



*Remember the Corman House*

## *Stoney Creek Historical Society*

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

# NEWSLETTER

December 2011    Edition #54    Circulation: 300 copies

## Landscape Plan Nearing Completion in Battlefield Park



The re-creation of a significant cultural heritage resource, the 1920s Dunington-Grubb landscape plan in Battlefield Park, is nearing completion.

The husband and wife landscape architect team, Howard and Lorrie Dunington-Grubb, was hired by the Women's Wentworth Historical Society in the mid-1920s, and the result was an ambitious and extensive plan for tiered, ornamental gardens and meandering walkways. The Women's Wentworth Historical Society spent the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century making improvements to the Gage house and surrounding property in

recognition of the significance of the site during the War of 1812.

The landscape plan was partially implemented and then altered over the years. The current restoration of the landscape is part of the Battlefield Park Master Plan and is a War of 1812 Bicentennial project. The result will be a peaceful place to reflect on the Battle of Stoney Creek (1813), an event that helped shape Canada as a country.



### **Battlefield House Museum & Park**

The year 2012 marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the War of 1812; an event that had a great impact on the lives of the Gage family. Visit the home of this early Upper Canadian family on Family Day and experience the work and play of the Gages at this dramatic time in history. Dress up with your family in old-fashioned clothes, play with wooden toys and a game called skittles and try your hand at spinning and weaving.

**Date: Monday, February 20, 2012**

**Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

\*\*Article and photos courtesy of Marnie Maslin,

Curatorial Assistant, Battlefield House Museum and Park

## *Stoney Creek Reference Library and Archives News*

We have moved to 605 Highway #8!



Judy Green, Nancy Capstick, Sue Heatherley

A big thank you to all who helped with the move to our new quarters in the former Creek Church, on October 19, 2011. As you might imagine, there are many details still waiting to be attended to, but the space we now have will not only enable us to properly organize our current reference material but there is now the potential to grow our collection. The photos on this page may give you some idea of the additional space we now enjoy. However, come and see for yourself – there is more!

Perhaps you have old letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, or other memorabilia from the Stoney Creek area which you would like us to care for and preserve. We are now in a position to accept your donations. Should you wish to keep originals, you may wish to allow us to digitally photograph material. Your Society is now able to fulfill its mandate which is to promote the historic record of Stoney Creek.

All are encouraged to visit our new location, and we are pleased to let you know that the Archives and Reference Library is now open an additional afternoon each week.



### **SCHS Archives and Reference Library Hours**

**Tuesday and Thursday Afternoons 1:00- 4:00 p.m.**

**Access may be gained from the east door. Please ring the bell and one of our volunteers will assist you with access.**



## President's Message

The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has experienced another interesting and productive year. I would like to thank all our members, as well as the Directors on the Board, for their continuing support. On behalf of the SCHS Board of Directors, may I extend to you and yours our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our best wishes in particular go to our Honourary Past President Bill Mitchell. Good health to you Bill.

The SCHS Archives and Reference Library has moved. Our new location is at "The Creek", 605 Highway #8, formerly the Alliance Church. This facility allows us to expand and grow in accordance with the comprehensive vision referred to in the September 2011 Newsletter. This is an exciting and welcome development. Our volunteers have extended an extraordinary effort to establish this resource as a true reference tool for Stoney Creek, and beyond.

Our Archives and Reference Library was previously in the Nash-Jackson House. I wish to acknowledge Susan Ramsay of Battlefield Park for her support and cooperation. Susan was there when we needed to quickly find a location for our materials. The room available was much appreciated, and our volunteers achieved the very best possible within the physical limitations presented.

In addition, I wish to acknowledge staff from the City of Hamilton, for their professional assistance offered to us in relocating our Library. They were accessible. They listened to our needs. They responded. We were impressed. Thank you from SCHS.

Our publication "Billy Green and Balderdash" has recently been placed on the web site of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada. As we enter the Bicentennial year of the war of 1812, and approach the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Stoney Creek (6 June, 1813), it is important that we all accurately recall the details of that watershed event in the history of Canada. Copies of this booklet are available for \$2.00.

SCHS was well received at the November Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society book fair. We were pleased to support and participate. We will do so again.

SCHS continues to wish Friends of the Lee every success in their quest. We are encouraged by recent news reports and hope that the Lee will re-open, and pick-up where it left off, within the very near future.

As we look to the future, SCHS is mindful of the fact that it is our young people who make a difference. SCHS will continue its award program that assists a historically minded graduate from each of the three area secondary schools.

SCHS has benefited from corporate sponsorships. As SCHS does not generate income per se, but does incur operating costs, we are dependent on the generosity of our citizen and business communities. Please consider the "donation" form attached. Your support of SCHS will allow future generations to learn and benefit from the history of Stoney Creek.

*Greg Armstrong*

# Community Spotlight

Researched by Nancy Capstick

## Bertram & Barry Insurance Has Roots in the Community That Date Back Well Over One Hundred Years



Hugh Bertram  
Founder -1897  
- 1941

At the age of 18, Hugh Bertram came from Scotland with his family, arriving in Saltfleet Township in 1892. After farming for a brief time at Vinevale Farm on Mount Albion Road, the family settled on a farm just east of McNeilly Road on Ridge Road in Vinemount. Needing to supplement the family income, Hugh, quite an entrepreneur, found many part time jobs. One of these was selling real estate and insurance. Proudly hanging on the wall of Bertram and Barry Insurance's office today is a policy written in 1897 by a then 23 year old Hugh Bertram. It insured the property of Emerson Freel, then living at Lot 13, Conc. 6, just east of Tapleystown. It included coverage of "500 dollars on dwelling, 300 dollars on ordinary contents thereof, 50 dollars on organ, 500 dollars on barn and stable and shed, 600 dollars on ordinary contents thereof, 25 dollars on drive barn, for a total of \$2300 of insurance. The premium was \$103.20.



Insurance policy for Emerson Freel's Tapleystown property written by Hugh Bertram, 1897



4 First Street, circa 1935



16 Wardrope Ave, Circa 1948

Hugh married, had children, and moved his young family to 4 First Street, Stoney Creek in 1919. There he continued to develop his real estate and insurance business out of an office in his home, while also working as the first Clerk-Treasurer for the Village of Stoney Creek from 1931-40, the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Saltfleet School Board, a Correspondent for the Hamilton Spectator, and a Salesman of nursery stock for E.D. Smith.

# R. H. BERTRAM, Life and General Insurance

16 Wardrope Avenue - STONEY CREEK, ONT. - Phone: Stoney Creek 645

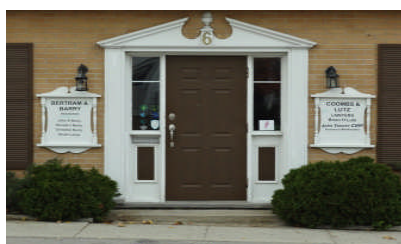
Upon Hugh's death in 1941, Hugh's son Ron, who was then working at Lee Hardware in Stoney Creek, (where Britannia Cleaners is today) took over his father's insurance business on a trial basis. Ron continued to work at Lee Hardware and spent his spare hours building the insurance business over the next five years. Finally believing he could be successful in the insurance business, Ron gave up his position at Lee Hardware and went into insurance full time.



**Ron Bertram**

**Owner 1941-1977**

Now called R.H. Bertram Insurance by this time, Ron operated his business from his home at 16 Wardrope Avenue and later 23 Charles Street. The business grew over the years and in 1972 Ron's son-in-law John Barry joined the company. At that time, the business became known as Bertram and Barry Insurance, and moved to its present location at 6 Lake Avenue South. When Ron retired in 1977, John Barry took over the business. In 1992, John's son Ron joined the business, followed by John's daughter Christine in 1995. John's wife (Ron's daughter and Hugh's granddaughter) Connie, filled in at various positions whenever it was needed over the years, and joined the company full time in 1997 as co-owner of the business. What started over 100 years earlier as a one-man, part-time insurance/real estate business has evolved into a highly successful 'century' insurance business.



**6 Lake Ave. S. – present office location**



**John Barry and Connie Bertram**  
**Owners 1997-2008**



**Christine and Ron Barry**  
**Owners 2008-**

Although John still works in the office, now Connie and John's children, Ron and Christine, co-own and share the responsibility of running the Company.

Every successful business relies on good support staff, and Bertram and Barry Insurance is no exception. The Company has been fortunate to have had many good and loyal employees who have all done their part in making the Company what it is today. Bertram and Barry is a proud member of the Stoney Creek business community and privileged to have the continued support from residents of this community.

# *Stoney Creek Historical Society/Friends of Battlefield*

## *Upcoming Speakers*



British Squadron - 1812

## Highlighting the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War of 1812

The Stoney Creek Historical Society/Friends of Battlefield are jointly sponsoring speakers in the new year who have agreed to share their expertise on significant events during the war of 1812. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. , Nash –Jackson House, Battlefield. All are welcome. Please be sure to mark your calendar for the following dates:

Jan 10, 2012

Jim Hill, Superintendent of Historic Sites for Niagara Parks:

**“Winners and Losers in 1812”**

Mar 13, 2012

Tom Fournier: **“Heroes of Upper Canada: The 41st Regiment 1799 to 1815”**

April 10, 2012

Ron Dale: **“Forgotten Heroes of the War of 1812: Mary Henry & James Prendergast”**

May 8, 2012

Joseph Lischka: (Joseph the Chandler): **“Fort Erie and Niagara Commerce on the Eve of War”**



February 14, 2012

Susan Spencer: **“Evolution of Romantic Clothing”**

## 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	Dorothy Reid	(905) 664-6355
Director	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
Director	Kathy Wakeman	
Director	Meaghan FitzGibbon	(905) 662-2691

### Committee Chairs/Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick

Sue Heatherley

Newsletter: John Fraser

Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Social: Sue Heatherley

Carolyn Briggs

Telephone: June Guzar

Genealogy: Dorothy Reid

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>Connection Key Travel</b>	John and Mary Fraser	889 Barton St., Unit 2	(905) 643-7444
<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 Branch 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!

#### Welcome New Members!

Ross & Diana Martin

Ron & Christine Barry

**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? Y/N

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

Genealogy queries (written only – 50 words max.)

Members: 2 free per year

Non-Members: \$5.00/query

For further information please contact:

Dorothy Reid at (905) 664-6355

Other research queries -please e-mail

Nancy Capstick or Sue Heatherley at

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

[heatherley@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherley@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.

### Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek

A read of Billy Green and Balderdash will help you learn about the exploits of Billy Green and to distinguish fact from fiction. This publication is a must read! You may access this book online at <http://www.uelac.org/Book-Reviews/Billy-Green-And-Balderdash-The-Facts.php> on the website of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. Print copies are also available from the Stoney Creek Historical Society for a nominal cost of \$2.00.

