



# Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 15 Issue 3

September 2011

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.



HMHS Executive in 2000  
Courtesy M. Aikman

## The HMHS Celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

On September 14, 1996 a group of 20 Hamilton Mountain residents met at the home of Janet and Mel Bailey to share their mutual interest in the heritage of Hamilton Mountain and consider working on individual projects of interest. Among those present were: Murray Aikman, Doug Embleton, Stewart Leslie, Jessie Plater, Jackie Carson, James McKeen, Jim Elliott, Keith Anderson, James Gordon, Colwyn Beynon and Janet and Mel Bailey.

A steering committee was formed and when next they met on November 28, the Society was organized. At this first general meeting, held at Southgate Church, Jackie Carson was the speaker. Jackie served as secretary for eight years. The first executive met in February of 1997: in March the name of the

society was chosen and a membership fee was set. The first on-site talk was held at Auchmar. Sandra Beveridge joined the group and had name tags and a newsletter ready for the meeting in September 1997.

The executive formed in 1998 stayed in place until 2005. Application was made for a charitable number; the first June outing, organized by Margaret Firth, was to Cottonwood Manor and Mel suggested the Society put a book together. June 1999 was the first time the Society participated in Concession Street Fest. In 2000 Doug Embleton presented three 8 mm films and from these came the video 'Auchmar: the War Story'. That year also saw the launch of Mountain Memories at the Hill Park Seniors Centre.

## The HMHS Celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (con't)

In November of 2001 the meetings moved to Olivet United Church, members were nominated for Heritage Awards and planning began for a plaque for Century Manor. In early 2002 the Society decided to support the publication of the Chedoke book and a plaque which was unveiled in 2006.

To celebrate Mel's 90th birthday a joint meeting with the Head-of-the-Lake Society was held at Erskine Church in November 2002. In 2003 he was made the Honourary President of the Society. Bob Williamson was successful in having photos placed in the Mountain News under the heading "Then and Now" and Mel and Stewart Leslie organized papers on the Rymals. In 2005 Mel Bailey passed away and the Society petitioned to have Arcade Park renamed in his honour. The book "Our World's a Stage" was published and the Society launched its website.

The past 5 years have been equally active with June outings, support of the Rise and Fall of Memorial School DVD and a reprint of Mountain Memories. The executive anticipates continued activity and success for one of Hamilton's youngest heritage organizations.

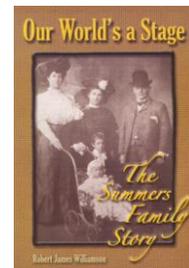
*Murray W. Aikman*

## Do you know?

From 1902 until 1914 the Summers Theatre operated between May and September on the Mountain Brow. The population of Hamilton at this time was 60,000. This open-air theatre had a 700 seat capacity and the ticket price was 30 cents. Access to the theatre from the downtown was via the east end incline.

1. During its best year the theatre sales reached what number?
  - a) 53,000
  - b) 63,000
  - c) 73,000
2. Why did the theatre end productions?

Want to learn more about the Summers Family and their theatre? It's all in "Our World's a Stage", a publication of the HMHS authored by past-president Robert Williamson. The book is available for \$10 from the HMHS.



***Answers to the questions are on the last page!***

## Programme Dates for 2011-2012

Meetings, 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 p.m. and visitors are most welcome.

### **SEPTEMBER 15, 2011      ON THE MOUNTAIN**

You've read about it in the Spec and now you can see it: the new video "On the Mountain". Excerpts from the video will be viewed and the author and producer, Gary Kaulback, will respond to questions about this ambitious local history project.

### **\*\*NOVEMBER 10, 2011      200 YEARS ON THE MOUNTAIN**

***\*\*This meeting will take place in the sanctuary of Barton Stone Church at the corner of Stone Church Road West and Upper James\*\****

Join us as we help Barton Stone United Church celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation on Hamilton Mountain. Learn about the church's rich heritage back to the time of the Rymals and their involvement with the War of 1812.

**JANUARY 19, 2012**

**MARCH 15, 2012**

**MAY 17, 2012**

## Congratulations!

On June 2, 2011, Bob Williamson, a past-president of the HMHS, was inducted into the McMaster Alumni Gallery. This is a prestigious honour conferred by the Alumni Association on McMaster University graduates who have led fascinating and accomplished lives, setting high standards of achievement for McMaster's current students, alumni and the greater community.

## HMHS Memberships

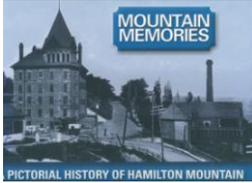
The annual membership fee for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society is \$20 for an individual or family. Visit Sandra at the next meeting to purchase or renew your membership - or submit your fee to our mailing address (see back of newsletter).

**A warm welcome to our newest members:**

Nina & Michael Clements, Matt Colella, Christine & Kevin Lei and Norman & Dixie Leslie

## Mountain Memories

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Looking for a unique Christmas gift? Look no further! In its 4<sup>th</sup> and final printing this lovely hardcover coffee table book sells for \$35 per copy. With over 150 pages and 290 photos this book is a 'must have'. Visit the publication table at the next general meeting or call Pat at 905.383.1308.

Also available:

Barton on the Mountain-by Mabel Burkholder-\$10

Reproduction maps of Wentworth County (1875) - \$10

Auchmar: the War Story, a DVD - \$15

## Do you remember?

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A school located on the south-east corner of Upper Wellington and Mohawk Road? Built in 1927 the school was originally Union School Section No. 3, as it served Ancaster, Barton and Glanford Townships. In 1952 it was transferred to the Board of Education for the City of Hamilton when the area south of Mohawk Road was annexed into the city. Administratively it was under the responsibility of the principal of the new (1954) Norwood Park School and was renamed "Twin School". When the new Ridgemount School was built 50 years ago this year, the students were transferred to that building. The old structure was torn down to be replaced by a supermarket. Unfortunately there don't seem to be any photos of the school. Do you remember the school? Do you have any photos?

Our thanks to John Aikman, Manager, Educational Archives & Heritage Centre of the HWDSB.

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