

A Word from the NHSAO Board

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Summer has finally arrived and sites are in full swing welcoming visitors! So we wish everyone a prosperous season!

The board would like to thank and say good bye to Bahram Amini for his assistance in planning various initiatives and keeping us on our toes and to welcome Jason Harvey as our new student coordinator. Jason is a student in the Master of Museum Studies program at the University of Toronto. His knowledge, skills and passion will be an asset to the alliance. Jason has an office in the new Ministry of Tourism and Culture location on Bay St. We are very appreciative to the Ministry for providing office space, and mentoring for our students.

The Ministry of Tourism and Culture was consulting on a draft guide for the conservation and protection of heritage places of worship in Ontario. The intended audience will include owners and site managers of heritage places of worship, municipal councils and staff, and heritage organizations. The board submitted comments to the draft guide and hopefully the Ministry will respond favourably.

As we try to increase the awareness of the Alliance, an ad was placed in the Ontario Heritage Matters with the Ontario Heritage Trust. This publication is produced quarterly with 20,000 distribution and 6,000 are subscriptions.

Since the Historic Gardens workshop was quite successful, Brian Malcolm from Parkwood NHS submitted a grant application to the Cultural Strategic Investment Fund to work with the NHSAO and the Ontario Garden Tourism Coalition to create a historic garden week for 2012 as an auxiliary tour for the War of 1812 events. So we will keep you posted!

We would like to thank Sally Gibson, our web master for maintaining the website. If you have-

Buxton National Historic Site and Museum



n't checked it out, please do – www.nhsao.ca. A new added feature this year will be a blog. So we are always seeking articles, news, pictures etc for not only our newsletter but the website too. The Site Lines newsletter and the website are there for you our members to share your concerns, advice and success stories. We encourage you to utilize them!

Our NHSAO conference will be held Oct 3-4 at Leacock NHS in Orillia with our theme being: "Accessibility: It's Everyone's Business". This is such a timely and important issue that I know we all are faced with at our sites. This conference will address various accessibilities – so please do try and attend!

On a sad note, I would like to say goodbye to Sheryl Smith, our vice-chair, as she retires in November. Sheryl has brought her passion, vision and wisdom to the alliance and we are very grateful to have her presence on our board – thank you Sheryl! We wish you the best and there is always a place on the council of the wise for you!

Shannon Prince, NHSAO Chair

Ontario's Historic Gardens Workshop

Brian Malcolm
Parkwood NHS



*“eliminating
isolation and
the ‘silos’ we
tend to work
in”*

On March 31st, 2011, over forty registrants converged on Parkwood National Historic Site to take part in the Historic Gardens Workshop, supported by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Culture and the NHSAO. The workshop was facilitated by education and interpretation specialist Dr. Christine Castle, and was organized around the concept of historic gardens as a tourism resource – especially as a collective.

The forty registrants represented a number of communities ranging from Ottawa, (Rideau Hall) Midland (St. Marie among the Hurons), Hamilton (Dundurn Castle), and many points in between. Participants were invited to introduce themselves and, using a couple of photo images, their site & garden experience and a recent success or failure. This was a great way to get to know our peers and understand the range and breadth of Ontario's historic gardens (which also includes sites that could not attend).

Participants were asked to express their feelings at the workshop conclusion, using just three words. Almost all were variations of “excited, enthusiastic, inspired” sprinkled with a few versions of “overwhelmed” and “daunted”. It was clear that there is an appetite for further discussion, for eliminating isolation and the ‘silos’ we tend to work in, and for vastly increasing inter-garden discussions through formal and informal means.

As a result of the workshop, Parkwood will be undertaking an inventory of gardens at Ontario's National Historic Sites, and will send out questionnaires to those sites. There is much interest in the formation of an organizing body, as well as strengthening the bonds and communication between Ontario's Historic Gardens!

Thank you to all who participated. For more information on the workshop and future possibilities, please see the NHSAO website and resources at <http://www.nhsao.ca/pages/conferences-nhsao.html>.

St. James-the-Less Chapel NHS

Nancy Mallet

The Cathedral Church of St. James



St. James-the-Less Chapel
©www.torontohistory.org



St. James-the-Less Chapel
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Huron Crèche, Christian
Island, Georgian Bay

Said to be one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Canada, the Chapel of St. James-the-Less on the grounds of the St. James' Cathedral Cemetery was designed by Frederic Cumberland. It was completed in 1861, and is recognized as a National Historic Site.

Bishop Strachan had consecrated the lands around as a cemetery in 1845 as the cemetery around the Cathedral was full, and to walk through its grounds today, is a walk through the history of Toronto. Here you will find graves of not only leading citizens through the years such as the Gooderhams, Cawthras, and Jarvises, but that of Dr. George Grasett, Chief Medical Officer of Health, who died tending the sick during the flood of Irish Famine victims into the city in 1847 after setting plans into place to prevent the spread of typhus into the town. A special stone, recently unveiled by the President of Ireland, marks the location where hundreds of famine victims suffering from typhus were buried, and in checking the cemetery records, we discover they died either on the dock as they arrived in Toronto, or in the fever hospital. Not a single townsman is to be found among them, but you will find a nurse and an orderly who worked alongside Dr. Grasett in caring for them before falling victim to the disease themselves. Dr. Grasett is looked upon today as one who saved the town from this devastating and highly communicative disease. Look further and you will find the marker for John White, the victim of the first duel to be fought in the city. It was the year 1800, and he was killed by Small, a fellow member of the Executive Council. The story becomes even more interesting when you discover the grave of a soldier killed in France during the First World War. His mother surreptitiously had his body removed from the cemetery in France in the dead of night in order to bring him home to

be buried at St. James'. See the burial site of the first fireman killed on duty in fighting a fire in this city, a survivor of the Charge of the Light Brigade and two former premiers of Ontario. So much to see in the tranquility of the cemetery set within a beautifully treed landscape on the edges of a ravine.

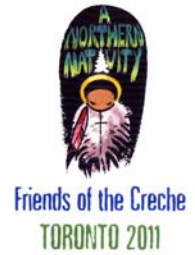
St. James Cathedral Cemetery is open to visitors at any time, and special walking tours of the site can be arranged, as can tours of the Chapel and the Cathedral itself among the many programs offered through the Archives and Museum Committee – a committee that includes amongst its many other activities, the setting up of special exhibits related to the Cathedral and its relationship to the history of Toronto, and an annual exhibition of crèches/ nativities from around the world that has attracted international attention. Because of this interest, they agreed to host and organize a major international convention on the crèche or nativity for an American Branch of a world organization of Friends of the Crèche that was started in Europe over 100 years ago and now has membership in nineteen countries across the world – though not in Canada. It is to run from November 10 to 12, 2011 and be open to everyone – member and non-member alike.

This is the first time that there has ever been a conference in this country devoted to the crèche, not only as a symbol of faith, but an iconic art form closely related to the history of the world, and in particular, Canada. It will open with an Ecumenical Service, and be followed by a rich program of formal presentations, panels of speakers, demonstrations by artists and craftspeople,

...St. James-the-Less Chapel NHS continued

a major exhibit of crèches now being assembled from individuals and institutions across all of North America, a market place, pre and post convention tours in and around the city and as far away as Montreal, and a special performance of Medieval Biblical Plays.

For information on the convention and the many other programs offered through the Archives and Museum Committee of St. James Cathedral, you can check the Cathedral web-site at www.stjamescathedral.on.ca or contact Nancy Mallett, Chair of the Archives and Museum Committee at 416-364-7865. Ex. *233, or e-mail archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca



Centennial Celebrations! “The Parks Canada Experience”

Jason Harvey

On Saturday, May 21st, 2011, over one hundred Parks Canada staff from a variety of National Historic Sites and Parks converged on the grounds surrounding the CN Tower, bringing Canada’s cultural and natural heritage to the heart of the city.

From 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Torontonians and tourists alike were treated to costumed interpreters, musical performers, historic trade demonstrations, and wildlife. In the afternoon, spectators were regaled by such musical guests as Malajube and the Apostle of Hustle, and the evening featured a campout on the field of the Rogers Centre. NHSAO member sites were plentiful, with staff from Bellevue House, Fort George, Fort Malden, and the Rideau Canal National Historic Sites, among others, in attendance.

The NHSAO congratulates Parks Canada on the advent of its Centennial!



Ottawa Historic Site Goes Interactive

Emily Pearce

Billings Estate NHS

Interested in learning more about your local history? Now is your chance to discover more about Ottawa at Billings Estate National Historic Site. Join us as the Billings family story is chronicled from humble pioneer origins to becoming one of the most respected names in the Ottawa Valley.

Explore the roots of the Billings Bridge community through stories, artefacts and interactive displays. Connect with the family on a personal level as the tale of four generations is told through images, scents and sounds.

One cannot help but feel the excitement from staff as this exhibit marks a major change for the museum. "Visitors can experience the community's history in a new light," says Brahm Lewandowski, Museum Administrator.

"The history is now accessible to a wider variety of audiences," says Lewandowski. Kids can get involved in local stories by completing a scavenger hunt while

others can enjoy their time listening to the poetry of Charles and Hugh Braddish Billings.

There is much to discover throughout the grounds including an ice house, beautiful gardens and even the original community cemetery. Take a break between venturing through time and exploring the grounds with a traditional Victorian tea service.

Billings Estate operates Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May to October. Museum admission fees are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3.50 for children and \$15 for families.

Billings Estate National Historic Site, located at 2100 Cabot St. off Pleasant Park, is the perfect place to bring the whole family. So pack a picnic or stay for tea and discover this summer's new interactive exhibit. For further information contact Billings Estate at 613-247-4830 or visit ottawa.ca/museums.



The Billings Estate, est. 1827



Visitors engage with the new exhibits, May 2011

Review: Rust Never Sleeps

Gayle McIntyre

Fleming College

It is creative, clever, compact, and colourful! In this booklet **Rust Never Sleeps**, Susanne Sutherland, Conservator, Parks Canada, Prairie and Northern Centre in Winnipeg, has carefully adopted the iconic title of the 1979 album by Neil Young and Crazy Horse, and transformed it into a useful conservation reference. The book is a handy, quick-at-a-glance guide that focuses on the identification of typical corrosion products and the care of metals in collections.

While the book was created to serve as a tool for staff at Parks Canada Historic Sites to assess the condition of collections, the museum studies and conservation training programs at Fleming College in Peterborough have utilized it as a text book since it was first published. The book is easy to comprehend; its simplicity is brilliant and it is reasonably priced. Complex corrosion products are presented in easy to understand terms, each supported with engaging, high quality visuals and images. It is an information asset for any conservation or heritage

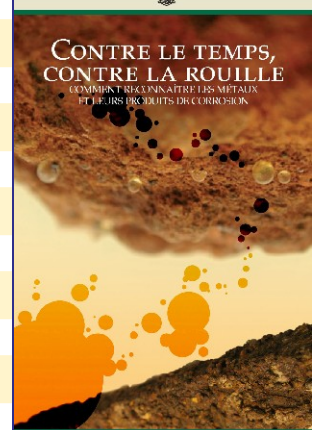
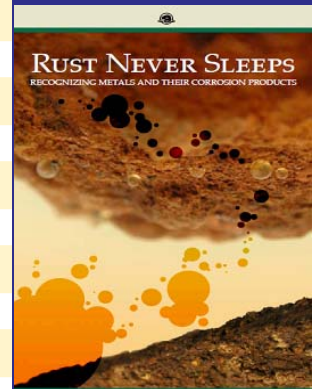
professional.

The book is the result of unique international collaborations and partnerships involving Parks Canada, The Canadian Conservation Institute, The Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage and the University of Applied Arts Vienna.

Susanne and her colleagues have produced a tidy masterpiece that will easily serve as a platform for a series. Sequels to this book on other materials such as paper, photographs, textiles, etc. would be most welcome.

The authors and contributors to the publication deserve credit and praise for passing on and preserving their knowledge base in such a tangible way.

Copies of the booklet are available at \$15.00 each or \$10.00 each plus shipping for 10 or more booklets. Contact Susanne.Sutherland@pc.gc.ca or Liz.Croome@pc.gc.ca or Lana.Chan@pc.gc.ca



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The NHTSO congratulates the Ontario Heritage Trust on 10 successful years of Doors Open Ontario!

Spotlight: 1812

Over the next three and a half years, many National Historic Sites across the Province of Ontario will commemorate the War of 1812 Bicentennial.

The NHSAO is interested in your plans for commemoration! Below are a few of the numerous upcoming Bicentennial themed events, hosted by NHSAO member sites.

Fife & Drum Muster and Soldiers' Field Day

Fort George National Historic Site

The sounds of fifes and drums, musketry and cannon firing fill the fort, as fife & drum corps and soldiers from historic sites across North America display their centuries old skills.

Saturday August 13th and Sunday August 14th, 2011, 10AM-5PM

Location: Fort George NHS, 51 Queen's Parade, Niagara-on-the-Lake

So Thou Thinkest Thou Can Dance

Battlefield House Museum and Park National Historic Site

Listen to lively music, learn new skills and meet new people at this regency period dance workshop. It's easier than it sounds! Just imagine yourself in Jane Austen's "Pride and

Prejudice" and join us for an evening of light-hearted fun. Light refreshments will be served. The event will be held at the Cellar at Grandview - the Nash Jackson House.

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Cost: \$10.00 per person.

Interpreters demonstrate 1812 period drill at Fort George
©John Rempel



Austen-Tacious: A Regency Romp

Battlefield House Museum and Park National Historic Site

Battlefield House Museum & Park

Experience the elegance and grace of the re-
gency period as we celebrate the writings of au-
thor Jane Austen. Costumes, music, dancing,
readings and refreshments bring the charm of

the early 19th century to life. The event will be held
at the Cellar at Grandview - the Nash Jackson House.

Date: Saturday, November 26, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Ages: All

Living in 1812: Life on the Sandwich Frontier

Francois Baby House National Historic Site - Windsor Community Museum

The exhibition will set the tone and context for
the 1812 time period and conflict in the Sand-
wich Frontier (now the Windsor area). It will
explore the daily lives of the various inhabitants
of this area (French, British, Aboriginal, Black
and others) and how they interacted. Featuring
many maps, illustrations and artifacts, this ex-
hibit will help to paint a picture of what it was
actually like to live here during the early 19th

century.

Exhibit opens February 18th, 2012 and runs through
January 12th, 2013

Location: Windsor's Community Museum, 254 Pitt
St. W.

For more details, phone Madelyn Della Valle at 519-
253-1812

Notice: Parks Canada Cost-Sharing Program

For your information. The Cost-Sharing Program Application Guidelines for 2012-2013 and relevant program documents (templates) are now available on the Parks Canada website (http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/ppf-csp/index_e.asp). Please note the following changes to the program guidelines for 2012-2013:

Contribution funding will be provided solely to projects that demonstrate a real and immediate threat to the commemorative integrity of a national historic site, for which an intervention is required in the short term to maintain the physical integrity of the threatened cultural resource(s) -- projects with a presentation component will not be considered for funding (the Category 3 - Conservation Projects with a Presentation Component has been eliminated); total funding available under the Cost-Sharing Program will be approximately \$700,000; applicants are encouraged to take this into consideration while preparing their proposal; Selected projects must take place between April 1, 2012, and March 31, 2013; and Applications must be submitted by no later than November 1, 2011.

Questions regarding the Cost-Sharing Program should be directed to the Program Office prior to preparing an application:

1-866-377-1947

partagedesfrais.costsharing@pc.gc.ca

Accessibility: It's Everyone's Business

2011 NHTSAO Conference

National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario

October 3-4, 2011
LEACOCK MUSEUM
Orillia, Ontario



You are invited to attend *Accessibility: It's Everyone's Business*, the 2011 National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario (NHTSAO) Conference, from October 3rd to 4th at the picturesque Leacock Museum National Historic Site in Orillia, Ontario.

Through lectures, hands-on workshops and presentations, the conference will focus on the ways in which National Historic Sites understand and address accessibility issues. This year's conference will see the return of the popular Pecha Kucha presentations, where participants will be given the chance to discuss their accessibility planning and challenges on 20 slides, with 20 seconds per slide.

The deadline to register for the 2011 NHTSAO Conference is September 30th 2011.

For more information and registration package, contact the NHTSAO Coordinator at
NHTSAO.Office@gmail.com



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Site Lines was developed to provide an avenue for the exchange of information. Do you have suggestions for improving communications among National Historic Sites and heritage-related government offices? Your thoughts, views, questions and observations are welcome. Let us know what is important to you in managing or operating a National Historic Site. Comments, inquiries, and articles can be sent to:

NHSA0.Office@gmail.com