



CHOnews

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Bala Falls Battle Continues

Tom Millar

Heritage activists are doing a good job. Keep it up. These words were spoken to me by a senior MPP in their office at Queen's Park. "More than ever, government needs heritage watchdogs!"

I was born and educated in the Ottawa Valley, playing around and on the Rideau River. My first visit to Muskoka was on a road trip to Parry Sound to see Bobby Orr, wearing the letter C for the Boston Bruins, raise the Stanley Cup in his hometown. It was a great time. On the way there, I drove through Bala, stopping at the Falls to go for a swim in the cascading waters. The Bala Falls still have a hold on me.

Many others are fond of the Falls, going back more than one hundred years. It continues to be an iconic attraction for tourists, seasonal cottagers (like me), and year round residents.



Water rushing from Lake Muskoka into Moon River at North Bala Falls, 1900

Ten years ago, the provincial government tendered the Crown land abutting the north falls to support construction of a small hydroelectric power plant. I thought at the time, this does not make sense. Surely the government will not go through with putting a power plant in the very heart of a small, summer town like Bala.



Three generations of the Galway-Skipper family oppose the Bala Falls hydroelectric project.

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First Nation Portage, 2014

In the summer of 2010, I realized the governing Liberals were pushing hard on its Green Energy Act endeavours. It was as if Premier McGuinty was thinking, if I can drop a power plant in the center of a recreational, economically dependent tourist place like Bala, well I can do it wherever. For me, it is the equivalent of an asteroid hit on Bala.

When a new Council was elected for the Township of Muskoka Lakes and a new mayor championed the formation of a Municipal Heritage Committee, I was appointed as a member. I immersed myself in heritage education. One was a weekend program about cultural heritage landscapes and writing heritage designation statements in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act. This has served me well.

Council approved the intention to designate Portage Landing on the Moon River under the Ontario Heritage Act. This place at the Falls, abuts the Crown land of the proposed hydro construction site. The promoter of the power plant

appealed. A week long hearing was held before the Conservation Review Board, which recommended that Council approve the designation.

The power plant proponent's heritage consultant, Golder Associates, states in section 4.4 of the heritage assessment: "The Bala Falls area extending from the park on the south shore of Muskoka River to the park on the north side is a distinct cultural heritage landscape of water management, power generation, tourism, and transportation."

The province continues to refuse to carry out a heritage assessment of the Crown land proposed as the site of the power plant. This land includes the historic and traditional First Nations Bala Portage. (Short videos on this topic can be seen at vimeo.com/113814268 and at vimeo.com/121857163.)

In late 2014, Council approved the Bala Heritage Conservation District which includes Bala Falls, Portage Landing, and First Nations Portage. The proponent appealed. The Ontario Municipal Board is about to schedule a hearing.

The mayor will not form and appoint vetted applicants to a new Municipal Heritage Committee. The reason is "We have had a heavy plate of issues to deal with." Yet other committees, such as Parks and Trail, have been established.

The new Council currently shows an intent to reinvent the designated Portage Landing. The power plant plans are emerging and the proponent will ask the Township to cut down all the heritage attribute trees, make a driveway entrance,



Portagers at Portage Landing

change the slope of the property to the shoreline, and require landfill for a flat service area for construction, transportation, and equipment.

Meanwhile, Heritage Canada The National Trust recognizes Portage Landing as one of the Top Ten Places At Risk.

Why not stand up for Bala Falls? Your suggestions and volunteer actions are needed, now more than ever. For details, please visit this informative link: savethebalafalls.com. Together we can preserve this historic and beautiful place.

Tom Millar of Minett and Etobicoke was a member and Chair of the Municipal Heritage Committee for the Township of Muskoka Lakes from 2011- 2013. He can be reached at whatahoot@rogers.com and 416.233.8520.

Ontario Heritage Conference 2015

Adaptive Reuse highlights this year's Ontario Heritage Conference being held April 30 to May 3, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Using local examples of reuse and ingenuity, the conference will host educational sessions and tours to explore many of Niagara area preservation projects.

Some highlights of the three day event will include professionals and heritage experts who will create a better understanding of preservation, restoration, guiding principles, and inspiration through unique sessions. Topics will include financial incentives, Ontario Municipal Board hearings, volunteerism, cultural landscapes, heritage architecture, and best practices. Organizations assisting and presenting include Community Heritage Ontario, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Ontario Association of Heritage Professionals, and Heritage Canada, The National Trust. The Willowbank School of Restoration Arts will be highlighted in tours and will hold a workshop on paint and heritage window repair.



An afternoon of tours planned for Saturday will bring to life the examples discussed in the Friday and Saturday morning sessions. Registrants can tour historic Niagara-on-the-Lake, visiting Laura Secord House, the Mackenzie Printery, Queenston Heights, Mount Carmeland, and the Harry Oakes Mansion. See for yourself the ongoing Port Dalhousie Project and tour the Willowbank School.

A meet and greet will take place on the opening evening. A reception highlighting Niagara wines and local flavours will be held at Navy Hall, Fort Niagara, and will feature "Niagara on Fire" for your viewing pleasure. Included in the registration is dinner Saturday night with guest speaker Jane Errington. Friday night you can attend historic Keefer Mansion or The Grand Victorian at an additional cost.

Sunday will conclude the busy weekend with the annual general meetings of Community Heritage Ontario, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and the Ontario Association of Heritage Professionals.

Join us for an inspiring and informative weekend of events in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake. Registration, accommodation, and program details can be found by visiting the conference website: ontarioheritageconference.ca



Old Navy Hall, Niagara-on-the-Lake (Photo: Toronto Public Library)

Heritage Canada The National Trust Main Streets Program

Tracy Gayda

Heritage Canada The National Trust promoted *Main Streets, The Heart of the Community* as the 2015 Heritage Week theme in February. Many heritage people have heard of the Main Streets economic downtown revitalization program but what many may not know is that this program is not a new idea. It has been around since 1979.

Since first introduced, sixteen Ontario communities and many other communities across Canada have taken part. *Main Streets* may have taken the back burner for a few years in Ontario, but Western Canada has embraced it. Saskatchewan's provincial heritage ministry promoted this program and has enhanced small town revitalization in a wonderful way. Heritage Canada The National Trust has recently released three videos highlighting the success of communities in Saskatchewan (heritagecanada.org/en/resources/regeneration).

The striking point of the *Main Streets* program and the revitalization of small towns is that it looks at economic development using heritage as the driving tool. It combines the resources of property owners, municipal government, business, and other stakeholders to drive economic forces to create a prosperous and sustainable community.

This program is not a fast fix. Many communities have achieved success only by slowly and methodically moving through the *Main Streets* approach to economic development, sometimes for several years. Through small achievements, momentum, and planning, the results can be seen in stronger heritage identification, community placemaking,

and a renewed economic outlook. The program is ongoing and requires continuous investment to be successful.

The *Main Streets* Approach has a four point system for success.

Organization. The first step is to form a volunteer committee of business people, local government, service clubs and organizations, interested individuals, the heritage community, and media. Often a Project Coordinator is hired to facilitate the group. Heritage Canada The National Trust can provide the resources and knowledge to develop a plan of action. A written agreement is developed to secure the commitments of the committee.

Marketing and Promotion. Highlighting the positive aspects of the downtown core and cultural draws already within the community is a great place to start. Various marketing campaigns can be achieved by promoting social and cultural events, retail marketing, traditions, and history that may already be available in the community but are taken for granted. A group approach to marketing can strengthen the community's placemaking by creating a place where tourists and locals want to live, shop, eat, and work.

Design. The *Main Street* Approach assists the community in developing a plan to increase productivity and economic success. Training is available. The design plan incorporates many aspects. Examples are maintenance of the downtown core; facade improvements; heritage rehabilitation; incentive programs; stimulating new construction that is sympathetic to existing buildings; and encouraging new businesses that are interested in

becoming a part of the plan.

Economic and Commercial Development. With the resources available from Heritage Canada The National Trust, the community can develop an economic plan that will promote business and future development. Developing a plan that promotes competitiveness among existing businesses, new businesses, and creates new economic uses for the downtown core is the essence of a successful and sustainable future that responds to today's consumers.

Other components can be added to the main four approaches. A rural area, for example, may add agricultural aspects to their plans. Crafts people, farm visits, local flavours, and "Shop Local Farmers Markets" can promote unique aspects of the area.

At the 2014 Heritage Canada The National Trust conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Tweeters were abuzz at the *Main Street* Community Consultation session. A young professional tweeted, "Ontario needs this program!" and many replied in agreement. Old buildings sometimes need young people. The current picture of Ontario in today's media seems to support this statement.

The *Main Streets* program is unique in that it can involve the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, as well as the collective ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Municipal Affairs and Housing and Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure. It can benefit from a unified approach with shared ministry expertise and knowledge. Not that a community development plan should rely only on government help to

secure success. This plan needs the creative visionaries who love where they live and want to promote their area. Local, in-kind and financial involvement over a long period of time provides a sustainable and vibrant community for the future.

To learn more about the *Main Streets* plan, look at these links:

□ pcs.gov.sk.ca/msprogramhcf The Main Street Program Past and Present. Heritage Canada Report to Saskatchewan Tourism, Parks Culture and Sport. 2009

□ preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/. American. National Main Street Center

Jim Mountain is Director of Regeneration Projects for Heritage Canada The National Trust. Join Jim and CHO in the discussion about Main Streets at the Ontario Heritage Conference 2015 in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Tracy Gayda is a member of the CHO/PCO Board of Directors and chair of Heritage Elizabethtown-Kitley.



Perth, Ontario
Photo: perthtourism.ca

Funding Heritage Conservation: The European Model

Ginette Guy

Heritage Canada, The National Trust reports that a survey conducted by the Strategic Council demonstrates that 75% of Canadians believe "well preserved historic buildings and older neighbourhoods" are important in their communities. There are few people left to convince that heritage has "value," at least on a philosophical level. Where we stumble is when we try to make the more practical point that heritage conservation makes sense on a dollars scale.

In many discussions about heritage property ownership and preservation, the debate goes from the "why" to the "how" very quickly. Potential owners of designated heritage properties are concerned that insurance/maintenance/restoration costs will be more and developers fear spending more on retrofit/repurposing. How then, do we fund heritage conservation?

On a national level, Canada lacks funding schemes. At the provincial level, some provinces have loans and grants. The bulk of the responsibility for funding rests at the municipal level. The current model for municipal funding is property tax relief and small grants. What are other countries doing? Can we learn anything from Europe? Are they doing anything differently?

Some years ago, the Council of Europe presented a report looking at tax incentives for cultural heritage conservation, more specifically tax incentives in which governments could provide encouragement to the private sector, whether corporate, institutional, or individual. The Council noted that "responsibility for the conservation of any particular object or site rests first with the immediate owner." It also realized that not everything can be expected from the private sector, without incentives.

Countries such as Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Norway, have a VAT (value added

tax, similar to our GST/HST) rebate scheme or annual income tax rebate for work done on heritage properties. For example, in France there is a lower rate of VAT for work done on older buildings. In Germany, it is possible to reclaim expenses for work and maintenance against income tax. In Italy, owners can offset 19% of the cost of repairs against income tax. There are variations in amount and rates but the overall concept is interesting and aimed at residential ownership, not just income property.

The UK uses the Heritage Lottery Fund as a major source of funding for heritage conservation. This is the largest funder of UK heritage, giving back the equivalent of \$675 CAD million a year. The Fund manages fifteen grant programmes, amongst which is the Townscape Heritage Grant that help communities improve the built historic environment. Parks for People and the Landscape Partnerships grants are part of this program. There also are grants that support heritage groups and institutions such as Start-up Grants, Transition Funding, and Heritage Enterprise. Skills for the Future provides training placement to meet skill shortages in the heritage sector by supporting trainees to learn practical skills.

A similar idea is being used in Australia where LotteryWest provides grants for the conservation of cultural heritage, objects, buildings, or places.

Perhaps it is time to engage those 75% of Canadians who feel heritage conservation is important to their community and get them to buy a ticket!

Ginette Guy is a member of the CHO/PCO Board of Directors.

McDougall Cottage

Joleen Taylor

Tucked away at 89 Grand Avenue South in the historic factory district on the banks of the picturesque Grand River in the former Galt, now Cambridge, sits a stone labourer's cottage. Built in 1858, this cottage was home for more than a century to two families of hardworking

Scots, the McDougalls and the Bairds. Today, the cottage serves as an interpretative centre celebrating the strong Scottish heritage of the area.

McDougall's picturesque "wee" gardens reflect James Baird's (1901-1958) passion for spring flowers and nostalgia for his Scottish Highland homeland. The cottage is a wonderful tribute to the Scottish stonemason's art.

The architectural jewels in the crown of McDougall Cottage are its handpainted friezes and trompe l'oeil ceilings, executed some forty years after the house was constructed. Painted rooms were frequently the common man's answer to expensive wallpaper. Painted by local amateurs or itinerant artists in imitation of much coveted French "scenics" of the day, these beautiful scenes range from the familiar to



McDougall Cottage

the exotic. The landscapes were painted by James Baird's brother Jack, a photographer, painter, and true life adventurer.

McDougall Cottage is open for afternoon visits Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Special events celebrate the Cottage and Scottish heritage and culture in the area. For information visit mcdougallcottage.com.

Joleen Taylor is a part time teacher and interpreter at McDougall Cottage.



McDougall Cottage

Ontario Heritage Conference 2016

While we all look forward to the 2015 Ontario Heritage Conference at Niagara-on-the-Lake, the planning for the 2016 CHO/ACO Ontario Heritage Conference to be held in Stratford and St. Marys is well underway. This conference has been endorsed by City Council in Stratford and Town Council in St. Marys. The tentative theme is *Preservation in a Changing World - What's Past is Prologue*.

The local organizing committee includes enthusiastic membership from the Stratford/Perth branch of Architectural Conservancy of Ontario led by Rick Huband, from the St. Marys Heritage Committee, and from the Stratford Tourism Alliance. You can look forward to a scintillating and stimulating conference hosted by these heritage rich communities nestled in the centre of southern Ontario.

Mark the dates in your calendars: May 12 to 15, 2016. To quote Hamlet: "To be or not to be." Well, this 2016 CHO/ACO Ontario Heritage Conference will be!



St Mary's (Photo: Paul King)



Stratford City Hall (Photo: Paul King)

Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool Update

Paul R. King

In the October 2013 edition of *CHOnews*, I wrote about the fight to preserve the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool in Hamilton. It was constructed for the first British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games) held in 1930. A letter was written to Michael Chan, then Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, asking for assistance in the preservation of this building. The letter proposed that with the upcoming Pan Am Games, a ceremony designating this swimming pool would be a fitting first use of the "Sport" Minister's designation powers under the Ontario Heritage Act. As you might expect, the Minister did nothing. A second letter was sent to Michael Coteau, the current Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, again asking for support. This Minister also did nothing.

Since then, there has been considerable planning activity in Hamilton. There are proposals to build a recreation centre and high school on the block of land where the Memorial Pool is located. Hamilton Public Works staff commissioned Steven Burgess Architects Ltd. to develop a range of design options for proposed recreation facilities. A 200 page report was prepared with four options under consideration for the existing swimming pool:

1. Retention of the Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool building with modifications for accessibility.
2. Retention of the pool building, with the lengthening of the pool to meet competitive requirements.
3. Retention of the pool building, with the lengthening of the pool to meet competitive requirements and integration of the building into a new facility.
4. Demolition of the pool building, except for a bit of facade preservation.

Hamilton Public Works recommends Option 4 (demolition) because this would streamline operational costs. According to local reports, this is the most expensive option, with the demolition cost ringing in at \$19.8 million. Preserving the facade of the pool building is a Public Works nod to heritage but is pointless in terms of preservation using the criteria under the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act and its Regulations.



Burlington swim group, Jimmy Thompson Memorial Pool, 1940s

As I pointed out in my October 2013 article, due to its national significance as the only remaining building from the 1930 British Empire Games, provincial designation is an appropriate use of the Minister's authority under the Ontario Heritage Act. The heritage significance of this property was confirmed by a professional report prepared for the City of Hamilton by Christopher Andreae of Golder Associates.

Last December, Hamilton Council approved the recommendations contained in a staff report and, following consultation with the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee, approved inclusion of the property on the Municipal Register of Properties of Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. So, currently the property is on the Register but not designated. The Hamilton MHC reviewed the report prepared for Public Works and recommended to Council that the Memorial Pool property be protected under s.29 of the Act. The Committee recognized that the pool is of cultural heritage value due to its physical design, its setting within the community, and its historic association with the development of public recreation facilities in the City of Hamilton. The matter is now before Council. What will they decide?

What I find instructive about this story is that the momentum to preserve this nationally important swimming pool

building (which is still in full use) was not led by the federal, provincial, or municipal government, or by the MHC or local branch of Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. It is being led by one persistent and passionate private citizen, Patty Bogumil. This woman, who has no experience at being active in the heritage community, spent considerable time writing letters, sending emails, amassing relevant information, developing support, and making presentations. There was technical misinformation about the swimming pool that was used to support some of the reported recommendations. A former Olympic swimmer who trained in this swimming pool, Patty was able to debunk the misinformation. If she had not raised the alarm about this building, it would likely have been demolished earlier.

Why is it that the preservation of our heritage is often a David vs. Goliath story? Is there no way to change this throwaway attitude by decision makers? Is there no way to rebalance the process to better protect our heritage? We need to keep working on answers to these questions.

Paul R. King in the immediate past president and a current member of the CHO/PCO Board of Directors.

Where Are They Now?

Tracy Gayda

As we gear up for this year's Ontario Heritage Conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I have been reflecting on conferences past.

As a newly appointed Municipal Heritage Committee member, I had the opportunity to attend the 2006 Ontario Heritage Conference in Chaffey's Locks. Our Committee had a limited budget and Chaffey's is close to home. The Committee agreed to pay for two registrations. This was a first for my Committee to send members, even though Community Heritage Ontario had been organising these conferences in collaboration with local Municipal Heritage Committees across Ontario since 1988.

The Chaffey's organizers were showcasing their area in hopes of getting the Rideau Canal designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They pulled out all the stops to organize an inspiring weekend of workshops, tours, and discussions on current heritage issues. I was awed at the knowledge and expertise of the many heritage professionals attending that weekend and the Conference introduced me to the resources available in Ontario for heritage conservation. I took back a greater knowledge of how Municipal Heritage Committees operate and was able to apply that knowledge to improve the Township's heritage education initiatives.

Chaffey's Locks is not a big place. It is a summer resort area on the Rideau River at Opinicon Lake and is home to one of the lock stations that carry recreational boaters from Kingston to Ottawa in the summer. The Committee used what resources they had, tapping the Community Hall and Opinicon Resort for session venues and networking opportunities. I had never stepped foot before on that resort and marvelled at this unique Victorian hotel and grounds. The Opinicon Resort was alive with conference goers, a very busy spot that weekend.

The Opinicon has been a special place for a long time for tourists and locals. It has been operating in some form or another since the late 1870s and owned by the Cross family since 1921. The Chaffey family built it as their residence. It has been a boarding house, a fisherman's club, as well as a summer resort. It has seen the highs and lows of the tourist industry through the years.

The expansive treed property consists of the main hotel and twenty three smaller cottages that were rented to tourists and fishermen. Visitors could launch their own boats or hire fishing guides to



Opinicon Club

take them on excursions along the Rideau. There was a large restaurant overlooking the water and an ice cream parlour/store that was a seasonal favourite of many who traveled to the area in the summer. The Opinicon has held a special place in my heart since that Conference. It takes you back to a time, long ago, when the Rideau, with the St. Lawrence River nearby, was the place to be on a hot summer day.



Opinicon Club

Since attending the Ontario Heritage Conference in 2006, the Rideau Canal has been designated a World Heritage Site. It has also struggled with government and the economy to sustain its place as a destination for heritage travellers. The canal system has gone through many changes in the last few years.

For some time, the Cross family successfully weathered the fickle tourists, who want modern conveniences and exciting entertainment. After the death of Janice Jerrett Cross in 2012, the family had many hard decisions to make. The Opinicon remained closed for the first time that summer, while the family decided what the future would hold for the venerable resort and for themselves.

In December 2014, Opinicon was put up for sale by auction. The winning bid was Shopify creators, Tobias Lutke and Fiona McKean. McKean is familiar with the resort, having spent time in the area when growing up. She now owns a cottage nearby. They have plans to open the ice cream parlour this summer. There is a lot of work for them ahead. The purchase has been a favourite topic of conversation in the area and beyond.

Many people who visited Opinicon and Chaffey's Locks think this is a magical place and have many fond memories of the area. The community is excited in hopes that the Opinicon will shine again as a summer destination and create new memories for the next generation. I wish Lutke and McKean the best in their new venture and plan to take a trip that way this summer.

Tracy Gayda is a member of the CHO/PCO Board of Directors.



"Lock, Waste Weir &c at Chaffey's Mills," 1833 by Thomas Burrows. The painting shows the lock in the middle of the channel, with the waste weir on the left side. Stop logs, which regulate the flow through the weir, can be seen above the weir.

Photo: Archives of Ontario

Section 28 of the Ontario Heritage Act provides for the establishment of a municipal heritage committee (MHC). It reads in part:

28.(1) The council of a municipality may by by-law establish a municipal heritage committee to advise and assist the council on matters relating to this Part, matters relating to Part V and such other heritage matters as the council may specify by by-law.

The Act then directs on the matters for which the MHC advises and assists its Council. Each of these refer to the requirement of Council to consult with its MHC prior to making a decision provided for by the Act. Therefore, rather than identifying the MHC's role, it is Council's role and the need to consult with its MHC on statutory matters that is identified by the Act.

How Council consults with its MHC is not defined by the Act. Certainly, Council might seek the Committee's advice but the Committee might also provide Council advice without being specifically sought. A Committee's terms of reference may even define this process of consultation. For our purposes, the identified matters under the Act, those having to do with Council's authority to recognise and conserve cultural heritage property, can be regarded as the statutory role of the MHC.

Many of the roles and responsibilities undertaken by MHCs are not identified by the Act. Section 28 provides that Council may also have the MHC advise and assist in such other heritage matters as the Council may specify by bylaw. It is common for municipal Councils, usually through terms of reference, to task an MHC with these other heritage matters. These are not identified under the Act and can be regarded as the MHC's non statutory role.

Examples of non statutory responsibilities might be activities that directly support Council in exercising its authority under the Act and related legislation:

- ❑ property identification, research, evaluation, and reports contributing to informed decisions on the recognition and conservation of cultural heritage property

- ❑ community involvement and liaison
- ❑ information and education
- ❑ heritage financial incentives
- ❑ heritage related municipal planning
- ❑ keeping Council informed on heritage related legislation

In several more populated municipalities, these activities are fulfilled by staff and/or other professionals rather than by the MHC.

Other non statutory heritage matters that may be tasked to a MHC do not necessarily relate to Council's authority under the Act. These are usually associated with the promotion and commemoration of local history and heritage. Successful, proactive municipal cultural heritage conservation is often owed to raising the awareness of how cultural heritage contributes to the quality of life in a community, to its sense of place, and how it is a big part of what makes a community unique and distinctive. This raising of awareness is frequently by way of relating the stories of places in the community; where did what happen, and who lived there. Projects and activities centred on promotion and commemoration might include Doors Open Ontario, Heritage Week, newsletters, books, videos, plaques, walking tours, school programs, oral histories, cultural tourism initiatives, and Communities in Bloom.

A MHC engaged in these non statutory heritage matters may face a two fold challenge. Are the Committee's resources and the time needed for promotion and commemoration matters hindering its ability to fulfill its statutory role to advise and assist Council in its authority to protect cultural heritage property? Though non statutory endeavours are necessary, perhaps even fun, often a MHC's statutory role is left wanting and cultural heritage property is not being identified and protected. While worthy, perhaps non statutory activities and their outcomes should be thought of more as a means to an end.

Is the MHC the appropriate group to undertake the promotion and commemoration of local history and heritage projects and activities? This role may be better suited to a local historical society. Under the Act, a MHC is not intended to be an historical society. If none exists, is there merit and interest in the creation of



a local historical society? Information on historical societies across the province and their roles can be explored at the Ontario Historical Society's website: ontariohistoricalsociety.ca.

MHCs working together with community groups, such as local historical societies, pave the way for a variety of events, programs, initiatives, projects, and activities that build greater knowledge and awareness of the importance of our collective heritage. The MHC's role as a community steward positions it to engage and enlighten residents and stakeholders on the merits of heritage conservation and then communicate the heritage interests of the community to Council.

Bert Duclos is the Heritage Outreach Consultant with the Culture Services Unit of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. He can be reached at 416.314.7154, fax 416.212.1802, bert.duclos@ontario.ca

CHO/PCO Board Meetings

CHO/PCO Board of Directors' meetings are open to any MHC member. Please contact the Corporate Secretary to confirm each date before attending. Scheduled meetings will be held at 6282 Kingston Road, Scarborough.

President's Message

Roscoe M. Petkovic

M*an doth not live by bread alone.* As Christians are told, these were the words that Jesus Christ said to the Devil, when tempted to turn stones into bread. Whether you are religious or not, these words are as meaningful today as when first said. One should also include the saying, "time and tide wait for no man" to deliver an important message to us humans.

As all of us will at some point cease to be alive, we should (if we are sincere to ourselves) not procrastinate, time after time, from doing those things that we have been meaning to do. Each moment that we delay in doing, is a moment lost. That moment will never come back.

Our heritage and our history are inextricably linked to time. Time marches on and time can be an enemy of the truth and executor of painful and irreversible damage. Supplement time with nature's wrath and you have the perfect storm, to destroy our heritage and history.

Why is it so important to keep our heritage alive and our history recorded and taught? The first sentence in my message to you should be sufficient to answer this question. We thrive in secure and socializing environments. We dislike and are not

capable of "going it alone" as much as some of us bravely profess. I have chuckled many times when reading about individuals who took off into the wilds, supposedly to "be with nature," but quite happily accepting the clothes that the rest of us provided by gathering the raw material, making thread and then cloth to be measured by a measuring device, cut by a tool in skilled hands, then sown into the clothing article, so that individual can go and "do it alone." We need each other and each other's skills and good will.

Our heritage is the foundation upon which we have become civilized. Combined with our history, it is the fundamental component that initiates thought, ideas, desires, our will, and determination. Bread alone, is not enough. Some are vehemently anti heritage and could not care less for our history. But, we know all the major statistics for our sports teams and/or individual players. We even collect memorabilia like the baseball used to win the pennant, the hockey jersey worn by our "star," or the huge trout that our father or grandfather caught.

For those of you who care not for heritage and history but participate in the aforementioned, I have news. You are a



huge supporter of heritage and history, you just did not know, until now.

We at Community Heritage Ontario urge all Municipal Heritage Committees to find ways to communicate the message and involve their communities, so that they are not strangers to our heritage and our history.

We invite you to Niagara-on-the-Lake from April 30 to May 3 for the Ontario Heritage Conference. There we will learn, network, contribute experiences, and participate in being the "Gatekeepers of Heritage."

CHOnews Goes Electronic

Following up on a recent survey, Community Heritage Ontario will begin to send electronic versions of CHOnews to those Municipal Heritage Committees who provided email addresses for their members.

For 2015, all MHCs will receive at least one printed copy of CHOnews. Those MHCs who requested additional printed copies will continue to receive the number requested. Those MHCs who requested electronic versions will be sent one printed copy along with a letter to

confirm that we have all correct emails and that the electronic version was successfully received. During the year, adjustments and corrections will be made to ensure that all members of MHCs who paid CHO annual fees receive CHOnews.

The introduction of electronic versions of our quarterly CHOnews will save printing and mailing costs, which have challenged the corporation as it tries to balance the annual budget.

CHOnews Deadlines

CHOnews issues are Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. The deadlines for submission are as follows:

- ☐ March 10 (Spring issue)
- ☐ June 10 (Summer issue)
- ☐ October 10 (Fall issue)
- ☐ December 10 (Winter issue)

Submissions are always welcomed.

We Want to Hear From You

CHOnews is YOUR quarterly publication. We want to know about the initiatives, achievements, challenges, and concerns of your Municipal Heritage Committee. Information networking through CHOnews is important. Submissions are welcome at any time.

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The Vimy Oaks of Scarborough-Agincourt

Richard Schofield

On April 9, 1917, Vimy Ridge in France was captured by Canadian forces. With this victory, which claimed nearly 11,000 Canadian casualties and lives, Canada became a nation.

Leslie Miller was born in 1889 in Miliken, north of Agincourt. Serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Forces, he survived three and a half years of trench warfare in the First World War. He saw action in such historic battles as Paschendale, Ypres, and Vimy.

After the Vimy Ridge battle was won, many soldiers realized they had been part of something truly momentous. Most, including Miller, looked around the Ridge for a souvenir of the event. It was completely devoid of structures and vegetation due to shell fire. Miller found a half buried oak tree and gathered a handful of acorns. Those acorns were planted by Miller on farmland which is now home to the Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church. He called his farm the Vimy Oaks Farm. Today,

several of the original oaks survive. There are no original oaks on the Vimy Ridge battle site.

As a teenager, Monty McDonald worked with Miller on his farm. In remembrance of him and all our Canadian soldiers, Monty had the idea of repatriating the Vimy Oaks of Scarborough-Agincourt back to Vimy, France. Thus, the Vimy Oaks Team was formed to help preserve and promote Canada's First World War legacy through the creation of a living memorial. In partnership with the Vimy Foundation, the Vimy Oaks Team is working to grow and plant up to 120 trees at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial in France for the 100th Anniversary of the battle, April 9, 2017.

The process began in January 2015 with professional arborists taking cuttings (scions) from the crowns of the oaks, which will be grafted onto base root stock (*quercus robur*). Like ice wine, this process must be done in cold

weather. The saplings will be grown at Connon Nurseries in Waterdown using an accelerated method. In two years, 125 cm young oak saplings will be ready for shipment via air to France. Hopefully, a ceremonial planting involving all the Canadian regiments that fought in the War can be held on the 100th Anniversary day.

The Scarborough Community Preservation Committee has recommended that the bush lot containing the nine surviving Vimy Oaks be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. In 1995, Scarborough was the first preservation committee in Ontario to successfully designate a property on which there are no buildings. A bylaw was passed to designate the former Falcon Inn black walnut trees.

Richard Schofield is a member of the CHO/PCO Board of Directors.

Country Estate for Sale

The past meets the present in this picture perfect 74.34 country estate. It features a classic 1873 Georgian style fieldstone house and an aesthetically pleasing approximately 2400 sq.ft addition, a 26'x45' driving shed (3 car detached garage) with 2 levels built in 2007, barn (25x35) and implement shed (36x50). There is a characteristic theme throughout complemented by meticulous custom millwork. Main floor of stone house has a formal dining room, 2 libraries, and a 2pc powder room. Upper floor has 3 bedrooms and 4pc bath. Lower floor has family room, games room and exit to stone patio overlooking aerating pond. The addition has 10 rooms; master bedroom with ensuite, salon, parlor, office, kitchen, massive workshop, laundry room and more. A must see! Located at 132784 Sideroad 20 Normanby Township, West Grey, ON (about 10km SE of Hanover). \$974,900 please contact Dave Hocking at davehocking@royallepage.ca or 1-519-378-6466.



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Roscoe Petkovic

Halton Hills 905.877.4586
roscoepetkovic@communityheritage
ontario.ca

Vice-Presidents

Wayne Morgan

Sutton West 905.722.5398
waynemorgan@communityheritage
ontario.ca

Tracy Gayda

Toledo 613.275.2117
tracygayda@communityheritageon-
tario.ca

Chair of Finance

Paul R. King

St. Marys 519.284.0700
paulking@communityheritageontario.ca

DIRECTORS

Bob Martindale

Ajax 905.683.8703
bobmartindale@communityheritage
ontario.ca

Ginette Guy

Cornwall 613.363.5312
ginetteguy@communityheritageontario.ca

Fred Robbins

Stouffville 905.640.6781
fredrobbins@communityheritage
ontario.ca

CORPORATE SECRETARY/ TREASURER

Rick Schofield

Scarborough
416.282.2710
schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

PAST PRESIDENT

Paul R. King

St. Marys 519.284.0700
paulking@communityheritageontario.ca

Join the CHO/PCO Board of Directors

Community Heritage Ontario is looking for one or two volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors for the upcoming term, 2015-2017.

Although not essential, applicants should be an active member of a Municipal Heritage Committee and/or have a good working knowledge of heritage preservation in Ontario. You will be asked to serve on one of the Board's committees (Communications, Education, Conference, et al). Past MHC members are also excellent applicants, as they have experience dealing with heritage preservation issues.

Committee meetings are held, as required, by teleconference so that members can participate from their home location. Board meetings are held four times a

year, usually on the afternoon of the fourth Sunday of March, June, September, and November, in Scarborough. Travel costs are covered by CHO and overnight hotel accommodation is paid for those travelling a long distance.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a Provincial Heritage Organization Board and contribute to the preservation of our built and natural heritage at the provincial level.

If you are interested, please contact the CHO Corporate Secretary Rick Schofield at schofield@communityheritageontario.ca. Board members will be selected at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, April 5, 2015, immediately following the 2015 Ontario Heritage Conference in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

CHO/PCO Mission Statement

To encourage the development of municipally appointed heritage advisory committees and to further the identification, preservation, interpretation, and wise use of community heritage locally, provincially, and nationally.

Advertise in CHOnews!

Reach a province-wide readership composed of all Municipal Heritage Committee members, heritage societies, municipal officials, and heritage conscious individuals!

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To place an ad in CHOnews, please
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Ontario Heritage Conference Reminder

Ontario Heritage Conference 2015 is being hosted by Niagara from April 30 to May 3. Join us in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake as we explore the cultural, economic, and environmental benefits of preserving Ontario's built and natural heritage. To

learn more about this year's Conference, view our website: 2015heritageconference.com. Registration and accommodation can be arranged through this website. We hope to see you at the Ontario Heritage Conference 2015.

CHO Webinars

It is not too late to sign up for the Webinars hosted by Community Heritage Ontario in collaboration with Ontario Historical Society. There are two sessions in April. The cost is \$20 per person per session:

Part IV Designations

Thursday
April 9, 2015
11 a.m. to noon

Part V Designations

Thursday
April 16, 2015
11 a.m. to noon

This series is beneficial to municipal staff, municipal heritage committees, and the public to provide a greater knowledge on what heritage designation means. Dispel the myths; learn about these sections of the Ontario Heritage Act and how each can promote heritage appreciation in your community.

For those unfamiliar with webinars, this new form of education is available through your computer using a high speed internet connection. If you register for a webinar, you will be provided an access code to log into the internet site at the appropriate time to hear the workshop. You will also be provided with PowerPoint materials.

The establishment of the OHS webinar capability is part of the Strengthening Ontario's Heritage Network project supported by the Government of Ontario through its Museum and Technology Fund.

Registration is on a first come first serve basis with a limit of one hundred registrants. Register online: <https://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/index.php/services/webinars>

Disclaimer

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Corporate Address

CHO, 24 Conlins Road,
Scarborough, ON M1C 1C3
www.communityheritageontario.ca
schofield@communityheritageontario.ca

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Please do not send photocopies of photographs or images for publishing; send the *originals*. If possible, email files to the Editor as attachments. Image files should be high-quality jpegs at 300 dpi.

Newspaper articles as updates to MHC activities cannot be used without permission and may not reflect the complete story. Text written by the MHC is encouraged.

Articles are published in the language they are received.

Editor and Technical Production by Celia Laur. Contact at Corporate Address above.

CHO/PCO is on Facebook.

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