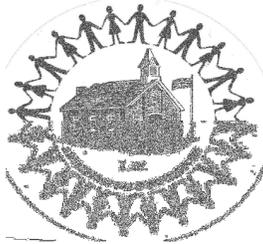




Winter 2020



Coming Events

Open Sundays:

April 12 Family Games Day

May 10 Mothers Day

June 14 Summer Games

School Visits

October 2019 252

November 2019 326

December 2019 270

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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The Schoolmistresses go back in time at Kenollie Public School

Lisa Cafaro

As 2020 begins, challenging times continue for teachers and students. Work to rule and rolling teacher strikes mean no field trips which greatly effects the Field Centres. Staff are doing all they can to still see as many students as possible while respecting the parameters set out to teachers.

Schoolmistresses Chapel and Cafaro were asked if it was possible to come into a school to give a grade 3 class at Kenollie P.S. a look into life in the past.

At first we scratched our heads as to how to bring the Schoolhouse into a school. We gathered some artifacts, toys and slates and a modified lesson plan and off we went.

We were greeted warmly and enthusiastically by the staff and students of Kenollie, who were all in costume. We set up one classroom with the desks in rows in hopes of emulating a school day of an early settler child. In character we proceeded to do our opening activities, beginning with God Save the Queen, attendance and a health inspection. Arithmetic lessons and a memory gem (where the students learn and memorize a poem through repetition then volunteer to present it to the class) followed.

Another classroom was set up with a series of artifacts and toys. The students were led in an inquiry based learning session where they could examine the artifacts and try to figure out what the objects were and if there was a modern day equivalent. It's always amusing to see the back stories the kids create for each of the objects.

Students also had a chance to sign the Schoolhouse register with pen and ink and got to try their hand at a cursive writing lesson on the slates.

The students of Kenollie did a fabulous job in character and were a lot of fun. Their sharp minds were full of questions and genuine interest. A perfect combination for a great day.

Although we missed having this group of students at the Schoolhouse, we were glad to be able to have such a great experience with them in their school.

From the Chair

Ruth Taylor

We held two successful Christmas sales, one in November at the board office, and the other in December at the Schoolhouse. We had some of our own wares for sale, as well as those of returning vendors and one new vendor. In late November Friends decorated the Schoolhouse and put up the tree. The tree is topped not with a star or angel, but with small Union Jack flags. The tree and swags give off a lovely aroma. When the tree was removed from the Schoolhouse, it was given a second life in one of our member's backyard as shelter for the birds. The crepe paper decorations and old-fashioned tree decorations give the Schoolhouse a festive appearance. The rest of the winter season is fairly quiet. However, we did just participate in Heritage Brampton. Unfortunately, the Schoolhouse is very quiet these days as classes are not presently visiting.

Cold, snowy winter days may inspire cooking something different. Here are two family recipes to try. Both sides of my family were from "Pennsylvania Dutch" stock. The recipes I've included reflect that heritage. Although I don't remember anyone making the apple butter, probably my grandmother would have as there was an abundance of apple trees on the family farm. The apples would have also been used in the mincemeat recipe. I know both my mother and at least one of my sisters made the mincemeat recipe. My sister says she would start with a chuck or blade roast and skim off any fat when cooled, and then put it through a grinder or food processor. She then used the broth for soup. I am impressed by the amount of work required to produce the finished product.

Mincemeat for Pie

4 lb. ground beef, cooked
twice as many apples.

Enough water to cover mixture of beef and apples.

Add: 2 lb. corn syrup	1 heaping tsp. nutmeg
2 lb. raisins	1 heaping tsp. cloves
1 lb. currants	1 rounded tsp. salt
5 lb. brown sugar	1 cup vinegar
2 heaping tsp. cinnamon	

Cook 2 hours.

Originally mincemeat would have been canned. However we found it easier to freeze it in plastic containers.

Cook mincemeat pie for 10 minutes @ 450 F., then 25 minutes @ 350 F.

Apple Butter

12 cups tart apples	1 teaspoon cloves
2 cups cider vinegar	½ teaspoon allspice
Brown sugar	Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon
2 teaspoons cinnamon	

Quarter and core apples. Cook slowly in the vinegar until soft. Press through a sieve. Measure, to each cup of pulp add ½ cup of brown sugar. Add spices, lemon juice and rind. Cook slowly until thick. Yield – 3 pints.

From the Schoolmistress

Christine Chapel

Schoolmistress Cafaro and I have had the opportunity of late to take some time and focus on research that we have wanted to look into for some time.

The Schoolhouse was built in 1852. This year we will be celebrating 168 years of being not only a visible presence on the landscape but an active participant in education in Peel. Just because our building is old though (by Canadian standards) doesn't mean that our programming is stuck in the past. True, when we role play we are reenacting a day in the life of students who attended Britannia S.S. No. 12 – acting out procedures and conducting lessons that would typically have been done in the late 1800s into the mid 1900s. However, hosting students in a setting such as this lends itself to countless modern talking points. These are topics that must be addressed in our modern times, using the Schoolhouse as a backdrop.

For example, Indigenous history is something that we have always touched upon in the past. Today though, especially with revelations from the Indigenous community through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we know that history as it was written was not necessarily recorded correctly or, frankly, truthfully. What we learned as children about the history of Canada was most often information that was written from a British, colonizer perspective. Politically oriented. Not without bias.

History is no longer looked at from one author's or observer's point of view and accepted as fact. Students are taught that they can never rely on a single source to get a full picture and understanding of an event or period in time. At the Schoolhouse we now address more of the history of the Indigenous community in what is now known as Mississauga, before the Schoolhouse was built and after. A Land Acknowledgement is part of our introduction. We recognize that we cannot spend a day in the Schoolhouse with students without honouring the history of the land itself. We're working on a permanent display about the Indigenous people and their ancestors who have called Southern Ontario their traditional lands long before people arrived from across the ocean.

The Ontario Social Studies curriculum outlines six concepts of historical thinking. One of these is Continuity and Change. This has become the theme when students come to visit us. Such wonderful discussions occur when using this as the lens through which we look at the story of the Schoolhouse and the people who attended school here, and those who did not.

A visit to the Schoolhouse is not an end in and of itself. Rather, it acts as a springboard for deeper discussion and ultimately understanding of the history of a place and people. It encourages more research. A visit here plays an important role in supplementing what students are learning in their classrooms. It is a resource for teachers. We always hope that the learning continues when students leave us.

Getting Ready to Garden

Marg Carson

Warton Willy has spoken. An early spring is on the way. A gardener's thoughts are drifting toward what can be done with the garden. We've purchased several packages of seeds but planting will have to wait until the soil warms, the beds prepared and the weeds removed. Around Victoria Day in May we'll think about planting.

Once we can get out into the garden there is lots to do. Starting in April we'll get to work. We are grateful for the help we get from our volunteers. More help is always needed. Contact Marg Carson for more information. 905 824 4884

Marjorie Elizabeth Madill (Tipping)
February 22, 1922 to November 30, 2019

By Eva Ardiel



Marjorie passed away peacefully at Wellington Terrace in Elora, 6 years after the death of her husband, Benson Madill.

Marjorie was born in Cooksville. She worked at the Small Arms in Port Credit before her marriage to Ben in 1947. Together they farmed on #10 Highway just north of 401 (actually Highway 401 cut through their property) until 2009 when they moved to Fergus to be closer to family.

Marjorie was an active member of Britannia United Church and United Church Women. She led 4H Homemaking Clubs for many years. She enjoyed baking, sewing, knitting, gardening and playing piano and organ. She was a loving and beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great great grandmother.

Marjorie and Ben were supporters and members of the Clock Collectors Association, The Cast Iron Seat Association, Peel Museum and Archives, Heritage Mississauga, the Milton Steam Era as well as supporters of Britannia Schoolhouse and its restoration from the 1970's when the Streetsville Secondary School's Britannia School Restoration Club was organized.



When I came to the schoolhouse in 1985, it was Marjorie and Ben that were the link to the former Britannia Community and its history. They were the last of the S.S.#12 families to live in the area. To this day when I drive down #10 Highway, though their house and barn are gone, I can still identify the entrance to their driveway and am flooded with warm memories of all the times in the past I

drove down their long lane to be welcomed by Marjorie and Ben, to sit at the table in their big farm kitchen and chat for much longer than I had planned. I was often treated to Marjorie's seemingly endless supply of butter tarts, squares and cookies and many times left with produce from their big garden, - raspberries, red currants, rhubarb, a big onion, a purple potato, etc. Although it was Ben that did most of the chatting, it was Marjorie's warmth and hospitality (and goodies) that make those visits so treasured in my memories.

Marjorie is remembered with great affection by Friends of the Schoolhouse. She and Ben were mainstays of the Friends from its beginning in 1992. She helped at many of the Friends' events and turned her kitchen over to the strawberry hullers for many years. She made slate pencil bags, clothes peg doll kits and other things for Sales. She was well known for the delicious goodies she baked for various events. A favourite of everyone was her Unbaked Squares. (The recipe is in the Friends' little Sweetmeats Plus recipe book.) We still try to have them at special events. When we do we have a "thumbs up" and think fondly of Marjorie.



Winter 2020

It seems like the end of an era now with both Marjorie and Ben gone. They are certainly not forgotten, however. We value and are thankful for their contribution and their friendship over the years. We are richer for their being a part of our lives. Marjorie and Ben played a large part in the survival of the Britannia Schoolhouse, in the activities of Friends of the Schoolhouse and in the preservation of the history of the area.

Here is the recipe for Marjorie's famous squares so that you can enjoy them too and think of her and the special person she was.

Marjorie Madill's Unbaked Squares

2 cups graham crumbs
1/2 cup coconut
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. vanilla

Mix the above ingredients in a bowl

2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup butter
1 Tbsp. cocoa
1 Tbsp. water
1 cup brown sugar

Mix the above ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over a moderate heat until it boils. Boil one minute.

Remove from the heat and stir into the crumbs

Pack into an 8" square pan.

Fudge Icing

1/4 cup butter
1/2 cup brown sugar
2 Tbsp. milk

In a small saucepan stir over a low heat. Bring to a boil and boil for 2 minutes. Cool slightly and stir in 1 cup of icing sugar. Stir until smooth. Ice the squares.

(Good idea to mark in squares while it is still warm)



Winter 2020

Christmas Craft Sale

Cathy Harper

The Friends held a successful sale in the Atrium of the Board Office on November 21st for the second year. Thanks to Julie Dipplehofer who organized our sales items and delivered them to the Board Office, and to the Maintenance Staff who set up the tables and helped organize the layout. A special thank you to the Board Staff who supported us in purchasing our merchandise.

In addition to our usual sale items of puzzles, toys, games and note cards, we had a variety of tote bags, placemats and other fabric items made by Shirley Hoad and Karen Simmons. Thanks to Margaret Storey and Glenna Zdebiak, who organized a large selection of Mrs. V's jams, jellies and relishes and Osprey Bluff's honey, soaps and candles. An interesting selection of enamelled metal ornaments created by "Pass the Torch" made a big hit. A sincere thank you to Margit Berger for her donation of knitted items for the Friends to sell.

Victorian Open House and Sale

Julie Dipplehofer

On Sunday, December 1st we were planning to hold our annual Victorian Open House and Sale. For the past two years we have had very mild December weather, but when the weather forecast was not looking good, we chose to postpone the sale to December 8th, which was a smart move since December 1st did bring a big blast of winter weather. December 8th proved to be a much more pleasant Sunday afternoon. Attendance was down from the past few years, but sales and profits were still strong.



Our usual vendors sold honey, soaps, candles, lip balm, jams and preserves as well as metal ornaments. A new vendor this year was Dave Spence. He has a company called Dave's on Fire. Dave is a blacksmith and sold some unique wares. At the end of the sale, Dave gave all his sales right back to the Schoolhouse. A gesture that was so very generous and kind. Our vintage toy replicas, cards, books, and homemade handcrafts continue to delight our customers. Make sure to join us next year on **Sunday, December 6, 2020**. We are already planning some new items to sell for the holiday season.

Heritage Brampton 2020

Ruth Taylor

For once, it didn't snow on Heritage Brampton Day. However, snow had arrived the two previous days. We had a steady stream of visitors throughout the day. Adults and children alike are fascinated by the old-fashioned toys. At least two people took pictures of some of the toys so they could replicate them at home. The reason for participating in Heritage Brampton is to publicize the Schoolhouse and to inform our visitors. Personally, I always learn something from our visitors. One young man looked at the puzzle featuring an old car and said "That's how they live in Cuba." He also asked his buddy who was from Cuba if they still made toys like the acrobat. He said they did. He had previously made a flip book and said it was better than Game Boy. Another young man, who worked with wood, was trying to figure out the mechanics of some of the toys so he could make his own.

Decorating the Schoolhouse for the Christmas Season

Jean Robinson



It is always a fun time when volunteers of Friends of The Schoolhouse get together to decorate the Schoolhouse. They make paper chains and evergreen swags to decorate the blackboards at The Schoolhouse for the students visiting during the Christmas season, and for the Victorian Christmas Sale.

As usual, Ken got a lovely Fraser Fir tree which he put in his custom-made tree stand and the taller members of the group decorated it with ornaments reminiscent of the Victorian era when the custom of putting up an evergreen tree in the parlour was introduced to London by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort Albert. At the top of the tree, our tree boasts two British Empire flags, instead of the customary angel.

In Canada, at this time, ornaments were made of paper usually by the children of the home. Many years ago, Eva Ardiel hosted workshops to make the paper ornaments that we still use on the tree today.

Early on, Marjory and Ben Madill would prepare real popcorn and bring it to The Schoolhouse to make into strings to decorate the tree. However, the following morning when the school day was about to begin, there were no strings of popcorn on the tree. The resident chipmunks ate all the popcorn and left only the thread on the floor. Since then, we use purchased artificial popcorn strings which the chipmunks don't like. Sometimes, we have to move into the next century!

At The Schoolhouse, we decorate the windows with crepe paper strips and there are usually enough evergreen boughs left to put some greenery on the sills. The fresh smell is evocative of the Christmases of our childhoods and great stories are told of that time in our lives.

After the tree is up and decorated and the blackboards sport their chains and swags, we gather for a supper of chili, made by Karen and Cathy, salads and home made desserts brought by everyone else.

Thanks to all the volunteers who come out on a cold winter's night and help to make The Schoolhouse ready for Christmas.

The Schoolmistresses reported that the next day when the first class entered the school, they were awed by the wonderful smells and the beautiful decorations in the room. Much learning goes on about Christmas symbols and customs of the time when the farm and village children attended S. S. No. 12 Toronto Township Britannia School.

Winter 2020

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 1800's until the mid-1960's. 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.

SLATE – So Let's All Talk Education...in the one room Schoolhouse

Tuesday, May 12 Wilson MacDonald Memorial School Museum Haldimand County

The annual conference usually takes place on a Monday in April but due to availability of the meeting venue, it has been changed. Always a fun and informative conference for those working at or involved with one room schoolhouses, any and all interested are welcome to join. Look for more details to come out in March.

If you would like to be added to our SLATE contact list please call the Schoolhouse at (905) 890-1010 x. 2911 and leave us a message with your name, affiliation, address, phone number and email or email Christine Chapel at Christine.Chapel@peelsb.com.

**Have you renewed your membership for 2020
Renewal forms are on our website.
Membership forms can be downloaded from our website:**

www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org

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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**