



GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.guelphhistoricalsociety.ca

September 2006

NEWSLETTER

GUELPH GENERAL HOSPITAL SCHOOL FOR NURSES

On May 27, 2006 the Guelph Historical Society and the Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association unveiled a plaque outside the Guelph General Hospital. Approximately 30 alumnae and GHS members attended the event.

The cost of the project was shared by both groups. Shirley Reed, GGH Nursing Alumnae Association and Elysia DeLaurentis, GHS President, worked on the text for the plaque together. The text is as follows:

The School for Nurses (1888-1974) [later known as the School of Nursing] began with the completion of the Victoria Jubilee Wing. It had five nurses-in-training and two probationers, and was a two-year course. The course was extended to three years from 1896-1971. In 1889 the first exams were held and two candidates, both prior staff members of the GGH, passed with credit. The School



GGH School of Nursing Alumnae

was incorporated in 1913 and was approved by the Provincial Association of Nurses ten years later.

The attic of the Victoria Jubilee Wing was completed in 1891 and used as rooms for nurses and as a convalescent area for diphtheria patients. 1906 brought the purchase of the Winston House which served as the Nurses' Residence until 1910 when it was relocated to 63 Derry Street. A new Senior Residence, the Forsyth-Hepburn Home, was built in its place. In 1912 a large Isolation Hospital was built behind it to the east. As the need for isolation declined and enrollment increased, a portion of the hospital was allocated as a Nurses' Residence and housed first-year students.



Elysia DeLaurentis (left) and Shirley Reed (right) unveil the plaque at the Guelph General Hospital.

The original Guelph General Hospital was demolished in 1956 and on its site a new Nurses' Residence and School of Nursing was built.

Many graduates served in the Armed Forces of the two World Wars. Four nurses died while giving their services during the Influenza epidemic of 1918. The Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association began in 1905 and is still a strong organization in 2006. There are 1,278 graduates of the Guelph General Hospital School for Nurses, all women.

LECTURE MARKS 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUELPH'S CITY HALL

Guelph Civic Museum is hosting a public lecture by Ross Irwin on Thursday September 21, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. The illustrated lecture will feature archival photographs and detailed historical research to tell the story of this important civic building.

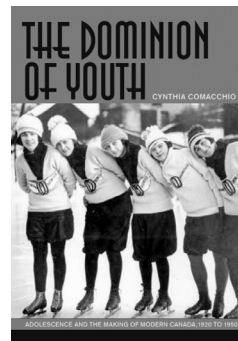
2006 is an historic year for Guelph. It is the sesquicentennial of Guelph being organized as a town with extended boundaries and the construction of the Market House, now known as City Hall. After a few failed attempts, a civic building was approved in 1856 and architect William Thomas was selected for the project. The cornerstone was laid for the Market Building on September 18, 1856 and it was open and ready for market use in February 1858. The first Town Council meeting took place in the new building on March 1, 1858. Less than 20 years later the citizens approved an addition which included a concert hall and an additional butter market.

Ross Irwin is Past President of the Guelph Historical Society. His publications include the origin of street names in the City and the history of the public park system.

This lecture is free to the public and no advance tickets are required. Guelph Civic Museum is located at 6 Dublin Street S.

UPCOMING GHS OCTOBER LECTURE & BOOK LAUNCH

Dancing to Perdition: Growing Up in Modern Canada 1920-1950



Date: October 3, 2006

Time & Location: 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (corner of Norfolk & Suffolk Streets) Refreshments to follow.

Cynthia Comacchio, Professor of History, Wilfred Laurier University, and editor of the series *Family & Childhood in Canada*

Dr. Comacchio will present aspects of her latest book dealing with adolescence in Canada between the World Wars. As well, Dr. Comacchio will launch her new book *The Dominion of Youth: Adolescence and the Making of Modern Canada, 1920 to 1950* (WLU Press) at the lecture.

ESSAY CONTEST

Topic of your choice pertaining to Guelph's History – Any Era

Essays relating to historical events, residents, architecture, etc. can be based on archival documents, personal experiences, interviews, etc.

CASH PRIZES

First Prize: \$500 Second Prize: \$350

Third Prize: \$200

An extra \$50 is awarded to a first-time entrant prize winner.

Essays (approximately 3,000 words) will be judged on their originality, literary style and research. Must include references to source materials and photos. Essays become the property of the Guelph Historical Society and may be published in its annual publication **Historic Guelph: The Royal City**.

The Verne McIlwraith Award Contest is sponsored by the Guelph Historical Society and is open to all residents of Guelph and area.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2007

Mail one hard copy (double-spaced) and one disk to:
Guelph Historical Society "Essay Contest"

100 Crimea St., Unit A-102
Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6

Please note that members of the Guelph Historical Society Board are ineligible to receive cash prizes.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

How the Railways Changed Our Landscape

Ron Brown, author of *The Last Stop* and *Ghost Railways of Ontario*, will present his lecture on Wednesday September 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. – 611 Silvercreek Pkwy. N. Guelph (The Schoolhouse - CAW Hall). For more information, please contact the Guelph and Wellington Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario or visit their website: guelphheritage.ca

Heroes, Skulkers or Rogues? The Canadian Soldier in the War of 1812

The 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group will present the fourth instalment in the popular 41st Regiment Lecture Series featuring Jim Hill, historian and Superintendent of Heritage for the Niagara Parks Commission. Jim will speak on the role of the Canadian soldier during

the War of 1812.

Date: Friday, October 20th, 2006.

Location: Iron Duke House at the Wellington Brewery, Guelph, (950 Woodlawn Road West)

Time: Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Lecture commences at 7:30 p.m.

Fee: \$10.00 Seats can be reserved by going to www.fortyfirst.org or emailing register@fortyfirst.org

St. George's Anglican Church's 175th Anniversary – March 6, 2007

The GHS and St. George's Anglican Church are pleased to commemorate the 175th anniversary with a guest lecture by Dr. Gil Stelter. His lecture entitled "The Church & the Community" will be held at St. George's Anglican Church. More information to follow in upcoming GHS newsletters.

COMING FALL 2006 REMEMBERING PILKINGTON TOWNSHIP: LIVES, LOVES AND LABOUR

Edited by Elysia DeLaurentis and
Debra Nash-Chambers

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