



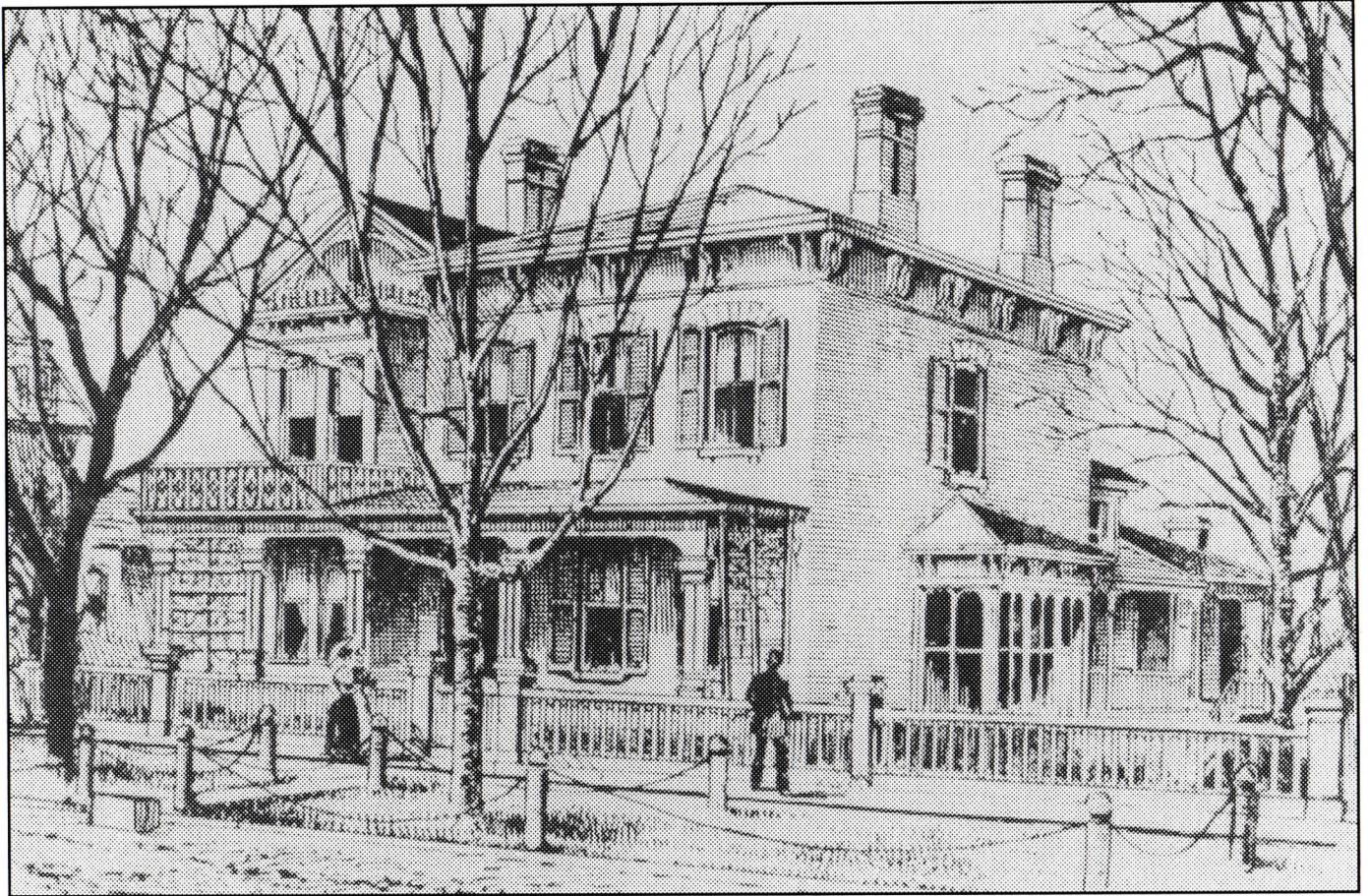
BHS Quarterly

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Summer, 2005

Reverend William Cochrane of 57 Charlotte St.



57 Charlotte St. near the turn of the century.

Sketch courtesy of the Brant Museum & Archives

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer

The Brant Museum & Archives at 57 Charlotte St. was once the residence of a servant of the Lord affiliated with the Presbyterian Church and held in respect by his fellow churchmen throughout Canada and the United States. The Reverend Dr. William Cochrane, minister of Zion Presbyterian Church (now St. Andrew's United Church) from 1862 until his death in October 1900, purchased 57 Charlotte St. from Frederick Brandon, drug-gist, on July 2, 1863, and used the residence as the church

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*Please see Page 8 for a schedule of
general meeting speakers.*

Celebrating 97 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

At the April general meeting of the society, Mike O'Byrne and I presented an overview of a budgetary deficit that has been developing within the society over the past few years. In the interests of keeping members informed, I will repeat our comments here.

The deficit has occurred for two reasons. First, the society, like other non-profit organizations, received virtually no increases in its operating grants from government for over a decade. In the meantime, expenditure increases have followed inflationary rates. Despite efforts to find additional sources of revenue — Bingo and the Film Group — these efforts have been inadequate to compensate for "flatlined" grants. The second reason is the opening of a second location, the Museum in the Square, in 1995 to handle the Harrison Scheak display. Although we do not pay rent at this location, we incur expenses for heating, hydro and staffing in the amount of approximately \$25,000 per annum.

The deficit problem is not new. In 2002 the society's deficit was \$6,298. It rose to \$27,991 in 2004, and is projected to be roughly \$33,000 this year if action isn't taken. We have successfully covered our deficits to date by using accumulated interest in our Building Fund and by dipping into our Acquisition Fund. Those funds will be exhausted by the end of this year if we continue this policy.

The board has reviewed this situation and has decided to resolve the problem by following three strategies. First, with the death of Harrison Scheak, some funds from his trust become available to the society to manage the collection. However, neither the exact amount available, nor the timing of the release of the funds is confirmed at this time. We have been working with the County, which manages the trust, to try and get a better idea of when the trust funds will be released. Simultaneously, we have been working closely with the executor of the Harrison Scheak estate to develop a strategy to cull the Scheak collection. Culling the collection will de-accession artifacts that are inappropriate for display but are taking up valuable storage space and using staff time. Any funding obtained from culling will be used to offset the costs of managing the remainder of the Scheak collection. If these strategies fail to resolve the budgetary issue, the board will opt for a third strategy of reducing expenditures by consolidating our museum operations at 57 Charlotte St. This will require some detailed planning, which is now underway.

I hope to have happier news to give you next time, but we really need to face the reality of our current situation.

Robert Glass

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

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Brant Museum & Archives

57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6
519-752-2483

Admission: Adults \$2.00 Seniors/Students \$1.50
Children \$1.25 Under 6 free B.H.S. members free
Hours: Wednesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday 1 to 4 p.m.

For July and August: Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.
Web site: www.brantmuseum.ca

The Museum in the Square A Satellite of the Brant Museum & Archives

Main Level, Market Square Mall
1 Market St., Brantford, Ontario 519-752-8578

Admission by voluntary donation
Hours: Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
For July, August and December: Open Saturday

Curator's Corner

This time of the year brings about a lot of changes at the museum. With the end of the school year, we say goodbye to our co-op students and hello to our summer students.

This year Kalley Wanzo and Tyler Narejko were here from Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Matt Edgeworth from Grand Erie Learning Alternatives. All of our co-op students helped out with the collection and everyday museum tasks.

Our Research Assistant this summer is Drew Hussey.

Drew is currently attending the Brantford campus of Wilfrid Laurier University.

Kimberly Jamont, our Camp Co-ordinator from last summer, is back again. This time she will be taking over the education programs and summer camps while Maggie Ord takes the summer off. We will also have a high school student assisting with the camps this summer.

Why not stop by the museum and say "Hi?"

Stacey McKellar

Reverend William Cochrane of 57 Charlotte St.

Continued from Front page



Rev. William Cochrane (1831-1900), in an undated photo.

Photo courtesy of the
Brant Museum & Archives

parsonage. Eventually, the Brant Historical Society purchased 57 Charlotte St. in 1951 and converted it to a museum.

William Cochrane was born in Paisley, Scotland, on Feb. 9, 1831. He began his education at the age of four and continued with his schooling until the age of 12, when he entered the publishing house of Murray & Stewart and remained with the firm 10 1/2 years. At age 20, he entered Glasgow University. At age 22, two gentlemen from Cincinnati, Ohio, offered William the

means to enter the ministry. He accepted the proposal, entered Hanover College in Indiana in 1854 and graduated with the highest honours in 1857. After graduating, he studied theology at Princeton, N.J., and in 1859 he was ordained as a pastor in Jersey City. In 1862 he accepted a call to Zion Presbyterian Church in Brantford, where he remained until his death in October 1900, in spite of invitations to churches in Boston, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Toronto and other great cities.

In 1874, one of Brantford's best-known educational institutions in the 19th century was the Brantford Young Ladies' College, which was established through the efforts of Rev. Cochrane. The school came into being as a result of a decision reached by a large number of citizens of the Town of Brantford at a public meeting in the town council chambers on March 24, 1874, under the chairmanship of Rev. Cochrane.

After a lengthy discussion of Rev. Cochrane's proposal to establish an entirely new type of school to the Brantford area, a resolution was passed by the meeting that a young ladies' college be established in Brantford. There was also a feeling that the school should be operated in conjunction with one of the evangelical denominations in order to provide a guarantee of moral as well as educational training for the students. The Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist churches already had such institutions in various parts of Ontario, and it was therefore considered advisable that the school be linked with the Presbyterian Church.

A committee was appointed, of which Rev. Cochrane was a director. He later became associated with the teaching staff of the college as a lecturer in philosophy and was president of the faculty. On Sept. 16, 1874, a company was incorporated by letters patent with authorized capital of \$60,000, and the school was established. The Hon. E.B. Wood, a prominent citizen of Brantford and a parliamentarian, who had been appointed Chief Justice of the Province of Manitoba, sold his home on Brant Avenue to the Presbyterian Church to be converted to a school. The purchase of the building and the cost of renovations to provide accommodations for 80 student boarders came to a total of \$50,000. The college formally opened in October 1874.

Although the college was closely connected with the

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Reverend William Cochrane of 57 Charlotte St.

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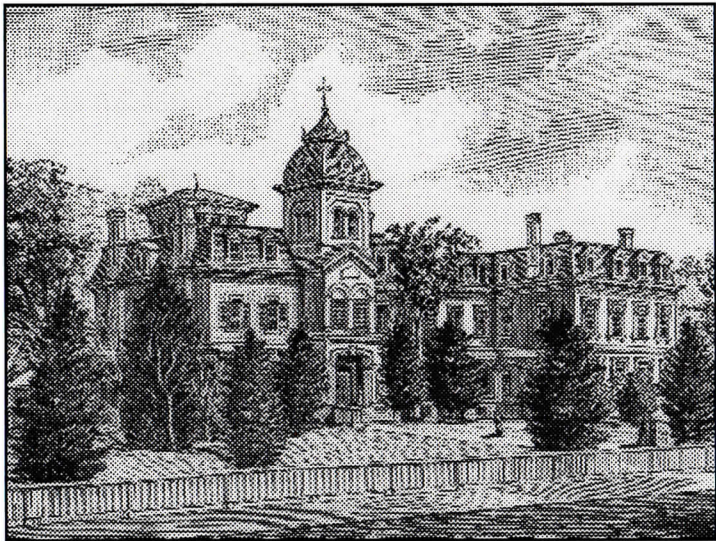
Presbyterian Church, it was operated as a non-denominational school. In addition to the students in residence who came from many outside points, there were many day students who were residents of Brantford and the surrounding area. The site of what was the Brantford Young Ladies' College is now occupied by the Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School.

Rev. Cochrane, in pre-Confederation days was credited with spending his summer vacations trekking through the Canadian Prairie

provinces, establishing Presbyterian congregations. For a time before the turn of the century Zion Presbyterian Church was one of the most prestigious churches — a Presbyterian church that boasted George Brown, a Father of Confederation, and owner of Bow Park Farm, as a member, and Rev. William Cochrane as its minister — in one of the wealthiest communities in the country.

For 14 years, Rev. Cochrane was clerk of the Paris presbytery of the Presbyterian Church; for 20 years he was clerk of the Hamilton and London Synod and convenor of the church's Home Missions Committee. He also was president or chairman of the Mechanics Institute and Public Library for 20 years. Rev. Cochrane's sterling worth and ability were acknowledged throughout America, and for evidence of the great respect in which he was held by the ministers of his own denomination, it is necessary only to refer to his appointment in 1882 as moderator of the general assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

For many years, the terms Zion Church and Dr. Cochrane were synonymous. Rev. Cochrane was a constant contributor to the press and the author of six volumes on religious subjects. He was a man of boundless energy, and yet he always found time to lend a sympathetic ear to the many who called upon him at the parsonage at 57 Charlotte St. for comfort and advice.



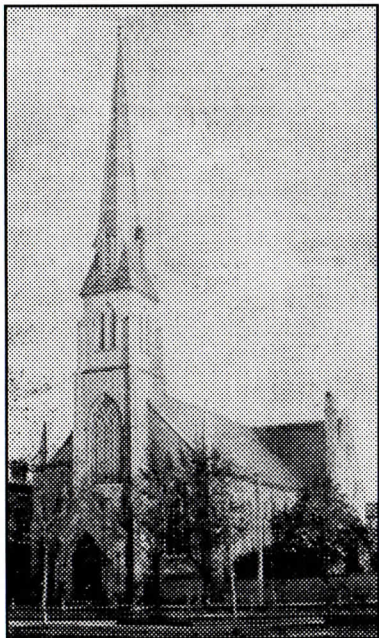
Brantford Young Ladies' College, which Rev. Cochrane helped to establish in 1874.

Sketch courtesy of the Brant Museum & Archives

He was once described as "a locomotive in pants." Small in stature and light of weight, he nevertheless possessed a voice of great volume. Dr. Cochrane never stopped, even when thundering forth at his loudest, for he was in constant activity whether speaking from the pulpit, or any other platform. His language was always direct and forcible. In direct contrast to the thundering from the pulpit, he would occasionally encompass the lighter tone of the true after-dinner speech at Scottish and other banquets, with rare skill. He was thought by some to be the model for Dr. Drummond in Sara Jeanette Duncan's *The Imperialist*. William Cochrane was considered by many a most remarkable personality whose influence extended far beyond this community and province.

Sources

- The Brantford Expositor. Feb. 8, 1951.
- The Expositor. Oct. 17, 1992.
- The Expositor. May 9, 1993.
- The Canadian Album: Men of Canada*, Vol. 1, Bradley, Garretson & Co., Brantford, Ont., 1891.
- History of Brant County, Ontario*. Warner, Beers, 1883.
- History of the County of Brant*. F. Douglas Reville, 1920.



Zion Presbyterian Church, where Rev. Cochrane was minister from 1862 to 1900.

Photo courtesy of the Brant Museum & Archives

Call for newsletter articles

If you enjoy researching and writing, we would like to hear from you!

The Brant Museum & Archives publications committee invites submissions of articles or ideas for articles illuminating aspects of the history of Brantford and Brant County for publication in the BHS quarterly newsletter. Articles ideally should be between 500 and 2,000 words in length. Submissions become the property of the Brant Historical Society and may be reserved for inclusion in future issues of the newsletter.

Please contact the publications committee through either museum location for information or to submit an article.

In the September newsletter ...

- *Read about the museum's co-op students.*
- *Learn about Norman Duncan, one of Brantford's best-known writers.*

Volunteer at the Brant Museum & Archives

The Brant Museum is always looking for new volunteers! From high school students to the "over 60" crowd, we have a variety of opportunities for everyone.

Here are some areas where volunteers are needed:

Educational Programs: Are you interested in helping with our school programs and summer camps? We are always in need of help during the school year with our education programs and for three weeks in the summer for our annual summer camps.

Senior Outreach Programs: Do you like museums and talking about artifacts? Then you'll love volunteering for our Senior Outreach Program. We travel to seniors' homes to display and discuss different parts of the museum's collection. From "Doctors, Dentists and Their Peculiar Tools" to "Oh How I Love Thee, A Victorian Valentine's Day," the program is a well-anticipated treat!

Research Assistants: Are you interested in history and research? If so, the archives at the Brant Museum is the place for you! Help us find answers to research requests from as far off as England and Australia! Do research for the staff members or help out visitors with their requests.

Museum Assistants: Do you have a fondness for old items? Try volunteering as a Museum Assistant. You can help the Assistant Curator take care of artifacts in the museum and catalogue new artifacts as they are donated each month.

Copyright information

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The Brant Historical Society
57 Charlotte St., Brantford, Ontario N3T 2W6
Phone: 519-752-2483 E-Mail: smckellar@bellnet.ca

Acknowledgments

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from the County of Brant, the City of Brantford and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation.

Brantford's famous brothers, the Duncans

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer



Robert Kennedy Duncan
Photo courtesy of the Brant Museum & Archives

Although Brantford can lay claim to the Duncan brothers, Robert Kennedy and Norman, both of whom were born here, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Duncan, the brothers lived all their years of productivity and attained their fame in the United States. Both died in their prime in the United States and returned to be laid to rest in their native town. At the time of the brothers' births, their parents lived in a cottage known as Acton Villa, located on the northeast corner of Clarence and Darling streets, the current location of the ABC Radiator Shop. While the brothers were still young, the family left Brantford and relocated for a short time to Fergus, Ont., and later to Mitchell, Ont., where both completed their early education. Both Robert and Norman gained fame as authors and quite frequently in Harper's and other magazines, there could be found, within the same covers, an article written by Robert Duncan illuminating some scientific subject, and a few pages on a delightful story by Norman Duncan in the lighter realm of fiction or travel observances. Brantford was also home to another famous author with the same surname, Sara Jeannette Duncan, but there was no family connection.

Robert Kennedy Duncan was born in Brantford in 1868. From his very early years he was interested in scientific study and established, at his family home in Mitchell, a laboratory of his own. Robert was probably the more original and powerful intellect of the two, but it took the direction of scientific research and only later did he become an author. Robert attended the University of Toronto, where he had a career of distinction and at the age of 23 he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, taking first-class honours in chemistry and physics. Post-graduate work followed at Clark and Columbia universities in the United States, and following this, until 1901, he taught chemistry at a preparatory school. In 1901 he became a professor of chemistry at Washington and Jefferson College. In addition to his other duties, he studied abroad during the years 1900, 1903, 1904 and 1907. During his time at Washington and Jefferson, he did a large amount of research work related principally to phosphorous and new methods of making glass. During 1906, Robert attended the International Congress of Applied Science in Rome, Italy.

In 1906 Robert was called to the University of Kansas as Professor of Industrial Chemistry, and it was here that he started, in a small way, his unique system. In brief, what this brilliant Canadian and Brantfordian designed and

accomplished was to make university research work, hitherto academic, become of practical value to industrial development. He put the matter in his own forceful way in an article in the Journal of the Franklin Institute in 1913, which concluded: "It was deemed contrary to university ideals and traditions that research should have in view only utilitarian end; there was great insistence upon pure science, the implication being that applied science was impure and constituted a degraded form of research."

At Kansas University, the work which Robert Duncan began so modestly grew by leaps and bounds and in 1911 what became the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research was inaugurated at the University of Pittsburgh to carry out the same idea. Robert Duncan was appointed director of the Mellon Institute, a position he held until his death in 1914. In 1913, Andrew William Mellon and Richard Beatty Mellon became so impressed with Robert Duncan's work they donated \$250,000 for a building, \$60,000 for equipment, \$20,000 for the nucleus of a chemical library and \$40,000 a year for at least five years for maintenance. Robert Duncan's idea ultimately benefited the consumer and incidentally worked to the advantage of the director.

Despite his busy career as a pioneer and teacher and the active interest he took in fellowship matters, Robert Duncan also found time for much authoritative writing. Magazine articles, mainly in Harper's, commanded the attention of scientists everywhere and his three books, *The New Knowledge*, *Some Chemical Problems of Today*, and *The Chemistry of Commerce* were highly regarded as classics.

The possessor of a brilliant mind, capable of the most analytical reasoning, with boundless energy in the matter of research, and an ever-present desire to benefit mankind without selfish thought for his advantage, such was Robert Kennedy Duncan, teacher, discoverer and author. He passed away Feb. 17, 1914, at the age of 46 at the height of his powers, but left much of abiding value to others. Many honours were showered upon him on both sides of the Atlantic and Europe.

Robert Duncan's remains were brought to Brantford for interment at Farringdon Burial Ground and were accompanied by a delegation of Fellows from the Mellon Institute. Robert Kennedy Duncan was married to Charlotte M. Foster, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Foster of Brantford, and his wife and daughter Elizabeth returned to Brantford upon his death.

Sources

- City of Brantford cemetery records
 - The Brantford Expositor, Centennial Edition. July 1, 1927.
 - The Expositor. July 3, 1979.
 - Farringdon Burial Ground cemetery records
 - History of the County of Brant*. F. Douglas Reville, 1920.
 - Minutes of the Brant Historical Society
- Read about Norman Duncan in the fall newsletter.

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

Matthew Edgeworth
Robert Lynch

Corporate sponsors

EXTEND Communications Inc.
Hooton's Security Systems
ITML Horticultural Products Inc.
Raymond Industrial Equipment Limited
S.C. Johnson and Son, Limited
Sonoco Canada Corporation
Trow Consulting Engineers

Renewing members

Friend
Gloria Neamtu

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Douglas Baker, Mildred Biggar, Donald C. Calder,
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Bob and Tanis Anderson, Norman and Genevieve Baulcomb, Bill and Donna Bowman, Allan and Jean Farquharson, Don Jackson and Anne Schubert, David and Colleen Judd, Morley and Ruth Lefler, David and Elfrieda Neumann, Ed and Cathy Pancoe, James and Janet Percival, Terry and Linda Smith, Dan and June Spence

Individual

Donald Boyle, June Bragg, Patricia Burgon, Laurene Campbell, Michael J. Carbone, Margaret Chandler, Connie Chism, Karim Dawood, Jacqueline Evans, Nora Fueten, Alto B. Hall, Michael Hand, Bruce E. Hill, Hilda Hill, Heather Ibbotson, Nelson Krantz, Jack W. Lewis, Margaret Lorenz, Alistair L. Neely, Chris Osborne, Clara E.V. Terryberry, Mabel Wyatt

Donors 2004/2005

Bob and Tanis Anderson, June Bragg, Laurene Campbell, Michael Hand, Jack W. Lewis, Robert Lynch, Michael O'Byrne, Clara E.V. Terryberry

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Endowment Fund: The interest from this fund goes to the operation of the museum.

Acquisition Fund: This fund is used to acquire and conserve artifacts.

Building Fund: This fund will be used for the museum — to renovate the existing building, to buy a new building and to renovate it, or to build a brand new museum.

Operations Fund: This fund is used for the daily operations of the museum, including staffing and programming.

Special Projects Fund: This fund will be used to complete special projects — some current projects include the Settlement Gallery, a new reception desk and repairs to the glass enclosure.

DONATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In Memory of Margaret Louise Carpenter
Cindy MacDonald-Krueger

In Memory of Arthur Cline
Terry, Linda, Shasta and Kyla Smith

In Memory of Jean Fisher
Joyce Armstrong

In Memory of Dennis Hodgson
Terry, Linda, Shasta and Kyla Smith

In Memory of Margaret E. Stedman

Robert and Anne Deboer

Calvin and Elizabeth Diegel

William Fuller

Marion Weir

Mabel Wyatt

Brant Museum & Archives staff

A Brant Historical Society membership offers ...

- free admission to the Brant 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 \$20

Categories and fees

Benefactor	\$500.00+
Patron	\$200.00+
Friend	\$100.00+
Supporter	\$50.00
Family (2)	\$30.00
Individual	\$20.00
Student	\$15.00

Happenings

Brant Museum & Archives

New at the gift shop

St. George: Bauslaugh's Mill to the Present (limited reprint of the 1987 book by the South Dumfries Historical Society), by Douglas A. Mannen, \$10.

Coming soon to the gift shop

Brantford's Link to Greatness: A Portrait of the Amazing Alexander Graham Bell, by Albert VanderMey, \$40. This attractive pictorial biography of Bell, told from Brantford's perspective, will be published by the Brant Historical Society. Please watch *The Expositor* and the September newsletter for further details.

Kids' summer programs

Please contact the main museum for details or to register for the following summer programs:

"Under the Sea," July 25-29

"Amazing Race," Aug. 8-12

"Hawaiian Hoopla," Aug. 15-19

Teddy bear picnic

Saturday, July 16, 2005, at Myrtleville House Museum. Please contact the museum for details.

Zehrs' tapes

Please continue to save your Zehrs' tapes for the museum. Staff at either museum location will accept them. Every little bit helps!

Ontario Genealogical Society Brantford branch monthly meetings

Sept. 25 At Brantford Tourism Centre. Speaker TBA.

Oct 29 Annual Fall Workshop at Smokey Hollow Estates, 118 Powerline Road. Speakers: Heather Ibbotson and Fraser Dunford.

Nov. 27 At Brantford Tourism Centre. Speakers: Toni Roberts and Des Rasch on surveyor Augustus Jones.



Brant Historical Society

General meeting speakers

Brant Museum & Archives, 7:30 p.m.

June 22, 2005 Volunteer Appreciation Night. By invitation. To celebrate their invaluable contributions to the society and museum, volunteers are invited to tour the Be My Guest bed and breakfast in Mount Pleasant. Refreshments available. Admission: \$5. Things get underway at 7 p.m.

Summer break ... see you in September!

Sept. 21, 2005 By popular demand, "It's Your Turn" will be back. Participants are needed to give brief talks on interesting antique items. If you have an antique with a story you'd like to share, please call John Bonfield at 759-8413.

Brantford Film Group

The Brantford Film Group is a fundraiser for the Brant Historical Society. Films are screened on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from October through May at the Cineplex Odeon Brantford Mall Cinemas at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are \$7 and can be purchased at the museum. Box office tickets are \$8 and are purchased at the door. Visit www.brantmuseum.ca for film details.

We thank our supporters for another successful season. See you in September!

Bingo!

We need your help! The Brant Historical Society sponsors Bingo at the Brantford Bingo Centre (on King George Road) as one of our **major fundraisers**.

We need volunteers to count and sell cards for **two hours on a Sunday afternoon**.

Come out, meet some new people and help the society raise some much-needed funds.

If you can spare one Sunday this year, please contact the museum at **752-2483**. Your help will allow us to continue to offer our current society and museum programs.