

Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2008 Edition #44 Circulation: 300 copies

AN EXAMINATION OF THE ANANIAS SMITH HOUSE

By Michael Gemmell

The Ananias Smith home (#1400 Highway #8, at the corner of Fifty Road) was one of many homes in the Winona area with connections to the Smith family. The original building was built by ED Smith's grandfather, Ananias, around 1814. The verandah, added by Ananias Smith (1794-1874) as part of a conversion to a tavern, can be seen in this late 19th century photo. There were stables at the rear and a separate wing for travelers. E.D. Smith's journals describe visiting his grandfather's home for schooling and staying overnight in the winter, rather than returning home up the escarpment to Vinemount.

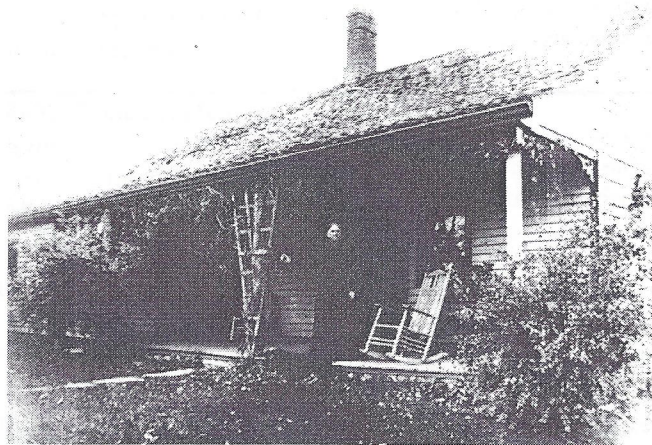


Photo from "Descendants of Silas Smith, UEL"

The lady in the photo is unidentified. It is possibly Elizabeth Smith prior to her death in 1877.

The home was in the Smith family until the Second World War. Ananias' son, Ransom, inherited the house. Ransom Rhenaldo Smith (1836-1905) was a fruit grower, and one of E.D.'s competitors. .

[Continued on page 3.]

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

This newsletter issue has been sponsored by Dr. Keith Millar

President's Message

As we look forward to the warm summer ahead I am pleased to announce a much overdue project in our community. Once again work has been started on finishing the interior of the Nash-Jackson house in Battlefield Park. Our curator, Susan Ramsey has advised me that the plan is to have the interior finished by the fall of this year. The City of Hamilton Parks And Recreation department, who control all the museums in the region, have assigned one room in this building to house the library of the Stoney Creek Historical Society. At the present time all of the library books and documents are in our storage room at 99 King Street E. and are not available to members who use the documents in research on family and land records. We have also been advised that space will be available, from time to time, to display many of the artifacts which have been donated by members of our community. The overall plan for this library room is to not only make it a storage area for books and documents, but to furnish it so that it will be a comfortable room for members to sit and research the information they seek.

We have already had a donation of an antique clock and kidney shaped table from Mrs. Olive Krick, donated in her late husband's memory. These two items were originally in the Krick family home in Binbrook.

Other projects in progress are a self guided walking tour of old Stoney Creek to be used by visitors to our community. In conjunction with this tour of the area we are also working on a list of homes and buildings of historical significance in order to have these pieces of history protected and possibly designated. These projects are being managed by Greg Armstrong our capable Vice President. If you feel you would like to get involved in these worthwhile projects, please contact Greg as I am sure he would welcome the help.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday June 7th at 10 AM, when it is planned to dedicate the memorial plaque for Ron Place. This brief ceremony will take place at the Augustus Jones Memorial Fountain.

The annual picnic will be held at Battlefield Park in the Pavilion on June 13th at 5:30 PM and supper at 6:00 PM. This is a pot luck supper and phone committee members will be in contact to advise the details. Please join your fellow members for one of our most enjoyable gatherings.

Kathy Wakeman, our program convener, has already lined up a series of interesting speakers for this fall, so do join us in September on the first Wednesday of the month, and each month thereafter, at the Old Stoney Creek City hall. Meetings start at 7:00 PM.

Have a pleasant summer and see you all in September.

Bill Mitchell, President

Historical Society News

Ron Place Memorial Update

Reminder that the installation of the Ron Place Memorial plaque, purchased by the Stoney Creek Historical Society and installed courtesy of the Hamilton Joint Plaquing Committee, will 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.

Upcoming Speakers

- Sept 08 Jim Green
– Antique Carriages
Oct 08 Jane Irwin
– Old Canadian Cemeteries
Nov 08 Anna Bradford
– Nash-Jackson House

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.

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

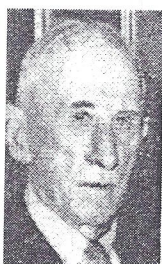
HISTORY OF ANANIAS SMITH HOUSE continued.



Ananias and Elizabeth Smith

Upon inheriting the home from his father, Ananias, Ransom R Smith may have made the first of several renovations (see below). Ransom passed on the home to his son, Egbert Morley Smith (1861-1951), in 1905. Egbert, like his father was a fruit grower. His death record describes his career thusly: "from 1877 [to 1940, he] *Experimented in Varieties of Fruit & Grapes.*

Smith is also remembered in Winona as part of the 1887 Winona Blue Line baseball team that captured the Niagara Peninsula baseball championship



Egbert M Smith, 1945

Fred B. Henry married Egbert's sister, Jennie P Smith. Fred and Jennie Henry built a new home (Spruceway) at 1420 Highway #8 in 1916. Spruceway is now one of the LACAC-designated homes in Stoney Creek.

After the death of his wife, Helen Olivia Book, in 1940, Egbert sold the home to George Roblin

Jones sometime between 1941-48. Smith passed away in 1951.

Jones passed the home on to his son, Donald. Donald Jones' daughter, Kathy (Jones) Cushnie, recounted some of the history of the home.

In 2006, the home was owned by Russ Clark.

Very little remains of the original building as evidenced in the 19th century photo of the Ananias Smith inn. It may be that the original Ananias Smith tavern was completely gutted to create the current house.

The rubblestone basement is consistent with the late 1800s, and only extends under part of the house. There appear to have been at least two additions.

The entire face fronts eastward. A northeast upper corner porch effectively fronts east (east facing door). The main axis of the house between two wings has south and north doors entering into a "mud room" area adjoining the central hall and the kitchen. There is also a south porch off the south addition.



1400 Highway #8, Winona, 2007

The front section is probably the original home. It has a central staircase and fireplace in a combined interior space now used as a living room. Mr Clark has discovered the remains of baseboards under the staircase suggesting that it was a modification to the original design. There was also a hole in the chimney for an old coal stove. The wood and trim is consistent with late 19th century styles.

Local history says that there was a late 19th or early 20th century expansion to the house, adding a second story. This appears to be born out by the staircase and by the arrangement upstairs. An early version of a blowhorn intercom has been installed, connecting the rear of the house with the front.

The rear section contains two staircases, and appears to have been modified from an original design. The rear staircase led up to the second floor and was shifted slightly northward at some time. Uneven wood “fills” shows the original location. The original exterior door at the bottom of the staircase has also been walled up.

An east-facing door to the basement from the first addition has also been walled up. Instead, the staircase seems to have been extended to a new south-facing door going into the first addition. This would have at one time been the original site of the staircase, so it is likely that, as part of the move of the upper staircase, the lower staircase was reconfigured too.

The southeast room is probably the first addition, but may have been modified twice, as the second story comes straight up.



and the roof angles do not line up evenly. An east-facing door leads from this second porch into the south room. There is quite a step down into

this room from the central hallway running n-s along the axis of the main part of the house.

An adjoining shed on the SW corner has been enclosed. Original clapboard, formerly part of the south exterior wall, is now inside this “storeroom”. This is probably the 2nd addition.

A second floor bathroom on the SW corner at one time had a metal-lined rainwater cistern tucked in under the eaves. A pipe also ran directly below into a similarly located ground floor bathroom, where evidence exists of a well.

Preliminary analysis suggests that the current building dates to the 1890s or early 1900s (based on house design, porch pillars), with two additions added in the 1920s or 1930s. However, the older rubblestone basement might be indicative of the earlier building’s dimensions. A 1917 newspaper was found in the rafters of the intermediate section close to the staircases.

Two pieces of glass with diamond designs have been preserved and are in place in the west and north windows.

The house at 1400 Highway #8 is more properly described as either “the Ransom R Smith home” or “the Egbert M Smith home”, depending on when the renovations were completed. It is likely that Ransom R Smith made the initial addition and that Egbert made the subsequent changes. The home is a well preserved (in 2008) and is wonderfully sited to accentuate the history of “the Fifty”.

-By Michael Gemmell

Based upon notes taken during tour of home by owner Russ Clark, January 31, 2006, and ED Smith collection history (courtesy Erland Lee Museum)

**REMINDER THAT 2008 STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE**

Request for Information

43 Lake Avenue Drive

Kathy Wakeham is looking for information about this home at the corner of Randall Ave.

The home seems to appear on the 1939 insurance map of Stoney Creek.



In the 1955 Stoney Creek phone book, Mr. John F. Bates, a fruit farmer of German extraction, was living at the home.

Bates was the President of the Saltfleet branch of the Niagara fruit and vegetable growers association from 1953-1957.

John Bates (1831- ?), of the same name as his grandson, and his wife Elizabeth Rachael Depew, owned a farm on the broken Front, Lot 31, in the mid 1800s, opposite the Hamilton Waterworks. The farm would today be on the west side of Woodward Avenue at Troy Ave.

One of their sons was Arthur D Bates (1867-1943). Arthur and his wife, Jessie, inherited the farm from his father, and were living there by 1893.

Because John F was listed as living with his parents on the home farm as late as the 1911 census, we can assume the John F. moved to Lake Avenue later. He may have even been the original owner/builder.

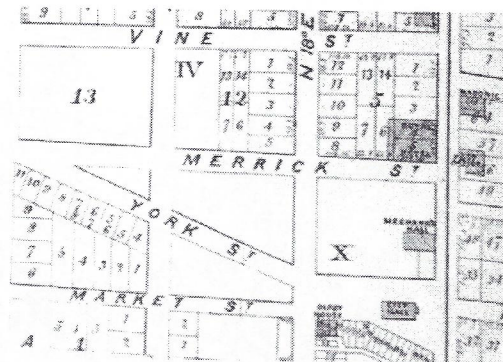
EXCERPTS FROM THE PETER VAN WAGNER DIARIES- PT 6.

Transcribed by Kristen Kerr

Friday July 19th

Second day in harvest, Joel and Amos cradling. Wood and I raking up. The day cool, wind east. A Young Irishman wants work this evening, sent here he said by my friend on "American Street", Hamilton. I expect he meant Mr. Riches on Merrick Street. Joel told me yesterday that Mrs. G has demanded her thirds from her son PW or rather PU. And Joel thinks she will soon have the whole farm if this be the case; she will soon make a poor man of PU. Horses in the west end of the Orchard to pasture. Mr Coe, Timothy Wardley, Wm Hopkins contesting about the straw of the harvest. One wishes to sell it, the other to detain it in the place, and Tim wants to bring his share (1/3) to this place. Law books have been consulted and H---ston will go to town tomorrow to see a lawyer about it.

Editor's notes: The downtown core was been completely redesigned when Lloyd D Jackson Square was built in the early 70s and Merrick Street was eliminated.



1875 Atlas

Saturday, July 20th, ½11PM

At Hamilton with cherries. Got into a row about delivering them to the hucksters without their paying for them. Jane very sick last night and this morning, better this evening. Peter Spohn came down with me, told how a certain farm might be easily got hold of. A green schooner I believe the "Shamrock" has been loading lumber at the wharf today. Joel Utter cradling, Wood and Alex taking up about nine acres. No sock. And it looks like

rainy weather coming late tonight. PS helped shock. EP's young cattle came here today. Barn in great need of being shingled. Wright don't come in to do it. (Hard sight, this.)

Editor's notes: In 1844, the schooner Shamrock, laden with pork and flour from Toledo, capsized eight miles above Gravelly bay, and one man was lost; the vessel was recovered a few days afterward.

History of the Great Lakes, 1841-1850
by JB Mansfield

Sunday, July 21st

Bathing in company with Peter Spaun (*Ed. - could be Spohn, but does not look it.*) and JL VnWagner in the morning. Ate about the last of the English cherries. In the afternoon, took Old Bet, Amos, Marc, and Young Rob to the negro's lot to pasture, from thence with Jean to the lower place. Saw Charley Magill and Edward there with their wives. Brought home some early potatoes (oh) EP will commence his harvest tomorrow. Heard this evening that Jim Dagget's sister, who used to live at Boyce's was in jail in Niagara for stealing eight dollars. Boyce has removed his cord wood from the road, which saved me the trouble of doing it for him. Weather fair, wind east. Heard from

W__d that W__rd (lines from text) intends to steal one of my sheep as soon as expedient.

Monday, July 22nd

Hauling in wheat in the forenoon. Afternoon cradling. Joel not here until tea time. He is cradling for Tim tonight. I gave him the job of cutting the remainder of out wheat for five dollars, this makes eight dollars and a quarter his work will cost me this harvest. Edward, a young Irishman, came to work for me about eight OC PM, sent by Mr. Riches. Gave George Fox the job of shingling the Old Barn at the rate of half a dollar a square, or rather a thousand stud. Springsteed helped him this PM. Wright, who framed Williamson's stone house, promised from time to time to shingle the barn, but he has gone to Bronte to stay there awhile. He appears to be a perfect Jack Ass, without any regard for his word. At Stoney Creek this evening with Joel to get a new cradle scythe and some paddy's eye water from Peterburgh.

Editor's notes: In 1795, Dr Isaac Thompson concocted an eye water of zinc sulfate, saffron, camphor, and rose water. It was sold as late as 1939.



DR. ISAAC THOMPSON'S
CELEBRATED
EYE WATER,
FOR ALL COMPLAINTS OF THE EYES.
Each Bottle is stamped with my Proprietary Stamp. None other Genuine.

THE GENUINE EYE WATER
Is enclosed in an engraved envelope, on which is the likeness of the Original Inventor, **DR. ISAAC THOMPSON**, New London, Conn., with a facsimile of his signature; also the signature of **JOHN L. THOMPSON**, with a note of hand, signed by **JOHN L. THOMPSON**, 161 River Street, Troy, N. Y. *None other can be Genuine.*
This well-known and thoroughly efficient remedy has acquired a world-wide reputation, having been before the public for over eighty-five years, and it is a remarkable fact that its reputation has been sustained simply by the merits of the medicine, as the many thousands, who have used it, will bear testimony.

ITS MERITS STAND UNRIVALED.
In constant use since 1795.
Price.....25 Cents per Bottle.
JOHN L. THOMPSON, Prop'r, Troy, N. Y.

July 22, 1850 cont.

Sovereign [here] loading lumber.

Editor's notes: "The Sovereign was built in 1838 as the Niagara. The ship was renamed in 1843. Sovereign was a fast vessel for those days, and was placed in the line of Royal Mail steamers." About the Great Lakes 1766-1838

Tuesday July 23rd, 1850

Hauling in wheat. Joel cradling. Wood and Alex taking up. Day fine, wind east. Timothy on a great drunken spree. Been drunk more on life for two or three days. He cannot get men to help him out his

wheat, who are very much needed. At EP's this evening. Heard that Andrew Utter had left his shop up the country and went away, no one knows where.

Editor's notes: John Utter and his three sons, John Utter Jr., Henry Utter and young David Utter all settled in Saltfleet Township, Wentworth County about 1803. Joel Utter, mentioned here, was Henry's son. At the time of this writing, Joel was 22.

Wednesday, July 24th

Mrs. P and Jane at Hamilton. Took C. Magill's servant girl and child home.

Editor's notes: Charles Magill (1816–1898) was born in Ireland in 1816. After moving to Hamilton in 1832, he worked for a time in a store owned by Isaac Buchanan. By 1851 he owned his own dry goods store. Magill owned a farm near Van Wagner, overlooking the Windemere Basin. In 1859, Magill would become chair of the water commission that established the waterworks near Van Wagner's beach.



Magill was elected to the city council in 1852 and later served several terms as mayor (1854-55, 1865-66 and 1882-3). He was elected to the last parliament of the Province of Canada in a by-election in 1866 and was re-elected in 1867 as a Liberal member for the riding of Hamilton in the first Canadian Parliament.

Magill's residence is now the prestigious Hamilton Club, on Main Street..

Broom Factory destroyed by fire. 15000 brooms burnt.

Editor's notes: In the 1851 Hamilton City Directory, there is a corn broom manufactory listed on King St. west, run by T. Brainerd.

Forenoon opening shears that were bound a week ago, next day after the suns. This is a bad plan, wheat should not be bound after a soaking rain until it has time to dry. Rest of the day made up in hauling in wheat. Timothy sobering up, he has hired a codger of an Englishman to help him. Tim's prospect is bad. His wheat going into the ground and he under a penalty of twenty pounds to harvest it in good season. It appears to me that he will be obliged to pay the penalty. Wind East AM, west PM. The day fine. Joel cradling in the upper field. Wood got replaced and wanted to quit. I had to coax him up.

Thursday, July 25th

Townsend and John helping haul in wheat in the AM. Rain in the PM. The barn was open at eaves for want of shingling. Fox(?) agrees to shingle it sufficiently to keep out the rain and to finish it afterwards. We were obliged to stick in loose shingles in the rain. It is a bad flaw to trust to Carpenters to the last minute. Made a good job of hauling in today though we left out about 5 or 6 on sheaves. Esq. Lewis and Lady stopped here this evening to see Tim about his wheat. Cows and sheep very poor for want of pasture. Father was here early in the morning to see if I wanted help to haul in wheat, as they had done with their corn grassy. Bad job. Corn must me attended early of else not at all. Hire another than let it grow. (That is worth remembering). Little neglect --- ----

Friday, July 26th

Paid Edward for three days work at six shillings. Offered him ten dollars a month, which he would not take. EP & Mrs. here this morning. Joel, Alex and I went to Amos', hauled three loads of wheat. It then rained and we left. RRW helping Jim in his harvest. Jim and I disputed at breakfast. Rainy wind east.

Erland Lee Museum News

On Saturday March 29, the Erland Lee Museum celebrated nature's first signs of spring with its annual Pancake Breakfast served with local maple syrup. We could not have asked for better weather. Guests enjoyed a performance by History on Parade and a ham radio broadcast by the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. Thanks to Highland Packers Ltd, Battlefield Optimist Club, E.D. Smith Foods Ltd., Fortino's-Fiesta Mall, Tim Horton's-Rymal & Hwy 56, we had our best Pancake breakfast ever. Thank you to all who attended.

We have several events planned for the spring and summer. On **May 24th we are planning a Victorian Tea**. Tea will be served on the lawn surrounded by the Lee's gardens and guests will enjoy a harp recital. This year we are pleased to have History of Parade on hand to perform a historical re-enactment.

The volunteers and I are also preparing for an encore presentation of "Sport Final" a Murder Mystery set in the 1940s which features the untimely death of Ed Kruger, a local sports reporter and the ensuing investigation to discover his murderer. The **Murder Mystery is set for June 14th** and includes dinner. Tickets are \$35.00. Please call the Museum for tickets. Seating is limited!

The Erland Lee Museum is also the location of the Wentworth District Women's Institutes Fundraiser. The Women's Institutes are planning a **Strawberry Social on June 28th (possible rain date July 5)**.

Starting in April, the museum's hours changed and will now be open one evening a week, Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Museum's regular hours are now Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday evening 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Please call the Erland Lee Museum, 905-662-2691, for more information about any of our upcoming events. I hope you will come out and visit us this spring.

Meaghan FitzGibbon, Curator

Battlefield House Museum Events –

RE-ENACTMENT OF THE BATTLE OF STONEY CREEK

Battlefield House Museum and Park
Experience the drama, pageantry, and excitement of one of the most important events in Canada's history. Bring the whole family for games, horse-drawn wagon rides, food, demonstrations, musical entertainment, fireworks, and the Re-enactment itself. Watch the Canada Flag Day Parade in downtown Stoney Creek on Saturday, June 2 at 12 noon.

Date: Saturday, June 7, 2008

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Date: Sunday, June 8, 2008

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Battle re-enactment at 2:00 pm

Ages: All

Cost: \$7.00 for adults. \$2.00 for children.

BATTLEFIELD EXPERIENCE CAMP. IT'S LIVING HISTORY FUN

Battlefield House Museum and Park
Children will have an exciting week of living history fun at Battlefield House Museum. Activities for campers include nature walks, dress-up day, the Life of a Soldier, dancing, outdoor games, unique arts and crafts, storytelling and much more.

Date: Monday, July 14, 2008 to Friday, July 18, 2008

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ages: 6 to 11 years.

Cost: \$120.00 per person.

A WALK IN THE SHADOWS

Battlefield House Museum and Park
Follow the glow of lantern light through the summer night and be entranced by local tales and fantastic fact.

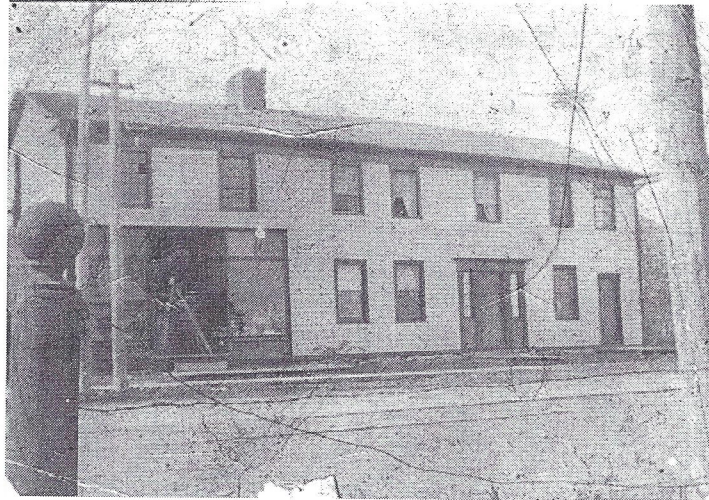
Date: Saturday, August 23, 2008

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Ages: 7 years and older.

Cost: Regular admission rates apply to the museum.

A Blast from the Past:



*Dean Block, King Street, 1925
Photo courtesy of Ruth Barlow*

Editor's notes: This is the Dean Block, which formerly stood on the 2007 site of the Stoney Creek Legion. The Dean block was a frame building. It was a commercial building and a flophouse (upper floors).

Murray Dean (1864-1947) was the son of Abraham (1842-1905) and Mary Jane (Neil) Dean (1843-1926). Murray Dean's butcher shop was in the building, later operated by Mr. McClung. A stable was at the rear. Dean delivered meat orders at least as far as Van Wagner's Beach in his Model T Van. Dean's "traveling food emporium" was lauded by Hamilton Beach Strip residents.

The building was burnt down on May 16, 1925 (article from Hamilton Spectator, May 18, 1925) but it may have been rebuilt, because the Community News of 1926 has an ad for a store in "the Dean Block". In October 1926, an ad appeared in the Community News: "The People's Barber Shop, carrying an assorted line of Toilet Supplies and Preparations, a nice assortment of choice cigars coming. Dean Block"

The east side of the site was later replaced with the Fox Theatre (and eventually the Stoney Creek Legion). The Glidden blacksmith shop, which was directly east of the Dean block, was replaced by Clayt's Men's Wear and eventually incorporated into the Fox Theatre/Legion building.

Note the Hamilton, Grimsby, and Beamsville tracks on the street, as well as the hitching post for horses in the foreground left.

Stoney Creek Historical Society Executive 2008

<i>President: Bill Mitchell</i>		<i>1st VP: Greg Armstrong</i>		<i>2nd VP: Wendy Klassen</i>
<i>Correspondence Secretary: Anna Orr</i>		<i>Past President: Bill O'Reilly</i>		<i>Treasurer: Judy Green</i>
<i>Director: Kathy Wakeman</i>		<i>Director: Mary Place</i>		<i>Director: Mary Lewis</i>
<i>Recording Secretary: Harriet McLinnis</i>	<i>Archives: Cheryl Gemmell</i>	<i>Newsletter: Michael Gemmell</i>	<i>Genealogist: Dorothy Reid</i>	<i>Social Convenors: Betty and Mike Petis</i>

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:

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 Gardens	Georgina & Jeff Beattie	1381 Highway #8	(905) 643-2161

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Greg & Susan Armstrong 2008
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