



GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.guelphhistoricalsociety.ca

September 2007

NEWSLETTER

The following text is taken verbatim from the introduction to a series of postcard reprints produced in folio form, circa 1910, by the Valentine Company of Scotland.

GUELPH

The City of Guelph, with a population of over 16,000, is one of the progressive and fast-growing towns in Western Ontario. It is one of the most substantially built of its size in America. The business section composed of solid cut-stone blocks, residences and factories of brick and stone, pavements throughout the city of concrete, very broad streets and avenues thickly lined with maple avenues, splendid parks, etc., make it, as remarked before, one of the finest to be found anywhere. Guelph, with a world-wide reputation for its stock district, is called the Smithfield of Canada, and is the seat of the Ontario Agricultural College, one of the most complete institutions for teaching the science of agriculture in existence; also the Macdonald Institute, where they teach home economics, nature study, and manual training; besides public schools, collegiate institute, and consolidated school.

In manufactures it takes a leading place, having about 80 prosperous manufacturing concerns, and boasts of some of the largest concerns of their kind in Canada.

The railway facilities are all that could be desired, the city being on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Buffalo to Goderich, and on the main line of the Grand Trunk between Montreal and Chicago via Sarnia, and, in addition to these, the Canadian Northern is now being built to the city, and will be operated sometime in 1913. This makes it an excellent location from the transportation standpoint.

The city owns and controls its waterworks, sewerage, electric light, and power and gas services, and street railway, and some 16 miles of steam railway by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The best of service is given by all these public utilities at the least possible cost.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE GHS?

John Parkyn would like answers to the following. Can you help him?

Email answers to John at:

john.parkyn@rogers.com

1. Which current members have been with the Society since its inception?
2. In which year was the GHS established?
3. Who was the first president?
4. How many presidents have there been? Can you name them?
5. Where were the earliest meetings held? How often?
6. In which year did the Society first hold its meetings in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church hall?
7. Name two books produced by the GHS.
8. How many issues of *Historic Guelph* have there been to date?
9. How many volumes of annual publications (essays) were there before the introduction of *Historic Guelph*?
10. Name some community (outreach) initiatives undertaken by the Society.

AN EVENING WITH HISTORY: GHS LECTURE SERIES

"Caring for Mind, Body and Soul: Guelph's Catholic Institutions to the End of the Great War"

(An update on the restoration work at the Church of Our Lady Immaculate will be given at the meeting by a representative from the church.)

Speaker: Debra Nash-Chambers

Date: October 2, 2007

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

Debra Nash-Chambers received her PhD in History from the University of Guelph and she teaches Canadian and American History at Wilfrid Laurier University. In addition to her work on Guelph's Catholic institutions, her research interests include public, family, urban and legal history. *Remembering Pilkington: Lives, Loves and Labour*, co-edited by Elysia DeLaurentis, was published in 2006 by The Wellington County Historical Society. Currently, Debra is President of the Guelph Historical Society and she is completing a book on family and power in late Victorian Guelph, for the series *Childhood and Family in Canada* edited by Cynthia Comacchio and published by Wilfrid Laurier Press.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Regarding GHS Charitable Status

In late April of 2007 the GHS Board was informed by one of its members that amendments were needed to the paperwork submitted to Revenue Canada to ensure our continued charitable status. The Board's lack of a Secretary was one omission on the form that was considered to be unacceptable. Neither the 2006-2007 Board, nor the incoming board, were made aware that Revenue Canada required further information until after the AGM in April when the grace period for submitting the information had ended.

Once apprised of the situation, Joe Jany and Elysia DeLaurentis were appointed to intervene on behalf of the GHS and were able to resolve the problem quickly. Luckily, Anne Holman's kind response to our need for a Secretary solved one issue. New paperwork and the payment of a \$500 fine enabled us to expeditiously reinstate the charitable status of the Guelph Historical Society as of April 2007. Revenue Canada has updated their contact information so that Joe Jany is our official GHS representative re charitable status. Any questions about this situation should be directed to GHS President, Debra Nash-Chambers.

John Galt Day 2007

The Civic Holiday weekend in Guelph will never be the same. As of this year the Monday of the annual long weekend was

officially proclaimed as John Galt Day with tremendous pomp and circumstance. I was pleased to represent the Guelph Historical Society on the civic organizational committee for the event. No doubt our membership has followed the press coverage related to the official renaming of the progress toward this tribute to our town founder. The local press also provided good coverage of the August 6th ceremony at City Hall as well as the events held at John Galt Park, outside the River Run Centre and on the Speed River. The media were helpful in publicizing the GHS projects related to John Galt Day, too.

In addition to providing our replica of the Priory for a heritage display, the GHS sponsored two projects dedicated to public education. In January 2007 the GHS Board contacted Magic 106.1FM to request a daily morning drive radio contest during the week prior to the City's first John Galt Day. Books published by the GHS and annual memberships were used as prizes to promote public awareness of the upcoming John Galt Day. Kevin Kelly, Programme Director, arranged for both Magic and CJOY to hold contests each morning of that week. Thank you Kevin!

On Sunday the 5th, the public was invited to attend an ecumenical service held at Knox Presbyterian Church that celebrated the life and legacy of John Galt., a Scottish Presbyterian. The GHS co-sponsored the

event and I was pleased to participate as a speaker. An estimated 50 guests accepted the open invitation to the public to join the members of Knox at the special service. A special thank you is extended to Rev. Thomas Kaye, Diaconal Minister Tori Smit and the other members of the Knox community who helped make the service and the reception such a success. A thank you is also extended to the local officials and the GHS members who took the time to attend.

--Deb Nash-Chambers, GHS President

Newsletter Editor Wanted

The position of Newsletter Editor involves the design of seven newsletters per year (September, October, November, January, February, March, April). New members are welcome to apply for this position.

For more information, please contact:

Ann Guthrie

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Email: ann-guthrie@sympatico.ca



GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

"Was Guelph A Drinkin' Town"

October 11, 2007

The Wellington Brewery at 7:00 p.m.

Join Shawn Day and Guelph Museums for a taste of Guelph's drinkin' past at The Wellington Brewery on Thursday, October 11 at 7:00 pm. Shawn will discuss our history as producers and purveyors of alcohol. "Was Guelph a Drinkin' Town?" will also show the rich architectural legacy we've inherited from the City's early drink trade. After the lecture, take a tour of the Wellington Brewery and see how beer is distilled today. Don't miss the chance to sample Wellington Brewery's award-winning brews and taste a little bit of Guelph history. Tickets are \$25 and a tax receipt will be issued for the charitable portion.

Tickets are available in advance at Guelph Civic Museum, 6 Dublin Street South or can be purchased by phone at: 519-836-1221 x221.

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**. 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