



Society Newsletter

Colborne Native, Child Welfare Worker and Protectionist, Don Davis, for the Sixth Year has volunteered his time Tagging & Releasing Butterflies at Dorothy's House Museum.



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Preserving the past for future generations

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Born in Cobourg, but raised just east of Colborne on Hwy #2. Don Davis lived next door to his uncle and aunt on the family farm, so his early work life was in agriculture, including his uncle's spring greenhouse business and later helping out in the crops of tomatoes, potatoes, corn, etc.

Don Davis' family came to the area as United Empire Loyalists. His great uncle, Rev. John Davis, spent 17 years in India as a missionary, but sadly contracted leprosy and spent his last years in Canada. His body was transported by train to Colborne from the leprosarium from Tracadie Island, New Brunswick. His body is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Grafton.

Don began studying and tagging monarchs in 1967 with Fred and Norah Urquhart from the University of Toronto and later became involved with the Monarch Watch program. Don has now tagged thousands — in one year 7,000 — of monarchs and had many recoveries in Mexico, with one of them being designated as a Guinness Record for "Longest Migration by a Butterfly".

The writer asked Don what triggered his interest and passion for butterflies and his answer was, "Our family was always close to the land; I worked in agriculture as a child and went camping and fishing. I became interested in nature in part due to encouragement from a neighbour down the road when I was ten years old, and my subsequent contact with John, Alice and Audrey Wilson in Cobourg. I had some interest in banding birds, but that is a much more complex science. I was away from it for a few years when I entered the work force, but in 1985, I thought it would be neat to tag an Ontario monarch and have it recovered in Mexico. About that same time, the park naturalist at Presqu'ile proposed the idea of a Monarchs and Migrants weekend."

Things really started to happen about 1994, when the Urquharts ended their program and would not issue more tags. Don had to have his own made up! Then when some of these tagged monarchs were found in Mexico, he was contacted by others in the United States who were also involved with monarchs and connected with Monarch Watch. According to Don the 1990's was a very busy time when many new projects and programs for monarchs were emerging.

— Don Davis Cont'd on page 4

Interim President's report



PHDHS [former EDHS] is pleased to have the support of the following business members

Another season has passed at Dorothy's House Museum. We had some visitors this summer, and some significant donations of artifacts which are currently on display.

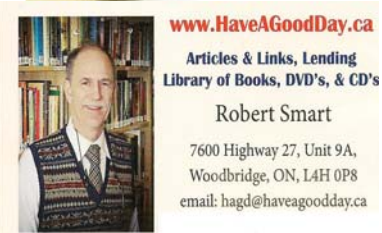
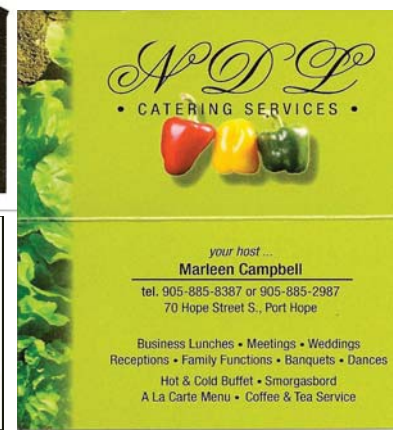
With the help of Board Member Tim Austin we did some necessary repairs at the museum and scraped and painted sections of the house and benches. We also resurfaced the lettering on the DHM sign [See photo below] and painted the frame which keeps it in place.

I would like to acknowledge a special thank you to Catherine Lyall of Port Hope for restoring and repairing two old baby cradles and making mattresses, pillows and quilts for each cradle. They are also on display, making a beautiful addition to the collection. Many thanks, Catherine, for the lovely restoration and volunteering your time. It is very much appreciated.

The sixth annual Monarch Butterfly Tag & Release was held Saturday, August 29, 2015 and was enjoyed immensely by both young and old. It was a good day, despite the threatening overcast weather; but the rain held off.

Special thanks to Don Davis for volunteering his time. And once again, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped out during the day to make the yearly event a great success. Thank you everyone! Hoping to see you next summer at Dorothy's House Museum!

Joan Ashby Parrott
Interim President, PHDHS



Butterfly Tag & Release at Dorothy's House Museum 2015



Kids go where there's excitement. They stay where there's love. — Author Unknown

Local History Quiz — by Tim Austin



- 1) What year did the first settlers arrive in Hope Township (1773, 1799, 1805)?
- 2) What was the village of Canton formerly known as?
- 3) Why was Welcome formerly known as Guide Board?
- 4) Where did Osaca get its name?
- 5) What is believed to occur if you are walking on Monkey Mountain at

night?

Don Davis: Cont'd from front page

Don has been a supporter of many monarch related programs, including Journey North and Monarch Teacher Network of Canada, and is currently the Chair of the Monarch Butterfly Fund, a U.S. non-profit organization.

Don last visited the monarchs in Mexico in 2008, and was "historic consultant" during the filming of the IMAX movie "FLIGHT OF THE BUTTERFLIES". In recent months, Don served as a member of the Canadian Monarch Working Group as the three NAFTA countries develop a new North American Monarch Conservation Plan. He hopes that the steps taken to conserve and protect monarchs will also benefit many other species and habitats. Don Davis has made a huge contribution to Monarch research by participating in the annual count and tagging.

By profession, Don works in the field of child welfare and protection in Toronto, but visits family and friends in Northumberland County often. He is a member of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Answers to Quiz

- 1) In 1793 the families of James Stevens and Nathaniel Ashford were reported to have arrived in Hope Township. It is reported that Mrs. Stevens gave birth to a son on the night of their arrival.
- 2) In 1805 it was known as Hope Church and became known as Canton in 1855.
- 3) In the 1830s a guide board was erected pointing to various other destinations in the township, therefore the name Guide Board was used. A welcome sign sat on top of the guide board, and it is believed this is the reason the area became known as Welcome. It is unknown when this occurred.
- 4) Many believe it came from a sign that read **Old Style Alexander Chopper Axe**.
- 5) You are followed by little red lights and little children can be heard screaming and running around yet there is no one there. This occurs around an area where the natives had their longhouse.

Events Calendar 2015

Public meetings will be scheduled on basis of opportunity and when needed. Such meetings will be held at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North, Port Hope, ON

Heritage Fair

Sunday, May 1, 2016

AGM [Annual General Meeting]

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

Dorothy's House Museum 2016 Summer Hours to be announced in a later issue of the Newsletter.

Contact Information

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Membership Rates

**Single \$15.00
Couple \$25.00
Business \$40.00
Lifetime \$75.00**

PHDHS is a charitable organization and can issue Tax Receipts for donations of \$10.00 or larger.

If you have a story or story ideas, please contact Cal Morgan at cmorgan@eagle.ca