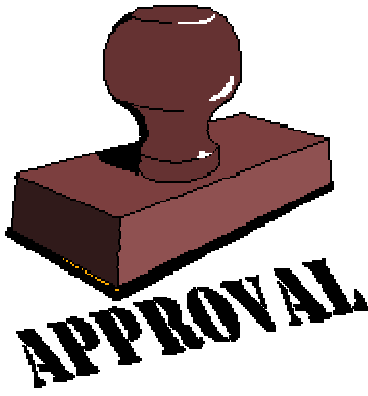


One For The Archives

The Newsletter of the Educational Archives and Heritage Centre
Issue Number 1 June 2001

The Archives Now Fully Incorporated



This year, our supporting organization, *Friends of the Educational Archives*, was officially registered as a non-profit corporation in the Province of Ontario.

The Ontario Historical Society informed us of our new status in a February letter. The Archives Executive is now in the process of applying for official charitable status, which should make it easier for this organization to acquire financial support.

Visit the New Location

Visitors are welcome at the new home of the Archives, Vincent Massey School on Macassa Avenue in Hamilton's Central Mountain. While the building is shared with other organizations, the Archives occupies several rooms and is regularly updating displays of artifacts and materials of interest to anyone who attended (or taught in) a school in the Hamilton-Wentworth area.

Interested people may want to access information from our extensive files of documents, which continue to be catalogued and cross-referenced. Photographs are sorted by schools and catalogued extensively; many educators in the pictures are identified and indexed in our growing computer database. School registers are organized by school and data about teachers, dates and school locations are clearly detailed in accompanying binders. (For hours of operation, see page 4)

Archives Volunteer Honored

Lyle Dalglish, one of the many volunteers who keep the Archives going strong was honored recently at a special ceremony at Emmanuel United Church.

On April 29th, 2001, Lyle was presented (in absentia) a special Recognition Award from the Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association. The inscription reads: "*For outstanding contributions to the understanding and preservation of our History and Heritage...*"



Lyle has been a regular volunteer at the Archives, in its various locations, for over 8 years. He has done a terrific job of organizing the hundreds of school

registers that make up an invaluable archival resource at the Vincent Massey site. (See also the story [Q&A with LVD](#) on page 3)

Making An Inquiry

Want to find out pictures of your old school days? Researching school history? Looking for information about your grandfather's student days or teaching career? Researching your family tree? The Archives may have the resources you need.

The Archives is still in a state of "becoming" – but more and more of our resources are now catalogued and readily accessible. We have school documents, registers of attendance, and thousands of photographs.

To investigate a particular topic or name, make an Archives "query": call or visit the Archives with your question. Provide as much detail as you can and give us some time to locate the material. Come in and examine the material we have located for you and have photocopies made where appropriate. A small query charge of \$5.00 per name, plus photocopying costs, will apply to each query.

The Year in Review: Celebrating Our Accomplishments

The following is a report from our tireless Archives Curator and Manager, John Aikman:

This June marks the completion of our second full year in our facilities at Vincent Massey School. We have finally emptied all of the boxes and the artifacts and archival materials have found a new home on one of our storage shelves or in a filing cabinet. Our crew of volunteers has increased to over 20 loyal persons who come to the Educational Archives on a regular weekly basis. Without their dedication none of this work would have been completed. Some of the significant accomplishments of the year:

Registers: The Wentworth Country Registers have now been completed indexed and shelved according to the former township school boards. We will now attempt to retrieve the missing copies, which hopefully are still in the operating schools. Thanks to Lyle Dalglish and his crew of Margaret Armstrong, Allan Eatock, Isabel Blyth and Audrey McDonald for their efforts. The Hamilton Registers are nearly complete for all of the operating schools up to 1969. There are still a few outstanding schools to hand theirs in. Through the dedicated efforts of Len Johnston, these records are now identified and shelved. We have also begun a process of placing the oldest records into acid free containers to ensure that further environmental deterioration is slowed down.

Queries: We are receiving from 3 to 5 requests a week from individuals around the world who are seeking educational or attendance information about themselves or early family members. This often takes many hours of research and investigation and we appreciate the work of our new researcher Marie Ballantine.

Hall of Schools: The north wing at V.M. has been changed to recognize many of our closed schools by displaying some of the plaques, school name letters, and photographs. This will be an ongoing project and will be added to as the need arises. Thanks to our new handyman Pete Lindsay for his efforts.

Library: Our collection of library books continues to grow. Thanks to the dedicated team of Ken Snell, Donna Iler, Alma Lister and Mark Webster, these books are continuing to be shelved, catalogued and stamped with our name.

Curriculum Documents: Jim Price has been a very dedicated volunteer in sorting out all of the curriculum materials and seeing that they are indexed.

Photographs/Prints: Thanks to the efforts of Gary Gibson thousands of pictures have now been indexed and catalogued for future reference.

Memorabilia: We have begun the process of sorting and cataloguing the various archival materials. Many of these items are now being entered into a computer base for easier retrieval. Many thanks to Joy Lane, Mary Jarrett, Joyce Scuton and Bob Cruickshanks for undertaking this huge task.

One of our newest challenges this spring has been in the closing of Allenby and Scott Park Schools. Using our School Closing Protocol we have gone into these schools, inventoried those historically significant items, and have arranged to have them transferred to the Educational Archives for safekeeping and future displays.



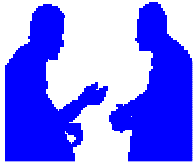
New Volunteers Needed: We are still looking for people to help us out with building our museum displays, cataloguing and generally refining our collection. If you know of anyone who might be willing to give us at least 3 hours a week please give the office a call at 905-318-3046.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to Wayne Joudrie for his continuing support of the Archives. He has quietly arranged for many things to happen and has guided our requests through the educational system of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

--- John Aikman

Q&A with LVD

In a recent interview, veteran Archives volunteer Lyle V. Dalgleish, retired Hamilton teacher and principal (1945-75), provided us with some insights into his continuing role in education... at the Archives.



Lyle, who will soon celebrate his 85th birthday, first came to the Archives out of an interest in genealogy. As a member of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Lyle was quite aware of the important role school registers play in researching family histories. He started as an Archives volunteer in 1992, when we were based in the former Ainslie Wood School. Lyle soon became the “man in charge of school registers”. Working with other volunteers, Lyle has organized all city and county registers in the Archives by schools, and has them cross-referenced on a card and binder system, which he hopes will soon be replaced by a computer database. Today he supervises the organization of county registers.

When registers arrive at the Archives, Lyle sees that they are labelled by location, grade and year. All teachers’ names and other data are recorded in binders and the registers are organized on labelled shelving that takes up two rooms at the Vincent Massey site.

Lyle clearly enjoys his volunteer role and realizes what a great genealogical resource he is helping to preserve. His personal satisfaction comes from knowing that what he does will someday help someone find an answer to who they are. He considers knowledge of family history and personal roots an essential part of one’s being. “You don’t know who you are until you know where you came from”, says Lyle.

Lyle likes to have some goal to aspire to and is looking forward to celebrating both his 85th birthday and 60th wedding anniversary in the next few months. While he feels he would like to soon give up his “in-charge” role regarding registers at the Archives, Lyle will continue to keep busy with his interests in genealogy, the Archives, his church, and of course his grandchildren.

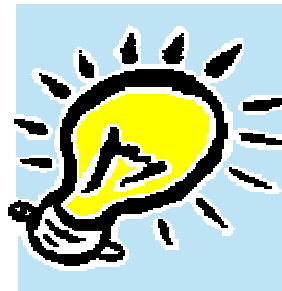
Generations of families who have passed through the schools in the Hamilton area benefit immensely from the volunteer work of Lyle Dalgleish, and his legacy promises to be valued by those generations still to come. Thank you, Lyle!

From the Past Into the Future

The Archives continues to evolve and strive to provide new services to its clients. Some of the initiatives we are looking at for the future:

- Making the Archives a registered charity.
- Setting up an Archives Website so everyone will have access to our resource databases.
- Providing displays at community facilities, highlighting the importance of our educational heritage.
- Providing a forum for interesting and informative speakers, on topics of educational and historical importance.
- Dealing with the Mohawk Trail Museum School facility in a meaningful, useful and sensitive way, in order that this valuable resource not be lost to future generations.
- Continuing to evolve as an independent, self-sustaining resource of value to the Hamilton community, and beyond.

And Some Other New Ideas



Here are a few of the other new initiatives we are considering. Don’t expect to see any of these ideas come to fruition in the near future... or ever for that matter.

An Archives Theme Park Visitors would be able to enjoy the thrills of such rides as The Register where participants thrill to endless passing lists of student names and attendance records. The Dust Bunny: cough, cough, the name says it all. The Chalkboard Squealer: You know that sound. Be afraid.

The Archives Lottery Entrants will buy \$100.00 tickets for a chance at winning: an authentic reproduction of a photo album of all HWDSB Chairmen, an opportunity to job-shadow an Archive Volunteer for three days, or a complete set of Beckoning Trails, All Sails Set and Using Our Language (the really good version).

The Good Old Days Roundtable Series A bunch of old retired teachers sit around and tell us how things were so much better in the old days (when they were paid \$3600 a year) and kids really learned something (and are now running the Ontario government). Held just about any week-day at Tim Horton’s facilities throughout the region.

Visiting the Archives: Summer Hours

During the Summer of 2001, the Archives and Heritage Centre at Vincent Massey School, 155 Macassa Ave. (between Upper Gage and Upper Sherman) will be open for visitors on a limited schedule.

The hours that the Centre is open are listed below. To be certain, call ahead and leave a voice-mail message to make sure someone will be on hand to offer you assistance.

Educational Archives and Heritage Centre

155 Macassa Avenue,
Hamilton L8V 2B5

Telephone: 905-318-3046

Regular Hours: Sept. – June

Mon and Wed 9-12 Tues 9-3

Other times by appointment

Special Summer Hours (on call):

Mon – Fri 9-12 Call ahead!

Charitable Status on the Horizon

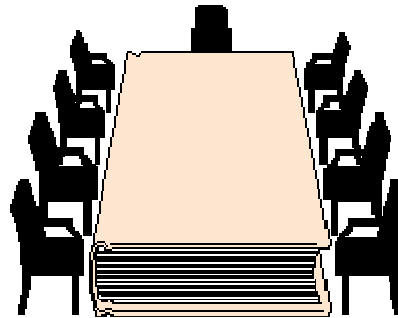
The Friends of the Archives recently applied to the Ontario government for official charitable status. It is hoped that the acquisition of such status will make the Archives more attractive to those who wish to offer their financial support and receive a tax-creditable receipt. Watch for further news on this issue, in future newsletters.

Prominent Role In School Closings

When a local school in the HWDSB is considered no longer functional and is closed for the last time, many records, artifacts and items of historic value will be transferred to the Archives so they may be accessible to all of us for years to come. A School Closing Protocol, now in the pilot stage, will ensure that valuable items from Scott Park and Allenby schools, slated for closure this year, will not be lost but will be catalogued and stored at the Archives.

Executive Steers the Archives and Plans for the Future

The Archives depends on many volunteers to make this valuable resource a success. Setting the agenda and planning the direction for the organization is the responsibility of a small, hard-working executive.



Elected by the Friends of the Archives, the Executive meets monthly to set priorities, manage the budget, plan projects, and maintain contact with other historical associations and government agencies.

The current (2000-2001) Executive consists of Murray Aikman (Chair), Fred Cliffe (Treasurer), Gary Gibson (Secretary) and Members-At-Large Bob Williamson, Walter Moir, Alma Lister, Margaret Robinson, and Donna Iler. Also sitting in on Executive Meetings are HWDSB Superintendent Wayne Joudrie who provides essential guidance and liaison and Archives curator John Aikman who really gets to do all the work!

Don't Forget Your Anniversary!

The Archives wants to continue to play a prominent role in school anniversary celebrations. Archives Curator John Aikman, has compiled a list of all key school anniversaries from 25 to 150 years and will send out a Anniversary Date Reminders to school administrators to remind them of the important role our facility can play in providing research resources and display materials.

The Archives also has a **Handbook on Running Reunions**, available to school committees on a loan basis.

**One For The Archives
is the Newsletter of the
Friends of the Educational Archives**

and will be published periodically to keep you informed about this important resource.

Written and edited by Gary Gibson
