

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959
restored 1982

Summer/Early Fall 2024



2024—2025 Schedule of Events

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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A Look Back at Fall Fairs

Fall fairs were an important part of life in the community of Britannia. The Friends of the Schoolhouse carried on this tradition for a number of years by organizing a Fall Fair at the schoolhouse and participating in the Brampton Fall Fair. Here are some photo reminders of the fun we all had.

Fairs at the Schoolhouse

In 2004 there was a small "midway" and animals.



In 2006 more animals



The Brampton Fair

We had a display. Kids played with the toys. We won prizes.



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From the Chair

Ruth Taylor

Although it is still officially summer, it is beginning to feel like fall. After a hot summer, days are more moderate, and the nights are much cooler. Children are back in class, and school buses are back on the road. September also means that Friends will resume their monthly meetings. We think it is important that there are some regular visitors to the Schoolhouse.

Speaking of visitors, we are resuming Open Sundays on the second Sunday of each month, starting this month. We stopped holding Open Sundays as Covid struck. The Schoolhouse will be open from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There are many interesting things to see, and hopefully, we can answer any questions.

The Schoolhouse is located on the south side of Hurontario Street (Highway 10) just south of Matheson Boulevard. From Matheson, you must turn onto Hurontario southbound to enter the parking area in front of the Schoolhouse. The entrance is on the right side soon after you make the turn. There is quite a sharp dip from the road to the parking area. We hope to see some of you in the coming months.

Zucchini Spice Muffins

Ruth Taylor

Makes 12. Preheat oven to 400 F.

In large bowl add and combine well:

Eggs 2
Milk ¼ cup
Brown sugar 2/3 cup
Vanilla 1 tsp
Oil ½ cup
Grated unpeeled zucchini 1½ cups (2 small)

In smaller bowl combine well:

All-purpose flour 1 ½ cups
Salt ½ tsp
Baking soda ½ tsp
Baking powder 1 ½ tsp
Cinnamon ½ tsp
Nutmeg ¼ tsp
Chopped walnuts or pecans ½ cup
(I use ½ cup chocolate chips instead. Then when the grandchildren ask what kind they are, I just say chocolate chip. Ruth)

Combine wet and dry mixtures and fold together gently until just mixed. Spoon into prepared pan. Optional, decorate the top of each muffin with a walnut or pecan half. Bake at 400 F for 20 to 25 minutes. Remove from pan and cool on rack.

From "Mad About Muffins" by Angela Clubb

Schoolhouse Musings
Lisa Cafaro



Fall Planting in Ontario: Preparing for a Beautiful Spring

Fall is an excellent time for planting in Ontario, offering a unique opportunity to get ahead on your garden for the following spring. The cooler temperatures, reduced risk of pests, and still-warm soil create the ideal environment for many plants to establish strong roots before winter arrives.

One of the best choices for fall planting is bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, crocuses, and alliums are all planted in the fall so they can lie dormant through the winter and bloom with vibrant colors in the spring. Hardy perennials like hostas, peonies, and daylilies also benefit from fall planting, as the cooler weather allows them to focus on root development.

Trees and shrubs also thrive when planted in the fall. The soil remains warm enough to encourage root growth, and the reduced stress from heat helps them settle in before the cold season. Species like maples, oaks, and evergreens such as spruce or cedar, are great options for adding structure to your landscape.

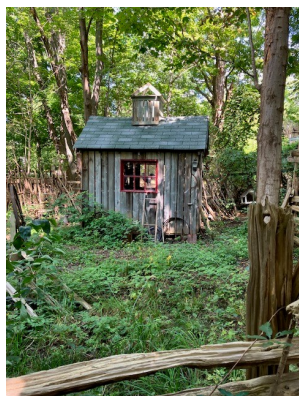
When planting in the fall, make sure to water your plants well, mulch to insulate roots, and avoid planting too late in the season to give roots time to establish.

By planning ahead, your fall efforts will reward you with a lush and colorful garden when spring returns

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Rosemary's Village

Margaret Storey



Recently Lis and I had the pleasure of visiting Rosemary's Village and speaking with her son, Terry Wilson. This "Little Village" is located in the village of Meadowvale and was created by Terry and his mother. During the rapid development that occurred in the area in the 1990s, Rosemary was quite upset that a lot of the history of Meadowvale was disappearing. Terry and his mother then decided to recreate what they could in Rosemary's backyard garden.

The wood they used came from the piles of burning lumber discarded by the developers. They salvaged whatever they could and began to construct the "garden shed" sized replicas of the old mill, the school/church, livery, general store, blacksmith shop, train station, saw mill, the library and a little home they called "The Harrow Smith House". The developers were happy for them to cart off whatever they could use.



While Rosemary helped with the design, it was Terry who built all the structures. Wanting to make sure these buildings were built correctly, he looked at other old buildings and barns in the area to see how they were constructed. Once assembled it was often Rosemary who chose the paint and did the painting inside and out. Her next task was to fill each building with appropriate artifacts, furniture, paintings and other decor items. She would use things from her own home or things she bought at garage sales. Some items were also donated to the village. Rosemary made many beautiful hooked rugs during her lifetime and a number of these now adorn the floors. As well she made hooked wall hangings and we saw a number of these hung with pride on the walls. It was amazing to see her handiwork. She thought of everything.



The first building we saw in the village was the Red Coach House. This was intended to be a shed for storing the garbage bins. But Rosemary had a better idea! It became a museum for all her special finds. Some would make their way into various buildings once built and where appropriate.



Another lovely building was The Library. After the small local library was closed in favour of larger libraries elsewhere, Terry suggested to Rosemary that he could build a small library in their backyard garden. It would bring back many memories for her and the villagers. The Library shelves were soon filled with many of their own books or books she found wherever.



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Thursday night became Library night. Rosemary took great pride in suggesting books for all ages. Each title would be written down in a ledger with the borrower's name. All would be returned eventually. It soon became a meeting place as well where neighbours and friends gathered to chat about their daily lives or about various events that were happening. After a few years though, things changed. Digital devices became popular and the little children were soon teenagers with different interests.



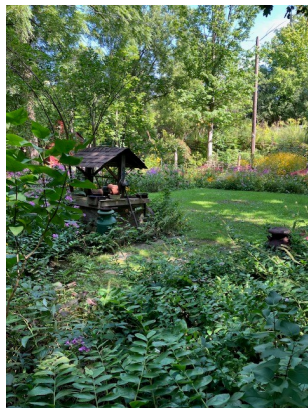
The shelves in the General Store are stacked with mason jars filled with everyday items as well as tinned goods, candles, baking needs, dry goods, tools and farm items. There is even a sales clerk ready to fill an order. The Emporium also has period relics on display.

I asked Terry what his favourite season is in the village. He replied that he loved the autumn when the leaves change colours. The garden floor would be covered with these leaves while overhead was a beautiful colourful canopy. But he also loved when there was a fresh crisp layer of snow. On a winter evening, with candles flickering in the windows of the buildings and snowflakes softly fluttering around them, Terry and his mother would walk about the village! How magical would that have been!

Years ago the Grade Three students from the local school would walk to the village during their study of the Pioneer unit. What a great learning experience for them as well as to then hear the stories of the history of the village from Terry and his mother.

Terry has continued telling and writing stories of the village as well as his own childhood. These stories can be found in a number of books that he has had published including "Rosemary's Village", "In Rosemary's Garden", "Home with Rosemary", "To Rosemary with Love", and "Rosemary's Little Book".

The gardens in Rosemary's village are also a reflection of her creativity. These gardens are filled with perennial flowers such as Black Eyed Susans, cone flowers, phlox, Solomon's Seal to name a few. These continue to grow and bloom each season. They set the stage for a delightful walk around the old-fashioned village. She certainly had the gardener's touch. Terry tries to keep on top of everything and even uses an old-fashioned push mower to mow the lawn. At one point in the garden, we crossed a covered bridge. Terry had built it over a wee stream where frogs were hopping from rock to rock! How perfect.



Something very exciting for Terry this spring was the making of a documentary called "Terry's Little Village". The director is Jack Kukolc and the writer is Emmy Pitschner. It has debuted in two film festivals in the United States. Terry is now waiting to hear when it will be debuted here.

Having spent many years recreating this lovely setting Terry and his mother have been rewarded with heritage awards as well as a prestigious award from the Ontario Heritage Trust. The Village also featured for many years in the Doors Open program attracting hundreds of visitors.

Walking through the village and listening to Terry's stories brought back memories of a more relaxed time when children would spend endless hours outside playing, when families ate their evening meal around the table and talked about their daily activities, when neighbours helped each other and village events were important to everyone!

Keeping the village going is a busy job but a labour of love for Terry. He loves it and does so to honour his beloved mother. We can't wait to go back!

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Lakeview Park Public School

Shirley Hoad

Lakeview Park School closed to regular school classes in June 2001. Shortly after that The Friends were contacted and informed that in clearing out the furniture and other fixtures of the school, they had found a large display case located in the main lobby. The solid oak case was moved to the Central Board Office Atrium and placed near the entrance to the cafeteria. We were invited to come and see what items that might be of interest to us.



In clearing out the drawers Daryl Cook and I found some old textbooks and the usual collection of papers, pencils and items that once had a purpose. We did add the textbooks to our collection but basically recycled all of the odds and ends.

But the exciting part was what we found in the glass-covered display boxes on the top of the case. There was a quilt, neatly folded, for all to see. Upon opening it up, we discovered this quilt was made in 1975 by the students of the school to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Lakeview Park School. The blocks had been made by students using crayons, showing various activities associated with the school. Parents had ironed the blocks to set the colour and sewed the blocks together, before quilting it.

We were informed that The Friends could remove the quilt and preserve it. Although it was saved carefully, the Friends were always aware that it was a historic artifact of the Lakeview area.

Many years have passed since then, but recently Daryl, Cathy Harper and myself attended a gathering of a group of Lakeview residents who are eager to preserve one of the original settlements in that area. We met at the Small Arms Building on Lakeshore Rd. East at Dixie Road...another historical building in the Lakeview area. The leader of the Mississauga South Historical Society, Richard Collins, accepted the quilt on behalf of the group .



A few days later I had a call from Heritage Mississauga indicating that both their group and Mississauga South had no safe storage for the quilt. They had contacted the Mississauga Museums at Benares and The Bradley House . They have climate-controlled facilities and were willing to accept the quilt. Last week I went to Bradley House and signed the document agreeing to donate the quilt to The Museums of Mississauga. They also accepted a copy of our book, "Echoes of the Past",

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Old Sayings Still Around

Daryl Cook

Often we will hear or use a phrase that sounds unusual. We might say "He let the cat out of the bag" if someone reveals a secret. How long has this saying been around and what is its origins? Years ago farmers who sold pigs would bring them to the market wrapped up in a bag. Unscrupulous ones would replace the pig with a cat and if someone would accidentally let the cat out, their fraud would be uncovered. Here are a few others you might recognize.

That's the bee's knees

Meaning: It is excellent, the highest quality.

Origine: The phrase came from the 18th century and it referred to something that didn't exist.

A boss would send an apprentice to the store to pick up a left-handed hammer and a bag of bee's knees.

It became a common expression in the Roaring Twenties along with "you're the cat's pajamas"

Put a sock in it

Meaning:

Stop talking

Origin:

In the late 1800s gramophones (record players) had no volume controls so people put a sock in the horn to reduce the sound.

Get One's Goat

Meaning: Irritate someone.

Origin: During horse racing some horses would get anxious, so owners would place goats in the stalls with them to calm them down. Rival horse owners would sometimes steal these goats therefore upsetting the horse and making it more likely to lose.

Ears are burning

Meaning: One is subconsciously aware of being talked about or criticized.

Origin: Ancient Romans believed that burning sensations in various organs had different meanings. If your left ear was burning it signaled an evil intent, and if your right ear was burning you were actually being praised.

Close But No Cigar

Meaning: Almost but not quite successful.

Origin: In the late 19th century carnival games were for adults, not children. Winners would get a cigar as a prize instead of stuffed animals. No win, no cigar.

E-mailed Newsletters

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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**

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Garden News Marg Carson

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. Despite the heat and humidity, sork has continued in the garden. With the help of a few volunteers, we have attempted to tidy up and replant certain areas. Our focus has concentrated mainly around the schoolhouse and Ben's Corner.

Mother Nature has gifted us this summer with rain and plenty of sunshine. However, this resulted in a bounty of weeds. Weeding and pruning are ongoing challenges. Never the less we have put in a number of new shrubs, perennial flowers as well as a tree. Look for the hidden plant names in the word search that follows. *Solution below the puzzle.*

