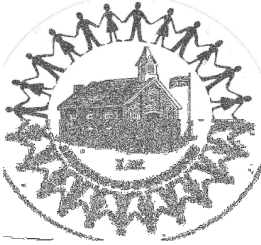




Summer/Early Fall 2016

Great Fall Road Trips

Daryl Cook



**2016—2017
Schedule of Events**

Sept. 15-18: Brampton Fair
 Oct 1 Doors Open
 Dec. 4: Christmas Open House
 Feb Heritage Brampton
 June 21: Strawberry Social
 July 18: 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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Fall is a great time to get out on the backroads and explore new areas. This year, in addition to the incentive of seeing the autumn colours, there is something else to get you out and around Peel Region. It's the lure of finding the sites of those early one room schoolhouses. In some cases you'll be lucky and will find the actual buildings where children learned the three "R's" in the late 1800's.

Our just published book, *Echoes of the Past*, contains information about all the one room schools that existed in Peel County from the early 1800's to the 1950's. S. S. No. 12, The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, is the only one that still has children attending most days of the school year. The book also has detailed maps showing where each of these schools was located. There are five townships and each has its own map. Each township would make an easy day trip so there is a possibility for five days of adventure and exploring.

Here are some of the sites you can find.



Alton



Baseline Creditview



Catarac



Credit Indian Village
School



East Malton



Ebenezer

To purchase a copy of the book contact
 Daryl Cook: dlcook@rogers.com
 Books are \$30 plus \$10 postage if you wish to have one mailed.

Summer/Early Fall 2016

From the Chair

This is a new location for me in the newsletter, as I have recently become the Chair of the Friends group. I look forward to this new challenge, and hope I do as well as the Chairs who have preceded me. Having been with the Executive Committee for 15 years now, I have had 7 or 8 wonderful examples to be my models. I thank all of you.

My association with Britannia Schoolhouse actually began almost 40 years ago, when restoration was just beginning. I helped a couple of times with sanding woodwork. It wasn't much, but it sparked my interest in this wonderful old treasure. I lived away from the area for a number of years, but when I returned, I was happy to become part of the group that works so hard to help preserve the Schoolhouse, its artifacts and property, to assist with the student programs, and to enhance public awareness.

Our activities slow down a bit during the summer, except for gardening and Lemonade on the Lawn, which is an event we host for the employees of the Board office next door. We also hope to review our large collection of old schoolbooks, as we do not have proper storage for all of them, and need to keep those that are most useful for elementary students in the Schoolhouse.

Our first event in September will be the Brampton Fair, where our display always attracts much interest. The children love the old fashioned toys, and we expect our sales to do well. On October 1, we will take part in Doors Open Mississauga. This event usually brings a good number of visitors who might not otherwise visit the Schoolhouse.

Keep checking our web site and newsletters to learn about our Open Sundays and other events.

Student Visits



The schoolhouse was alive with young visitors again this year with 2286 children spending a day experiencing what a school day was like in the late 1800's or early 1900's. Dressed appropriately for the era, they learn the daily routines, work at mental arithmetic and spelling and try cursive writing. In an age when students work on tablets and computers cursive writing seems to be a thing of the past. At recess there are games that have survived the years—skipping, swings and walking on stilts. At the end of the day it's back on the school bus and a return to the twenty-first century.

“It’s Back to School Time

When we were researching the history of the rural one room schools we were interested in the similarities and differences between schools of the past and the present. As students return to school this month, here is a look back to compare with 21st century education.

Getting to School

Walking along dirt roads and sometimes on trails through the bush was the most common way to get to school. However, there were other possibilities. Children would sometimes ride a horse to school. Many students today arrive by school bus, but did you know that the first “school bus” was a “conveyance” that the community of Terra Cotta used to transport children to school in 1912 because parents thought the school was too far away for children to walk? S. S. 3 Chingua-cousy, the Fifth Line school, was about 3 kilometres from the village.

Teachers

Our teachers today have university degrees and additional years of teacher training. In the earliest years of schooling, children were taught at home. When there were enough families in the small village, the community built a one room schoolhouse, usually a log building and hired a teacher, usually a man, with some formal education. In the 1830’s the government of Upper Canada saw the need for better teacher training but it was not until 1846 that the first Teachers’ College was established. It was not uncommon for the teacher to be only a year or two older than her oldest students.

School Supplies

Perhaps the most dramatic difference between the one room schools and today’s schools is the tools children needed. Until early in the 1900s children wrote on slates. Parents supplied the slates, slate pencils, paper and anything else needed. There are stories of a child’s slate getting smaller and smaller because it had been dropped and broken. Later pens, ink and paper were introduced. Rote learning was important since lessons were erased from the slate when the lesson was over. Children had to remember what was taught. Laptop computers, tablets and other electronic devices are the slates of today. There are significant differences in the way children learn. Children in the one room school era needed to know cursive writing. Today they need to be able to use a keyboard. In the early days, remembering everything taught was important. Today information is available at the click of a mouse. Mice were common in one room schools too, but not as useful.

The School Year and Attendance

Today’s students are used to school starting in September and ending in June. This is a carry-over from the days when children were required to help on farms during the summer. However, in the 1800s school was often year round. The older students attended in the winter when they were not needed on the farm and the weather was too harsh for the younger children to walk to school. The younger ones attended in the summer. This is why we often found registers with sixty or more students listed. The one room school would never accommodate that many at one time.

There is so much more to learn about these early schools. You’ll find lots more in our recently published book, *Echoes of the Past*.

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

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Past Events

Christmas Open House and Sale



In early December we held our annual Christmas Open House. The schoolhouse was decorated in traditional Victorian style. Visitors shopped for handmade goods for stocking stuffers and enjoyed hot cider and cookies. We invited three vendors to join us this year. Hand crafted barnboard items, hand knitted socks and shawls and honey products were well received. Look for these vendors again this year. Funds raised help to support the schoolhouse program.

Reception for Trustees and Senior Administration



Every two years we host a light supper reception for trustees and senior administration. It's a way of showing appreciation for their support and to inform them of our activities. This year the reception was highlighted with the launch of our book, *Echoes of the Past*. We had not planned this as a sales event, but were delighted that several superintendents bought copies for each of their schools. Since the "official" launch of the book it has been selling well.

Strawberry Social 2016

Ruth Taylor

The Strawberry Social followed shortly after the rare occurrence of the Strawberry Moon (June's full moon) falling on the same day as the summer solstice.



Fortunately, we had pleasant summer wather that day. Well before 11:30 the tables were covered with the white linen tablecloths, gingham overlays, strawberry themed table toppers and vases of flowers. The delicious biscuits came from Kate's Town Talk Bakery in Streetsville. The scrumptious berries were obtained from Vineland by the Prince of Wales Market in Huttonville. The whipped cream was provided by the cafeteria and freshly prepared on the spot. They also provided the coffee for us. We welcomed a group from Southbrook Lodge in Brampton. Attendance was up from last year. Among our sales items was the book, *Echoes of the Past*, about the one room schoolhouses in Peel, which was recently published by Friends of the Schoolhouse. We appreciate the help of board custodial staff transporting items to and from the schoolhouse. Many hours of planning and preparation go into this event. So when the Friends of the Schoolhouse sat down at the end to enjoy our strawberry shortcake, we breathed a collective sigh of relief that we had hosted another successful Strawberry Social.

Save the dat: next year's event will be held on June 21, 2017.

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Coming Events

Brampton Fall Fair September 15— 18

The first event of the year is a booth at the Fall Fair. It's appropriate that the schoolhouse is represented since fall fairs were an important part in the school year. Children had their own schoolyard gardens and proudly showed their vegetables at the fair. Prize winners were noted in the local newspaper. At the Brampton Fall Fair we enter vegetables grown in the garden by visiting students and each year have won prizes. The Friends display information about the schoolhouse and have a number of toys and other items for sale. This year we will be featuring our book: *Echoes of the Past*. Many of the schools in the book were located in the Brampton area and the north of Peel.

Hope to see you at the fair!



Doors Open Mississauga October 1, 2016

Cathy Harper

Friends of the Schoolhouse are pleased to announce that we are once again participating in Mississauga's DOORS OPEN on Saturday, October 1, 2016, 10 am- 4pm. If you have never visited The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, this would be a great opportunity for you to join us and to travel back through time to 1852 to experience what it would be like to obtain one's education in a one-room schoolhouse with eight grades in one room.

Our newly published book *Echoes of the Past* about one-room schoolhouses in Peel will be available for purchase.

Open Sundays

This is a chance to visit the schoolhouse. We are open the second Sunday afternoon of every month during the school year. If there is a snow or ice storm or other reason that would make traveling unsafe we cancel the event. Check Twitter if in doubt. The list of dates and Open Sunday activities are on page 8.

Summer/Early Fall 2016

Summer Garden Report

Jean Robinson

Although it has been a hot, dry summer the garden is surviving and weeding and clearing new areas for planting has been a continuous task. Margaret and her sister Kathy have been making inroads into decluttering the Victorian Garden and Jean, Ken and Karen are still working on pruning the lilacs, getting rid of the bittersweet vines which were strangling the perimeter shrubs and removing the growth around the entire garden.

A new volunteer, William, has been watering and weeding as much as his free time permits and we appreciate his continuing help.

When we look back on the condition of the garden with its many raspberry canes and vigorous growth of burdock and thistles when we took over the care of the garden several years ago, we feel a sense of accomplishment at the look of the garden today.

There is always lots to do and we work on it as much as our energy allows. We would appreciate the help of any of the Friends members in weeding as the thistles are still a bane of our existence. In September, and possibly October, we will schedule a series of Saturday work mornings and we hope to encourage many secondary school students to come and help us. We will be able to give them "volunteer hours" for their contribution.

Look for the dates of these work sessions on our web site: www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org Please give one of us a call if you can help out at any other time and we will be on hand to greet you in The Schoolhouse Garden.

Karen (905 654 6506), Margaret (905 824 4884) or Jean (905 826 3475)

We have some surprises in store for the coming planting season in anticipation of Canada 150. Look for more information about our gardening plans in the next few months.

Happy Gardening!



Summer/Early Fall 2016

It's Done and Published!

On September 23, 2012 at the Celebration of Joan Reid's life, the Friends of the Schoolhouse made a commitment to complete the book Joan had been working on for many years. In May 2016, *Echoes of the Past: The One Room Rural Schools of Peel County* was published and was introduced at the reception for Trustees and Senior Administrators on May 24.

Joan spent at least 10 years doing extensive research. The writing team that was formed to continue her work spent from January 2013 until May 2016 verifying her work, continuing the research, organizing the material, working out a design for the book, searching for historic photos, photographing each site as it is today, creating a print-ready manuscript and, finally, arranging for the book to be printed. It was an interesting, challenging, at times frustrating task but always a labour of love.

Members of the committee that initiated the project were Eva Ardiel, Lis Braun, Daryl Cook, Cathy Harper, Shirley Hoad, Marc Hogan (Schoolmaster), Kyle Neill (Peel Archives), Jean Robinson, Margaret Storey, Matthew Wilkinson (Heritage Mississauga), Christine Chapel (Schoolmistress)

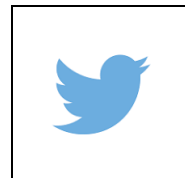
Writing team members were Eva Ardiel, Daryl Cook, Sandra Emerson, Cathy Harper, Shirley Hoad, Jean Robinson and Margaret Storey. Joan Reid is also listed in the book as a part of the writing team since much of her research and some of her writing is included.

We are proud of the book and hope you will enjoy reading it and learning about the fascinating history of those early schools. Copies are on sale at all our events. Price is \$30.



Tweet Tweet!

Follow us on Twitter, @PDSBBritanniaSH. Get the latest on Open Sundays, events and other news. 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

Summer/Early Fall 2016

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
Sept 11	<p>Back to School Come and see what it would be like to attend a one room schoolhouse. Make an old fashioned bonnet. Write on a slate.</p>
Oct 5	<p>Autumn Leaves Gather some leave in the schoolhouse garden. Make a leaf rubbing collage to take home.</p>
Nov 13	<p>Remembrance Day Sunday We honour the members of our Armed Forces. Come and see our display of stories, medals and photos. Make a poppy, a peace dove or a bookmark.</p>
Dec 4	<p>Christmas Open House and Sale Come and see our schoolhouse all decorated for a Victorian Christmas. We will have schoolhouse items for sale and our 2015 vendors will be returning. Complete your Christmas shopping with wooden toys, honey, wool, books, barn board items, notecards, beeswax candles and more.</p>
Jan 8	<p>.Early Post Offices Learn about Canada's first stamp – the Three Penny Beaver – and who designed it. Colour your own copy of the stamp..</p>
Feb 12	<p>Valentine's Day Do you know the history of this special day? See our vintage valentines then make a special card for someone you love.</p>
Mar 12	<p>Maple Sugaring The early pioneers depended on maple sugar as a sweetener. The First Nations people showed them how to harvest this sweet sap. Come and see our display of storybooks and activities.</p>
April 9	<p>Bees and Their Honey The early settlers used honey as well as maple sugar but they had to find the honey trees first. Come and find out how they gathered the honey and learn some facts about bees. Make a beeswax candle to take home.</p>
May 14	<p>Spring Time Means Work in the Garden Just like the early settlers, our volunteers are busy in our Victorian gardens. See what spring flowers are growing. Can you name them? Make a pinwheel to play with on a windy spring day.</p>
June 11	<p>Family Games Day Come and try your hand at our games and toys both inside and outside. Challenge someone to try our stilts and enjoy the swings.</p>