

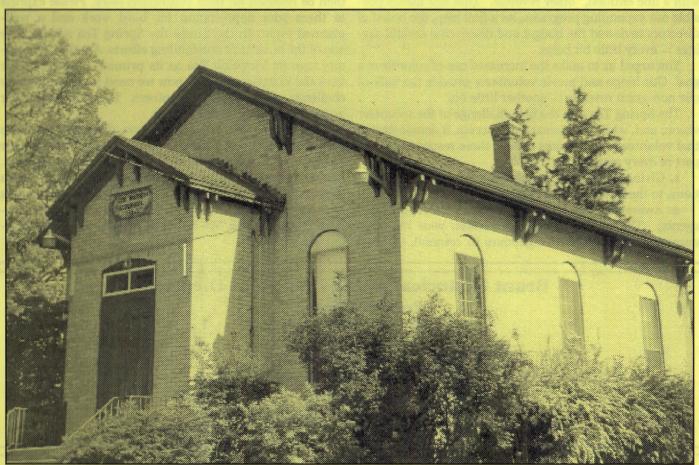
BHS Quarterly

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Summer, 2003

Historic meeting at Ohsweken, 1898



The original Six Nations Council House, Ohsweken, was built in 1863.

Photo courtesy of Ruth Lefler

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By Angela E.J. Files

Thile researching *The Brantford Courier*, 1898, I came across the following information in the June 2 edition, Page 4, concerning the annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society meeting 105 years ago.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Historical Society was held at the Six Nations Council House, Ohsweken, Tuscarora Township, Brant County.

Continued on Page 6

Celebrating 95 years of preserving local history

President s Reflections

y appreciation is extended to members who attended our annual meeting. Constitution and budgets excite few, but they are expressions that need our care. I appreciate your suggestions — each a demonstration of your confidence, interest, and support.

The meeting positively endorsed our vision for the coming year. Courageously, your board adopted a budget with a line entitled, "other revenue." That line makes possible our expanding programs. As a first step, the board of directors reviewed the budget and discovered several savings — every little bit helps.

You urged us to make the increased use of volunteers a goal. Our bingo and movie volunteers provide the bulk of our non-grant revenue — another little bit.

The Spring Tea was the first challenge to the volunteer vision; and, while not a smashing success, it demonstrated that volunteerism requires at least three responses on the part of every member:

- **1.** Giving of time and resources, with personal limitations, to the fundraising efforts.
- 2. Awareness that members are our greatest publicity agents. The media provide awareness; your influence encourages friends and neighbours to respond. Quoting

budgets excite few, but they are expressions that one member who found the idea overwhelming, "I just wanted to go out into the street and round up people."

That's the attitude needed!

3. Attending the function yourself!

Valuable lessons were learned, now future implementation is the key. Perhaps as we proceed, these events will result from membership efforts rather than staff who will then be released for their contracted work. Please express to them your appreciation for hard work and a well-planned event. In the future the Spring Tea will become one of the museum's outstanding efforts. Another community uses its Victorian Tea as its primary fundraiser. We have the Victorian Parlour, now we need to respond to the challenge of increasing volunteers. The date is set for 2004. Why not volunteer today?

New facilities: You received a copy of our new brochure outlining needs and future visions. Quietly the message has been shared and today, May 2, it broke into the press. Our first goal of community awareness has begun. John Wyatt, the building committee chair, seeks your thoughts and suggestions. The community needs to talk, and politicians need to notice. We can make it happen, but not without you!

(Rev.) Cal G. 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://comdir.bfree.on.ca/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

The are gearing up for the summer here at the museum with our summer students and plans for our summer camps. Heather Macdonald is back for a third summer as our program assistant and will help Debbie plan a busy and fun summer full of entertaining and educational camps. If you know of any children between the ages of 7 and 12 who would like to make a documentary, travel back in time or take a world tour, please call and book your space.

I would like to announce one of our special projects. The society received \$6,000 from the Brantford Community Foundation in May. This, added to the \$2,000 that we received from the Brant Waterways Foundation last year, has allowed us to begin a project to digitize some of our rare and valuable maps. The maps to be digitized are the 1858 Tremaine's Map of the County of Brant and some of Lewis Burwell's maps from the 1830s. This CD-ROM will be available for sale upon completion. When more funding is available, expanded versions of this CD-ROM will also be made available. I would like to thank Stephen Robinson for all of his hard work on this project. Stay tuned for more exciting announcements!

As you are all aware, we held a spring tea on Sunday, May 4. Although it was not the successful fundraiser that we had hoped, all involved greatly enjoyed an afternoon filled with good friends, good conversation and good food. We hope to repeat this event next year, so don't miss out on the fun. Thank-you so much to everyone who brought in desserts. Those who were at the tea had a wide and yummy variety to choose from.

Our garage sale (a.k.a. Bob's House of Bargains) held on May 17 was an overwhelming success! The event was held at Myrtleville Museum and was attended by 400 people. We brought in \$500 at the end of the day with Myrtleville making slightly less. I want to thank everyone who donated items for the sale and especially those who helped out the day of — David Partridge, and Bob and Anne Deboer for your hard work, dedication and sense of humour.

Our next special event will be the society's 95th Birthday Bash. It will be held in October and promises to be a fun afternoon with games and entertainment for all ages, demonstrations, a silent auction and yummy treats. Come and join us for a piece of cake and help us celebrate this incredible milestone!

This summer promises to be full of fun and excitement. Please stop by and check it out.

Stacey McKellar

1838: Two fires on Brantford's main street

very interesting account of two 1838 Brantford fires was found in the diary of John Moyle Jr. John was from the Moyles who eventually settled on Paris Road around the current Olde School Restaurant, which is actually a former school called the Moyle School. The Moyles had not yet moved to their Paris Road farm and were living in Brantford and operating a grain store.

At the time of the fires, it had only been a couple of weeks since the Duncombe revolt in Scotland had been put down. Mackenzie's rebellion was still in progress as he waited, entrenched on Navy Island, contemplating the overthrow of the Canadian government. A large contingent of troops that contained men from both Paris and Brantford were down at Niagara opposite Navy Island, guarding against possible attack by Mackenzie and his little band of Patriots. In addition, at this time the covered bridges across the Grand River at Brantford and Paris were being guarded 24 hours a day while the militia checked those who wished to pass and detained suspicious persons. So, there would have been something of an armed camp mentality, as the little detachment at Brantford changed the guard and escorted prisoners, arms and ammunition through the area. It was in this

environment that the fires occurred.

At 3 a.m. on a Monday in January 1838, Henry Moyle and his sons were called to help fight a fire on the main street of Brantford at Master's and Day's Confectionery. Within minutes, the whole block was engulfed in flames. The main street was so hot the men could barely cross the street. The Moyle boys poured water over themselves to try to cool off, despite it being the middle of winter.

When the fire engine arrived, the men formed a line but they did not have enough buckets to be effective. It was soon discovered that it would be impossible to save the Wilkes block, although several men did try to carry out the contents of furniture and equipment.

Some of the men attempted to pull down the Indian council room that was beside Dr. Digby's store and they were able to extinguish the flames before it burned. Several of the buildings caught fire on the opposite side of the street, but the men were able to extinguish the flames. Wilkes's store and Day's house burned aggressively. Fred Wilkes's office was burned to the ground but the men managed to save the stove, books and furniture. By eight o'clock in the morning, the fire had finally been extinguished.

John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen: Mystery man



John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen, the Mohawk Chief, 1805, from a portrait by Mary Ann Knight.

Compiled by Robert L. Deboer

Continued from the Spring issue

egarding John Norton's trip to England, Jean Waldie writes that Brant was unable to go. In Joseph Brant 1743-1807: Man of Two Worlds, Isabel Thompson Kelsay states that Norton decided to go to England to offer his services to the British Crown. Brant wanted to go too, but did not have the money. There was a secret meeting of Brant's supporters at Brant's Town. They gave Norton instructions to get confirmation of the Haldimand Treaty in England. Brant entrusted Norton to do his best and gave him letters of introduction to the Duke of Northumberland and others. Norton obtained passage to England from New York City in February of 1804. The various letters of introduction smoothed Norton's way. The Duke of Northumberland was willing to exert all his great influence in his own right in the House of Lords. He could see that John Norton was an even more remarkable savage than Joseph Brant. Norton dressed as an Indian, wearing a ring in his nose, and claimed he was a chief. He actually was a chief - an adopted chief - but sometimes he forgot to mention that point. He was just as likely to say that he was an Indian, and his sun-bronzed skin was dark enough to get away with the claim.

On June 2, Norton was introduced to the Earl of Camden, who had authority regarding the land occupied by the Six Nations. Camden was favourably impressed with the young man. So too, was Alexander Davison, a powerful merchant, who asked undersecretary John King to give Norton, "a Mohawk Indian" what assistance he could regarding the land. Norton also managed to enlist the aid of the aged Lord Dorchester. At this point the affair was going unbelievably well and Norton appeared on the verge of success.

In Upper Canada, there was consternation. If the Haldimand Grant were confirmed, it would be confirmed in its entirety, from the mouth of the Grand to its source. The upper portion of the grant would have to be purchased from the Mississaugas and given to the Six Nations. There were people in Canada who prophesized that this must eventually be done and if the grant was confirmed in England, there was no doubt about it.

Norton met with a setback. He had left Canada without a copy of the Haldimand Grant and strangely enough, a copy could not be found in England. Although D.W. Smith and Lord Dorchester could attest to the grant's general purport and the latter did not object to an extension of the terms, a copy of the grant was necessary. A request was sent off for a copy. By this time, John Norton's funds were running low. Having no military commission as yet, he had to ask for an allowance to tide him over. He was told that he had better get passage for Quebec before winter set in. This he was reluctant to do until he could learn the outcome of the mission. To add to his discomfiture Chief Justice Allcock arrived in England from Canada bringing his two reports of Brant's land sales, and Allcock did not hide the fact that he thought the Grand River Indians had only the right of occupancy, with no right to lease their land, much less sell it. At length a report came from across the Atlantic that Brant had been deposed by his own people and Norton's mission completely repudiated.

The outcome of Norton's mission was no longer in doubt. Though Norton could write letters and offer explanations and present petitions and haunt the offices of the great, he got no further encouragement. In addition, at this point, nothing further came of his military aspirations. It was as though a blight had settled upon him. Norton sadly took passage for home, arriving too late in the season to get a boat up Lake Ontario. He set out walking. Somehow he managed to obtain a horse, and on foot and on horseback, Brant's despondent emissary finally got back to the Grand River, almost two years after leaving with his story of hope unfulfilled.

Waldie states in her story that Norton secured the valuable support of the great humanitarian William Wilberforce and his associates. *The Valley of the Six Nations*, edited

John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen: Mystery man

by Charles Johnson, states that the humanitarians' connections with Indian affairs generally and with the problems of the Six Nations particularly had been forged in part by the relationship established between William Wilberforce and the ubiquitous John Norton, whose views on these matters - seldom neglected when Indian policy was discussed overseas – struck a responsive chord in the Evangelical leader. As early as 1804, Norton had recommended the removal of all or part of the Confederacy to the extreme western borders of Upper Canada where, virtually free from the "pernicious" excesses of the white man's world, they could enjoy, or so it was hoped, every opportunity to further their agricultural development and be trained leisurely in the arts and crafts of a European community. Some years later, Norton was still pursuing this object, urging the authorities to reserve for those Indians who desired the change of scene a tract of land on Lake Huron where they could receive instruction in "Agriculture and Letters." Though no action was taken on this particular recommendation those in high places did not lightly dismiss Norton's ideas on the civilization of the Six Nations.

Waldie states that Norton was with Gen. Brock at Queenston and other engagements in the Niagara Peninsula. *The Valley of the Six Nations*, edited by Charles M. Johnston, states that at the battle at Fort George, October 13, 1812, in which Gen. Brock was killed, the success of the battle was chiefly ascribed to the judicious position taken by Norton and the Indians with him.

Waldie's article includes a reference to a communication between the military secretary at Quebec and Gen. Drummond in which it is stressed that His Excellency requested that no interference be allowed from the officers of the Indian Department between the Five Nations as confederates of British government and Capt. Norton, and that all communications be made through the medium of Capt. Norton. The foregoing may very well have resulted from the intense rivalry between the deputy superintendent of the Indian department, Col. William Clause, and John Norton.

Waldie's story is continued in an article published on Jan. 28, 1954, which included the following:

The Colonial Government having assumed the control of Indian affairs on the Grand River Reservation, and with the bitter hostility of Col. Claus [sic] still directed against him, Norton could see no prospect of any recognition of his services by the Government of this

country. He finally decided to visit the Old Country and present his claims to the British Government....

With the aid and favorable recommendations of his British military friends, Norton was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and placed on the half pay list. Returning to Canada with an appointment in connection with Indian affairs over which the Imperial Government still exercised some authority... Norton was frequently sought out for his knowledge of the Indian character and fluency with their dialects.

Waldie refers to the bitter hostility of William Clause, himself a native, being directed against John Norton. In Joseph Brant 1743-1807: Man of Two Worlds Isabel Thompson Kelsay states that Clause disliked Norton even more than he disliked Brant, and was determined to drive Norton out of the Indians' council since it was impossible to remove Brant. Clause had a modicum of success. There was a coolness between Brant, the chief and Norton, the adopted chief, at least on Brant's part, for several months. Brant disagreed with Norton on certain proposals for selling land as well as on investments. Norton and Brant had earlier agreed during a council on Indian finances that their money be invested in England. Though interest was higher in Canada, it was thought that the money was safer under the King's supervision. Brant subsequently changed his mind but Norton did not. Brant spoke up in favour of Canadian investment and William Clause set about making the most of the small dispute. The estrangement between Brant and Norton did not last long. Judge Robert Thorpe, with whom Brant had become very friendly, succeeded in reconciling Brant to the idea of sending Indian funds to England for investment purposes.

Waldie's story is concluded in an article which appears to have been published on Sept. 11, 1947, which date is prior to the publication date of the previous article, and which included the following:

By 1823, Norton became involved in a quarrel and fought a duel with his wife's Indian cousin who was killed....

Norton submitted himself for trial and was acquitted. But his career at Grand River was at an end. After entrusting his affairs to a friend, Robert Thompson, he disappeared into the Western wilds, becoming, one rumour says, a missionary among the Cherokees, in whom he had earlier evidenced a special interest. Norton never returned to the Grand River.

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

Historic meeting at Ohsweken, 1898

Continued from Page 1

The Indians turned out en masse and entertained their white friends. Delegates were as follows:

Niagara: Alfred and Mrs. Ball, Alex and John Servos, Miss J. Carnochan.

Lundy's Lane: Rev. Canon Bull, Anglican. Thorold: Rev. P.D. Spencer, J.H. Thompson.

Oxford: George E. Pattullo, R.W. Sawtrell and T.H. Parker, Woodstock.

Women's Historical Society: Miss E. Yates, farmer, Miss M.A. Fitzgibbon, Miss McLean Helliwell, Mrs. Brant Sero.

York Pioneers: Rev. Blackstock, William Rennie, J.W. and Mrs. Clarke.

Elgin: Judge and Mrs. Ermatinger, A.H. and Mrs. Coyne, Mrs. W.J. Emery.

Hamilton: F.G. Fearman, Mrs. Fearman, Miss Calder, George H. Mills, Miss Wadell, B.E. Charlton.

Women's Auxiliary of Hamilton and Wentworth: Mrs. Fessingdon, Grenville, D.B. Wood, Mrs. J. Ross Holden, Hamilton.

Cayuga: Rev. and Mrs. Edgar, Mrs. J.H. Rodgers, Miss Thompson, Miss Fleming, J. Mitchell.

The Indian Delegates: E.D. Cameron, Superintendent. Chiefs A. G. Smith, J.A. Gibson, Alex Hill, George P. Hill, Benjamin J. Carpenter, R. Hill and Melita Monture.

Mr. E.D. Cameron, Indian Superintendent, contributed

much to the success of the affair in a neat speech welcoming the visitors, while Chief A.G., Smith, speaker of the council, extended a right royal Indian welcome.

A quantity of routine business was attended to and two new societies — Niagara and Oxford — affiliated with the historical organization.

The president, Mr. J.H. Coyne of St. Thomas, gave an interesting address, and five minute papers were given by others present.

At noon, the visitors were entertained to luncheon by the Indians. Alex Lottridge prepared a tasty menu. The gathering was interesting and instructive throughout.

On Sept. 4, 1888, the Ontario Historical Society was organized under the name of "The Pioneer and Historical Association of the Province of Ontario and reorganized in 1898 under its present-day name "The Ontario Historical Society." This is the year that the group met in the Council House in Ohsweken. Today the council building serves as a library for the native community. The OHS was incorporated on April 1, 1899.

From 1899 to 1946 an annual volume entitled "Papers and Records," containing vast historical information, was published. In 1947, the title was changed to the present-day "Ontario History," and it has been issued quarterly since 1949. The annual meetings of the Ontario Historical are still held in various centres of the province.

Headquarters of the Ontario Historical Society: 34 Parkview Ave., Willowdale, ON M2N 3Y2
Telephone: 416-226-9011

Web site: www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

1838: Two fires on Brantford's main street

Continued from Page 3

It was barely six weeks later, on Saturday, Feb. 17, 1838, that fire again broke out on the main street at 1:30 a.m. The men fought the flames in Hunter's and another of Wilkes' stores. They were able to stop the fire before it consumed Henry and McDougal's store, but a shed behind it containing wheat and the magistrate's office were enveloped in flames. This time Dr. Digby's drug store finally burned, but they did manage to save its contents. The fire was finally contained by about five o'clock.

This account, gleaned from the diary of someone who lived it, is an interesting little glimpse of Brantford's past that had previously been lost.

Spring tea... let's make it an annual event

hank-you to everyone who came out for the Brant Museum & Archives' spring tea on May 4. Although the turnout was relatively small — 32 guests — the response to the event was so positive that we hope to make it an annual event. In addition to the tea and wide array of goodies, many donated by talented society members, there were a number of floral arrangements and a gift basket of B.H.S. publications given away as prizes to ticket holders. Guests had a look at new displays in the museum and caught up with old friends.

Please tell your friends about this event – a most civilized way to spend an afternoon – and come back next year to enjoy the same warm, lively atmosphere!

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to our new members

Douglas Baker Betty Chesser Donelda Gooding Nelson Krantz Jack W. Lewis

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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Renewing members

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Friend Gloria Neamtu

Supporter

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Family

Gordon and Sarah Anderson, Bill and Donna Bowman, Rev. and Mrs. J.W. Files, Terry and Linda Smith, Dan and June Spence, David and Janet Partridge and family, Boleslaw and Kazimiera Wilbik

Individual

Diane Baltaz, Donald J. Boyle, E. Pauline Bradley, Patricia Burgon, Anne Byard, Laurene Campbell, Margaret Chandler, Eleanor Chapin, Jacqueline Evans, Mrs. Alto B. Hall, Bruce E. Hill, Hilda M. Hill, W. Harold Minshall, Prof. Dean G. Taylor

Donors (2003)

Diane Baltaz
Laurene Campbell
Janice Kneale
Ed and Cathy Pancoe
David and Janet Partridge and family
Boleslaw and Kazimiera Wilbik

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

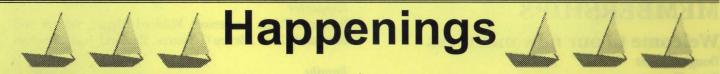
In Memory of Dr. Grant Honeyman Brant Historical Society

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



Brant Museum & Archives

Exhibits

"What a Crock!: A History of the Brantford Pottery" closes July 5, 2003.

"Watercolours by Nico," July 14 to August 9, 2003.

TBA, Aug. 25 to Sept. 19, 2003.

"Brant Visual Artists' Guild," Oct. 6-31, 2003.

"The Grand River," Nov. 17, 2003, to March 14, 2004.

Get well wishes

Bob Deboer, Russ Woodley, Ruth Lefler

In sympathy

Monica Honeyman, on the loss of her husband, Dr. Grant Honeyman.

New at the gift shop

The Grand River Navigation Company. By Bruce E. Hill, republished by the Brant Historical Society, \$19.95.

Herons and Cobblestones: A History of Five Oaks and the Bethel Area of Brantford Township, Brant County. By the Grand River Heritage Mines Society, \$19.

Zehrs tapes

Keep bringing in those Zehrs tapes.

Doors Open Brant

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a free event to encourage everyone to visit sites that aren't normally open to the public. Come to the museum for a behind-the-scenes tour.

Summer camps

"Let's Make a Documentary," July 7-11, ages 9 to 14.

"The Time Machine," July 21-25.

"Meet the...," Aug. 5-8. This four-day camp will introduce kids to many different and interesting occupations — journalism, archeology, art and sport.

"Passport to Adventure," Aug. 11-15.

Camps are open to children ages 7 to 12.

Cost: \$22 per child per day or \$100 per week.

Drop-off: 8:30-9 a.m.

Pick-up: 3:30-4 p.m.

Lunches: Children must bring their own.

Information on discounts and registration: Call 519-752-2483, or drop by the museum at 57 Charlotte St.



Brant Historical Society

General meeting speakers

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

June 18 Volunteer appreciation dinner

Bell Homestead, 6 p.m. - invitations to be

mailed out.

Guided tour, 7:30p.m. - everyone welcome.

Sept. 17 Mayor Chris Friel

"Joseph Brant's trip to London, England"

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.

June 12 Marion Bridge, Canada, AA.

The Brantford Film Group will return on Oct. 25 for the new season. A schedule will be available in late August. Thanks for your support!

F=Family; PG=Parental Guidance; AA=Adult Accompaniment; R=Restricted

Our 95th Birthday Bash

On Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003, at the Central Presbyterian Church, 1 to 4 p.m., you are welcome to join us for entertainment, demonstrations, games, a silent auction and refreshments. We are looking for donations of silent auction items and musical entertainment.

Call for volunteers

We are looking for people to sit on a variety of committees: fundraising and volunteer. We also need your help with our gardens, Birthday Bash and artifact cataloguing.

Copyright information

The copyright on all articles and submissions contained in the "B.H.S. Quarterly" is vested with the authors. Permission to use any article or submission in whole or in part must be obtained from the authors. Authors can be contacted through:

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