

# The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959  
restored 1982

Summer/Early Fall 2021



## 2020—2021 Schedule of Events

Due to COVID 19 no events are planned at this time.

### *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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### *Need more information?*

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## From the Chair

Margaret Storey

It is August - remember when we were getting excited for a new school year about to begin? We would be thinking of setting up our classrooms, our new students, new programs and hoping for a successful year. Well, my sincere hope for this coming school year is that our schoolchildren will have a successful year back to in-person learning with their friends, teachers and hopefully with some extra curricular activities.

But August also means we can enjoy the fabulous fresh produce from either our own gardens or from our local farmer's markets. Can't beat Ontario corn, peaches and tomatoes at this time of year. I share a veggie garden with my neighbour. We have certainly been enjoying the peas, runner beans, peppers, loads of cherry tomatoes and beefsteak tomatoes and zucchini! For anyone who has ever planted zucchini you know how prolific they are. Right now I have a dozen bags of shredded zucchini in the freezer which will be great to use later on in the fall and winter. I have made numerous zucchini loaves, zucchini muffins - sweet and savoury, zucchini quiches - large and small, zucchini soup and zucchini fritters! That was a new recipe for me but they were delicious with a dollop of sour cream on top. Imagine potato pancakes but with shredded zucchini and cheese instead of potato.



This is one quick trip to the garden! The eggs- oh yes, we have hens. Who knew that hens love zucchini as well.

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### FULL MOONS

Ruth Taylor

We have probably all heard about the "harvest moon" and the term "once in a blue moon." This is when there is a second full moon in a month. I was intrigued when I heard that one particular year our June Strawberry Social coincided with the Strawberry full moon. That got me interested in whether all the full moons had names.

The naming of moons dates back to ancient Rome and were often associated with calendar months. The Algonquin people between New England and Lake Superior named moons after changes in the environment and were first published in the Farmers' Almanac in 1930.

**January's** moon is called the **Wolf Moon**. It usually appears in the coldest part of the winter when the wolves would hunt in packs looking for food.

The **February** moon is called the **Snow Moon**. Snow would be the deepest and heaviest. It can also be called the Hunger Moon as it would be difficult to find food at that time.

**March's** moon is the **Worm Moon** since worms could move freely as the ground thawed. It was also called the Full Sap Moon as maple trees were ready to tap.

**April** has the **Pink Moon** referring to the warming weather and the return of the mosses and flowers. It was also called the Sugar Moon. This year I heard it referred to as the Pink Sugar Moon.

The **May** moon is the **Flower Moon** because of an abundance of blooming flowers. It was also called the Corn Planting Moon because farmers would start to plant corn crops.

**June** has the **Strawberry Moon** as that is when strawberries would be harvested. It could also be called the Honey Moon because the moon would be low on the horizon and appear amber or honey-coloured.

**July's** moon is the **Buck Moon** as deer would begin to regrow antlers after shedding them months earlier.

The **August** moon is the **Sturgeon Moon** when this species of fish was especially abundant and easier to catch.

**September** has the **Harvest Moon** or the Full Corn Moon when the moon was brightest and farmers could gather crops later into the night. The Harvest Moon occasionally appears in October since it is the full moon closest to the fall equinox which varies annually.

**October's** moon is the **Hunter Moon** when it was important to gather significant amounts of food to last the winter. When crops had been gathered it was easier to spot wild game before deer and elk became scarcer in the winter months.

The **November** moon is the **Beaver Moon** as it was believed to be the best month for hunting beaver, historically trapped for food and fur. It was also called the Frosty Moon because November was when the temperature would turn cold.

**December's** moon is the **Oak Moon** or the Cold Moon or Long Night's Moon. It is the month when nights grow colder and longer, and the first month when winter would take effect.

### The Dog Days of Summer

We often hear people refer to August as "The Dog Days of Summer". For some reason it brings to mind long, hot, lazy days of lying around doing nothing. A dog snoozing in the shade. Where did this description of the last month of summer come from? It's a lot older than we might think.

The ancient Romans knew that the hottest month of the year coincided with two bright stars appearing to rise simultaneously in the morning sky – the sun and Sirius. Sirius was the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, the Dog Constellation. Thus Sirius was known as the dog star. Those hot, humid Roman days were called the dog days when Sirius, the dog star, and the sun were brightest in the sky and causing hot weather

No matter where or when the idea of "dog days" started, it's still a good plan to find a shady spot and laze the day away with a book and a cool drink.

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### From the Schoolmistress

Christine Chapel

This summer I have had the opportunity to visit some interesting historic sites in Ontario.

In 2019 our annual SLATE conference was to be held in Long Sault at the Lost Villages Museum. It unfortunately was cancelled due to low participation, but I put it on my list of "must see" spots. In July, my husband and I headed out for a few days' adventure travelling along the St. Lawrence River. We first made a stop in beautiful Kingston where we had a wonderful visit with our Friend Eva Ardiel. The folks at the Fort Henry National Historic site in Kingston hosted the SLATE conference several years ago now, which was a great learning experience.

From Kingston we made our way to Long Sault which is just outside of Cornwall. The museum site is literally situated on a circular road turn off and can be seen and accessed 24 hours a day. The Lost Villages Historical Society, instrumental in the creation and running of the museum, was formed in 1977. One of their primary goals is to "...inform the public, and specifically school children, about the loss of communities which formerly existed along the St. Lawrence River, prior to the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project in the late 1950s". In the 4 years leading up to the July 1, 1968 "inundation" more than 6,500 people and 525 homes from 11 villages and hamlets were relocated. Those villages now lie at the bottom of the St. Lawrence.

The Lost Village Museum <https://lostvillages.ca/history/> itself has 10 buildings that have been donated and acquired from various locations. These buildings, including a schoolhouse, tell the story of the people and communities that were moved for "the greater good". We were fortunate as, just as we arrived, permission was granted to fully open the buildings whose entrances had been barricaded due to COVID restrictions. We were also fortunate in that Jim Brownell, President of the Lost Villages Historical Society, was on site. I had met Jim in 2017 when he attended the SLATE conference hosted at the Britannia Schoolhouse. Jim has deep roots in the community and was a boy of 10 years old when the communities were flooded. We had a chance to chat for a bit. He is a very dynamic person, and it was entertaining listening to the stories that he shared.



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We couldn't leave without driving back and forth several times on the Long Sault Parkway and stopping for a picnic. The road runs across islands that were, fifty odd years ago, the tops of hills in the villages that are now under water. Each island bears the name of the village it used to be. You would never know, when looking at the beautiful parkland, that there were entire communities, farmland and buildings along the highway - unless you found one of the roads to nowhere, that is. It's an odd sight to see an asphalt road just disappear into the water and pop out on the next rise of land.



Below is a photo of the Schoolhouse.



As we continued our trip up the St. Lawrence, we saw a sign for a National Historic site so...off we went! The Coteau-du-Lac National Historic Site is located about 40 km southwest of Montréal. It highlights Canada's first lock canal that opened the way for commercial shipping, and the remains of a military fortification. We started at the Visitor's Centre where a young, enthusiastic guide shared the history of the site with us.

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Most interestingly, evidence dating back 7,000 years indicates that the site was a portage and encampment location used by Indigenous people to avoid the rapids. The story is still unfolding as artifacts continue to be found. Members of the Indigenous communities are playing an active role in helping to understand the importance and significance of the site.

There is history around every corner of this province, often hidden. I was reminded of this on a day trip to Orillia. Taking the side roads, as we often do, we came upon the site of the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church, another National Historic Site. The church and cemetery (with unmarked graves), established in 1849, are a remnant of one of the oldest African Canadian settlements in Upper Canada. The community was first established by members of the "Company of Coloured Men" who fought in the War of 1812. They were later joined by free Black people and those who had escaped enslavement in the United States.



I feel so fortunate to be able to learn about the history of where we live through these historic sites. Of course, we are learning more and more about the hidden history of what we now call Canada. We are realizing that the true, unvarnished story must be told as it is learned and revealed. These historic landmarks are important touch stones to the past and, I believe, are a wonderful tool for learning about what may not be in the history books...if the information is given from more than the traditional Euro centric point of view.

There's always more to discover and learn. Happy trails everyone!

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### Back-to-School / Back-to-Work Lunch Box Ideas Katharine Moon Craney



#### Ham, Apple and Cheddar Sliders

These mini sandwiches are great for a school lunch. Layer crisp sliced apple, cheddar cheese, ham and lettuce on little rolls. Depending on your taste, you could always add some mustard or relish. You could also use turkey slices, cheddar, cucumber slices and mayonnaise.



#### Sandwiches on a Stick

This lunch is totally customizable. Any type of cheese cubes, cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, folded slices of deli meat, chunks of bread, or slices of pita and you are all set. The ribbons of cucumber are super fun! You could kick it up a bit with a fresh basil leaf.



#### Chicken and Wild Rice Salad Pita

1/2 cup wild rice  
1/4 cup dried cranberries, chopped  
2 cups cooked and diced chicken  
1/4 cup sour cream  
2 Tbsp mayonnaise  
2 Tbsp fresh chives, chopped

1. In a small saucepan, cook the rice in salted water for about 50 mins. Add the cranberries and cook for 5 minutes. Drain and rinse under cold water.

2. In a bowl, combine the rice and cranberries with the chicken, sour cream, mayonnaise, and chives. Adjust the seasoning.

3. Carefully open the pita bread and fill with the chicken salad and boston lettuce.

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### Chair's Message continued from Page 1

All this made me think of our schoolhouse veggie garden that our schoolmistress would plant with the various students who were visiting in the spring. Come September the students would help the schoolmistresses pick out the various entries for the Brampton Fall Fair. They had great fun picking out the biggest, the smallest, the one with the weirdest shape or the one that was just perfect! There were always ribbons to be won and then admired afterwards.

The schoolmistresses told the students about the importance of The Three Sisters. Our early settlers learned about this from the local Indigenous people! These three plants, corn, beans and squash, helped one another. The corn stalk provided a structure for the beans to grow up, the squash spread over the ground smothering any weeds and both the beans and squash added nutrients to the soil for the corn.

Catharine Parr Trail ( 1802-1899) wrote several books about her experience of an early settler's life in what was then Upper Canada. She emigrated to Canada from England with her military husband in 1832. In the *Canadian Settlers' Guide*, she writes with great detail about the importance of the home garden giving many tips. The responsibility for the garden, once the land was cleared, was mainly the women's as the men were busy clearing the land and farming larger crops. She advocated for getting the children involved too with the planting, weeding and harvesting. Everyone needed to help as all the various vegetables and some fruit were vital to keep them going through the winter. I am sure they would be excited to know they had helped in the garden when the cooked carrots, potatoes, cabbage, onions, beans, corn or squash were placed on the table for dinner.

So if you haven't already done so, visit a local farmers' market for lots of home grown fresh veggies and fruit. You will then be supporting the farmers in your area which is always a great thing to do.

### 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](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)**

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### Our Open Sundays

Our Open Sundays have been cancelled until further notice because of COVID19. Here are some activities you can do at home instead. They are all on our website.

DATE	For activities go to <a href="http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org">www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org</a> and look at Fun and Games.
Sept	<b>Back to School</b> Activity  Read a Story, Write a Story
Oct	<b>Autumn Leaves</b> Activity: How to press Leaves
Nov	<b>Do Some Cooking</b> Activity: Family Recipes
Dec	<b>Make a Christmas Tree Ornament</b> Activity;y: Victorian Fan ornament
Jan	<b>.Indoor Fun</b> Activity: Make Your Own Button Buzzer ..
Feb	<b>Valentine's Day</b> Activity; Make a Valentine for a Special Person
Mar	<b>Be Creative</b> Activity: Draw What You See
April	<b>Get Ready to Garden</b> Activity: Think Gardening
May	<b>Mothers Day</b> Activity: Decorate a Pot and Fill It With a Plant for Mother
June	<b>Family Games Day</b> Activity: Victorian Summer Games for Children