



Remember the Corman House

# Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

# NEWSLETTER

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## Bi-Centennial of American Declaration of War against Britain Commemorated at Eastgate Square

On June 15, The Stoney Creek Historical Society participated in Battlefield Museum and Eastgate Square’s commemoration of the bi-centennial of the American Declaration of War with Britain (June 1812). Grade 7 students from several area schools that had participated in a postcard contest centered on the war of 1812 theme heard Canadian defense Minister Peter MacKay deliver an inspiring talk. He told the students that many of the militia men were not much older than they. He went on to say that now once again we have men and women in uniform, also not much older, who are still willing to die for their country and who believe so passionately in the values of Canada.



Presentation to SCHS President Greg Armstrong



Dean Wilkes, SCHS Recording Secretary and 1812 re-enactor

Until lions have their historians, tales of the hunt shall always glorify the hunters. ~African Proverb

\*Please see page 4 for more bi-centennial 1812-1814 event news

# First ever Cultural Policy for Hamilton

This policy formally acknowledges that culture is the fourth pillar of sustainability joining the social, economic and environment pillars.

Hamilton's new policy is based on input from more than 2,100 citizens including Cultural Leaders and a Citizen's Reference Panel, and was approved unanimously by City Council June 27, 2012.

Tim McCabe, General Manager of the city's Planning and Economic Development Department views culture as central to city building, business attraction/investment and quality of life. This signals a new way of thinking and underscores culture's contribution to economic and community development.

McCabe has made the City's Cultural Policy and Plan Project a major initiative within the Department's new Tourism and Culture Division, and the foundation has now been established for the more detailed Cultural Plan which will be presented to Council in 2013.

## MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2012

### at Nash-Jackson House - Battlefield Park (7:30p.m.)

September 11, 2012	Peter Twist <u>Fashion During the War of 1812</u>
October 09, 2012	Brian Kerman <u>British Authority Over Democratic/Legal During the War of 1812</u>
November 13, 2012	Dr. Meghan Brinkley <u>The Burial at Smith's Knoll</u>
December, 2012	Annual Christmas Gathering – Details TBA

# From the President's Desk

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The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has had a very active and exciting year to date. The Bi-Centennial commemoration of the War of 1812-1814 has begun and as evidenced elsewhere in this newsletter SCHS has become increasingly engaged in a number of activities that promote the significance of these times.

Further to this newsletter's lead article on our participation in an 'encampment' at Eastgate Square and on behalf of the Society, I extend a special thanks to the Merchants of Eastgate for their generous donation to our Society. In addition, thanks to Susan Ramsay, Curator Battlefield Museum, and to Barbara Miele, Marketing Director for Eastgate Square, for their roles in co-ordinating this very special event. Whether young or old, that day will not be forgotten.

As we continue with the Bi-Centennial, SCHS is most interested in elevating Billy Green 'the scout' from local hero to national status. Please share with us your thoughts towards that end. We value your input.

Bev Gray stepped forward and co-ordinated the annual June picnic for **The Friends of Battlefield** and **SCHS**. We thank Bev for doing so and she in turn appreciates all the help she received from a hard-working group of volunteers. My thanks to all for the good times, good food, and even better fellowship.

We are especially proud of the history-minded students noted below who will be pursuing the study of history at the post secondary level.

Sincerely,

Greg Armstrong

**Our best Wishes to the 2012 SCHS Student Awards recipients**

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**Michael Pratas, Cardinal Newman  
Chelsea Godwaldt, Orchard Park  
Meaghan Scott, Saltfleet District**

# Fort York Encampment - City of Toronto and Luminato Project

## We Were There!

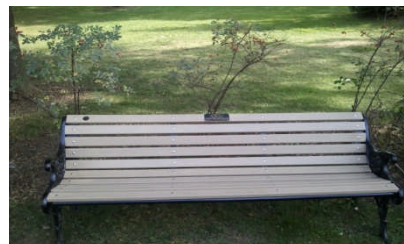
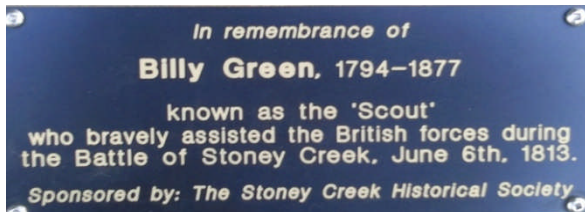


Imagine Fort York filled with 200 canvas tents, each containing the story of a real person involved in the War of 1812. The idea was to mount an artistic display on a historic site that has a deep connection with the war of 1812, and which serves to remind us of the personal toll of this war.

President Greg Armstrong attended one of the initial workshops and then encouraged the Society's participation. Under Robin McKee's direction, volunteers ...Bill Mitchell, Judy & Doug Green, Kathy Wakeman, and Betty Petis created a Billy Green exhibit within an 8x8 foot tent area. Visitors were treated to an impressive evening display. Thanks for a job well done.

## Billy Green Bench Installed at Battlefield

Your Society has recently installed a bench honouring Billy Green, known as the 'Scout'. It was Billy Green who bravely alerted British forces in the Battle of Stoney Creek, June 6, 1813. The bench has been placed behind the Nash-Jackson House next to the rose garden. Do take a look and rest ye awhile.



## Saltfleet/Barton/Hamilton Connection To

### Dr. Stephenson's National Children Homes (England)

Dr. Bowman Stephenson, a Wesleyan Minister established a number of homes for children in England (NCH) beginning in 1869.



After a visit to Canada in 1872, land was purchased in Barton Township near Hamilton. As the city grew the address became 1080 Main Street E., Hamilton (present day site of the No Frills Supermarket Main near King.)

In 1873, the NCH began sending both boys and girls to Canada but by the 1890's only boys came.

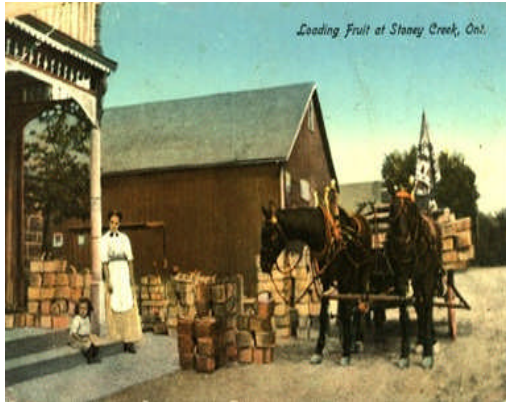


**Dr. Stephenson and Boys**

At the age of 14, Henry Rodman left for Ontario, Canada as a British Home child, on the ship Sarnia departing Liverpool 19 March 1891 and arriving in Halifax 29 March 1891. Henry and 47 other boys were then transferred to Dr. Stephenson's Hamilton Children's Home.

In 1901, Henry was boarding with the Scott family at Saltfleet, as a farm labourer and had learnt the craft of basket making. He was earning \$175 a month being in the position for 12 months.

In 1905, Henry married Edith Mills (nee Rowley) listed on the marriage registration as a widow, resident in Saltfleet. Following the marriage, Henry became a step-father to Edith's son Gordon born in 1899, and after a father to two children of their own, Henry



Stoney Creek c.1912

Garnet Rodman, born 13 Aug 1905, Saltfleet, Wentworth, and Reta Edith Rodman, born 29 November 1908, Saltfleet, Wentworth. Census records (1911) show Henry was working for the railways of Saltfleet, although poor health would have made work difficult. Henry Rodman died at Hamilton City Hospital on December 23rd 1912, at age 35, following a bout of pneumonia, and suffering from leukemia for 2 years. A Hamilton newspaper obituary references Green Bros' funeral rooms as well as The Church of the

Redeemer, Stoney Creek, for the service, followed by interment at the Stoney Creek 'burying ground'. Edith died in 1946, and is also buried in Stoney Creek, along with sons Henry and Gordon, and daughter Reta.

*Please note: The Stoney Creek Historical Society was given permission to print the above information courtesy of Rodney J. Lee of Sydney, Australia*

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## **REFERENCE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES NEWS**

If you haven't had a chance already, please consider a visit to check out what we have to offer. The Library located at 605 Highway #8 and is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Local residents who may be interested in researching their own families are welcome to visit the Society's archives library where our staff will be pleased to assist you.

### ***Volunteers Wanted***

We are currently looking for two volunteers to help with a specific project. Other volunteers will be needed to help with future projects as they are identified. If you are interested, please contact Sue Heatherley at [slynne46@hotmail.com](mailto:slynne46@hotmail.com).

## Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

President	Greg Armstrong	(905) 662-6269
Past President	Bill Mitchell	(905) 664-4576
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	John Fraser	(905) 667-3688
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Wendy Klassen	(905) 662-1524
Treasurer	Judy Green	(905) 662-4065
Recording Secretary	Dean Wilkes	(289) 656-1062
Correspondence Secretary	Stella Clark	(905) 664-7712
Director	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
Director	Kathy Wakeman	
Director	Robin McKee	(905) 544-9559

### Committee Chairs/Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick  
 Sue Heatherley  
 Newsletter: John Fraser  
 Programming: Kathy Wakeman  
 Social: Bev Gray  
 Carolyn Briggs

Telephone: June Guzar  
 Membership: Judy Green

### Member Business Directory

<b>Britannia Cleaners</b>	Ed Strecker	17 King Street East	(905) 662-4971
<b>Bertram &amp; Barry Insurance Ltd.</b>		6 Lake Ave. S.	(905) 662-8645
<b>Chamber of Commerce</b>	Dave Cage	21 Mountain Avenue South	(905) 664-4000
<b>Dr. Keith Millar</b>		304-15 Mountain Ave S.	(905) 662-2312
<b>Donald V. Brown Funeral Home</b>	Julie Brown-Webber	36 Lake Ave. Dr.	(905) 662-2948
<b>Flowers by Dianne</b>	Dianne Black	9 King Street West	(905) 664-6621
<b>Queenston Stationery</b>	Mario Figueroa	38 King Street East	(905) 664-3360
<b>Royal Canadian Legion Br. 622</b>		12 King Street East	(905) 662-4171
<b>Smith's Funeral Home (Stoney Creek) Limited</b>		454 Highway 8	(905) 664-4222

Please contact John Fraser at [schs-newsletter@cogeco.ca](mailto:schs-newsletter@cogeco.ca), if you wish to receive your full colour copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce printing costs!

**This issue of the newsletter is sponsored courtesy of Audrey Duncan**

## Membership Application/Renewal/Donations

YES! I would like to acquire/renew membership in the Stoney Creek Historical Society.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Receive newsletter by e-mail? Yes  No

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Please send to: Stoney Creek Historical Society

P.O. Box 66637

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Stoney Creek, ON

L8G 5E6

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Please check one: New membership  Renewal

Please indicate your preferred membership option: Individual: \$10.00 Family: \$18.00 Business: \$25.00

\*\*Please accept my additional tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to assist the work of the Society.

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### Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:

Nancy Capstick at [ncapstick@sympatico.ca](mailto:ncapstick@sympatico.ca) or

Sue Heatherley at [slynn46@hotmail.com](mailto:slynn46@hotmail.com)

### Please Help Us Manage Newsletter Printing Costs

A \$30.00 donation helps with the expense of printing and mailing our newsletter. If you would like to become a sponsor please contact our Treasurer, Judy Green at (905) 662-4065. Tax receipts are issued for donations.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Brent Beacroft, Larry Cherkewski, Sandy Forsythe, Ray Hobbs, Peter Kennedy, Robert Kitchum, David Koabel, June Martin, Robin McKee, Dennis & Marlene Minigan, Larry Mitchell, Brian Moorhead, John Pennylegion and Ken Scheffler.**