

The Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society

Hamilton, Ontario

EXECUTIVE 1979-80

PAST PRESIDENT	Miss Katharine Greenfield	383-5143
PRESIDENT	Mr. Gordon Powell	692-4014
1st VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Charles Toll	385-5695
2nd VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Darryl Buckle	561-2707
RECORDING SECRETARY	Mr. William D. King	383-1876
COR. SECRETARY (ACTING)	Miss Mary Farmer	522-2564
TREASURER	Miss Florence Crabtree	383-4831
COUNCILLORS	Mr. Murray Aikman	385-8729
	Mr. G. H. Bowman	522-8952
	Mr. D. H. Babb	385-0281
	Mrs. S. W. Schatz	627-4726
	Mr. D. G. Hudson	643-4085

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Mr. Gordon Powell, Mr. William Rosart (Editor), Mr. William King.

A new slate of officers, for the 1980-81 season, will be proposed by the Nominating Committee at the Annual Meeting.

The Newsletter Committee welcomes notices and submissions, which will be included when possible.

Correction: The January, 1980 issue of the newsletter was incorrectly labelled as Number Eleven. It should have been Number Ten.

The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society will meet Friday, March 28, 1980, 8 o'clock p.m., at the Memorial Hall, Dundas Street, Waterdown. Programme: 'Show and Tell'. Members and guests are invited to bring interesting articles of an historical nature.

MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

DUNDURN CASTLE: The restored mid-Victorian mansion of Sir Allan Napier MacNab. Guided tours daily, 1 to 4 p.m.

WHITEHERN: Former residence of the McQuesten family. Located at 41 Jackson Street West, to the rear of City Hall. Guided tours daily, 1 to 4 p.m. *Whitehern is currently featuring an exhibition of ladies' hats and other paraphernalia.

MILITARY MUSEUM: Located at Battery Lodge in Dundurn Park, the museum's exhibits reflect Hamilton's military heritage from the War of 1812 to the Second World War. Open daily, 1 to 4 p.m.

FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: One of the world's most modern sports museums. Open Monday to Friday, 9 to 5, and Saturdays, 11 to 4. Located in the City Hall Plaza.

BATTLEFIELD HOUSE, Stoney Creek: The Gage family home-
stead, restored to the 1835 - 40 period. Open daily,
1 to 4 p.m.

JOSEPH BRANT MUSEUM, Burlington: *As well as local his-
torical exhibits, the museum is currently featuring a
special exhibition on Hamilton's Industry in Photographs,
running until April 2. Open Monday to Saturday, 10 - 5,
Sunday, 1 - 5.

HAMILTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Located in Gage Park. *The
current exhibition details the history of printing. Open
Tuesday - Saturday, 10 - 4, Sunday, 1 - 4.

DUNDAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM: Exhibits detailing
the history of Dundas. Open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. -
noon and 1 - 4 p.m. (May - October, Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.)

Visit Hamilton and Area Museums - You'll Enjoy Them!

Compiled by William Rosart

HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN HAMILTON

by William D. King

BARTON LODGE

Beckett's Drive, winding along the mountainside from the head of Queen Street to Garth Street at the brow, is today very much unchanged from its earliest days. But it has been nearly fifty years since fire ravished all but the shell of Barton Lodge, a stone mansion whose square tower was once a familiar landmark at the head of Beckett's Drive.

In 1813, while Canada was defending herself against American invasion in what was later called the War of 1812, Colonel Whyte, of the King's Dragoon Guards, came to this district and purchased property on the mountain from a pioneer who had received it as part of an extensive Crown grant. It is said that Colonel Whyte began construction of Barton Lodge almost immediately but that various difficulties forestalled its completion until 1825. Nevertheless, Barton Lodge was built earlier than almost all of Hamilton's well-known homes. It pre-dated Dundurn Castle by a decade.

Whyte's house was built of stone, comprising two storeys and, at the northwest corner, a tower constructed at the third storey level, said to have been intended for astronomical observations. The windows along the first storey were rounded and embellished with ornate stonework, while those at the second floor level were of a plainer type. The chimneys were tall and prominent, complimenting the overall design.

Not long after the completion of the Lodge there was a change in occupancy. Colonel W. Gourlay, an officer in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, was first a tenant but later purchased Barton Lodge from Colonel Whyte and resided there with his family. Gourlay was born in England and as a young soldier was in the army which occupied Paris after the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. After coming to Canada, he served with the 'Men of Gore', from 1838 to '48. Along with Allan MacNab, Colonel of the 'Men of Gore', Gourlay played a leading rôle in suppressing the Mackenzie Rebellion, and was shortly afterward promoted to the rank of Colonel. The records of the militia were kept at Barton Lodge until they were

acquired by the Dominion Archives in 1920. Gourlay was evidently a very learned man, since the library at his home became quite well-known. Sir John A. Macdonald himself was an occasional guest there. The novelist William H. G. Kingston spent some time at the estate in 1853 and later described it in his book 'Western Wanderings'. Barton Lodge was in later years occupied by Colonel Gourlay's daughter, the wife of Edward Colquhoun, Mayor of Hamilton 1897-98. The Colquhouns lived there for many years with their family, but in the twenties the house became vacant.

In September of 1926, Barton Lodge was damaged by fire, although not seriously. But in August of 1930, fire broke out again. The house had by this time fallen into a state of general disrepair. There were no contents of value, but the building itself was gutted: there remained only a stone shell to be levelled.

In recent years the area has been developed with some of Hamilton's better homes. The Barton Lodge property itself has now become the site of the distinctive residence of a local businessman.



Barton Lodge

HERITAGE DAY

The following is a letter to the editor of The Spectator, Hamilton, by Brian Henley of the Education Committee of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. It appeared on February 21, 1980:

Monday, Feb. 18, was Heritage Day. As the federal politicians continue the debate as to whether the third Monday in February should be a statutory holiday, it is now time to show how Heritage Day can be more than just another excuse for a mid-winter three-day weekend.

It is to be hoped that Heritage Day will become a special opportunity for all Canadians to focus attention on their heritage on a national, provincial or local level. The regional municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth is blessed with a rich, colorful history and wide variety of institutions, organizations and individuals who care about the preservation of this history.

We have such successful operations as Dundurn Castle, the Wentworth Pioneer Village, the Dundas historical museum and many others which concern themselves with the careful preservation of historical buildings and artifacts. We have special collections departments in both the Hamilton public and McMaster University libraries which work full-time collecting, processing and making available historical information about our community.

We also have special interest organizations and societies which are concerned with a wide variety of local historical matters. There are historical societies throughout the region as well as organizations which concern themselves with the preservation of buildings of significant importance.

Other societies concern themselves with the history of local industrial technology, or with the heritage of the many ethnic groups which have been a major force in our community's evolution.

Heritage Day, then, can be an opportunity for all of these groups to get together to share information about

their activities and concerns in order to avoid working at cross-purposes.

This special day can also be an opportunity for those interested in local historical concerns to publicize their efforts and attract more interest in our region's past, especially how it so often directly relates to affairs today.

Heritage Day will continue to be observed and I hope it will become a welcome opportunity for all those who feel that Canada's and our own community's heritage is well worth preserving.

This is a letter to the editor of The Globe and Mail, Toronto, by Pierre Berton, Chairman of the Board of The Heritage Canada Foundation. It appeared on January 29, 1980:

This year as usual, the third Monday in February - Feb. 18 (election day) is also National Heritage Day - the day on which Heritage Canada tries to convince people not to tear down all of the past.

We're in the continuity business. We believe that if you lose all physical reminders of the past, you have a rootless country. You also have terribly dull cities.

The most successful cities - from a living point of view as well as from an economic (tourist) point of view - are those that are redolent of other times. New Orleans, Quebec City, San Francisco. And in Europe: Rome, Paris, London, Amsterdam. (But not West Berlin which, having been bombed to pieces, is entirely post-1945 and terribly dull: no texture of the past, no feeling of continuity.)

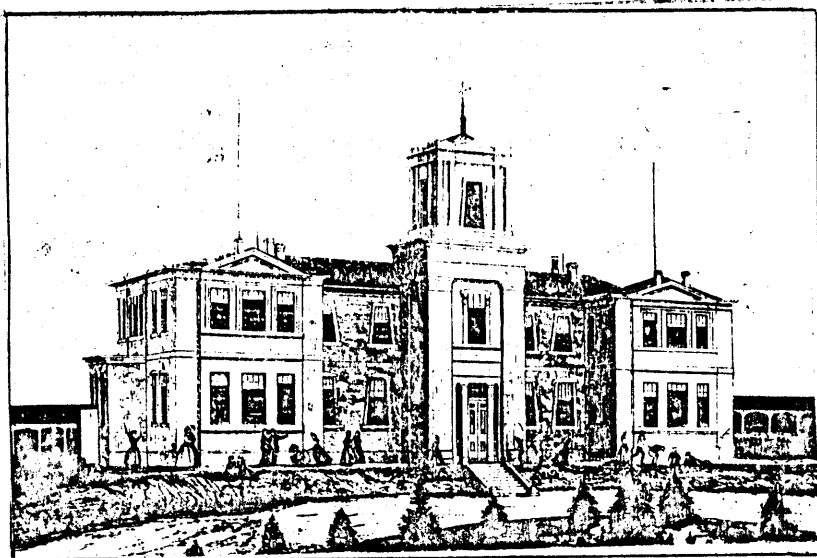
Buildings are living history lessons. They remind us of who we are, where we came from, how our forbears lived.

Moreover, we cannot afford to tear everything down every 30 years or so just because a building is written off on the ledgers. We can't afford the manpower, we cannot afford the money, we cannot afford the energy. The great post-war construction boom is beginning to wind down. The preservation boom has already started. It's become, in a very short time, a billion-dollar-a-year industry.

This is Heritage Canada's mandate: to help preserve

the physical, built-up past - the streetscapes, views, historic buildings, bridges, railway stations, banks, churches, warehouses and other structures that are sound, useful and pleasing.

Heritage Day isn't yet a holiday. But it's an important day and we ought to remember, as we trot off to cast our vote, that this country has a past, that the living reminders of that past are all around us, that once lost they can never be regained, and that this richness of heritage can, in the future, pay big dividends, economically as well as esthetically.



Central Public School

(Credit: Architectural Conservancy of Ontario)