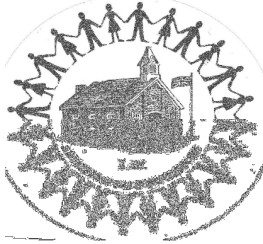




Spring 2014



2014

### Schedule of Events

June 25 Strawberry Social  
July 15 Lemonade on the  
Lawn

### School Visits

During the months of March, April and May **985 children** spent a day at the schoolhouse.

### ***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

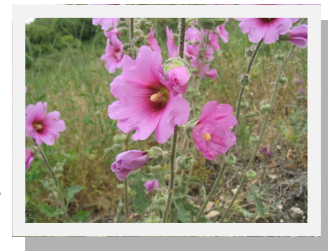
[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

## Schoolhouse Gardens

Karen Simmons

Another gardening season has begun. Although the late spring slowed early growth, all the gardens are now thriving. We had three Saturday morning work sessions in May, to clean up dead matter left from the winter and dig out some of the weeds which are always sprouting. The daffodils have bloomed profusely, and we found quite a few trilliums in the shade garden. Thank you to all the volunteers who did all the work.

We have refreshed the lavender border with new plantings, and added several hollyhocks along the rail fence at the back of the rose garden. Schoolmaster Campbell has brightened up the front door gardens with pansies and marigolds. More annuals will be added later.



We are grateful to the Schoolhouse and Field Centre staff, who have done so much work around the property. They have prepared the vegetable garden for planting, reset the flagstones of the pathway, and smoothed out the driveway gravel which was plowed up along with the winter snow. It all looks great!

Those weeds always need attention. We'll have another work day mid June to try and get rid of some of them. We would like to find some volunteers to 'adopt' a small patch of garden and weed it out every two or three weeks. That would make our job so much easier. A few employees from the Board Office are already helping us from time to time, and we welcome them thankfully.

**Message From The Chair**

Ruth Taylor

S

pring has finally arrived! It is especially welcome after such a challenging winter. The cleanup in the gardens has started and plans are underway for the flower and vegetable gardens. On April 14, several Friends as well as the schoolmistress and schoolmaster attended the annual SLATE conference held at Backus Conservation Area near Port Rowan. On May 27 we are welcoming the trustees and senior administration for a visit to the schoolhouse. Our annual Strawberry Social takes place in the atrium of the board office on June 25 from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We hope many of you join us and enjoy a generous helping of strawberry shortcake topped with real whipped cream. You can sip your tea or coffee from our fancy china teacups or perhaps you might like some raspberry cordial. See the flyer for more details. After the Open Sundays in May and June focusing on Mother's Day and Father's Day, they will resume in September. Lemonade on the Lawn takes place in July. Friends of the Schoolhouse also hold an Annual Planning Meeting in July. We review the activities of the past year and plan for the upcoming year. Members are welcome to attend but should contact Ruth Taylor for more information. (Phone 905-457-8804 or email rtaylor914@sympatico.ca ).

We received a very special donation from Mrs. Hickey's Grade 3 class at Ray Underhill Public School. They had visited the schoolhouse earlier this year. They raised money by selling Valentine-O-Grams. They donated the proceeds for use at Old Britannia Schoolhouse "to (help) preserve historical sites in Ontario." We will be using the money to replace some of the fruit trees in the orchard. We appreciate the effort they put into this endeavour.

***Lemonade on the Lawn***

***A special event for Board Office staff and members of  
Friends of the Schoolhouse***

***Tuesday July 15***

***11:30 till 1:30***

***Bring your brown bag lunch and enjoy an old-fashioned Victorian  
"dinner" on the schoolhouse lawn.***

***The Friends of the Schoolhouse will provide the lemonade and cookies.***

***Visit the schoolhouse and wander through the gardens.***

***Everyone welcome. No charge.***

**Annual Planning Meeting of Friends of the Schoolhouse**

Shirley Hoad

E

ach year the Friends of the Schoolhouse gather to organize the next year's plans and activities. It is held during the first week of July, with the date this year being Thursday, July 3 at 9:30am. Kindly check the notice board for further details pertaining to the specific room location. We meet at the HJA Brown Education Centre beginning in the morning, and hopefully finished by the time we break for our Pot Luck Lunch. Any member of the Friends of the Schoolhouse is welcome to attend this meeting and take part in our planning.

**Spring's Bounty**

Katharine Moon-Craney

P

ectin was first isolated and described in 1825. However, fruit pectin did not become commercially available until the 1920's. Prior to World War II, fruit preserves would likely not have been made with pectin. Different ingredients and preparations determine the type of preserves; jams, jellies or marmalade. Many of us cannot resist a fresh, homemade jar of strawberry preserves. As a general rule, equal parts sugar and fruit, by weight (with a dribble or two of freshly squeezed lemon juice) and you are well on your way to a lovely treat. Whether you crush the berries or leave them plump it is uncomplicated and a 'sweet' way to pay homage to Spring's bounty. With warm weather upon us your thoughts may turn to a cool treat. Here is a recipe that is sure to tempt your taste buds!

**5-Minute Strawberry Popsicles**

Makes between 4 and 6 popsicles depending on size of moulds.

2 cups **Greek yogurt**

2 tbsp **honey**

1 tsp **vanilla extract**

10 to 12 **strawberries**, sliced in 1/4-inch (5 mm) thick slices

In a bowl, mix together yogurt, honey and vanilla. Fold in strawberries. Fill ice pop moulds and freeze until firm.

**From Joan Reid's One Room School Research**

Edited by Daryl Cook

*Elmbank Union School*

E

Elmbank was a small crossroads community on Britannia Road just west of the Sixth line (Airport Road) in the northeast section of Toronto Township, the area now known as Malton.

The Elmbank School Section extended one mile north of Elmbank Corner, two miles south of it, west to the Third line, and east to the Town line between Toronto Gore and Toronto Townships. It was a Union School Section because pupils came from two townships - Toronto Gore Township and Toronto Township. In 1846 the trustees asked the Home District Council to record the deed for the Union School.



The first school at Elmbank was possibly held in a barn. The earliest school we are certain of was a log one built on land once owned by L. Whitehead.

The earliest record of expenditures for a school was in 1854 - 22 pounds (\$88.) for fencing the school grounds. In 1857 the School Section had a revenue of \$466. and spent \$415. In 1858 it took in \$436. and spent \$392. That year the treasurer for the school section wrote "won't pay" beside the

names of several residents and "poor" beside the names of several others. At this time education was not free and parents paid a fee for each pupil either in cash or goods such as wood for the fire. In 1861 ratepayers passed a motion to make the school free. The schoolmaster refused to serve under these conditions and the decision was overturned.

The first woman teacher for the school (1860) was Jessie Foster who was paid \$240 for the year.

In 1864 a brick school was built on the southeast corner of Lot 6, Concession V East, Toronto Township. The old log school was sold for \$7.50.

Until 1910 pupils went back to school in mid-August. The Labour Day holiday was a welcome pause.

*Elmbank Union School (cont'd)*

Agriculture was taught in one room schools and pupils had their own school-house gardens. In March 1913 there was a conference for teachers on agriculture at Brampton. Teacher Jean Burleigh's, plans for teaching elementary agriculture and horticulture included lessons on trees, domesticated animals, noxious weeds, grains, soils, orchards, insects, autumn flowers, fish and birds. She drew a sketch in the school register showing the location of four garden plots on the school grounds. In 1914 horses were allowed to graze on school property. As a result, pupils kept their garden plots at home.

In 1919 the school built in 1864 was condemned. A new brick school was built in 1920 and opened in January 1921. In 1949 a second classroom was opened in the basement

In 1952 Elmbank became part of Toronto Township School Area No. 1. In 1955 the expansion of the airport at Malton eventually obliterated every trace of the village of Elmbank.

In 1956 the school officially closed. The site of the school now lies beneath the control tower at Pearson airport.



**Omissions and Corrections to Annual Report 2013**

For both the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 Executive Committee, Dennis Taylor should be listed as a Community Member of The Friends of The Schoolhouse.

In the Donation Section—Sustaining Friends, the Delta Kappa Gamma donation was in memory of Audrey Baird.

**Ben's Corner**

Nothing stands still. Machines are improved and are changing all the time. One example is the combine which appeared in Ontario during the late 1930's. Farmers were reluctant to give them a try. It is said they will never replace the threshing machine. Look at them now. The person who does not make changes with the times will, some day, find themselves paddling upstream with a worn out paddle.



Come out and enjoy an old-fashioned  
**Strawberry Social**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2014**

*11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

*in the atrium of H.J.A. Brown Education Centre*



**BILL OF FARE**

A generous helping of luscious Ontario strawberries on a delicious shortcake biscuit.... topped with genuine whipped cream!

Tea • Coffee • Fruit Cordial  
Mints

*Come as you are -- or "dressed up" for an old-fashioned afternoon tea*

*\$8.00 tickets available from*



*Friends of the Schoolhouse*

*A fundraising project for The Old Britannia Schoolhouse  
(Some tickets available at the door.)*

*If you would like tickets held for you at the door, please contact Ruth Taylor at either*

*905 457 8804 or*

**rtaylor914@sympatico.ca**

**OBS at SLATE**

Shirley Hoad

Q

sunny Sunday was a perfect time for several members of the Friends of the Schoolhouse to drive through the area south-west of Hamilton on the way to Port Dover and Port Rowan.

There we attended the annual gathering of SLATE (So Let's All Talk about Education) on Monday, April 14, 2014. This is a group from museums and school boards that operate programmes related to one roomed schoolhouses throughout the province and meet annually to share resources and information that will make our programmes at the schools meaningful.



This year the Backus Heritage Conservation Area near Port Rowan hosted the group. It has a series of buildings dating from the late 1790's (an old water-wheel driven mill) to a modern reception centre and classrooms built a few years ago. Schoolmistress Christine Chapel and Schoolmaster Gary Campbell were able to meet with other educators and museum personnel to discuss mutual concerns and solutions.

A series

of speakers and a tour of the facilities at Backus Heritage gave all of us insight into the history of the area, and its connection to the War of 1812. Useful activities to make a rag doll or a woven bookmark using a drinking straw loom might show up in our schoolhouse some day.

Naturally we had a taste of Lake Erie fish for dinner on Sunday and a lunch provided by the hosts on Monday.

Next year we are to meet in the Kingston area to see what the Frontenac area has to offer.



**Schoolmaster's Message**

Schoolmaster Campbell

Q

t last the land has warmed and the schoolyard is seeing a lot more of us these days. Today I was delighted to spend the day with a grade three class from Eagle Plains P.S. Their teacher, Mr. Craig Charnley had a tremendous rapport with his students. Always quick to play along, Craig smirked but appropriately hung his head when The Schoolmaster questioned the quality of today's classrooms when the behaviour of the boys and girls made them "appear to be feral!"

What an honour it is to be asked to take on the role of Schoolmaster. To immerse myself in the dramatic activities associated with recreating an eventful day as Schoolmaster Campbell has been a thrill indeed.

Our fruit trees are in bloom and with the warm sun predicted for the weekend, pollination hopefully will be successful. Monday as well is to be warm and we plan to observe the diversity of pollinators found in the schoolyard and garden.

Our orchard, which was planted by Schoolmaster Patterson, is doing well with the exception of one pear which was nearly girdled by meadow voles and mice under the deep snow of this past winter. (I'm sure you all recall that one now don't you?)

Thanks to the gracious and kind grade 3 students and staff at Ray Underhill Public School we will be able to add to our orchard this month. With the purchase of a Bosc pear tree and 2 Courtland apple trees our orchard will number 15.

Last fall the Friends of the Schoolhouse purchased thirty bales of straw in aid of our plan to kill the weed crop in the vegetable garden. No need for a chemical intervention when you can just cover the entire garden in 12 centimetres of baled straw flakes. Few weeds can push their way through the straw to access sunshine and they die. Cruel, yes I know, but absolutely necessary. The rotted down straw will be great for the health of our garden soil. Sectional School #12 resides atop the Peel Plain. The addition of a generous helping of organic material to the clumpy goiness of our clay porridge is a wonderful thing. All of the weeds, and especially the Queen Anne's Lace should be almost gone, having been starved of air and light over the last seven months.

Our planting will likely begin next week after a little more of the sun's warmth. We'll be "to the knees" in the garden so why not come out and say hello, have an iced tea and play with a garden trowel for ten minutes. We'll let you plant the carrots. We need lots.