



Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 18 Issue 2

May 2014

A publication of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society Founded September 1996

Our Society's logo was designed by Jim Elliott, who was a retired graphic artist and charter member of the HMHS. We are proud to display this logo on the masthead of our newsletters and stationery.

Bailey's Bulletin is named in honour of the Reverend T. Melville Bailey, who was a proud Mountain resident and founder of the HMHS.

Bailey's Bulletin is published three times per year.

Nora Henderson to be Honoured on George Hamilton Day 2014



In 2009 Hamilton City Council declared that the August Civic holiday would thereafter be known as George Hamilton Day in honour of the founder of the City of Hamilton.

The Hamilton Historical Board was given the responsibility of planning how the day would be celebrated. From the beginning an interesting dimension was added wherein each year in addition to George Hamilton another deserving Hamiltonian would be recognized as the Greatest Hamiltonian of the year. A poster displaying the nominees from the five surrounding historical societies was created and put on display in the City's Museums and at the Farmer's Market. Ballots were provided and the nominee receiving

the most votes would be honoured as the Greatest Hamiltonian on George Hamilton Day.

George Hamilton Day celebrations consist of speeches, entertainment and refreshments and are held in the community of the honouree. Thus the event was held in Ancaster in 2012 when Clementina Fessenden was the honouree and Stoney Creek in 2013 when Sarah Calder was honoured.

This year the event will be held in the hospital formerly known as 'The Henderson'. It will take place on Monday, August 4, 2014 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Along with entertainment and refreshments the Henderson plaque, a project of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society, will be unveiled to the public. All Hamiltonians are welcome to attend.

The five deserving Hamiltonians who have been honoured to date are: George Hamilton, Thomas B. McQuesten, Clementina Fessenden, Sarah Calder and Nora Frances Henderson.

The Story of the Pillars

The Mountain Sanatorium was established on the mountain brow in 1906 under the direction of Dr. A.D. Unsworth. It occupied 98 acres of orchard land on William Macklem's farm at the edge of Ancaster Township. The following year, the Hamilton to Brantford Radial Electric Railway was opened. It ran directly below the hospital grounds. The ravine cut through the centre of the Macklem property where Sanatorium Road abuts the edge of the escarpment on the east side of the Holbrook Building. Family and friends visited patients being treated for tuberculosis at the San by taking the radial train from Hamilton or Brantford and ascending the stairs in the ravine. It was a very busy place, being the largest sanatorium in the British Empire with a bed capacity of 750. The stairs were in use as late as 1931 when the radial line closed down. (Mountain Memories, page 5).

Traces of these concrete steps and abutments at the top of the ravine and of concrete columns which supported the stairs can still be seen. The condition of the abutments was brought to the attention of the HMHS by a concerned resident of the west mountain, who noticed them while cycling. He has contacted the City several times over the past year.

A member of the HMHS Executive immediately visited the site and took photos. These photos have been shared with a colleague who studied Heritage Masonry at Algonquin College. His opinion, having seen only the photos, is that the stone wall does seem to be in good condition as do the stairs with the concrete newel posts and hand rail. The rubble stone and mortar pillar needs serious repair. He felt that the areas in need of repair are repairable. He then outlined some issues to be addressed: ownership, permissions, permits and, of course, cost.

The executive of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society will be discussing these pillars and what, if any, involvement the HMHS can have with them. If you have expertise or ideas to share please contact the executive by e-mail at: hamiltonheritage1@gmail.com.



◀Photo of one of the pillars taken in April 2014.

Aerial view showing location of the pillars. ▶



Programme Dates for 2014

Meetings of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society, unless otherwise noted, are held at Olivet United Church, 40 Empress Avenue on the third Thursday of January, March, May, September and November. Occasionally special meetings are arranged in buildings of historical interest. All meetings begin at 7:30 pm and visitors are most welcome.

MAY 15, 2014

LET'S GO FOR A RIDE

Conducted by Robin McKee, with the assistance of Sandra Beveridge, this presentation will take you for a virtual ride on the Niagara Gorge Railway. You'll be treated to some never-before-seen video. All aboard for a fun ride to Niagara!

MARK THESE FUTURE MEETING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 NOVEMBER 20, 2014

WATCH OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE FOR PROGRAM DETAILS

HMHS Memberships

The annual membership fee for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society is \$20 for an individual or family. The membership year is January to December. Visit Sandra at the next meeting to purchase or renew your membership - or submit your fee to our mailing address. Membership forms are available at: www.hamiltonheritage.ca.

Test your "Mountain Memories"

In the 1890's, C.C. Bulmer opened an ice-cream parlor at 26 Claremont Drive to serve patrons of the Hamilton and Barton Incline Railway (1895-1931. and hung over the edge of the Mountain for over 70 years. The business was called "Bulmer's Lunch" until 1923 when it was changed to "Bulmer's Lookout Inn". The restaurant has also been known as "Chop Sticks" and "Kuo Kau Kau Restaurant".

The property was expropriated for the Claremont Access in which year?

- a) 1968 b) 1969 c) 1970

The answer is on the last page of this newsletter.



**Saturday, June 7,
2014
11 a.m. until 6 p.m.**

The HMHS will, once again, have a display table at Concession Streetfest. If you can help out for an hour or two (mostly chatting with passers-by and handing out flyers) please contact Sandra at 905-388-3686.

Join us at Chris Charlton's

9th Annual

Canada Day

Concert & BBQ

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

Mountain Park
(Concession at Upper Gage)
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please consider bringing a donation for Neighbour to Neighbour, the Mountain's only food bank.



P.O. Box 60506,
Mtn. Plaza R.P.O.
Hamilton, ON L9C 7N7
hamiltonheritage1@gmail.com

www.hamiltonheritage.ca



Remembering Hill Park Secondary School

**Saturday June 14th
1-5 PM**

Come walk the halls of your Hill Park to say good-bye to Heaven on the Hill

7 PM - Midnight

Raise a toast to Hill Park - Beer & Wine Available
(licensed under the LCBO)

Connect with your fellow Rams!

Both events sponsored by Hill Park Alumni Association



www.hillparkalumni.ca