



The Historical Society of St. Catharines

P.O. Box 25017, 221 Glendale Avenue, Pen Centre, St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 4C4

Our mission and goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St. Catharines and area. The Society was founded in 1927. Our Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society.

Please visit our website: <http://stcatharineshistory.wordpress.com>

June 2017 Newsletter

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DID YOU KNOW?

Canada's new 2017 circulation dollar coin, *Connecting a Nation*, features a winning design by St Catharines native **Wesley Klassen!**



The Royal Canadian Mint has unveiled a new series of coins to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary. In March last year, the Mint launched a contest "My Canada, My Inspiration" and invited members of the public to create new designs for a 2017 circulation coin series celebrating Canada's sesquicentennial. The dollar coin design features iconic landmarks that connect Canada from coast-to-coast: the railroad, the Lion's Gate Bridge in BC, a prairie grain elevator, the CN Tower, the Chateau Frontenac Hotel, a lighthouse and a fishing boat.

LECTURE PROGRAM – SEPTEMBER 2017 to JUNE 2018

Program Subject to Change

2017

SEPTEMBER 28 **Adrian Petry**, Lock 3 museum's public programmer will talk about what it takes to put on the Guided Spirit Walk tours at Victoria Lawn – The lecture will feature some of his favourite research materials from the collection.

OCTOBER 26 **Colleen Beard**, Map Librarian, and Head of the Map, Data & GIS Library at Brock University, will present her Historic Welland Canals Mapping Project that portrays the First, Second, and Third 19th century canals as they appear on today's landscape. She will share her stories of the mapping adventure and demonstrate the interactive website where digital content can be explored.

NOVEMBER 23 **to be confirmed.** either Show and Tell or John Brown House.

2018

JANUARY 25 **Carla Mackie**, Historical Services Coordinator for the City of St. Catharines will give an illustrated talk about Morningstar Mill.

FEBRUARY 22 **Terry Hughes**, Welland historian. His topic will be Welland Canal Landscape Recounts the evolution of ships, traffic organizations, the Welland by-pass and accidents to ships and canal structures.

MARCH 22 **Dr. Kimberly E. Monk**, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, will talk about her work on the Shickluna shipyards.

APRIL 26 **Dr. Laurence Stephen**, retired professor of English at Laurentian University in Sudbury. He will explore the different manifestations through time of the area surrounding the point -once known as Turney's Crossroads - where St. David's Road crossed Davis Road just north of both Lock 21 of the Third Canal, and the old Thorold Cemetery.

MAY 24 **to be confirmed.** either Show and Tell or John Brown House.

JUNE 28 Group lecture from **Lock 3 museum staff** on preservation of your historical treasures at home. They will describe how to handle and store objects.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Please consider a membership with the St. Catharines Historical Society. Your Society membership renews annually in September for the upcoming season. Annual Membership Dues are \$10.00 for an Individual or \$15.00 for a family. The Historical Society puts those dollars to work as research and support for projects that

align with our mission of increasing knowledge and appreciation of St. Catharines and local area history.



Join us at the St. Catharines Lock 3 Museum at 7:30pm on the 4th Thursday of the month from September to June (except December). Arrive early to visit the Museum before the meeting starts. Learn more about local history through our excellent lecture program featuring a wide variety of expert speakers. Museum staff often feature a historical artifact from the museum collection related to the lecture topic at each meeting. You will have the opportunity to present your own piece of history at our popular annual “Show and Tell” meeting. You will receive a newsletter 4 times a year.

We strive to meet the needs of our Society members. We are considering the location of future monthly meetings and we need your feedback. Accessibility, meeting room capacity and cost, convenient parking, proximity to a bus route, safety and comfortable chairs are all important factors for our members.

- ❖ Do you prefer our current meeting location at the **St. Catharines Lock 3 Museum**?
- ❖ Or would you prefer the St. Catharines Downtown Central Library?

Please indicate your preference when you complete your membership form. A copy of the form is on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you for being a member!

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Volunteers Needed

At the conclusion of each meeting, for many years now, we have enjoyed light refreshments generously provided and hosted by longtime Historical Society members and volunteers, Rev. Bill Steinman and wife Lorraine. We appreciate and thank the Steinman’s for their time and commitment as they are now stepping back to make room for someone else to carry on the tradition.

With the new season starting in September, we encourage anyone who can help with bringing the refreshments to the monthly meetings to approach any HSSC Board member to discuss details.

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. CATHARINES

Held at the St. Catharines Historical Museum, April 27, 2017

President Nancy Cameron called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The meeting had been previously announced. Approximately 45 members were in attendance, and therefore there was a quorum.

The minutes of the last annual general meeting were cited. It was moved by Elizabeth Finnie and seconded by Brenda Zadoroznij that these minutes be approved. Carried.

Financial Report: In Treasurer Chris Loat's absence the auditor Tom Whitelaw distributed and presented the Financial Report for the year 2016. "The Society is a not-for-profit organization that should be spending money to support its mandate. The Society has "substantial financial reserves" (bank balance and G.I.C.s of \$15,563 at yearend 2016)." Our historical donations totalled \$2500 in 2016, up from 2015. Auditors Tom Whitelaw and Carol Gaspari concluded that the "pattern of the Society's normal revenue and expenses is stable and should be sustainable".

After answering one or two brief questions Tom Whitelaw moved and Nancy Cameron seconded that the financial report be approved. Carried.

Correspondence: Secretary Elizabeth Finnie reported that there was little correspondence in the year 2016. There were the usual forms to be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency (Corporations Information Act annual return for Ontario corporations) regarding changes to our board membership. This occurred immediately after the annual election. The yearly application for an Ontario Heritage grant was also submitted with much assistance from treasurer Chris Loat. This took place in June. Other correspondence was mainly historical queries which we either answered or redirected.

The most significant correspondence for 2016 was the letter submitted by the HSSC board to the mayor and council of St. Catharines on November 10, 2016, urging that the city designate Rodman Hall as a heritage building under the Ontario Heritage Act. As a result, on November 21, 2017 councillor Carlos Garcia presented a motion resulting in a unanimous resolution to direct the Heritage Advisory Committee to consider the designation of Rodman Hall and its grounds.

The Constitution: Board member Dan Sundy presented the proposed change to the HSSC Constitution. The wording of 7.4, regarding annual general meetings, should be changed from "a quorum of the above meetings shall be 20% of members in good standing" to "a quorum for any of the above meetings shall be 20 members in good standing." A unanimous vote carried this change.

There was no membership report due to John Calvert's absence.

The President's Report: Outgoing president Nancy Cameron spoke of the successful meetings held in 2016, including the meeting at the BME Church in September and the members' Show and Tell. She commented on the historical donations made by HSSC this past year, and thanked all who had been involved or contributed in any way: our members, the board, the speakers, the museum, Lorraine and Bill Steinmann (who provide the refreshments at each meeting). Nancy announced the upcoming Canada 150 celebrations: "Doors Open" will be

held this year on June 24 and members of HSSC will conduct “1867” walking tours that day. The 90th anniversary of our society is also this year. As well, Prof. Wes Turner, a former HSSC president, will be speaker for our June meeting. His topic will be the background to Confederation.

Election: Nancy called on past president John Burtniak to preside over the election of executive and officers. John first listed the current board members, then the proposed slate. The new board executive will be Dave Willer: President, Nancy Cameron: Past President, Brian Narhi: Vice President, Chris Loat: Treasurer, Elizabeth Finnie: Secretary. The directors will be John Burtniak, Dennis Gannon, Dan Sundy, John Calvert, John Brenton, and new directors Gail Benjafield, Roger Bradshaw and Des Corran. The change in the number of directors reflects the increase voted upon at last year’s AGM. HSSC may now have a maximum of 9 directors. With the loss of director Mike Conley who died last year, as well as Joe O’Brien due to long term health reasons, we will now have a total of 8 directors, leaving room for one more if required at any point. John Burtniak called for any more nominations from the floor, and hearing none, Bill Steinman moved that the nominations be closed. Dan Sundy seconded. There was then an “omnibus vote” that the slate of board members be elected. Moved by Craig Tallman, seconded by Bob Sears that the slate be accepted. Carried.

John Burtniak then called upon the new president, Dave Willer, who made a few brief remarks, indicating that members should contact him with any questions or suggestions.

Gail Benjafield came forward with a brief announcement regarding the University of Guelph’s Rural Diaries initiative, collecting rural diary entries from across Ontario.

Nancy Cameron announced the CFUW’s annual house tour on May 7, 2017, as well as the Beaverdams Church fundraiser lunch the same day.

Anthony Percival of the museum presented an item from the museum’s collection: a painting of the Welland Canal in 1984, done by Archibald David Logan who was a professor at the University of Western Ontario, born in St. Catharines in 1918, and died in 2011. Anthony also announced the museum’s “In the Soil” downtown celebration as well as the Fallen Workers photographs now on display in the museum.

Our keynote speaker of the evening was Dr. Debra Antoncic, director/curator of RiverBrink Art Museum in Queenston. She was introduced by Elizabeth Finnie. Debra’s presentation focused on various forms of art depicting the past and present incarnations of the Welland Canals: paintings, commercial prints, etchings, advertisements, murals, even some photographs as well as a video. She also read some Welland Canal poetry. Debra was thanked by John Burtniak.

There were two more announcements, this time by Elizabeth Finnie who announced a change in our upcoming program. Mike Saunders, who was scheduled to speak on the history of CKTB, will be unable to come at this time. Therefore Sarah King Head, Thorold Historian, has consented to speak at our May 25, 2017 meeting. She will talk on the worst single construction accident in the Welland Ship Canal’s history: the August 1928 disaster that killed eight workers.

Elizabeth also mentioned the “Free Black North” exhibition showing at the Art Gallery of Ontario from April 29, 2017 to August, 2017. Featured are many previously unknown photographs of Black refugees, from the Brock University and Ontario Archives. David Sharron of HSSC has been involved in this endeavour.

The meeting came to a close at 8:50 p.m. with some social time as well as the usual book draw.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Finnie
June 2017

AGM Lineup – April 2017



Nancy Cameron
HSSC outgoing President



Dave Willer
HSSC President-elect



Dr. Debra Antoncic
Guest Speaker, Director & Curator
Riverbank Art Museum

2017-2018 HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS

The newly elected HSSC board executive are:

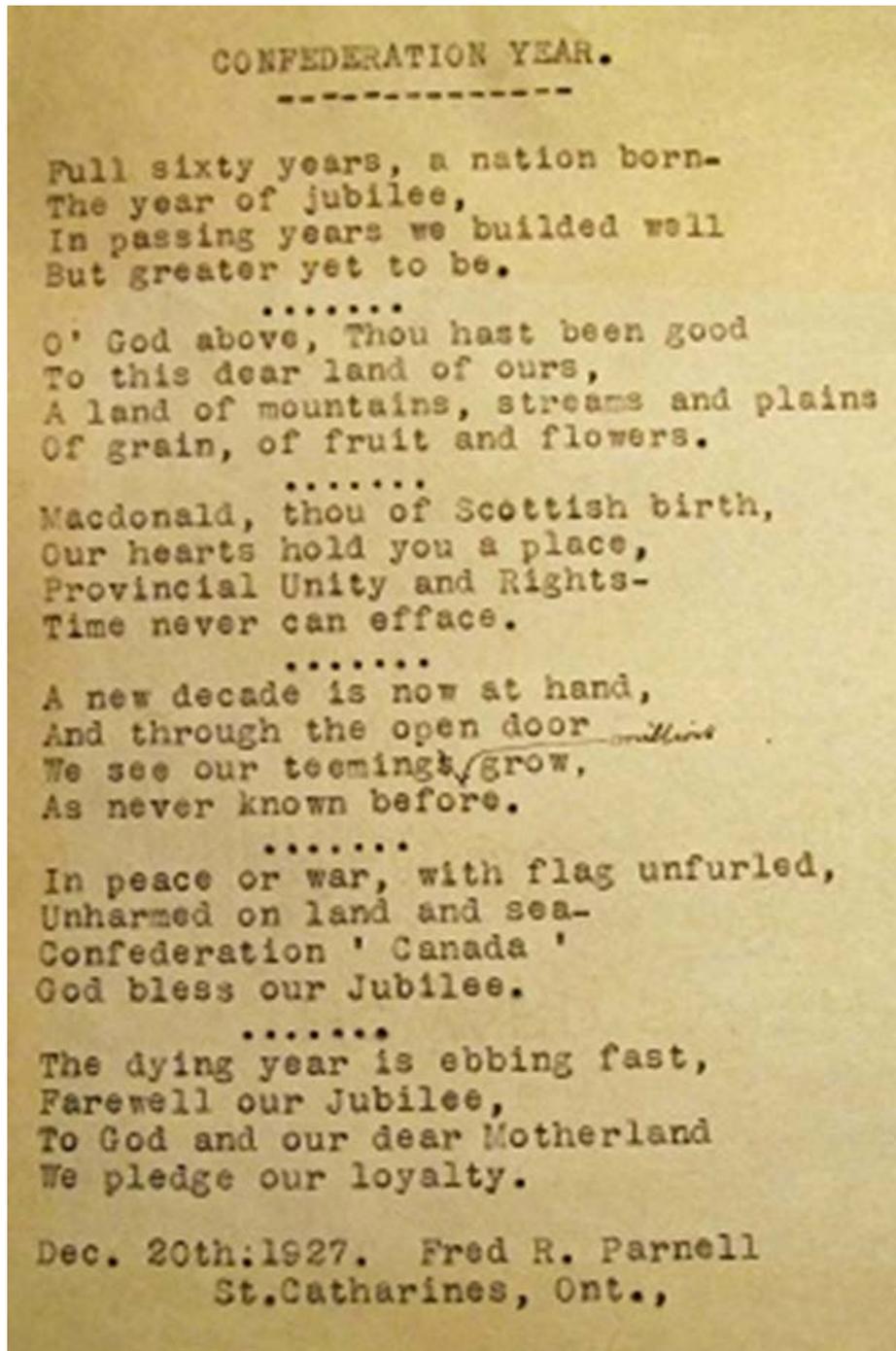
- Dave Willer: President
- Nancy Cameron: Past President
- Brian Narhi: Vice President
- Chris Loat: Treasurer
- Elizabeth Finnie: Secretary

The directors are: John Burtniak, Dennis Gannon, Dan Sundy, John Calvert, John Brenton, and new directors Gail Benjafield, Roger Bradshaw and Des Corran.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A poem by Fred R. Parnell, 1927

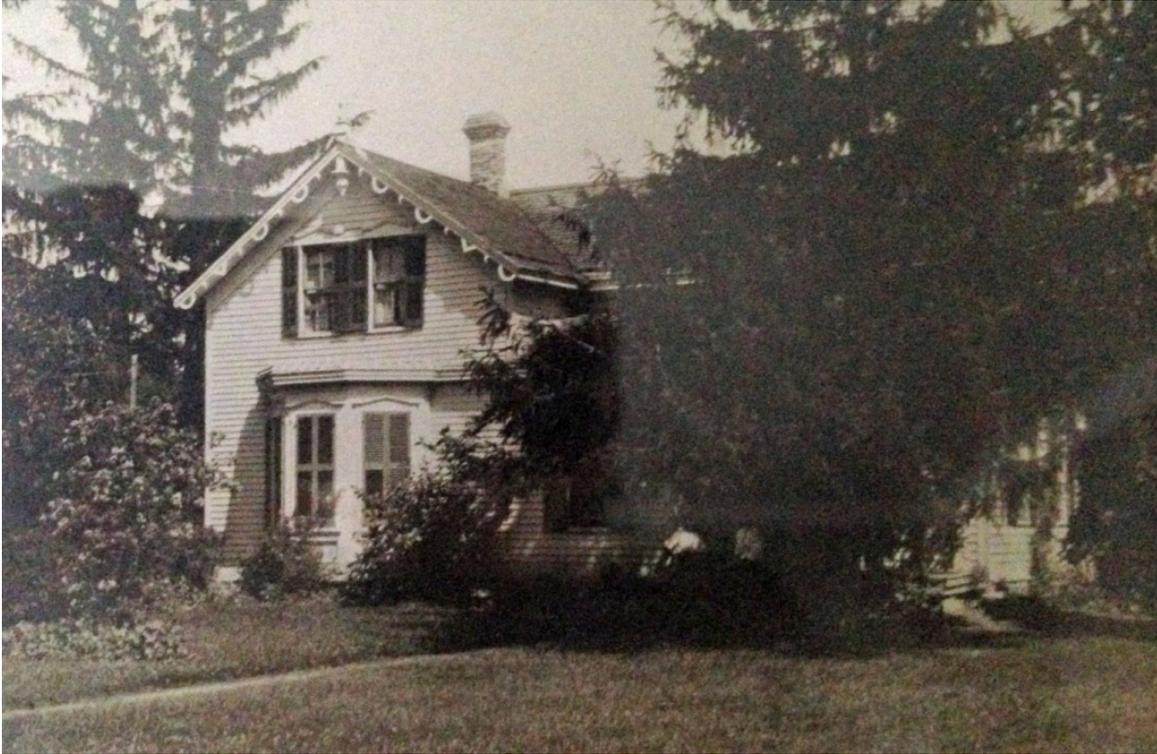
The roots of the Historical Society of St. Catharines are traced back 90 years, to 1927, the year of Canada's Jubilee. That year, Fred R. Parnell, our founding president wrote these very patriotic lines of verse reflecting on the 60th anniversary of Confederation.



1088 LAKESHORE ROAD

By Brian Narhi

Just outside of Port Dalhousie stands an old, white clapboard covered farm house located at 1088 Lakeshore Road West. This building, and the land upon which it is located, tells an interesting tale.



1088 Lakeshore Road West, ca. 1925



1088 Lakeshore Road West, 2017

The photographs above show that the basic core structure of this Victorian “Gothic Revival” style farm house, built in 1882-83, remains recognizable despite some recent modifications. The major changes to the building include the addition of a new wing on the west side of the house, as well as a sun room on the north side of the building. The front door appears to have been repositioned in the centre of the south wall, and windows added to the right hand side, whereas the original entry was on the south-east corner of the house. Pitched roofs have been added above the front door, and over the bay window. The house has lost its red brick chimney, its Victorian gingerbread trim, and the hip knob and finial above the second floor windows. The rear or north side of the property contains a frame barn that probably dates to the early twentieth century.

What do we know about the history of this house and the land upon which it stands?

This property comprises part of Lot 4 in the Broken Front Concession of Louth Township. This land was patented in April 1798 by **Lieut. Solomon Secord** who had served in Capt. Peter TenBroeck’s Company in Butler’s Rangers. He was born at New Rochelle, New York, in 1755 and was the son of James and Madelaine (Badeau) Secord. James had served in the Indian Department during the Revolutionary War, and died at Niagara in 1784. Solomon settled at Niagara before November of 1783, and he was named in various records such as the “Victualing Lists.” He was married to Margaret Bowman (1764-1851), the daughter of Jacob Bowman, and they raised a number of children. Solomon died in January 1799, and was buried at the Homer Cemetery. He was the brother of James Secord and thus the brother-in-law of Laura (Ingersoll) Secord.

This land was inherited by his widow, Margaret, who was married in ca. 1800 to Captain (or Colonel) Peter Hare (1748-1834) who had also served in Butler’s Rangers. Ownership of this land then passed to her son, **James Secord** (1789-1840) upon his coming of age. James, who was married to **Caroline Fairchild** (1800-1851), was a farmer in Louth. They were interred in the small cemetery beside the Jordan Museum.

In December 1817, James Secord sold 33 acres of this property to **Henry Pawling** for £30. Pawling (1787-1846) was the son of Jesse and Gertrude (TenBroeck) Pawling, and also the nephew of Benjamin Pawling who had served in Butler’s Rangers during the Revolutionary War. Henry, who was a farmer, served in the Lincoln Militia during the War of 1812. Pawling was married to Margaret (nee Weaver, ca. 1783-1865), the daughter of Peter Weaver. She had previously been married to James Hainer (ca. 1780-1806) who died leaving her with three young daughters. Pawling and his wife are buried at St. John’s Cemetery in Port Dalhousie. In 1846, this land was inherited by their son, **Nathan Henry Pawling** (1819-1899.) Nathan, of “Hickory Vale” farm in Louth, was married to Matilda Secord (1824-1890.) They raised a family of seven children. Nathan and Matilda are buried in St. John’s Cemetery in Port Dalhousie.

Under the terms of Henry Pawling’s will, Nathan Henry was required to pay certain legacies to his sisters. Pawling was obliged to sell part of the lands that he inherited in order to meet his obligations. Thus in February 1855, Pawling sold this land to **Robert Lawrie** for £1,000. Lawrie (April 1818-June 11, 1905) was a native of Scotland who settled in St. Catharines with his family in 1837. He served on the Niagara frontier during the Upper Canada Rebellion later during that same year. Lawrie and his brother John were early flour millers at Port Dalhousie, and they also operated a grain and feed store on St. Paul Street in downtown St. Catharines. Lawrie was appointed to serve as the post master in St. Catharines in 1876, a position which he retained until his death. Lawrie was married twice, but left no issue.

In June 1868, **Robert Lawrie** sold this land to **Parmer** (or “**Palmer**”) **Buckbee** for \$5,500. Buckbee (b. New Jersey Nov. 2, 1800, d. Louth Nov. 7, 1870) was the son of John and Lena (Beamer) Buckbee. He was a resident of the Niagara area as early as 1835-36, when his name appeared in the records of the Court of Quarter Sessions as a juror. In 1838-40 he applied for a tavern licence for his house in Pelham. Buckbee was married to Rebecca Price. Their family was enumerated in the census returns for Pelham Township in 1851 and 1861, but in 1871 they were recorded in the Louth census. Parmer and his wife were interred in the North Pelham

cemetery.

In November 1871, the heirs of Parmer Buckbee sold this land to **Philip Gregory** for \$6,200. Gregory (b. Feb. 22, 1810, d. July 23, 1882) was a native of Louth, the son of John and Eliza (Briggs) Gregory, and a farmer. He was married in December 1832 to Sarah Ann Johnson (Sept. 6, 1812-Apr. 4, 1873) and they raised a number of children.

In July 1872, **Philip Gregory** sold this land to his son, **John Johnson Gregory** for \$3,200. J.J. Gregory (b. Feb. 24, 1839, d. Dec. 11, 1916) was born in Louth. He was married to **Augusta C. Read** (Feb. 23, 1841-Nov. 7, 1930), the daughter of W.H. Read of "Elmwood" farm in Louth. Gregory entered the local militia at the age of 16, and joined the St. Catharines Troop of Cavalry in 1857. He saw action during the Fenian Raids, was decorated, and later promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1883. Gregory retired from active service in 1892. During his time in Niagara, Gregory served as the Reeve of the district. He moved with his family to North Bay where he also elected to serve as Reeve and organized the first school district in the community. In 1893, the family moved to Lacombe, Alberta, where Gregory was instrumental in organizing the first Agricultural Society. He died in Lacombe and is buried there. His widow returned to North Bay to reside with their daughter, where she died at the age of 89 years.

In November 1877, **John J. Gregory** transferred this land back to his father **Philip Gregory** for \$2,000.

In July 1882, **Elizabeth Ann Muir** inherited this land. Elizabeth (b. Jan. 11, 1834) was the daughter of Philip and Sarah Ann Gregory, and the older sister of J.J. Gregory. She was married in March 1860 to **Captain Archibald Muir**, a ship builder, and they later moved to the United States.

Muir (b. March 16, 1833) was a native of Scotland, and the brother of Alexander Muir of Port Dalhousie. The family settled in Canada in 1835, and Archibald is said to have "remained on the farm" until the age of 15, when he started to sail. By the age of 18 he was a Captain not only on the Great Lakes but also on trans-Atlantic voyages. It is recorded that he had sailed from Scotland in 1861 with a cargo of iron, and that his ship was "demisted" 300 nautical miles off Newfoundland. The ship miraculously drifted all the way back across the ocean to the Irish coast where it was repaired, and completed its voyage to Canada in May of 1862. Muir was the Superintendent of the Marine Oil Company of Canada from 1862 until 1867, after which time he moved with his family to Port Huron (St. Clair County), Michigan. While there, Muir organized the Port Huron Dry Dock Company and built a number of wharves and docks. His company built at least 26 vessels, some of which were steam driven propeller ships. Muir sold that dry dock in 1874 and returned to sailing on the Upper Lakes. He was the pilot on board the steam ship "*Nashua*," which was carrying a load of wood when it foundered in a storm on Lake Huron south of Goderich on October 2, 1892. When the ship was found, it was adrift upside down. The hull was pierced and its boilers and engine were missing and believed to have gone to the bottom. Captain Muir's body was never recovered. He and his wife raised a family of seven children.

Local tradition relates that the house at 1088 Lakeshore Road was built "by an American family," presumably for use as a summer home. This evidence is corroborated by the title search, which showed that the property was owned by Muir, then a resident of the United States, in 1882-83. This land was strictly used for agricultural purposes up until the time that this house was built. The *Tremaine* map of 1862 showed that this property formed part of the Lawrie estate, and the 1876 *Page's Atlas* map of Louth showed that it belonged to J.J. Gregory. No structural footprints were shown on this land on either map.

In March 1883, **Archibald** and **Elizabeth A. Muir** "of Port Huron, Michigan" then sold 17 acres of the original 33 acre tract to **Charles Arthur Wilson** "of Port Dalhousie, gentleman," for \$2,800. This increased value in the price of the land strongly suggests that a house had been constructed on the property by that time. Wilson (b. 1855) was the son of Robert and Isabella Wilson of Louth. He was a merchant by profession in Port Dalhousie. Charles was married in December 1878 to **Margaret Catherine Lawrie** (b. ca. 1857), the daughter of John and Martha Lawrie. Margaret was therefore the niece of Robert Lawrie who was a former owner of this land.

Margaret died in Louth on September 25, 1889 as the result of puerperal (postpartum) fever.

In March 1890, **Charles A. Wilson** (widower) sold this land to **Frederick M. Bush** (an unmarried man), for \$3,500. Bush was described as being “of Louth, but formerly of the village of Coldwater, Simcoe Co.” Bush (b. ca. 1849 or 1850) appears to have been the son of George and Melissa Bush, natives of England, who settled in Medonte Township. George was described in the 1871 census as being a “naturalist.” Frederick was enumerated in the Medonte census returns for 1871 and 1881 as a “farmer.” He may have later moved to Toronto, where a “Frederick M. Bush” is listed in the 1891 census for St. Mark’s Ward as a “house builder.”

In September 1890, **Frederick M. Bush** sold this land to **Martha Jane Johnson** “of Toronto, the wife of **Leonard Durham Johnson**” for \$3,500. Martha (b. 1845) was a native of Sombra Township and the daughter of Alexander and Martha (Palmer) Riggs. She was married to L.D. Johnson in December 1866. Leonard (b. 1838) was described in the 1881 census of St. Catharines as a “marble dealer,” but in the 1891 and 1901 census returns for Louth as being a “fruit grower.” They raised a family of three children. Leonard died from pneumonia on November 11, 1906. Martha is thought to have died in February 1920.

In September 1907, **Martha J. Johnson**, of Louth, widow, sold this land to **Annie Isabella Gilleland** for \$6,000. Annie (b. 1838) was a native of St. Catharines and the daughter of Moses and Jane (Sidey) Cook. Moses Cook was a mill owner and builder in St. Catharines. Annie was married in December 1867 to **William Beamer Gilleland** (1841-1899), who was a lawyer and served as the mayor of St. Catharines in 1897-98. Annie died as the result of pneumonia on Nov. 16, 1916, and she was interred in the family plot at Victoria Lawn Cemetery. One of their descendants was Miss Alice Gilleland, a former teacher in Port Dalhousie.

The Gilleland family originated in Co. Armagh, Ireland. Three brothers (John, James and Thomas) immigrated to Upper Canada during the mid-1820s and settled in the Niagara District. Two of them (John and Thomas) married into the Hostetter family, while the third brother James (b. 1809) was married to Charlotte Beamer at St. Mark’s in 1834. James was employed as a mason, who worked on some of the important public and private buildings in the Niagara area. The Gilleland family resided for several years at “Westchester Place,” a house built by Moses Cook at the intersection of Queenston Street and Eastchester Avenue (the CNIB home, 211 Queenston Street.) The family sold that property around the time that they purchased the farm on Lakeshore Road.

In November 1912, **Annie I. Gilleland** transferred this land to her son, **James Rattray Gilleland** for \$1 plus “natural love and affection.” James (b. March 1874-1943) was a native of St. Catharines. His middle name was given to him in honour of his grandmother, Jane Rattray. James was married in Ohio on November 28, 1907 to **Blanche Hogle** (1882-1960.) James and his wife are buried at Victoria Lawn.

In October 1945, the executors of James R. Gilleland transferred this land to **Herbert E. Gilleland**. Blanche Gilleland retained a “life interest” in this land, which she released to Herbert ten years later in October 1955.

In May 1972, **Herbert E. Gilleland** and his wife transferred this land to **Marjory Helen Gilleland**. By this time, the house was situated on a small remnant of the original land, just 150 x 201 feet in size, or about 1/3 of an acre.

In September 1988, Marjory H. Gilleland sold this land to Leonard Vincent and Diane May Marino.

Every parcel of land, and every house, has a specific chain of ownership similar to a genealogy; and like a family tree, it tells its own unique story. In this case, by tracing the land records, it has been possible to follow the history of this farm lot for more than two centuries: from the initial ownership by the UE Loyalist Solomon Secord, through to the time when the house was built by Captain Muir, and followed by more than eighty years of ownership by the Gilleland family. This house and its surrounding property is a tangible reminder for us about its past, and of the socio-economic contributions that its former owners have made in this region.

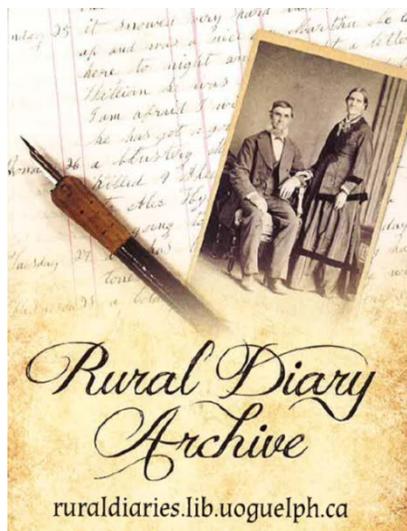
CANADA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDALLION - 1927



In this year of Canada's Sesquicentennial it is interesting to contrast the 2017 Canadian circulation dollar coin featured earlier in this Newsletter ("Did You Know") to this commemorative "medallion" that was struck in 1927 to celebrate the Jubilee of Confederation.

This coin features the Coat of Arms of Canada as designed in 1923, closely reflecting the arms of the United Kingdom with the addition of maple leaves in the base and the reference to the French royal arms and British royal arms in the flags. The back was left intentionally blank, so that the owner might have their name engraved on it.

RURAL DIARY ARCHIVE



The Rural Diary Archive is an online archive of over 150 diarists from across Ontario, dating from 1800 to 1960. The Archive honours the daily lives of rural people. The diaries are drawn from archival and museum collections across the province with the digital copies created for this website being housed at the Rural Diary Archive project's secure digital storage site at the University of Guelph.

The website will continue to grow as new collections are located and transcribed to the digital archive.

For more information on the Rural Diary Archive project, visit the website and start exploring: <https://ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca/>

NEWSLETTER

With Dave Willer's election to the President of the Historical Society, his Newsletter duties have been transferred to me, John Brenton. As a member for several years now, I've always looked forward to receiving the Newsletter and I hope to continue the tradition of assembling informative articles of historical interest and merit that you, our members, deserve.

I encourage your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please send them to HSSC.Newsletter@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event information and links to external websites are provided as a courtesy for members of the Historical Society of St. Catharines (HSSC). The HSSC is not responsible for the delivery of content from third parties. *Event details and future schedules may be subject to change.*

Discover a wide variety of activities and exhibits that celebrate local history. Here are some suggested activities that you can enjoy in the St. Catharines and Niagara area this summer:

Visit and Support your local Museums and Historical Sites

❖ *Discover Ontario Museums*

The Ontario Museum Association maintains this informative website with a comprehensive listing of events and museums. Museums across Ontario can be searched by name, city, type, region and driving distance. For each location, the website provides an overview and lists nearby sites and other points of interest in the area. A great resource for planning your next trip.

Discover Ontario Museums website: <http://www.museumsontario.ca/>

Visit your local Library

Libraries are a great resource in researching local history and genealogy.

You can access an online digital database of historic images of St. Catharines and Niagara through the St. Catharines Public Library website: <http://www.stcatharines.library.on.ca/>

Throughout 2017 the St. Catharines Library will be hosting a variety of exciting programs and events to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

June 22, 2017 2:00 – 4:00PM **St. Catharines Museum & Welland Canals Centre and McGill-Queen's University Press invite you to the launch of "This Colossal Project, Building the Welland Ship Canal 1913-1932", Roberta M. Styran and Robert R. Taylor**

Following on Styran and Taylor's *This Great National Object* (the story of the first three Welland canals), *This Colossal Project* presents an absorbing epic on the building of the fourth Welland Canal. An immense undertaking, the canal is still vital to North America's infrastructure and essential for the St Lawrence Seaway.

The book launch takes place at the St. Catharines Lock 3 Museum, 1932 Welland Canals Parkway, Burgoyne Room. Robert Taylor will give a short talk entitled "Our Forty-Year Welland Canals Project" and sign copies of his books.

June 22, 2017 7:30PM **Final meeting of the season.**
Join us at St. Catharines Lock 3 Museum as retired Brock History Professor **Wes Turner** will discuss the background to Confederation in this, the 150th anniversary year of Confederation.

June 24, 2017 **Doors Open St. Catharines**
The City's first-ever Doors Open event takes place in locations across the Garden

City. More than 20 organizations are taking part. Heritage homes and properties across St. Catharines will be on display, including industrial sites, businesses, places of worship and government bodies. The John Brown Heritage Foundation opens the doors of the Brown Homestead on Pelham Road to the community for the first time.

Historical and natural walking tours are also being offered as part of the day. All locations and tours are free. Admission times vary for each location, but most locations will be open from 10 a.m. to late afternoon.

Walking and museum tours have set departure times and pre-registration is recommended. Tours of OPG Decew Generating Station #1 and the Niagara Region's Decew Falls Water Treatment Plant also require pre-registration.

Visit <https://www.stcatharines.ca/en/experiencein/doors-open.asp> for details on Doors Open sites, links to RSVP for tours and information on volunteer opportunities.

July 1

Canada Day

Parades, picnics and fireworks are planned across the communities of Niagara to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the creation of Canada on “Canada Day”. Check your local community calendar for details.

July 8

Downtown Classic Car Show

Visit downtown St. Catharines and enjoy the classic cars of bygone years. Over 400 classics are on display along St. Paul and adjoining streets with entertainment and other activities. <http://mydowntown.ca/events/downtown-classic-car-show>

July 9

Full Moon Ghost Walk

Reserve your spot on one of our St. Catharines Downtown Ghost Walks and explore the history and haunted tales of Downtown St. Catharines. These guided tours will delve into the haunted tales of the past and the present day while also sharing historical commentary about the unique buildings and happenings in Downtown St. Catharines. <http://mydowntown.ca/calendar/events/view/full-moon-ghost-walk-july-9>

August 4-7

39th Annual Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, Port Colborne

The August holiday weekend is a 4-day celebration of marine history and heritage. Visit the Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum and many Festival attractions. http://portcolborne.ca/page/canal_days

September 2-4

29th Annual Marshville Heritage Festival

This Labour Day weekend celebrates the lifestyle of a Wainfleet farm family in the 1890's. Enjoy the old-time family-friendly atmosphere of farm demonstrations, refurbished heritage building tours and entertainment for all ages. <http://www.marshvilleheritagefestival.ca/>

**September 28
7:30PM**

Join your local Historical Society

The first meeting of the 2017-2018 Season of the Historical Society of St. Catharines takes place at the St. Catharines Lock 3 Museum. Whether you are new to the area or a long-term Niagara resident you can appreciate the rich history of St. Catharines. Plan to be a member of the Historical Society and support the monthly lecture series and the work that we do to increase knowledge and appreciation of our local history.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR YEAR SEPTEMBER 2017 through AUGUST 2018

Annual Membership Dues: **Individual \$10.00; Family \$15.00**

Make cheques payable to: The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Membership dues can be paid at any HSSC Meeting, or mail to:
The Historical Society of St. Catharines
P.O. Box 25017, 221 Glendale Avenue, Pen Centre
St. Catharines, Ontario, L2T 4C4

Your membership information will not be shared with any other group or business. If you wish to receive a membership card, notify John Calvert at: jcalvert57@hotmail.com. We are also now sending the newsletter to members by e-mail, so we ask that you provide your e-mail address on the membership form.

Note: If you have already renewed your membership, please disregard this notice.

For your record: Renewed on: _____ Cheque in the amount of: \$_____

Remove the form below and return with your remittance

The Historical Society of St. Catharines

Membership Dues for year September 2017 through August 2018

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | (\$10) | <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | (\$15) | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Postal Code / Zip Code: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

- I would like to receive the Society Newsletter, meeting reminders and notices by e-mail
 I would like to receive the Society Newsletter by print

Do you have a preference where we conduct our meetings?

- St. Catharines Lock 3 Museum (current location) 1932 Welland Canals Pkwy at Lock 3
 St. Catharines Public Library (Central Library) 54 Church Street
 No Preference

Comments: _____