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May 15/2008



With gratitude to God, the family of Diane Macpherson; her husband Don, their children Heather and Bill Todd, Beth Macpherson & fiance Jon-Paul McGonigle, and her mom Edith Auckland, invite you to join Diane in celebrating her recent graduation from Emmanuel College, University of Toronto and her ordination on May 24, 2008 as a minister in the United Church of Canada.

Please join us at a celebration open house on **Sunday, May 25, 2:30 to 4:30pm** at Pearce-Williams Christian Centre, 8009 Iona Road.

Please, best wishes only. Psalm 139:16

CONGRATULATIONS

DR. MICHELLE D. CAMPBELL



Don and Helen Campbell of Wallacetown are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College on June 13, 2008

CONGRATULATIONS



**Amanda Breen**, daughter of Hugh & Georgetta Breen, graduated on the Dean's Honours List receiving an Honours Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration from Wilfred Laurier University. Amanda has accepted a position as a Senior Accountant at Deloitte & Touche LLP in Toronto as she pursues her Chartered Accountant designation.

2008  
Congratulations! Mom, Dad & Matthew

GRADUATION



**Jenna Ruth Campbell** daughter of Grant and Karen Campbell and the late Joanné Campbell, Iona Station graduated June 11, 2009 from University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Human Nutrition. Jenna is continuing her studies with a Master of Science in Human Health and Nutritional Services, University of Guelph in September. Congratulations Jenna.

GRADUATION



**Jennifer Marie Ford** has graduated as a member of the Dean's Honour List from McMaster University with a bachelors' degree in Honours Biology and a minor in Music Performance. Beginning in August 2009, Jennifer will be attending St. George's University, School of Medicine, Grenada where she has been awarded a \$35,000 US scholarship to study medicine. Jennifer is the daughter of Don and Karen Ford and grand-daughter of Peter and Tina Hentz of Wallacetown. Congratulations Jennifer! Your family wishes you the best of luck!

GRADUATION

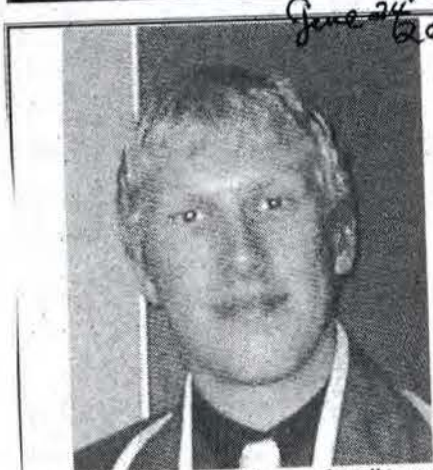


**GRADUATION - FORD**

Steve, Lynda and Taylor Ford are proud to announce the graduation of their son and brother, **Michael Ford** from Algonquin College in Ottawa. Michael received his certificate in Pre-Health Sciences. He will be continuing his education at Fanshawe College in London, where he has been accepted into the Child and Youth Worker program. Michael is the grandson of Albert and Catherine Ford of Dutton, Cheryl and Don Mylrea of Dutton and Bill Jacques of Tryconnell. He is the great-grandson of Leone and Murray Lackey of Dutton and Murry Jacques of Tryconnell.

We are all proud of you Michael!

GRADUATION



Bill and Linda Van Raay, of Wallacetown are proud to announce the graduation of their son **Michael Marinus Van Raay** from Fanshawe College in London. Michael received his Architectural Technologist diploma and is now employed with Roes Stairs in Mount Brydges. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments, Michael!

**Ron and Jackie Campigotto** are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter **Katherine Anne** from the University of Western Ontario, Kings University College with a four year Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Religious Studies minor.

Wishing you all the best as you begin the next chapter of your life!

Love  
Mom, Dad and Meaghan

June 2011



Marriages Marriages



Ian and Kim Fleming of Rodney would like to announce the marriage of their daughter, Ashlee to Joe Hentz, son of Mike and Ingrid Hentz of Wallacetown. They were married on July 31, 2010 at the Calvary United Church in Rodney with reception following at the Southwold Keystone Complex in Shedden.

**Congratulations!**

**80th Birthday**




Please join us to celebrate with family & friends at an **2010** open house for **Jessie Lunn** Saturday, October 16th Caledonia TWO 29475 Pioneer Line Dutton 2pm - 4pm

**Best Wishes Only**

Birthdays Birthdays

We are having an Open House For **Ruby McGugan's 90th Birthday**



Wednesday, December 8th 2-5 PM 8987 Coyne Road, Wallacetown 2010

**Best Wishes Only**

Anniversaries Anniversaries

**Bill & Joan McLandress 60th Anniversary 2011**




Bill & Joan McLandress are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Sat., Jan. 23rd from 2-4pm at Wallacetown Hall, #3 hwy, Wallacetown.

Please come & help us to celebrate. Best wishes only please.

Anniversaries Anniversaries

**60th Wedding Anniversary Don and Louise Lackey**



Open House Saturday, April 2, 2011 Shedden Keystone Complex Shedden 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Individual gifts, donations of non-perishable items to the West Elgin Daffodil Society would be greatly appreciated.

Come Celebrate




**Dessie Cook's 90th Birthday**

March 27, 2pm - 4pm at Dutton Community Centre

**Best wishes only please**

Birthdays Birthdays

**HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY BUD WELCH**



PLEASE JOIN US in celebrating on February 12, 2011 It will be a Valentine - Birthday Party! Rodney Legion 9pm - 11pm Cost: \$5 Best Wishes Only Love Marg & families



60th Anniversary - Wedding Don & Louise Lackey.

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**Ready for Church!**



Dad (Albert) would be proud you are now in the pulpit!  
 Congratulations on your ordination, May 2008  
**Rev. Diane Macpherson.**  
 With love from your Auckland sisters Karen, Margaret, Brenda & Janice, & mother Edith

**ANNIVERSARY**



July 5th marks 50 years of marriage for  
**RUSS AND GRACE CAMPBELL!**  
 You are invited to help them celebrate on that date at the Lawrence Station hall from 2 to 4:30pm. Please no gifts.

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gladys Graham**



**June 30, 2008**  
 Love from Jane, Joe & Carrie & Jeff

**ANNIVERSARY**

**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



*From Ann Marie, Peter, Joe, Ron and Laurie*  
 We will be hosting an open house at the Keystone Complex in Shedden Saturday, **November 22 from 6-8pm 2008**  
 No gifts, but if you wish to bring a canned good for the Daffodil Society it would be appreciated.

**Guy & Vi Lamb**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
 2008  
 Saturday, November 1  
 6pm - 12



West Elgin Legion  
 149 John St.,  
 West Lorne  
 • Entertainment by the Breda Boys at 8pm  
 • Late Luncheon  
 Best Wishes Only

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



Join us at St. John's United Church in Dutton on Sunday, October 5th from 2 to 4pm

**90<sup>th</sup> Beatrice Hoglund**



60<sup>th</sup> Sandy McLeod 1<sup>st</sup> Bailey Hoglund

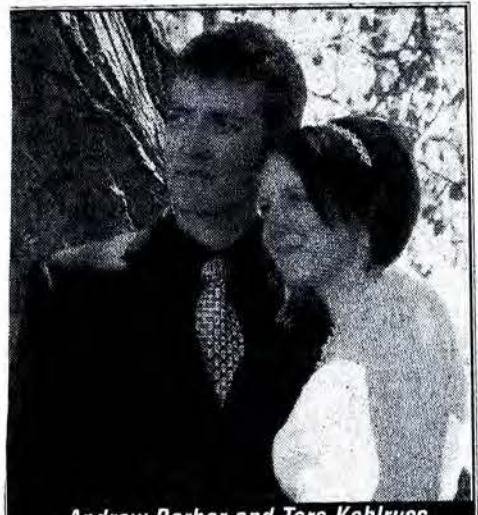
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Maxine Campbell**



Love from your family  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm**  
 Wallacetown Hall  
 Best wishes only please *2009*

**CONGRATULATIONS**



**Andrew Barber and Tara Kohlruss** were united in marriage on May 30th, 2009 in a beautiful garden ceremony at the Barber family residence in Wallacetown. Proud parents are Jim and Denise Barber of Wallacetown and Mike and Debbie Kohlruss of Kitchener. The couple currently resides in Kitchener.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**Joe Van Nuland Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**May 8, 2010**  
 Congratulations from Jean, Joanne, Dianne, Ed, Mary, Grandchildren and Great grandchildren.





**Célébration**  
**Saturday, April 16th 8pm**  
**Dutton Community Centre** 2011  
*Best wishes only please!*

60th Birthday 10th Anniversary  
 40th Anniversary

Jane Lunn  
 Tim & Shannon Simmons  
 Ross & Jane Lunn

**Celebration**  
**Saturday, April 16th 8pm**  
**Dutton Community Centre** 2011  
*Best wishes only please!*

60th Birthday 10th Anniversary  
 40th Anniversary

Jane Lunn  
 Tim & Shannon Simmons  
 Ross & Jane Lunn



April 1, 1961 - 2011



HONORING

We would be please if you could join us  
 in celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary

*Best Wishes/Cards only please (no gifts)*

Date Saturday, the second of April, 2011

Time One o'clock in the afternoon for a luncheon (Hot Buffet)

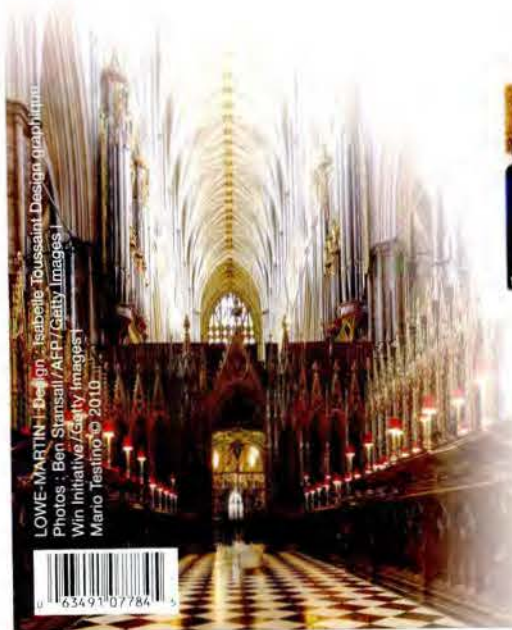
Place Lakeview Gardens Restaurant

9353 Graham Road, Eagle, Ontario  
(519) 768-1116

Given by Mary and Doug Hughes

R.S.V.P. 15 March 2011

by phone to (519) 762-2331 or  
e-mail to doug.hughes2@amtelecom.net



LOWE-MARTIN Design - Isabelle Toussaint Design, graphiques  
 Photos : Ben Stansall / AFP/Getty Images /  
 Win Initiative / Getty Images /  
 Mario Testino © 2010



HRH Prince William of Wales  
 and Miss Catherine Middleton

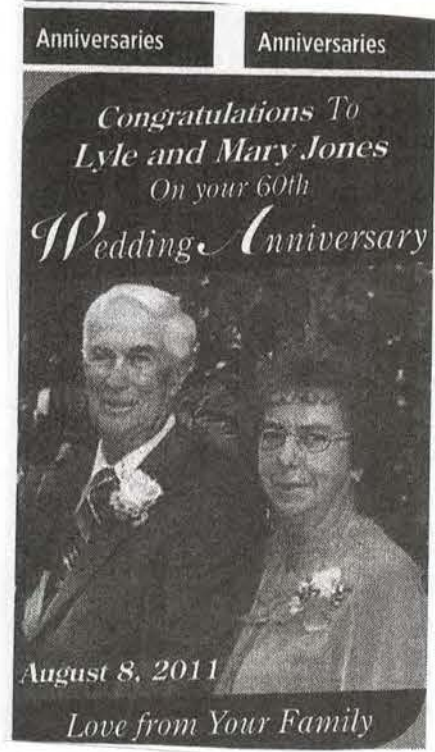
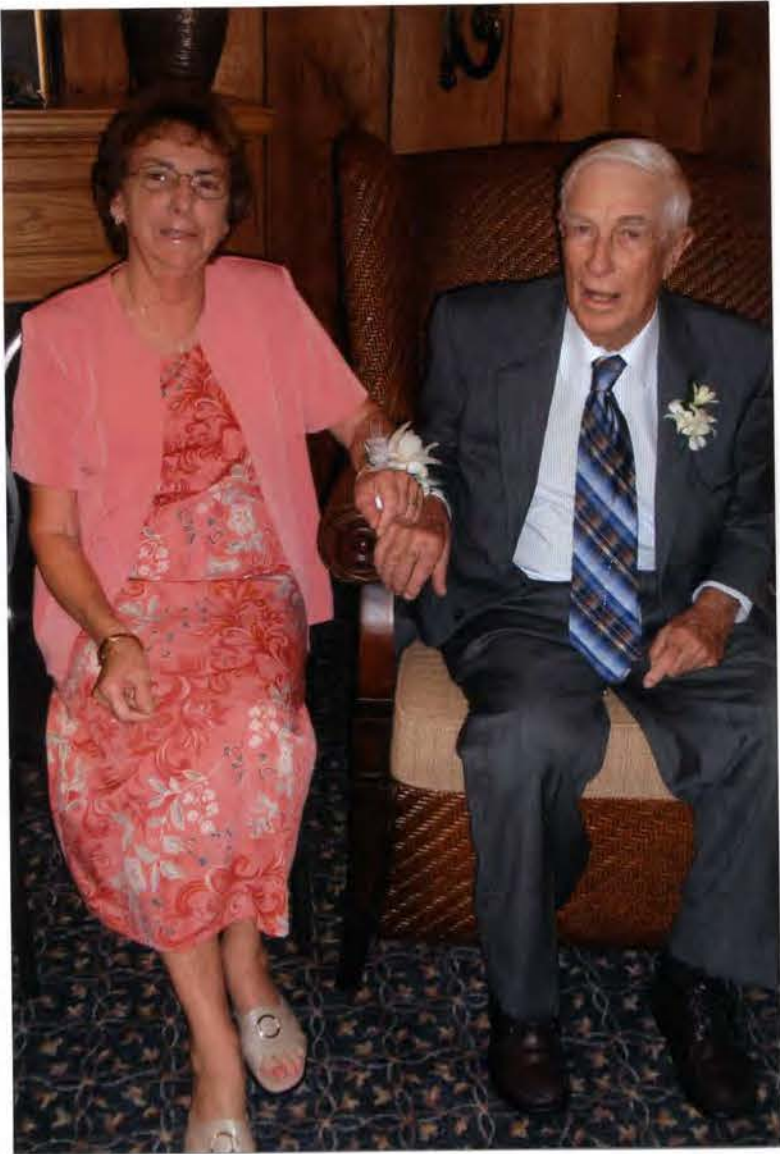
**Congratulations**  
**on your special day!**

S.A.R. le prince William de Galles  
 et M<sup>me</sup> Catherine Middleton

**Félicitations à vous deux**  
**en ce grand jour!**







Lyle & MARY JONES 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY. Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 2011

BACIKUS - PAGIE

HOUSE

MUSEUM.



WELCOME TO THE  
BACKUS-PAGE HOUSE MUSEUM



Transportation to and from events sponsored  
by Dave Simmon's Automotive.

Gate Collection by Dutton-Dunwich  
Lions Club.

SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS  
AND  
ON GOING DEMONSTRATIONS

MAY 24, 2008



## **Presentations Around the Backus-Page House Museum**

- “Hats Off to History”** 15 min. – 10:30am; 1:20pm  
Betty Simpson allows history to come alive with through her hat collection.
- Bee Keeping:** 30 min. – 10:30am; 3:30pm  
Learn how a hive operates and honey is harvested.
- Emigration of Scottish Settlers:** 15min – 10:45am; 1:00pm; 2:15pm  
Michael Baker shares his information of what settlers brought with them and how they coped in the area
- Native Crafts:** 35 min. – 11:05am; 3:05pm  
Wolf Thomas describes how his people lived before white settlers came, fishing techniques and One Feather has various crafts to discuss native lore.
- Quilting:** 30 min. – 11:05am; 1:55pm; 3:00pm  
A hands-on opportunity to learn the basics of quilting.
- Butter Making:** 20 min. – 11:30am; 2:55pm  
First learn how butter was churned in the time then make your own and enjoy your efforts on a cracker!
- Quill Pen Writing:** 20 min. – 12:05pm; 1:00pm; 2:30pm  
Learn the history of pens and then write a message with a Quill and home made ink.
- Military Soldier:** 15min. – 12:05pm; 1:35pm; 3:45pm  
View the uniform, equipment, and learn warfare differences of now and then.

## **Presentations Around the Church**

- Forest: Friends and Foe:** 30min – 10:30am; 1:00pm  
Along the Spicer Trail meet woodsmen with their Tools, discover challenges and benefits of the area.
- History of St.Peter’s Church:** 15min– 11:05am; 1:35pm  
Find out how this church has survived since 1827.
- Cemetery Talk on Col. Talbot:** 15min–11:25am; 1:55pm  
See the grave of Col. Talbot and relive some of the early history of the area.
- HMS Charwell Gun Crew:** 15 min. – 12:10pm; 2:35pm  
This is an artillery demonstration (including a canon) that is on the bluff overlooking Lake Erie.
- Camp Follower:** 15min – 11:50am; 1:00pm; 2:35pm  
The role of women who came with the soldiers.

### **On Going Demonstrations**

- Basket Weaving** – Producing usable baskets.  
**Pioneer Kitchen** – Full Functioning Kitchen!  
**Blacksmithing** – Creating articles from metal.  
**Game of Graces** – A game of hoops and sticks.  
**Ferrier** – Demonstration of shoeing horses





## Backus-Page House Museum

This 1850's restored Georgian style residence is home to a living history museum. Tour the house at your own pace or with a costumed interpreter. Hike the trails in the surrounding John E. Pearce Provincial Park or enjoy a picnic lunch on the estate grounds.

Costumed Interpreters



Education Programs  
Demonstrations  
Year-round Special Events



Hiking Trail  
Nature Tours



Summer Day  
Camps

The Backus-Page House Museum is operated by the **Tyrconnell Heritage Society.**

To learn about the THS and our programming visit [www.backuspagehouse.com](http://www.backuspagehouse.com)



## Backus Page House Museum

29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown, Ontario

519-762-3072

### Museum Activities

Individual &  
Group Tours  
Special Events  
Education Programs  
Summer Day Camps

### Outdoor Activities

Hiking  
Cycling  
Nature Tours  
Picnicking

### Amenities

Free parking - Buses and RVs welcome  
Gift Shop  
Picnic Area  
Meeting Facilities

### Local Area Attractions

St Peter's Anglican Church and Cemetery  
(Final resting place of Colonel Talbot)

Rodney Ye Olde Jail

John E. Pearce Provincial Park

Fingal Wildlife Management Area

Southwold Earthworks

Dutton Meadows Golf Course

Port Glasgow Marina & Beach

Cycle Elgin Trail

Trans Canada Trail Route

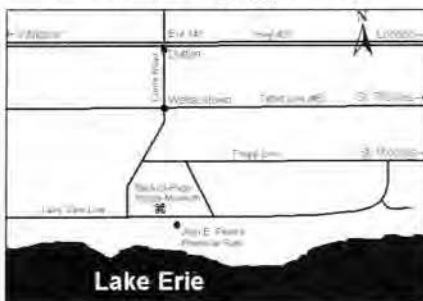
### Hours

**May to October** - Tuesday to Friday 10 to 4:30

Saturday and Sunday 12 to 4:30

Holiday Mondays 12 to 4

**Year round** - By appointment



### Directions

The museum is located just minutes from the Talbot Trail and Elgin County Road # 3 and only 10 minutes from the 401. Take the Dutton exit (Access road 149) to Lakeview Line and turn left. This publication is made possible by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.





# THE PIONEER PRESS

SPRING ISSUE 2008

News of the Tyrconnell Heritage Society and the Backus-Page House



Education



Restoration



Conservation

Backus-Page House Museum, 29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown, Ontario  
[tyrconnell@execulink.com](mailto:tyrconnell@execulink.com)



## President's Message

Inspiration!

What inspires you? What stimulates enthusiasm in you?

A few years ago I had the privilege of visiting Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg Ontario, a historical site depicting life in Upper Canada during 1865. All day I watched and listened to interpreters present their role as settlers of that early time period. It was great!

The following day at 6am while everyone was fast asleep I left our camp and proceeded to the village park to enjoy the gardens without the hustle and bustle of the crowd. Upon arriving I was approached by a security guard and in conversation he asked if I wanted to walk around the village. He did not have to say that twice. Off I went with camera in hand, the sun breaking in the horizon, water trickling through various streams and not another human being in sight. As I walked through the gate the sights and sounds were amazing. The time machine was working. There were period fences with weeds twined around posts and rails, village flower gardens in full bloom, cattle grazing in the small pasture and the cook stove aroma in the air from the previous days work. The horse drawn wagons and equipment stood outside the barn door just waiting for a team to hitch and work. All around me were homes of various colours, shops for different purposes, gardens to produce food for the table and farms that stood proud all telling a story of a day gone by. I had experienced inspiration.

One morning at 6am, just a few weeks ago, as I drove into the Backus-Page parking lot I noticed two turkey vultures sitting proud on the barn roof, woodpeckers tapping on the trees in the distance and the crunch of brush breaking under the weight of a deer's hooves. Spring plants were beginning to show their splendor and the spring mist from the lake hovering around the site. The barn stood proud waiting to tell a story, the red brick house anxious to light the cook stove, the bee house reminding me of sweet honey and the natural environment over the meadow touched only by creation.

I imagined a main gate walking us into the farm, an enclosed pasture made of rail fence, a wood water trough to care for livestock and the barn door open revealing implements ready to begin the workday. Gardens showing off the flowers and food requirements of an early Talbot settler, a chicken coop with a few chickens marching around our site, the apple orchard in bloom and showing promise of a bountiful harvest in the fall and the aroma of the cook stove from the kitchen in the air all around. I had experienced inspiration once again, a time machine in progress.

Family reunions, wedding celebrations, special group meetings and historic video productions are all drawn to experience the Backus Page House on a continuous basis. There is something special about this place.

Call it inspiration!

The business of museum management must go on, but never forget what inspired you to be involved and how your dedication and enthusiasm gives inspiration to someone else....

See you there some day at 6am.

Moving forward 1850 style

Henry

Henry Dryfhout, President, Tyrconnell Heritage Society



## Now We're Cooking....

Cast iron has come quite a long way since its use was first recorded in China as early as the 2nd century AD. The first stove to appear in historical records was built of brick and tile in 1490 in Alsace. These two technological advances, occurring countries and years apart became forerunners to a technology that continues to influence the domestic arrangement of a large portion of the world's contemporary population. Mostly taken for granted the modern oven has a long and rich tradition of improving the lives of us all. The first cast iron stove was manufactured in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1642. What most North Americans think of as the classic wood stove was invented by Benjamin Franklin in the early 1740's. Primarily intended as a source of heat the "Pennsylvania Fireplace" or "Franklin Stove", as it was more commonly referred to, was designed to sit inside the fireplace. The design had a labyrinthine path to vent hot exhaust gases while allowing heat to enter the room instead of going up the chimney. The next clear evolution in stove design occurred when Sir Benjamin Thompson (Count Rumford) expanded on his experiments in heat theory to create the Rumford Fireplace. Although still intended mainly as a device to provide heat, the Rumford fireplace used one fire to heat several pots that were also hung into holes so that they could be heated from the sides, too. The design was intended for large canteen or castle kitchens and it would take the better part of three decades before the technology would be developed that would bring the cast iron stove into the average kitchen.

Philo Stewart's Oberlin stove, patented in the US in 1834, became a best seller over the next 30 years (at a cost of \$22 a unit). Europe quickly followed with successful entrepreneurs like Jean-Baptiste Andre Godin who refined the manufacturing process with advances that included better designs as well as the mechanization of the casting process. The step-top cook stove design was seen as early as the 1820's. The term "step top" refers to the placement of the oven in the design of the stove. Today's oven is familiarly located below the range top but the step top cook stove was designed with the oven on top of the hot box. The years between 1850 and 1860 would have seen the fortune of the Backus family grow comfortably.

Andrew Backus was a second-generation settler and would have not had to contend with many of the difficulties that his parents, as original settlers, had to. Available records would seem to confirm Andrew's success on his Lakeview Farm (now known as the Backus-Page House). Along with his brothers, Stephen Jr. and Robert, Andrew was listed as a shareholder in the Dunwich Pier Company. This would seem to indicate that the Backus family had additional financial resources available that weren't directly needed to maintain a sustenance lifestyle. That type of relative financial security would have meant that Andrew and his wife Mary Jane had the ability to lead a life that afforded contemporary comforts like the step top cook stove chosen by the Tyrconnell Heritage Society as a functioning installation for the Backus-Page House.

The stove is finally installed and is ready for use. It will play a major role in this year's opening day activities as well as facilitating demonstrations for Education Day and our expanding activities programs. Stoves manufactured after the 1850s were large models that allowed for multiple functions with the range being employed for items like coffee, bacon and eggs while bread or buns baked in the oven. The position and size of the openings on top of the range





dictated the temperature of the cooking surfaces. Even with no thermostat on the stove the knowledgeable cook would know how to control the temperature based on the look and feel of the fire. Society members are busy researching the appropriate methods and tools needed to present the stove in the appropriate chronological manner and we're confident that, once again, the Backus-Page House will be filled with the smell of fresh baked bread, cookies and pies.

## Leta's Laurel's

On March 20, 2008, the Dutton & District Lions Club held their Awards Night. This is a very special night where Lions Club members and/or community members are recognized for their "volunteer" efforts. The guest speaker for the evening was Leta West, Past President of the Tyrconnell Heritage Society and current Chair of the THS Fundraising and Marketing Committee. Leta is an experienced public speaker and as such is quite comfortable in any kind of public situation. Unbeknownst to Leta though, this was to be no ordinary lecture presentation. The real reason Leta was invited was not to speak about the activities of the Tyrconnell Heritage Society. Instead she was to receive the Judge Brian Stevenson Award recognizing her contributions as a volunteer in the community.

Lions Club International is the world's largest volunteer organization. It has a membership of 1.4 million men and women throughout the world and is dedicated to the betterment of local communities and the world at large. The Lion's Club has been active in Canada since 1920. Some of the organization's activities include youth services, environmental activities and hearing and sight programs. A strong example of the organizations commitment to those programs can be found at Lions Foundation Canada (LFC) which is located in Oakville, Ontario. This segment of the organization provides dog guides for visually and hearing impaired persons.

As a member organization dedicated to community involvement, the Dutton & District Lions Club works to recognize outstanding Canadian Lions and other deserving recipients. A donation of \$500.00 was made in order to sponsor the Judge Brian Stevenson Award honouring this year's deserving community volunteer. Brian Stevenson is a Provincial Court Judge in Alberta. He is also a Lions Club member as well as a past President of Lions Clubs International. This recognition that bears his name is one of the greatest honors that can be awarded in Lionism.



This year, the Dutton & District Lions Club chose to honour Leta West for her Community Involvement with this award, particularly for her involvement with Tyrconnell Heritage Society. Caught completely off guard by the turn of events, Leta later confessed to finally discovering the true meaning of the word "flabbergasted".

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**We Serve**

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## Marketing the Backus-Page House

As another year of operations begins at the Backus-Page House Museum, the Tyrconnell Heritage Society Board is looking at ways of strengthening the profile of the Society and the museum locally and internationally. Through the use of a number of marketing strategies, the Society is working to create a greater awareness of the Backus-Page House and the Talbot Settlement history. To that end a new Marketing and Fundraising Committee has been created. The members of this new committee are Andi McKillop, Alice Paterson, Lin McCann, Craig Armstrong and Patrick Mooney and myself, Leta West. This committee, along with Cultural Manager Lori Milos-Ivanski, will work to develop an approach aimed at promoting the museum and its growing role as a historical and educational institution.

Though the museum hasn't officially opened for the current season, the Society has been hard at work, getting out into the community. Members took the opportunity to participate with information displays at several nearby events including the Gun and Knife Show in Mount Brydges, the Leisure and Recreation Fair at the Dutton Dunwich Community Center as well as entering a board for the opening day of Earth Expo. I have had the privilege to speak at the Dutton & District Lions Club and the West Elgin Genealogical and Historical Society meetings, exploring the topic "Nurturing the Legacy" and will continue to reach out to local clubs and community organizations promoting our Society and events. If you know of any club wishing to have a speaker from the Tyrconnell Heritage Society please feel free to contact Lori Milos-Ivanski at the Carriage House to make arrangements.

The society continues to work towards utilizing contemporary resources. Our website is still under construction but you may visit our blog at [www.tyrconnellheritagesociety.blogspot.com](http://www.tyrconnellheritagesociety.blogspot.com) to keep up on the latest in THS news and events. Be sure to send the link to your friends and family so they can have the opportunity to keep abreast of the Society and Backus-Page House Museum news.

Keep an eye out for updates so you don't miss the launch of the new website and the publication date of our latest brochure.

Our Grand Opening is May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year and the Society is partnering with the Anglican Church Women for the Bake Sale. Don't miss our interpretive demonstrations and the special Opening Ceremony Program. If you'd like to contribute to the day's activities, donations of baked goodies, BUT\*\*NO PIES, PLEASE, would be appreciated anytime after 12 p.m. See you then.

Leta West

Chair- Fundraising and Marketing  
Committee

"In the heart of the Talbot Settlement"



Backus-Page House





## Blog Spot

The Tyrconnell Heritage Society has instituted a blog with the desire to create a forum that will be convenient for reaching out to our membership and allowing our membership to contact us. If you have a picture or a story you'd like to share with the society that is relevant to the history of the museum and area or explores the environmental and natural resources of the our Carolinian surroundings please contact the Carriage House at [tyrconnell@execulink.com](mailto:tyrconnell@execulink.com) or email the Tyrconnell Heritage Society directly from the menu at our blog address [www.tyrconnellheritagesociety.blogspot.com](http://www.tyrconnellheritagesociety.blogspot.com). The Webmaster reserves the right to jury selections and edit text for consistency, length and grammatical accuracy as well as pictures to conform to bandwidth or aesthetic priorities.

The following is a sample of what you can find at the Tyrconnell Heritage Society blog...

### Research in John E. Pearce Provincial Park



A flash of yellow flutters bright against the tangle mass of winter bare vines and branches that mark the border between the Pearce Park path and the clay cliffs overlooking Erie's vast grey expanse. Across the path, to the left, another banner beckons. A few short steps into the underbrush finds a third strip of yellow anchoring a plastic bag to an overhanging branch. The small Ziploc bag contains a note with contact information and a small device that is designed to measure and record temperature variations. It isn't

the only bag of its kind located in the area. Another small bag can be found further in the park. In fact, several more of these bags have been placed at intervals along the Lake Erie shoreline. Through the cold months of our traditional Canadian winter, the devices in these bags will duly log the rise and fall of the mercury

The bags are part of a study being conducted by University of Western Ontario graduate student Caroline Williams.



To read the rest of the article about Caroline's studies, see a picture of the last lunar eclipse over Canada for the next 200 years or learn a little more about the 1850's lifestyle visit us at [www.tyrconnellheritagesociety.blogspot.com](http://www.tyrconnellheritagesociety.blogspot.com)



*Cutlery Tray*  
*Backus-Page House Museum Collection*

# Board and Staff Updates

## Old and new, tried and true...

### Executive Council

The 2008 Executive Council was elected during the Annual Members Meeting in February of this year. The biggest council change is the appointment of a new president. All were sad to see the end of Leta West's term as Society President but we are happy to welcome Henry Dryfhout to the position. Here is your new Executive Council for 2008.

President: Henry Dryfhout	Past President (Marketing-Grants-Fundraising): Leta West
1st Vice President (Buildings-Education Day): Ted Gill	2nd Vice President (Grounds & Trails): Susan Chapman-Reinke
Secretary (Newsletter): Ruth Wight	Treasurer (Membership): Johanna Schipper
Director (Grounds-Buildings- Misc): Eileen Hull	Director (History): Alice Paterson
Director (Accessions- History): Stacie Littlejohn	Director (Business Membership- History): Don Page
Director (History): Patrick Mooney	Director (Membership): Alison Pearce
Director (Grounds): Rudy Pilz	Director (Farm Show- Buildings): Mel Blundell

### Staffing Update

The Tyrconnell Heritage Society has hired a Cultural Manager to oversee the Society and Backus-Page House Museum administration. Lori Milos-Ivanski is an alumnus of the Fine Arts Program at Fanshawe College. She is a published writer and a professional artist who has worked in the commercial London art community for a number of years. You may reach Lori at the Carriage House at 519-762-3072 or at [tyrconnell@execulink.com](mailto:tyrconnell@execulink.com).



## Looking Back

### Memories of Morley



Morley Page was quite an individual to hear tell of it. Stories still abound about this man who may have not been large in stature but possessed a personality that was larger than life. Morley and his wife Grace left the house in 1968 but Morley still lives there in the memories and marks that he left behind.

It is the spring of 2008 and it has been decades since Morley slept under the Backus-Page House roof but a visitor remarks that he still remembers working in the fields here and finishing the day with a meal in what is now the museum kitchen. Tyrconnell Heritage Society member Bill Sloetjes has started the spring clean up early and has spent a considerable amount of time and an equal amount of hard effort clearing fallen trees from the front yard of the museum. He splits the wood by hand, dividing it into piles so it will be ready to fuel the cook stove and the machines that arrive for the Heritage Farm Show in August. Harvesting fallen maples, he can't help but think of Morley. When the sap ran here in the spring, Morley would tap so deep that he reached the heart of the tree. Bill knows what to look for and he can see the mark that remains leading him back over the years to find that memory of Morley once again.

One of the funniest stories that surround the memory of the man was told by Morley himself. Accessions Chair Stacie Littlejohn remembers how Morley enjoyed relating this particular chain of events to her. It seemed that Grace and Morley had a beautiful garden and on occasion drivers would slow down to admire the landscaping. One day Morley was in the front yard when a couple in a car stopped to view the garden expanse. This couple was particularly taken with an attractive tree in the yard that was graced with long fronds of golden blooms that hung down in the breeze. When asked, Morley was happy to inform them that the plant was called the Hanging Tree of Babylon. Quite entranced with this new knowledge the couple set off to parts as yet unknown. Morley did not give it a second thought until a mysterious correspondence arrived in the mail some time later from the States.

It was a post from the couple that had stopped to inquire about the beautiful golden flowering tree in the yard. It seemed that as hard as they looked, they hadn't been able to find a Hanging Tree of Babylon for their own garden. This was quite confusing for Grace as she'd never even heard of a Hanging Tree of Babylon. The truth of the matter wasn't hard to find. There was no such thing as a Hanging Tree of Babylon. The tree in the front yard was actually a laburnum (also known as Golden Chain). Morley hadn't the slightest idea what the name of the tree was but not wanting to seem unaware he had made something up on the spot! All the while the couple from the States had been looking for a Hanging Tree of Babylon it existed nowhere else but in the imagination of Morley Page.



*Morley and Grace on their 55th wedding anniversary*