

# *NEWSLETTER*

## **CANADIAN FRIENDS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

c/o Pickering College, 16945 Bayview Avenue, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 4X2

Autumn 2004

Message from the Chairperson:

Dear f/Friends,

Greetings of the Season to each of you from the CFHA executive. It is the time for communications, but this year it feels more important than ever to maintain our community of caring and sharing as we sense the world's great needs. Help us to keep buoyant with loving spirits in trying times, when the spirit of Peace is surely tested, and our tempers tried. May we work in the Light and not have it sputter out in a smokey fog! May we keep our sense of love to guide us through the shoals that loom ahead. Our physical and spiritual worlds are indeed correlated ... symbiotic, and we need to have clear vision for the future. Mixed metaphors, but that is the way it seems today! The dimensions tangle, we try to order them, or at least use them for some good.

Still, we are thankful for all that has been accomplished, and for all the support that has been given, and now look to the future with faith. What more can we say? ... Thanks to you all. This Newsletter has touched on work to do, work underway, and awareness of those who have left us, but leave their legacies of service. I feel this more keenly for those lost this year were all known to me, a part of my life in significant ways. I am aware that many of you do not know these people, and that is why the life stories must not be lost. Yet each of you has your gifts to add, and the combination can be wonderful.

Even the historic fiction lays an understanding of ideas, ideals, and times when others were challenged. Time flips the calendar pages as it breezes by. I feel the pressure to do what I can NOW! Some of you are volunteering to help, and that is important in the coming year. Continue to support and be part of the CFHA company. We need one another!

And yes, Happy New Year!

In friendship,  
Jane Zavitz-Bond

## **QUAKERS CELEBRATE 350 YEARS in IRELAND 1654-2004**

The Quaker Community threw open its doors to the public on October 24, 2004 to mark the 350th anniversary of its establishment in Ireland. An Open Day is being held at four Dublin Quaker meeting houses and in Drogheda, County Louth. Organiser of the events, Philip Jacob, said the Open Days are a perfect opportunity for people to find out about Quaker beliefs. He said Quakers are a denomination of the Christian church, recognised in law and in the Constitution. Quakers differ from other faiths in that their form of worship is quiet, without clergy or priests. In total, there are around 1,500 followers of the faith in Ireland. He added that though small in number, Quakers have made their mark on Irish society, setting up some of the country's most famous companies - Bewleys' Café, Pym's, Goodbodies, Jacobs' Biscuits, and Lamb's Jams.

## **QUAKERS & WORLD WAR II**

'Canada's War in Colour', a documentary created from letters, diaries, and original movie footage, will be shown in a 3-part series at 8pm on January 11th, 18th, and 25<sup>th</sup> 2005. A short segment of Gordon Keith's 16mm silent movie, taken in China while working with the Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) in WWII, has been transferred to video and will be included. This footage will be backed by a reading from a letter written from China by a team member. We are excited about this opportunity to share history. Put these dates on your calendar!

## **RELIEF & RECONSTRUCTION**

Susan Armstrong-Reid and Dr David Murray, researchers in the Department of History at the University of Guelph are working on the Relief and Reconstruction projects that Canadians undertook with UNRRA after WWII. Canadian Friends Service Committee was a participant, along with American and British Quakers. It is a most important segment of 20<sup>th</sup> century history. The largest number of Canadians were in the China team. Susan reported that Peter Brock (honorary chairperson of CFHA), who was the head-of-team in Poland from 1947-49, was one of her history professors at University of Toronto. A small world - delightfully so at times. Several of these workers can still be interviewed; many have papers in the CYM Archives. Peter Brock sent copies of Peggy Harrison's letters from Poland to the Archives just last year, when her family shared them after her death. They are similar to letters Paul Zavitz wrote the last year the team was permitted to stay in Poland.

## **CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS**

CBC and News Services are covering Jeremy Hinzman's Immigration and Refugee Board hearing. Having left the US Military, he has sought refugee status in Canada as a conscientious objector to war in Iraq. This is a further chapter in the book of Friends Peace testimony still being written. Jeremy and his family have been befriended by Canadian Quakers. After enlisting and experiencing the horrors of war in Afghanistan, he declared his concern to be a non-combatant CO. When denied this status, he came to Canada. If refugee status is denied, he risks death or 25 year imprisonment under US Military tribunal.

## **QUAKER BURYING GROUND, Athens, Ontario**

Thanks to RoseMae Harkness.

In response to Harold Doan's concern to CYM Trustees, RoseMae and Peter Harkness travelled along Hwy #42 just outside Athens, Ontario, in October 2004, to discover the present state of the old Quaker burying ground. The sign, "Quaker Cemetery 1800-1879", and the largish metal silhouette of a horse and buggy on the hillock made it easy to find. This site is listed as lot 11 concession 8, Yonge Township, on the Province of Ontario's list of abandoned cemeteries in the Region of Eastern Ontario, and is presently surrounded by Herb Scott's farm. RoseMae & Peter found that the burying ground had been mowed and cared for this year by Karen Cook, a local resident, concerned to continue the work done previously by Dianne Chevier who rehabilitated and maintained the overgrown cemetery until no longer able to do so. The town had no money to put into maintenance so volunteers took on the work. RoseMae and Peter Harkness expressed appreciation on behalf of the trustees of CYM to Karen and Richard Cook for the work on the cemetery and their interest in its history.

Karen and Richard Cook, and other local residents, have also taken an interest in the early history of their town. It was founded by Joshua Bates, a Friend. At various times, the community was called Batesville, and Farmersville; - its current name, Athens, came later. Stephen Grellet, traveling in the ministry, visited there in 1805. RoseMae & Peter also discovered that Karen has been in touch with Jane Zavitz at the CYM Archives, who sent information. The Separations, as well as other factors, had impacted on the community, and today no Friends live in Athens. Many residents are descendants of Friends; but they have joined other churches - an oft-repeated story on this continent.

Interest in their history is aroused, and a local Heritage Society has been formed, but it is without financial resources to do much. The United Empire Loyalists Association has supported work on the UEL Cemetery, to the south of town. They are prepared to help Karen to determine the extent of the cemetery, as she has found more stones on the edges which could be early markers or simply pasture stones. The work on the UEL Cemetery has made it a lovely spot. It is fenced and well maintained.

The CYM Trustees, and we add, the CFHA, may have a role here to support in some manner the work on the Athens Friends Cemetery. Hay Bay and other sites where meetings no longer exist are sprinkled across Canada, but mainly in Ontario. Readers of previous Newsletters will remember a notice about Karen Cook's inquiries, to which RoseMae's report of the Harkness' visit adds information. CFHA adds its appreciation to all who undertook this work over the past several years. This is a right place for CFHA to be involved, with making the site better known and in providing some appropriate assistance as the work goes forward. Are there Quaker sites, buildings, cemeteries, or locations in your vicinity which you, our CFHA members, can check on and tell us more about?

## **MEMORIALS**

**NORWOOD VAIL** The death of Norwood Vail was reported last summer. He visited CYM in 1955 to request support for the NYYM Archives and helped us see how important our Archives are. He is also a cousin of this extended Quaker clan! The circles expand and interlink.

DOROTHY MACDONALD TAYLOR The death of Dorothy MacDonald Taylor in Spring 2004 reminded me of meeting her at the founding of New Brunswick MM in the early 1980s. She was the widow of Wilson MacDonald whose LYRIC YEAR book of poems was given to the Dorland Collection. The September lines were made real in art of the season painted in the leaves and sky of our day in Uxbridge! Her family had a retreat called "Bread and Roses" where both body and spirit were nurtured, and where early Atlantic Gatherings of Friends were held.

WINNIFRED AWMACK of Victoria, BC, died on August 23, 2004, a member of Victoria Meeting, and of CFHA from its early days. In 1993, Win authored her experiences in a BC Japanese Internment Camp during WWII teaching and living with these folk who became her lifelong friends. *Tashme - A Japanese Relocation Centre, 1942-1946* was her gift to the CYM Library Collection. The Documentary made of her story and the reunion with some of her students has been aired on CBC and TVO. Her husband, Joe, and their five children have made peace and service part of their lives. Our sympathy goes out to them. Our sadness is lightened by joy and thanksgiving for her full and generous life. Win shared her faith in action wherever she was, and made life seem brighter for those around her.

EDITH ADAMSON( 1913-2004) also of Victoria, died in August 2004. She cared for her family and as they were grown, gave increasing years of service to supporting Friends' Peace Testimony and related social justice issues after joining Ottawa Meeting in the 1960s. Edith was a librarian within the Federal Government, including work in the Department of Indian Affairs. She was equipped to 'speak truth to power' from training and experience, and following leadings of the spirit into practical action for the present.

The history of Conscience Canada grew out of Jerrilynn Prior's Peace Tax case, taken by Thomas Berger to the Supreme Court of Canada. Although lost, the case brought the concern for taxes paid to the military into greater focus. This is also Edith's story, as she wrote many of the Newsletters to keep Canadians informed on the status of the Peace Tax issue, and encouraged others to consider their part. The CYM Archives holds these, and related papers.

After retirement in 1977, Edith Adamson gave herself fully to making the world a better place. We are thankful for her faithfulness, her energy, and hope we may each seek and find the right ways for us to serve. At CYM, I was surprised how few people knew her, or about her work. We are a wide country - spaced far apart. And time became a divider. She had not been active in CYM for the last decade, and many have become active in that interval. The stories of such friends must not be lost.

## QUAKER TIES - PAST & PRESENT

Jane Zavitz-Bond had a visit with Caroline (Palmer) Bailey, great-granddaughter of David & Caroline (Zavitz) Cutler, in Brattleboro, Vermont, where the family has an organic farm and raise Suffolk Punch horses. They are cousins of the Zavitz-Laing clan in Sparta ON, who do the same!

When Jackson and Caroline Bailey were working in Japan with the international student program from Earlham College, they lived at Friends International House in Tokyo, while Anna Brinton and Esther Rhodes were there. The Baileys made regular trips over to Japan, spent time in several areas, and have knowledge of the families of the Japanese Quakers with whom Gurney and Elizabeth Binford spent many years. Caroline and her four children, took 'a sentimental journey' to all the places they had lived in Japan last November and shared the journey with me, via a photo-album and story. A regular column in the *Canadian Friend*, "Letters from Japan", tells this story - a nice connection with the 100th anniversary celebration of the CF 1905-2005.

**BOOKS** to read - for enjoyment in the Winter Days ahead ...

*The VOYAGEURS*, an historic novel by Margaret Elphinstone, published in 2003, by McArthur and Co. of Toronto, is a gripping story for winter reading. Although fiction, it portrays Quakers in Scotland and quickly moves to Canada and the War of 1812-14 period. A mystery, and well told tale, presumably based on a journal found in an attic, unfolds with prose that pictures the people and the places for the readers. Well-researched with support from some F/friends, it allows others to see Friends' faith and practice through a writer who has done her homework and been inspired to make the fiction dance before our mind's eye .. spinning the yarn and then weaving it before us. Several have read this and independently have recommended it to us. Yes, we have fiction in the Dorland Collection, by and about Quakers, and now we add this volume. Margaret Elphinstone is an accomplished novelist, whose new creation will add to her acclaim. (Try your local library, or Quaker Book Service in Ottawa has it in stock.)

The selection of Tommy Douglas by CBC listeners as the most significant Canadian in our history shares our concerns for the health safety net for all people in Canada. Tom McLeod, a member of CFHA, wrote a biography of Tommy Douglas and presented a copy before he retired and moved to BC. We carry such ties still as he was researching the impact of certain Friends upon the social history of the prairies, and the West. McLeod, Thomas & McLeod, Ian. *Tommy Douglas: The Road to Jerusalem*. Hurtig Publishers, 1987.

#### **NORWICH MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**

Norwich Museum & Archives has a new Curator & Director, Kerrie Gill, who has ties to a local Quaker family. If you have never been there, you will be surprised by the exhibits. If you have; a return visit shows update activity, and is worth it! The Museum site continues to be developed.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS AND RESEARCH SO OTHERS MAY ADD TO YOUR WORK.



## COMING EVENTS in 2005:

- Feb 2005      Quaker History Celebrated for Heritage Day - February 19, 2005  
In celebration of Heritage Day, Heritage Newmarket Advisory Committee and the Newmarket Historical Society present actor David Morris in a dramatic portrayal of Newmarket's Quaker founder, Timothy Rogers, on Saturday, February 19, 2005 from 1 to 4 pm at the Old Town Hall, 460 Botsford Street, Newmarket. Admission is free. For more information, call (905) 953-5314.
- May 2005      Ontario Genealogical Society Seminar, "Cross Border Heritage", May 27-29, 2005 The OGS Seminar will take place at The Clery International Centre, 201 Riverside Drive West (a few blocks west of Ouellette Avenue on the riverfront between the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel), Windsor, Ontario. For further information contact - OGS Seminar 2005, Box 443, Sarnia, ON N7T 7J2 / phone (519) 542-3554 / email <info@ogsseminar.org>.
- June 2005      Annual Church Service, Uxbridge Meetinghouse, Quaker Hill, June 12th 2005. All welcome.
- Aug 2005      The 200th anniversary of the founding of Uxbridge will be celebrated in 2005. There will be special events and displays at the Uxbridge-Scott Museum & Archives in summer 2005. Invitations are extended to all and especially to descendants of original settlers.  
August 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 - Attend the 200th Anniversary of Uxbridge, with formal events, parade in the Town of Uxbridge and displays at the Museum.  
August 13<sup>th</sup> 2005 - Descendants' Day with Friends Meeting for Worship at Uxbridge Meetinghouse on Quaker Hill, followed by some background commentary, Lunch, and Displays at the Museum. Plan to come. Welcome regardless of lineage!
- Aug 2005      Canadian Yearly Meeting will be held at Camrose, Alberta (near Edmonton), on August 13th-20th 2005.
- Sept 2005      CFHA ANNUAL MEETING, Newmarket, Saturday, September 17, 2005. Come! Celebrate! 100 years of the *Canadian Friend*, and 50 years of a re-united Canadian Yearly Meeting.