



Some Figures and Facts:

Students attended the schoolhouse:
September 119

This newsletter is published by the *Friends of the Schoolhouse* every Fall, Winter, Spring, and late Summer in an effort to inform its membership, and the teachers of the Peel District School Board of its activities and events.

Co-Editors: Daryl Cook
dlcook@rogers.com
Dennis Taylor
dwtaylor914@sympatico.ca

Our website is
www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org

From the Chair: Joan Reid

Site preservation is an important issue for The Friends of the Schoolhouse. Preservation includes the interior of the schoolhouse as well as the schoolyard.

Over the years a number of authentic artifacts, furnishings, books, and maps have been collected. Many are on display, or, in use in the schoolroom. Others are in storage waiting for an opportunity to be displayed.

Preserving an historic landscape outside has many challenges. Schoolmaster Patterson has developed a vegetable garden which reminds us that school garden plots were a strong feature of schoolyards during the years when school fairs flourished and during World War II when it was a patriotic duty to have a victory garden.

The Friends have successfully rejuvenated the circular hedge at the front of the school which was planted to commemorate the Royal Visit of 1939. The Peel Board has replaced the decaying sugar maples, planted as part of a schoolyard beautification campaign in the 1880's, with similar trees in order to preserve the authenticity of the site.

One of the joys of working in the schoolyard to develop a heritage garden is the pleasure of working with teenagers who are accumulating hours of community service for their high school graduation diplomas. These industrious students who dig and weed give one hope for the future and a strong belief in the value of public education.

Family Heritage Day at Palmero Schoolhouse

A year ago Friends of the Schoolhouse responded to the invitation from the Trafalgar 200 Committee to take part in the township's 200th Anniversary celebration by setting up displays at the Palmero one-room schoolhouse at Dundas Street and Bronte Road.

Trafalgar Township originally surrounded "Old Oakville", extended from Lake Ontario north to Steeles and stretched from Winston Churchill in the east to Burloak in the west. The Trafalgar 200 Committee, which has now become the Trafalgar Township Historical Society, was formed with the aim of preserving, communicating and celebrating the history of the old agricultural communities of North Oakville.

One of the Society's projects is to preserve and restore the Palmero one-room schoolhouse. This year on September 22nd the Friends set up displays for the Society's Family Heritage Day at the schoolhouse site. The group's dedication and hard work over the past year is evident, - a new furnace has been installed, the inside walls have been repaired and painted, the wooden floor has been sanded and refinished. It was a pleasant surprise to see all the improvements.

Others who took part on the 22nd included the Halton Museum, Heritage Mississauga, Halton-Peel Genealogical Society, a weavers' guild, a blacksmith and a variety of costumed personalities from the past. The children and many adults too, particularly enjoyed the Magic Lantern show of Peter Pan and our skittles and other toys.

Thanks to Joan Reid, George Christian and Eva Ardiel who made our participation in this event possible.



Joan Reid and Eva Ardiel at Palmero Schoolhouse and George Christian being—Well!

Holiday Season Events

The sales committee is gearing up for our annual holiday season events. This year we will be selling our wares in the atrium of H. J. A. Brown Education Centre on both Thursday November 15 and Friday November 16, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. All of our merchandise will also be available at our Christmas Open House at the old Britannia Schoolhouse on Sunday December 2 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

This year, as usual, we have a variety of new items. Karen Simmons has harvested the schoolyard lavender and made dainty little sachets. She has also plucked teasel heads from the School Farm wilds and come up with absolutely charming teasel dolls. We offer for sale an extensive and ever growing array of old fashioned toys, games and collectibles, as well as variety of hostess gifts or stocking stuffers suitable for anyone on your list. And – all taxes are included in our prices!

Jean Robinson is organizing the annual Schoolhouse Decorating Party held on Friday November 30th. She will be fetching the fir tree and evergreen boughs, digging out the boxes of old fashioned decorations, orchestrating refreshments and so on. Everyone is welcome to come out on the 30th and help make swags, dress the tree, make paper chains, etc. We start about 3:00 p.m.. When the work is done we share a tasty supper and admire the transformed classroom. If you would like to take part, just be sure to let us know so we'll have plenty of food to go around. (Jean at 905 826 3475 or Eva at 905 459 9158)

We hope you will visit the schoolhouse for our Christmas Open House. The classroom looks beautiful decorated for Christmas in Victorian fashion. There will be piano music for your enjoyment, delicious goodies and mulled cider to snack on and a chance to pick up some unusual little gifts.



Eva with a variety of displays at the Palmero Schoolhouse.

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More
new
items

The Brampton Fair – 2007

The weather was delightful and the crowds friendly and curious as they swirled through the building where the display of The Friends of the Schoolhouse was located. For three busy days The Friends shared the space with prize winning chickens and cattle.

Eva Ardiel created a splendid array of toys and interesting articles for sale. Sales were brisk and steady. George Christian organized a superb crew of helpful volunteers who coped skilfully with the wandering fingers of eager youngsters and the questions of interested adults.

The new skittles game was extremely popular as was the traditional marble game created by Ben Madill. The picture display of fruits and vegetables grown in the Schoolhouse garden provoked a number of interesting questions and comments.

The event proved to be a happy and very educational experience for all who were involved.



Many people were attracted to the Friends visit at Brampton Fall Fair, always a highlight of our visits.



A Century Family - The Carberrys

In the 1877 *Atlas of Peel* George Carberry is shown as the owner of the eastern 100 acres of Lot 1, Concession I East of Centre Road. George had died in 1875 and the actual owner was his brother, John Carberry, Jr. There was one house and one orchard on the property. The house faced south onto the Base Line (now Eglinton) and was just west of what is now Kennedy Road.

The one and one-half storey farmhouse of Credit Valley stone had been built by Carberry's father, John Carberry, Sr., in 1846. The senior Carberry had emigrated from Armagh, Ireland, and had purchased the property in 1836. The junior Carberry was born on the property in 1837. He was interviewed by a reporter from *The Brampton Conservator* in the 1920's when he was in his 90's. His reminiscences give us some insight into the life of the early pioneers in Britannia.

When the Carberrys took up their land the area was covered in forest. Neighbours were scattered and few. Deer were plentiful and the family was able to enjoy fresh venison. Wolves roamed the woods. To protect his oxen from wolves while clearing the bush the senior Carberry used to build a great fire. One day Mrs. Carberry found what she thought were abandoned cubs in a hollow log. She brought them inside the family's newly built log cabin. That night the whole pack surrounded the cabin howling and trying to enter. The Carberrys kept a fire burning all night to prevent the wolves from coming down the chimney. Carberry shot the cubs in the morning. He received a bounty for each from the provincial government.

In the early days Indians were frequent visitors at the Carberry house. They would come into the kitchen, talk a while, and get up and leave. The family did not wish to offend them; the door was left unlocked. In a back field there was a large rock where the Indians came to hold religious ceremonies. The rock had three large and distinct steps carved on it. The bones buried beneath this rock were identified by "authorities" as those of an Indian, possibly a chief.

The Carberrys were Roman Catholic. The senior Carberry helped to build, and the family attended, St. Joseph's in Streetsville. Carberry, Jr., attended the school on Lot 3, Concession I West in the 1840's. He recalled that it was a *frame building heated by a big fireplace. The boys sat on benches on one side of the room and the girls on benches on the other side.*

The young Carberry studied to become a priest but was forced to drop out of St. Michael's College in Toronto because of illness. He worked for a short time in the oil fields in Petrolia, Ontario, and then worked as a cook for the Northern Army during the American Civil War. In his 30's he married and began to raise a family on the property.



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Schoolmaster's Report

*I look out of my window
And there the maple trees,
Each one a mass of brightest red,
Move in the autumn breeze.*

Ontario Teachers Manual Primary Reading, 1920

Our newly planted maple trees are beginning to shed their leaves here at the schoolhouse adding a subtle crunch to the students' steps while enjoying recess. The brilliant reds, yellows and oranges are announcing the gradual movement toward winter.

Fall is here and there is no better time to visit The Old Britannia Schoolhouse. A summer toiling in the sun has brought forth a cornucopia of vegetables. Over the past month the students who have visited the school grounds have tasted pears, tomatoes, green beans, beets, carrots and green peppers. The mostly urban students who study plants in Grade 3 are quite curious about where their food comes. They are also rather surprised that you can eat things straight from the garden.

In the month before the schoolhouse was operating, excess vegetables were placed in the atrium of the Central Board Office and donations in the order of \$60 were received to be put toward program material.

I was having a difficult time properly explaining the historic trade of coopering (wooden bucket and barrel making) to the students coming to Britannia. Once a very common trade, coopering is now done with machines and is a skill that has largely been lost. During university I worked at a historic fur trading post and behind the shop I worked in there was a working cooperage. I approached the Friends of the Schoolhouse and they agreed that a hand coopered bucket would add to the educational programming. I contacted Fort William Historic Park and Dan Pearson, master cooper, sent me a fine example of his trade, a cedar bucket with black ash hoops.

Halloween season is approaching and the Schoolhouse is incorporating some of the event into the daily events. An interesting example is found in the following Oral Arithmetic problem.

A witch adds 5 bat livers, 6 spiders and 4 eyes of newt into her witch's brew. How many items are in the brew?


 Annual
Christmas Open House
 at
The Old Britannia Schoolhouse
 5576 Hurontario St. (at Matheson Blvd) Mississauga
Sunday, December 2, 2007
 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

- An opportunity to purchase a variety of unusual gifts and stocking stuffers reminiscent of times gone by... bus wax candles... Victorian tinsel and tin items... children's slates... schoolhouse souvenirs... old-fashioned toys and games... etc... and support the schoolhouse at the same time!
- See the schoolhouse decorated with evergreens and a Victorian Christmas tree.
- Enjoy Christmas music, mulled cider and goodies.


 Parking in the H. J. A. Brown Ed. Ctr. lot... enter off Matheson Blvd. W.
 Organized by the Friends of the Schoolhouse Sales Committee



Two views of the wooden bucket commissioned by the Schoolmaster.



Two pictures of the produce grown and harvested in the Schoolhouse garden.

A Century Family - The Carberrys *continued from page 5*

The property was the scene of an unsolved murder in 1960. Peter Carberry, John's son, was beaten to death in the house which was now at 241 Eglinton Avenue. No one was ever charged with his murder.

The house was demolished in 1985. At that time it had no water supply. It was on the heritage inventory of the City of Mississauga but was never designated an historic site. At the time of its demolition it was covered with stucco which obscured its nature as a typical early Ontario stone farmhouse.

The Carberrys occupied the property on Lot 1 for 124 years.

For Your Calendar:

November 2007

11 The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

15 and 16 Christmas Sales: Atrium of Board Offices 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

December 2007

02 Christmas Open House at the Schoolhouse 1:00 to 4:00 pm

09 The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

January 2008

13 The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Need to contact the school?

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse can be contacted directly, by dialing
905 890 1010, ext. 2911

Heritage Mississauga

can be accessed on the internet at:

www.heritagemississauga.com

Or by phoning 905 615 4415



We are on the web at
www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org