

Too many people attempt to fight the BATTLE of life with a BOTTLE.

Weekend EXTRA



Intelligencer photo by Jeff McIntosh

History, especially local history, is love of Betsy Boyce. Boyce authored *The Rebels of Hastings* and is currently working on a biography on Sir Mackenzie Bowell, the Belleville resident who became prime minister for 14 months starting in 1894.

Working on second book

Betsy enjoys history

By Jack Evans

The Intelligencer

If you want to know where to find Betsy Boyce in her senior years, try the library.

At least you'll find her book there — *The Rebels of Hastings*.

Actually, Boyce still lives in her own home in Belleville and is doing the spadework on yet another book, a definitive biography of Belleville resident and one of Canada's first prime ministers, Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

"It's something that needs to be done," says Boyce, whose first book has earned widespread acclaim.

A relative newcomer to Belleville (about 13 years ago,) she and her late husband, George, a mechanical engineer, moved around various parts of Ontario. She had also lived in the Tren-

ton area about 17 years before moving into Belleville.

But since coming here, she has thrown herself into promoting local history as a volunteer with the Hastings County Museum, as well as through her writings.

In her youth, Boyce said she always loved books, and she had formal training in history as a history graduate at McMaster University.

But she credits another prominent city historian, Coun. Gerry Boyce, (no relation) with

'It's something that needs to be done'

being the "godfather" of her own historical interests locally, stemming from a presentation by Boyce she attended at the library about writing local history, shortly after coming to Belleville.

As the senior of three volunteers working on the photographs section in the museum, Boyce has applied her history skills in cataloguing and helping preserve a file which now houses "about 5,000" items, including photos, old glass negatives, drawings and other items,

she said.

If she were just cataloguing items, it would probably be boring, Boyce agrees. But she gets genuine satisfaction out of being able to fulfill requests for special displays, or history or literary researchers, or family members tracing their roots.

Her abilities have also been harnessed in recent months by the new Belleville General Hospital Museum, for which she is a board member.

That fledgling operation is just now launching its first public display in the visitors area, and has started work on a detailed, long-range collection of artifacts and information.

"Always write names and dates on all photographs," is her oft-repeated advice. One never knows if a photo may become a valuable museum artifact and not just a part of a family album.

Where are they

NOW?