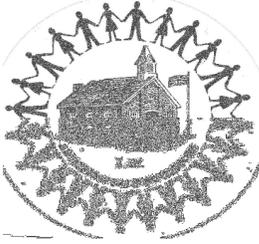




Summer/Early Fall 2017



2017—2018 Schedule of Events

Sept. 15-17: Brampton Fair
Dec 3: Christmas Open House
Feb 10: Heritage Brampton
June 20: Strawberry Social
July 17: 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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Honours for Our Book

Brampton Library's Local Authors Showcase

Margaret Storey

We are pleased to announce that our book, *Echoes of The Past*, has been selected by Brampton Library to be a part of their first Local Authors' Showcase. This Showcase is designed to recognize published works written by Peel residents. Our book met all the necessary requirements for selection together with a completed submission agreement form.

Echoes of the Past will now be featured, alongside other selected books, at their Chinguacousy Branch in Brampton's Civic Center. This branch is located at 150 Central Park Drive, near Bramalea City Center Mall. *Echoes of The Past* will be a donation to the Brampton Library and will be on display for one year. It will then become part of their circulating collection.

The unveiling of all the selected books took place August 18. If you are in that neighbourhood sometime, drop in to see the display of locally written books, photos of the authors as well as their biographies.



Summer/Early Fall 2017

From the Chair

Karen Simmons

How quickly the first year of my term as Chair has gone. It has been a very busy one, as usual, with all members of the Committee pitching in to help whenever necessary. Fall clean up, Brampton Fair, Christmas decorating and Open House sale, Heritage Brampton event, and the Strawberry Social are events that we do regularly. This year we also hosted the annual SLATE conference, with attendees from around the province. We were happy to be involved in the meetings with the Peel Board to discuss the future plans for the Britannia Farm. The Schoolhouse and the Farm have always been linked and, as heritage properties, deserve our ongoing care.

We were saddened to suddenly lose two of our active volunteers, Earl Bonner and George Christian. Both of these gentlemen gave years of service to Britannia Schoolhouse and will be greatly missed.

Sales of our book, *Echoes of the Past*, have been going well. The authors have given talks to several groups and will continue to do so when invited. Copies have been purchased by several superintendents to be placed in Peel schools. This has certainly been a successful endeavour and a tribute to Joan Reid who started it all.

For the next year, we will carry on with our regular activities. We all love our charming old Schoolhouse, and would welcome anyone who is interested to join the gang.

Brampton Fair

September 15, 16 and 17, 2017

The theme of this year's fair is "Celebrating Canada's 150th".

Friends of the Schoolhouse are looking forward to participating again. We will be located as usual at the east end of the Livestock Building. It is an interesting location in the midst of the cattle showings, the poultry, rabbits and other critter exhibits, as well as 4H projects and the fruit and vegetable entries. We are hoping to see the Britannia Schoolhouse garden win some ribbons again this year!

As well as information about the Schoolhouse and the Friends' events, we will have a table full of our very popular old fashioned toys and games for trying out. There will also be a number of small items to purchase.

Again this year our book, *Echoes of the Past, the Rural One Room Schools of Peel County* will be featured. Just as last year there are sure to be several fair goers who tell us they attended a Peel one room school or had a family member who did. We anticipate getting lots more information and interesting stories from them.

We hope you will come out and enjoy all the things this traditional fall fair has to offer. There is sure to be something of interest for everyone. Do drop by our tables and say "hello".

Brampton Fall Fair provides us with a wonderful opportunity to interact with the community. We appreciate the welcome and assistance we receive each year from the Brampton Fair Board. We also appreciate the help of all the volunteers who look after our tables over the three days of the fair.

The fairgrounds is located at Heart lake Road and Old School Road in Caledon. We will be there **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 15,16 and 17**. The buildings open at 10:00 a.m..

Summer/Early Fall 2017

From the Schoolmistress

Christine Chapel

As the hot summer breeze wafts through the Schoolhouse window carrying the distinctive buzz of a cicada, one senses the winds of change are afoot. Yes, we can see the end of summer vacation that seems like an endless two months to a student. Remember how it seemed to stretch on for so long when we were children?

We've not been idle. As always summer at the Peel Field Centres, one of which is the Schoolhouse, is spent in preparation for the coming school year. The building itself gets a good cleaning and this year the floors have been freshly varnished. The garden is tended – although this year's weather has provided optimum growing conditions for some of the finest weeds and grass I have ever witnessed growing in our vegetable garden. Awe struck would not be too dramatic a phrase to describe how I felt after returning to the Schoolhouse after some vacation time and saw the spectacle that is our vegetable garden. We'll have a much needed work day down here this week to regain control of the situation. Hopefully we'll have something to enter in the Brampton Fair again this year. If anyone out there has some old fashioned suggestions about how to suppress weeds in a Schoolhouse vegetable garden, we'd love to hear them!

We've also been working on the Schoolhouse programs. We want to see an increase in the number of grade 8's we have coming in for a visit this year for a day of inquiry as well as promoting the Schoolhouse for grade 6. Could there be a better location to supplement the Communities in Canada: Past and Present curriculum requirements for grade 6? I think it's a perfect fit.

We are also seeing some staffing changes this year. Schoolmaster Campbell is moving back to our northern sites. He will still come down every now and again to re-appear as Schoolmaster and help in the garden so we'll continue to benefit from his knowledge and enthusiasm. Lisa Farrows, a long standing (17 years) employee of the Field Centres, will be sharing the role of Schoolmistress with me. This is her first experience in the Schoolhouse so she is looking forward to this new challenge. Lisa has a great interest and love of history, a great flair for drama



and she's a gifted artist. All attributes that will be beneficial in her new role. She's also techno savvy which is a contrast to this Schoolmistress who, for all intents and purposes, should be living in the 1800s! She's already digitized some original Schoolhouse artwork in order to safe guard it and make the material more accessible and easier to use.

As always, we're looking forward to the new school year with the same sense of excitement that we felt as children. There's much yet to do before the first class arrives but we'll be polished and ready to welcome students to the Schoolhouse for another year of learning in this wonderful facility.

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

Summer/Early Fall 2017

The Schoolhouse Gardens

Karen Simmons

The perennial gardens have been glowing with colour all through the season. Masses of iris, peonies, lupins and roses were followed by foxgloves and assorted daisies later on. Where we used to use annuals to fill in the empty spaces, the perennials now take care of that problem.

Our volunteers have been most helpful. Joanne and Kathleen have taken over the care of the rose garden, and have been weeding and dead heading old bloom. Marg and Cathy have continued to find bargains at the garden centres to add to the collection. Despite an injured shoulder, William has been able to do watering when necessary. Thanks to all of you. Jean and Ken have cleared a new area of dead brush and invasive vines to the west of the Victorian Garden. The plans are to add flowering shrubs to brighten that previously neglected corner.

We hope the orchard and vegetable garden will again produce prize winners for the Brampton Fair. Chris and other Field Centre staff have worked hard to do the planting and weeding to make that part of the gardens a successful part of the Schoolhouse program. We expect to have some Saturday morning work sessions for student volunteers in late October and early November. The dates will be announced later.

A short history of the garden



2001 Ben Madill tills new garden where his own school garden was in the 1920s



2001 Students plant the meadow garden with native plants



2004 The meadow garden is thriving



2004 Children play under the 100 year old maples



2005 We build an arbour to honour S.S. 12 teachers



2005 heritage clematis bloom on the arbour



2005 We honour Eva with a sun dial

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2006 Our beautiful century maples are cut down



2007 A schoolhouse vegetable garden grew winning produce for the Brampton Fair



2008 The winter garden



2012 A new arbour



2012 An arbour bench in Joan Reid's memory



2015 Instalation of Ben's Corner
A place for teaching, relaxing and remembering Ben Madill

Echoes of the Past The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County

This book documents the history of all the one room schools that existed in Peel. It covers the period from the early 1800s until the mid-1960s. There are old photos of most of the schools and photos of what the sites look like today. Timelines trace the history of the schools and an interesting – sometimes humorous – “historical gem” is included for each one.

This book is a great gift for a teacher or anyone interested in the history of education.

Written and published by Friends of the Schoolhouse.

Soft cover, full colour, 208 pages.

\$30 plus \$10 shipping

Available at all schoolhouse events and from any member of Friends of the Schoolhouse.

Book Talks

Illustrated talks are available to historical societies and other interested groups. We tailor each presentation to suit the audience and the one room schools that were in their local area.

If your group would be interested in having a presentation, please contact Jean (905 826 3475) jkrob@rogers.com for further information.

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Echoes of the Past—1867

Daryl Cook

I was curious to find out if anything interesting or unusual had happened during the year of Confederation in any of the one room rural schools in Peel. Our book provided some answers. I looked first at our school, S. S. No. 12 Britannia. In 1867 a new stove was purchased for \$11. Since the school was built in 1852, one would think a wood stove should have lasted longer than 15 years. Perhaps the one installed when the school was built was an older, second hand one.



This is the stove in the schoolhouse today.

Here is a list of other events in 1867 in Peel Schools.

- Caledon Village Charleston school was built. It was a brick school and had two 2-hole outhouses and a well with a hand pump. This school was used until 1938.
- Wings were added to the north and south sides of the Alexander Street school in Brampton increasing the number of rooms to 5.
- The John Street Primary School in Brampton closed.

Some other events took place a few years before and after 1867.

1866

- Upper Snelgrove school was built on Lot 22 west side of Centre Road on land bought from Mr. James McGill in 1864. The school was heated by wood in a box stove. Up to 75 pupils attended the school, travelling by sleigh in the winter. The horses were housed in a specially built stable.
- A brick-lined well for the school on King Street in Bolton was built by William Johnson for \$21.65.
- William Taylor was a teacher at the first school recorded in Colombia/Coverntry

1868

- At the Credit View Baseline school the schoolteacher's salary was \$324.47.

1869

- The trustees of Hillcrest made schooling free.

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Other 1867 facts:

In 1867, after much discussion and debate, Peel officially separated from York, having built the necessary administrative building: a courthouse (with council chamber) and a jail. The County of Peel was to consist of the Townships of Chinguacousy, Toronto, and the Gore of Toronto, and the Villages of Brampton and Streetsville

The first Peel member of Parliament was elected Aug. 8, 1867. Candidates and the result of the vote are as follows:

Parl	Date	Candidate	Occupation	Votes	Vote %	Party
1	1867/08/07	<u>CAMERON</u> <u>HON. JOHN</u> <u>HILLYARD</u>	Lawyer	1138	51.40%	Conserv
		BARBER		1076	48.60%	unknown



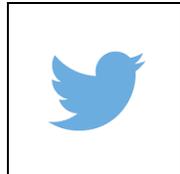
Lemonade on the Lawn

Another success. On a warm sunny day in July Board Office staff enjoyed lemonade and cookies on the schoolhouse lawn.

The Friends of the Schoolhouse thank them for their ongoing support.

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 2017

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 10	Old fashioned Schooldays Come and see what it would be like to attend a one room schoolhouse. Make an old fashioned bonnet. Write on a slate.
Oct 8	Celebrate the Autumn Harvest Visit the school vegetable garden and the orchard. Did you see The Three Sisters? How did the early settlers preserve their apples and veggies? Make a harvest craft to take home.
Nov 12	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.
Dec 3	Christmas Open House and Sale Come and see our schoolhouse all decorated for a Victorian Christmas. We will have schoolhouse items for sale. Our vendors will be selling honey, knitted apparel, preserves and food treats. A great chance for last minute Christmas shopping.
Jan 14	Early Lighting How did the early settlers light their homes? What would it have been like to have only candles for lighting? Make a beeswax candle to take home.
Feb 11	Valentine's Day Celebrate this special day by looking at some vintage valentines and storybooks. Make a card for a special person in your family.
Mar 11	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 learn how to tap a tree.
April 8	Early Writing Tools Come and learn about early pens and how to make ink. Try writing with a quill pen.
May 13	Our Spring Garden Visit our Victorian garden to see what beautiful spring flowers have started to grow. See all the native plants and others that were typical of a school garden in the early 1900s. Some flowers have a symbolic meaning. Find out what these flowers mean when given to someone..
June 10	Our Wooden Toys Come and play with our wooden toys. They are always popular-even without batteries.