

# Who Wants To Be A Historian?

Jumping on the history bandwagon is the latest sport in Brampton. In fact, History tops the poll of popular pursuits. Arts and Culture patrons, even politicians court our favours and promise commitment to heritage. Is it ... Election Year?

The answer is YES! Next question: has the Ontario Municipal Board's dismissal of the application to build the million square foot distribution centre with thirty acre shunting yard at the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Mississauga Road upped the ante for history? BHS member Robert Crouch reports (elsewhere in this tome) how politicians showed their true heritage colours.

Speaking of influence, is Buffy's Corner reaching more Bramptonians, thanks to the Peel Graphics publication (free to the BHS) of five hundred?

YES! Next question: What is the future of the Peel Heritage Museum? You may use your "lifeline" for assistance provided it isn't another costly consultation group. After all we're volunteers, not millionaires.

What historical impact did Alderlea and Ken Chisholm have on Brampton? BHS member Albert Post revisits both, in this issue.

The recently published book, "County to Keystone" had roots in the former Peel County Historical Society. BHS member Rowena Cooper charts its journey from past to present.

Buffy's Corner welcomes historian Fred Kee with his column, "Kee Notes From Fred".

History is a hot ticket, here and in cyber space. BHS connection via email: [bramhis@home.ca](mailto:bramhis@home.ca)

Next earthly meeting: September 21 with Dr. Terry Angle: "Prisons and Reformatories in Early Upper Canada", Heart Lake Presbyterian Church.

Commuters: you have an extra fifteen minutes to get there. We will begin at 7:15 p.m. and finish by 9:00 p.m. Friends, neighbours, families welcome.

Everyone is into History and that's the final answer!

**BUFFY**

*We turn not older with years, but newer every day.*  
Emily Dickenson

# Buffy's Corner

The official newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society

*Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History*

Volume 2, No. 3 ..... September 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:

Historic Decision..... Robert Crouch  
Legacy of The Peel Historical Society..... Rowena Cooper  
The Impact of Ken Chisholm..... Albert L. Post  
Tale of Two Cities - Two Bramptons ..... Rowena Cooper

## Buffy's Corner Staff

Editor ..... Dorothy Willis  
Assistant Editor ..... Angie Duchesne  
Production Manager..... Gerry Clarkson  
Photographer ..... Heather Gunter

## Brampton Historical Society Executive

President ..... Heather Gunter  
Past President ..... Paul Hunt  
Vice President ..... Michael Avis  
Treasurer ..... Gerry Clarkson  
Recording Secretary ..... Janice Smith  
Corresponding Secretary ..... Peter Murphy

Buffy's Corner  
c/o Dorothy Willis  
#305 8 Lisa Street  
Brampton, ON  
L6T 4S6  
[dorothy@netcom.ca](mailto:dorothy@netcom.ca)

BHS  
c/o Peter Murphy  
32 Wellington Street East  
Brampton, ON  
L6W 1Y4  
[petmurp@netcom.ca](mailto:petmurp@netcom.ca)

## Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

Two politicians were debating on a corner. "There are hundreds of ways to make money," challenged one, "but only one honest way." "And what's that?" jeered the other. "Ah, ha!" exulted the first politician, "I thought you wouldn't know!"

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

Printed by Peel Graphics Inc., 10 John St. Brampton

## All Aboard!!!!

Total membership for 2000: 125.

Group memberships: 13

Remember ...  
It's time to  
renew your  
membership  
for 2001!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Heather Gunter

Welcome back! Hopefully, we've all had a great summer in spite of the weather. Thanks to Michael Seaman and his Program Committee we have an interesting fall line-up scheduled.

BHS members were active historically this summer. The Peel 2000 Homecoming on July 15 at the Brampton Fairgrounds was a great success, with about 300 attending. Frances Johnson co-ordinated the event along with a hard-working crew that also had exhibits such as Nortel Pioneers, Historic Bovaird House and the Brampton Historical Society.

The BHS executive enjoyed a tour of The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15 given by Bob Post, who along with George "Potsy" Burrows, Bill Burrell and Bill Bettridge, will present "Stories From Our Second World War Veterans" on October 19.

The Bovaird Gazebo is nearing completion, thanks to Gerry Clarkson and his capable volunteers.

BHS is honoured to receive donations for our society. First of all, the 1857 Bristow Fitzgerald "Plan of the Town of Brampton" map, donated by Christopher Sexton, is presently being restored. Another map of Brampton, printed in 1942 from an original survey in 1907, has been donated by Bert Everett. It has been preserved for display by BHS Member, Arthur Alder.

Finally, the BHS was offered the wedding gown of Mary McHugh (bride of Thomas), married in St. James Anglican Church in the Town of Caledon East on Christmas Day, 1863. This treasure has been restored and worn by Mary's fifth generation descendant, Pauline Johnson. We thank Alan Peters, grandson of the McHughs for this donation and his mother, Lillian Pearl Judge, who preserved it all these years.

"Memories are a gift which death cannot destroy."

## OUT OF DARKNESS

Michael Avis

Since earliest times, we have attempted to extend the light of day and hold back the darkness of night. Only relatively recently has a reliable and safe source of artificial lighting been available.

Historic Bovaird House, in co-operation with the Peel Heritage Complex, is pleased to present "Out of Darkness", a collection of pioneer lighting devices assembled over a forty year span by Harold Egan. His collection of pre-electric lighting pieces is the most comprehensive in Canada today.

Pieces on display include whale oil lamps, Bettys, lard and cruet lamps, rush lights, candlesticks, candle moulds and Kerosene lamps. Bettys are ladle-type devices with a wick in a trough in the spout, which eliminate drips. Ghusies are iron versions of the ancient, triangular clay pots of Palestine whose wicks lie unsupported in a spout. There will be lamps used in various occupations and trades such as law enforcement, mining, railroading and even lamps for stage illumination.

Harold Egan was born in nearby Bolton in 1934 and when not out collecting, spent his life involved in the family furniture and hardware business. Egan's Home Furnishings remained a local landmark for 63 years until it closed in 1995.

Besides being an avid collector he has been actively involved in community groups: the Bolton Planning Board, Rotary Club of Bolton, and the Alton/Bolton Historical Society (founding member).

The presentation of Mr. Egan's collection to The Region of Peel Museum has made us the beneficiaries of a very important collection that would have otherwise taken years (if ever) to assemble.

The "Out of Darkness" exhibition traces the major developments in the history of non-electric lighting and also pays tribute to the ingenuity and craftsmanship of our early settlers.

Historic Bovaird House, 563 Bovaird Dr., Brampton  
September 29, 12-9 p.m.; September 30, 12-4 p.m.;  
October 1, 12-4 p.m. Admission by donation (PWYC) with  
proceeds to support Historic Bovaird House.

Info: 905.874.2804; [bovairdhouse@hotmail.com](mailto:bovairdhouse@hotmail.com)

## 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

## REMINISCIN'

Paul Hunt - Chair, Advocacy Committee

About two years ago, on Thursday night October 1, 1998, a group of people met in the Peel Heritage Complex, to discuss the rapid depletion of historical buildings in the City of Brampton and possible solutions to the wanton destruction of our heritage.

After spending years serving on the Brampton Heritage Board (LACAC) and watching pleas for the preservation of the CPR station and other heritage properties falling on deaf ears - at both the council and staff levels of city government - Mike Seaman and I decided to try and change things.

We felt that a group formed outside the bureaucracy of the city government would have a stronger voice in the community, and would be able to apply more pressure to save some of these Heritage properties from the wrecker's ball.

From that humble beginning, the Brampton Historical Society was formed.

There were slightly less than 40 people at that meeting, but their fervour and enthusiasm was evident from the beginning. Rowena Cooper spoke to the group, outlining the necessary steps to start such an organization. After her remarks, the meeting was opened for discussion, questions etc. The input from the audience was tremendous. We were supposed to vacate the premises by 9 p.m. but we were late. As a matter of fact, we were late on every one of the preliminary meetings we had. We were able, however, to draft a constitution, vote in an executive, collect dues, and put some money in the bank. The BHS baby was up and crawling. Walking was soon to come.

A very active committee was formed to plan events for the following year, and it did an admirable job. Things kicked off with our first speaker, Ron Brown. He spoke to a nearly full house in the theatre at the Loafer's Lake library. By the end of our first year of events, we had a paid up membership of 100 households. The turnout to our monthly meetings was excellent, and everyone enjoyed the walking tours and speakers that had been planned.

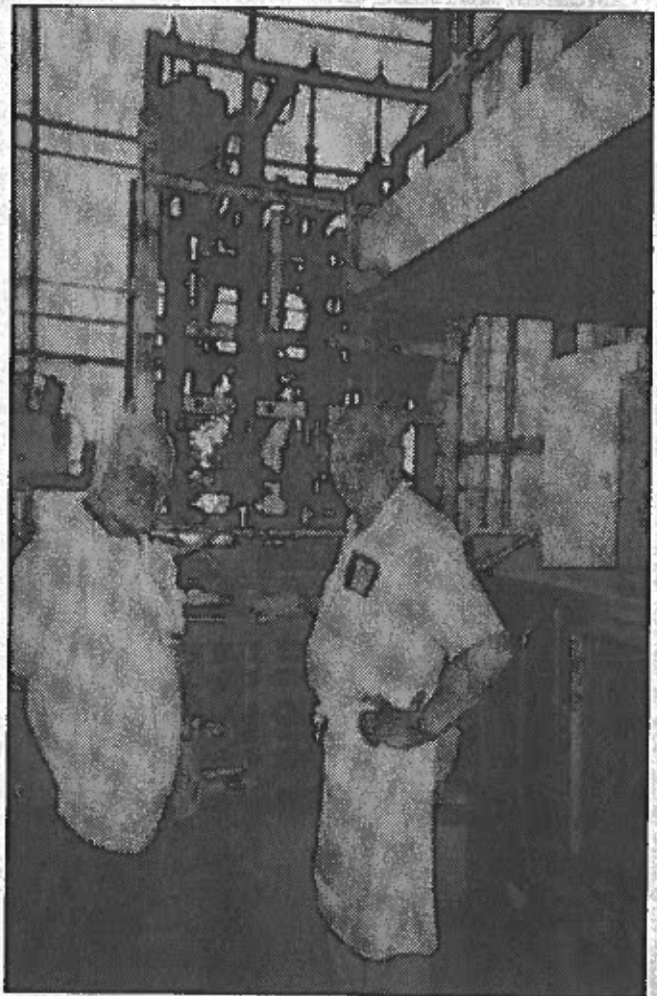
We are halfway through our second year of programs, and they have been accepted even more enthusiastically than the first year.

We applied to The Ontario Historical Society for an "Associate Membership", which was granted. We are now in the process of getting our registration from the Federal Government to enable us to give out tax receipts for donations received.

Some achievements and goals...

- We have been officially recognised by City Hall, with the mayor inviting Michael Avis and myself to appear on his "Talk to the Mayor" TV show on Rogers Cable.
- We have "joined hands" with Historic Bovaird House for our mutual interests in the preservation of Brampton's history.
- We are dedicated to the restoration of the CPR station. To this end, we have been its custodian since it was dismantled and moved to Crawford's farm for storage.
- Our continuing programs are designed to educate, preserve, and enjoy the Heritage of Brampton and its surroundings.

If you are looking for a group that has a vision, and are willing to spend a little time to help us fulfil it, please consider joining with us for the future of the past.



*The appeal of this 1930's vintage apple peeling machine at Crawford's Farm is shown off by hard core BHS members Paul Hunt (l) and Bob Crawford.*

*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

## BHS HAPPENINGS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

On May 18 George Duncan presented Early Nineteenth Century Architecture of Ontario.



Speaker George W. J. Duncan presents his book "Early Houses of Richmond Hill and Vicinity" to the lucky raffle winner.  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection

On May 27, BHS members explored the Village of Norval with a walking tour and refreshments at Crawford's. Tour guide: Kathy Gastle, Town of Halton Hills Councillor and life-long Norval resident.



BHS Pres. Heather Gunter, Michael Seaman, Kathy Gastle and Bob Crawford at our last event before a summer hiatus.  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection

On Saturday, July 15, Peel 2000 Homecoming welcomed Bramptonians with their historical displays, machinery exhibits, good food and friendly reunions.



Jennifer O'Shaughnessy puts her spin on the history of textiles for aflicionadas at Peel 2000 Homecoming.  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection

September 21, 7:15 p.m.

The BHS breaks autumn out with a bang. Prisons and Reformatories in Early Upper Canada with Dr. Terry Angle. Also an informal discussion of the old Brampton Jail. Spring a friend out of the big house on a day pass and come join us!

October 19, 7:15 p.m.

Brampton Remembers - Stories From Our Second World War Veterans

The Men From WWII: Bob Post, George "Potsy" Burrows, Bill Burrell and Bill Bettridge

Saturday, October 21, 9:30 a.m.

Autumn Walking Tour of Huttonville Village with Fred "Mr. Huttonville" Kee

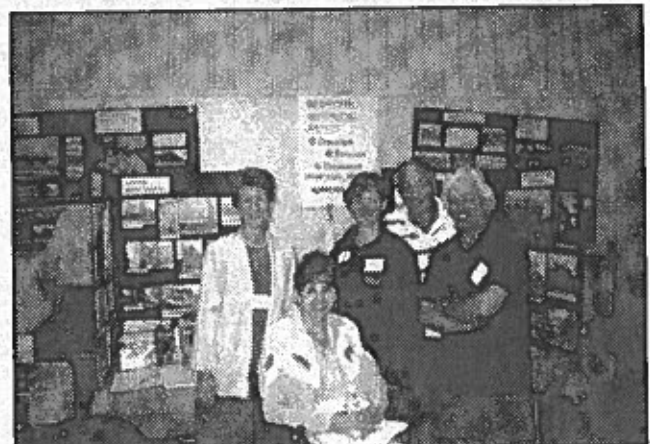
Assemble at Huttonville Public School (c.1936), Embleton Road. Fred's tour features Park, Powerhouse, Woollen Mills, Dam Site and vintage houses of the village. Lunch at the Historic Huttonville United Church.

November 16, 7:15 p.m.

We wind up the year with ...

Martin Yates and The Craft of Watch-making

AND (speaking of minutes...) Annual General Meeting



The BHS Road Show at the Peel Homecoming, with the BHS contingent: Heather Gunter, Dorothy Willis, Janice Smith, Gerry Clarkson, Michael Avis.

Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection

BHS Meetings every third Thursday, 7:15 p.m.  
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church  
25 Ruth Street, Brampton

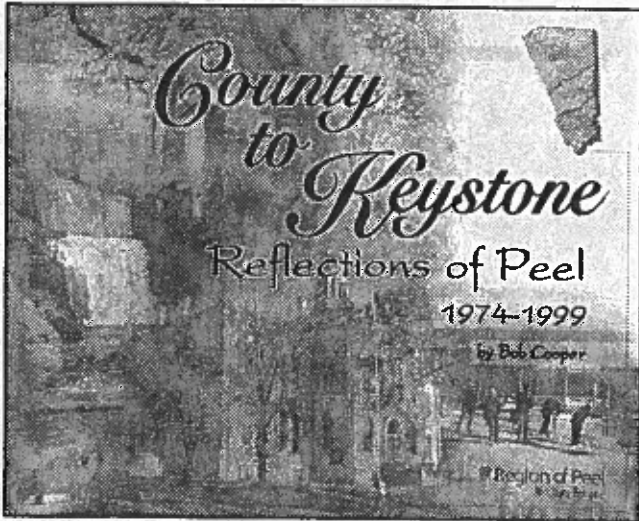
### OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Do you have stories, anecdotes, photos of Brampton's "good old days"? The Research Committee is looking for contributions for a future BHS fund-raising publication, titled "CHANGES". A favourite recollection of yours could be a favourite of ours, a favourite for others. Deadline for submissions has been extended to October 1, 2000. Your memories are valuable histories.

## LEGACY OF THE PEEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rowena Cooper, Reference Archivist, Peel Archives

On June 28, 2000 the long awaited launch of the book, "County to Keystone, Reflections of Peel, 1974 - 1999", by Bob Cooper took place at the Historic Court House. Rowena Cooper (no relation to the author) accepted a copy for the Peel Archives, telling how the inspiration for the book came from the Peel County Historical Society, our predecessor. An excerpt of her speech follows.



"The Peel County Historical Society was formed in 1887 when Henry Scadding persuaded Eli Crawford to form a Society of Peel Pioneers. The first executive members read like a who's who of Peel County at the time: Eli Crawford, J.P. Hutton, Luther Cheyne, R. Hodson, J.W. Beynon, Ken Chisholm MPP, George Cheyne, David Lawrence and R.W. Copeland. Only men were admitted as members, and only those men who had roots going back to the origins of the County.



'Four Corners', looking north on Main Street (c. 1868).  
Photo courtesy of Photographer J.W. Cole, via Peel Archives.

Scadding's underlying plan was to form a Provincial Historical Society and he achieved this with a union between the Peel County Society and the York Pioneers in 1888. The Provincial Society took off and

was incorporated under its own Act of Provincial Parliament in 1891. One hundred and nine years after its incorporation The Ontario Historical Society is still fulfilling its mandate across the Province.

The Peel County Society went dormant in 1906 when its members became too infirm to attend meetings.

In 1951 Major John Barnett of Clarkson, Past President of The Ontario Historical Society was present at a meeting to organize the Peel County Society once again. Elected officers were C.V. Charters, Everett Biggs and Guy Moore. The reason for the re-awakening of the Peel County Historical Society was to find a home for the huge collection of Peel art, artefacts and documents that had been amassed by William Perkins Bull in the 1930's.

The art collection that hung in the Brampton High School was split up; a large part went to Victoria College, some to the Brampton Junior Farmers building, some to Trent University and some to the Brampton Library. The artefacts were stored in a barn near Cheltenham and the documentary collection was split between several archives in Toronto.

The executive of the Society tried to create interest in preserving the Peel artefacts, but in the post-war period it was difficult and the Society went dormant.

In 1961, after a number of artefacts were stolen from the barn, Frances Carroll, enthusiastic daughter of W.J. Fenton decided something had to be done. She was elected president and the executive consisted of Alex McKinney, Hilda Kirkwood, Don Featherstone, Lucien Michaud, Ted Conover and Russ Cooper.

In 1963 a temporary museum was set up in Belfountain with the assistance of the Women's Institute and the remainder of the artefact collection was stored in the garage of Harper Bull, former Mayor of Brampton.

A short time later the collection was moved to Russ Cooper's basement and by 1965, when he became president of The Society, a hunt began in earnest for a permanent home for the museum. With the help of The Women's Institute and the Brampton University Women's Club, a presentation was made to County Council and the former Registry Office on Wellington Street was designated as the new home.

Russ promised several members of council that the museum operation would not cost the county any money. It was impossible to get the museum ready for Centennial Year but Bill Davis and Tom Symons presided over the official opening in 1968. The Peel County Museum and Art Gallery was the first of its kind in Ontario.

Russ stepped down as President in 1972 and in his closing remarks he emphasized the tremendous potential of the Jail as a museum. The Society made him an Honourary Board Member and he continued his involvement with The Society until the early 1980's.

The Peel County Historical Society never did operate as a proper historical society - and that concerned other societies in Peel, whose members felt that a Brampton Society would be more appropriate. Russ was always the first one to say that Brampton needed an historical society - which has now happened. After The Region acquired ownership of the artefact and art collections in 1974, the PCHS continued to operate the museum and art gallery until 1983 when the fundraising formula that had been put in place became too much for the executive to bear. They requested that The Region take over the full running of the Museum and Art Gallery and after many months of negotiations, this was accomplished in 1984.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the many volunteers who supported the Peel County Historical Society. Without their efforts it is doubtful that the Peel Heritage Complex would exist today. It is a unique institution in Ontario, the jewel in The Region's crown.

In 1987, the Society, burned out by many years of hard work, went dormant. Russ became involved in 1997 when it was discovered that the Society had \$10,000 in its bank account and needed one last project. Russ felt, with his usual foresight, that The Region's first 25 years should be commemorated and with its close ties to The Society, a book presented the perfect opportunity. He examined past records of The Society, accumulated mailing addresses for all life members and people who had been members in its last year of operation. He contacted all those people, put announcements calling for a public meeting in all local newspapers covering Peel. At the first meeting he was once again elected as President of The Society. The executive consisted of Heather Broadbent, Bill Barber, Leslie Wedgewood, Pat Wilson, Bert Post, and myself. At the second and final meeting of The Society, a motion was passed, requesting that The Region write a book commemorating the first 25 years of its history. The \$10,000 from The Society became the seed money for the publication.

I know that Russ would have been delighted with this beautiful book, he felt strongly that the history of The Region should be written. It is a tribute to his tenacity that it is here before us today. On The Society's behalf, I will be delighted to place this book in The Peel Archives Local History Collection for all to enjoy."

*County to Keystone - Reflections of Peel is available at ACCESS PEEL, 10 Peel Centre Drive for \$30.*

## SCOOP GILES AKA SNOOP

Dorothy Willis AKA Buffy

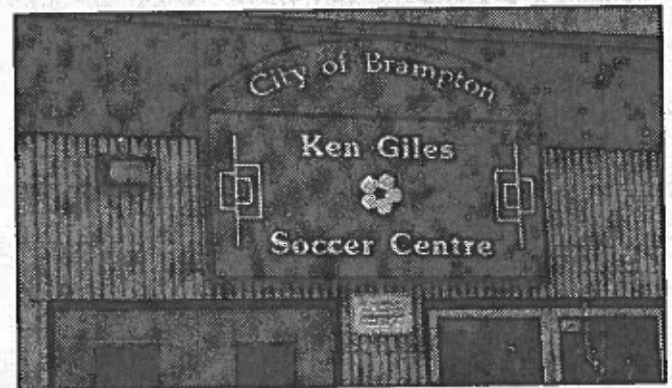
Writers use pseudonyms to preserve their anonymity. Bramptonians nicknamed Ken Giles, "Scoop" and it stuck; even his Mom calls him Scoop. I remember his "pseudonym days" before he was known as Scoop.

When I read about his retirement as sports editor of the Brampton Guardian in July after 50 years in the Brampton newspaper trade I called him to reconnect.

We first met at the first BHS: Brampton High School. Attached to a block-long football field, it occupied the north east corner of Centre and Church Streets. Our town of 6,000 had one high school and it had more than 600 students - many were bussed from out-lying farms and villages. We all knew each other by name or family.

Ken and I shared an unspoken bond. Our hearts were in sports but not our legs - Ken because of cerebral palsy and me because of polio. Back then disabilities were accepted if you managed to "keep up".

The Fifties valued academic and athletic excellence, team spirit and fair play. Since Ken could run he was able to referee games. Another door of opportunity opened; he began to write high school news for the Brampton Conservator. One column titled *the Snoop* reported school gossip, using first names with initial-surnames. It scored. It gave readers up-to-date dating scoops and popularity boosts (depending on frequency of being scooped). Everyone suspected friendly Ken was the SNOOP.



*The City recognises that Brampton is Ken's turf, naming this sporting venue in his honour.*

*Photo courtesy of La Galerie Duchesne*

"Not guilty," Ken still insists. A pseudonym is a writer's privilege and I think of Ken when I use mine, *Buffy*. And he is a role model with his wealth of stories and small town values. Scoop Giles has been honoured with an arena named for him, and scores of awards. A one-of-a-kind Bramptonian, he deserves a heritage designation, if only we had one for people.

## TAKE A STAND

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

## HISTORIC DECISION

Robert Crouch

June 30, 2000 goes down in history. The Ontario Municipal Board released its decision with regard to the application of Metrus Central Properties Ltd. to build a million square foot distribution centre with an approximately 30 acre shunting yard at the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Mississauga Road for SCM, the logistics vendor for Walmart (Canada).

The OMB dismissed the application. Under the Bramwest Secondary Plan, the site was to have been primarily office buildings, with prestigious industrial uses that might be compatible with surrounding proposed uses, which include schools, parks, residential and highway commercial uses, permitted.

The position of staff at the City of Brampton was that the Secondary Plan was so flexible that, as Bramwest is intended to be primarily employment lands, any use which met a compendium of design criteria was permitted without amendment to the Secondary Plan. The position of Metrus was that while an amendment to the Secondary Plan was required, Brampton would never succeed in attracting office uses and that this lower end use would be the kick start to development in the area.

Mayor Peter Robertson aggressively promoted the proposal as a part of his "Open for Business" philosophy despite ratepayers' and developers' opposition and the provisions of the official and Secondary Plans. Councillors approving it were Miles, Begley, Sprovieri, Metzak, Hames, Cowie and Bissel. Mr. Richards abstained as his daughter works for SCM.

The Churchville Village Residents' Association and the newly formed (as a result of this application) Huttonville Residents Association worked very hard to have City Council turn down approval of this proposal. The site was about halfway between these historical villages and overlooks the Credit River Valley.

Many area residents had been very involved with the creation of the Bramwest Plan. The plan provides for a careful transition of land uses from the very sensitive villages and valley, through residential, highway commercial, prestigious industrial and standard industrial and transportation on an east to west pattern, with residential buffering for the villages.

Opposition was only common sense. Those in opposition are convinced that Brampton can and will attract higher order uses once infrastructure is in place.

Fortunately, Councillors Hutton, Palleschi, Jeffries, DiMarco, Fennell, Gibson, Callahan and Hunter agreed with the ratepayers. The Council tie meant the proposal was defeated.

Kaneff Properties Inc. and other investors and developers joined the residents in opposition to the proposal, as it would have, in all opponents' views, prohibited the attraction of higher end uses, such as Kaneff's proposed hotel and conference centre at Lionhead Golf Course. The hotel could have looked over the parking lot for about 1000 trailers. Tractor trailers would have set the tone for development of the area, like Airport Road at Intermodal Drive.



*Robert Crouch leads the BHS walking tour through Churchville. The only things checked about Churchville are the traffic sign and maybe the attempt by a well-known retail chain to ...  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

Mr. Kaneff, the other developers and their counsel are to be commended for their investment and representation at the hearing. Residents prefer that the conference centre set the tone for development in the area to a transportation facility and the lower order uses such would attract.

All in opposition recognise the desirability of retaining the warehousing employment, but remain firmly of the opinion that, given the proper infrastructure (the area is currently green fields without any servicing and only minimal road improvements), the area will attract higher order uses, more employment and much higher assessment.

This particular site seemed absurd. Its proximity to the attractive accretions of the Credit River Valley, the historic villages and golf facilities, is attractive to developers' prestige industrial and office considerations. This is evidenced by the Heartland and Meadowvale Business Park developments in Mississauga that the Bramwest plan was to emulate.

The OMB hearing lasted five weeks.

I believe that if the councillors had attended the first five days of the hearing (at which the building,

berming and operations were clearly described) any decision to support the proposal would have been very difficult.

The extent of truck traffic was much greater than that presented before council. The hours of operation would become 24, instead of the two-shift operation represented to council. The sound amelioration berm was to be 9.5 metres in height (reduced during the hearing) and did not meet provincial night-time standards. Protection of a provincial standard wood lot on the site was not adequately addressed.

The impact on adjacent land uses was not considered by City staff, although their initial report flagged this as an issue. According to evidence, planning staff was told by the municipal policy management team that impact on surrounding uses did not have to be considered.

"Open for business", indeed!

The Board, in a 67-page decision, carefully reviewed the evidence and professional opinions.

The Board members found that the proposal was premature in that the servicing plan advanced by the proponent might be inadequate and security for future contribution to infrastructure by the developer was not in place.

The Members were concerned that the City, Conversation Authority and proponent had not addressed the Provincial Policy Statement about the preservation of wood lots.

The members found that although there are many examples of mixed commercial and industrial uses, compatible by reason of urban design standards, an intensive transportation use could not be adequately made compatible by design. "Even excellent design could not replace the need to assess the relationship between uses in terms of function."

The Board found that the flexibility built into the regime of the City's Secondary Plans does "...not however, contemplate a full-scale departure from the plan's basic structure, necessary to provide for this development. The intent of the plan was to have these lands developed for office uses and certain prestige industrial uses which do not conflict with office uses. The intent was never to allow for industrial uses like a warehouse distribution centre proposed by Metrus."

The board also found that the City staff practice to treat trailer storage as parking rather than outside storage would "eliminate the core of what was intended to be an office and business service centre, and destroy any synergy sought to be established by the structure of the Official Plan."

The Board encapsulated the views of the residents virtually in their entirety.

I would also add that despite a reputation as a politicised body, the Board members were, throughout the hearing, attentive, fair and apolitical. Any predictions made by those of us who were there at each day of the hearing were reflected in the decision and based upon the evidence and opinions before the Board.

The villagers' view, shared by many ratepayers across the City, is now that Brampton has access to a 400 series highway with a gateway location, the City can finally attract the higher order uses that the City requires to improve its commercial/residential assessment ratio.

Many residents are very proud of their City and simply wish that its leaders aspired to attract higher order uses and create an infrastructure that can keep up with current demands and attract opportunities for rational and prestigious growth.

Of course, we also hope that the quality of life of existing residents remains a priority of those we elect.



*Churchville History aficionados; Marianne Galliford and Robert Crouch.*

*Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*



## TALE OF TWO CITIES - TWO BRAMPTONS

Roving Reporter Rowena Cooper

Saturday August 19 found me driving, in pouring rain, from Ford Castle in Northumberland to my mother's home in Berkshire, via Brampton in Cumberland. I had wanted to visit our namesake community in the north of England for a long time, and to look at and photograph the plaques in the Primitive Methodist Chapel that commemorated John Elliott and William Lawson.

Parking (with a huge sigh of relief) in the "Long Stay" parking area, I headed off to the market square and the tourist information office housed in an octagonal building - which was immediately familiar from the book Brampton's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1873-1973, published by Charters Publishing Company.

The lady in the tourist information booth, obviously convinced that she was confronted by a slightly crazy (and dripping) tourist, directed me kindly to St. Martin's Church, built in 1870. The windows are unique: breathtaking stained glass designed by Sir Edward Burne-Jones, who was a partner of William Morris and did all the figural work for his designs.

However, it was not the Primitive Methodist Chapel.

Luckily, a delightful lady working in St. Martin's took pity on me and, after much consultation with her partner, decided that as the old Primitive Methodist Chapel was closed, I might well be looking for the Methodist Church.

She directed me to Elliott's Wallpaper and Paint Store and said that Mr. Elliott knew all about the history of the area. Reaching Elliott's, I asked to speak to him only to find that he had sold the business in 1985. The couple who now own the store decided that the best way to get me sorted out was to phone the local historian, Iain Parsons.

Within fifteen minutes I was delivered into his capable hands and discovered that all the plaques had been removed from the walls of the Primitive Methodist Chapel when it was closed some years ago. He will try to discover where they have been stored and will let me know. Iain is in the process of writing his second book on the history of Brampton and has promised a copy to the Peel Archives Library when it is complete.

Contact with Brampton, Cumberland by residents of Brampton, Ontario has been accomplished sporadically over the years.

In 1923 William Perkins Bull presented a Canadian flag to the local Council, to be flown together with the British flag on the historic Newcastle Cross. In

the same year he also opened the local Cottage Hospital.

In 1973 John McDermid visited the town and presented the Council with a coloured aerial photo of our Brampton and some Centennial flags.

In return he received a copy of an original charter for the parish presented to the Earl of Carlisle by King James I in 1606.

Email has made contact between our two towns so much easier. I have promised Iain Parsons to send information about John Elliott and William Lawson; he has promised to find the plaques that started all this in the first place. Stay tuned!

BHS Meetings every third Thursday, 7:15 p.m.  
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church  
25 Ruth Street, Brampton

We have a poet and didn't know it - thanks to BHS member Isobel McKay for her contribution.

People who have not the pride  
To record their history  
Will not long have the virtues  
To make history worth reading.

And no people  
Who are indifferent to their past  
Need hope to make  
Their future great.

*Anonymous*

### Kudos in Three Centuries!



Ruby Pollock, born on September 21, 1898, seen here with BHS President Heather Gunter and Joe Spina, MPP for Brampton Centre. Her nephew, Ray McPherson, is in the centre background. Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection

## 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 (See the article on page 2)

### Halton - Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

**Impersonation - A Visit From John Graves Simcoe  
John Rutherford**

Sunday, September 24, 2:00 p.m.  
Chinguacousy Branch - Brampton Public Library  
150 Central Park Drive, Brampton  
Info: call Dorothy Kew 905.631.9060

**Computers - Selections/Upgrades,  
Software and the Internet**  
Lawrence R. Nicoll  
Sunday, October 22, 2:00 p.m.  
Chinguacousy Branch - Brampton Public Library

**Using English Parish Registers**  
J. Brian Gilchrist  
Sunday, November 26, 2:00 p.m.  
Chinguacousy Branch - Brampton Public Library

### Friends of the Schoolhouse

**Annual Fall Festival at The Old Britannia  
Schoolhouse**  
Carnival rides, entertainment, wagon rides and more.  
October 7, 8 and 9.  
Gates open from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Schoolhouse open from noon to 5 p.m.  
The Old Britannia Schoolhouse  
5576 Hurontario Street, Mississauga  
Info: 905.891.2190

**Halloween Fun for the Whole Family at The Old  
Britannia Schoolhouse**  
Ghost walks, wagon rides, fortune telling, pumpkin  
carving, prizes for costumes and more. Free admission  
but donations appreciated.  
October 28, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Weather  
permitting.  
Info: call Eva Ardiel 905.459.9158

**Toy Maker at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse**  
Allan Case  
Allan Case demonstrates his collection of home-made  
19<sup>th</sup> century toys he has researched and recreated  
using 19<sup>th</sup> century tools. Coffee, cider, cookies  
included.  
November 12, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets and info: 905.459.9158

### Annual Christmas Open House at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

An opportunity to purchase a variety of stocking  
stuffers, reminiscent of times gone by, see The  
Schoolhouse decorated for Christmas, and enjoy  
Christmas music, mulled cider and goodies.  
December 3, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Info: 905.459.9158

### Streetsville Historical Society

The Village of Streetsville Harvest Festival 2000  
September 16, 2000  
Info: 905.858.5974

### Esquesing Historical Society

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

**Avro Arrow Saga**  
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.  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown

### GLOBAL FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2000

Explore more than 30 historical buildings and exhibits,  
visit with costumed historical interpreters and learn  
about your ancestors' lives. Attend over 30 family  
history workshops to learn skills to assist you in your  
ancestral quest.  
October 14 and 15  
The Country Heritage Park, Milton  
(formerly The Farm Museum)  
Info: 1-800-361-5168 Fax: 1-905-875-1887 or register  
online at [www.globalgenealogy.com](http://www.globalgenealogy.com)

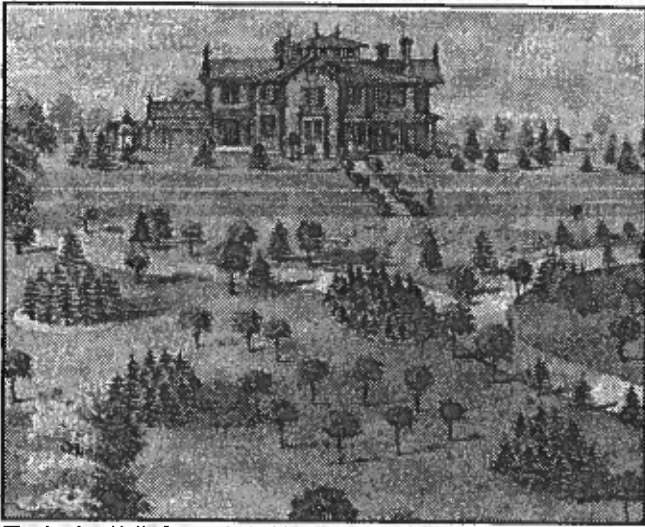


PEEL GRAPHICS INC.

10 John Street  
Brampton  
Ontario L6W 1Y9  
Tel.: (905) 451-1880  
Fax: (905) 455-9099

Canada's Finest Since 1939

Buffy's Corner is printed thanks to the generosity of  
Peel Graphics Inc.



*The Legion Hall, formerly "Alderlea", 1877.  
Image courtesy of the Peel Archives.*

## **The Impact of Ken Chisholm on Brampton**

Albert L. Post

Ken Chisholm was born in Toronto Township (now Mississauga) in 1830 but he lived in Brampton most of his adult life. I always marvel at how often his name keeps popping up. I remember the "Chisholm Concert Hall", although it was not called that when I was a child growing up in Brampton.

Everyone knows the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15 property above Gage Park in downtown Brampton. It was Ken Chisholm's mansion residence that he built about 1863, and named Alderlea.

The 1877 Peel Atlas shows the Chisholm property included present-day Gage Park, and the land bounded by Main, Wellington, and Elizabeth Streets. It had ample stables for horses and carriages. One can imagine, travelling by horse and carriage, coming upon the impressive entranceway to Alderlea from Main Street up the winding driveway, through present-day Gage Park, ascending the terraced hill to reach the grand front entrance to the mansion.

Entrepreneur extraordinaire, Ken owned and operated a group of dry goods stores, which eventually became known as F.T. Hill and Company. Locations were the south-east and north-east corners of Main and Queen Streets. Both stores operated until about 1960.

Chisholm was also a grain merchant, director of the Central Bank of Canada, Vice-President of the Haggert Manufacturing Company in Brampton, and he organised and was the first President of the Brampton Board of Trade. He owned and operated lime kilns at the Forks of the Credit hamlet where a street (a short section of the 3rd Line West) bears his name. He probably owned and operated aggregate quarries in Orangeville, south of the town-line, placing this enterprise in Caledon

Township. A street there is also named Chisholm Street and this was recorded in the 1877 Peel Atlas.

Involved in politics, Chisholm served on Brampton town council for several years and was Warden of Peel County for consecutive terms in 1867, 1868, and 1869. He was a Liberal MPP for Peel, from 1873 to 1892, only retiring to become Registrar of the Peel Courts.

More about the Concert Hall and the Legion property since these existed during my lifetime in Brampton. The "Concert Hall" was located on the south side of Queen Street east, opposite Union Street, east of the Carnegie Library. The present downtown branch and main office of the Brampton City Library occupies the site now. The Chisholm Concert Hall was built around 1890 and some records indicate it was actually an old barn that Ken Chisholm moved from his estate at Alderlea (the architecture was similar) and refurbished it into quite an impressive community facility.

History books refer to it as the "Chisholm Concert Hall" and report that he gave it to the town. When I was a boy, it was called the Orange Hall; the Orange Lodge met there and conducted community projects. It seems to me that fire destroyed a big part of this building in the late 1940's and was rebuilt by the Orange Lodge. I can recall various political rallies being held there, especially the convention that chose John Pallett to succeed Gordon Graydon, who passed away in 1953.

Chisholm's residence, Alderlea, majestically stands high on the hill above Gage Park. Thankfully, many parts of Alderlea remain in their original grandeur. The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 15 purchased the property shortly after WW2, I believe from the Coombs estate. The Legion moved their clubrooms from their Byng Avenue site to this new site.

Certainly Kenneth Chisholm made an impact on our community: it was 150 years ago that he travelled up the road to our town to launch his very industrious life.



*Albert Post with horse-less carriage (c. 1957).  
Photo courtesy of the Gunter Collection*

## KEE NOTES FROM FRED

Fred Kee

Life began on the farm, April 30, 1925, with the help of Dr. David Heggie, who was assisted by his son, Colin, who would be the Kee family doctor - not only for my parents but later for my family and me - until his retirement sixty years later.

Since Peel Memorial Hospital did not open until later in 1925, I was born at home. Mother probably wouldn't have gone to the hospital anyway, since it was new and hadn't received the confidence of the people.

Father and Mother moved to the farm from West Street in Brampton after operating a horse livery on Main Street from 1914 until 1920. My brother Thurston, (he was given mother's surname) was eleven years older than I and had already set records at grade school, according to his teacher, Miss Mossie Wood - grades I was never able to match.

My sister Jean, born three years earlier in 1922 did not match Thurston's records either, although she was to become my advisor and guardian, not only on the farm but at school as well.

Our farm was a two hundred-acre parcel of land, south of Highway 7, west of the Canadian Pacific Railway, east of the first line of West Chinguacousy Township; now known as McLaughlin Road.

The main vehicles of transportation were buggies as well as teams and wagons. However when Highway 7 was paved from Highway 10 to Norval in 1925 travel became much easier. The highway was paved to Guelph by 1928 and the Arrow Bus Line began a daily run from Toronto by 1930 that continued eventually to London.

BHS Meetings every third Thursday, 7:15 p.m.  
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church  
25 Ruth Street, Brampton

## FORESHADOWING FIVE FALL AFFAIRS

September 21, "Prisons and Reformatories in Early Upper Canada" with Dr. Terry Angle

October 19, "Brampton Remembers - Stories From Our Second World War Veterans"

The Men From WWII: Bob Post, George "Potsy" Burrows, Bill Burrell and Bill Bettridge

October 21, Autumn Walking Tour of Huttonville with Fred "Mr. Huttonville" Kee

November 16, Craft of Watch-making With Martin Yates

Also on November 16, our Annual General Meeting



**TIMEPIECES**  
Repairs and Sales of Antique, Vintage and Modern Clocks & Watches

**Martin Yates**  
HOROLOGIST

91 Main St. S., Georgetown  
e-mail: timepieces@aztec-net.com 905-873-8980

ARTHUR L. ALDER AOCA, CFP

**CANADA NOSTALGIA CO.**  
70 MAIN STREET, SOUTH  
BRAMPTON, ONTARIO, CANADA  
L6W 2C6 (905) 451 8570

MEMBER  
PROFESSIONAL PICTURE FRAMER'S ASSOCIATION  
EPHEMERA SOCIETY OF CANADA  
EPHEMERA SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Application for membership in the BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY (bramhis@home.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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