



# Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

## Fall 2016 Newsletter

### Speakers Bring their Stories to TTHS

Throughout 2016 the Trafalgar Township Historical Society has welcomed a stellar roster of speakers, who have shared their expertise with audiences at the Palermo Schoolhouse.

On **March 9**, David Hobden spoke to 25 people about the two locations in Halton Region called Merton. Hobden, a Milton history buff, spoke about what life would have been like when the small village of Merton was founded in Oakville in 1810. Following his presentation, Hobden talked about the importance of learning about the community's past.

On **May 11**, Pauline Grondin brought the fight for women's rights to life at the Palermo Schoolhouse. Her dramatic portrayal of a woman from 1916, titled "When Suffragettes Won Back the Vote," helped the TTHS recognize the centennial anniversary of women's right to vote in provincial elections, achieved in Manitoba in 1916.

On **July 11**, the TTHS welcomed Gordon Good from the Archives and Historical Committee of the Association of Land Surveyors. Good's presentation, titled "Forty Minutes to Dundas Street," giving our members an explanation of how roads and concessions are laid.

Our speaker series continues on **Wednesday November 9**, when Danielle Manning from the Archives of Ontario will deliver a presentation titled "Lights, Camera, Archives!" and share unique historical film records from their collection. All are welcome to meetings and speaking events at the Palermo Schoolhouse!



Guest speaker Pauline Grondin performs at the Palermo Schoolhouse (photo courtesy of Ross Wark)

#### TTHS Board of Directors

Chair: Michael Reid

Vice Chair: Gord Kaitting

Secretary: Shelley Weichel

Membership: Michelle Knoll

Treasurer: Mario Testa

Archivist: Ross Wark

Members-at-Large: Cathy Duddeck & Syzan Talo

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TTHS archive photo of Munn's Church, taken by a member of the Biggar family between 1910-60.

### Society News & Updates

- With renovations of Munn's United Church (shown at left in a photograph from the [TTHS digital collection](#)) underway, the TTHS recently provided support in the form of an archival photograph, helping the Church to design new doors for their building based on the original entryway. At right is the new door design!

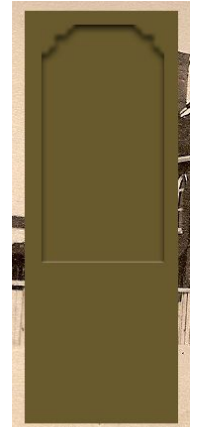


Photo courtesy of Ross Wark.

- The widening of Dundas Street West has brought a change to the Palermo Schoolhouse parking lot, and required the TTHS to move our flag pole. The pole will be moved in front of the schoolhouse, and the parking lot expanded behind the building. This will help the Society accommodate more visitors! In addition, the front doors of the Schoolhouse are being updated to better resemble the original doors, with replica hardware.

**Please note:** a barrier has been added to the centre lane of Dundas St. W., so that you can only access the schoolhouse from the westbound lanes.



Photo courtesy of Ross Wark.

- New workspace: the TTHS archive space has brand new shelves, desk, and laptop, making our collections much more accessible. Many thanks to Michelle Knoll and Melissa Leger for assembling!

*Do you have any questions for the TTHS Board, archival team, or our members? Send your general Trafalgar Township questions to Michelle Knoll at [michelle@tths.ca](mailto:michelle@tths.ca)*

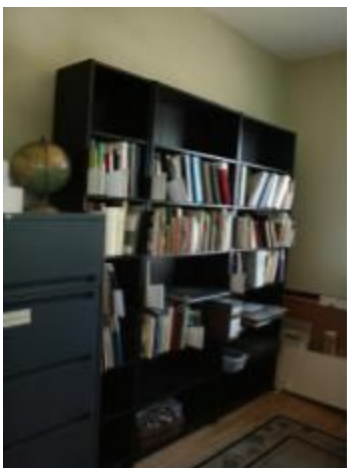


Photo courtesy of Ross Wark.

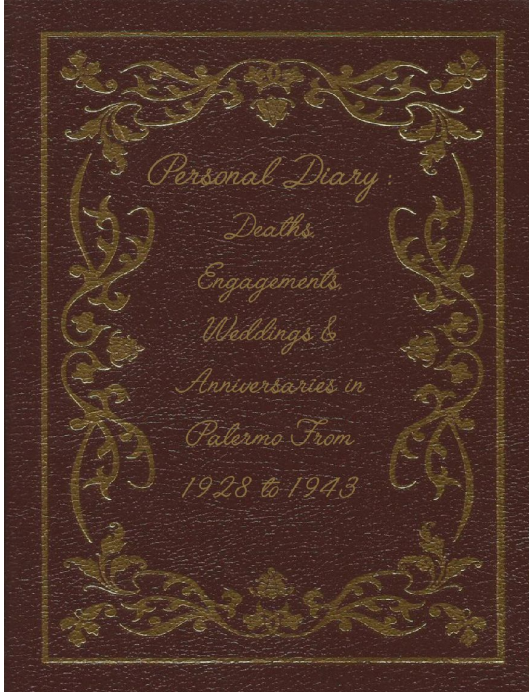


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### TTHS Booklets Bring Trafalgar Township's Stories to your Bookshelf



The list of TTHS publications available for sale continues to grow! Visitors to the Palermo Schoolhouse can now purchase a variety of local history papers and booklets compiled by TTHS volunteers. These include:

- Pioneer Days in Trafalgar Township Part I (\$2.00)
- Pioneer Days in Trafalgar Township Part II (\$2.00)
- A Pioneer Winter (\$2.00)
- Drumquin Corners (\$2.00)
- The Featherstons of Drumquin 1830-1930 (\$2.00)
- Settlers and Gravestones (\$2.00)
- Death of the Hollow (\$2.00)
- As I Recall (Agerton) (\$5.00)
- Palermo School Nursery Rhymes (\$10.00)
- Palermo Deaths, Engagements, Weddings, 1928-1943 (\$25.00)

These items may be purchased at meetings and during times when the archives are open. Many thanks to Ann (Fox) MacDougall for sharing a Smith family scrapbook for the Deaths, Engagements, Weddings & Anniversaries booklet.

### Group of Seven Collection Connection

TTHS volunteers have discovered a direct link between the World War II [Honour Roll of Palermo Volunteers](#) and renowned Group of Seven artist A.J. Casson. At the bottom of the roll, slightly right of the centre, the initials "AJC" appear.

According to staff at the McMichael Canadian Art Collection, this document was likely based on an original Casson-designed honour roll, with calligraphy drawn by an artist from the Toronto design firm of Sampson-Matthews, where Casson worked from the 1920s-50s.

The honour roll, which originally held a place of honour in the Palermo Hall, was acquired by the Society from the Halton Region Museum in 2015.





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### Recent Donations to the TTHS

From Ross Wark: *The TTHS opened the archives on eight occasions during 2016, and each time, visitors shared family histories and photographs as well as "oral stories" with us. Donated materials included a photograph of the Tovell Brothers barn on Dundas Street, metal plaques from Palermo United Church, family and community papers from the Vansickle family, and land records from Ray Inglehart. Thanks for your support of the TTHS!*

Read on for additional details on our most recent donations...

Close to 300 high resolution, **colour aerial photographs** from 2002 and 2005 have been shared with the TTHS by Carolyn van Sligtenhorst, Heritage Planner, District East/Central Planning Services, Town of Oakville. We wholeheartedly agree with Carolyn's thought that the photographs in our collections should be visible and available. The images were taken for the Town of Oakville by BP Imaging. There are too many photographs in this collection to show all in our digital collection but a selected few have been uploaded to pique your interest. All the aerial photographs in the collection can be viewed on the computer at the TTHS archives in the Palermo Schoolhouse.



Photograph of Oakville's Ford Plant and Intersection of the QEW, Ford Drive and Highway 403 (Taken by BP Imaging for the Town of Oakville, 2005).



Notice written by Henry Heeks, 1900.

Also new to the TTHS collection is a "**Notice to the Patrons of the Palermo Creamery,**" written by Henry Heeks and generously shared with us by Fred Van Sickle. We know Henry was a graduate of the Guelph Dairy school and founded the Creamery in 1895, and that he donated land for the Palermo Public Hall. This *Notice* gives us an enjoyable glimpse to the man himself, and his pride in his work. To view the document, visit the TTHS archives in the Palermo Schoolhouse or view the [digital record](#).

Mr. Fred Van Sickle has also shared a small, leather-bound booklet which is the membership record of the **Palermo Sons of Temperance**. It is titled "Book of Constitutions," "List of Charter." The Sons of Temperance of North America, Grand Division Ontario was a fraternal and prohibitionist society; the notebook lists Trafalgar men and women who joined the movement to ban alcohol in their community. To view the booklet, visit the TTHS archives or view the [digital record](#).



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### Recent Donations to the TTHS, cont'd.



Photos showing Virginia Soanes, Donald Seal, and the Lessels brothers (Roy and Alistair) at Holyrood Beach in the late 1930s.

Mr. Roy Lessels of Oakville recently shared his memories of growing up on the **Holyrood Estate in Oakville** with the TTHS. The estate was on the south side of Lakeshore Road West in Oakville, at the foot of Dorval Drive. Two of the gate posts and Holyrood Street commemorate the property today. The photograph at left shows the two Lessels sons, Roy and Alastair, with neighbourhood friends on the estate beachfront. Lessels has shared two aerial photos of the property, maps, and photos of the house, the swimming pool, yacht and tennis courts with the TTHS - you can view [these records](#) in the TTHS digital collection.

John and Diana Berriman have donated a wooden child's one piece **school desk** formerly used at Appleby College. Mr. Berriman dated the desk to 1920s, given that this is when the College started taking young children as students.

Ross Wark and Janet (Lees) Timbrell have put together a collection of photographs and memories about the **Leadership Training Camp** held in late June for the training of young people who were the camp leaders for the **Oakville Recreation Commission** summer day camps on the Sixteen Mile Creek at Lower Base Line in the years 1957 to 1959. It also includes photographs taken of children and leaders at the day camp in August 1959. The collection includes the manuals for daily activities used by the leaders as well as the daily summary of the activities of her group of children prepared by Janet. The photograph at right shows the young leaders cooking over the campfire.

Prior to camp starting in July, the teenaged leaders went first to Fisher's Glen Leadership camp in Norfolk County on Lake Erie for training. This camp itself has quite a history, which is explored in the TTHS online collection. To view the this collection, visit the TTHS archives in the Palermo Schoolhouse or view the [TTHS online collection through OurOntario](#).



Cookout at Oakville Recreation Commission Day Camps, July 1959.



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## TTHS Reports: Doors Open Heritage Day



*Photos of the Doors Open Heritage Day at the Palermo Schoolhouse courtesy of Ross Wark.*

We welcomed 30 visitors to the annual Doors Open Heritage Day event on Saturday October 1st. Over 90% of guests were first-time visitors to the Palermo Schoolhouse. On hand to welcome our guests were TTTHS Board members and volunteers Michelle Knoll, Syzan Talo, Anne Choate Little, Melissa Leger, Margaret Wark, Michael Reid, Ross Wark, and Mackenzie. Used books, photographs, and historical papers were available for sale. Displays included the TTTHS archives, Drumquin hamlet, historical photos, school desks, and the "Our Sporting Past" travelling exhibit on loan from Archives Ontario. Thanks to all for attending and supporting this event!



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### Upcoming Events

Wednesday Nov. 9, 2016

#### **TTHS Meeting, featuring Danielle Manning of the Archives of Ontario**

Please join us for Manning's talk - "Lights, Camera, Archives!" featuring archival film footage from the Archives of Ontario's collections.

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Friday January 20, 2017

#### **Upcoming Archives Open Research Days**

Friday February 17, 2017

All are welcome to join us in researching family and community histories!

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday March 8, 2017

#### **TTHS Annual General Meeting**

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Time: 7:00 p.m.

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### TTHS Thanks Summer Student Melissa Leger

Many thanks to our summer student Melissa Leger from Trent University's Museum Studies programme. Melissa worked on a variety of projects during her time with the TTHS, including helping to update the research workspace of our archives, collaborating on a display of artifacts and donations for the Doors Open Heritage Day in September, and supporting oral history research by TTHS volunteers.

Her major project involved researching the names of Trafalgar Township veterans of the War of 1812. Melissa is hoping to have this research completed in time for Remembrance Day, so that it can be made available at the Palermo Schoolhouse.

All the best to Melissa as she continues her studies!

*Summer student Melissa Leger with a display of artifacts and donations.*



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## The Last Shot: An Excerpt from the *McCurdy's Corners Herald*, 1915

Information taken from *McCurdy's Corners Herald*; Chief Organ of the McCurdy's Corners Literary Society  
Motto – Non-Partisan; MISS Leggott, Editor; Vol. 1, No. 8 Wednesday, Mar. 17, 1915, Price 5 Cents

### Erin Go Bragh

McCurdy's Corners Literary Society is a great institution. The territory covered by the three school section is populated by the finest people in the world. Why, over 80 per cent of them came from "The Emerald Isle."

This locality was surveyed and opened for settlement in 1818. From Armagh County, Ireland, in the spring of 1818 there came the O'Connors, McConvilles, O'Haras, Highlands, McCartens, Johnstones, McCarrons, Laverys, Kelleys and others. These were all devout Catholics, and longed for the services of their beloved church. In the town of Dundas was a R.C. Church ministered to by Rev. Father O'Reilly, from Armagh County too.. Through a blazed trail in the woods the messenger went for the priest. In 1820 he came, and in the cabin of Charles O'Hara performed the first celebration of mass in either Halton or Peel counties. In 1823 the first modest log church was erected on the Ninth Line. This for many years was the only R.C church between Dundas and Caledon. Mass was celebrated every five weeks and for years never less than six couples were married or a baker's dozen of babies baptized at each service.



Youth of the Hornby Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 165, including Daisy Cantelon (front row, left) gather at Hamilton for a parade on July 12, 1919.

In the same year there came from Tipperary and Limerick Counties the Coles, Cantelons, Cooks, Spauldings, Millers, Orrs and others. They settled on the Town Line and became famous as the Town Line Blazers. They were as ardent Orangemen as the Ninth Liners were Catholics and Henry Cole organized the first Orange Lodge of the district in his own house, the home of the late John Cook.. This was later moved to Whaley's Corners. Every twelfth of July was kept merry by the fife and drums.

Then at McCurdy's Corners there came the Masons from Armagh County, the Bussells from Fermanagh, the Askins from Armagh, the Beatties and Rogers from Armagh, and the Andersons from Cork. This good Irish blood made a grand foundation for a neighbourhood and slightly diluted with English and Scotch constitute the intelligent members of the Literary of today.

*This excerpt from the McCurdy's Corner Herald was transcribed and submitted to the TTHS by Irene Saunders.*