



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

"Documenting, celebrating and preserving the agricultural heritage of North Oakville"

Summer Newsletter

Well, Summer is proving to be just as busy as Spring at TTHS! We really are in need of your financial support (time to renew those memberships) and your time to pitch in wherever you can. We have many jobs for people to help with.

May Artful Afternoon

The artful afternoon was very well attended and our very own Ross & Margaret Wark won the door prize! It showed us just how perfect a location our schoolhouse is for art shows. Everyone enjoyed the inside of the schoolhouse as well as the beautiful grounds we have surrounding it! Thanks so much to the Palette Pals and Thelma Ledgerwood for a lovely afternoon!

Grants

Our Trillium proposal was successful! And although we did not get the full \$120,000 we requested we were granted \$75,000. We cannot get this money until we have permits from the town and to do that we need architectural drawings. We have been working with an architect and hope to have drawings completed very shortly so that we can proceed with the basement renovations.

Renovations & Repairs

A bunch of us met to clear out the basement in May and apply a final coat of paint in the classroom. We rented a dumpster and filled it to the top! We have started cleaning the blackboards. Restoring the blackboards is taking a lot of time and elbow grease to get all the paint off of them that was left over from previous tenants. We hope to have them spic & span by the time of our September Heritage fair.



Gord clearing out some of the wood from the basement



Stuart painting



Jamie preparing the wall

The Town hired a company to fix some leaks in the basement and we have asked them to return to waterproof the entire basement before we proceed with finishing the basement. We anticipate the Town will start waterproofing the basement in late September. The Town is also closing off the two wells on the property and repairing the chimney.

We hired a contractor to repair the basement stairs and to add handrails to the stairs leading to the classroom.

Furniture and Artifacts

Our collection is growing! We have had many donations since our last newsletter; these include desks, books, and various research materials.

Of special mention is the beautiful handmade large archives table that has been crafted just for us by Charlie Hughes. We can't wait to put this table to good use in our future archives room.

The following also made donations this season.

Carl Smith, Jane Watt, Sybil Rampen, Oakville Friends of the Library, Ross & Margaret Wark.

Research

Joan Philips has volunteered her time to generate an index of Ruth Blair's book "Remembering Trafalgar Township". This index will be added to our website soon. Thanks Joan!

We had a visit to the Regional Museum and went through the new Biggar Family fonds that were recently donated. There was a Biggar diary and we have begun to summarize some of the interesting notes made in it. While there, Irene Saunders started recording some of the early records from schools and other documents and has transcribed them for us.

Website

Dave Hook has been busy working on the website and we have added more photos of North Oakville homes.

One Room School Reunions!

We were invited to attend two one room schoolhouse reunions. McCurdy's was held in April and Snider's was held in July. Both were very well attended. People shared stories and photos. The McCurdy's group are putting together a CD of all the photos brought in that day. Unfortunately McCurdy's had a fire this winter and Snider's is set for demolition very soon. As far as I know this only leaves Palermo and 16 Hollow schoolhouses still standing in Trafalgar. We have been able to photograph the Snider schoolhouse and have been provided with a full historical report from the Region of Halton who are demolishing to make way for the widening of Burnhamthorpe Road. As always - if you have any photos of these or any other old schoolhouses in Trafalgar we would love to get scanned copies.

Scanning & Social Day

We had a very successful scanning day in May and were able to scan 120 photos! We had a great time sharing stories, refreshments and photos. If you have photos to scan please contact Elise Cole at the library or have a look on our website to see the scanning specifications and then email us your scanned photos for inclusion on the Library website.

Heritage Fair

Mark your calendars!! Our third annual fair will be held on Saturday September 20th at the Palermo schoolhouse from 10-3pm. We need volunteers to help with this event. We have ponies coming for the children to have rides, a stage coach for climbing on, an old fire pumper, heritage displays and much more.

Heritage Home Report

Featherstone House at 185 Burnhamthorpe Rd. built circa 1870 has been saved from demolition. The heritage committee recommended subdividing the land to preserve the home and create a laneway into it.

Kaitting House at 237 Dundas Street West has been recommended by the Oakville Heritage Committee for designation. Mattamy homes made a presentation to the committee in favour of designation. This goes to Council September 8 and if approved you will see the home raised up on blocks while the land is prepared. The home will then be restored on a new foundation on the existing lot and be a centre piece of the new subdivision. We would like to congratulate Mattamy for setting the stage for other developers in North Oakville and for working very closely with our own Gord Kaitting to ensure the building is preserved.

Palermo Hotel

This is also known as the Hagar House 3015 Dundas and it's designation is being challenged by the developer. The Conservation Review Board Hearing on this property will be Tuesday September 30th at 9AM, Town Hall 1225 Trafalgar Rd in the Oakville Room. It is important to have as many people out to this as possible and you can register to speak if you like as well.

Bowbeer Home 3369 Sixth Line

This is also going to the conservation Review Board as the developer is challenging it's designation. This hearing is also at Town Hall on October 27th at 9am. The room has not been booked yet. We need as many people as possible out to this meeting and you can register to speak at the meeting.

Community Events

Blast from the Past AT BRONTE CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK- History is brought to life on Friday, August 15, 2008 during ***Blast from the Past*** at Bronte Creek Provincial Park.

Activities: Travel back in time and see historical characters tell their stories of how they helped to shape Bronte Creek Provincial Park's past. The night promises to be fun and entertaining for the entire family.

Times: 7:30 pm sharp

Details: Join us for a thrilling Spirit Night where you will encounter some interesting characters from the park's past. Parking is available at parking lot F and program takes place behind the barns at Spruce Lane Farm. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Suitable for all ages. (No dogs please).

At the conclusion of the program there will be a "meet and mingle" with the characters and a chance to explore the restored Victorian house which will be illuminated by lamplight.

Call 905-827-6911 ext. 231

Admission: No additional charge for program after Daily Vehicle Permit is obtained.
\$13.85/ vehicle

Directions: Bronte Creek Provincial Park day-use area is one kilometre north of the QEW on Burloak Drive, between Oakville and Burlington (Exit 109).

The Oakville Historical Society would like to extend an invitation to you and your friends to join us on our monthly Heritage Events. **Guided Historical Walking Tours** through Oakville's Heritage Areas are scheduled for August 17, 24,31 and September 1, 7, 14, 21. Ghost Walks - whoo, whoo, whoo, scary - around the oldest part of the Town, for all ages, take place September 27 and many more in October. Our public meetings with speakers begin again on Wednesday, October 15 - "Gunboats on the Great Lakes"; then Mike Filey speaking on "Old Toronto", on November 4. In addition, Oakville's first "Doors Open" will be held September 27 – 28, combined with our Harvest Festival on September 28. For details: www.oakvillehistory.org and click on EVENTS or phone 905-844-2695