

INTELLECTUAL PROFITS

Quarterly Newsletter of the Community History Project
Annual Membership: \$20 individual, \$35 family
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Early Spring Issue

5 March 2008

OUR NEW HOME

The Bank of Nova Scotia has given us a beauty! We have 3200 square feet in the second floor of the branch at the southwest corner of Queen Street East and Church Street – right across the road from Metropolitan United. This is a John Lyle building of three storeys with fine architectural detail and a magnificent tile floor on the main level. Our floor is carpeted, and has 20' ceilings, two washrooms, a coat closet, a kitchen and a tiny storeroom in which the bank was kind enough to leave in place some steel warehouse shelving. Three walls have large windows (which can be opened) and the space is full of light! There are also two vaults which we will use for storage. Security is at peak level, and the bank has been upgrading some details. Along with all of this impressive rent-free space comes a cleaning lady! We were warmly welcomed and presented with flowers.

Members should be aware that our rescue was made at the “13th hour” because of member Peggy Kurtin who contacted her daughter, Katie, (chief architect for the bank world-wide) who presented our situation to Wayne Burgess, Senior Asset Manager, who took our case to the Board, having been impressed by us because of our fabulous website. Thanks are due to all of these folks, including Norm Sadler who is our webmaster.

Everyone can show appreciation for the bank’s generosity by writing to the Globe, Star, and community newspapers, or directly to Wayne Burgess, Senior Asset Manager, 44 King Street West, Toronto M5H 1H1. The really enthusiastic among us could open a Scotiabank account telling the branch manager the reason why!

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TELEPHONE

As of this writing, our telephone has been installed and we have our old number 416-515-7546. That we have any service is due largely to the efforts of new member Peter Matthews who has been patient and persistent and has outwitted the most incredibly obtuse bureaucracy in getting the installation at all. Peter has yet to finalize some details of the service: our message when you call in, a way for you to leave a message, and some way to retrieve messages. All messages left for us since 30 January have vanished into the ether, although the telephone company would like to charge us for them. We thought our service would improve by switching from Rogers back to Bell Canada, but are having doubts. Please be patient and wait for further bulletins.

MOVING

October through January has been a kind of extended nightmare. All of the President's time was being spent on hunting for a new home by answering ads, going to see addresses, talking to owners, running off items on the photocopier which explain who we are and why we need free office space, driving the city at night to find places advertised on signs but not in the papers and calling them the next day, following tips given by others, talking to media people and pleading for their help, etc. We had to leave Roy's Square by the end of December, but got an extension to the end of January but were no further ahead as that month neared its conclusion. The office had been so crowded that it was not possible to pack because there was no place to put packed boxes although Terry Marescaux found us a large supply of used banker's boxes.

As word spread about our predicament, more tips came through and had to be followed up. One member of the Gooderham family, after seeing the article in the Toronto Star, called to offer space for four to six months in a building to be redeveloped. The most urgent need was to get our files, research library, and special collections out in case we got caught in a demolition squeeze. So Ron Watts rented a truck for two different weekends and teams came to pack and carry (oh, those stairs!). The effort was truly impressive. Costs were mounting. In the last week of January, Scotiabank came to the rescue, and a professional moving company was contracted to move the furniture and contents of the storeroom. The whole period was fraught with problems, not the least of which was trying to operate without a telephone and coping with the weather. But we got out in time, leaving a number of things behind us and sustaining some losses due to the movers. The whole business has been expensive and is not over by any means.

We are now in the process of moving the boxes from the temporary storage space into our permanent home. Two weekends are required to move the office stuff, but we are leaving items for the Tollkeeper's Cottage, and some fundraising items for sale, until later so that we do not have to move them twice.

The next moving days are: Friday 7 March starting at 6:15 pm and Saturday 8 March starting at 8:15 am – both days beginning at the southwest corner of Church and Front Street East. On that weekend, we will form chains of people to cut down on strain, and we will select the dates for the next weekend of this type which should finish the office items to be moved.

There has to be an interval between these weekends to allow for reorganizing systems to fit the new space, and to unpack things and put them where they can be found again. Some of this work has been made easier by repairs and heavy labour by Peter Matthews on our rickety and varied bookshelves. After we are moved and unpacked, there are offers from a professional librarian to assist us in properly organizing our research library, and from an archivist who wishes to work on the Gooderham material. Others, of course, will be welcome.

TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE

Anyone going past the site in the late fall will have observed the mess on the grounds due to the construction of a French Trench to prevent surface or groundwater from the escarpment from ever reaching the buildings again. The cleanup and chemical treatment of the Cottage has been done, and new joists are fully in place. Historic Lumber has some old flooring in their yard which they will bring shortly to acclimatize inside the building before being installed. After the floor has been replaced, scraping of paint from the old woodwork can be resumed so that it can be installed along with doors and windows. Work inside the Addition is on hold until the City finds the time to install the sanitary sewer; after that, the final layer of flooring, appliances and cabinetry can be completed. Dollys are now being built off-site to hold the folding chairs, and two little display cases with locks are now in the new office waiting for some final painting, installation of velvet and any coins that we can rustle up as displays (pennies or halfpennies pre-1895). One large map has been framed and installed on the west wall of the Addition, along with a pull-down projection screen, and a display of the types of siding used on the Cottage is in place. The computer area is also ready. So you can see that work has been going on regardless of the crisis over moving. As soon as weather permits, the company that built the French Trench will return to finish what needs to be done on the grounds. At that time, the replacement tollgate and front porch will be built. Hopefully, our final fundraiser for the Cottage's restoration will be the porch itself; our experienced volunteers will set up two benches on the lawn (?) in place by then, and hand-make cedar shakes for the porch roof – visitors may purchase a completed shake, put their name on it, and watch it being installed on the porch roof. Date TBA. There is still plenty to be done and funds to be raised. The official openings will be three in number: the first at 3 pm on 30 June exclusively for those who have actually worked on the buildings; the second at 5 pm the same day for those who have made donations of funds, goods, or services during which a time capsule will be buried; and the third public event at 2 pm on Canada Day at which a little plaque at the front door will be unveiled.

Operating days and hours for the Cottage will depend upon the number of docents trained and ready with their costumes. A new training course will be set up in the spring and anyone wishing to function as a docent should get their name on the list for the training sessions. Of course, docents must be members to be covered by our insurance.

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FUNDRAISING

Due to the pressures of moving and unpacking, we will not be able to host our annual St. Patrick's Day or Sweet Heritage (maple syrup) events this year, but will get back to the Food Focus and walking tours (Bruce, are you ready?). By the end of March, we expect to have our own tax number from Revenue Canada and be able to issue tax-deductible receipts for donations to CHP. Donations to the Tollkeeper's Fund will continue to be administered for us by Heritage Toronto.

In the very year of the Quebec Act a party of white scamps in Ohio country shot down the Shawnee chiefs Bald Eagle and Silver Heels like a brace of partridges and brought on a dangerous quarrel. The Indians swarmed to fight. The British governor of Virginia, Lord Dunsmore, had to send a strong force of militia to put them down, and his two thousand sharpshooting Virginians put them down bloodily. One of the Shawnee warriors killed in this affair left two small sons to be brought up with a hatred of the "Long Knives," the Americans. In a long time ahead the British and the Long Knives came to know them well. They were the Prophet and his brother Tecumseh.

Thomas H. Raddall, 1957, *The Path of Destiny*

On the banks of the River Sasta, near Chillicothe, Ohio, about the year 1770, Tecumseh was born. He was a Shawanese Indian, and his name signified The Crouching Panther. Little or nothing is known concerning his early years, but in early manhood he possessed great muscular strength and became noted for his integrity, good judgment, dignified bearing and courage. He was tall of stature, the faculties of his mind were of a high order, and he was able to conduct himself with propriety among men of rank and intelligence in the American and British armies. He had a twin brother, called Ollinachia, who was held in high esteem among the Indians as a prophet. The brothers conceived the idea of uniting the scattered tribes of Indians in one grand confederacy, whereby they might more effectively contend for their rights against the intrusion of pale-faced adventurers. . . . When the war of 1812 broke out, General Hull's messengers besought him to join the Americans against the British, and on refusing to do so asked him to remain neutral. He would have nothing to do with the Big Knives, but cast in his lot with the British. . . . On October 5th, 1813, a battle was fought at Moravian Town, on the Thames. Just before the battle Tecumseh said to General Proctor: "Father, tell your young men to be firm, and all will be well." . . . The Americans had with them a party of Kentucky Rangers, who were accustomed to fighting like Indians in the bush. The British troops were repulsed, and in the contest which ensued between the Rangers and the Indians, Tecumseh was killed. His warriors took his body from the field of battle, and during the night they buried him where the white man should never find his grave. After his death his followers gave up the contest, and the great aim of Tecumseh was never realized. A few years ago, Moses Stonefish, the last of Tecumseh's warriors, died at the Moravian Reserve.

John McLean, 1889, *The Indians of Canada, Their Manners & Customs*

LAND CLAIMS

TRUSTAR 1.3.2003

McGuinty must step in over native mining dispute

Judging by the standard of conduct required by the Supreme Court of Canada, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has been dishonourable in his approach to the dispute over drilling for uranium in Eastern Ontario.

As a result, several large fines have been levied, and a decent man, an Algonquin, is in jail for six months.

This is not a criticism of the court that levied the punishment. It's a criticism of the premier, who countenanced an unconstitutionally, hands-off approach that led to the inevitable court decision.

Let me put this in context, beginning with the report of the Ipperwash Inquiry headed by Justice Sidney Linden. The report warned that court injunctions are blunt instruments which are inappropriate for dealing with aboriginal rights. They should be used only as



CAMERON SMITH

a last resort, it said.

Then there's the 2004 Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Haida vs. the B.C. minister of forests*. It said the Constitution Act of 1982, which affirmed aboriginal rights, requires federal and provincial governments to act fairly and honourably to protect aboriginal peoples from exploitation.

This translates, the court said, into a duty to consult and engage in "honourable negotiations" with aboriginal peoples when there's a proposal to exploit a resource

within an area where they have a land claim. Governments "cannot cavalierly run roughshod over aboriginal interests," it added.

Now to the facts: The Algonquins have a long-standing land claim, recognized by Ottawa and Queen's Park, covering the Ottawa Valley, including the area north of Sharbot Lake where Frontenac Ventures Corp. has staked a mining claim over more than 12,000 hectares of Crown and private land. Staking gave it the right to do exploratory drilling.

Neither Queen's Park nor Frontenac Ventures warned the Algonquins that the land had been staked, and exploration was to start. There was no consultation, no "honourable negotiation."

The Algonquins blocked access to the site; Frontenac Ventures applied for an injunction and got it; the Algonquins asked for a re-

prieve to allow mediation, and got it; mediation failed when the province refused to agree that a possible outcome could be no drilling.

The Algonquins continued to block access; Frontenac Ventures asked the court to cite Algonquin demonstrators for contempt of court; the Algonquins counter-claimed that the mining act is unconstitutional, because it ignores their right to consultation and negotiation. The act says the mining recorder must record a claim, thus allowing exploration, if a property is properly staked. There is no discretion to order consultation.

The court found the Algonquin demonstrators in contempt; Robert Lovelace, a former chief of one of the local Algonquin First Nations, was jailed and fined \$25,000; the court also ruled it won't hear arguments that the mining act is unconstitutional until Lovelace's

prison sentence is served, his fine is paid, and penalties imposed on other demonstrators are met. In the meantime, Frontenac Ventures is free to drill.

This is a political travesty. First the province breaks the law and precipitates a confrontation. Then the blunt instrument of an injunction is used to deal with a sensitive cultural issue. And now if the court eventually decides the mining act is unconstitutional, it will be too late: Drilling will have long been underway. Surely all this is "running roughshod over aboriginal interests."

There's still a way, however; that Premier McGuinty can at least partially redeem himself. He could order Frontenac Ventures to hold off drilling until the constitutionality of the mining act is decided.

Cameron Smith can be reached at csmith@kingston.net

DESIGNATING DAVENPORT

We are renewing our request through Councillors Mihevc and Palacio to have as much of Davenport within the city boundaries designated municipally, and have been contacting heritage groups in other municipalities to seek the same from their Councils. There is more reason than ever to give attention to this ancient route as increasing pollution and energy costs point to the need of the human race to discover its feet and, to some extent, investigate routes like Davenport on foot. There are a host of walking tours to enjoy throughout Toronto – especially those offered by local history groups, the Lost Rivers Project, and the Toronto Field Naturalists. Other people explore the Niagara escarpment on foot with the Bruce Trail Conservancy which has a Toronto branch and which devotes a portion of its revenues to preserving the escarpment. Contact: torontobruce-trail.org.

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A CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL CITY

Of course, this is what heritage preservation is all about, keeping in mind that the natural heritage is primary and essential to understanding heritage generally. Historically, we have been what the land shapes us into being. But from the end of the 20th century we have abandoned our duty as stewards of the natural heritage and have, as a race, either engaged in directly, or permitted, the rape of the earth itself and are now loading huge costs on the generations to come. What can anyone do? Keep in mind what Adlai Stevenson said of Eleanor Roosevelt at her funeral: “She thought it was better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”. So, CHPs Tollkeeper’s Cottage is in a small park, which is part of the escarpment which crosses the city and has been a major feature of its physical character as a place. We plan to put heritage plantings around the Cottage this spring, but have spent three years in trying to clean up the entire park and are planning to restore some of the natural heritage elements of the escarpment. Late last fall, the City finally sent the forestry people to our park to prune away dead branches on the trees and deal with the fallen trunks which created problems for us last year. So, this spring, we can continue our cleanup (particularly of the dog-strangling vine which is choking the life out of other growth), and begin the planting we have longed to do throughout the park. Members will recall, that Catherine Watts did extensive planting in one section in the pouring rain last spring, and we will continue that effort elsewhere. Peggy Kurtin will bring in a shipment of trilliums, Amanda McConnell will bring many species for the Cottage in particular but for the park as well, and Brian Narhi has some species promised a couple of years ago. Terry Marescauz has some berry bushes to transplant when the area is ready for them. We have been working with our friends in Parks about all of this and are awaiting details for the retaining wall to be built at the Cottage and a stile to enable people to climb the stone retaining wall more easily. Councillor Mihevc’s office passed along an application form to be filled out to help with some of the costs of all we plan, and we will want to explore planting a trio of birch trees to commemorate our aboriginal landowners, and a white pine to commemorate the ancient forest of our area from which a single tree was taken to build our little Tollkeeper’s Cottage.

EARTH DAY

The aforementioned cleanup of the Tollkeeper's site and entire park area means collecting and piling up the winter's garbage for removal and cleanout of unwanted invasive plant species. Work gloves and durable footwear (rubber boots if it is wet) are essentials, with hats, sunscreen, rainwear as optional or weather-dependent. Bring a couple of tough garbage bags, and clippers for weeds or secateurs for cutting branches. Last year we needed but did not have a chainsaw; hopefully we will not need one this year, but a pruning saw would be helpful with the tough big strands of the dog-strangling vine. We have previously-donated shovels and rakes, so do not bring these. But anyone with a wheelbarrow to loan for the day will make it easier to move material to collection points. Since the official Earth Day falls on a weekday we have scheduled this big event for **Saturday 26 April** from 8 am until all are too tired or the job is finished. Plantings will be done shortly thereafter, as soon as the risk of frost is past.

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THE TORONTO PURCHASE

The formal negotiations are now approaching the eighth year but have bogged down with the federal government changing Ministers as soon as any progress was being made and then stating that since the Mississaugas assert that the Toronto Islands were never ceded in 1805, that the matter had to be divided into two land claims, one for all of the Toronto Purchase and one for the Islands. This meant almost starting all over again. It is clear that the Harper government is repeating the performance of governments of the last two hundred years, and does not want to pay. Former Mayor David Crombie was appointed as a negotiator and several meetings with him have been held but the matter has not moved forward. So that everyone can keep up-to-date on this matter, we will hold an event celebrating Mississauga history in our study area at a summer date TBA, and you can join the annual Pow Wow at the New Credit Reserve on 23-24 August.

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THE BANTING HOMESTEAD

The property is now safe! The Town of New Tecumseh passed a designating by-law which was upheld by the Conservation Review Board. No appeal of their ruling was made by the Ontario Historical Society. The local MP had made an effort to have the property given National Historic Site designation but the OHS objected. The developer backed out of any deal to purchase the property from the OHS so the Town raised the money and purchased the property for \$600,000 (less than their original offer) and the MP is renewing his effort at NHS designation. Despite receiving \$15,000 annual rent money for the land, the OHS failed to spend any money in maintaining the buildings which are now in precarious condition. Funds for their restoration are now being raised and tax-deductible receipts will be issued by either: Town of New Tecumseth, Administration Centre, Attn: Banting Homestead, P.O. Box 910, 10 Wellington Street East, Alliston, Ontario L9R 1A1 or Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation, 2 John Avenue, Alliston, Ontario L9R 1J8