

NEWSLETTER

APRIL LECTURE

At the April lecture, Tom Fournier presented the lecture, "The War of 1812 through the Eyes of a British Soldier." Mr. Fournier gave the lecture in regimental dress which added colour and character to his lively presentation. Mr. Fournier is a member of the 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group. This group re-enacts historical battles from the War of 1812 and researches the history of the regiment.

Mr. Fournier discussed several factors that contributed to the War of 1812 and its significant battles. The focus of his lecture was the rank and file soldier. As most of the original sources of military history were written by officers, little is known about the average soldier.

Brief Regimental History

The 41st Regiment of Foot first came to Canada in 1799. It was the only full British Regiment in Upper Canada at the outbreak of the War of 1812 and it comprised the main component of Brock's force that captured Detroit in August of 1812.



Who were the soldiers?

Using the "Inspection Return for the 41st Regiment of Foot (1811)", Mr. Fournier described the average soldier as: 30 years old, six years of service, 5'6" tall (84 percent were 5'4" to 5'8"), and the majority enlisted for life. Out of 646 privates, 601 were born in England (including Wales), 108 were born in Ireland, 33 were born in Scotland, and 25 were foreign-born (this category included Canadians).

The occupations of the 41st Regiment of Foot soldiers prior to enlistment included: weavers (50), tailors, miners, and cordwainers (27).

Why Join?

It was a volunteer army with recruiting parties



Photos courtesy of the 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group

throughout the United Kingdom. Factors that contributed to enlistment were the displacement of workers due to the Industrial Revolution and the enclosure of the Commons. The average wage was two pence per day (which is the equivalent of \$200 per year in today's currency). The wage was one shilling but the recruits were charged for their uniform, food, lodging and laundry.

Daily Routine

The average day of a soldier was not easy. It began with a 4:15 a.m. inspection, two hours of drill, 9:00 a.m. breakfast, more drill and work, and 2:00 p.m. meal. The meals were insufficient for this level of activity – soldiers were apportioned 11lb of flour, 1lb fresh meat, 1^{3/7}oz. of pork, peas and rice. Mr. Fournier estimated that the rations provided 2,600 calories per day and he estimated that the soldiers required 6,000 calories per day to meet their needs. As a result, they used their own income to augment their diet.

Mr. Fournier's research provided valuable insight into the life of an average soldier and a memorable evening for everyone who attended.

For more information on the 41st Regiment of Foot, please visit the comprehensive website of the 41st Regiment of Foot Military Living History Group at: www.fortyfirst.org

CONGRATULATIONS 2007 VERNE MCILWRAITH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

First Prize: Bonnie Durntall, "The Most Important Craftsman in Town"

Second Prize: Tanya Wright, "Macdonald Consolidated School: 'A Noble Experiment'"

Third Prize: Greg Oakes, "First Canadian Olympic Champion: George Orton of Guelph"

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. What were the hometown, county, and year of birth of John Galt?

John Galt was born on May 2, 1779 in Irvine, Ayrshire, Scotland. He died at the age of 59 on April 11, 1839 in Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

2. Which group of British settlers arrived in the Guelph area in 1827 via Caracas and Philadelphia?

The group of 1827 settlers: La Guayrans.

3. Built in 1847 by William Day, the Victorian Inn is now the home of which cultural institution?

The Victorian Inn is now the home of the Guelph Civic Museum on Dublin Street; not to be confused with the Victoria Hotel at the junction of Carden Street and St George's Square.

4. In which year was the Guelph Historical Society formed?

The Guelph Historical Society was established in 1961

5. In March 1866 the Guelph Rifles were dispatched to protect the border at Sarnia. What was the threat?

The Guelph Rifles were mobilized in response to the threat of the Fenians.

6. Which carpenter, tavern-keeper (the Bullfrog Inn), and watch repairman was Canada's self proclaimed poet laureate?

Canada's self-proclaimed poet laureate was James Gay.

7. By what name was the property of Ker Cavan originally known?

"Ker Cavan" was originally known as "Tyrcaathlen".

8. What is the name of the public monument that J.B. Armstrong awarded the city in 1884?

J.B. Armstrong's gift to the city was the Blacksmith Fountain

9. The design of the Church of Our Lady, some claim, is based in large part on which European cathedral?

Many consider Cologne Cathedral to be the inspiration for the Church of Our Lady.

10. Guelph's first mayor was inaugurated in 1856. What was his (commonplace) name?

John Smith was Guelph's mayor.

Trivia Question:

Are there any relations of David Allen still living in Guelph?

Please send responses to John Parkyn at: john.parkyn@rogers.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Bank of Montreal • Carnegie Library • YMCA • CPR Train Station •

START YOUR RESEARCH NOW!!

VERNE MCILWRAITH ESSAY CONTEST

SPECIAL THEME: THE LOST BUILDINGS OF GUELPH

The special theme for this year's Essay Contest is **Lost Buildings**. We encourage people to submit essays that celebrate Guelph's rich architectural heritage and the buildings we have lost over the years.

Entries may also be submitted on any topic relating to the history of Guelph. Essays (approximately 3,000 words) will be judged on their originality, literary style and research. Essays must include references to source materials and photos.

CASH PRIZES

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

Third Prize: \$200

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

For more information, please contact Ann Guthrie at:
519-763-6475 or email: ann-guthrie@sympatico.ca

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2008

• Mitchell Farmhouse • Bank of Nova Scotia • Speed Skating Rink •

Bank of Montreal • Canadian Bank of Commerce
Post Office & Customs Building • The Priory

Bank of Montreal • YMCA • Congregational Church • Opera House •

EVENTS

Doors Open Guelph

Date: Saturday, April 28, 2007

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sites for the 2007 Doors Open include: Guelph Civic Museum, Guelph Turfgrass Institute, Paisley Memorial United Church, Sanders Portrait of William Shakespeare at Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, Beaver Hall (now Royal LePage Royal City Realty), Alma Block, Upper Floor.

Opportunity Knocks: Heritage Conservation Conference University of Guelph

May 4-6, 2007

Join heritage enthusiasts and professionals from across Ontario for a comprehensive program focused on seizing new opportuni-

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE
GHS ANNUAL BUS TRIP
MAY 15, 2007

Visit Beautiful Owen Sound: Hometown of Two Famous Canadians: Tom Thomson and Billy Bishop

Visit the Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery. The Gallery holds an important collection of his work and other Group of Seven artists. The collection also includes works of regional artists and over 1,500 works of contemporary artists.

The Billy Bishop Heritage Museum is the birthplace of the famous WWI pilot. The artifacts and exhibits displayed are a part of our history that preserves the heroism of Bishop and other military personnel.

Coffee and muffins at Gray Roots Museum and visit to Inglis Falls. Buffet lunch at the Inn on the Bay.

Ticket Prices: \$65.00 for members \$70.00 for non-members

Bus leaves Harcourt Memorial United Church Parking lot (87 Dean Ave.) at 8:30 a.m. and returns at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact either Deb Nash-Chambers at (519) 767-9895 or Betty-Anne Stammers at (519) 822-4051

ties to promote heritage conservation in Ontario. The conference is presented by the Canadian Association of Professional Heritage Consultants, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Community Heritage Ontario

For more information or to register, please visit the conference website at:
www.guelphheritage.ca/conf/index.html

GHS Evenings with History Lecture Series

The GHS Evenings with History Lecture Series will resume in October 2007. An announcement of the topic will appear in the September newsletter. Best wishes for a happy summer season.

GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS 2007-2008



President: Debra Nash-Chambers
Tel.: (519) 767-9895
Email: nashchambers@rogers.com

Vice-President: Ann Guthrie
Tel.: (519) 763-6475
Email: ann-guthrie@sympatico.ca

Past-President: Elysia DeLaurentis
Tel.: (519) 846-8280
Email: elysia@studiospace.com

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Joe Jany
Tel.: (519) 822-7323
Email: joejany@sympatico.ca

Membership: John Parkyn
Tel.: (519) 824-0564
Email: john.parkyn@rogers.com

Special Events: Betty-Anne Stammers
Tel.: (519) 822-4051

Book Sales: Ken Irvine
Tel.: (519) 829-2252
Email: ken.irvine@guelph.ca

Scholarships: Clare Newson

Publicity, Internet, Archives: Susan Ratcliffe
Tel.: (519) 822-8236
Email: sratcliffe@sympatico.ca

Scholarships: Clare Newson

Director & Refreshments: Peter Ashton

Newsletter Editor: Vacant

Mailing Address: Guelph Historical Society
100 Crimea St., Unit A-102
Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6