

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959
restored 1982

Fall Issue 2010



Schoolhouse Visitors

Open Sundays
Sept. and Oct.— 30
Students September— 58
October— 377

Our Recent Events

Monthly committee meetings
Open Sundays
Brampton Fair
Hallowe'en Family Fun

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?

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November Shopping

Eva Ardiel

The Friends' main fundraising events are the Strawberry Social in June, our Christmas Open House and two days of selling our wares at H.J.A. Brown Education Centre.



This year we will be selling in the atrium of the Peel Board Office on Thursday, November 18th and Friday, November 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Our annual Open House at the schoolhouse is on Sunday, November 28th. This is always a lovely event with the schoolhouse decked out with a

Victorian tree and evergreen boughs, with Christmas music and delicious goodies, as well as the opportunity to pick up some unusual small gifts and stocking stuffers.

We offer for sale a huge array of interesting toys and games that have no batteries and are reminiscent of the past, -- but just as much fun today. There are also a number of other small gift and souvenir items. This year we have added several interesting new things to our inventory which we know will be popular. You will find an amazing number of items for \$5.00 or less and almost everything is under \$20.00.

We hope to see you with your shopping list at one or both of these events. We know you won't be disappointed!

Board Office Sale: Thursday, November 18th and Friday, November 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Open House at the schoolhouse: Sunday, November 28th.



From the Chair

Shirley Hoad

The new school year has begun with enthusiasm and expectations at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse. Before the new classes began to attend, Dennis Patterson our schoolmaster and some of the Field Centre staff were busy harvesting the results of the gardens. The entry of several examples of the fruits and vegetables into the Brampton Fall Fair produced many red, blue and white ribbons for our produce. Our schoolmaster will be notifying the classes from various schools who were involved in the planting and cultivation of these crops of the successful results of their work. How many of our urban students can truthfully say they won a ribbon at an agricultural fair for their prize vegetable!!!!



Meanwhile, Dennis was also preparing for another event in his life, and on October 1, 2010 a daughter was born to Dennis and his wife, Yukiko. Named Nanami, which translates to Beautiful Flower, the “little lady” has already made her appearance



on the web as first photos were sent to their family and friends. She attended her first meeting of the Friends of the Schoolhouse in October. She was accompanied by proud parents Dennis and Yukiko.

Our Friends of the Schoolhouse group began its new school year by helping at our booth at the Brampton Fair. As usual we had many people express an interest in our site, and hopefully many of them will find the time to visit us on an Open Sunday or at some of our upcoming events. Thank you to all of you who gave of your time at the display to help promote the schoolhouse and its programs.

Now we move on to the busiest time of the year for us. On Friday, October 29 we hosted the Hallowe'en event held at the Schoolhouse and the Mississauga Room of the Board Office. It takes many hours of work and many hands to provide a fun event for our young people. The efforts of Joan Reid in planning and preparing for the event, and the work of Eva Ardiel in producing the beautiful piñatas must be mentioned.

Another highlight of our calendar was the birthday celebrations for Eva Ardiel. Turning 80 on October 31, the Friends got a head start on the parties, and honoured Eva at our regular schoolhouse meeting on October 12. With birthday cake and sparkling juice we toasted Eva and presented her with “80” useful gifts. No one can have too many napkins, tissues, cookies, Scotch mints or marbles

And now it is on to the Christmas season. With a two day sale in the Atrium of the Board Office on Thursday, November 18 and Friday, November 19 and again on Sunday, November 28 at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse, we will provide an opportunity for early shopping for gifts which are reminiscent of times past. There are more details of these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

And now to close with a wish for your holiday season to be happy and blessed with family and friends. Merry Christmas to all and to all a good day.

Visit Us On Open Sundays

Daryl Cook

As we've mentioned before, the second Sunday afternoon of every month is a wonderful time to visit the schoolhouse and participate in activities that were popular in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Each month we feature a different theme. These are definitely family oriented days with interesting things to do for all ages from children to grandparents. Dates and themes for Open Sundays are on our website at www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org.

On Thanksgiving weekend we celebrated the harvest as the farmers and villagers of Britannia would have years ago. The gardens planted by the visiting students in the spring were filled with vegetables and our new orchard yielded a surprising amount of fruit for such young trees. Visitors walked through the gardens and were invited to take home a sample of the harvest. An interesting project was "leaf rubbing", a method of transferring the image of a leaf to paper.



On November 14 we remembered those who defended our country during the wars of the twentieth century. There were stories about our wartime past that may have surprised some visitors. Did you know there were German submarines (U-boats) in the St. Lawrence River during WWII or that these submarines sank several ships in Conception Bay off Newfoundland? Perhaps you are unaware that Canada played an important role in espionage and the secret communications centre was in Oshawa. Visitors found out the important role the game of monopoly played during the war.

Here are the themes for our next two Open Sundays.

- Dec. 12** - See the schoolhouse decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Make a Victorian tree ornament.
- Jan. 9** - Cozy quilts. Design your own quilt block. Enjoy a display of beautiful quilts.

Hope to see you
Second Sunday of every month
1 to 4pm

Visit us on the web!

Check the "Current News" page for the latest news from the schoolhouse, historical information, crafts and games for children and more. This page is updated at the beginning of every month. Also have a look at our new "Resources" section.

Our Website Makeover

Daryl Cook

Our website has proved to be very popular with visitors accessing it from around the world. Recently we completed a review of the site to determine what parts were used most. We found that the Sales Catalogue section was rarely visited. Since the site went online we have made only two or three sales through online contacts. It is difficult to keep the sales catalogue up to date since the sales committee is constantly adding new items and removing others. With this in mind we decided to remove this section and create an entirely new one. You will now find a section called **Resources**.

The Resources section contains photographs and information about a variety of things that might have been found in Victorian era one room schoolhouses or homes. A toy box filled with old-fashioned toys is a popular historic schoolhouse or classroom resource. Old wall maps, text books, lunch pails, water containers and many other artifacts enhance the living history atmosphere of a one room school.

There are over one hundred items organized in several categories:

- School furniture and equipment
- Teaching materials
- Student Supplies and Household items
- Toys and Games
- Documents, Letters and Cards

Click on the photograph of an item that interests you and you will see a description of it.

We hope this new section will be of general interest to anyone accessing our site. More important, we hope it will be useful to other historic one room school sites – both those already established and others that are just getting started. Classroom teachers should find it useful when planning lessons about late 19th century history. Some of the artifacts pictured may still be found and could be obtained for use either in a living history schoolhouse or in the classroom. Originals may be hard to find but there are often reproductions available. Search antique shops and internet sites such as eBay to find similar items.

Our website is www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org. Click on “Resources”.

Reminder: Schoolhouse members can choose to have their newsletter e-mailed. Simply send an e-mail to dlcook@rogers.com or kmooncraney@rogers.com

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.



Annual
CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
at
The Old Britannia Schoolhouse
5576 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, ON
on
Sunday, November 28th, 2010
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

An opportunity to purchase from a variety of unusual gifts and stocking stuffers suitable for everyone on your list.

a huge variety of toys, games and puzzles reminiscent of days gone by but also fun for today

•

an interesting assortment of small gift items and souvenirs

•

scrapbook collections from the past of Britannia, of Schoolyard Humour, of Puzzles

•

See the schoolhouse decorated with evergreens and a Victorian Christmas tree

•

Enjoy Christmas music, mulled cider and goodies

**PARKING IS OFF MATHESON , BEHIND THE SCHOOLHOUSE
AT PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Hurontario St. and Matheson Blvd.**

Brampton Fair

Eva Ardiel



Good friends of the schoolhouse, Ben and Marjorie Madill, visited us at the fair.

The Friends and The Old Britannia Schoolhouse were very much in evidence at Brampton Fair again this year. As usual we shared space with the cattle, rabbits and fowl (very vocal roosters this year!) and with the fruit and vegetable submissions. It was thrilling to see so many winning ribbons on all the fruit and vegetable entries from Schoolmaster Patterson's schoolhouse gardens.

The Friends had displays about the schoolhouse programs and gardens prepared by Joan Reid, as well as one about Hallowe'en to advertise our Hallowe'en event on October 29th. The old fashioned toys, the skittles, marbles games and the old school desks got plenty of use. Also popular was "make-your-own-sachet" with the lavender harvested from the schoolhouse garden by Joan Reid. Joan also made kits to make a Hallowe'en clothes peg doll witch which sold like hot cakes. Karen Simmons replenished the popular lavender wands, also made with lavender from the schoolhouse garden, in time for the fair. We did really well this year selling our ever-growing array of toys, games and souvenirs.

Taking part in Brampton Fair is a very successful and enjoyable experience for Friends of the Schoolhouse, not only financially because of all we sell, but because we spread information about the schoolhouse to a multitude of people. It wouldn't be possible, however, without a lot of volunteers to look after our booth over the 3 days and evenings. Thanks are extended to Eva



Linda Kenny was busy demonstrating the toys

Ardiel, Earl Bonner, Linda Bowman, Lis Braun, Marg Carson, George Christian, Daryl Cook, Linda Elgie, Wayne Freeman, Joan Hamilton, Cathy Harper, Karin Henderson, Shirley Hoad, Frances Kay, Linda Kenny, Mary Light, Joan Moon, Eva and Steve Norman, Ruth Page, Karen Simmons, Olga Stevenson, Margaret Storey, and Muriel Walden as well as to Ruth Taylor for organizing the volunteers. Special thanks go to Shirley and Karen for helping to fetch, carry and set up. We also thank the Peel Board for delivering the old school desks and Leah O'Sullivan and the Brampton Fair Board for welcoming our participation.



The students' prize winning squash

From the Schoolmaster

Dennis Patterson

Nanami Frances Patterson, daughter of Yukiko Minami and Dennis Patterson was born October 1, 2010 in Toronto. She is happy, healthy, growing well and occasionally sleeps for up to 5 hours in a row.

Knowing that I would be in Mississauga for most of the summer (due to the upcoming birth of Nanami) I planted an ambitious amount of produce this spring. To my surprise most of it grew, and grew and grew. Through the summer and early fall most produce was given away in the board office to staff and over \$100 was collected in donations to the Schoolhouse program. Once classes started this fall produce was sent back to schools and tasted while here in Britannia.

The final push to harvest the gardens is about to take place with everything we can find going to the St. Mary's Food Bank located just a stones throw from here off Kennedy Road. They received a few boxes of produce in late September containing potatoes, carrots, peppers, onions swiss chard and tomatoes. The final harvest will include squash, carrot, swiss chard, leek and a pumpkin or two.

The highlight of the gardening year for many is the fall fair and this year The Britannia Schoolhouse took first prize in 10 categories at The Brampton Fall Fair. Ribbons and notes of thanks were sent out to some of the classes who visited this spring and helped with the planting and tending in the gardens.

We have just finished the garlic planting with 9 full rows in the ground waiting patiently for next year's April showers. Goldcrest, Willow Way, Caledon East and Hillside Middle school all helped with the planting and got a small taste of what their fall would have been like long ago.

I am looking for an old style portable chess set for our indoor recesses. If anyone has a chess set that they are no longer using and would like to donate it, please contact Dennis at the schoolhouse. Britannia.schoolhouse@peelsb.com or 905 890 1010 ex.2911



Harvesting the beets



Winners!



Ready for tasting at Open Sunday



**Friends of the Schoolhouse
will also be selling their wares**

in the atrium of

H. J. A. Brown Education Centre

on

Thursday, November 18th

and

Friday, November 19th, 2010

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

Student Volunteers

Joan Reid

The Friends of The Schoolhouse are very pleased with the calibre of the young people who volunteer to help at our activities. In 2009 over forty students from 12 different secondary schools helped to make Halloween Family Fun a success. Requests to work at this year's event are pouring in. We very much appreciate their enthusiasm when they are working with children.

Students have helped us clear, weed, and plant our heritage garden for several years. They come from several secondary schools. Stephen Lewis, Glenforest, Rick Hansen, Erindale, and Streetsville are well represented by these young people.

Student volunteers have also helped us at other events. Several presided over the skittles game at Heritage Day in February at the Bramalea City Centre. In June another helped us with our display booth at Eco-Fest. For two years very capable students have worked with us at Lemonade on the Lawn.

The reports of crime and violence that we are bombarded with on a daily basis can make us feel pessimistic at times. Working with these young people has convinced me that the future of our country will be in good hands.