

# Making The Grade

The Brampton Historical Society saw light nearly two years ago with the rally cry to save the CPR station. As the fragile pieces of Brampton's past were stored for future restoration, jokers dubbed the group: The Brampton Hysterical Society.

So be it. Beginners at educational institutions receive degrading names: frosh, minor-niners, kindergarten babies, etc. But we did our homework, initiated projects and advanced in Brampton's School of Hard Knocks. Time to review and report our progress.

#### Membership: A+

- 85 members (all ages, sizes, backgrounds).

#### Events: A+

- outstanding educational programs and outings

#### Projects: A+

- Dominion Clock enterprise initiated
- THE MAP Steering Committee met biweekly to plan the conservation and reproduction of our treasure
- Established a new logo to reflect the history-making revival of the Brampton clock tower

#### Social Skills: A+

- Plays well with other historical groups
- Determination: "We will put Brampton on the map!"
- Sense of humour demonstrated. Laughter became hysterics only once with the rumour of The River Plan. (Re-route the Etobicoke Creek to its original path down Main Street?) Ha! HA!

#### Leadership Skills: C

- Average progress in promoting positive attitude in The City toward historical treasures
- Encouraged member participation on committees

#### Political Science: F

- Idealism gets in the way of skill mastery

#### Comments:

- Samples of BHS achievements are included with this report of Buffy's Corner

#### Recommendations:

- Recruit volunteers for committees. Offer refreshments; beg on "bended knee".
- Remind folks of half-price bargain, since year 2000 is half over. (Only two newsletters per half-year, though!)
- Support Brampton Hysterical - oops! Historical Society.

Bunny: Way to go, Buffy - good joke! You need a break. How about taking a summer vacation?

Buffy: Great idea - let's all make some history! See you in September!

#### Buffy

Developers make cents. History buffs make sense. Follow your conscience...

# Buffy's Corner

The official newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society  
*Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History*  
Volume 2, No. 2..... June 2000

Buffy's Corners, the original name of Brampton, was the site of the respectable tavern owned by William Buffy, considered to be the father of Brampton. His pioneer spirit (pun intended) lives on in the name of our journal. History "buffs" are invited into The Corner to share their stories and comments.

## In This Issue:

Yoo Hoo! Who's Hugh?

Brampton Comes Home To Peel

Sign of the times

Best Use Assessment

## Buffy's Corner Staff

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Past President..... Paul Hunt  
Vice President..... Michael Avis  
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Recording Secretary..... Janice Smith  
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## Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

It is a little known fact that William Tell and his son were avid bowlers as well as archery buffs. Unfortunately, all league records were lost in a fire, so it may never be known for whom the Tells bowled.

*Buffy's Corner, published 4 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)*

Printed by Peel Graphics Inc., Brampton

## All Aboard!!!!

New members: welcome to the BHS!

Eva Ardiel	Bud Aron
Colin Baker	Anthony Bonney
Christine Bonney	Brian Bonsma
Donna Bonsma	John Boyd
Eunice Boyd	Al Brooks
Gayle Dzis	Ruby Engler
Mary Finley	Larry Gibson
Marjorie Gibson	Matt Gibson
John Hymers	Fr. David Kennedy & family
Mary Little	Dr. Maxwell Longfield
Gayle Pilling	Steve Revell
Janice Smith	B.J. Stassen
Alice Stassen	Betty Steele
Elsie Tindall	Bob Turner

Esquesing Historical Society  
Friends of the Schoolhouse  
Peel Heritage Complex  
Streetsville Historical Society  
Regional Municipality of Peel  
Woodhall Park Residents Council

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

It's that time of year again when colour surrounds us and we work hard to put it there, digging, planting, mowing etc. Then we sit back after the barbecue and decide what to do next!

BHS has been active; attendance at monthly meetings averages fifty, even in bad weather. Heart Lake Presbyterian Church is most accommodating.

Contacts with other historical societies allow for participation in each other's activities. We assisted in moving the gazebo donated to Bovaird House by H & R Developments. Our volunteers did maintenance of the CPR train station "warehoused" at Crawford's.

The BHS Road Show, led by Town Crier Peter Murphy, visited the Woodhall Retirement Park. Memories of Brampton and other places were enjoyed. Thanks, Woodhall, for your hospitality - let's do it again!

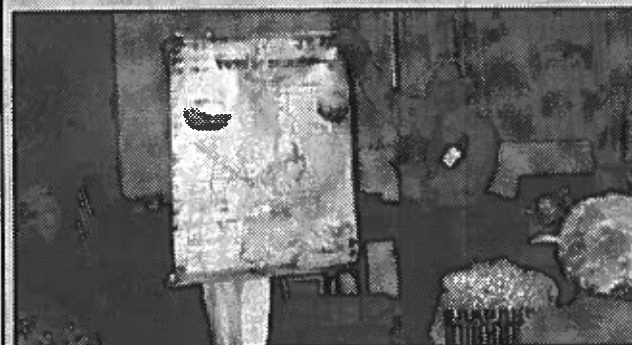
Some members are involved in the Peel 2000 Homecoming. We try to be represented at City Hall and made last minute arrangements to attend a recent meeting to assess the best use of the Peel Heritage Complex. Several groups interested in preserving our past came together to show support. When it comes to support within the BHS, we appreciate the members who help with the behind-the-scene jobs and make us the friendly society that makes history fun.

"If we could make time to sit, listen, and lend a helping hand, even a little, there is much we could learn from each other."

Heather Gunter

## MAPPING WITH MICHAEL

Michael Avis  
Man "In Tune" With the World



*This Map is made for walkin' - If you keep the legs on It!  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

The Society's project to restore the rare document - the Bristow Fitzgerald Map - is proceeding smoothly. Because of its rarity and its potential to help document Brampton's pioneer past, The Map Steering Committee felt that nothing less than "museum quality" restoration would be appropriate.

Kenneth Lockwood of Dorset Preservation, Inc., a highly respected expert in the field of rare documents, did a scientific analysis of the map's condition and advised us how to proceed.

Since the nature of this highly specialised restoration work requires considerable financing, The Committee prepared a presentation for the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Part of the mandate of The Foundation is to provide funding for activities that preserve and promote a community's heritage. The preservation of this map fits the criteria perfectly.

Along with restoring and stabilising the map, work is well on the way to produce a high quality poster that will be made available to the general public. The hi-tech photography is complete and Andrew Cook of Peel Graphics has thrown the full support of his company behind our project and is anxious to "show off" the capabilities of his new five colour press.

Finally, we are appealing to members of the corporate sector to get involved. We think it is a glorious opportunity to create interest in Brampton's past and promote a sense of pride in our heritage.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 905.453.6402.

### BHS Committee Chairs

Advocacy .....Paul Hunt Architecture.... Michael Avis  
Map Steering. Heather Gunter Membership ..... Colin Baker  
Newsletter .....Dorothy Willis Programme Michael Seaman  
Financial.....Gerry Clarkson Research ..... Dorothy Willis  
Legal Counsel. Colin Campbell

## BHS HAPPENINGS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

On March 16<sup>th</sup> Lorne Smith presented "The Odyssey of the Berczy Settlers", Germans brought to Upper Canada by William Berczy, in the late eighteenth century. Berczy, an eccentric artist-architect-promoter-entrepreneur, convinced about sixty families to dodge military duty (war with Napoleon) and accompany him across the Atlantic Ocean. He had purchased a large tract of land from William Pulteney, an Englishman, who had acquired it from American Natives. Then, from the New York State, the settlers migrated and homesteaded in Markham Township. Lorne, a sixth generation descendant of one of the settlers, led us to explore a New World of people from the past.

On April 20<sup>th</sup> Richard Feltoe & Company (Mark Feltoe, Karen and Stephen Posner) brought the War of 1812 to BHS. Their captive audience experienced a "historic rush" indoors, while an April storm attacked outside! Battlefields and buckets (a few for all necessities of life) marked this era. Richard and his family belong to the Upper Canada Living History Association and have participated in re-enactment events for over 20 years. The military theme continued when Dr. Max Longfield demonstrated a pre-British *fusil de chasse* used by "habitants" in the 1600's.



Arthur Alder and Richard Feltoe do their duty and hold the fort for the benefit of the citizenry.

*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

Arthur Alder presented samples of his military collection of paintings. Armed with fortitude and determination, we sallied forth to wage war with the wild weather!

*[The expertise and personal experiences of BHS members greatly enhance our evenings! Ed.]*



BHS member Freda Brockbank welcomes Stephen and Karen Posner, Richard and Mark Feltoe and an undocumented puppet from the War of 1812.

*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

On May 18<sup>th</sup> George Duncan presented Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture of Ontario. Using slides, he demonstrated how the construction of earlier buildings developed with the land. Contemporary style and culture was incorporated into homes, and affirmed the builder's victory over the land. We learned how to recognise basic architecture, while gaining even more appreciation for our disappearing old homes in Brampton. It is regrettable that people who prefer strip plazas and parking lots to heritage preservation did not take in the beauty and hear the silent voices of the homes on the screen. "Encore", whispered the audience after this enlightening presentation.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, BHS members explored the village of Norval, the home of author Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) from 1926 until 1935, when she was the wife of Rev. Ewen Macdonald. She completed five books and 2½ volumes of her 10 journals, writing from the manse bedroom facing "Russell's Hills" and the pine trees. She wrote, "I love Norval as I have never loved any place, save Cavendish." Highlights of our visit included: Willow Park Ecology Garden, Norval Presbyterian Church and refreshments at Crawford's. Tour guide: Kathy Gastle, Town of Halton Hills Councillor, life-long Norval resident. Social Director: BHS Member Bob Crawford.

Walking tours are popular events: Norval (May '00), Churchville (October '99) and Huttonville (October '00) are opportunities to mingle and celebrate local histories as the seasons change. We inhale fresh country air and exhale the polluted city vapours.

With the Norval tour we say farewell for the summer, till September 21<sup>st</sup> and "Prisons and Reformatories in Early Upper Canada" with Dr. Terry Angle. Also an informal discussion of the old Brampton Jail.

## YOO HOO! WHO'S HUGH?

Obscured from vision, a cemetery hides from the traffic rounding the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Kennedy Road. Traffic: commuters for Highway #410; shoppers for super-stores; supporters of the Sports and Entertainment Centre; and swingers for Brampton Golf Club. Uninterested in the land behind the White Gulf Development sign - their minds are elsewhere.

Who cares?

Turner-Fenton Secondary students, maybe. Hidden outdoor spaces allow for chatting and smoking. Historians and storytellers care most of all.

A century and a half ago, Hugh Graham or another pioneer, prepared a cemetery in the corner of a pasture, edged by the winding Etobicoke Creek. Someone had died. A loose half-slab, "in memory of Hugh", bequeathed by the first owner, remains. What lies beneath it, is a history mystery.

Near the granite marker, is a mound of dirt, four-wheel tracks, a bulldozed path, a square trough (possibly a grave shaft); and a shovel leans on a bush. Disturbed farm drainage tiles (grave markers?) create debris of fieldstones. Evidence of investigation, but whose?

The City's Planning Department is aware of Graham's Cemetery, now owned by White Gulf Development. No building permit has been applied for; proximity to the creek would favour a greenbelt to designation.

Since the cemetery was never registered, the City would have to do this with the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations prior to closing it. Closing a cemetery means moving all interments.

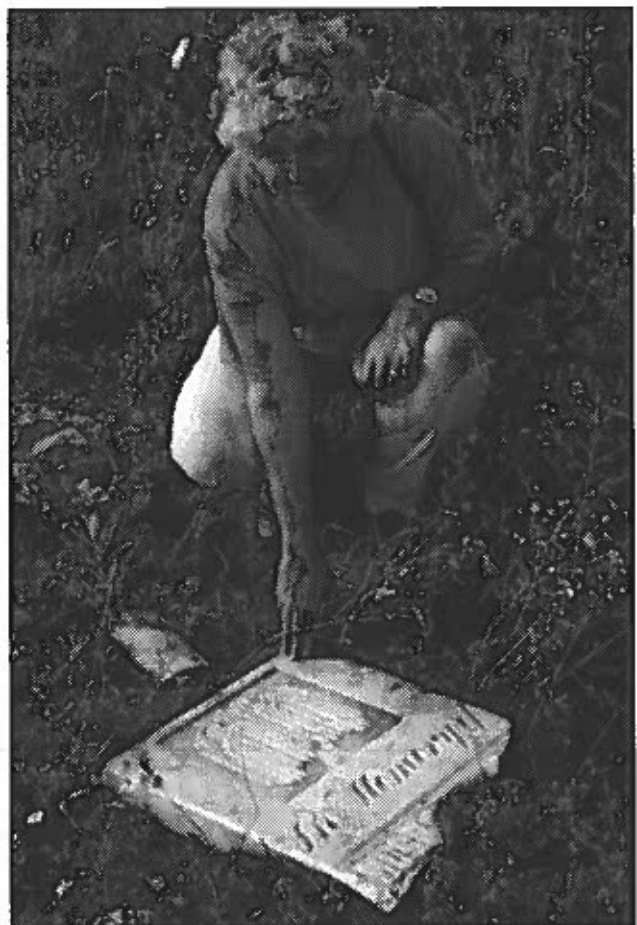
Paul Webster, Manager of Brampton's Cemeteries, makes recommendations to the Planning Department. Both he and Rowena Cooper of the Peel Archives discussed Graham's Cemetery with Buffy.

About ten years ago Paul became interested in the area when a former resident told him she looked for Indian artefacts - flints and arrowheads - after school on rainy days (possibly Broddy Town School). Rowena and her husband Russell Cooper, who noticed the White Gulf sign and recalled a cemetery from his childhood, photographed the site. Russell Cooper and Paul Webster investigated the site together.

The Ontario Land Records Index and the Perkins Bull Collection at the Peel Archives provided background information. In 1846, Hugh Graham received a patent for the land, known as Lot 14 West ½ Concession 2, East Toronto Township. For entitlement he had to clear five acres of land, plant crops and build a log shelter, sixteen by twenty feet.

Hugh Graham died October 4, 1853, at age 38. The willow leaves on his stone, depicting "earthly sorrow", might refer to a tragedy. Rumour existed that typhoid victims from York were buried here. The cemetery does not appear to have had a religious affiliation.

We learned that between ten and forty markers, of river stones or granite from a nearby quarry; were reported by researchers. Commissioned by Dr. William Perkins Bull (1870-1948), lawyer, entrepreneur and historian, they collected oral histories from residents to document early Peel County life. Their unique century-old recollections prompt questions. Did rushing waters, and eroding soil displace markers and unearth bodies? Did the Indian artefacts flow downstream or were they entombed before the pioneers? Why was the cemetery in such an inaccessible location?



*Rowena Cooper shows the evidence of the Graham Cemetery  
Photo courtesy of the Cooper Collection*

When Perkins Bull collected his research, in the 1930's, Elery Brownridge owned the property. One story tells of the original owners, a family of Catholics, starting the cemetery when they were refused burial of their dead, non-baptised child. There were two other headstones besides the Hugh Graham one: William Irvin who died; May 25, 1857, at the age of 70 and also his wife Ann. There were many rough ones with indistinguishable names. A few fieldstones, designating

"hired hands", protruded through the surface. One resident reported the first burial was a Waterloo soldier, friend of the owner. An archaeological "land strip" search would determine the number of graves.

Why count graves? Why discuss the Graham Cemetery? What will become of the final fragmented headstone?

The Graham burial ground, typical of small family or religious cemeteries for two hundred years, honours us with a sacred trust. Unfortunately, we often equate value with dollars and keep the past buried in obscurity.

Markham's Clendenen Cemetery sets a precedent in cemetery preservation. A recent Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal ordered the Registrar of Cemeteries to refrain from taking any action on his original order to close this cemetery. The Registrar had given the Town of Markham, which owned the property, permission to close and move the cemetery in 1995. The first owner, John Clendenen, settled the land, around 1796, and his descendants lived there until 1943. There were five tombstones but other family members, not located elsewhere, may be buried there.

The Ontario Genealogical Society and Ontario Historical Society became aware of the pending closure of the cemetery in 1994.

With Clendenen family members, they began the appeal process and five years later, won the landmark reversal of the Registrar's decision. The Ontario Historical Society has set up a Cemetery Defence Fund to help with the legal costs of preserving cemeteries from closures. Donations are eligible for tax receipts (*hint, hint*). Hopefully, the Graham Cemetery does not face the tribulations of the Clendenen one.

Universal respect for the sanctity of burial grounds is imperative. Furthermore, the desecration of cemeteries deprives us of a past that defines who we are today. And withholds a legacy from future Bramptonians.

History tells of King Tutankhamen whose tomb, dating from 1350BC, gave us Ancient Egypt when it was discovered in 1922. Countless Roman ruins have been excavated in Europe to reveal scientific and engineering feats of a first century AD civilisation.

It is unlikely that lead-lined Roman baths with heating and cooling systems lie sub-layered in Brampton, as in Bath, England. Our monuments do not resemble the Taj Mahal; a perfectly preserved mausoleum built in 1630.

Can we not glance at the rear view mirror that reflects our past, as we speed through the traffic of our present lives? We can direct the destination of the generations that follow us. Perhaps the half-slab of Hugh is a reminder to do that. But it lies in danger of extinction.

## Sign of the Times

The BHS has unveiled a new logo to represent us to the world, and beyond. Designed by Paulette Murphy, it symbolises our Dominion Clock initiative. We wound the clock and time ceased to stand still. And like the clock, the logo displays itself for all times!

The Dominion Clock has a fractional past. The clock was not an original part of the Dominion Building (8 Queen Street) which was constructed in 1889 to house Federal Government offices in the Town of Brampton. Thomas Fuller, Canada's chief architect at the time, designed the building but the clock tower was added shortly before the First World War. The Dominion Building served as a post office, then a police station before becoming O'Malley's Restaurant.

The distinctive logo is a timely tribute to the history of BHS. There is no truth to the rumour that Paulette has strained fingers from drawing but her ears are sore from being near Town Crier Peter Murphy. That's what we heard, anyway.



*BHS logo shows the Dominion Clock Tower (revived by the BHS). When a newcomer asks if the Dominion clock tells you the time, reply nonchalantly, "no, you have to look at it". Logo courtesy of Paulette Murphy*

*Time is nature's way of preventing everything from happening at once.  
Bunny (or someone else she heard it from)*

## TAKE A STAND

*Take a Stand, a quasi-regular feature, appears whenever pressing issues of historical significance present themselves.*

### The Highest and Best Use Assessment

On May 17, about forty people gathered at the Historic Court House after reading an advertisement in the Brampton Guardian three days before. The meeting was organised by the Property Services Department of the Region of Peel and Toronto consultants, Hotson and Bakker to assess the highest and best use of the Peel Heritage Complex.

The Court House is part of the Peel Heritage Complex, a unique facility for Peel history and culture, falling under the Region's "Peel Living" Department (formerly "Housing"). The Complex provides the nine hundred thousand adults and children of Peel Region with a link to their community's heritage, through its three institutions: the Art Gallery, Museum and Archives. It is located in the restored Peel County Jail and Registry Office on Wellington Street E., Brampton.

*Isn't the Court House across from Gage Park where they make movies, have weddings and tie up traffic?*

Yes, but wait, there's more. When there is no traffic you notice the sign that says Peel Living, behind the Court House. Turn in - you are at the Complex, heritage hub of Peel Region.

The combined worth of the collections held within the Peel Heritage Complex, dating from the beginning of the nineteenth to the end of the twentieth centuries, is about six million dollars. The buildings, the Court House and Jail, are the biggest artefacts owned by the Region.

Programs and initiatives of staff and volunteers of the Heritage Complex reach out to the people of Peel. Best of all: the Town of Caledon, Cities of Brampton and Mississauga - "Children of Peel" - can "come home" to the Complex; forget their rivalries, celebrate their common roots and feel connected to each other.

*So why the meeting?*

The Region needs more "cash flow" from The Complex. The buildings are costly to preserve and maintain. Since the price tag for Art and Culture cannot be determined like a garage sale item, the Region hired Toronto consultants to conduct a quick (6 weeks) study.

The intent of the May 17<sup>th</sup> event was a proposed two-hour "Stakeholder Workshop". The first hour consisted however, of audience condemnation of the short notice given to Peel residents via only one newspaper in only one of the three Peel municipalities. It was not a fair process.

The Toronto consultants apologised for this "oversight". They heard small groups attest unanimously to the excellence of the Peel Heritage Complex and demand future, in-depth, Regional involvement with the "stake-holding" public.

*Were the Patrons and Donors of the Peel Heritage Complex invited to this meeting?*

*Why were outsiders (consultants) representing competent experts on the use of the heritage hallmark?*

*How much did this consultant job cost?*

*What can a six-week study accomplish?*

*Shouldn't the Region give more revenue to the Complex instead of the other way around?*

*Why doesn't the Heritage Complex rate its own department? Does Heritage really fit into a Housing or Peel Living category?*

*Why don't more people know about the Peel Heritage Complex and its location?*

*Are you aware of the success of the Complex's fund-raising project to reprint the 1877 Walker and Miles Peel County Atlas?*

If a Regional Councillor had attended the meeting, Buffy would have asked the above questions (and more). Since the Region was not represented, we must rely on the consultants to deliver the message back to the Municipality - before the end of June.

On second thought, *Buffy's Corner* should call a stakeholders' meeting - to study the Regional handling of its heritage hallmark, announced in ALL Peel newspapers. Hmm... which building can hold nine hundred thousand?

**And This Just In!!! - Another Public Meeting June 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Historic Court House (an announcement is supposed to be in three Peel papers). See you all there!**

**BHS Meetings every third Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church  
25 Ruth Street, Brampton**

### Opportunity Knocks

Do you have stories, anecdotes, photos of Brampton's "good old days"? The Research Committee is looking for contributions for a collection of members' memories to include in an up-coming BHS fund-raising publication. A favourite recollection of yours could be a favourite of ours - a favourite for others. We plan to package our Brampton stories to share and enjoy. Send contributions to Buffy's Corner. Interviews done upon request. Please consider joining the Research Committee to assist with this project.

## What's Happening

### Historic Bovaird House

**Harvest Open House and Egan Collection of Early Lighting Devices Exhibition**  
563 Bovaird Drive, Brampton  
September 28 - October 1

### Halton - Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

**Cemetery Recording Day - Trafalgar Lawn Cemetery**  
North side of Hwy #5, west of Neyagawa Blvd. at the 16 Mile Creek in Oakville  
Sunday, June 11, 9:00 a.m.  
Experience is not necessary! Bring your clipboard, lunch etc. Cold drinks and Timbits are provided. Join in the fun - will be cancelled if rain.  
For info: call Ron Hibbert 416.494.5350

### Friends of the Schoolhouse

**Annual Strawberry Social**  
H.J.A. Brown Education Centre  
5650 Hurontario Street, Mississauga  
Thursday, June 29, Noon  
The Old Britannia Schoolhouse will be open for visitors  
Phone: 905. 459.9158

### Streetsville Historical Society

**Walking Tour of Streetsville**  
Commences from Red Hill Art Glass 271 Queen St. S.  
Info: Call Streetsville Business Association.905.858.5974  
June 17, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

### Esquesing Historical Society

**Tales of Ballnafad** late summer walk-about  
Ballinafad Community Hall 32<sup>nd</sup> Sideroad  
Ballinafad Tweedsmuir Histories will be on display in the Hall and former Women's Institute members will share history of the village.  
Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.

**Dominion Seed House Days**  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown.  
Former Seed House manager, Doug Peck, will talk about the history of the Bradley/Harding family business.  
Wednesday, October 11, 7:30 p.m.

**Avro Arrow Saga**  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown  
Peter Zuuring, founder and first director of A.V. Alliance will talk about the ill-fated jet of A.V. Roe Company.  
Wednesday, November 8, 7:30 p.m.

## MAYHEM ON MAIN STREET

By Paul Hunt - Chair, Advocacy Committee

The drive into downtown Brampton coming north on Highway 10, is one of the prettiest for miles around. From shopping malls and gas stations, you are suddenly ushered under a canopy of huge trees, into a wonderland of homes, which range from mansions to modest bungalows. Their variety and ages represent in a way, a history of the growth of this city. A very fitting tribute to our community.

Sad to say, this visual delight, which is at the core of the city, is being threatened by the application by Gagnon, Law, and Bozzo for their clients, to build a retirement home where two houses are currently situated, i.e. 74 and 76 Main St. South. Number 76 was built about 140 years ago, and was the home of a Brampton mayor, Mr. F.W. Wegenast. He was a strong advocate for the retention of the character of Main St. South during his tenure.

In the past, many Main Street homes, like those in the original "Four Corners" area were constructed by retired farmers who moved into the Town of Brampton from the prosperous outlying agricultural area. Some were built for politicians and businessmen. Nineteenth century photographs and paintings show terraced lawns and spacious landscaped gardens. A source of pride to townfolk, early Brampton homes applauded the successful lives of their owners.

The modern day mayhem on Main Street is the thin edge of the wedge for the ultimate destruction of the last bastion of "Old Brampton." How do you feel about this issue? Call your councillor to have your say. Let's hope we are not too late. Remember the Heritage Theatre "goes under" this year.

### A Premiere Event - Peel 2000 Homecoming Brampton Comes Home to Peel

The agricultural community of Peel is planning a party that won't soon be forgotten. On Saturday, July 15, at the Brampton Fair Grounds, 12942 Heart Lake Road, Peel residents, past and present, are invited to celebrate the millennium.

**Peel 2000 Homecoming** will begin at 10:00 a.m. There will be historical displays and machinery exhibits with entertainment throughout the day. Lunch/concessions will be available, with an evening barbecue and dance. You are invited to bring memorabilia including maps, photo albums, family histories, and farm machinery to display. Bring your family and friends from far and near! If you require more information or want to get involved, contact the Peel 2000 Homecoming Committee. Phone: 905.601.3972 or e-mail to peel2000@hotmail.com.

## Foreshadowing

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** Dr. Terry Angle  
Prisons and Reformatories in Upper Canada  
Also an informal discussion of the old Brampton Jail.

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** The Men From WWII: Bob Post, George "Potsy" Burrows, Bill Burrell and Bill Bettridge  
Brampton Remembers - Stories From Our Second World War Veterans

**Also in October:**  
A Walking Tour of Huttonville Village

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
We wind up the year with ...  
Martin Yates and The Craft of Watchmaking  
AND (speaking of minutes...)  
Annual General Meeting

### BHS HISTORY MAKERS

Congratulations to **Harmsworth's Decorating Centre** at 24 Main Street South. It is Brampton's oldest continuously family-owned business and the first business presented with a historical plaque by the Brampton Heritage Board. James Harmsworth purchased the store in 1906 for \$1200. He and his father, James W., had opened their first shop on Queen Street in 1895. Since that time it is noted that a plethora of Brampton rooms have been decorated with the Harmsworth fine touch!



*Afficionados discuss our victory over the Americans in the war of 1812. Or was it a tie?  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

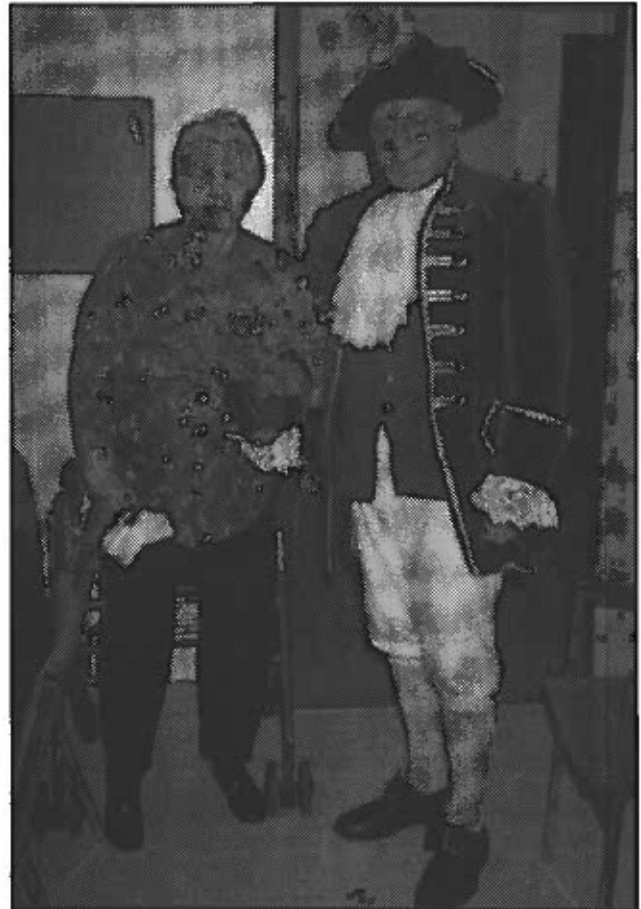
### Executive Changes at Half Time ...

**Denyse Churchill**, resigned as Membership Committee Chair. She was a founding member of the BHS Liaison Committee. An organised team member, Denyse worked willingly and enthusiastically. We appreciate the time and energy she gave to the BHS.

The BHS welcomes **Colin Baker** who has volunteered to be Membership Chair. He is the friendly man behind the smile who checks off your name (or takes your money) before he lets you join the fun!

Our new Recording Secretary is **Janice Smith** who is also in charge of the Historic Bovaird House newsletter.

**Angie Duchesne**, also a founding member of the BHS Liaison Committee, has resigned her Recording Secretarial duties but continues to be Assistant Editor of *Buffy's Corner* where her skills at graphic design, layout and editing-the-editor are essential and appreciated.



*Irene Tribble wins the raffle at the BHS Road Show at Woodhall! Famous Town Crier Peter Murphy makes the presentation!  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

Members who serve on the BHS executive board often have more than one responsibility. Duties grow weightier as the BHS expands. We encourage you join a committee of choice in September and lighten our load.

Experience is not necessary. All that is required is a commitment to the BHS and a sense of humour.

**Colin Baker** and **Janice Smith** are new BHS members who have taken on Chair positions, bringing with them a fresh outlook. Monthly Board meetings are friendly (ask Colin and Janice). Volunteers give the gift of giving themselves. Volunteerism is rewarding - and so say all of us!

Sadly we announce the passing of BHS members: **Russell Grafton** and **Shirley Kee**, wife of Fred, in May 2000. We extend our sympathy to their families.



## AROUND THE HORN

Kudos to **Peel Graphics** for their stunning rendition (if we do say so ourselves) of the previous issue of *Buffy's Corner*. The 300 copies have all been distributed and appear to have resulted in a plethora of new members signing on with the BHS. Way to go, Andrew Cook - You scored for the BHS Team!

Peel Graphics has been in business since 1933 at the same location: 10 John St., Brampton (905. 451.1880).

The **Map Steering Committee** has been tenacious in getting The Map out in a form suitable for the public to see. Meeting every two weeks, they are ready to make a presentation to the Trillium Foundation for an appeal for project funding to accomplish this. It will be a boon to those interested in the geography of the area, especially those who are curious to see what the path of the Etobicoke Creek was, as it meandered through downtown Brampton.

Hopefully, posters of the restored map will be available soon!



*Map Steering Committee, Arthur Alder, Peter Murphy, Colin Baker, Diane Allengame-Kuster, Michael Avis, Gerry Clarkson, Heather Gunter, Bob Crawford, Dorothy Willis.*  
*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

THANKS to former BHS President **Michael Seaman** who planned (with a little help from his friends) informative events for the year 2000.

Also thanks to **Paul Hunt** for his now-traditional calling of the raffle for the BHS. One thing, though ...there is a suspicious tendency for BHS treasurer **Gerry Clarkson** to take the cake ... or pie, to be more specific.

BHS Meetings every third Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church  
25 Ruth Street, Brampton

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, The BHS Road Show visited the residents of Woodhall Park for the evening. The night was filled with stories and reminiscences of times gone by.



*Woodhall residents gather in multitudes for the BHS Road Show. Not shown is Famous Town Crier, Peter Murphy.*  
*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

Town Crier Peter Murphy made the rounds, calling the meeting to assemble and order.

A video, "Sketches of Our Town, Brampton", was shown to the delight of all.

This sparked discussions of old Brampton as well as stories of other locales that residents had experienced.



*The gang at the Road Show. Front row: Dorothy Willis, Heather Gunter. Back row: Peter Murphy, Paul Hunt, Colin Baker, Michael Avis, Gerry Clarkson.*  
*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

**PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTER  
GIVE BUFFY'S CORNER TO A FRIEND TO  
READ!! OR EVEN AN ENEMY!!**

## Bringing up the Rear

By Angie Duchesne

What are we?

I mean, what is the name that are we supposed to be called?

Okay, okay, I know some people who would prefer open season on any building standing in the way of redevelopment plans probably have a few choice ones for us at the BHS.

But what are we, as residents of Peel Region supposed to be called?

This thought came to me as we were preparing the article on the Peel Heritage Complex, and we were talking about the various parts of Peel.

We are Bramptonians. We have Caledonians to the north and Mississaugans to the south. And to the east we have Torontonians.

And together we are all residents of Peel, which makes us ... uhhh ... uhhh ...

Well, for one, it makes us at a loss of words as to what to call ourselves. Think of the possibilities here:

I am a Peelian.

That is my first thought, according to the rules of the language. But when I look at it, I think it looks sort of like the word for one of those birds that has a big beak to store fish in. Which in terms of image, is probably either really good or really bad. Either way it would put us on the map.

Plus we would come across as having a very high opinion of ourselves as we tell people, "I am a Peelian".

Or they will think we were convicted in court and want to go higher up to have it reversed. And after that we could aPeel to the Supreme Court as a last resort.

I am a Peelite.

Nope. It sounds like a claim to be a mineral. (pun intended). Then we would have the Bre-X people staking claims all over, and then there would be a stock market scandal. It wouldn't be worth the trouble.

I am a Peeligonian.

Perhaps. It seems to flow a bit better when you say it. But it is sort of copying the style of "Haligonian" that residents of Halifax use to describe themselves.

Residents of Glasgow are called Glaswegans but Peelwegan is even more awkward.

Coming back to other parts of Canada, if people from the Quebec are called "Quebeckers", then people from Peel would say ...

I am a Peeler.

Which, geographically, would be correct. And it doesn't seem to be as awkward as the others. But somehow I think that would make for a lot of confusion. You'd tell people you are a Peeler, and there would be some knowing smiles from the other person, if not some downright rude suggestions. *[When are you going to tell them that "peeler" is a slang term for a "stripper"? Ed.]*

In all of the years that I have lived in Peel, I have never heard us referred to as anything other than "resident of Peel". Which is kind of bland. But as a BHS member has been quoted as saying, "bland works".

But it seems like we should choose a name for what to call ourselves.

Thanks for letting me share.

*["Bringing Up the Rear" is a feature that we run whenever we are in desperate need of filler material for the back page of the newsletter. Ed]*

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### Application for membership in the BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a Household Membership fee of \$20 for a full year or \$10 for a half year

I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail cheque or money order to:  
Brampton Historical Society  
c/o Peter Murphy, 32 Wellington St. East  
Brampton, ON L6W 1Y4