



*Oakville Baseball Team  
Halton County League  
1922*

# **THE OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**September 2015**

**Volume 49 Number 3**

# PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS

**Wednesday  
October 21**

**Mr. Ron Graner**, President of Lost Music Productions will bring us the story of the “**Lost Music of David Nowakowsky**” – a tale of music once thought lost to the world, and its amazing discovery.

**Wednesday  
November 18**

**Above two presentations will be made at St. John’s United  
Church at Randall and Dunn Streets, 7:30 - 9:00 pm  
Admission is free and refreshments will be served**

For individuals and small groups, the following **WALKS** are scheduled,  
starting at **2 pm. \$10.00 each.**

**Sunday Sept. 13 Old Oakville Walking Tour** Meet at 110 King St.

**Sunday Sept. 13 Oakville/St. Mary's Pioneer Cemetery** Meet at the Cemetery, Lyons Lane.

**Sunday Sept. 20 Old Main Street Walking Tour** Meet at 110 King St.

**Sunday Sept. 20 Trafalgar Road Walking Tour** Meet at St. John’s Church, Randall and Dunn St.

**Doors Open Halton Region** September 26th - 27th 2015 **Oakville** events are on **Saturday 26th ONLY**  
Meet **Historical Society** members at **Town Square**, 212 Lakeshore Road E. who will give tours  
at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**Ghost Walks** begin mid-October. Call 905 844-2596 or see  
<http://www.oakvillehistory.org/guided-ghost-walk.html> to book.



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a busy summer for your Society. I hope the fall will be a little less so.

**The Mayor's Picnic**, even though he was unable to attend, was very successful as usual. The Scottish Country Dancers and Longsword Dancers were well received. A new event was the presentation of awards for our first art contest. **Greg Munz** and his group did great work in pulling this together. The prize winners can be seen on our website. Our sincere thanks to all the prize donors.

**While** we were unsuccessful in getting a practicum student from the University of Toronto to help us get our digitizing projects going, we have purchased most of the equipment that was authorized in our Trillium Grant and we came in under budget. We're applying to reallocate some of the money. Now we have to get it all set up and working. We're very intrigued by an initiative of another Society which has set up a maker-space so that the public can digitize family archives.

We receive many comments on our lovely garden which is maintained by **Averil and Joe Jany**. Our sincere thanks to them for all their hard work. If you're interested in helping out, they would welcome you with open arms.

**We've** also made several improvements to the office over the summer. The Town hopes they have solved the problem of our sewer line freezing solid by running a heating cable through the sewer line. We had UV treatment applied to the windows on the south side of the building and to the skylight. Under **Mark Verlinden's** leadership, the windows and doors are getting cleaned and painted. Some siding work is being done and we're trying to get rid of some unused materials so that we can free up space.

**Since** coming on board as **Treasurer, Mark Verlinden** has saved us a significant amount of money by reworking our phone system and internet access. We're also awaiting a substantial HST rebate. Our thanks to **Donna Moran** for her work on the application for a Trillium Grant and completing the Province's Heritage Organization Development Grant application.

We have several important birthdays this fall: **Ev Bullied, Margaret Buxton, Harry Barrett, and Tina Breckinridge** who is turning 107.

**For** the past few years we haven't been offering scheduled walks. Interest fell off sharply and it got so it wasn't worth it. This fall, we'll be offering one of each of our four walks in September. Further information is available on the website. The ever-popular **Ghost Walks** will also start in October.

*George Chisholm*

# Oakville in Retrospect *by Art Bullied*

## What did we do for fun?

**The Radial Bridge** (now Anderson Bridge on Randall Street) had a particular appeal to some of our swimmers. They could dive off it into the river. Just north of the Lower Middle Road bridge (QEW) was the skinny-dipping hole. The only kids in town who had a swimming pool were the orphans at the Independent Order of Foresters Home on the north side of Bond Street east of Kerr. Victoria Hall in what is now the parking lot of the Curling Club was the place to be on Saturday afternoon for “moving pictures.” The admission for kids was either 5 or 10 cents - I don't recall which. I don't think I ever saw a show there that did not include a horrendous fire - in black and white of course - they were terrifying.



**The Oakville Baseball Club** used Victoria Hall for their Minstrel Shows each year. Ollie Johnson was, as I recall, the only coloured ball player we had. Ollie was always the “end man” at the Minstrel Show requiring only minimal make-up. There were dances at Victoria Hall on Saturday nights. Later when the Gregory Theatre opened at the south-east corner of Lakeshore and Trafalgar, Victoria Hall was seldom used and torn down. The skating rink was behind

Victoria Hall - the present Curling Rink. Interestingly there were two sheets for curling in the rink but they were seldom used as curling had not come into vogue at that time. There was skating in the rink on Wednesday and Saturday nights with the **Oakville Citizen's Band** (above) providing the music. Later there was “canned” music.

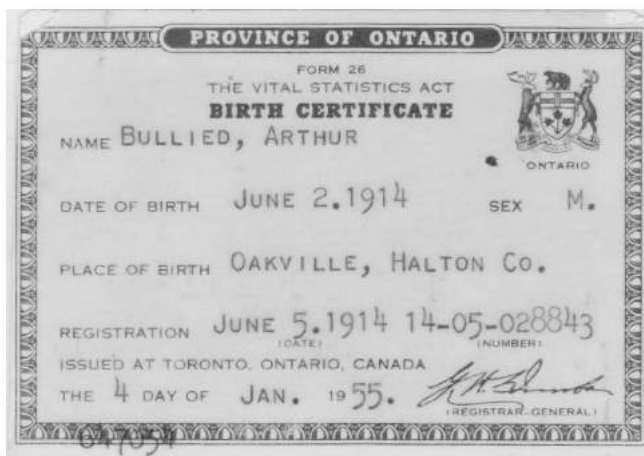
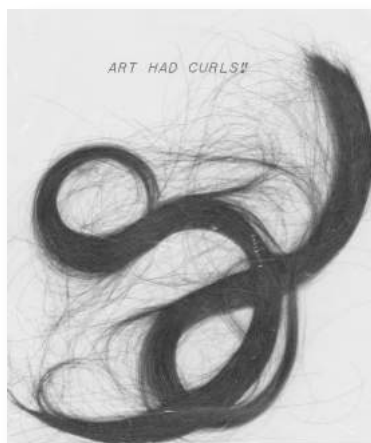
*The article reprinted here was written by Mr. Arthur Bullied (1914 - 1996) in 1991 and was provided with kind permission by his wife Evelyn (Savage) Bullied. Space does not allow for the whole recollection to be printed and will be continued in later issues. See our March 2015 issue for a previous excerpt.*

# Oakville in Retrospect *continued*

**The** baseball diamond and bleachers were in Wallace Park. Oakville had very good baseball, hockey and lacrosse teams. There were several Indians on the lacrosse teams, playing the sport they originated. At least three of the young baseball players, Don Galbraith, Tuby Carter and Cliff Post went to England to show how the game was played.

**Getting** back to what the kids did in spare time. Of course there was fishing in the river and lake, hiking up the valley of the Sixteen, or bike rides. It was a big deal to bike to Bronte, Clarkson or Postville (Trafalgar Road and No.5). Some of the kids explored the flume - the pipe that supplied water for the mill in earlier days. It was a round, wood-encased tunnel about five to six feet in diameter, very damp, moist and eerie. The flume started on the Kerr St. side of the hogback where the dam had been. The exit was about 100 yards north of the railway bridge on the west side of the creek. It wasn't everyone who knew where it was and explored it.

*Watch this space for further recollections from Art Bullied*



## **Front Page Photo Oakville Baseball Team 1922**

Back Row: "Shorty" Southwick, OF, Roy McDougall, OF, Whit. Hillmer, P & 1st B, Don Davis, P, Al Galbraith, C, Anson Lawrence, UF, Fred Tizard, Coach, Art Hillmer, OF, Hiram Williams, P & 1st B, Dave Chapman, Manager, Arthur Hillmer, Treasurer.

Front Row: George Galbraith, Mascot, Ollie Johnson, SS, George Snowball, OF, Benny Languay, 2nd B, Cecil Harker, UF, Fred Green, 3rd B, Elton Grice, Infield.

# Children's Art Contest Pleasure Boating in Oakville – Fun on the Water



**What** does pleasure boating mean to you?

**You** may never have thought about it or maybe it occupies your thoughts constantly, especially in winter when boats are abandoned, left lonely and feeling unloved, huddled together dreaming of the warmth of spring and another short season of the good life on the lake.



Judges (above) Shirley Erskine,  
Ian Cowling and Carol Sanders

**Some** 59 students in grades one to six have thought deeply about 'Pleasure Boating in Oakville' and expressed their thoughts in the art work they submitted to the **OHS Children's Art Contest**. Submissions were grouped by school classes: grades one and two, grades three and four, and grades five and six.

**The** best overall submission was awarded the Grand Prize, an afternoon sail on the **Anitra** which is the oldest schooner sailing on Lake Ontario. It was built in 1924 and has been in the Macrae family of Oakville ever since it was launched.

**First**, second and third prizes were awarded in each of the grade groupings. First prize winners received an afternoon sailing adventure on the lake. Second prizes included, two weeks of sailing lessons, canoe lessons, and a skating or swimming certificate from Oakville Department of Recreation and Culture. Third prize winners received a pass for a Ghost Walk and two books about ghosts in Oakville.

**Artist Delia Jansen**, at right, with her artwork that received Honourable Mention, Gr. 5 & 6



# Pleasure Boating in Oakville – Fun on the Water

Those who were noted for an Honourable Mention received a variety of prizes donated by the Oakville Museum and an invitation to tour the TOWARF facility in Oakville Harbour.

The names of the 14 finalists were entered in a draw for one year of art lessons at the Oakville Academy of the Arts.

The art work was displayed, and the prizes were awarded at the Mayor's Picnic on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2015. It was a thrill to see the excitement on the faces of the children as they received their prizes. Too bad the local press did not capture the moment.

**Why** did we do this? Well, it was our way of kicking off our upcoming display, 'Pleasure Boating in Oakville - Fun on the Water'. Our current display, 'World War I' will remain open until the end of November, (so you still have some time to drop in and learn some interesting facts and view some stunning photographs and interesting artefacts). Visit the display case in the lobby of the (Reynolds St.) **Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital** to view our mini-displays.

The OHS wishes to thank the following organizations and individuals for their interest and support in making the art contest a success:

The Oakville Public Library, The Oakville Museum, Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre, Oakville Department of Recreation and Culture, Burloak Canoe Club, Bronte Harbour Yacht Club, Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Curry's Artists' Materials and the Oakville Academy for the Arts.

**You** can view the art, and learn more about the activities of the OHS on our web-site, [www.oakvillehistory.org](http://www.oakvillehistory.org) *Greg Munz*



Student **Charlotte Bridge** at left has been aiding in the office clean-up. As you can see it needs some serious de-cluttering. Charlotte comes to the office with her mother **Carol Bridge** who has been scripting a new self-guided walk pamphlet. We have many other members who toil behind the scenes, applying for grants, writing proposals, cleaning the properties and working on displays. If you can lend a hand please come and see us. We are a friendly and welcoming group.





## The Couple Who Transformed Our Gardens

As we are deep in to the patio/backyard barbecue season, we all know how much happier we feel when we dine in our backyards, beside blooming flowers, plants and neatly cut lawns. But do you know, that merely 100 years ago, private (also backyard) gardens and landscape architectures were virtually unknown in Canada?

**That** changed in 1911, when a newly married couple from England, who were well-respected garden designers, moved to Canada to start a new adventure. Howard Dunnington-Grubb, was employed as head of the London office under Mawson, one of England's most respected landscape architects; his wife, Lorrie, had an established business herself. Her talents and partnership with a noted gardener had earned her high regards by her colleagues.

**When** Howard and Lorrie moved to a very British Toronto, they quickly prospered and became landscaping advisors to the Lawrence Park Estates with a little help of having been associated with Thomas Mawson, Howard's former employer and a Big Name in the landscape architecture industry.

**Despite** their reputations, being landscaping architects did not pay very well to support the couple. To add more financial income, Lorrie started a nursery specializing in ornamental plants, of which there was none back then in Canada. The nursery, known as The Lawrence Park, Humber Nurseries and now the Sheridan Nurseries just outside of Oakville, was relocated a few times before moving to the location it is at today. However, Howard and Lorrie's landscape-architecture business in Toronto were getting great contracts, so they had no interest to move out to Sheridan, where the nursery was located. An ad posted on the newspaper would later attract a "honest, sober, and industrious" Herman Stenson to manage the Nursery. Descendants of Mr. Stenson are involved with Sheridan today.

*by Amanda He I am hoping to gain more knowledge about the heritage of our community and passing that information on to others around us who may not know the fascinating history of Oakville. Above photo features gardens at 110 King St.*



# AROUND THE SOCIETY



**Mary Davidson**, above, is one of many volunteers washing, painting and renovating the offices at 110 King Street. She received a Gold Medal for Athletics and a stern letter from the Health and Safety Committee.



**Mark Verlinden** was caught scraping windowsills.



**Our Archives** are a few hundred images richer as we were given a box of slides. We are eager to get a closer look at *Oakville Park (Dump Site)*.



**On** the occasion of the 90th birthday (29th August) of archivist **Margaret Buxton** we gathered to wish her well. Interested in Greg Munz's (left) Art Contest are Margaret's daughter Fran Frazier, Margaret, Dawn McWhirter (standing) and June Hitchcox.

# AROUND THE SOCIETY



Some of the **Thomas House** pots, kettles and containers being catalogued.

As always, the **Thomas House** interpreters have done a great service to the Historical Society and to the many visitors who have been interested in the house and the many puzzling artifacts found in it. Thank you one and all.

**This** season, we welcomed three new interpreters to our roster, **Carolyn Caswell, Sheila Tucker and Leah Foster**. A special thank you to them, and to the volunteers who shared their enthusiasm and knowledge with Sheila, Carolyn and Leah as they learned about our special little piece of history. Student **Clare Fiala** who volunteers in the summer, recently compiled an inventory of artefacts.

**New** volunteers are always welcome! Please consider joining us. As a **Thomas House** volunteer, you will spend 2 1/2 hours in a beautiful lakeside park meeting people from town and visitors from around the world - 3,100 visitors so far this summer! The time flies by, and it is lots of fun. *Linda North*

**The June 2015** Newsletter contained a few errors. Oakville's downtown main street is Lakeshore **Drive**. **IODE** is **Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire** and the young person holding our new publication Oakville Memories Old and New is **Fiona Schwendener**.



**Sheila Tucker**, above, recently joined as volunteer at **Thomas House**.

**Maurice Drive and Felan Avenue** are named for the town's customs officer. In 1912, Maurice Felan, was charged with the responsibility of turning the Lakeshore swing bridge to allow boats to pass. His customs office was at the foot of Navy St. His son, Art Felan, was Oakville's lone policeman. Duties not only included law and order, but repairing sidewalks. Note: The pronunciation of the name is 'Morris FayLen'

# AROUND THE SOCIETY



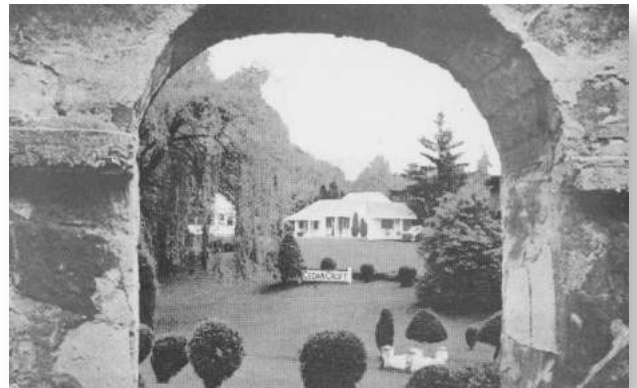
*photo Vince Segreto*

**You** will remember that in our March issue we spoke about the presentation given to us by Bev Dietrich, Curator of the McCrae House Museum in Guelph. Some of our members have visited the museum (above), recently renovated, and much enjoyed the experience. It made a lovely day outing to visit this museum as well as the Guelph city museum.  
*Andrea Stewart*

**The** June 2015 Newsletter **THE WAY THINGS WERE** featured a photograph of **Cedar Croft Motor Court** which consisted of eleven frame cabins of various sizes located at 494 Lakeshore Road West. It was established in 1925 by Sherman Powley whose parents had operated a dairy farm there. It was owned by descendants in different forms until 1996 when it was sold to neighbouring Appleby College. The 1978 Movie *High-Ballin'* with Helen Shaver, Peter Fonda and Michael Ironside was in part filmed there. Here at right is another (fanciful) image of the property.



**The** June 2015 Newsletter featured a 120-year-old photo of this corner, Lakeshore Rd and Navy St. (in August 2015 above). It had been looking neglected but recently has had considerable painting and brick work done. Now **1883 Masonic Hall** really stands out.



# THE WAY WE WERE



**What was this building?**

**Where is it?**

**What is it now?**

**Archive Hours:**

**Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 to 4:30 pm**

**Third Sun. of the month 12:30 to 4:00 pm**

**(905) 844-2695**

**[www.oakvillehistory.org](http://www.oakvillehistory.org)**



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