

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959
restored 1982

Spring Issue 2010



Upcoming events:

Strawberry Social: June 23
Ecofest: June 19th
Canada Day: July 1st
Mannjadowin: July 17th, 18th
Lemonade on the Lawn: July 20th

Facts and Figures:

Student attendance at the schoolhouse for:

March	210
April	339

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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Heritage Week Celebration

Jean Robinson

Each year Friends of The Schoolhouse participate in the Heritage Week Celebrations in Peel. On Saturday, February 13th, Eva Ardiel and Joan Reid set up the Friends' display at The Bramalea City Centre. Eva's colourful and informative display boards, the old school desks, the sample toys and Joan's Scrapbooks made the Friends' display interesting and educational. People found much to engage their curiosity. It is always gratifying to hear people tell of their visits to The Schoolhouse, and their personal connection with similar types of educational facilities in other countries.

Of special interest to many visitors was the skittles game which drew and old, and spirit of com- group of ac- Five other zations, the Brampton ety, Caledon ety, the Peel work, and the Complex Britannia the celebration



players, young even incited the petition among a quaintances.

Heritage organi- Bovaird House, Historical Soci- Historical Soci- Aboriginal Net- Peel Heritage joined The Old Schoolhouse in of Peel's heri-

Bramalea City Centre was a good venue to bring the activities that the Friends organize to promote The Old Britannia Schoolhouse to people who live in the north of Peel.

Many Friends helped make the day a success. Thanks to Eva Ardiel, Lis Braun, Margaret Carson, George Christian, Daryl Cook, Sandra Emerson, Karin Henderson, Dennis Patterson, Joan Reid, Jean Robinson, Margaret Storey, Dennis Taylor and Ruth Taylor for all their work on behalf of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

From the Chair

Dennis Taylor

As I have said previously when I write as chair, I always read over the previous entry and I am always surprised at the time that has elapsed and the changes of the season and the activities that occur as we move throughout the year. When I wrote last we were just beginning the New Year and as I write this time it is spring and we are quickly heading into the summer months.

We did have one event on February 13 at Bramalea City Centre with heritage Brampton. It was very successful and all of our volunteers were kept very busy with some very interested visitors.

In spring we begin our activities and it gets much busier. The gardens are planted and the work around the schoolhouse begins once again by everyone. I cannot emphasize the Friends' appreciation for all the work done by volunteers, the board and its employees. Once again, if you think you would like to be a part of the Friends, either as a volunteer to assist in some of those special events or to work on the executive please call one of the contacts in this newsletter to find out what that entails.

There are two major events that take place and both are in June. The first event is Eco Fest on June 19 which is organized by the board and is explained in detail further in the newsletter. The second is the Friends' major fundraiser for the year which is the annual Strawberry Social on Wednesday June 23 in the atrium at the board office from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. This has become a tradition and it is also explained further in this newsletter. We hope you will be able to join us.

Please remember that if you would like to visit the schoolhouse informally, the second Sunday in each month, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., is our Open Sunday. We do have an activity for those days planned around a particular theme.

Ben Madill's Award

Eva Ardiel

On February 19th Ben Madill, a former Britannia School student and a stalwart Friend of the Schoolhouse, was honoured at Queen's Park where he



received the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement for volunteer contributions to conserving community heritage over a period of 25 years or more. (In Ben's case many more). The city of Mississauga's Heritage Advisory Committee and Heritage Mississauga nominated him for this award.

In the photo Ben is being presented with his "Heritage Hero" award by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and in the presence of former Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Board.

Bravo, Ben! There is no one more deserving of this honour!

From the Schoolmaster

Dennis Patterson

There was some excellent feedback in response to the article from our previous newsletter about schoolhouse dictionaries. Everyone agreed that there was a dictionary available to students and most agreed that it was a very large book. My assumption was that this 'very large' book was a youthful imagination until Daphne Howard; Principal at Trelawny Public School agreed to bring an older dictionary as a donation. The Winston Simplified Dictionary is a massive book with over 1500 pages. Our new schoolhouse dictionary was printed in Philadelphia in 1938. It was very exciting the first day a child asked me how to spell something and to their astonishment I placed this massive dictionary on their desk and told them to 'look it up.' Thank you to those of you who responded to my request for information and to Daphne Howard for her generous donation.

EcoFest is fast approaching.

If you are asking yourself what EcoFest is, you are not alone. To celebrate the success of EcoSchool participants and promote ecological progress in Peel and beyond several like minded organizations have come together to host a new celebration here on the grounds of the Schoolhouse June 19th, 2010 from 10am until 4pm. There will be a main stage with live music, environmentally themed workshops and locally sourced food to try. The Friends of the Schoolhouse will have the school open for people to investigate, the gardening committee will be available to tour visitors through the gardens and the heritage outdoor toys and games will be out for people to try. For more information on **EcoFest** visit the website www.peelecofest.com

Come out and enjoy this family friendly event, bring a blanket and enjoy the live music and sign up for a workshop or two. Anyone willing and able to help The Friends of the Schoolhouse for a couple of hours with their displays and demonstrations please do not hesitate to contact the schoolhouse at 905 890 1010 ex2911 or dennis.j.patterson@peelsb.com

We Were On the Road!



The SLATE group

April and May were "traveling" months. Members of the executive committee went to Childs, New York for the Annual SLATE conference (see report on page 4) and to Fergus, Ontario to hold our May meeting with Ben and Marjorie at their beautiful new condo. Since moving to Fergus Ben and Marjorie haven't been able to attend our monthly



We celebrate Ben's 95th birthday

meetings and it was a special treat to have them present again. They both have so many memories of the schoolhouse and the Britannia community. We also had the pleasure of helping Ben celebrate his 95th birthday.

Friends Attend the S.L.A.T.E. Conference in Childs, New York

Jean Robinson

This year's S.L.A.T.E. Conference (So Let's All Talk Education ...in a one room schoolhouse) was held at The Cobblestone Museum situated between Niagara Falls and Rochester, NY, on Monday, April 19th. This was only the second time that S.L.A.T.E. has been held in the US. Britannia Schoolhouse Friends attending the Conference were Eva Ardiel, Joan Reid, Schoolmaster Dennis Patterson, Ruth and Dennis Taylor, Cathy Harper, Earl Bonner, Frances Kay, Karen Simmons, Sandra Emerson, Lis Braun, Shirley Hoad and Jean Robinson. This was the first conference in quite a few years that the weather was sunny and bright instead of the usual rain and drizzle!

The Cobblestone Society was organized in 1960 to acquire and preserve the rapidly deteriorating 1834 Cobblestone Church and to amass and disseminate information on this early 19th century building style. Cobblestone masonry was a construction method in which beach stones, or cobbles, were laid in horizontal rows and set in projecting, decorative soft lime mortar. This type of masonry construction originated in New York State between the period of the building of the Erie Canal and 1860, the Civil War Period. 90% of the over 1200 buildings of this type in North America can be found within a 200 kilometer radius of Rochester, NY.

The Museum consists of eight buildings, the Universalist Church, the School, Parsonage House, Farmers' Hall, Harness Shop, Blacksmith Shop, a Print Shop, and a brick house. After a welcome and a brief history of the founding of the museum, we toured the buildings in small groups, with special attention being paid to the Cobblestone Schoolhouse with its unique sloping floor. After this all too brief look at the buildings we returned to the church for a very informative talk on the One Room School Houses of Orleans County by Alice Zacker, an historian from Shelby, NY. Alice has written a book entitled "Slate Board and Hot Soup" about her research. She had much anecdotal information from former teachers of one room schoolhouses in her area to share with us. It is always interesting to learn of the similarities and differences of early education in the United States and Canada at the same time period.

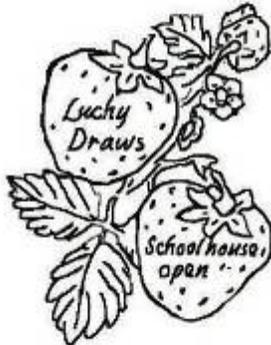
Eva conducted a brief business meeting in which the hitherto loose structure of S.L.A.T.E. was given a more formal appearance with the adoption of a Constitution. It was gratifying to learn that sites for the conference in 2011 and 2012 were secured. The 2010 Conference will be held in the Black Schoolhouse in Buxton, Ontario and the 2012 S.L.A.T.E. will be at Quinte in Prince Edward County, Ontario.

After a delicious lunch at the Village Inn, we returned to the church for a talk by Dr. Jeffrey Liles on "Educating the Educator", a history of teacher training from the mid 1600's to 1965 in the USA. In the early days of organized schools most "teachers" had no formal training and no education past the eighth grade. By the 1920's and 30's Normal School training became mandatory and later University degrees were required to become a teacher. By this time the One Room Schoolhouses on both sides of the border had been closed. Teacher training has certainly changed in 400 years!

Thanks to Eva who has been in SLATE since the beginning, we can learn from and enjoy meeting similar kindred spirits who strive to keep the One Room Schoolhouses alive.

Come out and enjoy an old-fashioned
Strawberry Social
Wednesday, June 23, 2010

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
in the atrium of H.J.A. Brown Education Centre



BILL OF FARE

A generous helping of luscious Ontario strawberries on a delicious shortcake biscuit.... topped with genuine whipped cream!

Tea • Coffee • Fruit Cordial
Mints

Come as you are... or "dressed up" for an old-fashioned afternoon tea
\$8.00 tickets available until June 18th from
 *Friends of the Schoolhouse*
A fundraising project for The Old Britannia Schoolhouse
(Some tickets available at the door.)

Canada Day

Eva Ardiel

Friends of the Schoolhouse is planning to take part in Port Credit's 175th Birthday Celebration. The event is being held in Memorial Park in Port Credit on July 1st, 2010. We plan to be there from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with displays and some of our toys for sale.

Our thanks are extended to Heritage Mississauga for including us in their plans for the day.

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.

We Win Awards!



Left to right: Lucy Mathe, Jean Robinson, Dennis Patterson, Sandra Emerson, Francis Kay. In Front: Joan Reid

Heritage Mississauga, at their annual awards dinner, presented Joan Reid with the Members' Choice Award. Joan is currently Executive Director of Friends of the Schoolhouse and has served on the executive as President as well as acting as convenor for a number of committees. In addition to her Executive Director responsibilities she currently looks after the Heritage Garden and Museum and Archives committees. Joan has done intensive research of the one room schools of Peel and has documented her findings in several books. Her award is well deserved.



Strawberry Social

Ruth Taylor

Please join us on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 in the atrium of the board office for our annual Strawberry Social. You will be served a generous helping of mouth-watering strawberry shortcake topped with whipped cream, and you will have your choice of tea, coffee or raspberry cordial. Your name will be entered into a draw for a great variety of prizes. Sales items will be available. This event is one of our major fundraisers for the year. The cost of a ticket is \$8.00. .

Send orders for tickets to FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE, 1/2 THE OLD BRITANNIA SCHOOLHOUSE
By Courier or Mail: 3576 HURONTARIO ST., MISSISSAUGA, ON. L5R 1B3
Please order your tickets in advance as only a limited number will be available at
the door. FOR INFORMATION: Phone: Eva 905-459-9158

Please send me _____ tickets for the Strawberry Social @ \$8.00 each.

Enclosed is my cheque for \$ _____ payable to FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOLHOUSE

NAME: _____

PEEL BOARD COURIER LOCATION: _____

OR MAILING ADDRESS: _____

_____ POSTAL CODE _____

Tickets will be sent out after June 1st.

Dandelion Wine

By Eva Ardiel

This recipe is from a Five Roses Flour Cookbook (date unknown)

Fresh dandelion petals are required for the wine. Pick the petals from flowers, to make 1 gallon. Place them in a vessel and pour over 1 gallon of boiling water. Cover, let stand 12 days, stirring occasionally. Strain off the liquid, pour it into a preserving pan, add 3 ½ pounds of sugar and the thinly shaved rind and the juice of 1 orange and 1 lemon. If desired, add a little whole ginger root. Boil gently for 20 minutes. Let stand until lukewarm. Spread ¼ ounce of yeast on a piece of toast and lay this on top of the liquid. Cover and let stand for 2 days. Strain, put wine into a cask, bung down and leave for 2 months. Then bottle and keep for at least 6 months before using.

Vegetable Soup

By Bronwyn Moon-Craney

Chop 1 carrot, 1 potato, 1 stalk of celery and add to 3 cups of vegetable stock. Bring to a boil then simmer gently until veggies are tender. Enjoy!

Valentine's Open Sunday

At our February Open Sunday we celebrated Valentine's Day. Our visiting families enjoyed looking at the collection of vintage valentines. The adults reminisced about the pages of little cards that you cut apart and carefully selected which ones would be sent to which of your friends. The children got right to work with the doilies, coloured paper, ribbon, scissors and glue to make special cards for their parents and friends. Tea served in china cups and dainty cookies added to the festive atmosphere.



Maanjidowin Native Pow Wow and Metis Rendezvous

Eva Ardiel

Heritage Mississauga have asked Friends of the Schoolhouse if we would like to participate in Maanjidowin on Saturday, July 17th and Sunday, July 18th at J. C. Saddington Park in Mississauga, where the Credit River meets Lake Ontario. We hope to be able to take part with displays and some of our toys and souvenirs for sale. It promises to be an interesting two days. This is a unique event and will include heritage entertainers, demonstrations and exhibitors, a Native Pow Wow, Metis Fiddlers, and a vendor marketplace. It would be great to see you there!

For more information about this gathering, contact Heritage Mississauga at 905-828-8411, ext. 0 or visit www.heritagemississauga.com.

Celebrating at the Schoolhouse

February marked the 8th birthday of one of our youngest volunteers. She has been a Schoolhouse volunteer for 4 years. What better way to celebrate than Victorian style at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse!?

The children enjoyed playing with the slates and toys. The weather co-operated that day and the children were fortunate enough to be able to play outside with the equipment. But this was not her first Schoolhouse celebration. In fact, she shared in the celebration of her Grandma's 60th birthday when she was a mere 2 months old. If you are looking for someplace different to hold a small event, why not consider The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.



The schoolhouse can be made available for wedding photographs, children's birthday parties, anniversary receptions and other family celebrations. Fees vary according to the type of event and help to support the preservation of the schoolhouse and student programs. For more information contact the convenor of the "Hosting" committee Joan Moon, 905-279-9583.

A Mid Summer Treat

Daryl Cook

Mid July is a wonderful time at the schoolhouse. The gardens are in full glorious bloom, the old-fashioned garden swing is waiting for someone to take a leisurely rock, and the lawn is perfect for spreading a blanket and having a Victorian picnic lunch. For the past several years the Friends of the Schoolhouse have celebrated summer and the many people who support the schoolhouse with a *Lemonade on the Lawn* event. We invite all our members and all the staff of the Peel Board office to bring their lunch and join us at the schoolhouse between 11:30 and 2 pm. We provide the lemonade and cookies. It is our way of thanking all of you for your support throughout the year. This year's event will be held on Tuesday July 20. We look forward to seeing you there. Be sure to bring your sun hat!

