

The Historical Society of St. Catharines **NEWSLETTER**

P.O. Box 23104, 124 Welland Ave., St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P6 905/682-6053 **SEPTEMBER 1996**

RODMAN HALL EXHIBITS "200 YEARS OF ART IN ST. CATHARINES"

The time has come for what may be the most exciting and, in the long run, the most productive project of this year's St. Catharines Bicentennial.

On Sunday afternoon, October 27, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a reception at the Rodman Hall Arts Centre to launch a three month exhibit entitled "Two Hundred Years of Art in St. Catharines." The exhibit will feature approximately one hundred historical works by over thirty artists, depicting St. Catharines from the picturesque rural hamlet of 1796 through the burgeoning city of the 19th and 20th centuries. This exhibit will continue through Sunday, January 5. Everyone is invited to attend the October 27 reception between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Rodman Hall is located at 109 St. Paul Crescent, St. Catharines.

If you would like to have a very personal introduction to the exhibit, please plan to attend the Historical Society's own monthly meeting on November 7th. At that meeting -- held at Rodman Hall -- the Art Centre's Director, David Aurandt, will talk about the contents of the exhibit and how it came to be mounted. Before and after Mr. Aurandt's talk visitors will have an opportunity to tour the exhibit.

For further information on the exhibit and the special October 27 opening reception, please call the Centre at 684-2925. For further information about the Society's November 7th meeting at Rodman Hall, please call 682-6053. **(And please do note: that November 7th Historical Society meeting will be at Rodman Hall, NOT at our usual location in the Library.)**



The Group of Seven's Tom Thomson did this early 20th century sketch of St. Thomas' Church.

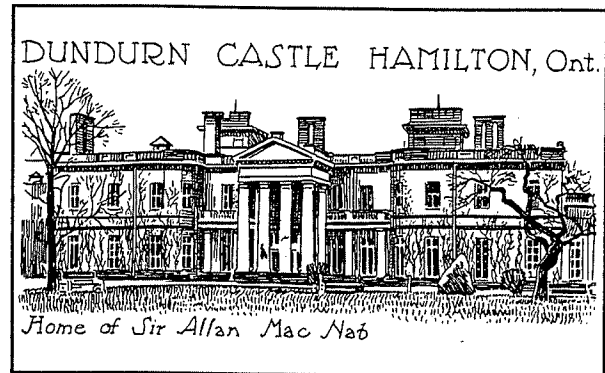
THE 1996 SOCIETY BUS TRIP TO HAMILTON

On Saturday, November 23, the Historical Society of St. Catharines is sponsoring a bus trip to Hamilton, with guided tours of:

Dundurn Castle

The Military Museum on the grounds of Dundurn Castle

The Stoney Creek (War of 1812) Battlefield/Museum.



Note that Dundurn Castle and the Gage House at the Stoney Creek Battlefield will both be festively decorated for the holiday season. We plan to stop for lunch (**not** included in the \$23/\$25 ticket price) at the cafe at the Royal Botanical Gardens, which should offer a chance for a quick look at the Gardens themselves just before Christmas

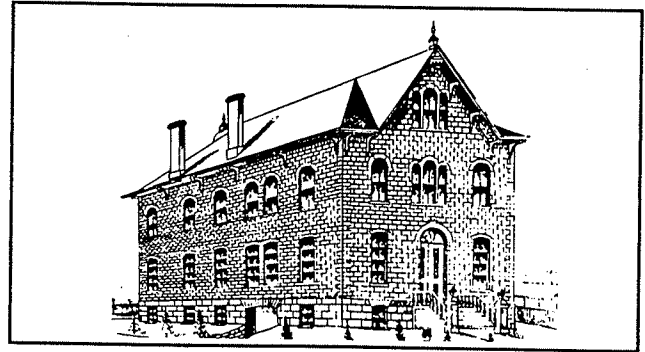
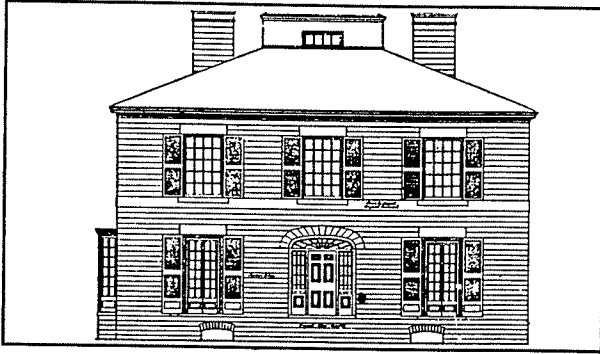
Commentary on the trip will be given by the staffs of the sites and by Wes Turner, Historical Society president and Brock University History Professor. This will be a full day trip, leaving St. Catharines at 9:00 a.m. and returning by 5:00 p.m. Ticket costs: \$23 for members, \$25 for non-members. **Reservations are necessary (no later than November 15).** The number of participants is limited to 47 persons. For further information, call us at 682-6053.

WE OFFER YOU A REVISED CONSTITUTION

Rest easy -- we are not about to talk to you about the Federal Constitution. No, we're talking about a **revised constitution for our Historical Society**. True, it was only a decade or so ago that the Society's constitution was last revised, but the experiences of the last few years have shown that there are some further things that need to be clarified, some "t's" crossed and some "i's" dotted that were not taken care of in our current Constitution.

A special centre insert for this issue of the Society's newsletter contains the text of a draft constitution approved by the Society's executive at its June 25, 1996, meeting. This draft is herewith being presented to you, the membership, for your review and approval. From this date you have approximately two and a half months to look it over carefully. This draft will be offered to the membership to finally approve at a special "members only" meeting from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, immediately before the Society's regular monthly meeting at the Library on that same evening.

The Society's Executive would welcome hearing your comments and questions at that meeting and indeed at any time between now and then. Feel free to call President Wes Turner at 688-5550, x3505; Vice-President Joyce DeForest at 685-4728; or Past President Dennis Gannon at 682-6053. →



“THE NIAGARA PENINSULA’S ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE”

That is the topic of the 18th annual Niagara Peninsula History Conference, which will take place at Brock University this coming weekend, September 21-22.

THE CONFERENCE on Saturday the 21st (in the Sean O’Sullivan Theatre at Brock) will feature papers on Niagara architecture by local historians (\$30):

Peter John Stokes, noted restoration architect and historian, gives a **survey of Niagara architecture**;

David Webb of Ft. George, Niagara-on-the-Lake, describes **British military architecture along the Niagara Frontier**;

Eric Bloomquist of Ft. Niagara, Youngstown, New York, talks about **the architectural history of Ft. Niagara** from the days of the 18th century French until today;

Roland Barnsley, landscape architecture consultant, **surveys the notable landscape architects and gardens in the Niagara Peninsula**;

Robin McKee highlights **Ruthven, architectural gem on the Grand River**; and

Dennis Gannon introduces **Niagara architect/builder John Latshaw**.

THE BANQUET on Saturday night will feature guest speaker Norman Macdonald, who will give an illustrated lecture showing his very personal view of the domestic architecture of St. Catharines (\$30);

THE ALL-DAY BUS TOUR on Sunday the 22nd will visit historic architectural sites in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. (\$30)

For ticket information, call 905/688-5550, and ask for John Burtniak (x3264), Wes Turner (x3505), or Alun Hughes (x3489).

UP COMING HERITAGE EVENTS:

September 19 (Thursday)

7:30 p.m.: Historical Society president Wesley Turner gives an illustrated talk on the changes during the Simcoe years in early Upper Canada (At the N-O-T-L Museum, 43 Castlereagh St., N-O-T-L (682-6053).

September 21-22 (Saturday-Sunday)

All day: "The Niagara Peninsula's Architectural Heritage" is the topic of the 18th annual Niagara Peninsula History Conference, Brock University. (688-5550, x3264) (See page 3, above, for full details.)

September 24 (Tuesday)

6:00-8:00 p.m. A family evening of music (jazz, blues, spirituals, and songs of the Underground Railroad) plus a sneak preview of the St. Catharines Museum's new "Follow the North Star" exhibit on Black history in St. Catharines. Admission free to those wearing a star. (At the St. Catharines Museum)

September 29 (Sunday)

1:00 p.m.: a walking tour of Fairview Cemetery, 4501 Stanley St., Niagara Falls. Meet at the maintenance centre inside the cemetery's gates. (356-7926)

*****October 3 (Thursday) -- Historical Society Meeting:**

7:30 p.m. "St. Catharines' Lake Street Armoury: A Brief History," an illustrated talk by Lt.-Col. Clifford Baker, sponsored by the Historical Society of St. Catharines. At the Armoury, 81 Lake Street. (682-6053)

October 5 (Saturday)

9:15 a.m.-3 p.m. "The Art of the newspaper comic strip," including a talk by artist Sandra Bell-Lundy, creator of the "Between Friends" strip; at the Queenston Heights Restaurant. Reservations: 682-7203.

October 6 (Sunday)

2:00 p.m.: An historical walking tour of the oldest part of Lakeview Cemetery, Thorold. Meet inside the gate of the old section (enter from Thorold Town Line Road) (682-6053)

Oct. 12 (Saturday)

1:00 p.m. Robert Malcomson leads a walking tour of the battlefield at Queenston Heights (682-6053).

October 19 (Saturday)

9:30 a.m.: A bus trip to St. Jacobs, stop to tour Joseph Schneider Haus in Kitchener, have lunch, shop in St. Jacobs and tour the Mennonite Meeting Place. \$35, including lunch. (905/ 732-2215).

*****November 7 (Thursday) -- Historical Society Meeting:**

7:30 p.m.: David Aurandt, Director, Rodman Hall Arts Centre, talks about the special exhibit on "Two Centuries of Art in St. Catharines." At Rodman Hall, 109 St. Paul Crescent, St. Catharines. (682-6053).

November 16 (Saturday)

10 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: The first annual Heritage Book Fair at the Chateau des Charmes winery, 1025 York Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake. As Christmas nears, all heritage minded persons are invited to come see a full range of books on Canadian history and to meet some of the authors who wrote them (682-6053).

November 23 (Saturday) -- Historical Society Bus Trip:

9 a.m.-5 p.m.: The Historical Society sponsors a bus trip to Hamilton (for details see above, page 2)

*****December 5 (Thursday) -- Historical Society Meeting:**

7:30 p.m.: Colin Duquemin, former director of the Outdoor Studies Centre at St. Johns, addresses the Historical Society of St. Catharines, at the St. Catharines Public Library, 54 Church St. Topic: "They Don't Breed 'em Like They Used To." (682-6053)