from Town Hall lot be paid \$6.00. William Bateson was to receive \$300.00 on account of contract Town Hall." (93) The Town Hall was not entirely completed and the 1874 Council adjourned to Friday, 8 January 1875 at 1 pm. On 8 January the 1874 council made a careful personal examination of the New Town Hall, as well as reviewing the Plans, Specifications and agreements. Webster, seconded by Russell, moved to accept the Town Hall from the contractor and to pay Bateson an additional \$1000, to recognize the extra work. The motion was carried by all council present. (94) Even though the Council in November 1873 had expected the work to be completed by 1 September 1874, (60) the minutes record no penalty for the extra four months; evidently the Council accepted the validity of the delay. The last meeting of the 1874 Council, 15 January 1875, authorized the Township treasurer to pay Robert Sanderson \$3.50 for wood; Fred Curry \$2.25 for wood and for cleaning the Town Hall; a Mr Irwin \$6 for filling up the stoves and pipes; Ken Taylor, \$104.50 for Lamps for the Town Hall. As well, William Bateson was to be paid \$231.50, the balance for the Town Hall work and extras. (95)

With the completion of the Town Hall, the old council of 1874 stepped aside to allow the elected council of 1875 to start its term. On the new council of 1875 Richard Staples was Reeve; Abraham Webster and William

Fallis, deputy reeves; Alexander Ferguson and John W. Wallace, Councillors. At the first meeting, 21 January 1875, William Fallis, seconded by John W. Wallace, moved "that Fredrick M. Curry be allowed to occupy for three months from this date, the east room in the basement of the Town Hall as a dwelling, Firewood and Oil therefore and \$1.25 per month in consideration of Cleaning the Hall and Lamps, cutting wood therefore, attending to fires and lights and other services as per agreement." As well, on motion of Webster and Wallace, J.W. Soothern, the Clerk was "allowed to occupy the room in the North East part of the Town Hall as an office and fuel, free of charge in consideration of certain services to be performed by him in connection with the Hall." (96) That same night, the council approved a "Tariff of Charges." People using the hall for shows, concerts, theatres, and exhibitions would be charged six to eight dollars per night; those organizing dances and local assemblies, five dollars. For events free to attendees, the charge would be two dollars, mainly to cover heating and lighting expenses. (97) On a separate motion by Ferguson and Webster, council agreed to let the Millbrook Brass Band use the Central Hall one night a week until 1 May next, heated and lighted, for one dollar per night. As well, the treasurer was authorized to pay five cords of dry and ten cords of green cordwood to be delivered soon.

On 12 February 1875, Council decided to let John Hunter, Clerk of the Division Court, rent the south room on the first floor for six months for ten dollars. (98) The room would be used for a jury room, and also for the storage of the Arms belonging to the Millbrook Volunteer Company. This motion was rescinded at the next meeting as Council had no wish to pay extra insurance. (100) The treasurer paid William Bateson ten dollars for work on the basement of Town Hall; W.H. Armstrong, \$19.50 for fire wood for use in the Town Hall; and, George Campbell, \$28.75 for fire wood. (98) At the next meeting, the treasurer was authorized to pay C.H. Scott, auctioneer, three dollars for the selling the old Town Hall and Drill Shed; and to pay William Bateson \$32 for building a platform in the Town Hall. (100) On 29 April 1875, the Clerk reported that to date receipts exceeded disbursements by \$9.78. On 19 January 1876 the favourable balance had grown to \$36.93. (130) Council agreed to make room for a post office in the hall if the one dollar extra insurance premium were paid for 1875. (130)

References to the Town Hall continued to show up in subsequent years, such as paying the caretaker, F. M. Curry, or getting reports on the cost of seats in the Town Hall. (104, 125) This account indicates that the minutes of Cavan Council are a great resource for uncovering details about the village and township. The Cavan Municipal Hall has had many uses over the years and I hope in future to compose a list of various activities and community events that have occurred in this Historic Hall.

*[Editor's note: The old Millbrook Hall has recently been sold to Nexicom, who have promised to maintain the building with the care it deserves. Nexicom is based in the heart of Millbrook in the former hotel and the Millbrook Hall. Many people felt the municipality should have given more effort to preserve the building as a municipal facility. However, modern local governments require more space, partly a consequence of amalgamations, more provincial regulations,*

*higher expectations for planning, and the need to maintain physical access to all. From a distance, it seems lucky that Millbrook had a corporate citizen that could maintain this fine building. Larry Lamb wrote this history because he felt people should know more about the building on which people have strong opinions. His article also points out the value of archives which preserve the details so essential to understanding our history. As the Trent Valley Archives slogan says, "Without archives there is no history."*]

With a membership in the Trent Valley Archives you will receive four issues of the Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley and also support our work promoting the historical and archival record of east central Ontario. Single memberships are \$40 plus GST; family memberships, \$50 plus GST. For full details contact our office, 705-745-4404.

### Trent Valley Archives

567 Carnegie Avenue  
Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1

## Peterborough October 1884 Real Estate For Sale

*Peterborough Examiner, 9 October 1884*

**1. FOR SALE. A VALUABLE FARM** of 200 acres, within 8 miles of the Town of Lindsay. Apply to H. B. WELLER, Millbrook, Ont. Or to C. A. WELLER, Peterboro.

**2. FARM TO RENT.** Being Lot No. 12 in the first Concession of DOURO. Containing one hundred acres, 90 cleared, and in a good state of cultivation, fit for machinery. It is a first class wheat farm. Apply to WILFORD McCUE. On the premises, or Warsaw P.O. September 29<sup>th</sup> 1884.

**3. PROPERTY FOR SALE** In South Monaghan. Consisting of five acres, two rods and thirty four perches of good land, situated two and half miles from Baillieboro' on the Road to Rice Lake. There is a good Frame House and other buildings on the property, together with a good orchard, two wells, with pumps. All well fenced. Price \$850. Possession can be had in November next. Apply on the premises to THOMAS HUTCHINSON, Baillieboro'.

**4. HORSES AND CARRIAGES FOR SALE.**

Horse and Vehicles, consisting of One Horse, 7 years old, a splendid saddle or driving animal.

One Phaeton, almost new, built by Hamilton of Lindsay.

One Buggy, two seasons in use, built by Douglass & Logan.

One Cutter, almost new, built by Hamilton of Lindsay.

For particulars apply to ROBT. SPROULE, M. D.

**5. Farm for Sale.**

That Valuable Farm composed of Lot No. 11, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Concession of the Township of Douro containing 200 acres more or less. There are from 130 to 140 acres cleared and in a good state of cultivation 60 acres being in grass. The balance is in hardwood and mixed wood bush. On the property is a Good Frame Dwelling, 18x24, and Frame Barn, 30x60. The farm is well-watered with springs and well, and is situated within 8 miles of the Town of Peterborough, and 3 of

the Village of Lakefield, having good roads leading to it. As Mr. Nelson is giving up farming, the property must be disposed of. Terms easy. Apply to Messrs. J. C. Sherin, Lakefield, John A. Hartley, Peterborough, or the proprietor, on the premises. ROBERT NELSON.

**6. AN EXCELLENT FARM FOR SALE.**

The undersigned offers for sale his Farm, the South Half of Lot 23, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Concession of the Township of EMILY, containing 90 acres, more or less. The soil of best quality, in a good state of cultivation, well fenced and well watered. There is a small Orchard bearing apples, plums and cherries. The dwelling house is rough cast. The barn, 73x30, with 16 feet posts, good stable underneath. It is an excellent neighbourhood, with church, school and post office close by, and is in every way a desirable place to reside, being about seven miles from Peterborough and six from Omemee. For further particulars apply on the premises, or by letter, address Fowler's Corners. JOHN IVISON.

**7. EXCELLENT Farm For Sale.**

The undersigned offers for sale that valuable farm composed of Lot No. 16 in the 15<sup>th</sup> Con. of OTONABEE, about 6 MILES FROM PETERBORO' on the River road, CONTAINING 100 ACRES, 80 of which are cleared and fit for machinery. Good soil. First class Log Home, plastered inside. Splendid new Frame Barns and out buildings. Within quarter mile of Stewart's School House. There are three acres of orchard. The farm is well watered with two never failing wells, and it is well fenced. Further particulars on application to the undersigned, Peterborough P.O., or on the premises. BENJAMIN McCANNON.

**8. Burleigh Falls Hotel FOR SALE.**

The undersigned offers for sale that Beautiful Summer Resort, known as the Burleigh Falls Hotel, together with the Furniture. The Trent Valley Canal Works are just commencing to construct the Locks at this place which will greatly improve business. A good business is being done Winter and Summer. Satisfactory reasons given for selling out. Apply to A. HOLMES, Burleigh Falls, P. O.

**9. DWELLING HOUSE! AND LOT FOR SALE.**

That Excellent Property belonging to MR. F. H. DOBBIN, situated on the bank of the river, IN ASHBURNHAM, nearly opposite the Dickson Estate Mills, is offered for sale. There is nearly Two-thirds of an acre in the lot, which is well adapted for gardening. The house is warm and comfortable, solid strip, plastered and clapboarded. Parlour, Sitting-Room, Kitchen and Pantry on lower floor. House story and one-half high. New Cistern in cellar, with pump and conveniences. Well in the yard. The grounds are well shaded. This is a good opportunity for any farmer moving into town to secure a residence.

For particulars apply to JOHN BURNHAM, Solicitor, Peterborough; or to F. H. DOBBIN, Lindsay.

**10. FARM TO RENT.**

COMPOSED OF THE North East Quarter of Lot No. 23, and North West Quarter of Lot No. 24, part of the Farm of the late John A. Galvin on the 10<sup>th</sup> Con. Of the TOWNSHIP OF SMITH, containing 100 acres, about 85 cleared. Comfortable Frame House and good Barn on the premises. Well fenced. Further particulars on application to either W. McILMOYL or F. J. BELL, Executors, Selwyn P.O.

**11. FOR SALE.**

South Half of Lot 3, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Con. Of Ennismore. 100 acres; 80 cleared, and fit for machinery. Soil good. 10 miles from Peterborough.

ALSO A Comfortable Brick House Solid – with Outbuildings in desirable location, in western part of town. Apply at once to W. A. STRATTON, Barrister, Peterborough.

#### **12. FINE FARM FOR SALE.**

That beautifully located Farm, The West half of lot 26, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Concession of Otonabee.

Situated east of the old Cobourg Railway. The property comprises 88 acres more or less. The soil is excellent and well adapted to gardening purposes. Its situation is very desirable, it being only one mile from the market square, and commanding a fine view of the town of Peterborough. Since the property came into possession of its present proprietor, over \$3,000 has been spent on its improvement. It is one of the best watered farms in Ontario being supplied by a never-failing spring well, so situated as to provide ten feet head. From this are laid nearly 700 feet of iron piping. At a distance of 240 feet from the spring this pipe leads to a watering trough in the barn. A continuation of the pipe carries the overflow from this 440 feet further to another watering trough into another field. From the latter the overflow passes into a tile drain on the road side, and thence away. This pipe is provided with two taps, by which the water supply to the stock may be regulated. This water supply makes the farm eminently fitted for grazing purposes; stock can be supplied with continual access in an unlimited supply of pure living water. Or for market gardening the facilities for irrigation would admit of setting dry seasons at defiance, this together with the proximity to a first class market (only one mile) makes this farm unequalled for this purpose.

For either a gentleman of leisure who wishes to devote his retirement to agricultural purposes, or for a pushing man who desires to make money, this farm for fertility of soil, water supply, beauty of situation and convenience to town, can have no superior.

TERMS: One thousand dollars to be paid down when deeds are handed over, the balance may remain on the property at 6 per cent interest for any term agreed upon.

For further particulars apply to JOSEPH REDMOND, OTONABEE.

#### **13. JUDICIAL SALE of Valuable Property, IN THE Town of Peterborough.**

Pursuant to a judgment in WEBB vs WEBB entered in the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, A.D. 1884, there will be sold with the approbation of the undersigned, master at his chambers, in the Town of Peterborough, On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, 1884 at two o'clock in the afternoon, The following valuable land in the Town of Peterborough; being composed of Lots 17, 18, and 19 North of Albert Street and West of George Street, in the said town as laid out and shown in a map of plan of subdivision of Park Lots Numbers 11, 12 and 13 in the 12<sup>th</sup> Concession of the said Township of North Monaghan. The said property will be sold in Three Parcels, being respectively the said Lots 17, 18 and 19. The Lots are well-situated, the soil is good for gardening, and in a good locality. There is a small dwelling on Lot 18.

TERMS OF SALE. – Ten per cent down at the time of sale, and the balance within one month thereafter, without interest; the other conditions of sale to be the standing conditions of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice. There will be a reserved bid. Further particulars and

conditions of sale can be obtained at the law office of Dumble & Henry, and of E. H. D. Hall Peterborough, and of John Hoskin, Toronto. Dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1884. C. A. WELLER.

#### **14. Valuable Farms FOR SALE.**

PARCEL I. BREYDON FARM. South Quarter, Lot No. 20, Concession 5 Emily. Fifty acres more or less; 49 acres cleared. Soil clay loam, land rolling. Well fenced with cedar rails, in good repair. The buildings consist of a log shanty and a log barn. Ten miles from Peterborough and five miles from Omeme.

PARCEL II. SHEA FARM. Lot No. 28, Concession 10 Smith. 200 acres more or less. Soil, part clay loam and part sandy loam. About 150 acres cleared, remainder timbered with mixed wood. Land rolling, watered by a good creek. Ten acres in fall wheat and a large quantity of fall ploughing done. Buildings consist of frame rough cast house, one storey and a half high, with stone foundation and cellar well finished. New "Bank" barn with stone foundation, 55 feet by 30 feet, and 12 foot lean-to. 10 miles from Peterborough and 2 miles from Lakefield.

PARCEL III. RUNNINGS FARM. East half of Lot 29 and South East Quarter, Lot 30, Concession 10, Otonabee; 150 acres more or less. Soil, clay loam. 130 acres cleared and in good state of cultivation, considerable portion tile drained. Machinery can be used on 100 acres. Well watered. Buildings consist of log and frame house, with suitable sheds and outbuildings. One frame barn, 60 feet x 30 feet, in good repair, with sheds and stables attached. One new "Bank" barn, 50 feet by 30 feet, with large stone cellar. There is a large and valuable Orchard. Three miles from Peterborough. Communication by Norwood Road.

PARCEL IV. KELLY LOT. Lot 18, Concession 6 Douro; 200 acres more or less. 80 acres cleared and fenced; new land only one crop having been taken off it. Remainder timbered with hard and soft wood. Soil, clay loam, extra good. Watered by a never-failing spring. A large quantity of ploughing done. One mile from Lakefield.

PARCEL V. DUNBAR FARM. Lots 6 and 7, Concession 10, and lots 7 and 8, Concession 9 Verulam, 600 acres more or less, all contiguous soil. Part clay loam and part sandy loam. Lots 7 and 8, Concession 9 front Pigeon Lake. Between 300 and 400 acres cleared. Machinery can be used on over 200 acres. All well fenced. Buildings consist of a large new two storey brick house, well finished; large frame barn, frame stables and sheds, all in a good state of repair. About 1 miles from Bobcaygeon, and 20 miles from Peterborough. This property is exceptionally well suited for both grain and stock.

TERMS EASY. For further particulars apply to MR. JAS. WASON, Peterborough. or to POUSSETTE & ROGER, Solicitors, Peterborough.

*[Editor's note: This is a complete listing of the real estate for sale section in the Peterborough Examiner, 9 October 1884. It gives a good snapshot of the types of property for sale and suggests that rural properties were selling in the Peterborough market. Peterborough is at the junction of the*

*townships of North Monaghan, Smith, Douro and Otonabee and properties from those townships would naturally be considered local. For purposes of commentary, I numbered the items. ]*

## Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Peterborough Branch

Over the past few months, a Peterborough city and county branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario has been established. PACAC organized a founding meeting 20 April at St Paul's Church and since then the organization with 20 or 30 supporters has set out to get organized. ACO sent Cathy Nasmith from Toronto and Peter Rungay from Port Hope and offered assistance for organizing a new chapter. Port Hope, the largest ACO branch with perhaps 300 members and a long history, will provide inspiration for certain. Meetings will be held at Sadleir House on the fourth Tuesday of the month beginning in September, at 7 pm. Among early developments, a committee organized strategies for identifying endangered buildings, made arrangements for meeting space in Sadleir House on George Street, discussed ways to assist PACAC, established an interim executive. Ed Smith is interim president and Matthew Harvey is secretary. Elwood Jones offered to use the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* for a newsletter and sharing information. The Trent Valley Archives has many resources to aid in research about Peterborough buildings, and doubtless arrangements will be made to work closely in other ways.

The ACO, Peterborough Branch is hosting a lawn party at Martha Kidd's on 22 August 2006, and you are invited. For information about joining ACO contact Ed Smith, 743-1953.

## Archives and Ideas 2006 AAO Conference

The Archives Association of Ontario held its annual conference at McMaster University in Hamilton, 7 to 9 June 2006. Attendance was light, and major institutions such as the Archives of Ontario sent no archivists. That aside the quality of the conference was very high, and the quality of the discussions generally good. There was good opportunity for conversation at the breakfasts, and there were exhibits from three suppliers. The banquet was outstanding and the silent auction was quite successful; your correspondent acquired a very interesting 1862 letter (see below).

There were workshops before the conference but your correspondent arrived for the meeting of the Municipal Archives Interest Group. The group is invited to the Bruce County Archives this fall. At the evening get-together, Mayor DiIanni brought greetings and Peter Newman talked about himself and argued the importance of archives to popular historians. He told of the in-depth research that was possible at the Hudson's Bay Company, and the difficulty of accessing bank archives when writing of business leaders. He talked a bit about the threat of terror and of "self-martyrdom" but urged people not to stereotype Muslims. The question period suggested all

researchers have similar needs for archives. He also explained some of his techniques for effective interviewing. He also pointed out that the archives of modern Canadian political leaders are voluminous but often do not capture the other ways in which people communicate.

The conference theme was the philosophy of archives. The concept was so fuzzy that most speakers were not very philosophical. Ian Wilson was the keynote speaker, and he professed to be more practical than philosophical. He preferred to talk of archival endeavour rather than archival enterprise; Captain Cook's ship "Endeavour" over Captain Picard's "Enterprise." He liked the Australian notion of "sentencing" records rather than "managing." He admitted that archivists made mistakes, and still do. We do best if we recognize that our clients are those who lived, those who live, and those who will live in Canada. Ours is a dialogue within time and across time. He mentioned John J. Deutsch, Tommy Douglas and Sir Arthur Doughty as people who influenced his philosophy of archives. Deutsch emphasized the importance of community links. Douglas knew that archives must be open; democracy is about accountability. Doughty knew the importance of placing archives at the centre of the political agenda. For his generation, archives were presented as crucial to immigration, and archives were essential to making history accessible. The archival endeavour, he concluded, is collective. Canadians also want access to "stuff" and have little interest in being told why that is not possible. Questions from the floor sought clarity on the Library and Archives of Canada experience and its impact on archives and on service to the public. He urged the importance of archivists working in a zone of discomfort.

In session one, an archivist Jim Cassidy unhelpfully discussed the statistical sampling of labor records in the National Archives in Washington DC. One person discussed his experience arranging papers at the Oil Museum in Oil Springs; the museum divides its archival records between oil producers, foreign drillers and local history. The concurrent session one featured Brian Beaven talking on how to integrate digital archives and records into institutional archives. Jon Schmitz asked if archiving was too important to leave to archivists; this was one of several presentations concerned about the ways in which the LAC divides tasks in a new environment that assumes librarians and archivists do the same things. In session two, Paul Henry considered whether one ever needed to use "sous-fonds". However, there are limits to clarity if one uses series or creates new fonds; at least that is what I argued when raising the experience of Trent Valley Archives with the Edmison fonds, for example. Fonds describes records from one creator; sous-fonds describes those from another creator whose papers were absorbed by the first creator. Amy Tector described how archivists could throw out more records in order to make what remains more accessible; Ian Wilson's words about archivists making mistakes bounced in my mind. David Coppard used the records related to a 1915 crash to illustrate the different ways of making sense of a moment in time. Memories, records and archives can tell different stories, and each is only a partial representation. Over time, it will be harder to make sense of what happened. Historians have accepted that memories are not primary documents; we remember what we expressed. Ruth Grossman talked of how communities and individuals accessed archives; in essence people find what they want to find. However, she saw quite a bit more, and believed

archives could be a convergence, a place for discussion.

Marianne Henskens, AAO's administrator, looked after the fine details of the conference. For her, the shining moment was the banquet. In addition to the terrific food and fine table conversation, the evening was punctuated with two memorable talks. The Hon Lincoln Alexander gave a droll introduction which included a scoop on the Lister Block in Hamilton: he was recommending that the Minister stand in the way of Hamilton's city council. Dan Needles, the after-dinner speaker, was even funnier. His delivery was so nonchalant but he saw humour everywhere, and so did his listeners. There was no chance to ask questions but the talk was worth analyzing in terms of the relation between archives and memory. The banquet was also the occasion for presenting Alexander Fraser awards to Jill Robertson and Brian Beaven, and the J. J. Talman award posthumously to Edward Phelps. My introduction to archives was in the winter of 1963-64 accompanying Ed across the backroads to Goderich to examine the bound volumes of the *Huron Signal* which had collapsed from the attic to the basement of an abandoned tannery. My fascination with first-hand documents has never waned. Ed was a strong advocate of regional archives and despite a troubled personal life made lots of things happen. Jill Robertson established a museum and archives at East General Hospital in Toronto, and described Peterborough's Lorna Whitaker as her mentor. Brian Beaven is one of Canada's best known writers on archival issues, and even at this conference he shared fresh ideas.

In session four, Carolyn Bart-Riedstra discussed her experience of visiting archives and discussing such ideas as access, arrangement and description, and what makes an archives. She argued that archivists need to around when government departments, provincial and municipal, discuss how Municipal Cultural Heritage Partnerships should work. Museums with archives will need special help. Cheryl Beresdo, speaking entirely from an American perspective in large universities, decided that archives were about assimilation, and not for promoting movements of political change. She was concerned about groups that are marginalized in society; the other papers in the conference were concerned with how archives are marginalized. The question period was very lively, especially after someone warned about the ignorance of architects designing archival facilities.

The AGM revealed significant stresses, some related to implementing the governance changes, some related to last year's brainstorming sessions, and some by suggestions that the AAO has an impending financial crisis and may need to move out of Toronto.

In session five, Jennifer Svarckopf talked of the role archives played in making memories. After the session I mentioned to her the very interesting article that appeared in the *Journal of American History* a few years ago that discussed why John Adams' memory of the events surrounding the signing of the Declaration of Independence changed dramatically; he was not lying, but he seemed concerned that his place in history would have been assured had only he authored the Declaration of Independence. Memory, it turns out, is a secondary source; we remember what we remembered. It might be worth considering how archives differ from memories. For starters, archives are more tangible. But I digress. Dan German, one of the organizers of the program, then spoke

on why archivists are neither historians nor record managers. The program said he would fulminate and naturally there was much curiosity about what that could mean. Much of the paper was concerned with defining differences, but never made it clear why one person could not be more than one of the three. Clearly, at the Trent Valley Archives one makes decisions differently than at the Library and Archives of Canada. The debate has changed since forty years ago when the question was whether historians should be archivists. The heart of the argument is that historians gather information narrowly, while an archives has to somehow capture the world widely. Under Sir Arthur Doughty, the Public Archives of Canada (forerunner of LAC) had real strengths, for example, in the various wars, even though wars were comparatively a small part of our history. Was this because people saved such documents, or because historians looked for such material? In any case, history and archives have changed a great deal in forty years. The ensuing discussion was quite lively, and other people also felt that archivists interpreted documents in their collections on a daily basis.

There were still over 30 people in attendance for the final session. Philip Ashdown wondered if archivists could really be neutral when working in private papers. He experienced subjectivity, bias and engagement as he tried to organize such papers. As he read each letter he became more immersed in the lives of those in touch with the creator of the papers. He was also less likely to recommend anything for discard. Exactly. Robert Fisher made the case for why archives funded with taxpayer dollars should collect private fonds as well as official records. He was considering what Jenkinson and Schellenberg had to say about private archives and found that neither had explicitly considered private papers non-archival. It was interesting, for example, to consider the difference between keeping archives and acquiring them. One also needs to consider who is doing the keeping and acquiring. Fisher's argument though was the importance of archives for evidential value and that archives should acquire more for evidential value. Institutions quite naturally gather archives that explain the institution, but once records cease to be used for running the institution or company, papers can be useful for other things, notably for historical research on questions that are not contained within the experience of one company. Fisher wanted private archives to be understood within the language of accountability and heritage. Discussion from the floor suggested that outside Ottawa archivists recognized the importance of evidential value.

The conference, on the whole, was a worthwhile and thoughtful experience. Some papers struck me as quite narrow and clearly there was no reason to have concurrent sessions. The sessions did not have a flow from one to another, and the room had poor acoustics and some people could not use the sound system very effectively. The most philosophical paper turned out to be the ones that protested they were practical. That did not surprise me, for I believe the budget is the most philosophical document any organization produces. However, I also noticed that archivists in government settings had quite different ideas about budgets than those in small archives.

Next year's annual conference will be held jointly with the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA) who are once again meeting in Ontario; this will be in early June at Queen's University in Kingston.

## Sports Walk Worthwhile

Bob Feaver, *Peterborough Examiner*, 13 July 2006

If golf is considered a good walk spoiled, the Wednesday night Little Lake Cemetery tours are a good walk enjoyed.

The Trent Valley Archives conducts the tours until the end of August from Little Lake Cemetery chapel, rain or shine. Last night's offering included Legendary Peterborough Athletes, visiting the final resting places of some of the most well-known local sports figures.

The sports walk is the newest, says volunteer Catherine Dibben who conducted last night's event with Keith Dinsdale. Her late husband Hugh was inducted into the Peterborough and District Sports Hall of Fame in 1990 for basketball and volleyball and is on the tour.

"I helped with Ghost Walks the last couple of years", Catherine Dibben explained, "and they were looking for some new themes and I suggested sports. Not suggesting myself to do it but I just that I thought might be popular in such a sports minded town. We try to have all three walks available every Wednesday night but that's not always possible."

Dibben said last week's first walk was "quite good. It's always slow starting but it picks up as word of mouth spreads and more people have vacation time and so on."

Dibben said the Sports Hall of Fame volunteers, such as Neil Thompson, Red Wasson, Reg Fowler and Don Curtis, helped provide background of each person on the tour. "They gave me a list of all the inductees, including the memorial inductees prior to 1925," she said, "and then I compared that with a transcript of Little Lake Cemetery to find out which of those inductees were, in fact, buried in the cemetery. Then I had to research the people themselves and again I got a tremendous amount of help from the Sports Hall of Fame people. Then I had to find all of the stones and then map out a route that wouldn't be too terribly strenuous or too long. (Little Lake manager) Kryn Vandermeijer was very helpful on a few that had me stumped. Most people are in the Sports Hall of Fame but not all of them. It's surprising a couple that we'll come across that have not been inducted and to my mind certainly should be. All of these people are connected with sports. Obviously many of them are athletes but a lot were coaches, sponsors and executives and so on, builders is the term they use in Hall of Fame language. There's a wide variety of sports represented, but hockey and lacrosse win. There are also a surprising number of swimmers and I think that's testament to the fact that we're surrounded by lakes and good swimming opportunities."

Last night's walk lasted about an hour and a half and with the weather breaking from yesterday's steady rain into a beautiful sunny summer evening made for a pleasant jaunt.

The tour included such greats as ornamental swimming founder Pansy Forbes; weightlifter Daniel MacDonald who died at 33, days after lifting 1,600 pounds in Montreal; Liftlock engineer Richard Birdsall Rogers who was an all-round athlete in football, running and rowing and his brother George who excelled in football and rowing, hockey lacrosse and soccer star Ernie Wasson who was the uncle of the five Wasson brothers including Cam, Red, Neil, Dean and Royden and, in turn, they begat the next generation of Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Famers Jim and Bob Wasson and

so on.

Others were former OHA presidents Frank Buckland and Percy Bond, former Olympic hockey champion Johnny Godfrey, swimming great Gord Minty, pioneer golfer Robert Abbott, former Outboard Marine president Hugh Campbell who sponsored many sports including baseball, Canadian champion swimmer Allan Marshall, baseball greats Fred Ash and Eddie Starr, lacrosse and hockey great Ira Dundas, nordic skier Otto Laderach, builder Henry Calcutt who supported baseball, lacrosse, skating and cricket, basketball and football builder Don Lech, hockey and baseball great Bun Kingdon, Ontario champion curler Ralph Clark, sports supporter Louis Yeates and softball greats George Dormer and Marge Hawthorne.

The tour is a basic panorama of Peterborough's sports history and well worth the time, especially coupled with a Wednesday night at the Festival of Lights.

### Cemetery Tour

**What:** One of three including Legendary Peterborough Athletes, visiting the final resting places of some of the most well-known local sports figures, A Hot Time on the Old Town Tonight, focusing on the fires that occurred in the city and the men who fought them and the regular Tragic Tales of Loss and Misfortune.

**Organizers:** Trent Valley Archives.

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays rain or shine.

**Where:** From Little Lake Cemetery chapel.

**Cost:** \$5 which supports work of the archives.

More information: Call 745-4404.

## Lang Pioneer Village:

### The Lumber Industry in Peterborough County

Barbara van Vierzen

To the early immigrants who settled in Peterborough County with the hope of establishing farms, the dense forest appeared as an enemy, an obstacle to be removed. At the same time these resourceful settlers recognized that the forest could provide them with the raw materials for household and farm needs and was a source of income from the sale of lumber and potash.

The forest, the farmer's obstacle, was to become the key to wealth and early development of Canada. The lumber industry replaced the fur trade as an economic base. The northward spread of settlers and the growth of towns followed the burgeoning lumber industry along the waterway. The waterways supplied a route for the passage of timber from the rich forests of the north enabling the development of significant milling operations centered in Peterborough.

During the first half of the 19th century, square timber dominated the forest product export market from Upper Canada. In the next 50 years this began to change. Despite the belief that the lumber supply for the square timber market was inexhaustible, the entrepreneurs engaged in this profitable business found the stands of mature white pine and oak had been decimated. In addition, steam-powered ships replaced Britain's wind-powered sailing ships reducing the need for the mighty masts harvested from Canada's white pine.

Between 1854 and 1866, the Reciprocity Treaty between United States and Canada permitted building materials to move freely across the border. Sawn lumber was particularly in demand in

the United States following the end of the Civil War (1861-1865), to rebuild the country and to satisfy the needs of a developing pulp and paper industry. The United States was growing dramatically at this time, pushing westward across the treeless prairie. The demand for logs, already cut into boards, grew rapidly as the population in Canada and the USA expanded westward. The squared timber and round logs shared the waterways, headed for different destinations: the square timber moved on to Quebec, and the round log's journey ended at the sawmills. The sawmills were powered by water, and were located along the same waterways that transported the logs.

The earliest settlers valued sawmills. "We have already experienced the benefit of being near the saw-mill, as it not only enables us to build at a smaller expense, but enables us to exchange logs for sawn lumber. The great pine trees which, under other circumstances, would be an encumbrance and drawback to clearing the land, prove a most profitable crop when cleared off in the form of saw-logs, which is easily done where they are near the water; the logs are sawn to a certain length, and dragged by oxen, during the winter when the ground is hard, to the lake's edge; when the ice breaks up the logs float down with the current and enter the mill-race; I have seen the lake opposite to our window covered with these floating timbers, voyaging down to the saw-mill." [Catharine Parr Traill, *The Backwoods of Canada*, 1836]

Exports from the Peterborough area increased fivefold when the railway arrived in 1854. Initially the railway served the purpose of carrying the cut lumber from the sawmills to local markets and ports on Lake Ontario to be ferried across to the U.S. The Americans rescinded the Reciprocity Treaty in 1866 and placed a lumber tariff of \$2.00 per thousand board feet on Canadian imports. Despite the tariff, the export of sawn lumber was still a profitable venture.

At the sawmills, timber was cut into three categories of board: Deal: a board 7.6 cm (3 inches) or more thick; Plank: a board 5 cm (2 inches) thick; Lumber: a board under 5cm (2 inches) thick. Lumber was cut to a standardized thickness but not length. To find the length of board you needed at the lumberyard required sorting. Efficiency being a great motivator, Boyd had his boards cut at his mills to standard lengths, which became known as "Boyd's Boards".

Visitors to Lang Pioneer Village can learn more about the lumbering trade in the newly opened Ayotte lumbering exhibit. This interactive exhibit is a permanent display located within the Ayotte Cabin. For more information and hours of operation visit [www.langpioneervillage.ca](http://www.langpioneervillage.ca) or call 1-866-289-5264.

## Up the Burleigh Road ... beyond the Rocks

The Trent Valley Archives has been quite busy in publishing and is very proud to announce the release of Mary and Doug Lavery's lavishly illustrated *Up the Burleigh Road ... beyond the rocks*, published 13 July 2006. The book lovingly looks at the history of the area from Burleigh Falls to Apsley including the life of different generations of people living in Burleigh and Anstruthers Townships and along the lakes that define much of the region's appeal. This is the most ambitious book that TVA has published, and we are delighted with the results. The book is good looking, informative and readable.

Congratulations to Mary and Doug Lavery. Thanks, too, to the many people who can bask in the book's success. The book built upon years of research and collecting by members of the Burleigh Road Historical Society and the Trent Valley Archives, as well as the keen eyes and ears of descendants.

The book is available from book stores and general stores in the area and from the Trent Valley Archives.

Trent Valley Archives

567 Carnegie Avenue

Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1

705-745-4404

## News and Views: Trent Valley Archives

These have been exciting times at the Trent Valley Archives. Despite stories that appeared in the local press the Trent Valley Archives is not moving. We have been eight years at the corner of Carnegie Avenue and Woodland Drive, easily reached by either street. Both intersect with the old Highway 28 (Water Street) only one mile away. Woodland Drive ends at Hilliard, but drivers can connect with Chemong Road usually by dropping south half a concession, to County Road 19. The Peterborough Zoo, the only free-admission accredited zoo in Canada, is the point of reference for most travelers.

The launch of the Burleigh Road book was very exciting. The book is now available in a hard-cover edition at \$50, but when we had our launches at Apsley, Stony Lake and Peterborough only the soft-cover edition was available. People were excited by the breezy layout, and by the readability of the book. It is a great-looking book and we have had good response from the media and from the buyers. Many people are buying extra copies to send to friends and relations far and near. The book is good to give and to receive. *Up the Burleigh Road ... Beyond the Rocks* is our most ambitious publishing project to date. Trent Valley Archives was pleased to assist the Burleigh Road Historical Society. We are especially grateful to Mary and Doug Lavery who teamed up to research, write and design the book. It was a time-consuming labour of love. And now they are busy selling the book, too. *Up the Burleigh Road* is available from Trent Valley Archives and various bookstores and general stores in the area. The hardcover edition is now available for \$50; the elegant soft-cover edition is \$30. Both prices include GST but the Trent Valley Archives must report GST and we will normally be adding GST to the purchase prices of books, memberships, and tours.

During June Grace Barker launched *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers: the 1961 Havelock Bank*

*Robbery*. The book was launched at the Patio of the Station Restaurant in Havelock and there was a good crowd of Havelock people, different people tied to the search for the robbers, and perhaps a descendant of the robbers. Many members of TVA had helpful research suggestions and Grace used the *Havelock Spectator* at the TVA. Congratulations Grace on a job well-done. This is available from TVA at \$19.95 soft-cover.

The Trent Valley Archives is the exclusive agent for his history of Peterborough elections. The results have been updated to 2006, and this book is available for \$5. It is a handy compendium of election results and of biographies of the MPs and MPPs who sat for Peterborough ridings. As well, Peter has shared some of his reflections on Peterborough elections. He hoped to establish whether Peterborough was a swing-riding at either the provincial or federal level, and whether local voters tried to balance federal and provincial representation. The results are not clear-cut, but the project is ongoing. Peter Adams has donated his papers related to this project to the Trent Valley Archives; as the papers are processed, we are looking at different options for using the information. At the very least, we now have excellent information in the TVA reading room about the Peterborough issues and activity in every federal and provincial election since Confederation.



We have acquired new materials in both our library and archival collections. As we process the

collections we create finding aids that can be used in the Reading Room. Some of our larger finding aids have been placed on the website, [www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com).

The holdings of the Trent Valley Archives are significant. People doing family research always look for records related to births, marriages and deaths, and we have excellent facilities for helping with those. However, our archival collections allow us to details about the life and times of your ancestors. The *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley* has been publishing stories for ten years and these are now proving to be valuable cumulatively. Of course they represent only the tip of the iceberg in the thousands of documents in our holdings. In our research records and in our photograph collections we often have items of interest to particular families, and we encourage people to donate copies of the records they have accumulated. Family histories overlap in various ways: people, places and occupations, for example.

We would like to thank the local press for covering important events. They covered the launch of the Bank Robber and Burleigh books, the sports tour at the cemetery, and the Ghost tour in Ashburnham. Heather Aiton-Landry was featured in a splendid colour picture, 22 June. Locally, people are more aware of the work of the Trent Valley Archives. Thanks to all our volunteers who make it possible to do so much. And thanks, too, to Diane Robnik for her capable leadership.

### Charles Barrons

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Edward Barrons (1921-2006). Charles Barrons was a keen observer, raconteur and preserver of the local history of Havelock, Cordova and neighbouring parts of Hastings and Peterborough counties. Charlie went to school at SS12 Belmont, on the Hastings-Peterborough boundary. He remembered teachers such as Hilda Thompson, Josie Anderson and

Don Buchanan. High school was in Marmora. Childhood times were fairly tough for farmers, as prices were low,

and in pre-electricity days there were no conveniences. He remembered about 1930 herding 22 head of Herefords some ten miles to Marmora and then five to Bonar Law; in due course his dad received \$11 a head. His grandfather acquired the farm about 1900 and lumbered and farmed. He recalled going to a school fair in Havelock; the children from Cordova all traveled there in the back of a three ton truck. Cordova was a mining town but Charlie remembered that a passenger train came in once, for an Orange 12<sup>th</sup> of July picnic. He remembered a barn-raising for an uncle in Rockdale in 1929. Two brothers did basic training at Peterborough during World War II. Charlie is survived by his wife of 63 years, Freda Ellis, and is survived by two daughters and a son: Marie Patterson, Rhea Flint and Lawrence Barrons. The funeral service was from Havelock Chapel, and he was buried at Maple Grove Cemetery.

Charles Barrons recorded some of his memories and he permitted Diane Robnik to copy many of his documents for the Trent Valley Archives. We have published some of his old photos in the Heritage Gazette, and we are hoping to print an early pay list from the Blairton mines. He was a link to community memories and he will be missed. We extend our sincerest condolences to his wife and family. Thanks to Ivan Bateman for the photograph of Charles Barrons pointing out some of the salient points of the old mine office at Blairton.

### **Bethany celebrates 150**

Bethany is celebrating 150 years as a village, 5 and 6 August 2006. Its early history was defined by the connection to the Midland Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway. Michael McAlister convened the town meeting that named Bethany for the hills. Minutes of the meeting will be on display. The McAlisters were a lumbering family who cleared white pine for distant ports, moving the business from Bethany to Huntsville, Sault Ste Marie and Detroit. The Town Hall was the seat of local government until its recent amalgamation into the City of Kawartha Lakes. Special displays will feature Ryley's Store, a general

store for 50 years, and also the Reynolds family which for 75 years operated the hardware store, tin shop, funeral parlour and telephone office. Bethany will celebrate its storied past in sports at the Athletic Club. Cy Monkman has prepared a display on the Peterborough Ski club, which was established nearby and attracted skiers from Toronto via the Dranoel station. Devil's Elbow was established in the 1960s; with good skiing and snowmobiling Bethany became a winter holiday destination. Jim and Jan Smith established the Bethany Hills School about 25 years ago. A reunion of Bethany schools is planned for the weekend, at the Granary. There will be garden tours and other special events. The former St Paul's Anglican Church will be the focus of activity. For information call 705-277-2751.

### **Peterborough Pathway of Fame**

Seventeen names were added to the Peterborough Pathway of Fame, 15 July. Congratulations to Richard Hayman, the fine local artist, who did two fine prints to mark the Lift Lock centennial; Robert Winslow, the driving spirit of Fourth Line Theatre which found fresh ways to bring local history to Peterborough audiences; Syd and Pam Birrell, for accomplishments far and wide, but perhaps notably for the Peterborough Singers; Bernice Harris of the Smith Township Historical Society; Munroe Scott, outstanding biographer and playwright, and former newspaper editor and columnist; Nick Nickels, former *Examiner* journalist and freelance writer and photographer; Alan Nunn, the famed actor and theatre teacher. The list also included Reg Benoit, Bud Monahan, Norm Post, Jack Blakely, Del Haddlesey; Paul Lafond; Dr John Parker; Dr Wag Rayes; and Joe Whetung. We congratulate the new inductees, and express appreciation for the hard-working committee, led by Sean Eyre and Barb Bell. The Peterborough Pathway of Fame is situated between George Street and Del Crary Park.

### **Doors Open Peterborough**

This year, Doors Open Peterborough will be held 30 September, and 19 venues are open to the public. These include Canadian Canoe Museum; the former Queen Alexandra School; the

city's Public Works Yard; Miranda Studios (formerly Roy Studio site); Sadleir House; Trent Radio; Burnham Mansion; Cahill's Furs; the former BonnerWorth Mill; City Hall's Carnegie Wing; Eastland House (Hunter and Simcoe); Murray Street Baptist Church; St Andrew's United Church; Grace United Church; St Giles Presbyterian Church; St James United Church; Knox United Church; Trinity United Church; and Showplace Peterborough.

The ideas behind Doors Open originated in Scotland, but reached Toronto in 2000, and Peterborough in 2002. This year Doors Open is being held in 46 Ontario municipalities. For details see

[www.doorsopenontario.on.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca)

### **Agricultural Fairs**

The upcoming fairs in this area are: Peterborough Exhibition, 4-6 August; Kinmount Fair, 1 September; Oakwood Fair, 8-10 September; Lindsay Central Exhibition, 20-24 September; Bobcaygeon Fair, 29-30 September; and Norwood Fair, 7-9 October. The most venerable of these fairs is the Peterborough Exhibition which has changed with the times since the first edition in 1843, always produced by the Peterborough Agricultural Society. This year's fair would mark the 164<sup>th</sup> year of the fair; however, it was not held in 1851, or in the years 1941-1947. The nearly annual event has been part of the local urban and rural scene for 163 years. The history is told in Elwood H. Jones, *Winners: 150 Years of the Peterborough Exhibition* (1995) and the Trent Valley Archives has the research materials related to that book.

### **International Plowing Match**

Trent Valley Archives has been pleased to prepare this special edition of the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*.

Each issue has significant articles on historical subjects. However, in this case we reconstructed the history of International Plowing Matches and World Plowing Matches in this area, and also included several articles highlighting rural culture. We are particularly grateful to John C. Carter, John Marsh, and Bruce Dodds. In addition to this special issue, the Trent Valley Archives will be among the local heritage groups with a booth at the

tented city, as well as a large chart showing the time line relating the site of IPM 2006 with the long history of the world, Canada, and Peterborough County. We hope to see you at the Plowing Match. (*Lang Pioneer Village*)

### **Peterborough Fire Department History**

The group working on the history of the Peterborough Fire Department still welcome new material. The Little Lake Cemetery tour has been helpful in highlighting the different ways that people's lives come together. People visit sites of fire chiefs, firefighters, victims of fires, survivors of fires, and people who get fresh starts. We also considered the importance of fire insurance, bricks, water and memories and music. The fire department had many faces, and its members interconnected with the wider world in various ways. Let us know if you have stories that document some of these other ways. Contact Maureen Crowley at [Mcrowley@city.peterborough.on.ca](mailto:Mcrowley@city.peterborough.on.ca) or one of the TVA members working on the project: Keith Dinsdale, Don Willcock, Elwood Jones.

### **Quaker Oats Fire Commemorative Plaque**

Gina Martin has done some terrific sleuthing, spurred on by Gordon Young's efforts to get a plaque recognizing those who died in the Quaker Oats fire, 11 December 1916. The company will be erecting a plaque to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic event. Details were not available at press time, but it may occur before December. We have invited Gina to write an article for our November issue, but here is Gina's list.



1. Edward Howley; 2. Domenico Martino; 3. Walter Thomas Holden; 4. Thomas Parsons; 5. William Henry Mesley; 6. William Miles; 7. Dennis O'Brien; 8. Alphonse McGee; 9. James William Gordon; 10. James Foster; 11. George Wellington Vosbourg; 12. Albert Ernest Staunton; 13. William Hogan; 14. John Conway; 15. Filippo Capone (Dec. 12); 16. Patrick O'Connell (Dec. 13); 17. John Carter Kemp (Dec. 14); 18. Vincenzo del Fornaro (Dec. 15); 19. Richard Chowen (Dec. 22); 20. William John Teatro (Dec. 25); 21. William Walsh (Dec. 27); 22. Joseph Leo Houlihan (Dec. 29)

### **Historica Fair Feature on Madeleine Brown**

The *Peterborough Examiner* carried an excellent story on Madeleine Brown, whose historical study of her own home on Harvey Street was the biggest winner at the local Historica fair in April. Judges were impressed by her use of archival research and her ability to weave a compelling story. Among the names associated with the house she identified Robert McWhinnie; Ernest Harper; John Stanley Cann; and her parents, Stephen Brown and Kathryn Chittick. The article highlighted the importance of making the Historica Fair an integral part of the school curriculum, such as was done at Adam Scott. Students gain quite a bit if they go beyond some trivial quick fix off the internet and actually do archival research, and explore the questions that emerge. Local heritage groups have been very supportive, but the teachers need to commit before these fairs become truly exciting.

### **Dr Barclay McKone**

Dr Barclay McKone had a fascinating interest in history and his death at 91 leaves a big void in the local scene. He was an innovative soul when administering to patients with tuberculosis in Moose Factory in the 1940s, and happily he gathered together his thoughts on those days. He grew up in Peterborough, and when he returned he was a general practitioner at the Scott Clinic, where he practiced with his life-long friend, Dr John Stewart who

graduated from the University of Toronto with him. He was a great raconteur, but will be best remembered for his historical models which quite recently decorated lounges at the Princess Gardens. The Market Hall, the Cluxton Building, the Morrow Building, the YMCA, PCVS and the block on the north side of Hunter Street centred on the Roy Studio. He did a model of King Edward School hoping to prevent its demolition. He famously did a model of a proposed hotel at Cray Park to illustrate the impact such a building would have. He was an active supporter of the Kiwanis Music Festival and he is on Peterborough's Pathway of Fame. We extend our condolences and best wishes to his widow, Lorna McKone, and his family.

### **County of Peterborough Recognition Awards**

The County of Peterborough gave awards to many people and organizations in 12 categories. In the Heritage Preservation category, awards went to Robert Dunford, yet another award for his fine book on Adam Scott; and to the Kinmount Pioneer Society of Galway-Cavendish and Harvey Township, for their Year of the Veteran display. Congratulations to both. The Rev Peter Bishop and William Twist were honoured posthumously for their work at Lakefield's Christ Church. Congratulations to these fine winners, and to the others who were recognized for their contributions.

### **Fourth Line Theatre**

The Fourth Line Theatre reprised their 2005 hit "Doctor Barnardo's Children" which played throughout July. Their August play is "X: the Art of Silent Killing" which is written by Shane Peacock and based on experiences at an Ontario school for spies during World War II. For information call 705-932-4445 or visit [www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca](http://www.4thlinetheatre.on.ca).

### **Peterborough Lions Club Turns 70**

Founded in 1936, the local Lions Club has accomplished much in 70 years. Their best-know landmark is the Lions Club which was built in 1993 on the site of the change rooms for the Lions Pool which was built in 1949 and used until persistent leaks and costly repairs led to its closing in the 1980s. The Lions have been well-known for

their work related to the blind: vision screening, guide-dog training, and CNIB. Congratulations.

**Peterborough County Federation of Agriculture**

John Cockburn has written a history of the local branch of the Federation of Agriculture. As we went to press, the book was to be launched at a picnic, 30 July, and run to 300 pages.

**Trent Valley Archives**

The Trent Valley Archives is open Tuesdays to Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and visitors are welcome. We specialize in family history, local history and archives in east central Ontario. Our reputation is strongest for Peterborough county, but our collections support research more broadly. Our collections continue to grow. As well, we have built up an inventory of research over the past 17 years and have recently been more active in publishing. We are really pleased with our current best seller, Mary and Doug Lavery's *Up The Burleigh Road ... beyond the rocks*. It would be a good souvenir for visitors and can be obtained from local book stores and from Trent Valley Archives.

**Trent Valley Archives**  
**567 Carnegie Avenue**  
**Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1**  
**705-745-4404**  
**[www.trentvalleyarchives.com](http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com)**