

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



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Upcoming

Saturday Nov. 16
10:00 am—4:00 pm
Genealogy Fair
Hamilton Public
Library, Central
Branch 55 York
Blvd.

29th ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

Your Society had another successful Book Fair on October 19th. Thanks goes out to everyone who assisted with the sale.

A beautiful day contributed to many shoppers coming and SPENDING! Those of us who worked on Saturday feel that numbers were up, and the people coming in stayed longer and were more engaged with the vendors.

At first glance, it appears that the Society

doubled the

"take" from

last year on

book sales from our table

alone. Many vendors voiced

their pleasure on their own

sales, as well.

And, of course...there was PIE!



The Archives has obtained a 1957 Edition of the Provincial Lawn Bowling Ass'n of Ontario Annual Report. In it is all sorts of factoids and information that avid Lawn Bowlers apparently needed to know in 1957. Astonishing indeed. As this reader browsed through it, she found several (rather off-color and archaic) jokes and quotes to be found at the bottom of many of the pages of reports. Here are a couple of the less offensive pearls.

Warden: "I've been in charge of this prison for ten years, and that calls for a celebration. What kind of party would you boys suggest?"

Prisoners: "Open House!"

It takes very little to please some folks. There was a firefly, for example, who learned to fly backwards and, while practicing, flew into an electric fan. He was delighted.

HERITAGE PAPER #284

The Newell Family of East Flamborough Township: A Brief History

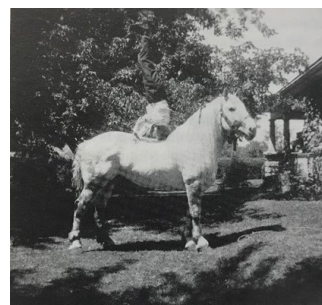
The Newell Family is one of many early families in the East Flamborough area. William Newell and his wife Agnes Magill immigrated to Upper Canada with their family of 11, 2 girls and 9 boys, where they settled in East Flamborough. They arrived in 1838 and 9 years later, after a long drawn out series of land negotiations, bought 100 acres of Concession 7 Lot 1 for £100, approximately \$17,000 today. With the purchase of their property came the task of registering the land which fell to the oldest son, Charles Newell. The land was registered in his name after he walked all the way from their plot on Concession 7 to Niagara-on-the-Lake. A family legend says that the walk took him only a week because he was so angry that a passing farmer had not stopped to pick him up, a common courtesy of the time.

On January 13, 1849 a double wedding ceremony between Charles and Emily Blagdon, and Eliza Newell and Edward Blagdon occurred. For his new bride, Charles built a log cabin on the Newell family property from wood that he felled himself when clearing the land. This house was replaced in 1863 by a house built by Thomas Le Messurier with stone quarried from below Waterdown Falls on Grindstone Creek. Eliza and Edward moved to a lot on the North side of Concession 7 where they lived in a two storey log house. Once Blagdon's farming success grew, he commissioned a stone mason, in fact the same man who constructed Charles' house, to build a stone house in the style of an English Manor, in 1862.

Henry Newell, one of Charles' brothers, was best known for redoing the 7th Concession Road which was extremely prone to flooding. He completed this by placing flat logs on the road and packing them with gravel until they were flat. Locals said that Henry

was "the country's greatest evangelist" because he built a road that "shook the hell" out of anyone who drove on it. Amazingly, this road, built in 1842, lasted until 1965 when it was finally replaced by a paved surface. Most of the concessions weren't plowed until 1932 making it difficult to navigate in the winter months. Samuel Newell once loaded a 1928 sedan into a horse drawn sleigh, just to get it to the closest plowed road, Highway #6.

Charles had many children, one of them being Arthur Newell. He attended Victoria School and has many fond reminiscences of his time there, such as the teacher drawing lines on the class window to line up with the sun at certain times of the day. He was an avid temperance worker, never smoking nor drinking. He had two children; Thomas, who died at age 22 in a barn moving accident, and Charles. Charles Jr. partook in many businesses including auction sales, horse sales, stud and corn cutting. He also had a reputation as quite the prankster, getting great enjoyment out of nailing a nickel to the floor and asking people to pick it up. As you can see from the following image, another of Charles' favourite tricks was to do a headstand on his horse for onlookers.



Henry Newell, the youngest son of Charles Sr., took over the farm in 1898. Over time, he increased the property back to the original plot size of 200 acres, working it as a mixed farm. Once again, the property was passed down in the family to the son of Henry Newell, Samuel (Sam). Sam Newell owned the property until his death in 1994. He bought the first tractor for the original fam-

Community Scavenger Hunt—BIG SUCCESS!!



The Flamborough Heritage Society ran its first ever "Back in Time History Quest".

Its goals:

1. Increase community involvement
2. Interest younger participants and
3. Encourage more attendees to its Annual Book Fair.

It seems that we have accomplished these aims.

As a nice sidebar—The Society gained the sponsorship of several area businesses allowing us to distribute swag bags to all participants and prizes to several of our big winners.

Colt Witney (left), not only was the first to present his entry, the answers were ALL CORRECT and he had "antiqued" his answer sheet.

"The 4 G's" team (above) mugged for their photo.

ily farm in 1926, phasing out the last of the farm horses in 1952. Additionally, he switched the farm over to a cash crops such as corn.



Sam was also one of the original members of the Waterdown East Flamborough Heritage Society, taking a position as one of the first directors on the board. Sam made a very memorable addition to the original

Newell property, adding a 6-foot clock on the top of their barn. He bought it during the renovation of the Huron and Erie building in Hamilton. He purchased the 456-pound clock for \$10, hauling it back to his property and using a tractor and pulley to place it on top of his barn. The clock, which is still on the barn today, is now 138 years old.

Although the historic Newell property is no longer in the Newell family, the original stone house and most of the barns are still there, along with the addition of a pond from Sam Newell.

Rosemary Giles, Student Archivist

THREADS THROUGH THE PAST

By Lyn Lunsted

French Connections in East Flamborough

In the late 18th century, a group of refugees requested help from the British Government, and were offered settlement in Southern Ontario to begin a new life. This group of people failed in their attempts at establishing themselves in a new land -- if they had been successful, the history of East Flamborough may have been very different.

During the period of French history known as the French Revolution and the Reign of Terror (1789-1799), thousands of supporters of the French royal family, the Bourbons, left France and went to England. The nobility and the clergy were particular objects of the hatred of the revolutionists, and many thousands were guillotined during the course of the revolution. The Bishop of Quebec, hearing of the desperate plight of the clergy, requested permission of the British Government to bring many of the exiled priests to Canada, where they were much needed. This request suggested to the government the idea of sending these people, known as Emigres, to Canada as colonists, where they would be able to begin life anew and not be a drain upon the charity of the British Government.

As a result, in 1792, three clergymen and a naval officer came to Canada. They were well received by Bishop Hubert and by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, and a township was provisionally set aside for them near the head of Lake Ontario. On August 31, 1793, L'Abbe Philippe Jean Louis des Jardins and Le Chevalier Lecorne formally asked for a township for themselves and the many French exiles who had fled to England.

The Land Board at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) favoured their application and reserved for them, in case they came, the Township of East Flamborough. This reservation lasted for nearly a year - but just when all arrangements had been set in place, the Bourbon party gained new life and the republic established by the revolutionists appeared to be near its end.

The exiles hoped to return to their estates, businesses and churches, and with England being nearer home than Canada, the idea of becoming colonists or ministering to their fellow country-men in Canada was abandoned. When it became apparent that the Emigres would not take up their land grants, the order setting apart a township for them was rescinded, and the

Land Board, on June 14, 1794, made the first grant in East Flamborough of 3,400 acres to Lieutenant Alexander McDonell, (McDonnell) In the Returns of persons at Niagara, 30 November, 1783, Lt. McDonell is listed as being of 21 years of age and a Loyalist in Captain John McDonnell's Company of the Corps of Rangers.

Although the Emigres never did emigrate, L'Abbe des Jardins also tried to arrange a settlement for them at Oswego. He later became a director of the Ursuline Convent in Quebec, and he died in 1833, aged 80. Had his plans reached fulfilment, East Flamborough might have been a French-speaking settlement in Southern Ontario.

One other small note of interest is that Ebenezer Griffin's father-in-law, William Kent Esquire of Stony Creek provides the township with a further connection to the attempts of trying to settle the French Emigres in Canada. Mr. Kent was a brother-in-law of Count Joseph de Puisaye, another refugee from the French Revolution. He tried, with the assistance of the British Government, to settle a number of Protestant Emigres in a colony on Yonge Street, in the townships of Markham, Vaughan, Whitchurch, and King. When Count Puisaye came to Canada in 1798, he was accompanied by William Kent, and he inherited the Count's considerable property in the Niagara Peninsula at his death.



L'Abbe Philippe Jean Louis des Jardins

From Flamborough Archives Heritage Paper, February 1984

TREASURES FROM THE ARCHIVES

School Project Donated



Lynda Gourlay has retrieved a large folio destined for the trash. In it is a nice assortment of newspaper articles from the 1950s and 1960. These articles highlight Flamborough communities and our neighbours; Aberfoyle, Waterdown, Harper's Corners, Stabane, Morrison, Rockwood and Carlisle.

Often the stories behind our acquisitions are as interesting (I think) as the documents themselves. Lynda, apparently lived next door to someone associated with this man, who had compiled the project onto a cardboard display during his school days. This is sounding a bit like "a friend of a friend of a friend..." Upon his death, his children were going to throw it out, as it had no special interest to any of them. Lynda arranged a

stay of execution, and delivered it to the Archives as its new, forever home.

Please, folks. Remember that most of your children could care less about your teenage scrapbooks and pictures of Great-Aunt Sophie. But the Archives does. Talk to the family. If they will not be thrilled to bits when they go through all your dozens of boxes of photos and news clippings twenty years from now, let them know we would love first crack at all your loot.



**The Flamborough
Heritage Society**

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Lyn Lunsted, Archivist



The Flamborough Heritage Society

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

We recently had our 29th Annual Book Fair, unfortunately, we did not have as many vendors as several cancelled at the last minute for various reasons. However, it was great to see the community that the Heritage Society has helped create and foster. That is my favourite part of the Book Fair and thanks to the History Quest, we had some younger families join us and help share our love of history. The fair not only showed an increase in attendance and community engagement, there were increased sales at all tables—this was our best Book Fair in several years. However, the kitchen sales were significantly less. Is this something we should continue or perhaps advertise as a Book Fair and Café?

Please let us know what you enjoyed about our two events and what we can do to improve in the future.

Chris Rivait

President

AREA SOCIETY WEBSITES

The **Ancaster Township Historical Society** -

www.ancasterhistory.ca

The **Burlington Historical Society** -

www.burlingtonhistorical.ca

The **Dundas Valley Historical Society** -

www.dundashistory.ca

The **Grimsby Historical Society** -

[Grimsby Historical Society](http://GrimsbyHistoricalSociety.com)

The **Hamilton Historical Board** -

www.hamiltonhistoricalboard.ca

The **Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society** -

[Head of the Lake Historical Society](http://HeadoftheLakeHistoricalSociety.com)

The **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, Hamilton Branch** -

www.uel.com

The **West Lincoln Historical Society** - www.wlhs.info