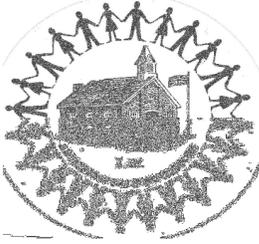


The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1959 restored 1982

Summer/Early Fall 2018



2018—2019 Schedule of Events

Sept. 13-16: Brampton Fair
 Nov. 22: CBO Xmas Sale
 Dec 2: Christmas Open House
 Feb 9: Heritage Brampton
 June 26: Strawberry Social
 July 16: Lemonade on the
 Lawn
 Sept. to June 2nd Sunday:
 Open Sundays

Student Visits

2017-18 3159

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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Friends of the Schoolhouse are Honoured

Eva Ardiel



The evening of June 19th was a special one for Friends of the Schoolhouse! We were invited to attend the Board of Trustees meeting at which time Janet McDougald, Chair of the Trustees, expressed the Board's appreciation for the work of the Friends, both present members and past members, in support of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its program. Trustee McDougald, accompanied by Peter Joshua, Director of Education, then presented the Friends with a carved wooden plaque to recognize our twenty-five years of commitment to the schoolhouse cause. This beautiful and unusual plaque will be installed for all to see in H.J.A. Brown Education Centre.

Ever since those dark days of 1992 and 1993 when the schoolhouse was in danger and the Friends were being organized, we have felt encouraged, valued and respected by the Peel Board. Their support over the years, both financial and verbal has been greatly appreciated. We feel very fortunate and proud that the Peel Board values the significance of the schoolhouse and is protective of it, as well as of the heritage expanse of land on which it stands.

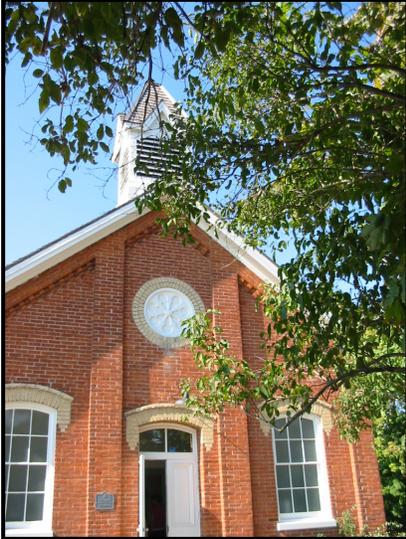
We sincerely thank the Board of Trustees for honouring us with this lovely plaque. The greater reward, however, is seeing Peel students still able to experience the magic of a day at the schoolhouse.

Continued on page 2

Summer/Early Fall 2018

From the Chair

Ruth Taylor



After a few days of relaxation following the Strawberry Social, the Friends met in early July for the Annual Planning Meeting. This is when we start to put in place plans for the upcoming year and confirm positions of responsibility. Our thanks to Karen Simmons for her enthusiasm and hard work as chair for the last two years. Our only summer event was Lemonade on the Lawn on July 17, which was organized by Daryl Cook. Only the gardeners continue to work through the summer. Our Open Sunday themes are planned out, thanks to Margaret Storey. On September 29 the Britannia Fall Fair, organized by Councillor Carolyn Parrish will take place on the grounds of the Britannia property. After an absence

of a few years, there will be a Christmas sale in the atrium of the board office on November 22. As well our annual Schoolhouse Sale will take place on December 2 with some returning vendors and some new vendors. As September approaches, we know students will soon be returning to the Schoolhouse. The Schoolhouse windows will have been cleaned. The bright and shiny windows will match the bright and shining faces of the students, who will be welcomed by Schoolmistress Chapel and Schoolmistress Cafaro. And so another busy year begins.



Friends of the Schoolhouse Honoured

Continued from page 1

Following our presentation at the Board Office the Friends were invited over to the schoolhouse where we were royally feted by Schoolmistress Chris Chapel, Schoolmistress Lisa Cafaro and former Schoolmaster Marc Hogan with tea, coffee and a beautifully decorated cake. We were each gifted with an exquisite personalized "thank you" token made by Chris and Lisa, - a live rosebud in a miniature vase with a "Thank you" name tag in Lisa's beautiful script. We were all very touched by this thoughtful gesture. It is the Friends who should thank them, however. They very generously share the schoolhouse space with us as well as a sense of ownership. They are also always ready and eager to help the Friends with any of our projects or events. Our association with them is always rewarding and a pleasure. Their enthusiasm and caring for the schoolhouse and its program are very reassuring.

The evening of June 19th was indeed special for the Friends. We thank all those who made it thus.

Summer/Early Fall 2018

A Look Back to 2007 and 2008 A Schoolmaster Who Loved the Garden

From the Schoolmaster Dennis Patterson 2007

Late summer is a great time to be on the farm. Fresh produce greets you upon returning from a weekend in the sun. The schoolhouse garden project is moving along quite well. The first cob of corn was picked in mid summer and tomatoes are coming on strong. The plums in the orchard on the farm were ready in early August and apples and pears are not far behind. There will be plenty to see and taste when the students return in September.



It was 25 years ago that the first groups were given the opportunity to spend a day here at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse. Doing some rough calculations, at 4000 students a year, we are approaching the 100,000 student mark. An impressive total for any school.

The schoolhouse is fully booked for 2007-2008 except for a day here and there. A few lucky classes will be taking part in our 25th anniversary events.

I am ready and excited for my first full year as Schoolmaster here at Britannia.

Evergreen/Toyota Visit 2008

On June 17 our friends from Evergreen, Dixie Toyota and the Toyota Canada head office visited the schoolyard gardens to see how we had used the grant we received. We toured the Victorian garden, examining the roses, clematis and other plants that were just coming into bloom. Schoolmaster Patterson then took his class and our visitors to the heritage vegetable gardens which Evergreen/Toyota sponsored.



It was an overcast day, perfect for planting corn seeds. The girls took their turn first, lining up along

their row, carefully pulling any stray weeds, then poking holes for the seeds and carefully planting



them. The boys were next along with two of the visitors. After seed planting we all walked through the garden and learned what vegetables were planted there. For many children it was their first time to see how vegetables are produced. They don't magically appear at the supermarket.

We thank Evergreen and Dixie Toyota for their support.

CHECK THE SIDEBAR ON PAGE 1 FOR THIS YEAR'S EXCITING EVENTS

Summer/Early Fall 2018

Have You Checked Our Website Lately?

Daryl Cook

Our 21st century way of communicating is vastly different from the late 1800s and early 20th century. Residents of Britannia had access to newspapers but the "news" was often days or weeks old. Telegrams were for very urgent messages. People wrote letters, an almost lost art today. Eventually the telephone provided quicker communication– and often the spread of interesting gossip heard on shared phone lines. Of course, if someone else was on the line it was polite to hang up. The most common way of getting local news was by word of mouth when folks met at local hangouts– the post office, store, church or community events. How different our way of communicating has become.

Today we carry our phones with us everywhere. They provide not only personal contact with others but instantly alert us to events happening in real time. Writing letters has morphed into emails and tweets. Cursive writing seems to be disappearing and the mail is used more for delivering goods ordered online than delivering letters and birthday cards. Advertising flyers, however, keep filling the mail box. We have moved from the slow pace of communication a hundred years ago to the warp speed pace of the internet. Which brings me to the Friends of the Schoolhouse website.

Our website is designed to let you have a quiet, leisurely look at the schoolhouse and its activities. It tells of the history of the Old Britannia Schoolhouse and the programs today that are offered to students and the community. There are photos, activities for children and all our published newsletters. It's definitely a site to browse at your leisure.

One page on the site that is worth checking every month is the Current News page. Here we let you know all that is happening at the schoolhouse as well as a little interesting history and often an activity for children. Sometimes it is an adult activity like an old fashioned recipe to try.

It's worth making it a habit to visit our website often. It's the "new fashioned" way of spreading the news.

www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org

Here's one item that was on our September website ten years ago.

Streetsville's 150th Celebration
Saturday September 13, 2008

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse has had a long relationship with the Streetsville community. Were it not for a dedicated group of teachers and students from Streetsville Secondary School in the 1970's the old S.S.# 12 schoolhouse might not have survived. On Saturday September 13 the Friends of the Schoolhouse will be on hand to help the Streetsville community celebrate its 150th year. We will be in the centre of town on Queen Street at the Village Hall. There will be displays, toys and games for children, and schoolhouse items for sale. Don't miss a fun day. For more information go to villageofstreetsville.com



Summer/Early Fall 2018

BRAMPTON FALL FAIR **September 13, 14, 15 and 16, 2018** **THEME: INTO THE GARDEN**

Heart Lake and Old School Roads in Caledon

Again this year Friends of the Schoolhouse plan to set up our displays, activities and items for sale at the east end of the Livestock Building. We will be there Friday, Saturday and Sunday so drop by and say "hello" to one of our dedicated volunteers, peruse our displays, try out an old-fashioned toy or two and perhaps make a small purchase from the items we offer for sale.

The fruits and vegetables are also shown and judged in the Livestock Building. While you are there check to see if any produce from the Schoolhouse garden has won a ribbon. We are hoping that the rabbits, chipmunks and other thieves will have left some excellent specimens to show at the fair again this year.

There is always something for everyone, young and old, to enjoy at the fair!
Hope to see you here.



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 1800s until the mid-1960s. 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.

If your group would be interested in having a presentation, please contact Jean (905 826 3475) jkrob@rogers.com for further information.

Summer/Early Fall 2018

Strawberry Social 2018

Ruth Taylor

June 20 was a pleasant day, somewhat overcast, which resulted in the atrium being quite comfortable. Friends arrived around 9:30 to begin the elaborate process of preparing for the day. Since we have hosted the Strawberry Social for so many years, the setup is handled very efficiently. We had a steady stream of guests and eventually served 146 people. We were pleased to welcome the Director of Education, Peter Joshua, and



the principal of Alternative Programs, Anthony Edwards. One special guest was a sprightly "Irene" who would turn 101 in July. The scrumptious biscuits came from Kate's Town Talk Bakery in Streetsville and the Ontario berries were obtained through the Prince of Wales Market in Huttonville. Since the cafeteria mixer was broken and we promise real whipped cream, we kept our promise by using cans of whipped cream. The cafeteria did provide the coffee at no cost. We appreciate the help given by the cafeteria and custodial staff and offer them complimentary tickets. A special thanks to Dijana, who apparently likes to wash



dishes! When serving is over, the Friends finally sit down to enjoy their strawberry shortcake before cleaning up and packing up all the supplies and equipment for another year.

Book Promotion Events

Jean Robinson

The Marketing Committee of Friends of The Schoolhouse was formed to promote the sale of our book *Echoes of The Past* which was published in June of 2016. To that end, the writers of the book have been busy giving illustrated talks to interested groups, such as Historical Societies, Retired Teachers, United Church Women's Groups and Probus Groups in and around Peel County. There have been eleven such talks to date.

Each Power Point Presentation features some interesting facts about the schools in the particular area where the talks occur. As well as the oldest pictures we were able to find of each school mentioned, we include a photograph of what the school site looked like in 2015.

It is always gratifying to hear from the audience; to learn of their experiences with rural schools and to share their enthusiasm about times past.

Our talks have been a wonderful way to share information about The Old Britannia Schoolhouse and the activities and events of Friends of The Schoolhouse. We take displays boards about The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, the schools in the township featured in our talks as well as lots of brochures and pamphlets. Sometimes we sell a lot of books after one of our talks and sometimes we sell none, but the writers are always encouraged by the great reception from the audience.



We published 1000 books in 2016 and to date we have sold almost 500, about 50 of these have been a result of our talks.

If you know of a group that would be interested in hearing a talk, please contact Jean at 905 826 3475.

Summer/Early Fall 2018

Lemonade on the Lawn



After several weeks of scorchingly hot weather, the day was warm and breezy. Quite pleasant to enjoy a glass of lemonade and some cookies on the schoolhouse lawn. Some staff from the Peel Board office brought their lunches. Others came to walk around the gardens or visit the schoolhouse. Friends of the Schoolhouse enjoyed serving lemonade and cookies and talking with the visitors.

The Peel Board staff help in so many ways to support the schoolhouse. Some offered to help with the garden while on their lunch hour. Pulling a few weeds while on a noon hour walk is a great help to the garden committee.

We thank everyone for their support.

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

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.

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

Summer/Early Fall 2018

Our Open Sundays

(Winter Sundays weather permitting)

Check our website [Current News page](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for up to date information.

| DATE | WHAT'S HAPPENING |
|----------|---|
| Sept 9 | <p>Then and Now Our 1852 schoolhouse is very different from schools today. Explore the classroom and see if you can find things that are the same and things that are different between schooling in the late 1800s and today.</p> |
| Oct 14 | <p>Harvest Time We'll tell you all about our vegetable garden planted by students and explain the significance of the Three Sisters. Take a walk to the schoolhouse vegetable garden. Can you find the Three Sisters?</p> |
| Nov 11 | <p>Remembrance Day Sunday We honour the members of our Armed Forces. Come and see our display of stories, medals and photos. Make a poppy, a peace dove or a bookmark.</p> |
| Dec 1 | <p>Christmas Open House and Sale Our schoolhouse will be decorated for a Victorian Christmas. We will have many items for sale as well as several vendors selling their wares. Complete your Christmas shopping with wooden toys, honey, preserves, wool, books, note cards, beeswax candles and more.</p> |
| Jan 13 | <p>Games Day Come and enjoy an afternoon playing with our old-fashioned toys and games. No batteries of electricity needed.</p> |
| Feb 10 | <p>Valentine's Day Celebrate this special day by looking at some vintage valentines. Make a special valentine for someone you love.</p> |
| Mar 10 | <p>Maple Syrup The early pioneers depended on maple sugar as a sweetener. The First Nations people showed them how to harvest this sweet sap. Come and learn how to tap a tree.</p> |
| April 14 | <p>Bees and Their Honey The early settlers used honey as well as maple syrup for sweetening but first they had to find the honey tree. Come and find out how they gathered the honey and learn some facts about bees. Make a beeswax candle to take home.</p> |
| May 12 | <p>Spring in Our Victorian Garden Just like the villagers of Britannia, our volunteers are busy in the Victorian gardens. See what spring flowers are growing. Can you name them? Make a pinwheel to play with on a windy day.</p> |
| June 9 | <p>Inside and out Look at all the interesting things in our classroom. Then enjoy our Victorian gardens. Try out stilts or just enjoy our swings.</p> |