



THOROLD and BEAVERDAMS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2 Vine Street, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4V3

www.tbhs.ca

Preserving Thorold's History

Volume VI, No. 2

June 2011

Bob Sagness, Author

HAPPY 144th BIRTHDAY CANADA

SPEAKERS for 2011

June 27: The Battle of Beaverdams, Alun Hughes

July: Hiatus

August: Hiatus

September: T.B.A.

March, April and May Speakers, Canada Trivia Night and Laura Secord Day

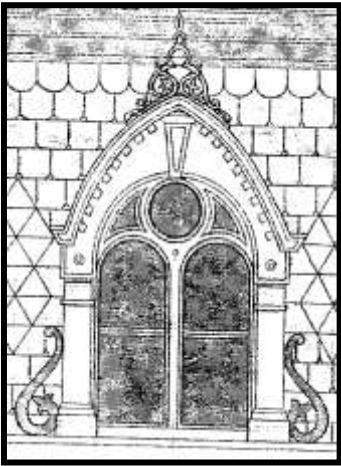
March 28: Restoration of the Quebec Bank building. For those who love details of architectural design, this was an engrossing talk by Brian Romagnoli. He gave us a rundown of the painstaking efforts to bring back to life, many of the original exterior details of Thorold's downtown Quebec Bank building. Thanks Brian for enlightening us with drawings and renderings on the Second Empire style of architecture of this 1875 building.

April 25: The Upper Family in Niagara. The summer of 1788 was a fortuitous time for the Township of Thorold and particularly Allanburg. That was when Anthony Upper with his family of five children came to our area, all the way from the state of New Jersey, with a herd of cattle and wagons loaded with family possessions pulled by oxen.

Our member, Bob Upper a direct descendant of Anthony's eighteenth century pioneering family gave us a detailed account of his ancestral family and life on the farm down through the ages to the present day. And of the huge web of descendants that has grown and prospered from those original seven, to where there are now 8,000 Uppers spread across North America.

Bob raised his family and still lives in the stately Georgian style stone house built by his great, great, grandfather before the War of 1812.

Thanks to Bob and his daughter Sheryl for the family photo, power point presentation.



Quebec Bank 3rd floor
window detail



Bob and daughter with painting
of Anthony's father George



Melanie sitting at computer

May 28: Decew Falls Union S.S. No. 6, Thorold and No 3 Grantham. Often when I sit at the computer to write about our guest speaker's topics, I am fortunate to find supporting information and more details on their talk. However, when searching Melanie Battell's talk on the above school, I could only find a passing name reference to the school and its location, so hats off to Melanie for her original research on the history of this school in Thorold.

Located between Decew House and Morningstar Mill on Decew Road, this one room school served students from both Thorold and Grantham townships, hence the name "Union." While there were a few modernizing updates to the original building it still remained a one room school house for grades one to eight until its end, when it was demolished in the early 1960's, with only the concrete front steps left to be seen today.

What I found intriguing about her talk was the number of people present, who had either attended the school or who knew of relatives who had, and could verify her research and give further explanations of some of the old photos on her power point presentation. Thanks Melanie for giving us some "living" history.

June 04: Thirty people joined us Saturday night as we hosted our first "Canada Trivia Night," at the museum. All questions were about Canada and Canadians. After eight rounds two teams were tied for first place. On the tie breaker questions the team from the Thorold Public Library won the \$120.00 prize money. Thanks to Bob Sagness for originating, organizing and hosting this event.

June 25: It was three hours filled with music, storytelling, card making and flower arranging, plus a special visit from Laura Secord! Our second annual "Laura Secord Day" from 10 am to 2 pm at the museum was enjoyed by many visitors and the comment, "lets do it again next year," was frequently heard. Thanks to Carla Kuchard for hosting and organizing a wonderful celebration of our national heroine.

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

March – 39

April - 30

May - 47

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome new members Gabriel and Brigita Bianco

THOUGHT DU JOUR

The television set in American homes is like a toaster. You press a button and the same things pops out almost every time. Alfred Hitchcock

A QUIZ ON THE War of 1812 FROM OUR CANADA TRIVIA NIGHT

1. What was the name of the U.S. president who declared war on Britain and sent his armies to capture Canada?
2. Name the King of England at the time of the outbreak of the war.
3. Where was the Battle of the Beech Woods fought?
4. Within one kilometre either way, how long was Laura Secord`s trek to Decew house in Thorold?
5. Name the closest Ontario city to the location of the British victory at the Battle of Crysler Farm.
6. Is it true or false that British troops attacked Washington D.C. and burned the city destroying the White House and the Capitol building?
7. In the Battle of Beaverdams, what was the name of the U.S. surgeon, who with his band of marauders was supposed to guide the American troops to Decew House?
8. Name the treaty that ended the War of 1812.

See answers below.

MEMBERSHIP HAPPENINGS...

- *Albert Secord was nominated by our executive for the Thorold Good Citizens Award and received an Ontario Volunteer Award Certificate and the Ontario Minister of Citizen and Immigration Award.
- *Carla Kuchard has a web site for her book “Lucy’s Special Day,” it is niagaralucy.com
- *Thorold’s official historian, Esther Summers is now living at the Lookout Ridge Retirement Home, 1505 Lookout St., Room 108, Fonthill, ON. She still loves to receive visitors and discuss the history of Thorold.
- *Our revised website is still under review by the executive. David Burke has been chosen to build the new site. They are discussing his cost and should have this

issue resolved at the next executive meeting. Looking at some examples of his work I see that he does a super job for his clients.

- *Our member George Cottage has brought back The Thorold News, but this time as an online newspaper, with local reporter Cathy Pelletier reporting daily. Her news stories can be read on their web site, WhatsOnThorold.com
- * June 18, saw us with a booth at the Italian Festival in Beaverdams Park.
- *On July 1, Canada Day, we will be at the above park with our booth for the Mayor's Canada Day Picnic.
- *Our annual Pie Social, June 27...enjoy!
- *June 29, will see President Randy make a presentation of \$50.00 to Richard Bilodeau of Thorold Secondary School for winning our Award of Excellence in History.
- *The annual picnic is tentatively scheduled for early July at Morningstar Mill, if their pedestrian bridge now under construction is finished. We'll keep you posted.

Answers to Quiz

1. James Madison, 2. King George III, but due to his mental illness his son, George, the Prince Regent effectively ruled. Either name would be acceptable, 3. Thorold, it is another name for the Battle of Beaverdams, 4. The current consensus is that it was 32 kilometres or 20 miles; however, the route and its length is still being investigated even after all these years, 5. Cornwall or Brockville, 6. True, they destroyed the White House, the Capitol Building as well as razed most of Washington D.C., 7. Dr. Cyrenius Chapin, 8. The Treaty of Ghent

We meet the last Monday of the month at 7:30 pm, at the museum at 2 Vine St., Thorold: with a guest speaker, followed by refreshments.

The museum is open year round to the public on Saturdays 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and by appointment at other times. Admission is free.

Phone (905) 984-4435 or (905) 227-1632 for further details.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.