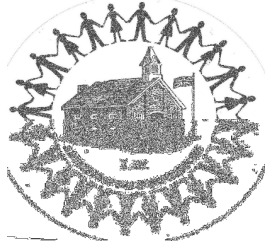


# The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959  
restored 1982

Fall 2012



## 2012-2013 Schedule of Events

Nov 22,23 Christmas Sales  
Nov 30 Decorating Party  
Dec 2 Christmas Open House  
Feb 16 Heritage Brampton  
June 26 Strawberry Social  
July 16 Lemonade on the Lawn

## School Visits 2012-2013

376 children spent a day at the schoolhouse during the months of September and October

## ***This newsletter***

is published by *The Friends of the Schoolhouse* every Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer to inform members and the teachers of the Peel District School Board of activities and events organized by The Friends.

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## ***Need more information?***

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse  
phone 905-890-1010 ext.2911

Website

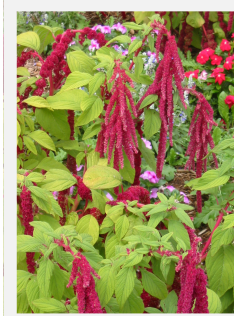
[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

## Putting the Garden to Bed

Daryl Cook

Q

ll summer long our volunteers have been working in the garden, coping with weeds and lack of rain but somehow managing to keep the plants alive and blooming. A load of mulch spread around the roses in mid-summer helped. We planted several new roses and more perennials. Thinning the raspberries was an ongoing chore. Thanks to Ken Robinson we now have a refurbished Teachers' Arbour. Two new arbours were added to the garden: an arbour-bench in memory of Joan Reid who created the schoolhouse



gardens and another arbour installed by Earl and Cathy at the parking lot entrance to the schoolhouse property.

With cooler weather and falling leaves it was time to wind up garden activities for another year. On October 20 a group of adult and student volunteers did a final weeding and cut back some of the perennials and roses. Other plants with seed heads for the winter birds were left standing and will be cut back in the spring. The garden and the garden volunteers are looking forward to a winter's rest.

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We would like to thank all those who volunteered their time to keep Joan's garden looking beautiful. It was indeed a tribute to her vision and the many hours she spent creating the historic garden.



**Message From The Chair**

Ruth Taylor

S

eptember was a busy month at the Schoolhouse as we hosted Open Sunday and participated in the Brampton Fall Fair as well as Doors Open Mississauga. As always we are kept busy at the fair demonstrating and selling old-fashioned toys and other items. Some of the produce from the Schoolhouse gardens won prizes. We had a good turnout at Doors Open.

On September 23 Friends hosted a moving celebration of the life of Joan Reid. There were tributes from family, friends and colleagues from various organizations. People had a chance to tour the gardens, and then gathered at the Schoolhouse to enjoy some refreshments and drink a toast to Joan.

We've had a chance to enjoy the fall colours and weather, and probably a bounteous Thanksgiving dinner, and maybe needed time to recover. After a brief respite, we will be gearing up for Christmas activities. You will find information about the Christmas sales at the board office and Schoolhouse in our newsletter. As part of our preparation we will be decorating a Victorian Christmas tree. As well, we will be continuing with our Open Sundays in November and December. We hope to see you at some of our Christmas events.

**Decorating the Schoolhouse**

On Friday, November 30th the Friends' Committee will meet at the Schoolhouse at 3:00 p.m. to decorate the classroom for the Sunday December 4th Christmas Open House and for the pleasure of classes visiting in December. There will be the fir tree to trim Victorian style, paper chains to make and the evergreen boughs and wreath to hang. Anyone is welcome to join in. A chili dinner is enjoyed at the end of our labours. If you wish to take part in this event kindly RSVP to Jean Robinson (905) 826-3475 or Eva Ardiel (905) 459-9158.

**Be a Friend**

Marg Carson

It will soon be time again to renew your membership to "Friends of the Schoolhouse." By renewing, you assist the 'Friends' in helping with the preservation of the schoolhouse, its records and artifacts as well as the gardens around the site.

Please show your support and be a Friend of the Schoolhouse. The annual membership remains at \$10.00.

Application forms will be mailed out shortly or you may download a form from the website at [www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org).

**Brampton Fall Fair**

Eva Ardiel

The Friends set up our displays, activities and items for sale again in the Livestock Building at the Brampton Fall Fair on September 14, 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>. The fine late summer weather encouraged huge crowds to attend the fair this year.

As well as a display about The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, a display showing the former schools of Chinguacousy Township received considerable attention. Of course the old fashioned, no-battery toys were in constant action and we had an excellent return from our sales. The skittles game was especially popular when Jessica Proeller was demonstrating!



Friends at the Fair

Also in the Livestock building are the fruit and vegetable entries. Britannia Schoolhouse won several ribbons for entries from the schoolhouse vegetable garden, thanks to Schoolmistress Chapel and Schoolmaster Hogan. Unfortunately some of best vegetables which were to be entered at the fair disappeared from the garden a few days before they were to be harvested (a very disappointing occurrence, indeed).

We couldn't take part in three days at the fair without a number of shifts with several volunteers each. Everyone's help was very much appreciated. Special thanks go to Karen Simmons and Glenna Zdebiak who helped transport, set up and take down our displays and activities. Thanks are also extended to man, Bob Bowman, Lis Brauntian, Glenn Craney, Gail Cum-Shirley Hoad, Barb Layton, Bronwyn Moon-Craney, Eva Norman, Steve Norman, Proeller, Jean Robinson, Olga and Ruth Taylor. Bravo for those volunteers who were on broken loose and tried to escape!

The Friends appreciate and assistance we received from the Brampton Fair Board and particularly from Bill Ewles and Brenda Bebbington.



Prize winning produce

Earl Bonner, Linda Bow-Marg Carson, George Chris-berland, Cathy Harper, Mary Light, Joan Moon, Katharine Moon-Craney, Corina Proeller, Jessica Stevenson, Dennis Taylor keeping their cool goes to duty when a cattle beast cape!!!!

very much the welcome from the Brampton Fair Bill Ewles and Brenda Bebbington.

**Doors Open at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse**

Cathy Harper

This year Friends of the Schoolhouse joined in celebrating Doors Open between 10 am and 4pm on a beautiful fall day in September. Six members of the Friends welcomed 38 adults and 14 children. A cross section of the visitors had attended a one room schoolhouse in the country of their origin or had taken part in the Pioneer Studies program which is offered each year to Grade 3 students of Peel. They in turn were interested in their children having an opportunity to see what it would be like to attend a one room school house, to use a slate and to play with some of the pioneer toys. I'm certain the highlight of many of the visitors was to see the attendance sheet which contained their name and those of their classmates. This was a worthwhile endeavour and we hope that we will be able to participate in subsequent years.

**From the Schoolmaster**

*The Origin of Expression – Knowing our History and Staying Relevant!*

Marc Hogan

Every now and then you hear someone use an expression from the past to try and get their point across. While an older expression may still be relevant to some, others (usually the younger generation) may not recognise what the expression is actually referring to; historically speaking that is.

If someone said "he flies off the handle for nothing" most would likely know the meaning; that the person is about to lose their self control. However, how many would know that to "fly off the handle" is a figurative reference eluding to the uncontrollable way a loose axe-head can fly off from its handle. This expression goes back to the beginning of the nineteenth century when pioneers were using axes as often as people use computers today.

Another expression that was commonly used in days past was "A stitch in time saves nine". Saves nine what you might wonder? The 'stitch in time' is simply the sewing up of a small hole or tear in a piece of material, so saving the need for more stitching at a later date when the hole has become larger. Clearly, the users of this expression historically would have been referring to saving nine stitches.

Expressions lose their potency when people no longer understand their origins. Especially, when people don't relate to or know what they are meant to be referring to. We don't use axes very often or even stitch for that matter anymore – at least by hand, when every stitch is an effort.

It reminds me of something I heard recently that made me smile. A reference was made to "taping" a good show on television and someone had no idea what they were talking about since they had only ever known digital tv. If they never knew about VHS they certainly wouldn't know about Beta technology. That would be ancient!

It's a wonder that some expressions last given how fast things change. Yet, it would seem some sayings do endure over time and continue to be used regardless if their origin is understood or not today. I would like to explore this further in future newsletters. If anyone thinks of an expression that has a noteworthy origin I would love to hear about it; "straight from the horses mouth" if you know what I mean? This could be fun. Email me at [marc.hogan@peelsb.com](mailto:marc.hogan@peelsb.com)

## **Sales Committee: Annual Sale of our Wares**

Eva Ardiel

**T**his year the Friends' Sales Committee is clearing out our stock of old fashioned toys, games and other interesting items. Everything will be marked down, - some items for less than cost. **It's a one-time chance for you to pick up great stocking stuffers and other unique little gifts at reduced prices.**

We are sad to be going out of the old-fashioned toy business and we appreciate the enthusiasm that has been shown for our merchandise. We thank everyone who has supported the Schoolhouse by purchasing our wares over the past years. However, because of storage concerns, transporting concerns and the advancing age of some committee members, we feel that the time has come to terminate this fundraising venture. It has been a wonderful ride! We will, of course, still have sample toys for "trying out" at our various events.

So, take advantage of this year's clearance of our merchandise at the following places and times:

### ***Thank You***

Friends of the Schoolhouse is a non-profit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to assisting the Peel District School Board in the support of the Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its programs. Your donations are much appreciated.

### ***Emailed Newsletters***

If you are not already doing so, why not consider receiving your newsletters by email. This helps us save the cost of paper, printing and postage and also is kinder to the environment. Contact [dlcook@rogers.com](mailto:dlcook@rogers.com) and put "Emailed Newsletter" in the subject box to make this arrangement.

### **Come for the Fun!**

Every month during the school year we organize an afternoon of fun for families. It's a time to enjoy interesting activities while learning about what life was like in a small Canadian community long ago.

In *December* we will see how families in the late 1800's celebrated Christmas at home and at school. Everyone will be able to make an old-fashioned ornament.

In *January* we will spend a cold winter afternoon having story time. In Victorian times winter in the country was for snuggling close to the fireplace, playing games and listening to or reading stories.

*February* brings Valentines Day. We will make cards to give to special people in your lives.

Why not join us for Sunday afternoons of fun with a touch of history.

**Second Sunday of the month  
1 to 4 pm.**

## Joan Reid Celebration

Daryl Cook

Many of Joan Reid's former colleagues, friends



Colleagues, Friends and Family

and family gathered on September 23 to honour her and celebrate her life. Joan contributed so much to so many through her teaching at T.L. Kennedy and Applewood Heights secondary schools, her volunteer work with the food bank and the Friends of the Schoolhouse, her historical research, gardening and support to her family.



Kim and Ryan by Joan's arbour



Kim and Eva

Various speakers representing different parts of Joan's life recalled her dedication, thoughtfulness and good humour. Marg Jackman spoke for the Applewood Heights staff, Eva Ardiel for the Friends of the Schoolhouse, Jayme Gaspar for Heritage Mississauga, Trustee Beryl Ford for the Peel District School Board. Lucille Mathe remembered her long friendship with Joan and Joan's niece Kim Darling spoke for the family. Pianist Nadia Boucher and cellist Samuel Bisson of Passport Duo provided music before and during the ceremony.

Eva Ardiel prepared several displays recalling Joan's contribution to the Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Following the formal presentation in the atrium of the board office, guests walked through Joan's garden to see the arbour dedicated to her and then to have refreshments in the schoolhouse and raise a toast to a wonderful friend.

Joan had almost completed a book about the early schools of Peel. The Friends of the Schoolhouse have committed to having this published. Donations to assist in this project in memory of Joan would be welcome.

Cheques should be made out to:  
The Peel District School Board.

Write "Friends of the Schoolhouse" in the memo section of the cheque.  
Please also provide your name and address.

Mail to:

**Friends of the Schoolhouse  
The Old Britannia Schoolhouse  
5576 Hurontario Street  
Mississauga, ON  
L5R 1B3**

**FRASER MANDERS**

May 23, 1924—September 15, 2012

By Lis Braun

Fraser Charles Manders, retired Secondary School Principal of the Peel Board of Education, had a very important connection to The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

In 1959, the Britannia School Township closed along with many other one-room schoolhouses across Ontario. The school then sat empty awaiting a new use ---or simply decay. One day in late summer of 1970, Fraser was driving along Highway # 10 and noticed that the old Britannia School stood empty and was badly deteriorated. At the time, Fraser Manders was the Principal of Streetsville Secondary School and he decided to take action. On September 17, 1970, Fraser sent a memo to Maurice Cowie, Head of History at Streetsville Secondary School outlining some ideas for teaching opportunities. The Friends of the Schoolhouse still have this original memo. I will quote directly from



Fraser Manders

of the Schoolhouse still have this original Fraser's memo:

"I notice that the old Britannia School on Highway # 10 is all boarded up. ....Is there any place here to approach the Board..... to have a few selected students do a study of 19<sup>th</sup> century schools and education, and of this school in particular; and then to try to restore this school and to furnish it as it would have appeared in its heyday? This would certainly be a big undertaking: do you think it is feasible? Do you think it is worthwhile?"

Maurice Cowie must have agreed that Fraser's idea was worthwhile. The History Department took a leadership role and the Britannia Restoration Club came into being. A number of dedicated teachers and students worked diligently on repairs and restoration activities throughout the '70's decade. Financing was a challenge but money was raised through a Wintario Grant and donations from local service clubs and businesses. As a staff member of Streetsville Secondary School in those years, I have many memories of that era---and year-books with photos of the progress made by The Britannia Restoration Club.

Even though considerable work and fundraising was done by this group, it was realized that the project was beyond the means of this school club. The Peel Board of Education took over and completed the restoration in 1982. The schoolhouse was restored to be a 'living history' site where elementary and secondary classes from across Peel could visit for a day and participate in lessons of 'long ago' taught by a schoolmistress or schoolmaster.

Fraser Manders passed away September 15<sup>th</sup> and the Celebration of Life was held at Applewood United Church on October 13, 2012. It seems appropriate, at this time, to remember and honour his vision and actions taken for The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Even after his retirement, Fraser continued to take an interest in the schoolhouse. Along with his wife, Ruth, Fraser attended our Arbour Day Celebration on May 2, 2008. In January of 2010, Fraser arranged for Eva Ardiel and Joan Reid to make a presentation to the Streetsville Rotary Club about The Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its programme.

All the Friends of the Schoolhouse and those associated with The Old Britannia Schoolhouse are thankful for Fraser's vision and the work he began.

*Friends of the Schoolhouse*  
**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SALES EVENTS**

**CLEARANCE**

**Everything marked down, - cost or less!**

**All of the Friend's merchandise will be available  
at reduced prices**

on

**Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23, 2012**

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**in the atrium of H.J.A. Brown Education Centre**

Hurontario and Matheson Blvd., Mississauga  
(enter off Matheson Blvd. West)

and at the

**Annual Christmas Open House**

on

**Sunday, December 2, 2012**

**1:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

at

**The Old Britannia Schoolhouse**

5576 Hurontario Street, Mississauga  
Parking at H.J.A. Brown Education Centre  
(Enter off Matheson Blvd. West)

*An extensive assortment of old fashioned toys and games  
plus lots of other unusual items at reduced prices!  
(Great stocking stuffers)*