

By 9 a.m. on June 24, 1813, an American detachment nearly 600 strong had reached “The Beechwoods”, an extensive forest on the escarpment above St David’s Ontario. Their goal was to eliminate Lt. James Fitz Gibbon and his Green Tigers, then stationed at the De Cou house near “ the beaver dams” and present day Thorold. Instead, the Americans were the ones to have their morning spoiled: Ambushed, and then totally broken psychologically and physically by three hours of hellish combat, the entire American column was to lay down its arms to Fitz Gibbon, the very man they had come to capture! Yet this was not a battle won by British regular soldiers, and Fitz Gibbon simply stepped in after the Americans were utterly defeated to negotiate and take the surrender. So then who engineered victory at the Battle of Beaver Dams?

The Shooting Eye Corporation of Hamilton is pleased to announce that the grant it has received as part of the Government of Canada’s Commemoration Program for the War of 1812 will fund a twelve-minute docudrama, and teaching materials that will bring the Battle of Beaver Dams to life.

The video will be shot locally using historical re-enactors while the writing team, supported by a research group, will work to create the teaching materials. The research for the project will use original documents where possible, as well as relevant historical writings to ensure historical accuracy. The video and teaching materials will lead students and other viewers into looking at how participants in this war, either as individuals or groups, influenced the outcome of this decisive battle that forced the Americans back to Fort George.

The Shooting Eye aims to have the video ready by the Fall of 2012 and the teaching support materials, designed for elementary school students, by the Spring of 2013. These materials will be made available at no cost to educators and other interested groups.

This ambitious project has the support of the Thorold War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee, the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, the Grand Erie District School Board, the Halton District School Board, the Ontario History and Social Sciences Teachers’ Association, the Ontario Elementary Social Studies Teachers’ Association, local chapters of the United Empire Loyalists and the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society.

Who then fought and won the Battle of Beaver Dams, a battle so much connected with Laura Secord and James Fitz Gibbons? Britain’s native allies. The focus of the video will be the very significant role of the First Nations at Beaver Dams.

For more information please contact Doug Massey, Coordinator of the Beaver Dams Project Committee at 905 679-4566 or email him at dmassey8@sympatico.ca

You would have travelled back 120 years to June 14, 1892.
Imagine! What a ride!



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Hamilton Mountain
Heritage Society
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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.

St. John Ambulance Celebrated



St. John Ambulance is celebrating 100 years of service to the community of Hamilton. St. John has had a mountain presence in the way of its headquarters since 1963 when St. John House was opened at 483 Concession Street. St. John has served the mountain residents since 1912 however. Two members of the HMHS executive, Thomas Allan, KStJ and John Reid, SBStJ are long-time members. Earl (SBStJ) and Judy (OSTJ) Robinson are also St. John members. Pictured is the floral tribute to the St. John Ambulance at Sam Lawrence Park.

Peter Corbett, a founding member of the HMHS, was one of fourteen Mountain residents presented with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. The commemorative medals honour significant contributions and achievements. The presentation took place on August 22 at the Sackville Hill Senior Centre. Congratulations Peter!

HMHS in the Community

HMHS members were busy on the Mountain this summer. Concession Streetfest, held on June 2, saw the Society set up a tent that was visited by many. They stopped to view the display, ask questions, share memories and purchase some wares. Thanks to Murray, Doug, Pat, Bob B., Lee, Don and Pearl for your help.

Canada Day was celebrated on Mountain Park Drive with Chris Charlton’s community BBQ. The HMHS was there - with two display boards and handouts. Bob Williamson drew quite a crowd, and was the subject of dozens of photos, as he came dressed as a naval officer from 1812. Always an educator, Bob took delight in explaining that his blue coat did not make him an American! Again, thanks to all the HMHS members who came out to help.

Making History Count

Hamilton resident, McMaster graduate, co-author of the Hamilton books, "Mountain Memories" and "Panorama of Our Past", and Past-President of the HMHS, Bob Williamson, spends much of his time promoting local heritage as a member of the Hamilton Historical Board. Just how much of his time is illustrated by this attached photo taken at St Augustine Catholic School in Dundas with grade 8 teacher, Miss Carla Felice. Bob entertained her class with a "Then and Now" slide presentation of Dundas heritage. It was his **1,000th heritage presentation** and according to Miss Felice, a great way for her students to learn about history.



It has been a busy month for Mr. Williamson on his way to making history count in a record fashion. During the month of May he has presented heritage slide illustrated talks to Notre Dame Retired Teachers in Waterdown # 995, Grand River Historical Society #996, Caroline Place Retirement Residence # 997, Aberdeen Gardens Retirement Residence #998, and Canadiana Senior's Program # 999.

The secret to his profusion in heritage presentations is the volume of topics that he has created and his unique and entertaining way of presentation which comes naturally to him as a retired teacher.

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. Visit Sandra at the next meeting to purchase or renew your membership - or submit your fee to our mailing address.

Imagine if you were to go back in time for one day! You would be able to ride 'Opening Day' on The Hamilton and Baron Incline Railway. Would you have gone back:
a) 100 years b) 110 years or c) 120 years?

Answer is on the last page of the Bailey's Bulletin.

June Outing 2013

On Saturday, June 18, 2013 join the Hamilton Mountain Heritage Society for a trip to Waterloo and St. Jacobs. Our bus will depart Hamilton at 8:45 am from McQueston Park on Upper Wentworth (tentatively - we are awaiting confirmation from the City) and travel to the Waterloo Central Railway Station. There you will board the 9:40 train destined for St. Jacobs .

The bus will meet the train upon arrival in St. Jacobs and transport you to the St. Jacob's Farmers Market for 1 ½ hours of shopping, bargain hunting and sampling.

Lunch will be served at the Mennonite Church in St. Jacobs from 12:45 until 2:00 pm.

After lunch we will be joined by a tour guide and see historic and interesting sites in St. Jacobs, departing around 3:00 pm for the trip back to Hamilton.

You love it so we've planned a surprise stop to finish off the day!

The cost of the trip is \$48.00 per person and must be paid no later than the first meeting of 2013. A deposit of 50% will get your name on the list. See Tom Allan at the November general meeting to reserve your seat on the bus.

Join us for a fun day. Our president promises good weather on June 8th.

Help Wanted!

Set up: do you have an hour in the afternoon of our general meetings? We need help to get the church auditorium set up (putting chairs in place).

Refreshments: we are looking for somebody (or several somebods) to arrange treats for after the general meetings. You'll be the most popular person at the meeting!

Please email us or speak to any member of the executive about these opportunities to assist the HMHS.



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