

Historic BOVAIRD House

DECEMBER 2010

NEWSLETTER

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IN MEMORIAM – VOLUNTEER SYDNEY ‘CAROLYN’ TOUT



Although recent ailments prevented her from attending some monthly meetings, she never missed working her monthly shifts.

A truly dedicated and wonderful lady to the end, Carolyn asked that all charitable donations in her name be made to ‘The Friends of Historic Bovaird House’ and that they be used specifically for our buildings and artifacts acquisition fund.

What more can be said... Carolyn was indeed a class lady and will most sincerely be missed by all those whose lives she gently touched – family, friends, and her fellow volunteers.

It is only befitting that our first full-colour edition of this newsletter should feature such a beautiful lady. It is with great sadness that we report the recent and sudden passing of a most dedicated volunteer, Carolyn Tout, on October 27th at the Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville.

Born in Toronto in 1938, Carolyn’s life and career spanned the gamut from immigration officer, to farming, to raising three daughters and being a most doting ‘nana’ to her nine grandchildren.

An H.B.H. volunteer since the spring of 2001, Carolyn will be best remembered for her dedication, endearing charm, and her two most frequent sentences – ‘can I help’ and ‘what else can I do’.



A STORY OF OUR LOCAL MILITARY

Our country was built by the hard work of men, women and children. Together they tilled the land, they fished the waters, learned to trap and hunt, built houses, roadways, bridges and a community that spans thousands of miles. The community as recently witnessed by millions around the world during the longest Olympic Torch Relay ever, is one made up of opportunity, safety, freedom and justice for all.

There are few countries in the world that can say they have all these qualities and most often to maintain them one has to fight and protect these luxuries. Sometimes the battles are on our own land and sometimes they are very far away. But no matter where they are, it is because of brave men and women standing up for us, for our country that keeps us safe and able to take advantage of our great assets and opportunities. The people of Peel, Dufferin and Halton were certainly front and centre in their efforts.

Even before we officially became a unified country, we were defending rights and protecting the land. For example, as early as 1793, the legislature of Upper Canada passed its first Militia Act whereby each county in Upper Canada would have a lieutenant appointed and in turn would organize a militia. Every man between the ages of 16 and 50 was obliged to serve. The first few years the militia was only a force on paper, however with the approach of the war of 1812, the 'paper' militia became real and in 1807 twenty-five percent of those enlisted were gathered and were ready to serve within an hour's notice.

Approximately 30 men living in Peel served during the war of 1812 including two Mississauga Chiefs, Joseph Sawyer and John Sunday. Seven Peel men were in Captain John Chisholm's Flank Company – 2nd York (1784-1861).

When Peel became a separate county in 1851, the sedentary militia had already been reorganized and the Militia Act of 1855 created volunteer companies to be more than paper force. Their members were paid to drill for 10

consecutive days a year and were provided with uniforms and firearms.

The Volunteer Militia Rifle Company of Brampton was formed in 1856 and was commanded by Captain George Wright. The enthusiasm of the volunteers again outdid the expectations. The Brampton Company for example had 3 officers and 70 men, but only enough firearms and uniforms for 52. In 1860, they had an opportunity to show off their resolve when they proudly lined the route in Brampton for the Prince of Wales's visit.

Canada was automatically involved when WWI broke out and on August 4th, 1914 the militiamen of Peel Dufferin and Halton inundated their company commanders with telephone calls offering their service and within days men began to sign up. The militiamen, armed with Ross Rifles, set off to war with this chant:

**“When the Acton boys get over there,
Wilhelm will be wiser:
We'll open a pawn shop in Berlin
and then we'll hock the Kaiser.”**

The Peel Region men set sail for England and landed at Plymouth on October 14th, 1914. Though it was too muddy to do much training they had courses in musketry and trench digging. By mid-February they were in Erquinghem making their final preparations to go into the front lines for the first time. They lived in waterlogged trenches with the enemy only 30 yards in advance on the left flank and 185 yards on the right. Ten feet to their rear the trenches were flooded with stagnant water and the bodies of British, French and German soldiers. Though there was fighting everywhere and many lives lost, there was also the saving of lives. The 4th Camerons did what they could to assist the refugees fleeing the city of Ypres, providing first aid and helping the wounded and the old through their sector.

The Lorne Scots proudly carry these battle honours from the 1st World War: Ypres 1915 -

1917, Festubert 1915, Mount Sorrel, Somme 1916, Arras 1917-1918, Hill 70, Amiens, Hindenburg Line, Pursuit to Mons. Private David Ward Bovaird (older brother of William Bovaird – he and wife Mossie donated Historic Bovaird House to the city) enlisted in the army and most likely fought in one or more of these tragic battles.



During WWII, the militia units were directed to guard vital points surrounding our area. For example, in Brampton, soldiers were placed on guard duty of the armouries. Lieutenant-Colonel Keene set up a depot which meant that his regiment would be part of the first Canadian contingent to go overseas. This would be the Lorne Scots unit from Brampton. On April 10, 1941 Major H.P.E. Philips motored to Brampton in the early morning to notify the CO that the unit was to mobilize 38 officers and 533 ORS (enlisted men) for immediate service overseas. The Lorne Scots continue to exist today through training and preparing men and women for combat. Men and women from our county continue to serve in peace keeping missions and battles such as Cyprus, Cambodia, Namibia, and Yugoslavia as well as War of 1812, 1866 Fenian Raids, 1914 -1914 WWI, 1939 - 1945 WWII in both Dieppe and Italy). Though this short article showed us a fraction of our local participation, we want you to know that we thank all of you who have found, defended and assisted us and people abroad. We want all of those that are involved in some type of military action that we will always remember your efforts and that we will never forget.

We'd like to thank Rick Ruggles, retired archivist of the Lorne Scots for his assistance in providing some of the information found in this article.

By volunteers Dan Bellissimo & Micheline St. Clair

Periodically we are prompted to highlight the amount of work done by volunteers. One only has to attend any 'Volunteer Appreciation Evening' hosted annually by the City to see the amazing number of local residents who are actively involved. Whether it be with Boy Scouts, swim clubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Girl Guides, hockey and baseball teams or military service, hundreds of volunteers donate to their community and country their most precious commodity – their time. Historic Bovaird House is indeed fortunate to have a group of men and women whose dedication and enthusiasm are second to none.

Collectively they donate many hundreds of hours every year to the cause of local heritage, firmly believing that a shared appreciation of our local history and Canadian heritage to be integral to the health of the cultural life of our community. Over the years they have created the lone city museum and their ongoing efforts have enabled it to expand and flourish. Without such dedicated volunteers, our Olde House simply would not exist. Along with wishing all of our many readers and ardent supporters all the very best for the upcoming holiday season, I would like to add a very sincere thank you especially to our many Historic Bovaird House volunteers and wish each and every one of them a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and healthy 2011.

~ Michael Avis, chairman

OUR ANNUAL
VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
& CARRIAGE HOUSE CRAFT SALE

Saturday & Sunday
December 4th & 5th 2010
10:00am – 4:00pm

As is our custom the first weekend of every December, our Olde House will again be bedecked in finest Victorian splendour with our very own crafters and numerous guest artisans displaying their finest works for seasonal gift-giving... truly an event not to be missed !!!
Plan to shop early for best selection.
Enjoy afternoon tea in front of the roaring fire in Mossie's Tea Room,
NO reservations required.

OUR SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR
EARLY 2011

February 12th
We open for the season

March 5th
'Loaf & Ladle'
A Pioneer Dinner by Lamplight *
(reservations as of December 1, 2010)

May 1st & 8th
Mother's Day Tea *
Reservations as of February 12th, 2011

June 4th
Car Trunk Sale
(rain date: June 11th)
Reservations as of February 12th

**these events usually sell out VERY quickly,
so please reserve early so as to
not be disappointed**

House & Craft Shop
Information

Open Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday
12 to 4pm

mid-February to mid-December
parking & general admission are
always free

all donations gratefully accepted

phone: (905) 874-2804
e-mail: bovairdhouse@yahoo.ca
website: www.bovairdhouse.ca

*located at the south-east corner of
Kennedy Road North & Bovaird Drive East,*

Mailing address: P.O. box 41616
230 Sandalwood Parkway, Brampton, Ontario,
Canada. L6Z 4R1

Brampton Historical Society
Meetings

*All BHS meetings are held on the third
Thursday of the month, 7:15pm at the
Heart Lake Presbyterian Church,
25 Ruth Avenue in Brampton.*

*Join us monthly for interesting guest
speakers, historical information and meet
many other individuals concerned about
heritage preservation within our region and
community. please visit:
www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com*

The Peel Heritage Complex
9 Wellington Street East, Brampton.
www.peelheritagecomplex.org
telephone: (905) 791-4055

**The Complex normally features an
ever-changing array of art, exhibits
and interesting displays, designed to
educate and amuse all visitors,
unfortunately**

**THE COMPLEX IS CLOSED FOR
VERY EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS
AND EXPANSION FOR THE NEXT
YEAR. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT
THEY HAVE AGREED TO LEND US
MANY VALUABLE ARTIFACTS THAT
WILL BE DISPLAYED AT HBH,
INCLUDING ANTIQUE TOYS,
MEMORABELIA AND ITEMS THAT
HAVE BEEN KEPT LOCKED IN
STORAGE FOR YEARS...**