

# Friends of the Schoolhouse



## 2012 Report and Financial Statement

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“FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE”  
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE  
THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT  
OF  
THE PEEL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
PATRICIA ROSSALL  
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION  
ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMES  
SHARON STEVENS-LAY  
PRINCIPAL, ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMES  
ROB RIDLEY, FIELD CENTRE CO-ORDINATOR  
SANDY MCGOWAN, OFFICE ASSISTANT  
SCHOOLMISTRESS, C.CHAPEL  
SCHOOLMASTER, M.HOGAN  
AND  
ALL OF OUR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS  
AND DONORS

# 2012 Financial Statement

OF

## The FRIENDS OF THE OLD BRITANNIA SCHOOLHOUSE

ITEMS	Balances Dec. 31 2011	Income	Expenditures	Balances Dec. 31 2012
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Membership	\$ 546.29	\$ 1,025.00	\$ 953.00	\$ 618.29
Books	7,435.31	130.00	-	7,565.31
Sales	9,282.59	5,151.30	1,471.37	12,962.52
Events	284.40	991.54	1,696.57	-420.63
Hosting	1,485.62	270.00	-	1,755.62
Donations	3,676.29	8,847.65	13,523.33	-999.39
Garden	1,241.75		522.68	719.07
Research	2,834.49	42.50	41.02	2,835.97
Website	953.52	2,034.00	1,469.00	1,518.52
Totals	\$ 27,740.26	\$18,491.99	\$ 19,676.97	\$ 26,555.28
Trust Fund*	\$ 19,033.34	\$ 6,210.00	\$ 9,133.40	\$ 16,109.94
Totals				
Including				
Trust Fund	\$ 46,773.60			\$ 42,665.22

\* Donations eligible for income tax receipts are deposited in the Trust Fund held by the Peel District School Board.

### THE OLD BRITANNIA SCHOOLHOUSE

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse was formerly the School Section #12., Toronto Township School. It was built as a Common School in 1852 and replaced an earlier wooden schoolhouse which had fallen into disrepair.

The school's history is unusual. It is situated on a 200 acre land now known as Britannia School Farm. In 1819 this lot was appropriated for the use of a schoolmaster. In 1833 it was granted by the Crown in trust for the maintenance of a school and the advancement of education in Toronto Township.

In 1959, after having been attended by several generations of local children and witness to many change, The Britannia School closed. For several years the schoolhouse stood empty and deteriorated badly.

In 1982 the Peel Board of Education restored the schoolhouse to be a "living history" site and established and funded a programme there for students from across Peel to visit to participate in a school day as it would have been experienced by rural pupils "long ago". Since its restoration nearly 100,000 students have had their classroom studies enriched by a day of role playing at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Due to budget restraints, the schoolhouse programme was "cut back" in 1992 and closed completely for the 1993-94 school year. However, in September 1994 the programme was reimplemented on a more cost recovery basis. Funds for the programme are now raised in part through user fees, community partnerships and volunteer initiatives.

From September 1994 until June 30, 2004, the programme was operated by the Centre for Education and Training Branch of the Peel District School Board. Since that time it has been operated and supported by the Alternative Programmes Department of the Peel District School Board.

During the 2012 calendar year 2847 Peel students visited The Old Britannia Schoolhouse for a day of role playing.

2012 Staff: Schoolmistress: Christine Chapel  
Schoolmaster: Marc Hogan

**The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is designated by the City of Mississauga under the Heritage Act (1974) for its architectural and historical significance.**

If you would like more information about The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, please call 905-890-1010, Ext. 2911 or email: [Britannia.schoolhouse@peelsb.com](mailto:Britannia.schoolhouse@peelsb.com)

## Friends of the Schoolhouse

Friends of the Schoolhouse was organized in September, 1992, to ensure the continuation of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse programme for the students of Peel. When the programme was terminated in June 1993, the efforts of the "Friends" shifted to ensuring the re-implementation of that programme. Since the September, 1994, re-opening of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, the "Friends" have focused their efforts on working closely with the schoolhouse staff and on supporting the schoolhouse and its programme.

Members of the Executive Committee, the working committees and many other volunteers have donated hundreds of hours of their time, energy and expertise, as well as considerable amounts of money and kind to The Old Britannia Schoolhouse cause. They are rewarded in the knowledge that Peel students are visiting daily to learn and to be enchanted by a day of role playing in the schoolhouse and the schoolyard.

### Mission Statement

**Friends of the Schoolhouse is an independent and self-sustaining association of concerned citizens dedicated to preserving and supporting The Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its educational programmes by acting as an advocacy and an advisory body on behalf of the students of Peel.**

This mission will be accomplished by:

\*acting through their Executive as an advisory committee to the Peel District School Board.

\*providing support for schoolhouse staff and decision makers.

\*assisting in the preservation and presentation of the Schoolhouse, its records and artifacts, recognizing these as valuable assets in the Peel heritage community.

\*raising funds in order to provide financial, material, and social support for the enhancement of the schoolhouse and its programmes.

\*stimulating community awareness of, and furthering public interest in and access to, The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

For information about Friends of the Schoolhouse: [www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

## Open Sundays 2012

January	Story Time
February	Victorian Valentines
March	Family Games Day
April	Victorian Toys
May	Spring Gardens
June	Summer Gardens
July	Lavender in Bloom
August	Summer Vegetables
September	Discovery Day - Treasures in the Schoolyard
October	The Autumn Garden
November	Remembering Britannia in the War Years
December	Victorian Christmas

## Events and Participation in 2012

February 11 - Display and activities at the Bramalea City Centre "Heritage Highlights"

June 27 - Annual Strawberry Social and sales in the atrium of the HJA Brown Education Centre

July 17 - Lemonade on the Lawn of the Schoolhouse

September 14, 15, 16 - display booth, activities and sales at the Brampton Fall Fair

September 29 - Doors Open Mississauga

November 22, 23 - Annual Christmas Sale in the atrium of the HJA Brown Education Centre

November 30 - Annual decoration of a Christmas tree and the Schoolhouse

December 2 - Annual Christmas Open House and sales at the Schoolhouse

The Friends opened the Schoolhouse for several events including the taking of wedding and engagement photographs.

Over a dozen Friends attended the annual S.L.A.T.E. conference held in April this year at Ameliasburg in Prince Edward County

Displays at RTO meetings and RTO Senate

## 2011 - 2012 Executive Committee

Chair: Shirley Hoad  
Past Chair: Dennis Taylor  
Vice-Chair: Ruth Taylor  
Secretary: Linda Kenny  
Treasurer: Lis Braun  
Lifetime Members: Ben and Marjorie Madill  
Community Members: Eva Ardiel Marg Carson  
Daryl Cook Sandra Emerson  
Cathy Harper Frances Kay  
Joan Moon Katharine Moon-Craney  
Jean Robinson Corina Proeller  
Karen Simmons Marg Storey  
Glenna Zdebiak  
Executive Director: Joan Reid  
Staff: Chris Chapel Marc Hogan  
Peel Board Liasons: Patricia Rossall, Sharon Stevens-Lay, Sandy McGowan  
Field Centre Co-ordinator: Rob Ridley

## 2012 - 2013 Executive Committee

Chair: Ruth Taylor  
Past Chair: Shirley Hoad  
Vice-Chair: Margaret Storey  
Secretary: Linda Kenny  
Treasurer: Lis Braun  
Lifetime Members: Ben and Marjorie Madill  
Community Members: Eva Ardiel Marg Carson  
Daryl Cook Sandra Emerson  
Cathy Harper  
Joan Moon Katharine Moon-Craney  
Corina Proeller Jean Robinson  
Karen Simmons Glenna Zdebiak  
Executive Director: Shirley Hoad  
Staff: Chris Chapel Marc Hogan  
Peel Board Liasons: Patricia Rossall, Sharon Stevens-Lay, Sandy McGowan  
Field Centre Co-ordinator: Rob Ridley

The monthly meetings of our group are held on the second Tuesday of every month (except July and August) in the Schoolhouse, beginning at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome.

**Sub-Committees - 2012**

**Membership**

**Communications**

**Heritage Gardens**

**Hosting**

**Publicity**

**Research and Archives**

**Sales and Marketing**

**Schoolhouse Site**

**Volunteers**

**Ad Hoc Committees as needed**



### 2012 Donating Friends

Gordon/Margaret Anderson	Beryl Bleakley	Catherine Cameron
Joan Command	Margaret Dickson	Mary Ewing
Ann Gilpin	Doug Graham	Joan Hamilton
Peter Hodgkinson/Shirley Haslam		
Shirley Johnston	Eleanor Konkle	Myrtle Laishley
Barbara Layton	Richard Luft	Shirley MacFarlane
Arleen McCallum	Frances Quarrington	Robert Sandusky
Olga Stevenson	Ken Tellis	Muriel Walden
Shirley Walker	Amy Wilson	

### 2012 Supporting Friends

Audrey Baird	Lis Braun	Anne Brownjohn
Betty Ann Bushnell	Marg Carson	George Christian
Grace Church	Daryl Cook	Mary Corrigan
Jeannine Dykstra	Alba Falconi	Pamela Frid
Judy Grant	Mike Harmer	Judith Harris
Viu Kanep	Linda Kenny/Ralph Eades	
Marlys Kosmalski	Debra Madill	Ruth Manders
Mary McDonald	Dennis Mills	Beth Morrow
Kent Moseley	Del Newbigging	Judy Probst
Jean and Ken Robinson	Errol Smith	

### 2012 Sustaining Friends

Eva Ardiel	Kevin Doran	Cathy Harper/Earl Bonner
Karin Henderson	Louise Joyce	Janet McDougald, Chair PDSB
Marilyn Newell	Linda Newman	Steve and Eva Norman
Judy Paget	Adam Peer	William Quance
Jennifer Roberts	Clara Scott	Doris Stewart
Karen Simmons/Holly Burrows	Betty Wilson	

### Benefactors

Shirley Hoad                      Ben and Marjorie Madill

Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the Donation Box at various events and to everyone who supported the Schoolhouse by purchasing our wares and attending our events.



Activities at an Open Sunday

### Membership - Marg Carson

- \* Membership is open to teachers, parents, members of the community and groups.
- \* Annual membership fee is \$10.00. Members may elect to receive Heritage Mississauga newsletters for an additional \$5.00.
- \*Membership runs for the calendar year.
- \*Annual membership fees run the association, pay for newsletters, postage, advertising, etc.
- \*The total number of 2012 paid members was 107 of which 103 were community members and 4 were in the Peel school system. 20 members asked to receive the Heritage Mississauga newsletters. 49 of our members receive their newsletter by e-mail.

Note: See "donations" for the membership structure.

## Communications

Website: Daryl Cook, Website Convenor

The Friends of the Schoolhouse website continues to attract a large number of visitors.

The Current News page was updated monthly with news of coming events, articles of interest, and activities and games for children. An annual review and update of the website was done in September,

Newsletter: Co-editors: Daryl Cook and Katharine Moon-Craney

Four newsletters were produced in 2012. A significant number are now distributed by email to members and school board personnel. This has reduced the number of copies printed and thus the cost of printing, envelopes and postage. We are also pleased to be pursuing a more environmentally friendly method of distribution.

## Donations - 2012

All money received as donations (unless otherwise designated by the donor) goes into the schoolhouse programme, the facility or the collection needs or enhancement, or is being held until needs arise. Donation money is not used to run the "Friends" association nor is it used to fund events. We have arranged with the **Peel District School Board** to have donors of \$50. or more receive a registered charity receipt. To receive a receipt for income tax purposes cheques must be made payable to Peel District School Board and designated in the lower left corner "for **Friends of the Schoolhouse.**" Cheques should be sent to [Friends of the Schoolhouse.](#)

Donating Friend	\$5 to \$49 donation
Supporting Friend	\$50 to \$99 donation
Sustaining Friend	\$100 to \$499 donation
Benefactor	\$500 plus donation

The names of all Sustaining Friends and Benefactors are engraved on a plaque which is in place beside the door to the classroom in the entry vestibule of the Schoolhouse.

The names of all who make donations are entered in a book placed at the back of the classroom.

### Donations in Kind

Daryl Cook - pitch pipe  
Martha Brunet - vintage books



## **Heritage Gardens**

### **Karen Simmons**

In April, a new committee was formed to take over the management and care of the gardens.

Volunteers helped to do a spring clean up on 4 Saturdays.

Evergreens that had been planted as seedlings several years ago at the edges of the vegetable and perennial gardens were donated to volunteers who came to dig them up. Roses were pruned, and some new ones planted. Some raspberry canes were cut back and dug out by volunteer Frank. This provided space for an annual garden of Love Lies Bleeding, Nasturtium, Nicotiana, Cleome, etc.

The Teachers' Arbour was restored and painted by Ken Robinson. Eva Ardiel planted and maintained the gardens by the Schoolhouse door.

A new cedar arbour with bench was erected to honour Joan Reid, and a dedication plaque mounted on a slab of granite beside it.

The Field Centres purchased a good wheelbarrow to help with our work.

The rose garden was professionally weeded. A truck load of mulch was purchased and spread on the rose and vegetable gardens. The trees were fertilized, and the front hedge trimmed. A third arbour was installed over the walkway to the parking lot.

Marg Carson and her sister Cathy have worked on restoring the native perennial garden, and created a small garden around the bird bath. Volunteer Laurie Da Silva kept the planters watered all summer.

Schoolmistress Chris and her husband Jim added a load of topsoil to the vegetable garden, and created a system of hoses and connectors to help water the gardens.

The lavender was harvested to use for making sachets for sale.

Student and adult volunteers did a fall clean up.

Two classes from Judith Nyman School, while doing a course with Field Centre staff on using garden tools, finished the clean up, and pruned raspberry canes back to the rail fence.

Shirley Hoad and Jean Robinson cut back all the rose bushes. Schoolmaster Marc planted daffodil bulbs.

Garden vegetables were entered in the Brampton Fair, where they won several ribbons.

A new 8' x 12' garden shed was erected to be used for storing tools and equipment, and for starting seedlings in the spring for the vegetable garden. Marc gave the shed its first coat of paint.

Many thanks to all the Friends and volunteers who helped us all season.



### **Hosting - Joan Moon**

After considerable discussion, it became apparent in 2012 that we could no longer continue to host retirements and other celebrations.

We subsequently began hosting couples and wedding parties who chose The Old Britannia Schoolhouse as the site of pictures for their special day. O.B.S> has become a very popular site for such pictures, and is both enjoyable and profitable for The Friends of the Schoolhouse.

### **Publicity - Jean Robinson**

Disseminating information to the public about the events held at The Schoolhouse and at outside venues by the Friends of The Schoolhouse is done in four ways: printed flyers and brochure inserts produced in September; postings on the Britannia Schoolhouse Friends website; inclusion on the Peel District School Board electronic communication system, and announcements of events placed in the local print media (Mississauga News and The Booster).

As in previous years, the first three methods of communication seems to be the most successful. Announcements placed in the print media publications are not in a prominent place and therefore easily overlooked by readers. All four ways will continue to be used in the coming year.

### **Volunteers-Corina Proeller**

The Friends of the Schoolhouse events and projects are only possible because of the willing and enthusiastic support of a great many volunteers, which include teachers, students, parents and community members, as well as the committee members.

Bonnie Anderson	Eva Ardiel	Linda Bowman
Lis Braun	Earl Bonner	Margaret Carson
Cathy Carson	Chris Chapel	Jim Chapel
George Christian	Daryl Cook	Mary Corrigan
Gail Cumberland	Mary Dobson	Sandra Emerson
Pamela Frid	Cathy Harper	Marc Hogan
KarinHenderson	Shirley Hoad	Val Hosty
Ray Hosty	Frances Kay	Linda Kenny
Barb Layton	Mary Light	Ben Madill
Marjorie Madill	Mary McDonald	Shirley MacFarlane
Sandy McGowan	Joan Moon	Beth Morrow
Katharine Moon-Craney	Bronwyn Moon-Craney	Eva Norman
Steve Norman	Judy Paget	Corina Proeller
Ashlyn Proeller	Jessica Proeller	Joan Reid
Jean Robinson	Ken Robinson	Karen Simmons
Olga Stevenson	Margaret Storey	Dennis Taylor
Ruth Taylor	Muriel Walden	Glenna Zdebiak

A special thank you to the student volunteers who are not listed here.  
We apologize if any names have been inadvertently omitted.

### **Student Volunteers**

At some events we are able to have the assistance of student volunteers from our schools. The Friends appreciate the work of student volunteers and hope to provide as many opportunities as possible in the future for students to earn their community service hours.

### Acquisitions, Replacements and Repairs 2012

- \* The schoolmistress and schoolmaster were provided with new outfits to wear in the classroom.
- \* Other supplies as needed for the classroom programme were purchased
- \* The piano was tuned as needed
- \* Expenses were paid to allow the schoolmistress and schoolmaster to attend the annual SLATE conference
- \* A round top arbour with bench purchased
- \* Repairs were made to old arbour and the sundial
- \* Bronze plaque, engraving and stone to mount plaque purchased for arbour to honour Joan Reid
- \* In the garden supplies of soil, plants, mulch were provided
- \* Fertilizing, tree trimming and yard work by outside companies was done
- \* A garden shed and flooring were purchased and installed
- \* Windows were cleaned in the Schoolhouse as needed
- \* Gifts of appreciation to staff were given
- \* Funding of the Celebration of the life of Joan Reid was provided.



### Research and Archives



The Friends of the Schoolhouse have been saddened by the death of Joan Reid in August, 2012. She had been a vital member of our organization for many years, serving as convenor for the Hallowe'en events, as Chair of the Research and Archives Committee, and as Executive Director. Her vision for and development of the Victorian Gardens have created a visual highlight of the Schoolhouse grounds.

Joan had spent many years gathering information about the many one roomed schoolhouses in Peel, and this research has been retained by The Friends of the Schoolhouse. The amount of information is extensive, and a group is in the process of determining how best to make this material available to interested people. As plans become more clear, The Friends will keep you informed of progress. Any costs involved in this endeavour will be covered by a special fund.

## **Sales and Marketing - Eva Ardiel**

Committee members: Eva Ardiel, Frances Kay, Joan Moon, Jean Robinson, Karen Simmons, and Margaret Storey

Committee members attended the January and August Retailers' Gift Shows and the January Toy and Hobby Fair at the International and Congress Centres.

A few items of stock were replenished and a few new items were added to the inventory.

Committee members and friends of the committee members made a number of interesting items to sell, including lavender wands, sachets and dolls (with schoolhouse garden lavender), bees wax candles, woolly sheep, ribbon angels, clothes peg doll kits, felt ornament kits, etc.. . Thanks are extended to Mary Dobson, Joan Reid, Jean Robinson, Karen Simmons and Margaret Storey for their creative handiwork.

The future of the Sales Committee was discussed at the Annual Planning Meeting in July. Storage of stock and the transportation of stock to events has become a major problem. It was decided that we would sell as usual at the Strawberry Social and Brampton Fall Fair but would mark prices down significantly for the November Sales at the Board Office and at the Christmas Open House and clear out as much stock as possible. Some of the toys would be saved for future use at the schoolhouse or for display and trying out at events.

Response to our pre Christmas clearance was excellent and our stock has been reduced dramatically. As well as selling at our usual events, a number of phone, personal and mail order sales were completed.

The assistance provided by all of the volunteers who helped with the sales tables was much appreciated.

Thanks are extended to everyone who supported The Old Britannia Schoolhouse and the Friends by purchasing our wares and who encouraged the Sales Committee by admiring it's selection of merchandise.

The Friends' amazing assortment old fashioned toys and games are a great source of interest at all of the events in which the Friends take part,- whether selling, promoting the schoolhouse, entertaining or educating.

## **Schoolhouse Site - Cathy Harper**

**Work done by the Friends of the Schoolhouses included the following:**

### **Exterior Work:**

- \* Cold Frame dismantled.
- \* Teachers' Arbour repaired.
- \* New arbour erected at back entrance by the privies.
- \* Privies had a good housecleaning.
- \* Sundial repaired.
- \* Tree removal of one maple and one ash.
- \* New garden shed has been installed.
- \* Rebars removed from around fruit trees

### **Interior Work:**

- \* Annual dusting and cleaning of artifacts, interior and kitchen were completed.
- \* Windows were cleaned inside and outside.
- \* Piano tuned.
- \* Attic cleaned and belfry rescreened
- \* Pest control for mice - twice
- \* Back door lock repair
- \* New keys cut and distributed

Other work done at the Schoolhouse by Peel District School Board included the following:

- \* Exterior light bracket repaired.
- \* Indoor light fixture between back doors replaced
- \* Interior light bulbs were replaced.