

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1858-1979 restored 1982



Winter, 2001

Some Figures and Facts:

September and the remainder of Fall, 2000 saw much activity at the schoolhouse. In September 256 students, October 520, November 482, December 319, for a total of 1577 students attended classes at the schoolhouse with our new schoolmistress.

150 visitors enjoyed the Hallowe'en festivities, made possible by 37 volunteers.

The Christmas Sale at the Peel District Board Office brought in \$768.00



This newsletter is published by the Friends of the Schoolhouse every Fall, Winter and Spring, in an effort to inform its membership, and the teachers of the Peel District School Board of its activities and events.

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Ghost Walk 2000.

Joan Reid

One hundred and fifty visitors enjoyed old fashioned fun at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse on October 28. They toasted marshmallows, took hayrides, made masks, bobbed for apples and carved Jack o' Lanterns. They also had the opportunity to walk through the Haunted Woods and stick their hands into Beastly buckets. Inside the schoolhouse, they had the opportunity to take part in a Hallowe'en Spelling Bee and hear ghost stories about Mississauga's past.

New games such as Sinister Twist, Pumpkin Toss, Hallowe'en Bingo, and Pin the Stem on the Pumpkin were very popular. Outside, an enthusiastic crowd were attracted to the attempts to smash pumpkin piñatas. Still others took part in Hallowe'en Tic Tac Toe and Ghost Bowling. A costume parade and a lucky draw completed the evening.

The efforts of thirty-seven volunteers made the evening a success:

Eva Ardiel	Earl Bonner
Elaine Borlace	Anne Brownjohn
Daryl Cook	George Christian
Mary Corrigan	Glen Craney
Katharine Moon/Craney	
Megan Curtis	Helen Debenham
Margaret Draper	Linda Elgie
John Emerson	Sandra Emerson
Gary Hall	Heather Handy
Cathy Harper	Sandra Hinton
Shirley Hoad	Brian Holstein
Frances Kay	Linda Kenny
Ralph Eades	Ben Madill
Marjorie Madill	Joan Moon
Marilyn Newell	Jean Robinson

Getting a Credit for Helping and Having Fun

Recently the Friends of the Schoolhouse advertised on the Peel Board's website for students to volunteer at various schoolhouse activities. Hours spent helping at Heritage Week, the Queen Victoria Fete and other events will earn a student hours of credit toward the mandatory 40 hour Community Service Credit. Other possible areas of work are in helping develop and care for a heritage garden and assisting with cataloguing historical artifacts.

We have had our first response from an interested student and are looking forward to providing many students with an opportunity to earn credit hours while they help support the schoolhouse program and enjoy themselves at the same time.

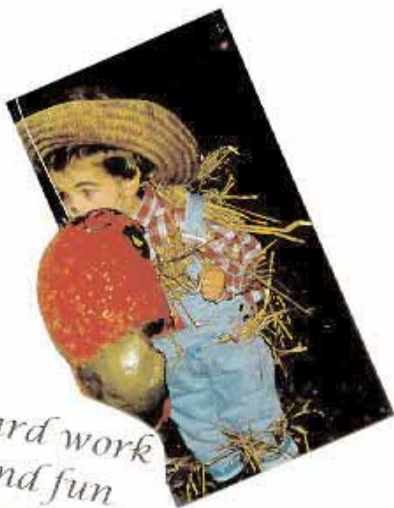
If you know any students who would be interested in volunteering they should contact the convener of the Student Volunteer Committee Daryl Cook. Her email address is dlcook@echo-on.net or phone 905-279-5896.



Voula Petropranagos Joan Reid
Corina Proeller Stewart Proeller
Margaret Storey Tom Veenstra
Henry Vandergrindt Shirley Walker



Allen Case at work in the schoolhouse.



Hard work and fun made the Hallowe'en Party a success.



Executive Committee Report

What an exciting Fall it has been at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse! Many of our neighbours came to the Britannia Fall Fair on a cool Thanksgiving weekend. They enjoyed the role-playing in the schoolhouse with Mistress Curtis and shopped at the Sales Committee's Tent of Treasures. The tractor ride was, as usual, a big draw and crowds waited patiently for their turn to explore the farm.

Later in October, we held our second annual Ghost Walk. With such an overwhelming success last year, our Ghost Walk Convenor, Joan Reid, moved many of the activities outside into the schoolyard. In spite of the cold weather, the visitors enjoyed the old fashioned games and activities. We thank Joan and all who volunteered for once again making this event a huge success.

Alan Case delighted his audience at the schoolhouse with his stories and the toys he enjoys to make when he made a return visit in November to an enthusiastic welcome.

Christmas at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is always a special time. The committee spent one evening decorating a fragrant spruce tree with Victorian ornaments, tiny candles and strings of popcorn and cranberry. The pine and cedar swags, a beautiful wreath and the red and green paper chains brightened up the schoolhouse and our spirits. Thanks to Frances Kay and her mouse deterrents, the popcorn strings remained intact until the penultimate day of school before being eaten by the furry creatures.

The hard working Sales Committee held their Annual Sale at the school board office in late November and a very successful Christmas Open House in the schoolroom during December.

Wonderful music was provided by our Britannia musicians John Emerson (piano), Ray Hosty (violin) and Nicole Del Medico (flute).

A start has been made on the necessary upkeep of the schoolhouse. In November, some repairs were made to the cupola, the belfry and the roof. Further work, however, must wait until school



finishes for the summer.. By the summer of 2001 we hope to have the cupola painted and "critter-proofed", the bell replaced and the roof reshingled with cedar shakes. This is quite a tall order.

You will have noticed the two new double desks when you visited the schoolhouse this fall. Megan is delighted with them as they complete a row and so provide additional space in the aisles.

Secondary school pupils looking for volunteer opportunities toward their community service credit can contact their school guidance counsellor for information about VOLUNTEERING AT BRITANNIA. Daryl Cook is the convenor for our new Student Volunteer Committee. For more information about getting involved in this project you can contact Daryl at dlc00k@echo-on.net. We are looking

forward to working with these enthusiastic young people.

There are also many opportunities for those of you who are "slightly older" than teens to volunteer at our upcoming events: The Heritage Week display at Square One; Queen Victoria Fête at the schoolhouse, and the Strawberry Social in the Atrium of the HJA Brown Centre. The dates for these events are included in our calendar elsewhere in the newsletter. Call Kay Robbins, our Volunteers Convenor at 905 890 4506 for more information about volunteering.

You won't want to miss seeing Ian Bell when he makes his return to The Old Britannia Schoolhouse on Sunday, April 8. Last year's presentation was very entertaining and enlightening. Ian is an accomplished musician, singer and storyteller who can be heard frequently on the CBC's "Fresh Air" and "The Vinyl Café". George Christian has information and tickets for this performance. You can contact him at 905 275 8038.

It is membership renewal time again. Please send you renewal cheque so that you can continue to be informed about happenings at the schoolhouse. Remember to check off the section on the back to indicate how you would like to help. We would love to have you join in any activity you may choose. Look for us at the schoolhouse display at Square One in February and take the time to say hello to the Friends of the Schoolhouse who are attending the booth.

Thank you to all the people who gave their time and expertise at the events at the schoolhouse this fall and early winter.



Sales Committee Report

The pre-Christmas season was a busy and profitable time for the Sales Committee! We sold our wares at the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre on November 30th and at our annual Open House on December 3rd, as well as through phone and mail orders. Thanks are extended to the committee members and other volunteers who helps at these events. We thank everyone who supported The Old Britannia Schoolhouse by purchasing the Friends' merchandise.

Special thanks are due to Jean Robin-

son and her crew for making a heavenly host of spool doll angels, Marjorie Madill for making the slate pencil bags for our slate kits, Margaret Storey for rolling a multitude of beeswax candles and Allen Case for making two new kinds of toys for us to sell.

Special thanks also go to Jean Robinson for fetching the schoolhouse Christmas tree and for organizing the Schoolhouse Decorating Party, as well as the Christmas Open House.

As the year 2000 came to an end, the

Sales Committee felt it has had an excellent year. The inventory had been built up, and several new items have been added. We were able to transfer \$2000.00 in profits to the "Donation Account", moneys designated for programme and facility needs.

Our updated illustrated catalogue, listing most of the items we offer for sale, was sent to all of the schools, as well as to several individuals who requested copies. These catalogues are still available by phoning Eva at 905 459 9158.



Schoolmistress's Report

Each morning I arrive at the schoolhouse to a very peaceful scene: fresh snow on the ground, unspoiled by footprints, and sunlight streaming in through the windows.

As I sip my morning cup of tea and anticipate the day ahead, my mind often comes back to the same thought: The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is a treasure. A day at the schoolhouse is always full of learning, for the students and for myself as well. I am privileged to have the opportunity to get to know the many corners, and many cultures, of Peel County through the children who visit each day.

For children who have spent their whole lives in Canada a day at the Schoolhouse can be a glimpse into the lives of those that came before them. For students who are new to Canada, it can help them to understand a little bit more about their new country and even find some links to the ways of

life of their homelands. These students are pioneers of a new kind, whose families have come here for many of the same reasons as the first settlers in this area: to build a new life, to reunite with family, or to open up a wealth of possibilities for their children and themselves. In the past four months I have had the pleasure of meeting children from Albania, Sri Lanka, Syria, Afghanistan, China, Jordan, Russia, and Korea, to name but a few. And no matter where my 'pioneer students' come from, be it Belfountain or Belize, each one brings with him or her a new perspective and a new energy. Every morning their wonderful energy fills the room.

It is the children who truly bring the Schoolhouse to life. The diversity of their backgrounds makes the experience much richer for all involved. I look forward to the new year and the hundreds of new faces that will light up the schoolroom as they spend a day discovering the past.

Megan Curtis

2001 SLATE Conference

The annual SLATE (So Let's Talk About Education in a one-room schoolhouse) conference will be held this year at the Wilson-MacDonald Memorial School Museum in Cheapside, Ontario, with supplementary presentations taking place in Selkirk, on Monday, April 9.

These two communities are close to Port Dover on the Lake Erie shoreline.

The cost for this full day conference is \$25.00.

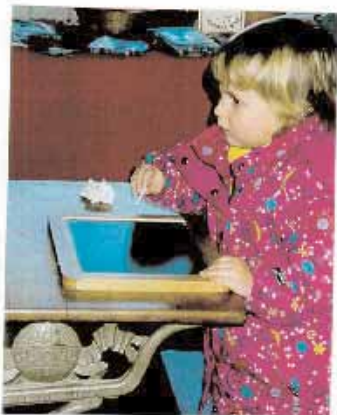
For further information, or to have your name added to the list of participants, please phone Eva Ardiel at 905 459 9158.

Last year 13 Friends of the Schoolhouse carpooled to Jordan, Ontario for the 2000 conference, making up the largest contingent present.





*Open House,
2000.*



Memberships

Memberships renewals for 2001 are now due.

Why not take the time to send off your renewal today? It will save the time needed by the executive in having to contact you with further reminders. You may even win the Early-Bird draw.

If your mailing label has a "01" on it, then your membership is already up-to-date.



Need to speak to the Schoolmistress?



The Old Britannia Schoolhouse can be contacted directly, by dialing
890 1010, ext. 2911



2002 SLATE Conference

Planning has begun for our hosting of the 2002 SLATE Conference, which will be held at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse. A committee has already made preliminary plans for the day, and will soon commence to make detailed arrangements.

A promotional package will be presented at this year's conference in April.

We are on the web at
www.britanniaschoolhouse.org

Artists are Wanted.

So organizing this year's Queen Victoria Fête, we are looking for new attractions to add to the day's activities. In keeping with the Victorian theme, we are searching for people who sketch, silhouette artists, musicians, buskers . . . Indeed anyone who may make the day a little more Victorian.

If you know of anyone who may fit the bill and who may give of their time for part of that day, contact Brian Holstein at briahols@yahoo.com, Hawley Johnston (a.k.a. Queen Victoria) at 905 451 0857, or Marg Draper at 905 637 9595. They shall follow up in contacting them and coming to a mutual arrangement.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.



The Friends of the Schoolhouse wish to thank the following for their support:

Ruth Thompson	Karin Henderson	Brian Chambers	Barbara Layton	Doris Stewart	Anne Brownjohn	James Potts
Boenie Fredenburgh	Errol Smith	Dr. & Mrs. A Kennedy	Catherine Kennedy	Betty Wilson-Smith	Jeanine Dykstra	Viin Kanep
Maire Katola	Janet MacDougald	Jennifer Roberts	Diane Claridge	Doris Paton	William Quance	Margaret Dickson
Pam Gibson	Mrs. Mel Lounds	Helen Savage	Kevin Doran	Marilyn Newell	Linda Newman	George Christian
Adam Pez	Doag Graham	Diane Claridge	Daryl Cook	Midge Prang	Clara Scott	Eva Ardiel
Mary Izawa	Judy Grant	Kirby Burns	James Davis	Beth Morrow	Jessie Edmiston	Jackie Yellowfees
Rose Marie Beatty	Del Newbigging	Cathy Harper	Jean/Ken Robinson	Jan Scott		