

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959
restored 1982



Winter 1999

Greetings from the Schoolmaster:

Happy new year to everybody! I hope you all enjoyed your holidays -- and a much needed chance to catch our collective breath. I want to take this chance to thank all of you who helped decorate (and de-decorate!) the Schoolhouse. We made it look truly festive! The mice didn't get at TOO much of the stringed popcorn, thanks to Frances' mice frightening devices...

The new year has brought new challenges, especially (of course) the SNOW. So far we've had two days rescheduled due to the white stuff. Hopefully that number won't run too much higher, because we only have four or five days left unscheduled for the rest of the year!!! Another big challenge has been finishing a new Gr. 7/8 Drama unit which I hope to have ready for use starting next fall! I plan to test it with two or three classes this March, and offer it to any and all interested teachers next year.

Lastly, I want to extend an invitation to anyone reading this to come for a visit. If you'd like to sit in on a day or part-day at the schoolhouse, just give me a call (890-1010, ext. 2911) and I'll be happy to arrange it. I look forward to seeing you at the Schoolhouse soon!

Tom Veenstra



It took a tall schoolmaster to put the Union Jack on top.

During the fall term, 1,457 Peel students had their classroom studies enriched by a day of role playing with Schoolmaster Veenstra at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.



The New Windows

J.D. Strachan Construction Ltd. (a firm with extensive experience working on historic buildings) is to be commended for the fine job they did replacing the rotted windows at the schoolhouse. The new windows are much closer replicas of the original ones. They are double hung with rope pulleys, have finer mullions and use distorted glass.

All of us who care so deeply for the old schoolhouse sincerely appreciate the effort and commitment of Community Education to get the desperate window situation looked after.

In the spring Friends of the Schoolhouse are committed to getting the necessary repairs done to the roof and belfry, as well as to getting the exterior wood work painted.

Executive Committee News

Your executive and many volunteers have had a busy Fall and are looking forward to an equally busy Winter. November turned out to be an "angelic" month as we ran two Christmas ornament-making workshops. A number of central board office staff spent their lunch hour making angels for the tree in the atrium and for their own trees at home. Later the same week Friends of the Schoolhouse members and others had a light supper and spent the evening creating a variety of angel ornaments. Participants in both events said they enjoyed this beginning of the holiday season.

The sales committee raised money through events at the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre and at the Christmas Open House in December. This year's Christmas Open House was our most successful ever with many people visiting the schoolhouse for the first time. Children were invited to make an old-fashioned fan ornament and much energy and concentration went into their creations. The schoolhouse looked festive with a tree decorated with traditional popcorn and cranberry chains, paper and lace ornaments and a Union Jack flying at the top. All we needed was an old-fashioned Christmas Concert to complete the 1890's effect.

By the end of the year all the schoolhouse windows had been replaced. The new ones are reproductions of windows which would have been in the schoolhouse originally, complete with glass panes that have a slightly wavy appearance. The old frames were so rotted they fell apart when they were removed, so the work was badly needed.

Looking ahead to 1999 we have a number of events planned. We will be participating again with Heritage Mississauga at Square 1 for the Heritage Week display February 12 to 14. The following weekend, on Sunday, February 21st there will be an Old Britannia Schoolhouse display at the Peel Heritage Complex in Brampton. Please come and visit us at either location.

The date of the Teddy Bear workshop has been changed to Sunday, April 11. This is the Sunday after Easter. Bring your well-loved teddy bears to this "come out of hibernation" gathering. An expert will tell us all about teddy bears and, for a nominal fee, will give an appraisal of your treasure.

We look forward to seeing you. Don't forget, the schoolhouse is open the second Sunday afternoon of every month.

Daryl Cook
Chair, Friends of the Schoolhouse

Chair: Daryl Cook..... 279-5896
Vice Chair: Jean Robinson...826-3475
Secretary: Cathy Harper.....279-5761
Treasurer: Shirley Hoad....821-9262
Executive
Director: Eva Ardiel.....459-9158

We're on the net: www.comed.on.ca

To reach The Old Britannia Schoolhouse call 890-1099 ext. 2911

Membership

Bravo and thank you!!! Over half of our members have renewed for 1999.

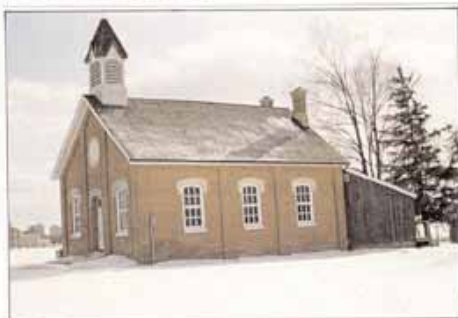
We hope to hear from the rest of you soon.

It is the membership fee that keeps the Friends of the Schoolhouse going and keeps you informed. Your support for the schoolhouse, its programme and the work of the Friends is truly appreciated. So, if you haven't already done so, please take a moment to send in your \$10. membership fee for 1999.

(Your mailing label indicates the last year for which your membership has been paid.)

One More Double Desk!

You won't believe it when you see it! Ben Madill found and purchased the cast iron pieces from an old school desk. Using these, along with his expert craftsmanship, skills and patience, he has made and donated a perfect reproduction double desk to go with the two already in the schoolroom. Ben, you are amazing! Thank you, ... especially from all the students who manage to get one of the doubles before their classmates do!



Christmas Tree Decorating Workshop

Once again this year the Friends of the Schoolhouse helped the staff at the central board office to decorate their Christmas tree in the atrium. Staff were invited to spend part of their lunch hour making an "angelic" ornament for the tree and another for themselves. Participants could choose to make angels out of raffia, net and lace, or wood. The raffia angel was by far the most popular - and the messiest!

Although the number of participants was small - about 25 - we did manage to decorate the tree with quite a number of beautiful angels. Everyone seemed to enjoy the change of pace in the day and the cider and cookies.

Organizing this event involves many hours of work from a number of willing volunteers and we wish to thank the following: Eva Ardiel, Mary Corrigan, Sandra Emerson, Muriel Peck and Jean Robinson.

Our hope is that in addition to assisting the staff to prepare the atrium for the Christmas season this event makes more people aware of the Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Event Convenors: Daryl Cook, Shirley Hoad, Frances Kay



An Angelic Christmas Workshop

On Thursday, November 26, 1998 thoughts turned to Christmas decorations as a group of Schoolhouse supporters gathered. First on the agenda was a hearty dinner served at the Schoolhouse by some of our volunteers, and then everyone followed the candle-lit path to the Mississauga Room of the Board Office to spend an evening making Christmas crafts. A variety of angels was the theme this year to continue a popular idea from last year. Raffia, net, golf tees, bamboo sticks and paper were turned into angelic creatures for all to take home and enjoy with their students and/or their families. The evening gave tired teachers and shoppers a chance to relax and enjoy the creative experience. Again volunteers from Friends of the Schoolhouse membership helped to teach each of the crafts, and we appreciate all of their efforts to make this a memorable experience.

Shirley Hoad



Christmas Open House

The Friends of the Schoolhouse held a very successful Open House at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse on Sunday, December 6, 1999.

The previous Friday, many "Friends" had cleaned and decorated The Schoolhouse with a pungent spruce tree, cedar boughs, wreaths and crepe paper chains.

Victorian ornaments adorned the tree with candles, real tinsel (twisted pieces of tin) and popcorn and cranberry strings. The Schoolhouse always looks its very best at Christmas!

The talented duo of John Emerson on piano and Roy Hosty on violin serenaded the many visitors with traditional Christmas music.

The children visitors were invited to make a Victorian paper fan ornament to take home as a souvenir of the visit and the adults were able to do some early Christmas shopping from the "Friends" array of unique Old Britannia Schoolhouse wares - wooden toys, candles, cards and much more.

A plentiful supply of hot mulled cider and home baked cookies was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to all the volunteers without whom none of the "Friends" activities would be possible. Special thanks to John and Ray for once again enhancing a delightful day at the Schoolhouse.

Jean Robinson

Sales Committee

The sales committee worked hard preparing for Christmas season sales. We are thrilled to announce that we had a record response. We thank everyone who supported the Friends by purchasing our various items! Our new tea towels sold well but we still have lots left. We also have lots of our new catalogues left. If you would like a catalogue or would like to order any of our merchandise please call Eva 459-9158.

Members of the sales committee include Sandy Caves, Rosie D'Amico, Jenise Del Medico, Val and Ray Hosty, Frances Kay, Marjorie Madill, Midge Prong, Jean Robinson, Eva Ardiel and Margaret Storey.



Celebrating at the Schoolhouse

Whiteoaks Public School honoured the teaching careers of Elaine Cotterell and Judy Putherbough at the Schoolhouse on November 27th. Our best wishes to Elaine and Judy!

Friends of the Schoolhouse catered this event, — thanks to Joan Moon, Bonnie Fredenburgh, Shirley Hoad, Frances Kay, Margaret Storey, Daryl Cook and Eva Ardiel. We feel we must have done the job satisfactorily because Whiteoaks has asked us to cater a celebration at the Schoolhouse in January for another staff member who is retiring.

We thank the Whiteoaks staff for choosing the Schoolhouse for these special events and for their very generous support.



Coming Events:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 12, 13, and 14 Heritage Mississauga Showcase '99 "Industrious Mississauga" in the centre court at Square One - Friends of the Schoolhouse will be there, along with twelve other heritage groups.

Sunday, February 21, 1999 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Heritage Day Celebrations at The Peel Heritage Complex - 9 Wellington St. E., Brampton - Friends of the Schoolhouse will be there representing The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Sunday, April 11, 1999 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Teddy Bears with Ruth Fraser at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse (See enclosed flyer)

Lucky Draw: School's Out by D. Scott Taylor. One large framed print and two small framed prints. Draw on May 29th. Tickets are now available for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. For information or tickets call Shirley 821-9262.

Friends of the Schoolhouse gratefully acknowledge the generous donations of the following people and groups.

Colleagues of Lis Brann	Helen Debenham	James Davis	Audrey Baird
Dorothea Phair	Clara Scott	Joan McLeish	Jasinski Family
Whiteoaks Public School	Dorothy Woods	Errol Smith	James Potter
Ken and Jean Robinson	Margaret Anderson	Anne Brownjohn	Cathy Harper
Caren Ludwig-Shoychet	Brian Chambers	Karin Henderson	Marjorie Wagg
Dr. A. Kennedy	Alba Falconi	Diane Claridge	Beth Morrow
Amy Wilson	George Christian	Rose Marie Beatty	Julie Shannon
Adam Peer	Whiteoaks P.S. for Judy Putherbough and Elaine Cotterell		
Parcel Sr. P.S. for Mike Walmsley		Maplewood Public School Staff	

Sincere thanks also to everyone who helped with Friends' events, donated food for events and meetings and who supported the Friends by purchasing our wares and by sending in their membership fee.