



Fall 2018



**2018-2019  
Schedule of Events**

Nov.22 CBO Sale  
Dec. 2 Christmas Open House  
Feb. 09 Heritage Brampton  
July 16: Lemonade on the Lawn  
Sept. to June (2nd Sunday of each month): Open Sunday

**School Visits**

Sept. 67 students over 3 days

***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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***Need more information?***

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse phone 905-890-1010 ext.2911  
Website  
[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

**Garden News**

Marg Carson

It was a long, hot summer but despite the heat and lack of rain the gardens continued to thrive. The marigold, nasturtiums and 4 o'clock seeds started in the spring by grade 6 students added a punch of colour to the beds. Several butterfly shrubs were planted throughout the garden and attracted bees and butterflies. A bee chalet was placed in the sun bed with the hope of attracting some native bees.

Our gardening volunteers- Marg, Kathy, Mary, Abby, Ken, Jean, Kathleen, Joanna, William, Ellen, Liz and Brittany- put in many



hours working in the gardens.

The garden has been put to bed for the winter but we'll be looking for more volunteers in the spring. No



gardening experience is necessary and there is no need to come out every week. Give as little or as much time as you can spare. Perhaps consider "adopting" a small section of the garden to care for.

If you are interested in helping, call Marg. 905-824-4884.

*Garden Additions in 2018*

White wood aster,  
Lilac Shrubs,  
Blueberry Shrubs,  
Blanket Flower,  
Ninebark Shrubs,  
Butterfly Shrubs  
Russian Sage,  
Speedwells,  
Phlox,  
Hosta

**Message from the Chair**

Ruth Taylor

F

riends recently participated in The Brampton Fall Fair. It is always interesting to see how children, teens and adults are intrigued by the toys on display and by the fact that no batteries are necessary. Some older adults remember certain toys from their childhood. Some of the harvest from the Schoolhouse gardens was on display and won prizes. This event is always good publicity for the Schoolhouse. Members of our group were present at the Britannia Fall Fair held on the grounds of the Schoolhouse. It was organized by the



trustee for the ward.

Just as the last of the garden produce is being harvested and the flower gardens are winding down, we are also looking ahead to future events. After a hiatus of a few years, there will be a Christmas sale in the atrium of the Board Office on November 22. Our December Open Sunday will be combined with our Schoolhouse Christmas sale, which will take place on December 2. The Schoolhouse will be decorated in all its old fashioned glory. We will, of course, have Schoolhouse items for sale. There will be returning vendors as well as some new vendors. We hope you will consider doing some of your Christmas shopping at one of our sales.

**Have you renewed your membership for 2019?**

***Don't Delay***

How quickly the year comes to a close. Before it does, please give some consideration to re-newing and/or starting a membership with "The Friends of the Schoolhouse."

Your membership funds help to contribute to the schoolhouse experience. With membership support, The Friends have been able to: restore artifacts, e.g. maps and charts, provide sports equipment, research and publish a book on Peel Schoolhouses of the past, and maintain the gardens.

Our quarterly Newsletter will keep you up to date on our many community activities.

Membership forms can be downloaded from our website:

[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

Membership forms will also be mailed out next month.

Marg Carson, Membership Convenor

**From the Schoolmistress**

Christine Chapel



October! The harvest season is upon us. My favourite time of the year! We can now see the results of our spring planting and summer tending.

At the Schoolhouse, throughout the summer we look at the vegetable garden anticipating what will be ready when the students arrive. Will the squash and pumpkins be ripe? Will there still be tomatoes on the vine? What will the potato harvest be like? Planting a garden is really about planning for the future and, like any long-term plan, there's a degree of uncertainty. Weather, animals and the human element can all wreak havoc on best laid plans. The garden this summer was challenging. Between chipmunks eating our corn plants, hot, dry weather and almost torrential rain, weeds



and a lack of as much time as we would have liked to tend crops it's not exactly what we'd hoped and planned for in the spring. Thankfully this year we had some wonderful volunteers step forward to help us water and weed. So... there have been vegetables for the students to enjoy this fall and for us to enter in the Brampton Fair. And yes, we did win some ribbons!

Now that school is back in, we're having fun in the garden with the students. Several groups have been in for a Soils and Plants program. They've been harvesting and just love getting their hands and knees "soiled". Many have never been in a garden or been permitted to get "dirty". As we are now well into another school year we are already planning the garden for the spring and ultimately next fall. We will plant garlic and grain in another few weeks. Lisa is vowing to grow a giant pumpkin next year and I am determined to have a fantastic Three Sisters garden and try to outsmart the chipmunks so we'll actually have a corn crop. And like anticipating what will grow in our garden, we always consider how the experiences the students have at the Schoolhouse will help them to grow. How can what we do at a 19<sup>th</sup> century Schoolhouse open the door for inquiry and reflection?



This unique setting acts as a spring board for learning about life in the past, understanding how history shaped the present, which in turn helps to inform and shape the future. Just like a garden.

### **Early Curriculum Requirement**

As we begin to adjust to the legalization of cannabis, it is interesting to look back at an era when alcohol was viewed unfavourably by some. Temperance groups advocated for complete abstinence and were successful in having temperance taught as a subject to students of all ages during the Prohibition period from the 1880s to the 1920s. Students were taught the “injurious effect of alcoholic stimulants” with the hope of preventing “the formation of habits so destructive to the happiness of the home and the prosperity of the individual and the community”.

Students were required to pass a temperance examination before they could enter high school or obtain a teaching certificate.

#### **Echoes of the Past**

##### **The Rural One Room Schools of Peel County**

This book documents the history of all the one room schools that existed in Peel. It covers the period from the early 1800’s until the mid-1960’s. There are old photos of most of the schools and photos of what the sites look like today. Timelines trace the history of the schools and an interesting – sometimes humorous – “historical gem” is included for each one.

This book is a great gift for a teacher or anyone interested in the history of education.

Written and published by Friends of the Schoolhouse.

Soft cover, full colour, 208 pages.

\$30 plus \$10 shipping

Available at all schoolhouse events and from any member of Friends of the Schoolhouse.

#### **Book Talks**

Illustrated talks are available to historical societies and other interested groups. We tailor each presentation to suit the audience and the one room schools that were in their local area.

### ***An Invitation***

This is a special invitation for members to join the Friends of the Schoolhouse committee. We are always looking for new volunteers with new ideas to help us plan activities that will support and maintain the schoolhouse and its program. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month from 4 to 6 pm. We can offer you an interesting and rewarding experience along with great light refreshments at each meeting. **Please contact Shirley Hoad, [shoad@bell.net](mailto:shoad@bell.net)**

## **Brampton Fair 2018**

Eva Ardiel

**T**

he Friends have been taking part in Brampton Fall Fair since 1995 when it was held at the old fairgrounds and arena on Elliot Street in Brampton.

This year it seemed more like a summer fair than a fall fair! The crowds were large as there were three beautiful warm (hot) sunny days.

The friends were set up in the Livestock Building again, - between the straw bale maze and the livestock show ring. It was a busy, interesting and dusty location. The fruit and vegetable entries were in the same building. It was great to see several Britannia Schoolhouse entries with prize ribbons. Congratulations are due to Schoolmistresses Chapel and Cafaro and all of the visiting students who helped in the schoolhouse garden and orchard. Onions, garlic and squash were just some of the ribbon winners.

As usual our collection of old-fashioned toys and games were popular and got a good workout with the young as well as the older kids. The Sales Committee did well on the small items they offered for sale. Our displays this year focused on advertising Open Sundays at the Schoolhouse and on promoting our book, *Echoes of the Past, the Rural One Room Schools of Peel County*. The volunteers chatted to lots of fair goers about the schoolhouse and its program, some who knew nothing about the schoolhouse, some who visit our tables every year and some who have been to the schoolhouse with their classes over the years.

It takes a large number of volunteers to cover all three days of the fair.

Special thanks must go to Julie Karen Simmons and Margaret set everything up and to Marg Jennie Roberts who stayed to We also thank Linda and Bob Joan Command, Margaret Hoad, Kathleen Jay, Mary Light, Sturton, Ruth and Dennis Taylor help is certainly needed and ap-



Dipplehofer, Storey who Carson, Julie Dipplehofer and pack up on Sunday afternoon. Bowman, Lis Braun, Daryl Cook, Draper, Cathy Harper, Shirley Eva and Steve Norman, Barb and Betty Wilson. Everyone's appreciated.



### **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

### **Decorating the Schoolhouse**

The decorating of The Schoolhouse takes place on November 30th. at about 3:00 pm. After decorating the tree, making paper chains and evergreen swags for the blackboards and setting out the decorated urns at the front door, we sit down to a chili, salad and dessert dinner. Kindly RSVP to Jean at 905 826 3475 .

### **News From A Former Schoolmaster**

Dennis Patterson was one of our schoolmasters. In the Summer/Fall newsletter we reprinted two of his articles about the gardens he helped create. Recently Dennis sent an email from his current home in Japan. He's still gardening but in a very different climate. Here is his email.

"Thanks for the reprint in the newsletter, 10 years goes by in a flash. I am still gardening away but now on the sub-tropical cycle. A big typhoon (the eye went over the island which is quite rare) just dashed our hopes of a dragonfruit harvest but the bananas are tough and seem to have survived even though there are very few leaves remaining.

Once typhoon season is done we will plant potatoes, onions and carrots in the hopes of a big curry party at the end of March.

We have an active composting program and have 10 horses on the property so fertiliser is never an issue. My pictures are mostly on my school computer if I remember I will send a few along."



If we receive any photos from Dennis we will pass them along.

### **Open Sundays**

Marg Storey

On Sunday, November 11, the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, we honoured and remembered the members of our Armed Forces with displays of wartime photos, medals and newspaper articles.



December 2: Open Sunday will be combined with our Schoolhouse Christmas sale. It will be a Victorian Christmas with a tree, old fashioned decorations and hot cider. The Schoolhouse will have many vendors with specialty items for sale. Come and join us for some early shopping.

### **Recipe Corner**

As we approach the end of a beautiful harvest season there are wonderful ways to preserve your veggies. Why not consider roasting your peppers and garlic?

Prepare a roasting pan with foil. Place your whole, washed peppers on the foil and generously drizzle with a vegetable oil (grapeseed works well). Roast at 425 degrees F for approximately 25 minutes. Check them halfway through the cook time and turn them over when you see the skins charring. When they are completely charred, remove from pan and place in glass bowl covered with plastic wrap. After approximately 20 minutes remove the peppers to a cutting board and peel the skins and remove the core and seeds. The peppers are then ready to use. They are wonderful in a roasted veggie sandwich or can be pureed for a lovely soup base or pasta sauce!



If you haven't roasted garlic before, you really must try this. Take an entire bulb of garlic and cut about half an inch off the top and discard. Place the remaining garlic bulb (unpeeled) in a foil pocket and drizzle with a bit of oil. Bunch the top of the foil pocket to seal it. Place in a pre-heated 375 degree F oven and roast until soft (30-40 minutes). Remove from oven and allow to cool. Open foil pocket and remove garlic bulb. Squeeze the bulb over a small bowl to remove the garlic and discard the remainder of the bulb. It will be soft and spreadable. Use in pasta sauce, as a spread for garlic toast or add to mayonnaise to make a fantastic garlic aioli (for a burger or roasted veggie sandwich)!



### **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!

Fall 2018

# VICTORIAN OPEN HOUSE & SALE AT THE OLD BRITANNIA SCHOOLHOUSE

**When: Sunday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 1- 4pm**

**Where: Britannia Schoolhouse (Huronario and Matheson)**



We have something for everyone at our December Open House and Sale. Wonderful products for sale including natural items from Osprey Bluffs Honey Company and a huge selection of home preserves. Grand Valley Fibre will have alpaca yarns and felt products, along with a wonderful array of vintage toy replicas, cards, books and holiday items. Come and see the schoolhouse decorated for an old-fashioned Christmas and you will complete your holiday shopping.

**COMPLETE YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH UNIQUE  
AND BEAUTIFUL GIFTS!**