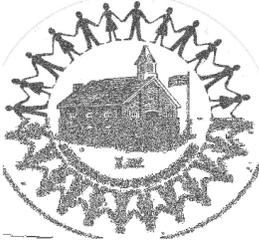




## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### Summer at Doon Village

Julie Dippelhofer



#### 2019-2020 Schedule of Events

Sept. 13-15: Brampton Fair  
Nov. 21: CBO Xmas Sale  
Dec 1: Christmas Open House  
Feb TBA: Heritage Brampton  
July 16: Lemonade on the  
Lawn  
Sept. to June 2nd Sunday:  
Open Sundays

#### Student Visits

2018-19 2792

#### *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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One of the benefits of having holiday time is the opportunity to explore our very own province. The Waterloo/Wellington area is just 60 minutes from the Britannia School House, and offers a rich, cultural heritage experience. Schoolmistress Chapel (Christine Chapel) and I decided one Friday in July to make a trip to Doon Heritage Village. Until we arrived, we did not realize the Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum is the largest community museum in Ontario and includes two museum galleries and Doon is over 60 acres.

Christine and I decided to focus our time on the picturesque village of Doon. One can explore the area in a self-guided tour that mimics the year 1914. Many University students are dressed in authentic clothing from the time and are very knowledgeable and answering questions about the area.

The tour begins at the Railway Station, it was originally built in 1856. The railway was brought to Doon originally from Petersburg, an area not far from Kitchener/Waterloo. While at the station, you may pick up a ticket replica from any town on the rail system. These simple touches add to the charm of the Doon Heritage Village experience.

The picture that accompanies this article was taken at the Dry Goods and Grocery store, even in the early 1900s, General Stores had competitions with large urban centres, and mail order catalogues like Eaton's. The one advantage this store had was the fact they offered credit to the area customers. The store was also looking at the latest modern conveniences to attract and keep their clientele.

The village includes examples of a Mennonite home, barn with live animals, a weavery, harness shop, tailor, and post office as well as, a meat market, church and so much more; the one building they wish they had, but do not, is a Schoolhouse



## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### From the Chair

Ruth Taylor

Our formal meetings end after our Annual Planning Meeting in early July. Lemonade on the Lawn took place on July 16. Some of the highlights of this year were the revival of the Christmas Sale at the board office, the visit to the schoolhouse of the trustees and senior administration in April, and the progress made on sorting and organizing the paper archives. Now we look ahead to events starting up in September. The Brampton Fall Fair will take place on September 13 to 16. Schoolmistresses Chapel and Cafaro are already considering what produce can be entered in competition. The Open Sunday themes are planned, for September it will be "Learning in a one room school". 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 in the One Room Schoolhouse. Information about Christmas events will follow in the next newsletter. Thanks to some dedicated garden volunteers the gardens are being cared for during the summer. The windows will be cleaned in August so that the schoolhouse will be ready to provide the incoming classes with a unique and memorable experience.

### Come Swing With Us

Daryl Cook

One of the popular features in our historic garden along with all the plants and trees is a traditional swing that sat in many Victorian gardens. Those swings are still popular today. Ten years ago when Joan Reid was creating the gardens, she thought it would be a good idea to include a traditional Victorian glider swing. Since then many of the Peel Board office staff have enjoyed a relaxing lunch on the swing. Unfortunately, nothing lasts forever and the old glider was falling apart and beyond repair. So in July Elaine Thorne and Daryl Cook visited Flamborough Patio Furniture that made the original one and ordered a new one. In early August it was delivered and placed in the same location. Here's to at least ten more years of relaxed swinging, lunching and just dreaming.



Off the truck



Set in place



Ready to enjoy

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### From the Schoolmistress Christine Chapel

Summer is a time to make to-do lists – for work and home. Some things on the list may be projects we want to tackle. Others are just for fun. I make one every year at the end of June for myself. Usually my hopes are high and I almost always put more on the list than I ever could achieve. This summer I've been doing quite well working through the list of fun things to do, many of which have a historic theme. Some interesting unplanned discoveries have been made along the way as well.

In early July my sister Julie Dippelhofer (who happens to be one of the Friends of the Schoolhouse) along with my nieces and another sister headed to Kitchener and had a great time at Doon Heritage Village (see Julie's article page 1). Their historic buildings and interpretation of them were entertaining and informative, even though they didn't have a schoolhouse! An impromptu visit to Guelph on another day led to the discovery of The Boathouse, a quaint tea room situated on the banks of the Speed River. Built in the 1930's the current building replaced a boathouse that was constructed in 1876 and used as a boat rental business. In 1885 The Speed Canoe Club formed and is still an active water and social club. The Navy League of Canada used the boathouse as a training facility during WWII and it remained the main headquarters of the Sea Cadets until 1993. At that time, being in a poor state, the building was slated for demolition until a group of restaurateurs came forward proposing plans for a tea room and ice cream shop. A great place for lunch, tea and a scone!

That same day our travels took us to Burlington as we looked for a quiet place to sit by the lake. Here we found the Paletta Lakeside Park and Paletta Mansion, formerly known as the McNichol Estate. Now owned by the City of Burlington the recorded history of the property dates back to 1806 to the original landowner – none other than Laura Secord! The land changed hands many times until in 1912 it was bought by Cyrus A. Birge, an executive in the steel industry in Hamilton. After his death in 1929 his daughter Edythe built the 11000 square foot mansion which today is used for weddings and corporate functions. The 14 acres is open to the public with beautiful views of the lake, sitting and picnic areas and a self-guided walking trail explaining the history.

On another day trip adventure we toured the S.S. Keewatin, a former luxury steamship that began service with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Great Lakes Steamship company in 1907. She ferried passengers and freight from Port McNicoll across the Great Lakes to Fort William and Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay). Retired in 1965 and destined for the scrap yard she was rescued in 1967 by RJ Peterson, a marina owner and Great Lakes historian from Michigan. The Keewatin was towed to Lake Kalamazoo where she stayed for 45 years and served as a Maritime Museum. In 2011 she was bought back and returned to Port McNicoll where she continues as a museum.

A short drive from Port McNicoll took us into Midland to see the tall ships and a War of 1812 battle reenactment in the harbor. It was loud and fun to see some serious history buffs in full costume. As a reminder that history can be found at every turn, we found ourselves unexpectedly in Leith, a small community just outside of Owen Sound. This is where renowned artist Tom Thomson was from. He is buried in the lovely Historic Leith Church cemetery. A plaque commemorates his life and legacy.

So as summer begins to fade, we still have a few weeks to check things off of our to-do lists. That includes the Schoolhouse where, as usual, we are busy preparing for students in the fall. I wonder if Britannia was anyone's historic discovery this summer.

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### FRANCES BAILEY (ARGALIS)

Eva Ardiel



The Friends were recently contacted by Larisa Jeffery, a long-time friend and admirer of Frances Bailey, the teacher at Britannia School in 1958/59, the last full year of the school's operation. Sadly, Frances had recently passed away and Larisa wondered if we might know of any photos or mementos from her time at Britannia that she might obtain to pass along to Frances' adult children.



All we were able to find was the class photo of the last day of school in June 1959. Miss Bailey is in it along with the grades 1 to 5 pupils (Grades 6,7 and 8 had already moved on to Meadowvale village or perhaps Derry West or Cooksville). We were glad to be able to give Larisa copies of that photo.

Since the time of the official opening of the restored school-house and later reunions of former staff and students, no one seemed to know what had become of Miss Bailey. We are grateful to Larisa for giving us a glimpse into the rich life Miss Bailey had after her first year of teaching at Britannia.

Larisa met Frances about the time that she started teaching. Larisa was around 6 years old and was staying with her godmother. Frances was dating the godmother's son (she later married him). Larisa still clearly remembers when this "vivacious auburn-haired beauty bounced in the front door", the wonderful stories she told and how she loved to see her.

After she left Britannia Frances Bailey taught at Springfield Public School, married and had three children. When her husband, an iron worker with Hydro took a contract in Gillam, Manitoba to work with the Hydro development scheme on the lower Nelson River, they moved to this remote area. Here they lived in a double trailer and flew to Churchill once a month for food and household supplies. Frances took up the challenges there and created a classroom with different grades. She was also active in initiating and participating in lively community social activities. Apparently wonderful stories came out of their days in Gillam!

When her husband's contract finished in Gillam they moved to Tiverton, Ontario (near Hydro's Bruce generating station). Frances taught at Bruce Central Public School until it closed in 2002. Afterwards, along with another former teacher, she opened a nursery school in her home in Tiverton. What an enthusiastic and giving person she was!

We appreciate Larisa Jeffery's generosity in sharing these stories about Frances Bailey with us, not only factual information but her personal feelings related to a woman she admired and loved. Frances Bailey was a person who loved to paint, who loved to sing, who was the best ever story teller and who inspired and helped many people as well as her students.

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### Garden News

Marg Carson

Weeds, weeds, weeds! Oh, how they grow! The garden crew consisting of 3-4 regular volunteers have been working on clearing the garden beds of several very vigorous plants... Golden Rod, Burdock, Sweet Pea Vine and Canada Thistle. Did you know that one thistle plant can produce up to 40,000 seeds which can survive up to 21 years in the soil? We have filled as many as 10 bags of weeds in a week.

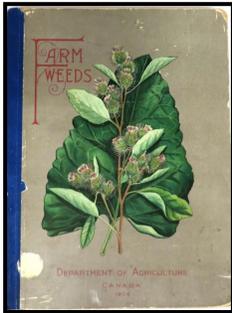
Once weeded the beds are replanted. Some of the flowers are donations from members' gardens. Other plants are purchased. Plants are selected which are drought hardy and, if possible, native species.

This summer cornflowers, daylilies, false sunflowers, asters, butterfly weed and a yellow cup plant have been added.

A few signs have been posted throughout the gardens to remind visitors to look, enjoy but not touch or take the plants. We'd like others to respect the effort being put into maintaining these gardens.

### About Those Weeds

Daryl Cook



Our gardens were once a farmer's field long ago. Farmers, too, were plagued by weeds. In 1906 the Dept. of Agriculture published a book written by George H. Clark, *Farm Weeds of Canada*, and distributed it free of charge to farm homes and rural schools. It has beautiful colour illustrations and is still available in reprint. Britannia doesn't have its original copy but now has a reprint. At least the gardeners will be able to identify all the weedy intruders in the garden.

### 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](mailto:jkrob@rogers.com) for further information.

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### Strawberry Social Memories

Ruth Taylor

My first memory is of going to Ben and Marjorie Madill's charming farmhouse to prepare the berries and wrap the cutlery in the serviettes. We worked in the kitchen around the long harvest table. When the canning kettles were filled with berries, Marjorie would add the sugar so the berries would be juicy. I always marveled how she knew how much sugar to add. The berries had to be carried down to the basement to stay cool. One year I volunteered to carry them down. I kept repeating "Don't drop the berries! Don't drop the berries!" After a few years Ben installed a room air conditioner so we didn't have to carry the berries downstairs. After the work was done, Ben would show off his clocks and other treasures. Meanwhile Marjorie was preparing the refreshments. We would have a choice of hot and cold beverages to go with Marjorie's home baked goodies. And could Marjorie bake! One of her famous recipes for squares with fudge icing is included in the fourth edition of "Sweetmeats Recipes plus". It has become a favourite with the Friends

#### Marjorie Madill's Unbaked Squares

2 cups graham cracker crumbs  
1/2 cup coconut  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp vanilla  
Mix above ingredients in a bowl

2 eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup butter  
1 tbsp cocoa  
1 tbsp water  
1 cup brown sugar  
Mix above ingredients in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat until it boils. Boil 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir into crumb mixture. Stir to blend. Pack into 8 inch square pan. Ice when cool.

Fudge icing  
1/4 cup butter  
1/2 cup brown sugar  
2 tbsp milk  
Stir over low heat. Bring to a boil. Boil for 2 minutes. Cool and gradually add 1 cup icing sugar. Stir until smooth.

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

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### Brampton Fair

Eva Ardiel

Brampton Fair will be here again before we know it! Friends of the Schoolhouse plan to be there Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 13,14 and 15. You can find us as usual in the Livestock Building.



We will have displays, information about the schoolhouse, toys and games to engage the fair goers, as well as several small items for sale.

The Friends always enjoy this event as it gives us a chance to chat "schoolhouse" with so many people from the area. Also, this rural agricultural event is so much a

part of the schoolhouse DNA.

The theme of the 2019 fair is "Family Ties and Homemade Pies". Sounds interesting! We hope you will come out and enjoy the fair. Be sure to come to the Livestock Building and say "hello" to the Friends of the Schoolhouse volunteers who are helping at our booth.



**It looks like a pie but it's a squash, one of last year's entries by the Britannia Schoolhouse students.**



### 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](mailto: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](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)**

## Summer/Early Fall 2019

### 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 8	<p><b>Learning in a One Room Schoolhouse</b> Come visit our one room schoolhouse. A great way to learn about the history of early education in Peel. Write on a slate, wear the dunce cap if you chased farmer Brown's cow on the way to school. Lots of fun for everyone.</p>
Oct 13	<p><b>The Autumn Garden</b> Take a walk to the schoolhouse vegetable garden before it goes to bed for the winter. Planting a garden was part of the curriculum in the late 1900s. Learn how families preserved foods for the long winter days.</p>
Nov 10	<p><b>Remembrance Day Sunday</b> This year marks the 75th anniversary of D Day. We are honoured to remember the brave 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><b>Christmas Open House and Sale</b> 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 12	<p><b>Keeping Warm</b> Families in the village of Britannia often used handmade quilts to keep them warm during the winter months. Come and see a collections of quilts and learn how they are made.</p>
Feb 9	<p><b>Valentine's Day</b> Celebrate this special day by looking at some vintage valentines. Make a special valentine for someone you love.</p>
Mar 8	<p><b>March Means Maple Syrup</b> Do you like maple syrup? It is famous around the world. Learn how the First Nations people and the early settlers collected the sap and turned it into sweet syrup and sugar. There will be storybooks to read and activities to try.</p>
April 12	<p><b>Family Games Day</b> Come and enjoy an afternoon playing with all our old fashioned toys and games. No WIFI, batteries or electricity needed.</p>
May 10	<p><b>Mothers' Day</b> Take your Mom on a tour of the schoolhouse garden. See what spring flowers are growing. Some may be in bloom. Can you name them? Make a Mothers' Day card or a bookmark for your Mom.</p>
June 14	<p><b>Summer Games</b> Lawn games were popular at the turn of the 20th century when the weather was too hot for strenuous activity. Try our stilts, graces or perhaps enjoy our swings. Just come and have some fun.</p>