

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959
restored 1982

Fall 2016



2016-2017 Schedule of Events

Dec. 04: Christmas Open House
February: Heritage Brampton
June 21: Strawberry Social
July 18: Lemonade on the Lawn
Sept. to June (2nd Sunday of each month): Open Sunday

School Visits

September 109 students
October 301 students

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

The Garden

Karen Simmons

It has been a long hot summer for both the gardens and the gardeners, curtailing our efforts to some extent. Volunteer William and his wife Ellen, have worked hard to weed and water as much as they could. Without their attention, I am afraid we would have lost many plants. Thank you both.

Marg and Cathy have been busy searching out perennials from the garden centres and getting them established as part of the renewal of the Victorian Garden. Every time they did some planting they added new soil and finished off with fresh mulch. One day in September they happened to be at Canadian Tire just as the left-over perennials were about to go into a dumpster. The clerk said they could have whatever they wanted for free! They came away with a carload of plants which took two days to get planted. Well done, Marg and Cathy.



With the help of visiting grade 3 students, 150 red and white tulip bulbs have been planted in the beds at the front of the Schoolhouse. When they spring, they will celebrate Canada's



150th birthday. Fall garden cleanup with volunteers will occur the first two Saturdays in November. With the garden put to bed for the winter, we will begin making plans for next season.

Message from the Chair

Karen Simmons

Gleaned from our archives - - -

From time to time, we sort through and assess some of our archival material, and not surprisingly, unearth some gems. I came across a little booklet entitled "Canada's Chapel of Remembrance". This Memorial Chamber, located at the base of the Peace Tower in Ottawa, was opened on Armistice Day, 1928.

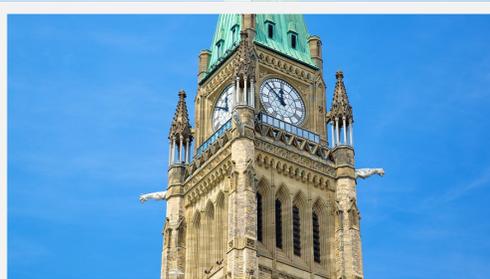
The Prime Minister spoke, "In the name of the people of Canada in proud and grateful remembrance of 60,000 of her sons and daughters whose lives were given in the cause of freedom, I unlock the doors of this Memorial Chamber, and declare it henceforth open to the public.

Here upon its walls is inscribed the record of their deeds, and upon its altar will rest the Book of Remembrance containing their names. This then is the very heart of Canada wherein their memory will be cherished forever."

Last April, I had the awesome experience of visiting some of the battlefields, cemeteries and monuments of the Great War (WW 1), including the St. Julien Memorial where 2000 Canadians died during the first German gas attacks in 1915, the magnificent memorial at Vimy Ridge, and the Menin Gate at Ypres. Thousands of names of Canadian soldiers who have no known graves are engraved on the walls of the latter two.



Menin Gate at Ypres



Peace Tower in Ottawa

"Blow, golden trumpets, mournfully, For all the golden youth that's fled; For all the shattered dreams that lie, Where God has laid the quiet dead, Beneath an alien sky."

Nora Hopper

In our archives, we also have the Honour Roll certificate from the old Cooksville School, which recognizes men from that area who served during the war. As this document has become much faded over the years, we had it photographed, the writing digitally enhanced to make it legible, and the copy placed in the original frame. The original document is now properly stored.

Message From The Chair — Cont'd

Thanks to Dennis and Ruth Taylor for looking after this endeavour. We plan to have the Honour Roll on display at the Schoolhouse during November each year.

The Peel District School Board has undertaken a refresh of the master plan for the Britannia Farm. Members of the Friends have attended two public meetings, and submitted our thoughts in writing and at a private session with the consultants. There are some interesting plans afoot. We are pleased to be involved, and will continue to watch over the welfare of the Schoolhouse. Information is available through the Board's website.

Christmas Pudding

- 500 g mixed dried fruit (such as cranberries, cherries, apricots, sultanas and raisins)
 - 100 g dates , chopped up
 - 3 tablespoons chopped crystallized ginger
 - 125 g suet
 - 1 orange , zest of
 - 125 g plain flour
 - 125 g caster sugar
 - 150 g fresh white breadcrumbs
 - 2 tablespoons vin santo or brandy
 - 1 handful chopped nuts, such as pecans, Brazils or hazelnuts
 - 1 medium free-range egg
 - 150 ml milk
- golden syrup , to serve

Method:

1. Grease a 1.5 liter pudding bowl.
2. Mix all the ingredients together, except the golden syrup. Put the mixture into the greased bowl and cover with a double layer of aluminum foil. Tie a piece of string round the side of the bowl. Place in a large saucepan with water halfway up the sides of the bowl. Bring the water to the boil, put on a tight-fitting lid, and simmer for 3 hours. (Don't forget to check the water regularly, making sure that it never boils dry, because if it does, it will burn and the bowl will crack.)

When it's ready, remove the foil, turn out on to a plate, drizzle with golden syrup and decorate it as you like. You can also light it with brandy if you want to be really fancy.

Source: Jamie Oliver

Have you renewed your membership for 2017?

Please consider renewing your membership. Many thanks to those who have already renewed. Your continued support is much appreciated and enables the Friends of the Schoolhouse to carry on their valuable work in preserving and expanding the programs for the students who visit. We welcome new members. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website:

www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org

We're Off on a Book Tour!

Daryl Cook

It seems that if one publishes a book, the next step is to go on a book selling/promotional tour. This actually hadn't been in our plans but it seems to be happening anyway. We have had a number of requests from historical societies and other groups interested in hearing more about our book, *Echoes of the Past: the rural one room schools of Peel county*, and learning the history of these early schools.

Our first presentation was in Bolton. The local historical group invited us to one of their meetings in October. One of their members had been on a bus trip with a quilting group that included two of our Britannia Schoolhouse committee members. Talk circled around to our research of one room schools and the book we had just finished. The result was an invitation to speak about the schools in Bolton and the areas of Albion and Gore Townships. Jean Robinson spent many hours preparing a PowerPoint presentation that included historic photos of the schools as well as photos of those sites as they are today. Several members of the writing team attended along with Jean. All went smoothly after Derek Paterson, who had been a great help in sourcing information about the Bolton schools, solved a computer glitch. Apparently the projector and the Apple computer we were using didn't talk to each other! The audience was very patient and understood this was our first "Book Talk". We appreciated all the comments and the stories that people related. Many had first hand experience with these early schools. They knew people who had attended and were able to add more information and interesting anecdotes.

In the coming months we have been invited to several more groups. Jean is designing each presentation to showcase the schools in the area where the group holding the meeting is located. There are far too many schools in the book to talk about all of them.

If you know of anyone who would like to have us talk about what we have learned about Peel's rural one room schools, you can contact Jean Robinson our Publicity Convener at jkrob@rogers.com. Of course, since this is a "Promotional Tour", we will bring copies of our book for you to buy if you wish to do so.

Board Presentation



On Tuesday, November 8 members of the *Echoes of the Past* writing team attended a meeting of the Peel District School Board to present a copy of the book to the Chair of the Board. Daryl Cook briefly described how the book came about and what it contains. We asked that the copy be placed in the J. A. Turner Professional Library. A copy of the book has been purchased for each trustee of Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Victorian Open House and Sale at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse

Julie Dippelhofer

Please join us on Sunday December 4th for the Victorian Open House and Sale at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse. Barn Board home décor items will be showcased along with home preserves

available Honey. Grand Valley yarns and felt prod-wonderful array of cards, books and

One stop shopping ful gifts!



and natural products from Collingwood Fibre will have alpaca ucts, along with a vintage toy replicas, holiday items.

for unique and beauti-

Decorating the Schoolroom for Christmas
Friday November 25 3:00 pm

Please join the Friends on Friday, Nov. 25th as we prepare the Old Britannia Schoolhouse for the Victorian Open House. We will meet around 3:00 pm and decorate the Schoolhouse in festive swags and paper chains. A chili dinner will be served afterward. If you would like to attend kindly RSVP to Jean (our wonderful chili cook) @ (905.826.3486) or jkrob@rogers.com



E-mailed 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 is kinder to the environment. Contact dlcook@rogers.com and put "Emailed newsletter" in the subject box to make this arrangement.

Check out our website often for the latest information
www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org

Victorian Open House & Sale at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse



When: Sunday Dec. 4th 2016 1- 4pm
Where: CBO - Hwy 10 and Matheson

Come and see the schoolhouse decorated for an old-fashioned Christmas and complete your holiday shopping with unique and beautiful gifts.

Brampton Fall Fair

Ruth Taylor

Friends of the Schoolhouse were in their usual spot in the barn backing onto the cattle show ring. Our toy display entertains young and old, but it is often the teenagers who are especially intrigued. In turn, those of us who were there on Friday were entertained by the cattle judging. One frisky yearling gave us a scare when it crashed against the partition behind us. In spite of the dry summer, the produce from the schoolhouse gardens won some prizes. We were pleased to have our book, "Echoes of the Past," for sale, especially since some of those schools were in Caledon. A new display board, created by Eva Ardiel, which featured some of the schools complimented our book.



Central Public School (1916-1983)

Eva Ardiel

Central Public School (1916 to 1983) on Alexander Street in Brampton is celebrating its 100th anniversary on Sunday, December 11, 2016. For information contact Val Coletta at 905-874-2815 or val.coletta@brampton.ca. The school is now owned by the City of Brampton and is a recreation/arts facility.

Tweet Tweet!

Follow us on Twitter, @PDSBBritanniaSH. Get the latest on Open Sundays, events and other news. We also post pictures of the school, grounds and gardens. If you visit the schoolhouse be sure to tweet a picture or message so we know you were there. Tweet you later!

Doors Open

Cathy Harper

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aturday, October 1, was a dull damp day, but that didn't stop visitors from coming to the Old Britannia Schoolhouse for Mississauga's "Doors Open" between 10 and 4 pm. We welcomed sixty-five adults and twenty-one children. Trying to print your name with an old fashioned straight pen and ink



can be difficult, but all the children tried this task. Writing or printing on a slate is much easier and drawing pictures on the slate can be a lot of fun too. Some of the younger set used their addition skills while playing with the marble games. Just think they were having fun without their electronic devices.



We would like express our thanks to all the visitors who took the opportunity to see what it would be like to attend a one room school in the early 1900's. Our new book "Echoes of the Past" was available for purchase. Stay tuned for next year's event.

Echoes of the Past
The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County

Daryl Cook

This book documents the history of all the one room schools that existed in Peel. It covers the period from the early 1800's until the mid-1960's. There are old photos of most of the schools and photos of what the sites look like today. Timelines trace the history of the schools and an interesting – sometimes humorous – "historical gem" is included for each one.

This book is a great gift for a teacher or anyone interested in the history of education. Written and published by Friends of the Schoolhouse.

Soft cover, full colour, 208 pages.
\$30 plus \$10 shipping

Available at all schoolhouse events and from any member of Friends of the Schoolhouse.