



The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

1852-1957
restored 1982

The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

Fall, 1999

Facts and Figures:

During the 1998/1999 school year, 3958 pupils attended the Old Britannia Schoolhouse with their class, according to Sandy Hinton. Add to this the many more children and their parents who visited the open house on every second Sunday, or during the Queen Victoria Fete and the Britannia Fall Fair..

For the current school year, there are 0 days open for bookings. Response has been rapid and enthusiastic, reports Schoolmaster Tom Veenstra, as teachers are taking advantage of Old Britannia Schoolhouse to meet Ministry expectations for Grades 3 and 7.



This newsletter is published by the Friends of the Schoolhouse every Fall, Winter and Spring, in an effort to inform its membership, and the teachers of the Peel District School Board of its activities and events.

Editors: Tom Kirby (Editing of this issue by Brian Helstein)

Visit our website:
www.britanniaschoolhouse.org
For more news, photographs and details of up-coming events



Executive Committee News

Welcome back to another year of exciting schoolhouse activities. After an annual meeting in July when we reviewed the past year and made plans for the new "millennium" year, the executive committee all had a good summer break.

Already this Fall we have had a successful display at the Brampton Fall Fair. Many families visited our booth and learned more about the Britannia Schoolhouse. Both children and adults enjoyed playing with the old toys. It was an opportunity to talk about the schoolhouse, its program and the many upcoming events planned for the year. It was fun to hear some of the children say their class had been to the schoolhouse and what a great time they had there.

An exciting new event this year will be the Hallowe'en Festival on October 29. It will be a family affair with lots of "spooky" activities. Be sure to read more

about it in another section of this newsletter. Children are again coming to the schoolhouse to spend a day finding out what school was like in the 1890's. Schoolmaster Veenstra is almost completely booked for the school year.

The Friends of the Schoolhouse executive committee is committed to preserving this wonderful historic treasure so that many future generations of children will be able to enjoy learning about early Ontario school days. We are grateful for the support we receive from the staff at Community Education, Kevin Doran, Sandy Hinton and Jim Gollert, who are a constant source of encouragement and assistance.

We hope you will join us in our activities this year and offer your support in promoting the Old Britannia Schoolhouse and its programs.

Daryl Cook, Chair

Junior First?

A would-be pupil enjoys the schoolhouse experience during her visit to the Britannia Fall Fair.

The schoolhouse is open for such visitors on the second Sunday of each month.



CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Again this year the Friends of The Old Britanna Schoolhouse are pleased to present an evening workshop to prepare for the Christmas season. On **Tuesday, November 30, 1999 from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m.**, teachers and members are welcome to join us at The Schoolhouse for dinner followed by a workshop at the HJA Brown Education Centre to make several Christmas decorations from past years.



We will provide the dinner and all of the materials for making the decorations for the modest fee of \$12.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. All we ask is that you bring a pair of scissors, a bag to take home all of your creations and a willingness to relax and enjoy a few hours of comradeship during this busy time of year.

A flier with more details is enclosed with this newsletter. For further information and to reserve your place at this fun activity, please call **Shirley Hoad** at 821-9262.



"Those Pioneers Sure Knew How to Live!"

This observation was made by an enthusiastic young visitor to The Old Britanna Schoolhouse display at the Brampton Fall Fair which was held from September 17 to 19. He was enchanted by our fascinating array of "low tech" pleasures. Like hundreds of other visitors he stopped to sample the toys, play the marble game, and scratch his name painstakingly with an old pen dipped in an inkwell.

The three days were filled with the sights, sounds, and smells of animals and hay. Eighteen different volunteers helped to staff our booth nestled behind the animal show ring between the emus and the angora rabbits. Old timers had a chance to reminisce as they thumbed through our readers and youngsters had the joy of experiencing Jacob's Ladder and writing on a slate for the first time. It was a busy and rewarding experience for all concerned.



Volunteers included **Irma Workman, Doris Bryce, Doris Stewart, Ben and Marjorie Madill, Elaine Cotterell, George Christian, Anne Brownjohn, Jennifer Roberts,**

Greetings from the Schoolhouse!

Schoolmaster Teenette

I'm now comfortably settled in to my second year at the Schoolhouse, and I'm very happy to be back. Interest in the program is stronger than ever; in fact, I've already had to start a waiting list! About 25% of this year's bookings are for our new Intermediate Drama Unit, with Grade 3 classes filling up the rest of our year.

Some other highlights for me so far have been my participation in Caledon East P.S. anniversary celebrations and assisting **Joan Reid** in the planning of our first Halloween Ghost Walk, with the help of **Sandra Dusfaume** and some of her Grade 9 & 10 drama students from the new Riek Hansen Secondary School.

Autumn has really been flying by, and no doubt we'll be up to our necks in Christmas events before we know it. I hope that lots of you get a chance to come by the Schoolhouse for a visit -- I always welcome guests! You can also feel free to call me at 890-1010, ext. 2911, or e-mail me at **"tveenstra@comed.on.ca"**. I look forward to seeing you at the Schoolhouse soon!



Sorry, Sir!

A pupil from Middlebury Public School is "punished" during her class's visit to the schoolhouse.

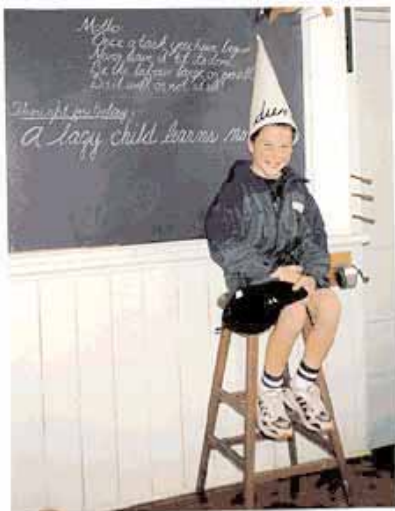
Daryl Cook, Eva Ardiel, Frances Kay, Linda Bowman, Kay Robbins, Cathy Harper, Earl Bonner, Dorothy Shaw, Karen Simmons, Brian Holstein and Joan Reid.

An Invitation to an Open House

Come and visit the schoolhouse on Sunday, December 5, 1999, for our annual Christmas Sale of schoolhouse items. Enjoy hot cider and Christmas goodies as you browse.

The schoolhouse will be decorated with cedar boughs and Christmas colours. The fir tree, trimmed with popcorn and cranberry garlands, old-fashioned tin icicles, and hand-made paper ornaments, is a focal point of the classroom.

Join us! Enjoy the festivities! Sing a carol or two! Unwind!



The activities at the schoolhouse are equaled by the involvement of the Friends, whose efforts help to ensure the continued smooth running of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

For Your Diary:

Friday, October 29: Halloween and Ghost walk at the Schoolhouse, from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM.

Sunday, November 14: The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is open from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, November 9: Friends of the Schoolhouse meeting at 4:00 PM at the Schoolhouse.

Tuesday, November 30: **Old Fashioned** Christmas Workshop at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

Thursday December 2: Christmas Sale in the Atrium of the I.L.A. Brown Education Centre, (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

Friday, December 4: Christmas Tree Trimming.

Sunday, December 5: Christmas Open House at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse.

Sunday, December 12: The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is open from 1 PM to 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, December 14: Friends of the Schoolhouse meeting at 4:00 PM at the Schoolhouse.

Sunday, January 9: The Old Britannia Schoolhouse is open from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 12: Friends of the Schoolhouse meeting at 4:00 PM at the Schoolhouse.

Tuesday, February 8: Friends of the Schoolhouse meeting at 4:00 PM at the Schoolhouse

February Heritage Week displays in Mississauga and Brampton.

**ADD A GREAT BOOKMARK
TO YOUR COMPUTER!**



www.britanniaschoolhouse.org

The schoolhouse web page shall be undergoing some exciting changes during the next few months, including:
Pre- and post- visit activities for classes;
Useful teacher assistance in trip preparation;
Full colour editions of Friends newsletters, with many more photographs of our activities;
Hot keys to similar locations in southwestern Ontario.

Need to speak to the Schoolmaster?



The Old Britannia Schoolhouse can be contacted directly, by dialing

890 1010, ext. 2911

Or by e-mail:

tveenstra@comed.on.ca

Friends of the Schoolhouse gratefully acknowledge the generous donations of the following people and organizations:

The following have made donations to the Friends of the Schoolhouse since the last Newsletter was published:

Peel Elementary School Librarians Association for Linda Elgie, Joyce Redford, and Sandie McIntyre.

The Valleys Senior School for Jennie Roberts

Byngmount P.S. for Judy Paget.

The friends of Diane Claridge.

Meadowvale Village P.S. for Ann Gilpin.

Maire Ketola.

Cheryl Byrne.

Karen Simmons.

W.R.(Bill) Quance.

Clara Scott.

Pam Gibson.

Special thanks to the large number of people who generously volunteered their time and their skills to make the Queen Victoria Fête, the Strawberry Social, Brampton Fall Fair exhibit and the Britannia Fall Fair such outstanding successes.