# **BUFFY'S CORNER**

Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History

### THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE Brampton Historical Society

Volume 7 • Issue 1 • March 2005



### Identifying **Brampton's Old Buildings**

Other methods of identification ... one of the best ways to gather evidence or "view the bones of the house" is to go to the attic or cellar. ... page 4



Flight 621 Remembered Genova recounted how a beautiful summer day changed her life and those around her when Air Canada flight 621 fell out of the sky and on to a field not far from her home.... page 5

set up in the

Complex.

All sales

support

family and

children's

programming

### An apple a day...



... the drudgery of paring and slicing each apple was monumental... until the problem was met head-on with homespun ingenuity and the birth of apple paring machines. ... page 6

# **Heritage Day Brampton Style**

On Sunday, February 20, the Brampton Historical Society joined the Peel Heritage Complex in celebrating Heritage Day.

Visitors were treated to a host of activities related to Peel's heritage including interactive demonstrations, family story telling, scrap booking and community displays in the historic jail and courthouse.

Heritage Day was established by the Heritage Canada Foundation as an opportunity to celebrate the architectural heritage and historic places of Canada. For over 10 years, the Peel Heritage Complex has recognized this day with a

variety of captivating displays and demonstrations by an assortment of local arts and heritage groups.

Other participants included: Upper Canada Living History

Association, Lorne Scots Regimental Museum, Brampton Quilters Guild, Ontario Genealogical Society, Bovaird House and Britannia Farm, Ebenezer Heritage Foundation, as well as local artists, museums, historical societies and heritage craft groups.

Historic Bovaird House provided refreshments and a used book sale was



Salvation Army Band for an hour in

the old courthouse and a collection of non-perishable food items provided assistance to those in need during these cold winter days.

"Visiting the Complex on Heritage Day is a fun, inexpensive way for families and friends to spend time together and learn about Peel's heritage," David



Left: Mark Feltoe, Bugler, Glengarry Light Infantry Right: Richard Feltoe, Sergeant, Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada

Somers, Curator of the Peel Heritage Complex said in a recent news release. He advised people to take advantage of the rink at Gage Park and then come across the street to explore the Complex.

Visitors had the opportunity to view all of the Museum and Art Gallery exhibitions free of charge including the acclaimed installation, Tribute, recognizing the contributions of African-Canadian artists. Tribute was on display throughout February, which is Black History Month. Kids of all ages also enjoyed the Toy Stories exhibition and the opportunity to play with wooden toys. \*

- article and photos by Richard Hilson, Editor

### **President's Message**

- Peter Murphy, BHS President

It is not a question of one out-trumping the other, but rather that they are an ideal match for each other; procrastination and the winter blahs. And that is what our dutiful editor must contend with when attempting to have his contributing writers meet his generous but fast eroding timelines.

A brilliant excuse for tardiness came to mind on the middle of Lake Nipissing when a substantial pike happened to bite my thumb. Can't write now, I thought, only to notice it was the wrong hand.

Sans excuses, an overview of our recent and ongoing activities shall constitute this contribution.

Special words of congratulations are due to our vice president and secretary, Lynne Genova, for the excellent job she did at our January 20th meeting. I believe the attendance was the best on record and to have so many present that had first hand information regarding the tragedy of Flight 621 contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

The Peel Heritage Complex will be celebrating Heritage Day on February 20th and the BHS will be present along with other like groups and societies. "Treasures in the Attic", the successful art and antique appraisal event that was held at the Heritage Complex last year is being staged again on April 24th from noon to 4 pm. The Friends of Bovaird House along with the BHS are assisting with the planning of this event. In preparation, now is the time to dust off those long neglected Old Masters. The Doors Open Brampton Steering Committee continues in business and in an expanded form with the addition of representatives from the Mayor's Community Spirit Team and the Brampton Downtown Business Association. The next Doors Open Brampton is scheduled for June 10 and 11, 2006. The final decision with respect to the selection of the sites will be made this summer.

The Brampton Heritage Board is alert to the fact that the future of the dismantled 1902 CPR station, that the BHS is custodian of, in some jeopardy. The station pieces are in storage at Crawford's in Norval, a property that is currently up for sale. BHS will continue to advocate for the rebuilding of the station, in whole or in part, at a suitable site within the city.

And I dare say, looking forward down the line, another trip on the Credit Valley railway is in the offing. But more on that later. \*

#### BUFFY'S CORNER Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History



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.

Editor	. Richard Hilson
Asst. Editor, Design & Layout	Dawn Friesen
Printed by Pe	el Graphics Inc.

#### **BHS Executive**

President Peter Murphy
Vice President Lynne Genova
Recording Secretary Lynne Genova
Treasurer Ron Raffan
Corresponding Secretary Peter Murphy
Membership Chair Paul Willoughby Executive Member-at-Large Carolyn Tout
For membership information come to one of our monthly meetings (see the events list on page 7) or visit www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com
i interiorieusoelety.com

### **Editor's Note**

The time is right to break out of those winter doldrums and get busy.

The Brampton Historical Society will be holding its annual general meeting at our regularly scheduled meeting on March 17, 2005.

There are many ways to break up your routine by volunteering your time at the BHS. Several positions and chairs are vacant that would benefit from your expertise. Or, perhaps you know someone who is just too shy to speak up...so speak for them and nominate them!

Buffy's Corner is always looking for story submissions, photos and story ideas to follow up on. I believe that our members are holding on to a wealth of information of historical and heritage significance and that Buffy's Corner is the ideal venue to showcase this material.

So, pull yourself out of hibernation and get busy with the BHS.

– Richard Hilson, Editor

### **Finding History**

- Michael Avis, BHS Heritage Liaison The near capacity crowd of BHS members and guests who attended our recent January meeting listened intently as Joseph Verna, Lynne Genova and Richard MacFarlane guided us through a retrospective of the horrendous Air Canada airplane disaster that struck our community thirty-five years ago. At the conclusion of the presentation, I suggested that BHS be commended for spotlighting a tragic local event that happened quite recently, a disastrous event in our lifetime.

For many, the very term 'historical society' implies interest in and the study of events, people, buildings and places of centuries past, maybe medieval and pioneer times. In actual fact, we are all part of on-going history-making every day of our lives. The natural disasters such as the 1954 Hurricane Hazel and the man-made disasters such as Air Canada Flight 621 and the politically explosive cancellation of the Avro Arrow project are examples of significant pieces of very recent history . In the future, events such as these will be most certainly regarded as being 'of historical significance'. Yet many of us have actually lived through the events or maybe even been part of them.

Archivists tell us that in many instances the documentation and recording of these recent significant events is woefully lacking. Newspaper and television coverage is instant, visual but short lived. For the most part, the work involved with in-depth documentation, preservation of photographs, eye-witness accounts and interviews with people directly affected by an incident is simply not being done. Unfortunately, many mistakenly assume that 'eye-witnesses' will be around indefinitely, always to be there when called upon to summon up recollections and memories. Sadly, they are not.

Caledon is on the verge of launching "Answering the Call: a History of Firefighting in the Town of Caledon." Producing the book necessitated interviewing and taping approximately two hundred ndividuals, all of who had a part to play in the evolution of volunteer firefighting in the Caledon area. In a hundred years and beyond their interviews and tape recordings will provide reflections - some humourous, some poignant, some tragically sad, but all will be readily available for anyone to study.

continued on page 3

# Antiques Roadshow phenomenon continues to grow ...

– Michael Avis, BHS Heritage Liaison – photos by Richard Hilson

The Antiques Roadshow now enjoying it's twenty eighth year as one of the highest rated television programmes ever in Britain, recently prompted an equally successful American version on PBS. Seeing the enormous public appetite for the show's concept elsewhere in the world, CBC had jumped on the bandwagon with Antiques Roadshow Canada. Hosted by Valerie Pringle, the show assembles a team of knowledgeable appraisers who appear each week at different locations across the country. Books, documents, paintings, letters, pianos, dolls, toys, textiles, furniture, porcelain, silver and collectibles are all carefully scrutinized by the experts. Educated opinions offered and values assigned. Attendees are sometimes amazed, sometimes flabbergasted and yes, now and again disappointed, at the opinions and estimates that are suggested. Those familiar with the show know there are times when a humourous story of how the article was found is more fascinating than the artifact itself. Such is the appeal of the show.

Those of you who enjoyed last year's *Treasures in the Attic*, Brampton's very own *Roadshow*, would be well advised to circle **Sunday**, **April 24 2005** on your calendar as this year's *must do* event. Again this year, *Brampton Historical Society* along with *Peel Heritage Complex* and *Historic Bovaird House* are staging the popular event at one of downtown Brampton's most easily located heritage

The Peel Heritage Complex is centrally located at Main Street & Wellington Street opposite Gage Park. Along with limited on-site parking, there is *ample free parking* right across the street at City Hall.

#### Finding History continued from page 2

The stories have not been developed from hearsay, speculation or conjecture, but written by the men and women who took part in the events. Writing and speaking in the 'first person' make their insights not only interesting and informative, but invaluable to the preservation of our history. There are many elderly, and not so elderly,

residents among us who can provide colourful, personal glimpses into the early

### Treasures in the Attic, Art & Antique Appraisal Sunday, April 24, 2005 • 12 noon – 4 pm

Tickets by category and time on sale February 20, 2005.

Non-members: \$15 per item – \$35 for a maximum of 3 items.

Members of: Peel Heritage Complex, Historic Bovaird House, Brampton Historical Society \$10 per item – \$30 for a maximum of 3 items.

Complimentary Light Refreshments by Historic Bovaird House

ALL NET PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES OF THE THREE PARTICIPATING PARTNERS.

Tel: (905) 791-4055 • Email: bramhis@hotmail.com www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com • www.bovairdhouse.ca • www.peelheritagecomplex.org

And here's a few scenes from the 2004 Treasures in the Attic...



landmarks, the *Peel Heritage Complex*. The Complex is being readied, the appraisers are booked, tickets printed, the only thing remaining is for you to pull out that wooden trunk in the attic, dust off the old cardboard box in basement, or dig through that somewhat battered suitcase in the spare room closet, who knows what treasure may be tucked away ... right under your nose ! \*

development of our city, recalling defining moments in their lives and the life of the community. All we have to do is ask ... and listen. Not to capitalize on this valuable asset is to do a disservice to future generations.

*Note:* "Answering the Call: A History of Firefighting in the Town of Caledon" will be released on March 6 '05. Copies of this 256-page hardcover edition are \$40.00 and will be available at the Peel Heritage Complex and selected book stores. \*









### **Identifying Brampton's Old Buildings** Finding Old Buildings in Brampton is more how to look, than where to look.

Local historian and photographer, Robert Hulley, provided the keynote remarks at the February meeting of the Brampton Historical Society.

Speaking eloquently of his journey to search out the oldest buildings in Brampton, Hulley described two buildings in particular that date back to the early 1800s. One is a log cabin and the other a plank-on-plank building.

In "reading a property", Hulley told us of one way to determine the age and era of a building. The silhouette method is useful where a building follows a generally noticeable plan of a one-and-a-half story structure that was 16 feet by 20 feet.

Asphalt shingle, aluminum siding, clapboard or a combination thereof, he remarked, may hide this silhouette.

However, to an eye that knows what to look for in the silhouette, the older building can be found within.

Other methods of identification require additional detective work. He advised that one of the best ways to gather evidence or "view the bones of the house" is to go to the attic or cellar.

Here, you may be able to determine the age of a house by looking at the saw cut patterns on the wood used to build the home. Also, nails are an important clue when

used may determine its era.

nome. Also, nails are (1850s - present). an important clue when reading a property as the types of nails



For example, hand wrought nails used in a home may mean it was built before 1830. However, to determine its age before 1830 may require more research. Hulley cautioned that because handhewn nails from the blacksmith were expensive, some people saved and

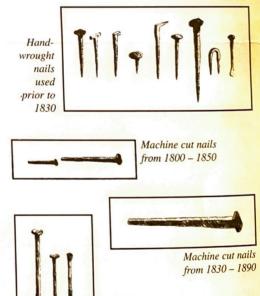
> reused nails over and over again to lower their costs.

Recently, Hulley set out to find the oldest building in Brampton. The results of his findings were arranged in an exhibit that ended last month and were held in the atrium of City Hall.

In his exhibit, he provided an interesting assortment of buildings ranging from a recently discovered Aboriginal village to an original settlers log cabin that was still lived in until a few years ago.

The exhibit also included a photo-story of how the French, who traded up and

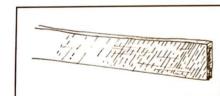
Fitzpatrick Log Cabin composite



Wire nails from 1890 – present

down the Credit River watershed for some 200 years, did not leave any trace of their existence. In addition, the oldest commercial building in Brampton was featured along with a place of worship built entirely from hand-made bricks that were quarried and fired on the site more than a hundred years ago.

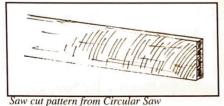
Excerpted from a presentation by Bob Julley as made at the BHS meeting in February 2005. Photos courtesy Bob Hulley.



Saw cut pattern from Pit Saw (1780s - 1870s).



Saw cut pattern from Muley Saw and Gang Saw (1800s – 1850s).





# Flight 621 Remembered . . .

At the largest audience turnout in recent memory, BHS vice-president Lynne Genova delivered a compelling and emotional presentation on the 1970 crash of Flight 621 in Brampton.

Beginning with a minute of silence to remember those who died on the ill-fated DC-8. Genova took us back to July 5, 1970 when she was a young girl who lived on a farm with her family. She recounted how a beautiful summer day changed her life and those around her when Air Canada flight 621 fell out of the sky and on to a field not far from her home.

All 109 people including passengers and crew died when the plane slammed into the field south of Castlemore Road, between McVean Drive and the Gore Road. The crash, which at the time was the worst in Canadian airline history, resulted when the co-pilot mistakenly deployed the wing spoilers just prior to a stopover landing in Toronto, en route from Montreal to Los Angeles.

Genova was joined in her presentation by Joe Verna, a Vancouver author and aviation consultant. Together, and along with others, they are pooling their research resources together and collaborating on a book about the air disaster.

Genova's presentation provided the backdrop and impetus to keep this story alive. The audience was populated with interested parties including the city of Brampton's Heritage Co-ordinator, Jim Leonard and noted author Richard MacFarlane.

Interestingly, the presentation took on an open forum when it was realized that various members of the audience were







BHS vice-president and programming chair, Lynne Genova, delivered an often emotional and startling account of events surrounding the crash of Air Canada Flight 621 to a packed January meeting. She and her working group would like to see a permanent marker erected in the area of the crash site to memorialize those who lost their lives.

people who could provide eyewitness accounts of the crash site. They included a 1970s Air Canada worker from Montreal, former pilots and aviation engineers, family descendants of the crash victims and the pathologist who was called to the scene that day.

They provided grim evidence to the realities now found in a farmer's field more than 34 years later. Pieces of the aircraft and human remains are rising to the surface in northeast Brampton.

Although Air Canada, the federal government and other authorities have been



Photos by Richard Hilson

contacted about the site, no one person or authority will take action or address the gravity of the situation. Genova and Verna would like to see a permanent marker in Brampton to commemorate and honour those who died.

Currently, the site is owned by several interests including developers.

Excerpted from a presentation by Lynne Genova, BHS Vice-President, as made at the BHS meeting in January 2005.





The crash of Air Canada Flight 61 left wreckage and debris littered on what was once a tranquil farm field (centre and right). At left is a photo of an identical DC8 aircraft. - photos ccourtesy Special Projects IR (PIR) and Programmed Communication Ltd

# Apple Parers: A Slice of New World History

In early Canadian settlement times and through the 19th century, apples were a critical winter staple, and to be preserved, they had to be picked, pared, cored, cut into slices, strung on strong linen thread and hung to dry.

The drudgery of paring and slicing each apple was monumental... until the problem was met head-on with homespun ingenuity and the birth of apple paring machines. Apple parers are ingenious machines and devices that were a vital part of early North America.

John Gray, apple parer extraordinaire and the BHS November speaker, served up a true slice of history by taking us back in time to the middle of the 19th

century and

revealed to

members numerous primitive

wood and

iron devices

fashioned in

barns and

workshops.



page 6

A hand forged apple parer circa 1768. It is the oldest apple parer in John's collection.

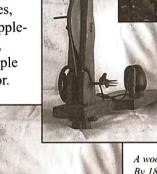
He described to members the very heady days of cast-iron parer manufacturing, when every rural home had a parer and the competition was intense. He also showed us several commercial models and related devices such as slicers, corers, and segmenters.



Gray showed us in a colourful and entertaining presentation that since the Garden of Eden apples have been an important crop. He pointed out that you could store

A stand-alone apple parer circa 1835. It contains wood and metal elements and can pare two apples at a time.

them, dry them, make apple pies, apple butter, applesauce, vinegar, apple cider, apple wine and liquor.



Unfortunately, apples need to be peeled.

The first mechanical peelers were home-

peeler evolution took place in the 1850s

with the invention of the cast iron lathe.

A spring held the blade so the operator

apple and put on a new one. The table

had a free hand to pull off the pared

clamp made it even more efficient.

Another type was the turntable parer,

which held apples stationery while the

Samples of cast iron parers. All have slightly different

mechanisms and are American. From 1860 to 1870.

made wooden devices. A big step in

A wooden apple parer: By 1850, we see the demise of the wooden parer which has been replaced by cast iron models.

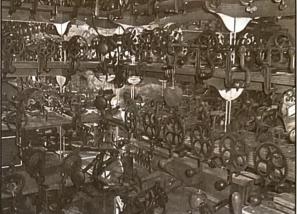
The "Climax" – it is the Rolls-Royce of apple parers and this one is

in pristine condition. There are few remaining in collections and in this condition. American circa 1870.

blade revolved around it. By the end of the century, dozens of companies had offered less complicated, cheaper machines. This simple turntable parer was a hot seller in 1899 at \$4.50 a dozen and are widely available today around \$50 each. Gray maintains an extensive collection of approximately 296 peelers, all of which are in working condition and contain original parts and pieces."What fascinates me so much is that they are all so very different," he said, "but each accomplish the same thing so efficiently."

Excerpted from a presentation by John Gray as made at the BHS meeting in November 2005. Photos by Richard Hilson.





A glimpse of John's collection, there are many more in other rooms.

# **Upcoming Events & Exhibitions**

The Vivian Antique Doll & Toy Collection Feb. 20 - May 8: Wed, Sat & Sun 12-4pm The Vivian Colletion features an incredible array of over 1500 dolls and toys, some dating back to the mid or late 1800's. Many dolls are displayed in their original costumes, or in costumes designed and meticulously fabricated by Mrs. Vivian. A selection will be on display courtesy of the James Shaver Woodsworth Homestead Foundation. Historic Bovaird House (address/contact numbers in ad this page).

### **BHS** Meetings

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

March 17 at 7:15 pm

**Annual Meeting of the Brampton Historical Society** featuring

The First Annual BHS History Quiz

April 21 at 7:15 pm

**My Story** featuring The Honourable William G. Davis, P.C., C.C. Q.C.

May 19 at 7:15 pm

**Local History Collection Chinguacousy Branch Brampton Public Libray** with

David Hill, Elizabeth Patterson and Vanessa Jabelmann

This meeting only will be located at the Chinguacousy Branch **Brampton Public Library** 150 Central Park Drive, Brampton

June 16 at 7:15 pm

presenter to be confirmed

Treasures in the Attic - Art & Antiques Appraisal. April 24, 12-4pm. See ad on page 8 of this publication for information. Experts in the fields of art, china & glass, jewelry, books & documents, furniture will be on hand to offer their qualified opinions and evaluations on your family treasures.

Quilters Odyssey, May 14 & 15 May 14: 10am-5pm & May 15: 10am-4pm Brampton Quilters Guild presents Quilters Odyssey Invitational Challenge. Masterpieces in fabric. Local artisans display quilts and quilted items. Tea room and door prizes. Jim Archdekin Rec. Centre, 292 Conestoga Dr. Brenda McCaw 905-450-7271 or Lisa Rossetti 905-796-8106 www.bramptonquiltersguild-cjb.net

Mothers Day Tea, May 1 & 8, 11am-4pm Take Mom and enjoy a cup of tea and pastries in Mossie's Tea Room. Historic Bovaird House (address/contact numbers in ad this page).

Walk for the Art of It, June 18, 10am-1pm Four community walks promoting health, urban environment, art and heritage. Thematic walks led by experts will include power walk by the Etobioke Creek Trail and architectural and nature walk. From Peel Heritage Complex 905-791-4055 ext. 3633 or www.region.peel.on.ca/heritage 9 Wellington Street East, Brampton



E-mail:

The BHS gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the Heritage Theatre for their donations of tickets to Heritage

Theatre presentations for use as door prizes at BHS meetings.

### **Historic Boyaird 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@hotmail.com

**On Kennedy Road at Bovaird Drive (SE corner)** 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

September issue ... August 8, 2005 For more information or to submit a story, photograph or idea contact: Richard Hilson ..... 905-459-9829 Dawn Friesen ..... 905-456-1963

## Application for Membership in the Brampton Historical Society

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Additional Household Members:

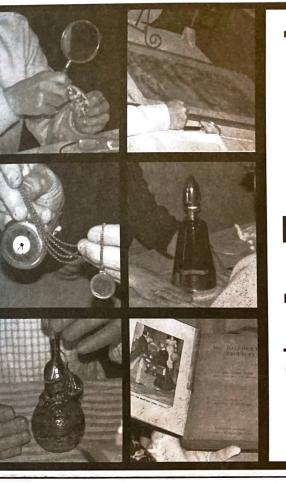
Signature:

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 c/o Peter Murphy 32 Wellington Street East Brampton, Ontario L6W 1Y4



# Treasures in the Attic

### Sunday, April 24, 2005 12:00 – 4:00 pm Peel Heritage Complex

2 Wellington Street East, Brampton

Tickets by category and time on sale February 20, 2005.

Non-Members: \$15 per item – \$35 for a maximum of 3 items.

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Tel: (905) 791-4055 • Email: bramhis@hotmail.com www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com www.bovairdhouse.ca • www.peelheritagecomplex.org



### The BHS wants you!!

We still have vacant positions on the executive board and committee chairs. Our success owes a lot to its membership and we are continuously looking for volunteers and concerned others to give a little of their time to our various efforts.

Ask how you can help by contacting Peter Murphy at 905-457-0058 or visit the BHS website at bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

### BUFFY'S CORNER

Brampton Historical Society 32 Wellington Street East Brampton, Ontario L6W 1Y4

