

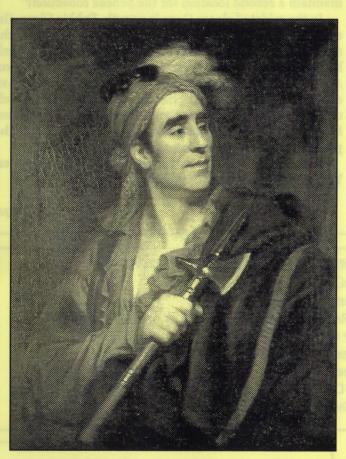
BHS Quarterly

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Spring, 2003

John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen: Mystery man



John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen
1816 Portrait by Thomas Phillips (1770-1845)

Inside this issue

President's Reflections	2
New Board Members	
Curator's Corner	3
Meet the staff	
Memberships and donations	7
Happenings	8
Brantford Film Group	8

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer

Jean Waldie's publication Brant County: The Story of Its People, Vol. 1, includes an interesting story in a series of articles written by Waldie and published in The Brantford Expositor, concerning one John Norton, a noted Indian interpreter who became second to Joseph Brant among Grand River Indians. Few people are likely even aware of John Norton and his accomplishments.

The story of John Norton commences with an article published by Waldie on June 24, 1947, including the following:

The opening and closing of the life of John Norton, noted Indian interpreter and a leader of Great Britain's Indian allies, remains still cloaked in mystery. Norton was well known to the Grand River Indians and became second only to Captain Joseph Brant among them. Whether Norton was an Indian or a white man and where he was born are obscure points, owing to many conflicting stories.

A distinct and valuable insight into Norton's life and the colourful period in which he lived (the latter 1700s and early 1800s) is provided in an authentic paper prepared by J. McEwen Murray, Toronto, for many years, Secretary of the Ontario Historical Society....

In 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society published a Mohawk edition of the Gospel according to Saint John and announced that it was a translation from the English by John Norton, "a Cherokee by birth, but naturalized as a child among the Mohawks...."

He found no further repetition of this origin, although it fitted in with a story that Norton ended his career among the Cherokee Indians....

Another account stated that Norton's father was Mohawk and his mother Scottish, while a third reversed this. One item referred to him as being born

Continued on Page 6

Celebrating 95 years of preserving local history

President's Reflections

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this 95th anniversary year. The warm support and assistance of so many is deeply appreciated.

On Jan. 7, I met with staff, requesting their dreams for the museum. Their contagious enthusiasm, excitement and suggestions will assist us in establishing a goal-setting process.

Unfortunately, finances overshadow everything. Revenues fail to maintain the present, without considering future possibilities. Previous decisions make immediate changes impossible. An example is the commitment to maintain two museum locations. Unforeseeable realities reduce the visibility of the mall location, while Charlotte Street is bursting as collections grow — as they must. These challenges are opportunities for creativity. We dare not be captured by the easy fix that grows budgeting and programming from scarcity thinking. Our bingo and movie volunteers, by their continual unselfish use of time, together operate 40 fundraising events a year in the name of the society.

As expenses grow and opportunities develop, the deficit

continues to widen. In spite of last year's good news, the board of directors will present a deficit budget at the annual meeting: This is unacceptable. It's easy to achieve balance by elimination and reduction. We would rather take the bold, creative approach. Questions have been seriously posed to the board: "Can a society continue to operate a museum for the community?" and "Can we continue to maintain a second location for the Scheak collection?"

In the midst of gloom there is growth. Debbie Olsen, the education officer, is demonstrating that limitation is the result of allowing ourselves the luxury of forgetting possibilities. A newly-appointed five-member Education Advisory Task Force of committed volunteers believes an education partnership with the community needs to develop. When you encounter the children, their contagious laughter, inquisitive questions and awe of exploring the past, you discover a growing role for the museum.

Share your ideas, be a volunteering society member. You can help. **Give your past a future!**

Cal Diegel

Brant Historical Society Board of Directors

President Calvin Diegel
Vice-President Robert Glass
Secretary Robert Deboer
Treasurer Glenn Gillis
Past President John Wyatt
Directors

John Bonfield, James Calnan, Margaret Glass Gloria Neamtu, Peter Oakes, David Partridge, Anne Westaway

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
BHS 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:

http://www.bfree.on.ca/comdir/musgal/bcma

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: Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Curator's Corner

he museum has been filled with the voices of children lately. We have been booked throughout February with our Grade 4 "Medieval Times" and Grade 3 "Pioneer Life" programs. Debbie has been very busy preparing for our March Break camp. This year's theme is "Awesome Ancients" and the children will learn all about Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Americas and China. If you know of any children between the ages of 7 and 12 who might be interested in this camp, please contact Debbie at the museum.

We have also been very fortunate with the amount of time our volunteers have put in so far this year. Bob Deboer recently donated a large collection of archival, artifact and photographic material to us. He has been busy ever since with cataloguing this enormous and valuable collection. He just completed cataloguing 564 postcards! Thank you, Bob, for this great collection and all of the time you've spent working on it.

I'd like to update our members on some of the grants that we've received recently. A special thank-you to the Cockshutt/Blacker Foundation for their donation that allowed us to purchase filing cabinets where a portion of our archival and photographic collection are now being housed in less crowded conditions. We have also received our annual grant from the City of Brantford which was up slightly from last year.

We are definitely busy with kids and collections here at the museum, but we wouldn't want it any other way.

Stacey McKellar

B.H.S. members receive Queen's Golden Jubilee Medals

Ruth Lefler, a longtime volunteer, past president and board member with the Brant Historical Society, was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in recognition of community service, in a ceremony following the mayor's levee on Jan. 1, 2003, at the Brantford Armoury. She received written congratulations from Brant MPP Dave Levac, Brant MP Jane Stewart and the Brant Historical Society on her contributions to local history.

Ruth has researched, written and edited countless books and articles about city and county history, her most recent a collaboration with Angela Files entitled *County of Brant 1852-2002: A Celebration*.

Also among the 50 citizens awarded the prestigious medal was B.H.S. member Karim Dawood.

The society and museum staff extend congratulations to both.



Ruth Lefler with her Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

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Acknowledgments

The Brant Historical Society gratefully acknowledges support from:

The County of Brant
The City of Brantford
The Ontario Ministry of Citizenship,
Culture and Recreation

Meet the Brant Museum & Archives staff...

Stacey McKellar, Director/Curator

Hi. My name is Stacey McKellar and I am the Director/Curator at the Brant Museum & Archives. I have met many of you at our monthly general meetings, exhibit openings and other society and museum events, and I look forward to speaking with those whom I have not yet met.

I graduated from the University of Guelph with an Honours BA in specialized history in 1990. I took a couple of years off to work while I completed the Ontario Museum Association's Certificate in Museum Studies. During this time I volunteered at the Guelph Civic Museum and worked with the collection, exhibits and the children's programs. Sir Sandford Fleming's Museum Management and Curatorship program allowed me to hone my skills and to learn some new ones. I completed my internship at Castle Kilbride in Baden during the summer of 1997. From September 1998 to April 1999 I was employed as a museum assistant at the St. Catharines Museum at Lock 3.

I started here at the museum as a summer student in June 1999. Sonia, the assistant curator, left at the end of August and I was hired to replace her in September. Director/Curator Elizabeth Hunter left for the Markham Museum in October 2000 and I was promoted to Acting Director/Curator while I decided if I was ready for this new challenge. I made my decision in January 2001 and haven't looked back. Although there are some days I would rather stay in bed than tackle the ever-growing stack of files on my desk, I have to say that I love it here at the museum. Each day is filled with a new challenge, a new piece of information, a new friendly face. My future plans include beginning my Masters in Museum Studies this fall. This correspondence program through the University of Leicester in England will allow me to continue working full time while pursuing my academic goals.

I would like to thank all of you for your assistance and encouragement during the almost four years that I have been in Brantford. I am still learning the history of this fascinating area and I know that I can depend on you to help me along the way. We have a great staff here at the museum and I encourage all of you to come in for a visit.

Cindy MacDonald, Administrative Assistant

Hi. My name is Cindy MacDonald. I am the administrative assistant to Stacey McKellar. I am a graduate of the University of Waterloo with an Honours BA in social psychology. I started working at the museum just before Elizabeth Hunter left in September of 2000. If you visit our Charlotte Street site, you will often see me peeking my head out past the door of our offices to see who has come in. I perform a variety of tasks ranging from simple accounting and banking to meet-and-greet duties at the door, research requests, exhibit setup, fundraising, organization of lunch-



Left to right: Debbie Olsen, Cindy MacDonald and Stacey McKellar.

es, purchase of office supplies, correspondence, mailorder requests, etc. I love my work and I enjoy working with an exceptional group of staff members and volunteers. Each day brings a new adventure at the Brant Museum & Archives and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Debbie Olsen, Education Officer

Those of you who have met me know me as the one with the funny accent. I am from South Africa, and am currently surviving my fourth winter in Brantford. I joined the staff of the Brant Museum & Archives in May 2001 as the education officer. This high school English teacher (fifteen years of classroom experience — my, have I stories to tell!) has now officially traded Shakespeare for the many units of elementary school history, and to be quite honest, it's been rather fun. We offer schools in the district many curriculum-based programs — the most popular by far being our Grade 4 Medieval Times program. It has been a treat working with this younger age group, and my objective is to instil in them wonder and respect for this fascinating subject we call history. I have tried to include an artifact study in each of the programs we offer, as well as a creative craft. For the first time, we have had students from the GEDSB Enrichment Centre taking part in our programs, as well as students from W. Ross Macdonald. The museum is also an active member of GEM (Galleries, Educators & Museums), where we strive to foster partnerships with one another, and to exhaust all avenues of marketing our sites to the schools of this district.

I also organize and run the Kids' Club theme-based camps during school vacations. These have generally been well-attended, lively and creative affairs.

...who we are and what we do!

Shanna Dunlop, Assistant Curator

My name is Shanna Dunlop and I am the assistant curator at the Brant Museum & Archives, I received my Honours BA in anthropology from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo and my MA in Canadian Heritage and Development Studies from Trent University in Peterborough. I am currently finishing my PhD in anthropology at McMaster University, and working on the Ontario Museum Association's Certificate in Museum Studies. In addition to my full-time position here at the Museum, I am also a parttime faculty member at the Wilfrid University Brantford campus, where I teach anthropology. This is my second time as a staff member at the museum, as I was previously employed for a brief period in 1998 as the collections manager. This May will mark my two-year anniversary at the museum. During this time, I have worked with various summer students and enthusiastic volunteers to complete the existing backlog of cataloguing. I am happy to report that this task is nearing completion and, with the help of Bob Deboer and this year's summer students, the backlog should be eliminated by the fall! I have also enjoyed working on various temporary exhibitions featured at our Museum-in-the-Square location, including a co-operative exhibit with local historical groups to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Brant County and a display commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Brantford Police Service.

Susan Gonzalez, Registrar

Hi, I'm Susan Gonzalez. I arrived here in October to organize and computerize the museum's photograph collection as part of the Records Management Project funded through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. I am originally from Nova Scotia, where from 1982 to 1986 I completed an Honours BA at Saint Mary's University. My major was in anthropology, with a classics minor. I participated in several archeological excavations around the Maritimes at prehistoric First Nations and historic European sites. For my Honours thesis I completed an analysis of 18th- and 19thcentury ceramics from a site in downtown Halifax. After completing my degree, I went to work in the photographic field in Mississauga and Toronto, where I learned much about photographic processes, photography and digital imaging. After several years of this, I decided to return to school to pursue studies in the museum field. Through volunteer work at the Royal Ontario Museum Anthropology Department, I discovered the Sir Sandford Fleming College Museum Management and Curatorship Program in Peterborough. I attended this program in 2001-02. Some of my projects in the course involved researching the management of photographic collections and the cataloguing of the archives, digital photography and 3-D imaging of canoes at the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough. This is my first position in a museum since completing the program. I am currently going through the small photograph files, enter-



Left to right: Colleen Cross, Shanna Dunlop and Susan Gonzalez.

ing the accession and catalogue information on the new database and scanning the images so they can be viewed and printed for research requests, exhibitions and sale.

Colleen Cross, Gift Shop Attendant

I have enjoyed working at the Museum in the Square since Dec. 2, 2002. I am responsible for the maintenance of the Museum in the Square and for promoting sales in the gift shop. My duties include ordering and maintaining the gift shop inventory, maintaining the BHS membership database and processing memberships. I also assist visitors with general inquiries about the museum and about local sites and events, promote the museum and its activities and help out as needed with other tasks at both museum sites. I have an Honours BA in English from the University of Western Ontario, and have worked as a newspaper proofreader and as a copy editor for Butterworths, a legal publisher in Markham, Ontario. For the past five years I've been an administrative assistant at NCO Financial Services in Brantford. My husband, David Judd, and I currently edit the B.H.S. Quarterly newsletter and undertake various copy editing and desktop publishing projects. We live in St. George.



New at the gift shop

- Potteries and Potters of Brant County. Compiled by Robert L. Deboer, \$14.95.
- County of Brant 1852-2002: A Celebration. Ruth Lefler and Angela Files, \$20.
- Memories of Paris, Vol. 2, Don Stewart, \$14.95 (\$28.50 for set of Vols. 1 and 2).

John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen: Mystery man

Continued from Page 1

in Scotland and another that he was born in Canada....

His early life remains a mystery. Reports reveal him being discharged from the British Army in 1788, going to Kingston, then to Mohawk Village, then to Detroit and a trading port on the Maumee River in Ohio.

"Brant having gone to Detroit in 1792, where there was a meeting of Indians, got acquainted with Norton, and finding a fit person for his purposes, prevailed on him to accompany him to the Grand River."....

The signature, "John Norton, Indian Interpreter," reveals his "present situation." He had received the appointment in November 1796, in response to a request from Brant, which Governor Simcoe had enclosed in a letter to Sir Guy Carleton Dorchester, December 22, 1795. The petition was endorsed "Recommended for 600 acres."....

As Indian Interpreter, Norton served under Sir John Johnson, General Superintendent, and William Clause, Deputy Superintendent of the British Indian Department. His initial pay, in 1798 was 4/8 per day. A letter from Johnson to Clause the following year indicated that Norton was not satisfied with this amount and had asked for an increase....

Norton, after serving for some time as interpreter, had found it troublesome to attend to his duty at Fort George at Niagara and "at Brant's" and consequently had resigned the employment and resided altogether at Grand River, cutting his hair, painting his face, wearing the habit and assuming the manners of an Indian. From this Mr. Murray concluded that Norton had obtained his chieftainship some time between 1800 and 1804.

The paper prepared by J. McEwen Murray and included in Waldie's article, makes several suggestions regarding John Norton's ethnicity, including that he was a Cherokee by birth, that his father was a Mohawk and his mother Scottish, and also that he was born in Scotland or Canada. The publication, *The Valley of the Six Nations*, edited by Charles M. Johnston, states that John Norton, who was given the Mohawk name Teyoninhokarawen, was a Scot who had been adopted by the Mohawks. This publication also makes reference to a white man by the name of John Norton, who resides among the Indians and has assumed their manners. It further suggests that after Brant's death he used insidious acts to succeed Brant and that the Indians were much divided in opinion as to the choice of a leader and the intrigues of John Norton.

Waldie continues her story of John Norton in an article published on July 10, 1947, including the following:

By 1804, Norton had become second to Joseph Brant

among the Grand River Indians....

In 1804, the Grand River Indians, having long been dissatisfied with the relations between themselves and the provincial authorities, decided to make a direct approach to the Home Government in London. As Brant was unable to go, the mission was given to Norton....

Norton had secured the valuable support of the great humanitarian, William Wilberforce, and his associates....

During the early part of 1808, Norton embarked on a journey from the Grand River to Black Rock and then to the Alleghany and Ohio Rivers to Cincinnati and beyond, bound on some mysterious errand. The purpose of the trip was not revealed. Even though Norton kept a journal, he did not confide the secret of the journey to the privacy of its pages....

In Norton's journal the possibility of war, and the training of Indians in agriculture, industry and religion had been the subject of discussion. The work done by the Friends (Quakers) seems to have particularly impressed Norton....

With the outbreak of the War of 1812, Norton came into prominence at once as a leader of Great Britain's Indian allies. The military studies which he had taken up while on his 1804 mission to England stood him in good stead. He was with Brock at Detroit and at Queenston and other engagements in the Niagara Peninsula....

One of his assignments was to secure Indian assistance from the nations to the west. On April 19, 1813, [Sir Roger Hale] Sheaffe [Brock's successor as commander in chief] wrote to [Sir George] Prevost: "Captain Norton is here and is so urgent for my assent to his going back to Detroit, pleading that he had engaged his word to the Indians there for his speedy return that I cannot withhold it. He promised not to stay long away from me, but I part with him, even for a short time, with great reluctance....

The rank of captain had been given Norton by the commander of the field. The honor was soon afterwards extended....

On March 1, 1814, however, the Military Secretary at Quebec, wrote to General Drummond: "The Commander of the Forces having been pleased to grant the Indian Chief John Norton a commission as captain and leader of the Five Nations Grand River Indians as Confederates, I am directed to convey His Excellency's request that no interference be allowed from the officers of the Indian Department between these tribes and Capt. Norton, and all communications are to be made through the medium of Capt. Norton.

Continued in the summer newsletter

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

Margaret Janzen Doris Marcellus Michael and Delia O'Byrne Caralyn and David Stradiotto

Corporate sponsors

Brant Flour Mills Ltd.
EXTEND Communications Inc.
Hooton's Security Systems
ITML Horticultural Products Inc.
Raymond Industrial Equipment Limited
S.C. Johnson and Son, Limited
Sonoco Canada Corporation
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Friend
Complia Bunnell Venneth Fuller

Cynthia Bunnell, Kenneth Fuller, Glenn and Julie Gillis, Ruth K. Stedman

Supporter Ken Blair, Donald C. Calder, Margaret Carrow, William H. Cockshutt, Robert Gillin, Margaret E. Stedman

Family
Norman and Genevieve Baulcomb, Fred and Wanda
Bradley, Mary Harding and Rose Bridges, David Judd and
Colleen Cross, Margaret Keefe, David and Elfrieda

Neumann, Clare and Alice Pope, Mr. and Mrs. Franklyn Smith and family, Mary and John Van Nest, Roberta Wilton and Duncan Leslie

Individual

Gladys M. Allen, Lois Beatty, John Bonfield, June Bragg, Pete Byerlay, Michael Carbone, Gayle E. Cunningham, Dorothy M. Deville, Rev. Calvin G. Diegel, Beverly Golden, Audrey Haight, Margaret Hartley, B. Christine Johnson, Linda Lowrey, Jaynne Mann, Arcangelo Martino, Bruce McBlain, Marilyn A. McDonald, Peter Oakes, Lawrence Pennell, Steve Polacko, Roger Sharpe, Robert Sherred, Shirley Sills, Mary B. Stedman, Clara E.V. Terryberry, Joyce Rose Thomas, Patricia G. Whetstone, Pamela J. Young

Donors (2002/2003)

June Bragg Linda Lowrey
Robert and Anne Deboer Robert Sherred
Dorothy M. Deville Shirley Sills
Kenneth Fuller Clara E.V. Terryberry
Margaret Janzen Pamela J. Young

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

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, a new sign for the front lawn and repairs to the glass enclosure.

DONATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Endowment Fund

In Memory of Marilyn Grace Coffing William Fuller

In Memory of Leone Jackson William Fuller

In Memory of Michael Keefe Brant Historical Society In Memory of Agnes and Walter Matiuchin Valerie Matiuchin

In Memory of Frank McInnes
Valerie Matiuchin

In Memory of Annette Shmuir
William Fuller

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

Exhibits

"Trés Scheak: Fine Art and Furniture from the Harrison M. Scheak Collection" closes March 14.

"Brantford Pottery" opens March 31. The exhibit officially opens on Saturday, April 5, at the Museum in the Square.

"Fanaritis Collection." The exhibit will feature a sampling of a Brantford couple's collection of textiles and jewelry dating from the 17th century. July to September 2003.

Kids Club March break camp

"Awesome Ancients," March 10 to 14, ages seven to 12. Each day of this five-day camp will explore a different culture, concentrating mainly on Egypt, Greece, Rome, the Americas and China. A variety of crafts, games, storytelling and other exciting activities will bring this amazing chapter of our world's history alive.

Drop-off: 8:30 to 9 a.m., pick-up: 3:30 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$110 per child for the week or \$22 per day.

10% discount for BHS members, families that register two or more children, or children who register for a whole week.

Spring tea

Sunday, May 4, 1 to 4 p.m.: A fundraiser for the Brant Museum & Archives.

Garden and museum clean-up day

Saturday, May 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Come and help the museum staff with their spring cleaning.

Signposts addendum available

An addendum for the 2000 publication Signposts: Origins of Street and Road Names of Brant County and Brantford is now available at both museum locations.

Congratulations

James Calnan (board member) and wife on the birth of their daughter Hannah.

In sympathy

Margaret Keefe, on the loss of her husband, Michael Keefe.

Zehrs tapes

Keep bringing in those Zehrs tapes.

Call for volunteers

We need volunteers to help with our education programs, working with the collection and participating in our fundraising bingos.



Brant Historical Society

General meeting speakers

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

March 19 Annual General Meeting

If time permits, Stacey McKellar and Susan

Gonzalez will explain the Trillium

Foundation project's electronic database.

Steve Arnold will speak about Willie Cooke of Mount Pleasant, who served with Custer

at the Battle of Little Big Horn.

May 21 June 18

April 16

Speaker to be announced Volunteer appreciation night

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 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.

March 13 Ararat, Canada, rated AA.

March 27 Frida, US, rated AA.

April 10 Perfect Pie, Canada, rated PG.

April 24 Satin Rouge, France/Tunisia, subtitled, rated AA.

May 8 The Bay of Love and Sorrows, Canada.

May 22 To be announced

June 12 Divine Intervention, Palestine, subtitled. F=Family; PG=Parental Guidance; AA=Adult Accompaniment; R=Restricted

Local talk relating to Ararat

"Armenian Christianity: Its History and Traditions," by Gereard Pederian from the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Toronto. Tuesday, March 11, 7 p.m. at Sydenham Street United Church.



Waterloo County & Area Quilt Festival May 22 to June 1, 2003

Over 35 quilt events in 10 communities. Exhibits, workshops, fashion shows, merchants' mall, youth block challenge and much,

much more! Celebrating the art and heritage of quilting through traditional and contemporary quilters and quilts from near and far — old and new! Colourful exhibitions of various themes, renowned speakers, tours with step-on guides, workshops, lectures and special events. Voted one of the Top 50 Festivals in 2001 and 2002 by Festivals and Events Ontario. The largest quilt festival in Canada.

1-888-804-7909 www.quiltcapitalfestival.com