

Vol. 3– March 2014

H.E.I.R.S.

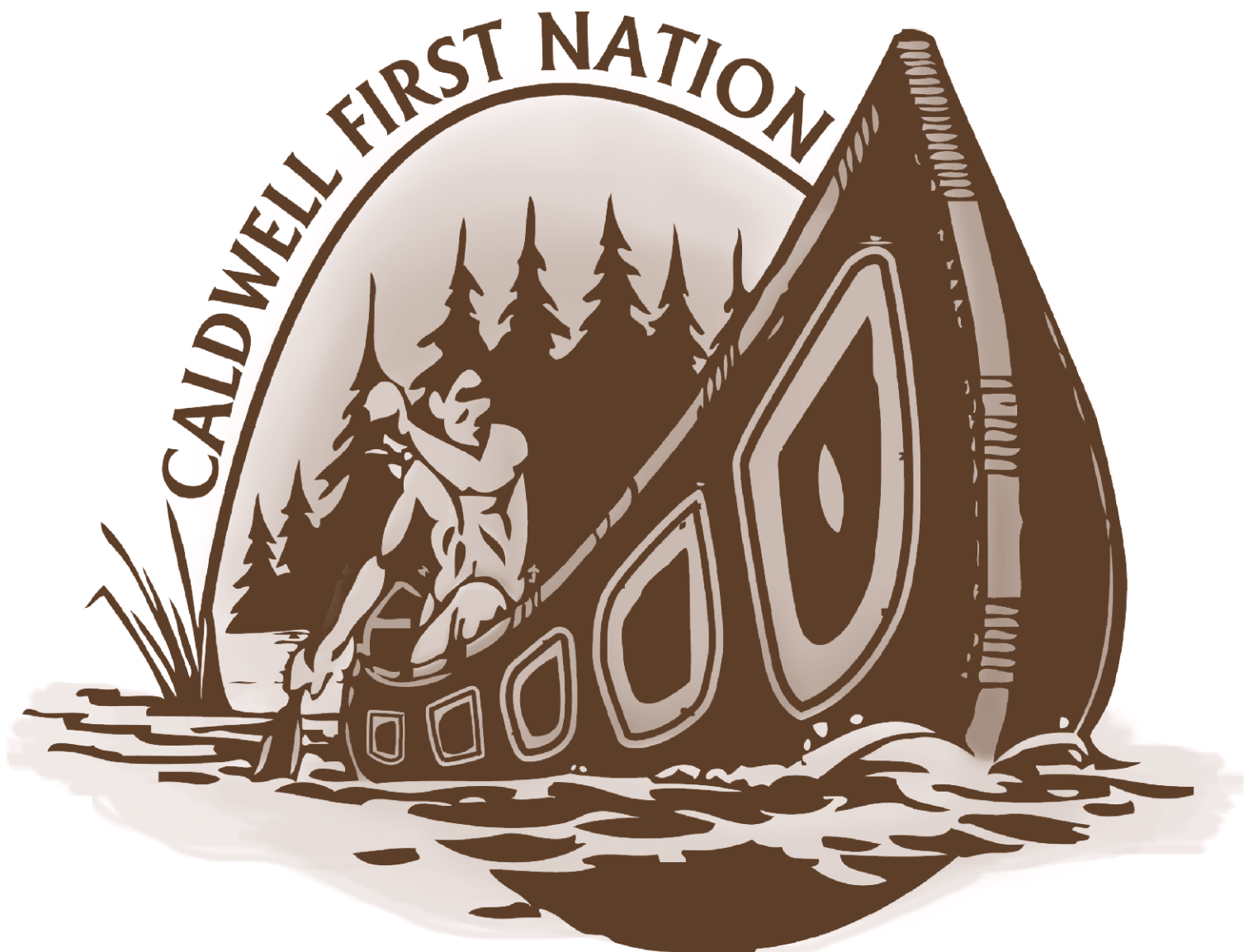
newsletter

Harrow Early Immigrant Research Society



www.HEIRS.ca
Tel.:519 738-3700
Email:hheritage@bellnet.ca

243 McAfee St., PO Box 53,
Harrow, ON Canada N0R 1G0
Harrow & Colchester South
Community Centre (Arena Bldg.)



Inside this Issue...

March Meeting:

Caldwell First Nation - preserving their culture & rights

Newsletter News!

Welcome to the March issue of the HEIRS newsletter.

We're on the final glide path to Spring - we all hope! Just when our muscles are recovering from shoveling, it's almost time for spring cleaning.

A welcome note we received recently:

To the Directors at HEIRS - Thank you for the work done so diligently over the years to create, preserve and update geneological and anecdotal information for our community and beyond.

We personally believe that a community's greatest treasure is to be found in its archives. I have lived in Harrow since 1981, and have come to appreciate and enjoy hearing about the interconnectedness of families, and about the historical challenges past and present, met with bravery and creativity.

We are unable to attend the pasta dinner on March 8, but please find enclosed a donation in support of the work done by HEIRS. - **Brian and Linda Leslie (Harrow)**

Are your dues up to date? After a 2-year lapse in payment, your newsletter will be discontinued. Please check with HEIRS to ensure they do not lapse.

Note: our dues go up to \$25 as of May 1, 2014. Renew early and save!

March Meeting

When: Thursday, March 28th, 1:30 PM

Where: Harrow-Colchester Arena Community Centre



Our March 27 speaker at HEIRS will be Louise Hillier of Leamington.

One of 7 children of Isaac and June Peters, she is a graduate of St Clair College, and worked there until retiring in 2012. She was first elected as Chief of the Caldwell Indian Band in 2007, and was re-elected to this post in 2011.

She will give us background on the Caldwells and their history, as well as current developments in their struggle to preserve their culture and rights.

During her first term as Chief, the 220 year old dispute over the Caldwell land claim was finally settled with the federal government. The band has its administrative office in Leamington, and she is currently working hard to represent the band at many functions, as well as working towards adding to the Caldwell Land Reserve.



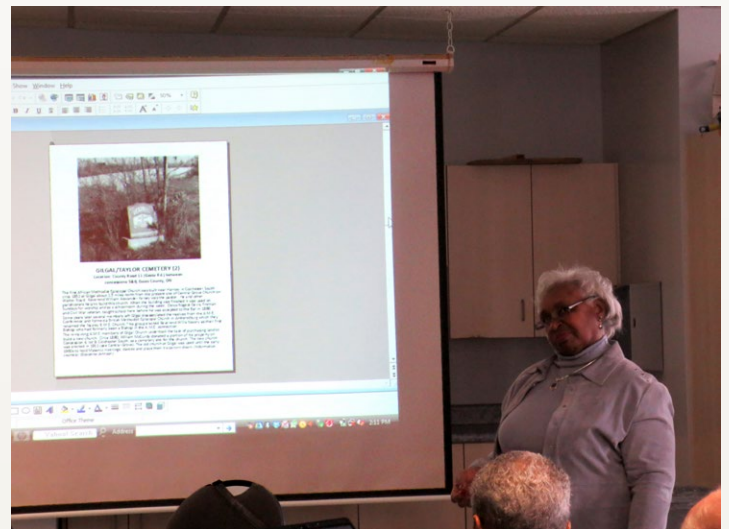
On Thursday, Feb. 27, HEIRS observed Black History Month as members met to hear Elise Harding Davis discuss her new book, *"The Colours of Essex County"*.

With her usual warmth and personal touch, Elise talked of her passion for restoring and preserving nearly forgotten black cemeteries, and old cemeteries in general.

She gave us a visual tour of some of these old burial grounds, and how encroaching neighbourhoods are in some cases threatening to erase these historic sites. At times, she explained how a particular cemetery directly involved her family, but carefully pointed out that she personally felt that anyone buried in any of these spots, black or white, deserved to be remembered & respected.

Elise is herself one of Essex County's historic treasures. Her latest book is not yet available, but will soon be offered for purchase.

Contact HEIRS at either 519-738-3700 or hheritage@bellnet.ca for further details.



4 Upcoming Events

March 2nd

On Sunday, March 2, the J. R. Park Homestead kicks off Maple Festival time. Drop in anytime between noon and 4 PM, to see maple taffy made on the snow, and maple syrup made the way our predecessors made it. Perhaps you can even do some sampling!

SPECIAL NOTE:

During March School Break the same program is offered on each of the following days at 1:30PM sharp: Friday March 7, Tuesday, March 11, and Friday, March 14.

The Maple Moon evening program will be Tuesday, March 11 at 7 PM, with advance registration required. Dress warmly and wear boots!!

March 3rd

HEIRS Annual Pasta Dinner Fund-Raiser Tickets are \$10 for adults; kids under 12 years just \$5. Walk-ins and take outs are welcomed. Tea, coffee and dessert table are included. Call HEIRS at 519-738-3800 to get your tickets, or ask any Director.

Bring some friends...

- who wants to cook on the weekend anyway?

Don't forget... our annual HEIRS Pasta Dinner fundraising event, Saturday, March 8, at the Harrow Knights of Columbus, Main Street from 5 to 7 PM.

Tickets available at HEIRS or from our Directors for only \$10 (adults) and \$5 (under 12 yrs.).

Walk-ins or Take out ordered are welcomed!

This event provides funds to hire our summer student, to keep HEIRS centre going through the summer. Your support is both needed & appreciated!



Saturday
March 8th!

5 to 7 PM

March 29th

Oxley Estate Winery is hosting a maple-themed dinner on Saturday, March 29, at 6 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person, and the event is a fund-raiser for the Park Homestead.

Special Events

HEIRS will announce upcoming events being planned by the North American Black History Museum in Amherstburg. They hosted many events through Black History Month in February, and more are in the works.

HEIRS Directors will host an information booth at the fundraiser at the Transportation Museum on Arner Line, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Stop in, say hi, and see what we have planned while you enjoy their program.



March 6

Four column article on marketing tobacco; dissatisfaction with power of the buyers, and prices obtained. Price has varied from 19 cents a pound a few years before, to 2, 3 and 4 cents a pound. Darius Wigle of Kingsville offered them a warehouse and a manager if they wanted to organize. Spoke of other marketing associations, the Grain Growers of the northwest, the Dairymen in Toronto, the apple growers, and the fruit growers who had government build a cold storage plant and pay it back out of profits. The name: Southwestern Tobacco Growers' Association.

March 13

Continuous electric service available. Lambert Tofflemire is engaged in putting the street lights on a circuit of their own. Harrow will have power for manufacturing or domestic use.

Residents who have tried to protect the front at the cemetery are complaining that the government is permitting people to remove sand and gravel that form a natural protection. A monster petition to the government has been signed, asking for a grant for a breakwater, but, at the same time, the removal of the government sand is doing more harm than can be cured by thousands of dollars of grant. The only way to reach the sand is over

township beach and waterfront, and that could easily be prevented by the council.

March 20

W. G. Wright has rented the frame building formerly occupied by A.J. Best to Clark & McDonald for a garage, of which E.H. Fysh will be in charge. This will be used for storing parts and as a repair shop.

Hats are to be smaller this year, but that does not mean less expensive. One thing though, is that in order to wear them, the ladies may not have any artificial hair, rolls, pads, rats, switches, & this subtraction should affect the cost of living to some degree.

Died in Florida, Robert Affleck; born in 1847 in Kircudbrightshire, Scotland. He came here with his parents, the Archibald Afflecks, in 1854. Two other children were born in Scotland, John, and Mrs. Ed Shaw. Others siblings include: Alexander, and Mrs. Henry Herdman, and Joseph, who married Nancy Wride. Of ten children, only 3 are living: William, Edward, & Mrs. George McLean.

March 27 Heinz is interested in pickles from Colchester South. If they can get enough, they will build a salting plant.



From the HEIRS mailbag...

HELP!

Postage costs are rising! Please consider receiving your newsletters by e-mail, and save us the mailing expense. You can always print them out at home, or enlarge the view for easy reading and to enjoy the photos even more (and get them in glorious colour too!).

Special Recognition!

Jim and Cathy Dowling, who are the proud owners of the circa-1812 Snider House, have been awarded the 2013, J. R. Park Award for their efforts in the preservation and interpretation of local history. Last September, they graciously allowed their home to be toured as a fund-raising activity for the Homestead, raising funds for a major and badly needed roof repair.

Earlier, they had extended the same courtesy to HEIRS members, allowing us no-charge access to the spectacular one-of-a-kind structure for one of our meetings. Well deserved recognition for a public-spirited local couple.



Anniversary Project

During 2014, we pause now to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great War, World War I. HEIRS will be working with the Harrow High School to develop a unit of study on this important topic and we want to make it as personal and relevant to the students as possible.

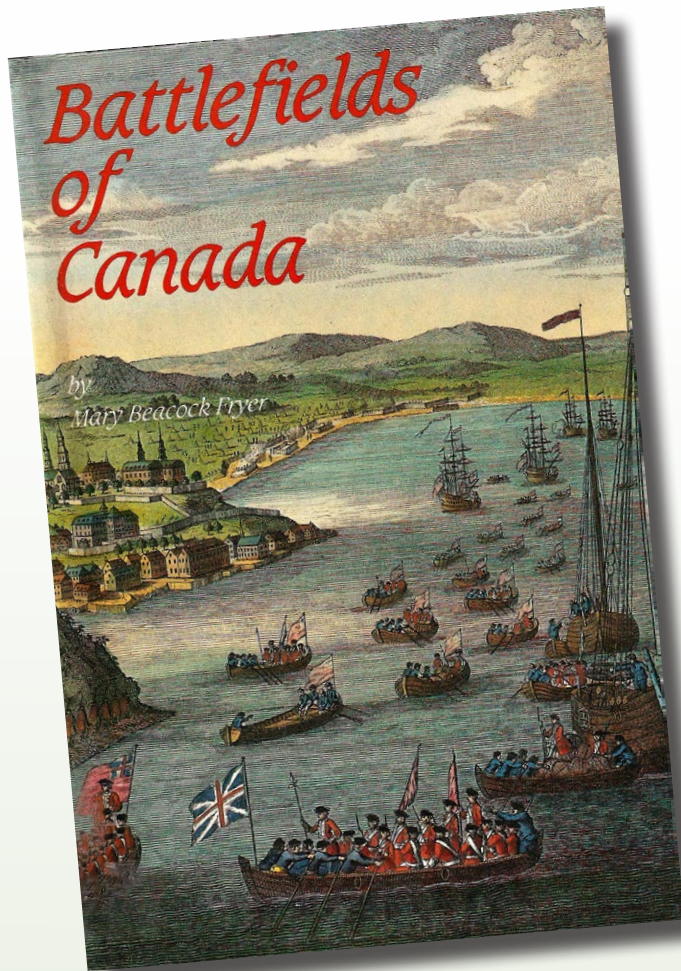
The HEIRS Directors are compiling information to use, and our Remembrance Day meeting will of course, focus on this topic. We want to know the names of any local men and women who served in the conflict in any capacity, and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to access any scrapbooks, photographs or memorabilia, so that we can add duplicate copies to our files. Please contact Richard Herniman (herniman5@sympatico.ca) or Ted Steele (historynut@outlook.com) or HEIRS (hheritage@bellnet.ca or at 738-3700) if you can add to our information.

Let us remember and honour our heroes!



It should be noted that we plan to develop a similar unit on the topic of World War II and the area residents who were part of that terrible time, as well.

Your assistance is requested for both topics, please.



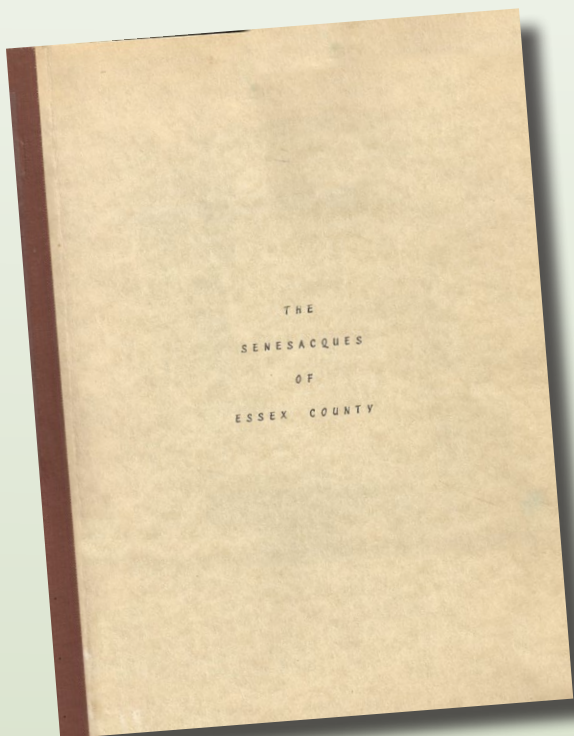
Battlefields of Canada

- by Mary Beacock Fryer

This paperbound book of 241 pages is a comprehensive look at the battles actually fought on Canadian soil. It tells of the wars between the French and Indians in the 1600s, the war between the French and the English, an incursion into Canada during the American Revolution, and a thorough look at the War of 1812 and its many battles.

As the last half of the 19th century wound down, the Fenian Raids from the US and the Riel Uprising in the Prairies, proved to be the final conflicts fought in Canada itself.

The book is easy to understand, and explains what happened and why, with each event's impact on Canadian history. It is not a textbook, but it is filled with sketches, maps and photos to bring the people and events to life.



The Senasacques of Essex County

- by Eleanor Sinisac Gignac

A slim, paperbound book of 60 pages, with photos and maps. It tells the story of the Senasacque (or Sinasac) family here in Essex County, dating from 1830. It was printed in 1977 after ten years of research by its author, Eleanor Sinasac Gignac.

She explores the roots of the family in Colchester, Harrow and Amherstburg, through retelling the family stories and milestone events, and laying out the branches of the family tree with their marriages, offspring and milestone events. Many of the early families of Essex County intermarried with the Sinasacs (as it is now spelled), so that their story crosses many other family lines.

Anyone researching Essex roots would surely find information that applies to their ancestry, as Bondy, Drouillard, Cecile & Paquette, Renaud, Imeson & Lidwell are just some of the family names included in the tree.

*Available from the
HEIRS lending library.*

CHESTNUT BURR

- written by Richard Hernimen, 7th generation grandson (& current President of HEIRS)

In 1760, she was born in the British Colonial State of Maryland. By 1761, she was with her family near Fort Duquesne, which is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This was a British controlled area; she and her family were typical pioneers, struggling to survive and be self-sufficient. In 1778, while helping her older brother make maple syrup and maple sugar, she was captured by a raiding party of Wyandotte Indians.

After several days hard travel, they arrived at the Indian camp in the Sandusky / Cleveland area of Ohio, on the south shore of Lake Erie. She earned the respect of her captors by her will to survive, her courage and her resolve to return to her family.

In 1783, a fur trader who had seen her on previous visits offered to buy her from the tribe on condition that she would become his wife. She refused, but changed her mind when she learned that she was expected to marry into the tribe. After hiding her in a canoe full of furs, they escaped and travelled to Detroit. They were welcomed into the home of Captain Allen, and were married by a clergyman of the Church of England in May of 1783.

They returned to his land grant on the Maumee River near Toledo, Ohio, and opened a trading post. In 1784, their first child, a son, was born. A peace treaty between the British and the Indians gave her the opportunity to visit her childhood home. She left with son William and a trusted Indian woman, travelling by horseback and by foot, for about 16 days, and arrived at her parents' farm in Pittsburgh. In 1785, she returned to the Maumee River home and they remained there 11 years. In 1795, The US controlled the Ohio Valley area, so the family left for Essex County in Upper Canada as Loyalists. They were granted 200 acres of land on what was lot #7, north of Colchester on the Dunn Road.

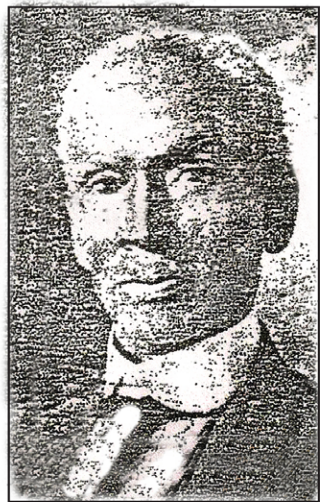
Chestnut Burr now had 7 children and the family lived in a one and a half story home on their farm. In 1802, her husband went back to visit his family in Ireland, and late that year returned home to his family. In 1803, her husband Alexander died on October 20 at the age of 75, and was buried in the family cemetery on their farm. In 1834, Chestnut Burr was living with her oldest son William. When he moved to Pelee Island with his family, she went with them. In 1837, the Patriot Rebellion began. She, with her son and his family, crossed the ice to the mainland to escape being captured by rebels and held for ransom. She then returned to the family home near Colchester. She died on June 6, 1838 at the age of 77 and was buried beside her husband, Alexander.

This is a very short outline of the life of a daughter, captive, wife, mother, grandmother, & great-grandmother. She was called CHESTNUT BURR by the Indians, because of her unbreakable spirit, refusal to accept defeat, her will to defend herself, & her auburn hair. The lady's name... Elizabeth (Turner) McCormick, wife of Alexander McCormick.





GENERAL ISAAC BROCK



ANTHONY BANKS, GRANDSON

HONOURING BROCK'S DAUGHTER:

ESTHER MALAWICE BANKS

**MARCH 29, 2014 TWO START TIMES
1:00 TO 2:30 AND 3:00 TO 4:30**

Hosting this event is The Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village. The proceeds is being used to recreate the "Amherstburg Log Cabin" into General Brock's daughter Esther Malawice Banks family home. Born, June 14, 1812, to General Isaac Brock and Alamy Malawice, a Ghanaian Princess. The display will be used to teach the visiting students about African-American history as per the Grade 3 to 8 school curriculum.

Amherstburg Cabin

- home to Esther Banks (Fields),
daughter of General Isaac Brock

EVENTS FOR THE DAY

FINGER FOOD AND DRINKS PLUS A FULL BAR

**GUEST SPEAKER FROM The African-American Community
Elise Harding-Davis
And others**

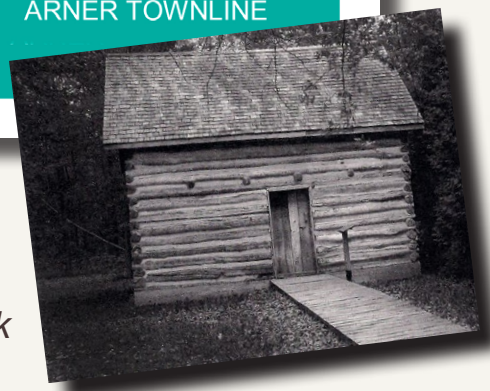
30 MINUTE SHOW ABOUT THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GLENGARRY SUBDIVISION IN WINDSOR 1960'S

Learn about the life of Esther Malawice Banks and her family.

\$15.00
Per person fundraiser

**PRESENTED BY
CHRIS CARTER
AND
TOUR ESSEX**

TO BE HELD AT THE
TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
ARNER TOWNLINE



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.



Board of Directors

- President** Richard Herniman
herniman5@sympatico.ca
- Vice-President** Chris Carter
cdcarter002@gmail.com
- Treasurer** John Brush
jmb1@xplornet.com
- Secretary** Kathy Langlois
kathyl@msni.net
- Directors** Pauline Baldwin
Les Hodgkins
Jo Ann Jenereaux
Peter Timmins
Ted Steele

Committee Chairpersons

- Resource Centre** Pauline Baldwin
baldwin1@xplornet.com
- Membership** Richard Herniman
herniman5@sympatico.ca
- Kathy Langlois**
kathyl@msni.net
- Hospitality** Les Hodgkins
- Program / Publicity** Chris Carter
cdcarter002@gmail.com
- Newsletter** Ted Steele
twsteele@sympatico.ca
- Ted Steele**
twsteele@sympatico.ca
519 733-3456