BUFFY'S CORNER

Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE Brampton Historical Society

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Native Beadwork Display page 3



The Brampton Connection

From the early years of settlement residents of Brampton and Norval have had a strong social, professional and cultural connection . . . During the 1920's and 30's Lucy Maud Montgomery . . . was among them page 4

Antique Glass

The earliest known Canadian glass works was a small local factory in Mallorytown,



Ontario (1825 - 1839). The factory produced free-blown glass containers in a unique aquarine colour with a lily-pad decoration.

... page 5

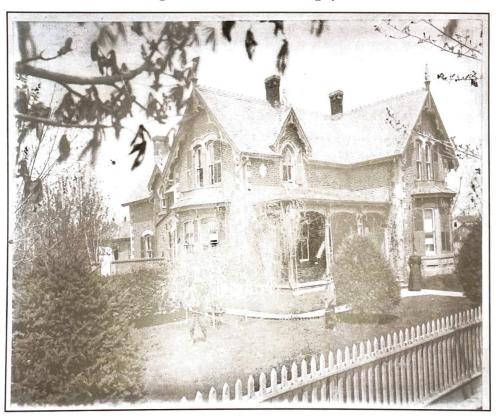
The photograph was given to an antiques dealer, who graciously gave it to archivist Diane Allengame at the King City Antique Show several weeks ago.

Diane says photographs like this come across her desk often, and learning how to glean information from a photograph can help in its identification. Here are the results of Diane's initial examination:

- Checked the front and back of the image for any identification, photographer's imprint. This image does not have an imprint, therefore probably not the work of a local professional photographer. Could be an amateur print, although of such quality that it was probably the work of an itinerant photographer who went from door to door. The back of the image says "Brampton House, 1888" in pencil. The handwriting appears to be old.
- 2. Examined the photograph with a magnifying glass, sweeping from left to right, top to bottom, making note of details. There is no inscription in the date stone on the house. This is unusual. If the house is still standing, the presence of this crest shaped stone would be a dead giveaway. The photo was taken in the spring, at midday (leaves are not fully out and the shadows are short). The house is completely finished, the landscaping complete, grass growing.

A Mystery Photograph

Here we present to the BHS a photograph of an unidentified Brampton house and family – and hope that someone might be able to help fill in the blanks.



The whereabouts or status of the house in this photo is currently a mystery. If you know the current street address or have any other information about it, let us know. You could win a package of artefact note cards from the Peel Heritage Complex.

continued on page 3

President's Message

- Peter Murphy, BHS President On April 27th. 2006 the Peel Heritage Complex staged its first Peel Region Heritage Fair under the auspices of the Historica Foundation.

Sixty pupils, ranging from Grade 5 to Grade 8, from elementary schools within the Peel District School Board entered exhibits into the fair to be judged by some twenty individuals from across the Region of Peel. The judges were drawn from members of the P.H.C. Advisory Board, Region of Peel employees and community volunteers. The eight hour event was skilfully managed and co-ordinated by Alicia Mitchell and Josie Premzell from the Complex.

As one of the judges I had the pleasure of being teamed up with Sharon McBride who was representing the local Metis community.

The projects, which ranged from themes relating to the aboriginal peoples through to the War of 1812 and on to the Halifax Explosion and into family histories of recent immigrants, were displayed in the





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

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

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

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Corresponding Secretary	. Carolyn Tout
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Director at Large	
Director at Large	
For more information visit	
www.bramptonhistoricalsocie	ty.com

Council Chamber of the old Peel County Courthouse. While it was a bit congested, it was humming with activity for the whole day as the teams of judges discussed the various displays with their creators.

At the end of what seemed a long day the judges gathered together to select fourteen prize winners. The top prize was a referral forward to the National Historica Fair to be held in Halifax later this summer and three of the other highest scoring exhibits were advanced to the Provincial finals.

In addition, three Hon. Laurier LaPierre medals were awarded along with prizes for various themes from the Hudson Bay Company, Royal Bank, Canadian Pacific, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Archives of Ontario, National Heritage Books Toronto and Redpath Sugar.

My favourite participant was Taneeta Doma, a Grade 5 pupil at Brampton's Homestead Public School. Her subject was Canada's Parliament. It featured a model of the Parliament Buildings along with copious notes describing the history and business of this venerable institution. For such a young girl who has never been to Ottawa she demonstrated a remarkable knowledge of the workings of the Commons and the Senate as well as the role of the Speaker. I also got a lesson on the Peace Tower gargoyles and how they are not to be confused with one's school principal!

I think I shall volunteer again next year: there is so much to be learnt. �

BUFFY'S CORNER

Volunteer Opportunity

The Brampton Historical Society and Buffy's Corner are currently looking to fill the position of:

Editor for Buffy's Corner

- requires writing and editing skills
- approx. 10 15 hours per issue
- published 4 times per year

For more information please contact Peter Murphy at 905-457-0058 or Dawn Friesen at 905-456-1963.

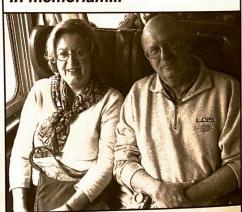
Paul Hunt Bursary

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

Applications are to be made in writing to the BHS on or before October 1st in the year the bursary is awarded. The application must include the student's name, address and school attended along with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two references, one of whom must be a member of the teaching staff of the student's high school. Accompanying the application and required proof of acceptance into post-secondary institution must be a 250 word submission outlining the student's interest in Canadian history and their career aspirations. Applications will be reviewed by the BHS executive who will select, by a majority vote, to award one, two or no busaries based on the merit of the applications.

For more information visit www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com *

In memoriam...



Gail and Ron Raffan on the BHS train trip in October 2004.

It is with profound sadness that we must announce the sudden passing of Gail Raffan on Saturday, May 13th.

Gail, wife of BHS Executive Board Treasurer Ron Raffan and mother of Geoff and Jennifer will be sadly missed.

Along with his many friends, all members of the Brampton Historical Society extend their sincere condolences to Ron and his family.

Native Beadwork Display at Historic Bovaird House

First time in Brampton! A private collection of Native arts is coming to Historic Bovaird House. Opening in conjunction with **Doors Open Brampton** on June 10th the exhibit will be featured

at the House until August 30. Everyone is urged to take this opportunity to enjoy this thought-provoking and artistically distinctive exhibition and at the same time learn a little more of our local history as it relates to our First Nations people. It is a period in Canadian history that is sadly too often overlooked.

Naomi Smith, herself a First Nations artisan and recognized authority on the Woodlands flat and Iroquois raised beadwork techniques, will be on hand to welcome you and talk about the collection and answer any questions.

See the Historic Bovaird House Ad on page 7 for our address and hours.

At the time of contact with Europeans the economies of the Native people of the Northeast – including what is now the Region of Peel – were based on the use of land to provide food and materials necessary to flourish. Some groups also used agricultural practices to supplement these natural resources.

The St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes facilitated vast systems of trade extending over a huge geographic area throughout the Northeast for thousands of years. Contact with Europeans resulted in an almost immediate change to this economy.

With their desire to acquire land, maximize the use of the environment, and subsequently subdueing the Native people the new settlers would have a devastating effect on the First Nation peoples and their culture.

In the early years of the souvenir trade objects were acquired by soldiers and

Mystery House - continued from page 1

The bay windows and gothic shaped second story windows are hallmarks of the style known as Ontario Gothic, very popular from the late 1860s into the mid 1880s. The house presents its wide façade to the street, indicating a wide lot or corner lot.

 Note the details of any people in the image. There are three people in the image, a woman and two young men explorers, mostly men, and were primarily articles of Native manufacture for Native use. Many areas of North America had captured the European imagination and the time had come to provide objects to suit the tastes of American and European women visiting as tourists.

From the earliest contact, European visitors had an interest in acquiring something native as a souvenir or momento of North America. Inasmuch as trade was an established way of life for the Native people, accommodating this new reality was not difficult to accept.

The dawn of the 19th century would see the loss of Native lands. The ability to exist on the natural earth was all but gone and due to changing tastes and the shortsighted exploitation of fur bearing animals, the fur trade was no longer lucrative. Because of these new realities, the production of souvenir art became an important commodity in the Native economies. Objects produced to appeal to

with lacrosse sticks. If the photo was taken at mid day the husband/father figure might be at work.

Next steps in the investigation:

The dealer said he thought he remembered that one of the family names connected to the image was Sutcliffe. Records show that the Sutcliffe family operated a store on Main Street. During the next month, we will examine assessment records to determine where the Sutcliffe's lived and see what other archival records exist to



Western tastes and demands were often made from the beads and cloth acquired by Western trade. Colourful, intricately made objects for the Victorian parlour such as beaded picture frames, purses, wall pockets and even articles of clothing, accessories and footwear became immensely popular. The souvenir arts of North America attests to the adaptability and ingenuity of Native people in accommodating the changes and new demands they experienced.

Michael Avis, BHS Heritage Liaison The editor gratefully acknowledges the assistance of N. Smith and F. Bergevin Beadwork photos this page, page 1 & page 8 are courtesy Naomi Smith.

help us possibly identify the house definitively.

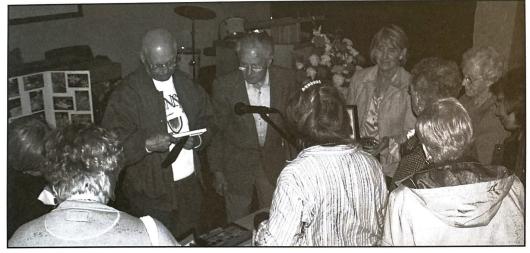
If you can beat us to the punch and correctly identify the image (bonus marks if you can give us the current street address) you will win a package of artifact note cards from the Peel Heritage Complex. Good luck! �

Information as to the identity of the house should be directed to: Diane Allengame, Senior Archivist, Region of Peel Archives – 905-791-4055.

The Brampton Connection

An interesting idea promotes the saving of the Brampton CPR Station.

Excerpted from a presentation by Kathy Gastle at the BHS meeting in May 2006 – photos by Dawn Friesen



BHS members peruse artifacts related to the 9 years Lucy Maud Montgomery lived in Norval and visited Brampton.



Kathy Gastle and Lucy Maud Montgomery's 4th journal.

many tourists throughout the summer and even in the winter tourists are seen to drive by the gardens as well as the church and manse where

From the early years of settlement residents of Brampton and Norval have had a strong social, professional and cultural connection. Norval folk peddled their wares at the Brampton markets and Bramptonians often ventured to Norval – no doubt a little more frequently during the years when Brampton was a dry community and Norval was not.

During the 1920's and 30's Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of Anne of Green Gables, was among them. Along with her husband Chester, the local minister, she called Norval home for nine years. During this time Lucy Maud Montgomery spent considerable time in Brampton shopping, attending the theatre and was a member of the Brampton Literary and Travel Society for the entire nine years.

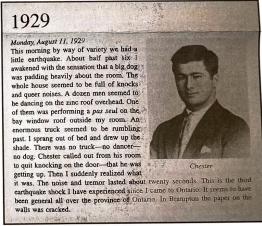
Lucy Maud Montgomery was a prolific writer. She wrote 22 novels, 400 poems, a book of poetry and many short stories, some of which are still turning up from the archives of magazines and publications worldwide where she had submitted them to. She also kept a daily journal from the time she was 9 years old and was an avid photographer, generating a collection of literally 1000's of photographs. Not surprisingly she is considered to be one of Canada's best amateur historians during this time. Her late son decided these journals, along with many other artifacts, books and photos should be kept at the University of Guelph archives. The

journals have since been published. The fourth journal to be published covers the time she spent in Norval and Brampton. There are 23 passages in this journal which mention people and places in Brampton with the first reference taking place on page 1.

"Monday, August 11, 1929

This morning by way of variety we had a little earthquake... The noise and tremor lasted about twenty seconds. This is the third earthquake shock I have experienced since I came to Ontario. It seems to have been general all over the province of Ontario. In Brampton the paper on the walls was cracked."

The Norval Heritage Society (NHS) has created a theme heritage garden (Lucy Maud Montgomery was an avid gardener) located on Highway 7 just east of the hill into Georgetown. The gardens attract



Lucy Maud Montgomery's fourth journal contains 23 references to Brampton beginning with this entry on page 1.

the CPR Station (a station which Lucy Maud Montgomery would have used often) on the city owned property located at 2719 Bovaird Drive and to create a museum of Brampton history within its walls including the Lucy Maud Montgomery connection.

The NHS is hoping a group such as the BHS (Brampton Historical Society) will take up the torch with the NHS playing a supporting role for this initiative. There has yet to be a response on the proposal made to the BHB.

she lived. The NHS believes that the tourist appetite for all things Lucy Maud Montgomery would welcome a four-season opportunity and recently made a proposal to the Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) to the effect of restoring

A History of Glass

Excerpted from a presentation by Senator Lorna Milne at the BHS meeting in April 2006 – photos by Dawn Friesen

Glass is a naturally occuring substance created from volcanic ash and lava.

The earliest found glass pieces are Phoenician and date from about 3000 BC.

Egyptian vases have also been discoverd from 1400 BC, and Roman shards purchased in Jerusalem, some of which were highly intricate, amazingly have survived for over 2000 years. The art was then lost for a millennium.

Glass making was rediscovered in Bohemia in the Czech Republic about 1200 AD. At the time Forest glass, named after its pale green colour, was very common. Current students at Prague university begin by blowing reproductions of Forest Glass. Czech



Found glass fashioned into a pendant.

glass and in particular Mozer crystal is now considered the finest and

is the most expensive in the world.

Glass making in North America started in the now "lost" Jamestown, VA in the early 1600s. Until archaeological digs in 1953 it was unknown that glass had also been manufactured in Canada.

The earliest known Canadian glass works was a small local factory in Mallorytown, Ontario (1825 - 1839). The factory produced free-blown glass containers in a unique aquarine colour with a lily-pad decoration.

Hamilton Glass Works (1865 - 1895) produced various containers and glass jars.

Burlington Glass Works (1874 - 1897) was the most prolific early glass works known to date. The site has been excavated several times, the latest in 1969 when 138 new patterns were found. They produced milk or opaque glass and clear glass in almost every colour.



Senator Lorna Milne, who has had a long interest in antique glass and has been a collector for many years, shared her knowledge at the April BHS meeting.

Napanee Glass Works (1881 - 1883) produced window glass.

Toronto Glass Co. (1894 - 1883) produced mainly bottles and jars and eventually became the Toronto branch of the Dominion Glass Company.



A sample of a Forest Green glass goblet.

An excellent example of frosted glass – a bust of Canada's first Governor General.

Sydenham Glass Co., Wallaceburg (1895 -1913) was one of several glass companies which located in the Port Colborne and Kingsville area due to the availability of natural gas.

Most early glass companies located either near a source of silica sand or cheap energy. Now, since transport has become faster and cheaper, they locate nearer to their markets, the big cities, or to the centres of transportation.

The Jefferson Glass Co., Toronto (1913 -1925) was another prolific producer of collectible glass including one of the most expensive patterns "Rayed Heart". They also produced the major part of all lamps and lighting equipment of the period. Typical of many Canadian glass houses the Jefferson Glass Co. put out many unillustrated catalogues in which patterns were described only by numbers – these patterns have never been identified. Many of the early glass houses were absorbed by the Dominion Glass Co. including the Toronto Glass Co., Sydenham Glass Co. and the Jefferson Glass Co.

There were also glass works in Quebec

and Nova Scotia, many of which left no catalogues at all, and housing has since been built over many of the sites so no excavation is possible. These include: Ottawa Glass Works, Como (1847 - unknown), made the first window glass in Canada.

Canada Glass House, Hudson (1865 - 1875), made druggist bottles and insulators.

Foster Bros. Glass Works, St. John's (1855 - 1875) was the parent of the Dominion Glass Co. The brothers came

to Canada from the USA which was typical of glass workers who migrated back and forth across the border in a truly integrated North American market during the 1800s. They made goblets, insulators and containers.

St. Lawrence Glass Co., Montreal (1867 - 1875) very prolific – no patterns have yet been identified.

Excelsior Glass Co., St. John's and then Montreal (1878 - 1880) known for the beaver goblet, the most collected Canadian glass piece, was a plain goblet with a small beaver pattern.

St. John's Glass Co. (1875 - 1878) products unknown.

Notice something? Why were they all so short-lived? A combination of extremely high temperatures and combustible materials – they nearly all burned down!

BHS 7th Annual General Meeting – March 2006

The membership was well represented when President Peter Murphy called the 7th Annual General Meeting to order at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church on the evening of March 16th. 2006.

At that juncture, no one present could have possibly foreseen the rancour and discord that would follow in the wake of this meeting – to the extent that the future of the Society was in dire jeopardy.

The meeting followed its usual course with the various executive members presenting their reports, all of which were warmly received by the members.

Following this came the report of the Nominations Committee. Director-at-Large, Linda Selkirk, had volunteered to act as the Nominations Committee and was its only member. To her credit she had prepared a full slate of twelve candidates to serve on the new Executive – unfortunately the incumbent Executive had not been made privy as to who the candidates were.

It quickly became evident that two of the nominees were not members of B.H.S. and it was confirmed by two executive members that one of the two had been approached to represent the City on the Executive. Such a notion, it was pointed out, was completely antithetical to the genesis and mandate of the Society to act as an independent advocacy group.

To further complicate the matter a current member of the Executive, Gloria Berger, was excluded from the list of twelve. This was resolved with a nomination from the floor for her to continue to sit as a Director.

With the slate now up to thirteen an election was required and called for by the Acting Chairperson. However, this was over-ruled by Ms. Selkirk who announced that all thirteen were acclaimed to office.

The Annual Meeting closed in the customary manner with the passing of resolutions to reappoint Colin Campbell and Don Chapski as the Society's legal counsel and accountant respectively.

In the days that followed, the acrimony and disagreement between various individuals over the perceived constitutional and procedural irregularities gave rise to the involvement of officials from both the Ontario Historical Society and the Ontario Ministry of Culture. Although neither organization's representatives actually met with the Society's Executive, we were left in no doubt that our annual heritage administration grant was in jeopardy if the various disputes were not promptly resolved.

The eventual fall-out resulted in a number of resignations from the Executive. Two new Directors, Cathy Willoughby and Steve Collie, have been recruited to serve on the reconstituted Executive.

The B.H.S. Execut	ive for 2006-2007:
President:	Peter Murphy
Vice-President:	Michael Avis
Treasurer:	Ron Raffan
Recording Secretary:	Paul Willoughby
Corresponding	
Secretary:	Carolyn Tout
Membership:	Cathy Willoughby
Directors at Large:	Gloria Berger Steve Collie

The wheels are now back on the wagon and we are confident in our position to move forward and provide our customary high standard of programmes.

- Peter Murphy, President

Survey Results Are In

Throughout the spring and summer of 2005, members of your executive worked to create the first ever Brampton Historical Society Membership Survey.

Getting what we felt were the right questions and making the survey easy for you to respond to were our prime goals. With some apprehension, the survey was sent out on October 20th to 86 member households and the results were better than we expected. Fortynine surveys were returned to us and from these responses we have been able to institute some changes.

More than half the people responding wanted to receive notification of upcoming meetings by email. We began doing this in January 2006. Despite the proliferation of computers in the world today, over two thirds of the people responding wanted to continue to receive their newsletters by mail instead of electronically. We assumed this would be the result and you confirmed what we expected. We will continue to send the newsletter by regular mail, but it will also be available by email for those who want to get it that way. Just a reminder . . . back copies of the newsletter are available on our website www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

Many of you volunteered to help with refreshments at meetings, to write newsletter articles, to serve on the executive and to help with our outreach activities. We thank you for volunteering and we'll be in touch with you when your help is needed. Your suggestions on how to increase the membership and your suggestions for newsletter articles and program events are greatly appreciated and we will use these as we move forward in our activities this year and in the future.

Finally your kind comments were appreciated. You have affirmed that we are heading in the right direction and your suggestions and comments have provided valuable insight to us so that we can work towards making your Historical Society better for you and others.

If you wish to be notified by email about upcoming meetings, or if you have a great idea that you want to share with the executive of your Society, please see any one of your executive or email us at bramhis@rogers.com

– Ron Raffan

Upcoming Events & Exhibitions

BHS Meetings

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

June 15 at 7:15 pm

American Beadwork & Basketry featuring Naomi Smith

September 21 at 7:15 pm

Ontario School's History Curriculum featuring Laura & Garfield Gini-Newman

October 19 at 7:15 pm

A History of Bramalea featuring Linda Voegtle

Music in the Gazebo

at Historic Bovaird House

Sunday, August 20, 2-4 pm

Bring lawn chairs, blankets and a picnic lunch and enjoy live music.

This is a FREE event, donations to the House are appreciated.



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.

Doors Open Brampton 2006 June 10 & 11 • 10am - 4 pm Visit www.doorsopenbrampton.ca for details or Peel Heritage Complex 905-791-4055.

Brampton Farmers' Market Opening Day is June 17 at 7 am **Events** include:

- The Brampton Heritage Board will be there promoting heritage in Brampton.
- Inzola Pancake Breakfast, 8 am 11 am In support of the Arts in Brampton. In Gage Park.
- Heritage Yard Sale 9 am 12 noon (at the Peel Heritage Complex)
- Walk for the Art of It, 10 am 3 pm FREE guided family walks along the Etobicoke Creek and Downtown Brampton. Walks start at the Peel Heritage Complex. 10:00 am Health Walk 11:30 am Architectural Heritage Walk 1:00 pm Nature Walk

BHS hits the road again!

Saturday, October 14th

with a bus trip to

Dufferin County Museum

followed by

Lunch at Mrs. Mitchell's Restaurant in Violet Hill

Watch this newsletter and the website for details www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com

Historic Boyaird House & Carriage House Craft Shop

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

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

905-874-2804 www.bovairdhouse.ca bovairdhouse@yahoo.ca

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



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

Autumn issue August 1, 2006 Winter issue November 1, 2006

For more information or to submit a story, photograph or idea contact: Dawn Friesen 905-456-1963

Application for Membership in the Brampton Historical Society

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	E-mail:
Additional Household Members:	
Signature:	

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

□ 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.



David O'Hare with his mother Merle O'Hare.



Flutists Yunyou Xu (left) and Anthia Britton (right).



Three generations! . . . from left to right: Cyeira Sparks, Wendy Sparks and Susan Wells

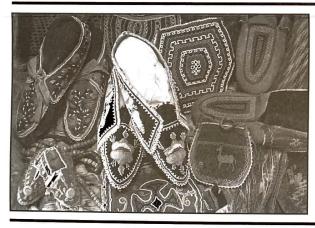
Mothers Day Tea at Historic Bovaird House



From Left: Christopher, Elisa, Helen and Henry Ho.



Left: Nancy Johnston and her mother Shirley Johnston Right: Sharon Wilcox and her mother Betty Wilcox



BUFFY'S CORNER

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

Historic Bovaird House will be featuring a Native Beadwork Display during

Doors Open BRAMPTON June 10 & 11

Native Beadwork Display – see page 3. Doors Open Brampton maps are available at Historic Bovaird House, the Peel Heritage Complex and at various locations around Brampton or visit **www.doorsopenbrampton.ca**