MINUTES: Hamilton Historical Board  
Tuesday, October 13, 2009 – 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
City Centre – Suite 305 Board Room

CHAIR: Bill Manson  
MINUTE TAKER: Jason Ryan

PRESENT: Pat Saunders, Rob Hamilton, Bob Williamson, Christine Lei, Mary Anderson, Michael Sangermano, Carolyn McCann, Susanne Noordyk, Robin McKee, Deborah Eker

STAFF: Ian Kerr-Wilson

REGRETS: Kathy Wakeman, Graham Crawford

GUESTS: Jennifer Kaye – Manager of Arts & Events, Culture Division

CHAIR’S REMARKS (attached)  
12:30 pm

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
That the October Agenda of the Hamilton Historical Board be approved as amended.  
(Hamilton/Anderson) APPROVED

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST  
None

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 15, 2009 (attached)  
That the September minutes of the Hamilton Historical Board be approved.  
(McCann/Noordyk) APPROVED

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION  
4.1 Planning Process for the Bicentennial Commemoration  
Overview of Arts & Events Section and Manager’s Role re: Bicentennial  
- Brand new section in Culture Division  
- Arts Responsibilities include: Public Art, development of and liaise with Arts Community  
- Events Responsibilities include: development & coordination of civic events (Canada Day, Winterfest, Remembrance Day, etc.), development of and liaise with Events community, major events such as NHL Rally, Royal Visit, Torch Relay, 1812 Bicentennial  
- Further detail on Bicentennial: Responsibility in engaging the community and working with community stakeholders (such as HHB) to assist in the development programming  
- In short, role is to work with the experts on ‘content’ of the commemoration (HHB, Museums & Heritage Presentation Section, et al.)  
- Currently, preliminary report has been prepared and presented to Council to determine the steps in which community and program development will happen
- Working to engage multiple sectors from across the city (arts, community development, peace community), not just the historical sector
- Currently developing Staff Secretariat Committee to assist in the development of Bicentennial Commemoration programming
- Currently developing and Advisory committee in early 2010 as conversation develops into actions, comprised of members of the public
- Working closely with Niagara Legacy Council in the development of Bicentennial Commemoration
- Planned events include: Battle of Stoney Creek (Bicentennial is 2013), other new events will be determined during current and future discussions
- School, community participation will be initiated by Jennifer’s office
- Invitation to join the Bicentennial Commission be extended to the HHB, once the Commission has been developed
- HHB has strong intentions of having at least one member on the Bicentennial Commission
- Open invitation to Jennifer Kaye to return to a later HHB meeting with a formal invitation to the HHB and an update on the Bicentennial proceedings

4.2. **Staff Liaison/Board Members Roles and Responsibilities**
- Due to increased workload and revised function of the HHB (working committee vs. advisory committee), board members and staff liaison roles and responsibilities will be/has been growing

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

5.1. **Disposition of the Tabled agenda Items from the Previous Meeting**
Motion to receive all items tabled from the previous HHB meeting.
(McCann/Eker) CARRIED

5.2. **War of 1812 Bicentennial Medal Proposal (attached) – Bob Williamson**
*Note: A similar project is currently underway by the Canadian Mint*
Be it resolved that the HHB support the 1813 Bicentennial Medal Proposal and that the HHB Chair send a letter to Hamilton City Council, the Heritage Minister, and local MP’s, copying the Director of Culture Division urging them to support the proposal.
(Williamson/Hamilton) APPROVED

5.3. **Approval of Mills of Ancaster Plaque (attached) – Bob Williamson**
Notes: War of 1812 referenced to aid in timelines, as specific date is unknown
(Hamilton/Eker) APPROVED

5.4. **Facebook – HHB Proposal**
Facebook proposal has been declined; many of the issues regarding mass email, banter, etc. can be resolved if/when the ‘Reply All’ button is not used

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

6.1. **Committee Reports (2 minutes each)**

6.1.1. **Communications & Education Sub-committee – Bill Manson**
- Presentation of Annual Report and Civic Holiday Proposal to E&CS has been submitted in preparation of October 21 presentation
- Material for Maple Leaf Forever proposal has been discussed and will be completed for a future meeting
- Susanne Noordyk will be meeting with Public School librarians to promote HHB Speakers Bureau and Ward Fact Sheets

6.1.1.1. **Editorial Team – Christine Lei**
- HistoriCITY has arrived and will be distributed to local organizations shortly
6.1.2. Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee – Bob Williamson
- Member-at-Large Jim Green has announced his resignation from the JPSC
- The result is there are two vacancies for Member-at-Large; Staff Liaison will inquire with clerks re: protocol for member replacement
- Upcoming Unveilings: Smith Family Cemetery – October 24, Hatt (Red) Mill – October 30, Rymal Family Heritage – November 19

6.1.3. Heritage Events Sub-Committee – Pat Saunders
- Reminder of the Civic Holiday Proposal to E&CS on October 21
- Civic Holiday Poster Display; requesting liaisons to tabulate results and bring to next Heritage Events sub-committee meeting
- Heritage Awards taking place on February 13th
- Proposal to move Heritage Marketplace to Canada Day celebration at Bayfront Park has been very well received by local heritage groups

6.1.4. Student Recognition Awards Sub-Committee – Carolyn McCann
- Nomination forms have been distributed to schools

6.1.5. Maple Leaf Forever Ad-hoc Committee – Bob Williamson
- Choir has requested formal letter of invitation from HHB Chair for direction on production of revised song – Bob to forward info to Bill
- Nature of manner in which song will be presented has yet to be determined

That the reports of Item 6.1 be received.
(McCann/Anderson) APPROVED

6.2. Questions Arising from Other Reports/Projects (2 minutes each)

6.2.1. Municipal Heritage Committee – Kathy Wakeman
- No Report

6.2.2. Gore Master Plan – Bill Manson
- Stakeholders Group has been disbanded
- All heritage artefacts that currently exist in Gore Park will continue to exist in the conceptual plan
  - Large artefacts will continue to be a part of the park plan, however there are concerns with the smaller artefacts (lost, damaged, etc.)
  - Recommendation that Culture Division be part of maintenance and tracking team for items located in Gore Park
    - Therese Charbonneau, Culture Division Senior Conservator is a member of this team and is currently tracking these items
- To be removed from future agendas

6.2.3. Mel Bailey Award – Rob Hamilton
- Materials have been posted to the website and distributed to local heritage organizations
- Board members are encouraged to nominate individuals for the Bailey Award

- Effective October 26, Susan Ramsay will become Curator of Whitehern and Sonia Mrva will become Curator of Battlefield House
- Upcoming events include Ontario Museum Association Conference October 21-23, Industrial Strength Conference October 21-24

That the reports of Item 6.2 be received.
(Williamson/Saunders) APPROVED

6.3. HHB Budget/Work Plan

6.3.1. 2009 Budget Review – Bill Manson/Ian Kerr-Wilson

6.3.2. 2009 Work Plan Review – Bill Manson
6.3.3. 2010 Work Plan Development – Bill Manson
6.3.4. 2010 Budget Development – Bill Manson/Ian Kerr-Wilson

6.4. Other HHB Business
6.4.1. Grounds Use Requests
- None
6.4.2. Volunteer Opportunities
- Seeking volunteers to assist with the OMA Conference, primarily with crowd control
  - Those interested are to contact Ian Kerr-Wilson

6.5. Questions Arising from Museum Reports (2 minutes each)
6.5.1. Battlefield House Museum & Park – Michael Sangermano
6.5.2. Hamilton Children’s Museum – Carolyn McCann
6.5.3. Dundurn National Historic Site – Pat Saunders
6.5.4. Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum – Christine Lei
6.5.5. Griffin House – Robin McKee
6.5.6. Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology – Rob Hamilton
6.5.7. Whitehern Historic House & Garden – Mary Anderson
6.5.8. Programme Committee – Bill Manson

That the reports of Item 6.5 be received.
(Eker/Lei) CARRIED

7. New Business
7.1. Graffiti on Queen Victoria Statue (Gore Park)
- Advising of Graffiti on statue
  - Inform Ian Kerr-Wilson, by way of email or phone call, any future spotting of graffiti or damage on monuments, statues, etc.

8. Adjournment:
Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – 12:30pm – 2:30pm
City Centre – Suite 305 Board Room
## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS
### Hamilton Historical Board

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>2008 Work Plan</td>
<td>HHB</td>
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<td>Appointment: HHB member to sit on Collections Committee</td>
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<td>February 2009</td>
<td>HHB</td>
<td>HHB approved in July 2009</td>
<td>October 21, 2009</td>
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<td>Annual Presentation to E&amp;CSC</td>
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<td>October 2008</td>
<td>HHB</td>
<td>HHB approved in July 2009</td>
<td>October 21, 2009</td>
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<td>Presentation: August Civic Holiday</td>
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<td>February 2009</td>
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**Chair’s Remarks**

Bill welcomed guest Jennifer Kaye, Manager of Arts and Events, Culture Division. He also welcomed the upcoming Royal visit, and indicated that because the itinerary will be decided by Clarence House, we should not assume that, despite the connection, the couple will be visiting the Dundurn National Historic site. He invited HHB members to attend the upcoming HHB presentations (Annual Report and Civic Holiday Proposal) to E&CS on Wednesday October 21, 1:30 p.m., Convention Centre Albion. Finally, he welcomed the latest and somewhat “historical” edition of the HHB publication, *historiCITY*. 
Given that the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is fast approaching and that it can be shown that our Canadian way of life had its origins in the invasion of Canada during the War of 1812, the City of Hamilton should encourage the Federal Government to take appropriate action to honour this important part of our heritage.

Since British medals struck for Canadians in 1814 were never issued and Canadian military units and ships such as Hamilton's HMCS Star that participated in the war were never granted battle honours, it is recommended that the Minister of Canadian Heritage, The Hon. James Moore, take action to correct this singular omission in our history as part of a Bicentennial program. The 1812 Bicentennial provides the Government of Canada with a golden opportunity to correct this oversight by striking an 1812 Bicentennial Medal. The last time this occurred was in 1992 when the Liberal Government struck a medal for the 125th Centennial of Canadian Confederation.

An 1812 Bicentennial Medal should not only recognize military honours, but the general public such as historians, re-enactors, archivists, artists, and writers who have worked long and hard to preserve and promote this precious piece of our heritage.

Our Hamilton Mountain Riding Member of Parliament, Chris Charlton, supports this recommendation and has already forwarded it to the Heritage Minister. It is proposed that the Hamilton Historical Board lend its support to this recommendation by asking City Council and other local members of parliament to do the same.
MILLS of ANCASTER

A wooden gristmill and sawmill constructed near here in 1791–92 by millwright, James Wilson, with the financial support of entrepreneur, Richard Beasley, were the first mills built at the head of Lake Ontario. The gristmill was described in original documents as being built at the foot of a rock precipice over which water poured on the head of an overshot waterwheel beside the road leading to the Mohawk Village (Brantford). This investment scheme established a settlement named Ancaster in 1793 by Lieutenant Governor Simcoe.

Wilson sold his interest in the mills and some adjoining land to businessman Jean Baptiste Rousseaux in 1794. Rousseaux expanded the commercial activity of the village by building a general store, brewery, and hotel. By 1809 a syndicate of 15 shareholders called the Union Mills Company acquired the mills.

The original mills burned down at the onset of the War of 1812 providing a stimulus for reconstruction of a more substantial stone mill. After the war, a succession of owners included the Egleston brothers who built a farm equipment foundry and then the existing stone mill in 1863.

There is evidence of several mills and factories being built in this vicinity, including a woolen mill by Job Lodor, a threshing machine factory by Eyre Thuresson (now converted to a stone house), and an impressive stone, four-storey knitting mill (1854 – 1875) by Jasper Crane. The ruins of the knitting mill still exist beside the creek on the northeast corner of Wilson and Rousseaux Streets.

Hamilton Historical Board
Old Mill Restaurant
2009

Word count 247
A wooden gristmill and sawmill constructed near here in 1791–92 by millwright, James Wilson, with the financial support of entrepreneur, Richard Beasley, were the first mills built at the head of Lake Ontario (1). The gristmill was described in original sources as being built at the foot of a rock precipice over which water poured on the head of an overshot waterwheel (3, 4, 5) beside the road leading to the Mohawk Village (Brantford)(2). This investment scheme established a settlement named Ancaster (6) in 1793 by Lieutenant Governor Simcoe.

Wilson sold his interest in the mills and some adjoining land to businessman Jean Rousseaux in 1794(7). Rousseaux expanded the commercial activity of the village by building a general store, brewery, and hotel (8). By 1809 a syndicate of 15 shareholders called the Union Mills Company acquired the mills (9).

The original mills burned down at the onset of the War of 1812 providing a stimulus for reconstruction of a more substantial stone mill. (10). After the war, a succession of owners included the Egleston brothers who built a farm equipment foundry and then the existing stone mill in 1863(11).

There is evidence of several mills and factories being built in this vicinity, including a woolen mill by Job Lodor, a threshing machine factory by Eyre Thuresson, now converted to a stone house below here, and an impressive stone, four-storey knitting mill (1854 – 1875) by Jasper Crane. The ruins of the knitting mill still exist beside the creek on the northeast corner of Wilson and Rousseaux Streets.

Hamilton Historical Board
2009

Plaque Placement was intended to be in a high traffic area at the head of the stairs leading down the rock face from the parking lot to the Old Mill Restaurant. However, the city prefers that the plaque be placed on city property. The location of choice would be on the northwest corner of Wilson and Old Dundas Road where there is a small park with a flower garden maintained by the city and Ancaster Horticultural Society.

References
1. Cope’s Mill, Ancaster, Department of Public Records and Archives (Ontario), Historical Branch Supervisor. ("The first mills at the head of Lake Ontario were either on the site of Cope’s Mill in Ancaster or very close to it.")
5. Rykman’s Township Plan of 1822.
8. Ontario Archives, Rousseau Collection, Item 80.
9. Ancaster Heritage op. cit. P. 20

Submitted by R. Williamson
SUMMARY OF QUOTES FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS


“A grist and saw mill on the road leading to the Mohawk village by Beasley and Wilson in the year 1791, the saw mill now erecting.”


“The (Wilson) mill was built at the foot of a small precipice, over which the water poured on the head of the wheel”.

SOURCE: Percy J Robinson, (Book title not legible)

“...the Grist Mill and Saw Mill on Lot No. 46 in the Second Concession of Ancaster, which together with the land above described was sold to John Baptiste Rousseaux on October 5, 1794 for the sum of 600 pounds New York Currency”.

A later notation states “Paid Mr. R. Beasley for one half the Grist Mill and one half the Saw Mill & 400 acres, 1,200 pounds”.


Aikins description of the Rousseaux mill implies that it was an overshot mill, which stood at the top of the hill immediately below a dam.

SOURCE: History of Cope’s Mill (now the Old Mill Restaurant), Ancaster, prepared by Richard Apted, Supervisor Historical Branch, Department of Public Records and Archives of Ontario.

“The first mills to be built near the Head of Lake Ontario were either on this site or very close to it. (Cope’s Mill).

“A plan of Ancaster Township made in 1822, shows a grist mill on what appears to be the restaurant site and no mills higher up Ancaster Creek”.

“By 1858 several water powered plants including a woolen factory had been built above the old mill property on the same creek”.

“Alonzo and Harris Egleston acquired the property in 1862 and are recorded to have built the existing stone mill in 1863. The south wall of the foundation incorporates stone from an earlier mill, quite possibly the old Union Mill according to the Ryckman map”.

SOURCE: Ancaster’s Heritage, A History of Ancaster Township, Published by the Ancaster Township Historical Society ca 1970?

On page 13 it is claimed that James Wilson built his mills in 1791 on the small creek just east of Rousseau Street, his mill dam being about one hundred and fifty yards south of Wilson Street. There is no reference for the source of this information to substantiate this claim. (Since Wilson St. runs N – S, this information is flawed.)

On page 20, Roy Woodhouse, an amateur historian, claims that the first mills were built 75 yards south of Wilson Street where the remains of a mill dam can still be seen. He gives no reference to substantiate this claim. He later states that after the original mills burned down in 1812, a stone mill was built 300 yards downstream near the site of the Cope Mill.
Both of these claims for the site of Wilson’s Mills in Ancaster Heritage are unsubstantiated and appear to be based on observation of the 1875 ruins of the Crane knitting mill and dam at the corner of Wilson and Rousseaux Streets. No consideration is given for the fact that the original Wilson Mill had an overshot wheel and had to be at the base of a precipice or waterfall. Being a Millwright, it is only logical that Wilson would have built his mill at the base of a waterfall because an overshot wheel provides the most power with a minimum of dam construction to provide a strong head of water. It makes no sense that Wilson would build a mill above the waterfall when he had his choice of any location. The waterfall provided an excellent natural source of power. No millwright in his right mind would go up stream where he had to build a substantial dam to create a power source. Woodhouse et al make reference to the mill being south of Wilson Street, which runs N-S. Consequently their observations are confusing and unsubstantiated.