

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2008

Quakers in Grey

By the end of the 19th Century, Grey County was something of a high-water mark in the expansion of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ontario. In less than 75 years after their founding, the small Quaker communities in Heathcote, the Mallory Tract and Woodford would be gone. 2008 will bring the Canadian Friends (Quaker) Historical Association back to Grey County.

Hosted by Grey Roots Museum and Archives, the Canadian Friends (Quaker) Historical Association will be holding their Annual General Meeting and Conference on Saturday September 20, 2008. The day continues their year-long exploration of the role of Quakers in the abolition of slavery, and also includes an opportunity to learn about the flourishing and influential Quaker communities in the county.

The morning will include the formal business meeting of the Association, and a museum and archives tour. After lunch, participants will take a two hour tour of Black heritage sites in and around Owen Sound, led by local researcher Terri Jackson. A formal dinner provided by the European Bakery Cafe will begin the evening program which includes a screening of the National Film Board documentary *Speakers for the Dead* about the reclamation of the Black pioneer cemetery in Priceville, and a panel discussion with the film's director Jennifer Holness, local historian Les MacKinnon and author Karolyn Smardz Frost.

Also open to interested individuals, "the AGM will provide a great opportunity to review and update our understanding of the final flowering of Quaker expansion" says Gordon Thompson, the Chairman of the Canadian Friends Historical Association.

For more information, contact:

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