

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2008 Edition #43 Circulation: 300 copies

A HISTORY OF RED HILL'S "CLINTON HALL"

By Michael Gemmell



Photo by Arthur Wallace, 1946 Hamilton Special Collections

Clinton Hall was a colonial-style home, one of Saltfleet Township's most imposing homes, located on Lot 32, Con 3. From about 1826 until about 1951 Clinton Hall overlooked the Red Hill Valley from the west side, looking across the valley towards its majestic counterpart, Red Hill House. Today the land where Clinton Hall once stood is part of East Hamilton, located at the junction of Lawrence Road and King Street.

[Continued on page 4.]

Financial assistance for the printing of this newsletter has been provided by

STONEY CREEK NEWS

This newsletter issue has been sponsored by a generous donation from:

Robert W. Smith

President's Message

At the start of a new year it is always a time to reflect on the past year as well as to look ahead and plan another year of activities for the Stoney Creek Historical Society. In this respect your executive has already set the wheels in motion to make 2008 an interesting and active year for our members.

At the annual meeting in January the members elected a slate of directors for 2008. A list of your current directors can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Each year we elect three members to serve a three year term. These elected members replace the three directors who have served their three year term. This year we were fortunate to have two of the serving executive stay on for another three year term, and we welcomed Wendy Klassen as our newest director. Wendy will replace Michael Gemmell term as 2nd Vice President. Michael has agreed to continue to produce the Newsletter, so we did not lose his expertise completely.

I would like to thank Michael for his help not only on the newsletter but for his work on the Ron Place memorial plaque. The plaque to honour Ron is ready and will be installed in the garden alongside the Augusts Jones fountain this spring. A thank you also goes to Kathy Wakeman, also our speaker coordinator, for her help with the City of Hamilton Heritage Committee, in securing approval for the plaque. Please mark your calendar for June 7 and join us to pay tribute to Ron.

Another project which has been long overdue for completion is the projected library that is slated to go in a room of the Nash-Jackson house in Battlefield Park. At a meeting with Hamilton personnel last November, several of the S.C.H.S. executive was advised that the restoration of the Nash-Jackson house is scheduled for completion for Battle Weekend this summer. At that time we should be able to start moving our library material to a designated room in the house. When this project is completed our members will once again be able to research documents in a comfortable atmosphere.

S.C.H.S. members will be setting up a display to promote our organization at the Heritage Day, at the Scottish Rite Friday February 15th at 10:00 AM. Please mark you calendars for this day as it will be most interesting for those of us who have an interest in history.

Our 1st V.P. Greg Armstrong has taken on the task of publicity, so you will see more about S.C.H.S. in local newspapers as well as a redesigned web page for those who are "online".

Another project planned for 2008 is to reach out to younger people in the community and especially any one in the youth sector that have expressed an interest in historical information, pertaining to our community. If you know of any adult, newly retired persons or youth that express an interest in historical information, please encourage them to attend a meeting or two as they will be welcomed with open arms. Our meetings are not only a learning experience, but they are an excellent way to meet and interact with people who share the same interests. I encourage all our members to join in and enjoy good refreshments, and great people. See you the first Wednesday of each month at the old Stoney Creek City Hall, 777 Hwy # 8 at Jones Road. Be there for 7:00 PM as the seats fill up fast.

Bill Mitchell, President

Historical Society News

Upcoming Speakers

April 2, 2008: Ian Bell Smuggling and Port Dover history (Rescheduled from Jan 2008) May 7, 2008 – Nancy Kinsman Butter-making

June 13, 2008 – annual SCHS picnic Location TBD

Would you prefer to help us save postage and have your newsletter delivered via email? Please send us your email address via mgemmell@sympatico.ca and you will receive the newsletter in PDF or MS Word.

Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Volunteer Awards and "Heritage Comes Home 2008"

The Stoney Creek Historical Society is pleased to nominate Mr. Fred Chapman for a heritage citation as part of the upcoming annual Hamilton Heritage Comes Home, taking place on Friday February 15, 2008, from 9 am – 12 pm at Scottish Rite (King Street W., Hamilton).

"The Society would like to recognize Fred for his friendly co-operation and warm greeting every month. Many times he has helped us out when we have needed something during our meetings. The Society also appreciates his interest our organization and our programs."

Please join us on February 15th when the citation is presented between 10:00 - 11:00 am by the Mayor and Susan Ramsey, president of Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association.

Heritage Comes Home is presented this year by the Ontario Heritage Trust, and is the kickoff event for Ontario Heritage Week. There will be performances from the Stewart Memorial Church Senior Choir and from the Aboriginal Dance Group. There will also be a Heritage Expo before and after the award presentations.

The Historical Society's Reference Library has moved. It is <u>currently not open to the public</u> while work proceeds at its future home, the Nash-Jackson House.

REMINDER THAT 2008 MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE

In the News... May 23, 1893

Globe and Mail

Charles Barr of Tapleytown [age 37] was fined \$3 and costs at the police court yesterday for assaulting Stephen Penfold of Barton last Thursday. The costs amounted to \$13.75.

Request for Information

83 Webster's Road.



The home appears on the 1907 topo map. It, along with a barn, is the oldest building on the old *Webster's Side Road*.

In 1903, GB Galbraith (sometimes spelled "Galbreaith") owned a small farm at the base of the escarpment, approximately where the house is. GB Galbraith was listed in the 1904 phone exchange for Stoney Creek as a "Fruit grower".

This may be Brock Galbraith, who lived in Saltfleet with son Frank and daughter-in-law Violet in 1911. From 1897-1900, Brock Galbraith was a Saltfleet Councillor. Frank Galbraith later started the Pines Hotel.

The other possible builder was William C. Webster, who owned the land up to the modern King-Centennial intersection. Webster and his wife Sarah (Cline) had a house which is right at the intersection where 99 King St W is today. Sarah E Webster was also a member of Stoney Creek Methodist (now United) Church in 1877.

The house is clearly defined on the 1929 topo, which shows the route of the proposed Highway 20. The new road cuts the east and heads up the escarpment: right in front of the house.

In 1955 the home was lived in by George Andrew.

If you have any reminiscences or photos of this building or anywhere else in Saltfleet Township (Stoney Creek) that you would like to share, please let the Editor know (905-549-5949 or mgemmell@sympatico.ca)

HISTORY OF CLINTON HALL continued.

William Gage and Susannah Gage settled in Saltfleet in the 1790s. William built a home in the early 1800s that today is on Phyllori Court, Stoney Creek.

William's son, Andrew (1772-1827) moved to Saltfleet with his parents in 1794-96. He married Deborah Horning at settled in Bartonville on Lot 6, Con 3. He was living there in 1808. (Census)

Andrew's children included Mary (who married into the Waddell family, and whose son was 1850s merchant-businessman R.R. Waddell) and Peter (1804-1869).

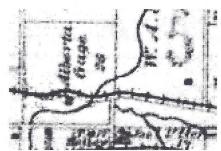
Peter was born in Barton Township and married Henrietta Marshall of Conn., USA. Their marriage date is not known, but their eldest child, daughter Deborah, was born in 1826 in Saltfleet Township.

In the 1826 Census, Andrew is listed as living in Barton Township, and there is no record of either Andrew or Peter living in Saltfleet. Despite this, Deborah is listed as being born in Saltfleet Township, suggesting a possible date for the Clinton Hall's construction.

The first textual reference to "Clinton Hall", however, comes in 1854, when Peter's other daughter, Mary Elizabeth (born in 1834), marries Thomas Hutchinson in the home. {Source: McKenzie- "More Notices from Methodist Papers 1830-1857"}

The name of "Clinton Hall" purportedly derives from "Fort Clinton" in the United States, where Williams Gage's brother, James, died during the American Revolution. Since Peter's grandparents, William and Susan, died in 1820 and 1821 respectively and Peter's father, Andrew, passed away in 1827, a tribute to any of these might have been the reason for the naming.

The home, unpainted and with impressive two-and-a-half story columns, stood atop a rise in the Red Hill Creek Valley amidst the Gage family peach orchard. A large wooden staircase stood in the centre of the home. Located at 2384 King Street, it was situated in a triangular plot of land west of the modern Lawrence Road /King Street intersection.



1903 Wentworth Atlas
Parkdale Ave at left, Pottruff Rd at right.
Red Hill Creek is running N-S.
King Street is running E-W.
Clinton Hall is the dot on the left.
Red Hill House is the dot on the right.

In 1859, the land was owned by Peter Gage. In 1874 Alberta Gage purchased a piece of the farm for \$2000.Until at least 1903, ownership had been passed to Alberta (Bertie) Gage. Alberta (or Bertie) Gage was short for J Henrietta Edith Alberta Gage (1850 - 1937), another of Peter's daughters.

Alberta married M Cyrus King in 1875. Cyrus King is listed on the 1877, 1878, and 1879 Voting Lists for Saltfleet as living on the property (Lot 32, Con 3). Cyrus King was a Hamilton merchant selling groceries and liquors at a shop at 10 Market Street, according to the 1875 Atlas.

Alberta (known variously as Bertha, Burtie, and Bertie in different censuses) was living in Hamilton in 1881, 1901, and 1911 (Wards 4, 3, and 2 respectively), with her husband Cyrus. It is probable she rented out the family farm after 1869.

In 1893, Ernest Back is listed a tenant on Lot 32, Con 3. In that same year, Mary C Bradley is listed as an owner. They could, however, have been farming north of Clinton Hall, farther up modern Parkdale Ave.

The triangle of land was occupied by a man named Sydney Melson and his family in 1901 and 1903. Sydney H Melson first appears on the land in 1897. Sydney's wife Sarah L. Melson

was the vice-president of the first Women's Institute (founded in Stoney Creek, also in 1897). They had a son named John (Jack?).

The house was owned by L(aughlin?) Taylor in 1926, and a later resident, Don Oliphant, referred to Clinton Hall as 41he old Taylor House'.

In the early 20th century, Clinton Hall was subdivided into apartments, 28 rooms in total. By 1945, some renovations had been made to the home, such as installing double-pane glass, a



Sarah Melson, 1907

Ron Place Memorial Update

The bronze plaque in memory of the late Ron Place has arrived and is awaiting installation.



Installation of the plaque, courtesy of the Hamilton Joint Plaquing Committee, will likely be on **Saturday**, **June 7**, **2008**, at **10:00 am**, and will take place at the **Stoney Creek Olde Towne Square** (corner of Jones St. and King St.) with a short presentation by Ron's family and friends.

concrete front porch, and an addition to the rear. Later, the land surrounding the house was dug out by a gravel company, essentially making the home an island. It was demolished between 1951-1955.

Today the site is occupied by the rear yards of the houses on the end of Coronation Ave overlooking the parking area and occupying the same triangle of land between Lawrence Rd and King St.



Clinton Hall site, 2007

EXCERPTS FROM THE PETER VAN WAGNER DIARIES- PT 5.

Transcribed by Kristen Kerr

Sunday July 14th, 1850

Townsend and John here. Got out the Boat, took a sail on. Coming in saw Peter Spauer (?) and John Martin, son of Col. Martin on the shore. They went out with me and took a bathe and stayed the rest of the day. E.P. here, with Mi—Cline on her way home. George Crosthwaite here while we were taking the boat into the pond. Tim and I then went to E.P.'s to see about going to town tomorrow. Came back after dark. Charlie MaGill and Mrs. on a [visit] to E.P.'s. Their child has been [sick] awhile. Grand fight between J.D. and J.B. the other day.

Editor's notes: Van Wagner is referring to John R Martin, later a Hamilton lawyer and owner at this time of Red Hill House on King Street. Martin was actually the grandson of Colonel Richard "Humanitarian Dick" Martin, a famous 18th century Irish politician who was most well known

for helping found the SPCA in 1824. John R. Martin emigrated to Hamilton as a child in 1834, studied law with his brother Richard until 1853, and eventually settled in Cayuga.

Monday, July 15th, 1850

My thirty second birthday. Worked hard all day. Brought in three loads clover from the orchard and half a load from Amos'. Mrs. P and Jane at Hamilton with cherries. Sold seven dollars worth. Our hay making on their place finished, having been twenty days as if oft and on averaging at that rate only half and acre a day. Timothy cutting the whole of it and not shaving it very close. H. V. W. and Mrs. here today. Wind west pm, east am.

Tuesday, July 16th,1850
Helping Williamson on his stone house. He detained his vessel and crew to help raise. Talked with Capt. John Bill--- and his brother Townsend Bill---. Then wind about twenty hands made bad work of it, got together only two bents this afternoon. Mrs. Welham moved into Williamson's house and Timothy commenced cutting his wheat. ---- and --- James Colman lying here tonight. Cory sick with Erysipelas.

Editor's notes: Erysipelas is more commonly known as <u>St Anthony's Fire</u>, a skin disease resulting in inflammation and characteristically extending into underlying fat tissue. One of the disease's most famous victims was philosopher John Stuart Mill (1873).

Many V.W. here this evening and went home again. Sent Alex down to see Joel Utter about coming to cradle. Saw a teamster take a good ducking.

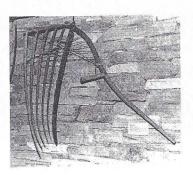
Wednesday July 17th,1850
Brought ½ load of Hay from Amos's ½ too from Woods'. This will be the last of our hay, except a little from Amos after harvest. Joel Utter was to have been here today, but has not come. Timothy gone for him to night with Jim—(?) Williamson's raising today, he did not succeed in getting the bends together ---. Great opposition between Waddel and Williamson, each doing all he can to throw obstacles in the other's way, H. V. W. took dinner here. Jane and Mrs. P went to town with butter and cherries. Charley Magill gave the young ones a ----. Bah (?) Townsend and John

here tonight. Rain this PM. Every appearance of a wet harvest. Timothy in to buy Mr. Coe(?)'s straw. Wind from every front of the Comp---, with thunder and lightning. Mr. Hopkins very much delighted with the prospect of having a town here, speedily. Amen.

Editor's notes: Williamson's and Waddell's grain storage houses were supposed to be the first construction in a new port community, centred on the Stoney Creek Lagoon (inlet). The Great Western Railway was planning stations at this time, and one of the proposed sites was at the tip of the inlet (modern day Lake Ave and Barton Street). Ephraim Hopkins even had a village plan surveyed, but this "Hopkinsburg" never came to pass, as the landowners asked the railway for too much money. By 1860, the grain merchants moved their operations west, into Hamilton, and the opportunity for a Stoney Creek port was lost.

Thursday, July 18th,1850 Commenced harvest about ½ past 10pm. Joel Utter cradling. Myself raking and binding. Cut 6 or 7 shears. Wheat rather green. Heavy in spots, lighter in others.

Editor's notes: Cradling is the act of harvesting grain using an arrangement of fingers attached by a light framework to the scythe. A cradle is used to gather the straw as it is cut and deposit it in a swath. At the end of the cutting stroke, the cradle is tilted to drop the straw in a pile. Using the cradle does not require stooping. Also, substantially more grain can be cut in a day with the cradle.



Williamson has his stone house up as far as the plates. Slow job. Raining. HVW giving the word today. He and Mrs. were here. Wind east. The Seamen Fav--- and Coleman left in the forenoon. Fingers rather sore so I'll quit.

Report from Battlefield House Museum

The Legacy of Mary Jones Gage People are always searching for 'connections'; connections to other people, connections to family, connections to ancestors, connections to the past. Connecting our lives, our purpose, our experiences to those of the past gives us meaning and makes us human.

By preserving and sharing the history of Battlefield House Museum, staff and volunteers are preserving and sharing the connections to all those people who passed through, or made the house their home in the last two hundred years. Mary Jones Gage is at the peak of those connections.

Around 1789, widow Mary Jones Gage made the decision to leave her home in New York State and travel hundreds of miles with her two teenaged children to Saltfleet Township to start her life over again. Mary Jones Gage lived out most of the rest of her very long life at what is now called Battlefield.

Mary Jones Gage had two children, James and Elizabeth. Her son James had ten children and daughter Elizabeth had sixteen children. James had fifty grandchildren and Elizabeth had eighty-nine grandchildren, giving Mary a total of 26 grandchildren and 139 great-grandchildren! Famed Canadian author Robertson Davies was a great-great-great-grandson of Mary Jones Gage.

Over the years, Battlefield House Museum has been visited by many descendants of Mary Jones Gage, coming to discover more about their connections. For them, the house is rare physical evidence of the connections and meaning in their lives and of the legacy of Mary Jones Gage.

We hope that you and your family will take some time to make some connections at Battlefield House this winter and spring:

Heritage Week Lecture - "Natives, Merchants and Soldiers: Burlington Heights Before and During the War of 1812"

Speaker: Michael McAllister, Dundurn National

Historic Site

Date: Thursday, February 21, 2008

Time: 7:30 p.m. Cost: FREE

A Monumental March Break

Fun and exciting hands-on activities for the whole

family as we bring the past to life!

Dates: Tuesday, March 11 to Friday, March 14, 2008

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

Cost: Regular admission rates apply.

So That's What That Means!

An entertaining lecture on the origins of everyday expressions as you tour the Museum.

Date: Sunday, April 20, 2008

Time: 2:00 p.m. Cost: FREE

Battlefield Monument Unveiling

Hamilton Spectator, June 6, 1913.

The Queen has "touched the button" o'er Three thousand miles of sea; And, lo! The veil is seen no more Where it was wont to be. The monument, in all its glory Stands up to tell its stirring story.

Our patriots proudly rally round, Its famous form to view; And each and all, from hut and hall, Acknowledge that they do Perceive in it the noblest they Have ever been seen on clods or clay.

The story which it tells to-day Enraptures every breast; And men and maids are proud to pay To those who round it rest The tribute which true bravery earns From all Britannia's brilliant bairns.

Fair Canada evinces there, With zeal as well as zest, That she possesses what will bear The biggest tax or test Imposed by man's sternest stoic On all that's owned to be heroic.

Nor should we overlook today The feats of Countess Calder And her companions, bright and gay-Who'll ne'er be noted aulder-Without whose lustrous labors here No monument could now appear.

> William Murray Hamilton, Ontario, 6th June, 1913

Prepared by Marnie Maslin

Erland Lee Museum News

The Erland Lee Museum has concluded another eventful Christmas season. This year's theme was the history of Santa Claus. As part of this theme, we created an exhibit on the "Origins of Santa Claus" which included a special display on Coca Cola's famous depiction of our favourite North Pole resident. Thanks to Coca Cola Ltd in Toronto, our request for information and memorabilia went all the way to Coca Cola headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. They provided us with print ads from the 1930s. The Erland Lee Museum would like to thank the Women's Institute volunteers, and local businesses Flowers by Dianne and Celtic Dream Garden for their assistance in decorating the Lee. Their efforts helped bring our Victorian Christmas to life. We would also like to thank Heritage Mississauga for the use of display boards and Fotovideo Camera Centres in Hamilton for the use of a camera.

The Erland Lee Museum is looking forward to an exciting 2008. This year marks the 200th anniversary of John and Mary Lee's log cabin which is still in the centre of the museum. As the museum reflects on its own heritage, we look forward to celebrating Ontario's heritage. In Ontario, the third week of February has been designated as Heritage Week. This year, the Erland Lee Museum will be participating in The Ontario Heritage Trust's Heritage Week kick-off at the Scottish Rite in Hamilton on the 15th of February. This event will include the presentation of local volunteer awards. The Erland Lee Museum has nominated Lynn Korbyn, a dedicated member of the Erland Lee Committee to receive a Heritage Volunteer Recognition Award.

As part of Heritage Week, the Lee will also be hosting a lecture in the Museum's Drive House. This year's lecture "The Fringe Becomes the Centre: The History of Bartonville" will discuss the history of one the many communities that make up Hamilton. It will be presented by Stoney Creek Historical Society newsletter editor, Michael Gemmell, on Saturday February 23rd at 2 pm. Coffee and tea will be served. All are welcome. There is no charge to this event but donations are always welcome.

The Erland Lee Museum has a few events planned in the spring, including two workshops for children during March Break (Wed March 12-Friday March 14). The first is a Teddy Bear Making Workshop, where children will get the opportunity to learn to hand-sew and decorate a plush teddy bear. It is recommended for children 6 and up. The cost is \$8.00 per bear making participant or \$4.00 per non-bear making participant. The second workshop, Gadgets, Games and Goo, children will use everyday items to create exciting and interesting effects from rockets to home made silly putty. This workshop is recommended for children 5 and up. The price is \$5.00. Both workshops include an optional museum tour and hot chocolate/coffee. Parental assistance and participation is recommended. Pre-registration required by 4pm Saturday March 8th.

On Saturday March 29th the Erland Lee Museum kicks off the spring with its annual Maple Syrup Event and Pancake Breakfast which includes sausage and all you can eat pancakes! The price is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children and includes a tour of the Museum. Snow date will be April 5th.

For more information about the museum and its programs and events please see our website: www.erlandlee.com, or call 905-662-2691.

Meaghan FitzGibbon, Curator

Excerpts from Abram D. Lee's diaries:

March 11th, Tues. 1890

Cloudy and rains quite a lot last night but mild. The roads muddy. I & Erland pull straw off the stack

March 12th, Wed 1890.

Mild but rains almost all day. Erland is married. I and Jemima go to Hamilton to the wedding at night. The roads are very muddy.

March 13th, Thurs. 1890

Partly fine and mild, very muddy. All at home. Erland and Nettie [Janet] came home last night.

A Blast from the Past:



Stoney Creek, seen from THBR trestle bridge, looking towards the Powerhouse c.1900

Editor's notes:

This shot of the T.H.B.R. bridge looks south. On the left side of the frame you can see the houses of Elm Ave. In the distance is the smokestack from the Hamilton, Grimsby, and Beamsville Electric Railway Powerhouse (latterly the restaurant at King and Jones). Directly to the right of the smokestack is a house that probably belonged to JW Beaumont. J.W. Beaumont farmed orchards where Passmore Street is today.

Rosedale Ave was originally called Beaumont Street after the family. Sometime in the mid 20th century the street changed to Mill St. Peninsula Lumber was listed in the first Stoney Creek phone book (c.1955) as being at 10 Mill St. In the late 1950s or early 1960s, the street name changed again, because by 1961, it was called Rosedale Ave.

The bridge itself has been replaced by fill and a culvert at the top of the Stoney Creek ravine.

Stoney Creek Historical Society Executive 2008

Story Story Directly Directly 2000					
President: Bill Mitchell		1 st VP: Greg Armstrong	2 nd VP: Wendy Klassen		
Correspondence Secretary: Anna Orr		Past President: Bill O'Reilly	Treasurer: Judy Green		
Recording Secretary: Harriet McInnis		Director: Mary Place	Director: Mary Lewis		
Program:	Archives:	Newsletter:	Social Convenors:		
Kathy Wakeman	Cheryl Gemmell	Michael Gemmell	Betty and Mike Petis		

YES! I would like to acquire/renew membership in the Stoney Creek Historical Society.
Individual membership \$ 10.00 annually Family membership \$18.00 annually Business Membership \$25.00 annually
Name(s)
Address:
Phone Number :
Email: Receive newsletter by email? Y/N
Send to: PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6 or call 905-662-4065 for more information.

Visitors and New Members Welcome!

Meetings are held at Stoney Creek City Hall

1st Wednesday of each month
beginning at 7:00pm.
September to June

Coffee and Refreshments follow Info: 905-662-2248

Visit our "Stoney Creek Historical Society" webpage, courtesy of www.goldbook.ca

Sponsors of individual Newsletter editions (\$30.00 donation) receive a charitable income tax receipt. Call 905-662-4065 for info.

Members Business/Institution Directory:						
Appraiser/Quiltmaker/Lecturer Judy Lyons		1231 Hammond St. Burl.	(905) 639-2441			
Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King Street East	(905) 662-4971			
Chamber of Commerce	Dave Cage	21 Mountain Avenue South	(905) 664-4000			
Connection Key Travel	John and Mary Fraser	889 Barton St., Unit 2	(905) 643-7444			
Erland Lee Museum	Meaghan FitzGibbon	552 Ridge Road	(905) 662-2691			
Flowers by Dianne	Dianne Black	9 King Street West	(905) 664- 6621			
Forsyth Hagar Accounting	Anne Forsyth	42 King Street East, Unit #2	(905) 662-2848			
Queenston Stationery	Thao Khac Phung	38 King Street East	(905) 664-3360			
Royal Canadian Legion	Branch 622	12 King Street East	(905) 662-4171			
Winona Garden Shoppe Ge	eorgina & Jeff Beattie	1381 Highway #8	(905) 643-2161			

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