

Historic BOOARD House

SPRING 2010

NEWSLETTER

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HBH Volunteer Proudly Participates In The Olympic Torch Relay !!!

Our very energetic HBH volunteer, Micheline St. Clair submitted this article for your enjoyment:

On December 29th, 2009 up in the very cold area of Blue Mountain Collingwood, I had a life experience that undoubtedly will be one the greatest moments in my life-I had been selected as one of the 12,000 to participate and become part of Canadian history by carrying the historical Olympic Flame for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics! Even today, I have trouble finding the words to describe the moment when I received that phone call back in July that told me I was selected - not by contest (as I hadn't participated in any), but because along with the 17,000 other RBC employees who have received grants from RBC for Volunteer and Community work in 2009, got their names put into a draw and that I was indeed chosen. What an honour and a privilege! I felt and still feel that I represented all 17,000 of my fellow volunteers in this relay.

As time went on, I sometimes questioned just why I was selected. There were so many famous and important people that were passing the flame. People like our Governor General, noted hockey players, past and current Olympians and people from our community that I just thought were so much more deserving than me. But when the day came and I donned my uniform and my special mittens and saw my husband Tom's face that morning, I started realizing that I was there representing many proud Canadians.

The excitement and anticipation grew as the minutes went by. It was incredible!! After our very early morning briefing, we were escorted into the shuttle that would drop each of us off at our locations. As we approached Grey Side road 19 in Collingwood, none of us on that bus could anticipate the crowds and excitement that were waiting. Even though it was early in the morning, -29F degrees and incredibly windy, snowy and icy, there were hundreds of people lined up on either side of the road waiting for this special event.

As I got off at my waiting point, my husband had gotten the awaiting crowd excited and most anxious - they all knew my name - they had never met me nor Tom before but when I got off that bus, I felt like some kind of super-hero. Everyone was cheering, ringing cow bells, wanting to get a picture of me and the torch. It was incredible and very overwhelming. After what seemed like a life time but was only a few seconds, off in the distance we saw the flame coming...

wow what a moment! I stepped out onto the road and there, we torchbearers met and the torches kissed - the cheer was louder than I'm sure than anything I'd ever heard in my life. At that moment, a surge of energy and power came over me that was from way out of this earth. I could have run for miles, but 300 metres was all that was required from me to pass that historical flame from Greece onto the next relay recipient.



I will never forget that moment when I passed on the flame, the emotions felt and the crowd's reaction were absolutely incredible - again people were cheering and shaking my hand, congratulating. This experience not only brought me closer to my country but it brought the country closer to me. I realized that my few moments in the sun was but a small part of what is a huge story - one flame bringing the whole country together - it's bigger than one could ever have dreamed of.

Historic Bovaird House enjoys restored 'outlook'

Driving past Historic Bovaird House for the last few months, many people have noticed a lot of external activity. Indeed, one hundred and sixty years of wind, rain, snow, heat and freezing cold temperatures have taken their toll on the old windows and shutters at the old house. The time had come when to delay any major restoration work was not an option . . . it simply had to be done.

Historic Bovaird House is a designated heritage building under the Ontario Heritage Act and as in order to help preserve its heritage authenticity, adherence to some basic conditions of restoration is required. The Act says, in effect, that *where ever possible* original material must be retained, restored and repaired and not simply replaced with new. Hence, while most cracked or chipped glazing was replaced, all other old glazing (some dating back to 1850) was retained. Likewise, muntin bars and window frames that had deteriorated beyond repair were replicated to match the original while all other originals were carefully stripped, sanded and repainted.

Unfortunately, the storm windows (old but not original to the house) were beyond restoration requiring new wooden ones be produced. The large window shutters were likewise not re-usable, therefore new wooden replacements were created to exactly replicate the originals.

Some visitors have commented that they were of the mind that if the old house needed major window work then simply switching over to aluminum windows would be quicker and more cost effective. Not so. While the manufacturers of new aluminum or synthetic windows would have you believe differently, it is now a proven fact that properly installed and maintained wooden windows are more energy efficient than even the latest thermal replacement windows on the market today. Finally, we cannot forget the simple aesthetics. Who would deny that from a strictly appearance point of view that modern, ugly synthetic or plastic windows cannot hope to compete with the look of traditional wooden windows that are, after all, one of the most defining features in a heritage house.

All of us the Historic Bovaird House and the City strive to give this charming and irreplaceable piece of Brampton history the best of care. She deserves it!

Michael Avis, Chairman.

Looking Ahead

The success that Historic Bovaird House has enjoyed over the last several years has not come without creating a logistical problem. Lack of sufficient and appropriate display space is now posing serious threat for our ever-expanding artifact collection. It is a situation that we would certainly like to address in the very near future.

While not ideal, but with no other choice, HBH displays all of its early farming implements, the McLaughlin cutter, plough, ox yolk, horse harnesses etc... within areas inside the house. However, the recent addition of an early Phaeton Buggy to the collection has brought the desperate need for more display space into sharp focus.

While lost for many years now, the farm property originally included barns and it has become increasingly obvious that a small barn or drive-shed must be reintroduced to this heritage site. Certainly with the two acres or so that we have at our disposal, space is not a concern, however, locating an appropriate period outbuilding could prove to be more problematic.

We would certainly welcome hearing from any of our many readers who may be able to provide a lead to assist the volunteers in their quest concerning the acquisition of a 19th century barn or drive-shed.

Years ago we respectfully requested the public's assistance in our efforts to replicate the original split-rail fence on this property along Bovaird Drive East. This was indeed accomplished through exhaustive fund raising and generous donations. Any assistance concerning our current endeavours would be appreciated.

Thank you.

tel: (905) 874-2804
e-mail: bovairdhouse@yahoo.ca

The next time you are driving along Trafalgar Road (north of the Embleton Side Road) please keep a careful lookout on the west side for a wonderful addition to our rural landscape. The Devereaux House once again stands proudly looking out over the fields.



Built in 1860's, the Devereaux House was passed down from generation to generation in one family until the early 1990's. Sadly, as happens to many of our valuable heritage properties, it fell vacant and tragically was victimized by senseless vandalism. Thankfully, this significant but neglected heritage building was purchased by the Town of Halton Hills and starting in 1999 The Friends of Devereaux House embarked on their grand vision under the careful guidance of Chair, Ann Lawlor, Today they are in the final stages of the massive restoration process. Devereaux House is a community-owned property and will be available for small business meetings, seminars, weddings, family functions etc. For rental information or to learn more about the Devereaux House story go to www.devereauxhouse.ca or contact Ann Lawlor at (905) 877-5662.

All of us at Historic Bovaird House congratulate the dedicated and hard-working volunteers, the local business community, the Trillium Foundation and the Town of Halton Hills for getting behind this tremendous undertaking. We all wish you every success and Historic Bovaird House looks forward to working with you in the ongoing pursuit of heritage preservation, promotion and appreciation.

Sundays, May 2nd & 9th 2010

Mother's Day Tea

Reservations for tickets will be taken from February 20th, 2010.

Again, we sell out many *months* in advance, so please contact us as early as possible if you're planning to attend. three seatings each Sunday at 11:30am, 1:00pm and 2:30pm

June 5th 2010

Car Trunk Sale

rent a space in our park and sell what-ever from the back of your vehicle. (rain date: June 12th)

RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN

October 16th, 2010

Girl Guide Day

a tremendous success last year!! All leaders are asked to reserve early.

RESERVATIONS NOW BEING TAKEN

October 29th & 30th, 2010

RESERVATIONS FOR TICKETS WILL BE TAKEN FROM SEPTEMBER 1st for

Desserts by Lamplight

December 4th & 5th, 2010

Victorian Christmas Open House & Carriage House Craft Sale

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

A SINCERE 'THANK YOU' TO OUR DONORS

As most patrons of Historic Bovaird House know, ALL of our staff who provide guided tours and work tirelessly all year and particularly during events such as our Mother's Day Teas or Desserts by Lamplight (to name but a few) are unpaid volunteers dedicated to restoring the entire old house to the pre-1900 era.

All monetary donations, gratuities and a percentage of the Craft Shop sales go directly into our acquisition fund, designated solely for the purchase of period artifacts, furnishings, clothing and linens.

It was recently noted that one piece of furniture recently acquired represented the hard work and dedication of forty volunteers over the span of an entire year!

Thankfully, many kind folks have stepped up and provided valuable donations in keeping with our vision and we would like to thank them for their thoughtfulness:

Ms. Vicki Barron, Ms. Jill Campbell, Ms. Millie Dearlove, Shaw Construction Ltd. (Calgary), Mr. Albert Post, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Quatrala, Ms. Diane Blanton, Mr. Orville Getz, Ms. Pat Anderson, Ms. Elaine Walker, Ron & Carole Spraggett, Ms. Andrea Tremaine, Mrs. Lorene DiCorpo, Don & Denise Parnell, Lakeside Garden Gallery, Simon de Groot, Norm & Martha McKinnon.

All donations will be carefully considered and charitable receipts issued where applicable.

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, Brampton.*

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

THE COMPLEX WILL BE CLOSED FOR VERY EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS AND EXPANSION FOR THE NEXT YEAR TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS. 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...

COME SEE FOR YOURSELF !!!

Interested in Volunteering ???

Why not join our forty very active folks who learn, laugh and enjoy each others' company.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY !!

Help us to protect and enhance this magnificent example of local heritage:

- learn its history and conduct tours,
- assist in the planning and staffing of our many very popular events,
- be involved in educating students, Girl Guides, seniors, visitors from the GTA,

other provinces and *many* foreign countries.

Meetings are held at HBH the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm, except in December, January, & July.