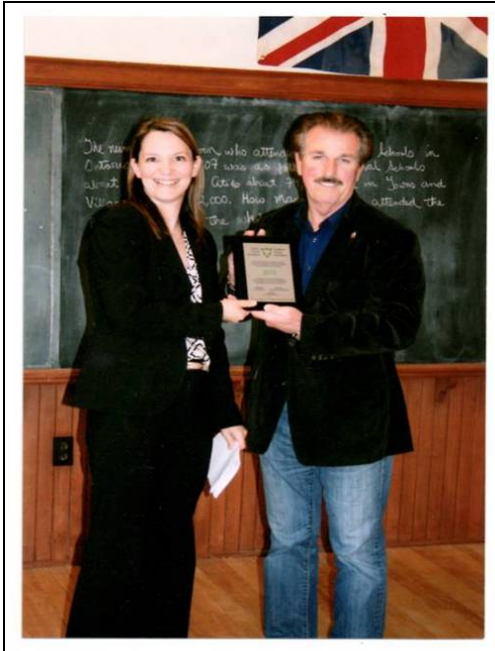




# Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

## Summer 2014 Newsletter



### **Ontario Trillium Foundation Recognizes TTHS Educational Programming Success!**

On April 29, 2014, the Ontario Trillium Foundation presented the Trafalgar Township Historical Society with a plaque commemorating the successful launch of their educational programs at the Palermo Schoolhouse. Gayle Wadden, Chair of the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Halton-Peel Grant Review Team, was on site to present the plaque to TTHS President Gordon Kaitting during the meeting (pictured at left).

Gord later wrote that "the TTHS would like to thank Gayle Wadden Chair person of the Halton Branch, Ontario Trillium Foundation for the support and grant which enabled us to begin our grade three school program at the Palermo School located on Dundas Street in Palermo. Trillium helps build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario. We would like to thank Gayle for the wonderful plaque presented to Gordon Kaitting President of TTHS which we are proud to display in the Palermo School."

The meeting also included a vibrant presentation by historical interpreter Katherine Belrose, to introduce the new school programs to "parents" present at the Palermo Schoolhouse that evening. Well done, Katherine!.

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#### **Breaking News - Elise Cole Returns to Oakville Public Library**

Effective March 10<sup>th</sup> 2014, Elise C. Cole has come back to the role of Local Collections Librarian for the Oakville Public Library.

Her expertise in local history, genealogy and digitization will help drive OPL's strategic plan forward to preserve, digitize and promote local content, including local history. Elise is a former board member of TTHS and we are happy to have her back in the heritage section of the library.

Elise can be reached by e-mail, [ecole@oakville.ca](mailto:ecole@oakville.ca), or by phone (905-815-2042 ext. 5037) at Central Branch.



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### Built Heritage Property Updates

#### ➤ 2347 Royal Windsor Drive



Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst, Heritage Planner with the Town of Oakville, emailed the TTHS to tell us that the application to demolish this property went to Council on May 12, 2014, and that they approved the demolition, subject to some conditions recommended by staff. One of these conditions is to allow for salvage of materials from the house, in case people are interested in elements from the house. Another condition is to construct a new stone cairn on the site using stones from the basement, and installing a historical plaque about the house on the cairn. The owner would like to move forward with demolition

as soon as possible, so Carolyn is trying to get an idea of who would like to see the house one last time and possibly salvage pieces from it. Please tell let Carolyn know if you are interested - she can be reached at [carolyn.van@oakville.ca](mailto:carolyn.van@oakville.ca). [Photo courtesy of Oakville City Planning Services]

#### ➤ Glenorchy Barn

Due to strong storm winds in early March, this building sustained serious damage - one full side, much of a second and over half the roof is no longer intact, and the structure has suffered serious damage. According to Niall Lobley of Conservation Halton, the timber used throughout the barn appears to be less than 100 years old, not original, and likely modern machine cut lumber. Due to the unsafe nature of the structure, Lobley's recommendation to the Town of Oakville is that it be removed. He also indicated that if the Society is in a position to arrange for the removal of the timber and its re-use or re-purposing, this can be arranged. Scott Hannah, Senior Manager with Town of Oakville Current Planning and Heritage Planning Services, suggested that developers seeking to demolish barns in the area contribute to the restoration of the Glenorchy Barn.

#### ➤ 2496 Old Bronte Road

Scott Hannah, Senior Manager with Town of Oakville, confirmed in an email to the TTHS in mid-March that this property has been demolished - that the house was not in the Heritage Register and the demolition permit was issued earlier this year.



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### ➤ 3444 Trafalgar Road

The TTHS was notified by Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst, Heritage Planner with the Town of Oakville, that the property at 3444 Trafalgar Rd. has been sold to developers. This is the white house with blue shutters on the west side of Trafalgar Road, across from Sybil Rampen's family farm at 3437 Trafalgar Rd. There's also a red driveshed and red barn on the property. The property is listed on the Heritage Register, but the shed and barn are not included in the heritage status.

The house is a strong candidate for designation and Town of Oakville staff will certainly push to see it retained and preserved. Please let Carolyn know if you or anyone you know is possibly interested in salvaging anything from the barn - you can reach her at [carolyn.van@oakville.ca](mailto:carolyn.van@oakville.ca).

### Newly Added to OurOntario by TTHS

This photograph, showing Canadian Pacific steam engine No. 2659 leading steam engine No. 5145 and freight train, was taken on May 15, 1954 as the train went west from Hornby Station, Trafalgar Township. View the full record [here](#).



The photo was sent to TTHS by Laraine Smith. The local photographer, Dick George, gave the photo to Smith's family as her great uncle, Hugh O'Connor, worked as stationmaster at Hornby, likely in the 1940's and 1950's.



### Newly Acquired: Bissell Carpet Sweeper

Palermo Schoolhouse historical interpreter Katherine Belrose has informed us that a new prop has been acquired for the schoolroom - a Bissell carpet sweeper from the early 20th century, purchased from a family in Aurora.

A contemporary ad for the sweeper (pictured at left) says it will "confine all the dust, thus protecting the household" and admonishes consumers - "don't think the corn broom is more economical, as this would be a great mistake. One BISSELL sweeper will last longer than fifty corn brooms. Once you use the Bissell, you will regret the comfort and cleanliness you have long sacrificed in using the tiresome, inefficient, unsanitary corn broom."



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### School Tours at Palermo Schoolhouse - Update

Historical interpreter Katherine Belrose has confirmed that **285 children** have attended educational programs at the Palermo Schoolhouse since our start on February 1, 2014! This is a huge achievement, and a great start to connecting with educators and classes from the local community. Well done to everyone who made these educational programs possible.

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### Queries

- **Wanted: Information about Richard Hull of Nelson Township**

From Patricia Arnold: "I am currently looking for information on my grandfather Richard Hull (b. 1792) who lived in Nelson Township in the early to mid 1800s. He and his wife Rachel (Cripps/Krebbs) had an inn there. Richard arrived in Upper Canada about 1799. Richard served in the War of 1812. I am trying to find family who might be connected with him, and note your mention of Kiah (Hezekiah) and Elizabeth Hull in Trafalgar township, also early in 1800s (Ward 5). It seems that Kiah served in that War as well (information on Upper Canada (Ontario) Sundries list." If you have information on the Hull family, please contact Patricia (Hull) Arnold at [hulabalu@lara.on.ca](mailto:hulabalu@lara.on.ca).

- **Wanted: The origins of the Orange Lodge #257 of Bronte**

After an inquiry from Ken Pollock asking for information on when this Orange Lodge was built, TTHS member Anne Choate Little did some digging and returned the following details: "In 1957, the Oakville Loyal Orange Lodge No. 3234 and Bronte Orange Lodge No. 257 celebrated Oakville's Centennial Year with a parade through town as well as a dinner/dance at the Oakville Trafalgar Arena." It seems that several inquiries have been made through the TTHS in 2010-11 about the Bronte Orange Hall which stood on present-day Lakeshore Road, but no further details have emerged. Anyone with information or photos about the Lodge is asked to get in touch with Ken Pollock at [jipcameron@hotmail.com](mailto:jipcameron@hotmail.com).

- **Wanted: Information on property at 3060 Sixth Line**

Carolyn Van Sligtenhorst, Heritage Planner with the Town of Oakville, has asked whether anyone from the TTHS has information on the history of the little white house located to the northwest of Sixth Line and Dundas, once occupied by John Hoey, a former police detective. The Hoey name was commemorated on a new street in the subdivision to the west of this house, and Isaac Freeman is shown owning the site in the atlas. If you know of any members who know about the property and its history, please get in touch with Carolyn at [carolyn.van@oakville.ca](mailto:carolyn.van@oakville.ca).

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### TTHS Updates and Society News

- The Town of Oakville is in the final stages of designing a **commemorative plaque for the Kaitting House Remnants**, to be placed at the southwest corner of the original structure. After much discussion amongst Town Heritage Planners and the TTHS, it was agreed that the plaque will not include mention of speculative ties between the Kaittings and United Empire Loyalists - though the Kaitting family has been linked to the UEL in the past, recent research by Kathy Keating-Hull indicates the family was expunged from the UEL list. A final draft of the plaque text (*rendering pictured at right*) was sent to the TTHS in late March 2014.



- **Found!** The Halton Region Museum confirms they have located the original Palermo plaque from the War Memorial Hall. A duplicate of the plaque will be made, to be hung in a gazebo in a new Parkette, and the TTHS has that we be given the original to hang in the Palermo Schoolhouse.
- The TTHS Archives team received a visit from two members of the **Hanham Post family** on May 16 - Laurie Dougherty and Donna Walsh visited the archives to research their ancestors Ephraim Post and the Hanham family. They also brought the TTHS a great photo of the Robert Hanham house, Lot 10 Con 2 SDS, which became the clubhouse for the Oakville Golf Course.
- **Thanks** sent to the TTHS from **Craig McGregor of Winnipeg** - "Howard and Gertrude [Hardy] were my Father's parents and my grandparents. They had 4 sons, none of whom are still living. Most of their descendants live in Winnipeg. I was really excited to have found this web site with so many pictures of the Hardy family. I recognised several as we have the original photos. Thanks so much for preserving the Hardy family heritage."



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### Upcoming Events

Tuesday 24 June 2014  
7:00 p.m.

#### **TTHS Meeting and "Postcards of Halton County" with Ross Wark**

TTHS' featured speaker this month is Ross Wark, who will be showing some of his wonderful postcard collection and inviting discussion from the audience. Ross is a postcard collector of renown and his knowledge and enthusiasm are a great way to enjoy this different approach to the history of Halton County.  
Location: Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Tuesday 1 July 2014  
10:30 a.m.

#### **Esquesing Historical Society: Walking Tour of Glen Williams**

Local historian Mark Rowe will take to the streets of Glen Williams on Canada Day morning for a walking tour of the village. We'll finish in time to find a good seat for the parade.  
Location: WILLIAMS MILL, Main Street, Glen Williams

Friday July 18, 2014  
1:30-3:30 p.m.

#### **TTHS Archives Open House**

Location: Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Wednesday Sept. 10, 2014  
7:30 p.m.

#### **Esquesing Historical Society: "WORLD WAR ONE – THE HALTON STORY"**

A century after the start of the first world war (August 1914), Rick Ruggle will consider how it was experienced by the people of Georgetown, Acton and Esquesing. Major Ruggle is chair of the Lorne Scots museum committee, and author of a history of the regiment.  
Location: Knox Presbyterian Church, Main Street, Georgetown

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### **TTHS Family Heritage Fair & Book Sale**

Location: Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

**Check it Out:** Library and Archives Canada has launched a new online digital document site, called [Héritage](#). Users can browse genealogy documents, government records, Aboriginal history documents, military documents, and landmark papers.



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### Trafalgar's Story, 1817

Included below is a portion of a letter sent from 16 residents Trafalgar Township to Robert Fleming Gourlay, in response to a series of 31 questions he posed to landowners of Upper Canada in 1817.

*Mr. Robert Gourlay.*

*Sir; At a meeting of the inhabitants of our Township holden on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1817, at the house of Daniel Munn innkeeper, the following answers were framed in reply to your queries, as they appeared to us in the Niagara Spectator \_\_\_\_*

*1<sup>st</sup> The name of the township is Trafalgar. It is situated in the county of Halton, in the district of Gore, in the province of Upper Canada, about 21 miles from little York. It is 8  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles in length and about 7 miles in breadth. It is bounded on the north-west and north by a tract of land yet in the possession of a nation of Indians called Misisqua. North-east of the township is Toronto. It is bounded on the east and south-east by Lake Ontario, and on the south-west and west by the Township of Nelson. It is divided into 210 lots most of which contain 200 acres each, excepting on the lakeshore, where they are irregular according to the bearings of the lake. The lots are 21 chains in breadth and 10 chains in length.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> The first settlement of our Township began in the spring and summer of 1807. Number of people is 548. Number of houses inhabited are 97.*

*3<sup>rd</sup> No. churches There are two preachers who preach alternately. They belong to the secretary called Methodists according to the institution on the late Rev. John Wesley.*

*4<sup>th</sup> Of Medical Practitioners, we have none.*

*5<sup>th</sup> We have three schools in this Township. The price per quarter is two dollars and boarding found.*

*6<sup>th</sup> We have no stores in this town.*

*7<sup>th</sup> We have four Taverns.*

*8<sup>th</sup> We have one grist mill and four mills. The rate of grinding is one fth, the rate of sawing is the one ..... when the sawlogs are carried to the .....*

*9<sup>th</sup> The surface of the land is level. The top soil is clay mixed with loam and a little gravel; under that is clay, mostly of a red color.*



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### Trafalgar's Story, 1817, Continued...

10<sup>th</sup> Our timber consists of Oak, two kinds, white and red; Pine (very large) of the white kind; Beech; Maple, two ash two kinds the black or swamp ash; Basswood; Hickory; Elm White and Red Hemlock; Ironwood; Chestnut; some Birch Suckling Ash; some Cedar; some Butternut; and a little Tamarack. The timber is mostly large and stands thick on the land.

11<sup>th</sup> Respecting minerals, there is considerable quantity of the Mineral of Iron called Bogg orr; also a few salt springs of an inferior kind.

12<sup>th</sup> Building stones, we have none, excepting a few which may be found over the land of a very indifferent kind.

13<sup>th</sup> A few Brick have been made; their price is six dollars per thousand.

14<sup>th</sup> No Lime has been burnt in this Township, nor has any Limestone quarries been discovered.

15<sup>th</sup> Blacksmiths here most generally work by the pound that is 7 ½ d. per pound, when the iron and steel are found, and 1 s. e d. when the blacksmith finds the materials. To this, there are some exceptions, but not many. Carpenters work by the day or by the job; by the day, it is a dollar and boarding included: by the job, it is according to the quantity of the Labor to be performed.

**The second half of this letter will be included in our next newsletter - look for it to discover the names of the 16 landowners from Trafalgar Township who signed!**

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## The Last Shot

From *snapd Oakville*: "The one-room school house in Palmero was back in session on Family Day! Families from all over Oakville dropped in to meet and help the schoolhouse's Edwardian teacher decorate the classroom by making chains, snowflakes and snowballs from paper. The event allowed participants to learn old-fashioned lessons, write on a slate, and participate in a spelling bee. It was a fun and educational event for all that attended."

Pictured at right: "Kaitlyn & Julian had a great time learning how to make making chains, snowflakes and snowballs from paper."

Taken Feb. 17, 2014 (Photo by Tom Petrov, snapd)

