

**THE OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER**

MARCH 2015

Volume 49 Number 1

PUBLIC SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday March 18th 6:00 with meeting at 7:30 to 9:00 pm

The Oakville Historical Society **Annual General Meeting** takes place at St. John's United Church. Please bring a contribution for our pot luck.

All Society Members Welcome.

Wednesday
April 22

Author **Mr. Ron Brown** will profile his travels *From Queenstown to Kingston: The Hidden Heritage of Lake Ontario's Shoreline*

Wednesday
May 20

Mr. Larry Sherk holds one of the largest privately-owned collections of breweriana in Canada, if not the world. He will tell us about caps, bottles, labels.....

Above presentations are held at St. John's United Church at Randall and Dunn Streets, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Admission is free and refreshments will be served

Saturday
May 2

YARD SALE at OHS offices 110 King St. If you need assistance now to remove your treasures, call Jim Young at (905) 338-5577 or (289) 259-0955 and we will pick up and store your donations for the sale.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If anyone missed the membership renewal form which was meant to have been enclosed in our last newsletter, please phone the office (905-844-2695) and we will arrange delivery of the form.

In order to vote at the upcoming **Annual General Meeting** you will need to have a current membership status.

Thanks, Andrea Stewart



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been fairly quiet around the Society since Christmas although some days there's quite a crowd at the office. Our membership has been increasing a bit and we're getting an increasing number of people contacting us about volunteering. The board and regular volunteers are working on creating some Finite Projects – with a start and end rather than ongoing.

Another group has met to discuss potential exhibits and has generated a short list. If you have an idea for an exhibit, please let us know. You might, however, be asked to help out with preparing it. It has been decided to leave the current **WWI** exhibit up until November. If you haven't seen it, drop in on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon or on the third Sunday afternoon of any month. Special openings can also be arranged if you know someone who would like to see it. We are asking members if you can contribute artifacts, photos and information to our next exhibit: **Oakville's History of Recreational Boating**.

Plaque orders seem to be increasing as well. We have five or six on the go now and ten more waiting for the completion of research.

On behalf of the board, I would like to welcome **Mark Verlinden** as our new treasurer. Mark is a recently retired VP from Scotiabank. Like Greg Munz and me he's also a Scottish Country Dancer. If we keep going we'll have our own set.

After a couple of years of planning and procrastinating a small committee has been formed to look after funds that have been so ably managed by the Friends for many years. This new committee reports directly to the board and comprises Marianne Hawthorne, Greg Munz and Jim Young. This has brought about a change in the role of the Friends of the Oakville Historical Society. Rather than being a parallel organization, the Friends will function as a committee responsible for events including the Mayor's Picnic and the annual Members' Christmas Party.

Believe it or not, spring is coming and we need some help with the gardens. If you're interested in helping out and enjoying our lovely garden at the same time, please contact **Averil Jany**.

I hope to see you all at the **Annual General Meeting**.

George Chisholm
President

Oakville in Retrospect *by Art Bullied*



Mr. Arthur Bullied

In 1911 my parents purchased property on the north side of Pine Avenue. At that time it was the north edge of town in the new Tuxedo Park. The west branch of Morrison Creek was at the back of the property and a source of fish, suckers, in the spring. We had a garden, a barn for two horses, some chickens and pigs, slaughtered for our own use in the fall, at Chamberlain's on the north east corner of Pine Avenue and Reynolds Street. The Chamberlains had a large barn and fruit trees. I was born three months before the beginning of the First world War. My first memory, very dim, was of Charlie Haddlesey and Story Redshaw coming along Pine Avenue from the railway station when they were demobilized. There were other soldiers returning but I don't recall their names.

In 1919 my parents sold the property and we moved to Toronto. The event of that year was that I had chicken pox!

We returned to Oakville in 1921 to a house on the north side of Maple Avenue (now No. 335) built for us by the Blakelock brothers. I was seven years old by then and have some memories.



335 Maple Avenue in 2015

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.

I went to Brantwood School that September. Some of my fellow students were Herb Merry, Kelly New and Cliff Post (Sandra's father). In the area within a few blocks of our home were Doug Armour, Joe and Bill Anderson, Jack Worrall, Jack Markey, the Galbraiths, Cam Hillmer and the Spurgeons. We played ball on the Hillmer's extra lot on Spruce St. with Mr. McPherson's barn on the back of the lot facing Maple Avenue as the backstop. Mr. McPherson kept a horse, using a buggy in the summer and cutter in the winter. He was a retired farmer from the Fourth Line and Upper Middle road. Cam Hillmer had a pony and a two-wheeled pony cart with a big square woven wicker basket on it to sit in. The pony and cart were kept at the family business, Hillmer Fuel and Ice Company on the east side of Seventh Line (also known as the Station Road) now Trafalgar Road where Main Lumber is now. In addition to work horses for the business, Mr. Hillmer had a horse, buggy and democrat. They were cared for by an old coloured man who lived on the west side. I think his name was Mr. Jones.



Co-created by Mitchell Cushman and Julie Tepperman

Welcome back to Brantwood High! As alumni, we cordially invite you to a reunion celebrating a century of life at Brantwood, before our school closes its doors for good.

The celebration takes place at Brantwood School, 221 Allan Street
Contact Theatre Sheridan for tickets

I was about 9 when I had a paper route. "Allowances" still hadn't really come into vogue and I wanted spending money. I had 52 customers from Maple Avenue East to within a few hundred yards above the Lakeshore Road on the 8th Line (now Chartwell Road). The Toronto Star at that time sold for 2 cents per copy and for 50 cents a month it was delivered. The delivery boys (I don't recall there being any girls) received 23 cents for each 100 papers delivered. One of my customers, I recall the incident well, was the Glassco family at No. 340 Spruce Street. There is a glassed-in veranda at the front door. One day I rolled up the paper and threw it on the veranda. But it went through one of the bottom panes. There went the total income for a week!

Summer Holidays

What did we do? There were a few options. We could either hull berries at Glassco's Jam Factory located on the Sixth Line (now Old Mill Road) on part of what is now the Go parking, pick berries and fruit or there were a few jobs in the summer at the Basket Factory. I didn't relish working at the Basket so I picked berries or hulled them at the Jam. Amazingly I still like strawberry jam.

I well recall one particular berry-picking day, July 1st 1927. While most of the kids were receiving their Canada Diamond Jubilee medals I was picking berries at Gilbey Hardy's farm where the Ford Truck Plant is now, which, coincidentally had been Ev's Great-grandfather's farm. Her family came to the area in 1832. The temperature was 103 degrees Fahrenheit. Not a comfortable day! Picking berries and fruit I went as far west as the Hitchcox farm on Lee's Lane - I took the Oakville-Hamilton radial car from the station at the south east corner of Thomas and Randall Street. Most of my fruit-picking was on the Eighth Line at Ford's, Leache's or Macdonald's (they had all been my paper route customers) or Al Earle's on Morrison Road. Also on my paper route was a fruit farm between Gloucester Avenue and Balsam Drive south of Macdonald Road where there were delicious peaches, pears and apples, and until the trees died out, sweet chestnuts. All of which I enjoyed!

What did we do for fun?

In the fall we had apple fights with the kids from the "American Side" across the Sixteen Mile Creek. There was an old apple orchard on the present hospital property for the east side battle ground. The locale over the river was a similar old orchard in the Forrester property east of Queen Mary Drive.

There were four ways to get across the river, two for vehicles and two by foot: the Colborne Street low-level bridge (Lakeshore to-day), the Radial Bridge which had a pedestrian walkway, the low-level bridge on the Lower Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way) and the railway bridge. There was a two-foot wide planked strip between the two sets of tracks. Before you ever tried that, you were warned, "If you get caught on the bridge with the train approaching, lie face-down on the planks facing the on-coming train and cover your eyes with your arm." The odd person did get caught by two trains and had to turn around for the second one.

to be continued.....

AROUND THE SOCIETY

In Flander Fields: The Story of Colonel John McCrae

Our November speaker, **Bev Dietrich**, Curator of the **McCrae House Museum** in Guelph told us the story of the author of that iconic poem, the enduring tribute to the soldiers who lost their lives in Flanders Fields during World War I.

Though we know him mainly for this poem, less well known are his varied and many accomplishments: soldier, explorer, physician, scientist, educator and poet.

After studying Medicine at The University of Toronto where he graduated at the top of his class, McCrae enlisted and served in the Boer War. On his return, he served in many capacities involving pathology and medicine at various hospitals in Montreal and at McGill.

When the First World War began in 1914, McCrae enlisted as the Brigade Surgeon in the First Brigade of Canadian Field Artillery. He was responsible for a field dressing station at the front and treated the wounded during the Second Battle of Ypres in the spring of 1915. As well as performing his duties as surgeon, he also served in the Artillery, when needed. In the summer of 1915, McCrae was transferred from the artillery Brigade to the Number 3 Canadian General Hospital in Wimereaux, France, where he was second in command of medical services.

The poem was written at the end of seventeen days' of heartbreaking service to the injured from the battle of Ypres and following the death of his good friend Lt. Alexis Helmer. A fellow officer retrieved it after McCrae tossed it away and sent it to newspapers in England. It was first published in Punch on 8 December 1915. This was but one of twenty-eight poems and short stories he wrote.

On January 24, 1918 he was appointed as consulting physician to the First British Army, the first Canadian so honoured. Four days later, on January 28th, McCrae died at the age of 45 from pneumonia, complicated by meningitis. He is buried at Wimereaux Cemetery in France.



Ypres field dressing station

AROUND THE SOCIETY

COLONEL JOHN McCRAE cont'd

This remarkable man's accomplishments are legendary but so were his congeniality, humour and generosity. He was a popular guest at society dinner parties, was extremely handsome but, sadly, his marriage proposal to Nona Gwyn, niece of William Osler, was not accepted and he remained a bachelor.

His birthplace, The John McCrae House Museum in Guelph, interpreting the life and times of John McCrae, will re-open following renovations in May 2015.

Built in 1857 the house remained a private residence for over a century and was saved from demolition in 1968.



1968 Canada Post stamp marks the 50th anniversary of McCrae's death

Anyone interested in making the trip could phone me at the office so that we can arrange to go as a group.

by Andrea Stewart



Stan Yeo, at left, and **Christine Cook** count, fold, and stamp each issue of the newsletter. Thanks faithful friends!

Ian Burkholder, (r) our Town Crier, brings energy and poetry to our Christmas party. Thanks for your good cheer!



OUT AND ABOUT

OHS joined other book-lovers and sellers in November at **Milton Historical Society's Book Fair** in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. Shown right at their craft are Darwyne Hourie, blacksmith and Stuart Hill, bookbinder.



Memories of Sybil Rampen

My father. Captain Hugh Calverley, came back from WW1 shell shocked, wounded and gassed and as he phrased it, "put out to pasture." Gradually he healed, and with his anchor "Diggie" raised fived children. His oldest son went off to WWII and came back home. This farm next door was purchased. He and his bride made it their first home. Then he and his young family chose the West. I happened by and announced that it was my turn. Here we have raised our five sons but now they too have flown. I have put my energy into JCHAC with my father's message that there is no better way to provide air, earth and space for coming generations.

The beginning of a road.
Newborn babies,
Adoration wonder,
Two hearts beat as one.
Roads leading to a mountain,
Eagles flying overhead.
Comes a day toward the end of mortal life
Your spirit soaring to unknown roads
The illimitable pastures of the soul

Hugh Calverley 1968

The founder of Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre is Sybil Salvin Rampen. She was born April 29, 1929 and grew up with United Empire Loyalists. She fondly remembers sitting by a gas lamp and hearing stories about the olden days. Captured by these tales, Sybil has devoted her life to educating and promoting the importance of local heritage.

Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre

1086 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville,
Ontario Canada L6H 7B2
(1 km East of Trafalgar Road)

Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
or by appointment

AROUND OAKVILLE

Street Names of Oakville

from Oakville Community Guide 1988-1989

Residents in west Oakville may have noticed the abundance of street names beginning with the letters S and T - Secord Avenue, Sunnyvale Drive, Selkirk Avenue, Talbot Drive, and Tanglewood Court to name a few - while residents in east Oakville may have noticed an abundance of street names with the letter A - Aintree Terrace, All Saints Crescent and Adair Crescent.

This happened by design, not accident.

In the past the town was divided into five areas and letters of the alphabet were designated as the first letters of street names in those areas. Streets in Old Oakville, since it was already developed, could begin with any letter of the alphabet. East Oakville street names were supposed to begin with the letters A to D, northeast Oakville E to L, north west Oakville M to R and southwest Oakville S to Z.

But, according to Angevaare, the housing boom of the 1980s made this plan quite unworkable and it was scrapped. Oakville's sister city relationship with Dorval, Quebec has provided the names of one of Oakville's major roadways - Dorval Drive. Oakville's sister-city relationship with Neyagawa, Japan will also provide a future street name.

Angevaare is hoping to name the extension of Dorval Drive from its connection with the Upper Middle Road Bridge to Hwy 5, Neyagawa Boulevard - currently in the planning stages.

Occasionally developers turn to the town for help in naming streets and the staff have been known to take a few liberties. For instance while he was the deputy clerk, Vickery named Yarmouth Crescent after his home town - Yarmouth, Nova Scotia.

And Angevaare fulfilled a promise to a friend of Vickery's, following his death, to name a street after the late deputy clerk. Since a Vickery Drive already existed, Angevaare came up with Derrald Drive in honour of Derrald Wayne Vickery.

Wayne Vickery was Deputy Town Clerk.

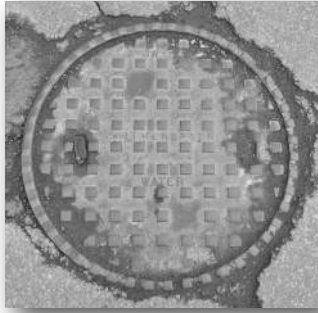
Bo Angevaare was his successor, the Town's Co-ordinating Officer.

Our December 2014 Edition **THE WAY THINGS WERE** featured a photo of 'Indian Clubs' and a Sewing Box. The clubs were thrown and caught as a form of exercise and as a display of skill. The sewing box features a pin cushion and a compartment for sewing cotton which can be threaded through holes for ease of use.

AROUND OAKVILLE



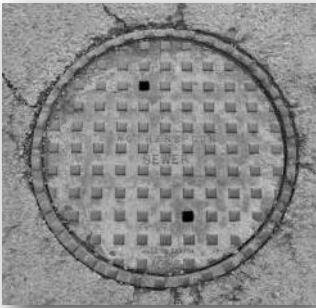
TOWN OF OAKVILLE
1912
MAIN SEWERAGE



J W 154
WOTHERSPOON
WATER
1984



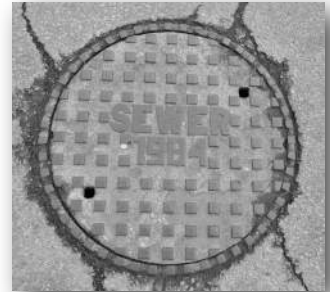
J W 159
DANGER
SEWER
2000



J W 58
WOTHERSPOON
SEWER
MADE IN CANADA
1986

Look Down! There are a variety of covers right at your feet. Rumour is, there exists one with the date 1898

J W Wotherspoon and Sons Foundry was at 146 Cross Ave.



SEWER
1894

The Autograph Album at right, was Presented to D.E. Smith B.A. by his pupils and friends of Harriston Dec. 22nd 1882 An interesting artifact in our collection.



THE WAY THINGS WERE



1. Where is this cairn?
2. When was it erected?
3. What does it honour?

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



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is now our postal address