

St.Catharines Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 23104, 124 Welland Ave., St.Catharines, ON, L2R 7P6 November 1998

Web Site - }<http://www.niagara.com/~dmdorey/hssc/hssc.html>

If you are not a member of the Society, we invite you to join.

Membership is based upon the calendar year and dues are individual \$10 or family \$15.00.

Please join or renew now for the 1999 membership year.

Our Mission and Goal is to increase the knowledge and appreciation of the history of St.Catharines and Vicinity.

Historical Events Calendar...

November 5 (Thursday) - in the Mills Room of the downtown library. The Society presents noted author Ron Brown who will speak on Ghost Towns of Ontario and feature those in the Niagara area. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. with a short business meeting.

November 11 (Wednesday) - Remembrance Day

November 12 (Thursday) - Regular meeting and speaker of the Ontario Genealogical Society Niagara Peninsula Branch - 7:30 p.m. at the Thorold Public Library Chestnut Hall. The O.G.S. branch meets on the second Thursday of every month, usually at Chestnut Hall

November 21 (Saturday) - 3rd Annual Niagara Heritage Book Fair at Welland Avenue United Church. The Book Fair is open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Book Fair features local authors, booksellers, history displays and lots more. Presented by Niagara Heritage Network. The Historical Society will have a table at this event and volunteers to attend at the table are required.

November 21 - January 15, 1999 - Canada At Play - a travelling exhibit from the Royal Ontario Museum will be on display at the St.Catharines Museum. The exhibit features 100 years of toys, and games and sports that Canadian children have played. If you have not seen the exhibit "Vintage Niagara", it is on display until November 15.... It is worth a visit!

November 27 is Merritt Day at the St.Catharines Museum, at 10 a.m. a celebration of the opening of the First Welland Canal in 1832 will take place. This event is being organized by the Welland Canal Foundation.

December 3 (Thursday) - The Society presents Richard Wright who will speak on the Home Children of Niagara. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. with a short business meeting in the

Mills Room of the downtown library. A social will follow.

As this is the last newsletter for 1998, the Board of Directors would like to extend Season's Greetings and Best Wishes to members and their families.

We want you to attend these Historical Events in 1999

January 7 (Thursday) - The Society is pleased to present Sherman Zavitz, the official historian of the City of Niagara Falls. Sherman's topic will be "Destination Niagara". This is sure to be an enjoyable presentation. The program begins at 7:30 with a short business meeting in the Mills Room of the downtown library. Meet Sherman after the presentation.

February 4 (Thursday). - The Society is delighted to have Society Past-President, Dennis Gannon returns to present a paper on "Hiram Wilson". Dennis is a marvelous speaker and we are sure that you will not want to miss hearing about Hiram Wilson, a fascinating individual from our past. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Mills Room of the downtown library. A social will follow.

February is Black History Month. Also February is a month to remember your Heritage.

February 13 - (Saturday) - Niagara Heritage Showcase at the Pelham Library in Fonthill.

March 4 (Thursday) - Society meeting and speaker (to be announced). 7:30 in the Mills Room of the downtown library.

April 1 (Thursday) - Society **annual meeting** and speaker. 7:00 p.m. in the Mills Room of the downtown library.

May 6 (Thursday) - The final speaker in the Society's program this season will be Michael Power. Michael is a former Board Member and historian. 7:30 in the Mills Room of the downtown library.

May 19 (Saturday) - annual Oille Fountain Planting

These Events are History ... if you missed them, here is a short report and some updates.....

August 25 - HYDRO GENERATING STATION CENTENNIAL - The Society table was a busy place as an estimated 2500 people attended the event at DeCew Falls H.G.S. Thanks to Wes Turner, Bill Stevens and Paul Hutchinson for manning the table & handing out all those Junius books, membership flyers and answering questions.

September 3 - A **picnic** kicked off a new season of activities. About 30 enjoyed a sunny (once the rain ended) picnic and a guided tour of the Miller's House and the Morningstar Mill at DeCew Falls. Thanks to member Greg Miller for hosting this event.

September 26 - The Standard newspaper featured a front-page story on the Merritton Tornado of 100 years ago. This article was written by past president Dennis Gannon.

October 1 (Thursday) - in recognition of the sport of lacrosse, a special meeting was held to introduce our members & guests to the new **Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum**.

The program featured Hall of Fame and Museum Chair Bill LeFeavre speaking on the history of lacrosse and the sport in St.Catharines. Jack Gatecliffe introduced several Hall of Fame members in attendance. After the tour of this new facility, a social was held and Joyce DeForest provided us some wonderful baked goods. The Society thanks Jamie Benn and the St.Catharines Museum for their assistance in this event. We also thank the Standard newspaper (Friday People column) and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation for their support.

A little more on the Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum

St.Catharines People in the Ontario Lacrosse Hall of Fame - Inducted in 1997 - Ken Croft, Derry Davies, Frank Madsen, Bob McCready, Don O'Hearn, Ron Roy, Bill Frick, Helen Sawicki.

Inducted in 1998 - Jim Brady, Peter Conradi, Jim McMahon, Carson Meyers, John Mouradian.

Members of the Canadian Hall of Fame are automatically members of the Ontario Hall of Fame.

Keep in mind, that the Lacrosse Museum is seeking the donation of lacrosse items.

LOUIS SHICKLUNA was the 1998 Niagara Enterprise Hall Of Fame recipient

On October 14 - the 1998 Niagara Entrepreneur of the year Awards were held in Niagara Falls.

Each year, one person is selected into the Historical Hall of Fame. The category recognizes past builders of the Niagara economy. The Society nomination of Louis Shickluna was the 1998 recipient for this award. An article on Louis was a feature of the August 1998 newsletter. Subsequent to the article, Society member Alex Ormston brought to our attention, that Louis Schickluna is mentioned in a book titled: "The Canadian Family Tree-Canada's Peoples" by the Multiculturalism Directorate, Department of Secretary of State, 1979, and published by Corpus of Don Mills, Ontario. (special collections 971.004CanRef.). Page 159 - Maltese - "The first Maltese known to have settled in Canada was Lewis Schickluna who came to St.Catharines, Upper Canada in 1836 and established a shipyard on the Welland Canal at a spot below where the Burgoyne Bridge now spans the ravine."

1999 CALENDAR is now on sale

-- for only \$6.00 --

The Historical Society Calendar is now available. It contains 13 unique scenes from St.Catharines of yesterday. On sale at all meetings and events of the Society or can be ordered from any Board member. A great buy - a great gift item - there are only 350 available and every year has been a sell out! This year, the cover is a scene from a very early Henley Regatta.

SOCIETY NEWS IN BRIEF....

NEW TREASURER - Tom Jenkyns has assumed the position of treasurer. Our thanks to Avril Brass who fulfilled the duties temporarily in 1997 and through 1998 until Tom assumed the duties.

GRANT RECEIVED - the Society has been notified that we have received a 1998-99 Heritage Organization Development Grant in the amount of \$ 577.00. We thank the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, Isabel Bassett, Minister.

NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL HISTORY AWARDS for Top OAC Student

The Society will sponsor a \$50.00 award for each public and separate secondary school in the City of St.Catharines to be awarded to the best student in O.A.C. History subject for the 1998-99 school year as

determined by the principal in consultation with the history department of the school. The award will be presented at graduation ceremonies and the winners will be invited to attend a Historical Society meeting for presentation of a certificate.

"TAKING THE WATERS: A HISTORY OF THE SPAS OF ST.CATHARINES"

As this newsletter goes to press, work on this book is proceeding. We expect publishing will be soon and certainly well worth the wait. Some excerpt are to appear in the November "Downtowner"

NEW MEMBERS - the Society welcomes new members: Jack Clark; Drs.M.J. & J.M. Miller; Abe & Helen Isaac.

St.Catharines Historical Society Journal - Articles now being received!

The Society invites the submission of material for possible publication in its journal, St.Catharines History. Material should relate to St.Catharines in some way and can include research articles, memoirs, oral history, diary excerpts, or transcriptions from original documents.

Details concerning submissions can be obtained from Paul Hutchinson through the Society address or e-mail: hutchinson1@sympatico.ca

Atmospheric Environment Service information request--

The Society received a letter from David Phillips, Senior Climatologist at Environment Canada who is compiling stories and anecdotes of significant weather and climate events that occurred in Canada from 1750 to 1980. The study will include impacts of weather extremes on people and property and how the impact of weather extremes on society has changed over the years. The purpose of the letter is to seek information from members of historical societies about references to events or any published accounts that societies or local newspapers may have printed. If you can provide any input, contact David at Atmospheric Environment Service, 4905 Dufferin Street, Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T4 or faxed to him at (416) 739-4380.

The Ontario Historical Society

The Ontario Historical Society is located at 34 Parkview Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 3Y2. Members receive the OHS Bulletin four times per year. It covers Ontario Historical events, news, book reviews, and all sorts of interesting news pertaining to historical items of interest. The St.Catharines Historical Society maintains membership in the OHS. Membership for Individuals/Institution/Organization is \$20.00 per year. The OHS also publishes a biannual scholarly journal, Ontario History which is available to members for \$21.40 per year. This publication is celebrating one hundred years, and the Autumn issue of Ontario History is a special centenary issue highlighting one hundred years of publishing history. Membership in the OHS provides you with an avenue to learn more about Ontario's rich historical past and add your name to those who support the efforts by the OHS to promote and lobby for Ontario's historical community.

Heritage Hour - At CFBU - FM 103.7 - Brock University Radio

Every Sunday night between 8 and 9 p.m. on Brock Radio you can listen to Niagara Heritage Hour. Tony Whelan is host of the show. The show features coming events, guests from the local heritage community, news, and information of all sorts. Be sure to listen in!

Heritage Stone Available

An interesting conversation with a friend prompted me to pass this item along. He has a supply of "Heritage Stone" (circa 1830) Hand Hewn Limestone - excellent for restorations, formal gardens, ponds, retaining walls... etc. in various sizes. He is selling the stone for \$300/ton. He also has a wide variety of

architectural antiques such as: slate and oak fireplace mantels, cherry and oak handrails, newel posts, and spindles, fluted columns, leaded glass windows, solid oak doors and hardware sets and more. If you are interested, call Phil at 468-5469 or 468-5684.

Niagara Mailing List

There is a new internet site devoted to genealogy and history in Niagara. You can post short e-mail messages, place a query, answer a query from someone else, read about some current news, etc. There are now about 210 members in just 4 months.

To subscribe you simply e-mail the list at: NIAGARA-ONT-L-request@rootsweb.com

And in the body of your message, simply write ... subscribe. You will be notified that you have joined and provided with instructions on posting and to unsubscribe.