



Society Newsletter

History in a Mug

When Gary and Cathy Johnston purchased the General Store in Garden Hill, a small village 16 km north of the Town of Port Hope in 1990, they became the 18th owners to operate the local business.

It was a spur of the moment decision for the young couple, who at the time were employed at DuPont in Whitby, and raising a young family that eventually increased to five aspiring young women.

Realizing that he couldn't move forward at Dupont, Gary began university courses and in due time he saw a potential business opportunity when Sommerville's moved out of Port Hope. They signed a deal and paid first and last rental fee with intention of operating a sports outlet in the Peter St. Plaza.



Working late one night fixing the place up they saw a real estate sign advertizing the Garden Hill Store for sale, and realized this was a sure thing. That was on a Friday. They bought it the next day with intentions of "flipping" it after a few months of operation. But in the ensuing months with so much local support behind them they became attached to the grocery business and gave up any intentions of selling.

Gary and Cathy grew up in Whitby. Gary's parents, Bob and Betty Johnston, were originally from Campbellford, but moved to Whitby after Bob became employed at General

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Cathy and Gary



Executive Council

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Joan Ashby Parrott

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Cal Morgan

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*Preserving the past for
future generations*

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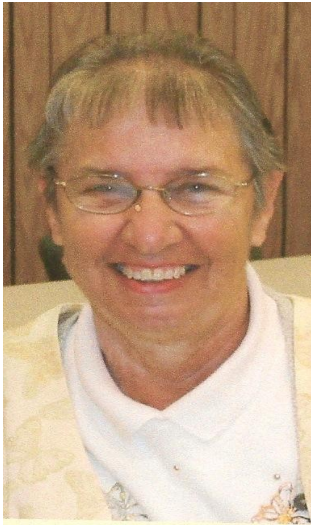
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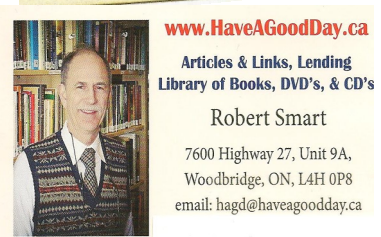
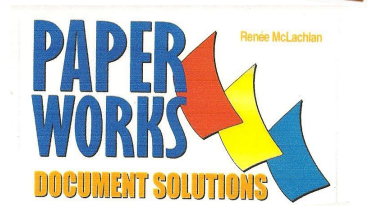
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Port Hope, Ontario

President's report



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



Well, another season has passed at Dorothy's House Museum and it's been a very successful year. But first, on behalf of the membership, I must express our deep sadness with the passing and loss of former Executive Board Member, Gary Ough, who passed away August 6, 2012. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jill and family.

Also, it is with deep sadness that we remind the membership that we lost another Life Member, Wolfgang Arnold, who passed away on February 2, 2012. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Anne and family. Anne is a Life Member of the Society and served a term as Treasurer.

Donated items from generous people in the area helped push our Fundraiser Yard Sales over the top. We really appreciated everyone who volunteered their time when needed.

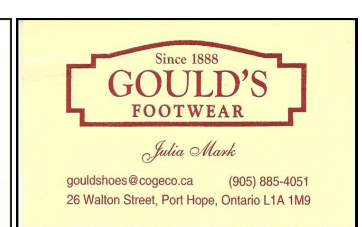
Some work has been done on the barn, mostly in maintenance, and rearranging the artifacts to make them more accessible and visible for visitors. They can now move around and view most of the displays up close. Rod has also repaired most of the boards on the walls in order to close the gaps and openings and prevent nature's unwelcome critters from getting in and making a mess.

The Third Annual Monarch Butterfly Tag and Release in late August was successful and drew a large number of visitors of all ages. Two hundred and twenty-five Monarchs were tagged and released during the day, with upwards of 300 adults and children coming and going throughout the day.

Thanks to Don Davis for his generous support and volunteering his time to tag and release Monarchs and answer questions. It is a real learning experience for young and old.

Many thanks to Rick Norlock, MP, and wife, Judy, for attending again this year. Also, many thanks to newly elected Rob Milligan, MPP and his wife, Rebecca, and daughter, Samantha, for their visit as well. It was a very hot day, but enjoyed by all. Pictures and coverage of the event will appear in the January 2013 Newsletter.

Sincerely, Joan Ashby Parrott, President



Garden Hill Store: History in a Mug

Cont'd from page 1

Motors of Canada in Oshawa in 1960.

Cathy's mom, Amelia, was a war bride from England. She came to Canada after the war as the wife of John Burke, and settled in Etobicoke where Cathy was born. As fate would have it, both Cathy and Gary grew up in Whitby and eventually went to work for DuPont which at the time was manufacturing plastic milk bottles.

During our brief interview with Cathy for this Newsletter the writer asked Cathy how she and Gary met, and what was the occasion. With a smile on her face that broadened as she talked, she told the writer they met at a friend's "retirement party," and the personal encounter was really triggered when Gary told her a "dirty joke."

Their five young girls shown in caricature on the coffee mug are now grown women, some having graduated from university and the younger about to in the next year or two. With degrees in music and goals to be teachers, there's no doubt they will make good in life. They have been very active in sports.

The mug featured in this story was thought up by Gary a few years ago. He went to the Registry Office in Cobourg and copied all the owners that once operated the General Store in Garden Hill. There has been some changes to the old building over the years. Today you will not find a more customer friendly service anywhere in Ontario. Do yourself a favour, drive through the village and meet the friendly owners.

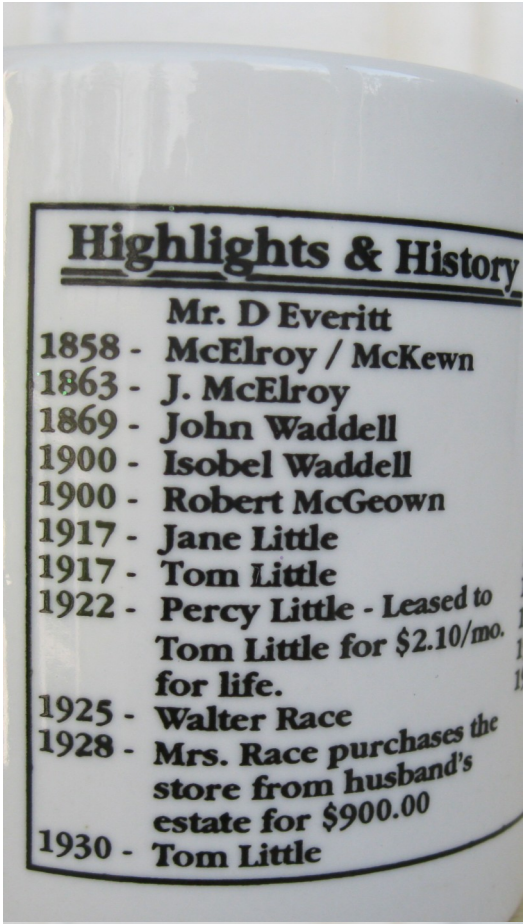


Photo credit: Post Card from Rod Parrott's collection. It was sent to J. C. Martin, Strassburg, Saskatoon from Garden Hill.

Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind. — Seneca

PHDHS Mourns the Loss of Two Members



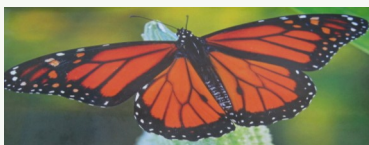
Wolfgang Arnold [1927-2012]

Wolfgang Arnold immigrated to Canada in 1980 and in 1989 he bought a little farm north of Newtonville where he lived with his wife Anne. They had a wonderful life there and were often visited by friends and relatives.

Wolfgang became a Life Member of the PHDHS [former East Durham Historical Society] and, as Director, he was enthusiastically involved in activities: book publishing, pictures, Heritage Fair and the Dorothy's House Museum.

Wolfgang's sudden death was a painful shock to his family and very real loss to his friends and Society members. He suffered a massive stroke and died four days later, February 2, 2012.

Wolfgang was laid to rest in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in the City of Toronto.



Gary Frederick Ough [1941-2012]

Gary Ough missed being born on Christmas Day by three days and came into the world December 28, 1941. He was the second son of Allan and Gwen Ough. Robert, who was the oldest of the Ough's five children, said in his Eulogy that Gary knew how to live the DASH, referring to the dash between 1941 and 2012. Those "dates will be forgotten in most cases," he said, "but the 'dash' will be remembered in the hearts of his family and friends forever."

In the case of Gary's association with the PHDHS as Executive Board member, his commitment was exemplary. The courage he demonstrated during the final two or three months was outstanding. And he was reluctant to say he wouldn't let his name stand for the coming year due to his weakening strength.

In his excellent tribute to his brother, Robert said Gary "never stopped 'looking the cat in the eye' if something [went] wrong...To the very end he was positive and a total pleasure to share a visit.... This wonderful courageous man never faltered ... even as he slid into semiconscious states over the last three days [before he passed on]."

Events Calendar 2012

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

September 14,15,16
Port Hope Fall Fair

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012
Port Hope Archives Yard Sale

Saturday, October 6, 2012
100th Anniversary Ploughing Match
at Boughen Farm at north east corner of
Dale Road & Highway 28.
Commemorating the Plough Match held
November 5, 1912

Sunday, April 7, 2013
Heritage Fair
Lion's Centre, Port Hope, ON

Wednesday, May 15, 2013
AGM Meeting
GRCA Meeting Room

Contact Information

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President
905-885-2981. If no response please
leave message at 905-797-2291

Membership Rates

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

Stories, or story ideas, are always welcome. Email: cmorgan@eagle.ca

The Port Hope and District Historical Society is a registered charity and can issue tax deductible receipts for donations in memory of loved ones.