



Winter, 2003

Some Figures and Facts:

Volunteers at the Christmas Open House: 16; Friends decorating The Schoolhouse: 12; volunteers at the Christmas Sale at HJA Brown: 10; students who have completed their volunteer service entirely at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse: 1.



This newsletter is published by the *Friends of the Schoolhouse* every Fall, Winter and Spring, in an effort to inform its membership, and the teachers of the Peel District School Board of its activities and events.

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Greetings from the Schoolmistress

Ah, winter. The days grow shorter, the winds grow colder, the schoolhouse is crowded with snowy boots, bulging dinner baskets and rosy faces. The students and teachers who come

to visit get the chance to participate in a unique day of active learning. The program is more popular than ever. I wanted to share with you some of the comments we have received over the past few months as a tribute to the many tireless volunteers who give so much of their time and energy to keep this place alive. This success would not be possible without their continued, enthusiastic support. Thank you Friends of the Schoolhouse, it's all because of you!

"Today's experience will last forever for many. Textbooks and worksheets cannot teach the students the same way you did today. Thank you for such a positive lesson."

- Grade 3 Teacher, Ellwood Memorial PS

"What a great way to learn about our early Canadian history! Many of these children have only been in Canada for a few months and this is a wonderful

way to introduce them to the history of our country."

- Grade 7 Teacher, Williams Parkway Sr. PS

"Reading about pioneers doesn't compare to what we experienced today! Thank you for all the work done to make this a thoroughly enjoyable day for us all."

- Grade 3 Teacher, Huntington Ridge PS

"I have taught in other provinces and have never had such a unique and enjoyable experience in 'history'. What a wonderful way for 'pupils' to enjoy the past!"

- Grade 3 Teacher, Vista Heights PS

"Knowing the past is the key for entering the future. Thank you for an excellent glimpse into the past. History lessons can be fun, interesting, and cool."

- Grade 8 Teacher, Hillside Sr. PS

"As a parent volunteer, and someone who works in museums, I was extremely impressed with the quality of experience that is being offered to the students who visit. The program was quite wonderful... Much credit should go to the people who have worked so hard to preserve this place..."

- Parent Volunteer



*Executive Report***H**appy 2003
everyone!

The fall term has gone very quickly. Britannia Fall Fair at Thanksgiving brought several visitors into the schoolhouse. Twenty-four volunteers helped with this event over the three day weekend.

In the fall Weall and Cullen invited Friends of the Schoolhouse to participate in a Charity Day. Daryl Cook was most impressed with the response from the staff and for the generous donation.

One of the highlights of 2002 was our Reunion of former Alumni of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse. One of our resident photographers, Daryl Cook, created a collage of all the former students and one teacher who attended. She has donated a framed composite to Friends of the Schoolhouse and by now every attendee should have a copy.

A couple of years ago, an antique lightning rod ball was donated to the schoolhouse to be mounted on the lightning rod atop the belfry. Due to a safety regulations the old lightning rod had to be removed. Plans are underway to have a case and plaque made to display both the rod and the ball in the schoolhouse.

We welcomed Meadowvale Village Public School Council to the schoolhouse for their November meeting. Attendance was good. A twelve day old baby was one of the attendees.

Christmas at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is always a special time. Santa's Elves (Sales Committee) have been hard at work again and they have added many new items to their inventory. Our Annual Christmas sale at the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre was very successful. The Schoolhouse, itself, soon comes alive when an afternoon is spent decorating a fragrant tree with Victorian ornaments, strings of popcorn and cranberry and other decorations true to the period. A beautiful wreath is created; pine and cedar boughs are draped about the room and red and green paper chains add to the colourful Christmas setting. There was a good response to our annual Open House on the first of December. It is always so enjoyable to see the children and their parents trying



out the toys and making their purchases for that special one. But we must not forget the hot apple cider and Christmas cookies to round out the visit.

We were very pleased to welcome Mr. Jim Grieve, Director of Education for the Peel District School Board to our December meeting. Mr. Grieve keeps a close watch on the schoolhouse from his office at CBO. He was pleased to be able to attend our meeting and to meet "the crew". He is very interested in what we are doing and we hope that he will be able to attend some of our

functions in 2003.

Schoolmistress Megan Curtis has had another busy fall. Over 1300 students have visited the schoolhouse during the fall months.

Plans are underway for Heritage Showcase, February 14-16, 2003 at Sheridan Mall. This year's theme is "What's Your Story?". If you are able to help, please contact George Christian at 905 275 8038

Information on Queen Victoria's Birthday, Saturday, May 24 and the Strawberry Social, Wednesday, June 25, will be out shortly. Mark these events on your calendar.

Secondary school students who are graduating in June 2003 must have 40 hours of volunteering. To date we have been very impressed with the number of students who have sought opportunities to volunteer for us. Not only have they demonstrated initiative to get involved in their community, but they have also enjoyed the experience. Students may contact us through the Peel Board's website.

Have you renewed your membership? If not, please do so in the near future. Do you have a few extra hours that you would like filled? We have opportunities for you at Heritage Showcase, in February; at Queen Victoria's Birthday celebration in May and at the Strawberry Social, in June.

Hope to see you at these Spring Events.

Cathy Harper, Chair

Christmas at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

The season began with The Annual Christmas Sale at the H. J.A. Brown Education Centre on Thursday, November 14th. Eva and the Sales Committee have amassed a huge and varied collection of "old fashioned" toys (i.e. without the need of computers, "play stations" or batteries), hand rolled beeswax candles, a good assortment of antique tin ware, books and cards and as well as many other enticing stocking stuffers. The new navy and cream sweatshirts, worn by many of the volunteers, were much admired. There are new navy T-shirts as well. Either the sweats or Ts can be ordered by calling Eva at 905 459 9158. There is a limited number of sweat shirts so if you want one, get your order in quickly. Many thanks to Eva Ardiel, Frances Kay, Marjorie Madill, Jean Robinson, Joan Moon, Joan Reid, Joan Hamilton, Cathy Harper, Mary Corrigan, Jenny Roberts and Judy Paget for volunteering their time and energy to make the sale a huge success.

On Friday, Nov, 29th a dozen "Friends of The Schoolhouse" members assembled at The Schoolhouse to decorate it for Christmas. In no time at all, Jean, Eva and Ben had the beautiful fir tree in place ready for the Victorian style decorations. Marjorie Madill is our popcorn lady and brings enough to make many strings of popcorn and wooden cranberries for the tree.

Everyone is drafted to make paper ladders to decorate the blackboards and to hang the cedar and pine boughs. Daryl Cook always decorates the wreath for the door. This year she has outdone herself with a wreath adorned with small bears, to celebrate the 100th



anniversary of the teddy bear, as well as the last month of the 150th Anniversary of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse. After all was finished we enjoyed chili, salad, rolls and dessert prepared by Jean Robinson and Joan Moon. The Friends group always celebrates with good food! The Schoolhouse looks very festive. The mice did not appear to consume the popcorn and ginger cookies off the tree before December 20th. The classes who visited before Christmas, therefore, could enjoy *all* of the decorations. Thanks to Linda Bowman, Ben and Majorie Madill, George Christian, Joan Moon, Shirley Hoad, Frances Kay, Daryl Cook, Sandra Emerson, Joan Reid, Jean Robinson and Eva Ardiel.

Sunday, December 1st was the Annual Christmas Open House and Sale at The Schoolhouse. Our visitors enjoyed mulled cider and home made cookies as they made their selection from the many interesting items for sale. John Emerson on piano and Ray Hosty on violin played Christmas music to delight the crowd. We are so fortunate to have friends such as they and we extend a big thank you to them both. The music adds so much to the ambience.

As well as the fifteen adult volunteers we had a young student, Paul Lau, who manned the door and the refreshment area with great style. Jessica Proeller, Joan Moon's 7 year old granddaughter, and our youngest volunteer, was a conscientious hostess making sure everyone had cider and cookies. Thank you Paul and Jessica, It was a very busy afternoon. We hope all our visitors enjoyed themselves as much as the Friends did. Many thanks to Eva Ardiel, who as well as being Executive Director of The Friends Group and Chair of the Sales Committee, is also buyer of merchandise, keeper of the inventory and provider of "warehouse" space in her living room for all the sales "stuff". (A picture of Eva's living room accompanies this article). The rest of the hard working sales committee, manufacture kits, make candles, spool and angel dolls,



puzzles, marble and slate pencil bags and anything else that needs doing, as well as volunteering at all the sales events. Thanks to Val and Ray Hosty, Sandra and John Emerson, Daryl Cook, Shirley Hoad, Linda Bowman, Linda Kenny, George Christian,

Megan Curtis, Mary Corrigan, Marg Carson, Paul Lau, Jessica Proeller, Joan Moon, Eva Ardiel and Jean Robinson for giving of their time for The Schoolhouse. The Sales Committee wishes to thank you so much for your support in 2002. Happy New Year!

Jean Robinson



THE OLD BRITANNIA SCHOOLHOUSE OPEN HOUSE, 2002





The Schoolhouse grounds are transformed during the Britannia Fall Fair;



Frances Kay, Marjorie Madill and Jean Robinson model our latest Friends of the Schoolhouse garb;

It must be Christmas sale time! Just some of the sales items that annually take over Eva Ardiel's living room.





Friend of the Schoolhouse member Mary Carson enjoyed the fare that The Old Britannia Schoolhouse had to offer at its Christmas Party.

Heritage Week

The 2003 Heritage Mississauga Showcase will be held at the Sheridan Centre (formerly the Sheridan Mall) on Erin Mills Parkway on February 14, 15 and 16, during mall hours.

The theme for 2003 is: "*What's Your Story?*"

The Heritage Mississauga Awards Night will be held on February 17 in the Tower Garden Café, in the Civic Centre.

More information may be obtained by phoning George Christian at 905 275 8038.



Is your membership now due?

Go **f** the date on your address label is "00", "01" or "02", your membership with the Friends of the Schoolhouse is now overdue. If the date is *not* "03", why not take the time to renew now?.

Your commitment to The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, either as a volunteer or as a donor, is vital in our quest to keep this integral part of Peel's past alive and as a living history facility, a link to the past for the children and the community in Peel.

Need to speak to the Schoolmistress?



The Old Britannia Schoolhouse can be contacted directly, by dialing
890 1010, ext. 2911

***We are on the web at
www.britanniaschoolhouse.org***

The Friends of the Schoolhouse wish to thank the following for their support:

Karen Simmons
Hazel Salman
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Stewart & Bertha
Scott
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