



Spring 2017



2017

Schedule of Events

June 21 Strawberry Social
July 18 Lemonade on the
Lawn

School Visits

February: 301
March: 280
April: 260

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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The Schoolhouse Gardens

Karen Simmons

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t's the middle of May. Our Canada 150 garden tribute is in full bloom, with 150 red and white tulip bulbs in the flower beds at the front of the Schoolhouse. They look wonderful! When we helped the visiting children plant the bulbs last November, we covered each clump with a piece of chicken wire which has kept the bulbs safely protected from the squirrels.

Our volunteer gardeners, Marg and Cathy, have already been busy, planting perennials and filling the decorative urns with displays of pansies. We welcome a new volunteer, Joanne, who has taken on the care of our rose garden, an area that has been neglected for lack of expertise. There will soon be lots of beautiful blossoms.



Saturday morning work sessions for student volunteers have always been important to help us with spring and fall garden maintenance. Our first day this year was rained out, and the gardens were much too soggy, so we will have to hope for better weather later in the month.

The vegetable garden is ready to plant, thanks to the efforts of the Schoolhouse and Field Centre staff, who really help out when they have an outdoor work day on site.

Many thanks!

From the Schoolmistress

Christine Chapel

"The principle form of cooperation was the "bee" or "frolic", by which houses and barns were erected, hay and grain fields were harvested, and much other needful work done." 1

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o prepare the Schoolhouse vegetable garden for planting and in order to tend to "...much other needful work..." we held a work bee of sorts last week with all of the Field Centre staff. The To Do list was long but our staff of eight came together prepared to tackle that list. As the old adage goes, "Many hands make light work" and although the work was anything but light, our combined efforts saw many tasks completed in a day.

The vegetable garden has been stripped of garlic mustard, that invasive introduction brought by settlers in the early 1800's as an edible. It has escaped into natural habitats and is extremely aggressive, overtaking and out-competing native species. The raspberry patch and garden perimeter was a sea of garlic mustard, until our crew moved in. The garlic mustard is now gone, the old raspberry canes have been cut out and this year's new growth will be sure to produce berries that the students can now access. The Three Sisters garden has been cleared, weeds removed and fifteen neat mounds of soil are now waiting to be planted with the traditional First Nations corn, beans and squash. As well, a new pollinator garden has been dug out and will be seeded with plants that are favourable to our native pollinator species. Grass has been cut, the "outhouse" and area tidied and the rest of the garden is almost ready for planting in a week or two with straw laid down to prevent further growth of weeds. As we were working together I thought about the work bees of old and of how they were invaluable to the early settlers of Britannia and beyond.

A diary entry of a settler states that "This collection of neighbours is called a Bee, and is the common custom to assist each other in any great piece of labour, such as building a house, logging, etc. The person who calls the bee is expected to feed them well, and to return their work day for day..." 2 The premise is a good one and is a very romantic notion, neighbour helping neighbour in the spirit of community and fellowship. The truth though may be closer to what the renowned author and Ontario homesteader Susanna Moodie experienced. She described the logging-bee as "...the most disgusting picture of a bush life. They are noisy, riotous, drunken meetings, often terminating in violent quarrels, sometimes even in bloodshed." Her entertaining account of a logging bee she and her husband called to help clear their land can be found in her book "Roughing It in the Bush" which was published in 1852, the year the Schoolhouse was built.

From the Schoolmistress (Cont'd)

As we look around us today, the evidence tells us that despite the many trials, those who came to this new land seeking a better life were able to change the existing landscape to suit their needs and thrive. We are still using some of their practical ideas (i.e. a work bee) and lamenting other changes that were brought about by their settlement (eg. invasive species). Good and not so good, it is all part of the history of our communities and country. I think those of us who live here now must reflect on the past, learn from what went on before us and do what we can in one giant collective "bee" to improve conditions for all living things.

If anyone out there would like to join us at any of our work bees at the Schoolhouse, we'd welcome you - and we even offer snacks, as the custom dictates!

1 Pioneer Days in Ontario. By Lorne J. Henry and Gilbert Paterson, The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1938.

2 Travels in North America in the Years 1827 and 1828. By Basil Hall, Edinburgh and London, 1829.

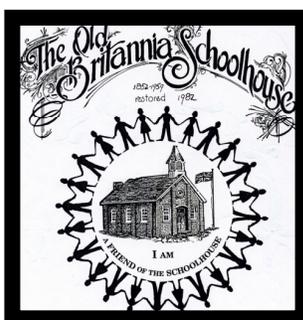
AUDREY CARYI

1950 - 2017

by Eva Ardiel

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse and Friends of the Schoolhouse have lost a very special friend. Audrey Caryi was thrown from a horse while riding with her trail-riding group near her Warkworth area home. She died of her injuries in Sunnybrook Hospital on April 5th, 2017.

Audrey was on the staff of where she contributed excellence of the programs and the We here at Britannia had a In 1982 when Jim Potter was newly restored Britannia artist friend, Audrey Caryi. duce the Schoolhouse logo, huge assortment of pictures



Lang Pioneer Village for 34 years mously to the scope and excel-site.

special relationship with Audrey. appointed Schoolmaster at the School, he sought the help of his Audrey worked with Jim to pro- letterhead, certificates and a and seasonal notes.

I met Audrey at Jim Potter's retirement where she introduced herself and offered to continue helping with any artwork we might need or want. During the years I was at the school she did several more drawings for us. After the Friends of the Schoolhouse started, she designed several note and greeting cards for the Friends' fundraising projects.

We are truly indebted to Audrey for ALL the beautifully detailed drawings and elegant calligraphy that she has done for us over the years. They are, and always will be, a constant reminder of her talent, creativity and generosity. They are the "trade mark" of our Schoolhouse.

Audrey's creativity, enthusiasm and contribution, as well as her generous and fun loving spirit, are, and will continue to be, sadly missed by all who knew her, worked with her and loved her. Many of us have lost a dear friend.

Message From The Chair

Karen Simmons

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t has been a very busy spring. The Schoolhouse Friends hosted the annual SLATE conference for those from around the province who operate one room schoolhouse programmes. The details of this special day appear elsewhere in this newsletter. The organizing committee, led by Margaret Storey, did a superb job. This year is Canada's 150th birthday, as you all know. It is also the 165th anniversary of Britannia Schoolhouse, and the 25th anniversary of Friends of the Schoolhouse. Three celebrations in one! It was a fitting time for us to share our lovely historic site with our visitors.

I like to browse in our collection of old books and publications. This gem is from the Annual Calendar, Faculty of Education, Queen's University, 1913. This is an abridged version, outlining the qualifications for admission.

- a) Be at least 19 years of age
- b) Be certified by a clergyman that he is of good moral character
- c) Be certified by a physician that he is physically fit for the work of a teacher and is free from pulmonary affection, and serious defects in eyesight and hearing
- d) Be a graduate in Arts or hold a Senior Teacher's Certificate.

Expenses for the year were \$170 to \$215, including fees, books, and room and board. A list of boarding houses was available, but men and women students were not permitted to live in the same house unless they were members of the same family.

Those of us with children or grandchildren at university will recognize how much things have changed in the last 100 years!

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!

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 is kinder to the environment. Contact dlcook@rogers.com and put "Emailed newsletter" in the subject box to make this arrangement.

Lemonade on the Lawn

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

Tuesday July 18

12 to 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.*

*It's our way of saying thank-you for your support.
Visit the schoolhouse and wander through the gardens.*

Spring Freeze

Katharine Moon-Craney

Ingredients:

- 1 cup Chocolate wafer crumbs
- 2 tbsp melted butter
- 1 package Cream Cheese
- 1 can frozen, concentrated raspberry juice (or pink lemonade or limeade or mixed berry juice), thawed
- 2 tbsp icing sugar
- 1 container frozen whipped topping (1L), thawed



What to do:

Combine butter and crumbs in bowl and press into 9 inch spring form pan. Freeze for 15 minutes.

Blend cream cheese, juice and icing sugar in blender or processor until smooth.

Pour into large bowl and fold in whipped topping.

Pour over crust and freeze until firm. (Approx. 4 hours/can be frozen overnight covered in foil)

Remove from freezer 10-15 minutes before serving.

Serves 10-12

Freeze times may vary.

Source: Canadian Living

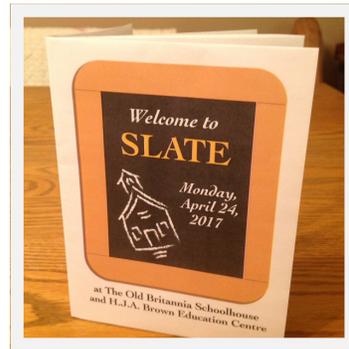
**Check out our website often for the latest information
www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org**

SLATE 2017

Margaret Storey



On April 24, 2017 the Friends of the Schoolhouse had the honour of hosting the annual SLATE (So Let's All Talk Education) Conference for those involved with one room schoolhouses! After a year and a half of planning, it was exciting to see everything come together in the Mississauga Room at CBO and our own schoolhouse!! We had delegates from all over southern Ontario including Cornwall area, Ingersoll, Jordan, Port Dover area, Owen Sound, Kitchener, Markham, Toronto, Peterborough and Kingston.



Our own Schoolmistress Chapel presented a workshop in the schoolhouse about research using an inquiry method with primary resources for the Grade 8 curriculum.



Delegates thoroughly enjoyed this and were eager to try the same ideas back at their schoolhouse site. Our theme was "History Through Storytelling" and we had two guest speakers. Garry Sault, an Ojibway Elder and storyteller from the Mississaugas of the Credit in Hagersville as well as Matthew

Wilkinson from Heritage Mississauga! Both speakers kept us entertained as well as giving factual information. Our numerous displays showed the delegates the history of our schoolhouse, Ben's Corner, our Victorian gardens, the topsy turvey doll as well as information about our new book, 'Echoes of the Past'.



SLATE 2017 (cont'd)

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ach delegate was given a grab bag filled with various goodies which included such things as an OBS notepad and pencil, lupin seeds from our gardens and a lavender sachet also from our gardens, a small handmade

SLATE magnet, an OBS bookmark and flyers from Mississauga, PAMA and information about The Friends.

A delicious lunch was catered for us by Merlyn's Catering at CBO which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Our centrepieces at each table were beautiful small baskets crafted by Eva Ardiel, filled with various sweetmeats and cookies made by several of our members. Together, with a small recipe book, the delegates are now all set to try out our favourite



recipes.

At our Business meeting after lunch we were thrilled that we now have museum sites willing to host this conference for the next three years! Looks like road trips for us. So, all in all, a very successful day! Many thanks to the SLATE committee for all their hard work as well as to all our members who were willing to help out whenever and wherever we need them.

Annual Planning Meeting of Friends of the Schoolhouse

Each 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 Wednesday, July 5 at 9:30am . We meet at the HJA Brown Education Centre beginning in the morning, and hopefully finish 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.

Open Sunday

Margaret Storey

Our last Open Sunday of the 2016-2017 school year will be on Sunday, June 11th. Our theme for the afternoon is "Family Games Day"! Come and try your hand at our games and toys inside and out!! Learn a bit of the history of such games as Checkers or Draughts as it is called in many countries; Monopoly or Snakes and Ladders. Possibly our Skittles game and Crokinole board might be out too. Play with some of our wooden toys and our marble games- always a favourite with the children!

Perhaps you might want to challenge someone to try our stilts outside or to a Game of Graces. When was the last time you had a good old fashioned swing? Well, there is one waiting for you in our schoolyard!

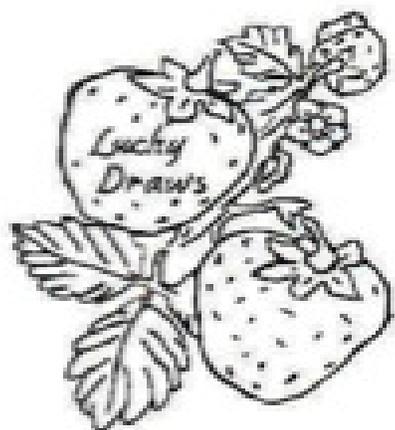
Come out and enjoy an old-fashioned
Strawberry Social

Wednesday, June 21, 2017



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