

Vol. 4– April 2014

H.E.I.R.S. newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



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Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Inside this Issue...

*April Meeting:
Meet the Park House Museum's new curator*

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the April issue of the HEIRS newsletter.

We're still without signs of real Spring, as we gather this month's newsletter items and articles for your reading pleasure. But take heart, as good things come to those who wait... so we should be expecting wonderful things then?

Last chance to save on your membership renewals at the current price, so send in your cheques soon. May 1st, 2014 they go up to \$25, so save the cash and take a friend out for coffee instead.... **maybe on your way to our next meeting?**

April Meeting

When: Thursday, April 24th, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre

Join us on April 24th to hear the new curator and administrator of the Park House Museum in Amherstburg.

Stephanie Pouget-Papak has taken over for the retiring Valerie Buckie, who served the community for 26 years.

Stephanie was raised in Amherstburg, and has spent the last 15 years as a volunteer in many local groups. She joined the Park House Museum staff last September, after acquiring 3 University degrees and a desire to foster local history.

She has many plans for the Museum, starting with an exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War 1.

Stephanie will explain the past history of the Museum, and her ideas for the coming years.



On Thursday, March 27, HEIRS met to hear the chief of the Caldwell Indian Band, Louise Hillier, speak. She told us the history of the band, which for centuries had called Point Pelee and Pelee Island their home.



Through the 1700s and early 1800s, they lived in harmony with their white neighbours, and allied themselves with the British crown. In the War of 1812, they fought with William Caldwell and his Rangers, as they felt he was a leader they could trust.



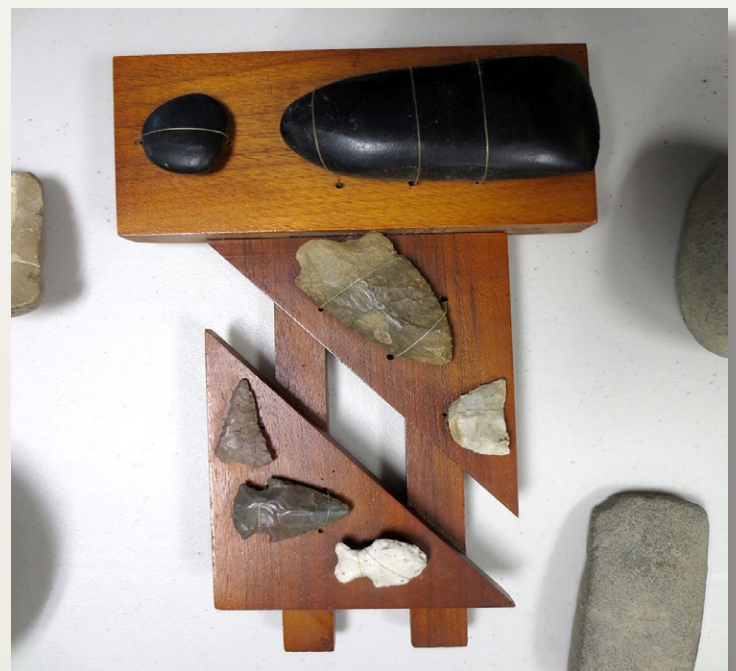
Our guests were councillor Jan Peters (above centre) and Chief Louise Hillier (sisters).



The Caldwell Indians, as they came to be known, were a part of the greater Potawatami nation, and have always been based in what is now the Leamington area.

They were driven off their lands in Point Pelee by force, and were left with no homeland. It is only in the last few years that compensation has been worked out with the Canadian government, an achievement in which Chief Louise has been deeply involved.

Today the band is encouraging its youth to obtain a good formal education, and has achieved remarkable results in this goal. They strive to instill in their young people a respect for the old ways and the ancient philosophies of their ancestors, while taking their place in the modern world. Her talk was most educational and enlightening, as we were given the opportunity to better understand our neighbours from a different culture.



Director Peter Timmins brought a small part of his collection of Indian artifacts to the meeting; items he has found on his Harrow area farm over the years..... grinding stones, arrowheads.

SPECIAL REQUEST:

This photo is labelled “SS 18, South Colchester, Oct. 8, 1901, Stanley Wrightman, teacher, 19 yrs. old”. Can you help identify any of the children?

Both the original mounted image and an enhanced version are shown below.

Please contact HEIRS if you think you can identify anyone. *Use the numbers to guide us.*





April 3

G. B. Hayes, manager of the Essex County Electric Light Co. met the village trustees and discussed street lights. He offered an all-night service at 5 cents, or until midnight at 3.5 cents. Trustees decided to try 40 candle power tungsten lights before entering into a contract.

James Secord of Highgate wants to dispose of his business there and return to Harrow, and go into the poultry business.

Iler Settlement School needs to be replaced or repaired with an addition.

The roof of the Methodist Church has never been satisfactory; they will either extend it, or replace part of it. The interior will be renovated, re-plastered and redecorated.

April 10

Dr. Douglas Quick is home from Toronto Medical College; hopes to practise until Christmas and then go to New York to spend 2 years in one of the leading hospitals.

April 15

Heinz have established a salting station in Harrow, thanks to the energies of Howard Heaton.

April 17

Alfred Munger has J. K. McLean engaged in cutting down his orchard in the village and reducing it to firewood. The orchard comprised over 5 acres, and was planted 47 years ago, in 1867. It became infested with San Jose scale, and was no more use for fruit.

April 24

150,000 pounds of tobacco were shipped from this point by the Empire Tobacco Co., to Granby, Quebec.

The ice cream parlour run by John Quick will open on May 1st at T. B. Adams block. (this is probably the Bank building known as the Adams block.)

April 24

The Colchester Post Office will be officially closed on April 30. One complaint states: "Colchester has poorer mail service now than it had 30 years ago, when the mail left Oxley, with horses, and going from office to office, gathered the mail and arrived at Amherstburg by noon. Now a letter from Amherstburg takes 2 days, being gathered up too late to even make the 5 PM train, and stays in Harrow overnight".



From the HEIRS mailbag...

A little help!

Consider receiving your HEIRS newsletter by e-mail. This will reduce our photocopying & mailing expenses. The entire digital edition (PDF) or even just a special page or 2 can be printed at home too. Enjoy the full colour version in your inbox. **Just email HEIRS to make the switch. Email addresses are shown on page 10 of the newsletter. Thanks.**

HEIRS wishes to congratulate, albeit belatedly, Marilyn Armstrong-Reynolds, the archivist of Kingsville Archives. On February 24, she received her certificate and special achievement pin at the Kingsville Town Council meeting in Kingsville. Marilyn was selected by the Ontario Heritage Trust through their Community Recognition Program for her outstanding volunteer contributions to preserving, protecting and promoting local heritage, and is most deserving.

HEIRS President Richard Herniman and Director Ted Steele visited the Ontario Genealogy Society (Windsor-Essex chapter), on Monday, March 10, and gave a short 15 minute presentation on HEIRS and what our research centre offers. Both their group and HEIRS want to encourage co-operative activities and sharing of knowledge where possible. Both Richard and Ted then stayed to enjoy the speaker for the meeting, who discussed "The Victorian Celebration of Death", with its memorial cards, elaborate rituals and intricately carved tombstones with their symbolic messages of heaven and eternal life.

Director Ted Steele is requesting that any members who have photos or memorabilia on the history of Harrow, or Boblo Island, or either of the two Great Wars, please consider bringing them in to HEIRS so that they can be photographed or duplicated in some fashion. These topics are planned for upcoming HEIRS meetings, and material is needed to add to the content and enhance the presentations. In all cases, your materials will be returned to you. Also, any thoughts or ideas for future meetings would be welcomed. Help us make the meetings more interesting and educational!

Saturday, April 2nd, (9AM - 4 PM)

The J.R. Park Homestead will offer instruction to attendees on how to make a great over-the-shoulder woven tote, using a natural palette and a durable cotton shoulder strap. (beginner to medium level). \$50/person.



**NATIONAL
WILDLIFE WEEK
Festival**

April 12th & 13th

- **Calling Contest** • **Taxidermy Competition**
- **Photography Show** • **Kids' Activities**
- and More

www.jackminer.com
519-733-4034

The Park House Museum Presents:
"Regency Cooking and Historical Food Plating"



Friday April 25th at 7:00pm

Guest Speaker: Melissa Vuk RN, BScN

Cost: Non-Members \$15.00 Members: \$13.00

At this event you will learn various cooking techniques, recipes, and presentation mastered in the Regency era. The War of 1812, Jane Austen, Hearth Cooking... How did it all come together and what did it taste like? You be the judge!

Pre-Registration and Payment Required by Friday April 18th, 2014

This program is not recommended for people with Food Allergies

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Ph/Fx: 519 736 2511 Email: curator@parkhousemuseum.com

Loyalists of Essex County

- a multi-part article written by HEIRS Director, Ted Steele (continues in May's newsletter)

I am often asked- by students, adults, even family members- what is a Loyalist? Sadly, today's textbooks treat the subject only in passing, though their story is an important building block in Canada's foundation.

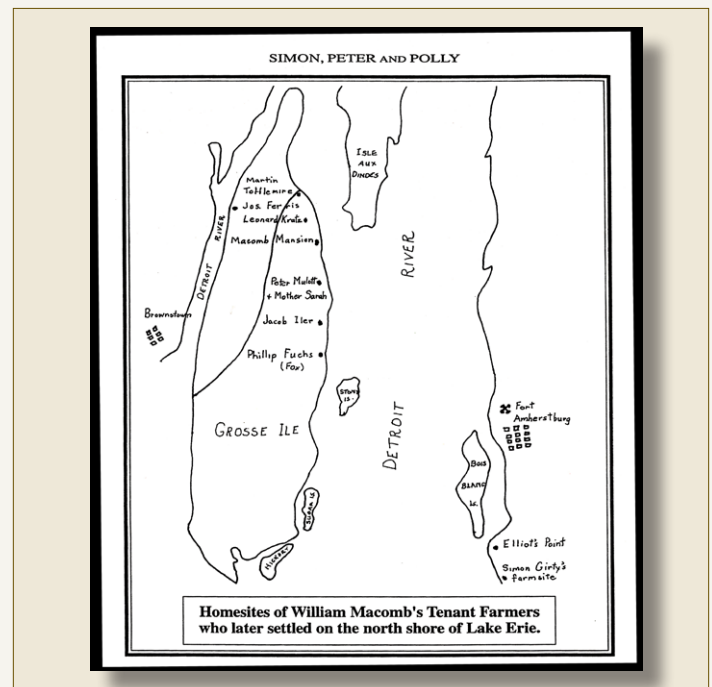
In 1775, war was brewing between Britain and its' American colonists. There were 4 groups caught up in the conflict: pro-rebel forces, pro-British forces, various Indian groups, and those trying to remain neutral. This last group included Quakers and other groups opposed to war on religious grounds. As war broke out, staying neutral was not a workable option, as pressure from both sides increased. The Indian tribes chose the side they felt might give them a homeland; both the British and the rebels had their Indian allies.

During the war, those loyal to the crown faced tarring and feathering, lynch mobs, confiscation of property, and other persecution. To escape the fighting, many loaded their belongings and headed for British protection, either at Fort George in the Niagara area, or to Fort Malden in the Detroit area. Others were captured by Indians and eventually brought to Hog Island in the Detroit River.

Here, the Macomb brothers ransomed many in exchange for blankets, pots, etc., and offered them farms to share-crop in order to repay this debt. As yet, the land along the north shore of Lake Erie was Indian land, & could not be given to these newcomers. Many of these families waited for British permission to apply for new land in what is now Essex County. In addition, soldiers who served the Crown during the war also waited to apply for land of their own.



In 1790, Alexander McKee of the British Indian department gathered all the local chiefs he could contact, and held a large powwow in what is now Blenheim, a town not far from Chatham, Ontario. He bargained with these chiefs, and eventually struck a deal. In exchange for a large supply of goods, like blankets, tools, and pots, the Indians gave up claim on the land we now know as Southern Ontario. A plaque in Blenheim commemorates this important, though little-known treaty.





Oh yeah... we served pasta too!

HEIRS annual fund-raiser pasta dinner was held March 8th. Pasta, salad, rolls & beverages were enjoyed by all, and as shown, a well-stocked dessert table. Money raised support hiring a summer student for our Research Centre.

Thanks to all who participated this year!



Hours of Operation: September to June (excluding December)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10AM - 3PM , Wednesday 9 - Noon. Please call for appointments for other times.

**Memberships Due: May 2014 to April 2015: \$25 per person / couple (CDN / U.S.)
Send cheque to: HEIRS, PO Box 53, Harrow ON Canada N0R 1G0**

Please include your phone, fax, email, website & names you are now researching.

Non-member user fee for HEIRS Research Library, as of January 2013: \$5 / visit (+ photocopy costs).

HEIRS Newsletter

The HEIRS newsletter is published 9 times per year, in conjunction with General Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of the month, from September through June (with the exception of December).

Newsletters via Email

If you currently receive our newsletter by mail and would prefer to receive it by email, simply provide your email address to any one of our newsletter committee members. Not only will you be able to archive the full colour newsletter PDF easily on your computer, it will save HEIRS the extra handling, reproduction and mailing costs.

Special thanks to Greg Harrison at the Computer Centre in Harrow, for his ongoing support of all things technical, setting up our new equipment, and keeping things running smoothly.



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