

Bruce County Historical Notes



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History shows: trying to annex Canada is doomed

By John C. Carter

You've heard of President Trump calling for annexing Canada as the 51st state. As a historian, I can tell you that any such attempt is doomed to failure. Over and over, Canadians have driven off American invaders.

For starters, take the War of 1812. It began in July 1812 when an American army crossed the Detroit River and occupied Sandwich (Windsor), only to abandon it and return to Detroit when supply lines were cut off by Tecumseh and his alliance of First Nations warriors.

It was the first of many incursions into Canadian territory. The United States launched these invasions based on long-standing differences with Great Britain such as trade restrictions and impressment of sailors. Underlying these reasons was its desire to expand in North America, in fact to annex some or all of Canada (then Upper Canada and Lower Canada).

For over two years the hostilities continued. There was the Battle of the Thames, where Tecumseh was killed; the attack across the Niagara River and the defeat at Queenston Heights; the burning of York (Toronto); Laura Secord's 20-mile trek through enemy lines to warn the British of an impending American attack.

When the smoke cleared and a peace treaty was signed, over two years of war had yielded no change—



American General William Hull (right) surrenders his sword, and Detroit, to British General Isaac Brock, Aug. 16, 1812. Tecumseh looks on, far left.



John Carter on CTV-Calgary

Four minutes of fame

BCHS Director John Carter's four minutes of fame started when his story "Trying to annex Canada is doomed" went out on March 12. (Every month the Society emails an article on historical topics to local media.) It appeared at web sites like *Shoreline Beacon* and *Saugeen Times*.

In Calgary, CTV noticed and sent a note asking if John was available for a Zoom interview on their morning show. And so on March 20, for four minutes, John answered questions from news anchor Jefferson Humphreys on CTV Morning Live. CTV-Calgary then posted the interview at its web site (no longer visible).

A related article appeared in *The Atlantic* on March 15: "Invading Canada Is Not Advisable". It covered the same failed invasions as John Carter.

the U.S. failed to annex one square inch of Canadian soil.

The following years saw more invasions, only this time the aggressors were a private group not sanctioned by the government. The "Patriots" were groups of armed men on both sides of the border seeking to overthrow British rule in Upper Canada and set up a republican government. They believed Canadians would join them but in fact much of the Canadian population was loyal to British institutions and decidedly against overthrowing them.

During the Patriot War at least 19 armed incursions



Ready to defend his country from Fenian invaders, Private Absalom G. Allison (far right) served with militia volunteers from Brighton, Canada West. (Period tintype, Sue Allison, Shallow Lake)

from the U.S. into Upper Canada were recorded between December 1837 and December 1838.

For example, William Lyon Mackenzie and a group of armed men occupied Navy Island in the Niagara River in December 1837 and declared the island the Republic of Canada. Up to 500 volunteers joined them, to no avail. A heavy bombardment by the British persuaded the invaders to retreat to Buffalo, where they were captured by the U.S. Army.

Again, in January 1838 the Patriots shelled Fort Malden and Amherstburg from the schooner "Anne". After she grounded, Canadian militia opened fire and captured the vessel and crew. Then in February, Patriots from Navy Island and Ohio occupied and held Pelee Island until they were driven out by British and Canadian forces.

Other losses followed. Not convinced by these defeats, in December an armed group of Patriot invaders crossed the river from Detroit and took possession of Windsor. Again they were routed by loyalist forces. This was the last incursion in the Patriot War.

These and other attempts to conquer Canada failed miserably. Which brings us to the Fenian raids of 1866 and 1870.

Fenians were a group of Irish-Americans, many

of whom were battle-hardened veterans of the Civil War. They invaded Canada, intending to seize territory that they could trade to Britain in exchange for Irish independence.

On June 1, 1866 over 1,000 Fenians crossed the Niagara River and captured Fort Erie, but fled to Buffalo at the approach of large numbers of Canadian militia and British soldiers.

Further raids followed, all unsuccessful. 1,000 Fenians marched into Pigeon Hill, Canada East in 1866 but Canadian forces chased them out the next day.

In June 1866 volunteer companies from Bruce and Huron counties rallied to repel an "imminent" attack by Fenians from Chicago. They drilled in Goderich for four weeks, then went home when it was clear the Fenians weren't coming.

Fenians tried again in 1870, crossing the border at Frelighsburg, Quebec, only to be forced back by Canadian forces. Yet another attempt at Huntingdon, Quebec was repulsed quickly.

The Fenian incursions set off a wave of patriotic feeling, uniting the provinces against threatened invasion, and were one of the factors leading to Confederation in 1867.



Canadian General Service Medal with Fenian Raid 1866 bar, awarded to Absalom G. Allison for his service defending Canada West from the Fenian threat. (Sue Allison, Shallow Lake)

None of these armed attempts to violate Canadian sovereignty were successful, ending only in defeat for the Americans.

The military defeats didn't stop inflammatory writers from stirring the pot of annexation. In 1854 you could read about the "Annexation of Canada" in papers like the *New York Daily Tribune* and *Putnam's Monthly Magazine*. Their argument was based on their belief in Manifest Destiny, that the United States was morally destined to expand and bring republican government to the whole of North America.

From the 1840s through to Confederation, further attempts to annex Canada surfaced in the form of public meetings, circulation of petitions, threat of trade wars and tariffs, and frequent editorials in border state American newspapers—all to no avail.

Less hostile and more co-operative bilateral initiatives actually bore fruit.

The original Reciprocity Treaty was negotiated, agreed to, and operated between 1854-66. This measure eliminated custom tariffs and resulted in an increase in trade between the two countries.

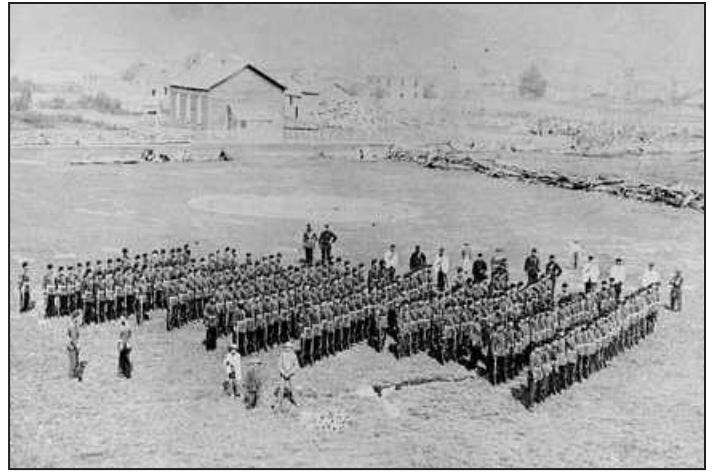
Similar treaties were replaced in 1948 by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, itself replaced in 1992 by the North American Free Trade Agreement, now in its second iteration.

Other successful joint projects began as early as 1853. In that year work began in Michigan to build the Soo Locks. They were completed and opened in 1855. The Sault Ste. Marie Canal was built in 1895. Both of these initiatives improved shipping on the Great Lakes. A more modest shipping improvement occurred at the St. Clair Flats, starting in the 1860s. Both nations contributed to work and funding to facilitate a better route between Lake Huron and the Detroit River.

The St. Lawrence Seaway proved to be the largest such joint venture. Construction began in 1954, and the Seaway was opened in 1959.

Co-operation has proved to be of mutual benefit to both Canada and the United States. No annexation was required.

President Trump appears not to understand nor care about an independent Canada, nor Canadians and their sovereignty. Perhaps he should? His bellicose annexationist rhetoric is doomed to fail.



Local militia drill at Owen Sound in 1866 to counter Fenian raids. (Grey Roots Owen Sound, 1972.008.010)

Faced with President Trump and his threats to annex Canada, all I can say is, we've seen it all before, and it didn't work.

Dr. John C. Carter is the Bruce Peninsula Director for the Bruce County Historical Society, and very proud to be a Canadian. He can be contacted at drjohnrcarter@bell.net.

Recommended reading

- "Annexation of Canada," [Syracuse, N.Y.] *Standard* (July 8, 1846)
- "Annexation," *Amherstburg* [C.W.] *Courier* (March 3, 1849)
- "Benefits of Annexation to Canada," [Goderich, C.W.] *Huron Signal* (Nov. 22, 1849)
- "Annexation of Canada to the United States," [London, C.W.] *Western Globe* (Nov. 29, 1849)
- "Annexation of Canada," *New York Daily Tribune* (Jan. 26, 1854)
- "Annexation," *Putnam's Monthly Magazine* (Feb. 1854), v. 3, #14
- "Canada and Annexation," *Sarnia* [C.W.] *Observer* (Oct. 16, 1863)
- "Annexation," *Paisley* [C.W.] *Advocate* (June 2, 1865)
- "Another Fenian Scare," *Pittsburgh* [Pa.] *Daily Post* (May 9, 1866)
- "Canadian Annexation," *Paisley* [C.W.] *Advocate* (Aug. 10, 1866)
- "Annexation Whether or Not," [Goderich, C.W.] *Huron Signal* (Dec. 6, 1866)
- Clarence O. Lewis, "Hunter Lodges Sought Annexation of Canada," *Lockport* [N.Y.] *Union-Sun & Journal* (Dec. 24, 1962)



"The War of 1812" stamp, issued June 15, 2012.

Aunt Arlene to the rescue

By G. William Streeter, July 23, 2024

Lately, I have been thinking about my Aunt Arlene quite often [Arlene Margaret Streeter, 1918–1997]. She designed the WWII plaque on the memorial cairn at the corner of High and Huron streets in Southampton. The plaque was manufactured at Rahn Metals in North Bay, where her husband was one of the owners. His name was Ervin Pennock, but we all called him Uncle Penny.

Aunt Arlene had met Uncle Penny at Niagara-on-the-Lake where she was a driver in the Canadian Women's Army Corps in WWII, and he was a young Lieutenant in the Algonquin Regiment. But he was also a singer/piano player. They fell in love and after his training ended, they married, before he shipped out for Europe.



Street banner in Chesley.

Two of her brothers also served, including my dad George and my uncle Les. It was a big deal in quiet little Chesley to have three from the same family enlist, with one being a woman.

But as the rules said that women in the military were not allowed to be married, she was immediately discharged. And yes, here is her discharge photo.

Well, there was never any dust on Aunt Arlene. She went to North Bay and set up her home



Arlene Margaret Streeter

to await the return of Uncle Penny.

When he got back from the war, two sons arrived in a short time and Uncle Penny had returned to the foundry close to the shore of Lake Nipissing where they produced bronze, brass and copper parts for the mining industry in northern Ontario and Quebec.

After the war, there quickly became a demand for bronze plaques for cenotaphs and memorial parks and parkettes. And Aunt Arlene became the salesperson for Rahn Metals, pursuing this business with municipalities and Legions across Canada. One of these was the Southampton Legion, which was planning to create a new memorial area away from the Town Hall and it became the little spot on the end of the boulevard at the corner of High and Huron that we have today.

Dad and mom and my younger siblings went to North Bay for a summer visit and returned with the plaque lying in the trunk of the big old family Chrysler.

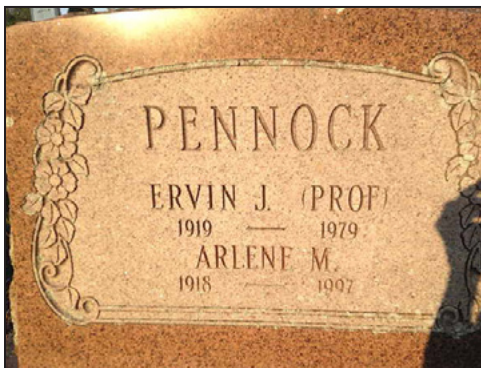
Back in the late 1940s Aunt Arlene was heralded for

exceptional bravery when she saved three small children from death in a house fire. This morning, I was going through a box of old "stuff" and found this tattered and torn news bit from the *North Bay Nugget* daily newspaper. It tells most of the story but not all. The interview in the story typified the person she was. "Any mother would have done the same," she said. She was the recipient of a National Award for exceptional bravery and for risking her own life.

Her obituary in 1997 included a long list of North Bay organizations where she played a leadership role: president of the Kinette Club, Worthy Grand Matron of the Eastern Star, Regent of I.O.D.E., president of the Lioness Club and an active member of the Cancer Society for more than 30 years.

And she loved Southampton. In the 1990s, after she was widowed, she would always visit Gail at our cottage for a couple of weeks each summer. And I would make sure to get some time off. It was always "Let's get going" time for Aunt Arlene. Every day was an adventure.

For sure, Aunt Arlene made a difference. She touched many and will long be remembered for her caring attitude to all.



Pennock gravestone

From the *North Bay Nugget*

"I tried to enter through the front door, but the room at the front of the house was a mass of flames," she said. "I could hear the children crying and screaming, and I was nearly frantic. Finally I ran around to the back of the house, and I guess I must have broken the latch on the door, I threw myself against it hard.

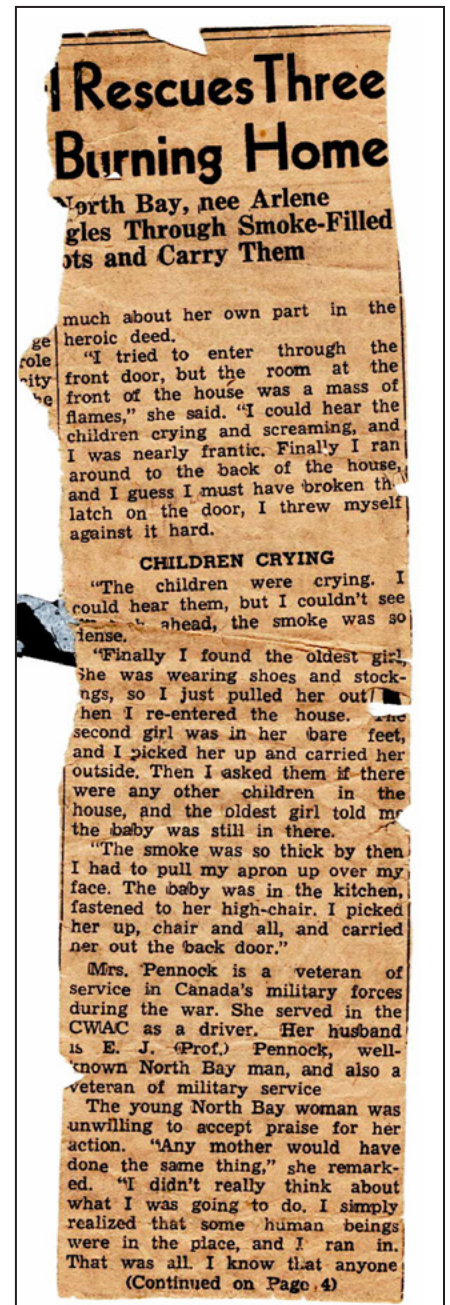
"The children were crying. I could hear them, but I couldn't see [] ahead, the smoke was so dense.

"Finally I found the oldest girl. She was wearing shoes and stockings, so I just pulled her out. Then I re-entered the house. The second girl was in her bare feet, and I picked her up and carried her outside. Then I asked them if there were any other children in the house, and the oldest girl told me the baby was still in there.

"The smoke was so thick by then I had to pull my apron up over my face. The baby was in the kitchen, fastened to her high-chair. I picked her up, chair and all, and carried her out the back door."

Mrs. Pennock is a veteran of service in Canada's military forces during the war. She served in the CWAC as a driver. Her husband is E.J. (Prof.) Pennock, well-known North Bay man, and also a veteran of military service.

The young North Bay woman was unwilling to accept praise for her action. "Any mother would have done the same thing," she remarked. "I didn't really think about what I was going to do. I simply realized that some human beings were in the place, and ran in."



A yellowing fragment from the North Bay Nugget.

King Charles medals for Bruce County volunteers



By Robin Hilborn

A number of Bruce County community leaders and volunteers have been recognized with the King Charles III Coronation Medal. The medal marks the king's coronation on May 6, 2023. Canada issued 30,000 medals, awarding them to members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Public Service, and to people who made significant contributions to their communities. Among the recipients are:

- **Julianne Hull**, for serving vulnerable people for over 40 years as a travelling nurse on the Bruce Peninsula. She teaches at Georgian College, focusing on compassionate care, and volunteers at Community Living in the Wiarton area.

- **Scarlett Janusas**, a marine archaeologist based in Tobermory, for her advocacy of preserving marine heritage sites. The author of *The Tobermory Wireless Station* (2021), she has conducted many underwater projects and cultural heritage assessments. She served as president of the Ontario Marine Heritage Committee for ten years and was principal archaeologist for the Prehistoric Submerged Shoreline study north of Tobermory.



Scarlett Janusas



Pat O'Connor

- **Pat O'Connor** of Southampton, for significant contributions to Saugeen Shores. A well-known Rotarian, he is a benefit auctioneer helping local charities fundraise, and volunteers on the Saugeen Shores Police Services Board, Committee of Adjustment, Parks and Trails committee and Marine Heritage Society.

- **Owen Riegling** of Mildmay, for his remarkable achievements in the Canadian music industry, including winning multiple Canadian Country Music Association awards and earning a Juno Award nomination in 2025, for Breakout Artist of the Year.

- **Laura Robinson** of Southampton, a sports journalist and author of *Crossing the Line: Sexual Assault in Canada's National Sport* (1998). In August 2021 she was on the team that helped women Afghan athletes escape the Taliban and re-settle in Canada. She is a three-time Ontario cycling champion, 1979 Ontario and Canadian rowing champion, an active cyclist and a founder of the Southampton Cultural Heritage Conservancy.



Laura Robinson

- **Muriel Shular**, for her seven years of dedicated volunteer work at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre in Southampton. Director Cathy McGirr said, "Muriel's unwavering commitment to volunteering, her ability to engage and inspire others, and her passion for supporting our mission make her truly deserving of this honour".



Muriel Shular

- **Joseph Vanderzand**, for his longtime volunteer and community advocacy work. He led the Wiarton Cenotaph Mural Committee and was an organizer of the Wiarton Homecoming, vice-president of the Wiarton legion and president of the Chamber of Commerce.



Front Range Light repairs, 2022 (Nancy Calder)

Marine Heritage Society award

In October 2024 the **Marine Heritage Society** (MHS) in Southampton was honoured with the Peter Stokes Restoration Award from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, for restoring the Front Range Light, built at the Saugeen River mouth in 1903. After heavy damage during the winter of 2019-20, the MHS team of volunteers, with community support, meticulously restored the historic lighthouse, preserving as much original material as possible. They examined 1902-03 blueprints and photos, then tackled interior condensation, rot and pests with a membrane to stop water but allow humidity out, backed up by increased ventilation.

Handling lead paint was tricky, requiring careful removal to prevent toxic flakes from landing in the lake and fish habitat. Respecting history, the team conserved the angled wooden soffit, outside deck, original railings and the formed tin roof. However, the water-worn cedar shingles had to be replaced with 3,700 tapered cedar shakes, hand-painted by volunteers.

Vicki Tomori honoured

In May 2024 MHS board member **Vicki Tomori** was awarded the June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism in Ontario. The award from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism recognizes people who demonstrate leadership, innovation and a strong commitment to volunteerism. It's presented to



Vicki Tomori (Wayne Kaufman)

only 14 people annually.

Vicki Tomori is the longest-serving original member of MHS, active since the founding in 1997, and also serves on the Propeller Club. The award recognizes her exceptional dedication to volunteerism and her significant contributions to the local community. MHS chair Wayne Kaufman underscored her commitment to marine heritage. "Vicki is a force of nature. From her foundational role over 25 years ago, to her teamwork today, she continues to advance the Marine Heritage Society through her collaboration, engaging the public, fundraising, working with other community groups, and much more."

Among her many projects Tomori organizes the daily boat tours to Chantry Island (chantryisland.com), which were launched in 2001. MHS volunteers started to restore the Chantry Island Lighthouse keeper's cottage in 1998. The Society runs the Marine Heritage Festival every July, the weekly Artisans and Tastes Market, maintains Pioneer Park at the Saugeen River mouth, staffs the tour base in the harbour and operates the Boat House workshop to maintain the tour boat and other infrastructure.

Award for conservation advocate

Southampton resident and heritage advocate **Sheila Latham** was honoured with the 2024 Heritage Conservation Award, presented annually by Saugeen Shores.

At a Sept. 9, 2024 council meeting, councillor Cheryl Grace praised Latham's "leadership in preserving and enhancing the cultural and built heritage of the community."

Grace said, "Sheila's efforts have been instrumental in assisting with the designation process of heritage buildings in Saugeen Shores. Her meticulous research and presentation has supported property owners with recent designation applications for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Southampton, 697 Market Street in Port Elgin, the Southampton Lawn Bowling Club and 117 Huron St. South in Southampton."

The councillor pointed out that Latham had created a template for applying for a building designation which she gave to the town web site for public use. "This step-by-step template is an invaluable tool that will aid the designation process for years to come, take the guesswork out of how to prepare an application and could be used as a model throughout the province."

A founding member of the Southampton Cultural Heritage Conservancy (southamptonheritage.org), Latham serves as editor of its newsletter and Facebook page.



Sheila Latham

Peace on earth, good wool to all!

By Melisa Luymes, Aug. 12, 2024

A farm near Tiverton is continuing a life the original owners started for it, even now that they are gone.

Eugene Bourgeois passed away in his home on Sept. 16, 2020, just four months after Ann Bourgeois, his beloved wife of 49 years, lost her long battle with cancer. They had met at university and were inseparable since then. Ann was a teacher and Eugene was a philosophy student, when they moved from Waterloo to a small farm property near Lake Huron with their three children in 1974. Just across from Inverhuron Provincial Park, they built a home and barn, raised sheep and grew the wool business in Ontario in a substantial way. Their work as **The Philosopher's Wool Company** made them a beloved hub for the local community.



Their house is a gorgeous red brick, built in the style of local farm houses but with playful, geometric twists, timber-framed additions and wrap-around porches. When Eugene and Ann first moved to the property, they transported an original log cabin from a neighbouring farm and lived in it like pioneers themselves while Eugene built the rest of the house around it.

Ann taught in Ripley, Eugene worked on local farms with the Amish community especially and the couple saved every penny to build up the property.

Ann had first taken up knitting on a teaching exchange to Scotland which is where she learned the Fair Isle method, which she went on to simplify and teach as the Two-Handed Fair Isle Method. When Eugene brought his raw wool to a Toronto market one day and sold it for \$0.30/lb but then bought some yarn (on sale!) for Ann for \$22/lb, he realized the opportunity in processing.

He raised Dorset sheep, kept clean and shorn only once a year for longer fibres and higher lanolin content. The couple took the wool down to Texas every winter for cleaning and then to the Maritimes to be naturally

dyed. They taught knitting courses near and far and created new patterns along the way; these are included in their knitting book, *Fair Isle Sweaters Simplified*. In the prime of the business, Philosopher's Wool Co. sold 73 colours of yarn, including some that they called "BBQ colours", because they were dyed in vats of KoolAid on their barbeque.

Eugene had written in his will that the land was to be used for the benefit of the community and he had made it clear to his friends that he didn't want the land to be sold. In the last two years a group of Eugene and Ann's friends have pulled Philosopher's Wool Co. back together. Jim and Lynne Young, Tessa Gerling and Marti McFadzean have formed a board and operate the on-farm store as a social enterprise, volunteering their time and aiming to invest profits back into the community. The Philosopher's Wool Co. profit-sharing model became a case study for sustainable business at Harvard.

After several months of discussion, it has just been announced that the farm has been donated to the Ontario Farmland Trust (OFT, ontariofarmlandtrust.ca) for it to protect in perpetuity. OFT was Canada's first provincial-wide agricultural land trust.

OFT will be hosting community engagement sessions in the Tiverton/Inverhuron area to get a better understanding of how best to use Eugene and Ann's land. It could be a community garden, it could support the local food bank, it could support new farmers for the first years building their business, perhaps it would even see livestock again.

When Ann was diagnosed around 2006, Eugene soon sold the sheep and the business was put on the backburner as he cared for her in their home, especially in the last year of their lives.

"Maybe some knowledge was lost," says Tessa, "but the biggest loss is their spirits that made this place so special and that is why we are determined to carry it on." She was a neighbour to Eugene and Ann in her childhood and looked up to them as grandparents.

It was written on their hearts and around their home: "Peace on Earth, Good Wool to All." Eugene and Ann's property is a testament to their creativity, talent and generosity.

The Philosopher's Store (philosopherswool.ca) is on the farm and open every Saturday 10-5 or by appointment. For their environmental work, see pweepreserve.ca. Excerpted from the Blyth, Ont. magazine Rural Voice (ruralvoice.ca), celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2025.

NEWS BRIEFS



ROV Kiyi with Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick

AGM goes underwater—At our General Meeting on Nov. 2, 2024 at Wiarton Propeller Club we learned how the wreck of the steamer *Africa* was found, from the discoverers themselves: Yvonne Drebert and Zach Melnick of Miller Lake. An audience of 60 enjoyed the footage of the discovery of *Africa* in June 2023 and could inspect Kiyi, the remotely-operated underwater camera they used to make the documentary “All Too Clear: Beneath the Surface of the Great Lakes”, on the effect of the quagga mussel invasion.

Anne Goeden, who excels at table decorations for our annual meetings, had crafted centrepieces depicting the sunken *Africa*, consisting of a glass globe holding blue water and a tiny ship mired in a sandy bottom. Zach Melnick was impressed with the tiny replica, as it was based on the only photo of *Africa* as a bulk carrier. It was made by a friend of Anne Goeden with a 3-D printer.

After their collaboration with *Canadian Geographic* Yvonne and Zach were inducted into the Royal Canadian Geographical Society’s *College of Fellows* in November 2024.

Zach Melnick has an honours B.A. in Multimedia, Theatre and Film from McMaster University. Yvonne Drebert has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Ontario College of Art & Design. They have worked on over a dozen feature-length documentary films over the past 20 years, including *The Land Between* (2012), *A Desert Between Us & Them* (2013), *The Bruce* (2018) and *Striking Balance* (2021), all of which were broadcast on TVOntario.

Historic church—Pioneer settlers built the oldest church in Bruce County in 1859, on the banks of the Saugeen River (on what is today the River Road). Dunblane Presbyterian Church holds a service just once a year, on the first Sunday in August (this year, Aug. 3).

Museum’s 70th—In 2025 the Bruce County Museum celebrates its 70th anniversary—on the web at brucemuseum.ca/70-years-of-stories-and-memories.

Saugeen First Nation owns North Sauble Beach

Beach—On Dec. 9, 2024 the Court of Appeal for Ontario ruled that Saugeen First Nation is indeed the rightful owner of 1.4 miles of Sauble Beach shoreline which was mis-surveyed 170 years ago. The Court upheld the April 3, 2023 ruling by Superior Court Justice Susan Vella that SFN owns the stretch of beach north of Main Street to 6th Street North. She found that Treaty 72 (1854), which surrendered most of the Bruce Peninsula, promised SFN 9.5 miles of shoreline, and not the 8.1 miles created when the surveyor, Charles Rankin, failed to follow the boundary instructions in the treaty. “The rights of the Saugeen people have been vindicated. After generations of struggle this is a victory that belongs to our entire community,” said Saugeen First Nation Chief Conrad Ritchie on Dec. 9. “Our relationship with our lands and waters is central to our way of life, and Sauble beach, known to us as Chi-Gmiinh, is an integral part of our community.”



Welcome sign at Main Street, Sauble Beach

Fish kill at Bruce Power—The chiefs of Saugeen Ojibway Nation are investigating how to mitigate the loss of a large number of fish—estimated in the millions—at Bruce A nuclear generating station, operated by Bruce Power. SON’s Mar. 21, 2025 update said that starting in late January schools of gizzard shad were attracted by the warm water from the discharge channels at Bruce A, and became trapped in the water intake. The blockage forced one reactor offline for a week and a half in order to remove the clog. Bruce Power wrote in a news release on Mar. 21, “Gizzard Shad have been reported along the shoreline as far north as the Sauble River and as far south as Goderich, indicating this could be a population level event. Large numbers of Gizzard Shad have been observed in Lake Huron including around Bruce Power; this is likely due to their high rate of reproduction and warmer lake water temperatures in the last couple of years”.

Museum gets upgrades—In June 2024 Bruce County council approved restoration work on two buildings at the Bruce County Museum and Cultural Centre in

Southampton—the 1878 schoolhouse (restoring wood cladding and brickwork) and the 19th century log cabin. The old school building served as the original Bruce County museum when it opened in 1955. Today it houses the Archives and the Bruce Power theatre. The log home was built in Kinloss Township in the 1850s and moved to the museum in 1958 after it was bought by the Women's Institutes of Bruce County.

Archives Awareness—Once again the Society sponsored the annual Archives Awareness Week at the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre, April 7–12, 2025. Admission to the Archives was free. April 12 featured speaker Kent Kraemer on **Bruce in Battle: Life in the 160th Battalion**. Ken founded the 160th Bruce Battalion Facebook page.

Music Hall of Fame finds a home—After losing everything in a fire at their HQ in the Hepworth Legion (see *Historical Notes*, April 2024), the Bruce Grey Music Hall of Fame held a grand opening on June 23, 2024 at its new home, the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 6, in Owen Sound. Meanwhile, a ribbon-cutting on Nov. 2, 2024 in Hepworth marked the official opening of the new Hepworth-Shallow Lake Royal Canadian Legion, on the same spot as the old one.



New Hepworth Legion

Still a grave situation—Saugeen Shores council can't get help from the Ontario government to stop the erosion of Pioneer Cemetery. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism told council it doesn't have any grants to help with moving graves back from the brink. (See our article in *Historical Notes*, April 2024.)

Time capsule—The town of Saugeen Shores has listed the contents of its 25th anniversary time capsule, sealed on Aug. 11, 2024 and due to be placed in the Aquatic and Wellness Centre. It includes copies of documents such as the booklet "Destination Saugeen Shores", a 2002 yearbook from Saugeen District Senior School, a *Shoreline Beacon* newspaper and Robin Hilborn's book *Guide to Old Southampton*.

IPM 2026—On its 50th anniversary the International Plowing Match (plowingmatch.org/ipm2026) returns to Bruce County from Sept. 22 to 26, 2026. It's on the same site 5 km west of Walkerton where the match was held in 1976 and 1993. The Bruce County Historical Society will be there—we'll need volunteers to help with our booth, but more on that later.

New warden—Luke Charbonneau, mayor of Saugeen Shores, has been acclaimed as Bruce County warden for the 2024-2025 term, at the county council meeting in Walkerton on Dec. 5, 2024. It's his first term as warden.

In his inaugural address, Charbonneau highlighted the contributions of local farm families, the tourism industry, and the clean nuclear sector to Ontario's economy.



Luke Charbonneau

He emphasized maintaining respectful relationships with the Saugeen Anishinabek and collaborating on the county's Reconciliation Action Plan. Murray expressed his eagerness to work alongside Charbonneau and ensure the success of the Bruce C project.

New director—The newest member of our Board, **Angela Gunn**, Director at Large, is originally from Sauble Beach. Angela developed educational programming throughout Saugeen Shores before obtaining her Applied Research archaeological license from the province of Ontario. She provided archaeological research, training, and fieldwork services primarily for the Saugeen Ojibway Nation for over a decade. She currently works in the energy sector and remains an advocate for cultural and natural heritage. She is a member of the Ontario Archaeological Society, the Ontario Historical Society, and the Ontario Museum Association. She also holds a Board seat for the Owen Sound Emancipation Festival.

Membership cards—To save trees, and the printing cost, the Society will no longer issue membership cards. N.B.: if you see (2024) on the address label on this newsletter, it's time to renew. (See the note on page 12.)

Contribute to the BCHS Yearbook—Editor Bill Stewart welcomes articles for our annual *Yearbook*. Help preserve your community's history—write from your own experience, or rely on research or other sources. Topics may include events, organizations, businesses, places, people, reminiscences about days gone by. Deadline for the 2026 *Yearbook* is mid-July 2025, but Bill accepts articles year-round, at willstew@bmts.com.

YouTube Channel for BCHS—You can find the Society's videos at www.bit.ly/3tsnvDU or by searching for "Bruce County Historical Society" at *YouTube.com*.

BCHS accepts donations—Make a donation to the Society and help preserve the history of Bruce County. Tax receipts will be issued. Send your cheque to: Bruce County Historical Society, 33A Victoria St. N., Southampton ON N0H 2L0. Donations may also be made by e-transfer to bchs1957@gmail.com.

COMING EVENTS

Bruce County Historical Society

brucecountyhistory.on.ca, facebook.com/BruceCountyHS
Register for events at bchsregister@gmail.com

Aug. 11, 2025. Authors Night. 7 p.m. Bruce County Museum Theatre, Southampton. Talks by Bruce County authors: Jennifer Frankum (*The Position of My Heart*); Paul White (*Shipwrecks, Parks & Sawmills*); Willy Waterton and Audrey Armstrong (*Orchids of Bruce & Grey*). Free admission. Wine and cheese; cash bar. In collaboration with the Bruce County Genealogical Society.

Aug. 15-17, 2025. Bruce County Heritage Farm and Steam Show. Paisley, Ont. Displays by Bruce County Historical Society and Bruce County Genealogical Society. We'll need volunteers to help out; contact Anne Goeden, annegoeden@gmail.com.

Oct. 25, 2025. Annual General Meeting. Lucknow Legion, 12–3 p.m. **Kent Kraemer** will speak on the 160th Bruce Battalion. Dinner. See details in the September newsletter.

Bruce County Genealogical Society

brucecountygenealogicalsociety.ca, bcswebinars@gmail.com and Facebook

May 12, 2025. "The Old Woman Went Along". Webinar, 7 p.m. via Zoom. Dianne Brydon speaks on elderly migration in the 1800s: the impact of migration on seniors who travelled and on those left behind. Register at bit.ly/2025-05-12-DianneBrydon-BCGS.

June 9, 2025. John D. Reid of Anglo-Celtic Connections (anglocelticconnections.ca) will speak on "Weather's Role in Your Family's Story". 7 p.m., via Zoom. Find weather data for Bruce County; include it in your research. To

register: bit.ly/2025-06-09-JohnDReid-BCGS.

July 7, 2025. Walk and Talk Tour: Two Cemeteries. Walkerton. 7–8:30 p.m. Meet at Presbyterian Pioneer Cemetery, drive to Anglican Pioneer Cemetery. Request details from bcswebinars@gmail.com.

Aug. 11, 2025. Authors Night. Presented with the Bruce County Historical Society (see at left).

Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre

brucemuseum.ca, 519-797-2080

May 3, 2025. Break Out of the Bruce: Bus Trip to Stratford. 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Bus excursion to see Shakespeare's "As You Like It." \$85. Preregistration required.

May 15–Sept. 1, 2025. Disheveling! An ExtraordinHAIRY Exhibition. Hairy creatures show off their whiskers, fur and hair.

May 15, 2025. Opening Night, Disheveling. Bruce Power theatre, 5–8 p.m. Try on wigs; make hairy crafts. RSVP.

May 31–Sept. 1, 2025. Homage: Inspired by Outstanding Canadian Women. Donald Stuart's nationally touring collection of 41 framed neckpieces celebrating the stories of Canadian women. Exhibit Opening, May 31, 2–4 p.m.; free; RSVP.

June 7, 2025. Museums are a Drag! 7–9:30 p.m. In Pride Month, an evening with drag artists Nikki Chin, Sapphyre Poison and Rachael Temptation. Ages 19+. Light refreshments; cash bar. \$40 members; \$50 non-members.

June 27, 2025. Indo-Persian Baking Workshop. 2–3:30 p.m. Great Canadian Baking Show contestant Niv Menon-Saberi will teach guests how to make Persian and Indian festive treats; chai tasting. Ages 18+. \$70 members; \$80 non-members. Preregistration required.

July 11, 2025. Donald Stuart: Artist Talk. 7–8:30 p.m. The Canadian gold/silversmith leads a tour of the **Homage** exhibit (see above). Free.

Application for BCHS Membership

Name: _____ Type: Annual - \$20 Life - \$500

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date: _____ I would also like to make a donation of: \$ _____

Complete form, select type of membership and make cheque payable to "Bruce County Historical Society".

Mail to: Joyce Osborne, Membership Director, Box 298, Ripley, ON N0G 2R0

As a member, you contribute to the preservation of Bruce County heritage. See brucecountyhistory.on.ca for more information on the Society's goals and mandate, and the benefits of membership.



Museum donation now online

In 2021 the Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre received a gift of 525 pieces of art by Alan Weinstein.

Now 141 works are shown in colour in an online 327-page book, "Alan Weinstein: The Bruce County Collection 1970-2015". It's at brucemuseum.ca/exhibit/alan-weinstein-the-bruce-county-collection-1970-2015.

Weinstein grew up in Toronto and taught at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1969, while on sabbatical, he and his wife Nina Barragan found a farm near Teeswater, fixed up the farmhouse and converted the barn into a painting, printing and pottery studio.

They have owned the Teeswater farm for over 50 years, spending summers there and the rest of the year in Iowa City, Iowa.

Weinstein's work is influenced by Modernism, a movement pioneered by William Ronald and the Painters Eleven in 1954. His pieces have been widely exhibited and hold an esteemed place within the fine arts community.

Membership renewal

A friendly reminder to check your membership status on the address label on this newsletter. If you see (2024) on the label, it's time to renew.

- Annual Memberships: \$20 each
- Life Memberships: \$500 each

Please join or renew by submitting your membership fees or questions to:

• Joyce Osborne, Membership Secretary, Box 298, Ripley ON N0G 2R0

• Email: janlea@hurontel.on.ca

• Payment can also be made by e-transfer to bchs1957@gmail.com

For memberships mailed to the U.S., please pay in U.S. funds.

Contribute to the BCHS Yearbook—Don't forget to send Bill Stewart your articles for the 2026 BCHS Yearbook. Bill accepts email at willstew@bmts.com.

Full-colour newsletters available by e-mail

To receive a PDF copy of BCHS newsletters, and enjoy colour images, contact President Dorne Fitzsimmons at dcf@bmts.com



Bruce County Historical Society

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Annual membership in the Bruce County Historical Society is \$20