

BUFFY'S CORNER

Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History

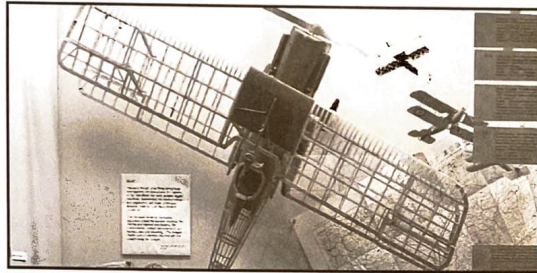
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE **Brampton Historical Society**

Volume 8 • Issue 4 • Winter 2006/7



Requiem for Historic Houses

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Great War Flying Museum – Our War Heritage

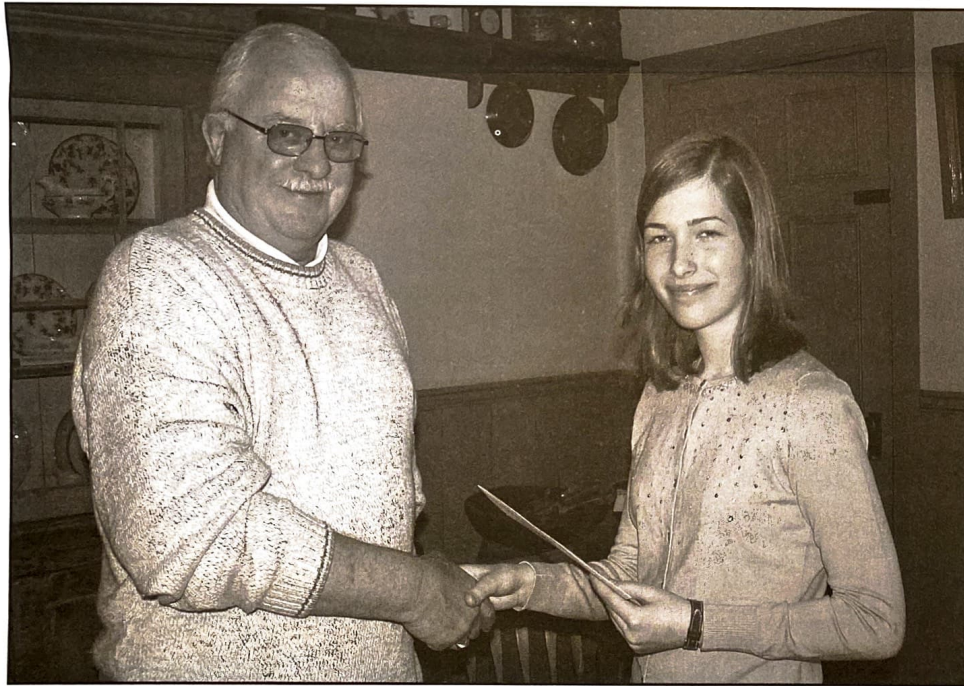
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Bramalea – Canada's First Satellite City

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Ms. Hayley Dilazzaro, Recipient of the Paul Hunt Bursary



Peter Murphy, BHS President presenting Ms. Hayley Dilazzaro with the Paul Hunt Bursary award.

This year the Paul Hunt Bursary has been awarded to Hayley Dilazzaro. Hayley is currently in her first semester of the History Program at the University of Toronto, St. George Campus.

The History program initially consists of numerous components of world history and then students must choose their field of study at the end of the first year.

Hayley's original plans were to work in government, however she is now considering a graduate degree or a PH.D. Peter Murphy, BHS President presented Hayley with the cheque at a small ceremony on December 10th at the Historic Bovaird House.

Congratulations Hayley!

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I am writing to thank you for awarding me with the Paul Hunt Bursary. As you know, the cost of a university education is immense, but your generous gift has greatly lightened the burden.

Having entered my first year at the University of Toronto, I find myself even more passionate about my plans to study History and I am honoured to have won an award that reflects this interest.

It is encouraging to know that institutions such as the Brampton Historical Society exist to aid students as they study History. Support from your organization gives me confidence in my ability to complete an undergraduate degree with exceptional results. Once again, thank you so very much for your kindness and I look forward to thanking (the society) personally on Sunday, December 10th.

*Sincerely,
Hayley Dilazzaro*

President's Message

– Peter Murphy, BHS President

The society's executive held their final meeting for 2006 early in November. The usual idea is to clear the decks to make way for the Christmas season i.e. no December meeting.

However, this time around, the executive have assumed a number of tasks that will hopefully come to fruition in time for our next Annual General Meeting in March 2007.

With the intent of ensuring our house is in order we have undertaken a review of our Constitution and By-Laws. Each executive member will review the documents and submit their suggestions for change to our Treasurer, Ron Raffan, who has agreed to co-ordinate the project.

The task of the Executive will be to draft a revised Constitution and By-Laws in time for presentation to the A.G.M.

The A.G.M. is also the meeting at which a new Executive is elected and many will recall the difficulties that were experienced last March.

It is our intention that there will be no replication of the events that took place during the last election and to that end I have advised our current Executive that I will stand down as President to conduct our election along the following lines:

All members will be advised by mail, in a timely manner, that all Executive positions are up for re-election. Members will be invited to have themselves nominated and seconded or in the alternative, nominate a member for office.

These nomination forms will be returned to myself and will constitute the slate of candidates for election along with any others that may be nominated and seconded from the floor at the meeting. In the ensuing weeks please give some thought as to whom you would consider to be suitable candidates for the Executive and be prepared to have them nominated when the time comes.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a letter from Ms. Hayley Dilazzaro who is this year's recipient of the Paul Hunt Bursary Award. She came to us highly recommended by her teachers at Mayfield Secondary School and is now enthusiastically pursuing a degree in History at the University of Toronto. I am sure you will join me in wishing her all success in her studies and in her future career. ❖

A Gift to Ourselves

– Michael Avis, Heritage Liaison

We are indeed fortunate that the vast majority of us enjoy a standard of living that much of the rest of the world can only try to imagine and yet in one area we sadly lag behind many less prosperous countries . . . the funding of arts and culture in which, of course, cultural heritage plays a highly significant role.

Whether it be federal, provincial or municipal governments, budget cutbacks because of lack of available funds is the all too familiar reason that is trotted out year after year. Education, levels of taxation, healthcare, roads, transportation while undeniably all important issues always resonate far louder than espousing the benefits of a healthy, vibrant cultural life in which the preservation and promotion of all local heritage and history play a major role.

I'm not sure why the cultural sector suffers from such a seemingly blatant disregard. Earlier this year in the Toronto Star (Jan.16.06) Kevin Garland, Executive Director of the National Ballet of Canada stated that the cultural sector contributes \$39 billion dollars to the Canadian annual gross domestic product, which is bigger than agriculture, forestry, mining and the oil and gas sectors combined ! Surely, when many of our elected officials are so myopic and riveted on the 'bottom line' these kinds of numbers would spark their interest . . . apparently not.

Because of this apathy, those of us in the heritage preservation and promotion community continue to struggle volunteering thousands of hours fundraising and coercing both public and corporate donors to assist us in our efforts. It's time that all elected officials and city administrations come to realize that the preservation and promotion of our heritage is not an optional 'extra' only to be considered if the funding is available. Sorry, but if we are to consider ourselves a 'civilized' society this attitude is not only acceptable, but shortsighted. In the meantime and until such time as the appropriate public funding of arts

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BUFFY'S CORNER

Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History



**Brampton
Historical
Society**

Local folklore has it that Buffy's Corner was the original name of Brampton and the site of

a respectable tavern owned by William Buffy. His pioneer spirit (pun intended) lives on in the name of our journal. History buffs are invited into The Corner to share stories and comments.

Buffy's Corner is published four times per year and is free to BHS members.

Interim Editor Nick Hudson
Design & Layout Dawn Friesen
Printed by Peel Graphics Inc.
Distribution Peter Murphy

BHS Executive

President Peter Murphy
Vice President Michael Avis
Treasurer Ron Raffan
Recording Secretary Paul Willoughby
Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Tout
Membership Cathy Willoughby
Director at Large Gloria Berger
Director at Large Steve Collie

For more information visit

www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

Paul Hunt Bursary

The Paul Hunt Bursary Award is open to any student who is a resident of Brampton, graduating from a public or separate secondary school within the Region of Peel and who has been accepted into an accredited Canadian post-secondary institution in a history or related program. The \$500 bursaries are awarded on an annual basis.

For more information visit
www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

Requiem for Historic Houses – in Streetsville and Mount Charles

Story and photos by: Matthew Wilkinson

The following article was written by and reprinted with the permission of Matthew Wilkinson a Historian with Heritage Mississauga. Although this article does not deal directly with building located within Brampton it serves as an important reminder of how these sites can sit empty and neglected for so long that a valuable opportunity can be missed to help preserve the sites. For future stories I would like to report on buildings within the Brampton area that of historical significance but are also currently in a state of disrepair. If you know of any that may warrant further investigation please contact Dawn or Nick using the contact information found in this issue (see page 7).



Two of Mississauga's heritage landmarks have been ravaged by fire. Rae House: Above and at top right and centre right. Asquith House: Below and at bottom right.



Requiem for Historic Houses in Streetsville and Mount Charles

Two of Mississauga's heritage landmarks have been ravaged by fire. Both houses, known by their modern-name associations as the Asquith House (1760 Bristol Road in Streetsville) and the Rae House (1480 Derry Road E.), face an uncertain future as it is unknown if either home can be salvaged at this time.

On October 21, 2006, the fire struck the historic Cuthbert-Asquith House in Streetsville. The Asquith House was likely built prior to 1850 and belonged to Richard Cuthbert, who arranged for the first Catholic Mass in the community to take place in this house. Cuthbert later donated land for the establishment of the first Catholic Church in Streetsville. The home is situated on a hill overlooking the Credit River, and has served as a prominent landmark and reminder of Streetsville's pioneer roots. The home had been vacant for a number of years prior to the fire, although the Asquith House was designated as a heritage landmark earlier this year.

On October 11, 2006, the McLeod-Rae House at Mount Charles suffered a similar experience to the Asquith House – gutted by fire. The Rae House is believed to have been built circa 1855 by Robert McLeod, a postmaster in Mount Charles, or circa 1860 by James Savage, a local blacksmith. For many years, the home has sat vacant and vandalized, awaiting an uncertain future. Prior to the fire, plans were already underway to see the removal of the surviving structures at this location for road widening. The Rae House is one of a series of structures located at the southwest corner of Dixie and Derry

Roads – including a carriage house, blacksmith shop and former carpenter's shop – all remnants of the pioneer hamlet of Mount Charles. All have been abandoned for some time and in a serious state of disrepair. However, only the Rae House is officially designated, having been designated in 1992.

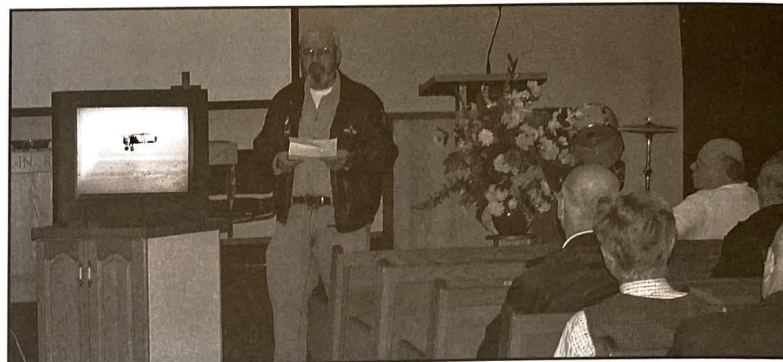
Both houses represent remnants of Mississauga's rural past, when Toronto Township (modern Mississauga) was comprised of small rural hamlets and villages. Both houses were both once highly recognized landmarks in their respective communities. Both houses now, perhaps, await demolition.

The Great War Flying Museum

– Our War Heritage

– by Nick Hudson
– photos by Dawn Friesen

The November 26 meeting of the historical society could not have come a more perfect time with a petition circulating for the government to honour the last World War One Veteran with a state funeral, legislation that has since passed unanimously in the House of Commons, as it featured a talk given by Joe Auger from Brampton's own Great War Flying Museum, the only one of its kind in North America.



Joe Auger of the Great War Flying Museum reviewed some of the accomplishments of the Museum's membership and followed up with a video presentation and question period.

Located on the outskirts of Brampton on the site of the Brampton Flying Club The Great War Museum was founded in 1970 with the goal of recreating the sites and sounds of combat aircraft that were used in WW1. Now boasting 15 pilots and seven aircraft and two that are presently under construction. Beside the obvious projects of refurbishing and recreating WW1 planes the museum has designed its self to look and feel like a hanger that would be found during the time.

The evening began with a few videos that give a history of the museum and the various models of planes that are flown, all with brilliant visual backdrop of the planes performing daring and

skilled technical manoeuvres. During the talk that followed Joe outlined many of the accomplishments that they have managed to achieve over the years such as building all of the their own aircraft on site and being licensed by Aviation Canada to clear their own planes for air worthiness.

Recently the Flying club was asked to provide planes for the upcoming CBC feature called the Great War, a real life recreation of the conditions faced by soldiers. There were also some funny stories shared of mishaps that they have faced during the many flying shows that their planes have appeared in over the years. One of the funniest being a story of a fire truck rushing to the rescue of a

plane that crashed but was otherwise unharmed only to have its wing run over by the attending rescue vehicle resulting in some costly and time consuming repairs.

The talk was certainly a great history of the flying club and a rare snapshot into the life and conditions that pilots that flew these great planes would have faced.

If you would like to plan a visit to this great Brampton Treasure they can be reached at 905-838-4936 or the website www.greatwarflyingmuseum.com ❖

Excerpted from a presentation by Joe Auger at the November meeting of the Brampton Historical Society.

A glimpse of the Great War Flying Museum . . .

1. Keeping the Sopwith Strutter flying – there are only 3 still flying in the world.

Jerry Fotheringham (left) and Ted Oliff.

2. Gord Merrifield in the hangar doing repairs and maintenance on the museum's aircraft.

3 & 4. Features of the museum.



Bramalea – Canada's First Satellite City

Canada's first satellite city, Bramalea, began out of the imagination of a country doctor. Dr. James Sihler was tired of the usual hit and miss fashion of towns. He had a mental picture as to how he would lay out a town; a self-contained community between two larger cities with its own schools, recreation facilities, shopping, and other amenities laid out with much planning.

Dr. Sihler, with a real estate agent, and another fellow started the project in 1956 that would eventually result in the city of Bramalea. They approached a farmer on Bramalea Road near Steeles Ave to talk about this new concept and would he be interested in selling. Mr. Sheard, the farmer, was very enthusiastic about the idea of a brand new city and, with another farmer, had most of the farmers in the area interested in selling their land.

In 1957 a company was formed to start buying the property and start building. Mr. Sheard is credited with the naming the new company – Bramalea. He incorporated the names of the two closest towns: BRAM from Brampton, MAL from Malton and LEA, a old British word meaning meadow or grassland. Bramalea Consolidated Developments Ltd. was the new name of the company and BRAMALEA became the name of the new city.

In November of 1958 ground was broken and building of the new community was started. Forty five farmers had sold their land by this time – a total of 5500 acres.

Bramalea is bordered by Heart Lake Road (410) on the west, Bovaird Dr on the north, Airport Rd on the east and Steeles Ave on the south. Although the term 'city' is used, the new community was governed by the Township of Chinguacousy and was never technically a city.

Each part of the city was carefully planned out. The owners of Bramalea had studied other cities, found what they liked and didn't like, then set about building a city with their vision of what a community for the people would be.

Each area had street names beginning with the same letter starting with A,



Lynda Voegtle's thoroughly researched presentation on the history of Bramalea was met with a keen interest by the members in attendance. The audience particularly enjoyed the many historical photos. – photo by Dawn Friesen

then B, C, and so on. "The A section" or "the B section" were the answers you would hear when someone was asked where they lived.

Streets were curved and most were crescents or courts leading out to major arteries. This arrangement of the streets would result in reduced traffic, more privacy and a quieter neighborhood. Children were often found playing hockey on the street and it was easier to meet and chat with neighbours.

Other elements of the community were added such as Churches, Schools, recreation centres, shopping plazas, a local newspaper, and a medical centre. Schools are accessible by walkways so children would cross very few, if any streets; recreation centres are all within walking distance of every home and the Bramalea City Centre, fully opened in

1973 was the largest of its kind in North America when built.

Bramalea Consolidated provided for industrial lands in their plans and some well known companies were attracted to set up their business in the new community.

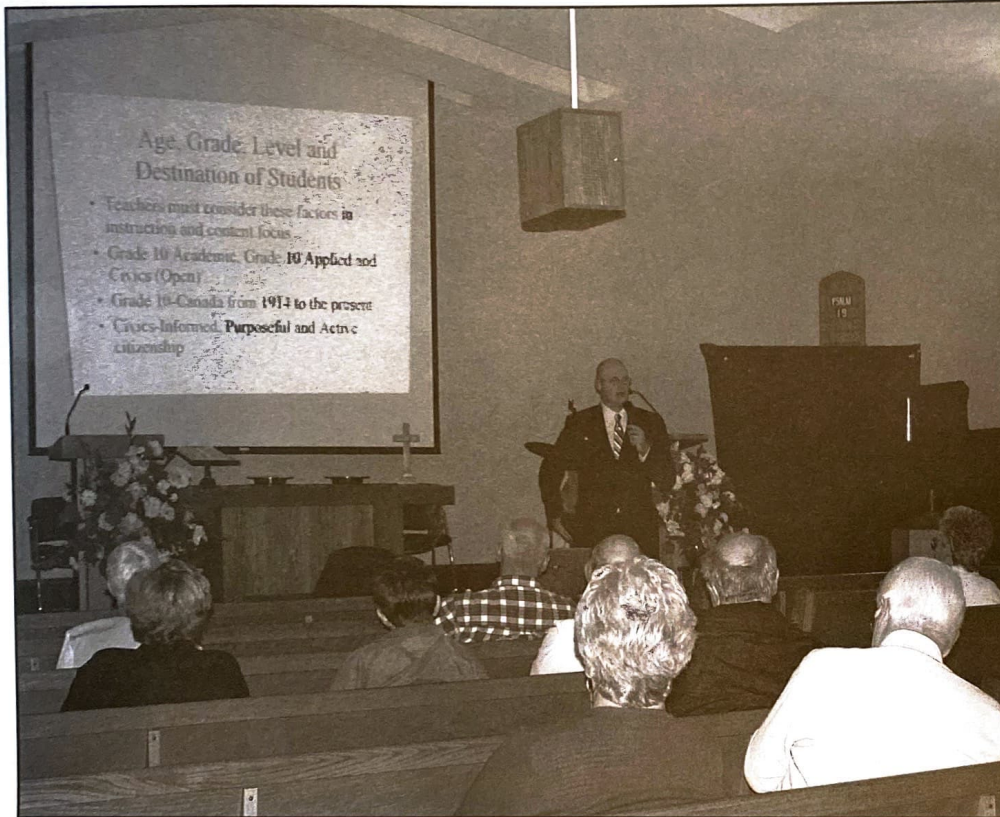
Many of the original home owners in Bramalea still live there today and are very proud of their community.

Although Bramalea became part of Brampton in 1974, 'Bramalea' is still heard to describe the area bounded by Steels Ave, Heart Lake Road, Bovaird Drive and Airport Road. ❖

– by Lynda Voegtle

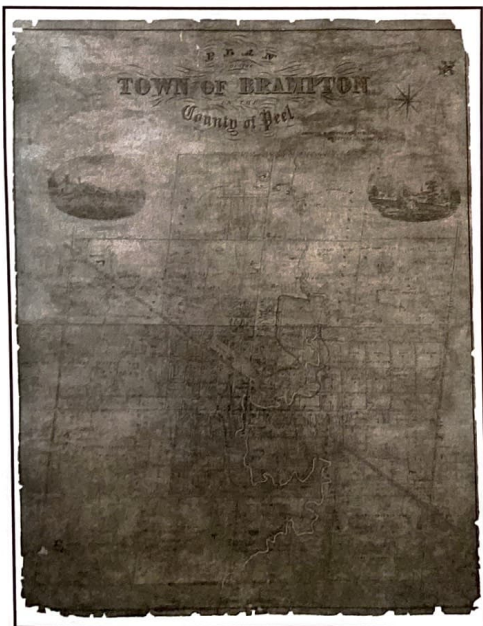
Lynda graciously wrote this article for Buffy's Corners based on her presentation at the October meeting of the Brampton Historical Society.

Ontario School's History Curriculum



Michael Bowman, History and Social Science Teacher joined the BHS on September 21 and gave a presentation on the current status of the Ontario School's History Curriculum.

The Bristow Fitzgerald Map



This print of an 1857 map of Brampton would make a great gift for any history fan.

This rare map, acquired in 1999 by the Brampton Historical Society, is the earliest known map of Brampton in existence. Because of the historic significance of this document, the Brampton Historical Society received a grant to pay for its restoration. Due to its fragile condition, the original, restored map is on display at the environmentally controlled Peel Museum at the Peel Heritage Complex.

Poster size copies of the Map, suitable for framing, are available at a cost of \$15.00 including taxes at:

Peel Heritage Complex

9 Wellington St E

Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm

Historic Bovaird House

Bovaird Road E and Kennedy Road

Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday
noon to 4 pm

mid February to mid-December

A Gift to Ourselves

— continued from page 2.

and culture is considered, the tireless volunteers must continue to toil.

At this time of the year the act of 'giving' and 'goodwill' takes on a particularly significant meaning and many of us struggle to think of meaningful gifts for family and friends. Sometimes the gifts we give enjoy a somewhat abbreviated period of appreciation however, the gift of a donation to an organization who's only focus is the preservation of our Canadian cultural heritage will help assure that historic buildings, artifacts, art collections and exhibitions will be maintained for the present and future generations!

While there are any number of organizations worthy of your support, a donation to the Peel Heritage Complex means that your donation remains right here in your community. Why not consider a holiday gift donation in the name of a friend or relative to The Peel Heritage Complex Endowment Fund. An endowment fund simply means that a sum of money is invested in perpetuity with the principal remaining constant while only the interest being made available annually. If you so desire, the Complex invites you to designate your donation to the Archives, the Museum or the Art Gallery.

A cheque for \$10, \$20, \$50 or whatever you feel you can afford would go a long way to help them continue to provide their invaluable service to your community. It should be emphasized that funds raised are not spent on operational or capital costs, you can rest assured that every penny will go towards acquisitions, conservation work and exhibitions.

Simply mail your cheque to PHC, 9 Wellington St E., Brampton L6W 1Y1. Should you need any further information about the fund, please call Josie Premzell at 905-791-4055 ext. 3625. She'd love to hear from you.

A gift to the PHC Endowment fund is not only a gift to the Complex, it is a gift to ourselves. ❖

Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

BHS Meetings

Members Free / Non-Members \$5
Heart Lake Community Presbyterian Church
25 Ruth Ave., Brampton.
unless otherwise specified

January 18 at 7:15 pm

To be announced.

February 15 at 7:15 pm

Historic Gardens and Estates of Ontario

featuring

Frank Kershaw

Former Director, Parks, Horticulture and Environment, City of Toronto

March 15 at 7:15 pm

Annual General Meeting

and

Heritage Update for the City of Brampton

featuring

Jim Leonard

Heritage Coordinator, City of Brampton

Advertising Opportunity!

Buffy's Corner will be accepting ads beginning in our Spring 2007 issue.

For more information contact
Nick Hudson 905-454-6759
Dawn Friesen 905-456-1963

www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

February 18, 2007

Noon – 4 pm

Heritage Day

Join the Peel Heritage Complex and celebrate this National Heritage Event. Bring the whole family and enjoy a host of activities related to Peel's heritage.

FREE at the

Peel Heritage Complex

9 Wellington St. East

905-791-4055

www.peelheritagecomplex.org

February 17, 2007

Historic Bovaird House reopens for a new season. Tours are FREE – donations are appreciated. Shop in the *Carriage House Craft Shop* where you'll find hand made crafts created by local artisans – proceeds from the sale of crafts support Historic Bovaird House. See the ad on this page for more information.

June 9 and 10, 2007

Doors Open Brampton 2007

10 AM to 4 PM

www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

Season's Greetings

and best wishes

for all good things
in the coming year!

Historic Bovaird House & Carriage House Craft Shop

A prime example of the Georgian Revival style of architecture and a museum of household artifacts and furnishings from the period 1840-1910.

Open:

Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 12 - 4 pm
mid-Feb. to Mid Dec.

905-874-2804

www.bovairdhouse.ca

bovairdhouse@yahoo.ca

Southeast corner of
Kennedy Rd. & Bovaird Dr.
Brampton, Ontario.



BUFFY'S CORNER

Have a story to tell?

At Buffy's Corner we welcome your stories and photographs of historical interest.

- stories and photographs should relate to Brampton and area
- maximum 600 words / no minimum
- submit files electronically or ask us for assistance
- submit your story idea and we will do our best to follow up

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Spring issue February 5, 2007

Summer issue May 7, 2007

For more information or to submit a story, photograph or idea contact:

Nick Hudson 905-454-6759

Dawn Friesen 905-456-1963

Application for Membership in the Brampton Historical Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Additional Household Members: _____

Signature: _____

I enclose a Household Membership fee of \$20 for one full year.

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

A tax receipt is issued for donations to the Brampton Historical Society. Reg. Charity 87476-5720 RR0001.

American money accepted at par.
Please mail cheque or money order to:
Brampton Historical Society
P.O. Box 751
Brampton, ON
L6W 4S4

***Fun Times!..* on the BHS Bus Tour to Dufferin County Museum and Archives followed by lunch at Mrs. Mitchell's in Violet Hill**



Interested in being considered for the Brampton Historical Society Executive?

Elections are coming up in March 2007.

Nomination forms will be available at both the January and February BHS meetings and nominations from the floor will be accepted during the elections at the A.G.M.

For more information contact Peter Murphy at 905-457-0058.

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Brampton Historical Society
P.O. Box 751
Brampton, ON
L6W 4S4

