



# Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 18 Issue 1

January 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.

## The Changing of the Guard: HMHS Style

On January 16, 2014 Robin McKee, long-time member of the Society and well-known local historian became the seventh president of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society.

For the past three years I have been honoured to serve as president of the HMHS, a position I took on with great trepidation. However the support and encouragement of the executive and members has made the experience quite enjoyable.

There have been some changes made over the past three years: some members of the executive retired and new ones came on board, a new format for the newsletter, a Facebook page (how forward thinking for a heritage group!), updated bylaws and new opportunities to extend our reach into the community.

Some traditions have continued: meeting 5 times a year, attending Concession Streetfest and Heritage Comes Home, having a presence at Doors Open, and rewarding members with nominations for Heritage Volunteer Recognition

Awards. The ever-popular June Outings have included a trip to remember T.B. McQuesten and another to ride the train from Waterloo to St. Jacob's and a trip to the market, which sadly burned down weeks later.

Exciting things happened: the naming of the streets surrounding the hospital on the brow to "Nora Frances Henderson Circle" and the imminent unveiling of a plaque to honour Nora; becoming a part of Chris Charlton's Canada Day celebrations at Mountain Drive Park; co-hosting a ceremony at Buchanan Park School to unveil the Society's portrait of Isaac Buchanan, now on loan to the school; the celebration of the Society's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary (complete with balloons and cake). Of particular delight was a visit paid to Mrs. Vida Voelker, widow of Dr. Phillip Voelker the physician posted to Auchmar during WWII, and her family in Waterloo. It was a wonderful chance for Stuart Leslie and Doug Embleton to renew their acquaintance with this lovely lady.

*Continued on back page.*

# The Story of the Henderson Plaque

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Since 2010, when the Henderson Hospital was renamed to recognize the donation of Charles Juravinski to its redevelopment, the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society has made a dedicated effort to keep the Henderson name prominent on the Mountain and pay tribute to the life work of Nora Frances Henderson. It is quite an amazing story of accomplishment, involving many members of our Society. The result of those efforts will be realized as a commemorative plaque is unveiled this fall, preceded by the revealing of a facsimile plaque at the January meeting of the HMHS.

On learning of the loss of the Henderson name, executive member, Pat Saunders volunteered to meet with Hamilton Health Science executives to try and find a way to restore the Henderson name. In the autumn of 2010, the prospects did not appear promising.

At that time HMHS executive member and Chairman of the Joint Plaquing Sub-committee of the Hamilton Historical Board, Bob Williamson, proposed arranging for the city to add an honorary street name of "Henderson Way" in front of the hospital and install a city plaque there as well. Pat Saunders immediately volunteered for the street sign project and quickly received city council support: in fact they went further and named the streets surrounding the hospital "Henderson Circle". HMHS President Lee Gowers volunteered to draft the wording for a Henderson plaque to be submitted to the HHB. The approval of the HMHS membership to pay for the cost involved, gave promise that the plaque would be fast-tracked through the HHB committees, but because of the political nature of the subject, there were still a lot of other hurdles.

Lee was a novice at plaque writing, but rose to the challenge with the experienced research support of Murray Aikman and Robin McKee. However, no one could go too far wrong with Mel Bailey's reliable "Dictionary of Hamilton Biography" as a resource. Nevertheless, producing an interesting story of Henderson's many achievements in a small space with appropriate illustrations requires an expertise in précis writing. There was no shortage of editorial coaching.

The story of the 'Henderson Babies' was something Lee felt was very important and she fought to retain that story line. The difficulty was resolved with the introduction of a picture and caption of one of the last babies born at the Henderson: a delightful visual addition to the plaque.

In its final stages, Bob Williamson, with some positive political brinkmanship had to guide the plaque wording past the Public Relations Department of the hospital and get approval for a placement site. Society and JPSC member, Susanne Noordyk, assisted in this role with photographs of potential sites for consideration by the HHS.

In the end, Pat Saunders' early efforts to encourage the Hamilton Health Sciences to preserve the Henderson name paid off. The only remaining remnant of the Henderson Hospital has been named the Henderson Wing, and the plaque will be placed on Concession Street in front of that building.

*Story submitted by Bob Williamson*

## 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.

**MARCH 20, 2014**

### **BLACK HISTORY ON THE MOUNTAIN**

In 1846, a freeholder named William Kirkendall sold 5 acres of his 62 acre plot of land to transplanted African American clergyman Joseph P. Williams and his wife Violet. This transaction marked the beginnings of a thirty-year period in which a Black community flourished on Hamilton Mountain. Author and historian Adrienne Shadd discusses the myths and realities of what would later be dubbed "Little Africa" by examining who these Black landowners were and why, ultimately, the community did not survive.

**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!

## 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](http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca).

## "Mountain Memories for \$100 Alex!"

At the Barton Crossroads, Mohawk Trail and Caledonia Road, the Hess Inn operated until 1872. Abandoned for many years the property was purchased in 1960 by Philip and Albert van Impe who erected the Millionaire Drive Inn at what is now Canada Trust Square at Upper James and Mohawk Road.

When was the Millionaire Drive Inn torn down?

- a) 1970      b) 1975      c) 1980

*The answer is on the last page of the newsletter. No, there's no cash being handed out!*

## Heritage Comes Home on February 22, 2014

The second floor of City Hall will be the site of this year's Heritage Comes Home event. Local historical and heritage societies will have displays set up starting at 11 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. the ceremony will begin in the Council Chambers. Heritage Volunteer Recognition Awards will be presented along with the Rev. T. Melville Bailey Heritage Award. As well an announcement will be made as to which of Hamilton's greatest citizens will be celebrated on George Hamilton Day this year. (We have heard rumours and think you will be very pleased with the honouree). The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society is pleased to nominate John Reid and John Elliott for awards this year in recognition of their valuable contributions to the Society. Congratulations gentlemen!

### **The Changing of the Guard** *(continued from front page)*

The Society was proud to support initiatives such as the publication of a book about the centennial of the St. John Ambulance in Hamilton, the 'On the Mountain' DVD and a DVD and play about The Battle of Beaver Dams. We also had a presence at the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hill Park and the 50<sup>th</sup> of Westmount. Efforts are now being made to assure that the majority of talks given to the Society deal with Mountain issues: a tip of the hat to our own heritage.

My thanks to past and present members of the executive for the time and energy they spend in making this Society a success. My appreciation goes to the members and others who have attended meetings, helped at events and offered ideas and assistance. I encourage all of you to become more involved with this Society: it is our mutual interest in the heritage of the Mountain that brings us together and will take us into the future.

*Lee Gowers*



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

[www.hamiltonheritage.ca](http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca)



You can learn more about the hotels and inns of the Mountain, as well as Mohawk Trail and Caledonia Road in Mountain Memories. Do you have a copy yet? They are available, along with other publications at every meeting or by contacting the HMHS.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL**

**Fee:** \$20.00 per calendar year. (January to December)

**Hand in OR mail to:** Membership Secretary,  
The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society,  
P. O. Box 60506,  
Mtn. Plaza R.P.O.,  
Hamilton, Ontario L9C 7N7

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Code** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_