

Applause For BHS Role in Theatre Drama

Brampton received a wake-up call with the Guardian's January 20 announcement that the Heritage Theatre was facing the "wrecker's ball." In the fall/winter edition of the Brampton Review, City Council informed Bramptonians that major renovations were planned to the structure. In our January/February BHS Newsletter this information motivated the article CAPITOL CRIME? We invited comments on the reconstruction but we were too late! Commenting and deciding had already occurred "in camera" in favour of the construction of a seven million dollar complex and demolition of the 75 year old Capitol/Heritage Theatre. The City had not chosen to consult with its Heritage Committee, which is appointed to advise them on heritage decisions.

The primary focus of the Brampton Historical Society is to provide a positive environment for the conservation, education and celebration of Brampton's history. However, with the January 20 declaration we took on a new role: advocating for the right of Bramptonians to have a say in decisions regarding their cultural identity. Twelve BHS members attended the City Council meeting on January 25. BHS representative Paul Hunt made a presentation questioning the City on the lack of consultation with its own Heritage Committee, and urging a public meeting to address concerns regarding the proposed project. The City agreed to hold a meeting on February 2, one week later.

At the meeting, the public heard plans for the theatre's demolition, referred to as "reconstruction" by City officials. A tin roof - claimed by the City to be the "only salvageable historic feature" - will be incorporated in the new complex; a pale reminder of the once-glorious Capitol Theatre!

Questions and comments from the public were received while BHS members proudly observed the process they had put into motion. When presentations concluded we raised concerns with members of council and explained that the BHS is an independent organization. We advocate respect for the tangible reminders of our past: buildings, cemeteries, land forms and records which are threatened, if not systematically and swiftly destroyed.

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Buffy's Corner

The official newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society
Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History

Newsletter #3

March/April 1999

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

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Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

It was a very cold night on the way to the presentation by Ron Brown. It was so cold that there were politicians who had their hands in their own pockets.

Buffy's Corner, published 5 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)

All Aboard!!!!

New members: welcome to the BHS!

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Arthur Alder | Gloria Berger | Freda Brockbank |
| Boyd Brown | Ron Brown | Kathleen Davis |
| Hon. William Davis | Jim Dixon | Emilia Doran |
| Jim Doran | Freda Garden | Carolyn Grace |
| Russell Grafton | Diane Hipkin | Jim Hipkin |
| Judie Hiscox | Dr. Robert Hiscox | Sherry Hughes |
| Catherine Hunter | Robert Hunter | Fred Kee |
| Chris Kuhlmann | Louis J. Launer | Herta Mitchell |
| Sheila Morris | Terry Morris | Noreen Myers-Bailey |
| Mary Oakley | Leona Piercey | Albert Post |
| Peter Redman | Laura Salverda | Bob Taylor |
| Marie Taylor | A. J. Wunder | |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honoured to be selected as your President of the Brampton Historical Society (BHS) for 1999. I look forward to working with the new executive seeking innovative ways for our membership to conserve, educate and celebrate the history of Brampton.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the interim executive for all their hard work over the past four months. They have helped to turn the dream of a Brampton Historical Society into reality, and have given us a firm foundation upon which we can build for the future. I welcome the new Executive who, along with the Committee Heads, make up the Board - we have a great year ahead of us!

As the end of the 20th Century approaches, and we look forward to a new Millennium, this is a very exciting time to be involved with local history. With such projects as the new Brampton Theatre, we see that there is a considerable local emphasis on progress and looking forward.

However, the end of a century is also an end of an era, and it is important at this time to stop and take stock of what we have achieved over the past 100 and 1000 years. There certainly has been a noticeable growth in appreciation of the importance of remembering our heritage.

With your help, as the only independent organization dedicated to promoting local history, the BHS will take the lead role in this area. We hope our efforts will help the local community to reawaken and carry forward our sense of history and identity into the next century. I look forward to joining you in the many activities our committees have planned for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Michael Seaman

Applause

Continued from page 1 ...

Bramptonians have a right to know the truth and to be heard. At the February 2 meeting, speakers talked about the cultural value of the landmark theatre, suggested different uses for it, and voiced concern for our disappearing heritage. We encourage them to join BHS to increase our numbers so that we are a stronger voice.

The Toronto Star further catapulted BHS into the limelight, by publishing an article on February 4 by Mike Funston titled: HISTORICAL SOCIETY SLAMS THEATRE RULING. We do not seek to change the opinions of decision-makers, we only question who determines the heritage value of our landmarks: politicians, developers, commercial enterprises or ... Brampton residents.

We have a unique identity. With the continued efforts of a strong BHS, our identity will flourish as the rose did when Brampton was known internationally as THE FLOWER TOWN OF CANADA.

There is a history in all men's lives. Figuring the natures of the times of the deceased.

William Shakespeare

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW?

Brampton Women's Building (1907-1998), a significant reminder of more than 100 years of Brampton Fall Fairs, went under the wrecker's ball.

It is now a park.

The McKillop Home (c.1870), a heritage home on Main Street and an outstanding example of Italianate architecture, was the manse of Grace United Church, home of the grandfather of Prime Minister Pearson and W.A. Beatty, General Manager of Dale Estate. It was demolished in 1993.

Today it is a parking lot for trucks.

*Don't it always seem to go
That you don't know what you've got
Till it's gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot*

Joni Mitchell

FROM THE FILES

The Toronto World Journal is the best journal issued in Ontario. Why? Because it is patriotic, outspoken, spicy, and honest. Long may it live.

Brampton Conservator, May 20, 1887

BHS HAPPENINGS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

On January 27, 1999 the BHS rode the GHOST RAILWAYS OF ONTARIO with well known author Ron Brown. His talk and slide presentation were enthusiastically received by approximately 130 people who attended the BHS inaugural meeting at Cyril Clark Library Theatre.



After the 1999 BHS executive was introduced, a social hour took place with refreshments, conversation and the opportunity to purchase Ron Brown's books, reminiscent of his presentation and Ontario's early days.



Thank you, Ron. Now that you are a member of the BHS, we hope to see you at future meetings! BHS Kudos to Fortinos for supplying refreshments.

On February 21, the Heritage Complex celebrated Heritage Week. BHS representatives were able to celebrate with fellow Bramptonians, answer questions about our Society, and encourage new memberships in a social environment. Friendly gatherings, whether special events or farmers' markets, allow us to present the BHS informally and encourage a positive response from those who talk with us.

On Thursday, March 18, the BHS presents INTRODUCTION TO BRAMPTON. The evening will be an opportunity to learn about Brampton and the BHS. "Old timers" will enjoy revisiting and reminiscing about the good times, while newcomers will see the past come alive. A slide presentation/talk and social time with refreshments will be featured. Come one and all - you are sure to make a new friend or meet an old one! Heritage Complex, 9 Wellington St. E., 2nd Floor 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$5 for guests of members.

On Thursday, April 15, there will be a General Meeting for members of the BHS. Heritage Complex, 9 Wellington St. E., 2nd Floor 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. \$5 for guests of members.

THE WINDOWS OF HISTORY: BRAMPTON'S MUSEUMS

The Peel Heritage Complex
9 Wellington St. E., Brampton
Phone 905.451.9051

The Peel Heritage Complex, through its member institutions (Art Gallery of Peel, Region of Peel Museum, and the Region of Peel Archives) collects exhibits and researches Peel's cultural heritage,

The exhibitions at the Complex change to offer new and inspiring ways to enable us to learn about Peel's history.

March Break For Families (15th to 19th) includes classes for children and fun learning experiences for all.

From April 15th to May 30th, the 26th Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts features the work of many artists from the Region of Peel.

The Lorne Scots Regimental Museum
48 John St., Brampton
Phone 905.451.5724

The Lorne Scots Regimental Museum displays items of historical importance. The collection of military artifacts relates mostly to The Lorne Scots, a regiment representing Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regions. The artifacts include uniforms, equipment, weapons, photographs, military maps, badges, and medals.

The Lorne Scots is one of the oldest infantry regiments in Canada, tracing its history back to the 1790's, when the first Militia was raised in what was then the British Colony of Upper Canada. They were part of the Sedentary Militia which was formed to protect the young colony.

In the War of 1812, the flank companies of the Sedentary Militia were called out to help defend their homes against the American invaders and served with General Brock at Queenston Heights, Lundy's Lane and the capture of Detroit.

You can find out more details of the fascinating history of The Lorne Scots Regiment by visiting the museum!

Great War Flying Museum
Brampton Airport, 13691 McLaughlin Rd, Brampton
Phone 416.232.0438

Currently five flying machines are undergoing winter maintenance in preparation for the hangar opening on May 5th. There is a sixth open-cockpit biplane which is used for public rides at a nominal cost.

WHO'S WHO

BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1999 EXECUTIVE

President: MICHAEL SEAMAN, a native of England and Brampton resident for 23 years, has been active for the past 10 years in many heritage initiatives. As a member of the Brampton Heritage Board, he completed the Brampton Inventory of Heritage Resources, headed the 'SOS' station committee and served as host, writer and researcher for BRAMPTON: MEMORIES OF A SMALL TOWN, a Rogers Cable TV series. In his professional life, Michael has put his two degrees in Urban Planning and Heritage Conservation to good use as Planner: Heritage and Conservation with the Town of Markham. In spare time, he likes to travel and plays soccer in the Brampton men's league.

Past President: PAUL HUNT is a west end Toronto native who has resided in Brampton for over 20 years in his century home. Besides golfing, wind-surfing, skiing and work, Paul is interested in historical buildings and events that shape our community.

Vice President: HEATHER GUNTER has nearly always lived and worked in the Brampton area. Currently employed at Woodhall Park Retirement Village, she has an appreciation of our senior citizens, their struggles and stories of an earlier Brampton. Her photography provides us with a record of Train Station changes and the BHS history. Heather enjoys clogging and is currently studying at Humber College.

Treasurer: GERRY CLARKSON is a third generation Peel County resident. Gerry became "hooked" on history at Central Peel High School and has followed various historical pursuits ever since. As a member of the Train Station Crew, he helped put the parts into dry storage last fall. In his leisure time, Gerry enjoys snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

Recording Secretary: ANGIE DUCHESNE was born in Toronto, raised in Mississauga and has settled in Brampton. With an interest in architecture, news of the fight to save the historic CPR station sparked a desire to get involved with the BHS.

Corresponding Secretary: PETER MURPHY hails from Britain. With a long-standing interest in local historical matters, he became personally involved in saving the beautiful old trees along Wellington Street. Shortly after purchasing his post WWI home in 1972 he was angered to learn the street was to be widened and trees were threatened. Peter is an active member of the Brampton Rugby Club.

The interests and talents of our BHS executive are reflected in YOU, our members. We invite you to become involved with our many committees. Invest in our future as we restore our past.



Paul Hunt with members Denyse Churchill and Susan Barnes

READ ALL ABOUT IT

DIRECTORY FOR COUNTY OF PEEL 1873-1874, published by John Lynch, first reeve of the village of Brampton, consisted of "the names of all persons on the assessment rolls for 1873 in the townships and villages in Peel County." It was of value for "counting houses and other offices". The Brampton Public Library Board published a section of the Directory as a centennial project in 1973.

Recently, a complete reprint of the Directory has been published by the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society. It is of value and interest to a history "buff". In addition to names, there are typical advertisements of the day, and first-hand descriptions of Brampton and its surroundings.

The 1998 reprint may be purchased for \$12.00 from the Peel Heritage Complex Gift Shop. For phone orders call Jane Watt at 905.813.7977.

BHS KUDOS to Halton-Peel Branch OGS for helping us conserve our historical treasures!

WHERE IN THE WORLD???



This photo was taken in Brampton. Where? Send your guesses to Buffy's Corner for bragging rights next issue!

IN THE KNOW

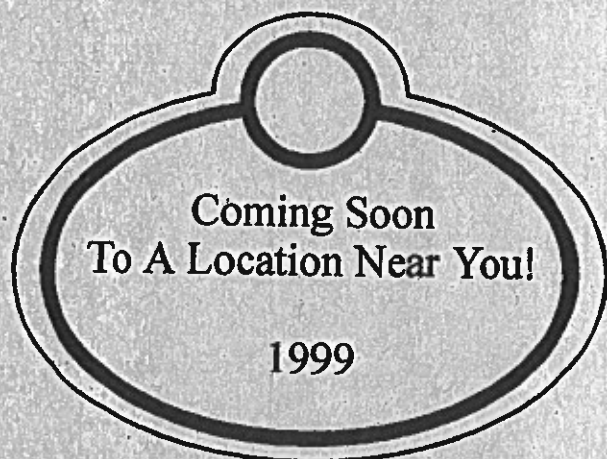
From Prominence to Plaque

The 1974 Ontario Heritage Act allows municipalities to identify and protect their heritage buildings and resources. Municipalities have Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees (LACAC) to advise them on heritage matters and properties that are potential heritage resources worthy of designation. In 1976, the Brampton LACAC took the name "Brampton Heritage Board".

Designation is a legal process which the municipality initiates to protect a building, cemetery or area by delaying permits for demolition or alterations which allows time for negotiation with the owner. Designation can be obtained without owner consent. However, Brampton does not typically do this, resulting in treasures such as the McKillop Home being demolished.

Under Part IV of the Heritage Act we have 27 designated properties, including the Churchville Cemetery, the Dominion Building and St. Paul's Church. Under Part V of the Heritage Act, special areas can be designated as Heritage Conservation Districts, for example Churchville Village. These Districts are guided by plans which identify significant buildings, roads, natural features, etc. which are worthy of preservation.

A municipality may apply for special legislation from the Province to delay demolition permits until a building permit is issued. A number of municipalities have done this, including Oakville, Mississauga, Markham, Toronto. Brampton has never applied for this legislation.



A more airtight method of protecting a heritage property is through a Heritage Easement which requires the owner to maintain a building and consent of the municipality before demolition can proceed. In many other municipalities Heritage Easements can be negotiated with developers as part

of the subdivision, consent or site plan agreement process.

A key flaw in the Act is that it leaves the final decision-making powers up to municipal councils. When a council is not sympathetic to heritage, it is nearly impossible to achieve heritage preservation.

One of the roles of a LACAC is to review and make recommendations on alterations to designated and listed buildings. The Heritage Theatre is a listed property. The City would have been required to agree to its Heritage Committee reviewing the proposed alterations.

Two advantages of designation are a cast metal plaque outlining the history of the building and one day free Provincial Technical Consulting Service regarding restoration. The City provides the Heritage Board enough money to designate only one property per year in its budget.

In 1993 and 1994 an inventory was completed of 1000 properties with known historical, architectural and contextual data, which was narrowed to 300 as instructed by the City. Public notice is required when the City intends to designate a property; notice is not required for listing 300 properties on an inventory. However, the City chose to notify every property owner that they were going to be listed. Many property owners did not understand the inventory concept, and their lobbying resulted in the inventory not being officially endorsed by the City. Clearly there is much confusion and misdirected apathy surrounding our heritage properties and the laws designed to protect them.

The Brampton Womens' Building and the McKillop Home have never been designated under the Act. Council's consent would have been needed for that to happen. Therefore, there is no plaque marking their significance. Gone and forgotten. As a Brampton resident and member of the BHS, where do you stand on this issue?

DID YOU KNOW ...

Member Leona Piercey answered our query, "How Many Mayors Followed John Haggert, Our First Mayor?"

Leona found the answer in BRAMPTON'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY 1873-1973, when telling her grandchild about the early days. Yes, Leona, 36 mayors to 1973, making 39 till now. Thanks for your interest and sharing!

Leona is the granddaughter of William Fendley, one of the Brampton pioneers in the florist business.

THE WALLS COME TUMBLING DOWN

Report from the Brampton Heritage Board

MCCLURE- HUNTER-ARCHDEKIN HOME IN JEOPARDY



Pleasant Mount Farm, 1120 Highway #7, consists of two historic homes and a barn. The McClure-Hunter-Archdekin home pictured above was built in 1857 by Joseph Hunter with brick made from the clay on the property. In later years it was owned by the Archdekin and McClure families. An outstanding example of a Georgian-Neo-Classical style farmhouse, this home is a tangible reminder of our agricultural heritage. The historic barn is being demolished at the present time. The present owner, Mattamy Homes, does not wish to incorporate the house into the plan of their subdivision, Fletcher's Meadow. The City has chosen not to negotiate with the Developers as is done successfully in other municipalities, but has agreed to advertise to determine interest in a possible relocation of the house. There will be an public open house on March 6, 1999.

Since the subdivision approval process does provide an opportunity for public comment, a letter has been sent to the Commissioner of Planning for the City of Brampton, on behalf of the Brampton Historical Society. The letter expressed strong opposition to any proposal which would result in the demolition of the historic home. Significance of the home and the possibility of including heritage houses within new subdivisions, as other GTA municipalities do, was pointed out to the City.



The house pictured above is the William Hunter home, built c. 1872. The current owner, Ozner Corporation, does not want to accommodate the house within the plan of the subdivision.

It is an excellent example of the Gothic Revival style of architecture.

Both homes have experienced changes and neglect in recent times.

Relocation diminishes the historical value of buildings; it is a last resort after all other options to retain the home in its original environment have been legitimately explored and exhausted.

A future option could be to anticipate developments and accommodate the preservation of historical landmarks.

ENJOYING OURSELVES ON THE VERANDA, JULY 1875

I sat me down
 In thought profound
 This maxim wise I drew
 T'is easier to love a girl
 Than make a girl love you.

In 1982, a Brampton Heritage Board Research student, in an examination of the exterior of the Joseph Hunter home, came across the above-verse.

.....

Application for membership in the BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY for the 1999 calendar year:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Additional Family Members: _____

Signature: _____

I enclose a membership fee of \$20.00 per household _____

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

Please mail cheque or money order to:
 Brampton Historical Society
 c/o Deryse Churchill, 85 Wellington St. East
 Brampton, ON L6W 1Y6