

Downtown Guelph: An Evolving Landscape

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Join us for a talk by Ian Panabaker, the City of Guelph heritage and urban design planner, on the evolution of downtown Guelph as a "design project". Since the downtown was originally laid-out, there have been significant manipulations of the original design with major implications on the resulting built form and use. Existing situations are analysed through topographical and historical images and data. The talk also introduces current ideas, opportunities and projects for the emerging 'Urban Growth Centre' as downtown is now defined by the new Provincial planning legislation, *Places To Grow*.

Where: St. Andrew's Church, 7:30 pm



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Membership Co-ordinator John Parkyn (left) ran into our city founder during the August 4th, 2008 John Galt Day celebration. He presented Mr. Galt (played by Bruce Abel) with an Honourary membership in the Guelph Historical Society.

2008 - 2009 Schedule

EVENINGS WITH HISTORY

October 7th, 2008

Ian Panabaker, Urban Design and Heritage Planner, City of Guelph
"Downtown Guelph: An Evolving Landscape"

November 4, 2008

Annual Remembrance Lecture:
Jenn Annis, Doctoral Candidate, History, Wilfrid Laurier University
"The Royal City Goes to War: How the Guelph Evening Mercury covered the First World War"

December 2, 2008

Ken Russell, Archivist, Norfolk Street United Church
"Guelph's Methodist Heritage"

February 3, 2009

Annual University of Guelph Lecture:
Dr. Matthew Hayday, Department of History, University of Guelph
"A Giant Love-feast": National Unity, Canadian Identity and the Celebration of Dominion Day"

March 3, 2009

Dr. Rob Davison, History, Wilfrid Laurier University
"A Most Fortunate Court Martial: Admiral Sir Charles Kingsmill and the Royal Canadian Navy"

April 7, 2009

Annual General Meeting, Guelph Historical Society
Guest Speaker: Flora Macdonald Spencer, author of *Evan Macdonald, A Painter's Life*, edited by Judith Nasby, Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2008.
"Guelph's Lost Buildings and the Paintings of Evan Macdonald"

All GHS meetings are held at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Norfolk and Suffolk Streets, unless otherwise stated.



GHS BOARD

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

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

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

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

ARCHIVIST: Susan Ratcliffe
Tel: (519) 822-8236
Email: sratcliffe@sentex.ca

NEWSLETTER: Leanne Piper
Tel: (519) 824-3840
Email: home@piper.ca

WEBSITE: guelphhistoricalsociety.ca

EMAIL: info@guelphhistoricalsociety.ca

MAILING ADDRESS:
Guelph Historical Society
100 Crimea Street, Unit A102
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 2Y6

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE in COLOUR!

A full colour version of the GHS Newsletter is available online at guelphhistoricalsociety.ca



Follow the Piper! A Successful 2008 Kirking Event

by Debra Nash Chambers

A "KIRKING" is a Scottish ceremonial parade of dignitaries led by a piper to a church service recognizing the public service of civic leaders. This ceremony was practised in John Galt's Irvine, Scotland at the time of Guelph's founding in 1827. Years ago, City officials were kirked in Guelph, too. On August 3rd, 2008, the Guelph Historical Society co-sponsored the reintroduction of this Scottish ceremony. It was one of several ways that our Historical Society supported the second annual John Galt weekend.

The John Galt "kirking" service and reception were hosted by Rev. John Borthwick and the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in association with the Old Stone Churches, CORE, the 2008 John Galt Committee, and the Guelph Historical Society. It was a wonderful ecumenical service with Piper Don McCrae and Former Mayor Norm Jary leading seventy invited guests from Knox to St. Andrew's prior to the service. Civic leaders representing various churches, government bodies, political parties, local charities, multicultural organizations and volunteer groups followed the piper. Hundreds of other attendees shared in Guelph's reintroduction of the Scottish practise of "churching" the city council and other dignitaries so blessings could be offered for their vision and wisdom as local leaders. A lovely garden reception followed the service.

Thank you GHS members. Your interest and support made it a successful day. The community's donation of non perishable food items at the service helped CORE fight hunger in our city. The Welcome in Drop-In Centre and the Chalmers' Food Pantry benefited from the food drive and the loose collection from the John Galt Service.



Left: Eileen Hammill, lifetime GHS member, reflects on her former self. Above: Membership Co-ordinator John Parkyn presents Prof. Gil Stelter with honorary membership in the Guelph Historical Society at the OHS Annual Conference in Guelph.

Ontario Historical Societies Conference Success

by Elysia DeLaurentis

The new board of the Guelph Historical Society started early this year, being especially active over the summer. One of the events to which board members and volunteers contributed their time was the co-hosting, along with Guelph Museums and the History Department at the University of Guelph, of the Ontario Historical Society's conference, "From Nature to Ecology, Landscape to Ecosystems: An Historical view of Ontario Environments", which took place in June. Participants traveled from across Ontario to attend the event and experience our city, though there were also many familiar faces in attendance.

The conference kicked off to a glorious start with a hearty welcome, food, wine, the live jazz of the Ernie Kalwa Quartet and the paintings of Evan Macdonald. This reception was followed by an evening's learning and entertainment and featured Guelph's Spirit Walk entertainers, a performance by local musician, songwriter, and activist James Gordon, and a presentation about Niagara's old growth forests by Peter Kelly. An enjoyable night was had by all.

The next morning began with the OHS AGM and throughout the day several invited speakers took the podium and spoke on a variety of topics. These ranged from the Rideau Canal to Dr. Suzanne Zeller's treatment of Ernest Thompson Seton's wildlife stories, to Leanne Piper's fascinating look at the evolution of Guelph's quarrying industry. This conference broke tradition by offering a concurrent session in which graduate students were offered a forum to present and discuss their research. The day concluded with the OHS awards ceremony at which Warden John Green accepted the President's Award, on behalf of the County of Wellington, in recognition of the work the County has done in preserving its heritage buildings.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and to all of the volunteers who helped out with this event, as without your contributions the conference wouldn't have been the success that it was. Thanks also to the members of the planning committee for the hours and months of hard work that went into it. Most of all, a special thank you should go to our president, Debra Nash Chambers, for liaising with the affiliate organizations, keeping everyone organized, and fighting fires as they sprang up along the way. You go girl!



Above Top: Official guests of the Ontario Historical Society receive complimentary copies of "Accessible Heritage Tool Kit" produced by the OHS and the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario, Ministry of Community and Social Services (l-r) Katherine McCracken, Guelph Museums; June Hofland, City Councillor; Ken Turner, OHS President; Amy Dunlop, Wellington County Museum and Archives; Ann Pappert, Director of Community Services, City of Guelph; Debra Nash Chambers, President, GHS.
Above Middle: During the Opening Reception, the conference was kicked off with words of welcome from (l-r) Debra Nash Chambers, Terry Crowley, Barb Mackay, Leanne Piper and OHS President Ken Turner.
Above Bottom: OHS Conference delegates enjoyed the conference sessions.



Happy 180th Birthday!

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Special Conference Thank You to the Ontario Historical Society

On behalf of the Guelph Historical Society and our partners Guelph Museums and the Department of History at the University of Guelph, the GHS conference planners offer their sincere thanks to our fellow planners from the Ontario Historical Society. Former OHS board member Cynthia Comacchio, Executive Director Rob Leverty, Office Manager, Christina Perfetto, and student staffers Andrea and Tharchika were integral to the success of the June OHS AGM and Conference celebrating the 120th anniversary of the Ontario Historical Society. Cindy dedicated countless hours to making the event a success and Ann, Deb and Elysia are grateful for her insight and tireless effort as the fourth member of the Guelph-based planning team. We are glad that you retired from the board with a successful event as your final project. Our compliments and sincere thanks are offered to Rob and our friends at the Toronto OHS office. Rob's contacts in the heritage and environmental communities, his grant-writing skills, his experience, and his sense of humour were invaluable. As always, Christina added her flare for public relations and her talent for organizational details. Andrea Izzo, Communications Assistant and OHS Newsletter Editor Tharchika Krishnamoorthy were important to the process and they put in very long hours before and during the AGM and Conference while juggling their academic careers. Thanks also to the members of the current and former OHS boards who offered their support and assistance. All in all, the GHS, their Guelph partners and the OHS had a successful joint venture. Best wishes for the future are extended to all.
Debra Nash Chambers, President, GHS

FROM THE ARCHIVES

ON THIS DATE...

October 5, 1894

The Royal Opera House opened.

October 19, 1868

The cornerstone was laid for Knox Presbyterian Church.

November 2, 1909

Construction of the Guelph Armouries was completed.

November 30, 1872

Lt. Col. John McCrae was born on Water Street.

GHS NOTES

HISTORIC GUELPH

Historic Guelph, the annual journal of the Guelph Historical Society, will be available at the general lecture on November 4, 2008. If you would like additional information, please contact Ann Guthrie at ann-guthrie@sympatico.ca or 519-820-7883.

THANK YOU

The GHS Board extends thanks to Robert Hamilton for his generous volunteer time as our Newsletter Editor in 2007-08. In addition to his volunteer time, Robert generously donated a signed copy of his artwork for the GHS collection. Thank you Robert!

ARCHIVES UPDATE

Our Archives Assistant, David Proctor, has been working tirelessly to improve the accessibility of the GHS archives collection. David has been filing, indexing and sorting through boxes of material. This has been an ongoing project of the GHS and we are very pleased to see such progress.

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