

Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust • Volume 5 Issue 1



An agency of the Government of Ontario

1967-2007 Celebrating 40 years of Conservation

The future of heritage

In this issue

- Celebrating our first Lieutenant-Governor
- Honouring a heritage ambassador
- Carving out a place in our history

February 2007

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A message from The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman



Photo courtesy of Gilbert & Associates, Toronto

1967 marked Canada's centennial. Celebrations rang out across the country to mark this memorable occasion. And people paused to reflect on their history . . . where they came from . . . where they're going.

Throughout 1967, centennial civic improvement projects were launched across Canada – museums, sports complexes, town hall restorations and more. The Ontario Heritage Trust – then the Ontario Heritage Foundation – began in 1967 as the province's heritage agency. Today, 40 years later, the Trust has expanded its role and continues to follow its mandate to identify, preserve, protect and promote heritage for the people of Ontario.

The Trust has developed into an agency that addresses a broad spectrum of heritage-related activities: historic buildings, natural heritage properties, commemorative plaques, archaeological and cultural artifacts and a suite of heritage preservation tools. The Trust has a presence in nearly every

community in Ontario and partners with dozens of historical societies, heritage organizations, conservation authorities and municipalities.

This special 40th anniversary issue of *Heritage Matters* shows you some of the Trust's achievements in heritage conservation. But this is also a time to showcase heritage milestones in your own community. While many communities also celebrate 40th anniversaries this year, as centennial projects come of age, there remain other commemorative dates to recognize and celebrate throughout Ontario – from the oldest building in town, to a plaque commemorating a prehistoric event, to a natural heritage property that preserves a pristine forest and unique habitat. What better time to celebrate than during Ontario Heritage Week.

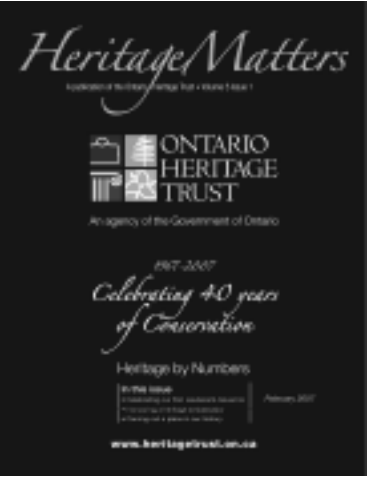
Join us as we celebrate together, as we pause to reflect on our accomplishments, and gather momentum for the future. A great deal has happened in the last 40 years. Together, we can make a difference for the next 40.

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The future of heritage:

The next 40 years

By Richard Moorhouse

With this anniversary, the Ontario Heritage Trust is celebrating its accomplishments while also looking to the future. Preserving our heritage is an ongoing endeavour; the passage of time ensures its continued necessity. Building on the past 40 years, our challenge lies in creating a new culture that integrates conservation into the daily lives of all Ontarians.

In the early days of the conservation movement in Ontario, efforts to preserve our heritage were led by a few dedicated individuals. Gradually the interest spread. The establishment of the Trust (then the Foundation) in 1967 indicated the provincial government's recognition of the growing importance of heritage conservation.



Maintaining balance: The modern architecture of the Toronto-Dominion Centre is part of Ontario's varied architectural heritage.

Since then, the Trust has made great strides. Community partners have worked with us to erect provincial plaques and local markers commemorating significant people, places and events across Ontario. Property owners have demonstrated their commitment to preservation by donating properties or entering into conservation easement agreements to protect cultural and natural heritage sites. Furthermore, many individuals who have become involved in local heritage preservation activities have been celebrated through our volunteer recognition programs. And the general public has shown increasing enthusiasm for heritage, with nearly two million visits made to Doors Open Ontario events over the last five years.

While these and other successes speak to Ontarians' growing interest in heritage, we have yet to see our society truly embrace conservation to the point that it is ingrained in our decision-making and part of our way of life. Yet, the need for a new culture of conservation has never been greater.

Each year, natural landscapes are bulldozed to accommodate urban sprawl and heritage buildings are demolished for new developments. This is not a sustainable course for the future. As the environment deteriorates, resources will become increasingly precious and the proliferation of a conservation ethic will be integral to humanity's survival on Earth.

Conserving heritage buildings for new uses is one way to reduce waste and maximize existing resources – it is a sustainable approach to development. But for adaptive re-use to become standard practice, heritage conservation needs to become a more integrated part of the community planning process.

While our ultimate goal is making preservation the norm and redevelopment the exception, new development need not be sacrificed. It's about striking a balance. The great cities of the world are composites, made up of layers of history. With each generation, another layer is added, the present combining with the past. Maintaining this balance gives character to communities, protects healthy ecosystems, brings context to the lives of residents and adds tremendous value – socially, culturally and economically.

The last 40 years have helped to set the stage for building a conservation mindset in order for us all to realize these benefits. In 2005, conservationists were proud to see tools and new powers established with the amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the new Provincial Policy Statement. If utilized, both will have significant impacts on heritage preservation, essentially creating a new framework for community building.

We now have mechanisms in place to support conservation. But do we have the will to use them? Our farms, places of worship and modernist architecture are the latest wave of heritage resources to face significant changes. If we are successful, however, in creating a new culture of conservation, threats to our heritage will diminish, more sustainable approaches to development will be adopted and vibrant, healthy, prosperous and multifaceted communities can be cultivated. If we set our minds to it, the future of our heritage and the future of society will be bright.

Richard Moorhouse is the Executive Director of the Ontario Heritage Trust.



Doors Open Ontario: Building pride in communities and inspiring the next generation of heritage enthusiasts.

Celebrating 40 years of conservation:
The Ontario Heritage Trust is proud of its achievements over the past 40 years. Here are some key Trust statistics on heritage conservation, preservation and promotion:

- 24 Trust-owned built and cultural heritage sites
- 146 Trust-owned natural heritage properties
- 21,138 catalogued artifacts in the Trust's cultural collections
- 668,313 catalogued artifacts in the Trust's archaeological collections
- 212 heritage conservation easement agreements
- 91 Ontario municipalities with Trust easements
- 1,202 provincial plaques unveiled by the Trust
- 629 local markers funded by the Trust
- 2,400 volunteers recognized through the Trust's Heritage Community Recognition Program
- 2,700 volunteers recognized through the Young Heritage Leaders program

For more information on the Trust's programs and activities, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.



Adaptive re-use in practice: The Ontario Heritage Centre, home of the Trust, opened in 1987 following restoration and rehabilitation of the building into offices and a conference centre.

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

By Beth Anne Mendes

On October 26, 2006, commemorative events were held at Fort York in Toronto and at Wolford Chapel in Devonshire, England to mark the 200th anniversary of the burial of Lieutenant-General John Graves Simcoe. Simcoe (1752-1806) was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada (now Ontario). Although Simcoe's time in Upper Canada was brief, he introduced governance, defence and settlement policies that profoundly influenced the development of the province.

During his term as Lieutenant-Governor (1791-96), Simcoe was responsible for establishing a government in early Ontario and strengthening the new province's defences. During the American Revolution, he had commanded the 1st American Regiment (Queen's Rangers). In 1793, when Britain was at war with France, Simcoe took steps to strengthen the militia and incorporated the Queen's Rangers in many of his defence schemes to defend Upper Canada from the Americans, who had sided with the French. He opened major transportation routes to encourage immigration and settlement, and was instrumental in the founding of the town of York (now Toronto). Simcoe also instituted the gradual abolition of slavery in the province, perhaps his most important achievement as Lieutenant-Governor.

The Ontario Heritage Trust has recognized Simcoe's importance to the heritage of this province by erecting provincial plaques commemorating him at the Ontario Legislature in Toronto, at the house in Exeter, England where Simcoe died, and at Wolford Chapel in Devonshire, England.

In 1784, John Graves Simcoe and his wife, Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillim (1762-1850), purchased a 5,000-acre estate in Devonshire and built Wolford Lodge (which remained in the family until 1923). Wolford Chapel was built on the estate in 1802 for family worship. Simcoe, his wife Elizabeth and six of their 11 children are buried there.

In 1966, Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth, a British publisher, generously donated the chapel and its



Simcoe's headstone located at Wolford Chapel, Devonshire, England.

furnishings to the people of Ontario. The Ontario Heritage Trust (then the Ontario Heritage Foundation) accepted title to the chapel from the John Graves Simcoe Foundation in 1982. Wolford Chapel is the only Trust-owned property outside of Ontario. Since acquiring the site, the Trust has undertaken significant restoration work on the

Richard Moorhouse, Executive Director of the Trust, attended the recent anniversary ceremony at Wolford Chapel and brought greetings on behalf of The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Trust. In his letter, Mr. Alexander aptly summarized Simcoe's contributions to Ontario: "Simcoe put us firmly on a path we still follow. As Ontario's 24th



Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the death of Simcoe at Wolford Chapel, Devonshire, England.

building. The Trust works in partnership with the John Graves Simcoe/Wolford Chapel Committee, a group of dedicated local volunteers who are responsible for the maintenance and promotion of this special site.

Lieutenant-Governor since Confederation, I was proud to follow in his footsteps."

Beth Anne Mendes is the Plaque Program Coordinator for the Ontario Heritage Trust.

ALONG THE OAK RIDGES MORaine TRAIL

By Paula Terpstra



Map courtesy of the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

Hiking along the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail offers a memorable experience. Situated close to the Greater Toronto Area, the Trail provides an opportunity to encounter nature and rejuvenate your physical and mental health.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail follows the Moraine – a prominent ridge of land up to 300 metres high that runs parallel to, and about 60 km north of, Lake Ontario. It extends about 200 km from the Niagara Escarpment in the west to the Trent River in the east.

Several organizations were formed in the late 1980s with the original intent of lobbying for a planning system that would protect the fragile and environmentally significant landform, support a planned recreational trail system and protect the natural environment through strategic land securement. The Province of Ontario, through the 2001 *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act* and the subsequent 2002 Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, has committed to protect the water and natural heritage features of the Moraine. The plan also recognizes existing human activities and associated settlements.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Trail is a continuous footpath of main and side trails extending over 250 km from Palgrave in the west to Gore's Landing on

Linkages with other trail systems in Ontario have already been achieved, including the Bruce Trail, which traverses the Niagara Escarpment and the Ganaraska Trail, west of Rice Lake.

The Ontario Heritage Trust is supportive of efforts being made by organizations associated with the Oak Ridges Moraine to preserve and protect the natural environment while also securing a recreational trail. These include the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) and the Oak Ridges Trail Association (ORTA).

Creating Oak Ridges Moraine partnerships follows in the footsteps of the work the Trust has done to protect land for the Bruce Trail. The Trust, through the *Ontario Heritage Act*, can hold lands for trail purposes or can protect them with conservation or trail easements. Since 1997, the Trust has worked in partnership with the Bruce Trail Association to support the completion of that Trail.

The Trust's Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program, run in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources, provides an additional opportunity for organizations to apply for and receive funding toward the acquisition of significant natural properties, including the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail.

Paula Terpstra is a Natural Heritage Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.



The Trust has also commemorated some of Ontario's historical routes with provincial plaques. These include: the Grand Portage in Thunder Bay, the Great Sauk Trail in Essex County, the Long Point Portage, and the three La Vase (Mud) Portages in North Bay.

Rice Lake in the east. The goal is the eventual extension of the trail as far as Castleton at the eastern edge of the Moraine, to a length of approximately 300 km. The Trail currently exists on public and private lands. Efforts are ongoing to move the Trail off roads and secure it within an optimum corridor area.

EXPLORING COUNTRY HERITAGE PARK

By Kiki Aravopoulos

In March 2006, the Ontario Heritage Trust acquired a cultural conservation easement on Country Heritage Park. Located in Milton, this designed heritage attraction was created to preserve representative forms of rural and agricultural history. With just over 70 structures on the site, the park tells the story of 175 years of rural life and food production in Ontario. Country Heritage Park is a significant property. Forty three heritage resources are protected on site – 39 built structures and four cultural landscapes – the most ever protected in Ontario by a single conservation easement.

Set against the backdrop of the Niagara Escarpment, a world biosphere reserve, Country Heritage Park is also adjacent to the Kelso Conservation Area. The buildings are spread out over 80 acres (32.4 hectares) of pastoral land linked through winding gravel roads and footpaths. The structures protected include: barns, homesteads, steam engines, windmills, a town hall and a church. The site also boasts a rich collection of farm equipment, antique tractors and rural life artifacts.

The buildings range from simple rustic structures to modern and more elaborate designs. The oldest structure at the park is the modest Clark-McCleary House – a first-generation pioneer log cabin built around 1830. The Snelgrove Newman Barn's loose log assembly is typical of simple pioneer structures, while the large steel-framed Wachter-Riley Barn is representative of the prefabricated barns common during the 1930s.

None of the heritage resources were built on site. They were moved to the park from their original locations across southern Ontario and arranged as artifacts in a museum-style display by the Ontario Agricultural Museum. Some are clustered to depict streetscapes reminiscent of Ontario's once-common villages and hamlets. The four re-created cultural landscapes also help the visitor understand the character of the historic agricultural traditions.

The Lucas House landscape – featuring three barns, a drive shed, outhouse and various animal sheds spread out over a gently sloping topography and boasting scenic views of the escarpment – is the most complete and picturesque of the protected farmsteads. In the centre of the complex is Lucas House, built circa 1832. Its symmetrical elevations, double-hung windows and large veranda

with gingerbread fretwork and decorative wood columns make it one of the most elaborate structures on the site. It represents the second stage of historic, post-European contact farms in southern Ontario and has been meticulously restored to its mid-19th-century appearance.

Country Heritage Park is a unique experience. It tells the complete story of farm life in Ontario from the beginning of the 19th century to the modern day. This large, diverse and authentic collection of rural and agricultural heritage resources is unmatched in Ontario and rivals any in North America.

Kiki Aravopoulos is the Ontario Heritage Trust's Easement Program Coordinator.

Take a step back in time by exploring Country Heritage Park. For more information, visit www.countryheritagepark.com.



Clark-McCleary House, rear elevation.

MAKING THE GRADE

By Kathryn Dixon



Courtesy of The Chatham Daily News

Mayor Diane Gagner, right, congratulates Shaylynn Wright, 16, the recipient of the 2005 Young Heritage Leader Certificate of Achievement. Wright, a Bothwell resident, has completed more than 140 volunteer hours with various organizations. The Ontario Heritage Trust will also provide her with a scholarship.

Shaylynn Wright is the first recipient of the Young Heritage Leaders scholarship, funded by the Ontario Heritage Trust and program sponsors Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life. This \$2,000 scholarship will be held in trust and paid to her post-secondary education institution of choice upon enrolment.

"It's definitely a great honour," Wright said.

Wright contributed many hours of volunteer service to the Bothwell Zone Historical Society and the Bothwell Oil Museum, designing public programs, recruiting volunteers, assisting with fundraising and promoting

Bothwell's history. She also volunteered with Trans-Canada Trails to help promote a Carolinian forest. The Chatham-Kent municipal council thought this was a remarkable achievement and nominated her for the 2005 Young Heritage Leaders program for her contribution to cultural heritage.

Numerous activities qualify for Young Heritage Leaders recognition: acting as guides and interpreters, compiling history books for publication, designing exhibits and walking tours, fundraising, recruiting volunteers, promoting Franco-Ontarian heritage and rehabilitating natural heritage areas. Historic sites, municipalities, museums and schools benefit from the efforts of these student volunteers. Through the program, municipal councils, regional councils, First Nation band councils, Métis community councils and schools acknowledge youth for their significant contributions to heritage. Since the program began in 2000, over 2,700 young people have been honoured.

"Young people are the heritage champions of the future," said The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander, Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust. "By celebrating Young Heritage Leaders who have demonstrated passion and commitment for preserving our heritage, we encourage youth to support heritage conservation in years to come."

Kathryn Dixon is the Community Liaison Officer with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

By Catherine Axford



Business (Duke of Edinburgh's Award), Assumption University (Windsor) and the North York Symphony. In addition to serving on numerous Boards, Mrs. Farlinger is a member of the Order of Ontario and a recipient of two Queen's medals.

The Chairman is also pleased to announce the appointment of Suzanne McDonald Aziz from London to the Board of Directors. Mrs. Aziz is currently the Executive Director of the Brescia University College Foundation. She has also served on several Boards, including the Stratford Festival, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, the London Regional Children's Museum, the Council for University Affairs and the United Way of London and Middlesex.



Catherine Axford is the Executive Coordinator and Assistant to the Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust.

DOORS OPEN ONTARIO CONTINUES TO GROW

By Michael Sawchuck

What do a former general store in Dryden, a solar-powered laundromat in Toronto and the University of Western Ontario's men's football team locker room all have in common? Beyond being located in Ontario communities, each of these sites was open to the public free of charge as part of Doors Open Ontario 2006.

Doors Open Ontario is a province-wide cultural heritage tourism program coordinated by the Ontario Heritage Trust. It creates access, awareness and excitement about our province's heritage. Each year, communities across Ontario hold Doors Open events on weekends between April and October and open sites of historic, architectural and cultural significance to the public free of charge. Since the program was launched in 2002, over two million visits have been made by heritage enthusiasts to Doors Open Ontario sites.

Doors Open Ontario 2006 featured 45 community events, including 13 new ones. According to feedback from local event organizers, the program continues to boost local economies, elevate civic pride and provide a platform to showcase oral histories and raise heritage conservation issues.

The 2006 season also saw the highest participation of Trust-owned sites. Twelve Trust-owned properties were opened in 2006 during eight Doors Open events. The participation of Barnum House in Grafton (part of Doors Open Cobourg) provided an opportunity for the Trust to reopen the house to the public and discuss plans for its future use.

Doors Open Ontario 2007 – the fifth anniversary of the program – promises to be the most exciting season yet. For more information, visit the Doors Open Ontario website (www.doorsopenontario.on.ca).



**Michael Sawchuck is the
Community Programs Officer
with the Ontario Heritage Trust.**



Doors Open Ontario is a popular heritage touring program for young and old alike.

2 million

JOIN ONTARIO'S ANNUAL HERITAGE WEEK CELEBRATION

By Michael Sawchuck

Heritage Week – an annual celebration of Ontario's rich and diverse heritage – is a week for individuals and communities to reflect on our accomplishments and contemplate the future we would like to build.

In 1974, the Heritage Canada Foundation recognized the importance of heritage and heritage conservation in Canada by naming the third Monday in February as Heritage Day. The Ontario government expanded Heritage Day celebrations in 1985 by designating the entire third week of February as Ontario Heritage Week. Today, the Ontario Heritage Trust takes the lead in coordinating Ontario Heritage Week celebrations.

This year's Heritage Week runs from Monday, February 19 to Sunday, February 25. The theme is Community heritage: Celebrating 40 years of conservation. In 1967, Canada's centennial celebrations provided an opportunity for citizens to reflect on their heritage. The Province of Ontario echoed the spirit of the times with the creation of the Ontario Heritage Foundation – now the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The Trust is launching Heritage Week with a special event at Victoria Hall in Cobourg on Heritage Day. Victoria Hall is a particularly fitting venue to celebrate heritage and conservation in Ontario. As a town hall, Victoria Hall has long been a place where people have assembled to share ideas. As a heritage site, it is representative of the many ways that communities have worked to promote and protect their historic sites and resources. Victoria Hall is recognized as a National Historic Site, commemorated by a provincial plaque, protected by a Trust conservation easement agreement, designated as a heritage site under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and covered by a heritage conservation district under Part V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Also during Heritage Week, heritage groups across the province will be hosting their own local events and celebrations. For many groups, Heritage Week is an important opportunity to celebrate achievements, to recognize the contributions of local volunteers and to build support

for current and future projects. A listing of some of these events is available on the Trust's website (www.heritagetrust.on.ca). They show the breadth of heritage work occurring in communities province-wide.

Heritage is everything we have inherited, that we value and that we wish to preserve for future generations. Our heritage helps us define what we have accomplished. It also shapes who we are and where we are headed as individuals and communities. Heritage Week is an important opportunity to bring people and ideas together to celebrate our past achievements and to contemplate our future.



Victoria Hall, Cobourg.

**Michael Sawchuck is the Community Programs Officer with
the Ontario Heritage Trust.**

HONOURING A HERITAGE AMBASSADOR

By Catherine Axford

Mark May 17, 2007 in your calendar.

On that evening, the Ontario Heritage Trust will formally celebrate two great events – the 40th anniversary of the agency and the 85th birthday of our Chairman, The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander.

The Trust was created with the underlying idea that, as an agency of the government, it would hold properties in trust for the people of Ontario, thereby ensuring the preservation of important parts of our heritage. In return, donors would receive significant tax benefits.

Today, the Trust holds 24 built and cultural heritage sites, 146 significant natural heritage properties comprising 9,747 acres (3,944 hectares), 212 heritage conservation easements on 197 properties, and hundreds of thousands of cultural, archaeological and archival artifacts associated with our properties.

Leading this vibrant, growing, not-for-profit organization is one of Ontario's best-known and loved leaders – The Honourable Lincoln M.

Alexander. Known around the office as “The Boss,” to most Ontarians he is simply “Linc.” Born in Toronto in 1922, he has committed his life to public service: in the Air Force during the Second World War, as an MP, as a United Nations observer, as Chairman of the Workers’ Compensation Board, as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province and currently as Chairman of the Trust and Chancellor of the University of Guelph. He also serves on many public and private boards and as patron of numerous charitable organizations.

In 2007, Linc will celebrate his 85th birthday. To celebrate that milestone – and the 40th anniversary of the Trust – we are planning a gala evening on May 17 at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre in Toronto.

The evening will feature an adventure in “travelling through time,” beverages, hors d’oeuvres, a three-course dinner and superb wines – all presented against a backdrop of vignettes throughout the historic Theatre Centre. The grand finale will be a vaudeville show in the Elgin Theatre. Dress will be “black tie and running shoes” or cocktail dresses (vintage preferred). There will be prizes for the



Send your own birthday wishes to The Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander through our website. Visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca and click on the birthday cake.

hottest running shoes and the best vintage costume. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Lincoln M. Alexander Legacy Fund at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

For ticket information for the Gala, please contact Catherine Axford at 416-314-4903 or Amanda Dench at 416-212-1468.

We hope you will join us for a wonderful evening filled with music, laughter and song, as we wish His Honour many more birthdays – and the Ontario Heritage Trust a bright future.

Catherine Axford is the Executive Coordinator and Assistant to the Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust.

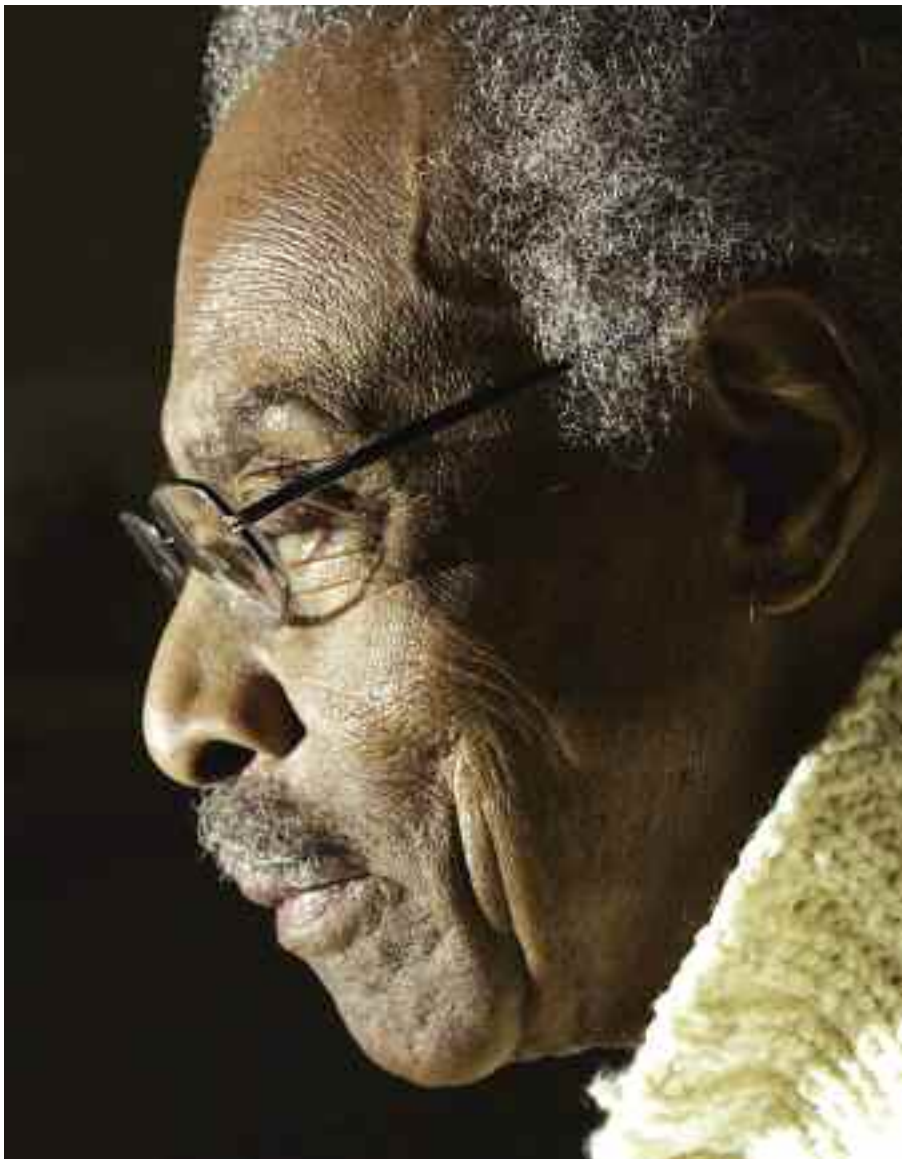


Image courtesy of The Hamilton Spectator.

UNDERGROUND DISCOVERIES

By Dena Doroszenko

In a wooded area near Coldwater, an archaeological site known as Thomson-Walker lies beneath the forest floor. The property on which the site is situated was donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust by Douglas and Margaret Tushingham in part to ensure the preservation of this Huron village dating from AD 1625 to 1635. Archaeological investigations – performed on the site in the 1990s by Dr. Martha Latta of the University of Toronto – uncovered the remnants of several longhouses, middens (privies) and a defensive feature called a palisade.



In August 2006, Dr. Alicia Hawkins operated an undergraduate field school in archaeological methods for Laurentian University, in conjunction with the University of Toronto, on this site. It was during this field school that one of the students uncovered a rare artifact called an offset awl. This artifact is composed of a sharp point metal awl inserted into a small animal leg bone which served as the handle. The awl was used for punching holes in leather.

Awls found on archaeological sites are often manufactured of bone. A ferrous metal awl with a bone handle signifies contact, most likely, with Jesuit missionaries in the area. This rare artifact – dated at approximately 400 years old – is undergoing conservation treatment at Queen's University.

Dena Doroszenko is the Archaeologist with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

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Heritage by numbers

By Gordon Pim

Ontario's heritage is an immense and complex jigsaw puzzle. Every individual element of heritage creates a whole . . . a sort of heritage by numbers. All the bits and pieces fit together to chronicle a history rich with adventure and emblazoned with spirit.

For example, the Trust owns a property in Maitland (near Brockville) called Homewood. This c. 1800 homestead – one of the oldest in Ontario – was built for Loyalist Solomon Jones and was home to the Jones family for six generations. Behind this handsome façade is a collection of furniture, pottery and memorabilia that comprises the museum's exhibits today, and is still relevant in telling this family's remarkable story. Further elements of this tale were discovered in 2000

when 300 children from area schools joined in archaeological digs to uncover over 10,000 artifacts.

Collected anecdotes also enrich a history. And people from our past continue to impact our present. For instance, a provincial plaque at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden, a property owned and operated by the Trust, tells the story of Josiah Henson, an escaped slave and abolitionist who established a settlement in Dresden for a growing black community. The Trust has unveiled provincial plaques to commemorate 16 black heritage subjects – including communities like The Buxton Settlement near Chatham-Kent, burial grounds like the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery in Otterville, and remarkable people like Harriet Tubman, Richard Pierpoint and the "Colored Corps." These plaques help to tell the powerful story of Ontario's black pioneers.

There is further evidence of Ontario's heritage in the natural landscapes that surround us. For example, Ruthven Park National Historic Site in Cayuga (about 30 km south of Hamilton) covers land that was occupied by Aboriginal people from 8000 BC to AD 1000. Today, Ruthven stands as a rare surviving example of that romantic combination of Classical architecture and picturesque landscape that characterized country estates of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Trust holds a conservation



Homewood Museum in Maitland.

easement on both the buildings and the natural elements. Ruthven also has an active archaeology program. Over 30 archaeological sites have been identified. For information on touring this site, visit www.ruthvenpark.ca.

Each element of our heritage accumulates to tell robust tales teaming with the spirit of our forebears. Identifying each element separately has merit – the interpretation of a particular structure will have different significance from the collection housed inside. But analyzing the history as a whole helps us understand better where we come from, and as we discover more, our heritage becomes richer.

Gordon Pim is a Marketing and Communications Coordinator with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Heritage conservation at our front door

By Romas Bubelis and Nick Holman



The term "porte-cochère" has continental flair, though humble origins. In French, it means "carriage door" and originally referred to a covered entryway into a courtyard large enough to admit a horse-drawn carriage. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, the porte-cochère became fashionable and evolved into a porch or portico-like structure, an elaborate architectural element announcing the front door of a public building or private mansion. It is the place where people are brought by chauffeurs, where a vehicle stops only long enough for its occupants to alight sheltered from the elements.

The porte-cochère of Fulford Place in Brockville is a visitor's penultimate destination. After moving through the west stone gates with their elaborate wrought iron work, visitors then follow the serpentine driveway to reach the elliptical arched opening of the porte-cochère, coming to rest before a great pendant lantern. You have arrived!

This porte-cochère is appropriately grand, incorporating a low front wall and corner piers of "Gouverneur" marble supporting a wood cornice and balustrade. Each side has a wide bay for vehicles and a narrower one for pedestrians. Each opening is also spanned by an elliptical wood arch simulating stone. The front elevation features three semi-circular arches supported by four pairs of wood columns with capitals of the Composite order.

In the spring of 2006, the Trust restored the porte-cochère. This work included re-building sections of stonework that had shifted, structural reinforcement of sagging roof framing and the repair and repainting of columns and other wood elements. The column capitals were

the originals, made of a composite plaster material that had weathered badly. The specimen in best condition was used to prepare a mould that was, in turn, used to cast new replacement capitals in a composite plastic material. With the architecture restored, attention turned to the remarkable lantern that illuminates the marble steps of the front door landing.

This lantern resembles a miniature circular temple with heavy translucent glass walls. It stands four feet tall and combines classical architectural elements – fluted pilasters with bases and capitals, acanthus leaves and anthemion – adorning a six-bay, domed circular structure. The form of the lantern is reminiscent of ancient circular temples.

Despite its noble pedigree and unknown origins, this lantern is made of neither stone nor bronze, but of iron. While there are stronger rings, straps and brackets of wrought and cast iron, the decorative sheet-metal is thin and susceptible to rust. Over the years, these adornments had rusted to the point of perforation and even of disappearance. Enough remained, however, that conservation and partial restoration were possible. This was achieved through the generosity of private donors and of the conservator, who conserved the lantern and fabricated various missing elements.

As a result, visitors to Fulford Place may appreciate the restored porte-cochère and lantern as the enlightened results of many centuries of classical European precedent.

Romas Bubelis is an Architect with the Ontario Heritage Trust.
Nick Holman is a Project Manager with the Trust.

Carving out a place in our history

By Wayne Kelly and Steven Cook



Born a slave in Maryland in 1789, Josiah Henson escaped to Canada via the Underground Railroad. Settling in southwestern Ontario, he worked to improve life for the black community and helped to establish the Dawn Settlement. Henson would go on to become an internationally recognized abolitionist, preacher and conductor on the Underground Railroad. His former home is now part of Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden.

Josiah Henson travelled to London, England in 1851 to attend the first World's Fair – also known as the Great Exhibition or Crystal Palace Exhibition. There he exhibited beautifully polished black walnut boards produced at the British American Institute (BAI) sawmill in what is now Dresden, Ontario. Henson wrote about this experience in his 1876 autobiography:

“Among others, the Queen of England, Victoria, preceded by her guide, and attended by her cortège, paused to view me and my property. I uncovered my head and saluted her as respectfully as I could, and she was pleased with perfect grace to return my salutation. “Is he indeed a fugitive slave?” I heard her inquire; and the answer was, “He is indeed, and that is his work.”¹

The boards that Henson displayed at the 1851 World's Fair were produced from walnut trees grown locally on BAI lands. Students from the Institute harvested the timber, milled it into boards and spent hours planing the boards smooth, polishing the rich dark wood to a brilliant lustre. Henson used those beautifully finished seven-by-four-foot boards to demonstrate to the world the talents and abilities of the BAI students. Henson made his point and came home with the bronze medal.

Henson founded the British American Institute with abolitionist Reverend Hiram Wilson and Quaker James Canning Fuller to provide black settlers in southwestern Ontario with educational opportunities and trades training. Henson's revolutionary vision would, he believed, enable the black population to become independent and self-sufficient. It was necessary because African Canadian children in many communities across the province were being barred from the common schools due to racial prejudice.

The BAI opened in 1842 with 12 students, part of a small colony of black settlers living on 300 acres of BAI land. By 1847, the BAI had over 80 students and had cleared almost 100 acres, built seven Institute buildings, opened a brick manufactory and ropewalk or rope-making enterprise using hemp grown on BAI lands. Plans were also underway to build a grist mill and the steam-powered sawmill that produced the award-winning boards Henson exhibited at the 1851 World's Fair.

Today, Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site's museum collection includes two decorative wooden chairs believed to be the work of BAI students and settlers who worked in these enterprises. Although little is known about the chairs' provenance, several similar chairs are known to exist in the Dresden area. One is on display at the Chatham-Kent Museum and a few other examples are privately owned.

Each of the chairs is unique and reveals the individual craftsman's hand in the work. The chairs were made by hand from walnut (perhaps locally grown), shaped on a wood-turning lathe to create spindles and decorative beads, and joined using traditional European chair-making techniques. The chairs are strikingly decorated with intricate, often exuberant, hand-carved details on the spindles and chair backs.

Many of the chairs have recurring floral and leaf motifs. One particularly impressive chair was decorated with symbols related to fraternal organizations with strong religious associations – a square and compasses and the letter “G” representing Free Masonry and the Odd

Fellow's three-link chain. Interestingly, Henson was a second-degree Mason affiliated with the Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 4 in Dresden.

These beautiful decorative wooden chairs are striking examples of work done by students at the British American Institute. As artifacts, they are exceptional examples of a vernacular form of craftsmanship from the Dresden area. The symbols found on the chairs hint at the lives of those who created and used them. The chairs are on permanent display at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site.

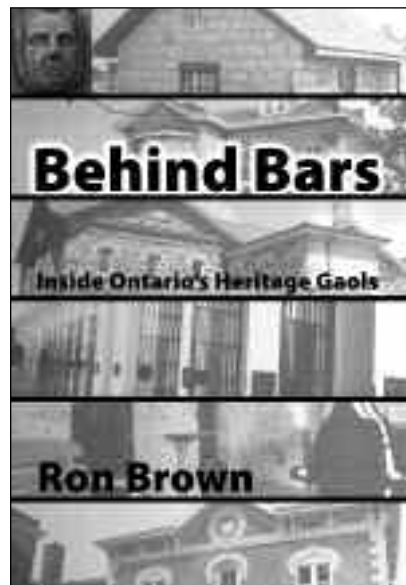
Wayne Kelly is the Public Education and Community Development Manager with the Ontario Heritage Trust. Steven Cook is the Site Manager at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site.



Created by British American Institute students in the 19th century, these remarkable chairs are on display at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden. Visit www.uncletomscabin.org for more information.

¹ Josiah Henson and John Lobb, ed., *Uncle Tom's Story of his Life*. From 1789 to 1876. Rev. Josiah Henson (Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom*), London: Christian Age Office, 89, Farringdon Street, 1876, 135.

... the shelf



Behind Bars, by Ron Brown (2006)

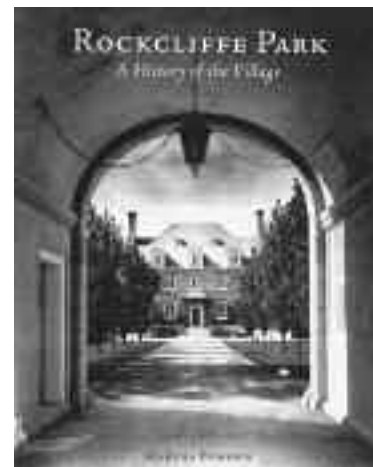
Natural Heritage Books, Toronto. Travel Ontario with Ron Brown through the pages of Behind Bars. The history of Ontario, which the author knows so well, includes a rich array of heritage jails, many of which were designed by the leading architects of the time. Built before the modern era of the OPP, these gaols range in size from single-cell lock-ups to

massive monuments such as the Kingston Pen and the Don Jail. Many are architectural wonders when viewed from the outside, but from the inside the conditions, generally, were desolate.

Today, those jails that were rescued from demolition have found a new life, often providing the local town with a vibrant tourist destination point. Author Ron Brown tells the little-known stories that lie behind these jails.

Rockcliffe Park, A History of the Village, by Martha Edmond (2005)

The Friends of the Village of Rockcliffe Park Foundation, Ottawa. This is the story of one of the most interesting and attractive residential communities in Canada from its origin in 1799 to 2000. From the beginning of its development as a planned community, Rockcliffe was envisioned as a “park for private residences.” The Village continues to be a lived-in park.



Woven throughout the text are the stories of the founding families ... and other fascinating people who have lived in the Village, many of whom played prominent roles on the national stage.

This book reflects the range of professions in the Village, from lumber barons to taxi-

drivers, from socialists to entrepreneurs. Rockcliffe maintains the ambience of a small country village, yet its name evokes a misleading image of prestige and wealth. Most of the people discussed in the book were not wealthy, though they did contribute much to the prosperity of our country.

They added to our scientific knowledge of the nation, helped shape the cultural life and economic fabric of Canada, fought for institutions like the CBC, and served their country in both World Wars.

The history of Rockcliffe is, in many ways, the history of Ottawa on a smaller scale. It also touches the history of the nation. Rockcliffe was home to individuals whose professions reflected the federal government's increasing expansion into international affairs and diplomacy, health and welfare, culture, science, aboriginal affairs, and the North.

Food for Friends – a collection of cherished recipes published by The Friends of Fulford Place. This unique, handwritten cookbook includes favourite recipes from members of The Friends of Fulford Place Association.



Photo: Glyn Davies

From Pear Zucchini Bread and Bacon and Egg Muffins to Salmon and Leek Pie and Sticky Chicken, each recipe has been tested and will enhance your table. The cookbook also features recipes from Sarah Read - a saucier at Fulford Place in the 1960s – and an intriguing account of Fulford Place chef John Rayburn's prepared feast in 1927 for Edward VIII (as Prince of Wales). Price: \$15.95 plus shipping and handling. **To order your copy, contact Fulford Place at 613-498-3003 or e-mail fulford@heritagetrust.on.ca.**

IN THE BEGINNING ... THE FIRST PROVINCIAL PLAQUE

By The Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

Fifty years ago – on a fine fall afternoon, September 26, 1956 – I witnessed the unveiling of Ontario's first provincial plaque in my hometown of Port Carling. We knew this event was really important because all the students at our four-room school got the day off to attend.

Arriving at the Port Carling Locks, I saw the veiled plaque on its pedestal. Dignitaries sat in curved rows of chairs on the grass as a crowd gathered nearby. Local leaders were there also – MPP Boyer, Reeve Bennett and Judge Thomas – and the special guest was The Honourable Leslie Frost, then midway through his 12-year term as Ontario's Premier, accompanied by The Honourable William Griesinger, Ontario Minister of Public Works.

Speeches recounted the story of how settlers had arrived at the local Chippewa Indian Village in 1865 and four years later renamed the place Port Carling for The Honourable John Carling - Ontario's first Minister of Public Works and Agriculture - who had ordered construction of the locks that proved so vital in opening up the area to farmers, lumbermen and (later) tourists.

When the blue and gold plaque was finally unveiled, and the villagers got to move closer, we discovered that story – our story – recorded in perpetuity for all to read. As part of the occasion, Island Park – the site of the plaque – was officially opened, and the dignitaries then posed for photographs. Among them stood Miss Elizabeth Penson of Port Carling, who had taught Mr. Frost as a schoolboy in Orillia.

As a schoolboy myself, I never dreamed that I would one day be invited to unveil other blue and gold plaques in communities across Ontario. But I did know that I was fascinated by history and by the stories that these plaques tell. That fascination has never left me. I applaud the Ontario Heritage Trust



for drawing attention – through its over 1,200 plaques – to the key people, places, events and achievements that have made this province what it is today. What a wonderful way to celebrate our heritage!

Archives of Ontario, 1956, RG 65-35-1, X-J-2656.



“As a boy, I witnessed the unveiling of the first blue and gold provincial plaque and was tremendously impressed. As a lifelong student of history, I applaud the Ontario Heritage Trust for highlighting significant stories from our past to raise awareness and appreciation of the rich heritage we share as Ontarians.”

Port Carling plaque unveiling, from left: Mr. R.J. Boyer, MPP, Muskoka; Miss Elizabeth Penson; The Honourable Leslie Frost, Premier; The Honourable Bryan Cathcart; The Honourable William Griesinger; and Reeve Robert Bennett.



PLANNED GIVING

The Ontario Heritage Trust is your organization for the preservation of Ontario's heritage. By making a planned gift to the Trust, you can ensure that our heritage is conserved for the enjoyment, education and well-being of present and future generations.

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