

TWEEDSMUIR AND ANNUAL REPORT MEETING.

BRANCH ----- WALLACETOWN WOMAN'S INSTITUTE.

2004 ----- 2005.

DISTRICT.----- ELGIN COUNTY.

CURATOR.----- HELEN VAN BRENK.
31846 ERIN LINE!
RR 1#;
FINGAL; ONTARIO; NOL IKO

1. HAVE EIGHT BOOKS ON TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY.
2. SEVEN BOOKS HAVE BEEN MICROFILMED AND ARE AT ELGIN COUNTY ARCHIVES.
3. ROLL CALL. ----- WHAT ITEMS DO YOU READ FIRST IN THE NEWSPAPER?

HAVE ADDED 25 PAGES TO NUMBER EIGHT BOOK THIS YEAR.

3 PAGES ON DAYS GONE BUY.
1/2 page on graduates.
1/2 PAGE ON BIRTHDAYS OVER 80.-- 50th ANNIVERSARY.

4 PAGES--JULY 2004 MCINTYRE HOTEL BURNT DOWN IN DUTTON.

3 PAGES--COMMUNITY RESIDENTS IN THE AREA.

3 PAGES ON WALLACETOWN W.I. ACTIVITIES.

3.PAGES ON WEST EGLIN DAFFODIL CANCER TEA.

2PAGES ON 144th WALLACETOWN FAIR ---- MEDIEVAL THEAM.

2. PAGES ON PUBLISHED --- DUNWICH BOOK --- 400 PAGES.

4.PAGES ON OLD BARNs OVER 100 YEARS OLD.

WE HAVE PUBLISHED A BOOK ON OUR TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY ON WALLACETOWN W.I. AND COMMUNITY,
IN DEC 2000.

FUTURE PROJECTS.----- OLD BARNs AND OLD SAYINGS.
HAVE 6 HOUSE LOGS DONE IN OUR COMMUNITY.



Fanshawe Pioneer Village

Located in Fanshawe Conservation Area

1424 Clarke Road, London, ON N5V 5B9

Mailing Address: 2609 Fanshawe Park Road East, London, ON N5X 4A1

Phone: 519-457-1296 Fax: 519-457-3364

Email: info@fanshawepioneervillage.ca

Website: www.fanshawepioneervillage.ca



London
CANADA

"Operated by the London and Middlesex Heritage Museum with the support of the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority & the City of London."

Stay for lunch at **4 and 20 Blackbirds Bakery and Café** and choose a unique gift at **Denfield General Store.**

OPEN May 22 - Thanksgiving Tues, to Sun. & Holiday Mon.'s
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving - Dec. 20th
Special Event Weekends only

Admission

Adult	\$5
Students/Seniors	\$4
Child	\$3
Family	\$15
Members and Children under 3	FREE

Key Events 2004:

Village Opens
22-23 May

Launch of Weather Exhibit
29-30 May

St. Jean Baptiste Day
18 June

Dominion Day
1 July

Harvest Fest
21-22 August

1812 Encampment
28-29 August

Doors Open
2-3 October

Haunted Hayrides*
15-16, 22-24, 28-30 October

Pioneer Pumpkin Party
30-31 October

Christmas at the Village
4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 December

Visit with St. Nicholas*
4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 December

Mid-Winter's Feast*
18 December

***Fundraising Event**

YES!

I want to help in one or more ways!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

postal code _____

phone # _____

- I wish to become a member.

individual - \$15.00

family - \$20.00

business/organization
\$35.00

- I wish to donate the following amount:

\$ _____

(tax deductible receipts are available)

- I support the program, and would like to help. I can _____

please make all cheques payable to:

Tyrconnell Heritage Society
P.O. Box 26, Wallacetown,
Ontario, N0L 2M0
(519)762-3072

OPEN

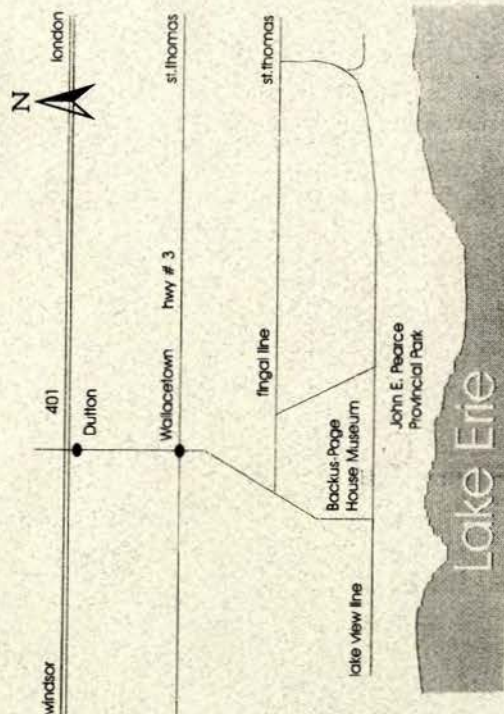
June 1 to Labour Day

plus Special Holidays

tues. to fri.: 10a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

sat & sun noon - 4.30 p.m.

closed Mondays



Backus-Page House Museum

29424 Lake View Line

RR#2 Wallacetown

Ontario, Canada

N0L 2M0

(519)762-3072



Heritage Farm Show Schedule of Events

September 4th and 5th, 2004

Saturday (10am to 4:30pm)

10-11:30~Horse drawn wagon tours of neighbouring historic sites.

~Demonstrations

11am~Storytelling

~Straw Castle Building

11:30~Threshing Demonstration

12:00~ Children's Games

~ Barbeque Lunch available

1:00~Threshing Demonstration

2:00~Wagon tours repeated

~Storytelling

2:30~Threshing Demonstration

3:00~Demonstrations

Sunday (9:00am-4:30pm)

9:00-11:00~Farmer's Breakfast

11:00-11:30~Outdoor Worship Service

11:45-12:30~Demonstrations

~Children's Games

12:30~Barbeque Lunch available

1:00~Threshing Demonstration

1:45~Storytelling

~Children's Games

2:00~Threshing Demonstration

2:30~Demonstrations

3:00~Storytelling

Demonstrations include Buzz saw, hand corn sheller, bean pot plus others.

Vendors, Musical Entertainment,
Society's Bake Sale all weekend.

The Society

The Tyrconnell Heritage Society has agreed with the Ministry of Natural Resources to restore the historic Backus-Page House and its farming environment.

The society was founded in 1993 to save the house and create a regional cultural center based on the period 1850 to 1890. At present the society is in the process of restoring the house and grounds and is fundraising to be able to continue with the project. Our goal is a living history museum with hands-on activities to enhance the educational experience of our visitors.

The Tyrconnell Heritage Society opens the Backus-Page House from June to September each summer. The Society

also opens the home for special

occasions during the rest of the year. To book a tour, call (519) 762-3072.



The House

The first settlers that were granted land by Colonel Talbot were established along Lake View Line in Dunwich Township, where the Backus-Page House is located. The first pioneers who came in 1809 were the Pattersons, Pearce and Storey families. They were followed by Stephen Backus in 1810. Stephen's son, Andrew constructed the home in 1850. It was one of the first brick dwellings in Dunwich Township. 72,000 bricks were made on the property from clay retrieved from the ravine at the back of the house. The walls in the house are four and five bricks thick.

The front door and door bell, the window panes and shutters, and black ash, white pine, and tulip floors throughout the home are original. The pantry features a dumbwaiter which brought items up from the cellar.

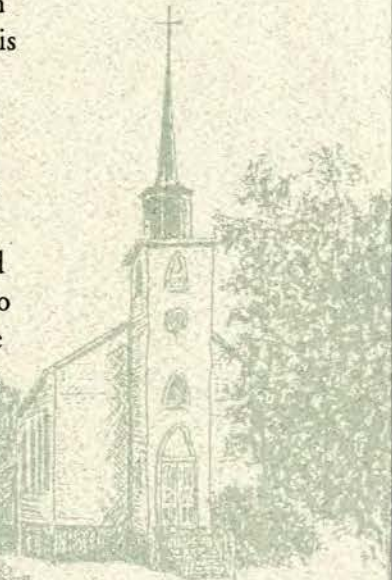
The farm was called "Lakeview" when Mary-Jane and Andrew Backus lived there. All the trees were felled in front of the house so the family could admire the majestic waters of Lake Erie. Mary-Jane and Andrew raised a family of 12 children there.



The Area

Other tourist attractions include John E. Pearce Provincial Park: the only public park composed of mixed deciduous Carolinian forest overhanging the bluffs of Lake Erie. Donated in 1955 and expanded in 1965, the park boasts numerous rare plant species and some of the most beautiful scenery in Southwestern Ontario. The Spicer Trail is the latest addition to the park. Developed by Lorne Spicer, the trail has 29 different species of trees plaqued for nature lover's enjoyment. It consists of three different lengths of trails to accommodate all ages and abilities.

A stones throw from Backus-Page House is St. Peter's Anglican Church, which has been in continuous use since 1827. Area families donated all the time, money and labour that went into its construction. The cemetery there is the final resting place of "Lake Erie Baron", Colonel Thomas Talbot.



Jeff Sedge	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Technical Certificate	
Student Council Award for 4C English	
Erie Flooring Technical Award	
Iona Station Community Center Bursary	
Richa Sharma	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Governor General's Academic Medal	
Reverend Stanley Lawrason Shippey Scholarship	
Sloan McKillop University Scholarship	
WESS 50'th Reunion Bursary	
Lt. Governor General Volunteer Award	
Home Hardware Student Council President Award	
Norma I. McMillan Medical Scholarship	
Ryan Sinclair	Technical Certificate
Erin Smith	Ontario Scholar
Canadian Legion Branch 525, Rodney, Scholarship	
Kathryn Grace St. John Memorial Award	
Rob Thomson	Canada Trust Good Sport Award
Lexy Trudell	Royal Bank, Rodney, Business Excellence Award
Carolyn Tunks	Ontario Scholar
Special Chemistry Award	
Branch 221, West Elgin, Legion Bursary	
CUPE Local 4222 Award	
Adam Weed	Ontario Scholar
Grace & Earl Lemon Scholarship	

GRADE 12 AWARD WINNERS

Jenna Campbell	3'rd Honour Award
Student Council Award for 4U Law	
Ripley & Giles Motors Ltd. General Proficiency Grade 12 Award	
Robin Cowan	Student Council Award for Grade 12 English
Josh Duplessis	William Cornelius Huffman Award
Jayne Ford	3'rd Honour Award
Student Council Award for 4M International Business	
Jennifer Ford	4'th Honour Award
Josh Giles	4'th Honour Award
Student Council Award for 4M Computer Programming, 4U Data Management	
Kendra Goos	1'st Honour Award
Brianne Hein	2'nd Honour Award
William Cornelius Huffman Award	
Craig Hوجلund	4'th Honour Award
Student Council Awards for 4U World Issues, World History, French, Biology	
Elgin District Dental Association Award	
B.J. Huguenin	Rodney & District Horticulture Citizen Award
Ashton Keith	3'rd Honour Award
Student Council Award for 4C Mathematics	
Jamie Knowles	Student Council Award for Grade 12 Manufacturing
Jan Kool	4'th Honour Award
Hillary Krier	4'th Honour Award
Katie Lyons	4'th Honour Award
Jane McGill	4'th Honour Award
Adam McKillop	4th Honour Award
Student Council Award for 4U Anatomy	
Stacey Penney	1'st Honour Award
JoLeen Peternel	1'st Honour Award
Megan Regnier	4'th Honour Award
Student Council Awards for 4U English, 4M Food & Nutrition	
Jeff Walker	Student Council Awards for Grade 12 Physical Education, 4C Construction

GRADE 11 AWARD WINNERS

Christie Bray	3'rd Honour Award
Shaun Carroll	3'rd Honour Award
J.A. Ross & Son General Proficiency Grade 11 Award	
Megan Close	3'rd Honour Award
Jen Drummelsmith	2'nd Honour Award
Sarah Dyck	3'rd Honour Award
Jason Enns	Student Council Award for Grade 12 Construction
Mark Godfrey	3'rd Honour Award
Wallacetown Optimist Music Proficiency Award	
Michael Hatch	2'nd Honour Award
Sabrina Howarth	Rodney & District Horticulture Citizen Award
Leslie Johnstone	3'rd Honour Award

Lisa King	2'nd Honour Award
Kate Kuranyi	3'rd Honour Award
Dana Kuska	3'rd Honour Award
Amanda Leonardes	3'rd Honour Award
Sarah Lilley	1'st Honour Award
Daniel Martyn	2'nd Honour Award
Emilie Moreau	3'rd Honour Award
Mike Murray	Allan Drummelsmith Memorial Award
Sarah Nagy	2'nd Honour Award
Ashlynn Newport	3'rd Honour Award
Elana Oake	3'rd Honour Award
Michael Vandenbrink	2'nd Honour Award
Bernardt VanZyl	Student Council Award for 4M Computer Engineering
Chelsey Wilson	1'st Honour Award
Dana Woolley	2'nd Honour Award
Sarah Woolsey	3'rd Honour Award

GRADE 10 AWARD WINNERS

Rochelle Ambrose	2'nd Honour Award
Ryan Carey	1'st Honour Award
Cassie Clark	2nd Honour Award
Angela Dick	2'nd Honour Award
Ashley Dinga	1'st Honour Award
Lisa Donaldson	1'st Honour Award
Erin Fleming	2'nd Honour Award
Danielle Fordham	2'nd Honour Award
Natalie Gash	2'nd Honour Award
Jake Hansen	2'nd Honour Award
Brittany Jewell	2'nd Honour Award
Katie McIntyre	2'nd Honour Award
Bank of Montreal Grade 10 General Proficiency Award	
Mike Miller	2'nd Honour Award
Mandy Mistele	2'nd Honour Award
Matt Parezanovic	2'nd Honour Award
Jaymee Peternel	2'nd Honour Award
Christopher Van Loon	2'nd Honour Award
Ashley Woolley	2'nd Honour Award
Tyler Wood	2'nd Honour Award

GRADE 9 AWARD WINNERS

Caren Campbell	1'st Honour Award
Jon Dietrich	EQAO 1P Mathematics Award
Tracy Donaldson	1'st Honour Award
Stephanie Dos Santos	1'st Honour Award
William Drummelsmith	1'st Honour Award
Sheri Ford	1'st Honour Award
Karen Godfrey	1'st Honour Award
Brendan Guest	1'st Honour Award
Allison Gumpert	1'st Honour Award
Ellis Sifton Memorial Medal, (West Elgin Legion) Grade 9 Proficiency Award	
Marcia Hay	1'st Honour Award
Brittany Hein	1'st Honour Award
Heather Heyboer	1'st Honour Award
Rachel Humphrey	1'st Honour Award
Amanda Jamieson	1'st Honour Award
Sarah Johnston	1'st Honour Award
Jamie Kelly	1'st Honour Award
Emily King	EQAO 1D Mathematics Award
Rachel Kovach	1'st Honour Award
Trena Lebedz	1'st Honour Award
Caitlin McCallum	1'st Honour Award
Sarah McCallum	1'st Honour Award
Harrison Oake	1'st Honour Award
Andrew Okolisan	1'st Honour Award
Sara Peternel	1'st Honour Award
Nichole Sadecky	EQAO 1P Mathematics Award
Alicia Sanderson	1'st Honour Award
Shobha Sharma	1'st Honour Award
Matt Soos	1'st Honour Award
Liona van der Zon	1'st Honour Award
EQAO 1D Mathematics Award	
Tim van der Zon	1'st Honour Award
Catie Welch	1'st Honour Award

Helen Van Brenk



West Elgin
Secondary School

Commencement

Saturday Afternoon, October 30, 2004
In the School Gymnasium
at 1:00 p.m.

PROGRAMME

PROCESSIONAL West Elgin Concert Band

O CANADA

WELCOME BY SALUTORIAN Richa Sharma

VICE PRINCIPAL'S REMARKS Mel Moniz

REMARKS FROM ADMINISTRATION
Thames Valley District Board of Education

DONAR APPRECIATION Berta Prelaz

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES C. McDowell, B. Doyle,
S. McCullough, S. Sethi

VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS Morgan McWilliam

MUSICAL INTERLUDE Spiro Grima, Director

PRESENTATION OF NON-GRADUATES J. Fraser & A. Foster

CLOSING REMARKS Larry Schneider, Principal

RECESSIONAL

GRADUATING CLASS OF 2004

Robert Bedford	Rebecca Gray	Natasha Parish
Nathan Beke	Vanessa Gray	Stacey Penney
Anthony Berkelmans	Meaghan Hay	Anita Pessoa
Daniyel Bint	Brianne Hein	Ryan Petz
Bryan Blanchard	Craig Hoglund	Jennifer Pinder
Donavon Boyd	Scott Houston	Aaron Reed
Carlos Brasil	Melanie Howard	Megan Regnier
Jenna Campbell	Gregory Howse	Jeremy Ritchie
Angela Clark	Jessica Jones	David Rivard
Taryn Clements	Rebecca Kalita	Drew Roberts
Andrew Coates	Tiffany Kalita	Nicole Ross
Andrew Conway	Ashley Keane	Kelly Ryan
Michelle Cotie	Ashton Keith	Eric Sanderson
Trevor Crawford	Derek Kersten	Angela Sanford
Clayton Deyle	Kristopher Kieraszewicz	Karl Schramowsky
Whitney Deyle	Shannon Kindornay	Jeffrey Sedge
Chhavi Chankar	Rebecca Koscik	Richa Sharma
Cody Dinga	Mark Kovacs	Ryan Sinclair
Donald Drummelsmith	Erin Lundy	Megan Slaats
Jonathan Dryfhout	Bob Mark	Erin Smith
Jennifer Dupuis	Jane McGill	Robert Thomson
Deniza Fagundes	Johnathon McIntyre	Alexandra Trudell
Jacob Fischer	Kyle McLellan	Carolyn Tunks
Ashlee Fleming	Bruce McMillan	Jeremy Vandyk
Jayne Ford	Beth McMurchy	Matthew VanDyk
Jennifer Ford	John McWilliam	Robyn Vanoirschot
Phillip Fordham	Morgan McWilliam	Karon Waite
Kirk Geiser	Matthew Mistele	Adam Weed
Joshua Giles	Katie Nute	Ashley Welch
Kendra Goos	Carla Oliveira	Johnathan Woolsey
Sean Grant	Stacey Oliveira	

SPECIAL AWARD WINNERS

Robert Bedford	Technical Certificate
Daniyel Bint	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Fairles K. Food Market Grade 12 Commercial Award	
Dutton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship	
Nathan Beke	Technical Certificate
Donavon Boyd	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Carlos Brasil	Technical Certificate
Jennifer Browne	Ontario Scholar
Eagle Community Center Involvement Award	
Kelly Charron	Ontario Scholar
Canadian Legion Branch 525, Rodney, Scholarship	
Dutton High School 50'th Reunion Bursary	
Ruth Marcou (Run for Ruth) Award	
Angela Clark	Branch 221, West Elgin, Legion Bursary
Andrew Coates	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Andrew Conway	Technical Certificate
Trevor Crawford	Technical Certificate
Clayton Deyle	Canadian Legion Branch 525, Rodney, Scholarship
Clark McDougall Fine Arts Scholarship	
Milner-Rigsby/Rockland Flooring Bursary	
Chhavi Dhankar	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Branch 221, West Elgin, Legion Bursary	
Donald Drummelsmith	Technical Certificate
Wallacetown Optimist Computer Scholarship	
Thames Valley Education Foundation Award	
Jennifer Dupuis	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 525, Rodney, Scholarship	
Jake Fischer	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Elgin International Club Scholarship	
Wilf Johnston Memorial Scholarship	
Ashlee Fleming	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Sloan McKillop Teaching Scholarship	
Jon Fleming	Ontario Scholar
Mark Van Brenk Memorial Award	
West Lorne Horticulture Bursary	
Rodney/Aldborough Agricultural Society Bursary	
Victor C. McMillan Award in Agriculture	
Dutton-Dunwich Horticulture Bursary	
Phil Fordham	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Technical Certificate	
Student Council Award for 4C Transportation	
Miller Motors Grade 12 Auto Award	
Rick Gallant	Technical Certificate
Student Council Award for 4C Mathematics	
Dutton & District Lions Club Technical Award	
Kirk Geiser	Technical Certificate
Sean Grant	Ontario Scholar
Rebecca Gray	Ontario Scholar
Sloan McKillop ECE Scholarship	
J.J.'s Service Award	
Vanessa Gray	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Student Council Awards for 4M Music, Visual Arts	
University Women's Club Scholarship	
Blue Rose Music Award	
Meaghan Hay	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Melanie Howard	Ontario Scholar
Canadian Legion Branch 525, Rodney, Scholarship	
Greg Howse	Technical Certificate
Cheri Hunter	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
E.F. Sercombe Bursary	
Canada Trust Good Sport Award	

Jessie Jones	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Student Council Award for 4M Dramatic Arts	
"All Round Good Kid" Award	
Ashley Keane	Adah Chapter 276 O.E.S. Serenity Award
Derek Kersten	Technical Certificate
Kris Kieraszewicz	Ontario Scholar
Shannon Kindornay	Ontario Scholar
Rodney Lions Humanitarian Award	
West Elgin Masonic Lodge 386 Award	
Women's Institute Award	
Kris King	Ontario Scholar
2'nd Honour Award	
Bryan Foxton Award for Dramatic Arts	
Dutton High School 50'th Reunion Bursary	
Josh Knight	Technical Certificate
Becky Koscik	Ontario Scholar
Branch 221, West Elgin, Legion Bursary	
Matt LeBlanc	Ontario Scholar
1'st Honour Award	
Technical Certificate	
Bob Mark	Technical Certificate
John McIntyre	Technical Certificate
Student Council Award for Grade 12 Transportation	
Beth McMurchy	SAA Award
John McWilliam	Student Council Award for 4C Technology Design
Praxair Gases Welding Award	
Rodney Kiwanis Club Business Education Award	
Lorna Rebehak Lodge 217 Commercial Award	
Morgan McWilliam	Ontario Scholar
Student Council Awards for 4U Geometry, Chemistry	
W.D. Lancaster Award	
West Elgin Pharmacy Advanced Science Award	
Krebs Jewellery Valedictorian Award	
OPC Principal's Award for Good Citizenship	
Dutton & District Lions Club Proficiency Award	
IODE Bursary	
Norma I. McMillan Medical Scholarship	
Matt Mistele	Ontario Scholar
Student Council Award for 4U Writer's Craft, Calculus, Physics	
Reverend Stanley Lawrason Shippey Scholarship	
District 184 Machinist Bursary	
KSR Dresden Industrial Award	
Carla Oliveira	Ontario Scholar
Branch 221, West Elgin, Legion Bursary	
Sloan McKillop College Scholarship	
Stacey Oliveira	West Elgin Knights of Columbus Scholarship
Erie Flooring Business Award	
Tasha Parish	Oxford Co-op Agriculture Memorial Bursary
Jen Pinder	Ontario Scholar
Student Council Award for 4M Dramatic Arts	
Sloan McKillop College Scholarship	
Lenore Stevens Keillor & Stanley Keillor Memorial Scholarship	
Wallacetown Optimist Music Scholarship	
Aaron Reed	Technical Certificate
Jeremy Ritchie	Student Council Award for 4M Communications Technology
Dave Rivard	Technical Certificate
Drew Roberts	Ontario Scholar
4'th Honour Award	
Student Council Award for 4U Data Management	
Roy DosSantos Memorial Award	
Chantelle Sadecky	Student Council Award for 4C Chemistry
Eric Sanderson	Technical Certificate
Angela Sanford	Student Council Award for 4C Chemistry
Victor C. McMillan Memorial Award	
Wallacetown Women's Institute Foods Award	
Nelio Santos	Technical Certificate
Student Council Award for 4M Communications Technology	
United Steel Workers of America, Local 4906, Award	
Karl Schramowsky	Student Council Award for 4M Technology Design

Tweedsmuir & Annual Report Meet

Branch - Wallacetown W. I 2003-2004.

District - Elgin County.

Curator - Helen VAN BRENK,

31846 ERIN LINE,

RR #1,

FINCHAL, ONT, N0R1K0

519-762-6454.

1 Have SEVEN BOOKS ON Tweedsmuir Books - Starting NO eight this year.

2 Seven Books have been Microfilmed.

3 Roll call ... Name an ancestor and tell something about them.

Have added 27 pages to Number seven Book and closed it. Will start on NO. eight Book.

1 page on anniversaries

1 page on Wallacetown W.I. Officers. 2003-2004.

1/2 page on Bohier Ville Tea.

1/2 page on Wallacetown Fair display.

1 page on Wallacetown WI joins Hider Road WI for meeting on March 17th 2003.

3 pages on Days gone by.

1 page on our X-mas meeting - Dec 11th 2003.

1 page on Mac Lilley Horses Farm June 25th 2003

1 page on 50th Anniversary of Russ & Doris Barber W.I. serving tea at Wallacetown Hall. May 1st 2003

10 pages on Colonel Thomas Talbot 200 years (1803-2003). Started in March 2003 to Dec 20th 2003 ran all year.

2 Pages on Wallacetown Fair 14th - 15th - Chris Emm became C.N.E. Ambassador in 2003.

Having logs done.

4 pages on Galbraith Honoured on May 17th 2003 -
Inuksuk to mark Galbraith Homestead.
1 page - Lawrence Holland had a crop circle
in his wheat field on Aug 13th 2003

Buying blinds for the South Denwood
Community Hall

Setting up one year bussary at the West
Elgin Secondary school (in the food category) \$300.00

7 Future Projects - Do more pages on Colonel Ten
Talbot 200 years and days gone by.
8 Number seven Book will be taken to Elgin County
Number eight Book will start in 2004. Archives

HAIRSPRAY

Saturday, November 27.2004

Musical Comedy

Princess of Wales Theatre – Toronto

\$99 p.p.

Includes: Coach, Shopping at Dixie Outlet Mall
and Matinee –2 p.m.

Show closing before Christmas
Will stop for Dinner (not included)

Sponsored by Wallacetown Womens Institute
For more info please phone 762-2990

VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sat. Dec. 04/04



\$65.00 p.p.

INCLUDES: Coach – Mystery stop.
Casino in Pt. Edward for lunch
(included). Matinee 2 p.m. – A Victorian
Christmas Concert. This show highly
recommended by Ev the Rev. ***** This
show is a special request!

Sponsored by : The Wallacetown
Women's Institute & proceeds also

Will be returning by 6 p.m.

Local Pick-ups – St. Thomas, Shedden,
Wallacetown, West Lorne –All Welcome --

For more info phone 762-2990

The Great Train Disaster

The 1887 story of one of the worst train wrecks in Canadian History

Part 2 by Barbara Barnwell

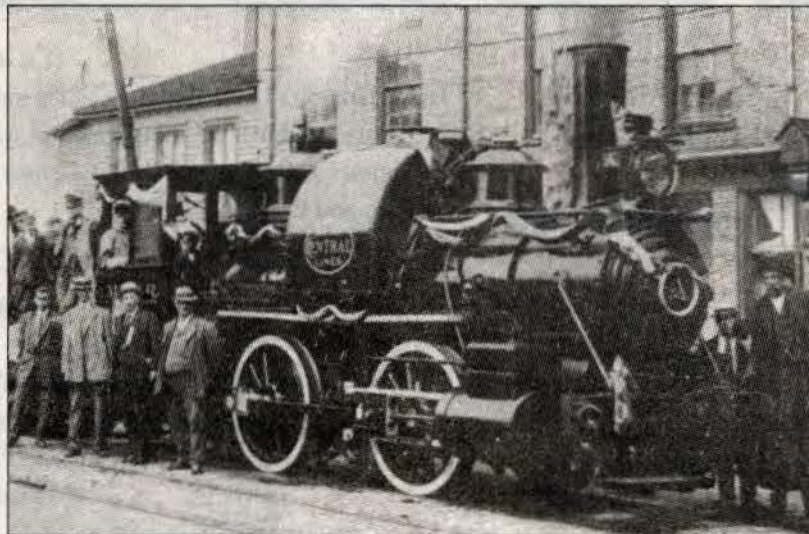
A south-bound train had stopped at the station, north of Talbot Street, from where the passengers could see the smoke and flames. Many were content to stay there and watch (they wouldn't be dancing on the beach at Port that Saturday night,) but many others ran across just to have a better look and to offer much needed help.

Hearing the crash, people came running from all around, to help and just to look. There were many experienced railroad men there as well, who, sensing the danger, banded together and managed to uncouple the remaining coaches (that had managed to remain on the track) and literally - by manpower alone managed to push the undamaged coaches back down the tracks away from the flames. There, they could begin to rescue the hundreds of injured who had been thrown about by the sudden stop. Similar action had been taken with the freight train. The front section had been uncoupled and waved off, while the rear portion had been dragged back away by a yard engine.

The two oil tank cars left there on the crossing, were becoming more and more engulfed in flames. A larger and larger crowd had continued to gather, most of them seemingly unaware of the danger.

Then - at 7:30 P.M., with a great, ominous, roar, the second tank car - EXPLODED - sending the burning oil and the metal debris flying far and wide, burning and knocking people down, as they fled, in horror. The turret of the oil car had burst upward, sending a fountain of burning oil a hundred feet or so into the air, where it spread out, umbrella-like and then, further scattering the terrified people, came showering down, upon whomever and whatever was beneath.

Just imagine the near-hysteria that followed, trying to provide even basic first-aid to all those injured and badly burned people. There was mention that Dr. Kains made it to the scene,



This engine from early 1900 may have been similar to the engines involved in the July 1887 St. Thomas train wreck.

but how much could he do under such terrible circumstances, except give advice and maybe try to set broken bones. They had little comfort to offer the burned victims except, of course, cool water on a hot summer evening, and apparently, cornstarch and flour. (These would stifle the burning oil but the idea of putting flour on an open burn, is revolting) - The most badly burned were carried off to the Fire Hall but there was little to be done for them but cover them with flour. (I suppose, in those days, that was one thing most households had plenty of) The Undertaker was summoned but he couldn't manage to recover all the bodies that night.

Then, as though there were not enough problems to be taken care of, someone happened to notice that there was smoke coming from rooftops where the oil had fallen, and then there were flames as well. There was a whole new problem of fighting the many house fires, and trying to save the buildings in the area. There were several homes along Railway Street with burning roofs. There were the Railway Switch Houses, a Grist Mill, and Freight Sheds along the tracks, and also, a Livery Stable. (There was a story, that while they were trying to get the horses out to safety - as you used to see in old

western movies - amid the fire and excitement, someone threw himself onto a horse and rode off down the tracks to stop the next train and to carry the news to Port)

The fire-fighting continued long into the night and there were many stories of more injuries incurred in the frantic efforts to save the homes and other property. Care of more burned and injured was a monumental task as well. There were no facilities in town at the time. Many people were simply carried off to their homes to be cared for. Many others were offered hospitality, care and shelter in private homes.

Word of the accident had gotten back to London, by telegraph, and the news spread like wildfire, throughout the city, particularly to people who had family and friends who were known to be attending the special event. Many very worried and excited people flocked to the Station, frantically, demanding news and information.

Sometime, during the night, they managed to get the 'walking wounded' around the wreck, across Talbot Street and up to the Station, onto a train and back to London where they were met by the worried crowd. Some had happy reunions, many others were deeply distressed by how many were missing.

Meanwhile, back in Port Stanley,

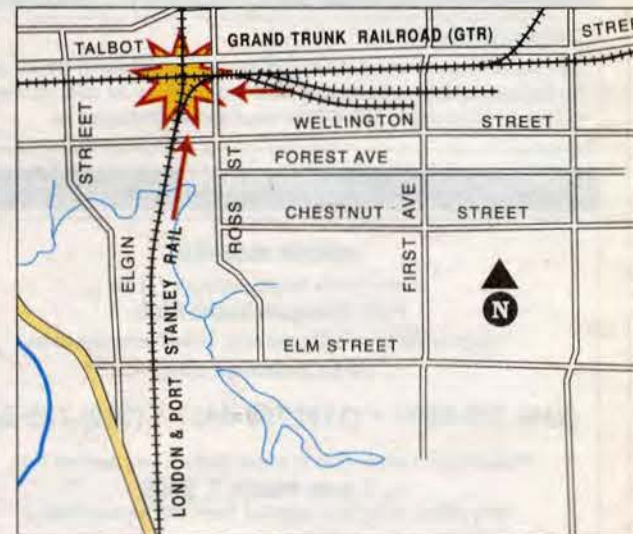
the eight o'clock train had been made up and was well loaded with weary people eager to get home, but the Engineer had refused to leave. The southbound train had not come in, and he was aware that there was something wrong, somewhere. When the horrifying news eventually arrived (possibly by means of the rider) just imagine the excitement and concern that followed the announcement. The people on the early wrecked train, were all either family or familiar friends.

Several hundred men, women and children had to spend the night at Port Stanley. Many camped out on the beach, (can't you just imagine all the campfires). on the ball-diamond, on the Heights and just wherever they managed to find a spot. The townspeople must have been kept busy trying to supply warmth and water, food and other necessities, to help them through. During the night, there was yet another casualty, a thirteen-year girl fell off the wharf and was drowned!

On the following morning, the train took them back to St. Thomas, and then, by walking, or otherwise conveyed, around the wreck, to a train waiting north at the Station, and on back to London, where they too were met by many thankful friends and relatives.

The bodies of the dead were finally

Continued On Page 7



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's a Girl!!!

Proud Grandpa's and Grandma's Ellis and Shirley, and Kathy and John wish to announce the birth of Granddaughter Hailey Katherine Holditch on February 8th at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital. Baby weighed 7 lbs. 3 ozs. Mom and Dad, Melissa and Chris (Axle) Holditch.

Thank You

On behalf of Mark Rice, Tracey Reeves & The Legion we would like to Thank a few key people and businesses for their donations and contributions towards making the Football Party at The legion a GREAT SUCCESS.

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DISASTER

Continued from Page 8

all retrieved. Poor Mr. Donnelly's body was removed from the burned-out engine. If, indeed, this awful scene was the result of his impatience, he had paid a horrible penalty. There were now seventeen bodies, dead at the sight - and because there was no hospital or other means of keeping in touch with the wounded, there was no way of knowing how many more perished, as a result of their injuries. Several more were injured while fighting the fires, and a woman was killed by a horse-drawn fire rig, and the young girl drowned at Port.. It was said that for many weeks, probably half the people on St. Thomas' streets sported bandages as a result of their injuries. Many carried the memories and their scars for the rest of their lives

At the time, Don Cosens' aunt was working as a housemaid at one of the homes on Railway Street (now Princess Avenue) south almost to Wellington Street. Upon hearing the crash, like so many others, she ran out into the street to see what was happening, and was just in time to feel the falling droplets of oil. One particularly large one of which, burned through the sleeve of her blouse and badly burned her forearm. Don, well remembers seeing the nasty scar many years later when he was just a boy.

A Coroner's Jury was called on the

Monday morning and continued for several days. Considerable time was spent on the air-brakes matter, but, since most of the coaches had stayed on the tracks, that didn't seem too relevant. The Conductor was severely reprimanded, but, he was, after all, well back in the coaches, and had no control of the Engineer. There was no mention of the heroic efforts of the Fireman. Harry Donnelly had not been known as a heavy drinker, but he had admitted to not feeling well. After many testimonies; more than one had noticed the 'caution' signals; a lad, who admittedly, was in the habit of hitching a ride on the last coach as trains passed Palm Street, was unable to catch on that particular time, because it was going far too fast. As the Engineer, Donnelly was found totally to blame, having been going too fast in a built-up area, having disobeyed the signals, and several other railroad related charges. As happens often with Coroner's Juries, it all ended unsatisfactorily!

What had been a pleasant, happy July day at a Church Picnic, had ended in a horrific accident and conflagration - that not only killed seventeen people, (known dead at the scene), wounded, maimed and scarred hundreds, and bereaved many more; and, as well, destroyed, or at least damaged, many homes and businesses, most of four blocks of downtown St. Thomas, - a disaster that has since been published as one of the worst wrecks in Canadian Railway History.

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