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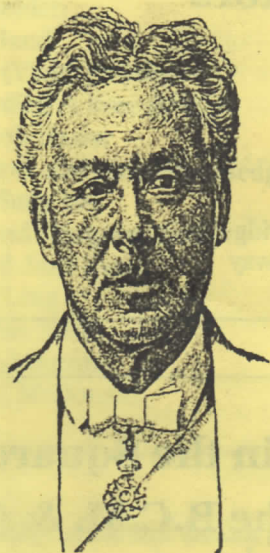
A man of Six Nations, Victorian ideals

This is Part 2 of the story of Dr. Oronhyatekha, or Peter Martin, a Six Nations man who won high respect in the practice of medicine and as Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters.

By Robert L. Deboer

Dr. Oronhyatekha grew to believe in the insurance plan of the Foresters as a thoroughly democratic idea. In the next six months he travelled six thousand miles at his own expense organizing new lodges.

Because of a division in the ranks, some lodges deciding to hold to the English, some to the American order, reorganization became necessary. A convention held for that purpose at Ottawa in 1881 elected Oronhyatekha, M.D. to the Supreme Chief Ranger. The natural order found itself with a loyal remnant of 369 members and a debt of \$4,000.



On the other side of the ledger, was a new interest in the Order of Forestry in the other provinces. With zeal inspired by their leader the continuing members

revised and greatly improved the by-laws and ritual and organized new lodges. From this time, Oronhyatekha, M.D., devoted his life to fraternal insurance. And it was not only the insurance side of it that interested him. As a doctor he saw the therapeutic value of the fraternal visiting of the sick, for already he was aware of the psychological aspects of illness. In one way or another, "Beyond all question, he planned, acted and lived for that

great order."

At the High Court session of the Ontario lodges in Toronto in 1883, a presentation was made to Dr. Oronhyatekha for the gratitude of the membership for his never tiring zeal and energy in advancing the interests of the order. The membership had quadrupled and he had never considered himself or the interests of those dear and dependent on him in his work for the order. It was stated that the order could never repay him for his efforts in placing the order in so prosperous condition. To mark their gratitude he was asked to accept a gold watch. It was inscribed with the crest of the order and was the Doctor's lifetime treasure.

Dr. Oronhyatekha's appointment forced him to a decision he found most difficult. He loved and enjoyed the work of his profession but the demands of his office and High Chief Ranger for Ontario took him away more and more from his medical practice. The need to move the executive headquarters of the order to the capital of the Province settled the matter.

The Martin family moved to Toronto from London looking forward to the prospects of being nearer their own people. The family maintained a home on Deseronto lands and named it the "Pines" where the Mohawk language was always spoken.

The Doctor refused all suggestions that he participate in

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Celebrating 93 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

This is my first message to the membership as the new President of the Brant Historical Society. It seems we are entering a time of uncertainty or perhaps it is just the perpetual state of ongoing change. In any case, there are a few items I would like to bring to your attention.

The Acting Director/Curator, Stacey McKellar, has been appointed as our Director/Curator. Stacey did a great job in her capacity as the Acting Director /Curator and I am sure she will continue to perform well. One of her first tasks is to prepare a staff plan consistent with our finances.

The demise of BRAC has raised a concern about funding by the City. Representatives from other organizations like ours, with fixed facilities and staffing costs, will be meeting to discuss ways to co-operate with each other and look at obtaining funding on a different scale than other community groups without these large fixed costs.

Lastly, the society received the sum of \$42,000 as partial payment of a bequest from the estate of Dr. Vera Vanderlip, who was a long-standing and active member of the Society. A profile of Dr. Vanderlip will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

John Wyatt

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

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57 Charlotte Street, Brantford, Ontario
(519) 752-2483

Admission: Adults \$2.00 Seniors/Students \$1.50

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Hours: Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Main Level, Market Square Mall
1 Market Street, Brantford, Ontario
(519) 752-8578

Admission by Voluntary Donation
Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Saturdays

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politics for after his brief fling in Wallace Township while at Stratford he decided that party politics had no place in his life. But he was untiring in his study of fraternal organizations. He served as the first president of the Canadian Fraternal Association and later became the head of the international organization. With his board of management he worked out revisions and improvements that made the Independent Order of Foresters a leader of fraternal orders all over the world.

This steady growth made larger accommodation necessary. In Toronto, the cornerstone of this new headquarters was laid by Lord Aberdeen, then Governor General of Canada, who was himself a Forester.

The phenomenal growth of the order was justification of the years of arduous work, of study and planning. A sound financial system was built up with the cost of management kept at a minimum.

Dr. Oronhyatekha had long held the belief that a truly fraternal brotherhood should consider the family as a unit. If the head of the family passes away leaving minor dependents, he felt that those so left should be looked after by the order until they were able to care for themselves. This ideal resulted in the creation of the Orphan's Fund, thus making the children of deceased members wards of the order.

Hard work he always welcomed, and he carried a double load of leadership during the 20 years he had been head of the Good Templars of the World. He declined to be a candidate again. Their official paper, *The International Good Templar*, reported, "Dr. Oronhyatekha rounded up his career as manager and commander-in-chief by presiding in such a way that he captured everyone present. He leaves the chair with a large balance in the treasury and an increase in a membership as well as a better feeling on the part of the members than we have ever seen."

When the 21st anniversary of the Independent Order of Foresters was to be observed, it was decided to mark the occasion by a weekend celebration at the Deseronto home of the Martins. The guests included Colonel A. B. Caldwell, the founder of Forestry in America, and many more executive officials. A special service of thanksgiving was held at the historic church on the Reservation.

The executive of the order in gratitude to Mrs. Martin for her hospitality, gave her a magnificent china dinner service. To the Doctor they presented an illuminated address bearing the signatures of his colleagues. The Doctor replied for his wife and himself, ending his short and moving speech in this way: "Sometimes too much is made of men who simply do their duty."

The Doctor had been consciously watching the health of Mrs. Martin, for ever since the tragic drowning of their one son in London, it had steadily declined. She died in March 1901.

Dr. Oronhyatekha was now 60 years old. In spite of his grief, his professional eye was as bright and humorous as it had always been. It was a long time before his staff came to the realization that a form of diabetes had been troublesome to him for some years but he continued his heavy program of

organization and travel.

It became apparent that his health was waning. His last public appearance was at a banquet at the Temple Building in 1906. A doctor advised against his attendance and everyone was shocked to see how ill he looked. He then spent sometime in Savannah, Georgia, trying to improve his health and for a time he looked better for the rest, but a sudden heart attack brought death in November, 1907.

Newspapers across the land carried editorials, some of which would have brought forth his wonderful laughter.

Toronto, his beloved city, mourned for this man who had brought honour to Canada. His funeral procession in Toronto was the like of that which Toronto had not often looked upon and his body lay in state in Massey Hall.

Memorial services were held in countless places across the continent, on both sides of the border and many people accompanied the special train that took him home to Deseronto to rest in the cemetery with his people.

Dr. Oronhyatekha, Peter Martin, was the Supreme Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters, guiding its growth from a straggling bankrupt group in 1881 to a membership of thousands with an enormous reserve fund. He never enriched himself but in tributes from his fellow man he had a great wealth.

Of Interest

Mohawk Ideals, Victorian Values
*At Woodland Cultural Centre July 29 to
December 24, 2001*

This exhibition profiles Oronhyatekha (Dr. Peter Martin, 1841-1907), a prominent Mohawk scholar, and recounts his life through artifacts and mementos that he collected during his highly successful tenure as the Supreme Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters.

Brant County Days at Westfield Heritage Village

On Sunday, May 20, 2001, Westfield Heritage Village will salute the City of Brantford and the County of Brant. Many buildings and artifacts that came from this area will be highlighted. At 2 p.m. a special program will be held to honour our City and County.

Plan to attend this special event.

The Glebe Land of Brantford Twp. (Echo Place)

Part 2

Transferral and Leasing of the Glebe Land

By Angela Files

The Glebe Property: Crown Land

The Glebe property was over one hundred acres of original Crown Land. It is interesting to trace the historical changes during the past two hundred years of this property, which was located on the outskirts of the city but now is part of the city.

Surveyors found it difficult to rely on the designated boundaries of the original Glebe property because the landmarks of the early deed consisted of posts planted near trees and swamp land.

The Transferral of Land From Crown to Native Land Grant: The Haldimand Land Grant, #15173, 1784-1785)

On October 25, 1784, the Haldimand Treaty granted six miles of land on either side of the Grand River, from source to mouth, for the settlement of the Six Nations. The land was an award to the native people for their loyalty to the defeated British cause during the American Revolution (1775-1783). Some of the Six Nations fled their homeland, the Mohawk Valley, north of Albany, New York, and re-settled along the Grand River in unsettled Upper Canada (Ontario). The Governor Frederick Haldimand Grant to the Six Nations was registered on March 20, 1795, by William Jarvis.

The Transferral of the Glebe Land to The New England Company

On October 19, 1827, the Sachems and Chief warriors surrendered the Glebe Property to the Crown to have it set up as a trust for the maintenance of a missionary of the New England Company For The Propagation Of The Gospel In Foreign Parts. The headquarters of the NEC was in London, England.

The deed reveals that the Crown retained all gold and silver rights, also to all white pines that might be growing or that might grow in the future. This was a step taken in the late 1700's for the use of white pine to provide masts for vessels of the British Navy. White pine was the preferred wood for masts in the days of the sloops, the frigates and the ships of that time.

The deed was made by Order-in-Council, November 8, 1844, the Administrator of the Right Honorable Sir Charles Metcalfe and less than a year later, the land was given to the New England Company For The Propagation Of The Gospel To The Plantations In North America.

The New England Company certainly met its obligations to

the native people along the Grand River. In 1827, the company sent out Rev. Robert Lugger, a missionary, who conducted services at the Mohawk Chapel and other mission stations, to organize and build the Mohawk Institute and the Mohawk School, along with a network of schools for the Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca and Tuscarora children.

Transferral For the Lease of Glebe Lots

In 1919, the lease and sale of lots on uninhabited native Glebe land began because native people had moved to the Reservation in the 1850s and no longer used the property. The New England Company agreed with the sale of their land holdings.

Overtures Made to the City of Brantford For the Sale of Glebe Land

In the Expositor of January 24, 1930, the headlines read: "Glebe Property Offered to City on Terms Offered Forty Years Ago". In the past years the Glebe property was wanted by the City to develop the East end. No firm agreements were reached during the 50-year period before the Second World War. During this period of time the land was farmed by the Mohawk Institute and parts leased to persons for the growing of crops -- especially corn.

The Leased Glebe Land Became No. 20 Canadian Army Basic Centre No. 5 Infantry Training Battalion During the Second World War (1939-1945).

In Colonel Corey's farewell to the "Grandest Small City", he stated, "in the big military camp beside Mohawk Park more than 35,000 men trained during five and one-half years of war. Col. Stanford English Simcoe opened the camp in 1940 and it closed at the end of the war."

Perhaps some of the readers will remember the location of the drill hall, the mess hall, the barracks, stores, houses and hospitals. The map showing the Training Ground Area may refresh your memories of this military site.

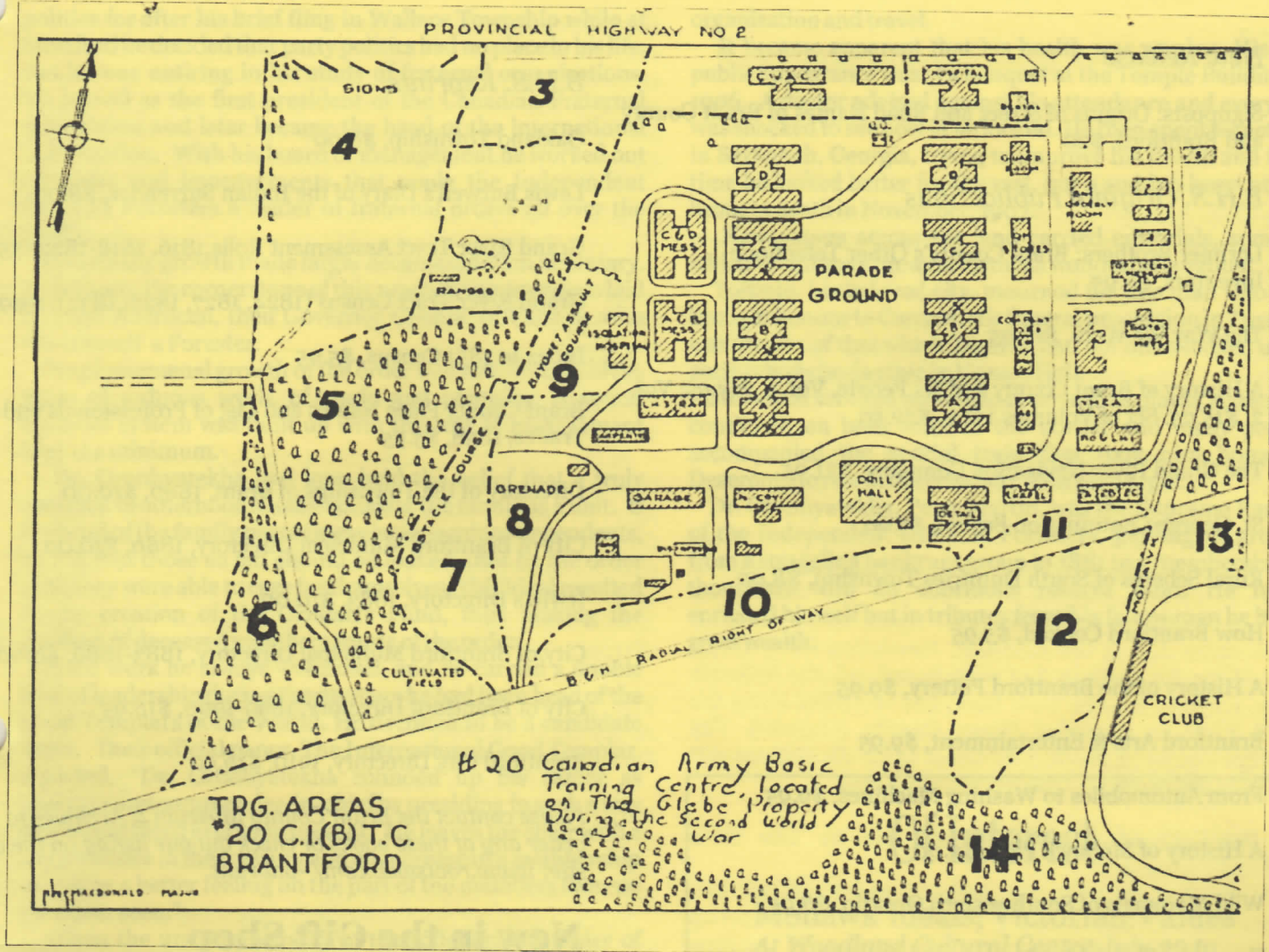
On Friday, November 9, 1951, the drill hall was engulfed in flames. The firemen were unable to save the building.

The rest of the military buildings were transferred to Six Nations, who used them for a dental clinic, hospital addition, numerous schools on the Reservation, additional buildings on the grounds of the Mohawk Institute and even for the use of the Ohsweken Fair Grounds. The buildings became the property of Six Nations when the federal government returned the land to its original owners.

What a rich history this property has!

Continued on Page 5 with map

Map of the Glebe Property



The map above shows the Glebe Land as it appeared during its time as an Army Training Camp during World War II.

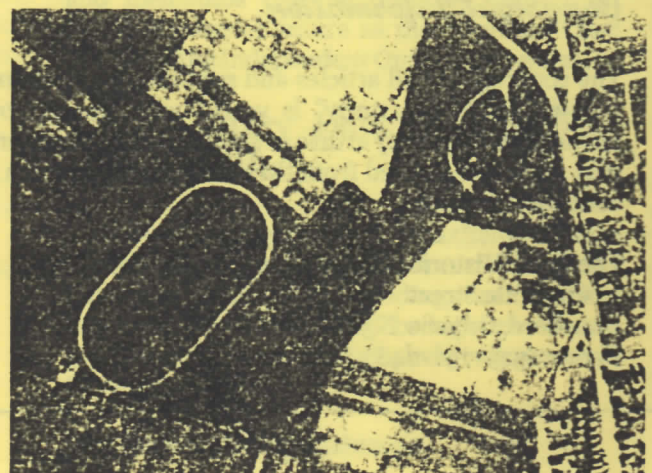
The race-track mystery

By Ruth Lefler

While researching information on the Henderson Survey district, I was fortunate to have a copy of an aerial view taken in the 1930s given to me. On close examination, I found that in the area between St. Joseph's Cemetery and Queensway Drive a large oval appears. Was this a training race-track? Who operated it? What types of horses were run here? Was it for horses?

Please phone the Brant County Museum and Archives at 752-483 if you can help solve this mystery.

Photograph at right: The small oval is St. Joseph's Cemetery. The large oval is the mystery.



B.H.S. Publications

New Release

Signposts: Origins of Street and Road Names of Brant County and Brantford, \$20

B.H.S. Original Publications

Lorimer Brothers: Brant County's Other Telephone Inventors, \$6.95

The Way We Were, \$16.95

A History of Brant County and Its People, Vol. 1, \$14.95; Vol. 2, \$15.95. Set of Volumes 1 & 2, \$22.50

The Grand River Navigation Company, \$21.95

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How Brantford Cooked, \$5.95

A History of the Brantford Pottery, \$9.95

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From Automobiles to Washing Machines, \$9.95

A History of Mohawk Park, \$2.00

Wild Mammals of Southwestern Ontario, \$8.95

Tuscarora Township, \$5.95

My War, \$5.00

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Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6
Phone: (519) 752-2483

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Oakland Township, \$8.00

Lewis Burwell's Diary of the Indian Surrender, \$8.00

Grand River Tract Assessment Rolls, 1816, 1818-1822, \$5.95

Grand River Tract Census (1824, 1827, 1829, 1832), \$5.95

Index to 1851 Census, \$5.95

Brant County Place Names and List of Professionals and Trades, 1858, \$5.95

Directory of the Townships of Brant, 1880, \$10.00

City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1880, \$10.00

Irwin's Directory, 1883, \$10.00

City of Brantford Municipal Directory, 1883-1886, \$8.00

City of Brantford Directory, 1899-1900, \$16.95

Brantford City Directory, 1910, \$16.50

Please contact the Brant County Museum & Archives to order any of these books or check out our listing on the web site: www.rootsweb.com/~onbrant

New in the Gift Shop

Books

Bridging the Gap.....between Generations

Brantford Seniors' Centre Advisory Board. \$12.00

A collection of stories, written by various authors, including George Beaver, Ed Eason, Jean Hedges, Max Sherman and Mona Staats. Cover and artwork by Lillian Hayter, B.V.A.G.

The stories are about World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, early automobiles, radios, television and telephones, World War II and the baby boom.

Lead On, Oh King Eternal

Jennie Sandra Berg, Paris, Ontario, \$11.95

The story of her family, who left The Netherlands and came to Canada shortly after World War II.

Welcome to New Members

Don Blair
 Marg Deans
 Karim Dawood
 Laurie and Diane Haney
 Edward Ozog
 Paula Smith

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 Miss Cynthia Bunnell
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A Brant Historical Society Membership Offers

- free admission to the Brant County Museum & Archives, Bell Homestead and Myrtleville House Museum (excluding special events)
- exemption from personal research fees in our archives
- bulletins about upcoming museum activities
- subscription to the "B.H.S. Quarterly"
- discounts on Heritage Bus Tours, Children's Museum Club and other programs
- 10% discount on Gift Shop purchases over \$10

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Mary B. Stedman

In memory of William Paterson (Bill) Croome

Members of the Brant Historical
 Society

In memory of John Kowalyk

Cy and Marg Walter
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In memory of Ina Cameron

Terry and Linda Smith

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Happenings

Exhibits

"Brantford's Industries", February 19 to April 27. Watrous Engine Works, Scarfe Paint & Varnish, Brantford Cordage Company. An exhibit full of photographs and artifacts from Brantford's industrial past. A very special thank you to John Watrous and Roy Belshaw for lending objects from their personal collections.

"To The Nines: A Collection of Hats, Shoes, Purses & More", May 14 to August 24. No fashionable Brantfordite would ever dream of stepping out without these accessories!

New Hours at the Museum in the Square

As of January 1, 2001, the Museum in the Square will be open Monday to Friday 10 to 5 and closed on Saturdays. Saturday hours will resume in July and August.

New in the Gift Shop

See page 6 or visit our Web site for a list of books, publications and gifts for sale at our gift shops:
www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/musgal/bcma

Get Well Wishes

Dr. Hank Hedges
John Partridge
Patricia Whetstone

Curator's Corner

I want to take this opportunity to inform our members about some of the changes at the museum. As you know, Elizabeth Hunter left for the Markham Museum and Historic Village at the end of October. The Board asked me to assume her duties on an interim basis and I was officially hired as the Director/Curator at the end of January. I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the transition — your advice and assistance is greatly appreciated. I would also like to extend an invitation to all of our members to come into the museum for a visit and I look forward to meeting more of you.

Stacey McKellar

Brant Historical Society Happenings

Brantford Film Group

All films are screened at Cineplex Odeon Brantford Mall Cinemas. The box office is open 30 minutes prior to screenings. Unless otherwise announced all films will start at 7 p.m.

Advance tickets for \$7 are available at Brant County Museum & Archives; Museum in the Square; and Jumbo Video, 603 Colborne St. East. Tickets can be purchased prior to the film at the box office for \$8.

March 8	Billy Elliot (England)
March 22	Not of This World (Italy: Italian with English subtitles)
April 12	The Widow of St.-Pierre (Canada/France: French with English subtitles)
April 26	The Craic (Australia)
May 10	Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (Hong Kong: Cantonese with English subtitles)
May 24	Chocolat (U.S.A./France)

General Meeting Speakers

All meetings fall on Wednesday evenings. The meetings begin at 8 p.m., refreshments to follow.

March 21	Dr. Peggy Brooks-Bertram: "William Dungy: Escaped Slave and Gentleman"
April 18	Larry Robinson: "The Titanic"
May 16	To Be Announced

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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gratefully acknowledges support from:*

The County of Brant

The City of Brantford

*The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture
and Recreation*