

NEWSLETTER

MARCH LECTURE

Mrs. Shirley Reed presented the March lecture on the history of the Guelph General Hospital School for Nurses (1888 – 1974) and the Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association. The Alumnae Association began in 1905 and it raised money to support the continuing education requirements of the graduate nurses. In the late 1990s, the Alumnae Association began to discuss projects to commemorate the contribution of the young women who trained and graduated from the School. It was decided to publish a pictorial history book, *Graduates of the Guelph General Hospital School for Nursing, 1888-1974*.

History of Guelph General Hospital

The history of the Guelph General Hospital and the School for Nurses is intertwined. Mrs. Reed described six major phases in the development of the Hospital. The first phase began in 1861 when the General Hospital was incorporated by a provincial act. In 1872, \$3,048 was raised and a four-acre site on Delhi Street was purchased for \$1,000. The hospital officially opened in 1875 and had 12 beds, a superintendent and two nurses. In 1888, a new wing, known as the Victoria Jubilee Wing, was added to the Hospital. The School for Nurses was



The Guelph General Hospital, circa 1875.



The Guelph General Hospital, circa 1910. The image shows the Albert and Jubilee wings.

officially established at this time. The attic of the Jubilee Wing was completed in 1891 and the nurses used some of the rooms as a residence. In 1897, the Hospital expanded again and the Albert Wing was added, increasing the space to allow for 90 patients.

In 1951, the Hospital entered its fourth phase of development. The original hospital was demolished in 1956 and in its place a new hospital was built with 160 beds at the cost of approximately \$1.5 million. The west wing was added in 1961. The Hospital completed its sixth phase with the new building in 2001.

The School for Nurses

As mentioned, the School was established in 1888 with the completion of the Jubilee Wing. It began as a two-year program with five nurses in training. In 1896, the program was extended to three years and remained that way until 1971. There were 1,278 graduates, all of them women. Graduate nurses provided health care in the

Guelph General Hospital and in the community. Many graduates served in the Armed Forces of the two World Wars.

Plaque ceremony

The Alumnae Association and the Guelph Historical Society are erecting a plaque to commemorate the School for Nurses. The ceremony will take place on May 27 at the Guelph General Hospital.

**APRIL LECTURE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2006
ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
161 NORFOLK ST., GUELPH**

Note: The GHS Annual General Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will follow the AGM.

At the Annual Meeting, we will announce the winners of this year's Verne McIlwraith Essay Contest. The winners will receive their prizes.

The Mighty Speed: The Life Blood of Guelph

The Speed River attracted the attention of John Galt when the City was founded. It shaped and influenced much of Guelph's growth and continues today as a strong presence in our City. Ms. Ratcliffe is a long-time guide of the Historical Walking tours, a member of Heritage Guelph, President of the Guelph-Wellington Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and Archivist to the Guelph Historical Society. She will trace the culture, the stories and the history of our river.

TICKETS ARE SELLING QUICKLY

GHS ANNUAL BUS TRIP: MAYHEM-MYSTERY-MURDER

LUCAN: HOME OF THE INFAMOUS BLACK DONNELLYS

DATE: MAY 9, 2006

**BUS LEAVES AT 8:30 A.M. FROM THE STONE RD. MALL,
ARRIVING BACK AT 4:30 P.M.**

LUNCH AT NELLIE'S BISTRO IN LUCAN

Itinerary: In the morning we will visit the Lucan Heritage Museum, which includes a tour of a replica of the log cabin homestead of the Donnelly family and a tour of the route that the Vigilance Committee took on the night of the Donnelly Massacre, February 1880.

(Coffee & muffins will be served at the Lucan Museum.)

In the afternoon, we will join Rob Salt at his museum located on the original land settled by the Donnellys. This tour starts with an oral presentation by Rob Salt beginning with the 1842 arrival of the Donnellys.

Ticket price for members: \$60.00
Ticket price for non-members: \$65.00

Tickets available at the Guelph Historical Society Meetings:
Next Meeting April 4

For more information, please contact Betty-Anne Stammers at 822-4051 or Deb Nash-Chambers at 767-9895.



GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unique Opportunity: Limited Edition Prints

The 6167 Restoration Committee is still raising funds to bring the steam locomotive back to its former glory for permanent display. Built in 1940, it was withdrawn from service in 1959 and sat at the Mimico roundhouse until it was brought back for tourist service in 1960. Later it was moved to the Spadina roundhouse where it finished its service in 1964. In 1967 the CNR donated it to Guelph, and it has remained near the train station ever since.



In its efforts to raise funds, the Restoration Committee will be selling limited edition prints of the locomotive at our AGM on April 4th. Created by renowned train-portraitist Larry Fisher, each colour print has been signed and numbered by the artist. Prints are available on their own, or packaged, mounted and framed, and range in price from \$150 - \$350. This would make a great gift for the train buff or Guelph historian in your family! For more information, contact the Guelph Civic Museum: (519) 836-1221

URGENT: GHS SECRETARY NEEDED

The GHS Board requires a secretary to fill this position on the Board. Responsibilities include taking and electronically distributing Board meeting minutes. There are six Board meetings a year.
For more information, please contact Elysia DeLaurentis
Tel.: (519) 846-8280
Email: elysia@studiospace.com

GUELPH CIVIC MUSEUM FOUNDERS' WEEK LECTURE

Tuesday, April 25, 7:30 pm
"Canada and the Great War: Experience and Memory" by Terry Copp
Tickets \$5.00. Refreshments served.
For more information, call 836-1221.