

NEWCASTLE VILLAGE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER /DECEMBER 1989

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**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - OCTOBER 16TH 1989.

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The Society has completed a successful and interesting year in 1989. During the past 12 months we held five general meetings plus several executive meetings and special events. Topics have ranged from pioneer foods to railroading and history recording by computer.

The highlight of our year was our first Collectors' Fair held last February with over 40 exhibitors taking part and approximately 400 people in attendance to see the collections.

Another outstanding feature of our program has been our semi-monthly newsletter edited by Herb Taylor. These have been very informative and entertaining and we look forward to future issues.

Through the year we have received a number of valuable and interesting artifacts and we would like to thank the donors - George Walton, Lena Graham and Isobel Wright.

In the past few months we have rented the storage room, adjacent to the Centennial Room...our regular meeting room...at the Newcastle Civic Centre. The storage room has been redecorated and is ready to be used to store our artifacts. We plan to have a display of some of these in the show cases in the Centennial Room.

Looking forward to 1990 we hope to continue to video tape interviews with our senior citizens. Another Collector's Fair will be considered by the executive in the near future and a number of interesting program topics have been suggested.

I would like to thank all the executive for their enthusiastic support during the past year. Especially I would like to mention Pat Macdonnell and Mabel Goode for organizing the Collectors' Fair and Herb Taylor for his work in researching and writing our Newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

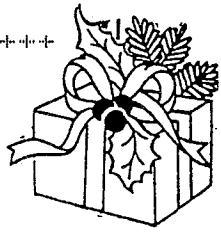
Francis Jose, President.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

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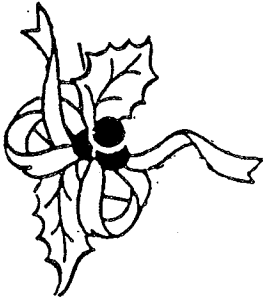
We have a new slate of officers, and a new fiscal year. Our year will now run from January to December, and to accomodate the change, the new office holders will serve until December 31st 1990.



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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS - Our executive for the coming year will be:

- President - Francis Jose 987-4789
- Vice Pres - Denis Schmiegelow 987-4856
- Secretary - (position vacant)
- Treasurer - Mabel Goode 983 5514
- Past Pres - Pat Macdonnell 987-5411
- Directors:
- (2 yrs) - Diana Layng 987-1053
- Lorraine Lover 987-4912
- Jean Rickard 987-4822
- (1 yr) - Tom Webb 623-1977
- Erla Jose 987-4789
- Pat Macdonnell 987-5411
- Membership - Florence Taylor 987-5433
- Display Case - Jack Gordon 987-4076
- Newsletter - Herb Taylor 987-5433



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 WE ARE ALL REMINDED THAT MEMBERSHIPS FOR THE NEW SEASON ARE DUE
 JANUARY 1ST:

- Single - \$5.00
- Family - \$8.00

MEMBERSHIP IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SUCH A GREAT BARGAIN, WHY NOT
 GIVE SEVERAL MEMBERSHIPS AS GIFTS. SEND OR PHONE THE NAME AND ADDRESS
 OF THE PERSON YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MEMBER, TO FLORENCE TAYLOR. A
 COPY OF THE LATEST NEWSLETTER WILL BE SENT WITH A GREETING CARD IN
 YOUR NAME. A GREAT IDEA! DO IT TODAY! SEND YOUR GIFT LIST TO:
 Florence Taylor, RR#3, Mill Street South, Newcastle, LOA 1H0.
 Tel: 987-5433. *

OUR ANNUAL MEETING.

We were pleased to have Charles Taws, the new curator of the
 Bowmanville Museum, visit with us, and to see a very interesting
 collection of slides featuring early days in Bowmanville. Charles is
 a graduate of Trent University, where he received an Honours B.A. in
 History and Archeology. He has worked at Hutchison House, in
 Peterborough, the Perth Museum, and his last position was at the
 Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, in Kingston, where he was in charge
 of a retired Canadian coastguard icebreaker. Charles is from
 Lakehurst, near Peterborough, where his mother and father operate the
 general store. We welcome him to our community, and wish him well in
 his new assignment.

NEXT MEETING BREWING!

*** Wednesday, January 17th, 9:00 pm -Our Society has been invited
 by the EAST DURHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY to be their guests at
 their regular meeting which will take place at the Lions'
 Centre, Port Hope, January 17. The speaker, who will augment
 his talk with slides, will be Mr. Ian Bowering, who has
 written a fascinating book, THE ART AND MYSTERY OF BREWING
 IN ONTARIO. Your executive are pleased to accepted the
 invitation. To solve "getting there," Florence Taylor will
 coordinate transportation. Anyone needing a ride or anyone
 who can offer a ride, please call Florence @ 987-5433. There
 will be no other Society meeting in January.





FUTURE MEETINGS.

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*** Monday, March 19th, 7:30 pm - We will be entertained by Bill Humber, author and raconteur, who will have something to say about SPORTING TALES IN OLD NEWCASTLE.

*** Monday, May 7th, 7:30 pm Mark this date on your calender, and be prepared to attend an interesting evening at the Bowmanville Museum.

TW ON TV.

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Watch for our Tom Webb, on television, 8:00 pm, Jan 21st 1990, CBC, Channel 5, in THE PRIVATE CAPITAL, a story about Ottawa in 1899, with some scenes shot at the Bowmanville Museum. Tom appears briefly wearing a black frock coat, with a big moustache, and a topper in his lap. Watch for the show! Watch for Tom!

SCENE. *A school classroom in Durham region. A TEACHER and STUDENTS. The Future.*

TEACHER. And what is your address Johnny?

JOHNNY. Sir, I live at 27 Erla Jose Boulevard.

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NOTE: Our president has been talking to the Planning Department of Newcastle, about a need for street names. The Planning Department has a need. They need a list of what they call "significant names." We as members of the Historical Society also have a need! We need to produce a list of names so the powers that be can chose names that have "local historical significance." Francis Jose is looking forward to receiving suggestions from members. If none are forthcoming, he may be forced to submit the names of important members of his own historical family. *

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CHRISTMAS TIME & A CHRISTMAS CONTEST. *

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The following story is interesting because it describes a Christmas scene that many of us would not immediately identify as Canadian. The story is from a book written by a local person, about Christmas in Canada West. An undisclosed member of the Newcastle Historical Society will give a turkey to any member of our Society who can name the author and the book before January 7th 1990.

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CHRISTMAS TIME. *

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The village Christmas Fair did good business in the Market Building. By evening when the lanterns were lit outside the door and the last shoppers came steaming in, there was little left of the ducks and geese, the turkeys, the few chunks of spiced beef, the many wheels of cheese, the crocks of mincemeat, and the mountains of eggs. The tables in the stalls under the green boughs were almost empty, except for a few cakes claimed earlier in the day and waiting to be called for. The biggest turkey of them all, alone now, carried a "First Prize" red ribbon round his neck. He waited to be picked up.

A tall ancient negro stepped in, carrying his lantern carefully. For most people the brilliant snow lit the road enough for easy walking. But this old man...was perhaps more blind than he would admit.

"Think you can carry...the bird?"

The old man smiled and nodded. "The sleigh's outside there."

"I'll carry him out for you." But the old man shook his head.

"Give it into my hands."

"I hear you've got a visitor, up on the hill, Jefferson."

"Yes, we have, too. Young lady from Ireland, she is."

All was quiet in the Brady house. The sweet pungent smell of burned tamarack from the woodstoves filled the great house. In the kitchen all was tidied away, chairs and tables pushed to one side, the big centre table carried out to the summer kitchen. Christmas puddings robed in white linen hung from hooks in the ceiling. The oysters were snug in their barrel; the turkey waited in the pantry. Cordials matured in crocks and keg; cakes and cookies rich in butter and cream filled the crocks in the swinging cellar shelves and tall pantry cupboards. Mrs Brady stood in the window looking out towards the bush.

"Watch with me here," she said to Isabella, and slipped her arm about her waist. "we are so happy to have you with us." Darker shadows moved along the orchard road now, and there was a sharp jingling of big harness bells as the horses started away from their stable.

"There's something almost majestic, isn't there, about the way that team moves?"

Isabella stared after them. "I never thought about it, before," she said, "or really looked at a work horse. You are teaching me to open my eyes, Cousin Maude.

Your eyes have seen much more of the world than mine have. But my time will come, perhaps. And I am very content here. And so I should be - what else could I need?" She stretched out her arms, as if to include her husband and her children and the beautiful plentiful world which was hers.

"Watch now."

Suddenly a great roar shook the woods, and swift mounting crackle of flame topped the tallest tree. Isabella gasped.

"What is it?"

"They're burning the brush from the Yule log."

"Do you always do this on Christmas Eve?"

"Always, we do and Jack's father did. Sometimes the snow is too heavy before Christmas, but we try to bring the log in on this night. Jack says it's bad luck to wait. There is luck, he says in a Yule log that lasts the twelve days. Listen now!"

The great fire roared and crackled.

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SEPARATION OF DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND.
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The joy and happiness described above, in 1866, may not have been present in parts of Clarke township in December of 1869, when prominent citizens of Port Hope met with prominent citizens of Clarke. The subject under discussion was the separation of Northumberland from Durham.



The meeting was reported in the CANADIAN STATESMAN, of December 1869. It took place in Newtonville, on December 2nd, but owing to a severe storm that day, was rather "thinly attended." The meeting started at 3 o'clock and lasted four hours. J.L.Tucker, Reeve of Clarke presided. The paper reported that, "A great deal was said during the meeting, which had no bearing whatever on the question of separation, and which need not be repeated." A proposition was made that only 15 minutes be allowed each speaker. This being opposed by members of the Port Hope delegation it was "not adopted."

The Port Hope delegation, all advocated separation. The Clarke group, including Andrew McNaughton and John J. Robson of Newcastle, opposed separation "on any grounds whatever." The Durham people felt that "one of the chief objects sought to be gained by separation, is to make Port Hope the County Town of Durham," they disagreed, and voted against what they thought would be a costly act.



A NEWCASTLE CHRISTMAS STORY.

As snow fell on Lot 28, Concession #1, Clarke Township, in the winter of 1841, just before Christmas, little birds that lived near Graham Creek found they had something new on which to perch. The deer that searched for food on that rough land that winter, stepped carefully through the trees and shrubs, and found themselves sniffing at newly planted stakes.

The fact was, earlier that year, Lot.28, Con.#1, which had been a Crown Reserve, had been surveyed by J.K.Roche, Provincial Land Surveyor, for George Strange Bolton, Esq, of Cobourg, Canada West. Now one night while Messrs Roche and Bolton slept, and maybe had visions of sugar plums dancing through their heads, it happened in a land thousands of miles away, where it was already morning, that a young man named Prince Albert Francis Charles Augustus Emmanuel, the youngest son of Ernest, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha did something very special.

The Prince had been born in a castle called Schloss Rosenau, near another town called Coburg, but this town was in Germany. The prince grew up in Germany, and at the age of 21 he married his first cousin and lived at her place, called Windsor Castle. In decorating the Castle for the holiday season, Prince Albert, following an old German custom, had the servants bring a tree into the parlour, on which they put some decorations. The Prince didn't know it, but he was doing something that would be copied by Mr Bolton, Mr Roche, their families, their friends, and for over 100 years by the people who moved in with the deer and the birds on Lot.28, Conc#1, Clarke Township, which is now part of the Village of Newcastle.

Much was to happen in the decade that followed the decorating of that first Windsor Castle Christmas Tree. The village of Newcastle in Clarke Township became a busy place. At Christmas time in 1848, for example, the villagers had nine merchant shops in which to do their Christmas shopping. We are told that by OUT OF THE MISTS, page 191.

On the north side of King Street were David Gairdner, George Templeton, William McIntosh, Samuel McCoy and Calvin Brown while on the south side were Horace Foster, Andrew McNaughton, John Short, and James Dixon. George Templeton was a Scot, and both he and his wife Christina had been born in Scotland, as had Andrew and Elizabeth McNaughton. Horace Foster and Sam McCoy had been born in the United

States, and they both married girls born in Upper Canada. Horace Foster built a hotel in the north west corner of Lot 28, Conc.#1, a building which is known as "International House" today. Andrew McNaughton also had a shop situated on Lot 28 Coc.#1, where he sold Christmas items such as Dry Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Glass, Hardware, Clothing, Boots, and Shoes. He had been born in Scotland in 1920, was an important man, well thought of in the community, and was to eventually become the first reeve of Newcastle. A census of Lot 28 in 1848 tells us of others who lived or worked on Lot 28: Mark Andrews, a blacksmith; George Curtis, tailor; Wm Unitt, clerk; Wm Carscadden, Wm Couch and Calvin Powers, shoemakers; Thomas H. Powers, tailor; M. Moses, innkeeper; James Buchanan saddler; John Grey, carpenter. However, the village was not crowded. When snow fell on the village in the winter of 1850, it landed on many a surveyed, but vacant lot.

In that year, 1850, George McKenzie Clarke, of Newcastle, Esquire, prepared himself for the Christmas season by buying 4 acres of land from George S. Boulton. This included all of Village Block E, except "3 town lots on the stage road." Block E is the area between Mill Street and Beaver Street, from King Street to Wilmot. He also bought the triangular block of land to the south of Andrew Street, as well as 3 lots across the street from where the Lovers live today.

George McKenzie Clarke paid 300 for the four acres of town land and the deal took place on the 13th of September, 1850. That very same year, Charles Dickens described the effect Prince Albert was having on Christmas in a publication entitled HOUSEHOLD WORDS: "I have been looking on, this evening, at a merry company of children assembled round that pretty German toy, a Christmas Tree...It was brilliantly lighted by a multitude of little tapers; and everywhere sparkled and glittered with bright objects."

Three years later, in 1853, Mr Dickens published CHRISTMAS STORIES, which contained A CHRISTMAS CAROL. As a result of the romantic revival of the Victoria Christmas, Mr Boulton, Mr Roche, and Mr Clarke, and their families and all their friends knew about Christmas cards, presents under the tree, church on Sunday morning, plum pudding and turkey for dinner. We who now live in Newcastle also know about turkey and plum pudding! Charles Dickens played a very important roll in planting the seeds of "Christmas yet to come." He would likely be very surprised to see the plant that has grown out of his seeds.

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Send a present to your Historical Society.
Volunteer to become the new Secretary today!



YOUR EXECUTIVE WISH YOU PEACE, GOOD HEALTH,
AND HAPPINESS FOR THE SEASON AND THE NEW YEAR.

Editor: Herb Taylor, December 1989.

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