



...wards, sheet metal worker at Heather & Little Limited, ... a decorative piece of the frieze panel from the pressed showroom. (Photo: Denis Héroux)

ucts. For years organizations and iduals alike attempted ccessfully to restore and relocate oowroom building. To prevent er deterioration, the Foundation antled it in 1990. e team of Julian Smith and aret Carter, a heritage consultant n architectural historian ctively, researched the building's

TORONTO. The display will promote the preservation of Ontario's pressed metal heritage.

The first piece to be restored will be the twelve foot long decorative panel from the front facade of the showroom building. It depicts cherub-like figures and vines flanking a cartouche. After years of speculation as to whether the decorative panel represented mythological characters or not, Principal Roger Beck of Erindale College was asked to identify the theme of the design.

With his solid background in



mercial and architectural history to ver information about the pressed l industry at the turn of the ury. A full set of as-found ographs and architectural ings were prepared under the rvision of architect Spencer ins.

classics, Principal Beck was able to determine that the cherub-like figures were in fact "generic poets". He says the clue is that "the figures are each holding a roll of paper." The one on the left, whose arm is resting on a severed head indicates a "writer of tragic plays." and the one on the right playing

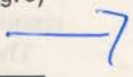
will thus be reproduced accurately in the restored panel.

### Barnum House Grand Reopening

After almost two years of repair, restoration and adaptation, the Barnum House was officially reopened on June 22. The house, which is located on Highway 2 near Grafton, east of Cobourg, will continue to serve as a community museum.

Businessman Eliakim Barnum built the neo-classical house about 1819, and it remained in his family for one hundred years. The first restoration was undertaken in 1939, and the following year the Lieutenant Governor officially opened Barnum House as one of the province's first "living museums." The Town of Haldimand operated the house until 1982, when it was acquired by the Foundation.

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*A- Barnum House (03-14)*

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## Barnum House Reopens

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The Foundation has spent \$700,000 on the project, including \$550,000 to restore both the interior and exterior of the house to their original condition. A modern addition has been constructed at the rear of the house, on the site where a driveshed once stood, to serve as a heritage resource centre and community facility.

At the re-opening ceremony, Leigh Grafton Barnum, the great, great grandson of Eliakim Barnum, officially presented Foundation board member Anna Young with the key to the Barnum House.

The Barnum House Museum will reflect the period from 1820 to 1840, with numerous artifacts from those years on display. Innovative exhibits and special programs for schools, visitors and community groups will be held in the House and the adjoining resource centre.

The Barnum House Museum is operated and administered by the County of Northumberland and is open to visitors year round. To find out more, contact Cyndie Paul-Girdwood, Curator, at (416) 349-2656.



Leigh Grafton Barnum (centre rear) and other members of the Barnum family gather in front of Barnum House at the official reopening.

## Archaeology at Benares

by Dena Doroszenko

*"An elegant stone house, built in the first style and well adapted for any gentleman's family is on the lot, having been constructed by the present proprietor at great expense. There are also on the lot 4 good log houses and a beautiful new barn, forming a most desirable investment for any gentleman possessed of capital. There is at least 2 miles of a front."*

- sale notice for the house which became Benares, advertised in July, 1835.

Extensive archaeological work has been underway since May 21 at the Benares Estate in Clarkson, Ontario. Benares, a property of The Ontario Heritage Foundation, has a rich history and presence within the community. In addition, the house is known locally as the inspiration for the "Jalna" books written by Mazo de la Roche.

The archaeological excavations have focused on a number of areas: the foundations of the 1857 house and the 1835 stone kitchen wing and within the interior of the buildings; the dairy building; the woodshed/potting shed; the site where a carriage shed once stood; and the privy.

Historical research and oral tradition tell of two fires occurring on the property. The first fire, either in 1849 or 1855, destroyed the stone house. The second fire in 1856 destroyed another house the Harris family were occupying between the two fires. Archaeological evidence has confirmed that there was only one fire in the area where Benares stands today.

The second fire now appears to have been located behind the woodshed/potting shed. In that area, a large quantity of artifacts, stone rubble, ash, charred wood and fire-reddened soil



Stone foundations of the 1835 entrance way at Benares. Note the blocked doorway. (Photo: Dena Doroszenko)

was uncovered. The stone foundations of the 1835 house were uncovered on the north and south sides of the stone kitchen wing. Of added interest was the fact that these foundations were not very deep, indicating that it did not have a cellar towards the front of the house.

While the excavations, which have uncovered approximately 50,000 artifacts to date, were underway, the Foundation encouraged members of the community to visit the site. Open site days were held on four Sunday afternoons, allowing approximately 500 people to visit the site and experience archaeology first hand. A number of grade school and high school classes also came to the site for hands-on archaeology.

The archaeological project was completed in November, 1991. Benares is currently undergoing capital repairs to stabilize the buildings and prepare the complex to operate as a historic period house museum.