



Society Newsletter

A publication of East Durham Historical Society

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East Durham
Historical Society

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Parrotts appointed managers of Dorothy's House



After volunteering their services, Rod and Joan Parrott were appointed managers of Dorothy's House Museum. The appointment was confirmed at the March 2010 East Durham Historical Society board meeting. The Parrotts have been members of EDHS almost from the beginning, and for some years, members of the board of directors.

Rod and Joan live in Port Hope and are known among other things for their work and interest in Monarch butterflies. They maintain a large colony on their property, and raise them for the Montreal Insectariums and other conservatories as well as a number of butterfly houses. Rod is a member of the Ontario Insects Toronto Entomologists' Association.

Rod has published at least seven scientific papers. Some of them have appeared in the Canadian Entomologist which is distributed to 55 countries around the world.

He has been honoured by Papilio International of Denmark where he helped establish an international butterfly program and habitat.

Over 30 years ago, Rod started Canada's first butterfly house, where butterflies are bred and reared. His current butterfly house is a structure 35x29 feet and 12 feet high. Before retiring as a brick-layer, he lived in Australia and travelled around the world pursuing butterflies and moths of all kinds, especially in Africa, Indonesia and New Guinea. He discovered a series of species in New Guinea and Indonesia which have been reported in scientific journals. His specimen collections are in museums, universities and butterfly houses around the world, including China and Denmark.

Rod also supplies the monarchs, their eggs and caterpillars for the New Jersey Foundation which holds three-day workshops in Ontario every year. He sells pupae to breeders, collectors and butterfly houses.

Scientists and researchers come from all over to visit the Parrotts. In 2005 a Mexican team flew an ultra light from Montreal to Mexico promoting monarch conservation. We can be confident that Dorothy's House will be well managed in the coming year.

President's report



Just a short message to give you a warm welcome to visit Dorothy's House Museum this summer and bring everyone up to date on matters relating to the house and grounds.

I want you all to know that a committee of interested persons have come forward to assist in the operation of Dorothy's House Museum for the collection, preservation and expedition of the historical artifacts once used by the early settlers.

The storage area is now sealed off to stop the squirrels from getting into the roof; they have done considerable damage. The eaves troughs have been repaired and cleaned out, and the trench at the back deepened to carry the water away from the house. Brush from the barn and under the big pine trees is being removed as well and taken away.

All the old cardboard boxes have been removed from the storage area and the items placed in new plastic containers and marked for clean up after the mice are gone. Electrical circuitry has been traced, documented and repaired as needed. Rotting boards on the front deck have been replaced with new material, repainted and made secure for public safety.

Inside the house, the walls and floors have been washed and cleaned in each room. And we are in the process of taking inventory – labelling and numbering all artifacts. Dorothy's House Museum will be open to the public on weekends, or by appointment for the summer months of July and August.

On a more personal note Rod and I feel honoured to be given the opportunity to bring awareness to DHM and promote its history. We are looking forward to a successful season and future with the membership's assistance in any form.

Thank you,

Joan Parrott,
President

EDHS has hired Teddy's Lawn Care to maintain the lawn this year

Teddy Broome lives across the road from the Museum, with his mom and sister. He is 14, in Grade 9, and attends Port Hope High School. His current main interests are big machinery and mechanics — “fixing things,” he says. Teddy is one of Garden Hill's youngest persons to have his own lawn care business.

Want your lawn cut? Call Teddy at 905-797-3186.



Remembering Neil MacKellar (1926-2008)



Neil was born in Verdun, Quebec with a Scottish background on his father's side and was a fifth generation Canadian on his mother's side. He died on his 83rd birthday. Born September 1, 1926, he died September 1, 2009. The family moved to Toronto when he was 13. He finished high school and joined the Navy at 17 in 1944, and served on corvettes doing convoy duty in the Atlantic. After the war Neil finished his education, receiving a BA at the University of Toronto.

Neil's working career was accountancy, working in stocks/bonds and advertising, finally finishing his career at Centenary College as a professor. Married twice, he raised five children and was stepfather to four more. He was a Life Master in duplicate bridge, teaching the game as well as playing it.



During his retirement living in Port Hope, Neil was a long time member of the East Durham Historical Society, and served as Treasurer for several years, faithfully overseeing the use of funds, even when his health was breaking down. He looked after advertising and walked the business area of town, placing notices in store windows, and ads in the local newspapers. Neil was always pleasant and went out of his way to be sociable. His commitment to EDHS and Dorothy's House Museum was outstanding.

Society's Newsletter will remember again in next issue

Be sure to watch for the next issue when East Durham Historical Society will remember again, and recall for its readers and supporters another of Port Hope's War Heroes.

The first EDHS newsletter appeared in September 1993 under the heading "Daily Times". The masthead was used for all 15 issues until 1999 when it was decided to change it to simply "Newsletter" in 2000.

We welcome submissions — preferably with an historical angle — or personal travel experiences. Because of limited space all submissions are subject to editing in order to fit the format of the newsletter. Contributions for publication should be sent to the Editor, in care of EDHS, P.O. Box 116, Port Hope, ON L1A 3V9, or Email: Info@porthopehistorical.ca



In the 1830's settlers moved north of the former town of Port Hope into the township of Hope, cleared land and developed a farming community. The Ganaraska River provided for transportation and commercial opportunities such as saw-mills, grist mills and woolen mills.

Circa 1869, Taylor Wilson purchased land and built Dorothy's house from material left over from his carpentry jobs on larger homes in the area. Although it is small by many standards, the house is of Victorian architectural detail.

Visitors can still see period furniture from the previous owners — some made by local craftsmen. There are also artifacts which have been donated by members and area residents relating to the early life and customs of the settlers.

A period barn, constructed from remnants of two demolished structures and a drive shed with farming implements and tradesmen tools are on the property.

A picturesque garden and yard provide a chance to relax, visit and reminisce of days gone by.

There is also a nature trail which leads into the Ganaraska Conservation Authority area, dedicated to Milford White.. The trail starts behind the barn and provides a pleasant opportunity to view both the forest setting and the Garden Hill pond.

Historical Society

Founded in 1964, the aim of the Society is to preserve local history. It was originally called East Durham, as the area was part of Durham County. Since amalgamation the name has been under review. The Society maintains the Museum.

The Society maintains the Museum, produces various publications on early families and local history.

Summer schedule at Dorothy's House

During the summer months the Museum will be open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

Schedule to date:

June 26 — Open

June 27 — Open

July 3 — Tin and Lace display [old and new]

July 4 — Wood turning demo with John Morand

July 10 — Pottery demo

July 11 — Pottery demo

July 17 — Historical Lighting display & Scrap booking

July 18 — Historical Lighting display and Scrap booking

July 24 — Lakeshore Quilters group

July 25 — Lakeshore Quilters group

July 31 — To be announced

Aug. 1 — To be announced

Aug. 7 — Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild

Aug. 8 — Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild and Wood turning demo

Aug. 14 — To be announced

Aug. 15 — To be announced

Aug. 21 — To be announced

Aug. 22 — To be announced

Aug. 28 — Monarch Butterfly release

Aug. 29 — To be announced

Sept. 4 — To be announced

Sept. 5 — Hope Pastoral Charge church service



Membership Rates

Single	\$15.00
Couple	\$25.00
Business	\$40.00
Life	\$75.00



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