

# The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959 restored 1982

## Summer/Early Fall 2019



### 2019-2020 Schedule of Events

Nov. 21: CBO Xmas Sale  
 Dec 1: Christmas Open House  
 Feb TBA: Heritage Brampton  
 July 16: Lemonade on the  
 Lawn  
 Sept. to June 2nd Sunday:  
 Open Sundays

### Student Visits

2018-19 2792

### *This newsletter*

is published by *The Friends of the Schoolhouse* every Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer to inform members and the teachers of the Peel District School Board of activities and events organized by The Friends.

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### *More information?*

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

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www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org

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### Brampton Fair Karen Simmons

Once again the Friends set up shop at the fair, September 13-15, with displays, items for sale, and toys for the children to play with, sometimes adults too!

The theme this year was "Family Ties and Homemade Pies". Although we had no pies, we did have a display about some of the families who farmed near Britannia School (S.S. 12, Toronto Township), and whose children attended the school.

Our other display board highlighted the architecture of the Schoolhouse, which was typical of schoolhouses of the day.

Attendance on Friday was light, but there was plenty of activity on Saturday

when the live-stock shows were

show ring beside

The young 4 H

us with their abil-

ity to handle cat-

than themselves.

was perfect, and

on the crowds

were kept very

busy right up until closing time.

Our toys are always quite popular. The youngsters love the

marble runs, the teens enjoy the skittles game, and adults will

spend up to an hour trying to solve the two puzzles, make a

Square and make a T.

We are grateful to our loyal volunteers who make it possible to

continue doing this event. Thanks to Julie Dippelhofer, Chris

Chapel, and Lisa Cafaro for setting up on Thursday, and to

shift workers Kathleen Jay, Betty Wilson, Jennie Roberts, Lis

Braun, Ruth Taylor, Dennis Taylor, Mary Light, Cathy Harper,

Daryl Cook, Steve Norman, Eva Norman, Marg Draper, Julie



when the live-going on in the our display area. members amazed ity to handle cat-than themselves. was perfect, and on the crowds were kept very



Dippelhofer, Emily Dippelhofer, Barb Sturton, Linda Bowman, Joan Command, and Marg Carson.



**Summer/Early Fall 2019**

**From the Chair  
Ruth Taylor**



After the summer hiatus (except for Lemonade on the Lawn) we are back into the routine of monthly meetings. Friends were at the Brampton Fall Fair in September. Some members were present at the Britannia Fall Fair held on the Schoolhouse grounds. Now we are planning for the Christmas activities. The Schoolhouse will be decorated for Christmas on November 26 so that the classes coming after that can enjoy the old-fashioned decorations. The Christmas Sale at the board office will take place on November 21. The combined Open Sunday and Schoolhouse Christmas Sale will take place on December 1. We will have some returning vendors as well as some new ones.

At the Brampton Fall Fair we are always in the cattle barn. I am often on the Friday evening shift when the 4 H club members show their calves and yearlings. I was puzzled to see that some of the cattle appeared to be shaved. I talked to a very knowledgeable and patient gentleman who explained that they were not shaved, but clipped on the top and sides (but not on the belly). It is done to make them appear slimmer. The tufts of hair sticking up on the backbone is to make them appear taller. They were also judged on their angularity, dairyness, femininity and ease of movement, among other things. Having grown up on a fruit farm, this was new information, which I found fascinating. It is always nice to be able to say you have learned something new.

**Strawberry Social Memories  
Ruth Taylor**

The first time I helped with the setup in the atrium, I only learned to do one job. After the white tablecloths were in place on the tables, you then topped them with a ginger-ham or solid coloured cloth. The smaller cloths were either pink, blue or yellow. These had to be put on kitty-corner. As much as possible you tried to make sure that adjacent cloths were not the same colour.

Oh yes, as a beginner you were on the dishwashing brigade. You had to earn your way up to work at the serving tables. You also helped clear the tables and transport the cups and saucers to the sink to be washed and reused. Of course, those cups and saucers had to be dried. This was my least favourite task because when I was growing up, as the youngest, it was my job to dry the dishes.

**Thank You**

Friends of the Schoolhouse is a non-profit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to assisting the Peel District School Board in the support of the Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its programs. Your donations are much appreciated.

**E-mailed Newsletters**

If you are not already doing so, why not consider receiving your newsletters by email. This helps us save the cost of paper, printing and postage and also is kinder to the environment. Contact [dlcook@rogers.com](mailto:dlcook@rogers.com) and put "Emailed Newsletter" in the subject box to make this arrangement.

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### From the Schoolmistress Lisa Cafaro

Each year the snow melts and the days begin to get longer and warmer. The spring planting season begins. The schoolmistresses work hard at preparing the schoolhouse garden; amending the soil, pulling the never ending sea of thistle and weeds, and plotting the site for each vegetable that will be planted.

As the summer comes and goes the task of maintaining the garden becomes a challenging task as the weeds this year were abundant and hearty. We would like to reach out for help from our local Mississauga community. Next summer we will be seeking volunteers to help with the task of maintaining the garden. We will be looking for people who would like to lend a hand weeding and watering during the summer time when our staff are not able to spend as much time as they would like in the garden. Schools are welcome to join as well. Perhaps a few families will adopt the garden for the summer and enjoy some of the harvest. If you would like to help you can contact the Schoolmistresses at the Schoolhouse (905) 890-1010 x. 2911 or [Britannia.schoolhouse@peelsb.com](mailto:Britannia.schoolhouse@peelsb.com).

The schoolmistresses work many hot hours in the garden with September in mind when a select few vegetables will be harvested for the Brampton Fall Fair. This year we were fortunate to take 1<sup>st</sup> place for carrots, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for our tomatoes, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place for garlic. There are tough guidelines for each entry and the thrill of winning keeps the schoolmistresses motivated for the season next year.

The most important reason for the garden is its role as a wonderful teaching tool for the visiting students at the Britannia Schoolhouse. It is important for children to learn where our food comes from and the sustainability that was key to keeping food on the table in early settlement times.

During the fall students will explore the garden and their faces light up as they pluck carrots and beets from the ground. A highlight is when the students explore through the three sisters; corn, squash and beans, just as the indigenous people of these lands did many years ago.

A bit upsetting this year was the amount of produce that was taken without asking. Two rows of barley and two rows of oats were cut right down, onions, tomatoes, zucchini, squash and herbs were all taken, leaving us with very few vegetables to show the students. We hope in the future that signage and fencing will help to deter theft. Hopefully we can convey the importance of our programming to those who visit our gardens.



Above: students from Alloa Public School  
Miss Mila, Master Pearce,  
Master Mackenzie



***Echoes of the Past* Brings Back Memories**  
Daryl Cook

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etty Spooner is a volunteer at a long term care home. Recently she has been using our book, *Echoes of the Past, the one room schools of Peel County*, with elderly residents. Here are excerpts from two emails she sent me recently.

I took your book to Creek Way this morning and enjoyed relating some of the fun stories about wages, carrying rifles, teaching without going to school, starting morning fires, school benches as toboggans etc. etc. One lady had taught in Scotland and Jamaica and was super interested. She was appalled at 50 in a classroom!

My 95 yr. old friend Lucy remembered Hillcrest and recognized the pages when I found them. They had a home near Southdown and so her 6 children (5 girls and 1 boy) attended that school after the highway was built and the story of the old school was well known.

Even though many of the residents attended city schools, they loved to hear the stories of the little one-room schools and of course I could relate well to them since that was my experience until grade 4 when the trustees made the basement into a classroom for the younger grades. That was SS#7 Whitchurch. (York County) ... a while ago!

I can likely use the stories again next fall and/or in-between since there are always new residents and some of the older ones forget. So your research pays off in many ways!!!

Yesterday I took 8x11 computer pictures of a school house, inside and out and talked with more residents about the stories. One lady pointed to a desk and said - "I sat right there!". She said she had seen lots of school houses like that north of the city. She had great fun explaining it all to the Italian lady. She remembered desks, the ink wells and the picture of the King and then the Queen at the front of the room etc. They all thought the salaries were hilarious. Great fun!!!

Using our book to stimulate memories and discussion with elderly residents, some with dementia, was something we never considered. Thanks to Betty for using our book to bring back happy memories for long term care residents.



## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### **Echoes of The Past The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County** **Jean Robinson**

The writers of the book Echoes of the Past will have given two talks this fall. On October 8<sup>th</sup> we spoke to the Streetsville Probus Club at Vic Johnson Community Centre. On November 7<sup>th</sup> we will give a talk to the RWTAO Genealogical Group at The Grange. We are always encouraged by the warm reception we receive and the interest these groups demonstrate in historical topics. If you know of a group that may be interested in our PowerPoint presentation and talk about the book, **Echoes of the Past The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County** please let Jean know (905 826 3475). The talk covers about 8 of the 100 schools in the book. We try to tailor the talk to the schools in the area where we are speaking. The Talk lasts about 45 minutes. We bring books to sell at \$30 cash or cheques made out to Friends of The Schoolhouse.

### **Britannia School Class Photos** **Eva Ardiel**

At the schoolhouse there are a number of class photos of S.S.#12, Toronto Township pupils taken over the years. Most of these were framed and displayed at the back of the classroom. However, over the years many had faded badly. The Friends found the best copy of each that we could, scanned and enhanced each as much as possible, had new prints made and had fourteen of these class photos reframed with museum standard glass, which not only makes the photos clearer to view but cuts out 99% of the damaging light.

A copy of each photo has also been put in a binder for easier perusing. Also included in the binder are student data banks and a list of teachers taken from all the old school registers that could be found. This will be especially helpful for the visiting classes' inquiry program.

We unfortunately did not have names for three of the 1950's photos. Thanks to former S.S.#12 pupils Lis (Andersen) Braun, Cathy (Lawrence) Cameron, Betty Ann (Locking) Wolder and Pat (Moseley) Leach we now have almost all those names. Their enthusiastic response to our appeal for help made us think that we should plan for another reunion of former students, perhaps in May or June 2020.

### **Neeps or Swedes**



Turnips and rutabagas are both members of the cabbage family, Brassica. The rutabaga is thought to be an ancient cross between a [turnip](#) and a cabbage, and therefore a hybrid.

There is some suggestion that the turnip was first cultivated before the 15th Century BC. Rutabaga first appeared in North America around 1817.

Turnips are typically white or purple and white, while rutabaga is typically yellowish and brown. Rutabaga are slightly sweeter

tasting than turnip. Both good sources of fibre and vitamin C.

Turnip are best when harvested small and tender unlike a rutabaga which stays tender at a larger size.

Source: SpruceEats

**Summer/Early Fall 2019**

**Christmas Decorating of The Schoolhouse**  
Jean Robinson

Every year a group of "Friends" get together to decorate the Schoolhouse for the visiting school children and for the yearly Victorian Christmas Open House and sale. This year on November 26, 2019 about 3:00 PM, we will decorate the Schoolhouse with a live Fraser Fir Christmas Tree, paper chains, evergreen swags and urns of greens at the door. After an afternoon of hard work, the hungry friends partake in a hot bowl of chili, salad and delicious desserts. If you would like to join us, call Jean to make sure she makes enough chili. 905 826 3475.

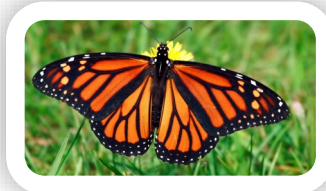
**Tweet Tweet!**

Follow us on Twitter, @PDSBBritanniaSH. Get the latest on Open Sundays, events and other news. We also post pictures of the school, grounds and gardens. If you visit the schoolhouse be sure to tweet a picture or message so we know you were there. Tweet you later!



**Garden News**  
Marg Carson

Monarch butterflies have been seen visiting our plants this season. Besides the common and swamp milkweed, they also like the asters, sedums and Joe-Pye weed.



Bees have been checking out our 'Bee Chalet'. Hopefully some of these native bees may have laid some eggs. We will store the chalet away for the winter, and bring it out in the early spring (April) so the bees can hatch.

On November 2nd we will be tidying up the gardens. Plants such as cornflowers, black-eyed Susan and sedums will be left with their seed heads on. These will provide food for the birds during the coming winter.

This fall we will be planting 'Liberation' tulip bulbs to honour Canadians who helped to liberate the Netherlands during the Second World War.



**Check our website often for the latest information.**  
[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

**CHECK THE SIDEBAR ON PAGE 1 FOR THIS YEAR'S EXCITING EVENTS**

Summer/Early Fall 2019

*Holiday Sale at*  
*The Peel Board Office*  
Thursday, November 21, 2019



*10am - 2pm*

Once again, Friends of the Schoolhouse will be hosting an Open House and Sale at the Peel Board Office Atrium - Thursday, November 21, 2019 from 10am-2pm. A wonderful array of vintage toy replicas, cards and books will be for sale, as well as, honey, and jams and jellies.

PLEASE JOIN US!



Summer/Early Fall 2019

# VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE & SALE

AT THE BRITANNIA SCHOOLHOUSE  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2019



Once again, Friends of the Schoolhouse will be hosting an Open House and Sale on Sunday, December 1, 2019 from 1-4pm. A wonderful array of vintage toy replicas, cards and books will be for sale. A few vendors will also join us including a honey company, jelly and jam creations as well as beautiful works by a Canadian Blacksmith.

PLEASE JOIN US!