

# OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

Submitted by Amelia Ferguson, Assitant Archivist

As always, things are buzzing in the Archives. The spring is a very busy time for us. The Spring Lecture Series, Archives Awareness Week, and the Grey County Black History Event all happen within a matter of weeks! This is all in addition to helping researchers, accessioning collections, responding to inquiries, and providing assistance to other departments as needed.

Throughout the season we will be hosting our 2nd Annual Spring Lecture Series. Topics include the Meaford Tank Range, Synagogue architecture, local commercial and industrial architecture, myths of the Anishinabek, and ground water conservation. Lectures are presented every Tuesday at 2:30pm, beginning March 13, 2007, and continue for five consecutive weeks. Lectures are included with the admission price to the Museum & Archives. As always, members are admitted free!

Archives Awareness Week is celebrated the first full week in April. We will be acknowledging this provincially recognized event by offering free admission to the Reading Room all week! Free Awareness Kits are also available to all those who visit Grey Roots. Discover treasures from our collections in our newest exhibit, Our History on Paper: The Grey County Archives. Browse over seventy photographic reproductions from our permanent collection that grace the walls

of the Reading Room. Check out our rotating foyer exhibit where you can read letters sent to a friend by a Nursing Sister during the First World War. Also on display will be a travelling exhibit on loan from the Archives of Ontario entitled Yours to Discover – Tourism in Ontario Through Time.

We will close out the season with the 6th Annual Grey County Black History Event, a cooperative project between the Bruce and Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the West Grey Chamber of Commerce, and the Grey County Archives. This year's theme is Broken Shackles – Future Links. The Event takes place Saturday April 28, 2007 at the Durham Arena & Community Centre. The day features a lecture by author Peter Meyler entitled "Daddy Hall – A Turbulent Life", a genealogy seminar lead by Kathleen Szakall, a reading of dub poetry by Kathleen James, and a moderated panel discussion on the topic of community outreach. Pre-registration is appreciated. Please contact Greta Kennedy at 519-369-3119 or gretakennedy@sympatico.ca to register. A participation fee of \$35.00 for adults and \$25.00 for students applies; this rate includes lunch, coffee breaks, and materials. For an online registration form visit [www.greyroots.com/program-events/events](http://www.greyroots.com/program-events/events).

See you in the Reading Room!



# Grey Matter

A NEWSLETTER FOR ENQUIRING MINDS

ISSUE #5, SPRING 2007



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# WELCOME to SPRING 2007



## Submitted by Brian Manser, Manager of Grey Roots Museum & Archives

This winter has been busy at Grey Roots. Since our Winter edition of Grey Matter we have had over 4,000 visitors through the door and we also welcome many new families and individuals as Grey Roots Members.

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for their continued support; we couldn't do the work without you!

A special thank you is extended to Frank Deacon, Project Coordinator for the Ontario Collaboration Volunteer Network project. His extensive report is filled with much needed information about potential local volunteers. Together Grey Roots Museum & Archives and Bruce County Museum & Cultural Centre will share this information to improve volunteerism in our respective Counties.

It is my pleasure to introduce Ted Noble, Building Superintendent. Originally from Owen Sound Ted left the area in 1997 to further his education and work experience. We are pleased to have Ted join our team at Grey Roots and welcome him back home to Grey County.

This is also a time for co-op placements at Grey Roots. Collection staff are pleased to once again welcome Jay Smith from the University of Waterloo. Jay worked with the museum collection this past summer. His assistance has been invaluable as he has located and unpacked artefacts for the heritage buildings, updated location information, re-applied accession numbers, moved furniture, cleaned artefacts, and many other essential tasks. Stacy and Joan will certainly miss his cheerful demeanor and invaluable assistance when he returns to university in May.

The Archives is pleased to have Jesse Yeo, a grade eight student from Riverforest Montessori School here on a co-op placement. Jesse has helped staff with preparing journals for the Northern Terminus book launch and is also working on inventorying the archives' map collection.

Our Heritage Program department is also pleased to welcome back Katie Jerome, a grade 12 co-op student from St. Mary's High School. This year Katie will be helping with educational programming, research

and various other tasks. Katie has been an asset to our Heritage team in the past as a summer student volunteer.

Jason LeBreton has eagerly joined the Grey County Tourism Team and will be assisting until mid-June. Jason also joins us from St Mary's High School co-op program and is considering pursuing a career in the tourism field. We are happy to welcome Jason and look forward to working with him.

Although winter was late in starting, it has more than made up for the delay! We experienced seven snow days, forcing teachers to reschedule visits to later in the year. True to their Grey County spirit, 75 students from the area braved the weather to participate in our annual Voyageur Day. This unique Grey Roots French language hands-on program allows children to step back in time and experience life as it was.

Collections staff are extremely busy readying the three heritage log buildings for school programming, to begin in late April. There is so much to do as building repairs are made and artefacts are located and returned to their respective buildings. In conjunction with this, Interpretation is dusting off their Pioneer School Program and costumed interpreters are reacquainting themselves for the much sought after program.

These are exciting times as our thoughts turn to Spring and a new phase of development begins. We eagerly prepare for the long awaited warmer weather as we direct our attention to the Heritage Village, the Log Cabins, and a School House.

The contractors will soon be pouring the foundations for the Sawmill and School House, and a dedicated group from the Grey Retired Teachers Association will commence building the School House soon after. The installation of the electrical utilities, gas mains, landscaping, and roadwork will begin as soon as the snow disappears.

With Spring just around the corner we look forward to a new year and all that it brings. Thank you to all of our volunteers, Museum & Archives Members, students and staff; you help make Grey Roots a true part of the community!

## EXHIBITS

**Our History on Paper: The Grey County Archives**  
Until May 18, 2007

**Home on the Range: The Meaford Tank Range Story**  
Until May 20, 2007

**Spinning Through Time: The Dorothy and Harry Kirk Collection**  
Until May 22, 2007

**From Slavery to Freedom: African Canadians in Grey County**  
Until September 9, 2007

**L'Chaim - To Life: The Story of the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue**  
Through 2007

**The Robot Zoo: How Animals Work**  
Opens May 26, 2007

## EVENTS

**Marchbreak KidsCamp**  
March 12-16, 2007

**Spring Lecture Series**  
March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 10, 2007

**Archives Awareness Week**  
April 2-5 and 7, 2007

**Homeschool Day - Pioneer Program**  
April 24, 2007

**P.D. Day Adventure - Pioneers**  
April 30, 2007

**Historica Fair**  
May 2, 2007

**International Museum Day at Grey Roots**  
May 18, 2007

# Thank You!

The Grey County Archives would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to the permanent collection in 2006:

Annan Women's Institute in the care of Audrey Spence - Leith ON  
Dave Apple - Badjeros ON  
Leata Ashby - Meaford ON  
Frank Bassingthwaite - Meaford ON  
Fred Blair - Orillia ON  
Joyce Blyth - Guelph ON  
Bruce & Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society - Owen Sound ON  
Ruth Cathcart - Warton ON  
William Church & Ray Davidson - Barrie & Grand Valley ON  
Alice Cook - Owen Sound ON  
Rod Cook - Belle Plaine KS  
Jack Crowther - Peterborough ON  
Dorothy Crysler - Heathcote ON  
Kenneth Darling - Clarksburg ON  
Frank & Valerie Deacon - Owen Sound ON  
Marjorie Devin - Toronto ON  
Agnes Diemert - Aytton ON  
Durham Rotary Club - Durham ON  
Marilyn Fedorenko - Hepworth ON  
Drew Ferguson - Owen Sound ON  
Alex Foster - Dutton ON  
Ruth Gorbet - Owen Sound ON  
Marilyn Hammond - Hamilton ON  
James W. Henry - Pickering ON  
Isabel Hewitson - Owen Sound ON  
Ann Kelly - Owen Sound ON  
Roy Keys - Barrie ON  
Knox Presbyterian Church Conn - Conn ON

Harris Kuhl - Chatsworth ON  
Daisy Lamb - Owen Sound ON  
Grace Lamb - Meaford ON  
Ruth Larmour - Carleton Place ON  
Al Leeder - Warton ON  
Dorothy Long - Montréal QC  
Olive Baines MacDonald - Durham ON  
Ken MacIntosh - Owen Sound ON  
Jean Maher - Owen Sound ON  
Donna Maine - Aytton ON  
Kathryn Mauer - Caledon ON  
Elizabeth McKinlay - Owen Sound ON  
Stephanie McMullen - Owen Sound ON  
McNeil Cemetery Board in the care of Katie Harrison - Priceville ON  
Dorothy Milligan - Hanover ON  
Barbara Mitchell-McNeill and Lorraine Hamill - Meaford ON  
Marg O'Connor - Kitchener ON  
Joan Crowe - Owen Sound ON  
Grant Preston - Dundalk ON  
Katherine Rydall on behalf of her father Guy Hewitson - Owen Sound ON  
Patricia Sanderson - Neustadt ON  
Bruce Sheppard - Meaford ON  
Sydenham & St. Vincent Young Farmers in the care of Gwen Mitchell - Owen Sound ON  
Sydenham Bruce Trail Club in the care of Pat Savage - Owen Sound ON  
Wayne Vollett - Hanover ON  
Glynn Waterton - Owen Sound ON  
Leith & Eileen Weber - Thornbury ON  
West Grey Public Library - Neustadt ON  
Woodland Springs Women's Institute - Mount Forest ON

# THE Tourism REPORT



Submitted by Amanda Pausner, Tourism Coordinator

While winter got off to a slow start, with our most recent snow accumulation, continuous snowfall for 7 days and 90 centimeters, we are now declaring Grey County a Winter Wonderland where the snow is seen as 'white gold'. Many other areas still do not have good snow cover, and we are seeing snowmobilers, skiers and boarders pack our area's trails and hills to enjoy their winter passion.

The Tourism Department has been hitting the trails by snowmobile with writers from the Michigan Snowmobiler, Supertrax and the Ontario Snowmobiler. We also hosted a film crew from PBS Michigan to better promote all winter activities and snow conditions in the area.

Be sure to look for Tourism's 2007 contest Campaign, "Getaway to Grey", which encourages residents and tourists to drive their way throughout the County and discover many of our tourism attractions and backcountry gems. With the help of our new "Pocket Guide," there are themed driving tours, valuable coupons and the chance to win one of 5 "Exclusive" Prizes.

The Grey Bruce Visitor Map exploded in popularity last year with all 50,000 copies depleted in 5 months. A new copy of the map is hot off the presses by the end of February.

Our 2007 Grey County Experience Guide will be on shelves as of the beginning of March, be sure to receive your copy!



# Hog Scraper Candlestick

Submitted by Joan Hyslop, Registrar

In the first half of the 19th-century, many people could not afford expensive candles, nor elaborate brass or silver candlesticks for their households. Plain-looking tinplate candlesticks, now often referred to as "hog scraper" candlesticks, and tallow candles, were commonly used for household lighting purposes. These candlesticks did not have saucer trays, nor handles, but did have round, convex metal bases. This base shape gave them their "hog scraper" nickname. After hogs were slaughtered, hot water was poured over the carcasses (to scald them) and hog bristles had to be scraped off with a blunt knife, or a rounded metal hog scraper tool.

Another feature is the thumb-pushed "slide ejector" in the vertical slot present in the cylindrical stem of the candlestick. This simple mechanism allowed one to push up the candle as it shortened and then to eventually eject the stub. Thrifty persons would be sure to save their candle stubs, as they could always be melted down to help form new candles.

The donor told the museum staff in 1956 that this candlestick formerly was used at the first post office in Owen Sound, which was situated in a roughcast building in the market square area. In 1850s editions of Owen Sound newspapers, one can see printed lists of "Letters Waiting" at the post office. Sometimes it took a long time before a letter could be picked up by, or for, the settler it was addressed to. The location of the post office was very handy, as the market square area was where farmers would bring produce or wood to sell on market days. It is not known how long the post office kept the candlestick in use, but until kerosene lighting became more prevalent, it likely was much appreciated by the postmaster.



Land Agent John Telfer acted as an ad hoc postmaster in the 1840s, as the village of Sydenham got its start. Mr. George Brown was Owen Sound's first official postmaster, serving from 1853, until his mysterious disappearance in the White Cloud Island area in September, 1868. Mr. John George Francis succeeded him as postmaster, from 1868 until 1880.

As Owen Sound celebrates its Sesquicentennial this year, it is neat to know that we have something here at the museum that likely was a familiar item to "Owen Sounders" of 1857...

1956.015.004

Donated by Mr. Aubrey Holmes



# Marchbreak KidsCamp!

Seasons of Grey County March 12-16, 2007!

Join us for games, experiments, exploration, crafts, outdoor activities, a field trip, and so much more.

Monday: Winter - To hibernate or not?

Tuesday: Spring - The forest comes alive!

Wednesday: Summer - A day at the beach!

Thursday: Autumn - The fruits of our labour

Friday: It's not over yet.....summers a comin'

What you need to know:

Ages 5 to 12.

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm

(Early drop off at 8:30am and late pickup at 5:00pm is available)

Cost of KidsCamp:

One Participant \$100/child

Museum Members \$90/child

Family Rate (3 or more Children) \$90/child

Visit [www.greyroots.com](http://www.greyroots.com) to download a registration form. Marchbreak KidsCamp fills up quickly so make sure to reserve your spot early!

## Volunteers!

Submitted by Lisa Plante, Heritage Interpretation

The last quarter has seen our volunteers helping out in our celebrations, our everyday operational activities, and our children's programming. Our Christmas event celebrating our European, Jewish, and African Canadian traditions was made more enjoyable with the assistance of our junior and senior volunteers. P. D. Day Adventures continue to grow in popularity and we are grateful that our Junior Interpreters have so generously given of their "days off" to help younger children in our community have a fun and educational day with us! And, as always, many of the small but vital tasks in the different departments have been completed by a dedicated core of faithful helpers.

Again, we would like to thank our "Ghost Walk" volunteers from the October event. We enjoyed a "Night At The Museum" at the Galaxy Theatre with them and will soon get together to begin planning for our 2007 event. A pot luck supper to do so is planned and we have rescheduled it for April 1st. If you are interested in joining us for an evening of fun to explore the possibilities call the Interpretation Department for details.

Do you like to sew? Have you a machine and a few hours you're willing to give? We are looking for people to help make simple costumes for our children's pioneer program which begins the end of April. Please call the Interpretation Department as soon as possible for more information. Thank you to those who have already expressed interest.

## Grey Matter

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Published by Grey Roots Museum & Archives

Issue #5, Spring 2007

Established 2005

Grey Matter is a quarterly newsletter for the members, volunteers, and friends of Grey Roots Museum & Archives. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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**Interior Photographs:** Petal Furness and Grey Roots Tourism

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Copies are available free of charge at Grey Roots Museum & Archives.

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# The Robot Zoo

## SNEAK PEEK

Submitted by Petal Furness, Heritage Interpretation

Opening May 26th and on display until September 9th, this fantastic travelling children's exhibit will be available for school tours until the end of June and will be the focus for three weeks of summer KidsCamp. The Robot Zoo has three very large robots – a House Fly, a Chameleon and a Platypus, as well as eight activity stations that reveal the magic of nature as a master engineer. The exhibit is so big it will fill two exhibit galleries! Activities include:

1. **Keep an Eye on You** - The robot model of a chameleon's head shows how the real reptile views the world: through eyes that work independently. As visitors move each of the robot's eyes with a joystick, they can see on two color monitors the separate images the robot's eyes "see."
2. **Tongue Gun** - Triggering the Tongue Gun demonstrates how a real chameleon shoots out its long, sticky-tipped tongue to reel in a meal. Sharpshooters use a joystick to aim the head of a robot chameleon, then press a button to fire its long tongue at one of several insect targets.
3. **Hide and Seek** - Visitors can blend in like a chameleon. Wearing a coat that matches a wall in the background, visitors can watch themselves appear and disappear on a video monitor as they move back and forth in front of the wall.

4. **Mister Platypus** - Visitors of all ages can build a platypus or their own whimsical creature by adding different animal parts, such as an alligator's tail or an elephant's trunk, to the model of a platypus' body.
5. **Robot Body Shop** - Drum mounted machine parts allow visitors to manipulate some of the mechanical devices used to construct the robots, such as hinges, pumps, springs and shock absorbers.
6. **Eye to Eye** - Visitors can stand behind a 5-foot-tall cutout of a housefly and get a fly's-eye view through two 19-inch compound eyes. A real housefly can't see fine details unless it's up close, but its eyes (each with about 4,000 six-sided lenses) can detect even the slightest movement in all directions.
7. **Swat the Fly** - This activity tests participants' reaction time (about one-twelfth as fast as a housefly's). Visitors use their hands to "swat" the backlit image of each fly as it randomly flashes.
8. **Sticky Feet** - Visitors wearing special hand and kneepads can try to stick like flies to a sloping surface.



## HERITAGE INTERPRETATION UPDATE: GREY ROOTS EXHIBITS FOR 2007

Submitted by Petal Furness, Lisa Plante and Susan Martin, Heritage Interpretation

We have had a fabulous 2006 and we are looking forward to an even more successful and fun 2007. Interpretation has a great line-up of exhibits in addition to **The Robot Zoo** planned for this year:

Grey Roots Heritage Village: Our three log buildings will be opening in the spring beginning with the Log Cabin, opening April 23rd to facilitate our new school program Log Cabin Life: Stories & Play from Pioneer Days. The Blacksmith Shop will open in May and the Log House will open in June. Educational programming is now being developed. Interpretation of these buildings for the summer months is also under development. We are hoping that resources will be available for us to open the Bluewater Garage in July.

Grey Roots will produce three large, collections-based exhibits: **Spinning Through Time: The Dorothy and Harry Kirk Spinning Wheel Collection**, Jan 19th-May

22nd, 2007; **Objects of Affection: Artefacts from Grey Roots Collection**, Sep 14th-Jan 13, 2008; and **Playing with Time: A History of Children's Toys**, Sep 14th- Feb 3rd, 2008.

We will be bringing back Grey County favourites – **From Slavery to Freedom: African Canadians in Grey County**, Feb 10th-Sep 9th, 2007, and we will once more host the Black Art Exhibit in conjunction with the Emancipation Celebration Festival in July & August; **For The Boys: Life on the Homefront**, Sep 14th- Nov 11th, 2007; and **A Christmas Storybook**, Nov 14th-Jan 13, 2008.

Don't miss our current exhibits: **Home on the Range: The Story of the Meaford Tank Range** is open until May 20th; **Spinning Through Time** closes May 22nd and **L'Chaim – To Life: the Story of the Beth Ezekiel Synagogue** is on display for all of 2007.

## Spring Lecture Series

### MARCH 13, 20, 27 & APRIL 3, 10, 2007

LECTURES START AT 2:30 PM

FOIBLES OF ST. VINCENT TOWNSHIP  
THE HISTORY OF THE MEAFORD TANK RANGE

BY THE RIVERS OF BABYLON:  
THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE SYNAGOGUE

THE MARCH OF COMMERCE:  
THE INDUSTRIAL-COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE OF GREY COUNTY

THE MYTHOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE ANISHINABEK  
FIRST NATIONS STORIES, LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

GROUNDWATER - THE VITAL RESOURCE  
WATER CONTAMINATION AND PROTECTION

