



THE MEETINGHOUSE

Meeting in Print
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Third Month 2009

CFHA CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

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Co-editor for Volume 2009-1
Barbara Horvath

Membership renewal: If you have not yet received the 2008 CFH Journal, please renew your membership.

Renewals received after first, Fifth Month will be credited to the 2009/10 membership year.

"Under Construction..."

Greetings F/friends:

We are now approaching the halfway point between the 2008 AGM and the coming 2009 session. This seems an appropriate moment to stop, take stock of our progress, and share with you a summary report of recent activity.

First, a note of thanks to our members. Fears that the increased membership fee to \$25.00 would lead to a reduced membership have proved unfounded. As of last November, individual memberships stood at 55. As I write to you today that number has swelled to 70, with almost two more months before renewals and new memberships are applied to the 2009/2010 membership year. In addition we have welcomed new monthly meeting memberships from both Victoria Monthly Meeting and Coldstream Monthly Meeting. Perhaps most gratifying has been a remarkable increase in the charitable donations we have received, given the recent dramatic changes recently in our economy. On behalf of the CFHA executive, please accept our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Second, an additional note of thanks is due the small but determined team that has completed and distributed the current issue of the Canadian Quaker History Journal, our previous issue of 'The Meetinghouse' newsletter, and personal letters of thanks to our members and institutions. We continually seek to build upon the contributions of our predecessors.

Third, a very special 'Thank you!' needs to be expressed to Yonge Street Monthly Meeting which generously approved a request for CFHA's access to the lower level of the meetinghouse to house a cabinet containing CFHA documents and publications. We are very grateful for this privilege and the ability to hold our executive meetings at this location from time to time.

Mention was made above of dramatic changes in our over-all economic circumstances. While this circumstance seems to have brought out the best among us in terms of charitable donations, we have apparently not escaped entirely unscathed. In a volunteer association such as CFHA our principle and essential resource is the *time* contributed by our members and executive. Shifts in our available volunteer time required us to closely review our planned spring event 'Singing to Freedom'.

Cancellation of April 4, Singing to Freedom event: After much discernment and considerable regret we took the decision to cancel this event. We thank those of you who have registered or expressed an interest in this event, and apologize for any resulting inconvenience. Our thanks go to Dr. J LanYe' who has graciously offered to reschedule, and to Heather Lambert and the others who helped with the planning of "S2F". *...continued*

CFHA CHAIRMAN MESSAGE

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This development notwithstanding, this message is titled “**Under Construction**” for good reason. Considerable advances have been achieved in recent months:

- 1) Draft revisions to the CFHA constitution have been prepared and will be ready for distribution prior to the next AGM. These revisions relate primarily to incorporation of the CFHA under the Incorporation Act of Ontario.
- 2) CFHA has a proposed new logo (see front cover). We welcome your thoughts about this design, created by Andrew.
- 3) Thanks to a highly collaborative effort between Ravi Joshi, Grayden Liang and Randy Saylor, we are now in the process of completely reformatting and updating our CFHA website. Please spend a few moments checking out www.cfha.info. Tell us what you think! We encourage and NEED your contributions and comments to make this new web presence dynamic, informative and purposeful.
- 4) While “**Under Construction**” we are also “**Open for Business.**” I am very pleased to advise that another collaborative effort—this one between Andrew Cresswell and Albert Schrauwers—has resulted in a brand new collection of the complete previous 10 years of the Canadian Quaker History Journal now available on a single compact disc. We encourage you to consider purchase of the collection. For those of you who prefer hard copies, there are limited numbers and editions of the printed versions of the Journal, plus our other CFHA publications available for purchase.

In retrospect, I could have titled this message “**Many Thanks**”, and in truth many more thanks are in order than have been already expressed. A very special ‘Thank you’ to Barbara Horvath for her willingness to assist on short notice with the set-up and formatting of this issue of ‘The Meetinghouse’, with the help of Heather Lambert and Andrew Cresswell.

Well done, everybody! Gordon Thompson, Chair

Annual General Meeting: 19th Ninth month, 2009

There will be two significant items of business at the Canadian Friends Historical Association’s Annual General Meeting this fall:

- proposed amendments to the Association’s Constitution and By-Laws.
- proposed motion to incorporate the Association.

The summer edition of *The Meetinghouse* newsletter will contain more information about the proposed actions and their rationale.

The proposed amendments and motion will also be outlined in the official notice of the Annual General Meeting sent at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Location of the AGM to be announced.

Cancellation:
Singing to Freedom event:
April 4, 2008

CFHA’s new website is in development! www.cfha.info

As he designs the site, Randy Saylor wants it to be an active trading post of ideas and comments. Send him your suggestions and:

- news about all upcoming activities of a historical nature;
- reports of events that have past;
- questions of a historical nature.

We could have a “memories” section for people to share stories of occasions that are now seen as “history”.

In Memoriam:

Helen Stevenson died in January, predeceased by her husband John.

During the Vietnam conflict they were among the founders of Argenta Friends Meeting and Argenta Friends School. Helen, along with other Friends from southern California, became active members of CYM and helped develop Western Half Yearly Meeting. Her legacy is her example of living the Quaker faith, and seeking in the light for solutions to make life better for us all, especially through education. We send sympathy to her family and many friends who will miss her.

We give thanks for her life.



Gordon Thompson in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop

Our Day in 1865

by Andrew Cresswell

On Saturday November 22, 2008, Gordon Thompson and Andrew Cresswell, members of the CFHA Executive tried their hand at being blacksmiths for a day.

Lovingly restored by the Milton Historical Society, the Waldie Blacksmith Shop preserves the skills and tools used by three generations of Waldie family blacksmiths. Built by James Alfred Waldie in 1865, the blacksmith shop has operated in the same building at 16 James Street in Milton for over 100 years.

Gordon and Andrew spent the morning learning the various methods of stoking a furnace, the common tools used in the trade, and basic hammering techniques, culminating in the creation of a basic coat hook. After lunch, they continued to hone their blacksmithing skills by taking control of the furnaces and working on individual projects. Both hope to participate in the

next advanced workshop in early April 2009.

At the end of the day, you get a sense of the strength and stamina required to be the village blacksmith. Surrounded by the artefacts and tools created and collected by the Waldie family, the shop provides those interested in blacksmithing a chance to experience an authentic early Canadian village trade.

The Waldie Blacksmith Shop features year round tours, facilities for professional and hobbyist blacksmiths, a gift shop, the Carriage Shop, available for meetings and special functions, and the Milton Historical Society Archives.

For more information about the Waldie Blacksmith Shop call (905) 875-4156 or visit their website at www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca.

The Duncombe Escape Play

The June 6 performance of the Duncombe Escape Play at Sparta includes a full afternoon of Quaker-related life and history, beginning at the Forge and Anvil Museum where a meeting of Rebels will be staged.

At the Meetinghouse, visitors can see maps of battles and skirmishes and learn why some Friends (Quakers) were involved, despite their peace testimony. Costumed guides will lead tours in the historic village. Colonel Talbot will attempt to recruit militia volunteers from the balcony of the Sparta House. Following a 5 pm dinner at the United Church, the Duncombe Escape play will be presented there. Tickets will be available from the Sparta and District Historical Society. (phone: 519-775-2292)

Other performances are at Fanshawe Village May 23-24; Lexington, Michigan, on June 13th; and Wardsville during its "Kin Days," the weekend of June 20.

Related to CFHA: The costume heads for this play called about clothing of the period for the Quakers in the play. Previous CQH Journals had some articles about Quakers and the Rebellion. Gladys Lewis wrote JOSHUA DOAN, an historic fiction novel about a young rebel from Sparta, later hung in London in 1839. Research continues on this period, which impacted subsequent democracy in Canada. Reported by Jane Zavitz-Bond

The War of 1812 Revisited

The Fort La Presentation Association of Ogdensburg, NY is sponsoring a War of 1812 War College Saturday, May 2, 2009. The daylong series of five seminars will examine aspects of the War affecting Sackets Harbor, Ogdensburg, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Over the past 250 years, the flags of France, England and the US have flown above Fort de La Presentation and its successors during the French and Indian War, the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Ogdensburg experienced the War of 1812 on a number of occasions. The most devastating was 22 Feb. 1813 when Lt. Col 'Red George' Macdonnell led a reprisal raid across the frozen St. Lawrence from Prescott, Ontario. The aggressive 1st US Rifle Regiment under Capt Benjamin Forsyth was drive out of the town. American military stores that could not be taken back to Canada were burned.

"We have lecturers from New York and Ontario," said Project Director Doug Cubbison. "Their presentations are not only for academics and historians, but will interest military reenactors, history buffs and the public. The Association is offering the lectures and related activities, including meals, for only \$55. The War College will be held at the Freighthouse Restaurant in Ogdensburg. The former railroad station is located on the 1813 battlefield and is adjacent to the Fort de La Presentation archaeological site.

Details on the War College can be found at www.fortlapresentation.net. Phone: 315-394-1749 or call Association President, Barbara O'Keefe, 315-393-3315.

An Evening with the Canadian Friends Historical Association: September 20, 2008 by Naomi Norquay

Every year, the Canadian Friends (aka Quakers) Historical Association holds a conference in conjunction with its annual general meeting. This fall's event was the third conference in which they have focused on the Friends' / Quakers' role in bringing about the abolition of slavery. (See the article by Christopher Densmore who spoke to the Canadian Friends Historical Association at the Yonge Street Meetinghouse at Newmarket in April, 2008.) The conference took place at Grey Roots Museum and Archives because the Friends wished to reacquaint themselves with their historic connections with Grey County. There were a few Quaker communities in Grey in the 19th century in Heathcote, the Mallory Tract and Woodford. Although there are still Quakers living in the area, there are no Meetinghouses in operation today.

After the annual general meeting, Petal Furness took the group on a tour of the museum and archives. After lunch, Terri Jackson was the tour guide for a bus tour of Black Heritage sites in and around Owen Sound. And finally, after a sumptuous dinner, the 40 or so attendees gathered in the auditorium for a viewing of the film *Speakers for the Dead*. The film makers, Jennifer Holness and David Sutherland were introduced and warmly welcomed.

Speakers for the Dead was released in 2000 to much acclaim and public interest. It traces the story of the Black pioneer cemetery which is located on the Old Durham Road near Priceville, Ontario. Through interviews and dramatization, the film explores the events that led to the demise of the cemetery (it became a farmer's potato field) and its eventual resurrection as an important historic site. This was the work of a group of local citizens, who formed a committee along with descendants of the Black pioneers, professional historians and an archaeologist. They convinced the land owner to give the land to the municipality. It is now a designated historic site.

The film does not stop there. It wades into what is still an ongoing debate about whether or not the Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery Committee should be allowed to undertake an archaeological dig in the cemetery in order to recover more headstones. (The current site has four headstones under plexiglass. They were found in the stone pile of the old school house across the road.) The group believes that by recovering headstones, they will not only right some old wrongs, they will also be able to learn more about the original Black settlers through the names, dates and other information on the stones.

Following the viewing of the film, the audience heard from a most interesting panel: it included Jennifer Holness (film maker), as well as Karolyn Smardz Frost and Les MacKinnon (who both figured prominently in the film).

Les MacKinnon gave the keynote address. For those of you who know Les, you know that he is an incurable storyteller - especially when it comes to telling the stories of Priceville's Black pioneer settlers and the myriad small and large acts of cunning and spite that led to their disappearance from the historical landscape. A "fiery fourth-generation Scottish Canadian" (his self-description in the film), Les spoke knowledgeably and passionately about a series of events that quite literally "buried" the cemetery, ensuring that no head stones would ever be turned up by an archaeologist's careful digging.

Drawing on his own seemingly infinite knowledge of the area's oral history and on his many connections in the community, Les pieced together some amazing information about the history of road building in the area - and, of course - spun it into an entertaining and thoughtful tale. It seems that in the 1940s when snow plows were introduced, roads had to be built up in order to create ditches for holding and draining the plowed snow. Les quizzed his father about this and learned that the municipality was getting gravel for the roads from an area behind the cemetery (which was at this point a farmer's field). The gravel company had the farmer's permission to drive through his field. In order to ensure that the trucks did not sink into the earth of that field (which was likely more vulnerable to caving in because it contained graves), the gravel company put a huge layer of gravel over the field. When they were finished removing all the gravel, they added a layer of top soil so the farmer could continue planting potatoes. Les's love for his community and his ability to render its history into fascinating tales provided a sense of hope and inspiration.

Jennifer Holness then spoke about the "power of the point of view that is always presented" and how hard it is to break its hold on "truth". She expressed the need to probe the contexts in which such "truths" hold so much power - and to question the "truisms" that come to us through history. *Speakers for the Dead* tries to do just that. Having heard her speak, I can now understand why the film's story didn't end with the ceremony in which the plaque was unveiled by then Lieutenant Governor Lincoln Alexander. That would have been a "happy ending"! The story of the cemetery is not over. Jennifer, like Les, understands the need for constant vigilance, lest the inconvenient truths become buried once again.

The third speaker was Karolyn Smardz Frost, archaeologist, historian, and author of *I've Got a Home in Glory Land* (Toronto: Thomas Allen Publishers, 2007), for which she was the winner of the 2007 Governor General Award for Non-Fiction. Karolyn spoke about her role as an archaeologist and the important work she and other archaeologists have done in support of Black history in the province.

.... *An Evening with CFHA* *continued*

Besides her work with the Old Durham Road Black Pioneer Cemetery, Karolyn also worked on the site of the Blackburns' home and business in Toronto. The Blackburns owned and operated Toronto's first taxicab business. They were fugitives from slavery in Kentucky and they are the subject of Karolyn's book. She also spoke about doing some archaeological work for the First Baptist Church in Buxton, Ontario that wished to build an addition, but did not want to disturb any unmarked graves. These stories nicely illustrated her involvement with important Black history sites in Ontario. Karolyn also read from her book and then told the story about how she came to write the book. Her enthusiasm and love for the Blackburns and their story was infectious.

While Karolyn was the only trained archaeologist on the panel, it was evident to me that we were blessed with the knowledge, insights and expertise of three "diggers", committed to being speakers for the dead and educators for the living. It was a highly entertaining and thought-provoking evening. Gord Thompson closed the event by thanking the panelists and wondering about the "Quaker Pricevilles" that may be out there" and telling us how delighted he was to find common ground between the work being done in Grey County and that of The Canadian Friends Historical Association. For more information about this historic Black church and community, visit:
<http://www.buxtonmuseum.com/history/hist-baptist-church.html>

From the Arthur Dorland Collection

by Jane Zavitz-Bond

Communities of the past are now remembered as we look to the challenges for living in these present changing times. Friends do need one another, and others can use the communities of the past as models, with some adaptations, for the present. The individual and the group in proper balance - we must seek to find the equilibrium. Thus the celebrations of the Quaker past may be much more than recognition of the years that have passed!

A Discovery -- An autograph book has come to light. Margaret Scarlett, of Ottawa called to say her great Grandmother was a student at the Friends Seminary in West Lake, in 1852. The students chose quotations to write, often with brief notes. The choices can tell us about these young people. The young student was from Leeds, and not known to be a Quaker (given other details from Margaret Scarlett we are looking into this!). This is also important for Quakers in Canada. 'Others' were not excluded from the school, nor were they excluded at the successor institutions at Pickering and Newmarket.

As a resource document, the students signing allow us to build a list for the 1850 period, along with a similar volume which was Rachel Haight's autograph book, adding to the student list. Rachel, from Pickering, was later Peter Doyle's second wife, and great-great grandmother of Margot Kidder. The Dunkerron (Tecumseh Preparative Meeting, under Yonge Street Monthly Meeting) was in the valley that led up to Grey County, a later arm of Quaker settlement. So many threads tie together over the years, and are exciting.

Margaret Scarlett's treasured volume can be scanned or digitally photographed to share. Modern technology makes such possible.

The Marion Cronk Fonds is another example of this procedure. Paul Zaborousky came to view the Mill Records for a business founded in the same mid-1800's era, excited that they exist. His local historical society will include his research in the local history volume they have been working on for years. The founder of the mill was a relative of Marion Cronk's and the family had saved the records, only to be saved again by recent concerned friends, with an interest in history!

Paul also reported his interest in handcrafted art, and sent pictures of wood, copper, pewter and silver pieces he has acquired made by the resident artisan at Pickering College in the Joe McCulley era. The world is small and friendly in research circles! Discoveries are opening new doors to enrich our awareness of the past.

The Wood sisters, Kathy Buchowski and Pat O'Hara, came to research their Great-Great grandfather Benjamin Wills Wood, who taught languages at Pickering College and was active in CYM in the 19 century. His life ended in the West teaching English to the Doukabors. We look forward to an account of Benjamin's life for the Canadian Quaker Biography File.

Visits such as theirs make happy days in the Dorland. .

News and Events

Quaker history can take us to special events while we enjoy travel near home in our beautiful province! Collect your F/friends and/or families for summer and fall mini-vacations. We hope this information will allow you to plan for some of these events. Mark your calendars!

Sparta: June 6: A play presents Dr. Charles Duncombe's escape to the US during the Rebellion. This new drama in which Quaker settlements were involved, will be presented at four venues in May and June: Fanshawe Village May 23-24; Lexington, Michigan, on June 13th, and Wardsville during its "Kin Days" the next week. See details, page 3

June 14, Uxbridge: In 2009, Uxbridge celebrates 200 years since the Friends Meeting there was organized in 1809, four years after the settlement began. The local trustees for the Uxbridge Meetinghouse invite you to come June 14th at 1pm for the service and celebration at the Meetinghouse on Quaker Hill. Parking is available there and at the Scott-Uxbridge Museum parking lot, with shuttle bus provided to other activities. See their website: www.uxbridgequakermeetinghouse.com



July 31 – August 2 Owen Sound 147th Emancipation Festival. Celebrating the Black history of our area within the context of Owen Sound as the Underground Railroad's most northern point. www.emancipation.ca

October 3, 2009 Doors Open will come to Sparta The Friends Meetinghouse, built 1865, will be a site this year. The Ontario Ministry of Culture and Tourism's 2009 booklet lists all the venues open for this coming season. A number of Quaker sites, always popular destinations for visitors, are included. The booklet is out soon. Watch for it!

Canadian Friends Historical Association was founded in 1972 with the aim of preserving and making known the religious, cultural, social and pioneer heritage of Quakers from their first settlement in Canada until today. CFHA is open to all who share an interest in Canadian Quaker History.

Membership supports the Canadian Quaker Archives and helps maintain CFHA's website.

Jane's Corner

The United Nations has declared 2009 the Year of Astronomy. The telescope used when Pickering College opened in Newmarket 100 years ago this September is in the Arthur Dorland Collection, saved from the science area after the 1981 fire. Wouldn't it be great to set it up and use it for students later this year.

The other tie Quakers have to Astronomy is that their colleges all had observatories as soon as they were established. Sir Arthur Eddington, the British astrophysicist Nobel winner, was a Quaker, who wrote on connections of his faith and science. A recent clerk of London Yearly Mtg, Jocelyn Burnell, is also recognized as a prominent modern astronomer. She follows in the steps of Nantucket Island Quaker Maria Mitchell, the first woman recognized as a major astronomer. This is just the tip of the iceberg, on this subject-- all of these Friends have books written by or about them in the Dorland Collection. In the present many astronomers received their first training in Friends Colleges/Universities.

When we look at other subject areas it is the same... Quakers were, and still are, involved. It has been said that if one is a scientist and a Quaker the chances of being named a Nobel Prize recipient is 76 times better out of every 100! Looking back, we can see that Friends tried to do what appeared best, and later there were problems. We improved prisons, and now wish they did not exist as such. We began coal and petroleum use as energy producers. The problems today make us wonder! But I do believe we can seek and find solutions. We have to look further ahead than immediate knee jerk solutions. I do think, as Jesus said, we have to "go about my Father's business." Or, to use words that are 'correct' so that they can be heard in this present, "To follow the Light and bring the Goodness of the Eternal Spirit to work among all people in the world today."

That is what we are about in each encounter in CFHA.. We often find relationships, but the spirit in which we work together enhances our efforts to advance.

We are grateful for the recent inquirers and to all who have helped to carry the work forward. CFHA has some new members happy to share their stories and carry awareness of Quaker History in Canada forward.

The 18th Biennial Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists will be held June 2010 at Wilmington Ohio. Plan ahead to attend!

Membership in CMHA entitles you to Canadian Quaker History, the annual journal, and periodic newsletters published by CFHA. We are always looking for fresh new material on Quaker History in Canada. If you have an article that you would like to submit to the Journal, please send to: Secretary@cfha.info or mail hard copy to the Editor, Canadian Quaker History, PO Box 21527, Newmarket, ON L3Y 4Z0