



Spring 2016



2016

Schedule of Events

June 22 Strawberry Social
July 19 Lemonade on the
Lawn

School Visits

During the month of March
268 children spent the day in
the schoolhouse. In April,
409 children visited.

This newsletter

is published by *The Friends
of the Schoolhouse* every
Fall, Winter, Spring and Sum-
mer to inform members and
the teachers of the Peel Dis-
trict School Board of activities
and events organized by The
Friends.

Co-editors:

Daryl Cook

dlcook@rogers.com

Katharine Moon-Craney

kmooncraney@rogers.com

Need more information?

The Old Britannia School-
house phone 905-890-1010
ext.2911

Website

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

Schoolhouse Gardens

Karen Simmons

Just when the spring bulbs were popping out of the ground, they disappeared under that white stuff. We were eager to see the tulips and snowdrops that we planted last fall around Ben's Corner. Certainly the daffodils which are located in many places have shown their bright yellow heads. The tulips that were donated by Vesey's Bulb company are blooming now, and are beautiful.



Our plans for the gardens this season are underway. Volunteer Saturday mornings for students were planned for April 23 and May 7 and 14. Anyone is welcome to join us, though we do the weekend times to enable students to earn volunteer hours. Sometimes their parents help too. We have a few adult volunteers who come willingly when we call on them. After the clean up, we have some areas that were cleared last fall, and now need to be replanted. That's the fun part of working in the gardens. Weeding is always ongoing, but not really enjoyable.



The gardens are usually showing the most colour in June and July, when many perennial varieties are at peak bloom, including about 40 rose bushes. Visitors are welcome to wander through the several pathways which lead into the back parts of the Victorian Cottage Garden. We do ask that you admire, but not pick!

Message From The Chair — Looking Back

Margaret Storey

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am looking back over the past two years as I write my last message as Chair. It has been an honour to work with such a dedicated group of volunteers. We all feel very strongly about helping to preserve this amazing schoolhouse and the programs delivered by our schoolmaster and schoolmistress. I know our new chair, Karen Simmons, is also looking forward to her new position. So here are a few highlights for me. We have volunteers who give their time each month for Open Sunday. This allows the general public an opportunity to come into the schoolhouse. You can read a bit more about this in the article 'Open Sundays' in this newsletter.

Our Garden Committee members are already busy in our beautiful Victorian Gardens checking to see what flowers are starting to bloom, what raking and tidying needs to be done, what needs to be pruned and trimmed and if any new heritage plants are required. This is also the second year for Ben's Corner, our new conversation area in the garden. Hopefully, all of those plants have survived the winter. I have also been busy with five other members working on a research book about the one room schoolhouses in Peel. For the past three years we have been carrying on the work that Joan Reid had started. We have researched documents at PAMA (Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives), tried to solve a few mysteries, spoken to former teachers and students, travelled about the county trying to find the location of one room schoolhouses, taking photos of these locations as well as speaking to those fortunate enough to be living in some of the restored schoolhouses. At times it seemed the more we found out, the more we needed to learn. But, we are now in the process of publishing our findings and can't wait to see the finished book! We look forward to having these books for sale at our various events.

Each year a number of us attend the S.L.A.T.E. conference for those involved with one room schoolhouses. This year it was held in Ingersoll and Shirley Hoad has written an excellent summary further in the newsletter. We are excited about hosting this conference next year and have already started working on our activities, speakers and workshops.

At last December's Open Sunday and Sale we tried something a bit different. We invited several vendors to display their wares alongside our own wooden toys, books, note cards, and crafts. Everyone was very pleased with the wool, wool items, barn board furniture and decorative items as well as the honey these new vendors had for sale. We will certainly be continuing this idea. Watch for the date of our Christmas sale.

(Message From The Chair — continued)

We also showcase our schoolhouse and its history in Brampton Heritage every February and the Brampton Fall Fair each September. Children and adults are always fascinated with our wooden toys-no batteries or electricity required. It is fun, too, to see what awards our Schoolmistress, Schoolmaster and various classes have earned at the Fall fair for their vegetables grown in our schoolhouse gardens. Another event in September is Doors Open when again we welcome visitors into the schoolhouse. Every June we host the famous Strawberry Social in the Atrium at the CBO. Who doesn't love strawberry shortcake, loaded with fresh Ontario berries and lathered in whipped cream. The date for this year's Strawberry Social is June 22 so get your tickets early.

So you can see how willing our volunteers are to promote the schoolhouse and its history, and the hours they dedicate to the events, our archives and gardens. I might also add that it is all done with smiles on their faces. What a group! (Correction: In the last newsletter, in my article about old school desks, there was a typo when I was talking about double desks. The sentence should have read. 'This was started by the early 1900's when numerous requirements were issued'. A gremlin must have replaced the 1900's with 1960's but I am sure you all knew that there weren't too many double desks being used in the 1960's!)

Annual Planning Meeting of Friends of the Schoolhouse

Shirley Hoad

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 Tuesday, July 5 at 9:00 am in the Caledon Room. 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.

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.

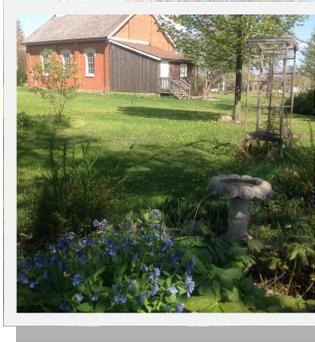
Something for Everyone!!

Julie Dippelhofer

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n Dec. 2012, my twin daughters were singing O Canada at a St. Mike's Majors game (now the Mississauga Steelheads) at the Hershey Centre. Leaving the game we headed south on Hurontario from Matheson and saw a sign that there was a Victorian Open House and Sale at the Britannia Schoolhouse. The girls and I turned in and marveled at the beautifully restored building. I absolutely loved the craft show and sale. I bought gorgeous antique replicas of sewing machines that served a dual purpose as a pencil sharpener. Wonderful cards designed by talented artists and old fashioned toys that I had never seen before.

The visit sparked my interest. In September 2013, I joined and along with Amy Smith sales committee. I find the something one sees in your the items that are sold are from schoolhouse; oatmeal wax candles and most re-Tea Cup Garden. One of together wonderful succu-



makes a delightful gift and sells for only \$8.00.

Another charming item is our Golden Books. One of them titled ***Everything I Needed to Know I Learned from a Little Golden Book*** has been a very popular retirement gift. The book is a humorous "guide to life" for adults. The books whimsical appearance and real-life situations are gathered together in one book. There are sweet yet practical tips for getting the most out of life. The books sells for \$11 and is sure to bring memories and a smile, a wonderful gift for anyone who cherishes the sturdy little books with the shiny cardboard covers and gold foil spines!

est in this schoolhouse gem. In the Friends of the Schoolhouse and Eva Ardiel, we co-chair the items we sell unique and not average local gift shop. Some of actually handmade by our friends lavender soap, handmade beescently a favourite of mine-The our friends, Karen Simmons put lents in a china tea cup, it really

Our next sales event is the Strawberry Social on Wednesday, June 22, 2016. Please join us for a delicious serving of berries and peruse our sales table-there's something for everyone!!!!



Thank You

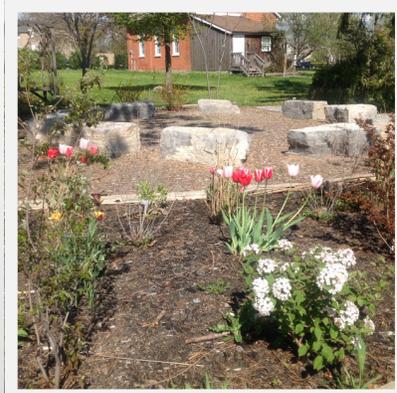
Friends of the Schoolhouse is a non-profit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to assisting the Peel District School Board in the support of the Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its programs. Your donations are much appreciated.

Message from the Schoolmistress

Christine Chapel

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choolmaster Camping on a new program for the Schoolhouse. The new which came out in 2013, en- primary source documents to torical inquiries. Primary things as diaries, letters, arti- The Schoolhouse (considered logical choice when studying of artifacts will offer students nity.



bell and I have been work- grade 8 students visiting Social Studies curriculum, courages the use of pri- aid students in their his- sources include such facts and photographs. a community source) is a history and our collection a rare hands-on opportu-

Our own research while cre- ating this program has lead us to many interesting discoveries. We've been to the cemetery of Britannia United (formerly Methodist) Church up the road, built in 1843, 9 years before the Schoolhouse, and have seen familiar names, some which can be traced back almost 2 centuries. Several appear on the backs of class photos of former pupils on display in the Schoolhouse.

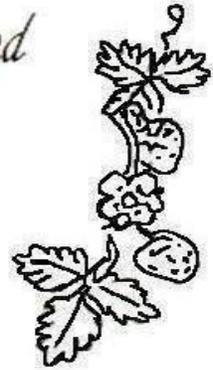
We have also been to the Peel archives in Brampton (PAMA) and had the opportunity to deepen our research using the incredible resources there. Resources housed at the Schoolhouse proved invaluable as well.

Each discovery we made served to add another piece to a historic puzzle and another layer to a community's story. And this is precisely what we hope to offer the students who visit the Schoolhouse. By examining seemingly, at first, unrelated pieces of information and artefacts, students will have the opportunity to hone their powers of deduction and reasoning and make inferences that will allow them to draw connections and conclusions. Putting together pieces of the themed "puzzles" we hope will illicit in student researchers the same sort of emotional responses and "aha moments" that we ourselves experienced. Feeling a connection with the former residents of Britannia and understanding that their stories were real can only lead to a broader understanding of life in Canada in the past and the present.

We're looking forward to launching the program in the new school year. The new booking season began for 2016 – 2017 on May 1. Bookings may be made via the Peel Field Centres website. Any inquiries about this or other Schoolhouse programs may be made via email at Britannia.schoolhouse@peelsb.com.

Spring 2016

Come out and enjoy an old-fashioned
Strawberry Social
Wednesday June 22, 2016



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

S.L.A.T.E. Conference 2016

Shirley Hoad



On Monday, April 18 a group of seven Friends of the Schoolhouse Core Committee Ontario to participate in this annual event. S.L.A.T.E. (So Let's All Talk Education...in a house) is an association of organizations in-

and teaching about education in the early Most of these groups museums and have a from the schools in the area can come to learn what "going to school" was like in earlier times. In some cases there may be an old schoolhouse, like our Britannia Schoolhouse, but often it is within a museum or a structure built specifically for this purpose.



members of the travelled to Ingersoll, one-room school- involved in preserving schools of Ontario. are associated with space where students

Each year we gather to share ideas on programming, collecting materials and funding. This year our hosts were the staff and volunteers who run the Oxford County Museum toured the Archives for controlled space in the craft that their students en- schoolhouse site was lost space for their schoolroom cultural Museum a few Town Hall.



School. In the morning, we their group in the climate- basement; had a chance to try a joy, and learned how the original to them but how they found new at the Ingersoll Cheese and Agri- blocks from the Archives at the

Lunch at a local church made from local produce gave us energy to proceed. The Friends of the Schoolhouse have always been an active member of this associa- tion which celebrated its thirtieth anniversary this year. Our Eva Ardiel was a founding member of the group and today she brought a detailed history of all of the gatherings. In addition the Old Britannia Schoolhouse has hosted the event twice in the past and will do so again in 2017. At the Business Meeting our own schoolmistress, Christine Chapel, became the new Chairman of the group, and our Friends chair, Margaret Storey, has taken over the position of Vice-Chair. With all the sessions to attend, and places to see, our group also found time to eat a filling dinner on Sunday with dessert, lunch with everyone on Monday and a chance to see another part of the prov- ince.



And the weather was terrific!

Spring 2016

Lemonade on the Lawn

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

Tuesday July 19

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.*

Open Sunday

Margaret Storey



On the second Sunday of the month, from September through June, The Friends volunteer to be at the schoolhouse for the afternoon. This continues to be a wonderful opportunity for the general public to come inside the historic building to experience for themselves what a one room schoolhouse would have been like. We do have a different theme for each Open Sunday such as 'Harvest Bounty' for October, 'Remembrance Day' for November, 'March is for Maple Syrup', 'Vintage Games' for April and so on. There is always a craft for children to do if they wish to do so. Very often our visitors tell us how much our schoolroom reminds them of the schools they attended in their home country before they arrived in Canada. The old wooden desks and other artifacts evoke many fond memories for them. Many visitors tell us that having driven by this building so many times they are so pleased to finally be able to come inside! Some of our special visitors are Grade Three students who have recently visited the schoolhouse with their class. Having excitedly told their parents about their day, they can't wait to show their families the slates, the dunce cap or even the stilts and other early toys and games. In March we had a Grade Three teacher who hadn't been able to book a visit for her class. So she told her students about our Open Sunday and a number of her students came with their families. We thought that was wonderful. We had over 40 visitors that day which we think is a record for Open Sunday.

So check out our website. Come for a visit to the schoolhouse, enjoy looking at our beautiful Victorian gardens full of perennials and heritage plants as well as Ben's Corner, our new outdoor conversation area.