

Ontario's most interesting history detective is writing a book called "The History Detective".

Hugh MacMillan, a pioneer in field research for the Ontario Archives, is committing some of his great finds, humorous cases, and fascinating wild goose chases to paper in the form of a new book written in conjunction with Ron Poulton.

The Nassagaweya resident, who has more interests than most people is squeezing time out of his very busy life to organize the book and, at the same time, to develop a radio column on historical finds.

**Man of many faces**

Hugh is a fascinating man, a mixture of Farley Mowat and Grizzly Adams (the beard helps!) with a twinkling sense of humor and an over-developed sense of history. He even lives in a log house he built himself, surrounded by fur trade canoes and pioneer nostalgia.

Visiting him is like taking a step back in time. Hugh's life sounds like a three ring circus. In fact he used to be part of one—and a drummer for a hypnotist—and a mate on a towboat, among other things.

However, throughout his years he's always been interested in history and old papers.

In 1963, he was living in the lower Ottawa Valley and president of a local historical society in Glengarry County. Doing research in the Dominion and provincial archives, he was appalled that neither organization had field workers going out and bringing in documents of historical value to be preserved.

From 1912 to 1933, Sir Arthur Doughty had field workers filling the national archives on the theory that he didn't "want to wait for people to stumble off the street with their treasures clutched in their hand. "You went out and got them," thought Doughty, and "if you couldn't get them any other way, you stole them."

After a 30 year drought of field research, Hugh convinced the Ontario Archives they should hire a field research worker—him.

Actually, the Archives weren't completely sold and he had to become a clerk at the Archives in the newspaper section doing field work part-time. Within six months, the archives were indeed convinced they needed Hugh out on the road full time. He's been pulling in historical documents, papers and letters at a fantastic rate ever since.

Archives built on paper  
The Ontario Department of Public Records—the

**PROFILES**

with JENNIFER BARR



Archives—is situated near the University of Toronto at 77 Grenville Street. The 48 person staff deals with paper records of Ontario history, including government records, land deeds, family papers, diaries, photographs, newspapers, tape recordings, church and school records, political papers, business and society records, all documenting our past.

Family bibles, cancelled cheques and land deeds are not accepted, thank you. Land deed records are already complete within the department.

Letters are most interesting for Hugh. He says he really likes to acquire old letters that tell a bit of Canada's history in them. He considers his greatest find a collection of 51 letters from John Graves



Hugh MacMillan

Simcoe, to his wife. Simcoe was first Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. The chase for those letters took Hugh from the Georgian Historical Society near Sutton, where he was speaking one night, to Peterborough, to Northumberland County where he paid a New Zealand farmer \$5,000 for the Simcoe letters plus material of John Ross Robertson.

In some cases, the archives are willing to pay for a real find, but the acquisition budget is small, and in most cases, Hugh persuades the owner, the documents are much safer in the archives. A donating family receives a bound copy of their papers and a tax receipt so they don't lose out.

However, valuable historical papers are much better off in the controlled humidity, dust-free, acidity controlled, fire-proof containers of the 11-storey stone archives building than in the desk drawer at home.

**Thousands of miles, hundreds of finds**

Hugh travels mostly by car, sometimes by air, about 30 to 35,000 miles per year following leads, nosing out information. He has a large file book filled with names, 3,000 of them, contacts all across Ontario with an interest in preserving history.

It's this network of contacts that helps Hugh gather 70 to 80 items a year and an average of three to four major collections in a year. To acquire those 70 pieces, Hugh follows upwards of 400 leads. One thing leads to another and he often finds himself off on a tangent following the trail of something much more exciting than the original lead.

Not only does Hugh pursue history but he really does live it. He and his wife, Muriel, and four nearly grown youngsters live in a charming hillside piece-in-piece log house built from four old barns dating back to 1820.

Hugh and some friends have rechartered the North West Company after Hugh discovered one of his ancestors was a partner in the old trading company. He builds fur trade canoes and reconstructs historical fur trade trips, canoeing hundreds of miles on the same routes pioneers did.

Acton High School is the first high school ever to own two fur trade canoes built by students under Hugh's guidance.

Hugh MacMillan is steeped in history and has been called a pioneer in his method of preserving Ontario history. I hope his name goes down in history and that he saves all his own papers for someone else to collect.

**Gough-Sayers vows at home**

An afternoon ceremony at the home of the bride on Oct. 13 was chosen for the marriage of Florence Mary Sayers and Richard Charles Gough. The ceremony took place in the living room of the bride's home which was decorated with yellow streamers, white bells and many lovely plants. Guests were welcomed in by the bride's three daughters, Shirley Wilson, Lynda Sayers Patenaude, and Lorna Sayers. The bride wore a yellow, polyester gown with accordion pleated skirt, blouse on top. She wore an autumn colored corsage with flowers in her hair to match. The bride's gift to the bride was a sterling silver necklace and earrings. Maid of honor was the bride's youngest daughter, Lorna. She wore a rust colored polyester gown with a rust lace jacket. Her corsage was autumn colored flowers. The best man was the groom's youngest son-in-law, Fred Landry, R.R. Wilson. The bride and groom carried a basket of silk bride was flower girl. She wore a yellow dress similar to the bride's and honeymooned in Nassau.



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Degree credit courses are offered in such areas as: Accounting, Fine Art, Economics, Computing Science, History, English, Psychology, Family Studies, and more.

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**Obituary**

**Elva Masales dies at home**

A resident of Acton for 56 years, Mrs. Elva Marie Masales died in her home at 85 Mill St., E. December 19 at the age of 77.

Mrs. Masales was born on November 5, 1902 at Waubausene, daughter of Charles and Minnie Gervais. On February 17, 1923 she married Lloyd Masales, in Toronto. The couple lived in Acton all their married life.

Mrs. Masales was active as a kitchen convener with the Legion Ladies Auxiliary, Branch 197, for more than 20 years and was also a member of the Golden Age Club. She and her husband ran the Gregory theatre for 20 years. She enjoyed

knitting, and was a great sports enthusiast, especially watching grandsons and great grandsons playing baseball and hockey.

Mrs. Masales was also well known for sitting on her verandah in the nice weather and chatting with passerbys. Friends knew her as a hard worker.

The Legion Ladies held a service in their comrade's honor December 20 at the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Rev. C. Beaton officiated at the funeral service December 21.

Pallbearers were Terry Masales, Acton, and Gary Masales, Ottawa, grandsons;

friends John Goy Sr., Lorne Walters, and Harold Townsley, all of Acton; and Jack Quinn, a nephew from Toronto.

Left to mourn her loss are her husband Lloyd; son Owen Masales, Acton; brother Aubrey Gervais, Acton; sisters Cora Ball and Almeda Warden, Toronto; Jessie Hell, Buffalo; and Audrey Currie, Minden; two grandchildren, Terry and Gary Masales; and four great grandchildren, Jason and Derron and Laura and Ryan.

Interment was at Fairview cemetery.

Standard Broadcasting Corporation Limited



JACQUES J. GIASSON

Standard Broadcasting Corporation Limited is pleased to announce the appointment of Jacques J. Giasson as a Director of the Corporation. Mr. Giasson is President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Lawrence Cement Company and a director of numerous Canadian companies.

**Two juveniles apprehended**

Two juveniles were caught red-handed by Police December 21 after they had broken into and

ool, Acton. The two youths were entered Robert Little sch-

apprehended when they were caught by surprise by Police officers patrolling the area.

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