

Remember the Corman House

# Stoney Creek Historical Society

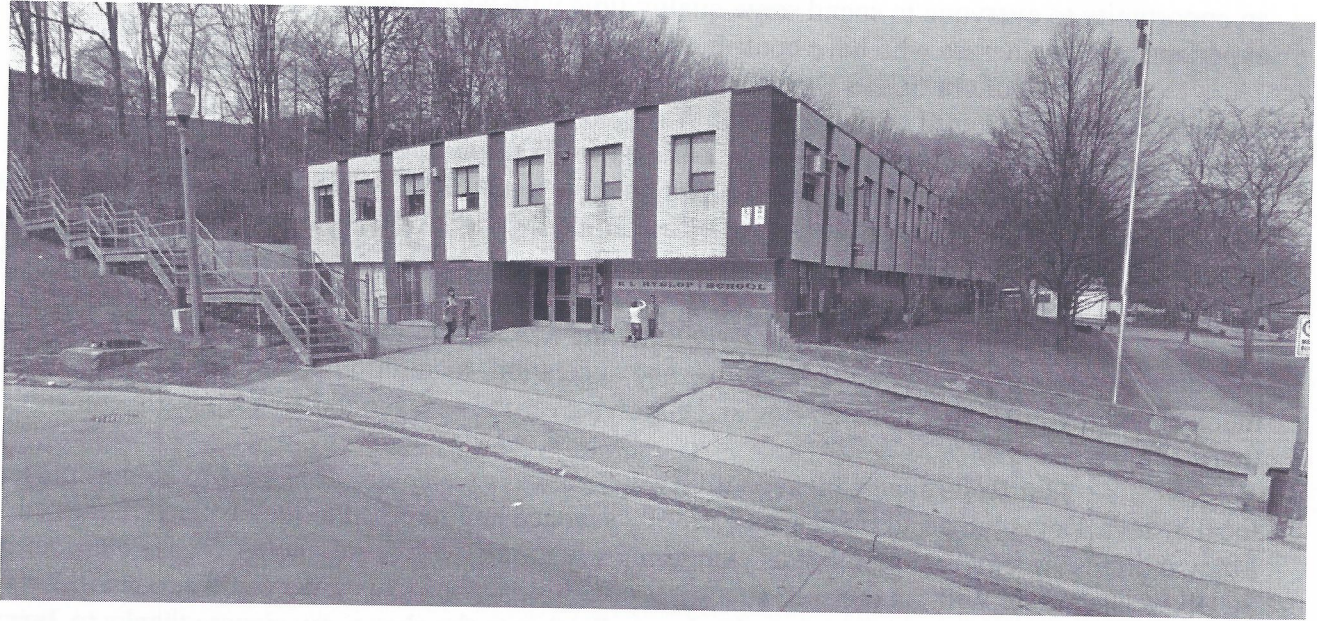
PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

# NEWSLETTER

October 2016

Edition # 68

Circulation: 300 copies



The current R.L. Hyslop ( Saltfleet # 3 ) Stoney Creek School ( slated for possible closure )



R.L. Hyslop (Saltfleet # 3) School as it appeared before closure and demolition in 1966. The original sections of the school are on the right hand side ( north ) see photos on page 3

## President's Corner September 2016

On behalf of the Board of Directors, welcome everyone to the 2016-2017 session of the Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS). We have an exceptional season ahead of us with many fine guest speakers, covering a variety of interesting topics.

We've met many old and some new friends at our display at Saturday in the Creek. I look forward to meeting others and encourage everyone to visit. SCHS is pleased to support this BIA venture as it provides an opportunity to everyone to spend some quality time with people and experience the businesses who have contributed to the down town core. Simply put, it's fun.

Two of our SCHS Directors have embarked on an ambitious project, which is to compile a complete record of Fallen World War 1 Soldiers from Stoney Creek, Winona and Fruitland. Our thanks to **Ashley Jamieson and Denise Wachniuk** for their efforts and enthusiasm. The binder of information that they have put together is impressive. SCHS also thanks **Mike Pearson** of the Stoney Creek NEWS for his fine article profiling the work of Denise and Ashley. If you missed it, and can access a computer, see Stoney Creek NEWS, enter Mike Pearson, and see Mike's article dated 31 Aug 2016.

**Bev Gray and Carolyn Briggs** are the two leads for our after meeting refreshments. Our thanks to Bev and Carolyn for their time and dedication. In addition, my thanks to those members who volunteered to assist Bev and Carolyn over the next months to keep those enjoyable treats coming our way.

Our **Reference Library and Archive** always welcomes donations to help us preserve local history. Documents and photos are carefully scanned and returned to the owner if requested. Many individuals may find themselves wondering what to do with family items. Please consider our SCHS Genealogical Will, on our web site [www.stoneycreekhistorical.ca](http://www.stoneycreekhistorical.ca) We could assist with identifying documents or people/places in photos. Further to the above, my sincere thanks to **Jerry Heeringa and Brian & Claudette Nash** for their generous and meaningful donations to our Society. I know that **Nancy Capstick and Sue Heatherley** from our Archives welcome such donations. Archives will now be **open the first Saturday of the month from 9-12**, thanks to Denise and Ashley.

SCHS welcomes two new corporate sponsors: **Briarwood Animal Hospital**, and **Marel Real Estate**. Our thanks to both of these local businesses for their membership and support.

In closing, SCHS welcomes everyone to our meetings. They are well attended., and enjoyable. My ongoing appreciation to our Volunteers and Board members for their support. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Greg Armstrong  
President SCHS.

### Upcoming Speakers

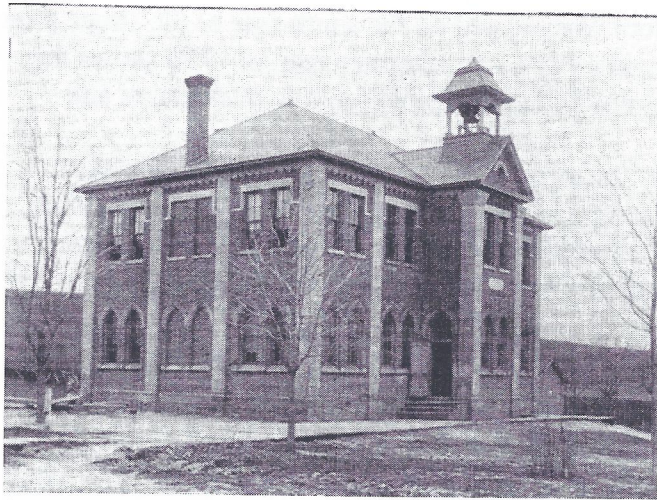
Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Thanh Campbell  
Topic: Orphan 32

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00 pm

Speaker: Arden Phair  
Topic: Welland Canal Fallen Workers Story





**The first Stoney Creek Schoolhouse built 1880** at Lake Ave South *as shown directly above* was One Storey 2 rooms. This must have been a standard design or the same builder, as the Greenville school in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century was an exact copy *per top right*,

At a later date the Second Storey was added to the SC school *as per top left*.

### **Early Stoney Creek Schoolhouses**

Various records and statements which follow seem to indicate that the first Stoney Creek school was a log school and was located near what is the cemetery on King Street just west of Hwy 20. It is said

there was also a church nearby. The first log school was located on the south side of the street, Con 4 Lot 27 on land owned at the time by John McDavid ( 1792 ). A reference map of 1790 shows the approximate location of the school. The building was of log construction, low in structure and probably only 12 by 20 feet in size.

*( Peter Van Wagner in his writings states "I was born near, and went to **school on the battlefield** only eleven years after the battle was fought, when single graves and mounds were quite fresh, and bullets, bayonets and buckles, brass ornaments and decaying straps turned up by the plow were gathered and **battle tales ad infinitum** were in order."*



The **ABC Schoolhouse** originally one storey before it was moved and converted to a house. #74 Lake Ave.

*( see details in later information )*

The **ABC Schoolhouse** was built probably in 1859 or 1860 and possibly took the place of the older frame building. A schoolhouse can be seen on the 1859 Surtees map, just north of King Street. John Pell was able to obtain from the Land Titles Office in Hamilton a copy of the deed which outlined the sale of land by Alva Jones to the school trustees in 1864, for the purpose of building and maintaining a school. The wording which is contained in the deed clearly states that a school existed on Lake Avenue before 1864. The deed is dated June 20, 1864, and was the business transaction record for the sale of land by Ava Jones of the township of Saltfleet in the Co. of Wentworth, Ontario. Even from the Crown Deed days, the Jones family had owned the land north of King St. and east to Gray's Road. The property had apparently been used for a school before 1864 because, in the deed it states that "heretofore occupied as a school site." Perhaps the frame school sat on this site also. It is said that the new school, so named was built about 1859 or shortly thereafter. In all probability the school built in or about 1859 was the red brick structure still standing at #74 Lake Ave. Dr. ( 2016 ) It is often referred to as the ABC Schoolhouse. Several verbal accounts back up the existence of the school.

1. Mr. R.L. Hyslop, who was the principal for forty years ( 1918 to 1958 ), made reference to the school in a note which he wrote into the school log. He stated, as far as can be ascertained, the first frame school was a rough cast structure built on what was later W.A. Spera's property. This was on Lake Avenue, north of King Street, now house number 20. The old building was converted into an evaporating factory and was later burned.

2. Mr. John H. Lee, in his later years, also told that a school was burned many years before. That school could have been located north of King Street.
3. Mrs. Florence Nash, a long time resident of the Community and one who had detailed specific knowledge about events in the 1870's, wrote the following information in the Stoney Creek News in the issue of June 5, 1963. Among many interesting remarks, the article goes on to say, "that a school house was built in 1859 on the east side of Lake Avenue, just across from where Judge Theo McCombs lives" ( At the time of writing ) the Judge still lives across from the house # 20 in 1979, the site as mentioned in the deed. Strangely, and unfortunately, neither the frame nor the brick house remained on the site. The present house numbered 20 was built after the red brick school was moved north to its present location #74. Mrs Nash goes on to say in the article that the school was used as a Court House and one group of church people held services in the school. It was known as the A.B.C. School.
4. An account in the Hamilton Spectator says that the school, meaning no doubt the small red brick school, was moved further north on Lake Avenue where it was converted into a residence. It is still a residence in 1979. At one time it was occupied by Wallace Clark and his family. The bell tower was removed and a second story was added. This accounts for the different appearance of the building as now seen.
5. *Peter Van Wagner in his diary mentions his children going to **this** school and sneaking out one day by climbing through a window.*

*( Peter Van Wagner's diary April 4<sup>th</sup> 1864 ) "In the evening Robert Underhill called to say the children at the school particularly Anna were refractory. That he shut them in the schoolhouse in the evening because they had not got their lessons, but they escaped through the window."*

### **Stoney Creek School ( Saltfleet # 3 )**

By 1880 the ABC school would not accommodate the growing school population, and there wasn't any play yard space on the site at Lake Avenue, **North** of King St. In 1880 the site for the first two roomed brick school was opened on Lake Ave **South**. ( modern site of R.L. Hyslop school ). The ABC schoolhouse was moved some time after the new structure ( Stoney Creek School ) was opened south of King Street on Lake Avenue. A map of 1875 shows the schoolhouse as being close to King Street ( at the #20 Lake Ave site ). Where the school house or #74 now stands. Mr T.J.C. Fenton owned the land in 1875 and as far as is possible to learn, an orchard was on the land.

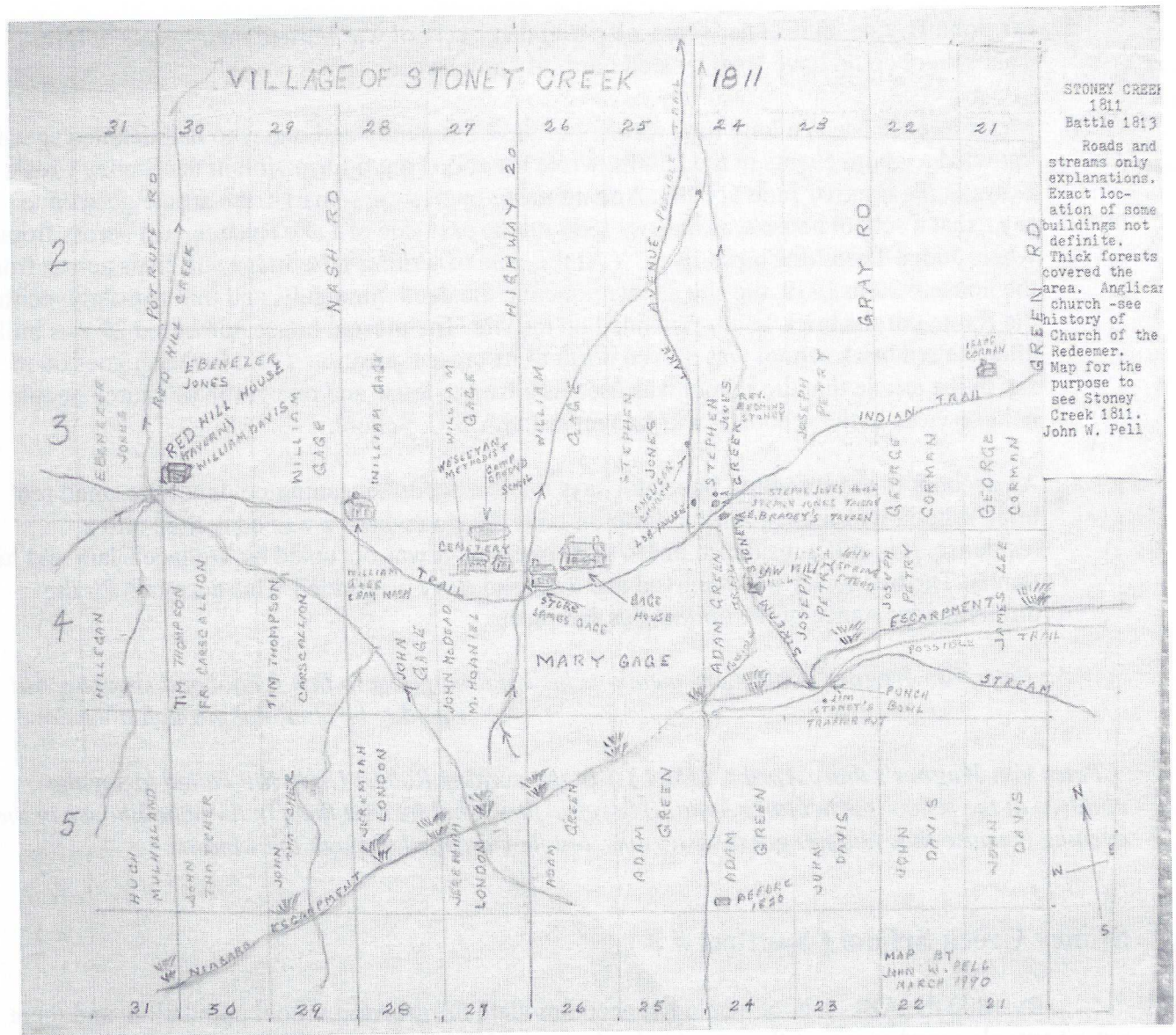
R.L. Hyslop School ( Saltfleet # 3 )

The replacement Stoney Creek School on Lake Ave S was replaced in 1966 by the R.L. Hyslop School. ( *as shown on first page* )

Information above from HISTORY OF STONEY CREEK SCHOOLS by John Pell, 1991 and photo by Michael Gemmell.

For a complete history of all the Stoney Creek Schools, visit our archives where we have the above complete large book of 588 pages written by John Pell.

Following page is a map drawn by John Pell showing the layout of Stoney Creek in 1811.



Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick  
Sue Heatherley [archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca](mailto:archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca)

Telephone: June Guzar  
Membership: Dan Lee

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs  
Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Website: Terrance Smith  
Newsletter: Jean Baine, Doug Green

**WELCOME NEW MEMBER** ..... Richard Lequyere

**The Stoney Creek Historical Society's Archives and Reference Library** is located at 605 Highway 8. We are generally open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm - 4pm. Visitors and researchers are always welcome. Please come and join us.

## Stoney Creek Historical Society Board of Directors

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## Member Business Directory

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S.W. Plumbing		49 Upper Lake Ave	( 905 ) 741-2552
Swiss Chalet # 1105	Zeb Ponte	735 Queenston Rd	(905) 561-1414

Please contact *Doug Green* by telephone at ( 905 ) ( 662-4065 ) or by email at [newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca](mailto:newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca) or [dgreen136@cogeco.ca](mailto:dgreen136@cogeco.ca)

If you have questions or answers regarding our newsletter content or contributions or if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce mailing & printing costs.

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*DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORY OF STONEY CREEK*

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PLEASE SEND TO : STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,P.O. BOX 66637,STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO, L8G 5E6

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOU ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTER FOR A \$35.00 DONATION

MEMBERSHIPS CAN ALSO BE RENEWED ONLINE USING PAYPAL.

Historical Society Research Queries

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