



Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Newsletter Summer 2016 - Issue # 124

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this piece, we are nearing the end of Spring, 2016. As usual, your Board of Directors have been ever active in the affairs of the Society.

Let me give you a brief run down on what we have been up to, events that have or are about to happen and looking forward to later in the year.

First, our Annual General Meeting was held on March 29, 2016. There were reports from the Secretariat, the Treasury, the Curators' Committee and a general overview from me. The year 2015 proved to be eventful as we pursued, as a priority, the development of a strategic plan and the never ending search for sources of funds to support our mission. A new Director, Roger Farrow, was elected by the membership to serve on the Board until the next Annual General Meeting. We welcome Roger and I would add, with his election, two vacancies remain on the Board. In this, I would welcome the opportunity of speaking with any member of the Society who would wish to be considered for a role on the Board of Directors.

Second, on April 5, 2016 at our General Meeting, we enjoyed the pleasure of a presentation by George Rust D'Eye, a prominent lawyer and historian, who spoke with thought and compassion of his early days in the Newcastle area. The audience thoroughly appreciated the presentation, according to the discussion following George's appearance.

Third, as I write this message, we are days away from Doors Open, 2016 – Newcastle, a partnership of the A.C.O. and your Society. It is scheduled for June 11, 2016 and involves the "opening to the public" of sixteen properties in Newcastle, many of them historic and one award-winning garden. As you read this message, the event will have taken place and I will report on its success in my next News-

letter.

Fourth, I would ask you to mark your calendars with the following, two events: 1. Clarington Heritage Week, August 8 – 14, 2016 and, 2. Newcastles of the World, September 19 – 23, 2016. In each case, members of your Board will be conducting guided walking tours of the Village to the participants of each event. There will be media and local coverage in advance of the events.

Fifth, we applied for and have just received a \$1,500 operating grant from the Municipality, for which we are grateful. An application for a larger project grant from the Federal Government did not meet their technical requirements for this year. We are, however, much encouraged by the discussion our Secretary has had with the relevant agency, such that we intend to pursue with vigour another application later this year.

Finally, a member of the Society, Charles Crowther, has joined the Curators Committee. Charles has thrown out a challenge to our members and friends to provide names of families long established in Newcastle and environs, so that we can examine our substantial records which may add information of interest about those families to their present day kin.

Do enjoy a great Summer, and I look forward to speaking to you again in our next Newsletter!

Regards,
Bob Malone,
President



What's Inside?

Page 1 President Bob updates us on the activities of the Society.

Page 2 Christine McSorley, a new member and a new contributor to the newsletter takes on a challenge to research and write a piece on the Community Hall clock tower and its contributor Wellington Foster.

Hopefully she will take on more challenges like this in the future!

Page 5 Myno Vandyke recounts the facts around the Newcastle Bomb Scare.

Page 6 Myno takes us to the Ganaraska Forest where a de Havilland Vampire jet came in contact with the highest point in Clarington.

Page 7 We find returning contributor Charles Crowther with a look into the Joll family of Newcastle.

Page 9 Sher Leetooze delves into a forgotten piece of Newcastle history, the drill shed.

Page 10 please find information on our Society and a parting photo.

WELLINGTON FOSTER and the Community Hall Clock

by Christine McSorley MBA

I was on my way back to Barrie after visiting my daughter at Queens University Kingston and as I drove along the 401 I had this urge to turn off at junction 440 !! What a pleasant surprise and discovery.

I have been living in Newcastle just over 2 years now and I love the village and area. From the first time I arrived in the village the Community Hall took my attention, but, more than just the hall, to me the icing on



location in Newcastle they moved to Toronto in 1879. Chester Massey had two sons: Vincent was a politician, who would go on to be Governor General of Canada. and Raymond who was an actor. "One of the stories, and this is hearsay, was that Vincent was running for MP for this area and people suggested Chester was donating the hall to sway voters for his son. If that were the case, it didn't work;

a farmer in Clarke Township won the election," said Ron Locke, past president of the Newcastle Village and District Historical Society. (Meare 2013). One of Chester Massey's long-time friends was a gentleman and philanthropist named Wellington Foster.

Wellington's Father, Horace Foster was a well-known old resident of Clarke. He came from the USA and settled in the township in the late 1830's. In 1844 Horace Foster bought 109 King Avenue W. The Foster family built a 3 storey front section as their home with a professional space

the cake was the clock tower. You see the clock tower depicted in many places, the Historical Society logo and the Newcastles of the World 2016 logo to name a couple. I am always drawn to the tower when I am up in the village, I hear the bell chime out the time hourly, and on Remembrance Day it is so poignant to hear it chime at 11am for the silence for remembrance at the memorial service, as it has done for many years. I decided I wanted to find out a little more about the clock.

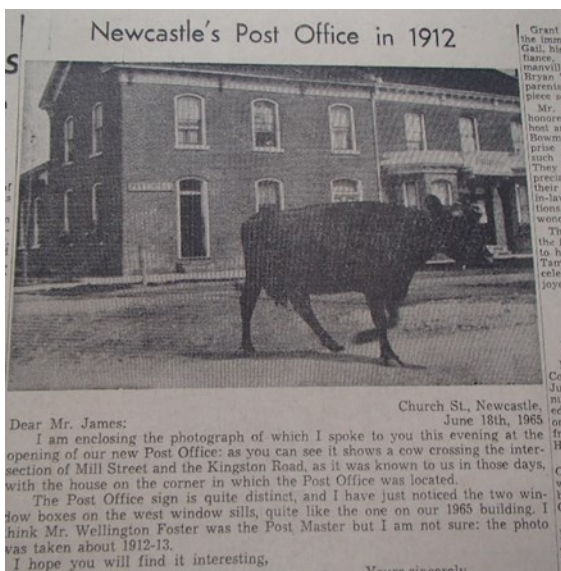
When you get to the centre of the village of Newcastle there is one building that stands out, the Community Hall, this building had its corner stone laid on Dominion Day, July 1st 1922, and the building was completed by the fol-

and it stayed in the Foster family until 1935. By then it had been converted into apartments and was known as the "Foster Homestead" I found a few of the Village of Newcastle censuses. This one from 1871, has Wellington Foster living with his parents Horace and Sarah (nee Way) and 6 siblings; he is 24 years old and a farmer. He never married and his sister Julia was still living with him in 1911.

According to the Orono News, Wellington Foster became

the new postmaster in the Village of Newcastle in June 1902. The Post Office at that time was in the building on the north/east corner of the King Street/Mill Street intersection, where Roselinas Pizza is today. He retired from farming and rented his land out, the south ½ to Isaac Selby (*Newt's father*) and the north ½ to Frank Bennett.

In the 1911 census Wellington Foster is still the Postmaster. The Newcastle Historical Society has a wealth of information in their possession which is where I found this photograph of the post office in 1912. 104 years ago cows were walking down the street in Newcastle. WOW how things have changed.



was 86. He died on June 20th 1932. On the death certificate it states that he is buried in the Bowmanville cemetery. I spent a pleasant afternoon walking around the cemetery but I never found his grave. I will continue looking.

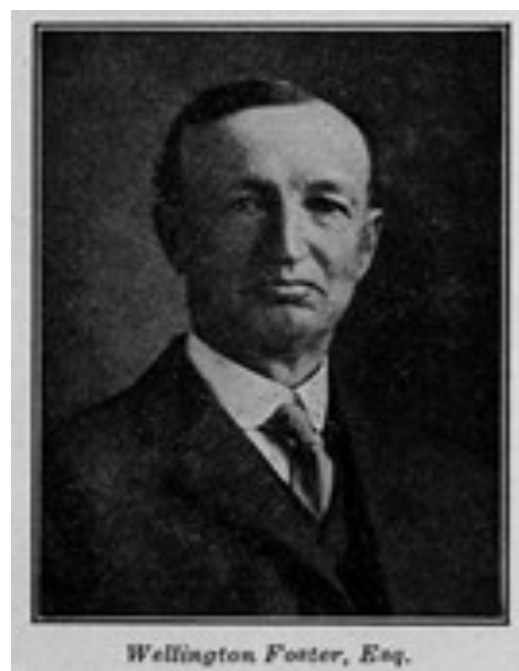


In St Georges Anglican Church there is a plaque on the wall commemorating him; take a look next time you are in the church. Next time you hear the clock chime when you are in the village give a thought to Wellington Foster who kindly donated the clock which has stood the test of time for 93 years.

I found this quote and feel very lucky that I live in a village that has moved forward with time but that the people all still take care of each other. There are many changes afoot as the clock ticks, I hope our village keeps a strong and caring feeling as time moves on.

The Clock

Wellington Foster purchased the clock from E Dent and Co. Ltd London UK, and had it shipped over here ready to be placed in the tower on completion in 1923. E Dent and Co Ltd. is the same company that made the clock in what is now called Elizabeth Tower in London, England, UK. The "Clock Tower" or "St Stephen Tower" was renamed in celebration of Queen Elizabeth II diamond jubilee, you might know it better as Big Ben (which is the bells name). Just as the "Big Ben" clock needs to be hand wound each week so does the clock in the Newcastle Community hall clock tower. I was told that anyone who has visited inside the tower has signed the wall up there. I hope to get the opportunity to go up one day and sign. There are two weights that reach all the way down to the community hall basement, I understand one for adjusting the time and one for the bell. Wellington Foster, as a retired gentleman lived until he



"I want to turn the clock back to when people lived in small villages and took care of each other"

Peter "Pete" Seeger was an American folk singer and social activist.

References

Clarke Township History and Pioneer Settlers

<http://www.ontariogenealogy.com/Durham/clarkehi.html>

Newcastle Community Hall celebrates 90 years Clarington This Week By Jennifer O'Meara Sept 2013

<http://www.durhamregion.com/news-story/4123701-newcastle-community-hall-celebrates-90-years/>

Massey's glory days, Brantford Expositor By Vincent Ball March

<http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2013/03/04/masseys-glory-days>

Ancestry census information

<http://home.ancestry.ca/>

quote

<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/clock.html>

Thank you also to all the knowledgeable people at the Newcastle Historical Society.

Racing at Newcastle

In 1843, Port Hope, Cobourg and Newcastle were famous for the great horse races held there each year. One paragraph is relative to the 1843 races, which were to take place on June 22nd. In consequence of the Toronto Races taking place about the same time that was appointed for those of those Newcastle district, the latter have been postponed until later in June. Much sport is anticipated. There have been several horses in training.

TAKEN FROM THE PORT HOPE ADVERTISER

Newcastle Community Hall Bomb Scare

By Myno Van Dyke

It was a Monday evening in June, 1962. Around 5:30 p.m., a woman with a “foreign accent” called five of Newcastle’s most prominent citizens. Douglas Cunningham, the Village Reeve, Bruce Tillson, the local O.P.P. Constable, Chris Barchard, the caretaker at the Community Hall; Jack Wade, the Postmaster (the Post Office was in the Community Hall) and Gordon Agnew who owned the local newspaper, The Reporter; all received the same message.

“There’s a bomb in the Town Hall. It will go off in four hours. Be Warned”.

Well she called the right people. Constable Tillson got Constable Pat Cornell and they immediately searched the Post Office and the rest of the hall. At 7pm Corporal Gor-

don Keast from the Bowmanville OPP Detachment arrived and they soon had road blocks set up on King and Mill Streets in the Village.

A large crowd gathered to see what was going on and before long everyone was anxious about what might happen. Police searched every inch of the Community Hall and found nothing. They waited patiently, blocking traffic on King Street until 11 p.m. Then, they decided that it was a hoax and let traffic through and people soon went home to bed.

The Port Hope Telephone Company quickly made arrangements with each of the five parties who received the call to try to trace a second call. The second call never came. It appears to be a mystery who made the call as there is no record of anyone being arrested for the hoax.



Provincial Constable Bruce Tillson in 1945

Tower Hill

By Myno Van Dyke

“Tower Hill” is located in the Ganaraska Forest, north of the Kirby Ski Hill and east of Enterprise Hill. It received its unofficial name because in 1913, the Canadian Government built an 85 foot tower there to carry out a “Geodetic Survey” of the area. This was to create more accurate maps and surveys all across Canada. A light was placed on top of the wooden tower and it was used to connect to a number of other similar towers in southern Ontario. The elevation at Tower Hill, by far the highest in Clarington, was 1200 feet above sea level.

During WW1, some locals thought that the tower was put up by Germans to spy on them. Some of the boys around Kendal and Enterprise Hill would climb it. According to an article in the Orono Weekly Times, a young man from Kendal

named Walter Thertell would climb up to the railing at the top and balance there on his head. The Geodetic Tower was removed around 1920, after the surveys for this area were completed.

Adjacent to Tower Hill was a similar high hill called “Lookout Hill”. There was a wooden lookout tower there with a raised platform on top. People would climb up the steps to see the great vista to the south. This was apparently removed in the early 1990’s.

On September 19, 1948, a de Havilland Vampire jet returning from an air show in Niagara Falls, New York, went off course due to foggy conditions and crashed into the sandy Tower Hill. The pilot, 30 year old Flight Lieutenant Leslie Banner from Trenton was killed instantly in the fiery crash.

For many years there was a large wooden white cross erected near the site of the crash. It was placed there and maintained by some local Air Cadets. All that remains of the old tower is a stone marker.



Flight Lt Leslie Banner



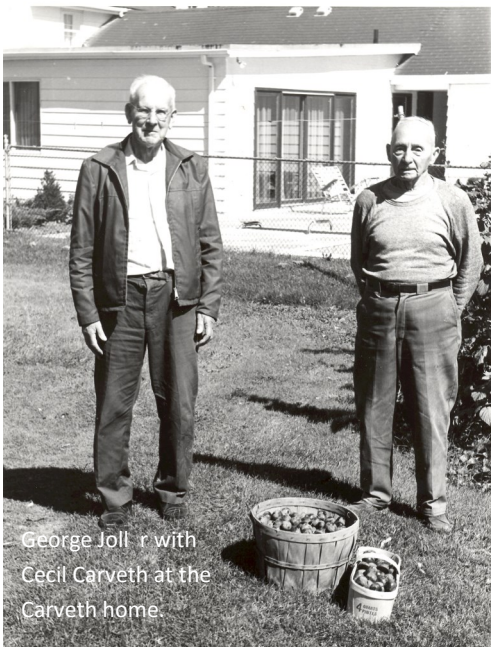
The Joll Family of Newcastle

By Charles Crowther

It was a thought of our Society, that a story on some of old families be featured from "Our Dim and Distant Past" and thus the Joll family is featured.

John Joll (1822-1885) was born in England as well as his wife, Grace Bird (1822-1896) and together they had three children, George H. 1896-1946; Maude 1878-? : and Mary 1896-? which was the year that her mother died (child birth?) and his descendants are the feature of this story. Like many families in the area it should be noted that George was a prominent name running back three generations and at times it was difficult to keep track of them, as in one George, there was a George Hendron and another just George H.

George Joll lived in Darlington and the first 'record' this writer can find is a reference to Darch and Joll was in the Canadian Statesman April 14, 1882, "The New Butcher Shop located in Markets Build Bowmanville, where an assortment



George Joll r with Cecil Carveth at the Carveth home.

of meats will be kept for sale at the lowest prices and delivered to all parts of Town, highest prices paid for hides, tallow and sheep skins. Parties having fat stock will find it in their interest to con-

sult us" . At this writing I am unable to confirm

that the Darch /Joll connection is in fact our George H. Joll.

George was born April 5th 1880 in Dufferin County, ON, of which Orangeville is the County seat and by the 1891 census was still living in Dufferin Co. Later he and his family were living in Darlington and it was here he met his future wife, Eunice Salter whom he ended up marrying in March of 1911.

One son, Everard /Everett Hendon Bentick was born in 1866 in Bowmanville. In the Canadian Statesman, January 23, 1907, it is mentioned that George has taken in his son, Everard, into the butcher business and of February 1st, Mr. George Warmington would go out of the business. In the Orono News of November 5, 1903, "George Joll moved to the corner store opposite the Post Office (now Roselina's Pizza?), recently purchased by Warmington and Joll from Simon Baskerville. They will carry on their Bakery and Confectionary Business there"

In a previous Orono news of April 17, 1902, "Mr. Warmington has sold out his business in Toronto and is doing business at the old stand"

From the Orono times; August 13/ 1908 and reproduced in Newsletter #30, p 4

"Newcastle Meat Market"

Our delivery wagon will visit Orono every Friday of every week,... we will buy all kinds of livestock, for which we pay special prices... if you have anything to sell drop us a line, G Joll and Son".

In the March 16, 1911 edition of the Canadian Statesman it is noted that "At the Poplars of Durham, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George P. Rickard, (George & Jane Symons) their second daughter, Ethel May, was united in marriage by Rev. A.M. Irwin.

They spent a few weeks with their parents before leaving for Holbeck Sask. Where they purchased a section (640 acres) and ended up farming 320 acres of it.

In our newsletter #49- page 5, it is mentioned that George tore down an old ice house on North Street which was in "tumble down condition"

Meanwhile in Holbeck Sask Everard and Ethel were pleased to welcome 4 (four) children, Eunice 1913- 2009; Stuart 1914; 1934; John (Jack) 1916-1980; Margaret 1918-2004 and William (Bill) 1926-2013. While out west Margaret Helene met and married Norman Rudman.

During W.W. 11, Ethel and “Ev” returned home to look after George whose health was failing and in 1946 George passed away with Emma preceding him in 1944.

Everard worked in Ajax during the remainder of the war years at an ammunition factory

“Sometime “ later Margaret and Norman returned to Newcastle where they were blessed with four Children, Don, Fay, Dennis and Del and to this day some are still living in the area.

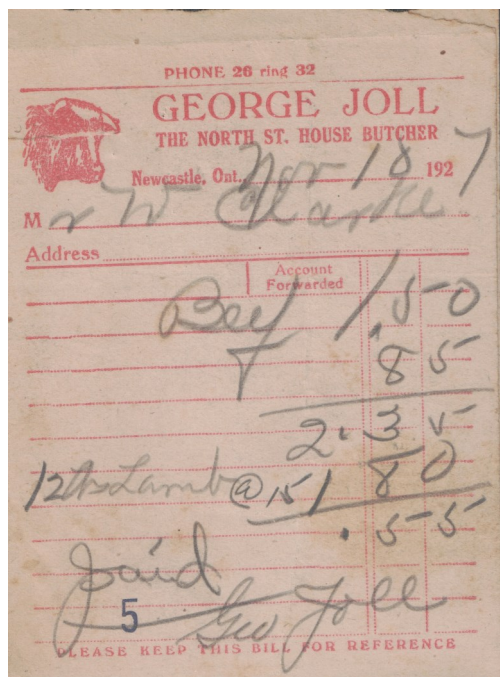
It is also noted that “Marg’s brother, John had a breeding business in Hampton and cattle would be brought into the business from outside the area. As an aside, some of our older members might remember John’s wife, Doris, who was an accomplished bowler and if memory serves me correct, won some tournaments.

In 1961, Marg’s mother passed away and her dad in 1985, both buried at Orono Cemetery along with her brother Bill, and his wife Doris. From my perspective as a local barber, Everard was a kind gentle man and very friendly with all.

The older residents will always remember Marg working at the dispensary at Lorne Johnson Drugs, and like her dad, a very nice woman to be around.

While in High School in Bowmanville, Don was in my class in grade 9 and Fay a year or so back of Don.

This is my first story other than writing about my family so am indebted to Erla Jose for her cemetery stones research for me, Helen Schmid for her “history on the Butchers of Newcastle”, Myno Van Dyke and Ron Locke for their assistance in placing pictures and “smoothing out “any errors in this story.



From the Curator Committee

By Sher Leetooze

At the time of the Fenian Raids into Canada (1865), the government suddenly realized how inadequate our defences were here in Ontario. 1866 saw a lot of Drill Sheds being erected in small towns, in cities, and in villages as well. Newcastle saw its Drill Shed erected in that year in what we now know as Memorial Park.

In his book, *The Townships of Darlington and Clarke*, Prof. Squair tells us... "The government gave \$250 for a Company Drill Shed, \$450 where there were two Companies, and \$600 where there was one Company with Battalion Head Quarters, as in Bowmanville.

The 45th Regiment/Battalion was also reconstructed:

No. 1 Company - Bowmanville Rifle Company,

No. 2 Company - Orono Infantry Company

No. 3. Company - Cartwright Infantry Company

No. 4 Company - Newcastle Infantry Company

So, you can see that Newcastle received \$250 toward the construction costs, but how much it actually cost to erect this building is not known at this time.

The Drill Shed was used by all sorts of organizations in the village, and for all sorts of special occasions too!

July 12, 1880, scene of Orangeman's Day - Fife and Drum bands, Bowmanville Coronet Band, Orono and Newtonville Brass Bands - parade at 2 pm to the Drill

Shed.

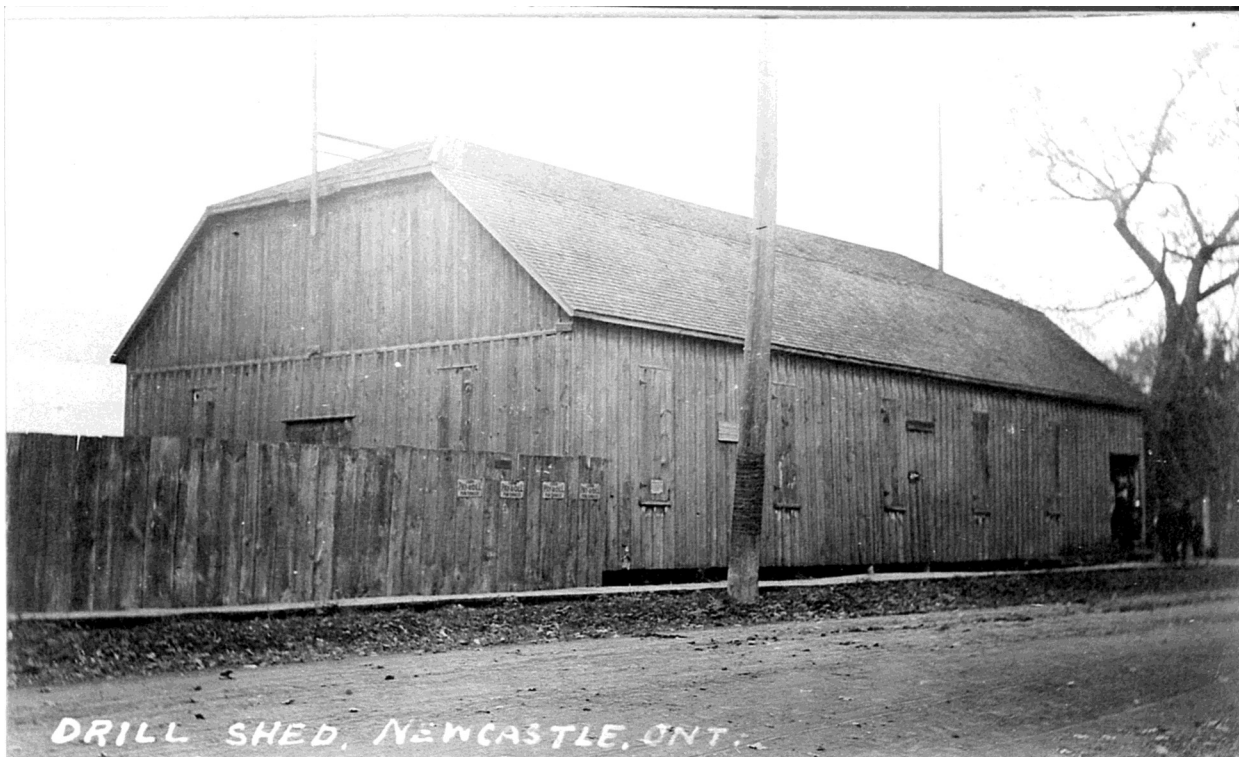
Aug. 8, 1898 a Durham Old Boys Reunion was held in the Drill Shed - the programme went all day, some in the Shed itself, such as the luncheon, some in the grounds. In the evening a grand ball was held in the Drill Shed. Music all day was provided by the Band of the 48th Highlanders which included pipers.

(Both these events were reported in the pages of the *Canadian Statesman*.)

The organizers of these events, and the groups that used the Shed all had to rent it from the municipality. This way, any initial costs of construction were soon recouped.

An article by Charles Taws and Helen Schmid in 2011 in the *Clarington Promoter*, suggested that the shed was taken down in 1921, due to its bad condition, but some of the people I've talked to this past week say they remember skating in that shed when they were kids. Was it replaced by another shed/wooden arena on that same site? So many of the old Drill Sheds were turned into skating arenas, so I can't see why this one would be different.

If you have any further information about this old landmark, please come into the history room any Tuesday or Saturday morning. We'd love to hear from you!



This article was inspired by this photo which was brought in by someone at Doors Open. They allowed us to make a copy to add to our Archives

Annual Fees for Members -

Single Membership (one vote):

Hard Copy delivered by mail or by hand Annual fees for calendar year \$15.

Digital Copy delivered by e-mail (pdf) Annual fees for calendar year \$10.

Family Membership (two votes):

Hard Copy delivered by mail or by hand Annual fees for calendar year \$20.

Digital Copy delivered by e-mail (pdf) Annual fees for calendar year \$15.

Corporate membership (one vote):

Up to 3 Hard Copies delivered by mail or by hand plus Digital Copy delivered by e-mail (pdf)

Annual fees for calendar year \$25.

Sponsors will get recognition in the quarterly newsletter as well as a digital copy of the newsletter

We are grateful to **Swan Signs** for their support

Membership Chairman Ron Locke ronald.locke@gmail.com

NV&DHS is open in Newcastle Community Hall every Tuesday & Saturday morning from 9:30 - 12:00.

You can reach NVDHS at Newcastle.historic@gmail.com And Secretary, Myno Van Dyke by telephone at (905) 987-5482, or e-mail at myno@sympatico.ca or by regular mail at Newcastle Village & District Historical Society: 20 King Ave. W. Newcastle ON L1B 1H7

The NV&DHS presented their annual Pat Macdonnell Preservation Award to Brian and Audrey Jose for the extensive renovations they have completed on the Walbridge House.

Here we see President Bob presenting the award at the Newcastle Doors Open on June 11th.

Brian and Audrey were also presented with a designated house plaque from The Municipality of Clarington

