

# Brampton Historical Society

## “History In The Making”

Celebrate and Conserve  
Brampton's History and Architecture



First General Meeting in January, 1999

Time, Place and Speaker: to be announced

Brampton Historical Society

Interim Executive

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Recording Secretary</u>	<u>Legal Advisor</u>
Paul Hunt	Tricia Carlos	Bruce Marshall	Paul Willoughby	Mel Watson

Interim Committees

<u>Constitution Committee</u>	<u>Financial Committee</u>	<u>Architectural Committee</u>	<u>Liaison* Committee</u>
Paul Hunt Anne Phillips Paul Willoughby	Denyse Churchill Heather Gunter Bruce Marshall	Michael Avis Gerry Clarkson	Susan Barnes Tricia Carlos Denyse Churchill Angela Duchesne Dorothy Willis

\* Publicity, Membership, Newsletter, Programme / Special Events, Outreach

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN**

An old proverb says, "If you plan for a year, plant rice. If you plan for 10 years, plant trees. If you plan for 100 years, educate."

It is my sincere desire that the Brampton Historical Society will fulfill the latter of these three premises. There has been somewhat of a drought in this area for years when it comes to the newest citizens of the area knowing much about the past of their immediate surroundings. Anything that we can do to correct this situation will ultimately serve to enrich the lives of everyone who we touch.

I would request that everyone who reads this letter, would get involved in some way, no matter how small or insignificant it seems to be. We need people who are willing to learn, as well as those who are able to instruct, and volunteers for many activities that our committees have and will be planning. Your help will become evident over time as more and more of our neighbours become aware of the Society and the work it is doing.

The education of our community about their rich heritage is our top priority. Have fun! Get involved! Your life could be a richer experience by joining the Society.

*Paul Hunt*

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## THE FOUNDING OF BRAMPTON

Chinguacousy Township, part of the Mississauga Indian tract, was surveyed in 1819. John Elliot, John Scott and William Buffy were early settlers of a crossroads hamlet that was first known as Buffy's Corners. About 1834 Elliott laid out a village plot and in 1837, according to Mr. Walton's Directory of Brampton, the number on the assessment roll for the limits of Brampton was eighteen. Elliot and William Lawson who were natives of Brampton, England were influential in naming the village which was incorporated in 1853. They helped establish a Primitive Methodist congregation. The coming of the Grand Trunk Railway in 1856 was a boom for Brampton's economy. A foundry was established in 1849 and a horticultural business began in 1860.

## THE FOUNDING OF THE BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The inspiration for our new Brampton Historical Society hit when a group of concerned history enthusiasts, headed by Paul Hunt, rallied to save the Brampton C.P. railway station from extinction. The dedicated citizens painstakingly dismantled and documented the parts of the station which are now resting in dry storage at Bob Crawford's Pine Valley Farms on Highway 7 in Norval. When and where restoration of the station will take place, enabling it to become a Brampton landmark, is still undetermined.

Many people began to wonder if the once rich and significant historical past of Brampton was destined for demolition. Were Brampton's buildings, artifacts and memories disappearing, being buried and forgotten? Were other communities finding similar situations? There were historical societies in other communities.

Paul Hunt was encouraged to call for support from the Brampton community. On October 1, 1998 the inaugural meeting of the Brampton Historical Society was held. Rowena Cooper from the Ontario Historical Society spoke to approximately 30 interested people attending. Two further planning meetings followed on October 15 and 29. It is evident that not only is there support; there is enthusiasm to understand and preserve our local history. An interim executive has been elected and committees formed. Twenty-one paid memberships by the end of October, hopefully, to be tripled by the end of January!

"The modern world abridges all historical times as readily as it reduces space."  
Marshall McLuhan      Culture Without Literacy      1953



## IN THE KNOW

### DID YOU KNOW ...

John Haggert was the first mayor of Brampton.

### DO YOU KNOW ...

How many mayors have followed John Haggert?

### DID YOU KNOW ...

“Lacrosse in Brampton had its origin in the high school where a teacher George M. Lee introduced the game. The first stick came to Brampton in 1871. Between 1871 and 1875 lacrosse was the principle athletic attraction. The name “Excelsior” proposed by Mr. Lee and chosen by the club was taken from Longfellow’s poem of that title; Excelsior meaning more lofty, still higher, ever upwards. In Brampton, lacrosse is in the blood. For generation after generation sons have succeeded fathers on championship teams.”

From: “Sports - Sportsmen & Women; Brampton - Bountifully Blessed”

Town of Brampton’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Author: Ken Giles

### DO YOU HAVE ...

A favourite personal memory about the Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse team?

### DID YOU KNOW ...

The building known as the ‘Doctor’s House’ at Black Creek Pioneer Village is really William James’ 1840 log home from early Brampton? In the 1970’s thanks to Russell Cooper, curator of the village and successful negotiations with Bramalea Limited and Chinguacousy Township, the house was saved and is a part of an important, popular pioneer village.

### DO YOU KNOW ...

A Brampton area building that has been saved from extinction and restored as a treasure from our past?

YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE WITH US YOUR KNOWLEDGE, ANECDOTES,  
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Send contributions to the Brampton Historical Society Newsletter

c/o Dorothy Willis

#305 8 Lisa Street

Brampton, Ontario

L6T 4S6

BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORY

BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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85 Wellington Street East,  
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Telephone: 905-457-4365  
E-mail: bhs1998@hotmail.com

PAUL HUNT PRESIDENT BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

17 Murray Street,  
Brampton, Ontario  
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Telephone: 905-451-8301

REGION OF PEEL MUSEUM

9 Wellington Street East  
Brampton, Ontario  
L6W 1Y1  
Telephone: 905-451-9051  
Fax: 905-451-4931  
E-mail: somersd@region.peel.on.ca  
URL: <http://www.region.peel.on.ca/heritage/museum.html>

Collection: 1800-1980 time period, featuring Peel artifacts, history collection including farming and occupational tools, textiles lighting, First Nations, and Peel business related artifacts. Heritage Complex comprises an Archives and Art Gallery.



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 family

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

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