



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

February 2010 Edition #49 Circulation: 300 copies

The Way It Was

From Fruit Growers

"Descriptive souvenir" of June 1901

*HOTEL ACACIA, STONEY CREEK, ONT.,
MURRAY NEIL, Proprietor

This hotel was built of stone. It was a solid stone structure, in fact with walls eighteen inches thick, impervious alike to cold and heat. The trolley line between Hamilton and Beamsville passed directly by the door both ways every hour. Mr. Murray Neil was the genial proprietor, who knew, how to run a house situated as the Hotel Acacia was within a few minutes ride from a large city. This was a well conducted house, and parties of ladies and gentlemen had the most cordial treatment and careful attention. A good livery service could

be supplied to guests who may desire to drive up on the mountain or by the lake shore. The rates were \$1.00 per day or \$5.00 per week.



* Current site of The Village Restaurant

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Lee, Charles Freeman, Kay Smith
Bev Corsini, Dr. Ed & Margaret Janack,
Dean & Sharon Wilkes

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AT NASH- JACKSON HOUSE

March – TBA

April 13 Paula Whitlow (Chiefswood
Museum Curator)

The Chiefswood Story

2010 Annual Memberships Are Now Due!

This newsletter issue has been sponsored courtesy of Councillor Maria Pearson

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Stoney Creek Historical Society and the Friends of Battlefield a very Happy, Healthy New Year.

Looking back on 2009, I would like to thank the many members who made that 'extra effort' in order to guarantee a bright future for both the Stoney Creek Society and the Friends of Battlefield.

Recently, all members were advised of the intent of your Executive to amend the Society's Constitution and By-Laws to better reflect the current objectives and operation of the Society. Members will be asked to ratify the changes at our Annual General Meeting being held in February this year. Thanks to Bill O'Reilly, Greg Armstrong, Jennie Foley, and John Fraser, for persevering over several meetings and a number of drafts before completing this project.

Our Library now has most items organized in their new location. Thanks to Judy Green, Bill O'Reilly, and Jennie Foley for their leadership on this project. Further work is still needed in the area of electronic recording of documents but we are fortunate to have the expertise of Jennie to guide us through this process. The Library is scheduled to open to members only on February 4th. The official opening for the public will be in March or April. Volunteers will be needed on a regular basis to staff the Library. Your help here would be very much appreciated.

Our Christmas Party was a resounding success. Thanks to Al & Arlene Bridge and Beth Watson for their extra effort in the planning and organization of this event.

The entertainment was excellent. We particularly note the Bridges re-telling of 'The Night Before Christmas' and the Carol singing by the combined SCHS/Friends of Battlefield Choir, conducted by Jean and Barry Baine. And of course, a big thank you to Santa Claus.

Special thanks also to Michael and Betty Petis who in addition to looking after the post-speaker portion of our monthly meetings, organized the food and refreshments for our Christmas celebration.

Over this past year, members have been very fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear speakers on a variety of historical topics. We look forward to this program continuing in 2010 under the direction of Kathy Wakeman. Please join us for this season's meetings in the Nash-Jackson house. See you there!

On behalf of all members, we extend a warm welcome to Sonia Mrwa, the new curator at Battlefield Museum and Park and wish her well in her new position.

Bill Mitchell

From Al Bridge, President of The Friends of Battlefield Museum and Park...

- *Two new cupboards have been purchased for uniform storage in the Museum.*
- *Stock is being supplied for the new Battlefield Park gift shop.*
- *We continue to seek new members and we have a position open on our Executive.*
- *Memberships for 2010 are now due.*
- *Our Christmas meeting was very well attended. Let's keep this up throughout 2010.*

Combined Meetings: A Success Story!

Since last September The Stoney Creek Historical Society and the Friends of Battlefield Museum and Park of held joint general membership meetings, in the Nash-Jackson House.

SCHS President Bill Mitchell and The Friends of Battlefield President Al Bridge are reporting that the new arrangement is working very well and that the Executives of each group are extremely pleased with the smooth transition. A few examples of changes that have been necessary are:

- **Newsletter Distribution -**

The SCHS Newsletter is now being made available to Friends of Battlefield members.

- **New ID badge for The Friends of Battlefield –**

Red lettering for Friends of Battlefield members only.

Blue lettering for joint members.

SCHS members only continue to have black lettering.

- **Membership dues' structure –**

Annual dues are now the same for both groups with members being encouraged to hold joint memberships. The current fee structure is as follows:

Individual - \$10.00

Family - \$18.00

Business - \$25.00

Stoney Creek Historical Society

Archives

Jennie Foley

History

- The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has been acquiring books, artefacts and related archival material since its inception in 1987. The original intent was to have a museum where this material could be housed and displayed. However, it is now believed that the cost of such a facility would likely make the prospect unlikely.
- For a few years this collection was housed at the rear of a business on old Highway #8 in Winona.
- Eventually, the material found storage at a house on the grounds of the Stoney Creek Battlefield Museum and also in the homes of various members of the SCHS.
- In the spring of 2009, the SCHS was given the use of a room in the Nash-Jackson House, which had been moved from its original site to the Stoney Creek Battlefield Museum grounds. This room is very small and there is no room to display the artefacts. The collection has been reviewed and the various artefacts digitally photographed, packed and put into storage with the City of Hamilton. The remainder of the archival material and books have been assembled and filed in the Nash-Jackson Room.
- Our new Library is expected to open to members in February 2010 and shortly thereafter to the general public.

The Nash-Jackson Collection

- ❖ There are a number of books, both general and specific to the history of Stoney Creek and the associated families and businesses. They are kept in one of two wooden bookcases. It is hoped that the SCHS will be able to add to this collection over time.
- ❖ An eclectic selection of newspaper clippings, essays, family histories, photographs and paper memorabilia have been donated by various people over the years. This material is housed in a large metal filing cabinet in the SCHS Archives room. Some of this material has been accessioned and can be referenced through the finding aids. Other material is contained in folders that will be examined over time for further processing.
- ❖ There are many family photographs that currently are not identifiable. It is hoped that family members will come forward to help identify individuals and settings. We also have LACAC material on local buildings of historic significance.
- ❖ The SCHS was given custodial responsibility for the Plans of Survey Books for the old City of Stoney Creek and Township of Saltfleet after they were microfilmed by the Ontario Government. The material dates from about 1796 to the 1980s and is housed in a custom-built lockable storage unit. Each volume has been conserved in lined archival boxes. A finding aid is being prepared to assist researchers in using this material.
- ❖ The SCHS has a collection of audio tapes that have been made during interviews with selected senior citizens in Stoney Creek. This oral history is currently being digitalized and will be available in the future to researchers.

THE CANADA HOUSE HOTEL

Submitted by Doug Green



This is a photo of the Canada House Hotel, which was located on the North East corner at King St. and Lake Ave. In a taped interview, Aleda (Boden) Pearson says she was born in 1902 in this hotel.

Mrs. Pearson also indicated that she lived with her mother and father (Peter Boden) upstairs while her Grandparents lived downstairs (likely on the second floor).

Also living in the house at the same time was her sister Madeline (Boden) Gibbon and on the other side Hugh Boden.

From another taped interview with Bill McNeil, it seems that Canada House was torn down sometime in the 1920's.

Editor's note: Since information on this hotel is somewhat limited we would appreciate hearing from anyone who might provide anything further.

2009 Report to the Stoney Creek Historical Society from your Stoney Creek representative on the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee.

Kathy Wakeman

The Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee (formerly LACAC) meets every fourth Thursday from 12 to 2 at the Convention Centre, Room 207, in The Albion Room. Our discussions follow a city formatted agenda, similar to the city council format. We have an agenda item "Delegation requests." Interested parties may speak at our meetings, with prior notice.

Heritage Property Designations are an agenda item and for the year 2009, we had zero designations. Designation requests are researched by city staff, voted on by the MHC for an advisory motion put forward by our committee, to be approved by the Planning and Economic Development committee and then by City Council. Provincial legislation, now allows for a designation to proceed without the permission of the property owner. The HMHC agenda also includes a list of properties that are on an "*Endangered Buildings and Landscapes*" list. These properties are monitored by a volunteer committee member and a report is given monthly. Our purpose is to be proactive with our actions, should there be

any changes in the appearance of the property. We monitor for graffiti, vandalism and neglect.

The *Heritage Permit Review* Sub-Committee has processed a record number of Heritage permit applications this year (61 requests). This is encouraging, as it indicates that restoration of designated properties is occurring according to Heritage best practices. Only two of these permits were for Stoney Creek properties, Erland Lee and the Milmine Bldg.

If you have any questions about the Municipal Heritage Committee, I would be pleased to speak with you.

Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee Report for 2009

The Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee has had a 'banner' year for property plaque dedications. The following properties have or will have designation plaques to recognize their 'designated' status.

Waterdown Memorial Hall, 317 Dundas Street East, Waterdown
Binbrook Memorial Hall, 2600 Hwy 56, Binbrook
Stone residence at 166 Charlton Avenue, Hamilton
Commercial Building at 320 King Street East, Hamilton
Former CIBC Bank, 321 Herkimer Street Hamilton
Brick Residence, 140 Erie Avenue, Hamilton

The JPSC voted to move the manufacture of our commemorative plaques from bronze to a large "storyboard" plaque. The new type of plaque allows space for more wording and will now include pictures. The new style is less attractive to theft and provides us with an opportunity to plaque more properties for a lower cost per plaque. .

Commemorative properties that have or will be plaqued for 2009 are:

Smith Cemetery (UEL) on Kennedy Road, Hamilton
Rymal Family, corner of Mohawk and Upper Paradise, Hamilton
Hatt Mill, Old Dundas Rd., Ancaster

Our role in monitoring and reporting maintenance needs of existing plaques is a monthly discussion item. We are well under way for 2010 plaque wording and look forward to sharing our successes with the community in next year's edition of the MHCH newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wakeman
MHCH member of Joint Sub-Plaquing Committee

Upcoming Events at Battlefield Museum

Marnie Maslin

The year 2009 was full of many changes at Battlefield House Museum. We are thrilled to have our administration offices now situated in the Nash-Jackson House. The large 'community room' in the basement of the Nash-Jackson House is a great space for the monthly joint meetings of the SCJS and Friends of Battlefield House and is available for rent for meetings and events as well. We would like to thank all of the members of the Friends and SCJS and all of our volunteers for their dedication and support over the last year. We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events in 2010!

HERITAGE WEEK LECTURE

Celebrate Heritage Week and join us for an interesting and informative evening presentation. This lecture will be held at Grandview, the Nash Jackson House located in Battlefield Park. Refreshments will be served.

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2010

Time: 7:30 p.m.

A MONUMENTAL MARCH BREAK

Fun and exciting hands-on activities for the whole family as we bring the past to life!

Date: Monday, March 15, 2010 to Friday, March 19, 2010

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

A TASTE OF SPRING

Come and enjoy the taste and aroma of herbal delicacies and see how they'll add zest to your table. Discover new ways to make familiar meals tempting and delicious. Complimentary recipes and samples will be available.

Date: Sunday, April 18, 2010

Time: 2:00 p.m.

From the Curator of Battlefield Museum and Park...

Although I have now met the majority of both the Friends of Battlefield and the Stoney Creek Historical society members, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Sonia Mwa and I am the new Curator of Battlefield House Museum and Park National Historic Site.

I have worked in the museum field for the past 20 years beginning as a summer student Historical Interpreter at Colborne Lodge in Toronto and most recently as Curator of Whitehern National Historic Site in Hamilton. My education focused on Canadian History, Art History and Cultural Management.

I am excited to be working at such a dynamic site and look forward to all the new opportunities

and challenges it brings. With the bicentennial of the War of 1812 just around the corner the site will undergo both a restoration and an expansion. Restoration work on the monument is slated to begin in the spring of 2010 followed by work on the landscape and Gage House. I will keep the memberships updated on all future plans.

Also I would like to thank all the members who have been so welcoming and supportive during this transition. Battlefield House Museum is very fortunate to have a membership and volunteers who care so deeply for this site. It is a pleasure to be working in a museum whose community supports its activities.

Sonia Mwa

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE ERLAND LEE MUSEUM

March Break at the Lee- Tuesday March 16 to Saturday March 20, 2010

The Erland Lee Museum will be open for March Break from Tuesday March 16 to Saturday March 20, 2010

The Lee will also be hosting workshops for children Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. Call the Erland Lee Museum for more details.

Pancake Breakfast- March 27, 2010 from 8 a.m. to noon

Join us for our Annual Pancake Breakfast on March 27th as we celebrate nature's first signs of spring, the maple syrup season. Come and enjoy sausage and all you can eat pancakes smothered in local maple syrup.

Price: \$4.00 for children, \$8.00 for adults.

Snow date: April 3rd, 2010.

Victorian Tea – May 22, 2010 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Have a cup of tea at the Erland Lee Museum. Tea will be served on the lawn surrounded by the Museum's beautiful gardens. Afternoon tea will include sandwiches and homemade scones with jam and cream.

Price: \$7.00

The museum is located at 552 Ridge Road, Stoney Creek. For more information, call: 1 905 662 2691 or visit www.erlandlee.com

The Second Niagara Heritage Book Fair

On Saturday February 20, The SCHS and the Erland Lee Museum will be participants at the Niagara Heritage Book Fair presented by the Grimsby Archives in the Senior Citizens' Centre, 18 Livingston Ave. Grimsby. Call (905) 369-0796 for more information.

SUSAN RAMSAY NOW CURATOR AT WHITEHERN NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Last October 23, a farewell reception was held for long-time Battlefield Museum Curator Susan Ramsay.

It has definitely been our privilege to have had the opportunity to work with Susan over the years.

During the reception Sue was presented with a gift basket from the Stoney Creek Historical Society and with an antique teapot and accessory set from the Friends of Battlefield.

We wish Sue the very best in her new position at Whitehern Historic House and Garden.

**Visitors & New Members
Welcome!**

Meetings are held at the Nash-Jackson House on the **2nd Tuesday of each month.**

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. September to June. Coffee and Refreshments follow.

Newsletter by E-mail

For those members who would prefer to receive their copy of the Newsletter by e-mail in PDF format please send your email address to:

jfraser17@cogeco.ca

Sponsor a Newsletter

Would you like to sponsor an edition of the Newsletter? A \$30.00 donation helps with the expense of printing and mailing the Stoney Creek Historical Society Newsletter. A tax receipt for this donation will be issued. Please contact our Treasurer Judy Green at (905) 662-4065.

**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 - (905) 664-6355

Other research queries: Please contact:

Jennie Foley – (905) 662-2984

Stoney Creek Historical Society Directors

President	Bill Mitchell	(905) 664-4576
Past President	Bill O'Reilly	(905) 662-2248
1 st Vice President	Greg Armstrong	(905) 662-6269
2 nd Vice President	Wendy Klassen	(905) 662-1524
Treasurer (Membership)	Judy Green	(905) 662-4065
Recording Secretary	John Fraser	(905) 667-3688
Correspondence Secretary	Dorothy Reid	(905) 664-6355
Director	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
Director	Kathy Wakeman	
Director	Jennie Foley	(905) 662-2984

Committee Chairs/Co-ordinators

Archives:

Cheryl Gemmell (Archivist)

Jennie Foley

Genealogy: Dorothy Reid

Membership: Judy Green

Newsletter: John Fraser

Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Social: Betty and Mike Petis

Telephone: June Guzar

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.

[Space reserved for address label]

Members Business/Institution Directory:

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
Dr. Keith Millar		304-15 Mountain Ave S.	(905) 662-2312
Donald V. Brown Funeral Home	Julie Brown-Webber	36 Lake Ave. Dr.	(905) 662-2948
Erland Lee Museum	Meaghan FitzGibbon	552 Ridge Road	(905) 662-2691
Flowers by Dianne	Dianne Black	9 King Street West	(905) 664-6621
Queenston Stationery	Mario Figueroa	38 King Street East	(905) 664-3360
Royal Canadian Legion	Branch 622	12 King Street East	(905) 662-4171
Simpson & Watson LLP Barristers and Solicitors		950 King St. W. Hamilton	(905) 527-1174
Smith's Funeral Home (Stoney Creek) Limited		454 Highway 8	(905) 664-4222
Winona Gardens	Jeff Beattie	1381 Highway #8	(905) 643-2161