



# Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 22 Issue 2

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A publication of the  
Hamilton Mountain  
Heritage Society  
Founded September  
1996

Our Society's logo  
was designed by Jim  
Elliott, who was a  
retired graphic artist  
and charter member  
of the HMHS. We are  
proud to display this  
logo on the masthead  
of our newsletters  
and stationery.

*Bailey's Bulletin* is  
named in honour of  
the Reverend T.  
Melville Bailey, who  
was a proud  
Mountain resident  
and founder of the  
HMHS.

*Bailey's Bulletin* is  
published three times  
per year.

## A Tale of Two Churches

On Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>, Farewell Services were held in two Mountain churches, Chalmers Presbyterian 1905-2018 and Mount Hamilton Christian Reformed 1952-2018.

Chalmers Presbyterian Church has been a fixture on the Mountain for 113 years. The Farewell Service sermon titled "Hearts Untroubled" was preached by Rev. Dr. Victoria Eldridge. After the service refreshments were served and visitors reminisced in McLean Hall.

Presbyterian families of the Mountain began meeting in 1903 as the "Incline Mission" in the Mission School on Concession Street. By 1905 they had raised sufficient funds to build and open Chalmers Presbyterian Church on the north side of Concession Street opposite East 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The new church was described by the Hamilton Spectator as "a handsome little brick church... neat and natty, which is added to by very handsome electric light chandeliers."

After only 17 years, the congregation had grown so large that a new church building was opened in 1922 on land at the corner of Mountain Park and Cliff Avenues. The Spectator reported that "the new church is modern in every way and adds considerably to the beauty of the mountain brow." In 1968 the current sanctuary was opened, the building featuring a large illuminated cross designed to be visible from the lower city. The 1922 building was converted for use as a church hall.

The congregation will be merging with Trinity Presbyterian Church (formerly Eastmount). The closed church has been sold to a development corporation.

(Cont. on page 2)



## A Tale of Two Churches (cont'd)

The Farewell Service at Mount Hamilton Christian Reformed Church entitled “Looking Back; Moving Forward” was conducted by Pastor Roelof Peereboom. The congregation of mostly Dutch speaking immigrants began meeting in 1952 at the Barton Community Hall on Upper James St. before moving in 1955 to a brand new church building at 1411 Upper Wellington St. The church survived a fire in 1976 and a large addition was opened in 1988 along with the adjacent Wellingstone Christian Home. The building on Upper Wellington will eventually be demolished and replaced with a Christian long-term care and assisted living facility.

The congregation has purchased and renovated the former Mount Hope United Church which was built in 1876 and closed in 2018. They now worship under the name Mount Hope Community Christian Reformed Church and an Open House and Dedication service was held September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



## Hamilton Heritage Day Awards

The Hamilton-Wentworth Heritage Association and City of Hamilton hosted the annual Heritage Day Awards Ceremony and open house at Hamilton City Hall on Feb. 24th.

The Rev. T. Melville Bailey Award Heritage Award was presented to our President Robin McKee in recognition of his lifetime achievements and significant contributions in the promotion and preservation of Hamilton’s history and heritage. Our phone committee volunteers received volunteer recognition awards at the ceremony.



Robin McKee and  
Councillor Brenda Johnson



L to R: John Thompson, Murray Aikman, Elizabeth Johnstone,  
Grace Braun, Christina Begley and Councillor Maria Pearson  
(absent John Elliott)

## Upcoming Programme Dates

Meetings of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society, unless otherwise noted, are held on the third Thursday of January, March, May, September and November. Occasionally special meetings are arranged in buildings of historical interest.

All meetings begin at 7:30 pm and visitors are most welcome.

### **November 15, 2018 Centennial of the 1918 Flu Pandemic**

Dr. Ann Herring, retired Professor of Anthropology at McMaster University, will be talking about the 1918 influenza pandemic and its effect on Hamilton.

**Future dates: January 17, 2019**

**March 21, 2019**

**May 16, 2019**

### **Please note our new meeting location:**

The South Gate Presbyterian Church

120 Clarendon Ave.

Rear entrance door and parking lot can be accessed from Terrace Dr.

## Test your “Mountain Memories”

The first Chalmers Presbyterian Church pictured here was built in 1905. After only 16 years of use it was replaced with a larger building in 1921.

What Concession Street landmark currently stands on the site of the 1905 church?

- a) Hamilton Public Library
- b) The Salvation Army Laotian Corps
- c) St. Stephen-on-the-Mount Anglican Church

*The answer is on the last page of this newsletter.*



**Clarification:** In the previous *Bailey's Bulletin* it was stated that Murray Aikman was stepping down after more than ten years service on the HMHS executive. In fact Murray was a founding member of the society in 1996 and served on the executive continuously for our first 21 years.

This photo shows Robin McKee and John Elliott holding a group of sketches done by John's late uncle, Jim Elliott. Jim was a charter member of the Society and was the designer of our logo. The sketches were given to the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society at the September meeting. They were donated by Jim's son Tom Elliott thru Elizabeth Johnstone, also a member of the HMHS.



## In Memoriam

The Society is sad to announce that in recent months, four members have passed away.

**Dennis Brellisford** on May 4 – he was known for his artwork, paintings of schools and other heritage buildings

**John Nixon** on July 25 – author of *Redcoat 1812* and contributor to *HistoriCity* magazine

**Stewart Munghen** on Sept 10 – a long time member of the HMHS

**Grace Braun** on Sept 17 – a lifelong resident of the Mountain and served on the HMHS phone committee



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## HMHS Memberships

The annual membership fee for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society is \$20 for an individual or family. The membership year is January to December. Membership forms are available at: [www.hamiltonheritage.ca](http://www.hamiltonheritage.ca).

**Reminder:** 2019 memberships will be available at our November meeting.

Answer: b) The Salvation Army purchased the building from Chalmers in 1905. It was later demolished and the current Laotian Corps building at 573 Concession Street built in its place.