



## Paisley heritage walking tour is a step back in time

by Corinne Boyle

PAISLEY—The people of Paisley took a step back in time during Heritage Days which ran from July 6 to July 12.

One of the feature activities during the week was a heritage tour, when people got a chance to have a closer look at three of the heritage buildings in the town.

A tour through the home of Margaret Jean Hutton on Church Street gave visitors an opportunity to see the inside of the huge home which, through the years, has been the house of several doctors. The doctors' waiting room and office have been renovated to become part of the residence.

The high ceilings, huge archways and detailed woodwork are architectural features of the French renaissance house. Various antique articles and furniture are incorporated into the decor and the tall windows are draped with handmade curtains.

Lewis and Marilyn Coffman also opened their Victoria Street home to visitors for the tour.

The Coffman home, built in 1866, is the best example of Gothic architecture in the village. The home was built in a cross pattern and four chimneys are constructed at the far reaches of each of the four corners.

The most striking feature of the home, a bay window, is in its original state with thin panes of hand-crafted glass.

Furniture throughout the home reflects the period and care has been taken to maintain the heritage value of the structure.

Many of those on the afternoon tour were quite interested in getting a look inside the old Fisher Mill, the third stop on the tour.

The mill, built in 1855, has been transformed into a business and residence by Bob Johnston. Johnston moved to Paisley in 1976 and opened his woodworking business, The Millworks.

The main floor of the huge mill serves as the woodworking workshop and Johnston transformed the upper floors into a

residence where he, his wife and their three children live.

Two powerful water wheels, used when the mill was in operation, are still located in the basement of the building.

The work done within the walls of the old Paisley mill is in keeping with the setting. Johnston's restoration and reproduction work has gone into heritage-style homes, churches and museums across Ontario. Johnston says he most enjoys the work he does for buildings which date back to the 1800s.

Johnston does not advertise his business, but the high quality of the finished products that leave his shop is known across the province.

The tour of the three was just one of the ways that the people of Paisley celebrated the heritage of the town. Heritage Day celebrations looked at all facets of the town's history and gave people a chance to take a step back into the early days of the community.

**A HERITAGE TOUR** in Paisley gave people a chance to look back in time. The homes toured, starting at the top right and moving counter-clockwise include: 1 - The Millworks owned by the Bob Johnston family; 2 - Margaret Jean Hutton home, French Renaissance, on Church Street; 3 - Lewis and Marilyn Coffman home, Gothic architecture on Victoria Street; 4 - Woodworking shop at The Millworks; 5 - Line shaft and wooden gear, basement of The Millworks.