



Bailey's Bulletin

Volume 14 Issue 2

September 2010

A publication of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society Founded September 1996

Our Society's logo was designed by Jim Elliott, 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 Melville T. Bailey, who was a proud Mountain resident and founder of the HMHS.

Bailey's Bulletin is published three times per year.



Jim Elliott (1919-2010): A True Mountaineer

Jim Elliott was a founding member of the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society, and designer of the Society's logo. Jim was born on Hamilton Mountain in the house that still stands at the southwest corner of Fennell and East 7th St, and attended Oteora Public School. There was no shortage of children in his neighbourhood; in fact 52 young people lived on that one block of East 7th between Fennell and Bruce Dale Avenues! Jim had an exciting and adventurous childhood on the Mountain, playing in fields and undeveloped areas which are now well established neighbourhoods. He and his buddies often climbed around the supports of the James Street Incline, seeing who would dare to hold their head up at track level the longest as the descending railway car approached. On one occasion he came face to face with one of the women passengers: none other than his mother! He told of the times when

he and his friends would hide beneath the stands of the Hamilton Hunt Club, located on the current site of Southam Park. This was a perfect location to use their pea shooters to upset the horses which were going through their paces.

Jim attended the Hamilton Technical School where he learned commercial art. In 1941 he married Mary Davies, daughter of Olivet's Sunday School superintendent. Jim also became a superintendent at Olivet when more than 400 children crammed the church's space. In the years that followed he was the friendly and welcoming greeter each Sunday morning.

Jim was a fantastic font of Mountain knowledge. He knew who married whom, their cousin's names, where former streams used to flow and so on. He was a living encyclopaedia of Mountain heritage. This ability, along with his many Mountain contacts and his own personal recollections served us well during the production of [Mountain Memories](#) in 2000.

The Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society has been richly blessed in having known Jim Elliott, a great Hamilton Mountaineer.

Murray W. Aikman (borrowing from an article by Mary Beth Beasley published in the Olivet newsletter)

An Update on The Auchmar Estate

The Community gets involved

You may have noticed a new banner displayed on the fence of the Auchmar Estate which proclaims: “*Auchmar Restoration - A Community Project*”. The project will begin with the renovation of the Coach House where the Facility and Capital Planning Section of the Culture Division as well as Conservation and Collection Staff will be located in the very near future.

Anna Bradford, Manager of the Culture Division of the City of Hamilton invited the community to ‘Tea with Anna’ on April 25th in the Great Room of the Manor. Several members of our Society, Hamilton Heritage as well as representatives from the Buchanan, Bonnington, Mohawk and Southam Neighborhood Associations attended to hear Anna outline the plans for the restoration of the Auchmar estate.

On the first weekend in May more than 1300 people toured the first floor of the Manor, the grounds and the Coach House as part of Doors Open Hamilton. A poster composed by Graham Crawford of the Hamilton History & Heritage Museum depicting several inside and outside scenes of Auchmar was offered for a donation of \$5. The proceeds of \$1100 were deposited in the Auchmar Restoration Fund. The plan to restore Auchmar \$5 at a time is based on Anna’s experience with the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum

As so many persons were taking pictures of the first floor of the Manor it was proposed that an opportunity to return at another time with more access would be made available to anyone for a fee. In late June 23 photographers took advantage of this opportunity at a cost of \$25 per person. These funds were also deposited in the Auchmar Restoration Fund.

In keeping with Anna’s desire to improve the appearance of the Manor a Cleaning Bee is being organized for September 18th.



Two issues of an Auchmar Newsletter have been published by the Culture Division. If you are interested in receiving this Newsletter please email roliphan@Hamilton.ca and ask to have your name added to the Auchmar mailing list.

Programme for 2010

Meetings are held at Olivet United Church, 40 Empress Avenue on the third Thursday of January, March, May, September and November. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and visitors are most welcome.

SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 *CONCESSION STREET*

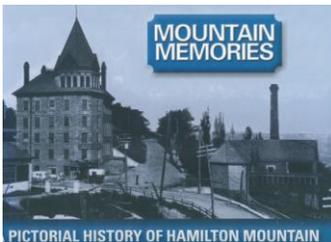
For over 100 years Concession Street has been a vital part of life on our Mountain. Jerry Johansen will guide us down the street through the years.

****NOVEMBER 11, 2010** *A SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE DAY MEETING***

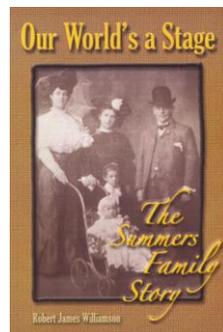
Please note that this general meeting will take place on the second Thursday of the month so we may observe Remembrance Day together.

The membership fee for the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society is \$20 for an individual or family. Memberships are annual (January to December). Visit Anne at the next meeting to purchase or renew your membership - or submit your fee to our mailing address.

HMHS Publications



In its 4th and final printing this lovely hardcover coffee table book sells for \$35 per copy. With over 150 pages and 290 photos this book is a 'must have'. Makes a great gift. Get yours while the limited supplies last!



Authored by Robert Williamson, a past president of the HMHS, this fascinating book reveals the history of the Summers Family. Hamilton's first family of entertainment is commemorated by Summers Lane, beside Hamilton Place. The book includes many never-before-seen photographs and sells for \$10 per copy.

Also Available:

Barton on the Mountain - by Mabel Burkholder - \$10 each
Reproduction maps of Wentworth County (1875) - \$10 each

Contact the HMHS to purchase any or all of these wonderful publications.

George Hamilton has his day!

On August 2nd Town Crier Allan Freeman proclaimed the Civic holiday be thereafter known in the City of Hamilton as George Hamilton Day, in honour of our founding father. More than 200 people assembled in the Council Chamber of City Hall for the ceremony, hosted by Councillor Bob Bratina. Dignitaries on hand included His Worship Mayor Eisenberger, David Ricketts UE, great-great-great-grandson of George Hamilton, Ruth Nicholson UE, Pat Blackburn UE, Colwyn Beynon CD, Honourary Sheriff of Wentworth County and Bill Manson, Chair of the Hamilton Historical Board. The program for the event included revised lyrics for The Maple Leaf Forever, penned by our own Commander Bob Williamson. Bob's lyrics recognize the importance of the Battle of Stoney Creek in the War of 1812.



Our own Pat Saunders explains the significance of George Hamilton Day to the city.
Photo courtesy Robin McKee

Attendees were shown two illustrated presentations, "There is a City" produced by Graham Crawford and a biography of George Hamilton. The processional and recessional were led by the Pipes & Drums of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 163 under the direction of Bob Spolnik.

The first Monday in August will be known as George Hamilton Day and each year another historic figure will also be recognized on that day.

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