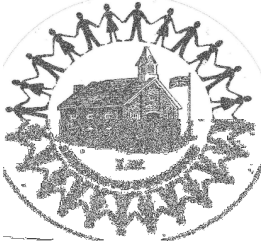




## Summer/Early Fall 2015



### 2015—2016 Schedule of Events

Sept. 18,19,20: Brampton Fair  
Sept. 26: Doors Open  
Dec. 6: Christmas Open House  
Feb.13: Heritage Brampton  
June 24: Strawberry Social  
July 19: Lemonade on the Lawn  
Sept. to June 2nd Sunday:  
Open Sundays

### *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 Gardens

Karen Simmons

The hot sultry weather in July certainly didn't slow growth in the gardens. Last year we planted seedlings of hollyhocks and foxgloves, which we had grown from seed. They matured this summer into a glorious display of bloom and colour in the east end of the perennial garden. Hopefully their offspring will continue to delight us for a few more seasons.

Since the west end of the garden has become very shaded due to tree growth, we decided to gradually replant with hostas and other shade tolerant plants. So far we have put in about 20 hostas, mostly donated from other gardens, along with some other perennials. The lavender patch has been relocated to a much sunnier spot.

Near the rainbarrel at the back of the schoolhouse our creative gardeners have put in a butterfly garden. It's a great addition to the landscape, with lots of colour and whimsical decorations. If you visit the gardens, check it out, and also the attractive little signs here and there that remind people to enjoy, but not pick. So far, nothing seems to have disappeared from the garden this year.

The blueberry patch needed some help, so it has been thoroughly weeded, fertilized, and mulched. Maybe we'll get a better crop next year. Thanks to the volunteers who undertook that task.

The orchard and vegetable garden are both thriving, thanks to the regular tending done by the schoolhouse staff. We'll be looking for more prize ribbons at the Brampton Fair.

Ben's Corner continues to be a wonderful retreat. The plantings are all growing well, and only a few weeds have dared to show themselves. They didn't last long!



## Summer/Early Fall 2015

### From the Chair

Margaret Storey

Here we are in the middle of the summer holidays. As I sat out on our deck earlier this week I thought that this would have been the time that I started to think, plan and get organized for the coming school year. This in turn made me think of the many teachers who taught at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse. I wondered what they would have been thinking about as they prepared for their one room classroom.

I decided to "interview" my good friend Muriel Fogt. Back then she was Muriel Dale, a brand new teacher from Stratford Teachers' College. I asked her how she got the job at Britannia. Muriel and her two girlfriends, all from the farming community in Seaforth were interviewed at the teachers' college and hired by Mr. Ross Lawless from Toronto Township School Area #1. Muriel would be the teacher at Britannia, and her two friends would be teaching at Hanlan P.S. and Grahamsville Union P.S. beginning in September, 1956. Mr. Lawless became their supervising principal. Having attended a one room school as a young girl and practice taught in a one room school, she certainly knew the system and what to expect.

What she didn't expect was that 50 students would turn up on the first day of school. While the children doubled up in the desks, she did a few preliminary activities and then decided to take the children outside for baseball and other games. She had also called Mr. Lawless to tell him about the number of children. Yes, there was a phone sitting on the piano. When he arrived he stated that she couldn't deal with this and the next day all the Grade 7 and Grade 8 students were bussed to Meadowvale P.S.

Muriel remembers that all the students were well behaved and the older ones helped the younger ones. She only had to administer the strap once which was probably more traumatic for her than the student. The Grade 1 students kept her busy. She used a hectograph or jelly pad to make stencils of the alphabet letters, and pictures to help them with their reading as well as number activities. The older students had readers and workbooks to go with the readers as well as their own math texts. They also had workbooks to practise printing for the younger students and cursive writing for the older ones.

She had an itinerant Music Teacher, Mrs. Phyliss Edmonds, who came each week to work with the students. I was impressed with that. She would then leave a number of activities for Muriel to use during the week. Fortunately, Muriel is musical so I am sure the Music Teacher would be pleased when she returned the following week. No doubt the Christmas Concert would include various songs as well as skits and recitations.

Muriel took the students skating during the winter on Friday afternoons. The neighbouring farmer had one low lying field that would freeze over so off they would go, skates in hand across the back field. One of the bigger boys carried the shovel and the boys would take turns clearing off the snow. One Friday Mr. Lawless came and was a wee bit disturbed to find the schoolhouse empty. He was understanding once he knew where they were.

Another funny story was that one day when she went to open the front door of the schoolhouse there was a snake wrapped around the door handle. Although she hated snakes, she walked up, said, "Well, I wonder how that got there!". With that, she pulled the snake off and threw it in the bushes. She heard several of the children exclaim, "Aw, gee, she isn't even afraid of snakes!".

Shirley and Bessie Madill, daughters of our dear Ben and Marjorie Madill were in Muriel's classes for the two years she taught at the school. Also in her class was Leif Andersen, the younger brother of our current treasurer, Lis Braun. Small world, isn't it?

## Summer/Early Fall 2015

### From the Schoolmaster

Gary Campbell

#### RING TAW, BUN-HOLE AND OTHER WAYS TO LOSE YOUR MARBLES

I found a plastic bag full of marbles. On my desk. In the back kitchen of the Britannia Schoolhouse or Sectional School #12, Toronto Township, as it was known.

Not a little Ziploc that might hold a pair of jelly sandwiches, but a bag capable of handling a full grown red cabbage! I'm guessing there are seven pounds of Marbles in that bag. Colourful alleys, bloods, aggies, crocks and shooters. Crystals, cat's eyes and a single blue peewee. This bag of treasure had been gifted to the schoolhouse by a generous soul who appreciated how popular the marble games used to be.

Upon seeing these I reported to the schoolyard of 1959 found me in the Sinclair Public School in was learning to shoot something new. My father the schoolyard in Fer-Ancient Greek texts competing for the hands of shooting of marbles. Clay marbles belonging American aboriginals burial mounds. It ap-



was instantly trans- of my childhood. April schoolyard of Gordon Kingston, Ontario and I alleys. This was not ther played marbles in gus, Ontario in 1941. speak of suitors com- maidens with the Serious stuff that was! to ancient North have been found in pears that the human

brain is somehow prewired for the game of marbles despite the culture in which a person lives.

German artisans get the nod when it comes to producing the first glass marbles in the 1800's. The delightful game pieces of swirling coloured glass were shipped all over the world to delight the gaze of children and adults alike. Although produced out of glass and far more beautiful than clay marbles or hand ground agates they were expensive. It wasn't until American companies like Peltier Glass, Akro Agate and Vitro Agate Company in Ohio began machine making the glass marbles that the clay marble fell by the wayside. Southern Ontario soon was awash in the round jewels. Canada was swept along into the Golden Age of Marbles, as collectors call it, from about 1927 until about 1942 when American factories were retooled to support the war effort.

Radio and then television and their advertising began to reshape the toy industry and the fascination with marble games began to lose ground. By the 1970's the doors of the great marble makers had all closed. Today Vacor de Mexico in Guadalajara, Mexico manufactures most of the world's marbles and kicks out several million daily.

Few of Peel's school children or their parents have played Ringer or Bun-Hole or even witnessed any one of the many old marble games. With this in mind Schoolmistress Chapel and Schoolmaster Campbell are planning to add these fun games to the recess and dinner break fun at the schoolhouse.

Thank you to Bonnie Anderson for her very kind and generous donation.

**CHECK THE SIDEBAR ON PAGE 1 FOR THIS YEAR'S EXCITING EVENTS**

## Summer/Early Fall 2015

### A Special Picnic in the Schoolyard

Eva Ardiel

What an enjoyable day we had on August 7<sup>th</sup> when the Friends welcomed former schoolmaster Dennis Patterson and his family to join us for a pot-luck picnic in the schoolyard. Dennis, his wife, Yukiko, and their two little girls were here for three weeks this summer visiting family and friends. We were so pleased we could have this chance to catch up on news and share memories with them.

It was a perfect summer day, sunshine and clear blue skies. A fresh cool breeze fanned us as we sat at the picnic tables in the shade of the schoolyard maples. Dennis was prompted to say that, although he didn't miss Canadian winters, summer days like these were hard to beat.

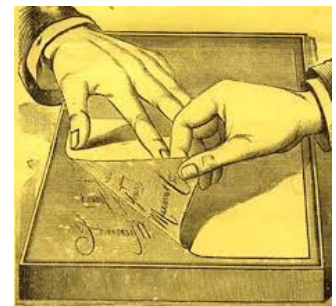
It is over four years now since Dennis left his schoolmaster position to teach English at an international school in Okinawa, Japan. Their daughter Nanami was an infant when they left. They were also here on holiday two years ago when we had a picnic get together at the schoolhouse, too. This time Nanami, now going on five, had a little sister, Seari, with her. Seari is almost a year and a half and tries very hard to keep up with her big sister. It didn't take both girls long to feel quite at home as they explored the schoolhouse inside and out. What energy and curiosity they have! Yukiko, a master with the camera, took lots and lots of photos of them so they will have many memory prompts of their day here.

It was Dennis who started the schoolhouse vegetable gardens with the students. It was also Dennis who had students plant the orchard of pear and apple trees. He was interested to see how lush the gardens are this year, (thanks to the efforts of Chris and Gary) especially the corn, potatoes and tomatoes. He said he has had trouble with his garden in Okinawa, especially the tomatoes. He was also pleased to see that almost all of the fruit trees have survived and are doing well. Of interest to him, too, were the new additions such as Ben's Corner and the shed, which would have been very helpful to him when he was getting the gardens going.

The Friends always seem to do a super job on "Pot Luck" and ended up with an extensive variety of delicious food. Nanami especially enjoyed the "Welcome back Pattersons" cake. She helped serve by making several trips back and forth between schoolhouse and the picnic tables to deliver individual pieces. She also found the icing very tasty and managed to get the icing from her mother's piece as well as her own, - and maybe her father's, too!

We all had a really good time and although it was sad to say goodbye we have planned another schoolyard picnic for August 2017 when we hope to be together again. By the time this newsletter is out the Patterson's will be back in Okinawa, Dennis teaching Grade 5, Yukiko in charge of the library at the same school, Nanami at school and Seari at nursery school. We wish them all the very best.

Margaret Storey mentioned in her Chair's article that her friend Muriel used a hectograph or jelly pad to create work sheets for the students. Here is an illustration of this old form of duplicating. The hectograph was invented in Russia in 1869. A master copy is made with special inks. It is placed on the gelatin and the ink is transferred. To make copies, paper is pressed onto the gelatin and the image is printed onto the paper. The copies become faint when the ink is used up. The gelatin is then cleaned with spirits and the process is repeated.



## Summer/Early Fall 2015

*We are continuing our efforts to organize Joan Reid's vast amount of research and make it available to the public. Since this is a much bigger job than we anticipated, we will print interesting excerpts in the newsletter.*

### **The Fifth Line School (Terra Cotta) S.S. No. 3 Chinguacousy** Daryl Cook

The community of Salmonville, now known as Terra Cotta, straddled the boundary between the counties of Peel and Halton. Today both counties show Terra Cotta on their maps. This made researching the school in Terra Cotta an intriguing exercise. Both Esquesing Township in Halton and Chinguacousy Township in Peel had Terra Cotta schools which existed early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued into the 1960's. It seems that the community functioned as one unit in many respects even though governed by different counties. Newspaper items suggest that students and parents from S. S. No. 3 on the Fifth line in Chinguacousy attended events at the Clay Hill School in Esquesing and vice versa. In researching the Chinguacousy school it was sometimes difficult to determine whether the information found actually referred to the Fifth Line school or to the Clay Hill school. Here is what we know about S. S. No 3 Chinguacousy



About **1832** a log school was built on clergy reserve land at the Fifth Line and the 22nd Sideroad on Lot 22 Concession 5 W. In **1855** one half acre of Lot 23 Concession 6 W was sold to the school trustees and in **1860** a stone school was built on this site with stone from a local quarry owned by Edward Townsend. His sons built the school. The Fifth Line School was three kilometers south of the village of Terra Cotta. Students living east of what is now Winston Churchill Road attended. For years parents petitioned, without success, to have a school built in the village.

Since the school was so far from the village, in **1912** parents organized a "conveyance" to transport children to school. This must be one of the first examples of "bussing".

Sometime between **1913 and 1920** there were proposals to consolidate Chinguacousy school sections 3,4, 7 and 8 and Caledon section 5. Residents of Terra Cotta were opposed to this.

In **1932** music was introduced and a music teacher, Mr. Capps, hired. He was paid \$65.00 a year.

One room schools were always threatened by fire and in **1950** a space heater caused a fire. Students were evacuated and the Brampton and Georgetown fire departments responded. There was minor damage to the stone building. Then in January of **1953** another fire. This time the school was destroyed except for the stone walls. The next day students were bussed to Sharpe's School. Then at Easter, over the objections of the parents, they were moved to Huttonville. By September of the same year the school had been rebuilt for \$11,000. on the old foundations and was open for classes. The official opening was on November 4, 1953.

In 1960, one hundred years after it was built, the Fifth Line School closed and students transferred to Alloo. It was purchased by the Terra Cotta Farmers Club and was used as a community hall. It is now a private home.

## Summer/Early Fall 2015

### Past Events

#### Strawberry Social

Ruth Taylor

On the day of Wednesday June twenty-four  
143 people came through the door,  
The berries were prepared the day before  
As well as the cutlery and many things more.

You handed in your ticket and got in line  
For a biscuit, berries and whipped cream so fine.  
Then off to pick a beverage, coffee, tea or punch,  
What a relaxing, enticing and delicious lunch.

The atrium was a feast for your eyes  
And if you were lucky, you even won a prize.



#### Patterson Picnic



#### Lemonade on the Lawn

Daryl Cook

When the weather finally cooperated we had a great time enjoying our picnic lunches, lemonade and cookies. On the day scheduled for the event, the heavens opened and rain washed out any hopes of an outdoor picnic. By the following day the storm was over, the gardens looked bright and well watered and about thirty visitors from the Board office enjoyed a lunch break at the schoolhouse. Next year we hope to see more of our members and their families. Children always enjoy the swings and the schoolhouse games. Looking forward to seeing you next year on July 19, 2016.



## Summer/Early Fall 2015

### Coming Events

#### **Brampton Fall Fair**

September 18, 19 and 20

Friends of the schoolhouse will be at Brampton Fall Fair on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 18th to 20th. The buildings open at 10:00 a.m. We will be located again in the Livestock Building which is the farthest west building. It is an interesting location backing onto the ring where the cattle are paraded. We will have displays, information pamphlets and our huge assortment of old fashioned toys and games for exploring, as well as a few items for sale.

We appreciate the welcome and assistance we receive each year from the Region of Peel Agricultural Society and the Brampton Fair Board.

The Fairgrounds are just north of Brampton at 12,942 Heart Lake Road, at Old School Road, in Caledon. The fair offers something for everyone. So come on out. We hope to see you there!

#### **Doors Open Mississauga**

Cathy Harper

Please join us at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse on **Saturday, September 26, 2015** for Doors Open between 10 am and 4 pm. Bring your friends to experience what it was like to be a child of the early 1900's in a one room schoolhouse. The architecture is typical of schools once found throughout Ontario. Only a few still exist. After your visit to the schoolhouse, take time to wander about the school grounds and enjoy the gardens.

#### **Tweet Tweet!**

Want to stay up to date with what's happening at the Old Britannia School House? Follow us on Twitter, @PDSBBritanniaSH. Get the latest on Open Sunday themes, events we are holding or attending, and anything new we are doing. We also post pictures of the school, grounds, and gardens. If you visit the schoolhouse be sure to tweet a picture or message so we know you were there. Tweet you later!



#### **E-mailed Newsletters**

If you are not already doing so, why not consider receiving your newsletters by email. This helps us save the cost of paper, printing and postage and also is kinder to the environment. Contact dlcook@rogers.com and put "Emailed Newsletter" in the subject box to make this arrangement.

#### **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.

**Check our website often for the latest information.**  
**[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)**

## Summer/Early Fall 2015

### Our Open Sundays

(Winter Sundays weather permitting)

Check our website [Current News page](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for up to date information.

DATE	WHAT'S HAPPENING
<b>Sept 13</b>	<p><b>Scavenger Hunt</b> Come and have some fun as you explore the schoolhouse and the schoolyard to find items on your list.</p>
<b>Oct 11</b>	<p><b>Celebrate the Harvest</b> Check out the school vegetable garden and the orchard. What can you see? How did the Victorians preserve their apples and veggies? Make a harvest craft in the schoolhouse.</p>
<b>Nov 8</b>	<p><b>Remembrance Day</b> We remember and honour our many brave soldiers with displays of photos, medals and newspaper articles. Learn about Canadian John McCrae who wrote "In Flanders Fields". Make a poppy, a dove or a bookmark.</p>
<b>Dec 6</b>	<p><b>Christmas Open House and Sale</b> Visit our schoolhouse all decorated for an old-fashioned Christmas. Complete your Christmas shopping with our unique items for sale. New this year – vendors with honey, knitted apparel, preserves and decorative items made from 100 year old barn board.</p>
<b>Jan 10</b>	<p><b>Winter Fun</b> We'll have some winter storybooks and crafts. If there is snow, you can make a snowman in the schoolyard to surprise visiting classes.</p>
<b>Feb 14</b>	<p><b>Valentine's Day</b> Celebrate this special day by looking at some vintage Valentines and storybooks. Make a card for a special person in your family.</p>
<b>Mar 13</b>	<p><b>March Means Maple Syrup</b> Canadian maple syrup is famous around the world. Come and learn how the First Nations people and the early settlers harvested this sweet sap.</p>
<b>April 10</b>	<p><b>Victorian Games</b> Learn about the game played by Victorians in the late 1900's. Try your hand at Graces, Marbles, Jacks, Ball and Cup as well as some of our wooden toys.</p>
<b>May 8</b>	<p><b>Mother's Day</b> Show you mom how much you love her by making a special card. Then check out our new conversation area – Ben's Corner. It's a great place for storytelling.</p>
<b>June 12</b>	<p><b>Our Heritage Garden</b> Visit our Victorian Schoolyard garden with native plants and others that were typical of a school garden in the early 1900's</p>