

Oakville Historical
Society
since 1953

Historical Society News

www.oakvillehistory.org

A Family Affair!



Our gardens at the office are completely maintained by volunteers. For many years Avril and Joe Jany led the effort. We are so pleased their daughter Susan is carrying on the family tradition of caring for our beautiful courtyard and gardens. If you are looking for a quiet spot to sit, the flowers and pots are lovely and the space is nicely shaded at times. Even the rabbits find it peaceful!

Volume 59 Number 2

Summer 2025

Board News

You will notice this issue of the newsletter has fewer pages and different content. At our June Board meeting, it was decided to publish a shorter more “newsy” publication, possibly more often than four times a year. We will publish the full 12 page version when we have enough appropriate content.

We also felt it was important to update members of decisions taken by the Board more frequently.

Here are some highlights from our last meeting:

- one of the projects for our summer interns will be photographing and accessioning the contents of the Thomas House.
- volunteer, Emma, has written a first draft of “The Boys of Flanders- Letters from the Western Front” based on our collection of First World War letters from the Munro brothers. Need to find a publisher.
- G Chisholm has consulted with an expert regarding the stabilization of the Thomas House, more on this at a later date.
- M Verlinden is creating a streetscape of four blocks on Lakeshore Rd with “then and now” pictures.
- we are gathering facts and images to develop a new script for the Erchless Estate self guided walk.
- the Festive Gathering will take place at the Offices, 110 King St, from 2-5:00 pm on Sunday November 30. This will be a drop in event.



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Culture Days and Fall Fair

On September 27, the Town of Oakville will host Culture Days in the downtown core. The Society will participate by having the Thomas House open from 1:00-4:30 with volunteers demonstrating various activities the Thomas family would have engaged in.

The office will be open as well that afternoon for our fall fair. We have “A Chocolate Lab” selling chocolate treats, “Humble Bee” with displays about bees and pollination with honey sales and our own bake table with preserves, home baking and hopefully some knitting. We will again offer the opportunity for “Pioneer Pics” in front of our beautifully decorated fireplace hearth with costumes to be donned if desired. There will be colouring sheets for the children to work on at our antique school desks from Brantwood School and a fresh crisp apple to eat.

Accordingly, we are looking for donations of baking, preserves and knitting.

Please bring preserves to the office any Tuesday or Thursday afternoon on or before Sept 11.

Please bring baking Sept 25 or 26 in the afternoon.

You can also support us by coming out to visit the event, bring a friend and tell your neighbours!

Questions can be directed to brendachisholm235@gmail.com.

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Speaker's Nights

On June 18, we were very fortunate to have Ron Foss present a slide show about the Fossmobile, the first successful Canadian internal combustion gas engine automobile. This remarkable vehicle was invented by Ron's grandfather, George Foote Foss, a mechanic, blacksmith and bicycle repairman from Sherbrooke Quebec. Ron explained the research involved and difficulties he encountered sourcing parts to reverse engineer an authentic replica in honour of his grandfather. More details about this fascinating man and his endeavours can be found at www.fossmobile.ca

Our next Speaker's night will be held on Sept 18 @ 7:00 pm in the Coach House. Mr Ross Noel will speak about Stonehooking, for more details, please see our website.

Summer hours:

Tuesday, Thursday and third Sunday of the month 1:00 -4:30

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