

The Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley

Volume 12, number 4, February 2008

President's Message	Wally Macht	2
Alexander Joseph Grant Diary 1: 1906	Dennis Carter-Edwards	3
Tolton Family Dairy Memories	Eleanor Darling	7
Senator Francis Patrick O'Connor, the Founder of Laura Secord Chocolates	Enid Mitchell	9
Maples: Henry Fowlds House, Hastings	Andrew Elliott	10
Peterborough Exhibition Grandstand	Elwood Jones	12
Circuses and Big Shows 1846-1920	Elwood Jones	14
Featured Acts at the Peterborough Exhibition Grandstand 1886-1940	Elwood Jones	15
Queries	Diane Robnik	18
McGowarin 18; Researching Peterborough Circuses 18; Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress Of Rough Riders of the World 18; Taylor's Equestrianism and World's Circus; Bandwagon: November – December 2007 [Circuses in the 1870s] 20; Walter Brown House, 42; Annie Carey: What Can We Learn from Photos? 43		
Ski Club People 1923-1980 Otto W. Laderach	Cy Monkman	21
The Forgotten Sports Era: A History of The Peterborough Ski Club by Cy Monkman		23
The Fire Brigade Makes A Big Change: Fire Fighting in Peterborough 1881	Peterborough Times, 1881	23
Former Mayor, Lt. Governor R. F. McWilliams Dies	Peterborough Examiner, 1957	28
Roland and Margaret McWilliams: too smart for Peterborough	Elwood Jones	29
Martha Ann Kidd's Travels Around the World and To France	Martha Ann Kidd	30
Lakefield Temperance Poll Books Kept by W. D. Thornton, Check Clerk	TVA, Robert Delledonne fonds	31
Lakefield's Temperance Votes, 1877 – 1879	Elwood Jones	34
Book Notes and Reviews		35
Ed Arnold, Ed Arnold's George Street Stories 35; Isabella Valancy Crawford, Winona 35; Michael Peterman, Sisters in Two Worlds 36; Cy Monkman, The Forgotten Sports Era 36; C. Pelham Mulvany, The History of the County of Peterborough, Parts 2, 3 and 4 36;		
Trent Valley Archives		37
Upcoming Events 37; Open House 37; TVA Genealogical Fair 38		
Conference Notices		38
Ontario Heritage Conference 38; ACA Conference 39; AAO Conference 39		
U. S. Seller auctioning Macdonald autograph	Toronto Star, 2008	39
Newspapers and Archives Available Digitally		39
Recent Events at Trent Valley Archives		40
Fitzpatrick Surprise; Christmas Stories (reported in SNAP Peterborough) 40; Recent Acquisitions 41		
The Chew Family Papers		41
Friends of the Harwood Waterfront	Elwood Jones	42
Upcoming Events at the Trent Valley Archives		43
TVA Genealogical Fair 43; Upcoming Spring Events 44; Notice of the Annual General Meeting 44		

Cover photo: *The east side of Water street: site of the first professionally fought fire, March 1881. For the full story see documentary feature, pages 23 to 28. (Photo by Elwood Jones)*



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wally Macht

Trent Valley Archives had a successful year in 2007 and hopefully we can improve on that in 2008, although the first month has already had a negative bump. The huge snowfall on what we considered a safe steel roof created a problem when it slid off the slope and took the eaves trough with it. On the surface it didn't seem like too much of a problem, but further investigation indicates it may be quite costly to repair.

Since the last edition of the Gazette we had our "Christmas Stories" event, which was held at the Natas Café on George Street. It was a tremendous success with songs and stories to put us in the Christmas mood. The trio of Susan McKnight, Dan Bronson and Bruce Fitzpatrick provided some beautiful music and Gina Martin related a "Miracle on Elm Street", a real story in the true spirit of Christmas, which occurred right here in Peterborough.

Back at the ranch, we continue to collect the fonds of people in the area who want their histories preserved. Our latest addition of historical documents has been the purchase of 61 rolls of microfilm pertaining to various Peterborough newspapers. We have two viewing devices. One can copy, so it is a real plus for researchers looking for events in the past. We have 35 rolls from the Peterborough Examiner dating inclusively from 1858 to 1901. We have 15 rolls from the Peterborough Review, 9 rolls from the Peterborough Times and 2 rolls from miscellaneous newspapers, all because of generous donations from our membership. We are extremely thankful and hopefully they can be put to use in your research. The donations continue to roll in and we will purchase more resources as the finances permit.

Looking to the future, we are holding a Genealogy Fair on 5 April, at the school across the street from our location. There will be four speakers: Dennis Carter-Edwards a Research Historian with Parks Canada; Basia Baklinski, a Professional Conservator who restores and preserves historical documents and photographs; Gina Martin, a Land Titles expert, and Steve Guthrie, a Military Researcher.

Finally, plans are in the works to hold a special dinner at Burnham Mansion on 3 May at which actors portraying George Cox, Dr. John Hutchison and Charlotte Nicholls will be interviewed. One of the interviewers will be former mayor Sylvia Sutherland. Her knowledge of Peterborough's history and her incisive demeanour, having once been a reporter, should make it a compelling evening.

Wally Macht

ALEXANDER JOSEPH GRANT DIARY 1: 1906

Dennis Carter-Edwards

On 11 April 1907 Alexander Joseph Grant, superintending engineer of the Trent Canal, wrote in his diary, "One year in Peterborough this morning, the time has passed quickly & in that short time, there have been many changes among the citizens of the town." One of the most dramatic changes was the departure of the former canal superintendent, Richard Birdsall Rogers, allegedly over problems with construction of the Lift Lock but in reality due to the political machinations of his Liberal opponents. Tired of the constant hounding, Rogers resigned his position on 16 February 1906. The following month, the secretary for the Department of Railways and Canals offered the position to Grant who was supervising harbour improvements at Port Colborne. He immediately wired acceptance and began preparations for the move to Peterborough.

Grant was well qualified for the demanding position of engineer of the Trent Canal. Born in Dufftown, Scotland 10 May 1863, he immigrated with his family to Canada in 1872. After attending school at the University of Ottawa and St. Mary's College in Montreal, he joined the survey party for the C.P.R. at Winnipeg. In 1887 he moved to the engineering staff of the Cape Breton Railway. He was transferred to the Soulages Canal four years later and acted as the assistant engineer supervising construction of this innovative lock and canal. Upon completion of the canal in 1903 he was placed in charge of harbour improvements at Port Colborne on the Welland Canal. After accepting the position as superintending engineer of the Trent Canal, he traveled to Peterborough to take over the reins from Rogers while his wife Maude and young son Alex were left at St. Catharines to arrange the move to Peterborough. The Grants remained in Peterborough until 1918 when Grant was appointed superintendent of the Welland Canal and moved back to St. Catharines.

The significance of A.J. Grant's years in Peterborough lie not just with the work he supervised along the waterway but in his daily diary in which he faithfully recorded his work on projects connected with the Trent Severn Waterway but also his and his family's interaction with the community of Peterborough. Initially, the Grant's circle of acquaintances consisted of staff from the canal but given the prominent status of his position, it is not surprising he soon mixed with the town's social elite. The diary offers a valuable insight into the daily life of an important segment of the population. His diary also provides an interesting commentary on various events within the city from plays to church functions, politics to religion, recreation

to athletics. Grant also made a brief comment on the weather, noting unusual conditions. This article is the first of a series that will provide excerpts from Grant's diaries and commentary on his observations on the life and working of the community during his stay in Peterborough from 1906 to 1918. References to the weather are often terse and have not been included. The original diaries were donated to the St. Catharines Museum by Alexander and Maude's descendants Peter Grant and Susan Scott and are catalogued as 2006.134.23. I would like to thank the curator, Arden Phair for making copies of the diary available.

Although Grant's writing is quite legible, he uses many short forms that are difficult to decipher. Where words are unclear in the original, they are enclosed in [] brackets, sometimes with a ? to indicate an attempt to decipher the meaning. To avoid repetition of [sic] to indicate a spelling error, the text is generally presented verbatim. Where a clarification of the original text is required, the detail is presented in { } brackets.

After arriving in Peterborough, Grant was briefed by the former superintendent R.B. Rogers on various canal projects, including repairs to the Lift Lock. The diary records Grant's extensive travels from Trenton to Port Severn supervising current work, preparing plans for new construction and insuring repairs to stop the leak at the lift lock were completed.

11 April – arrived here at 6 am . . . after breakfast Rogers met me at the Oriental Hotel when we walked up to the Canal office in the Post Office bldg where he introduced me to the staff and turned over the papers in the various rooms
17 April – afternoon drove over to Lift Lock with Gordon {Gordon was a member of the staff} to examine work of repairs started there today {the contractor} is making small clay dams in bed of prism to cut off water and

to dry the portion of the reach to be worked over
19 April – three hours in Lindsay examining old wooden lock and dam at Flavell's Mills, also swing bridges over Wellington and Lindsay Sts across the Scugod [sic]

21 April – Wired James to San Francisco asking if all well City fire under control yesterday after Earthquake had wrecked the Bldgs A.J.'s brother James was an ordained Roman Catholic priest at the parish of St. Brigid's in San Francisco. He sent a telegram to Alex to let him know he was safe.

4 May - Alex is 2 years old today God bless the little man {took} my first sail over the Kawartha Lakes which I enjoyed very much and would like

to spend a summer on them

9 May – R.B. Rogers in talking over repairs to bank and Lock 1 {Lift Lock} especially to [keeping?] dam deep under concrete floor of basin above lock

12 May – forenoon went to look at rooms in Central Hotel chambers took option on them until Monday

Grant decided to rent rooms in the Central Hotel in anticipation of his family coming to Peterborough until they could decide on more permanent accommodation. He made a return trip to Port Colborne to finalize packing of furniture and delivery to their place in Peterborough.

4 June – Car 23337 from P. Colborne with household goods is being unloaded today. Went

to B[ank] of M[ontreal] with Maude & opened an acct for her here. After 5 pm Maude & I went to rooms & saw that everything was delivered from the car & then went to McPherson's & ordered Electric fixtures for the rooms, etc.
10 June – none of us at Mass, which is a big shame & disgrace to both of us

The Grants were devout Catholics and regularly attended church services at St. Peter's Cathedral.

23 June – afternoon took Maude and Alex out to Chemung, where they propose staying at the Park Hotel for the summer

29 June – heavy thunder showers after 9 pm. At Court House park for air after 8 o'clock to hear band

16 July – at 4 pm Maude Alex & myself went to Chemung by Lee's Bus which was very crowded. Spent the evening on the water rowing Maude tried her first at rowing & would soon learn to be a good rower

26 July – went to Chemung on auto . . . first trip on the auto. Moved office desk etc from [one] on Hunter St to one on Water St.

Carpenter & other trades still making alterations in office

1 August – the British Bowlers were in town. They went over the Lift Lock & were entertained by the local team

Despite his heavy workload, Grant took his family on



A.J. Grant and his wife, Maude, in a wedding dress. This photo was taken by Roy Studios on 26 November 1906, as noted in this installment of Grant's diary.

Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives 2000-012-001597-1 Balsillie Collection of Roy Studio Images

numerous outings. However in early August his wife Maude took sick and had to be hospitalized.

7 August – Maude Alex & I had tea at the Oriental & then went to Jackson Park where we stayed until 10 o'clock. After we got in Maude got very unwell & had to have Dr. Eastwood called at 1 am who ordered a nurse in at once.

8 August – Eason {David Eason was a staff member and eventually replaced Grant as superintendent} & I went over to the H.Lock where we examined the properties of the Burnham and Nicolls estates, etc re damages done to

[them] from the canal . . . for the 1st time I saw the lock operated the 'Waterlily' went through with a party of the I.O.F. excursionists on board

9 August – Circus Day in town . . . intended taking Alex to the circus but owing to Maude's bad turn for the worse, did not go. The little man is not old enough to know what he missed

15 August – Maude worse & had to have another operation, which took place at 10 o'clock. Dr. Eastwood had Dr. [Gries?] in to help him. Her condition was much better then he expected and hopes in a few days she will be able to be up again

16 August – Took Alex over to the House of Providence after breakfast & left him with the nuns, who are to look after him while his mommy is in the Hospital

17 August – Alex little man is very much out of his element with the sisters, who owing to their habit seem strange to him he does not take to them at all

27 August – after dinner went over to St. Joseph's Hospital & took Maude & Alex back to the rooms in the Central Block. She is on the road of recovery, but I am afraid will not be strong for a long time to come.

31 August – at 5:15 Maude, Alex & I left for Toronto per C.P.R. got a room at the Arlington [Hotel]. City is crowded with visitors to the Exhibition.

1 September – called on John [Gerell?] Naval Architect & placed order for plans & specs for proposed boat for Trent Canal

The tug 'Bessie Butler' became a permanent fixture along the waterway, used for both business and pleasure trips for canal staff and their friends.

6 September – letter from James, first since June, he has been very busy all summer on Committee of ehabilitation

In September the Minister of Railways and Canals, H. Emerson and Deputy Minister M. Butler along with other dignitaries traveled from Peterborough to Port Severn to inspect the proposed line of extension for the canal and hydro sites.

10 September – Messrs. Emerson, Butler & party here this am. We visited Hydraulic Lock & drove up to Lakefield where we took the 'Sovereign' up the lakes.

11 September – Left Lindsay after the Minister & Butler with McHugh & Flavelle had inspected the lock & dam there. Rec'd orders to have a plan of a new lock etc prepared. After dinner the party drove through to Gamebridge

. . . where we were met by the steamer 'Geneva' and Orillia Board of Trade and taken across the lake.

12 September – the official party . . . crossed over to Severn Bridge. The war canoe & 5 small ones were taken along for use on the river. . . . Enjoyed a delightful well served dinner at Ragged Rapids . . . Here we camped for the night along side the Orillia power plant

13 September – left at 8 o'clock sharp. I stuck to the war canoe through Wallace & Flat Rapids. The Minister also stayed in the canoe through Flat Raids. At Big and little Chutes everything was portaged across Gloucester pool a fine sheet of water. Port Severn was reached at 2 pm . . . The journey of the past 2 days has been over very historical ground the scene of Champlain's travels & the field of the labours of the Jesuit Martyrs Father Breboeuf, Lallemant, Jogues etc among the unfortunate Hurons.

28 September – office all day. At 5 o'clock Maude, Gerioux {a member of the staff} & I went house hunting. Gordon's house on Gilmour St. was locked up, several other of same size on St. did not like them. On Homewood Ave Stockdale had a very nice Big small house, well finished, etc. lot 50 x 220 wants \$3500

2 October – office all day sent off paysheets & accts for Staff. Maude & I went to see "Red Feather" did not care for the play.

During their first year in Peterborough, the Grants tended to socialize with members of the canal staff and their families. Visiting after tea, playing cards and attending the occasional play or concert were popular forms of entertainment.

13 October - . . . Afternoon Maude & I walked up George St. through Inverlea Park looking at houses. Mrs Sherwood & her husband came in after tea and had a game of cards.

20 October – office all forenoon. Mr. Hall {possibly R.R. Hall Liberal M.P. for Peterborough East} in for a few minutes during the forenoon. At 4 pm Maude Alex & I walked to McNamara's house cor[ner] Downie & Brock & went through it. It is a well built roomy house, situation is low & not over inviting. Lots of ground about the house. We went back via Father McCauls & then went to see him re pew which this time we got settled satisfactorily. We are to have the whole of pew 202.

The Grants were active in church affairs at St. Peters. They arranged for their own pew in the church for which they paid a yearly rent.

21 October – Maude & Alex stayed at home & I went to 10:30 Mass. Sat in pew 202 which we now have to ourselves, formerly occupied by Dave O'Connell who got another pew today. At 4 pm Maude, Sandy {possibly a live in baby sitter for Alex} & I walked up to Mrs. Morrow's and had 5 o'clock tea with them. . . . called on Mrs. L. Sherwood on the way back. She and Maude arranged to go to "Charley's Aunt" Wednesday evening.

In late October, James got a letter from his brother Gordon announcing he was getting engaged and planned to be married at the end of the year.

27 October – Gordon sent Maude a 5¼ x 4¼ photo, group of 4 girls saying one of them was her future sister-in-law. . . . He is engaged to be married to Miss Katherine McCarthy on the 27 December next.

While it is only briefly mentioned in the diary, Maude with her friend Mrs. L. Sherwood planned for a special social event inviting many ladies from the community, possibly a formal coming out to meet the social elite of Peterborough.

28 October – at 4:30 we went over to 5 o'clock tea at Mrs. L. Sherwood's where Maude & she talked over matters for their afternoon society event of "receiving" next Wednesday evening
31 October – Maude & Mrs. L. Sherwood had a reception at the latter house 81 Weller this pm 4 to 6 o'clock. About 35 ladies called in.

6 November – left for Lakefield at 8:30 am with Eason. Dinner at Burleigh & went on to Lovesick where Eason & I examined all the dams there re he obtaining x{cross} sections at each of them best to wate[sic] when water is off Lovesick Lake. These dams are old wooden dams built about 1885 & are to be rebuilt in concrete.

7 November - . . . Old Mr. Fuller lock Master at Burleigh since the 2nd year the lock was opened fell into it this evening & was killed

8 November – Sent off October paysheets. Wrote Capt McInnis, Orillia re his docking steamer 'Joly' in canal lock at Gamebridge this winter.

10 November – Maude, Mrs. Wm Sherwood, Mr. South & myself went to see the [Birnzie Bria Bush?] It was very good & the Scotch characters were well brought out

11 November – Mass with Maude at 10:30. Dinner at the Oriental after which we went back to our rooms & read, chatted, etc for balance of afternoon

12 November – office all day sent off progress estimates & monthly reports

13 November – Wrote Katharine McCarthy, 120 Grant Allée, Quebec congratulating her on her engagement to Gordon. May they have a long, happy & contented Married life.

17 November – office all day. . . Mr. & Mrs Sherwood in after tea playing Bridge

25 November – Maude and I went to 10:30 Mass. Dinner together at the Oriental after which we called at Hospital on Sister Antoinette & then walked over to the convent for 4 pm to see the superior re french [sic] lessons for Maude

26 November – office all forenoon arranged for more men to help D{ominion} B{ridge} Co to get struts up under H. Lock No.1. Afternoon Maude Alex & I had photos taken at Roy's Maude & I in our wedding Garments – Alex & I together did not turn out well

14 December – went out to lock at 8 am with Sherwood Lock is laid up for the winter – on struts with 3'3" of water in lower reach & lock pit same level as reach. Yesterday Rankin began emptying upper basin for the winter – when emptied he will take levels over bottom of it
17 December - . . . Maude & I had dinner at the Bazaar in aid of Mount St. Joseph's Mother House
20 December – . . . During the past two days we did a lot of tramping in the snow covered with a ½" crust which breaks through every step one takes, makes bad walking went into Toronto by the 6:40 evening train

21 December – around City all day Xmas shopping. Called on Gerell, he sent Tug boat plans & specs to Peterboro some days ago. Got home hour late Maude & I went over for a few minutes for the tail end of the Bazaar drawings but we won nothing. Maude, Alex & Mary were over every day at the Bazaar. Alex fished every day in the fish pond.

23 December – Mass at 10:30 with Maude. Father O'Leary Douro was ordained today at forenoon Mass. Dinner at Hotel with Maude & Alex.

Afternoon mailed a lot of post cards, etc & packed up trunks for Quebec trip tomorrow

24 December – office forenoon for a few minutes before 10 am all hands home for Xmas. Maude & I left per CPR forenoon train for Montreal en route to Quebec to attend Gordon's wedding on the 27th

27 December – Gordon was married this morning at 9 o'clock in St. Patrick's Church by Father McGuire of Sillery to Katherine McCarthy, daughter of Mrs. McCarthy of Winnipeg . . . Gordon & his wife left for Montreal New York & San Francisco at 2 pm. After lunch at the Frontenac, Maude & I left for Montreal per 4:10 I.C.R. train

31 December – Maude Alex & I sat up & saw the old year out & the new one in & then went to bed.

Editor's note: We hope to publish a year of the diary in each issue of the Heritage Gazette.

TOLTON FAMILY DAIRY MEMORIES

Eleanor Darling

Editor's note

We have in early issues featured pictures of the Mohan-Hunter Dairy which was located on George Street between the Gospel Church and the YMCA. We asked for a little more detail about those years in the 1930s and 1940s when the business was being established. The result is a fascinating look, too, at living downtown.

Maurice Tolton, a machinist by trade had been working on the Welland canal and then worked at a dairy in Toronto during the depression. He met Pearl Ferguson at his boarding house and they eventually married in September 1929. Pearl had been working in a hat shop and also as a "dietician" in a hospital. They both were raised in the Walkerton, Owen Sound area.

The landlady who owned the house thought a lot of them and eventually left the house to them in her will.

In 1935 they moved to Peterborough and bought the Ideal Dairy at 461 George Street. It had originally been Neilson Dairy (not the same as we know today). My dad found out about the sale through a dairy publication. My sister Lois who was 3 at the time remembers driving up to Peterborough from Toronto sitting in the rumble seat with our grandfather. Grandpa helped with the financing. In 1940 Eleanor Ann was born and 1942 Phyllis Adelle.

Around 1939 Andy Anderson, a man Maurice had brought from Toronto with him tried to take over the dairy. Arthur Fair, Maurice's lawyer took it to the Supreme court. The dairy's name was then changed to Mohan-Hunter Dairy Limited in 1943 - Maurice had read about a Mr. Mohan and a Mr. Hunter in a dairy journal - they had been innovators and pioneers in the dairy industry. People thought my last name was either Mohan or Hunter.

When Maurice and Pearl moved to Peterborough they first lived in the Charlebon apartments on Charlotte Street then moved to 610 George Street. They moved over the dairy and then to 579 George Street while the dairy was being remodelled and then moved back into the apartment above the dairy at 461 1/2 George street. During the war years mom worked along with the men in the dairy and also ran the dairy bar. I remember when the war was declared over, that there was free tea and coffee given away at the dairy. My sister remembers standing on the gate while all the church bells were ringing.

The three quart glass milk bottle was originated by Becker in Ohio. Maurice went to Ohio, met Mr. Becker and brought the idea to Peterborough - the first of its kind in Ontario. It had a metal handle - others designed after that had plastic handles.

The dairy had a lunch counter at the front and served sandwiches, ice cream, pies, milk, butter, eggs, coffee, tea, milk shakes, buttermilk, ice cream cones. Many of the men who lived in the YMCA next door would come in for lunch or a light supper.

In the bakeshop over the dairy, down the hall from the apartment where we lived, Pearl baked approx. 80 pies per day. In the summer about 110 pies. They sold for 60 cents with a 50cent deposit on the pie plate. Or 15 cents a piece in the dairy bar. This was circa 1952. In the summer mom hired

a Mrs. Kubica to help in the bakeshop upstairs where they made pies and fillings for sandwiches. There was also a lady Mrs. Sullivan and another Grace Devlin who often helped out. There was a large oven which held I guess about 15 to 20 pies at a time. Mr. Kubica who was a carpenter made a boxed contraption with a handle on top which held about 8 pies and was taken from the bakeshop upstairs, down to the lunch counter. Some of these pies went to the cafeteria at Quaker Oats and to the Review Printing house and Churchill restaurant on George Street. My sister Phyllis and I made one cent for each quart of strawberries we hulled. We usually raced down to Hattons on the corner to spend our earnings on candy.

Carl Wilson was the full time hired man and dad hired many off duty firemen part time to work at the dairy. They also hired a Greek woman (Sophie) to work in the dairy bar - a relative of people at the Churchill restaurant who had come over from Greece. For many years a Mrs. Millie Sylvestri and an Agnes Willshaw worked in the lunch bar and there was a lot of gossip exchanged with customers and the ladies.

In the late 40's I remember we had two horses Gamey who was of a palomino colour and Queenie who was silvery grey. They were kept in a barn at the back of the property which later became a garage. They were used for home milk delivery.

We had a dog Wimpy (a water spaniel) who dad brought home one night and put him up on the top bunk with me - later that night the dog went all the way home to East City to the family that had given us the dog but Dad got him back the next day and he never left again. He was quite a character on George Street - all the store vendors knew him. Mr Edwards the butcher a block down on George street used to send him home with a bone quite often. A story I remember well is the time dad took him to the Churchill restaurant on George street delivering milk. While dad was in the restaurant Wimpy noticed a huge roast cooling at the back door. Wimpy got out of the delivery truck and grabbed the roast and headed all the way home up George street, carrying this roast. This was a story for many years with all the store owners along the street. Wimpy used to go with dad, sitting in the passenger seat of the truck, while dad made milk deliveries.

Quite often on a Saturday, my sister Phyllis and I could go to the show and we were allowed to have our supper in the dairy bar after. We had to pay 25 cents for our supper which consisted of a sandwich, a milkshake and a chocolate sundae. It would normally have cost .25 for the sandwich, 15 for the milkshake and .25 for the sundae. I guess it was a token thing to show that we didn't get something for nothing. It was a lesson well learned!!

Also, on the odd Saturday morning Mr. & Mrs. George Dormer would invite my sister Phyllis and I to their apartment over their store "The Sugar Bowl" on the east side of George Street to watch t.v. This was a big deal for us as we had no t.v. yet. They also had a dog which looked like Lassie and we were always thrilled to be invited over.

We also spent a good deal of time at the library at the south east corner of George and McDonnell Street. In the winter I remember mom and I skating at the small rink behind Murray Street church - we would climb the fence between the

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dairy parking lot and the church rear yard. We would also go skating at the "orphanage" rink on McDonnell Street. That was a very popular spot and we would come home with frozen feet and mom would make us hot chocolate and we would sit with our feet propped up on the oven door. We used to slide down the hill in front of the court house on pieces of cardboard.

We went to Central School. Once, the whole school was lined up along the street in front of the courthouse; some shook hands with Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent as he drove slowly by in a convertible. Later I became a crossing guard for the school about 1952 when Peterborough first had student crossing guards taking their shift.

We went to Sunday School and church at St. Pauls Presbyterian Church when the Rev. Mr. Boyd was minister. We were in church before we left to go into Sunday school and we sat in front of Mrs. Boyd. We would giggle and exchange glances for Mrs. Boyd had the worst singing voice but sang with gusto. They were a wonderful warm family. Dr. Hutchison became the minister after Boyd. I thought highly of "Mr" Alex Calder who was the minister for many years. The current minister is the Rev. Turner.

There was an art studio on the third floor of the building across George street and Howell's taxi office was on the main floor. I was invited to pose for the artists when I was about 16 and thought at the time that it was very boring; I had to wear a colourful blouse (it was orange).

I went home from PCVS at lunch and washed dishes in the dairy bar. I worked every Sunday night until closing. I worked with Joan Hann who now owns Hellwinkies ladies store in Bridgenorth. We took turns working and doing our homework. During the first year the Peterborough Petes had a hockey team many players would come into the dairy bar. Many downtown businesses including city hall staff came to the dairy for lunches. The worst part of my job was having to shovel coal into the furnace before going upstairs after working Sunday night. This was the only source of heat for the building. I remember the truck unloading coal in the coal bin.

We had no grass as the lot next door was shared by the dairy and the YMCA for parking and delivery trucks. Once I started a garden under the staircase leading up to the apartment. That was the only spot never used and there was a very small amount of filtered sunlight as the stairs were wooden with slots between the risers. Nothing much was able to grow there except a few stunted weeds. That is probably why I enjoy gardening so much today.

During our play time we rode our trikes up and down the street or played in the park across from city hall. We would often go down to "the swings" which were in a park on the southwest corner of Brock and Aylmer. There were swings, teeter totters and a giant sandbox. I took tap dance and ballet lessons from Mrs. Laird whose studio was on the north side of Brock street in the block between Aylmer and George. We performed our concerts on the PCVS stage. Phyllis and I also took figure skating lessons at the Peterboro Club on Charlotte Street and had our carnivals at the old Civic Arena. We usually

went to the YWCA on Simcoe Street on Saturday mornings for gym classes. A lady played the piano while we did our gymnastics. Phyllis and I would go over to the ramp leading up to the drill hall at the Armoury. We pretended that the area at the top of the ramp was a stage and we would tap dance and sing and put on a show for ourselves.

My closest friends at that time were Sylvia Young, whose dad owned a tiny grocery store at the northwest corner of Aylmer and Murray, and Joan Loucks who lived on the northeast corner. Another good friend, Allison Low, whose father was Jacob Low, the lawyer, lived in the house which is now Brock Mission. Their kitchen was in the basement of the house and they had a live-in cook/ maid. We had a few boy and girl parties at their house.

George Street church used to have an annual talent time and Sylvia and I danced the Mexican Hat Dance and sang the "Wedding of Jack and Jill." We practised at her house with her mom accompanying us on the piano. We were sure we would end up in the movies. I have taught my grandchildren that song. The friends of my sister, Lois, would meet at our apartment and go to the dances at the Brock Street arena.

There were not many families living near or above the family business in our block between Murray and Brock on George Street. The MacDonald girls, Ann, Rochelle and Sharmaine, lived behind their parents' hair salon. The other family in that block, the Dormers, had no children. The Spenceleys, from Spenceley's florist shop, also lived in that block. The Colemans, I think, lived behind or above their paint and wallpaper shop. It was on the west side of George between Brock and Murray, in the same vicinity as the hair salon and Spenceley's. Their daughter, Jane Coleman (LaBranche), has since passed away. Mrs. Graham, wife of Mayor Norm Graham, had a ladies' lingerie shop specializing in girdles for ladies. The Grahams lived a couple of blocks north on Water Street. Once, Mr. Graham asked my mom to send me over to his shop across the road as he had some old Al Jolson records. He gave me about 10 or 12 records, since misplaced. There was a barber shop across the road where mom and dad went for a hair cut. Also, across the road was Sutton's garage, where Matthews and Associates is now.

I remember there was a huge fire in the block south of us and Mr. Spenceley, a volunteer fireman, was trapped with three other firemen. We cried and cried over that loss as we knew the Spenceley family from down the street.

It was a safe place to live and all the storekeepers along George Street knew each other in those days. It was a great place to grow up.

Years later I attended the Peterborough Business College on George Street. The principal was Miss Battersby. The school was upstairs in a building on the east side of George between Hunter and Simcoe streets. Before school started again in the afternoon we would meet at the Silver Moon Restaurant for cherry cokes. By this time my older sister Lois had moved out. She worked at the Imperial Optical on George Street and then joined the RCAF. She met her future husband there and they were transferred to Metz, France.

SENATOR FRANCIS PATRICK O'CONNOR, THE FOUNDER OF LAURA SECORD CHOCOLATES

Enid Mitchell

In the early 1900s a young man in his late 20s named Frank Patrick O'Connor was living in Peterborough and working at CGE in the brass department. His parents were Patrick O'Connor and Ellenor McKeown and they lived on McDonnell Street.

Francis was anxious to own his own business so he opened a little shop on George Street, south of the railroad tracks and started selling candy and chiclets. His product was called Elizabeth's Best. This venture was not successful so with the help of \$500 lent to him by local businessman Louis Yeotes, Alex Weddell and J. J. Lundy he and his new wife, Ellen (nee Hayes) from Belleville moved to Toronto.



Francis P. O'Connor (Enid Mitchell)

In 1913, they opened a candy store at the corner of Yonge and Elm Streets. They painted the store white accented with black, put white muslin curtains with black polka dots on the window and called the store a "studio". Eventually as the business prospered sales girls wore black uniforms with a little black and white cap. Ellen O'Connor thought the name Laura Secord was appropriate for their product and distinctly Canadian.

Frank O'Connor realized his lack of expertise as a candymaker but with the hiring of the top candymaker from the

Neilson Company and the astute business sense of his wife, Ellen, other shops or studios were opened in Toronto and area. The factory was established on Bathurst Street and to ensure freshness Laura Secord Chocolates were delivered to the outlets by motorcycle and side car painted black and white.

Frank O'Connor maintained his connections in Peterborough and had his good friend, Henry Hickey, owner of Henry Hickey Construction Company, build the Bathurst Street factory. Mr Hickey would later build a beautiful Grecian-style pillared brick home for the O'Connor family.

In the early years of the First World War Frank O'Connor had the foresight to buy up large quantities of sugar so he could maintain his candy business. The popularity of the candies became famous for gifts to servicemen overseas and special treats for those at home when sugar was rationed.

By the 1930s Frank O'Connor was a multi-millionaire and to benefit his employees he initiated a profit-sharing plan; this was one of the first companies to do so.

To enhance his financial stature Frank O'Connor purchased 500 acres of land in Toronto and had his good friend from Peterborough, Henry T. Hickey, build a beautiful home near Victoria Park Avenue, at 5 Avonwick Gate. He named the estate Maryville for his daughter. On the farm, he raised Ayreshire cattle and race horses. His running colours were black and white.

In 1931, Ellen passed away leaving daughter Mary and sons William and Fred. Sadly, Mary passed away at age 37. She had one son Michael who lives in Toronto. Son William passed away in 1989. He had three sons: William Jr, Francis and Kelly. Frank O'Connor always referred to his wife as Nellie. He was her second husband and at the time of their marriage he adopted her son Fred, and he was known as Fred O'Connor.

Frank O'Connor's generosity became legendary. He is reputed to have given three million dollars to charity. Recipients of his generosity were St Michael's Cathedral in Toronto, St Joseph's Hospital in Peterborough, Sisters of the Precious Blood in Peterborough, Toronto's Sick Children's Hospital, Star Fresh Air Fund, the Carmelite Orphanage, the Canadian Institute for the Blind, and Christie Street Hospital.

In 1935, O'Connor who was always a staunch Liberal was appointed to the Senate by Mackenzie King. In 1937 Pope Pius XI elevated him to the rank of Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great. The next year the Pope conferred the title Knight of Malta on Senator O'Connor, the first Canadian so honoured.

Clare Galvin, in *My Town*, tells of Frank O'Connor in the 1930s, a widower, arriving at St Peter's in Chains Catholic Church, Peterborough in his yellow Packard sedan convertible. Behind the wheel was a liveried chauffeur and sitting beside Mr O'Connor was Miss Geraldine Collins of Peterborough. Gerry was an attractive gold medalist soprano soloist who sang in the choir. She was employed at the Bank of Commerce at the corner of Hunter and Water Streets until the mid-1950s.

Senator Frank Patrick (Chubby) O'Connor died at Maryville 21 August 1939, aged 54. The honorary pallbearers at his funeral included Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec, Premier Mitch Hepburn of Ontario, and Sir William Mulock, postmaster-general. In 1938, a large testimonial dinner was held in his honour in the Crystal Ballroom of the King Edward Hotel. The Frank O'Connor family burial plot is at Mount Hope Cemetery in Toronto.

O'Connor bequeathed Maryville to the De La Salle Christian Brothers who created Senator O'Connor College School, the first Catholic co-ed school in Toronto. The Brothers operated the school until 1985. A new school is being built on the grounds, and the old school will be demolished. The O'Connor Estate consists of the main house, coach house and storehouse, totaling over 10,000 square feet. The house, now the O'Connor Irish Heritage House, has been entrusted to the Irish community to refurbish and use as a place to capture Irish culture, heritage and learning. An active committee is calling for others to "Share the Vision."

The Laura Secord Company is Canada's largest and best-known chocolatier sells more than 400 products in over 180 company-owned shops.

In the mid-1950s the company introduced new packaging, updated the original Laura Secord cameo, improved merchandising techniques and candy-making capacity.

In 1962, Laura Secord acquired Mary Lee Candy Shops in Quebec and two years later Smiles 'n' Chuckles Company in Kitchener Ontario. In 1967 at Expo in Quebec the company published a Canadian cook book for Canada's centennial year.

John Labatt Limited took over the expanded company and established a 21 acre site in Scarborough. Shortly after the MacIntosh Rowntree Limited took over. In June 1988, Laura Secord joined the Nestles group of companies. In 1994, Laura Secord and Hallmark Cards launched a combo-store to sell 16 different products and 16 of these shops had a café The concept won a Merit Award for Excellence in Retailing from the Retail Council of Canada and a certificate of Excellence from the Scarborough Chamber of Commerce.

In 1993, Laura Secord received the prestigious Maple Leaf Award for the best store design from the International Council of Shopping Centres.

In 1999, Laura Secord joined Archibald Candy Corporation. This corporation consisted of four divisions: Fannie May, Fanny Farmer, Sweet Factory and Laura Secord. The Laura Secord division employs approximately 2000 people across Canada in 180 shops.

In August 2004, Laura Secord was purchased by Gordon Brothers Group.

MAPLES: HENRY FOWLDS HOUSE, HASTINGS

Andrew Elliott

For about one year, from 1880 to 1881, you could take a train from Peterborough to Belleville via the Grand Junction Railway, and you would be able to pass through, and stop at, such towns as Keene, Hastings, Campbelford, Stirling, and Madoc Junction. The line then became part of the Midland Railway, then the Grand Trunk Railway, and finally the Canadian National Railway. The line was abandoned in 1987. Let us, then, take a little journey along this line again and make a stop in Hastings, where the Fowlds house stands, much as it did when the trains first came through town.

The house, at 135 Bridge Street, was built by one of the influential founders of the village of Hastings. Built in 1859 by Henry M. Fowlds, and once called "The Maples, the house is one of four brick houses built by the Fowlds family between 1859 and 1862. The Fowlds owned large tracts of property in the village. Originally settling in Westwood, the family moved to Hastings in the early 1850s, and started up a lumber mill, grist mill, general store and post office. Various family members held the position of postmaster for more than 90 years, and some served on local councils, notably as reeve. One female descendent, Helen Fowlds, was a nurse during the First World War and afterwards became a noted historian of the Peterborough area. The house has had only three owners after the Fowlds: there were the Coles, the Ibeyes, and, most recently, the Calders.

There are some interesting stories surrounding the Fowlds house. One of its former residents has been quite helpful in bringing these stories to light. Clayton Ibey, now 48, moved into the house as a boy when his parents bought it in 1969. He lived there until 1978, then moved away. Since 2003, he has been living with his wife Brenda in Peterborough. According to Mr. Ibey, the house was built for Louise Fowlds, one of the daughters of Henry M. Fowlds. Louise Fowlds apparently suffered a broken engagement while living here, causing her to hurl her diamond ring from the wraparound porch towards the north edge of the yard. The ring was never found, but her initials and that of her lover are etched into a window pane in the living room.

The house is built in the Georgian style of architecture, a style which emphasizes simplicity, symmetry, and solidity in design. According to Mr. Ibey, when he was a child the house was a "drafty, two-storey federal style brick pile that seemed like a museum to me." He also points out that the interior walls are not load bearing. Beams run from east to west support the floors, so everything sags to the middle and door frames look like they come out of a Dr. Seuss book. The summer kitchen had a cold cellar reached by a trap door in the floor and two pantries lined with shelves and cupboards. Clayton explains that through one pantry you could exit to the carriage room and gain access to a long hall that ran between the pantries and the

carriage room. This dark hall was papered with illustrations from British weeklies showing coronations, military campaigns

story of the diamond ring that Louise Fowlds had flung into the yard. For 26 years, Joe's hobby has been metal detecting, and



and society dinners. At some point, someone used a sharp object and had poked out every single eyeball. At the end of this hall was an indoor outhouse. This section of the house had to be torn down before it fell down. When the pit toilet was excavated, the soil was covered with newspapers and magazines from 1947, and at the very bottom on the bedrock was a clay inkwell.

Shortly after moving in, Clayton discovered a map of the Grand Junction Railway rolled up and stuffed under an attic floor board. The attic was reached by a steep staircase enclosed in a walk in closet. The roof trusses still had the bark attached and some of the floor boards were 16 inches across. Since they weren't nailed down, and wanting to know how the house was built, he lifted a couple up and there was the map. Alongside it was a small serving dish with some gold paint applied to the china from Prussia. The full title of this map is "The Grand Junction Railway, Map Of Part Of The Dominion of Canada Shewing the most direct line of communication Between The Grain Producing Regions of the West The Mineral Lands of Central Canada and the Principal Atlantic Ports of Canada and the United States." It was produced by "Geo. Bishop & Co. Steam-Lith. Montreal."

After my column on the Fowlds house in Hastings appeared in the Examiner, I received an email from Peterborough resident Joseph Elajos who was intrigued by the

for the past 11 years, he has operated his own business where he sells or rents metal detectors and offers a recovery service to the public to help find any valuables that may have been lost. He is offering his services (come spring) free of charge to help locate the lost ring, and would be interested in getting the ring to any surviving member of the Fowlds' family, if they could be tracked down. Joe's website slogan - "Digging the past...Preserving the Future, The Metal Detective" - reminds us of how our history is both easily lost and tracked down with the right tools. His slogan would also work for an archives.

Another reader and former Hastings resident, retired Roman Catholic priest Father Tim Coughlan, filled me in on the ownership history of the house. During the 1940s, the Gowan and the Kumf families lived here, and the family heads were managers in the local bank.

The Fowlds house is a real architectural treasure for both the village of Hastings and for the Peterborough area in general. And who knows what other historical treasures lie waiting to be found inside our old houses? As Clayton Ibey discovered when he was a child, tangible links to our past are so close at hand.

A version of this article appeared in Andrew Elliott's regular Saturday column in the Peterborough Examiner.

PETERBOROUGH EXHIBITION GRANDSTAND

Elwood Jones

The Peterborough Grandstand has been condemned, and early indications are that it will be removed. However, there are two things that need to be considered. The grandstand is the last remaining evidence of the heyday of Peterborough Exhibitions. Also the city government has a poor track record when it comes to dealing fairly with the people running the exhibition. This would be a good time to remember some of the history associated with the grandstand. As well, the city should commit to ensuring that Peterborough can provide a first-class annual exhibition.

Peterborough Grandstand 1931 (Trent Valley Archives, Electric City Collection)



The grandstand has commanded this location since the 1880s. The fair moved here in 1885 when the Town of Peterborough decided it wanted to have Central Park, now Confederation Park, on the site of the former fair grounds. There were options but at the time the advantage of the site was that it could be rented for an annual fee, and it could share the property with the Peterborough Driving Park, which ensured there could be bicycle races and horse races.

In 1895, a large stage, 26 feet square and six feet above ground was built in front of the grandstand, on the infield of the race track. The grandstand was expanded in 1900 when Peterborough hosted the national bicycle championships, sponsored by the Canadian Wheelman's Association. Coincidentally, in 1900, the Peterborough Central Exhibition hosted an ambitious grandstand

show. The Oklahoma Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders ran a street parade down George Street, the first connected to an exhibition, but reminiscent of some circus parades the town had seen. The show was quite similar to the wildly popular Buffalo Bill shows. A Buffalo Bill Show came to Peterborough in July 1897, and earlier, perhaps 1892, Pawnee Bill had brought his show to the Peterborough Exhibition grounds.

Circuses were extremely popular draws and brought people from miles away to Peterborough for the day. This was also a great boost to clothing stores and eateries. Adam Forepaugh's circus came to Peterborough in September 1884, precisely when the fair would have been held except the fair was moving. Peterborough had hosted many circuses over the years, but this one was instructive on the value of grandstands, and on the

importance of having big entertainment draws. That circus procession had 200 horses and 600 people and was over a mile long. People came to the circus in droves, and spent an estimated \$20,000 at the circus. Adam Forepaugh bought a pet bear, Bruno, from E. Brown, a local grocer, while in Peterborough.

Many circuses came through Peterborough because the town was so well-connected to the railway network that carried the circuses.

However, Peterborough did not have great sites

for circuses, and they often played at the Market Hall, or on the railway sidings or along the riverbank in Ashburnham. With the grandstand, the exhibition grounds became the preferred place for circuses.

The grandstand was expanded again in 1903 when the Peterborough Industrial Exhibition reorganized to be more like the Canadian National Exhibition. More than ever, the Peterborough Exhibition wanted to be a meeting place of the rural and agricultural with the urban and industrial. This had set the local fair, first held in 1843, apart from others, and the fair was the fourth largest in Ontario for most of the years between 1880 and 1940. The grandstand was largely replaced with a concrete and steel structure in 1919, and was further expanded in 1950 when Fred Robson built a 48 foot

addition to the grandstand. Because of a steel shortage, the roof was added the following year.

Since then, the grandstand has been refurbished annually. Men came on site for weeks in order to clean, dust, fumigate and whitewash the buildings, the grandstand and the grounds. Bob Webb told me recently that the Civil Defence people were part of the annual team.

It has been known since the 1970s that the grandstand needed to be rebuilt. The problem has been that the Peterborough Agricultural Society has been the least powerful politically of the three parties that make the decisions about the physical aspects of Morrow Park. I wrote the history of the Peterborough Exhibition in a 1995 book called *Winners*, which is available from the Trent Valley Archives. My view has not changed over the years.

The city has bullied the Peterborough Agricultural Society at various moments. The fair was closed after the 1940 fair so the city could be the site for a military training establishment. The Memorial Centre was built on the fair grounds from 1954 to 1956. The Peterborough Agricultural Society was forced to accept a 1983 agreement with the Morrow Trust and the City. The City forced the Peterborough Agricultural Society to accept a year-round road, now Roger Neilson Way, through the middle of the grounds. The Society

In any case, by the 1983 agreement the city agreed to replace any buildings and facilities removed by the opening of the next fair. The first test of this promise came the following year when 40,000 square feet of barns was replaced with a 21,000 square foot building that was partly paid with a Federal-Provincial make work grant. In order to take advantage of the grant, the city had to own the property. It was agreed that the Morrow Trust and the Agricultural Society would continue to function. But the independence of the Peterborough Agricultural Society was again constrained because of its partners. The city, it seemed at the time, was going to receive very valuable property and pay nothing for it. In 1995, the 1940 Drill Hall, dubbed the Manufacturers Building, which had been ear-marked for demolition for 20 years was declared unsafe; it has yet to be replaced, and the city has felt that providing tents each year is sufficient.

The Peterborough Grandstand hosted many important events. When the Peterborough Industrial Exhibition was created for 1903, the grandstand was key to getting special attractions that had real merit. It was generally believed that city people were attracted by stellar attractions; and deterred by weather. In 1903 the grandstand was made more comfortable for spectators, and the grandstand stage was centered on the grandstand. In 1919, people were proud of the new concrete grandstand. And vaudevillians who traveled widely praised the Peterborough grandstand stage as the equal of those at American fairs. The Peterborough fair was the most successful Ontario fair outside of the big cities of Toronto, London, and Ottawa. The grandstand was the site for races, horse exhibits and parades, but vaudeville was the trademark of the Peterborough Industrial Exhibition to 1940. After the war, radio and television stars were often on the summer fair circuit.

Even though big attractions were the key to successful grandstand shows, the acts were signed within

the month before the exhibition, which was usually timed after 1900 to come right after the Canadian National Exhibition. Grandstand admission in Peterborough was free until 1921.

In 1905, for example, the fair board decided what they wanted at a meeting on 28 August. J. H. Larmonth, representing the Exhibition, went to Toronto on 11 September and met with Harold Cox, a New York theatrical agent. A week later, the acts were in Peterborough. Larmonth signed up Professor Howard's pony and dog show, Mademoiselle Adair's high wire act, and a Japanese juggler, Shimize. The fair that year also had the Royal Canadian Dragoon Music Ride, which also came to Peterborough in 1932.

R. M. Glover, often chair of the Amusement Committee, rebuffed local suggestions from service clubs that local entertainment would be cheaper. Peterborough audiences, he said, were too "accustomed to vaudeville quality." It is also interesting that very few vaudeville acts appeared more than once at the Peterborough Exhibition. One exception was Dan Simons, a local man who had a significant vaudeville career. Simons was a hoofer who appeared at the fair in 1895 and 1903.

Some of the best vaudeville acts in Peterborough came out of circus backgrounds. I was astounded to find, when writing *Winners*, that Peterborough had the Hanneford family at its 1940 exhibition. This was one of the major multi-generational families in circus history. Their signature act was standing on bareback horses that circled the centre ring with increasingly more horses and more riders. Sometimes the family clowns, Poodles and Noodles, who were part of the horse act, performed as a comedy clown act, as indeed they did at the 1935 Peterborough Industrial Exhibition. Another brother, Georgie, was billed as "The World's Number One Riding Comedian." In 1940, the Hanneford family was between major stints with the Hagenback-Wallace circus and the Polack Brothers Circus. They were actually performing on Broadway just weeks before the Peterborough show, and their run ended suddenly and they were available and they were here. It was almost justification for not planning your program too early.

One of the big grandstand stories was the Welsh Brothers Stampede that came to Peterborough from Calgary in 1930. Their objective was to prove that the Calgary Stampede could be exported, and they had many cowboys pleased with the chance to increase their rodeo earnings. The Calgary Stampede fought back by introducing the Brahmin bull as a Calgary Stamped exclusive. Guy Weadick was the creative genius behind the Calgary Stampede in 1912, and continued to play key roles for 40 years. Weadick supervised the export of the Brahmin bulls from Texas via Kansas City, Minneapolis and Winnipeg while performing a vaudeville rope trick routine across Iowa. His mail reached him daily in one theatre after another; no one would so trust the mails today. Two cowboys were injured in a burning chuckwagon race, and that was a national news story.

By the 1970s, the board of directors noted, among other things, the need to renovate the grandstand. The fair had lost a major stream of revenue when the horse racing moved to Kawartha Downs, and when some of the off-season rental opportunities were absorbed by the new facilities at Trent University and Sir Sandford Fleming.

The loss of horse racing at the Peterborough Exhibition was devastating, and illustrated how little the board of directors could control its own destiny. Decisions made elsewhere, notably with the provincial and city governments, constrained the fair's activities. There were many proposals for multi-purpose buildings mainly aimed at helping the Peterborough Ex recoup lost revenue. The Ex would be able to host snowmobile races, cattle shows, conventions and commercial shows. In my own view in the 1990s the city had an opportunity to develop a convention centre by developing plans that included the former DeLaval property and Morrow Park,

but I never saw any indication that the idea even occurred to anyone else. However, Morrow Park was always too small for any other ideas suggested.

The fair did best when it depended on its members and commercial partners. However, the expenses of running a modern fair, and keeping the infrastructure up-to-date has led to dependence on governments.

The city should ensure that the grandstand is replaced with a new one that is state-of-the-art and built to last longer than the predecessors. The value of the city's investment will rise if real effort makes the Exhibition Grounds a source of pride again.

CIRCUSES AND BIG SHOWS 1846-1920

1846	08 19	Rockwell & Stone's Mammoth Circus	circus at Cobourg
1852	06 xx	Barnum's Asiatic Caravan, Museum & Menagerie	circus
1854	08 xx	Franconi's Hippodrome	circus
1855	09 xx	Bullard, Bailey & Co's French Circus	circus
1856	09 15	Joe Pentland's Circus	circus
1858	06 26	Kemp's Mammoth English Circus & J.M. Nixon's Great American Circus	circus
1858	08 07	Rivers & Derious' Grand Dramatic Equestrian Co	circus
1858		Sears Bros & O'Connell's Gigantic Show	circus - Government House lot
1868	08 03	Thayer & Noyes Great Circus	circus
1874	08 06	Taylor's Equestrian Curriculum and World's Circus	circus
1877	08 23	Dockrill's Parisian Equestrian Troupe, &c	circus
1877	08 23	Great London Circus	circus
1877	08 23	Mardi Gras Carnival &c	circus
1877	08 23	Sanger's English Menagerie, &c	circus
1880	06 18	Forepaugh's Great Show	circus - Stewart, Rink & Bethune
1881	09 09	Cole Brothers' Mammoth Show	circus
1882	06 15	Myers and Short's Mammoth Circus	circus
1882	08 12	Meyer's & Smith Colossal Show	circus
1884	09 15	Adam Forepaugh Circus	circus
1885		Doris' Monster Hippodrome & Circus	circus -controversy over parade
1886	08 21	Adam Forepaugh Circus	circus
1888	06 23	Howe's Unrivalled Circus & Menagerie	circus - Market Square
1888	06 24	W Farley killed Simon Elijah	circus
1889	09 03	Barnum & Bailey's Giant Circus	circus
1891	09 08	Robinson Bros Big Show	circus - Ashburnham
1892		Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show	show - at Exhibition Grounds
1892	09 02	John S. McMahon's Great New York Circus	circus - Market Square
1892	09 13	L.W. Washburn's Enormous Railroad Shows	circus
1895	05 18	Burtch's Circus	circus parade in streets
1895	08 24	Sells' Bros Circus	circus
1897	07 03	Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World	extravaganza
1899	06 24	Forepaugh's and Burke's Bros Circus	circus
1901	06 14	Ringling Brothers	circus
1902	07 08	Forepaugh and Sells' Bros	circus - & street parade
1903	05 30	Walter L. Main's circus	circus coming 16 June 1903
1903	06 16	Walter L. Main's circus	circus parade to Driving Park
1903	06 16	Walter L. Main's circus	circus - Driving Park
1903	06 17	Walter L. Main's circus	circus huge success
1904	07 02	Forepaugh and Sells' Bros	circus
1906	06 08	Cole Brothers'	circus
1906	08 10	Barnum & Bailey's Circus	circus
1907	06 25	Forepaugh and Sells' Bros	circus
1908	06 17	Cole Brothers' Circus & Wild Animals	circus
1912	06 06	Howe's Great London Circus	circus
1913	06 23	Barnum & Bailey's Circus	circus - Joe Ryan drowned
1919	06 07	John Robinson Circus	circus
1919	07 02	Sparks Circus	circus - Campbellford
1920	06 01	Sparks Three Ring Circus	circus - Exhibition Grounds
1928	06 28	Sparks Three Ring Circus	circus

FEATURED ACTS AT THE PETERBOROUGH EXHIBITION GRANDSTAND 1886-1940

1886		Fire Brigade Band	band
1886		Queen's Own bagpipes	band
1887		Bicycle race challenge not run	
1890		dancing platform a flop	
1890		Caledonian games	
1890		57th Regiment Band	band
1895		D. B. Emery and Miss Laura Russell [bell ringers]	vaudeville
1895		Miss Marie Walton [dancereuse]	vaudeville
1895		Dan Simons [clog dancer; song and dance man]	vaudeville
1895		Dan Simons and Johnny Connors [dance]	vaudeville
1895		Fireworks by Professor T. W. Hand, Hamilton	fireworks
1900	09 19	Oklahoma Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders	extravaganza
1900		57th Regimental Band	band
1901		Harry Riche	contortionist, juggler
1902		48th Highlanders	band
1903		Coldstream Guards Band	band and sword drills
1903		Dan Simons and Wallbrook [comedy, dancing]	vaudeville
1903		Fireworks by Payne of New York	fireworks
1904		Scottish 42nd Highland Regiment [Black Watch]	band
1904		57th Regiment Band	band
1904		English Gypsy fortune teller	
1905		Royal Canadian Dragoons Musical Ride	musical ride and drills
1905		Professor Howard's pony and dog show	vaudeville
1905		57th Regiment Band	band
1906		57th Regiment Band	band
1907		Vaudeville show	vaudeville
1907		Madame Victoria's Trained Dogs	vaudeville
1908		Les Atripes [aerialists]	gymnastic
1908		Kennedy Brothers and Mack	vaudeville
1908		57th Regiment Band	band
1909		Mademoiselle Celina de Leo's Grand Performing Animals	vaudeville
1909		Arab troupe of gymnasts	gymnastic
1909		Peterborough Fire Brigade	demonstration
1909		24th Field Battery	demonstration
1909		57th Regiment Band	band
1910		Japanese troupe [acrobats]	gymnastic
1910		Malvern troupe [acrobats]	gymnastic
1910		57th Regiment Band	band
1910		Fireworks by Professor T. W. Hand, Hamilton	fireworks
1911		Bollini troupe	vaudeville
1911		Carl Dammann family	vaudeville
1911		Dutchy and trick mule	vaudeville
1911		57th Regiment Band	band
1912		Miss Dorothy DeVonda [lady aeronaut]	vaudeville
1912		Youngblood Sextet [ladies band]	band
1912		Four Mayos [skating and comedy]	vaudeville
1912		Miss Delora [the physical culture girl]	gymnastic
1912		57th Regiment Band	band
1913		Japanese Troupe of Acrobats	gymnastic
1913		Le Tremos [aerial gymnasts]	gymnastic
1913		Randow Brothers Trio	vaudeville
1913		57th Regiment Band	band
1914		Vaudeville show	vaudeville
1914		Royal Trio Equilibrists	gymnastic
1914		57th Regiment Band	band
1914		Salvation Army Band	band
1915		Acosta Troupe and the Four Victors	gymnastic
1915		57th Regiment Band	band

1915	Salvation Army Band	band
1915	80th Battalion Maple Leaf Band	band
1916	James E. Hardy [high wire]	gymnastic
1916	Vaudeville show	vaudeville
1916	La Tow sisters	drama
1916	Slayman Ali Arabs [acrobats]	gymnastic
1916	Queen's Field Ambulance	demonstration
1916	Fireworks by Professor T. W. Hand, Hamilton	fireworks
1917	Three Kitaro Japs [rizzly acrobats]	gymnastic
1917	Emily sisters [aerial]	gymnastic
1917	LaFrance Trio [comedy]	vaudeville
1917	57th Regimental Band	band
1918	Katherine Stinson, aviatrix	airplane
1918	Dancing Beatties	vaudeville
1918	Three Macdonalds [cyclists]	vaudeville
1918	Four Readings [acrobats]	vaudeville
1918	Raffles [magician]	vaudeville
1919	Gene Hurtubise wrestling on the midway	
1919	57th Regiment Band	band
1919	GWVA Band	band
1920	Okuras: Japanese Wonders [foot juggling; high wire]	gymnastic
1920	The Bluchs [aerial]	gymnastic
1920	Ed Holder's Mule [Ethiopian comedy]	vaudeville
1920	Ed Zola and Company [music act]	vaudeville
1920	Zola Trio [comedy; acrobats]	vaudeville
1920	McDonald Trio [bicycle]	vaudeville
1920	Sigsbee's Dogs	vaudeville
1920	Maple Leaf Attractions and Superior Shows United with Berzac's Mammoth Circus	circus
1921	Four Sensational Mellos [aerial]	vaudeville
1921	D'Lorna [steel pole]	vaudeville
1921	White Brothers, the Tip Top Boys	vaudeville
1921	Royal Yositos [foot juggling; trapeze]	vaudeville
1921	Steiner Trio [comedy gymnasts]	vaudeville
1921	La France Brothers [inversion act]	vaudeville
1921	Marie and Charles Racko [gymnastic]	vaudeville
1922	Peterborough Rangers Band	band
1923	Rose Kress Four [roller skating]	vaudeville
1923	Choy Gar Duo [knives]	vaudeville
1923	Randow Trio [acrobats]	vaudeville
1923	Les Jardys [acrobats]	vaudeville
1923	Howard's Animal Spectacle	vaudeville
1923	C. A. Farley Triple Parachute Jump	vaudeville
1923	Fireworks by Internation Fireworks, Jersey City NJ	fireworks
1924	Daredevil Doherty	daredevil
1924	Peterborough Rangers Band	band
1924	Caledonia Pipe Band	band
1925	Al Sweet's Royal Hussar Singing Band, Chicago	band
1925	Tice and his company of 12 Comedy Dogs	vaudeville
1925	The Four Pierrots	vaudeville
1925	Three Gentlemen and a Lady [aerial]	vaudeville
1925	De Liberto Brothers and company	vaudeville
1925	Two Ladies and Three Gentlemen [aerial]	vaudeville
1925	Ed and Helen La Nole [acrobats]	vaudeville
1925	Peterborough Rangers Band	band
1925	Caledonia Pipe Band	band
1926	Lampham's Red Hussar Band	band
1926	Salvation Army Band	band
1926	Santiago Trio	vaudeville
1926	Lakefield Giants [hand balancers]	vaudeville
1926	Flying Floyds	vaudeville
1926	Sig Franz Troupe [trick cyclists]	vaudeville
1926	Caledonia Pipe Band	band
1926	Election results by telegraph broadcast to grandstand	political
1927	Cervonne's Band of Pittsburg	band

1927	De Marlo and Marlette [trapeze contortionists]	vaudeville
1927	Bon Hair Troupe [rizzly acrobats]	vaudeville
1928	Cervonne's Band of Pittsburg	band
1929	Morales family [high wire]	vaudeville
1929	Abe Goldstein [clown]	vaudeville
1929	Roxe's Elephants	vaudeville
1929	Yong Kee Troupe [acrobatics]	vaudeville
1930	Welsh Brothers Rodeo	rodeo
1931	K9 Ranch Rodeo Company	rodeo
1931	Four Hancocks [comedy]	vaudeville
1931	Ann Schiller and George	vaudeville
1931	Del Ray [high pole act]	vaudeville
1931	Casting Danubes	vaudeville
1932	Besses o' th' Barn Band	band
1932	Royal Canadian Dragoons Musical Ride	band
1932	Peterborough Rangers Band	band
1933	Scots Guards Band	band
1933	Jo-Jo the Boxing Kangaroo	vaudeville
1933	Moran and Wiser	vaudeville
1933	Christopher and Columbus	vaudeville
1933	Max Gruber's Jungle Oddities	vaudeville
1934	Winter Garden Revue	Broadway style
1934	Joe Mandis Troupe [comedic gymnasts]	vaudeville
1934	Bob Eugene Troupe [horizontal act]	vaudeville
1934	Royal Buccaneers [acrobats]	vaudeville
1934	Mary Palmer's Circus [trained dogs and ponies]	vaudeville
1935	Bebney's Revue	Broadway style
1935	Picchianni Troupe	vaudeville
1935	Poodles and Noodles	vaudeville
1935	Bob Eugene Troupe [horizontal act]	vaudeville
1935	Pallenberg's Bears	vaudeville
1935	Emilio's Royal Doberman Pincers	vaudeville
1935	Peterborough Rangers Band	vaudeville
1936	Chrysler Motors Hell Drivers	automobile
1936	Five Juggling Jewels	vaudeville
1936	Elaine Dowling and her four co-ettes	vaudeville
1936	Laddie Lamont [comedian]	vaudeville
1936	Casting Campbells	vaudeville
1936	Cortello's Hollywood Canine Actors	vaudeville
1936	Four Arleys	vaudeville
1937	Five Albanis [aerial]	vaudeville
1937	Honey family [tumbling]	vaudeville
1938	Polly and Her Polly Ann's	vaudeville
1938	Torelli's Circus	vaudeville
1938	Deteros Sensation	vaudeville
1938	Willy Morris and Bobby [comedys]	vaudeville
1938	Winnifred Colleano [trapeze]	vaudeville
1939	Victoria Troupe	vaudeville
1939	Rexola Troupe	vaudeville
1939	O'Donnell and Blair	vaudeville
1939	Anderson's Comedy Circus	vaudeville
1939	Six DeCardos	vaudeville
1940	Helen Reynolds and her World Champion Speed Skaters	athletic
1940	Hanneford family [circus equestrians]	circus
1940	Sensational Waldos	vaudeville
1940	Demnati Arabs	vaudeville
1940	Gregory and Raymond	vaudeville
1940	Farraria Trio in Baggage Troubles	vaudeville

QUERIES

Diane Robnik

McGovarin

Member seeks information on Miss Rose McGovarin, her siblings and other members of her family. The attached photo bears the address for Miss Rose McGovarin, at 490 Parnell Street, Peterboro, Ont.



RESEARCHING PETERBOROUGH CIRCUSES

We had an inquiry about the Taylor's Equescurriculum and World's Circus which in 1874 advertised that it was going to appear here in August 1874. The inquiry came because our Peterborough Chronology which appears on the Trent Valley Archives website lists the circus. The Trent Valley Archives has a nice run of *Bandwagon* magazine and we are interested in compiling stories related to the circuses that came to Peterborough before 1920, perhaps even later. If you have any information about circuses that appeared in Peterborough or area please share your stories. In the meantime, here is an excerpt related to our inquiry which appeared on the Circus History Message Board. <http://www.circushistory.org/Query/Query05a.htm>

Taylor Brothers Circus, October 27, 2004 - Levi B. Taylor & his brother, Homer had the "Taylor Brothers Circus" somewhere in the Years of 1860 and 1910. They supposedly went from Kingston, Ont. Canada to Watertown, New York. I am wondering if any written material is around about this circus. I see from reading messages on this site that there is a lot more info. around than I thought. Thanks, George Taylor Lubbock, Texas, cgtaylor1415@aol.com.

Reply: November 01, 2004 - Slout's 19th century biographical dictionary, Olympians of the Sawdust Circle does not list these men, nor is the show listed in Chindahl's title list. They're very obscure. Best place to start would be with their vital statistics (birth, marriage,

death) and census entries and to work from there. If you lack the search skills, consult with your local library or historical society for support. Obituaries have some kernels of truth but use with caution. What passes as a circus was not necessarily what we consider it today. Fred Dahlinger.

Reply: 07 July, 2006 - Did you find any information on Taylor Brothers Circus. Suzie, suelkins@cox.net

Reply: 08 December, 2006 - Hello George, I am writing because of my study of the King family. I found in the family history, that Albert King born about 1869, and died after 1920 was an acrobat and pugilist. He traveled with the Taylor Bros Circus. So now I am wondering if you found any further information on the Taylor Brothers Circus. Thank you for your time, karna

Reply: 11 Dec 2007 - Review 1874 07 31 Taylor's Equescurriculum & World's Circus coming 6 August 1874. circus. The reference is from the Peterborough Review newspaper from 1874. Peterborough is about 50 miles west of Belleville Ont. Thank you, George Taylor

Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World



Official Program for Dayton, Ohio, Aug 29; Richmond, Indiana, Aug. 30; Hamilton, Ohio, Aug. 31, 1907. *Bandwagon*, Vol. 1, May-June, 1957, p. 5. Note - An exhibition, the intention of which is to educate the spectator, through the

medium of animated pictures, in the picturesque life on the Western American Plains in the days just past, showing primitive horsemen who have attained fame; spiced with their counterparts of modern military horsemanship, all combined in an evening's entertainment, rendering the reading of books or the viewing of works of sculptors and artists on these subjects more easily comprehended and, enjoyed in years to come. It is especially instructive to the untravelled and to the rising generation to see authenticated, genuine people of the different nations and races in their characteristic costumes before they have passed away and are left as legacies to the future only through art and history. The principal incidents and episodes have additional interest from having been identified with the life of Colonel W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill).

1 - OVERTURE. Star-spangled Banner - Cowboy Band, Wm. Sweeney, Leader.

2 - GRAND REVIEW. Introducing Rough Riders of the world, genuine Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, Cowboys, Cossacks, Mexicans, Scouts and Guides, veteran members of the United States Cavalry, a group of Western Girl rough riders, and a detachment of color guards, soldiers of the armies of America, England, Germany, Japan, Russia, Arabia and Mexico.

3 - RACES OF RACES. Race between a Cowboy, Cossack, Mexican, Arab and Indian on Mexican, Broncho, Indian and Arabian horses. Attention is directed to the different seats in saddle by the various riders.

4 - U. S. ARTILLERY DRILL. Showing the old muzzle-loading methods. The guns used are relics of the Civil War.

5 - PONY EXPRESS. A former Pony Express rider will show how telegrams of the Republic were distributed and carried across the continent, previous to the building of telegraphs and railways.

6 - EMIGRANT TRAIN. Illustrating a prairie Emigrant train crossing the plains. It is attacked by marauding Indians and they are repulsed by the scouts and cowboys. While in camp there will be a quadrille on horseback and other campfire amusements.

7 - ARABS AND JAPANESE. In various feats of agility.

8 - AN ATTACK ON THE DEADWOOD STAGE-COACH BY INDIANS. Repulse of the Indians and rescue of the stage, passengers and mail by cowboys and scouts.

9 - COL. W. F. CODY. The original BUFFALO BILL, the last of the great scouts, the first to conceive, originate and produce this class of realistic entertainment. He will give an Exhibition of Expert Shooting from horseback, while galloping around the arena.

10 - THE BATTLE OF SUMMIT SPRINGS. One of the deciding conflicts in Indian warfare was fought on July 11, 1869, in eastern Colorado near the border line of Nebraska. The command was composed of the Fifth United States Cavalry and Pawnee scouts under the

command of General E. A. Carr of the United States Army. Buffalo Bill was chief of General Carr's scouts and guide. The Indians were renegades from the tribes of Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, banded together under the leadership of Tall Bull, and were known as "The Dog Soldiers." These Indians had been murdering and committing depredations on the borders of Kansas and

Nebraska, and this command had been sent to discover and annihilate them if possible. After several days' scouting, Buffalo Bill found the Indian trail which the command at once followed, and after continuing for more than 200 miles, Buffalo Bill located the Indian camp, and in a spirited assault the forces under General Carr completely routed Tall Bull and his "Dog Soldiers," capturing their entire village, killing many of the warriors and capturing the Indian women and children. They also rescued two white women which the Indians held as prisoners. During the engagement, Buffalo Bill shot and killed the Indian Chief Tall Bull.

11 - DEVLIN ZOUAVES. In manual of arms, lightning drills, finishing with an exhibition of wall-scaling, showing the adaptability of Citizen-soldiery in warfare.

12 - A GROUP OF MEXICANS from Old Mexico will illustrate the use of the lasso.

13 - VETERANS FROM THE SIXTH United States Cavalry in military exercises and exhibitions of athletic sports and horsemanship on western range horses.

14 - JOHNNY BAKER. The celebrated American Marksman.

15 - THE GREAT TRAIN HOLD-UP AND BANDIT HUNTERS OF THE UNION PACIFIC will be a scene representing a train hold-up in the Western wilds. The bandits stop the train, uncouple the engine from the coaches, rob the express car and blow open the safe. Meanwhile the passengers are lined up and despoiled of their valuables. The scene ends with the arrival of the Bandit Hunters of the Union Pacific, who capture or kill the robbers.

16 - INDIAN BOYS' RACE. Racing by Indian boys on bareback ponies.

17 - COWBOYS' FUN. Picking objects from the ground, lassoing, and riding wild horses.

18 - COSSACKS FROM THE CAUCASUS OF RUSSIA. In feats of horsemanship.

19 - A HOLIDAY AT "T-E" RANCH IN WYOMING. The final number on our programme will be a holiday at T-E



ranch, the home of Buffalo Bill. The frontiersmen and cowboys have assembled for an afternoon of pleasure,



The arrival of the mail-carrier, which is always an important event, and a troop of range horses in High-School Acts. The festivities are interrupted by an attack on the ranch by a band of Indians and they repulsed by the cowboys, the scene of present happy ranch-home life is transposed into one of the old strenuous days by dramatic license to form a climax to the ending of the exhibition to permitting the Red and the White men to line up in

compact friendly mass to effectively give the audience a FINAL SALUTE.

Editor's Note: The Buffalo Bill show which appeared in Peterborough in 1897 would have had a different program, as the show was often reworked. However, this summary of a 1907 program is remarkably useful in imagining the kinds of shows that appeared in Peterborough in the 1890s.

BANDWAGON : NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2007

Fred D. Pfening III has put together an interesting feature on "The American Circus in the 1870s: An Overview From Newspaper Sources." He suggests that historians of circuses and outdoor entertainment should use newspapers, something that earlier historians rarely did. Even when earlier historians turned to newspapers they were often quite happy to mention the dates that circuses came to a particular town. I have always assumed that the best ways to use newspapers is to have a specific date on which to search. It is like hunting for the proverbial needle in a haystack: a magnet is a big help. Pfening makes the interesting point that it is now easier than ever to use newspapers in historical research because so many are now

available digitally. He used digital newspapers in the USA to reconstruct stories about the circuses of the 1870s. It is a splendid effort that covers 60 pages of a glossy magazine laid out much like the *Heritage Gazette of the Trent Valley*. This is over half of the contents of the current issue, which needless to say is a hefty 112 pages.

My first instinct was to think that Pfening would have touched on some of the circuses that came to Peterborough in the 1870s, even though it would be unlikely that he would have anything about circuses while they were in Peterborough. That is a job that is best done at the local level in any case. While I thoroughly enjoyed the article and its fascinating details on several circuses of the decade, only one of the circuses came to Peterborough. Peterborough in the 1870s was accessible to some of the big circuses coming from Ohio or New York. The routes would be stronger in the 1880s when the "missing link" made the connection to Toronto more direct. The most accessible digital newspapers were the *Brooklyn Eagle*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Janesville Gazette*. The best source for dating the travels of circus shows was the *New York Clipper*, the forerunner of *Variety*. A number of themes emerge from Pfening's generous selection of stories. Newspapers liked advertising, and believed no circus could succeed without advertising. Circus life was dangerous; especially for those working with animals. Circus tents could be vulnerable in winds.

Pfening includes an exceptionally fine article on "The Circus Rider's Life" which appeared in the *New York Sun*, and was a veritable manual on how to run a circus in the 1870s. There are two or three others that are detailed and informative about the circus business. Such stories have a universal appeal and pertinence. During the 1870s he also finds several articles related to P. T. Barnum. However, I don't think a Barnum show reached Peterborough before 1889. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* was an essential newspaper for keeping tabs on Adam Forepaugh, who came to Peterborough in 1880, and indeed bought a bear in Peterborough. George Forepaugh was nearly killed by Romeo, one of the great performing elephants of the day; fortunately, Adam Forepaugh arrived and saved his brother.

There is an interesting picture of Madame Elise Dockrill, who performed in Peterborough in 1877 with Howe's Great London Circus, which according to the advertising was linked to other circuses (including a Dockrill show) that traveled together, probably to reduce operating costs. The particular story came from New Orleans and described how she had been kicked in the shin by a departing horse, and the reporter worried if a performer grossing \$20,000 a year for an agile horse act might have broken her leg. In the resulting interview it is evident that the entire family had been in the circus business since she was very little. At the time she and her husband of 12 years had a home in Bordeaux, France and had three daughters. She punctured about 50 balloons a show, and thought in her career she had gone through 216,000 balloons. Her husband was a partner in the Howe circus, and had a ménage act on a horse formerly belonging to Napoleon III.

The circus was only one way in Peterborough was connected to a wider world, and so it is terrific when one gets glimpses of how wide that world was.

SKI CLUB PEOPLE 1923 – 1980

OTTO W. LADERACH

Cy Monkman

Otto Laderach was identified with skiing in and around Peterborough longer than any other person. His continuous membership in the original Peterborough Ski and Snowshoe Club and two succeeding Clubs almost spanned the full 57 years. He was born in Sargans, Switzerland in 1906 and came to Peterborough in 1926 when he immediately became involved with the local Ski Club. Except maybe for the World War 2 years, when he served in the Royal Canadian Navy, he maintained uninterrupted membership until 1980.

When Otto came to Canada he held a civil engineering degree and spoke German, French, Italian and Romansh (the three Swiss languages and dialect) and, it was reported, even Latin and Greek. But not English. He lived for a short time in Toronto after arriving in Canada then moved to Peterborough to work for the Canadian General Electric. He worked there until his retirement in 1972 except for time in the navy during WW2.

During the War he serviced in the Royal Canadian Navy. Following is a brief description of his Fonds on file at the Peterborough Centennial Museum and Archives: "Specific items include mechanical drawings rendered by Laderach for HMCS "Warrior", Canada's first aircraft carrier; technical journals from German U-boat (190) that were turned over to Lt. Cdr. Otto Laderach for translation following its surrender to the Royal Canadian Navy off the coast of Newfoundland in May 1945. Of particular note are Laderach's photographs documenting the capture of German U-boat 190; submarine technical manual and textbook retrieved by Laderach from U-190." When he received his discharge after the war he held the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

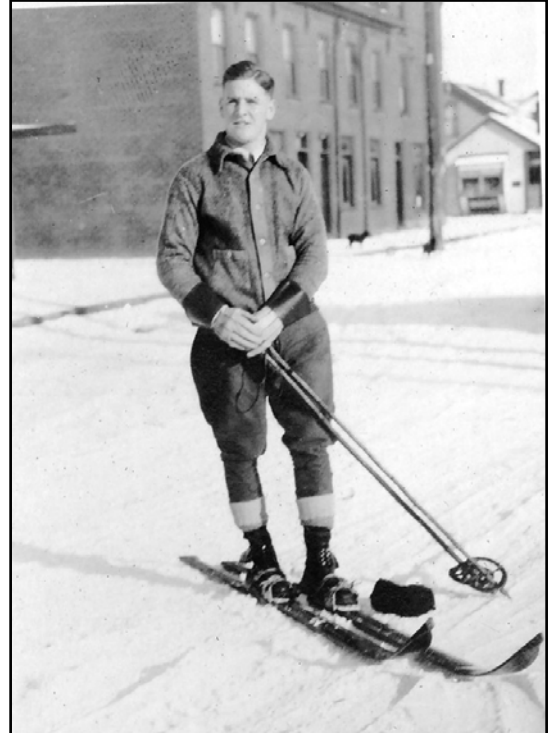
Otto Laderach was noted for his long distance cross country trips on his skis. No distance seemed to faze him. During the 1930s he worked for a time at General Motors in Oshawa for CGE. He often skied home to Peterborough for the week-end. It is said that it was during one of these trips home that he discovered future ski hills in the Bethany area. In later years he often skied from Peterborough to Bethany ---- and back. For these reasons it was natural that Otto Laderach should be involved in the establishment of the Kawartha Nordic Ski Club in 1974. He was honoured there with a Life Time Achievement Award in addition to having his services recognized by the naming of one of the several trail cabins after him. In addition he coached the local University Women's Club cross country skiers for about 11 years.

He was most noted as a member of the Peterborough Ski and Snowshoe Club later becoming the Peterborough Ski Club and still later the Bethany Ski Club Inc. Over the years he served as its President and in various other capacities, many times making significant contributions.

In 1930 he designed a club crest for the newly organized Peterborough Ski Club which replaced the Peterborough Ski and Snowshoe Club. He was mentioned in the 1931 edition of Canadian Skiing publication as "an instructor of junior members that are making remarkable headway." In 1936 he entered the Dominion Ski Championships and was the only one from Peterborough to compete in all four events (cross country, jumping, slalom and downhill). One year he won the Ontario combined Nordic event.

One of his most significant contributions was the designing of the new Class "A" ski jump erected at the north end of the Nassau (now Trent University) drumlin. At its time it was considered to be one of the best ski jumps in southern Ontario and attracted many championship events. It was demolished when Trent University acquired the property about 1960. In 1967, Centennial Year, a new ski jump was completed at the Club property at Bethany also designed by Otto Laderach. It was officially opened by a group of people including Peterborough's MP Hugh Faulkner and Harry O'Brian, former owner of the property.

As he grew older he never lost his competitive nature and continued to participate in the Club Championships almost till 1980. Although the younger skiers gradually overtook him in the jumping, slalom and downhill events they were somewhat slower catching up to him in the cross country events, his specialty.



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Otto Laderach had his share of bone breaking accident events both on and off the ski hill. In December 1958 he broke his left shoulder in a skiing mishap at O'Brian's Heights, Bethany. In January 1961 he broke a leg while skiing at Mt Sutton, Quebec. But his most serious accident was when he was involved in an automobile collision with another vehicle in late January 1966. This resulted in fractures to his left leg, right knee and both wrists. As expected he was back skiing a year later and even completed a cross country jaunt from Peterborough to Lindsay, 19 miles. Added to all this was hip replacements.

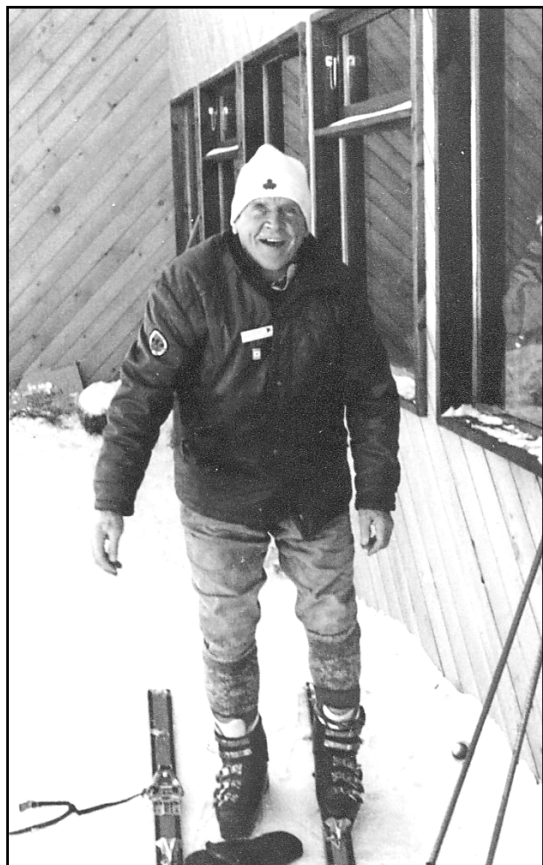
In 1969 he was consulted by the City of Peterborough when a ski tow and development was being considered for Armour Hill.

No biography of Otto Laderach would be complete without reference to his yodeling which was his way of expressing his enjoyment of the sport and regularly heard on the hills and trails when he was about. Otto Laderach was a founding member of the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame and an honorary member of the Bethany Ski Club.

He married Lillian soon after arriving in Peterborough. They had two children: Germaine and Fred. Otto Laderach died on 22 May 1993.

Ian Blaiklock remembers Otto Laderach and his Pack Sack.

"Often in the early days of the Peterborough Ski Club we couldn't drive to the hill at Bethany. Our cars would be left in the village and the farmers in the area would meet us in the village with their sleighs and teams of horses. For a nickel or dime, or nothing if you were young, you and the skis plus a full load of fellow skiers would hop on and be taken over the snow covered road to the ski hill. In those days we all had a pack with our lunch in it. In the late afternoon when the ski tow stopped some of us skied over-the-top and down the back hills to the car in Bethany village. Otto always cross country skied to the village with his pack. Otto's pack could always be picked out because of the smell of his limburger cheese. We used to leave our packs at the top of the hill ready for our trip home.



One spring day we young fellas decided to 'pull one' on Otto. We filled his pack with rocks. At the end of the day we all were at the top of the hill putting our packs on and getting ready for the trip home. Otto lifted his pack while the rest of us watched. He seemed to be having a bit of a problem but thinking he was just a little tired put it on anyway and off he went. We were about halfway home and had stopped for a rest and Otto decided to have some cheese. Well when Otto opened his pack he just exploded and all hell broke loose. You should have heard him cursing at us in English, French and German. He was so mad but by the end he started laughing and that's when we decided to tell Otto it was just a one time joke and it wouldn't happen again. We were forgiven".



Pictures: Otto in 1920; Otto in 1978; Otto with Tony Seidel.
Thanks to Cy Monkman for this excerpt from his new book.

*The Forgotten Sports Era***A History of
The Peterborough
Ski Club****Cy Monkman***Available from Trent Valley Archives for \$35*

- Starting from The Peterborough Ski & Snowshoe Club (1923)
 - Ending with the Bethany Ski Club Inc. (1980)
 - About 275 pages
 - Mostly One Chapter per Season
 - Including Ski Jumping at Nassau (now site of Trent University)
 - Biographies and memories of some former members
 - Chapter on Peterborough Skis
 - 400 Photos and Ads from the 1923 to 1980 period, many in colour
 - Chapter on Bethany and area people
 - Chapter on Junior Ski School
 - Skiing at Jackson Park, Mount Nebo, Kemp's Hill, Old Orchard Park and elsewhere
 - Many Club Championship, Nancy Greene League, Alpine League, Zone, Ontario, Dominion and other Race Results involving members
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THE FIRE BRIGADE MAKES A BIG CHANGE: FIRE FIGHTING IN PETERBOROUGH 1881

Peterborough Times, 1881

Editor's note: In writing the history of the Peterborough Fire Department several big questions arose. The new history which is being published this spring will mark the centennial of a full-time professional fire fighting force in Peterborough. However, over 25 years earlier the language of a professional fire fighter was raised with echoes to the language of 1908. The language of professionalization was strong in 1880, and clearly Thomas Rutherford hoped to lead a force that was modern, efficient and sober. These excerpts provide a window into the world of fire fighting that is quite remarkable.

Using the Hose Tower

Peterborough Times, 1 January 1881 [Saturday]

The hose tower used for the first time after last Sunday's fire. The cotton hose were run up after the reel was brought back to the hall. It was taken down on Monday morning and was found to be quite dry, and in a proper condition to be reeled up.

The City Fathers

Peterborough Times, 8 January 1881

... The annual report of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department was received stating that the number of fires and amount of losses during the year was less than the previous year. The brigade numbered 70 men, well organized and with competent equipment, but the men are not willing to thake the sum of \$2 a year for their services. They are all working men, and are willing to give their services for the protection of the town property, but they desire sufficient remuneration to repay them for the destruction of clothes occasioned at fires. The report recommended the establishment of a

fire alarm, one in each ward, to connect with the town hall, -- Received and referred to the Fire, Water and Gas Committee.

The Fire Brigade

The fires they attend in 1880 - Meeting for the election of officers

Peterborough Times, 8 January 1881

The Peterborough Fire Brigade as it now stands was organized on 6 January 1880. It is composed of two companies, the "Electric" Hose, forty men, and "Protection" Hook and Ladder, thirty men. At the first meeting over sixty names were enrolled and before the month was out the full number of seventy had been made up. The first fire, except an alarm for a chimney on 29 January, the volunteer brigade had to attend was on 4 February, on George street, when the stores occupied by Messrs W. W. Farley and Co., Jos. Keele, and James Best, were; the first, completely destroyed and the other two badly damaged. By strenuous exertions the fire was confined to these three, and finally extinguished although the thermometer was a large number of

degrees below zero, and the water from the hose froze almost as soon as it fell on the buildings or ground. Up to 1 January 1881, including the two mentioned, the brigade has responded to the alarm sixteen times. Eight of the alarms were for fires in town, one for the fire in Lakefield on 19 July, and the other seven were merely alarms where the services of the brigade were not needed. The voluntary brigade has made a good record during the past year and should receive all the encouragement the council can judiciously give it. At the meeting of the council on Tuesday evening the old Chief Engineer, G. L. Mitchell, Esq., handed in his resignation, which was accepted. Mr Mitchell has been in connection with the Fire Department over ten years, and the vote of thanks tendered him by the Council was well deserved. Mr T. Rutherford has been appointed Chief Engineer, pro tem, until regular applications for the position are received. Mr Rutherford has been a member of the Fire Brigade for a number of years until lately, when he resigned. During his connection with it he occupied various positions of trust, both in the old voluntary and in the paid brigade. He will no doubt make a good man for the position, as his intimate knowledge of the principles of house building will give him an advantage in striking at the root of a fire.

"Electric" Hose

On Tuesday evening the members of the "Electric" Hose Company for the ensuing year assembled in the Fire Hall. There was a large turnout of members and as a consequence the elections were exciting. The following is a list of the officers elected: --

Captain Thos Billington

Lieutenant S. H. Green

Secretary Geo W. McBain

Treasurer T. W. McBain

1st Branchman M. McDonnell

2nd Branchman S. Clegg

3rd Branchman J. M. Mowry

4th Branchman Jno. Harper

Finance Committee - A. N. Shaw, Wm. Taylor, and James Fanning

"Protection" Hook and Ladder Company

On Wednesday evening "Protection" Hook and Ladder Company met in the Fire Hall for the purpose of electing their officers for 1881. The members were on hand and big interest was taken in the election. The Captain and Secretary were re-elected by acclamation. The following is the list: --

Captain F. Wear

Lieutenant G. Pappin

Secretary J. C. Robertson

Treasurer R. Clegg

1st Axeman C. Rutherford

2nd Axeman H. Evans

3rd Axeman R. Sanderson

4th Axeman W. Cook

Finance Committee - W. S. Cocks, Joseph Metherel and H. Kempt.

During the progress of the meeting Chief Engineer Rutherford came in and before the close addressed a few remarks to the boys expressive of a hope that the company and he would get on well together and work in unison at fires or anywhere else. He intended to do what he could for the brigade and expected the brigade would do what they could for him.

We hope the brigade will have as little to do this year as they had last, and should their services ever be required out of town they will not consider their reception at a certain village as an instance of what they may expect in other places but will act up to their old motto, "We lend our aid in time of need."

A Paid Fire Brigade

Peterborough Times, 8 January 1881

The Fire Brigade having tried the volunteer system for one year pronounce the whole thing a delusion, and they intend to ask the new council at its first sitting for an increase of salary. As no doubt all are aware, a volunteer brigade is not, strictly speaking, volunteer, inasmuch that the members receive a stipend of two dollars per man annually. This of course cannot be considered as a salary, but is merely a gift of the people to those who risk life and limb in the preservation of their property from destruction by the fire fiend.

Ex-chief Mitchell in his annual report to the Council on Tuesday evening recommended that the men be paid. Whether or not his recommendation is adopted of course remains for the new Council to decide. On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at the meetings of the two companies which form the Fire Brigade a petition or communication to the council asking for a grant of twenty dollars a year per man for fifty men was circulated and signed by all the members present at the above named meetings. Whether this petition be granted or not, also remains with the new Council to decide.

This matter of fire protection has been a venal question for some time and should be settled in some way satisfactory to the ratepayers. The best means to accomplish that object, we think, would be to have an open meeting of the whole council in committee and invite a member of the principal ratepayers to be present together with the ex and present officers of the Brigade to discuss the subject thoroughly so as to arrive at some arrangement whereby we could procure efficient protection with due regard to cheapness. We also urge the Council to grant this amount to be asked for for fire purposes, but we hope they will give the subject that amount of consideration which it deserves.

The City Fathers

Fire, Water and Gas Committee

Peterborough Times, 12 February 1881

Councillor Rutherford, chairman, read the report of the above committee as follows: --

1. That the request of the Fire Brigade asking for the sum of \$20 per man for 50 men cannot be granted, but

recommended that the Chief of the Fire Brigade be authorized to form a company of 30 men and to pay each man at the rate of \$15.

2. On motion of Councillor Paterson seconded by Mayor Smith, the thanks of the Council and citizens generally were rendered to the late volunteer brigade for services rendered by them to the town for the year 1880.

3. That the clerk be authorized to ask for tenders for three horses to be used for drawing the engine and hook and ladder truck to and from fires for 1881. The contract is to date for one year from the time of signing it.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(signed) A. Rutherford, Chairman 14 February 1881

Councillor Rutherford said that the report recommended that 30 men at \$15 per year be employed instead of 70 men at \$2 under the old plan. The increase after all was not very great. Councillor McNaughton said that 30 men at \$15 each would make \$450, and add to the sum \$150 for an extra horse, it would make a very considerable increase. [He] would be careful not to take a jump in the dark.

Councillor Cahill said that 40 men without another horse would be better than 30 men and have the horse. He thought in case some of the 30 men were absent from a fire it would be impossible to do the work required. He was in favour of amending the report by making the number 40 at \$12 each.

The Mayor and the Chief wanted only 30 men, and would impose a sufficiently heavy fine in case of absence to ensure attendance.

Councillor Hartley thought that a horse was necessary for the hook and ladder cart. He knew that from experience.

Councillor Rutherford thought that was very important to have the hook and ladder cart at a fire as soon as possible. The committee intended to make the fine 75 cents. Last year the two horses cost \$74.

Councillor Chamberlain thought the men should be selected from those residing in the centre of the town.

The Mayor said that the Chief should see to that.

Councillor McNaughton inquired if the firemen were to receive \$2 poll tax in addition to the \$15. Councillor Rutherford said that they had to pay the \$2 out of the \$15.

The report was adopted.

The Fire Brigade

Disbandment of the Volunteer Brigade and Organization of a Paid Fire Department

Peterborough Times, 19 February 1881

A short time ago the Fire Brigade sent in a petition to the Council for a reduction of the number of men to fifty and a grant in the shape of a salary of \$20 per man per year. This was referred to the Fire, Water, and Gas Committee who met on Friday evening of last week [11 February] for the purpose of considering it. Chief Engineer Rutherford was present, and with his advice the Committee prepared a report recommending the disbursement of the Volunteer Brigade and the

organization of a new one of thirty men at a salary of \$15 per year for each man, the men to be selected by the Chief Engineer. At the Council meeting on Monday evening the report was brought in, and, after a slight discussion, adopted. On Tuesday evening a meeting was held, at which the Volunteer Brigade was disbanded and the men to form the new Brigade notified to be in readiness to answer any alarm, and also to meet in the Fire Hall on Thursday evening for the purpose of electing officers and the transaction of other business in connection with proper organization. This meeting took place as announced and the following gentlemen agreed to form themselves into a Brigade for the purpose of protecting property from fire in the Town of Peterborough in accordance with the town By-law to that effect and enrolled themselves accordingly: --

Hose

T. Billington
A. Clegg
J. Craig
S. Clegg
W. Cook
J. W. Flavelle
S. H. Green
T. Goldie
A. Jones
J. W. Jenkins
J. M. Mowry
H. May
T. W. McBain
G. McBain
M. M. McDonald
M. McDonald
J. Pentland
A. N. Shaw
J. Snyder
W. Scollie

Hook & Ladder

J. Campbell
R. Clegg
D. Jameson
T. Marks
G. Pappin
C. Rutherford
J. C. Robertson
R. Sanderson
J. Scott
F. Wear

After the list had been filled the following officers were elected: --

The Hose

Captain T. Billington
Lieutenant S. Clegg

It was thought best not to elect regular Branchmen.

The "Hooks"

Captain F. Wear
Lieutenant D. Jameson

The Brigade

Secretary J. C. Robertson

Treasurer T. W. McBain

Finance Committee – Messrs A. N. Shaw, J. Pentland and C. Rutherford

Property Committee – Messrs J. W. Flavelle, J. W. Jenkins and T. Goldie

The following gentlemen were appointed as a committee to draft and constitution and by-law for the internal government of the Brigade: -- Messrs S. H. Green, J. W. Flavelle, J. Pentland, D. Jamieson and C. Rutherford.



The Peterborough Fire Brigade had quarters in the Municipal Building on Simcoe Street. (David Dinsdale Collection)

A suggestion which was concurred in by all the members was made to the above committee, that they should insert a rule in the by-laws prohibiting use of intoxicating liquors to any member while the Brigade is on duty. This is a step in the right direction, and we hope to see such a rule carried out to the letter.

The Chief, in making some remarks, said he would feel obliged to the citizens if they would not offer it to his men at fires, or anywhere else, while they are on duty. It has been done frequently, and both the Town and the Brigade have suffered in consequence, and Chief Rutherford wished it to be generally, but distinctly understood that he is going to run this Brigade on temperance principles.

According to the Fire By-law of the town, the Captain of the Hose is also Assistant Chief Engineer of the Brigade, and acts as Chief, should the latter be absent from duty at any time.

The Clerk received instructions from the Council to advertise for three horses for fire purposes – a team to draw the engine, and a horse to draw the Hook & Ladder truck. With this addition to the force, we hope to see the department much more efficient than previously, and we think it will be so.

A Vote of Thanks

The Fire, Water and Gas Committee, unwilling to allow the Volunteer Brigade to pass away without some mark of the appreciation felt for its services during the past year passed the following resolution at the session on Friday night, and which was adopted by the Council on Monday evening: --

“On motion of Councillor Paterson, seconded by Mayor [H. H.] Smith, the thanks of the Council and citizens generally were tendered to the late Volunteer Brigade for services rendered by them to the Town for the year 1880.”

The City Fathers

Fire, Water and Gas Committee

Peterborough Times, 12 February 1881

Councillor Rutherford, chairman, read the report of the above committee as follows: --

1. That the request of the Fire Brigade asking for the sum of \$20 per man, for 50 men cannot be granted, but recommended that the Chief of the Fire Brigade be authorized to form a company of 30 men and to pay each man at the rate of \$15.

2. On motion of Councillor Paterson, seconded by Mayor Smith, the thanks of the Council and citizens generally were rendered to the late volunteer brigade for services rendered by them to the town for the year 1880.

3. That the clerk be authorized to ask for tenders for three horses to be used for drawing the engine and hook and ladder truck to and from fires for 1881, the amount to date for one year from the time of signing it.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

(signed) A. Rutherford, Chairman

Feb. 14, 1881

Councillor Rutherford said that the report recommended that 30 men at \$15 per year be employed instead of 70 men at \$2, under the old plan. The increase after all was not very great. Councillor McNaughton said that 30 men at \$15 each would make \$450, and add to the sum \$150 for an extra horse, it would make a very considerable increase [he] would be careful not to take a jump in the dark.

Councillor Cahill said that 40 men without another horse would be better than 30 men and have the horse. He thought in case some of the 30 men were absent from a fire it would be impossible to do the work required. He was in favour of amending the report by making the numbers 40 at \$12 each.

The Mayor and the Chief wanted only 30 men, and would impose a sufficiently heavy fine in case of absence to ensure attendance.

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Councillor Chamberlain thought the men should be selected from the those residing in the centre of the town.

The Mayor said that the Chief should see to that.

Councillor McNaughton inquired if the firemen were to receive \$2 poll tax in addition to the \$15. Councillor Rutherford said that they had to pay the \$2 out of the \$15.

The report was adopted.

Our City Fathers The Fire By-law

Peterborough Times, 26 February 1881

The Council went into Committee of the Whole on the second reading of the Fire By-law, Councillor Kelly in the Chair. The By-law was read a second time and blanks filled in. After the Committee rose it received its third reading.

The Fire Brigade

Peterborough Times, 5 March 1881

The first regular meeting of the newly organized Fire Brigade took place in the Simcoe Street Hall on Thursday evening, at which nearly all the members were present. The By-law Committee handed in their report which was adopted. A number of gentlemen were elected honorary members of the Brigade, some private business was then transacted, after which the meeting adjourned. Captain Billington occupied the chair.

The Baptism of Fire The New Brigade Fight Their First Battle - Some Old Tenement Houses on Water Street Destroyed - Loss About \$1,200

Peterborough Times, 26 March 1881

The Fire Brigade

(Published by Request)

Fire! There a cry in the crowded street,
There's a crimson light in the sky,
A shout of me, a tramp of feet,
A roll of wheels as straight and fleet
The fire brigade flies by.

Fire! - clear the way! - in generous strife
Race on: the flames rise higher
No hope within, where smoke is rife,
And children there who gasp for life:
The house is ringed with fire.

Help? - Hear again that despairing cry,
As fierce ruby flames gleam bright
On brazen helmets, mounting high,
The ladders placed, the windows nigh
Where women swoon with fright.

Hush! See where the wishing engines play
On the tottering fire-flaked wall;
They gain the sill and force their way
To where the frightened children lay,
With roof about to fall.

Saved! - And a last in fresh cool air,
The women and children are laid;
And shouts ring out from those who dare
To free such hell of smoke and glare -
The gallant Fire Brigade.

The Fire

Last Tuesday afternoon [22 March] shortly after 2 o'clock the clanging sound of the fire alarm, which had not been heard for nearly three months, rang out over the town and warned the citizens that someone's property as being destroyed and that that fell monarch the "Fire King" was reaping a harvest of destruction. The Brigade responded to the call of duty and proceeded to the scene of the fire, which was found to be in a row of old rough-cast tenement houses on the east side of Water street. When discovered the fire had burst through the roof of the north house in several places, and owing to the age and extreme dryness of everything in and around the buildings, it burst like tinder, rapidly spreading to those immediately adjoining on the south.



The buildings destroyed in the fire of 22 March 1881 stood where the two storey buildings are shown in this photo. The building to the right was Trennum's furniture store, and the old signage "FURNITURE" shows on the north side of the building. (Photo: Elwood Jones)

The apparatus having arrived the firemen got quickly to work. The engine was taken to the river side, near Campbell's ashery, and from there a line of hose was laid to Queen Street, where the "Siamese" coupling was attached and two branches run from it, one up the lane in rear of the burning buildings, and another around on to Water street in front. In the meantime the Hook and Ladder company had placed ladders in position for the hose, and torn down some fences and sheds in rear, so that the fire could be got at in the easiest and most effective manner. The buckets of the company were brought into requisition at the top of Trennum's and Owens' brick blocks, which adjoined the rough cast buildings on the north and south. Water had meanwhile arrived, and the two sworn foes were again fighting one another. Two splendid streams were poured into the seething mass of flames only long enough to prevent the

brick buildings catching, when the water suddenly stopped and word was brought that the hose had burst.

Operations on the branches were suspended while the break was being repaired, by the substitution of a new length for the one that had burst. This occupied but a few minutes when water was again poured upon the flames, and the work of extinguishing went on without further impediment. In about three hours from the time the alarm sounded the fire was completely drowned out, and the men turned their attention to reeling up and returning the apparatus to the engine house. This was accomplished in a short time and the Brigade returned to the hall for roll call.

The buildings burned were owned by three men, Messrs Jno Edmison, Henry Head and Wm Graham, and were valued at about \$1,200, on which there was no insurance. They were completely destroyed, nothing being left but a brick chimney and a couple of dilapidated rough-cast walls. The buildings contained four stores, one of which was vacant, a dressmaking establishment, the upper stories of all being used for dwelling houses. The stores were occupied by Messrs T. Pine, A. L. Cope, and F. McAuliffe, who each lived over the shops they occupied. The furniture was all removed, but in a more or less damaged condition, owing to its rapid removal. The brick blocks were but slightly damaged and a little paint and a few dollars spent in repairs will make them as good as before.

The Brigade

This is the first fire the new Brigade and Chief Rutherford have been called on to attend and the way they acquitted themselves on the occasion has received encomium from those who are supposed to know just how a fire should be combated. Even Councillor McNaughton was heard to say the "Boys deserved five dollars a piece" for the afternoon's work. We hope they will do as well if not better in the future.

The Fire Brigade

Peterborough Times, 9 April 1881

The regular meeting of the Fire Brigade took place in the Simcoe Street Hall on Tuesday evening last. Nearly all the members were present. After routine business a number of propositions of new members were received and laid over until vacancies should occur. A committee was appointed to consider the cost of some contemplated improvements in the hall with instructions to report at the next meeting. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for the holding of a series of parlour concerts in the hall as soon as the proposed improvements have been made. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr Henry Owens for his donation to the funds of the Brigade, and the secretary instructed to convey the same to Mr Owens. Some other private business was transacted after which the meeting adjourned to next Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock p.m., when every member is requested to be present.

Former Mayor, Lt. Governor R. F. McWilliams Dies

Peterborough Examiner, 10 December 1957

Hon. Roland Fairbairn McWilliams, lieutenant-governor of Manitoba from 1940 until 1953, and mayor of Peterborough in 1907, died Monday at his home in Winnipeg. He was 83 and had been in failing health for some time.

Mr McWilliams was the last member of the council of 1905 when Peterborough became a city. George A. Gillespie, also an alderman of that council, died a year ago this month.

The appointment of Mr McWilliams as representative of the Crown in the province of Manitoba was the zenith of the career he had founded in his native Peterborough and enhanced with sustained distinction in his law practice in Winnipeg and as deputy of the King in the government of Manitoba. The associates of his youth were exceedingly happy in that honor, and it is gratefully recalled that he returned to Peterborough for the opening of the new city hall in 1951.

To the post of Lieutenant Governor he took a notable reputation as a lawyer, student of economic and foreign affairs and social welfare leader. He had held many important posts in YMCA, was a member of the United Church of Canada, and supported the cause of temperance. Mr McWilliams was a member of the Manitoba executive of the Liberal party for many years, and a former chairman of the Winnipeg branch of the Town Planning Institute of Canada.

Born in Peterborough 10 October 1874, Mr McWilliams was a son of J. B. McWilliams, inspector of Crown timber agencies for Ontario. He was a graduate of the Collegiate

Institute, and after completing his law course at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, he began his professional life in this city. In 1903 he married his college sweetheart, Margaret Stovel of Toronto. That romance of their student days continued until the death of Mrs McWilliams, a gifted intellectual woman, in 1952.

They removed to Winnipeg in 1910, and after several partnerships Mr McWilliams established his own law firm. From 1915 to 1920 he lectured in constitutional history and law at the Manitoba law school, and wrote many articles. In 1926 Mrs McWilliams collaborated with her husband in writing a book, *Russia in 1926*, an account of their tour of the Soviet Union.

Mr McWilliams leaves his second wife who was the former Avis Clark of Muskoka, and vice-president of the Canadian Federation of University Women, and his nephew, Robert McWilliams of Lakefield.

Mr McWilliams was an earnest, ardent personality with a gift of leadership balanced with a fine sense of humour. These facets of character stood out in his municipal activities, and he was as ambitious for the future of Peterborough as for himself, and particularly in sports, although rugby football was the game that specially attracted him. In his college days he played on the first junior rugby team to capture a Canadian championship, the University of Toronto squad of 1903.

Returning to Peterborough he promoted the game with energy and enthusiasm, and was president of a great local team that won several intermediate championships the last one the

Canadian intermediate title in 1901. Associated with him on the field in those years around the turn of the century were: Chris Graham and Bill Meagher, still living here; Dr Andy Scott of Woodstock, the late Dr A. W. MacPherson, one of the finest halfbacks in Ontario rugby, later starring with the University of Toronto; Bill Crowley, Norman Bell, Ed (King) Dillon, the great left-foot punter Hal Burnham, Harold Armstrong, Art Noble, George Revell, Jack Dainard, and various others, among them his brother Dr Victor McWilliams, who was prominent in football, lacrosse and hockey. Arthur McClellan was full back.

The mayoralty race of 1907 used to be recalled as one of the most strenuous in memories of those days. Mr McWilliams was opposed by Robert Hicks, fuel merchant, and capable alderman and Utilities Commissioner. It was said that the late J. R. Stratton threw his support to Mr Hicks, possibly regarding young McWilliams, then in his early thirties as a potential Liberal rival. That was a current opinion, but the Stratton influence, it was said, tended to switch considerable sympathy to McWilliams, and was a factor in McWilliams' win.

Roland and Margaret McWilliams: too smart for Peterborough

Elwood Jones

Roland McWilliams (1874-1957) had a fairly successful career in Peterborough, but it pales when compared to his influence in Winnipeg. G. Wilson Craw, the astute editor of the Peterborough Examiner, published his political columns on Peterborough's mayors in a handy book, *The Peterborough Story: Our Mayors 1850-1951* (1967). His columns usually commented on the issues related to city governance or the growth of the city, and was organized around the terms of the mayors. McWilliams was the only mayor who ran for re-election and was not re-elected at least for a second term. The idea that a mayor should be elected for more than one year at a time is a modern one. Craw's view is that McWilliams was not elected for a second term because as mayor he spoke too much.

When I talked to Mary Kinnear, who was then writing the biography of his wife, Margaret McWilliams (1875-1952), she felt that the McWilliams were considered to be too smart. Both were university graduates, and in the Peterborough of 1903 to 1910 that was singular. Margaret McWilliams, in fact, was better accepted in Peterborough than Kinnear knew. At that time, I had not seen the splendid archival records of the Peterborough Protestant Home, which are now at the Trent Valley Archives. Margaret McWilliams was the secretary of the board. She enjoyed the company of some very impressive women who ran the Protestant Home, notably Helen Rogers. In early years, the Home had helped train the social consciences of Helen Haultain, Louisa Wallis, Margaret Beck and Charlotte Nicholls.

Margaret Stovel met her future husband at the University of Toronto. After she graduated in 1896, she had a career in journalism. She worked at the *Minneapolis Journal* for one year, while the women's editor was on a sabbatical. She then was at the *Detroit Journal* until she married in 1903. There, she edited a woman's page for a couple of years, and then started a children's page that grew to four pages. On the "Journal Junior" she had puzzles, essays, special features and a continuing interest in explaining international affairs to her young readers. For the women's pages, she reported on clubs and on musical and dramatic events. Some of her reports were signed M.S. but it was rare for reporters or editors to get by-lines in any Edwardian newspapers. In Peterborough, Roland believed that the city did not allow her to use her great talents. Still, she was active in the Women's Art Association, the Peterborough Protestant Home and the Children's Aid Society. She attended the annual meeting of the Peterborough Public Library and complained of the poor choice of books for women. Generally, she was considered efficient and effective, and innovative.

Roland McWilliams returned to Peterborough, the town of his birth, in 1899 after completing his arts and law degrees at the University of Toronto. Mary Kinnear gives us good insights into Roland's reputation for talking too much. He ran in the 1904 city elections, leading the polls. He wanted all city council committee meetings open to the press. He wanted to change the system so that the City Council would be more reflective of all classes. The Peterborough Review thought he tried too hard to get people to agree that he was right.



Margaret and Roland McWilliams hiking in the Kawarthas (Mary Kinnear, Margaret McWilliams biography)

Roland McWilliams was the Liberal candidate in the 1905 provincial election and lost. The *Peterborough Examiner* attributed his loss to his "unpardonable disloyalty." J. R. Stratton, the owner of the Examiner, had had a very successful career in provincial politics, even serving in the Liberal

cabinet. However, Stratton was implicated in a political scandal in which the Stratton hoped to buy a Conservative member to support the Liberals. The Liberals had governed Ontario for over 30 years, since 1872, and they went down to defeat for what became the Conservative century in Ontario. Stratton did not forgive McWilliams for carrying the Liberal colours while arguing for political reform. McWilliams fresh ideas were read with different implications by Stratton. Of course the Conservatives were happy to see this split in local Liberals.

McWilliams returned to civic politics, but was defeated on his second run for mayor. When McWilliams' obituary was written fifty years later, the reporter confused the elections of 1907 (which McWilliams won) and of 1908 (when he lost). He said that Stratton's opposition to McWilliams increased the popularity of McWilliams and allowed him to win. At the time, McWilliams believed he won in the face of decided opposition from the two leading local newspapers, the *Review* and the *Examiner*. Both newspapers opposed him during his term and in the 1908 election. The *Review* attributed his defeat to his "method of conducting civic business." The *Examiner* said he did not have good business abilities. McWilliams believed that Peterborough politics was one "of gross political corruption and dishonesty."

In Winnipeg, the McWilliams enjoyed great success almost from the moment they arrived in 1910. Margaret McWilliams became a writer of some renown, and wrote a couple of books with Roland McWilliams as well.

Roland McWilliams was also a writer, and I have a copy of his book, *Does History Repeat Itself?* first published in 1932. In this book he compares the world after the Napoleonic wars with the world after World War I. He and his wife wrote a book about their experience visiting Russia in 1926d. Their intellectual world blossomed in the prairie sun.

Roland McWilliams was a successful lawyer in Winnipeg, and was a key organizer of the Liberal party in Manitoba. He was Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba from 1940 to 1953.

It is a curious commentary that the McWilliams should enjoy such success in Winnipeg and yet face defiance at every turn in Peterborough. J. R. Stratton exerted incredible influence from the 1870s, and even after his fall from grace was able to win the 1908 election and serve as Peterborough's Member of Parliament for a term. McWilliams' assessment may have been correct. The *Peterborough Examiner* was able to cover the farewell banquet for Margaret and Roland McWilliams without mentioning their names.

[A version of this article appeared in my column, "Historian At Work," in *Peterborough Examiner*, 2 February 2008.]

MARTHA ANN KIDD'S TRAVELS AROUND THE WORLD AND TO FRANCE

Martha Ann Kidd

2007 has been an eventful year for me. Between January 10th and April 30th Beverley Hunter and I shared a cabin on the Queen Elizabeth 2 for Bev's second and my third cruise around the world. It was a good adventure. We visited a number of new ports as well as revisiting numerous old favourites. Life aboard such a big ship was a new adventure for us. We had a wonderful time and loved being spoiled, but we both prefer smaller, more intimate ships. It was delightful to be part a small group who had cruised together before and we made numerous new friends. As usual, Bev recorded her impressions in her sketch book while my camera was constantly focused on the ever changing scene. It was difficult to find time between events to write my journal, but somehow I managed to get them done and off in time to be published weekly in the *Peterborough Examiner*.

The summer passed too quickly. Except for a week in Midland and Orillia where I had a good visit with Bev, attended the annual reunion of the Kidd Klan and attended the Leacock Award Dinner with cousin, Pete McGarvey, the summer was spent at home. There were numerous excursions with Susan to antique shops at various locations near

Peterborough. Matt and Sean spent much of their free time making changes to the yard. They made two new garden plots for vegetables, worked hard enlarging the car turn around at the edge of the woods and extended the terrace adjacent to the south side of the house. Also, they are such good cooks that I have resigned from that chore and greatly enjoy the results of their creativity.

The big event of the fall was the celebration of my 90th birthday with a big Open House attended by friends from near and far. It was covered by a very flattering, write up in the newspaper. You are all invited to my next birthday celebration held once every

decade!

Then on October 28th Bev and I flew to Paris, France where Ron Vastokas met us and took us by train south to Limoges where Ona met us and drove us further south to their "new" 14th Century home in the heritage designated village of St. Jean de Cole. This small, very beautiful and very friendly medieval village was our headquarters for six wonderful



weeks. In addition to a delightful visit with our hosts, they took us on excursions throughout southwestern France. We traveled as far south as Biarritz overlooking the Atlantic Ocean just north of the Spanish border and explored numerous historic cities and towns as well as numerous chateaus and the wonderful prehistoric caves in the Vezere River Valley between the Dordogne River Valley and Les Eyzies. It was thrilling to get back to Lascaux. I had visited this wonderful prehistoric cave in 1956 and again in 1960 before it was closed to the public because it was suffering from environmental deterioration. It was interesting to visit Lascaux II and see how well they had reproduced the main gallery of the original cave. Visiting numerous medieval towns and cities with their historic structures, especially the chateaus and churches, took me back many years and revived my love for old buildings which was initially developed during my art school days when the study of architectural history was my favourite subject. Some day I will write up my memories of this fabulous experience and embellish my words with Bev's wonderful sketches.

Happy New Years, (Trent Valley Archives).

Lakefield Temperance Poll Books 1870s

Kept by W. D. Thornton, check clerk

A. For or against a Lakefield Council By-law for enforcing of 1864 [Dunkin Act] 21 December 1877

B. For or against the approval of a Lakefield Council By-l.

C. Votes Recorded for the Repeal of the Dunkin By-law 2

Trent Valley Archives, Delledone fonds, vol 14

A	1	F. T.	Grafte	1
A	2	Kenneth	Urquhart	1
A	3	John	Clarín	1
A	4	James	Stavert	1
A	5	John	McLean	1
A	6	William	Graham	1
A	7	Richard	Purser	1
A	8	Roswell	Chapin	1
A	9	John C.	Baldwin	1
A	10	George	German	1
A	11	William	Adams	1
A	12	Henry	Goheen	1
A	13	Andrew	Wilson	1
A	14	William	McClennan	1
A	15	William	Reynolds	1
A	16	James	Hendron	1
A	17	Edward	Payton	1
A	18	Robert	Graham	1
A	19	Robert B.	Hall	1
A	20	G. J.	Galivan	1

A	21	C. D.	Crawford	1
A	22	George	Rowe	1
A	23	Robert	Thorndyke	1
A	24	John	Todd	1
A	25	William	Cox Sr	1
A	26	Richard	Foster	1
A	27	William	O'Neil	1
A	28	Benjamin	Robinson	1
A	29	John	Dinwoodie	1
A	30	William	Doidge	1
A	31	John	Robertson	1
A	32	Peter	Baptie	1
A	33	John	Fredinburg	1
A	34	James	Horner	1
A	35	Abel	Hendron	1
A	36	George	McIlmoyle	1
A	37	Thomas	Boulton	1
A	38	Thomas R.	Hull	1
A	39	Charles	Payton	1
A	40	David	Arnott	1
A	41	Isaac	Garbutt	1
A	42	John	Sutton	1
A	43	C. R. D.	Booth	1
A	44	John	Cooper	1
A	45	W.	McDonald	1
A	46	Henry	Masters	1
A	47	George	Nicholls	1
A	48	John	Greige	1
A	49	Alfreid	Griffeths	1
A	50	George R.	Shields	1
A	51	Alex	Bell	1
A	52	David	Smith	1
A	53	W. D.	Thornton	1
A	54	Joseph	Fitzgerald	1
A	55	John	Madill	1
A	56	David	Moncrief	1
A	57	John	Baldson	1
A	58	Charles	Grylls	1
A	59	John	Isbister	1
A	60	George	Boulton	1
A	61	Patrick	Leahy	1
A	62	Timothy	Sullivan	1
A	63	George	Cocheran	1
A	64	Thomas	Hendron	1
A	65	Samuel	Nelson	1
A	66	Samuel	Duff	1
A	67	Joseph	Nelson	1
A	68	Josiah	Blewitt	1
A	69	Lewis B.	Stone	1
A	70	Isaac	Snelgrove Jr	1
A	71	William P.	Battin	1
A	72	George	Berube	1
A	73	George	Fry	1
A	74	Thomas	Postlethwaite	1
A	75	Robert	Darling	1
A	76	Lawrence	Steel	1
A	77	James	Blakeley	1
A	78	James	Charleston	1
A	79	Samuel	Sherin	1
A	80	John	Richardson Sr	1
A	81	John	Richardson Jr	1
A	82	William	Podger	1
A	83	Jonathan	Griffin	1

A	84	William	Alfred	1		A	148	James	McKibbin	1	
A	85	Edward	Salotell	1		A	149	Thomas	Recroft	1	
A	86	Frederick	Lillicrap	1		A	150	James	Davidson	1	
A	87	William	Baptie	1		A	151	William	Mathews	1	
A	88	Isaac	Snelgrove Sr	1		A	152	John	Nicholls	1	
A	89	John P.	Long	1		A	153	William	Sanderson	1	
A	90	John	Chasty	1		A	154	James G	Brown	1	
A	91	John	Hamblin	1		A	155	Jacob	Isbister		1
A	92	William J.	Wallace		1	A	156	John	Cowmeadow	1	
A	93	William	Carter	1		A	157	John	Rodgers Jr	1	
A	94	Robert A.	Strickland	1		A	158	John	Rodgers Sr		1
A	95	Thomas	Richards		1	A	159	Thomas	Dunsford	1	
A	96	Francis	Lemay		1						
A	97	Henry	Heath		1	A		W. D.	Thornton		
A	98	George	Truesdell	1						93	64
A	99	Henry E.	Wynn		1						
A	100	William A.	Shairpe		1						
A	101	John	Alcombrae		1	B	1	John	Hull	1	
A	102	Jeremiah	Moore	1		B	2	William	Harper	1	
A	103	William	Battin	1		B	3	Thomas	Dunsford	1	
A	104	Francis	Bowker		1	B	4	Richard	Purser		1
A	105	James	Blondell	1		B	5	John	Clarín	1	
A	106	George H.	Nat	1		B	6	J. C.	Sherin	1	
A	107	Joseph	Coldwell	1		B	7	G. J.	Galivan	1	
A	108	Josiah	Bullock	1		B	8	R. C.	Strickland		1
A	109	Charles	Winch		1	B	9	G.	Strickland		1
A	110	John	English	1		B	10	David	Arnott	1	
A	111	Joseph	Trotter	1		B	11	Jonathan	Griffin	1	
A	112	Richard	Hill		1	B	12	W. D.	Thornton	1	
A	113	Charles	Watley	1		B	13	Robert	Graham	1	
A	114	W. C.	Sanders		1	B	14	Thomas R.	Hull	1	
A	115	Edward	Fitzgerald		1	B	15	John	Moore		1
A	116	Francis	Beamish	1		B	16	Mathew	Edwards		1
A	117	John H.	McWilliams	1		B	17	Thomas	Cox	1	
A	118	Thomas	Simpson		1	B	18	John	Dinwoodie		1
A	119	Phillip	Hooper	1		B	19	John	Cooper		1
A	120	W. C.?	Hamilton	1		B	20	Wm J.	Batten	1	
A	121	Samuel	Henderson	1		B	21	William	O'Neil	1	
A	122	Thomas	Cox	1		B	22	David	Smith	1	
A	123	Andrew	Fairbairn	1		B	23	William	Batten	1	
A	124	John	Ferguson	1		B	24	Henry	Heath		1
A	125	Peter	Clinkscale		1	B	25	George	Rowe	1	
A	126	Edward	Payton		1	B	26	R.	Chapin	1	
A	127	Henry	Watley		1	B	27	James	Horner		1
A	128	John	Jemison	1		B	28	Charles	Payton		1
A	129	Edgerton	Waltor	1		B	29	Henry	Wynn		1
A	130	David	Madill	1		B	30	James	Hendron	1	
A	131	George	Strickland		1	B	31	George	McIlmoyl	1	
A	132	William	Cox Jr	1		B	32	John	McWilliams	1	
A	134	William	Leonard		1	B	33	John P.	Isbister		1
A	135	James C.	Carveth		1	B	34	Jeremiah	Moore	1	
A	136	John	Northcott	1		B	35	George	Cochran	1	
A	137	John	Edwards		1	B	36	Frederick	Lillicrap	1	
A	138	Robert	Irwin	1		B	37	John	Hamblin	1	
A	139	William	Stock	1		B	38	John	Sutton	1	
A	140	Orlando	Rodgers		1	B	39	John	Todd	1	
A	141	James	Morrison		1	B	40	William	Cox Sr	1	
A	142	Silas	Cox	1		B	41	Isaac	Snelgrove Sr	1	
A	143	J. C.	Sherin	1		B	42	R. A.	Strickland	1	
A	144	George	Bell	no vote		B	43	R. B.	Hall		1
A	145	William	Harper	1		B	44	Henry	Goheen		1
A	146	James	Jackman		1	B	45	William	Graham	1	
A	147	James	Bell	1		B	46	J. P.	Strickland		1

=====									
B	47	Francis	Bowker	1	B	110	William	Sandurn	1
B	48	Richard	Strickland	1	B	111	Samuel	Sherin	1
B	49	John	English	1	B	112	John	Robertson	1
B	50	Joseph	Coldwell	1	B	113	John	Northcott	1
B	51	George	May	1	B	114	Silas	Cox	1
B	52	John	Richardson	1	B	115	George	Truesdell	1
B	53	John C.	Baldson	1	B	116	Andrew	Fairbairn	1
B	54	William	Stock	1	B	117	George	Boulton	1
B	55	Francis	Lemay	1	B	118	Philip	Hooper	1
B	56	Thomas	Postlethwaite	1	B	119	James	Sutton	1
B	57	Isaac	Garbutt	1	B	120	Edward	Payton	1
B	58	Charles	Crawford	1	B	121	David	Madill	1
B	59	Henry	Masters	1	B	122	J. C.	Carveth	1
B	60	L. F.	Stone	1					
B	61	Josiah	Blewitt	1	B		W. D.	Thornton	
B	62	William	Alford	1				January 9th	
B	63	George	Nicholls	1			Lakefield	1878	
B	64	George	Berube	1					84 38
B	65	Robert	Darling	1			Majority for the Bill		46
B	66	Charles	Winch	1					
B	67	John	Baldson	1					
B	68	James	Bell	1	C	1	Thomas	Hull	1
B	69	Andrew	Wilson	1	C	2	George	German	1
B	70	William	McClennan	1	C	3	William	Harper	1
B	71	John P>	Long	1	C	4	Thomas	Beageley	1
B	72	Wellington	McDonald	1	C	5	W. H.	O'Neil	1
B	73	William	Baptie	1	C	6	Thomas	Muchall	1
B	74	Joseph	Trotter	1	C	7	William	Graham	1
B	75	Edward	Sawtell	1	C	8	George	Berube	1
B	76	George	Fry	1	C	9	Robert	Hamilton	1
B	77	John	Alcombrac	1	C	10	Isaac	Garbutt Sr	1
B	78	Isaac	Snelgrove Sr	1	C	11	C. J.	Burgis	1
B	79	Thomas	Simpson	1	C	12	William	Fountain	1
B	80	Joseph	Nelson	1	C	13	James	Blakeley	1
B	81	James	Jackman	1	C	14	Joseph	Fitzgerald	1
B	82	W. C.	Sanders	1	C	15	Josiah	Blewett	1
B	83	James	Blundell	1	C	16	Alex	Bell	1
B	84	Thomas	Gordon	1	C	17	Isaac	Watson	1
B	85	John	Edwards	1	C	18	James	Horner	1
B	86	Peter	Baptie	1	C	19	Samuel	Wallace	1
B	87	William	Carter	1	C	20	Edward	Fitzgerald	1
B	88	William	Hamilton	1	C	21	George	Preston	1
B	89	John	Ferguson	1	C	22	George R.	Shields	1
B	90	John	Cowmeadow	1	C	23	George	Fry	1
B	91	Alex	Bell M.D.	1	C	24	H. R.	Patterson	1
B	92	Kenneth	Urquhart	1	C	25	John	Hamblin	1
B	93	Thomas	Raycroft	1	C	26	George	Boulton	1
B	94	Richard	Foster	1	C	27	William	McLennan	1
B	95	Patrick	Leahy	1	C	28	L. F.	Stone	1
B	96	Timothy	Sullivan	1	C	29	Isaac	Snelgrove Jr	1
B	97	William	Cox	1	C	30	J. C.	Carveth	1
B	98	G. R.	Shields	1	C	31	Richard	Hill	1
B	99	Charles	Grylls	1	C	32	George	May	1
B	100	Samuel	Henderson	1	C	33	Jeremiah	Moore	1
B	101	John	Richardson	1	C	34	John	English	1
B	102	Thomas	Hendron	1	C	35	Arthur	Robson	1
B	103	John	Chasty	1	C	36	John	Edwards	1
B	104	Christopher	Pell	1	C	37	John	McWilliams	1
B	105	Samuel	Nelson	1	C	38	W. C.	Sanders	1
B	106	William	Doidge	1	C	39	John	Isbister	1
B	107	William	Adams	1	C	40	Samuel	Redpath	1
B	108	Edgerton	Walton	1	C	41	William	McKibbon	1
B	109	John	Jemison	1	C	42	Gabriel	Doman	1

C	43	John	Cooper	1	C	53	J. C.	Sherin	1
C	44	Robert	Thorndyke	1	C	54	H. E.	Wynne	1
C	45	John	Baldson	1					
C	46	W. H.	Casement	1					
C	47	George	McIlmoyle	1					41 13
C	48	Isaac	Watson Jr	1				Majority	28
C	49	H. F.	Mellon	1				For the repeal of the By Law	
C	50	Matthew	Edwards	1					
C	51	Joseph	Hurl	1					
C	52	G. J.	Galvin	1					

Lakefield's Temperance Votes, 1877-1879

Elwood Jones

When Lakefield was incorporated as a village in 1875, some of its leading citizens included people who voted in the three plebiscites on the Dunkin Act by-laws. The first village council was headed by Major Charles A. Boulton, the reeve. The other members were J. C. Sherin, the village's leading merchant, John Hull, the miller who ran the government grist mill from 1865 to 1906, Robert A. Strickland, the son of Samuel Strickland, and George R. Shields, a blacksmith, who later became the village constable. The first village clerk was Mr Saunders, G. Galvin and Gordon were made assessors, G. Beatty, was auditor. G. McIlmoyle was a baliliff and auctioneer. The village lock-up was in Roswell Chapin's furniture factory. The council rented a room from Gabriel Doman for \$40 a year. Thomas Hendren was paid \$17 to log and urn the concession line between Reid and Ermatinger streets. Dr William Caldwell was a Lakefield doctor from 1879 to 1894, when he moved to Peterborough. Dr Alex Bell was in Lakefield from 1866 to 1902, when he moved to Apsley, and he held many village positions, including village clerk, 1884-1889. Jonathan Griffin ran a cheese factory, but also constructed Lakefield's band stand. Francis Beamish ran a stave factory. Peter Baptie had a planning mill. Robert B. Hall had a general store on Queen Street. Robert Casement ran a general store and post office. William J. Wallace had a dry goods store on Bridge Street. Roland Strickland ran a sawmill. Mossom Boyd and Alex Smith ran a sawmill on the east bank south of the bridge. Anson P. Bower ran the drug store. The shoemakers included John Clarin, Thomas Raycroft and John Sutton. William Harper was a harness maker, and John Wood was a baker. David Arnott was a tinsmith. William White and Frederick Trude ran a butcher shop. William Blakeley, Henry Goheen, and James C. Carveth each ran licensed hotels, while James Blondin had a temperance hotel. George German ran the Midland Hotel. Early building contractors included Peter Baptie, Jonathan Griffin, Thomas Hendren, Thomas Goheen, William Leonard, and Abel Hendren. William Hamilton, the Midland railway station agent also ran a livery. Early blacksmiths included David Smith, Henry Wynn, John Isbister, James Hendren, and John Edwards.

During the years from 1877 to 1879, the village councilors, besides those first noted, included James Horner, Thomas Joseph Nelson, John Dinwoodie (reeve in 1878 and 1879), Jonathan Griffin, John H. McWilliams, and Isaac Garbutt.

Lakefield had spotty newspaper service. The *Lakefield News* was printed from 1875 to 1879, during the years of the Dunkin Act votes. The Peterborough Review was effectively the Lakefield paper for the next several years until

the *Lakefield Chronicle* began publishing, 17 December 1886. The principals at the *Lakefield News* were John C. Sherin and John H. Sherin. They sold the business to Frank Graffee, William C. Sanders and Jonathan Griffen. Eventually Griffen acquired control, and Sanders continued his grocery business while Frank Graffee left Lakefield. Griffen was assisted by Isaac Watson for about 18 months. The newspaper was not issued after August 1879.

The Dunkin Act was legislation from just before Confederation which allowed municipalities to pass local by-laws to prevent the sale of alcoholic beverages within their boundaries. The votes in Lakefield were acting under this umbrella legislation. The Dunkin Act was succeeded by the Scott Act in 1878, and by 1885 the Scott Act was setting the tone for local option votes in places such as Peterborough. The delay in testing these acts is indicative of the strong feelings, and legal challenges were an effective way to postpone temperance by-laws.

The debate on temperance has generally been fought on the rights of the community versus the rights of individuals. The liberal position was that individuals should pursue whatever they wish as long as it did not interfere with the rights of others. Drinking was considered something that interfered with the rights of spouses and children. Some argued that if it contributed to poverty then it had community implications.

In the votes in Lakefield the community voted 93 to 64 to prohibit the sale and consumption of alcohol in Lakefield just before Christmas 1877. In the *Heritage Gazette* for May 2002 we printed a letter to the editor and poetry that related to this plebescite, or vote to confirm a by-law. The letter complained of a local minister who warned of the dangers of young men spending time in the bar-rooms. However, the writer, asked, how are poor young men to spend their evenings. In the days before the 1950s, the bar-room often doubled for the family room; the hotels provided the guest bedrooms. Most people lived or boarded in small houses. In Peterborough in 1931, the average residential unit was about 600 square feet. City regulations forbid building such small houses, but I notice that bachelor apartments can be smaller. The poem was critical of people who polarized the argument: you either vote for Christ or for the bottle.

This very unusual document records the names and the votes of the people who voted and this provides a fresh way to look at the voting in December 1877. We could see if people voted differently depending on age, occupation or religion, for example. See what you think was happening.

However, there are three votes kept by W. D. Thornton. Only two months later the people of Lakefield got to vote on whether to approve the by-law that the earlier vote had set in motion. This time there were fewer voters, but the by-law was supported 84 to 38, actually a stronger margin. One year later, the voters favoured the repeal of the by-law, this time by a vote of 41 to 13, a surprising low turnout but 75% favoured ending the prohibition of alcoholic sales and consumption.

The Trent Valley Archives has only a few issues of the Lakefield News, and none of the fine local histories of

Lakefield even mentions the Dunkin Act. The general experience with the Dunkin Act is that when a community rather than a county prohibits the sale of alcohol, the commercial traffic shifts dramatically to the places where alcohol is not prohibited. Peterborough's temperance wars were still pending. Lakefield's hotels and general stores likely suffered drops in trade. In a small town people notice these things. Maybe, too, people wanted a cheery atmosphere for talking to neighbours.

BOOK NOTES AND REVIEWS

Ed Arnold, *Ed Arnold's George Street Stories* (Peterborough, Sketches to Remember, 2007) Pp 243, \$25. ISBN 978-0-9685187-2-4 Illustrated with sketches by George Elliott.

This is a fascinating book that should be read by anyone interested in the history of Peterborough. The book is arranged around chapters covering George Street from Rink Street to McDonnell Street, each block getting a chapter for each side of the street. The stories work at different levels. Some appeal for human interest, especially those talking about people who made great risks in order to have a business on George Street. Some appeal to our sense of history, and the book has many stories steeped in history, including many researched at the Trent Valley Archives. Some stories appeal to nostalgia, especially when Ed relates his own experiences on this street. There is probably no street that could allow him to tell so much about Peterborough. Many of the stories he tells would not be accessible but for his efforts.

Arnold refers to me and my house as an example of architectural work by Ken Trevalyan outside the downtown area. I think it was a test to see how well I had read the book, for there is no index.

The book has several extended discussions on careers that were defined by George Street. He really identified with the stores along the street.

The book features George Elliott sketches that cover all the blocks along George Street, and have the flare we usually associate with Elliott's historical sketches. The sketches are not displayed to best effect because they are landscape images in a portrait layout. As well, they are bunched together with out particular concern with matching the pertinent pages. The sketches would have been better, as well, if they had captions or indications of the dates being represented. However, it is really great to have another tag-team production from this great duo.

Ed Arnold's most startling historical observation is easily identified. Following research of Howard Pammett, one of Peterborough's most thorough historians, he concludes that Charlotte Street was named for Charlotte Birdsall, the wife of the surveyor, rather than for Queen Charlotte. The argument is cute but unpersuasive. Queen Charlotte was too well-respected, not to be the Charlotte for whom the street was named. Still, the observation indicates how well Ed has combed the local archival resources. He has also interviewed countless people, and made great use of the pertinent stories at the Examiner.

However, the book sparkles with solid research on many interesting questions, and much of it never seen elsewhere,

except perhaps in the pages of the *Examiner*. The book is filled with terrific stories that broaden our knowledge of the people around us. The book is detailed, well-researched and a pleasure to read.

Isabella Valancy Crawford, *Winona; or The Foster Sisters*, Michael Peterman and Len Early, eds, (Peterborough, Broadview, 2006) Pp 334, \$19.95 ISBN 978-1-55111-709-6

Isabella Valancy Crawford was a Canadian poet whose career was defined in Peterborough and Toronto, and was tragically short. She is best-known for her poetry, but Len Early and Michael Peterman make a persuasive case for judging Crawford by her prose. In talking to the Peterborough Historical Society in January, Michael mentioned that he had encountered Crawford's work in publications by Frank Lesslie, the publisher of many magazines from his Philadelphia base. The common thread turned out to be James McCarroll, who also had a Peterborough connection. McCarroll had published one of the town's early newspapers, and was a key player on the local musical scene. He was a clever writer who worked for Lesslie. It occurred to me that Crawford might have been linked to a wider literary world by others with Peterborough connections. Arnold Haultain was working with Goldwin Smith in Toronto, and assisted Frances Stewart's daughter in getting *Our Forest Home* published. John Garvin was also in the Toronto writing community, even as he served as a school inspector in 1890s Peterborough. I think he was the spark plug for getting support to pay for a fine monument in Little Lake Cemetery dedicated to Crawford. Money was raised in the Arts and Letters Club as well as with small donations in Peterborough. Crawford's connections with McCarroll were cemented at the St John's Anglican Church where both were in the choir, and where Crawford played the piano. In 1930, a journalist and photographer from the Arts and Letter Club visited Peterborough to take note of the various sites he tied to Crawford. When I first noticed this 30 years ago, I was struck with the power of Crawford's writing such that it could inspire a pilgrimage to Peterborough.

Reading the introduction and the several supporting documents was really refreshing. The editors assessed her writing and her connections, but they also examined the gender issues tied to her writing. The novel, *Winona*, also raises the prospect of impressions of First Nations. The ancient article by Pauline Johnson complained the way European writers could write about a First Nations heroine, as *Winona* was, as if the

specificity of her life had little importance. We talk of white heroines as English or Scottish not European; but Indian heroines are generically Indian rather than Cree or Mohawk. I thought Crawford's Winona was a Mississauga Indian and probably inspired by experiences in her childhood in Paisley, where the family lived before coming to Lakefield and Peterborough. We also get fascinating information about Crawford suing her publisher in Peterborough court. The editorial content of this edition is superb in all respects.

The story itself first appeared in 1873 in serial form in a Canadian magazine, *The Favourite*, and this is the first publication in book form. Ostensibly this is the story of two sisters separated early in life and raised in different cultures. For people in our area, the descriptions evoke images sometimes of places that sound like the Kawarthas. It certainly will be easier to make judgments about Crawford's writing, and to appreciate her total work. She wrote more than we had known, and the detective work of the literary analyst working in an historical milieu pays dividends. This work deserves a wide audience, especially among our readers.

Michael Peterman, *Sisters in Two Worlds: a visual biography of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill* (Toronto, Whitefield Editions, 2007) Pp 176, \$45, ISBN 978-0-385-66288-8

Michael Peterman has written a dozen books and countless articles that touch on the lives and careers of Susanna Moodie and Catharine Parr Traill. This book takes advantage of his exceptional knowledge about all aspects of their careers. It also allows him to make use of pictures that are usually rare in his works. Some of the pictures are used for setting and for their amazing sense of time, and the overall effect is impressive. The book is well-designed and great to view. However, it also contains the essential elements we need to know about a trans-Atlantic family that loved to write, and perhaps had to write. He shows how they became national treasures, but in some ways it is his telling of the story that makes them seem so.

The book is organized in 11 chapters. The sisters come to Canada in chapter 4. The next five chapters cover the years of their literary strength. The book has a short denouement, wrapping up their declining years in short compass.

It is really great that Michael has taken the time to pull together his insights about the two writers that he knows so intimately. The book is also a model for people wishing to write family histories that capture the sense of time and place as well as the details of significance.

Cy Monkman, *The Forgotten Sports Era: A History of the Peterborough Ski Club* (Peterborough 2008) Pp x, 271 \$35 ISBN 978-0-9809134-0-8

It is the real test of ingenuity when a researcher has to write a history of something for which the archival records are not really available. Cy Monkman has written this history of the Peterborough Ski Club without the benefit of club minutes, or official records. As a result he canvassed widely for memories, photos and contacts, and what a terrific reach he had.

The Peterborough Ski Club's history was not continuous, but the people that Cy Monkman tracks were downhill skiing in Peterborough as early as 1923 and as late as 1980; for its last decade it was the Bethany Ski Club. The members proved to be resourceful over the years as well. In early years, they were organizing hikes and tramps through city streets and

along favourite hills, such as Hunter Street east. At different times, they were skiing at the hill on the old Norwood Road, at Jackson's Park, at Green Hill, and at a few places that were unfamiliar to me. By the 1930s, the club was identified with Nassau where the club built jumps in 1931 and 1937. The development of Bethany sites occurred as early as the 1930s.

This is an excellent book that fills a gap in our understanding of Peterborough history. It will go on my shelves next to Marjorie Shephard's history of Nordic skiing locally. Both books strive to cover the history of their respective clubs season by season. Both depend heavily on the newspapers, but in writing her history of local Nordic skiing, Shephard had the minutes, many of which she had penned. Monkman's story covers a longer time frame.

I wondered when skiing was available as an activity. I have been reading the *Peterborough Times* for 1880 and there the comparable winter sport was snow shoeing. They even had tramps around town streets.

It is a pleasure to see this book published. Cy Monkman has been working on it for three years, and he spent many days at the Trent Valley Archives working his way through the only copies of the *Peterborough Review*.

C. Pelham Mulvany, *The History of the County of Peterborough, Parts 2, 3 and 4* (Peterborough, Trent Valley Archives, 2008) Pp iii, 215 to 505, \$50; ISBN 0-973707-2-6

This is the companion volume to the Biographical Section that was reprinted a few years ago. We knew that the Mulvany volume was scarce, and was too large to reprint in its entirety. Moreover, Part 1 was a history of Canada, and scarcely essential to a history of Peterborough County. The book was originally published in 1885, and had some editorial strengths. Mulvany is a strong writer and he wrote Part Two, the section on the county and the town of Peterborough. Charles M. Ryan wrote the histories of the townships in Part Three, and Charles R. Stewart, the editor of the Haliburton Echo, wrote Part Five, a history of the County of Haliburton. The great advantage of this history is its first hand quality. The writers talked to people about the events and the stories have a ring of truth. There were a few typos in the book, but we decided to print it as direct copy rather than rewrite the text. We think many of the errors are obviously wrong, and the readers will easily adjust to them. This we can say. There is no comparable book that brings readers so close to the people and events of the 1880s.

The chapter on the county's history has fairly extensive discussions on the early history of railways, on forestry, on churches and on organizations in the town of Peterborough. It is surprising to read Mulvany criticizing Peterborough people for the destruction of forests; as he put it "the Genius of Preservation was absent." The chapter on the history of Peterborough begins with a discussion of the seven hills, and with the Mississauga Indians. He has helpful discussions of Adam Scott based on chats with Jacob Choate. The Robinson emigration is quite detailed, although he does show a bias toward what he called "these simple-minded Irish peasants." A third chapter follows the "progress of the settlement," for Mulvany wrote in the Whig style of upward progress that had characterized the famous work of Macaulay. He also thinks it helpful that Peterborough was founded midway between the evil influences of Robert Gourlay and William Lyon Mackenzie; the town was free, he felt, of that discord. He titles Chapter IV "A Paternal Government" and stresses the

importance of the government in its development. Chapter V discusses the churches, primarily. Chapter VI is a useful military history although Mulvany is very critical of Governor Sir Francis Bond Head in discussing the Rebellion of 1837. In Chapter VII, the history of the schools and the press are covered. He describes the *Weekly Review* as Ontario's largest weekly paper, with possibly one or two exceptions. The *Daily Evening Review* began in 1878, and the company was then run by E. J. Toker and John Carnegie. The *Examiner* was run by J. R. Stratton, and the *Times*, the third local paper, was run by W. H. Robertson. At the end of this chapter he adds paragraphs on the Mechanics' Institute and Bradburn's Opera House. Through a series of small chapters Mulvany discusses the Royal Tour of 1860, Little Lake Cemetery, Peterborough Water-Works, the Peterborough Fire Brigade, and the various societies of town. Subsequent chapters are devoted to Ashburnham and the Indians.

Ryan's work is divided into sections rather than chapters, and each of the townships and villages is discussed in turn. The last part contains Stewart's succinct history of Haliburton, only set aside as a provisional county in 1874. This should be a welcome volume for members, and is only available from the Trent Valley Archives.

We should mention that two books of interest to members are in late stages of preparation. Marlyne Fisher-Heasman has been working on an authoritative pictorial history of Omemeew written from the perspective of what can be seen as one wanders King Street. She has some diversions off the main street. The book will be available through the Trent Valley Archives.

Also forthcoming this spring is Elwood Jones, *Fighting Fires in Peterborough*, a history written in close co-operation with a committee at the Peterborough Fire Department. Its publication will coincide with the centennial of the department, but will discuss the history of fire-fighting and of citizen responses to fires, from the earliest days to the present. For information on this book, contact the Peterborough Fire Department and talk to Pam Kelly.

The Peterborough Concert Band is preparing a short history and a special entertainment to mark 150 years of a community band in Peterborough. The band has known many names but the continuity seems well-established.

Details on these books will be posted on our webpage as they become available and we will have full reports in our May issue.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

567 Carnegie Avenue
Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1
www.trentvalleyarchives.com
705-745-4404

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scandals and Scoundrels St. Patrick's Day Pubcrawl (March 14 and April 4th)

Join us for the most popular pub tour of the season! Peterborough's downtown core is unique as many of the original hotels and taverns are still standing leaving local history largely visible. Join the Trent Valley Archives Scandals and Scoundrels tour as we guide you through four historic taverns in downtown Peterborough (Clancy's, The Pig's Ear, The White House and The Purple Rooster). Naturally being a pub crawl, we will have time to stop and have a drink! Your guide will also point out other hotels and their infamous guests and adventures along the way. Tickets are \$20 and do not include drinks. Tickets for all tours are limited and are available at Titles Bookstore (379 George St.)

TVA in the St Patrick's Day Parade

Look for TVA in the annual parade, being held this year on 16 March beginning at 2 p.m. If you would like to be part of the TVA presence give a call to Diane, 745-4404. Thanks.

An Evening with Peterborough's Greatest – May 3 at 6pm

Join us for this one-of-a-kind evening of fantastic food and live entertainment. Only 100 tickets are available for you to experience this exceptional evening featuring interviewers Sylvia Sutherland, Wally Macht and Graham Hart, in conversation with Charlotte Nicholls (portrayed by Basia Baklinski), Dr. John Hutchison (portrayed by Dennis Carter-Edwards and George A. Cox (portrayed by Bruce Fitzpatrick) -back from the pages of history for one night only. Savour a mouth-watering three-course dinner from the superb chefs of the Burnham Mansion Restaurant. Relax and enjoy this evening to remember, a gala benefit for Trent Valley Archives. Tickets are available, in advance only, by calling 745-4405.

Tickets: \$100 per person; \$175 per couple; \$90 for seniors

A tax receipt will be issued for the charitable donation portion of the ticket.

OPEN HOUSE

It has been our tradition to mark the opening of new research collections and to share updates on some of our more complex collections. For this open house we are pleased to announce that the following major collections will be open to researchers.

Bradburn Family fonds
Stan McBride Collection and fonds
Johnston Family fonds
James G. Weir diaries
Miller Family fonds
Gordon Berry fonds

Archives Week Open House and Genealogical Fair

The Trent Valley Archives is celebrating Archives Week, always marked in Ontario during the first week in April. This year we will have an open house on Wednesday, 2 April 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. As well, we are having a genealogical fair at the end of the week. Other events may be arranged by calling 705-745-4404.

TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES GENEALOGICAL FAIR

The **Trent Valley Archives** hosts its first genealogy fair on Saturday, 5 April 2008 at **Wayside Academy**, 575 Centre Line, across the road from the Archives building. A full day is planned with many exciting *workshops* and there will be a *marketplace* where a number of groups will have books and other materials available for sale. Lunch will be provided at a small cost so people attending the conference will get a chance to socialize, talk to presenters, view and purchase genealogical books and other material and also visit the Trent Valley Archives during the day.

9am - Registration and welcome from Wally Macht (TVA President)

9:30-10:30am - Workshop – Military Records

– 19th Century, including the Loyalists (Dennis Carter-Edwards, Research Historian with Parks Canada)

– 20th Century, (Steve Guthrie, Reporter & Historian)

10:30-11am - coffee break and Marketplace

11:00-12pm - Workshop - Document Conservation

(Basia Baklinski, Conservation Clinic, Conservator for Lang Pioneer Village and Trent Valley Archives)

12:00-1:30pm - Lunch and Archives visit

1:30-2:30 - Workshop – Land Record Research (Gina Martin, Professional Title Searcher)

2:30-4pm - Workshop – “Which Genealogy Software is Best for You” (Rick Roberts)

Rick Roberts, co-founder of Global Genealogy, produces ‘The Global Gazette’ and is a frequent speaker at genealogical conferences across Canada and the United States.

4pm - Wrap-up of day,

There will be an opportunity to do personal research at Trent Valley Archives or find out more about Family Tree Maker from Rick Roberts

COST FOR THE DAY WILL BE \$35. A BOX LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE AT A NOMINAL FEE, BUT YOU MUST INDICATE WHETHER YOU WISH A BOX LUNCH AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION SO IT CAN BE ORDERED.

GROUPS WISHING TO BOOK A MARKETPLACE TABLE CAN DO SO FOR \$10, MATERIAL CAN BE SOLD ON SITE.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES AT 705 745-4404

Ontario Heritage Conference

"Landmarks not Landfill: Heritage Preservation and Environmental Sustainability"

Place: Collingwood Ontario

Date: May 30th to June 1

Info: <http://www.heritageconference.ca>

The 2008 Heritage Conservation Conference title has been announced. It is co-hosted by the ACO, Community Heritage Ontario, and Collingwood and will take place May 30 to June 1. Sponsored by Community Heritage Ontario, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals Conference Topics Environmental Responsibility... Sustainable Development. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. These are key phrases heard daily in our media reports and social conversations. It is only

fitting that the 2008 Heritage Conservation Conference will focus on the theme of heritage preservation and environmental sustainability. The Ministry of Culture will launch the first day of the conference with presentations and workshops in the morning. We are pleased to announce the Ontario Heritage Trust will continue to explore the role of heritage and the environment as well as discussion on the Trust's role in protecting our natural heritage. On the second day of the conference, sessions will focus on such hot-button topics as "Re-Development Within Heritage Districts," "Adaptive Re-use of Historic Buildings," "Environmental Effects on Historic Structures," and "Heritage Preservation and Sustainable Development." Speakers: Donovan Rypkema, John Sewell, and many more. Collingwood invites conference participants to join us in our celebration of our town's 150th sesquicentennial anniversary. During your stay you will have the chance to explore our beautiful downtown heritage conservation district, learn about our shipbuilding history, and discover our abundant natural heritage.



Association of Canadian Archivists Annual Conference

The 2008 Association of Canadian Archivists conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Fredericton Lord Beaverbrook hotel in Fredericton, NB, from June 11-14.

A preliminary program will be available in the coming weeks, in time for the opening of registration on Mar 1/08, and will be posted in this area of the site. ACA workshops are being planned for June 9 & 10. Forms & descriptions will be available in the Related Forms section while information will shortly be available on their website:

<http://archivists.ca/conference/>

Archives Association of Ontario [AAO]

Annual Conference, Windsor ON, 4-6 June 2008

Building Connections: Creating a Stronger Heritage Community

The keynote speaker will be Miriam McTiernan, and there will be researchers, historians, records managers and archivists talking about different aspects of the collective mission of "looking after our documentary heritage." The organizers hope that there will be two days of sharing ideas, learning new strategies, networking and having fun in a city famous for at least one bridge, the Ambassador Bridge. The Conference will be held at the St Clair Centre for the Performing Arts (formerly the Chrysler Theatre) in downtown Windsor along the waterfront.

U.S. seller auctioning Macdonald autograph

Richard Brennan

Ottawa Bureau, Toronto Star, 4 February 2008

OTTAWA—A woman living in Massachusetts is selling on eBay what may well be a piece of Canadian history: a small card with Canada's first prime minister's signature, and so far it's fetching more than US\$2,000.

"Yours faithfully, John A. Macdonald," reads the card being sold by Patti Kelley of Worcester, Mass., who buys and sells this and that. The card has piqued the interest of, among others, the Prime Minister's Office and the Dominion Institute, an organization dedicated to preserving the country's history and artifacts. Kelley told the *Toronto Star* that the vintage card will go to the highest bidder when the bidding closes tomorrow, but noted it does not come with a certificate of authenticity. "Everybody's autograph isn't exactly the same every time, but he (Macdonald) had a very distinctive way that he connected his middle initial 'A' right into the Macdonald," she said. Kelley says the signed card was included in a number of items she bought from a dealer she declined to identify.

The bidding sat at US\$45 until the story appeared in the *Toronto Star* and on *thestar.com* and has been rising steadily

since. A spokesperson from Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office said, "We will have a look and, if we think it may be genuine, will attempt to acquire it for our party archives." Sir John A. Macdonald was prime minister from 1867 to 1873 and from 1878 to 1891. Kelley, 52, said she is always struck by the interest in items that, at first glance, don't look like much. "I just buy and sell. I am actually a real estate agent and actually things are a little slow," she said.

Rudyard Griffiths, governor and executive director of the Dominion Institute, said it's always sad to see a piece of Canadiana sold off. "It's symptomatic of a larger problem," he said. "There is no kind of program with the sophistication that a lot of other countries have to buy and retain these kind of important artifacts," he said, noting the situation is exacerbated by the fact that too many Canadians believe the country is too young to value such things. "We have a long history that needs to be told through these artifacts," he said. Griffiths said that, before Canada loses its history to eBay, some body, such as the National Archives, should be given the resources to buy important items. "It would be a shame to see our collective patrimony nibbled away on eBay by avaricious collectors of Canadiana across the globe," he said.

Newspapers and Archives available digitally

Here are URLs to get you started on finding newspapers that are available in digital form.

<http://bcdlib.tc.ca/links-subjects-newspapers.html>

<http://www.ibiblio.org/slanews/internet/archives.html>

However, my experience is that whatever I want to find is not available in digital form. I have found it commonly said that archives and bookstores have about 10% of their holdings accessible by email. This usually means confirming that such an item exists. Sample newspapers have been put in digital form, and of course the current runs of newspapers often for the past ten years are becoming very common. In the future, these data bases, if maintained, will be truly impressive. However, even in our case we have found that it still is worthwhile to invest in microfilm versions of the newspapers. The most complete Canadian newspapers available digitally are journals such as the *Toronto Star*. It can be expensive to use the digital forms of newspapers. I notice that the excellent archives of the *Washington Post* can be accessed at about \$3 an article. At the Trent Valley Archives, we have published several newspaper articles over the years, and as they get added to the web, they will be available in digital form. Our articles are very good, but this is still only the tip of an iceberg. To see the iceberg, you have to visit us. I suspect the situation for other archives is similar.

We have a large number of documents available in digital form in the archives, but very little is on the web. We recently had an inquiry from a researcher in Australia asking for information about the files we have related to the Judge Willis affair in the period 1826 to 1829. The case helped to define attitudes towards judicial independence, the etiquette of patronage, and the limits of overness in public officials. We uploaded our files specifically identified as pertinent to the Willis case to the web site in our searchable documents section. This is a treasure trove of information about Peterborough and area, but with this case we have moved further afield. The uploaded files are available at <http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com/willis/WILLIS-1826.doc> and area. Our researcher was delighted, as we gave her access to several thousand pages of documents that would not otherwise be readily available. We may extend this program to

other areas of the Upper Canada Documentary History fonds. We have, for example, lots of documents related to the District of Newcastle, the administrative area that included Peterborough and most of the geographic area that the Trent Valley Archives defines in its mandate.

RECENT EVENTS AT TVA

Fitzpatrick Surprise. Steve Guthrie created a trophy figurine as a special surprise gift to be given to Bruce Fitzpatrick as a

thank-you for his many kindnesses and good advice over the years, and especially for his successful fundraising. Bruce was TVA vice-president but had to step down because of commitments on his time. He will still be a leading volunteer, and he will, for example, lead our pub crawls this spring. Steve made the figurine a likeness of Bruce Fitzpatrick leading the pub crawl, carrying the pig sign and standing on a soap box. It was delightful satire and Bruce was definitely pleased.

Christmas Stories. At the end of November, the Trent Valley Archives held a special Christmas Stories event at Natas Café in downtown Peterborough. The evening featured singing and the reading of stories with links to the Peterborough area in years gone by. The program had been developed two years ago, but this time the delivery was crisper, and the addition of music was definitely a plus. The costumed readers included Mary Lavery, Liz Daling, Doug Lavery, Wally Macht, Cauleen Viscoff, Basia Baklinski, and Bruce Fitzpatrick. The music was very professional and we were grateful for the energy and the quality of their work.

OLD FASHIONED STORY TELLING



Lydia and Eddie enjoyed the entertainment.

Everyone cozied up in Natas Café on the first eve of December for an evening of old fashioned story telling, chocolaty cocoa, Christmas carols and fiddle playing. Trent Valley Archives did what they do best, tell stories of the past. They were especially thankful to Natas Café for being so accommodating in providing an inviting environment to tell their stories. In addition to the comfy location Natas Café also provided some very indulgent desserts such as raspberry truffle cake. Music was lead by Bruce Fitzpatrick, Danny Bronson and Susan McKnight. Trent Valley Archives continues to deliver history in new and interesting ways. Look on their website www.trentvalleyarchives.com for upcoming events such as the extremely popular Pub Crawl and the Heritage Mystery Dinner at Burnham Mansion in March.

Photos by Jake Walling

"Christmas Stories"



The gang at Natas Café who served all those delicious desserts. They are Franco, Julianna, Mike, Sandy, Delia and Steve.



Jane Young on the fiddle.



Some of the storytellers were Mary, Liz, Doug, Wally, Cauleen and Basia.



Thanks to SNAP magazine for the coverage shown on previous page.

Steve Guthrie created this miniature figurine to honour Trent Valley Archives' Bruce Fitzpatrick. Steve is quite the expert in creating toy soldiers and other miniature figurines. (Steve Guthrie)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

We are continuing to get nice additions to our holdings and we are grateful to those who have donated manuscripts, books, photographs, newspapers and archival materials. We have noted some collections earlier, but in recent weeks we have received some significant additions which we are now processing. Ed Arnold donated papers related to his books, and also some interesting documentation on journalistic projects.

The Peterborough Housing Corporation donated some records related to the Peterborough Protestant Home and Anson House which surfaced while Anson House was being renovated to provide affordable housing. The documents are generally related to the office of the treasurer, and includes journals from as early as 1870, subscription lists for the building of Anson House, around 1910, and several financial reports. The papers complement our earlier holdings which were used in preparing the history of Anson House in 2000.

We have received additional Stan McBride papers, and these are adding depth to the collection. Noteworthy files relate to the Bonner Worth Textiles strike of 1937, and to the investigation of the Peterborough Police Department in the 1950s. There are some very outstanding photographs, and a scrapbook of Sheriff McBride's outstanding career.

We are receiving the archival records of the Panel on the Future of the Trent Severn Waterways. This will include all the submissions and the reports of the Panel, together with useful documentation and the digital records.

Marlow Banks has brought us more scrapbooks covering the local heritage scene for several years.

We have added over 50 reels of microfilm of 19th century newspapers in Peterborough.

We continue to make additions to our library and our genealogical collections, as well. The Library at the Peterborough Regional Hospital donated Princeton files for our magazines and pamphlets.

Thanks to all the people who have made these and other acquisitions possible. We also wish to say thanks to the many people who donated money, many in response to our fundraising letter. We finished the year in the black, but we will need continuing support from our friends and members.

THE CHEW FAMILY PAPERS

The current issue of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* has a fascinating story about the Chew Family papers. All the known papers of the family, which had lived in Cliveden, their house in Germantown, through five generations were transferred in 1982 to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. These papers include correspondence and other papers, 1683 to 1896, and run to 183 linear feet. Recently, papers that had been found since then have been donated to the HSP, and now a few more papers have been found. The volume of papers discovered in the house since 1982 totaled 80 shelf feet, and the papers now cover seven generations. Our shelving units at the Trent Valley Archives can hold 80 linear feet of archives. At the Trent Valley Archives, the Peterborough County Land Records are triple that, but the largest collection of private papers for us is the John and Mary Young fonds which total about 35 shelf feet. The Chew family certainly kept lots of records.

Of course, Philadelphia is older than Peterborough, but it is still worth considering why we do not have such significant collections of family papers. Of Peterborough area collections the largest is probably related to the family of Mossom Boyd, a three generation family that had diarists in each generation. Moreover, the business papers of Mossom Boyd are sizeable as well. The first generation family papers are in the Library and Archives of Canada, mostly in MG 28, III, 1, and total 85 metres of textual materials, or over 260 linear feet of records. As well, there are lots of photos and maps. The papers of the second and third generation are in the Trent University Archives, and these papers run to 20 metres of shelving, or over 60 feet. So the Boyd family papers in the two repositories total 320 feet, compared to over 260 feet in the two collections at the HSP.

These are two exceptional accumulations. What makes it possible for such collections to accumulate? Could there be other such collections sitting in similar circumstances, hidden in the nooks and crannies of large houses?

The story of the Chew Family papers was interesting. Philip R. Seitz, the curator at Cliveden selected a file related to Charity Castle, an enslaved servant. The story helps us understand how a family copes with marital crisis. However, it also illustrates the peculiarity of Pennsylvania's laws related to abolition of slavery. Pennsylvania, in 1780, at the height of the American Revolution, passed an act for the gradual abolition of slavery. One clause said that any person brought into the state as a slave would be freed if remaining in Pennsylvania for six months. The loophole turned out to be a system of renting slaves for just under six months from sources in Maryland which shared the long southern border of Pennsylvania. Charity Castle's case was all about the intention of this clause.

Charity Castle accompanied Mrs Charles Carroll to Philadelphia in May 1814 for a short stay that was prolonged because Mrs Carroll did not wish to return to her husband. The planned return of Charity was delayed because she had a serious fall in late October while gathering firewood, and it was not possible for her to return to Maryland, to Mr Carroll, within the six months period. Some opinions suggest she was therefore emancipated even if by accident. However, some legal opinion fastened on the meaning of the word "retained" which was used in the clause. Since she was not doing work

for the family, it was argued that she was not retained by a conscious decision. The file stops in December 1814 and includes several letters. However, the case was not resolved within the file and we are left wondering if Charity Castle got the freedom she felt she deserved because she had been in Pennsylvania for over six months. The file of letters puts human qualities on the legislation, and allows us to see the complexities from several viewpoints. However, what it quite clearly shows is that the original 1780 legislation had a streak of ambiguity that prominent families accepted on a literal basis. The Chew family included the Chief Justice of Pennsylvania.

FRIENDS OF THE HARWOOD WATERFRONT

Dennis Carter-Edwards and I went to Harwood recently to meet with the very energetic committee seeking to create a railway museum in Harwood. The chair of this committee is the Hon. Pauline Browes, a former minister in Mulroney cabinet. They have the framing and boards from the original Harwood (originally known as Sully) station of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway.

Railway museums tend to be very popular. When my wife and I visited Council Bluffs, Iowa a few years ago we visited the Union Pacific Railroad Museum which had been established in the former Carnegie Library. The museum had been opened almost a month and they had just welcomed their 10,000 visitor. That was awesome. That museum had many advantages which will never be available to this group, but there is certainly much that can be accomplished.

Ted Rafuse has helped them gather the history of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway and I was asked what might be said of the railway north of Rice Lake. Much of the local railway history can be seen from the ground, as the Rotary Greeway Trail follows part of the line from Beavermead to Trent University, and it even passes the site of the original railway station. The accompanying fire insurance plan for 1882 shows the station in the lower right corner, just south of Elizabeth street, now known as Hunter street. The railway reached Peterborough in 1854, and the station later served the Grand Junction Railway built from Belleville, but covering the old Cobourg and Peterborough line in the Peterborough area.

The bridge and causeway over Rice Lake could not withstand the pressures of winter ice movements, and was not used after 1860. However, the railway continued to serve local purposes. Fresh track was laid on the old right-of-way in 1880 as we have learned from the Weir diaries in the Trent Valley Archives. There was some tension when the line was officially opened in 1881 in Peterborough, and shortly thereafter George A. Cox bought the railway and joined it to the Midland Railway. The Midland then built the "missing link" to get a short route to Toronto, and Cox pursued an active national railway strategy centred on Peterborough.

Dennis and I invited the group to meet with interested people in Peterborough perhaps this summer. Let Dennis or I know if you are interested in being part of this tour of the sites of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway.



The Walter Brown House

In our last issue, pages 15 and 16, we discussed this photo of the Walter Brown house on James Street but forgot to print the photo. Our apologies. We are still interested in opinions. We believe that a grocery store wing was built projecting from the centre of the house toward the street. This seemed like an unusual location for a grocery store, but in the 1930s this was still a walking town, and grocery stores were nearly everywhere in the city. However, there was a rather large non-commercial area south of Hunter Street in Ashburnham, and the store at this location operated for nearly 20 years, under several owners. What do you think? The photo is courtesy of Ken Brown.



ANNIE CAREY: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM PHOTOS?

FAMILY OF ANNIE CAREY AND WILLIAM JAMES HOGAN



Back row, L-R: Laurretta, Agnes, Redmond, Winifred, Richard
Front row, L-R: William Hogan, Anastasia, Walter, James, Anne (Carey), Austin

We have had a very interesting discussion with a member about these two pictures. The top picture identifies several members of the family very confidently and we can see Annie Carey seated near the end of the front row. The bottom picture shows Annie Carey at the left of the front row, many years later. One of those who died in the Quaker explosion and fire of 1916 was William Hogan, then aged 72, but much younger in the lower photo, where he appears on the left.

Can we identify family occasions for these pictures, and perhaps discern whether there are other ladies in both photos. Gary Carey, the family genealogist, dates the family picture to the 1890s. I wonder if the bottom picture shows women attending William Hogan's funeral in 1916. We thought readers would like to venture ideas of what they notice from the two photos and perhaps draw our attention to important clues. What can we conclude about the people in the upper picture, too?

The members of the William Hogan family in the top picture are Laura (1882-1944); Agnes (1877-?); Redmond (1870-1924); Winnifred (1876-1930); Richard (1880-1946); William James Hogan (1845-1916); Anastasia (1887-1974); Walter (1889-1976); James (1875-1963); Annie Carey (1849-1926); Austin (1885-1984).

Comments can be sent to Elwood Jones at ejones55@cogeco.ca Thanks for your help, and hope you have some fun matching faces.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES GENEALOGY FAIR

Our Genealogy Fair is being held 5 April 2008 at the Wayside School across Woodland Drive from the Trent Valley Archives. A full day is planned with many exciting *workshops* and there will be a *marketplace* where a number of groups will have books and other materials available for sale. See full details on page 38, and on our website, www.trentvalleyarchives.com.

We are very excited about our special speakers, and the talented efforts from some of our genealogy experts.

We recommend early registration as space is limited. The registration form is on our website. If you wish any additional information or suggestions about hotels and restaurants call the Trent Valley Archives at 705-745-4404.

Trent Valley Archives
567 Carnegie Avenue
Peterborough Ontario K9L 1N1



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

Trent Valley Archives Spring Events Schedule

Scandals and Scoundrels pubcrawl

Friday March 14 and Friday April 4 at 7pm.

Join your guide on an historic pubcrawl through Peterborough's notorious hotel and saloon district. Don't miss our signature attraction bringing fun and fellowship to our city's curious stories.

Trent Valley Archives Open House

Wednesday April 2nd

Join us for a tour of our facilities and meet some of the people who have donated archival materials. We will also be unveiling our new collection of newspapers on microfilm.

Trent Valley Archives Genealogy Fair

Saturday April 5th

Discover your ancestors during a day of workshops and talks on military records, loyalist immigration, researching the use of land records and more!

Trent Valley Archives AGM

Wednesday, April 23rd 7:30 pm

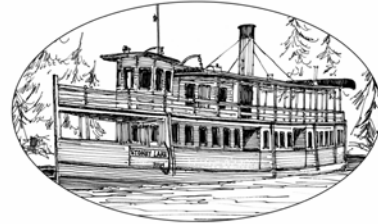
Dine with Peterborough's Greatest

Saturday April 26 at 7pm. – Burnham Mansion

Join us for an evening of fantastic food and live theatre featuring Peterborough's own Sylvia Sutherland, Graham Hart and Wally Macht, and three of Peterborough's most important figures, back from the pages of history for one evening only! Tickets for all events are available by calling the archives at 745-4404.

To use the archives, obtain our publications, donate materials, participate in our events or volunteer, please visit us.
<http://www.trentvalleyarchives.com>

Trent Valley Archives will be offering fresh tours of Little Lake Cemetery, and variations on some of the old favourites that have made the Trent Valley Archives synonymous with history in Peterborough.



TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23 APRIL 2008

The annual general meeting of the Trent Valley Archives will be held in the chapel of the Princess Gardens, Peterborough Square, Wednesday, 23 April 2008, beginning at 7:30 pm. There will be a short business meeting to consider all the usual motions for an annual meeting.

As well, the Board is bringing forth a motion to change By-law 38. This reflects the wish of the Charities Division of the Canada Revenue Agency, and the recommendation of our solicitor.

Bylaw #38: *"Upon the dissolution of the Archives in any manner by law, after payment of all of the Archives' debts and/or liabilities, its remaining property, if any, shall be distributed to an archive or archives, each of whom meet the definition of a "qualified donee" under subsection 149.1(1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada), as determined by the Board."*

Our guest speaker, Elwood Jones, will talk about the history of fire fighting in Peterborough. The Peterborough Fire Department and some local historians connected with the Trent Valley Archives expect their new book, *Fighting Fires in Peterborough* to be published by this date. It will be a good opportunity to get copies of the book. Readers of the Heritage Gazette have seen samples of the research over the years, and there is real enthusiasm for this solid and lavishly illustrated book. The book is selling for \$40, but a pre-publication price of \$32 is available during February. Contact Pam Kelly, Peterborough Fire Department, for details. 705 745-3284.



<http://www.peterboroughfire-rescue.com/historybook.htm>