



Society Newsletter

On Friday, June 22 William and Gladys Brown will mark sixty-six years together

Not everybody cuts their leg to capture their life partner, but it worked for William “Bill” Brown. He was unloading coal at the train station and managed to cut his leg. Needing medical attention he made his way to Dr. Harry Benson, whose office was located on Walton Street, Port Hope. As destiny would have it, Gladys was the receptionist, but he showed up when her shift was over, and “because I was getting ready to leave I sort of ignored him.” But for Bill it was love at first sight . They were married at the Canton Manse on June 22, 1946. And they’re still together after 66 years of wedded life and a successful business partnership.



Bill grew up on a farm on the west side of Brown’s Road, halfway between Highway 28 and the Fifth Line. He was born January 26, 1923. His parents were Harry Brown and Charlotte Baker, a U.S. citizen. Gladys was from Canton. Her parents were Jonathan May and Ann [Chisholm] May. There was no bus service in those days so Bill never made it to high school but that didn’t hold him back. Asked what his philosophy in life was and he said “Work. All we ever knew was, work, work! Shortly after they were married Bill got into the harvesting – combining business and bought a thrashing mill, including a WD 9 McCormick Deering diesel tractor from Outram* Hardware, 102 Walton Street, Port Hope in 1948. He continued this work until constant bad weather discouraged him and he moved into the fuel distribution business and became the first McCall-Frontenac fuel distributor in the area in 1954. When that company sold out the Browns became associated with Texaco.

In 1976 they got into the cement delivery business and purchased three delivery trucks and a stone thrower, used for spreading the crushed stones over basement floors before the cement is poured. They eventually sold the fuel oil business in 1985 and focused on cement and associated products. [Cont’d Page 3]



Bill and Gladys — June 22, 1946

Executive Council

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*Preserving the past for
future generations*

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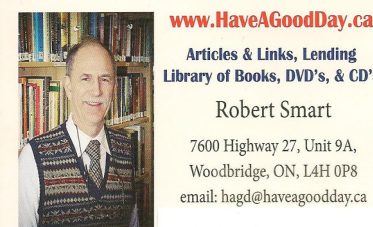
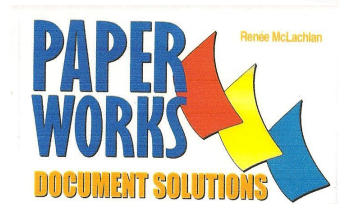
Paper Works

Port Hope, Ontario

President's report



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



Spring is here and almost gone. Summer will be upon us in a few more days. We've managed to get a few things done at DHM but there is still much to do. Before I list some of those activities I would like to express my appreciation for everyone's support over the past few months, despite the low turnout at our last AGM.

Two of our directors decided not to continue as directors for 2012, so we still have to hopefully find their replacements. I would like to express my admiration for Gary Ough, who hung in while also having to deal with serious health issues. He is a very courageous man. Any members reading this who might be willing to serve on our board of directors, or would like to recommend some member please get in touch with us.

We are pleased to say that we have built a display stand for the cornerstone salvaged from the old post office that once graced the downtown business section of Port Hope. On behalf of the Society I want to express our thanks to the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority for making available for public use this original cornerstone. Visitors to Dorothy's House Museum this summer will be able to see this old artifact, including a large framed picture of the building itself. We are featuring both the stone and the building in this issue of our newsletter. Thanks also to Mr. Udvarhelyi for his excellent photography which makes this image live on in print.

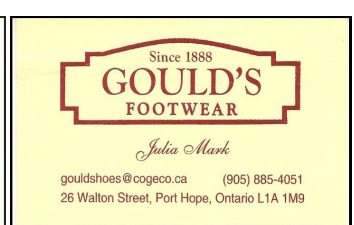
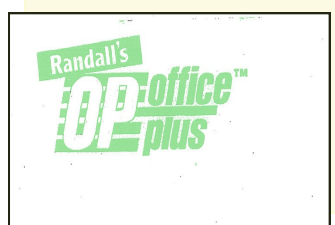
We are currently in the process of cleaning and moving artifacts in the barn, cleaning around the area of the lean-to shed, planting flowers in the section known as Dorothy's Garden, painting the front porch and steps of the DHM and building a new accessible ramp at the back door.

We are arranging to pick up the following donated items: Amherst player piano, Grandmother chair, wooden toy building, old bottles, and an old wooden chest that was presented to Dr. Adam Purslow by his pupils and friends in Port Hope, September 26, 1862.

Also, we are planning a huge three-day Yard Sale of donated items as a "Fund Raiser" with all proceeds going to DHM. The date for this event is **Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 22-24, 2012**. If you would like to volunteer some spare time, please call me at 905-885-2981 or Cell 905-922-6439. Your help is deeply appreciated.

Other plans are in the works and will be announced following our next executive meeting this month.

Sincerely,
Joan Ashby Parrott
President



There seems to be an organized, well-financed lobby determined to preserve the natural habitat and comfort of every species except man. Well, it is time to remember that we are ecology too. — Ronald Reagan



Cont'd from page 1

Some readers of our newsletter may recall that the business name on their trucks used to read “WM and Gladys Brown” because the Browns were truly business partners and it probably developed from an early incident when Gladys was trying to keep track of the cheques William was issuing to his associates. “I never kept track of them, to whom they were written, nor what they were for,” Bill told the writer with a touch of humour. Secretary Gladys was not a happy camper! “We decided then and there she would pay the bills and keep the books, and I would do the work and earn the money.” It was a good decision; the business prospered and the family grew. The Browns have four daughters: Sheila Klaasen, Glenda Cassidy, Patricia Barkwell and Darlene Leggett, 10 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



The Brown’s first home was at the corner of Fox Road and Toronto Road but they eventually bought a home just east of Welcome in 1956. Tragedy struck in 1967 when a fire destroyed their home and caused the death of their only son — four-year old, Douglas William. However, this deep and painful loss did not destroy the young couple’s sense of purpose. Within a year of the tragedy they had rebuilt on the same lot and were in a new home for their wedding anniversary in 1968. It was in this home where the writer sat down in late May and took a few pictures and enjoyed the conversation as Bill and Gladys recalled some of their early days.

One last thing before bringing this narrative to a close. We must make mention of the longstanding love affair that Bill Brown had and still has, I suspect, with farm tractors — collecting them and restoring them. The WD 9 pictured above is the one he purchased in 1948. Somewhere along his long journey he sold it, but kept track of where it ended up and at an opportune time bought it back.

*The Outrams were file manufacturers from England and established the Globe File Manufacturing Company on Cavan Street. It was sold later to Nicholson File in 1901 of the United States. George Alfred ‘Alf’ Outram [1872-1948, only son of the founder, Fredrick, operated the hardware store at 102 Walton St., now occupied by **Nearly New Buy & Sell**, next door to EVOLUTION Hair Design.

Wall photo of former Port Hope Post Office on display at Dorothy's House Museum



Laszlo Udvarhelyi, Photographer
Udvarhelyi Studio, John St., Port Hope



For almost 140 years this outstanding building stood strong and upright at the corner of Queen and Hector Streets in Port Hope. According to a report in the *Port Hope Evening Guide*, the fate of this beautiful building was finally sealed by a decision of Council, April 20, 1970 when a motion was approved to “offer to sell the former Post Office to the

OHC at a firm price of \$4,000 providing immediate attention be given to that offer.” The town had purchased it from the Federal Government. The East Durham Historical Society [PHDHS] had previously expressed interest, but didn’t have the funds to follow through on the dream. The noble structure in the months that followed was demolished and the town cried and mourned. Reporter James Cutting wrote, “...It was like pulling out a favorite old-worn molar from the decaying teeth of Port Hope’s historic downtown business section.”

—Source: http://www.porthopehistory.com/oldpo/oldpopage_index.htm

Events Calendar 2012

Regular Monthly meetings at the
Ganaraska Conservation Authority
Meeting Room, 2216 Hwy 28 North,
Port Hope, ON

Dorothy's House Museum
will open Saturday, June 30th and
subsequent weekends through the
summer months.

Saturday, August 25th
Monarch Butterfly Tag & Release

Sunday August 26th
Sunday Church Service

June 22-24, 2012
Fri., Sat., Sun., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Huge Yard Sale of donated items.
[All proceeds go to support DHM]

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

Contact Information

PHDHS
P.O. Box 116,
Port Hope, ON
L1A 3V9

Web: www.porthopehistorical.ca

Joan Ashby Parrott
President
905-885-2981; Cell: 1-905-922-6439.
Note: 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