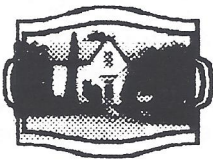


REMEMBER
THE



CORMAN HOUSE

The Stoney Creek Historical Society
P.O. Box 66637, Stoney Creek, On. L8G 5E5

NEWSLETTER

May 1994

Edition #2

THE REBIRTH OF THE STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Evelyn Wills

"What a Shame! Something should be done to stop the destruction of Stoney Creek historical homes." These were the sentiments of Len Metcalfe back in 1986. Len delivered mail on King St. East back then and the Berton Corman House was his last stop. he would sit on the low stone wall at the foot of the spacious lawn and admire the old house as he waited for his ride home.

Then one day the house was gone!

"It was there the day before," thought Len. but the pile of rubble told the story. The old house had been demolished. Len wondered how we could allow such a thing to happen.

Although he claims he is not usually an organizer, he felt so deeply about the destruction of such a fine historical home, that he was compelled to take action.

Len envisaged the bringing together of interested persons to form a Historical Society that would eventually lead to a heritage conservation organization, namely LACAC.

After many telephone calls a group of citizens met to draw up the constitution of The Stoney Creek Historical Society with Len Metcalfe as president. At this time our logo "Remember The Corman House" was adopted.

Our thanks to Len Metcalfe for reviving The Stoney Creek Historical Society.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to our group.

Jack Bursch,
William & Juanita Mitchell,
Anna Orr,
Garnet Richmond,

Marjorie Fleischer,
Myra & Barbara Oldfield
Robert & Irene Pergentile,
Edith Waterworth.

We now have a membership of 47 members,
14 Single. 16 family

THE PRESIDENTS CORNER

A sense of the past is one of the most valuable gifts Canadians can leave their children, because the past defines us as a nation and a people.

One of the most important purposes of our Historical Society is to publish local history. Our first venture into publishing, our book, "Billy Green" and the battle of Stoney Creek, June 6th 1813 has been met with great enthusiasm by our community and the province.

We are committed to send our book across Canada - to schools and libraries, telling the story of our local hero - a true Canadian.

Mary Lewis

Billy Green and the Battle of Stoney Creek

June 6, 1813

Our newest publication will make a great gift. Keep it in mind and be a proud promoter for your historical society.

PRICE - Soft cover \$ 8.95

Hard cover \$14.95

Available through the Stoney Creek Historical Society
Call - 643-3665.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Account balances and explanations are as follows.

GENERAL FUND. \$ 410.59

MUSEUM FUND. \$ 5041.75

PUBLISHING FUND. \$ 622.58

As of April 7, sales of the book on "BILLY GREEN" have amounted to \$ 2445.99, excluding sales by the Spectator, which has been invoiced. The Spectator had exclusive rights until April 1, to advertise the book, and receive a commission for doing so, after which we were able to approach other vendors for orders.

As of March 31, 1994 we have paid on account to the printer \$7000.00.

Milt Henderson

ERLAND LEE (MUSEUM) HOME

The Erland Lee (Museum) Home will once again be hosting our annual June Days event, celebrating the achievements of the Woman's Institute Organization. Join us on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as we kick off this year's theme of FUN & FRIENDSHIP !! Visitors are welcome to try their hand at an old-fashioned game such as checkers, dominoes, parcheesi, and croquinolet. Professional artisans will be on site to demonstrate their unique talents, and sell their handmade goods. Our General Store will also be open teeming with home made preserves and specialty crafts.

Our second annual LOCAL ARTIST SHOW & SALE, will be held from Friday, June 24 to Saturday, July 23. On view will be a wonderful collection of oils, watercolours and photography. These talented individuals are all native to the Hamilton-Wentworth region, so come out and support our local artists! As well, enter your name in our raffle to win one of these exquisite works of art! Tickets are \$2 each, or 3 for \$5.

July 23, marks our fifth annual VICTORIAN TEA, to be held from 2-4 p.m. On the menu will be old-fashioned Victorian fare, with special music and fun. Admission: \$3 Adults; \$1 Children.

Mark your calendars and plan to be at the Lee on Tuesday, September 27 or Wednesday, September 28, for one of our HARVEST LUNCHEONS. Tickets are \$7.50 per person, and all are welcome! Whether you choose the 11:30 a.m. lunch, or the 1:00 p.m. lunch, it all adds up to great food and great fun. Tickets will be available at the Museum during normal operating hours. For further information call 662-2691.

Mary Kneebone

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BATTLEFIELD HOUSE

On Sunday, May 15, 1994, we are having our annual "All about Wool" day. The Grand River Spinners and Weavers will be present to show their skills. Champion shearer Jerry Kelleher will shear the sheep again.

Anyone interested in buying fibers for spinning can purchase them from Leslie Samson. Come and see the angora bunnies!

On June 4 and 5, the re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek will take place. This year promises to become a very special event, as the restored monument will be officially reopened.

The Honourable Lt. Governor Henry Jackman will be present, as will be other dignitaries from various levels of government.

The re-enactors will form an honour guard and the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps will play music suited to the occasion.

There will be an exhibit in the lower part of the Monument and another one in Battlefield House depicting the role, the Women's Wentworth Historical Society played in the building of the Monument.

Instead of our yearly quilt show in August, we are going to have an exhibit in our museum called "Settlers Work and Woe." This in accordance with this year's "International Year of the Family" theme.

COMING EVENTS -- STONEY CREEK

Battle weekend- Battlefield Park June 4th. & 5th.
Official re-opening ceremony of The Monument June 4th. 11.00 am.

Flag Day Parade June 11 at 2.00 pm.

COMING EVENTS IN THE AREA

(Grimsby Historical Society)
SPRING HOUSE TOUR - GRIMSBY

Plans are under way. So Mark Saturday May 28, 1994 on your calendar. That day, from 10 am. to 4 pm., six Grimsby homes dating from the 1790's (Nelles Manor) to the 1990's (Gilbert House on Jacob's Landing) will be open for viewing. Tickets for ten dollars will go on sale April 1, 1994.

In addition, on tour day, a Victorian Tea will be held at the Grimsby Museum and luncheon will be served at St. Andrew's Church Hall.

For more information, call 945-9518.

PLEASE JOIN US

A joint pot luck supper with friends of Battlefield Museum - June 21st. at 5.30 pm.- Battlefield Park, Hot dogs and Hamburgers supplied by Battlefield Mu-

A FOCUS ON THE PAST

Stoney Creek Historical Society is on the look-out for photographs and post-cards of early Stoney Creek. Our archivist, Dorothy Kinsman will be happy to receive memorabilia pertaining to the history of Stoney Creek.

BELLS COLLECT THE NICEST PEOPLE

If bells have collected you, you may be interested in joining The Bell Collectors Club of Ontario. Day long meetings, twice a year move around the province. Membership is \$10 or \$29 (US) to receive the Bell Tower Magazine each month from the American Bell Association. For more information, contact: Doris Nuttycombe, Treasurer, 1 Slessor Blvd., Apt. 707, Grimsby, Ont. L3M 3T2

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS.

Pioneer Cookery

(From the introduction by Evelyn Walters to Niagara Fruits and Vegetables: favourite recipes from the women and men of Fifty United Church, Winona.) Book Price \$ 7.95, call Evelyn Walters at 643-1567
Of beverages, Mrs. Simcoe writes: "Wild grapes they are pleasant, but not sweet. Put some of the juice in barrels to make vinegar and it turned out very tolerable wine. I gathered great bunches of flowers of the Sumach and poured boiling water upon them which tasted like lemonade." The meats they enjoyed were varied.... "Very good wild turkeys, partridge and ducks. The flights of wild pigeons in the Spring and the Autumn is a surprising sight. Men throw sticks at them and killed numbers, the air is sometimes darkened by them. These have been particularly good."

A visiting American Indian Commissioner gave Mrs. Simcoe "a recipe to make Chowder of Salmon, Sea Biscuit and Pork.... easily made while travelling."

She speaks enthusiastically of "Whitefish - most exquisitely good - usually set before the fire in a pan with a few spoonfuls of water and an anchovy" and "small tortoises, cut up and dressed like oysters in scallop shell - very good at supper.... black squirrel, as good to eat as young rabbit.... racoons and porcupines which were good - the latter like pork."

How fortunate we are that Elizabeth Simcoe recorded in detail many of the foods she found in the wilds of Canada, since few records have survived of the meals prepared by our early housewives of the Fifty. There is no doubt, however, that the food would have been served when families began to meet together in their homes, in 1795, to hold worship service with a circuit preacher. The 1818 Camp Meeting, held on the mountain near the fifty, would have been an occasion for a picnic - meat sandwiches on home-made bread, pumpkin and squash pies, cakes rich with butternuts and cream ... for the children a drink of lemonade made from brewing Staghorn Sumach and, for the adults, the juice of the wild grape or tea. Two hundred years ago, when Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe, wife of John Graves Simcoe, the Governor of Upper Canada, arrived from England, she too took great interest in the food that was grown and prepared in Niagara. Skilled in drawing, she carried her sketch book and her diary with her and left us a record of what she saw and learned: "We have 30 large may Duke Cherry trees behind the house and 3 standard Peach trees which supplied us last Autumn for tarts and desserts during six weeks, besides the number the young men ate."

Roads where they existed, were poor but Elizabeth travelled a great deal, either on horseback or by canoe. She speaks of journeying to the settlements of the 20 Mile Creek (Jordan), the 30 Mile Creek (Beamsville), the Forty Mile Creek (Grimsby) and the 50 Mile Creek (Winona). Each settlement was

numbered according

to its distance from Niagara. She told of riding on a new road, "Lately opened up on the top of the mountain from Niagara to the head of the lake, instead of going a most terrible road below full of swamps, fallen tree, etc. ... found the whole of the way very dry and good, stopping frequently on the edge of the bank to look a over the extensive wooded plain below us, which is bounded at 4 miles distance by Lake Ontario. We were opposite the 50 Mile Creek." Occasionally the Indians brought the Governor "baskets of maple sugar." A favorite treat was "cake of dried huckleberries made by the Indians (huckleberries) The Indians bring us cranberries which are as large as cherries and very good. They also supply us with chestnuts which they roast in a manner that makes them particularly good.... The Indians brought us a deer and we handed plates of apples to them.... There are very fine Butternut trees.... gathered wild gooseberries and when stewed found them an excellent sauce for salmon.... enjoyed punkin pye, which with lemon juice was very good."

FAMILY BIBLE ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON NELLIS/NELLES HISTORY

(from the Ontario Historical Society bulletin).

At a recent family reunion held at Stone Arabia Trinity Lutheran Church in New York, the Nelles family, many members of whom are located in Ontario, particularly in the Niagara area, were greeted with a surprise.

Kathleen McLaughlin of Bowling Green, Ohio is coordinating the Nellis/Nelles family history project, and has been soliciting information from relatives. Donald Campfield of Ithaca, New York provided several important clues to questions arising from McLaughlin's work by producing an old family bible that was thought to have been sold to antique dealers years ago.

The bible, in Campfield's mother's possession, contains two family records, the oldest of which begins in 1709. The records shed new light on many conclusions family genealogists had drawn for years.

With the assistance of this information, McLaughlin will be able to complete a comprehensive study of several early ancestors of the Nellis/Nelles family. The project is to be published by the Herkimer County Historical Society of New York.

THE CANVAS HOUSE

A large "tent", used in 1793 by Ontario's first governor, Col. John Graves Simcoe and his family, at Niagara and York (Toronto), had previously belonged to Capt. James Cook and used on his world travels.

- Gordon Johnston, (It Happened in Canada)

HOW CAN WE KNOW IT'S US?

(by Kenneth McLaughlin from the Ontario Historical bulletin)

Nearly two decades ago, Ann Faulkner made an eloquent plea for the importance of preserving Canada's built heritage. She chose as a title the haunting lament from John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, describing the tragic emotion when, in the midst of the Great Depression of the 1930's, people were forced to leave their homes, families and their possessions to seek a new life elsewhere. "Without the things of our past," they cried in despair, "How can we know it is us?"

As in so many cases, fiction vividly brings home the reality of our lives. In 1993 we are again concerned with the reality of losing our heritage, losing our identity, and giving in to despair as museums and heritage sites are threatened with closure as their political masters seek a simple fix for the present economic crisis. Once again, it is us, our heritage, our identity, that appears to be at stake. While it may be true that we live in a throw-away society, must we throw away our history, our traditions, our heritage?

These questions are becoming all the more relevant as the Provincial Government is preparing a new set of heritage guide-lines which will devolve responsibility for heritage to local municipalities. Unfortunately, since heritage is not a "mandated area", some find it all too tempting to shirk their responsibility for their trust in this matter as they battle with shrinking budgets and growing costs. To close our historic sites and to disperse their collections of artifacts would be to cause an irreplaceable loss to the community, to the province and to the Canadian nation. For example, in the Waterloo region, at the very time when a museum like the Joseph Schneider haus has won the right to retain nationally significant collections in the community from which they originated, we are confronted by seemingly well-intentioned local bureaucrats with the idea that these collections - identified as "national treasures" - may not be deemed worth keeping.

Ironically, in the decade of the 1930's, the so-called Great Depression, Canadians turned to their history, to their heritage and to their past for strength, for guidance and for a sense of identity and reassurance. In 1993, we hear the threat, not only of massive budget cuts, but also of permanent closure of historic sights and the disposition of artifacts that have been painstakingly collected to represent accurately the tradition of our communities and of our province. One wonders about our sense of community. The importance of being able to reach out and "touch our past", to appreciate the values, the suffering and the care that has been taken to develop our communities and our provinces never more urgent than at the present

As a society that has become accustomed to continual increases in the "consumer index", it is important to understand that the reality of other periods and of lives other than our own.

It is often said that each generation thinks itself to be unique, that the problems facing us have never been encountered before. That the despair and anxiety many of us feel is not unique to this generation, is a lesson that is invaluable. That we have survived, that our community and province have grown with tolerance and respect for the values of others is a lesson of history. To think that we can simply manipulate the present without regard to the lesson of the past is a fallacy that we should resist at all costs. To close sites, to disperse the collections, to destroy the trust of those who have donated the things of our past for preservation to be displayed in our museums and historic sites is incredibly shortsighted. Instead, we must strive to preserve that which gives us our identity, that which tells us who we are. The artifacts in our museums must not only be preserved, they must also be accessible to all who enquire about our past.

Otherwise, "How Can We Know It's Us?"

HISTORY TRIVIA

How many funerals did Sir Isaac Brock, Commander of the British forces in Upper Canada have??

(four.)

1. Brock was killed October 13 1812 and buried in the northeast bastion at Fort George in Ontario.
2. On October 13 1824 General Brock was reinterred in a vault at the base of the first monument in his honour at Queenston Heights.
3. This monument was destroyed on April 17, 1840 by a massive blast of gun powder set off by an Irish Canadian rebel. Brock's body was again disinterred and reburied in the nearby Hamilton family cemetery.
4. A second monument to Brock was begun on October 13, 1853 when his body was placed in a vault at the base of this structure.

Fort George, where Brock died, is now a national historic site which commemorates the fort's place in the military history of the Niagara region.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1832, the first post office in Stoney Creek was established, and spelled "Stony Creek" It wasn't until 1927 the present name "Stoney Creek" was used.

Prior to 1953, Stoney Creek was in the Winona phone exchange. In that year dial phones were installed and Stoney Creek had a Norman 2 exchange.

Stoney Creek Historical Society

1994
Executive

President:	Mary Lewis	643-3665
1st. Vice President:	Barbara Green	662-6920
2nd. Vice President:	Ron Place	662-8856
Treasurer:	Milt Henderson	662-1035
Recording Secretary:	Mary Kneebone	662-2310
Corresponding Secretary:	Jerry Heeringa	664-2067
Directors:		
Evelyn Wills	664-6150	Bill O'Reilly 662-2248
Committees:		
Archives:	Dorothy Kinsman	662-2900
Publication:	Mary & George Lewis	Barbara Green 662-2248
	643-3665	662-4582
Plaquing & Liaison to L.A.C.A.C.:	George Lewis	643-3665
Social Conveners:	Ruby & Lloyd Corman	664-7161
Publicity:	Evelyn & Richard Wills	George Lewis
	664-6150	643-3665
Telephone:	Barb Green 662-4582	Evelyn Wills 664-6150 Mary Place 662-8856
Newsletter:	Ron Place 662-8856	
Canada Flag Day:	Ron Place	Richard Wills Bill O'Reilly
	662-8856	664-6150 662-2248

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT STONEY CREEK CITY HALL, SALTFLEET ROOM
 1st. WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH BEGINNING AT 7.30 pm. SEPTEMBER TO JUNE
 COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS FOLLOW

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \ RENEWAL

Date: _____

(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt.: _____

City: _____ Postal code: _____ Phone: _____

Families: (List names of family members) _____

Membership Dues:	Family	\$15.00	Single:	\$ 12.00
	Student \ senior	\$ 7.00	Association:	\$ 20.00

(Please check) ___ Renewal: ___ New:

Membership Term January 1st. to December 31st.
Please complete this application and make your cheque payable to

The Stoney Creek Historical Society
P.O. Box 66637 Stoney Creek On. L8G 5E6

HELP WANTED

FAMILY SEARCH:

J.H. McNEILLY 1856 - 1935, Are you a descendant??
If you have any information on the life and/or family
of J.H.McNeilly please contact Ron Place 662-8856.

Do you have a family you would like to enquire
about?? Call before the next deadline to have your
needs published in the October newsletter. Ron Place
662-8856.

1994 FLAG DAY PARADE

June 11, is the date for the 1994 Flag Day Parade in
Stoney Creek. Once again we are participating with a
display of Antique Cars, we have arranged for 6
vehicles, and will have bearers of our Historical Society
Banner leading our entry.

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

A walking tour of OLD TOWN STONEY CREEK.
A plaquing program of HISTORIC HOMES or BUILDINGS
in the old town centre.
Acquiring Articles and facts about Stoney Creek, and
the surrounding area.

NOTE

The next newsletter will be issued at the October
meeting. The deadline for material is SEPTEMBER 15.

Suggestions to improve the newsletter are requested.
Please help make the publication something our
members will look forward to reading.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. Is this a column you would like
to see added??
