



GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.guelphhistoricalsociety.ca

APRIL/MAY 2008

NEWSLETTER

APRIL LECTURE

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 180th anniversary this year. In honour of this celebration, the GHS invited Wilma Welsh, Past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to give the April lecture. Ms. Welsh discussed the history of St. Andrew's Church and the evolution of Presbyterianism in Canada. The following brief chronology is taken from "A Short History of St. Andrew's Church" published by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Guelph.

1827: A group of 22 families from the north of Scotland were settled in the area by James Buchanan, British Vice-Consul, assisted by John Galt who provided the land and money.

1828: Worship services were held in the home of Benjamin Harrison where the Market is now located.

1831: The congregation called its first minister. A parcel of land on the site of our present City Hall was secured as the location for the congregation's first church building.

1834: Internal disagreements divided the congregation. Some members withdrew to form First Presbyterian Church in the "Paisley Block" west of Guelph.

1844: The Disruption, a serious division of Presbyterians in Scotland affected St. Andrew's Church. A majority of the congregation withdrew to form Knox Church. St. Andrew's remained a congregation of the Church of Scotland. Knox's ties were with the Free Church.

1856: The congregation sold the property to the Town Council who wished it for the site of the new Town Hall. Land at the corner of Norfolk and Suffolk Streets was purchased for the church building.

1857: Construction of the Church began in June and was completed by April 1858.

1875: In a union of the Church of Scotland and the Free Church, St. Andrew's became part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

1877: The Church was enlarged with new transepts and a Sunday School building. The manse beside the Church was sold and a new home purchased on Oxford Street.

1888: The Women's Missionary Society was formed.

GHS Evenings with History

The monthly lectures will resume in October 2008.

REGISTER TODAY!!

OHS/GHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 13-14, 2008

Join the GHS Board on Friday, June 13 to welcome conference delegates. We are hosting a Wine and Cheese Reception at the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

OPENING NIGHT GALA: FUNDRAISER FOR MYANMAR RELIEF

Following the reception is the Opening Night Gala: "Celebrating Ontario's Environmental Heritage" at War Memorial Hall, University of Guelph. Former Mayor, Norm Jary, will MC an evening of comedy, music and public information. Peter Kelly, University of Guelph, will provide an illustrated talk about the ancient trees of the Niagara Escarpment. Four of Guelph Museums' Spirit Characters will perform. Well-known singer-song writer James Gordon will entertain with compositions from his repertoire highlighting Guelph's heritage and environmental issues.

A percentage of the profits from the Gala will be donated for Myanmar Relief.

Tickets for the Opening Night Reception and Gala: \$50

Gala Tickets: advance \$25;

\$20 seniors and students; \$30 at the door.

**Available through the River Run Centre Box Office:
519-763-3000**

ANNUAL MEETING & PRESENTATIONS: JUNE 14

The Saturday program includes the Ontario Historical Society Annual Meeting followed by presentations on Ontario's environmental history. Conference Papers include:

- Leanne Piper, "A Solid Foundation: The Quarrying Industry in Early Guelph"
- Dr. Suzanne Zeller, "Radical Ecology in Old Ontario: Toronto's Contribution to the 'Realistic' Wildlife Stories of Ernest Seton"
- Dr. Brian Osborne, "Shifting Perceptions of the Rideau Corridor: From Geopolitics, through Regional Economics to Global Heritage"
- Dr. Thomas McIlwraith, "Ontario Railways Before 1880: A Scrap Iron Bonanza"

Concurrent Graduate Student Sessions

This is the first time in many years that the Ontario Historical Society conference has hosted graduate student papers. We encourage local GHS members to attend these sessions.

Keynote Address

Dr. Gilbert Stelter will give the keynote address entitled; "The Environment and the City: The Symbiotic Relationship Between the Natural Environment and the City-Building Process".

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE, VISIT THE
OHS WEBSITE AT: WWW.ONTARIOHISTORICALSOCIETY.CA
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: JUNE 6, 2008**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL INVITATION FOR GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS



JOIN FLORA SPENCER FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE EVAN MACDONALD EXHIBIT: A PAINTER'S LIFE VIEWS OF GUELPH AND WELLINGTON COUNTY

MACDONALD STEWART ART CENTRE
JUNE 13, 2008 AT 2:30 PM

Born in 1905 to one of Guelph's founding Scottish families, Evan Macdonald came of age in the early 20th century. A master draughtsman, print-maker, book illustrator, and painter, Evan Macdonald is renowned for his depictions of historic Guelph and Wellington County. He took pride in documenting his community with subjects that included Saturday morning shoppers at the Guelph Farmer's Market, patrons reading at the Guelph Public Library, and the many city streets and bridges, landscapes and waterways. Macdonald's work celebrates industry and advocates for the preservation of history and culture.

To support the exhibition, MSAC is publishing a beautifully illustrated book with an essay by Macdonald's daughter, Flora Spencer.

If you would like to attend this special event, please contact Deb Nash-Chambers at tel: (519) 767-9895, email: nashchambers@rogers.com or Ann Guthrie at tel: (519) 763-6475, email: ann-guthrie@sympatico.ca

GUELPH ARTS COUNCIL 2008 HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS

Spring seems to be "in the cards" at last, and that's a good thing because it's time for the Guelph Arts Council's popular annual walking tours. These guided tours, which are offered on selected Sundays between April 27 and October 19, trace Guelph's heritage through its architecture, its people, and the stories that contribute to this City's unique character.

There are five Guelph Arts Council walking tours, each of which explores a different area of historic Guelph. **Where Guelph Began** encircles the original Market Square area of almost twenty-four acres laid out by John Galt in 1827, and includes the sites of many of Guelph's first buildings. **Downtown Walkabout** covers Guelph's current Downtown. **The Slopes of the Speed** explores the slopes of the Speed River where many of Guelph's largest and most distinguished historic homes are located. **Altar and Hearth** covers the area west of Downtown and includes several historic stone churches and many historic homes representing a variety of architectural styles. **Brooklyn and the College Hill** focuses on one of Guelph's early industrial sections on the south side of the Speed River, as well as the area that developed around the Ontario Agricultural College.

All tours start at 2 p.m. from different locations. They take about two hours to complete and cost \$3 per person. Tour booklets are available for \$5 each at the Guelph Arts Council office and several other retail locations.

For more information, please contact the Guelph Arts Council office at 147 Wyndham Street North, Suite 404, Guelph, or phone (519) 836-3280; Fax (519) 766-9212; email gac@sentex.net; web guelpharts.ca/guelphartscouncil.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VERNE MCLLWRAITH ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

The Verne Mcllwraith Essay Contest Committee is pleased to present the winners of the annual essay contest:

1st Place: Leanne Piper, "Ulmenwald: The Lost Peterson Estate"

2nd Place: Greg Oakes, "Costain: Guelph's Million Selling Author"

Many thanks to the Essay Contest Committee: Linda Hoffman, Debra Nash-Chambers, John Parkyn, Shirley Perrior, and Andy Thomson.

GUELPH HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009



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