



The Meetinghouse

*A quarterly newsletter published by the Canadian Friends Historical Association
for members and Friends*

Fall 2014



CFHA members, guests pose in front of Sharon Temple ... page 9



The "four virtues" are fastened on the four pillars around the Ark in the centre of Sharon Temple



P.O. Box 21527
17600 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 4Z0

The Mission of the Canadian Friends Historical Association is the preservation and communication of the ongoing history and faith of the Religious

Society of Friends (Quakers) in Canada and their contribution to the Canadian Experience.

The Canadian Friends Historical Association is an Ontario Corporation and a Canadian Registered charity.

The Meetinghouse

The Meetinghouse is the newsletter of the Canadian Friends Historical Association; it is published four times a year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Reprinting of articles must be accompanied by the acknowledgement: "Reprinted from The Meetinghouse (issue and date) published by the Canadian Friends Historical Association." Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Association. Please direct all inquiries regarding submis-

sions and advertising to:

The Meetinghouse,
PO Box 21527,
17600 Yonge Street,
Newmarket,
Ontario L3Y 4Z0

newsletter@cfha.info

Website: www.cfha.info

Articles, reports, book reviews and photos about historical events, families and places involving The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) are welcome. See due dates for copy below. Please email the Editor at: patmor123@gmail.com

In this issue

- 3 Editorial Notes ... *Pat Moauro*
- 4 Chairman's Message ... *Gordon Thompson*
- 5 Officers, directors confirmed for 2014-2017
- 6 CFHA Executive concerned over declining memberships
- 7 Public-history institutions face 'bright future'
- 8 Ideas, suggestions gathered during "Threshing" Session
- 9 A tour of the historic Sharon Temple
- 10, 11 From the Archives with Jane Zavitz-Bond
- 12 Book Reviews: from a Quaker perspective

The Meetinghouse Winter issue deadline, distribution

ISSUE	COPY DUE	DISTRIBUTION DATE
Winter	December 15	January 2, 2015

Cover photo by **Megan Houston**

CFHA Executive 2014-2017

Chair - Gordon Thompson

Recording Secretary -
Sheila Havard

Treasurer -
Ruth Jeffery-MacLean

Vice-Chair Built Heritage -
Ian Woods

Vice-Chair Communications-
Robynne Rogers-Healey

Advisory Committee

Webmaster - *Randy Saylor*

Canadian Quaker History
Journal Editor -
Robynne Rogers-Healey

Journal Production -
Albert Schrauwers

The Meetinghouse Editor -
Pat Moauro

CYM Records Committee
Liaison - *Ruth Kuchinad*

Editorial Notes

... Pat Moauro, Editor

New Executive Committee ponders future of CFHA



Pat Moauro

It was a day of introspection, questions and answers during **CFHA's** 2014 AGM and "Threshing" Session September 20. Concerned out-going Chair **Andrew Cresswell** led the sessions that examined the **Canadian Friends Historical Association** and why its individual and institutional memberships have declined so precipitously during the past year.

Incoming and returning Chair **Gordon Thompson** thanked Andrew "for the many things you have done for **CFHA**," including Andrew's marketing skills in moving the association more into the public eye.

Gordon said one reason for the decline in memberships (see report on page 6) may have been the move to an on-line version of *The Meetinghouse* newsletter during the past year, instead of mailing out printed copies, as the association had done for many years.

This Fall issue, however, has been printed and included in the mailing of **The Canadian Quaker Historical Journal**. Chair **Gordon Thompson** said it was advantageous to combine

the mailing of both publications. *The Meetinghouse* could piggy-back on the Journal, since it was time to mail this annual issue out to members.

But what about future issues of *The Meetinghouse*? Do **CFHA** members still want to receive printed versions of this quarterly newsletter, or will they adapt to changing technology and read the publication online?

With the steady decline of newspapers, especially dailies, and other print publications, an increasing number of public and private institutions are putting their communication vehicles on-line.

Many seniors are continuing to adapt to the use of computers to access information. But do **CFHA** members - many of whom are of advanced age -

want to receive their news and information from the Internet, or will they still want to receive hard copies?

An on-line publication is considerably less expensive to prepare and deliver than a printed version, with big savings in printing and postage costs.

The big question that the new 2014-2017 **CFHA** Executive Committee must ponder and decide is how to deal with the decline in its individual and institutional memberships, resulting in reduced operating revenue.

And in what format will this publication you are now reading continue to be published?

As they ponder these important questions let's hold them in the Light.

Pat



This view from the floor of the historic Sharon Temple in Sharon, Ontario, is the inside of a three-level tower-like structure surrounding the Ark. **David Willson** and his Children of Peace built Sharon Temple and other buildings on the site between 1825 and 1832.

Chairman's Message

... *Gordon Thompson, Chairman*

CFHA Chair stresses need for membership support



Gordon Thompson

As both incoming and returning Chair it gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the very significant contributions of outgoing Chair **Andrew Cresswell** and to express my thanks and appreciation to all those who participated in the AGM and Threshing Session September 20.

I would also like to express my thanks to the new and returning members of the Executive Committee.

You will notice that you are receiving a printed copy of this issue of *The Meetinghouse*. We are including this issue in the same mailing as *The Canadian Quaker History Journal* to make most effective use of the postage charge.

Noticeable decline in renewals

Please bear with us: we are trying to get the right balance between sound stewardship of our financial resources and environmental concerns and stewardship of our organization itself. Simply put, the shift to an on-line mode of communication seemed to

result in a noticeable decline in membership renewals. This may have been due to other causes but similar membership declines have occurred when other organizations eliminated printed and posted communications in favour of the time and cost-saving benefits of electronic media exclusively.

While we enjoy an active and supportive membership we cannot easily tolerate a significant loss of numbers, either in individual or organizational memberships.

So, we will attempt to tweak and improve our communications strategy. Future issues of *The Meetinghouse* will be limited in size and weight to make most effective use of minimum postage rates. They will be mailed to all members except those who request e-mail distribution only. The posted issues will be supplemented with e-mail versions distributed electronically or accessible on the **CFHA** website. These versions will typically contain additional photographs and extended items for which printing and posting is not a practical option.

Your on-going membership is important. Maintaining good communications and strong relationships with our members is essential.

September has seen the opening of the *Aga Khan Mu-*

seum and Ismailia Centre in Toronto. This facility provides access to and sharing of more than 1,000 artifacts and documents which inform and celebrate the global cultural and spiritual legacy that this sect of Islam has contributed to the world.

This is a commendable, generous and praiseworthy achievement. But one might ask, where might one find even the slightest equivalent type of sharing and awareness-building of the contributions to human rights, spiritual insights and ethical discernments made by Quakers?

Foundational Quaker contributions such as the Peace Testimony, aboriginal relations, and anti-slavery and women's rights issues remain mostly unknown outside the members of *The Religious Society of Friends*. As the only Canadian organization focused exclusively on communicating the faith and contributions of Quakers to the Canadian experience, **CFHA** has a great deal of work to accomplish if the profoundly enriching legacy of Quakers is to be more widely appreciated.

Your membership is important, and I hope we can count on your continued participation and support.

Sincerely,
Gord

CFHA confirms officers, directors for 2014-2017



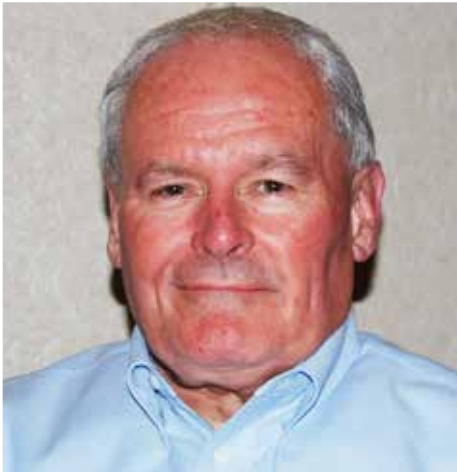
Gordon Thompson,
Chair



Sheila Havard,
Recording Secretary



Ruth Jeffery-MacLean,
Treasurer



Ian Woods,
Vice Chair, Built Heritage



Robynne Rogers Healey,
Vice Chair, Communications

Board appoints individuals for coming year

The **CFHA** Board has appointed the following individuals to advisory positions during the coming year and are listed for record purposes:

Webmaster, **Randy Saylor**, whose term started in 2007;
Editor, Canadian Quaker History Journal, **Robynne Rogers-Healey**, whose term started in 2009;
Editor, The Meetinghouse newsletter, **Pat Moauro**, whose term started in 2013; and
CYM Records Committee Liaison, **Ruth Kuchinad**, whose term started in 2013.



Andrew Cresswell, right, who completed his three-year term as Chair of the **CFHA** at the September 20, 2014 AGM, discusses a meeting item with **Gordon Thompson**, who succeeds Andrew as Chair for a three-year term.

CFHA concerned about declining memberships, support

A sharp drop in memberships of individuals and Monthly Meetings is causing the **Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA)** grave concern. Fewer than 20 individuals, including the Executive, attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and "Threshing" session September 20.

In her report on membership to the AGM, Treasurer **Ruth Jeffery-MacLean** said the association is experiencing "a decline in membership," adding that "we are not carrying members who have not continued to pay (their annual dues).

"We don't know why membership is declining," she said, adding that annual dues for Monthly Meetings are \$25 - the same as for individuals."

The only Monthly Meetings that still have memberships are: Kitchener, Ottawa, Halifax, Victoria, B.C. and Coldstream (near London, Ontario).

Current individual memberships are: Life, 17 (same as last year) Regular, 47 (60 last year), and Honourary, 2 (up from zero last year), for a total of 66, down from 76 last year. Of the 66, eight people live in the United States.

Corporate members, including Monthly Meetings, Libraries, Historical Associations, Museums, Genealogical Associations and Cemeteries, total 25, down from 34 last year.

Andrew Cresswell, outgoing Chair, told the meeting: "We are wrestling with what the future of this association is. We will do what you want us to do. The Executive still

believes very much in the association." Pressure, however, is coming from outside (the Executive) and "they want us to be a resource...work with genealogies and speak at conferences. They don't want to come to AGMs."

Andrew also noted that the challenge of declining memberships and support is not unique to the **CFHA**.

"It's also affecting **Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM)**, which finds itself in the same place that many associations find themselves in. They have to evolve. I am very concerned we are being called on to be stewards of the history and tradition of Quakers. A hiccup is that we can't continue in the vein we are going financially."

Jane Zavitz-Bond, CYM

Archivist, said that "Quaker history is foundational to Canada's history."

Financial Statement, Operating Budget

For 2013-2014, **CFHA** had budgetted \$7,000 for income; however, income for the year totalled \$4,238.56 (including \$205.00 U.S.).

Expenses were budgetted for \$5,795.00, and actual expenses for the year totalled \$5,769.47. Expenses exceeded income by \$1,735.91. Year-end balance was \$5,468.28.

A proposed operating budget for 2014 to 2014 was approved. Total income budgetted, \$4,350.00, and total expenses budgetted, \$5,300.00, for a deficit of \$950.00.



Current, Past CFHA Chairs

Three former Chairs, including the current Chair of the **Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA)**, attended the 2014 AGM and "Threshing" Session at Sharon, Ontario, September 20. From left to right, are: **Gordon Thompson**, a former Chair from 2007-20011, and incoming Chair for 2014-2017; **Jane Zavitz-Bond**, long-time Chair before Gordon; and **Andrew Cresswell**, Chair from 2012-2014.

Public-history institutions face sunny future

Craig Heron, a history professor at York University, brought some good news and some bad news for the **Canadian Friends Historical Association (CFHA)** September 20.

Following are excerpts from his address to the **CFHA** AGM and “Threshing Session”:

“Public-history institutions in this part of the world have every reason to feel optimistic about their long-term prospects, for the simple reason that there is abundant evidence that lots of people are still fascinated by history and historical subjects and want to engage with the past...”

“If that’s the good news, I’m afraid there’s also quite a bit of bad news. Connecting with that historical enthusiasm is not easy these days, for a number of complicated reasons, starting with underfunding and extending to new audience expectations...”

“The first and overarching challenge is money. There is simply far too little of it available for the heritage work that public-history institutions want to undertake. At the federal level, funding to established heritage organizations has been dwindling over the past several years. For many years now, the Museum Assistance Program has supported only travelling exhibitions. Other agencies engaged in heritage research, preservation, and programming have had their budgets slashed...”

“In some ways even more troubling has been the politicization of federal grants. The Harper government has harnessed a version of history to promote its vision of Canada. In particular, it has focused on war as a central national symbol - it wants to imagine Canada as a warrior nation. Most controversially, it poured \$28 million into a celebration of the bi-centennial of the War of 1812 in an unconvincing effort to establish that conflict as the defining moment of our nation-state.



Craig Heron
*Professor of History,
York University*

“Then it announced a re-organization of the Canadian Museum of Civilization to make it into a Museum of Canadian History that will veer away from its emphasis on social and cultural history towards political and military history. And last year it announced that Heritage grants from the federal government would be based on a new set of priorities, which highlight prime ministers’ birthdays, military campaigns, and, curiously, hockey (the most military of our sports, I guess, and the favourite of our prime minister, who has, of course, written a book on hockey history). I wonder where they think an organization dedicated to respecting a history of peace, like the Quakers, will fit.

“At the provincial level, the story is scarcely less gloomy...”

“The result of this chronic underfunding is, of course, the relentless need to fund-raise. Heritage organizations become competitors for the same limited pool of private-sector funds. They are also competing with many other cultural organizations, such as theatre or opera companies, that want to get rich philanthropists to support their programs...”

“Heritage groups therefore have to pour a huge amount of time and energy into fundraising

campaigns, from bake sales to bulk mailings. A growing trend I’ve noticed among NGOs (non-governmental organizations) is to ask for sustaining monthly contributions. Since everyone is asking donors to do this, I suspect the returns are diminishing...”

“So what do you do? The word that invariably pops up at this point in the conversation is partnerships. These can be both a decided advantage and a potential quagmire of problems... The public historians feel pressure to compromise their independent, critical, and professional standards. This is a situation not unlike what the federal government is now expecting from those applying for heritage grants...”

“Financial constraint makes it hard for heritage organizations to deal with two large issues facing their operations. The first is the question of who will do the creative work to carry out the group’s mandate? Who will staff the organization?”...

“There is growing concern in Ontario and elsewhere with the rapid growth of unpaid internships - basically free labour - not all of which are directly linked to any academic program...”

“So, looking across the public-history landscape in Ontario, I see some dark clouds, largely resulting from underfunding. But I hope I’ve also been able to suggest that there are great pastures of sunshine where exciting new ideas are blossoming.

“I think energetic and dedicated organizations like yours - and there are many like you across the province - are well placed to take up some of those new notions about how to help people understand their past. And as I said at the beginning, there is every reason to believe that you’ll find receptive audiences. So I wish you all the best.”

*The full text of Prof. Heron’s address will appear in the 2015 issue of **The Canadian Quaker History Journal.***



CFHA members participated in a two-part "Threshing" Session totalling three-hours September 20. They were asked for their ideas and suggestions for a strategic directions document for the incoming 2014-2017 Executive.

Above and at left, Friends take part in the idea- and fact-finding exercise, as they write down their thoughts on how the association can improve and enhance its operation and serve members better.



At lower left, **Andrew Cresswell**, immediate past Chair of the **CFHA**, presents a gift to **Megan Houston**, program and site coordinator at the Sharon Temple museum site. Megan conducted a tour of the Sharon Temple and grounds for **CFHA** members and guests September 20.

"The Executive Committee remains quite distressed by the lack of individuals coming forward to stand for positions on the Executive after extensive appeals," **Andrew Cresswell**, retiring Chair, wrote in his Chairman's Report to the AGM and "Threshing" Session. "There has been some changes in the composition of the Association's membership as a significant percentage of the current membership is made up of institutions, with a matching decline in individual memberships. We are concerned about the decline of meetings in membership and significant Quaker libraries."



CFHA members and guests took a break from their AGM and 'threshing' meetings on September 20 to tour the historic Sharon Temple, a National Historic Site of Canada in the village of Sharon, near Newmarket, north of Toronto. The open-air museum has eight distinctive heritage buildings and dwellings, and houses 6,000 artifacts on a 1.8-hectare site. The "Children of Peace", a sect led by **David Willson**, a former Quaker associated with Yonge Street Meeting, constructed the buildings between 1825 and 1832.



From the Archives

... Jane Zavitz-Bond

Networking, personal meetings important for archivists



Jane Zavitz-Bond
CYM Archivist

Time in the Archives brings interesting discoveries to light - sometimes even a nugget or two of "gold". In this case, the "gold" is historical information about Quakers and their families.

Some of this information emerges while archival staff search for answers to queries from the public. The records, letters, and photos, with added notes bring facts to life. When glancing at the associated files during a search we may catch the glint of a nugget in our "mine" - the vault.

Recently, assistant archivist **Michela Lockhart** rehoused some records in acid free folders and boxes. The **Canadian Friends Service Committee (CFSC)** materials related to current requests just "happened" to be there, or were recently processed and recalled. As inventory is entered on our computer, it will allow quick retrieval by future searchers. It is satisfying to see this work proceed.

Researchers can be assisted in other ways. As mentioned at the **CFHA** AGM September

20, networking has always been part of the Archives activity.

Networking produces valuable resources from such sources as: Sharon Temple Museum Society, North Norwich Archives, Elgin County Archives and Museum, North Buxton Settlement Association, Grey County Archives, Prince Edward County Archives, Western (UWO) Archives, Trent University Archives, Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College, Haverford Quaker Collection, Earlham, Guilford, and Wilmington Colleges' Quaker Historical and Heritage Collections and Libraries.

Many attenders at Quaker historical and archivists conferences come from these centres, which have also been the source of valuable historical materials gathered by researchers who present papers.

We are part of that generous network and I expect this to expand to Quaker centres around the world when Ancestry.ca places early Canadian Quaker Records online by the end of this year.

This past summer I had several networking encounters with researchers. An email asked why a grandfather, **Jacob Stover**, was disowned from Norwich Monthly Meeting on 10-5-1837 and then, perhaps, reinstated. An enquirer wished to see the original record. Could she come to the Archives that

week? I had just missed her, so emailed that she might also find data on microfilm at the Norwich Archives on the Stover family as they were part of the Norwich community. The Stover name is on one of Norwich's streets.

On my way home from the Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Archives where I assisted a researcher, I decided to go through Norwich and touch base with the archivist. When I arrived, this particular enquirer was there!

She had received my email the day before and was still travelling in the area. So she and her husband went immediately to Norwich, The able volunteer had found the answer, and more.

Again, I was surprised when the other researcher there was a man whom I had met by phone a few years ago. He had enquired about the *Nichelson Girls Diary*. The Nichelsons were his cousins.

This particular day he was hoping to discover who had owned the General Store in Burgessville. He had the account book, starting in 1846, which had been passed down by his family, so the owner was likely a relative. It took further research, but later he emailed to say he had found what he had been searching for.

I wonder if all this was simply a happy coincidence.

Continued on page 11

Networking, personal meetings important for archivists ... from page 10

Or, was it the result of building a network of researchers and meeting with them as much as possible?

Recently I again met a woman I had known 30 years ago. She is at the North Buxton Historical site, a major black settlement near Chatham, Ontario. They hold a reunion conference each year. I asked if she knew about the series of historic novels about **Emily Field**, and the underground railroad. Book III includes a major portion set in North Buxton. The outreach and education program planner replied that Carol Williams, the author, had been a major speaker at the 2013 conference. Carol Williams researched in the Dorland Collection and the books evolved.

Lord Buxton, a major anti-slave worker, was married to Hannah Barclay, sister of Elizabeth Fry and Joseph John Gurney, who encouraged Friends to found the boarding school that later became Pickering College.

Quaker writer contributes historical short story to book

Carol Leigh Wehking has written an historical short story using letters by **Edwin Zavitz** as a resource. Written while he served as a WWI Quaker Relief Worker in France. It is the only account in the volume about a conscientious objector. The dates and locations of book signings appear in this Meetinghouse issue on page 12.

Heather Kirk has completed her important secondary school text book on the history of the Friends Peace Testimony. Both are needed ac-



Author **Heather Kirk**, left, gives her book, *Be Not Afraid - The Polish (R)evolution, "Solidarity", to Jane Zavitz-Bond*. **Heather Kirk**, of Barrie, has also completed her second secondary school text book on the history of the *Friends Peace Testimony*.

counts in the world today. War is a disease in society that needs proper treatment and prevention.

Fewer researchers come in when transcriptions are requested and sent as a pdf file attached to the email in. The electronic enquiry may be more efficient, but usually it is archivists who direct and help make the needed connection.

Those interested in Quaker history can be found at events, such as Doors Open at Yarmouth (Sparta) and Yonge Street Meetings, and conferences held by associations such as the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Archives Association of Ontario.

New members and attenders of Friends' Meetings are often interested in our history; however, the way in which such information is found at the CYM Archives and elsewhere continues to change.

Watch future issues of *The Meetinghouse* newsletter for

such stories as Yarmouth Meeting at Sparta, which is marking its founding by Friends 200 years ago; and for the account of Canadian Friends' responses to WWI in future issues of the *Canadian Quaker History Journal*.

Caterer for CFHA AGM has historical Quaker roots

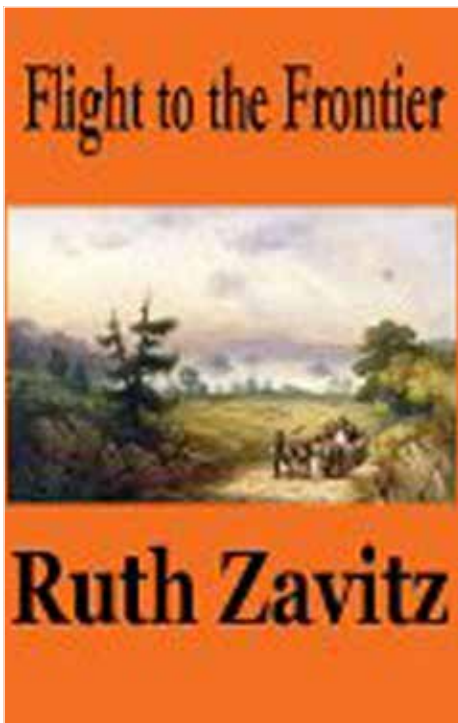
Donna Olding, owner of Little Red Catering of Newmarket, Ontario, provided meals for **CFHA** members and guests during the AGM and "Threshing" Session September 20. **CFHA** members met at Temperance Hall on the grounds of the Sharon Temple in Sharon, Ontario (see page 9).

Donna's family includes Quakers dating back to the late 1800s when two Huff brothers moved from New York to Ontario. Her late grandmother, **Marion Huff Olding**, grew up in Picton and died in 2009 at the age of 95.



Donna Olding

Book Reviews: From a Quaker Perspective



Flight to the Frontier

Author: Ruth Zavitz

Published by: Chronicle Publishing, Edmonton

Available from: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and soon at Chapters

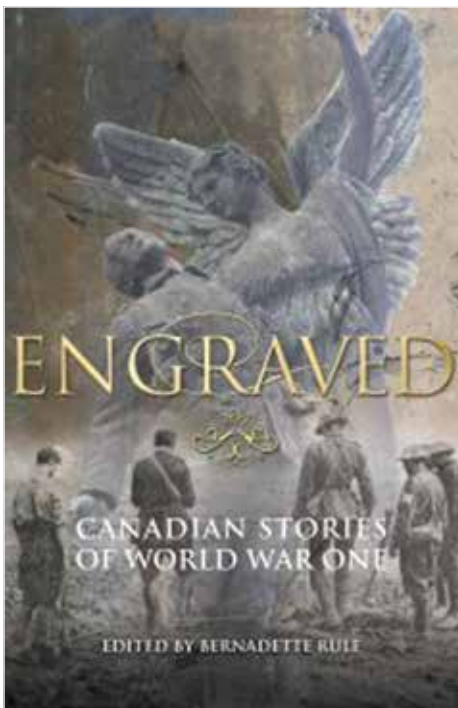
Price: \$15.98 paperback

At age 91, **Ruth Zavitz** of the Coldstream area, north of London, has published this historical novel about a Quaker family - husband, wife and daughter - that travels to the Niagara Region while escaping persecution for refusing to take either side during the American Revolution.

Phoebe Carey plans to marry **Richard Trevlyn** and live happily ever after in the hamlet of Haventown on the banks of the Hudson River. But the American Revolution intervenes. Richard leaves to join the Butler's Rangers at Niagara to fight against the rebels.

Phoebe and her Quaker parents are persecuted because of their refusal to join either side. They decide to flee to the safety of the British flag at Niagara. Phoebe is ecstatic, sure she will find Richard there although nothing has been heard of him. She will also escape the lecherous **Dilly Crossman** although he vows to follow her. Enduring the hardships of a winter trip through the forest, Phoebe and her family persevere. Will they reach Niagara? Will she find Richard and fulfil her dream? Will Dilly catch up with her?

The author has completed a yet unpublished sequel that continues the story into life in Canada.



ENGRAVED: Canadian Stories of World War One

Edited By Bernadette Rule

Published by: Seraphim Publishers, 232 pages

Price: \$19.95

This second anthology edited by **Bernadette Rule** is a collection of stories and essays about Canadians during World War One, with a focus on how that war changed Canadian society. Included is a story by **Carol Leigh Wehking**, a Quaker Friend. Carol also had a story in an earlier anthology, *In the Wings: Stories of Forgotten Women*, also edited by **Bernadette Rule**.

Carol's story in this latest collection is about a conscientious objector, **Edwin Zavitz**, a Quaker from Ontario, and his family.

"I am immeasurably grateful to **Jane Zavitz-Bond** (also of Yarmouth Monthly Meeting and CYM Archivist), for providing me with the first-hand material I needed for this story.

"In this year of remembering that devastating war, called 'the war to end all wars' (if only it had been!), I felt it was important also to include the pacifist view, and I am delighted that my story was accepted in the publication..."

Book launches include one on Tuesday, November 11 at the Dundas Public Library (18 Ogilvie St., Dundas, ON), starting at 7 p.m., when the contributors to *Engraved: Canadian Stories of World War One* will be reading from their stories; another on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at the Carnegie Gallery, 10 King St. West in Dundas; others will be held in Toronto and Burlington.