

Heritage Happenings

The Waterdown - East Flamborough Heritage Society

September 2006

ISSN-0824-1651

Rockton



World's

Fair

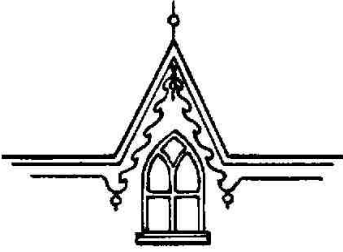
'The Rockton World's Fair'

Speaker: Mrs. Karen Hunt

Friday September 29, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, St. James United Church

306 Parkside Drive, Waterdown



The Waterdown - East Flamborough Heritage Society

Box 1044, Waterdown, Ontario L0R 2H0

Phone 905-689-4074

Email: wefhs@hpl.ca

Web Page: www.wefhs.hamilton.ca

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

Friday, September 29th, 2006

Thanksgiving Weekend will see many of us enjoying a return visit to The Rockton World's Fair – and 2006 will mark the 153rd year of this amazingly successful annual exhibition. Who better to share the whole story, than an enthusiastic member of the Rockton Agricultural Society, Mrs. Karen Hunt, a resident of Troy, a writer and story teller, who will present an illustrated review to show how the success of this exhibition mirrors the evolvement of agriculture in Flamborough.

Friday, October 13th, 2006

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the well known Flamborough business – Connon Nurseries. To celebrate this special occasion, Flamborough Heritage Society **members only** are invited to an Open House at Connon's Waterdown location on Dundas Street East at 7pm. The evening will be hosted by the Vanderkruk family who are also marking the retirement of Cor Vanderkruk and will present an illustrated review entitled 'A Celebration of a Century'. The program will illustrate the growth of a vital industry, and its impact on Horticulture in Flamborough.

Welcome to a new season of Society meetings and activities. Our Society Executive for 2006-2007 is listed in the Programme, which is available at the public meetings as well as at the Flamborough Archives.

HERITAGE AREA NEWS AND EVENTS

Dundas Valley Historical Society

Wednesday September 20, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Speakers, Gabe Battaglia, David Frid and Kim Thomas - 'The Dundas Post Office Clock'.

\$2.00 admission fee.

Dundas Museum, 139 Park Street West, Dundas.

Head-of-the-Lake Society

Friday October 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

Bailey Memorial Lecture.

Speaker, Sylvia Wray - 'The Differing Histories of the Townships of East & West Flamborough'
Canadian Football Hall of Fame, 58 Jackson Street West, Hamilton.

ARCHIVES REPORT

This summer, the Heritage Society was able to obtain 12 weeks of funding from the Federal Government for the employment of a student to operate the Flamborough Archives - to ensure the Archives was open daily while volunteers had a break from their duties and to complete some Society projects.

Mr. Zac Horn of Waterdown, a recent M.A. graduate from Waterloo University was hired at the end of May to service each day's requests, to continue the cataloguing, scanning and indexing of the photograph collection and to begin work on another major inventory project, entitled Places of Worship initiated by the City of Hamilton's Heritage Planning Department. For this project, due to its enormous size, work will be spread over a two year period. The first year's work will be document all the Places of Worship now in use that were constructed before 1967, those built since that date and as many of those lost that have been lost since European immigrants entered the Head-of-the-Lake.

Since this project is enormous in scope, the work in 2006 will cover all the former municipalities that existed before amalgamation with Hamilton in 2000. Ms. Anne Charlton of Ancaster and Mr. Art French of Glanbrook, two members of the Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee (L.A.C.A.C.), together with the members of the city's Heritage staff are also involved with the project.

Zac's responsibilities covered the area of Flamborough and Saltfleet and involved detailed historical research, documenting sources and photography work which Mr. Robert Wray undertook. Zac was able to use valuable work which had been undertaken several years earlier by another summer student, Jonathan Schinkel.

HERITAGE PAPER #187

Vanished Hamilton: The German Evangelical Church, Waterdown (Part 1)

On the map of Waterdown in the Illustrated Atlas of Wentworth County, published in 1875, the site of an Evangelical Church is marked as existing in the centre of the village. All the physical evidence of such a building having existed has now completely disappeared, and it is only through stories, photographs and a date stone that its history is still known.

Between 1840 and 1880, Waterdown was a prosperous and thriving community, with many of the residents employed in the mills being European immigrants. These people brought with them valuable manufacturing skills they had acquired in their homeland and which were eagerly sought after by mill owners. The largest group to settle in the village came from Germany and settled in a small enclave along Raglan and Nelson Streets, close to the woollen and carding mills where they were first employed and which had been started by the Griffin brothers in 1838.

This area of the Waterdown gradually became known as 'Dutch Town' - the name originating because most of the older residents along these streets spoke only German or "deutsche" with their children and gradually the word became corrupted to "Dutch" by village residents. Most of the immigrants never became permanent residents of Waterdown, but some families did remain and a number of German names are to be found in the Census Returns for the village and on the tombstones in the Waterdown or Union Cemetery on Margaret Street - among them, names such as Metzger, Klodt, Kink, Burkholder and Hasselfeldt and others that have become anglicized such as Slater.

For the older members of this German-speaking community, there was little need to learn English and among the first generation who worked in the mills, the requirements to speak the language were probably minimal. It was attendance at church that presented the immigrants with their greatest problem of language, for services in each of the major village churches was conducted in English, and in Latin for the Roman Catholic Church - so the desire to worship in their own church and in their own language was natural.



There was a Lutheran church in the downtown area of Hamilton as early as the 1850s where services were conducted in German, but this would have been difficult for Waterdown residents to attend. The date of when the first services in German were held in the village is unknown - possibly adherents met originally in member's homes until the building of a church was financially feasible. However, by the 1860s, the listing of Waterdown residents in the Wentworth County Directories, included the name of Reverend John Yenney, Evangelical Minister.

It seems likely that the church building may have been in existence by about 1865, when Rev. Yenney's name is first listed, and it was certainly there by the time the Wentworth County Atlas was published in 1875. Officially known as the German Evangelical Church, it was located on a narrow strip of property near the corner of John Street and Mill Street North, just south of present-day Grace Anglican Church.

-to be continued-

Membership

Membership in The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society runs from September to September. It may be paid at the September meeting, at the Flamborough Archives or by mail.

Single \$15 Family \$20

Make your cheque payable to: The Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society. Mail to Box 1044, Waterdown, ON, L0R 2H0

Thank you.
Gary Campaigne, Treasurer

COMPLETE, DETACH AND MAIL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Amt Enclosed : _____