

Membership Corner

Hello everyone. I hope you've enjoyed your summer. We have a great line-up for this year's Speakers' Schedule and we're excited to get started. Feel free to bring a friend or two out to enjoy the history. Who knows, they may want to join our Society too! Feel free to grab a Speakers' Schedule or two and pass them on to anyone who might be interested. Our September meeting will be a Show 'n Tell and we think it'll be a lot of fun. Bring something interesting and tell us about it. As always, visit our website at www.headofthelake.ca for more information.

-Marnie Burgess

Meeting Date Change

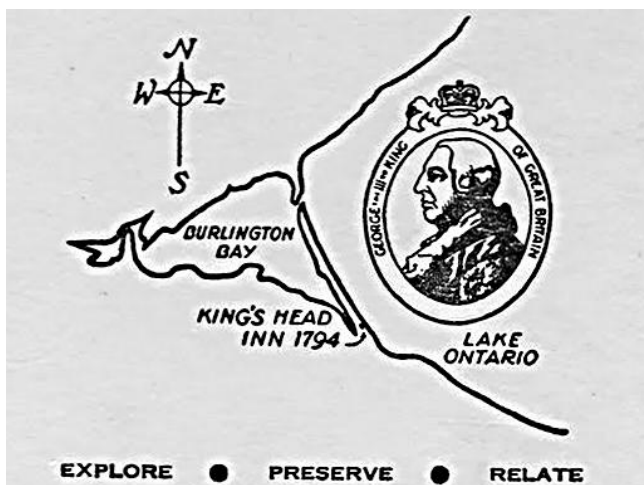
Please note that meeting dates have been **changed to the third Friday of the month**. The location, Dundurn Coach House and time 7:30 p.m. remain the same.

Museums Sep-Dec

A few highlights:

- Dundurn:** October is Mourning Month; Death and Dying Tour on Halloween \$30; First Day of Christmas – Free admission Nov. 23
- Military Museum:** We Remember - Free admission Nov. 7-9
- Fieldcote:** A Forest of Christmas Trees Nov.12-Dec.24
- Steam & Technology:** Golden Horseshoe Live Steamer Days – free admission Sep. 28; History Hacker, History Maker exhibit Oct. 3-Jun 19; Thomas Keefer's Birthday – free admission Nov. 1
- Battlefield House:** Apple Festival Sep. 27th; "Austen-Tacious" - A Regency Romp, Nov. 22, \$15

70 Years and Counting



The society's original crest, drawn by the late Dr. C.W. Jefferys, takes the form of a map showing Burlington Beach, Burlington Bay and the Dundas Marsh beyond. Inset into the map is a sketch of the head of King George the Third, as it appeared on the sign of the King's Head Inn, a government building erected in 1794 at the south end of the Beach.

In January of 1944 C. R. McCullough convened a meeting of historically minded citizens at his home, "Hillside" on John Street South for the purpose of meeting Dr. Charles W. Jefferys, president of the Ontario Historical Society, and discussing the possibility of re-establishing in Hamilton a society to sustain interest in local History.

Present at this first meeting were: Lt.-Col. C. R. McCullough, Miss Freda F. Waldon, Miss Isabelle Loughed, George Laidler, T. Melville Bailey, Walter H. Carroll, Dr. Charles W. Jefferys, Mrs. J. Bryce Mundie, Dr. A. H. Wingfield, T. Roy Woodhouse, Edwin Mills and William F. Johnson.

Further meetings were held February 12, 18 and 24, 1944 with George Laidler acting as chairman.

At the February 18th meeting an executive was chosen from a proposed list. Another meeting was held on February 24th and the constitution of the new society was drafted.

On Thursday, March 2, 1944 the

above named group met with twenty other interested citizens and, after a discussion, chose the name, The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, adopted the constitution and elected the first slate of officers.

The Spectator reported: "A representation of History-minded citizens was present on Thursday evening in the public library, when the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society came into formal being. After months of careful planning by an appointed committee, the constitution and list of officers for the ensuing year was presented to the public for acceptance. The executive council of the society includes: Honorary President, Lt.-Col. Charles R. McCullough; honorary vice presidents, Prof. Chester W. New, W. P. Witton; president, Dr. Alex. H. Wingfield; vice-presidents, Miss Freda F. Waldon, T. Roy Woodhouse; recording secretary, T. Melville Bailey; corresponding secretary, William F. Johnson (Beach Bungalow School); publications editor, George

70 Years and Counting *cont'd*

Laidler; treasurer, Walter H. Carroll; auditor, John Fee; custodian, Miss Isabelle Locheed. Councillors – Mrs. Bryce Mundie (U.E.), Miss Mabel Burkholder (U.E.), Edwin W. Mills (U.E.), Milton Watson (public schools), J. V. Scanlan (separate schools). Honorary members – Dr. Charles A. Jefferys (president Ontario Historical Society), Professor Fred Landon, F. I. Ker, C.B.E., Col. James Chisholm, Hon. T. B. McQuesten, K. C.”

The first meeting of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society took place on Friday, March 31, 1944 in the Bruce Room of the Art Gallery of Hamilton. The guest speaker was Professor J.J. Talman, assistant librarian of the University of Western Ontario. His topic was “The Romance of Local History”. Dr. Talman specifically noted that he liked the name of the society. “I like the name of your society. It gets away from the limits of political divisions of the country and takes care of the geographical overlapping which in history is inevitable. The Head-of-the-Lake was the name given this part by the early immigrants coming out to the lands of the Canada Company, who proceeded this far by boat and then on by road.”

“Dr. Talman impressed upon the society the need for scrupulous accuracy and advised that no incidents be overlooked. Nor should the distant past alone be dealt with, the middle past was equally worthy of attention and he believed there was a place for the collection of current records as well. People 100 years hence would want to know all kinds of little things about the people of to-day that are not being recorded, personal matters which seemed trivial now.”

In June of that year the society took a walk through the Hamilton Cemetery under the guidance of

George Laidler. They visited the graves of many local pioneers and important early settlers. They also visited the Earthworks left over from the British occupation of the site during the War of 1812.

In the fall of 1944 the meetings moved to the Y.W.C.A. Over the summer the members had been busy researching and cataloguing the materials of the old Wentworth Historical Society which they took over as the successor to that group.

The first annual meeting of the society took place at the Hamilton Public Library in March of 1945. The treasurer’s report showed a bank balance of \$255.40.

In 1949 they highlighted the local history collections of the Hamilton Public Library for the first time. Mrs. E. L. Skelly, reference librarian for the Main Library gave an introduction to the resources of the library. The newspaper report of the meeting noted that “All too few Hamilton people realize what a storehouse of local history’s records is to be found in the reference section of the Hamilton Public Library.” Mrs. Skelly noted that for the last 25 years the library staff had been clipping the local newspaper and now had a large file of clippings about Hamilton. This was the genesis of the clipping file that now exists in Local History & Archives.

In 1950 the first female president of the society, Nina L. Edwards, was elected.

In 1953 the Society made a request for a grant of \$500 from the city which, as reported by the Spectator, “met outright refusal”.

The first trivia offered up to the society came in the form of a series of questions posed by Roy Woodhouse at their November 1953 meeting. The questions included: Who was the first child born in Hamilton? Who was the first to die

Whitehern: A Feast for the Eyes exhibit Sep. 16-Jan. 4

Westfield Heritage Village: Telling Tales, a free event celebrating Canada’s leading children’s writers and illustrator, with programs for all ages. Sep. 14 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Other Societies & Activities

Ancaster Township Historical Society

Regular meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 310 Wilson St. E.

Sep. 26, 5:30 p.m. Bowman United Church: Annual picnic for members

Oct. 24: The Origins of WW1, 100 Years Ago (Dr. Martin Horn)

Nov. 28: 1814 War Ending Strategy: Make the Yankees Sue for Peace (Cmdr. Bob Williamson)

Dundas Valley Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at the Dundas Museum, 139 Park St. W.

Sep. 11: Once More Into the Breach: Causes of the Great War (Dr. Martin Horn)

Oct. 16: We Remember: Occupied Holland, the London Blitz & the Lady Intelligence Officer (Dr. Beryl Haslam & panel)

Nov. 13: The 77th Regiment: A Brief History (Cameron Ward)

Stoney Creek Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Stoney Creek Municipal Centre, 777 Hwy 8)

Oct. 1: Crystal Beach of the Past (Erno Rossi)

Nov. 5: TBA

Burlington Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. at Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St.

Sep. 8: A Century Ago: The First World War Comes to Burlington (Dr.

70 Years and Counting *cont'd*

and be buried here? Is there any picture of George Hamilton, after whom the city is named, still in existence? Who was the last to be cuffed into the stocks on the Courthouse lawn? Where are Allan MacNab's papers? Who beat up William Lyon Mackenzie one night near the present post office? Who hanged the lieutenant-governor in front of the court house the night of January 29, 1829 – in effigy? When was this city first known as Hamilton? The reporter noted that "Silence reigned supreme. The audience was floored." Unfortunately, the reporter did not note the answers to the questions posed.

For the September meeting in 1954 they convened at Dundurn Castle and Rev. T. Melville Bailey gave a talk on "The Macnab" an eccentric cousin of Sir Allan MacNab. In keeping with the eccentric theme, the entire executive of the society attended the meeting dressed in period costumes of the 1850s.



In 1958 the Society published their first issue of what would eventually run to 15 volumes of "Wentworth Bygones", containing copies of speeches given to the society. The price was \$1. That was also the year that they sponsored the filming of "When the Moon is High" directed and produced by Hungarian film producer Dr. Leslie Meszaros. The film was written by Mabel Burkholder and Meszaros who "compiled a film based on local history with the additional entertaining and salable commodity of fantasy and romance." The Hamilton Spectator reporter was kind in her assessment noting that "it missed, not because it lacked ideas, but because it had too many." [If anyone knows of a copy of this film we would love to get it and show it at a meeting]

The Society grew and prospered over the coming years and in March of 2014 we celebrated our 70th anniversary. - *Margaret Houghton*

Members of the Society on a tour of the Hamilton Cemetery on September 25, 1954. They are standing at the tombstone erected by the Corporation of the City of Hamilton in 1894 and dedicated to members of the Hamilton family. George Hamilton (ca1787-1836) gave this city its name and is buried here along with many of his descendants. (Local History & Archives, Hamilton Public Library)

The T. Melville Bailey Award

At the Hamilton Heritage Awards on Saturday, February 22, 2014 the T. Melville Bailey Award was given to Katharine Greenfield.

Katharine Greenfield's Hamilton roots stretch back to 1834, when her ancestors arrived in Hamilton. She is a direct descendant of Rev. John Gamble Geddes (1811-1891) and Mayor Charles Magill (1816-1898).

Katharine Greenfield was born here on March 28, 1921 and was educated at Earl Kitchener School and Hamilton Central Collegiate Institute before going off to University in Toronto where she received her B.A., B.L.S. and later her M.L.S. After library school she spent her first 15 working months in Ottawa before coming to her senses and returning

Jonathan Vance)

Oct. 6: Letters to a Soldier (Mary McCully) and The Story My Father Never Told (Ken Davy)

Nov. 10: Remember to Remember (Tom Bochsler)

Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society
Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Olivet United Church, 70 Empress Ave.

Sep. 18: The Rise and Fall of Hamilton's Incline Railways (Murray Aikman)

Nov. 20: Operation Maple Leaf & the 70th Anniversary of D-Day (Frank Fordham & Ruth Pearson)

Glanbrook Heritage Society

Oct. 20: Social Meeting at St. Paul's United Church, Glanford, 2869 Upper James

Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society *Meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. at St. James United Church, 306 Parkside Dr.*

Sep. 26: Waterdown's Centennial year in 1978 (Peter Vance)

Oct. 24: The First Nations People of Flamborough (Nathan Tidridge)

Nov. 15, St. James Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: 24th Annual Book Fair

Friends of Auchmar

Oct. 9, 5:30-7:30 p.m., location TBA: Jason Thorne – Hamilton's General Manager of Planning and Economic Development

Grimsby Historical Society

Sep. 17, 7:00 p.m. St. Andrew's Church Hall, 7 St. Andrew's Ave.: Pie Social and Musical Memories & Stories from WWI

Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m. Carnegie Commons, 25 Adelaide St.: The Origins of The Great War (Dr. Elizabeth Vlossak)

Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. Grimsby Public Art Gallery, 18 Carnegie Lane: The Welland Canal Fallen Workers'

The T. Melville Bailey Award *cont'd*

to Hamilton to join the staff of the Hamilton Public Library in September of 1944. She served in many positions over the years but usually returned to her special interest in reference work. In 1968 she was made the Canadiana librarian. In 1971 she was made head



of Reference and, when the Special Collections Department was formed in October of 1974, there was no question that she would become the first head of the department. She was the person who drove the formation of the department. She then spearheaded the acquisition of many collections related to Hamilton history that might otherwise have been lost. In the process she created the genesis for what is considered one of the finest local history collections in a public library in Canada.

After retiring from the library in July of 1983 Mss Greenfield wrote the history of the Hamilton Public Library ("The Hamilton Public Library, 1889-1963: a celebration of vision and leadership") for the celebration of its 100th anniversary in 1989.

She has been a member of the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society since 1971 and was President in 1978-1979. She was the President and the Recording Secretary of the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature and Art and is the archivist for Christ's Church Cathedral.

In 1997 Bishop Ralph Spence appointed her an Honourary Lay Canon of the Cathedral. On the occasion of her 80th birthday in 2001 she published the book "An archivist talks: tales of early Hamilton and our Cathedral" about her experiences in local history at the library and at Christ's Church Cathedral. - *Margaret Houghton*
-photo by John Aikman

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Memorial (Arden Phair and Reinhard Reitzenstein)

Hamilton Association Meetings are held in Room 1A1, Ewart Angus Centre, McMaster Medical Centre at 8 p.m.

Sep. 20: Bringing William Blair Bruce into the Light (Tobi Bruce)

Oct. 18: Into the Melting Ice (Nicholas Plessel)

Nov. 8: Up in Smoke: Skulduggery in Our Own Backyard (Ross Pennie)

Dec. 6: The 15th John Rae Lecture: Labrador With a View Camera (Arnold Zageris)

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Honourary Membership Chairman:

Rita McEnaney

The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society

EXPLORE - PRESERVE - RELATE



2014 – 2015 SPEAKERS' SCHEDULE

SHOW 'N TELL: REMEMBER SHOW 'N TELL IN GRADE SCHOOL? WELL HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO RE-LIVE THOSE DAYS AND SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH YOUR FELLOW HEAD-OF-THE-LAKE SOCIETY MEMBERS! WE INVITE YOU TO BRING AN ITEM TO SHOW 'N TELL TO THE GROUP. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS TO BRING AN ITEM AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

THE BUILDINGS OF THE GORE: TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE BUILDINGS SURROUNDING GORE PARK WITH HAMILTON PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVIST MARGARET HOUGHTON. WALKING SHOES NOT REQUIRED ☺

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2014

CANADA AND WORLD WAR I: DR. JONATHAN VANCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO TAKES US BACK TO THE TIME OF THE GREAT WAR TO EDUCATE, INFORM AND ENTERTAIN US WITH TALES OF CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT IN WWI.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014

TREBLE HALL AND THE TREGUNNO SEEDS BUILDING: JEFF FESWICK, PRESIDENT OF HISTORIA RESTORATION INC., WILL TAKE US ON A RESTORATION JOURNEY AND SHARE HIS VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF THESE WELL-KNOWN HAMILTON LANDMARKS.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015

MEMBERS' NIGHT: JOIN YOUR FELLOW HEAD-OF-THE-LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS FOR AN EVENING OF FUN, FOOD AND CONVERSATION. TRIVIA CONTEST! PRIZES! BRING YOUR FRIENDS! FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

THE EMPIRE GAMES: JOIN US AS DR. CHRISTINE LEI PRESENTS AN ILLUMINATING TALK ON ONE OF HAMILTON'S MOST FAMOUS FIRSTS AND THE PRECURSOR TO TODAY'S COMMONWEALTH GAMES: THE 1930 BRITISH EMPIRE GAMES.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015

CHERYL MACDONALD RETURNS! ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR SPEAKERS, ONTARIO AUTHOR CHERYL MACDONALD, RETURNS TO EDUCATE, ENTERTAIN AND ENTHRALL US AS SHE PRESENTS A TALK ON "THE FENIAN INVASIONS."

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

MUSEUMS MONTH: THE ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON. TOBI BRUCE, SENIOR CURATOR, CANADIAN HISTORICAL ART, PRESENTS "INTO THE LIGHT: THE JOURNEY TO BRING WILLIAM BLAIR BRUCE BACK TO HAMILTON TO CELEBRATE THE ART GALLERY OF HAMILTON'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY."

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015

ALL MEETINGS AT THE COACH HOUSE AT DUNDURN CASTLE
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, MEETINGS START AT 7:30

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CHECK OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.HEADOFTHELAKE.CA