



Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

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Will the Lee Re-Open?

With little warning, the Erland Lee Museum was closed quietly last December. Although, it was speculated initially that the closure was perhaps a temporary cost saving measure for the winter months only, it has been made very clear within the last few months that the future of this important historical site is in serious doubt.

This museum is designated an historic home under the Ontario Heritage Act and has been granted status as a National Historic Site of Canada. The Lee represents an extremely important part of local Stoney Creek history and is recognized as the birthplace of the first Women’s Institutes, an international organization.

The museum is owned by The Federated Women’s Institute of Ontario (FWIO) and has been open to the public since 1972. The FWIO has issued two public statements on the matter.

In January the FWIO stated:

“For now, the Erland Lee (Museum) Home is currently closed until all avenues for its future have been explored. The Lee home requires maintenance to bring it up to standards and good repair deemed suitable for public attendance and safety.” The statement goes on to say, “The cost assessment of all necessary repairs may seriously jeopardize the future of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home and the FWIO.”

The closure has caused considerable controversy in our community. The Stoney Creek News reports “There has been an

outpouring of support from Hamilton WI members, as well as local heritage activists, and community members, to re-open the Lee and preserve it for the future.”

The FWIO in a public statement dated April 11, referred to this community involvement: “Some discussions have been reflective and fact based, while much of the talk and media attention are reiterating rumours, innuendos, and misquotes.”

Much of the controversy appears to centre on the commissioned professional maintenance/repair report that projected an estimated \$800,000- \$1,000,000 to bring the home up to good standards over the next few years. Some members believe these estimates are too high.

Also in the April 2011 statement, the FWIO announced the establishment of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home Campaign: “We call on all WI members and the general public – worldwide, locally, nationally, and internationally to make your voices heard by taking positive steps, and proactive measure to

help FWIO by donating to the Erland Lee(Museum) Home Campaign”.

The goal for this campaign is \$100,000, which would appear on the low side considering the estimated repair costs. However, the Stoney Creek News reports that Manon German FWIO’s communications and resource development officer points out that FWIO’s five year campaign to raise \$200,000 per year totals \$1 million.

The FWIO admits the situation is serious and that a WI membership vote will be held on the issue. “Once the votes have been tallied, and the Board has prepared a plan of action, an announcement for the future of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home will be made.”

The Stoney Creek Historical Society has done its best to determine the facts. and at times this has proven difficult. Members are asked to follow the situation closely. The FWIO decision to promote a fund-raising campaign is positive. Support for this FWIO initiative and others sponsored by independent FWIO members is encouraged. The SCHS does not consider failure to be an option.

A CLOSE CALL FOR THE LEE!!

Windstorm – Thursday April 28, 2011



Erland Lee photos courtesy of Jennie Foley

A Letter from the Friends of the Lee – Received May 5, 2011

On behalf of the Friends of the Lee, I would like to thank the Stoney Creek Historical Society for their continued support in our efforts to have the Erland Lee (Museum) Home re-opened as soon as possible.

On April 2, 2011, we were very pleased with the attendance at a Pancake Breakfast held at Christ Church Woodburn and are grateful to the Battlefield Optimists for donating their time to cook.

On Thursday, April 14, 2011, a delegation from The Friends of the Lee, consisting of Barbara Stones, Lynda Brooker and Margaret Byl, at the request of Carol Innes, FWIO President, presented a Fund Raising Plan to the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario's Board of Directors at their April Board Meeting in Guelph, Ontario.

The Fund Raising Plan is based on a 5 year time frame with a projected net income of \$1 Million. The presentation was received with enthusiasm by the Members of the FWIO Board.

We are pleased to announce that in a letter dated April 18, 2011, written by FWIO President Carol Innes, The Friends of the Lee have been granted permission to proceed with two of the projects! The first is a two year calendar and the second is a cookbook. In the 2 year calendar, among pictures of the inside of the Lee Home and grounds, the Friends of the Lee are hoping to include re-enactment photographs depicting John Lee and Billy Green's contributions to the Battle of Stoney Creek during the War of 1812.

We are waiting for a response to our April 18, 2011 request from FWIO for the following: 1. access to the interior Erland Lee (Museum) Home's buildings in order to take photographs for the calendar and 2. Permission from the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario to use their logo and that of the Erland Lee (Museum) Home.

In a recent report given by a Member of the FWIO Board, it was stated that plans to paint the Erland Lee (Museum) Home will proceed when the weather permits.

We understand that the Erland Lee (Museum) Home will remain closed pending some repairs to the museum home and a membership vote, the date is yet to be determined.

Submitted by

Margaret Byl, Secretary

The Friends of the Lee

A Message From Your Past President

For the past four years it has been my pleasure to be President of your Society. I am most proud of the team effort that has allowed the Society to play a vital role in the preservation of our local history and I wish to thank my Board of Directors for their unqualified support during my Presidency. Each Director has given their own time and energy to further the aims of our Society, and for this, I am truly grateful.

To all members, it has been a privilege to represent you. During my term as President, the Society has remained healthy. Each Society member makes a commitment to the Society's success, by means of financial support through membership and by attendance at monthly meetings and events, and for this I wish to thank each of you personally.

In terms of achievements during my term, our Archives Library deserves special mention. This library is a prime example of what can be done when like-minded individuals work together. The move to Nash-Jackson was not always easy. It was in fact a major effort that took many hours, over a period of months. The task of moving, sorting, and filing, was made lighter, though, by a dedicated team of volunteers. The result is an archives library that is a credit to the community.

Another project that is perhaps less glamorous, but not unimportant was the amendment of our constitution. Important changes were made to the governing structure and the aims and objectives were revised to more accurately represent the present Society.

Looking to the future, I am confident that our Society will continue to build on past success and I offer Greg Armstrong my best wishes and support as he takes over as President.

Bill Mitchell

From The President's Desk

On 16th February, 2011, the Stoney Creek Historical Society's (SCHS) Board of Directors, elected me as President. I was proud and honoured to become President of such a well-run and functional historical society dedicated to the collection and preservation of the history of Stoney Creek.

It is my commitment to the members of SCHS and to its Board of Directors, to hand over to my successor a SCHS that is as similarly well-run as the one handed to me by Bill Mitchell. Bill has accepted the position as Honourary Past President, and will continue to be a strong asset to SCHS as he has been in the past. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the membership, our sincere thanks to you Bill for your time, your efforts, and your ongoing dedication to SCHS.

Nothing worth doing is ever easy. I wish to acknowledge the exceptional caliber of talent that exists on your SCHS Board of Directors. To Bill, John, Wendy, Judy, Dean, Dorothy, Mary, Kathy, Jennie, and Meaghan, my thanks. Everyone makes a contribution and without these volunteers, SCHS would not exist. I look forward to collaborating with everyone in pursuit of our collective goals and objectives.

SCHS is continuing with our bursary awards to history minded students graduating from our secondary schools. We encourage younger people to appreciate local history. History takes place everyday. One can only begin to imagine the wealth of detail of current history-in-the-making events that can now be saved for future generations via digital photography and data gathering. Successive generations do truly learn from the preceding ones.

The SCHS Archive Committee plays an active role in collecting and preserving such information. This Committee has earned a special note of appreciation for their time and diligence, especially in our Reference and Archive Library.

In closing, I invite anyone to submit their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions to myself, or any member of our Board of Directors. Your input is both welcome and valuable.

And by the way, whether you are a member or not, bring a friend to one of our meetings. That's what Ron Place did for me.

Greg Armstrong

Ontario Volunteer Service Awards

On Monday 11 April, 2011, the annual Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony took place at LIUNA Station, James Street North, Hamilton.

The Honourable Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, on behalf of The Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario, issued invitations to more than 230 area volunteers.

Congratulations to our members

Stoney Creek Historical Society members honoured were Mary Brown, Mike and Betty Petis, and Greg Armstrong, recognized for 5 years, and Bill Mitchell for 15 years. Representing the Minister and congratulating each award recipient were Sophia Aggelonitis MPP, Hamilton Mountain and longtime CHCH screen presence Donna Skelly.



left to right: Sophia Aggelonitis, Bill Mitchell, Donna Skelly

**Mike and Betty Petis 50th
Wedding Anniversary**



Friends and family joined the happy couple on Sunday April 17th at the Knights of Columbus (Upper Hall). on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary.

The SCHS wishes to extend congratulations and best wishes on this special occasion.

*Stoney Creek Historical Society/ Friends of Battlefield – Monthly
Meeting Schedule*

May 10	Doug Green	Billy Green and Balderdash
June	Annual Picnic	
September 13	Bill King	The Story of Auchmar
October 11	Paul Grimwood	William E. Sanford – The History of one of Hamilton’s Forgotten Giants
November 8	Jeff Young	Restoration of the Avro Lancaster Warplane Heritage Museum
December 13	Annual Christmas Party	

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!
Steve Buchan, Mary Jackes, Joe Mielko, Brad Pawlek, and Irene Shaw.

Battlefield House Museum and the Friends of Battlefield House

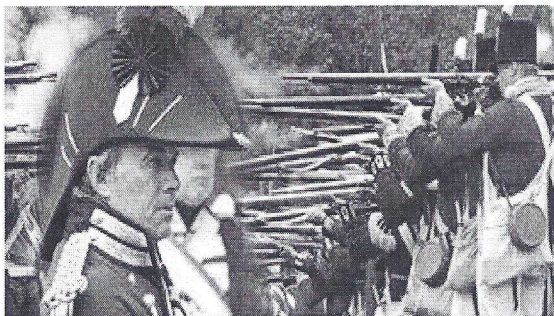
By Marnie Maslin

Spring is finally here at Battlefield House Museum. We are busy preparing for the 30th Anniversary of the Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek and of course for the Bicentennial of the Battle in 2013.

The Friends of Battlefield House Museum would like to welcome new members and thank all members for their support.

We invite you and your family to visit us this spring and summer to enjoy one of Battlefield House Museum's wonderful special events and programs.

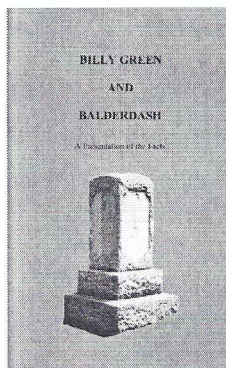
Re-enactment of the Battle of Stoney Creek



Experience the drama, pageantry, and excitement of one of the most important events in Canada's history. Bring the whole family for games, food, demonstrations, musical entertainment, historic merchants, fireworks, and the Re-enactment itself.

Dates and Times: Saturday, June 4, 2011: 10:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday, June 5, 2011: 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Cost:** Adults \$8.00, Youth \$2.00, Children 5 and under Free

JUST PUBLISHED



The Stoney Creek Historical Society has authorized the publication of "Billy Green and Balderdash". It is a serious and carefully researched work on the exploits of local Battle of Stoney Creek hero Billy Green and counters recent attempts to downgrade his importance. You may obtain a copy from the Society for the nominal cost of \$2.00.

**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 May. 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 Board of Directors

President	Greg Armstrong	(905) 662-6269
Past President	Bill Mitchell	(905) 664-4576
1 st Vice President	John Fraser	(905) 667-3688
2 nd Vice President	Wendy Klassen	(905) 662-1524
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Director	Mary Lewis	(905) 643-3665
Director	Kathy Wakeman	
Director	Jennie Foley	(905) 662-2984
Director	Meaghan FitzGibbon	(905) 662-2691

Committee Chairs/Co-ordinators

Archives:

Cheryl Gemmell (Archivist)

Jennie Foley (Archives Co-ordinator)

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]

Member Business 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
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

This newsletter issue is sponsored courtesy of Councillor Maria Pearson