

Bruce County Historical Notes



Volume 52 No. 1 April 2010 Published by Bruce County Historical Society

Greetings from the President **By Karen Ribey**

Happy Spring

I hope everyone had a good winter both here in good old Bruce County and in the south. It actually has been good here. I think HWY 21 was only closed two times and not just from Amberly to Port Elgin - it was from St. Joseph to Owen Sound.

I hope everyone got to see as much of the Olympics as they wanted and all the important things like the gold sports. We Canadians do know how to celebrate the important things and make everyone welcome, eh. I do not watch many sports shows on T.V. but some of it was very interesting and, as I told my Granddaughters, if God had intended you to go down a hill with boards on your feet he would have built you that way. I did not make that up - my Grandpa Thacker always said that and back in those days even cars did not go as fast as some of those people were going.

At this time, I would like to say a big thank-you to Ann-Marie and Sue at the Museum and the members of the Historical Society who helped with the Heritage Day program in any way at all. I think everyone had a good time and maybe we could try it again in the near future. We have an interesting agenda coming up - The Bus Trip in May and the Scavenger Hunt in June are just two that are planned. Both are open to members and the public so bring a friend along.

Congratulations to all the Bruce County 4-H Club members and leaders who attended the Royal Winter Fair last November. We should be very proud of the work that leaders and

members put into their calves. At this time congratulations go out to both Steven and Kyler Ribey who were awarded the A. Cameron McTaggart Scholarship. This is an award that is presented by the Ontario Aberdeen Angus Association. Both young men are fourth generation Angus breeders and members of the 4-H program in Bruce County. Kyler is attending Ridgetown Agriculture College and Steven is attending Lambton College in Sarnia. Kyler is the son of Terry and Pamela Ribey of Paisley and Steven is the son of Dr. Tammi and Brian Ribey of Saugeen Shores. I know I am not supposed to promote any one kind of livestock or farming but I think it is great that these young people are a part of Bruce County History if only in a small way. Kyler's Great Grandpa and Great Uncle Gordon Ribey and Steven's Grandpa Gary Harron were on the Board that started the Grey-Bruce Angus Association back in the 1950's. This is history of a different kind. As the song goes, "Grandpa tell me about the Good old Days", in this case its Grandma who is telling it.

I hope you have a good Spring and Summer.

All the best, Karen

Bruce County Historical Society Annual Bus Tour

**May 20, 2010
10:30 am - 5:00 pm**

**Greenock Swamp
Cargill Community Centre
999 Greenock-Brant Line, Cargill**

For ticket information see the back page

Exploring Greenock

By William Stewart

The Greenock Swamp at one time covered about 30,000 acres in Greenock and Culross and more than 18,000 of those acres remain wetlands today. This swamp is recognized as the largest forested wetland in Southern Ontario and as such, it is now considered a valuable resource. The effective management of the swamp is one of the priorities of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority.

This swamp has been a communication barrier between the east and the west sides of the former township. More than once I have become lost in Greenock when trying to get from one place to another and I blame the swamp for my difficulty.

When I set out to explore Greenock, now part of the Municipality of Brockton, I sought someone familiar with the area to be a guide. I found former Greenock reeve, Jack Riley, most capable and willing to accompany me.

When I picked him up in Paisley, where he now lives, the licence plate on his truck "IPM2008" reminded me that in recent years he has been chair of the committee that organized the International Plowing Match that was held in Bruce County near Teeswater, September 16 to 20, 2008. He and his committees are to be congratulated on an exceptionally successful show.

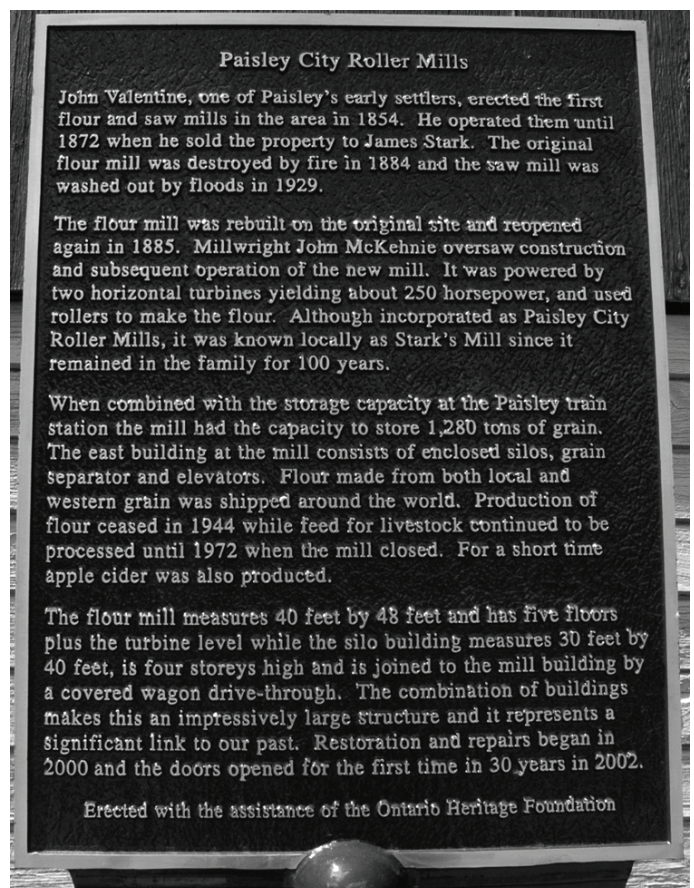


Jack Riley examines the plaque on the Beaton Wells Bridge constructed in 1992.

One of my objectives on our tour was to find the plaques and cairns located in Greenock some of which have been placed since our historical society's book *Historical Plaques and Cairns in Bruce County* was published in 1995.

Eventually we came across a plaque on the Beaton Wells Bridge where Jack's name can be found because he was Reeve in 1992 when the bridge was constructed. The bridge, which crosses the Teeswater River at Greenock Township, Concession 14, is so named after previous bridges at the same location because Wells and Beaton families once lived in that locality.

Because he now lives in Paisley, Jack is no longer a resident of Brockton. His experience as a municipal administrator continues to benefit his fellow ratepayers as he now serves as representative of the Paisley ward on the Arran-Elderslie municipal council.



Paisley City Roller Mills Plaque Erected with the assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation

At our first stop I was reminded that Nature's Millworks, familiarly known as Stark's Mill is located in the former Greenock Township. A plaque has been erected there which reads:

"Paisley City Roller Mills

John Valentine, one of Paisley's early settlers erected the first flour and sawmills in the area in 1854. He operated them until 1872 when he sold the property to James Stark. The original flour mill was destroyed by fire in 1884 and the sawmill was washed out by floods in 1929."



Early postcards featured the Stark's Mill

The flour mill was rebuilt on the original site and reopened again in 1885. Millwright John McKehnie oversaw construction and subsequent operation of the new mill. It was powered by two horizontal turbines yielding about 250 horsepower and used rollers to make the flour. Although incorporated as Paisley City Roller Mills, it was known locally as Stark's Mill since it remained in the family for 100 years.

When combined with the storage capacity at the Paisley train station the mill had the capacity to store 1,280 tons of grain. The east building at the mill consists of enclosed silos, a grain separator and elevators. Flour made from both local and western grain was shipped around the world. Production of flour ceased in 1944 while feed for livestock continued to be

processed until 1972 when the mill closed. For a short time apple cider was also produced.

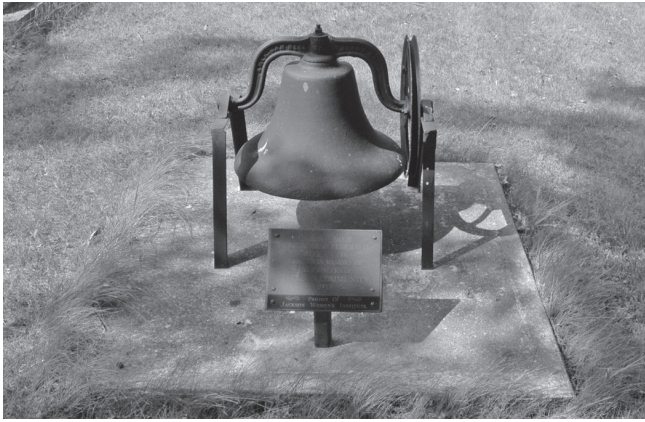
The flour mill measures 40 feet by 48 feet and has five floors plus the turbine level while the silo building measures 30 feet by 40 feet, is four storeys high and is joined to the mill by a covered wagon drive-through. The combination of buildings makes this an impressively large structure and it represents a significant link to our past. Restoration and repairs began in 2000 and the doors opened for the first time in 30 years in 2002.



Bradley Community Centre

The school bell from the S.S. 7, Greenock School is mounted in a cairn in front of the Bradley Community Centre. The bell was used in a school which was built on this site but burned. The present building built in 1957 served as the Bradley School until 1966 when children began to be bussed to the Paisley Central School.

Bells from two other schools memorialize other Greenock Township Schools. The bell from the Jackson School U.S.S # 8 Greenock & Elderslie is mounted with a small plaque in the Jackson Cemetery. The plaque reads, "U.S.S. No. 8, Greenock & Elderslie 1874 - 1966 Erected in memory of the Pioneers of the Jackson Community. Project of the Jackson Women's Institute, 1992." The Institute continues to keep the name of the Jackson community alive.



The Jackson School Bell

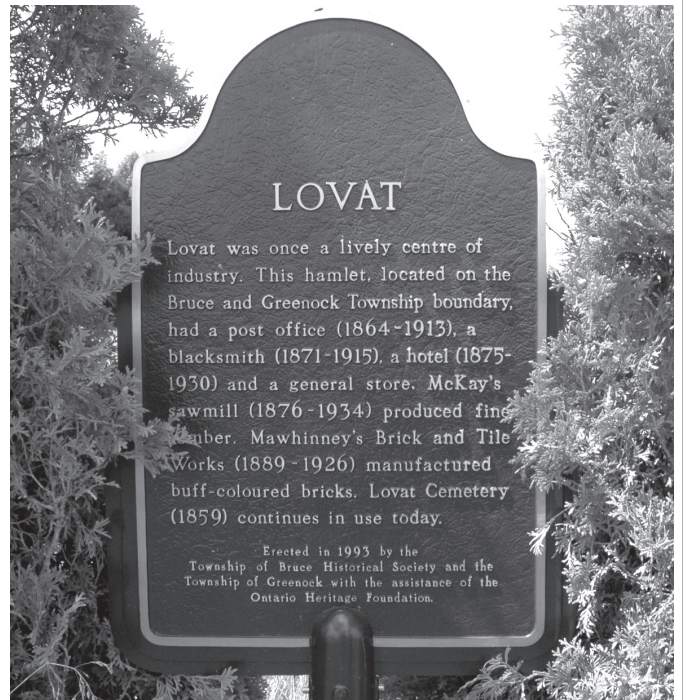
The bell from the Pinkerton School, S.S. # 5, Greenock has been mounted in a cemetery with two names. The name Greenwood Cemetery is attached to one of the grave stones beside the bell. The name Pinkerton Pioneer Cemetery is on a more recent sign in the cemetery. The school plaque reads, "S.S. No. 5 Greenock 1864 - 1967. Erected in memory of the pioneers of this community May 3, 1987."



A plaque on the stone at right reads Greenwood Cemetery. The plaque with the bell commemorates S.S. # 5 and community pioneers.



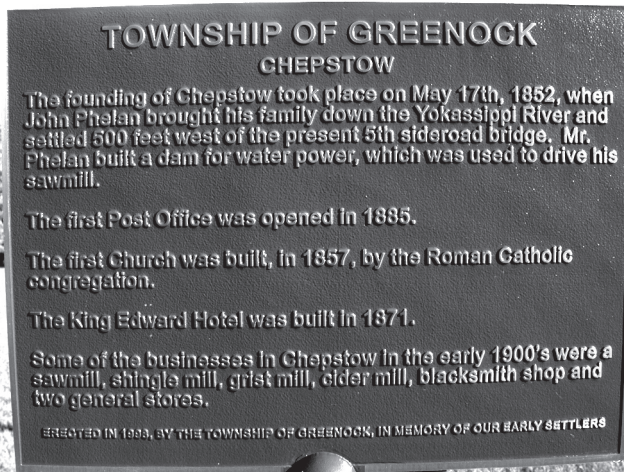
One of the signs naming the cemetery



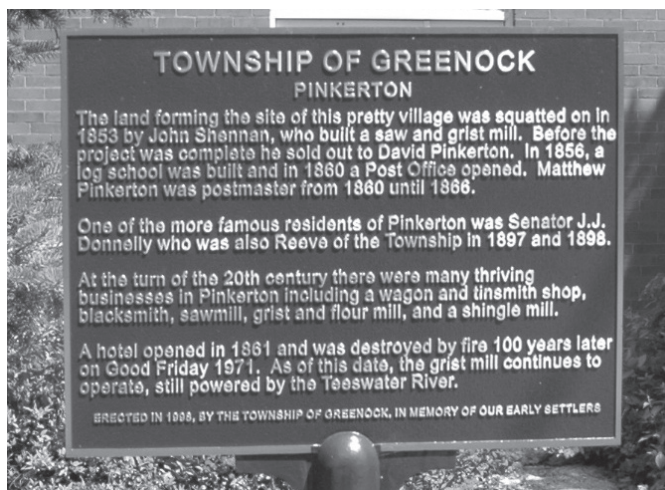
Lovat

Plaques throughout Greenock relate the history of the hamlets of the Township. Lovat was partly in Bruce Township but the plaque erected by the Bruce Township Historical Society with help from the Township of Greenock and the Ontario Heritage Foundation was placed in Greenock.

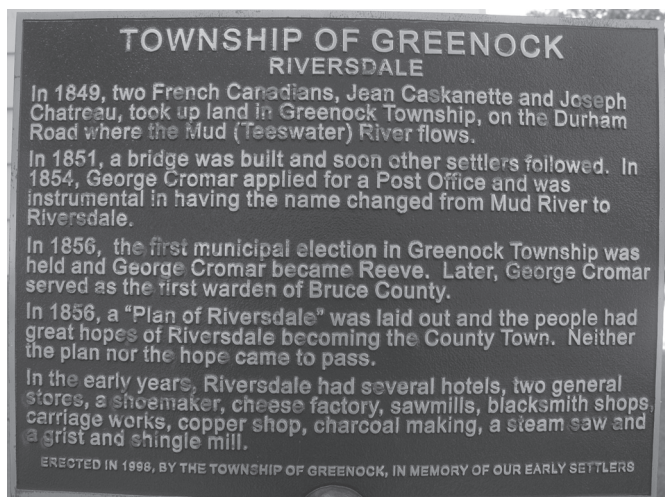
Parts of Glammis are in the townships of Bruce and Kincardine but the plaque erected by the Township of Greenock is in Greenock. The other plaques on this page recognizing the hamlets of Chepstow, Pinkerton and Riversdale were also placed by the Greenock Township council. A plaque for Greenock is pictured on the next page. Other names associated with places in Greenock or on its boundaries are Cargill, Egypt, Kingarf, Kinloss, Narva, Portal and Bradley. Only a couple of these are actually hamlets. Portal and Bradley were Greenock Township post office locations.



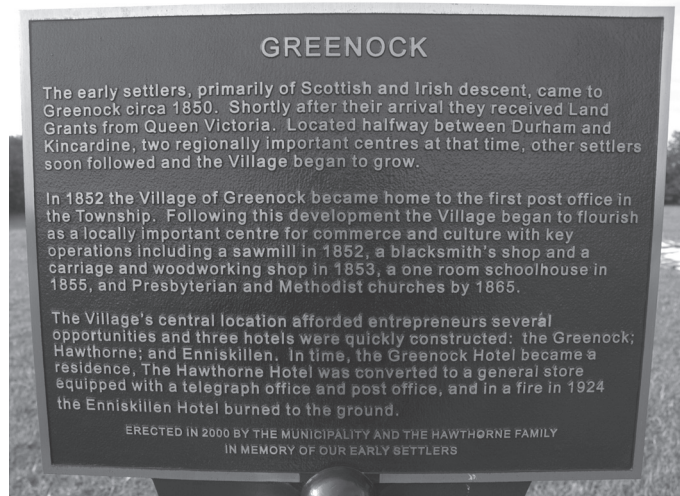
Chepstow



Pinkerton



Riversdale



In 2000 the Municipality of Brockton continued the tradition started by the Greenock Township council when a plaque was placed in the hamlet of Greenock by the municipality and the Hawthorne family.



A cairn has been erected in the Cargill park in memory of Henry Cargill. It reads, "To honour the memory of the founder of this village, Henry Cargill. 1879 - 1979 Also all people who have contributed to the cause over the past one hundred years."



Henry Cargill had canals dug through the Greenock swamp which were used to float logs. These pictures show what one canal looked like in August 2009.

Legion Photo Days Fall 2009

We would like to thank all of the volunteers, donors and legions involved in the Legion Photo Days Project. This project, funded by the New Horizons for Seniors Program and the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre was a great success.

We visited five Bruce County Legions in the fall (Tara, Paisley, Southampton, Chesley and Port Elgin). We copied images of Bruce County related military photos and memorabilia to be preserved at the Bruce County Archives. Images will be uploaded to <http://military.brucemuseum.ca> as well as being available for viewing in the Reading Room. We were also able to purchase ten more Veterans Oral History Videos and upload excerpts to the website, as well as support the Veterans Remember oral history video project.

Special Thanks To:

Royal Canadian Legion

Branch 383 Tara
Branch 295 Paisley
Branch 155 Southampton
Branch 144 Chesley
Branch 340 Port Elgin

Bill Stewart, our Super Scanner

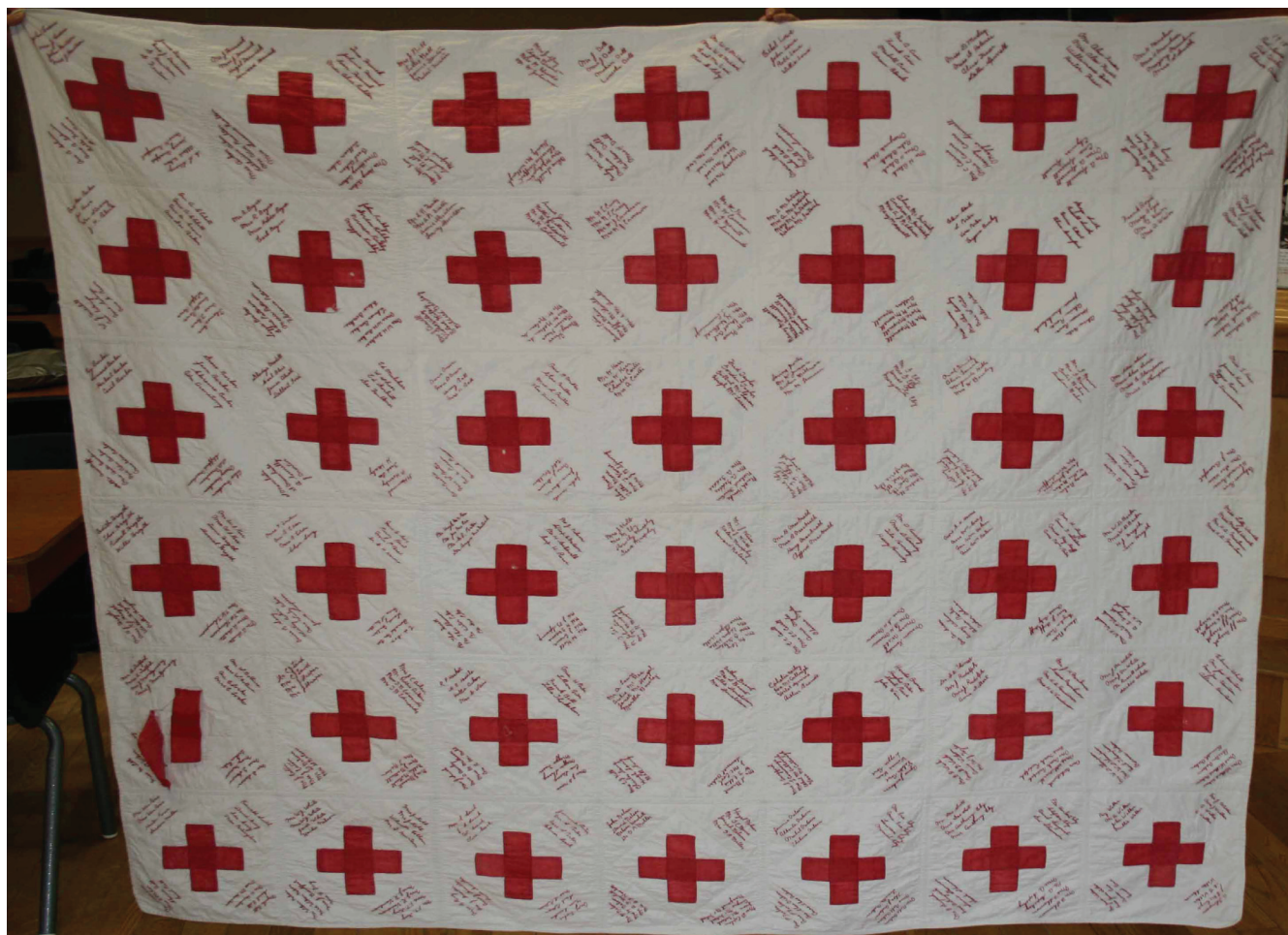
New Horizons for Seniors Program



Human Resources and
Skills Development Canada

Ressources humaines et
Développement des compétences Canada

Sue Schlorff and the
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre



This Red Cross Signature Quilt was one of the artefacts copied at the Tara Legion

Bruce County Historical Society Meeting & Event Schedule

May 20 – 10:30 am - 5:00 pm

\$25.00 per person

Greenock Swamp Bus Tour

Cargill Community Centre

Price includes a presentation by Shannon Woods of the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, lunch and bus tour through the Greenock Swamp

June 12 – All day

\$5.00 per person

Car Rally - Scavenger Hunt

In Conjunction with the
Bruce County Genealogical Society

Call to Register:

Ann-Marie 519-797-2080 x 114

Use a Digital Camera to prove “items” found

10:00 – Meet & Greet

Bluewater Park, Wiarton

10:30 – Off and Running

4:00 - Cut off time

4:30 - Prizes & Thank You

July 12 – 7:00 p.m.

FREE

Authors Night

Wine & Cheese

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

In Conjunction with the Bruce County
Genealogical Society

August 12 - 7:00 pm

Executive Meeting

Bruce County Museum

August 20, 21, 22

Bruce County Heritage Association

Steam and Antique Show

Outreach booth

September 18

Antiques Roadshow - TBA

October 30 - Noon

Annual Meeting

Sauble Beach Community Centre

November 17

Legion Photo Day - TBA

December 4

Christmas Luncheon - TBA

Family Heritage Day

February 15, 2010

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre



*Ann-Marie Collins and Sue Schlorff with the
“Bruce County: Through the Years” Video*



*Deb Sturdevant with the
Bruce County Photo Matching game.*

RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

This is a friendly reminder to confirm the status of your membership by checking the address label on this newsletter. If you see (2009) on the label it is time to renew your membership.

You can send your renewal to Catharine McKeeman, Membership Secretary, General Delivery, Formosa, Ontario, N0G 1W0. Also feel free to contact Catherine if you have any questions regarding your membership. Her email is jrich@wightman.ca



MAP OF GREENOCK TOWNSHIP

Greenock Swamp Bus Tour

Morning
Guest Speaker
Shannon Woods
Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority

Noon
Lunch

Afternoon
Bus Tour of the Greenock Swamp

\$25.00 per person

Call For Tickets:
Karen Ribey 519-368-7405
Jim Whytock 519-392-6003
Mary MacKay 519-353-5544
Dorne Fitzsimmons 519-368-7186

Bruce County Historical Society

P.O. Box 51 Tiverton Ontario N0G 2T0

www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca



An annual membership in Bruce County Historical Society is \$15

Bruce County Historical Notes



Volume 52 No. 2 August 2010 Published by Bruce County Historical Society

Greetings from the President **By Karen Ribey**

Well hello everyone! I hope you are having a wonderful summer and just where has it gone to?

I know down here on the farm on the sixth of Bruce in the Municipality of Kincardine it seems that first cut hay, which is normally done by the first week of July, did not even get started until the end of July. I guess we should be thankful that we do not live west of Manitoba border though, with all the rain and flooding they have been having.

I hope that everyone who went on the annual Bus Trip had fun seeing and hearing about the Greenock Swamp. It is like many things close to where you live. It has been there all your life and you take its heritage for granted. The skit that Mary MacKay wrote about the "Cargill Family" is the same. Doesn't everyone know about Henry Cargill's family, his lumber empire and his political life?

Bruce Township Historical Society's Annual Meeting in June was similar. The topic for the evening was The History of the Village of Underwood. Underwood has a history but as the kids would say "no way man, just don't blink or you'll miss it".

I hope that everyone made it out to the Heritage Show in Paisley on August 20-22 weekend. How about those square dancing tractors!?! Hope that you also came to the Bruce County Ploughing Match on the 3rd of September in Kincardine.

The Grey County Historical Society is coming to Bruce County on September 15 to see the Masonic Lodge building in Southampton. We are meeting at 1:00 pm at the former Lodge and gathering at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre after for a presentation. This

is a nice treat to meet with the members of the Grey County Historical Society, and for certain people this is a very good date to go on a tour.

I promise this is my last president's message. Where have the last three years gone? Thank-you to the entire executive for all their help over the last three years.

All the Best and thanks again. Karen

Bruce County Historical Society **Annual Dinner Meeting** **Saturday, October 30 - 11:00 am**

Topic: Friends of Sauble Beach
Guest Speaker: John & Cathy Strachan

Location:
Sauble Beach Community Centre



Buy your ticket by Saturday, October 23
Cost: \$15.00

Call for Tickets:
Doug Lennox - (519) 422-1737
dlennox@sympatico.ca
Jim Whytock - (519) 392-6003
Cathie Clazie - (519) 389-2320
Dorne Fitzsimmons - (519) 368-7186

Friends of Sauble Beach

Friends of Sauble Beach (FSB), is a nonprofit group of volunteers organized in 2000. FSB Volunteers use their talents, time and energy to ensure that the natural environment of Sauble Beach is conserved and enhanced so that people of all ages and physical ability can enjoy the wonderful sunsets, sand and water of the beach. FSB was incorporated in February of 2002.



Founding members of Friends of Sauble Beach:
Ken & Mary Froom, Sheila Hatt, Edith Galloway & Doug Lennox.

Friends of Sauble Beach Mission Statement

To preserve, protect, enhance and improve the natural resources and environment of the shoreline at Sauble Beach which encompasses beach and sand dune ecosystems.

To encourage and foster an understanding and awareness of the natural resources and environment and their value in enhancing our quality of life, by offering public meetings, special interest speakers, and distribution of information on issues related to improving our natural resource and environment.

To establish a liaison with youth through an environmental partnership with our local schools which will promote respect for the fragile environment on the shoreline and Sauble Beach.

What do the Friends of Sauble Beach do?



Raise money to protect the dune system and to provide proper access points to the Beach. To date over \$275,000 has been raised through fund raising ventures, BBQ's and Fish Dinners.



Help fund boardwalks and accessible beach viewing platforms.



Improve habitat for endangered species.



Provide interpretive signage.



Provide benches on the beach.



Instrumental in Sauble Beach becoming the 1st Beach on Lake Huron and the 2nd Beach in North America to fly the Blue Flag.



Develop, produce and distribute educational materials.



Involve school children in “Kids to Kids” program.



In 2007, the efforts of FSB was recognized by Cottage Life Magazine. FSB was awarded the first ever Green Cottager Group Award.

Bruce County Historical Society Meeting Schedule

Southampton Masonic Lodge

Joint Meeting with the
Grey County Historical Society
Wednesday, September 15 - 1:00
Meet at Former Masonic Lodge - Albert Street
(HWY 21, north of High Street)
Discussion to follow at Bruce County
Museum & Cultural Centre

Executive Meeting

Friday, September 15 - 11:00
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

Bruce County Historical Society Annual Meeting - Sauble Beach

Saturday October 30 - 11:00
Sauble Beach Community Centre
Presentation by Friends of Sauble Beach

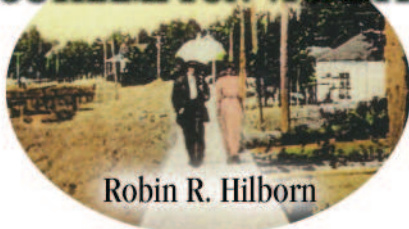
Legion Photo Day

Wednesday, November 17 - 10:00 - 3:00
Location TBA

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 4 - Noon
Burgoyne Presbyterian Church
Current and Past Executive of the Bruce
County Historical Society
RSVP to Mary MacKay (519) 353-5544

SOUTHAMPTON VIGNETTES



Robin R. Hilborn

Robin Hilborn launched his book *Southampton Vignettes* July 29th. The book is available at the BCM&CC gift shop, the Chantry Island Tour Base at the Southampton harbour, in Port Elgin at Broad Horizons Books, and in Owen Sound at the Downtown Bookstore.

Robin noted that in writing *Vignettes* he relied heavily on historian John Weichel's research notes, housed in the Bruce County Archives, including his books *Forgotten Lives* and *Forgotten Times*. "I especially wanted to pay tribute to John Weichel, so I devoted a chapter to his work and dedicated the book to him."

Bruce County Post Cards Needed

The Bruce County Historical Society is still looking for post cards depicting scenes from around Bruce County for a new publication, *A Pictorial History of Bruce County: Volume II*. If you have any post cards you would be willing to loan to us to reproduce for the book please call Bill Stewart at 519-934-2270 or Ann-Marie Collins at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, 1-866-318-8889 ext 114. Thank you to those of you who have already contacted us.



Thanks to Dorothy Ozaruk for this post card of a team of horses hauling logs out of the bush.

Books Available from the Bruce County Historical Society Members Receive 25% off!

The Experiences of John Stewart 'The Rebel'
compiled by Mary MacKay
John Stewart was a participant in
Mackenzie's 1837 Rebellion.
\$5.00

Misty Rain by Graham MacDonald
An historical novel. A family lives through the
Great Depression.
\$12.50

Pioneer Days on the Bruce Peninsula
by Jack Hilditch
Jack Hilditch relates his experiences and
writes about the folklore of the peninsula.
84 pages \$8.00

Check out the full range of publications at:
www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca
To order books contact
William Stewart
RR2, Allenford, ON N0H 1A0
(519) 934-2270

Bruce County Heritage Association

Heritage Farm Show - Steam & Antique Tractor Show



Friday, August 20 - Sunday, August 22 volunteers from the Bruce County Historical Society, Bruce County Genealogical Society and the staff from the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre manned a booth at the Heritage Steam Show near Paisley. Photos courtesy of Terry Roach.

Pine River Cheese

Pine River Cheese & Butter Co-Operative celebrates 125 years in 2010, serving the people of Huron Township and surrounding areas.



*Photos courtesy
of Pine River
Cheese*

The Pine River Cheese & Butter Company was incorporated on March 3, 1885. The factory was built on Huron Township Concession 6, Lot 36. On May 4, 1939 it became the Pine River Cheese & Butter Co-Operative.

The plant was destroyed by fire in 1981. A new plant was opened in 1983 on the same lot but at a new site on HWY 21.



Plans are being made to have a celebration, hopefully this fall, but are not complete.

For more information about Pine River and other Cheese & Butter factories in Huron Township check out the Bruce County Historical Society Yearbook 2005.

Bethel United Church

Bethel United Church officially closed with their final service on Sunday, August 15, 2010. They had a celebration to mark the closing.

Photo Courtesy of the Kincardine Times



John Farrell and Sandra MacDonald, wearing proper period costume, offered a brief history of the church.

The original log church was built in 1856 on half an acre of land purchased from Edward Creech for 25 cents. It was named Bethel Methodist Church by William Harrison. Over the winter of 1871-72 arrangements were made to build a new church. While the new church was being built the old log one burned and scorched the side of the frame building being built.

In 1925 the Methodist Church joined the United Church of Canada.

Photo Courtesy of the Kincardine Times



In April 1963 the church burned again in a fire of unknown origin. The current church building was erected in 1964, east of where the former church had stood.

For more info visit www.kincardinetimes.com

Doors Open in Bruce County

Ontario Heritage Trust

Doors Open offers an opportunity for visitors to learn about the importance of architectural, cultural and natural heritage sites within their community. One can visit any number of chosen sites in one weekend at no charge. Look for the Doors Open Ontario Guide for more information...



Kincardine

Saturday & Sunday, October 16 - 17

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(519) 396-6060

www.doorsopenkincardine.com

Doors Open Kincardine is presented by the Municipality of Kincardine.

A.J. Evans/Brown House
689 Princes Street, Kincardine

Anglican Rectory
HWY 9, EN5021, Bervie

Ardloch Lodge/ Royal Canadian Legion
219 Lambton Street, Kincardine

Bruce Lodge 341 A.F. & A.M.G.R.C.
94 King Street, Tiverton

Lime Kiln Resort
96 Victoria Street, Inverhuron

Port Bruce Cemetery
Concession 6, just east of Sideroad B/C

Roseneath/Malcolm Place
255 Durham Street, Kincardine

South Bruce Peninsula

Saturday & Sunday, September 18-19

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(519) 534-1400

www.southbrucepeninsula.com

A tour of interesting sites which encompass all of the communities in South Bruce Peninsula.

Aiken Brothers Hardware
7740 Highway 21, Allenford

The Bruce Beckons
38 Beckons Lane, RR 4, Wiarton

Institute for Outdoor Education and
Environmental Studies
3092 Bruce County Road 13, Wiarton

Oliphant Pioneer Methodist Church
3 Lakeview Avenue, Oliphant

Sauble Falls Bridge and Historic Site
1400 Sauble Falls Road, Sauble Beach

Taylor-Wain House/The Doctors' House
7757 Highway 21, Allenford

Red Bay Lodge
462 Huron Bay Road, Red Bay

Walkerton & District

September 25

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(519) 881-3413

www.brockton.ca

Brockton will host Doors Open Walkerton & Area when 17 area homes and heritage sites of interest will be opened to the public.

Brant Township, Concession 12 Bridge
Concession 12, Brant Township

Cargill House
12 Cargill Rd., Cargill

David Milne Schoolhouse
3787 Bruce County Road 3, Paisley

St. Thomas' Anglican Church
305 Colborne St. S., Walkerton

Valentine / Stark Mill
4575 Bruce Rd. 1, Paisley

Victoria Jubilee Hall
111 Jackson St., Walkerton

Viewfield / Shaw House
951 Old Durham Road, Walkerton

Volunteers Needed

Doors Open events are run by dedicated groups of volunteers. For the day(s) of the event they need many volunteers. If you can spare a few hours, please contact the Doors Open committee in your area.

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
33 Victoria St. N., Southampton, ON
(519) 797-2080 / (866) 318-8889



September 12 - 2:00 pm
Doctor Makes a House Call
 October 10 - 3:00 pm
Saving Lives on Lake Huron



November 6 - 2:00pm
Veterans Video Presentation



November 16 - 3:00pm
War Brides
 Exhibit Opening
 and Presentation

Chesley Heritage & Woodworking Museum
106 1st Ave. S., Chesley, ON

Open Saturdays 1:00 until 4:00 pm or by chance
 For appointment contact Brian Phillips 363-2363
 or Tom Soper 363-6339.

- The "Big Dig" 1908-2010 Exhibit - artifacts found this summer digging up Main Street, Chesley. Photographs from community members!
- Exhibit of area woodworking tools
- September 18 **Free Admission** during 2nd Annual Town Wide Yard Sale (rain date September 25)
- October - November - Remembrance Day Exhibit
- Check out our gift shop - Chesley books and "Big Dig" T-shirts - 1908 Big Dig & Big Dig 2010

Treasure Chest Museum
407 Queen Street North, Paisley, ON
(519) 353-7176

www.arran-elderslie.com/treasurechestmuseum.htm

Open Weekends from 1 to 4 pm
 from Labour Day until Thanksgiving

Enjoy the Agriculture Memories Exhibit

2011 Renewal Notice

Please submit your 2011 membership fees prior to November 2010 if possible. Mailing the yearbooks after the November bulk mailing incurs a much larger postage rate (each individual Yearbook mailed costs \$2.00).

Don't forget that a membership to the Bruce County Historical Society is a great gift. Annual Memberships are \$15.00 each or Life Memberships are \$125.00 each.

Submit your membership fees to:

Catherine McKeeman
 Membership Coordinator
 General Delivery
 Formosa, ON N0G 1W0

Bruce County Historical Society

P.O. Box 51 Tiverton Ontario N0G 2T0

www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca



An annual membership in Bruce County Historical Society is \$15

Bruce County Historical Notes



Volume 53 No. 1 April 2011 Published by Bruce County Historical Society

Greetings from the President **By Audrey Underwood**

By the time you get your Spring newsletter, it will actually be Spring and we'll all be looking forward to summer activities and warm sunshine. I do hope you had a great winter and wrote those family heritage and/or history stories you wanted to get finished for the yearbook or newsletter. If not –well it's never too late; so do give it a try.

In January we held our first BCHS Executive meeting at Mary MacKay's home in Paisley. This turned out to be a very full day where we all learned about our committees that are and will be working throughout the year. Mary assisted by Judy MacKinnon supplied a nourishing luncheon, and even the weatherman co-operated and gave us only a little snow that day!

In February, Heritage Week kept us extremely busy attending 2 days at the Museum & Cultural Centre. Family Day Monday had nearly 900 people pass through the doors to enjoy the multitude of activities, such as crafts & displays indoors and snowshoeing outside. Additionally the current exhibit of Extreme Nature, complete with a real (enough) earthquake to "shake us up," was a constant attraction. The Chantry Centre ladies catered a great lunch. The Historical & Genealogical Societies partnered once again on the second level and were kept extremely busy giving out red card apples for children to sign and hang on the tree, as well as an "apple tree" pedigree chart to take home and fill in the blanks; Moms and Dads were exceptionally interested in this activity.

March has been very quiet as the snow date that had been planned for February activities was not needed.

Now it's on to April and our gathering for all members and friends will be at Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre on Wednesday the 13th featuring Archaeologist, Dr. William Fitzgerald and assistant Angela Gunn at 7 PM. This timely and exciting talk entitled "The River Mouth Speaks: Four thousand years of Saugeen History" was inspired by recent findings during the dig for sewers at the north end of Southampton.

Executive members please note that we will be meeting at my house, #5, 834 Arlington St. on Saturday April 16th, 10 AM till noon.

May is bus trip month (the 20th) and this year it is to the Donnelly Museum and surrounding Lucan area. Karen has plans well on the way, so get your name on the list!!

Plans for the House Tour on June 8th at 7 PM are still incomplete. The tour will be at Hampton Court, the former CM Bowman home in Southampton, complete with house and family history of this beautiful old home.

July 11th is Authors Night partnering with the Bruce County Genealogical Society at 7 PM. Come for wine and cheese and hear local Bruce County authors tell their publishing stories.

August brings us together for an Executive meeting on the 12th, 7PM, location to be announced. BCHS members will also be attending the annual Bruce County Heritage Association Steam & Antique Show, August 19, 20, 21. We will be there to bring our historical wares and expertise to the public.

The fall line up will be announced in the next newsletter. Happy history hunting to all and have a great summer!

Audrey



Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum

We are excited to welcome you to our new Museum located amongst the shops and restaurants on Main St., Lucan. Showcasing both stationary and rotating exhibits, the Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum aims to educate visitors, not only of the infamous Donnelly tragedy, but also of the local history reaching back to the black settlement of Wilberforce, the immigration of our forefathers from Ireland, and our own "Hometown Heroes" contribution to war efforts through the generations.

For the first time ever, the collection of Ray Fazakas, author of *The Donnelly Album* and *In Search of the Donnellys*, will be on display to the public at the Museum. The collection will allow the public access to the world in which this tragedy occurred and explore the events that led to the murder of members of the Donnelly Family. With over four decades of research and artifacts, this collection will respond to those new to the story and those who just can't get enough of it.

The Donnellys were an Irish immigrant family that lived on the Roman Line outside Lucan during the latter part of the 19th century. Life was difficult for early settlers and a culture of violence developed in early Lucan. Often blamed to be behind this violence was the Donnelly clan. In the early morning of

February 4, 1880, 5 members of the Donnelly family were tragically killed by a mob of over 30 men. Nobody was ever held accountable, despite eye witness accounts fingering the assailants as local men.

One of our popular attractions is our log cabin built in 1871 in the same fashion as the Donnelly cabin which burned to the ground the night of the massacre. The cabin offers visitors the opportunity to retrace the events of the massacre and visualize that tragic night in history. This cabin was moved to the Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum from Bruce Township.

Across the lane, visit Hearn's barn housing many agricultural artifacts from the past. Develop an appreciation for our ancestors as you explore the rigid tools they used to prepare and work the land in order to provide for their families.

If you've got the bus, we've got the tour for you and your group. Our "Retracing History" tour takes the route the Vigilante Committee took the night of the Donnelly massacre. You will not only hear the Donnelly story, but will travel the infamous Roman Line, visit the tombstone at St. Patrick's Cemetery, tour the Donnelly Cabin, Hearn Barn and main Museum building.

Come out to Lucan and enjoy all the Museum has to offer! Located at 171 Main St., Lucan, we will be open May – October 2010. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn or visit our website at www.donnellymuseum.com.



The log cabin moved from Bruce Township to Lucan for the Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum

Annual Bus Tour Tuesday, May 17

Pick Up Times & Locations

Port Elgin - 7:30 am

Paisley - 7:50 am

Teeswater - 8:40 am

Vigilance Bus Tour

Trace the path taken by the Vigilance Committee the night of February 3, and early morning hours of February 4, 1880 when the Donnelly Family was massacred, includes a Donnelly homestead tour and a fascinating look at artifacts and original photographs of family members with Robert Salts (current owner of the homestead)

Lunch

Ham & cheese on a bun

Potato, cabbage & pasta salad

Tea & coffee

Dessert

Tour the Donnelly Museum

Tour of the Huron County Historic Goal

Dinner

Roast Beef & Chicken

Salad Bar

Potatoes & Vegetables

Desert, Tea & Coffee

\$95.00 per person

**Lunch, dinner and admission to
all attractions included.**

Call For Tickets:

Karen Ribey 519-368-7405

Jim Whytock 519-392-6003

Mary MacKay 519-353-5544

Book your seat before May 10.

AN ASTOUNDING MASSACRE NEAR LUCAN.

The Donnelly Family Murdered by Masked Men—Father, Mother, two Sons and Niece; Done to Death—A Hired Boy Escapes Unhurt—The House Fired and Bodies Burned—Thirteen of the supposed Murderers Arrested.

Condensed from the London Free Press.

Lucan, Ont., Feb. 4.
About 12 o'clock last night a body of men, blackened and masked, entered the dwelling of the somewhat notorious Donnelly family and murdered the inmates—the father, mother, one son, and a girl (a niece). Another son (John), residing about three miles from the homestead, was called to his door about the same hour and shot. He is also dead. For some time back incendiary fires and other misdemeanors have been of frequent occurrence, and whether rightly or not the Donnelly family were blamed, if not as the actual perpetrators of the crimes, that they were the instigators; and hence an intense feeling of enmity culminated against them throughout the township. A Vigilance Committee was formed some time ago by the settlers, as a means of protection from these outrages, which, with all their precautionary measures, did not seem to have obtained the desired end. The last fire was on the Ryder farm, on Thursday night, the 15th of January, in the very midst of the Donnelly settlement, and the four brothers were at a wedding when the fire occurred; but the father and mother, who were at their house at the time, were arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the burning. Their examination was still pending, and was to have been closed to-day, but the morning light displayed the ghastly spectacle of the last remains of the inmates of the Donnelly homestead burned to a cinder, after being first murdered with axes and such other weapons as came to hand. About twenty men, disguised evidently beyond recognition, were engaged in the bloody work. A little boy named Connors, belonging to the village, was staying in the house over night, and when the attack was made he dodged under the bed without being discovered. When the murder was committed and the house fired the gang decamped. The boy then emerged from his hiding-place and made for the village. The only reliable account that can be had is from the boy. The parties murdered are James and Judith, the father and mother; Thomas, the youngest son; Bridget, a niece—four there. About the same time another party called at the residence of William Donnelly, about three miles distant from the father's house and awoke him. His brother John being in the house, got up and went to the door, when he was immediately fired upon by two shots from a revolver, and killed. The man William, upon getting up, could see no trace of the murderers. These are about the facts as far as can be ascertained in the excitement of the moment.

JOHNIE CONNOR'S STATEMENT.

Johnny Connor is a stout little boy, of 11 years of age, who lives with his mother in the eastern portion of Lucan. At first sight he would not be credited with precocity, but after winning his confidence and the air of strangeness is gone, he speaks with a good deal of freedom and sense. His story is the most wonderful in the annals of crime, and is appended just as he told it in his mother's house:—"I am eleven years of age. I went out to Donnelly's about 4 o'clock yesterday evening, and John Donnelly, Bridget Donnelly, the old man and the old woman, and Tom Donnelly was there. Jack and Tom put in the horse, and we all went in to get warm. After that Jack went into

*Excerpt from the Warton
Echo about the tragedy*

THE WARTON ECHO

INCHAM CAMPBELL & Co., Publishers.

INDEPENDENT ON ALL SUBJECTS—NEUTRAL IN NOTHING.

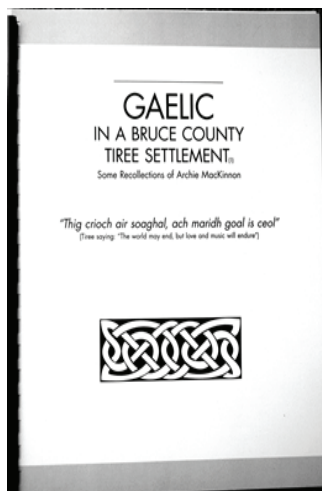
WILSON, ONTARIO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1880.

WHOLE NO.

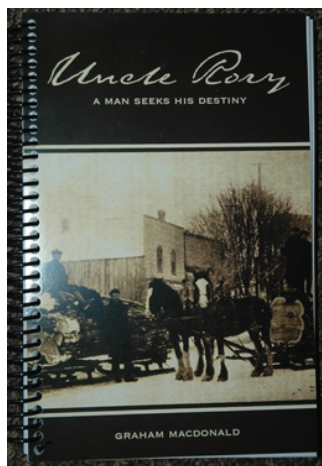
TERMS:—\$1.00 a Year, —\$ Paid in Advance.

BCHS Books for Sale

New Release



Gaelic in a Bruce County Tirie Settlement by Archie MacKinnon relates the use of the Gaelic language in Kincardine Township when the author was growing up. Accompanying the book is a CD with examples of Gaelic music and poetry that Archie has collected. \$20.00



Uncle Rory – A Man Seeks His Destiny by Graham MacDonald. A young man sets out on his own and makes his place in the lumbering industry. \$12.50.

Visit www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca to see other books available from the Bruce County Historical Society or call Bill Stewart at (519) 934-2270.

Remember
Members receive a 25% discount

Yearbooks - Special

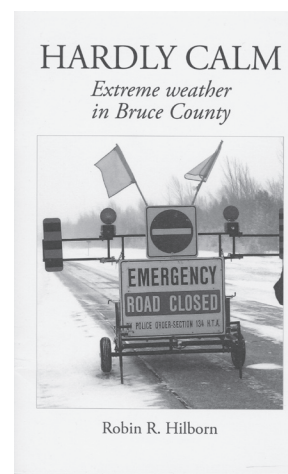
Complete your collection
from past years!

Any 10 yearbooks for \$50.00
as long as it's still in print.

The index for the subjects and names is available online and is a valuable source of information about the people and places in Bruce County.

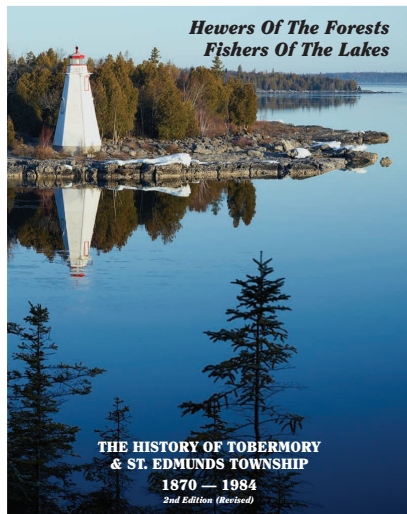
Hardly Calm: *extreme weather in Bruce County* **by Robin Hilborn**

Southampton resident and Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre volunteer has been busy this winter. On top of volunteering at the BCM&CC he has published a book of short stories on the effects of Mother Nature on the residents of Bruce County.



Winter blizzards, spring floods, Good Friday wind storms, November gales... is the weather in Bruce County ever calm? The Bruce Peninsula juts out into Lake Huron, exposing the county's 850 km of shoreline to the full brunt of storms driving across the lake. Here is some of the worst weather in the land. \$5.00 available at the BCM&CC.

Hewers of the Forests, Fishers of the Lakes The History of Tobermory & St. Edmunds Township



Originally published in 1985, this 2nd edition has been revised and re-printed by Tobermory Press. The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula recruited the St. Edmunds history committee to make minor corrections to the text of the book and substantially revise the family history section. The enormous technological improvements in photographic reproduction prompted the history committee and the Tobermory Press to find and re-scan original photographs, where available. The book retails for \$35.00 and is available at many locations on the peninsula. For more information on where to purchase, please contact the Tobermory Press at (519) 596-2658, 1-800-794-4480 or email info@tobermorypress.com.

Do you have wooden nickels?

James Atchison, 9 years old from Cork, Ireland is collecting wooden nickels as a hobby. His hobby is helping him learn of his Canadian heritage as his father, Darryl Atchison was born in Chatham, Ontario and married an Irish gal. In particular, James is looking for one issued in 1976 by Colonel Clarke's Tavern in the Bruce Peninsula. The other is a 1960 one issued by the Town of Clarksburg for their 100th anniversary. If you have any wooden nickels, please contact Judy MacKinnon, at 519-353-5638.

New Titles from The Brucedale Press

BRUCE Day by Day offers a celebration of our heritage in daybook format. For each week, readers see art by Kenneth L. Thornburn of Northern Flyer Designs in Tara. Facing pages show snippets of history--some serious, some whimsical--compiled by Anne Duke Judd of Saugeen Shores.

With the consent of Bruce County Council, both our tartan and crest appear in the January weeks when they were officially adopted. People have had fun looking up their birthday to see what else happened on that date. The format provides space for users to add their own family or community dates of importance.

Copies are available from the artist and the author, or at Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, the County offices in Walkerton, and at Nature's Millworks in Paisley. Cost is \$14.00 plus HST.

Aggie's Dream: Agnes Macphail in High School is Donna Mann's second book about Canada's first woman Member of Parliament. While attending Owen Sound Collegiate Institute 1906-1908, Agnes encountered town attitudes that might have intimidated a less determined student. She persevered, excelling in her studies and playing basketball. Both the debating skills she learned, and her practice of standing up for the rights of others helped her hold her ground in politics.

Donna Mann has recreated these formative years with the humour, family lore, and authentic settings that made *Aggie's Storms* a finalist for the Word Guild awards in 2008. *Aggie's Dream: Agnes Macphail in High School* is a worthy sequel.

Readers of this newsletter probably know about Agnes Macphail's connections in Bruce County. She began her teaching career at the Gowanlock School in Saugeen Township, then taught near Kinloss. She was engaged to Robert Tucker, later a family doctor in Paisley who appears in the book as a fellow student. As MP, Agnes was a popular speaker at rallies and picnics from Inverhuron to Walkerton.

Aggie's Dream is available in bookstores and museum gift shops around the area, or by mail from The Brucedale Press in Port Elgin at \$20.00 plus HST.

Scotland Trip Raffle Draw held December 4, 2010



Thanks to all who bought a ticket from us at various locations throughout the year to support the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. It is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations to our Grand Prize Winner of the trip to Scotland – Betty Fitzsimmons – the owner of lucky ticket number 2723.



Pictured here are Audrey Underwood, President, BCHS, winner Betty Fitzsimmons and Barbara Ribey, Director/Curator of the BCM&CC.

Betty wins the following GREAT prize:

- First Class 8 Day Coach Tour, trip for two to Scotland. Trip includes roundtrip airfare from Toronto to Glasgow.
- Tour Highlights: Glasgow, Stirling, Inverness, Glencoe, Loch Ness, Isle of Skye, Perthshire, St. Andrews and Edinburgh
- 7 nights accommodation in First Class hotels, Full Scottish breakfast daily, evening meals in hotels, Farewell Scottish evening with dinner & entertainment and much more.

The Early Bird Winner of the Wii Station was Doug Gowanlock, the holder of ticket number 2013.



Pictured here are Barbara Ribey, Director/Curator of the BCM&CC and winner Doug Gowanlock.

We thank those who sold tickets and spent countless hours raising the funds. Thanks also to all of our partners who helped us out with this great draw!



The BCM&CC was pleased to accept the donation of \$5,432 from the Bruce County Historical Society.

Pictured here are Barbara Ribey, Director/Curator, BCM&CC and Audrey Underwood, President, BCHS

Bruce County Historical Society Meeting & Event Schedule

Wednesday, April 13 - 7:00 pm

The River Mouth Speaks:

Four thousand years of Saugeen History

Dr. William Fitzgerald and Angela Gunn
Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

Saturday, April 16th, 10:00 am - noon

Executive Meeting

Audrey Underwood's House
#5, 834 Arlington St., Port Elgin

Tuesday, May 17 - 7:30 am - 7:30 pm

\$95.00 per person

Annual Bus Trip

Lucan Area Heritage

& Donnelly Museum

and Huron County Goal

Price includes the Vigilance Tour hosted by a Museum Volunteer which will trace the path taken by the Vigilance Committee the night of February 3, and early morning hours of February 4, 1880 when the Donnelly Family was massacred, a tour of the Donnelly family homestead, lunch and tour of the museum. Also included is a tour of the Huron County Goal and a buffet dinner at the Candlelight Restaurant in Goderich.

Wednesday, June 8 - 7:00 pm

Free Admission

House Tour, Southampton

Hampton Court - Former Bowman Home
The home, built in 1902 by Charles Bowman, stayed a private residence until 1934 when it was converted into a tourist home and then a B&B. In 1989 it was converted into a retirement home. Historian Derek Wills, will be on hand to answer questions about the Bowman Family.



Monday, July 11 - 7:00 p.m.

Free Admission

Authors Night

Wine & Cheese

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
In Conjunction with the Bruce County
Genealogical Society
Featured Authors:
Robin Hilborn, Southampton
Arthur Haley, Wiarton (Poet)
Mabel Williamson, Hepworth

August 12 - 7:00 pm

Executive Meeting

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

August 19, 20, 21

Bruce County Heritage Association

Steam & Antique Show

Outreach booth

TBA - All day

\$5.00 per person

Digital Scavenger Hunt

In Conjunction with the
Bruce County Genealogical Society
Call to Register:

Ann-Marie 519-797-2080 x 114

Use a Digital Camera to prove "items" found

October 29 - Noon

Annual Meeting

Bruce County Fall Fairs

Tiverton Community Centre



November 16

Legion Photo Day

Royal Canadian Legion TBD

December 3 - noon

Christmas Luncheon

Burgoyne Presbyterian Church

RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

This is a friendly reminder to confirm the status of your membership by checking the address label on this newsletter. If you see (2010) on the label it is time to renew your membership.

You can send your renewal to Catharine McKeeman, Membership Secretary, General Delivery, Formosa, Ontario, N0G 1W0. Also feel free to contact Catherine if you have any questions regarding your membership. Her email is jrich@wightman.ca

Museums in Bruce County

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
33 Victoria St. N., Southampton, ON
866- 318-8889 / www.brucemuseum.ca

Chesley Heritage & Woodworking Museum
106 1st Ave. S., Chesley, ON

Paddy Walker House
235 Harbour St. Kincardine
519-396-1850 / www.walkerhousekincardine.com

St. Edmunds Museum
Hwy. #6 South of Tobermory
519-596-2452 / www.tobermory.org/museum.html

Treasure Chest Museum
407 Queen Street North, Paisley, ON
(519) 353-7176
www.arran-elderslie.com/treastchestmuseum.htm

Lighthouses in Bruce County

Cabot Head Lighthouse Museum, Dyer's Bay
800-268-3838 / www.cabothead.ca

Chantry Island Lighthouse
Southampton Harbour
866-797-5862 / www.chantryisland.com

Flower Pot Island Lighthouse Museum, Tours from
Tobermory Harbour
800-268-3838 / www.brucecoastlighthouses.com

Kincardine Lighthouse Museum
Kincardine Marina
519-396-3150 / www.brucecoastlighthouses.com

Point Clark Lighthouse, National Historic Site
519-395-2494 / www.huronkinloss.com/lighthouse.htm

Bruce County Historical Society

P.O. Box 51 Tiverton Ontario N0G 2T0
www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca



An annual membership in Bruce County Historical Society is \$15

Bruce County Historical Notes



Volume 53 No. 2 August 2011 Published by Bruce County Historical Society

Greetings from the President

Historically submitted by Audrey Underwood

Marine Heritage Year is 2012 and gets us thinking as to why this designation. Many of us have read books and articles about the War of 1812 -1814 with our neighbours to the south, but since then we have had very peaceful relations. Since Bruce County was not even carved out of the woods in 1812, how did that war affect this area? Well the first that comes to mind is the ship the General Hunter that was scuttled on the beach at Southampton. That has been an exciting "find", especially seeking out the identity of the ship. One other nearby encounter was the sinking of the "Nancy" at the mouth of the Notawasaga River in Georgian Bay at Wasaga Beach. Reading in the newspaper of a settler in Saugeen Township, Bruce County who took part in that War, led to wondering if there were others. Our Secretary Marvin Doran and his brother knew of a connection in their family. (see the 2012 year book for the story). Are there others? Do let us know so we can add these to our military list.

Our new postcard book is near completion and will hopefully be finished in time for the Christmas market. As we are planning a reprint of our first postcard book, "A Pictorial History of Bruce County prior to 1918", Editor Bill needs copies of the original postcards to scan rather than using the ones from the book. He has listed all that are required, so if you know where any of these might be located, please contact Bill Stewart.

Editor Bill carries a very heavy load for the BCHS as besides doing the Year Book, he distributes the books for sale to outlets in the County. If you would like to give him a hand with this it would be very much appreciated. It requires driving throughout the county. What could be nicer than getting to know the byways of our beautiful county a little better? Please contact someone on the Executive if you can help.

Speaking of the Year Book, Bill has been late

completing it up this year because of lack of material. Please make that extra effort to get more articles to him for next year, the sooner the better as he will be getting started right away. Thanks much.

One of my passions has always been trees, whether walking in the woods on the farm, the Bruce Trail, parks, along the streams or anywhere, trees make a statement. Remembering the quote from the poem:

"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree"

Excerpt from the Poem *Trees* by George Kilmer

Let's see how many tree stories there are in Bruce County. I'm sure it would be possible to do a whole Year Book on our County tree stories! There has already been one extensive article about the huge elm that lived by the Sauble River near Hepworth until the 1960's. Other trees include: the Tidings tree by the Saugeen River in Paisley, the acorn that was planted by the Karlsruhe Roman Catholic Church when it was being built, now a beautiful oak tree, Port Elgin, called the Town of Maples and many more. Let us know about YOUR favourite Bruce County tree.

It has been my pleasure to attend the Dunblane Presbyterian Church 152nd Anniversary Service and the Saugeen Shores Council meeting in the Southampton Town Hall for its 100th Anniversary celebration. The Southampton Town Hall will be going through some restoration maintenance in the next few years. I also enjoyed the Historic Saugeen Metis Symposium, the Grey County Historical Society Annual Meeting and the Township of Bruce Annual Dinner meeting. If you are aware of these types of events throughout the county please let me know about them so I can attend.

Summer is the time for Homecomings, of schools and towns, not to mention family reunions. Weather has been warm and pleasant for these historic occasions. I hope you were able to get out and enjoy some of them.

Paisley Fall Fair

Submitted by Gail Fullerton

The very first council meeting of Elderslie in 1856, which included Paisley, had many decisions to be made such as appointing a reeve, treasurer, auditors, passing by-laws to regulate the taverns and how the Lord's day was to be observed, applying for funds to improve roads and bridges, and they recommended that an Agricultural Society be formed. As a result volunteers did begin to organize meetings and this all happened just 5 years after the very first settlers landed on the banks of the Saugeen River. Because of this early formation, the Agricultural Society is actually 18 years older than the village of Paisley.

The earliest fairs were held on acreage around the village and eventually in some of the buildings. Probably one of the biggest achievements was the creation of a permanent exhibition hall, twenty years later, which they called the Palace. This was a tall two-storey octagonal building framed with heavy cedar posts. From all accounts it really was a Palace and grand exhibitions were held for many years. Unfortunately it was built very close to the Saugeen River and with many spring floods & ice jams, it took alot of abuse. It stood for 54 years until a hurricane in January of 1933 finally caused the roof to lift and the building to lean badly. It was taken down and some existing materials were used in the building of a new one-storey building situated on much higher ground. We continue to use this building today and continue to call it our Palace.

The earliest prize book is from 1934 and was found in the walls of a house in Greenock Twp. It is very interesting to read about the types of competitions and sponsorship of the classes, and a good indication of the times.

The first 80 years of the Paisley Agricultural Society was primarily a men's club, probably with the assistance of wives at fair time. In 1944 Lady Directors were first appointed to help with school work and inside exhibits. In 1951 the ladies decided to organize their own division and they took over the school work, food booth,

and all inside exhibits, with big revisions. Typically then at monthly meetings, everyone would meet for a half hour and then the group would break up and the ladies would retire to a separate room to meet and the men continue with their business. This continued for nearly 40 years, however in 1991 the ladies disbanded and joined with the men's group. I believe we are very fortunate and we are a very strong organization because men and women together work as one group, for one common purpose and I believe for that reason, this Society will continue to survive, when many struggle, and will continue hopefully another 150 years.

In 2006 the Society decided to host a very special celebration of 150 years of fall fairs. I wrote a history book covering highlights of the first 150 years, with a section on the people and families who were dedicated volunteers and exhibitors. As part of gathering information for the history book and talking with many people, alot of articles of historical information surfaced which led to the creation of historical scrapbooks to preserve this information. History books are still available for purchase and the scrapbooks can be viewed annually at the fall fair.



*Old Palace at the Port
Elgin Fair Grounds -
BCHS Photo*



*Memorial Gates at the
Port Elgin Fair Grounds - BCHS Photo*

A Brief Resume Of The History Of The Arran-Tara Fall Fair

In the year 2007, Tara and Arran celebrated the 150th consecutive Fall Fair. A history of the fair was written just before that time by Bruce Miller. Following are some excerpts from that history.

For many years, the fair had been called 'Ontario's Greatest Class C Fair', largely due to an army of dedicated volunteers. Another factor is that, from the beginning of our fair, it has remained an agricultural fair. The Township of Arran Agricultural Society was organized in 1857 with a membership of about 70. The first officers were William Gibson of Invermay (President), J.N. Gardiner of Invermay (Secretary), and John Douglass of Tara (Treasurer).

Even the best of friends may have an occasional falling out. On June 17th, 1881, a meeting was held in Arkwright to plan the annual fall exhibition. The show had been held in Arkwright for three of the previous five years, so it was decided to hold it in Tara in 1881, although the President objected. The President and Mr. Lunn left the room and the decision to hold the fair in Tara was carried unanimously.

During the next two meetings, there were many fierce arguments concerning where the fair should be held. When a vote was called on the issue, the 7 Tara Directors abstained from voting. Their action swung the vote in favour of having the fair in Arkwright. It was generally believed that the action of the Tara Directors to abstain from voting saved the society. The Fair was held in Arkwright and was moderately successful except for the complete absence of exhibitors from Tara. Starting in 1882 and continuing to the present (2011), the fair has always been held in Tara.

Over that span, the Arran-Tara fair has been one of the most successful fairs in Bruce County. For many years, there was a competition to see which fair would have

the most members at the District 10 Annual meetings. Arran-Tara won every time, until finally the other contestants gave up and the trophy was awarded to Arran-Tara permanently. Arran-Tara also won many prizes at the CNE for photography.

There are many other stories I would like to cover, but time has run out. If you are interested in the complete story, please buy a copy of 'The Fairest of Them All'. Bruce Miller has many copies. They sell for \$20 with all proceeds going to the Arran-Tara Fall Fair.

**Bruce County Historical Society
Annual Dinner Meeting
Saturday, October 29 - 11:00 am
Whitney Crawford Community Center
Tiverton**

**Fall Fairs
Presentation by Kelsey Ribey,
Paisley Fair Ambassador 2010-2011**

Price: 15.00 each

**Whitefish Dinner served with
Baked Potato, Salad & Dessert**

**Local fairs will be setting up exhibits
including:**

**Ripley Agricultural Society
Tiverton Agricultural Society
Teeswater Agricultural Society
Walkerton Little Royal
Paisley Agricultural Society
(subject to change)**

For tickets call

**Karen Ribey - (519) 368-7405
Doug Lennox - (519) 422-1737
Jim Whytock - (519) 392-6003
Dorne Fitzsimmons - (519) 368-7186**

Ticket Deadline: October 22



Bruce Telecom – A Rich and Colourful past; A Bright Future
Supplied by Bruce Telecom

Our Company has a rich and colourful past that can be traced back through historical records to our beginning at a small public gathering held in the village of Underwood on February 19, 1910. A handful of hardy Bruce Township petitioners braved what was perhaps a typically blustery and cold Bruce County winter's day to gather there to lobby the municipality for the establishment of a telephone company.

This insightful group of pioneers worked diligently to see their vision to link farm families in Underwood and Tiverton together through a magneto telephone system consisting of wooden poles, iron wire, crank telephones and dry cell batteries. They could not possibly have imagined the technological wonders that lie ahead that would see the delivery of voice, video and data over a complex network of silicon chips, high frequency radio waves and hair-like strands of glass and the company that would come to be known as "Bruce Telecom".

Though the company has grown and evolved from that nascent beginning at Underwood in 1910 into a modern, full service communications company providing a full suite of phone, wireless, internet and digital television services, Bruce Telecom remains a local company, with local people committed to providing persons, business and institutions in the community with the most affordable and highest quality communications and entertainment services possible.

Bruce Telecom has been celebrating 100 years of service to the community throughout 2011, with a big community celebration planned for September 17th. True to our roots and to the traditions of Bruce County, our customers and our communities will be very much a part of that celebration as we look forward to the next century of service and prosperity for all.

Please join us for our 100th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, September 17th
10 am – 2 pm

Bruce Telecom
3145 Highway 21, Tiverton

Live music • Special Events • Exhibits
Food & Refreshments • Kid's games & activities
Draws & Giveaways

Everyone welcome!



History of HuronTel **Supplied by HuronTel**

On March 7, 1911, residents of the area met in the Huron Township hall in the Village of Ripley to discuss the founding of a local telephone system in accordance with the Ontario Local Municipal Telephone Act of 1908.

It was decided at the meeting that the most suitable type of organization for the purpose would be a municipal telephone system. A petition was then circulated and presented to the council of the Township of Huron, which passed a by-law on April 11, 1911, providing for the establishment of the Huron and Kinloss Municipal Telephone System. "H & K" as it was known, was one of the first "subscriber-owned" municipal telephone systems in the Province of Ontario.

C.C. Huffman, a telephone engineer, was employed for one year to supervise construction, and the plant was built by W.G. Lytle and Company, a firm of contractors from Peterborough. Telephone poles were imported from Michigan. The first exchange was located in a building known as the Town and Country Restaurant on Ripley's Queen Street.

A.M. Treleaven was the first contract operator

and he and his family operated the switchboard until 1924. The system got off to a very good start and at the end of two years it was reporting almost 600 phones in service.

The Department of Labour declared HuronTel employees as "essential to win the war", and received a high labour priority rating. In this manner, HuronTel employees were not able to be drafted.

In 1944, the company took over an area south of Kincardine containing approximately 20 phones from the Lake Shore Mutual Telephone Co. Ltd. At the time, Matthew Gemmel, who started to work for the company in 1917 as a lineman was the Manager. He served the system for over 30 years until his death in 1949.

Francis Gemmel, who went to work for the system in 1926 succeeded his father as Manager, and in 1952, bought a portion of the Lucknow and Kinloss Telephone Co. Ltd. He resigned in 1955 to join the staff of the Ontario Telephone Authority as an engineering officer.

Clayton Nicholson spent the next 31 years as General Manager. The system steadily expanded its operations, and the number of customers increased year by year. Most of the growth can be attributed to increased demand for telephone service within the system's originally franchised area of Huron and Kinloss, but it also acquired an additional 600 phones when it purchased the assets of the neighbouring Goderich Rural Telephone Co. Ltd. in 1957. The Goderich Company served an area northeast of Goderich from an exchange at the Village of Dungannon.

In 1959 a new dial exchange was installed at Bervie to improve service to subscribers in the northeast section of the Ripley exchange area. The next step was the conversion to dial of the Dungannon exchange in 1963 and the system became completely automated when the Ripley exchange was converted in 1967.

Although finances were tight, Clayton Nicholson as Manager and Bob Johnston as Plant Foreman led the company during the difficult transition from magneto to dial and 8 party to semi-private use.

At this time, the company operated out of two locations in Ripley, administration at 84 Huron Street and installation and repair in a small

utility building on the other side of the village.

When Clayton Nicholson retired in 1986, Glenn Grubb became General Manager. In 1989, the company converted its electromechanical switches in Dungannon and Ripley to digital switching to provide touch tone and expanded capacity over the next few years and upgraded its service so that all residents would have access to single party lines.

In 1993, the company built a new Administration Centre at 60 Queen Street, former home of the CN rail station in the village of Ripley.

In 1995, at the urging of Management, Commissioners and local residents, the assets of the company were formally transferred to Huron Telecommunications Co-operative Limited by the Township of Huron, which gave full control of the company directly to its customers.

The company's Internet Service began in late 1995 and the company opened its 284 Bayfield Road Goderich Office in June of 1999 to service the growing customer base.

Today, the company services more than 7,000 customers from Goderich to Owen Sound and all points in between and looks forward to challenges it will face as it enters its 100th year of service!

HuronTel: 100 years and growing

HuronTel celebrated their 100th Anniversary on June 18 in Goderich at their satellite office and on June 25 in Ripley at their head office. Good crowds gathered to celebrate with general manager Glenn Grubb and the HuronTel staff.



Bruce County Historical Society Meeting Schedule

A History of Glamis

Wednesday, September 14 - 7:00 pm
At the Bruce County Museum & Cultural
Centre, Southampton

Annual Meeting - Fall Fairs

Saturday, October 29 - 11:00
Whitney Crawford Community Centre
Tiverton
Presentation by Kelsey Ribey
Exhibits by local Agricultural Societies
\$15.00

Executive Meeting

Saturday, November 19, 2011 - 10:00 am
MacKenzie Room - Bruce Township
Community Centre

Legion Photo Day

Wednesday, November 16 - 10:00 - 3:00
Location TBA

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 3 - Noon
Knox Presbyterian Church, Burgoyne
Current and Past Executive of the Bruce
County Historical Society
RSVP to Mary MacKay (519) 353-5544

Books Available from the Bruce County Historical Society

The Experiences of John Stewart 'The Rebel'
compiled by Mary MacKay
John Stewart was a participant in Mackenzie's
1837 Rebellion.
\$5.00

Misty Rain by Graham MacDonald
An historical novel. A family lives through the
Great Depression.
\$12.50

Pioneer Days on the Bruce Peninsula
by Jack Hilditch
Jack Hilditch relates his experiences and
writes about the folklore of the peninsula.
84 pages \$8.00

Check out the full range of publications at:
www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca
To order books contact
William Stewart
RR2, Allenford, ON N0H 1A0
(519) 934-2270

**Remember -
Members Receive 25% off!**



Postcard from John Cortan advertising the Ripley Fall Fair

Bruce County Post Card Book

The Postcard History of Bruce County which we have been working on for several years is now almost ready to go to the printer. At the same time as we have been scanning post cards for this new book, we have also been scanning any postcards or pictures which were used in *A Pictorial History of Bruce County Prior to 1918* which our society published in 1989. This book is now out of print and we would like to reprint it. Using original pictures is better than copying from in the book. We have a list of photographs we are still looking for which is available on our website: www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca. If you have any of these photos that you would be willing to let us copy please contact Bill Stewart at 519-934-2270.

Doors Open in Bruce County

Ontario Heritage Trust

Doors Open offers an opportunity for visitors to learn about the importance of architectural, cultural and natural heritage sites within their community. One can visit any number of chosen sites in one weekend at no charge. Look for the Doors Open Ontario Guide for more information...



Kincardine

Saturday & Sunday, October 15 - 16

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(519) 396-2731

www.doorsopenkincardine.com

Doors Open Kincardine is presented by the Municipality of Kincardine. Included this year:

The Ark
775 County Road 23 (B Line), Kincardine

Kincardine Lighthouse and Museum
236 Harbour Street, Kincardine

Lime Kiln Resort
96 Victoria Street, Inverhuron

Tiverton Cemetery
King Street, Tiverton

The Walker House
235 Harbour Street, Kincardine

South Bruce Peninsula

Saturday & Sunday, September 17-18

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(519) 534-1400

www.southbrucepeninsula.com

Some of the sites included in the 2011 South Bruce Peninsula Doors Open Tour include:

Burns Lodge #436 Hepworth
486 Bruce Street, Hepworth

The Cluttered Cupboard
563 Louisa Street, Wiarton

Hepworth Community Hall
454 Bruce Street, Hepworth

Spring Creek Cemetery
521 Spring Creek Road, Hepworth

Warton Train Station
400 William Street, Warton

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

33 Victoria St. N., Southampton, ON

(519) 797-2080 / (866) 318-8889

www.brucemuseum.ca



September 17
The Scalpel and The Casket
See website for admission



October/November
Grandparent's Project
Learning workshops by seniors for kids!
Preregistration required



November 5 - 2pm-4pm
Wartime music, readings of war letters, and Veterans Remember video.
Admission by donation



November/December
3-4pm Saturday afternoons
Talented performers and an eclectic variety of music!
Admission by donation
Proudly presented by OPG.

Ne'bwakaah giizwed ziibi



The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation are proud to present 2000 years of cultural activity at the mouth of the Saugeen River



October 14 - December 17
Explore an ancient civilization that flourished for thousands of years and learn about various Egyptian traditions.
Organized and circulated by the Royal Ontario Museum's Travelling Exhibits Program. The ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

Chesley Heritage & Woodworking Museum
106 1st Ave. S., Chesley, ON

Open Saturday and Sunday 1:00 until 4:00 pm or by chance. For appointment contact Brian Phillips 363-2363, Danard Bell 363-3678 or Pat Carson 363-5527.

Enjoy the WE REMEMBER EXHIBIT in November

~Wheelchair accessible~
~By donation~

**Congratulations to the
Bruce County
Heritage Association**

**Their 18th Annual Heritage Farm
Show was another great success!**

**Thank you to all the volunteers
who helped man the BCHS booth
and to our members who visited
us at the show.**

Treasure Chest Museum
407 Queen Street North, Paisley, ON
(519) 353-7176
tcmuseum@bmts.com

Open Weekends from 1 to 4 pm
from Labour Day until Thanksgiving
After Thanksgiving : By Appointment or Chance
Enjoy the Agriculture Memories Exhibit

2011 Renewal Notice

Please submit your 2012 membership fees prior to November 2011.

Help your society save money. Mailing the yearbooks after the November bulk mailing incurs a much larger postage rate (each individual Yearbook mailed costs \$2.00).

Don't forget that a membership to the Bruce County Historical Society is a great gift.

Annual Memberships are \$15.00 each
Life Memberships are \$125.00 each.

Submit your membership fees to:

Catherine McKeeman
Membership Coordinator
General Delivery
Formosa, ON N0G 1W0

Bruce County Historical Society

P.O. Box 51 Tiverton Ontario N0G 2T0
www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca



An annual membership in Bruce County Historical Society is \$15

Bruce County Historical Notes



Volume 54 No. 1 March 2012 Published by Bruce County Historical Society

Greetings from the President by Audrey Underwood

Having just returned from a wonderful two-month vacation in Alberta and British Columbia, I find it difficult to get back into the routine again. What does one do on vacation in cold Alberta and rainy BC?? You guessed it, you VISIT!!! That's right, get caught up with family and friends AND visit! I even visited with some "new-found" family members. What a thrill!! But that is another story for another time.

Now, the excitement of programs and projects for the upcoming year will get me back in gear. First, the Bruce County old barns undertaking will get its send-off at our June meeting being held at two farms in the former Arran Township. For you photographers out there, this is an opportunity to do worthwhile work for a great cause.

Our second venture is a military project concerning the veterans of Bruce County. For more information about that undertaking, please refer to the separate article in this newsletter. Both these projects are long-term and will take a few years to complete. Having said that, did you know that our beautiful County is celebrating its 150th birthday in 2017? Updating our County history by then is a MUST, so another goal is set. For all these activities we need many helpers and we know the interest is out there. Please contact someone on the Executive to inform us where you or a friend would enjoy sharing your expertise. Our new County history will need an editor. Do send your suggestions.

Historica Heritage Fairs have been mentioned before. This Canada-wide program gets school

children involved in local history by doing a project. This is similar to the Science Fair that has been active locally for many years. Grey County students have participated in a regional fair for a number of years. This year, Bruce County schools were also invited to participate. G.C. Huston Public School in Southampton rose to the challenge and 50 students produced VERY exciting projects!! These were judged and the winners will go on to compete at the next level at Grey Roots on April 26, 2012.

TREES have always been a love for me....either singly or in the woods. Now, Heritage Trees are in the fore throughout the Province. Stories of trees, of which Bruce County has numerous, need to be told. Once again, children can be involved. Other municipalities in Ontario had school classes choose their favourite tree whether it was the biggest, the tallest, the most gnarled or whatever other character might be showing, write a story, take a picture and share it with their local Heritage groups. Some even decided to give the tree a plaque! Saugeen Shores has a group called Trees for Saugeen that goes into the parks, concessions, streets, waterways etc. of the area and actually plants trees. Did you know that Port Elgin is called the "Town of Maples" because of all the maple trees planted along the streets in the 1800's? Since many of these trees reached maturity and had to be removed, young saplings are taking their place. We will hear more of this type of adventure in the future.

As you can see there are lots of exciting activities going on around us. Let's be part of it!

Until next time.....Historically speaking,
Audrey

MYSTERY HISTORY BUS TOUR

MAY 29, 2012

8AM TO 8PM



A historical bus trip with a focus on the War of 1812

Starting at the Bruce County Museum, and traveling through Bruce, Grey and Simcoe Counties, stops will include intriguing historical sites with guided tours at a relaxed and leisurely pace. An all inclusive trip that includes admission fees, lunch, dinner, and a comfortable coach bus!

Tickets \$98 (tax incl.)

Reserve your spot by May 22, 2012



In partnership with
**Bruce County
Historical Society**

**33 VICTORIA STREET NORTH, SOUTHAMPTON, ONTARIO
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
519.797.2080 • 1.866.318.8889 • www.brucemuseum.ca**



**BRUCE COUNTY
MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTRE**

ARCHIVES • HISTORY • EVENTS

HMS General Hunter Exhibit

at the

Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre

by Ken Cassavoy, Project Director

After years of planning, the major new “HMS General Hunter - War of 1812” exhibit opens on June 18, 2012 in the Feature Gallery of the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre in Southampton. The exhibit commemorates the 200th anniversary of the war between the U.S. and Great Britain/Canada and takes its inspiration from the General Hunter shipwreck which still lies buried on the Southampton beach not far from the museum.

The General Hunter, built in 1806 at Amherstburg/Fort Malden, was a British Warship which fought in a number of important actions in the first year-and-a-half of the War of 1812 but was lost to the U.S. Navy in the famous Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. The vessel became the U.S. Army transport Hunter which ended her days when she was pushed on to the Southampton beach during a violent gale in August of 1816.

The exhibit is made up of five separate sections. The two major display areas are titled the “General Hunter Story” and “The War of 1812”. “The General Hunter Story” features a replica of the ship’s deck and rails with masts, sails, tiller and cannons, plus all the necessary supporting elements found on a sailing warship of the 1812 period. All military and other artifacts recovered in the shipwreck excavation are on display in this deck area.

“The War of 1812” exhibit deals with “Causes of the War,” “Major Battles,” a full discussion of “Who Won the War?” and sidebar stories on major figures who played important roles in the war story. Given the museum’s connection with HMS General Hunter, the “Major Battles” story places special emphasis on naval actions on the lakes. This section also includes a detailed description of the Battle of Lake Erie and the General Hunter’s role in the battle and also includes an animated video of all the battle action.

Three smaller display areas cover: the story

of the shipwreck excavation, told in an SSI: Shipwreck Scene Investigation style; a “Shipwreck Excavation Wall of Fame” with individual photos of the hundreds of volunteers at work on the site; and an interactive area where visitors can actually screen beach sand searching for replica artifacts.



(L-R) Marine Archeologist Ken Cassavoy, Museum Director Barbara Ribey, Curatorial Assistant Laura Leonard and Exhibit Designer Chris Irvine unfurled the General Hunter’s original Red Ensign.

In something of a coup for the museum, the original Red Ensign flown by the General Hunter at the Battle of Lake Erie will be on display as one central focus of the exhibit. The flag was captured by the U.S. Navy at the conclusion of the Lake Erie action and taken to the Naval Academy Museum in Annapolis, Maryland, where it has been held for the last two-hundred years. Through the generosity of the museum in Annapolis the General Hunter Flag is on loan to the Bruce County Museum and is to be on display in Southampton through at least all of 2012.

The “HMS General Hunter – War of 1812” exhibit opens on June 18th, 2012, the 200th anniversary of the United States declaring war on Great Britain. Once the exhibit is officially open, a fully-illustrated update on the exhibit is to be included in our next issue.



Lucknow Cenotaph

Courtesy of the Lucknow Legion

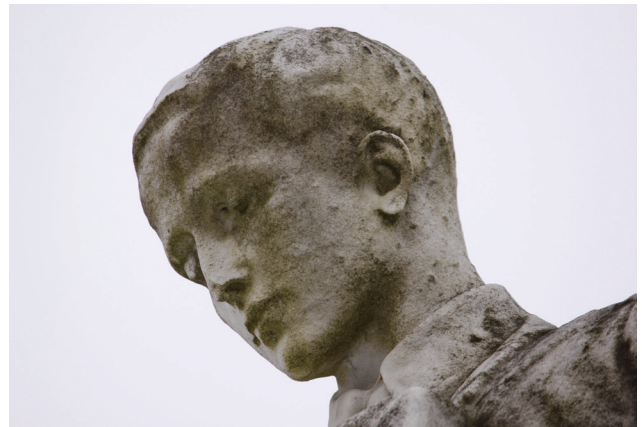
In 1929, the Lucknow Women's Institute sponsored the erection of a War Memorial at an approximate cost of \$2,000.00. The Memorial would consist of a base on which rests a statue of a soldier supported by a cross with his steel helmet on his arm.

On the base, which is 8.5 feet in height, the Women's Institute originally listed the names of men who paid the supreme sacrifice in WWI, or who died shortly thereafter due to the incidents of war, and whose family home was in Lucknow at the time they enlisted, or shortly afterwards. The names of men who died in battle during WWII were added later on.

The statue stands 6 feet in height and is fashioned from marble. It was constructed in Italy and shipped to Canada along with the statue for the Cenotaph in Teeswater in 1930.

On a grey, overcast Monday morning November 11, 1929 the first service was held at the Memorial at which time the base was unveiled. The memorial was completed, as it stands today, in April 1930, when the statue was placed on its shaft on the base.

During the years since, time and weather have taken their toll on the memorial, especially on the marble statue. It has become pot marked, cracked and the fine details are disappearing. The Lucknow branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has decided that now is the time to replace the memorial. The branch has spearheaded a fundraising campaign and, with the generosity of the surrounding community, a new cenotaph is planned to be in place for Remembrance Day 2012.



The Lucknow Cenotaph statue, completed in 1930, has become pot-marked and cracked. Its fine details are disappearing.

Historica Fair

by Stephanie Allin, Education Coordinator,
BCM&CC

The Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre hosted the G.C. Huston Local Heritage Fair here on March 6, 2012. The students were competing for the opportunity to attend the Regional Fair which will take place on April 26th 2012 at Grey Roots Museum & Archives. Students from Grades 4-8 designed projects on a variety of Canadian History topics, including the Underground Railroad, the Saugeen Shores Winterhawks, Aboriginal Treaties, Justin Bieber and Tim Horton's. There were 14 adjudicators on hand to judge over 40 projects throughout the afternoon. In the end, it was a tough decision to come up with a top five for Grades 4-6 and Grades 7-8. A big thank-you to all of the volunteer adjudicators who came out and gave up their time to help judge these wonderful projects, we could not have done it without you. Congratulations to the winners and good luck at the Regional Fair in April!



Above: Sunset Lodge Port Elgin, A2007.047.002

Below: Kincardine Library, A2010.100.012

Both Photos Courtesy of the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre



Ontario Trillium Foundation Grants Announced

Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson recently announced that nine organizations in Huron and Bruce counties received Ontario Trillium Foundation grants to enhance their programs.

"I am delighted these projects, covering a broad range of community and recreation services were chosen," said Thompson. "Community groups throughout Huron and Bruce are represented in this most recent round of grants. Congratulations to those involved in spearheading these Trillium projects for their leadership and commitment to their local communities."

The Bruce County Historical Society received \$15,000 to publish and distribute three history books that document in a visual way the heritage of the county and its people.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario.



Project Details

The three Books the BCHS will be publishing as part of the Trillium project are the new Bruce County Post Card Book, re-printing the Pictorial History of Bruce County and an updated Plaques & Cairns of Bruce County book.

Contact Bill Stewart for more information on any of these books or the project.

Bill Stewart
(519) 934-2270
willstew@bmts.com

Bruce County Historical Society

Public Meeting Schedule

April 24, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. at Dobbinton United Church. Join us for a presentation by Mary MacKay on the **History of Dobbinton**.

May 29, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m., Annual Bus Trip, **Mystery History Bus Tour** – Join us for an historical bus trip with a focus on the War of 1812. We'll start at the Bruce County Museum, travel through Bruce, Grey and Simcoe Counties, and back again. Stops will include intriguing historical sites with guided tours at a relaxed and leisurely pace. Price includes tours, lunch, dinner and a seat on a comfortable coach bus!

Tickets \$98 (tax incl.)
In partnership with the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre.

June 9, 2012 – 1:30 p.m., Workshop for the “**Barns Project**”. Meet at the home of Ken & Shirley Underwood, Fire # 1170 Bruce Road 17, 2 km east of Burgoyne, Lot 3 Con 7, former Arran Twp. There are 2 barns to experience under the leadership of John Radojkovic, author of “Barns of the Queen’s Bush”, photographer, journalist, farmer near Chesley, builder and expert on old barns of Ontario, among other accomplishments. He will guide us through the steps to photograph and study the timber structure of barns necessary for the project history.

Please join us for this exciting venture, complete with cookies and conversation around the pool following the meeting.

July 9, 2012 – 7:00 p.m., **Authors’ Night** presentation, with wine & cheese, in conjunction with the Bruce County Genealogical Society.

Featured authors include:
Basil Johnston
Don Leatham and
Rob Ritchie

August 17-18-19, 2012 (Friday-Sunday) – **Bruce County Heritage and Steam Show**, Paisley. BCHS, BCGS and BCM&CC partner on a display and activities. Please contact Audrey Underwood at (519) 389-5229 if you are interested in volunteering at this event.

Executive Meetings
at the Bruce County Museum
May 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.
August 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

BCHS Executive

Honorary President: Bruce Krug
Past President: Karen Ribey
President: Audrey Underwood
1st Vice President: Ross Lamont
2nd Vice President: Tim Reaburn
Secretary: Marvin Doran
Treasurer: Dorne Fitzsimmons
Membership: Catharine McKeeman
Newsletter Editor: Ann-Marie Collins
Yearbook Editor: Bill Stewart
Book Sales Co-ordinator: Bill Stewart
Assistant Book Sales Coordinator: Vacant
Publicity and Communications: Vacant
Webmaster: Louise Stewart

Area Directors

Peninsula: Doug Lennox
Central: Cathy Clazie
Eastern: Brian O’Hagan
Western: Irene Howe
South Western: Muriel Osborne
South Eastern: Jim Whytock

Traffic Fatality in Dobbinton in 1900

by Mary MacKay

While browsing the Chesley Enterprise for information for my Dobbinton Research project I found this account of an accident in the October 11, 1900 edition.

Seriously Injured

"On Thursday evening about ten o'clock Mr. Isaac Rutherford and his son, William were returning to Dobbinton from Sharon when they were run into by two single rigs, the drivers of which were racing. Mr. Rutherford and his son were both thrown out of their buggy. The latter was uninjured but Mr. Rutherford alighted on his head. He was picked up and put in the buggy of James Walker who was driving behind him, and driven to his home in Dobbinton. Two doctors were hastily summoned and they pronounced their patient's case to be very dangerous. He is suffering from compression of the brain and at the time of writing this Wednesday at 4 p.m. he is hovering between life and death."

Eleven days later Isaac Rutherford died age 48, leaving a wife, three sons and four daughters. Again the Chesley Enterprise carried details of the accident including the comment "The young men who were guilty of reckless driving on the highway are responsible for Mr. Rutherford's death and are liable to be arrested for manslaughter."

So fatal traffic accidents happened long before the advent to automobiles. How could that be in horse and buggy days, I wondered?

At the Coroner's inquest, which was held in Dobbinton the following week the whole story was told. The accident happened at 10 o'clock on the night of October 9, 1900 as Isaac Rutherford and his second son William, age 21, were returning from Sharon (a small settlement east of Dobbinton on County Road 40) where they had been attending a lecture by Rev. A. C. Crews. They were about ½ mile from home when their buggy was run into by two young men who were proceeding east on their way home from a meeting in the Dobbinton Methodist church.

There actually were four rigs leaving Dobbinton Church each with a passenger. Mr Mills was ahead, James Walker was next, Erastus Rorke was next and Wilson Proud was last. Mr. Proud challenged the driver immediately ahead of him calling out "Come on Allenford." As their horses picked up speed they passed the third rig on both sides at the same time. By now the horses were galloping side by side and neither driver saw Isaac Rutherford's rig. Wilson Proud's rig got past but Erastus Rorke's collided with the Rutherford rig and both men were thrown out. Isaac went over the dash board and landed head first between the wheels, causing great trauma to his head. Mr. Walker testified he drove Isaac home and two doctors were summoned. They declared Isaac's condition very serious.

The coroner's jury composed of Messers Wm. Cruickshank, Thomas Clement, Jas Foster, John Galbraith, Thos. Duff, Wm Cruickshank Jr., John Sloan, David Patchell, Charles Calhoun, W.J Thompson and John Cruickshank, all prominent Dobbinton citizens, returned a verdict of accidental death.

A Coroner's jury was used in those days to determine cause of death in situations which were suspicious due to violence. Witnesses are called but suspects are not permitted to defend themselves. The verdict can be natural death, accidental death, misadventure, suicide, or murder. It is not to establish guilt so we do not know whether any charges were laid against the two young men who were racing.

The beautiful white brick house which Isaac Rutherford had just completed at the time of his death still stands in Dobbinton. For many years it served as the parsonage for the Dobbinton Methodist Congregation (later United Church). It now is a private residence.

For more details on who Isaac Rutherford was and what he was doing in Dobbinton in 1900 and what became of his family after his untimely death, join with other Bruce County historians on April 24 at 7pm in the Dobbinton United Church. Mary MacKay will be telling many interesting stories about the "First Families of Dobbinton," that little hamlet on Concession 12, Elderslie (County Road 40) near the 30 Sideroad (County Road 10).

BCHS Projects

The Bruce County Barn Project



*Barn and windmill owned by Jacob Schwass, Saugeen Township Concession 3, Lot 11 ca. 1916
Photo Courtesy of Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre: A2010.029.001*

Because older barns in the County have been disappearing at an unusually higher rate, it was the wish of the BCHS Executive to create a picture directory of all the barns possible before they are entirely removed from our farming community. The idea is to take photographic images of all barns that exist in the county today. Some people have already indicated that they wish to have their long gone barn included as well, so are very willing to supply a photograph. In addition to photographs, other information such as the location, (lot and con.), size of barn, builder, owner when built, other interesting features, and/or stories in connection to the farm/barn, should make this directory a valuable historic documentation of Bruce County barns.



*Bruce Township Concession 2 pt Lot 01 barn on sideroad
Photo Courtesy of Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre: A2008.129.011*

Authors Night - Wine & Cheese

*in partnership with the Bruce County
Genealogical Society at the Bruce County
Museum & Cultural Centre*

July 9, 2012 - 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Featured Authors are:

Basil Johnston, award-winning Anishinaabe author and story-teller, has written numerous essays and 22 books. He often visits reservations and schools, in Canada and the U.S., where he continues to pass down the stories, customs, and history of the Anishinaabe people in the Anishinaabe oral tradition. Basil's latest book, "The Gift of Stars", reflects on the gifts which children may unknowingly possess and the ways in which their teachers can help them discover their inner talent.

Don Leatham, author of "The Way We Were", a whimsical look at life on a farm in the 40s and 50's as the youngest of a family of eleven, and "Indomitable Spirit", the story of an Irish widow, Susannah Askin, who with the help of her fourteen year old son claimed 200 acres in Mornington Township in 1847 before the land was officially surveyed

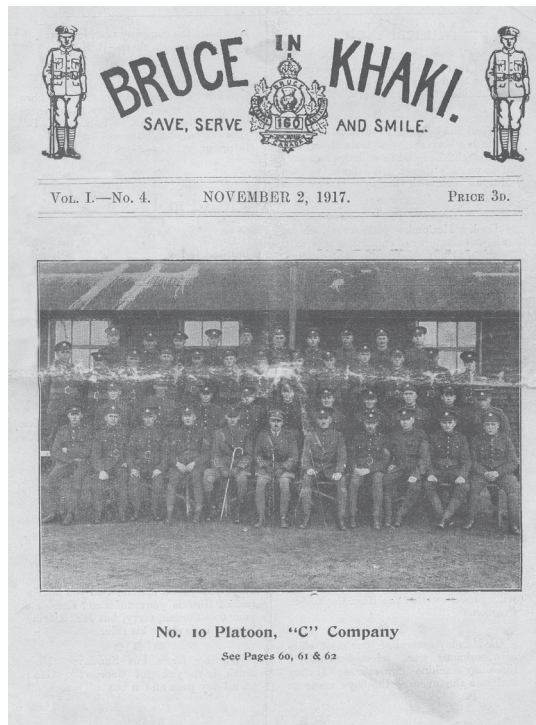
Rob Ritchie, formerly of the Canadian Folk/Roots group, Tanglefoot, will speak on the theme of sport as religion in his book "Orphans of Winter" and on the role of passion in the pursuit of musical perfection as it pertains to his latest release "In a Company of Fiddlers".

150th Anniversary of Bruce County

Bruce County will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial in 2017. In order to honour this event the Bruce County Historical Society is planning to compile a history book of the last 50 years in Bruce County.

We all know that things have changed drastically in the last generation and want to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) to preserve the achievements and accomplishments as well as the heartache the people of Bruce County have endured since Volume 2 of the History of the County of Bruce was released in 1968. Keep your eyes open for more information on this upcoming project!

Military Personnel Project



*Bruce in Khaki, Magazine of the 160th Bruce Battalion
Courtesy of Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre:
A988.030.006*

The Bruce County Historical Society is embarking on an ambitious project. We are compiling information on military involvement and recognition across the County. A committee is being struck to assist with the project. If you have information the committee could use, or are interested in participating in the project, please contact Dorne Fitzsimmons at dcf@bmts.com or 519-368-7186.

We have already started gathering the following information:

Lists of individuals:

- Bruce Residents – Killed in Service
- Bruce Residents – Served during a conflict
- Bruce Residents – served in the Forces

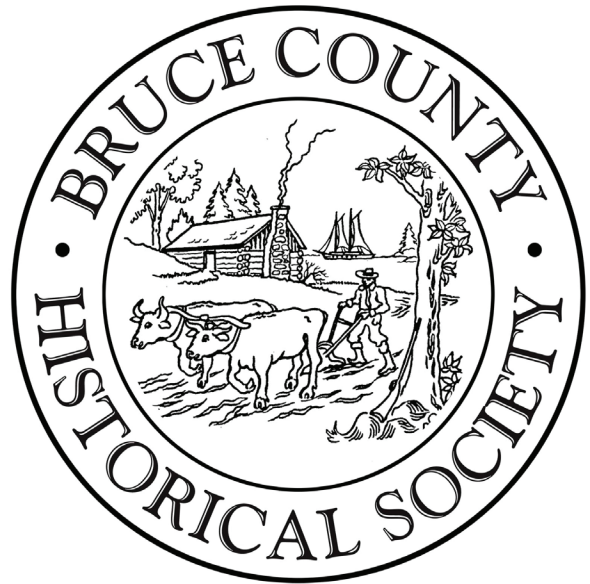
Other information we are interested in:

- 32nd Bruce Regiment/Battalion
- 160th Bruce Battalion
- 97th/98th Bruce Anti Tank Regiments
- Cenotaphs and Monuments in Bruce County
- Legions

Remember, the Bruce County Archives has a military website at:

<http://military.brucemuseum.ca>

BCHS Logo



The Bruce County Historical Society Logo has been updated. Using the 1967 design and the 1990s update, graphic designer Chris Irvine has included a ship on the lake so the logo encompasses more of the aspects of early settlement of Bruce County.

Ship = Marine/Fishing

Log House = Home Life

Tree = Lumbering

Team of Oxen & Plow = Agriculture

Rifle = Hunting/Protection

Keep in Touch

Members - We want to keep you better informed. If you would like reminders about upcoming events please send us your e-mail address and we will add you to our distribution list about BCBS Events. Please contact Dorne Fitzsimmons at dcf@bmts.com or 519-368-7186.

Heritage Networking Forum

Thursday, February 23, 2012

The Bruce County Historical Society hosted the Heritage Networking Forum at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre on February 23, during Heritage Week. Fifteen heritage groups from across the county gathered to discuss past accomplishments and upcoming opportunities. It was a successful day with over 35 attendees.



Doors Open in Bruce County
Ontario Heritage Trust

Doors Open offers an opportunity for visitors to learn about the importance of architectural, cultural and natural heritage sites within their community. One can visit any number of chosen sites in one weekend at no charge. Look for the Doors Open Ontario Guide for more information...

Kincardine
May 26 - 27, 2012
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
(519) 396-2731
www.doorsopenkincardine.com

Doors Open Kincardine is presented by the Municipality of Kincardine. Included this year:

Bruce Power Visitors' Centre
3394 Bruce County Road 20, Tiverton

Cottrill Condominiums, 200 Harbour Street,

Harbour Street Brasseire
217 Harbour Street (Sunday only)

Kincardine Cemetery
Queen Street and Bruce Avenue

Kincardine Lighthouse and Museum
236 Harbour Street

Kincardine Water Treatment Plant
155 Durham Street

Lake Huron Fishing Club Trout Hatchery
Huron Terrace across from
Kincardine Harbour

Old Town Hall (Kincardine Centre for the
Arts), 707 Queen Street

Kincardine Fire Hall, 127 Mahood Johnson
Cresc.

The Walker House, 235 Harbour Street

**Historic Walking Tours
in Bruce County**

Have a look at the historic walking tour guides online or pick one up at the local municipality offices or information centres. Each community is unique and has its own style of architecture, which is linked to each community's history.

Walking tours in Bruce County include:

Heritage Kincardine
www.kincardine.net

Saugeen Shores
www.saugeenshores.ca

Brockton
www.brockton.ca

South Bruce Peninsula
www.southbrucepeninsula.com



*Girls walking at Kincardine Beach
Photo Courtesy of Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
A992.022 - A2031, J.H. Scougall*

**Township of Bruce
Historical Society
Annual Dinner Meeting
Post Offices in our Past**

Friday, June 1, 2012
Displays: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm
Cost: \$15

Tickets can be ordered from:
Herb Henkenhaf
519-368-7458
or
henkenhaf@bmts.com

Order deadline: Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre
33 Victoria St. N., Southampton, ON
(519) 797-2080 / (866) 318-8889
www.brucemuseum.ca

Exhibits



April 13 – September 3

Titanic: Unsinkable Passion - 100 Years of Memories

It's been 100 years since the passenger liner struck an iceberg on her maiden voyage and sank, resulting in the deaths of more than 1500 people. Come and view this powerful exhibit in a brand new object theatre format. We'll showcase stories and memories along with rare and authentic artifacts connected to the iconic disaster.

OPENS to the Public June 19

HMS General Hunter

During the bicentennial of the War of 1812, this exhibit tells the full story of the war, with a major focus on the British Warship HMS General Hunter, discovered on the Southampton beach. This exhibit features a replica of the battle ready working deck of the warship – including interactive cannon loading and firing, and square sail raising experiences.

Events

FORGOTTEN LIVES



BUS TOUR

June 11

Forgotten Lives Bus Tour

8:30am-4:30pm

Come and explore the history of Bruce County through this unique cemetery tour, featuring Gaelic cemeteries in south-west Bruce County! Tour includes a comfortable coach bus, insightful guest speakers, lunch, and a tour of historic Paddy Walker House, Kincardine. Tickets must be purchased by May 31. Members \$50* Public \$60*

July 3 – August 30

Museum Mayhem

Join us for daily activities Monday through Friday! We'll have experiments and water discoveries with Captain Curious, special General Hunter activities and demonstrations and brand new projects outside an all new Shanty exhibit. General Admission applies.



**MUSEUM
MAYHEM**

**Chesley Heritage &
Woodworking Museum**
106 1st Ave. S., Chesley, ON
cdcc@bmts.com

Open Saturday and Sunday 1:00 until 4:00 pm
or by chance. For appointment contact Brian
Phillips 363-2363, Danard Bell 363-3678 or
Pat Carson 363-5527.

~Wheelchair accessible~
~Admission by donation~

St. Edmunds Township Museum
The Museum is located south of Tobermory
Harbour on the East side of Highway #6
519-596-2479
www.tobermory.org

Housed in an 1898 school house, the museum
reflects the pioneer and maritime past with
shipwrecks artifacts, early implements and
household items, plus an 1875 furnished log
cabin. Open daily from July 1st - Labour Day
and weekends only in May, June, September &
October. Visit us and take a step back in time.

There is no charge for admission, but a
donation to help maintain the Museum would
be appreciated.

Treasure Chest Museum
407 Queen Street North, Paisley, ON
(519) 353-7176
tcmuseum@bmts.com

Enjoy interesting and informative lectures
presented by Wendy Tomlinson, Fashion
Historian, at Treasure Chest Museum:

Wednesday, April 18 from 1:30 -3:30 pm
"Underneath it All"

The History of Undergarments
Cost: \$7.00, including light refreshments

Wednesday, April 25 from 1:30 - 3:30 pm
"From Bathing Costumes to Bikinis"
The History of the Bathing Suit
Cost: \$7.00, including light refreshments

Museum Hours

Until May 18: open by appointment or chance
From May 18: open weekends, 1 to 4 pm
July -August: open 7 days a week, 1 to 4 pm

Wiarton Train Station
Information Centre & Museum
Bayview Park, Wiarton
(519) 534-3111
Open May to September

Bruce County Historical Society
P.O. Box 51 Tiverton Ontario N0G 2T0
www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca



An annual membership in Bruce County Historical Society is \$15

Bruce County Historical Notes



Volume 54 No. 2 September 2012 Published by Bruce County Historical Society

President's Message

by Audrey Underwood

This is my last time to do this message for you as my term as your President is drawing to a close. We have accomplished much in the last two years and the months since our last newsletter have been exciting, --- at least for me. I also want to say how satisfying it is to be working with such an esteemed group. I know that I led you into some entirely new fields, but you were up to the challenge and for that reason we achieved well. Thank you all!!

Having our new logo keep part of the old is super. It stands out wherever we see it and we will find more and more uses for it to promote our Society.

Finding ways to lighten the load of surplus publications was also a challenge. Many of the surplus older Yearbooks have now been placed in most "waiting rooms" in the County. We have received many compliments for that initiative and we're not done yet!!

Many doors have been opened for partnering with other groups such as the Bruce County Genealogical Society (BCGS), Bruce & Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (BGOGS), Grey County Historical Society (GCHS), and especially sharing Heritage Days with other Heritage Groups in the County with, and in, our beautiful and functional Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (BCM&CC).

Since March, I have enjoyed taking greetings from our Society to the GCHS Annual Dinner Meeting and the Township of Bruce Historical Society's Annual Dinner Meeting. The Mystery History bus trip, partnering with BCM&CC, starting with the then almost finished display of

the General Hunter, then on to Fort Willow and Discovery Harbour, gave us much insight into these places of importance to the War of 1812-14. Another bus trip with BCGS and BCM&CC to Gaelic cemeteries within the south western part of the County was also a most enjoyable history experience.

And now, with the historic barns project well under way (see more details within), we will look forward to closing out the year with a tour of Nature's Millworks in Paisley on September 17 at 7:00 p.m. and our Annual General Meeting with speaker James Laxton speaking about the famous Shawnee warrior Tecumseh. Our November meeting usually has a military theme; watch for news about that.

Happy history hunting to all, and again, many thanks to all.

Audrey



The Bruce County Historical Society has registered with Canada Helps to facilitate online donations to the Society.

Through CanadaHelps.org, anyone can donate online to any registered Canadian charity. Canada Helps has facilitated over \$250 million in charitable donations through their website since it was launched in 2000.

See the link at the bottom of the BCHS home page: www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca.

Bruce County Barn Project

by Audrey Underwood, BCHS President

By now almost everyone in our Society is aware of our Barns Project, which I am happy to report is well under way. Currently, volunteers are photographing barns in the former townships of Arran, Bruce, Elderslie, Kincardine, and Saugeen. The first volunteers assisted us in working out some of the logistical difficulties of this project and we give them many thanks for that!



Maple Grove Farm, Con. 3, Lot 25, Bruce Township
Photo Courtesy of Bruce County Museum &
Cultural Centre: A2008.120.003

The Society has undertaken this endeavour because the ways of farming have changed drastically in the past 30 years or so; consequently, the grand old barns are no longer as relevant. Many are being neglected and run down to the stage of derelict. This is no fault of the farmers as the expense to keep up an unused barn is prohibitive, not to mention the cost of taxes.

Quoting from our letter to barn/farm owners explaining the undertaking: "We would like to take photographs of your barn so that we can preserve the images for future generations. Many of our beautiful barns were built by our pioneer ancestors using rudimentary tools and the labour of many neighbours. Many of these barns showcase the building skills and ingenuity of our forefathers as they overcame obstacles and design dilemmas using the local materials available to them."

We appreciate the leadership of Jon Radojkovic, a local expert on barns who gave a presentation at the June BCHS meeting at the three barns, each of different design, of Ken & Shirley Underwood of Arran Township. Mr. Radojkovic continues to support and advise us. The many stories about barn disasters

in our County, including wind, lightning, fire, accidents and more, would fill volumes but we would love to hear as many testimonials as you can provide for us.

Almost daily I get calls or emails from people who either want to tell me a story of "their barn" or ask if they can be of help. As word spreads throughout the County, it is very evident that our people are extremely interested in this enormous undertaking.

To get involved in the project as a volunteer or to arrange to have your barn photographed, please contact Audrey Underwood at 519-389-5229 or aumelrosefarm@bmts.com

Military Personnel Project

The Bruce County Historical Society is embarking on an ambitious project. We are compiling information on military involvement and recognition across the County. A committee is being struck to assist with the project.



We have started gathering lists of individuals:
Bruce Residents – Killed in Service
Bruce Residents – Served During a Conflict
Bruce Residents – Served in the Forces

Other information we are interested in:

- 32nd Bruce Regiment/Battalion
- 160th Bruce Battalion
- 97th/98th Bruce Anti-Tank Regiments
- Cenotaphs and Monuments in Bruce County
- Legions

If you have military information, or are interested in participating in the project, please contact Dorne Fitzsimmons at dcf@bmts.com or 519-368-7186.

Historic Saugeen Métis Three-day Cultural Event

by Historic Saugeen Métis
www.saugeenmetis.com



On August 9, 10, and 11 the local Historic Saugeen Métis (HSM), carriers of the Piché wampum of 1818 exchanged by the local Ojibwe and Saugeen's first recorded trader, held a three-day cultural event meant to educate and provide understanding of aboriginal border issues and the local Métis culture since the early 1800s.

The event began with a two-day International Symposium and Workshop, coordinated by the Centre for the Study of Indigenous Border Issues and hosted by HSM for the second year. This year's focus was "INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND BORDER ISSUES IN THE GREAT LAKES AFTER THE WAR OF 1812". Day One was held at the Walker House and Day two at the Bruce Power Theatre, Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre. Contributors were from Michigan State University, the Chippewas of the Thames First Nations, York University, Walpole Island (Bkejwanong) First Nations, Wilfrid Laurier University, and Nipissing University.

On Day Two, the keynote speaker, Phil Bellfy, Michigan State University, presented "Sugar Island and the War of 1812: the Making of the International Boundary"; followed by Dr. D. T. McNab of York University, who presented "Towards an understanding of spirit memory in the Pierre Piché Wampum Strings of 1818". On public view was the 1818 Pierre Piché Wampum (reproduction by Ken Maracle). The two-day symposium concluded with a reading from "Tecumseh and Brock" (House of Anansi Press, 2012) by noted author and professor James Laxer, York University, and a discussion and debate on Tecumseh's activities during the War of 1812.

The response to the three day event, locally and province-wide, was enthusiastic. Those attending ranged from interested citizens to federal and provincial government representatives eager to learn more about historic aboriginal border issues, including the War of 1812, and the role of aboriginals historically. Both the local First Nation communities and the historic Saugeen

Métis are border communities whose identities are linked historically to Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Day Three of the event was the 4th Annual Historic Saugeen Métis Rendezvous scheduled for Pioneer Park, an area that is the heart of the local Métis community, but was held at the Curling Club due to inclement weather. Here, a full event was held, attended by almost two hundred persons, who enjoyed the Métis fiddling of Anne Lederman and company, the ambience, and information provided by participants. Again, whitefish on a bun was a hit! HSM appreciates all who participated and supported the events, as well as the sponsorship of the Bruce Power Sponsorship program and Ontario Power Generation.

July 2012 Authors' Night

Bruce County Genealogical Society and Bruce County Historical Society co-hosted a very successful Local Authors event in July. The featured guests, Basil Johnston, Don Leatham, and Rob Ritchie, presented an interesting, lively, and varied program of readings and reflections. It was intriguing to learn how the themes of identity, self worth, and fear of abandonment wove their way into each author's work.

Don Leatham's first book, *The Way We Were*, takes a very personal look at life on a farm in the 40's and 50's. The second book, *Indomitable Spirit*, tells the story of a feisty pioneer, his 'Granny', Susannah Askin.

Basil Johnston, award-winning author of twenty-four books, informed the audience of his motivation to begin writing when a school boy asked "Is that all there is to Indians, sir?" He has since strived to enlighten and educate about First Nations culture through his books. His personal and powerful story-telling approach delighted everyone.

Rob Ritchie transitioned the skills he mastered as a songwriter with the band Tanglefoot towards creative fiction in his two novels *Orphans of Winter* and *In a Company of Fiddlers*. His books explore his passion for hockey and music as inspired by his parents.

Authors and audience had an opportunity to mingle at the wine and cheese reception and book signing.

Mystery History Bus Trip

by Audrey Underwood, BCHS President

Three exciting, educational, and surprising destinations culminated a “mystery” bus tour on May 29, with the theme of the War of 1812. This trip was hosted by the Bruce County Historical Society, partnering with the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre (BCM&CC).



The first stop at the BCM&CC in Southampton gave us a preview of the story of the H.M.S. General Hunter. Project Director

Ken Cassavoy, explained that the British ship, General Hunter, was part of the Provincial Marine squadron involved in transport and patrol on the Upper Lakes after her launch in 1806. In September 1813 the vessel surrendered to the U.S. Navy during the “Battle of Lake Erie”. Beginning in 1815 she was used as a transport vessel to carry U.S. military supplies, troops and passengers to Mackinac. The vessel ran aground on the shores of the Southampton beach in 1816 during a storm and was later scuttled by the owners and burned to the waterline. It was found 150 years later as the water levels receded. It was very interesting to learn about the excavation and historical evidence used to identify the ship as being H.M.S. General Hunter, including a letter and legal declaration found at the U.S. National Archives concerning the loss of the ship.

This deck of the ship has been rebuilt on a slightly smaller scale and will be a highlight exhibit in the BCM&CC for years to come. This fabulous piece of workmanship was completely accomplished by volunteers of the Southampton Marine Heritage Society and friends.



The next mystery stop was at Fort Willow, an important fort on the Nine Mile Portage, a direct transportation route from Toronto to Georgian Bay at Penetanguishene. Under the direction of Newfoundland soldier, Peter Monahan, a local historian and teacher,

we experienced the lives of the soldiers and the story of the building and use of this strategic point as a supply depot during the War of 1812.

Nine Mile Portage and Willow Creek became particularly important to the British military effort after the loss of their Lake Erie fleet in 1813 and American control of the lakes cut off access to Georgian Bay and their fort at Michilimackinac. In early 1814, a party of soldiers from the Newfoundland Regiment marched from Kingston to Toronto, on to Holland Landing, across the ice on Lake Simcoe, and eight miles into the woods, following the Nine Mile Portage. Near the head of Willow Creek, the soldiers constructed 29 batteaux, an example of which was on display at the Fort. We could only imagine the many dangers and obstacles faced by the soldiers as they loaded their relatively small boats with supplies and ventured on a 19-day expedition travelling down Willow Creek, the Nottawasaga River, and then through the ice of Georgian Bay and Lake Huron to Michilimackinac, losing only one boat and no supplies along the way. Although this fort has not been rebuilt, the buildings have been outlined as discovered in the 1955 archaeological dig. The property is cared for and research and restoration continues by “The Friends of Historic Fort Willow”.



Our final stop was at Discovery Harbour, the earliest British naval base on Georgian Bay, built to protect access to Upper Canada and the Great Lakes after the war of 1812. By 1820, the base main-

tained over 20 vessels, supplied British posts to the northwest, and housed over 70 personnel, including officers and their families, sailors, civilian workers and soldiers. The Naval Establishment was also the winter home of Lieutenant Henry Wolsey Bayfield early in his surveying career, and provided a stopover for Sir John Franklin en route to his second polar expedition in 1825.

Here, we were treated to the exciting view of the bay, and two replica ships of that era: the warship H.M.S. Tecumseh and the transport vessel H.M.S. Bee on which we were invited to walk and experience the close quarters of these beautiful and valuable ships.

We then wandered through the rebuilt buildings of that period, each a museum in itself showing tools, cooking wares, and all the necessities of life at the time.

After a long but learning day, we could answer the War of 1812 quiz with much more knowledge than we had at the beginning of the expedition!



Families of Dobbinton

We had an excellent meeting in Dobbinton on April 24, 2012. About 60 people attended at the Dobbinton United Church to hear Mary McKay talk about Dobbinton's founding families. She walked us through the first settlers and then traced their families as the community grew. Her wealth of knowledge and obvious hard work was evident in the detail and interesting stories she told.

Bruce County Heritage Association Steam & Antique Tractor Show

The Bruce County Heritage Association hosted another incredibly successful Heritage Farm Show from August 17-19, 2012. Thank you to all the volunteers who assisted at the BCHS booth and to our members who visited the show!



Dispelling the Myths of Laura Secord

by Mary MacKay

From the mouth of Canada's most famous cow:
"20 MILES! YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!"

"You mean there was no cow?" I ask.

"No cow," came the reply.

"Well if no cow, then what? I suppose no candy either?"

"That's right. No candy for Laura."

"But," I argue, "From my high school history, I seem to remember something about Laura Secord driving a cow through the enemy lines to alert a British officer that the Americans were going to attack at Beaver Dams and thus winning the war for Canada. It also sticks in my memory that although Laura Secord was heralded as the heroine, Isaac Brock shared that with her because there is a monument to both of them at Queenston Heights."

"Mostly myth, that changes with every telling."

"I don't believe that." I retorted. "Look at all the plaques dedicated to her. The Americans even put one on the Ingersoll land in Great Barrington, Massachusetts where the house Laura Secord was born in stood until 1913. It was taken down to build the Mason Library in that town. There's also a plaque at Queenston town and another at her homestead in Queenston. There are two at Beaver Dams and two in Chippewa: one on the house on Bridgewater Street where she lived later in life and one on the Church of the Holy Trinity where she attended."

"It's most unusual for the enemy to put up a plaque to a heroine from the other side, don't you think?"

"Makes me wonder who won the War of 1812," I pondered. "Canadians are sure they did, Americans are pretty sure they did, and the British never heard of it. It's hard for us today to figure out why there ever was a war. Was it to stop Britain's seizing of U.S. sailors off the boats and conscripting them for the army? Or was it to end trade restrictions? Or was it to stop the U.S. from seizing Canada? The war, which began because the 13 Colonies didn't realize that Britain had already accepted their demands, actually didn't end until two weeks

after the peace treaty was signed in Europe. Word takes a long time to get to soldiers when it travels by sea!"

"There was no winner! When the Peace Treaty was signed nothing changed - same boundaries - same policies. British losses in the war were about 1,600 killed in action, 3,679 wounded and 3,321 dead from disease. American losses were 2,260 killed in action and 4,505 wounded. While the number of Americans who died from disease is not known, it is estimated that about 15,000 died from causes directly related to the war. These figures do not include deaths among Canadian militia forces or losses among Native tribes. Homes were plundered and burned. The land in the Niagara Peninsula was ravaged and, when the fighting was all over, life was supposed to return to normal?"

"We're off the track. I thought we were discussing Laura Secord," I interrupted.

"We are."

"Well, there are eight plaques dedicated to her as well as three statues. That should convince you she was no myth," I said confidently.

"Oh, Laura Ingersoll Secord is no myth. Just the stories that have grown up around her are myths. In the 1860s, her story gained prominence when historian William Foster Coffin invented new details including the claim that Laura had brought a cow with her as an excuse to leave her home in case of questioning by American patrols. Other versions hold that she left under the guise of visiting a sick relative in neighbouring St. David's, and that she walked barefoot for much of the journey."

"So that's where the story about the cow came from" I mused.

"Then in the 1880s, the stories about Laura Secord gained prominence when upper-class women sought to strengthen the emotional ties between Canadian women and the British Empire, and needed a female heroine to validate their claims for woman suffrage."

"Really? And the Chocolates? What about the chocolates?" I questioned.

"In 1913, Frank P. O'Conner started a small candy business in Toronto selling hand-made chocolates. He chose Laura Secord as the name for his candy company because she 'was an icon of courage, devotion and loyalty' and they wanted to give their business a good wholesome eye-catching name. But that was 100 years after the war and 45 years after Laura's death."

"No candy and no cow! Did Laura Secord get anything for risking her life on her difficult walk on a blazing hot day? Did she get any praise, money or anything?"

"Not until she was 85 years old! Despite many petitions asking for money or position after the war ended, Laura's contribution was pretty much ignored until 1860 when Prince Edward, eighteen-year-old son of Queen Victoria, was touring Canada and United States. He learned of Laura's twenty-mile walk from the petition describing her wartime service. On his return to England, he sent Laura 100 pounds in gold, the only financial reward she ever received for her service. The subsequent press reports acclaimed her heroic deed. She became celebrated in song and story. Legends grew up around the name of Canada's heroine. Her fame resulted in plaques and statues being erected in her honour."

"Well, she is still my heroine, even without the cow and the candy!"



Laura Secord Statue, Valiants Memorial, Ottawa
Public Domain Photograph: en.wikipedia.org

Historical Helpline

A pilot feature in the BCHS Newsletter

Individuals may have a query about Bruce County history published in the Newsletter, after exhausting other available resources.

- Maximum 100 words, including addresses, or 50 words with photograph
- Include your mailing and/or e-mail address for publication
- Include a specific question

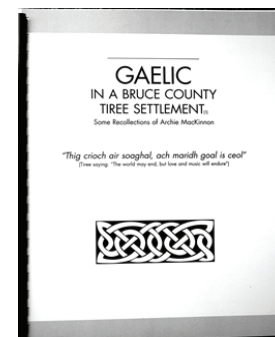
E-mail query to newsletter editor,
dsturdevant@brucecounty.on.ca

Bruce County Gaelic Texts Query

I teach in the Celtic Studies Department of St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia and am working on compiling an anthology of Gaelic literature from Canada. The heavy concentration of Gaelic speakers in Bruce County is well known, as is their literary activity and compositions.

Finding the Gaelic texts themselves is more challenging. I have connected with Mr. A.R. MacKinnon and his published article and book. I would welcome contact from anyone with more information about Gaelic texts created in the area and, in particular, about hand-written notes of Gaelic texts or newspaper clippings of Gaelic texts.

Dr. Michael Newton, mnewton@stfx.ca



Gaelic in a Bruce County Tiree Settlement

Archie MacKinnon relates the use of the Gaelic language in Kincardine Township when he was growing up. Accompanying the book is a CD with examples of Gaelic music and poetry. \$20.00

For purchase information, see p. 11.

**Bruce County
Historical Society
Public Meeting Schedule**

**History & Stories of Nature's
Millworks**

(formerly Stark's Mill)

Monday, September 17, 2012 – 7 p.m.
Fire #4575 Bruce Rd. 1, Paisley

**Bruce County Historical Society
Annual General Meeting**

November 3, 2012 -- 11:00 a.m.
Doors open at 11, AGM at Noon,
followed by dinner
Chesley Community Centre, 129 4th
Ave SE, Chesley, \$20.00

November 2012 Meeting

Check www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca
for details.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 1, 2012 - Noon
Knox Presbyterian Church (Burgoyne)
Check www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca
for details & RSVP deadline.

Newsletters Available by E-Mail

By March 2013, Newsletters will be
available by email.

Go Green. Save a tree!

If you would like to
receive your newsletter
by email rather than
postal mail please advise
Dorne Fitzsimmons at
dcf@bmts.com.

One advantage of an
electronic Newsletter
are the colour images
that may be enjoyed!



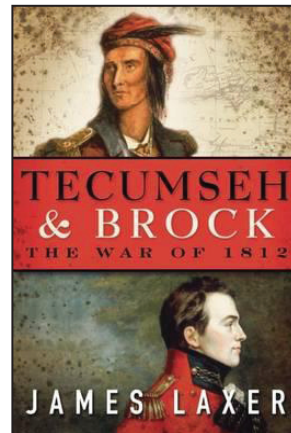
*Bruce County Museum & Cultural
Centre, A2011.007.453*

**Bruce County
Historical Society
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Saturday, November 3
doors open at 11:00 a.m.**

Speaker: **James Laxer**

Topic: **Tecumseh and the War of 1812**

Award-winning author James Laxer
has written many books and appears
regularly on television discussions of
issues of the day. He is a professor
of political science at York University
in Toronto. For a full biography, see
<http://www.jameslaxer.com/about.htm>



**November 3, 2012 -- 11:00 a.m.
Chesley Community Centre
129 4th Ave SE, Chesley**

**Doors open at 11
Annual General Meeting at 12
Dinner to follow**

**Buy your ticket by Friday,
October 26, 2012
Cost: \$20.00**

Call for Tickets:

**Bill Stewart - 519-934-2270
Cathie Clazie - 519-389-2320
Doug Lennox - 519-422-1737
Jim Whytock - 519-392-6003**

Doors Open in Bruce County

Ontario Heritage Trust

Doors Open offers an opportunity for visitors to learn about the importance of architectural, cultural and natural heritage sites within their community. One can visit any number of chosen sites in a weekend at no charge. Look for the Doors Open Ontario Guide or see www.doorsopenontario.on.ca for a full listing of sites and more information.



South Bruce Peninsula

September 15-16, 2012

Sat. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sun. 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

(519) 534-1400

www.southbrucepeninsula.com

A tour of interesting sites which encompass the communities in South Bruce Peninsula. Sites on the tour include:

Colpoy's Bay Community Hall
225 Bruce Road 9, Wiarton

Handicraft House Trading Post
766 Highway 6, Wiarton

Heritage Heights Condominiums
239 William Street, Wiarton

Mar Women's Institute Building
2 Mar Sideroad, Mar

Pal Duff Studio Gallery
1483 Highway 6, Mar

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
553 Gould Street, Wiarton

The Bruce Beckons
38 Beckons Lane, Wiarton

Warton Train Station
400 William Street, Warton



Warton Train Station, Courtesy of Bruce Museum and Cultural Centre, A965.004.001

Walkerton & District

September 22, 2012

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(519) 881-3413

www.brockton.ca

Brockton will host Doors Open Walkerton & Area when 19 area homes and heritage sites of interest will be opened to the public, including:

Connor / Ferguson House
508 Colborne Street S., Walkerton

Dickison / Hall House
124 Colborne Street S., Walkerton

Johnston Homestead
48 Durham Road W., Walkerton

Pinkerton School #5
500 Bruce Road 15, Pinkerton

S.S. #7 Bradley Schoolhouse
1682 Sideroad 5, Greenock

Victoria Jubilee Hall
111 Jackson Street, Walkerton

Walkerton (Bruce County) Jail
Jackson Street, between Cayley & Jane Streets.



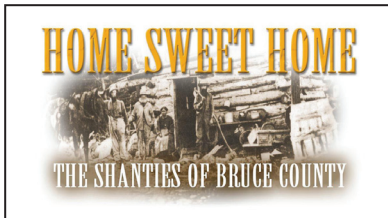
Victoria Jubilee Hall, from "Old Postcards of Walkerton" CD, courtesy of Victoria Jubilee Hall

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

33 Victoria St. N., Southampton, ON

(519) 797-2080 / (866) 318-8889

www.brucemuseum.ca



Shanty Exhibit: Come and see our newest permanent addition - the Shanty - made from Bruce County logs and located in the pioneer section of the galleries. It represents a crucial step for settlers who cleared the way for today's inhabitants. BCHS publication *Pioneer Days at Guelph and the County of Bruce* by David Kennedy Sr., 1903 was an inspiration and resource for this Exhibit.



October 20: Niagara Region Wine Bus Tour 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Join us for this year's instalment featuring three unique wineries in Niagara on the Lake. At each winery you'll be treated to a tour and tasting of 3-5 wines or ice wines. Lunch is included. This event sells out every year. Get your tickets early!

\$136* up to September 30 \$148* after September 30



October 26: Scotch: A Guided Tasting 7:30 p.m.

Experience a range of quality Scotch whiskies featuring guest Scotch tasting expert, Marc Laverdiere, ambassador for Macallan. Evening includes six quality Scotches, a souvenir tasting glass, and finger foods to cleanse the palate. The wearing of kilts is encouraged! Limited seating. Members \$45* Public \$55*



November 3: A Time to Remember 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

A time of remembrance for those who fought for and are still fighting for the freedom of Canada and the safety of other countries. Refreshments provided. Admission by donation.



November 17, 24, December 1, 8, 15: Candlelight Music Series

Saturdays, 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of talented performers and an eclectic variety of music. Cash bar available. Admission by donation. Half the door proceeds benefit performers.

Share and Learn Programs

During Fall and Winter, seniors and youth will exchange skills, through a variety of activities, "Generation to Generation". Topics include the internet, electronics, crafts, cooking and First Nation arts. The program is Free! Most programs limited to 10 people. Call the Museum for transportation and registration.

Documentary Daze

Informative and thought-provoking documentaries will be shown at special pre-screening events during the year in the Bruce Power Theatre.

Please check our website for complete information. Free Admission.

Treasure Chest Museum

407 Queen Street
Paisley, ON N0G 2N0
(519) 353-7176
tcmuseum@bmts.com

Open Weekends from 1 to 4 pm
from Labour Day until Thanksgiving
After Thanksgiving: By Appointment or Chance
Call 519-353-7176 to make an appointment.

Ration Fashion

November 7 - 1:30-3:30

An interesting and informative presentation by
Wendy Tomlinson, Fashion Historian, about
clothing during the war times
Cost: \$7.00, includes light refreshments

Chesley Heritage & Woodworking Museum

106 1st Ave. S., Chesley, ON

The Museum is housed in the historic Dawson House on Chesley's Main Street. Its mission is to showcase the history of the Town of Chesley and surrounding area, from the first settlers to the present day with an emphasis on the woodworking industry.

In addition to its fine permanent collection of artifacts relating to the history of Chesley, the museum has several temporary exhibits of interest. Now showing, is an exhibit about the *Krug Furniture Factory 1886-1987*. This exhibit is possible because of the contribution of: The Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre, the Bruce County Historical Society and many interested local people who contributed articles from their own collections.

Smaller exhibits include: A Penny Table, Carnival Glass and memorabilia celebrating the Queen's Jubilee. The museum also has a yearly "WE REMEMBER EXHIBIT" honouring our local veterans.

FALL HOURS: SAT. 1-4PM OR BY
APPOINTMENT

The museum is wheelchair accessible and
admission is by donation.

Contact: *Brian Phillips 519-363-2363 or Pat
Carson 519-363-5527*

The Future of the Chesley Heritage & Woodworking Museum

The Museum is currently housed in Dawson House, built in 1885 and designated as a heritage building in 1982. The building is owned and maintained by the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie. The yearly cost of maintaining this historic building is considerable and it is taxpayer dollars that do so at this time. The museum board has many ideas for future exhibits and events once it is determined that the community supports the museum. Council has offered to move the museum to another location, possibly the former Chesley town office, and to combine with the Chesley Community Players to form a "cultural centre".

The Museum Board invites everyone to an "**Ideas**" Meeting concerning the future of the Museum on **Tues. Sept. 11th 7 pm** at the Town Fire Hall. The meeting will be facilitated by Janine Dunlop, Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

In addition, there will be a **Municipal Public Meeting** on **Mon. Sept. 17 at 7 pm** in the municipal building to discuss the future of the Dawson House building.

Books Available from the Bruce County Historical Society Members Receive 25% off!

Uncle Rory: a Man Seeks his Destiny
by Graham MacDonald

A young man sets out on his own and makes
his place in the lumbering industry.
\$12.50

Pioneer Days at Guelph and the County of Bruce
by David Kennedy Sr.

Written by an early pioneer of Saugeen in
1903. It contains excellent background
information of the Southampton vicinity and
the Saugeen River.
\$8.00

Check out the full range of publications at:
www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca

To order books contact
William Stewart
RR2, Allenford, ON N0H 1A0
(519) 934-2270



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Another way to keep informed about BCHS
activities and Bruce County heritage.
www.facebook.com/BruceCountyHS

Ontario
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium
de l'Ontario

Watch for information
about the launch of
BCHS's new Bruce
County Postcard Book,
coming soon!

Grant funds received from the Ontario Trillium
Foundation will assist in the publication of the
new Bruce County Post Card Book and the re-
printing of Pictorial History of Bruce County
and an updated Plaques & Cairns of Bruce
County book.

2013 Renewal Notice

Please submit your 2013 membership fees
prior to November 2012.

Help your Society save money. Mailing the
yearbooks after the November bulk mailing
incurs a much larger postage rate (each
individual Yearbook mailed costs \$2.00).

Due to increasing expenses related to Yearbook
publication a the Society's projects, the
membership fees have increased.

Annual Memberships

- \$15.00 each until *November 3, 2012*
- \$20.00 each commencing November 4,
2012

Life Memberships are \$500.00 each.

Please submit your membership fees to:

Catherine McKeeman
Membership Coordinator
Box 66
Formosa, ON N0G 1W0

Bruce County Historical Society

P.O. Box 51 Tiverton Ontario N0G 2T0

www.brucecountyhistory.on.ca

