



New book uncovers rare social histories of local Black, Native, Scottish, and English pioneers

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A new view of the rich tapestry that is Grey County's cultural history is presented on **January 17, 2009 at Grey Roots Museum & Archives** at the book launch of "**William Wye Smith: Recollections of a Nineteenth Century Scottish Canadian.**" Dr. Scott McLean, co-editor of the book, will be reading and taking questions about these recollections of the area's pre-confederation history.

"The book centers around the pioneer years between 1830 and 1860 with a focus on the Owen Sound area," says Jane Penhale, the book's publishing editor from Natural Heritage Books. She adds, "Anyone interested in the history of Ontario, including little-known customs and backwoods experiences of Black, Native, Scottish, and English pioneers, will enjoy the recollections of this extraordinary historian."

These Canadian Reminiscences by William Wye Smith are hand-written compilations of anecdotes collected during his lifetime that relate to his experience as journalist, clergyman and son of Scottish settlers and provide his own unique perspective of pioneer life. This fully annotated version of Smith's unpublished manuscript highlights Smith's unwitting testimony to the social life of the province, his relationship to the construction and maintenance of Scottish and Canadian identity, as well as his position in literary history.

Editor Dr. Scott A. McLean, a Grey County local who resided in Owen Sound for many years, conducted much of his research with co-editor Dr. Michael E. Vance in Durham and at the Archives of Ontario in Ottawa. Dr. McLean is presently teaching at Queen's International Study Centre at Herstmonceaux Castle, East Sussex, England. Dr. Michael E. Vance is a history professor at St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Grey Roots is pleased to be hosting the launch of this extraordinary collection of pioneer histories. The book launch starts at 2:00 pm in the in Grey Roots Theatre.

"William Wye Smith: Recollections of a Nineteenth Century Scottish Canadian" Book Launch Details:

Date: Saturday, January 17, 2009

Time: 2 p.m.

Activities: Book readings and light refreshments. Books will be available for purchase.

Location: Grey Roots Museum & Archives

Cost: Free

About Grey Roots Museum & Archives

Grey Roots Museum & Archives has grown and developed into a unique facility from the County Museum's beginning in 1955 and the later establishment of a County Archives in 2000 in order to promote and preserve the heritage of Grey County. With the consolidation of the Grey County Museum, Grey County Archives, and Tourism in 2004, Grey Roots has become a multi-faceted attraction. Innovative and informative interpretive programs and demonstrations, rotating exhibits, a heritage village, archival resources and superior customer service come together to create an exciting and educational visitor experience.

Grey Roots Museum & Archives
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