



**Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum**  
**Volume XXXIX, Issue I**  
**March 1, 2012**

**Baptist Pioneering, The Western Convention.**  
 Part II By Kelly Fekete

In 1867, a topic of concern for our forefathers was that **“all British possessions in North America should be united.”** Second, **what to name it? It's unclear who,** but as they were looking upon a map showing the vast space between the Atlantic & Pacific Oceans the person is said to have quoted the following line **from Scripture. “And his Dominions shall be from sea to sea.”** Hence on July 1, 1867, Canada became The Dominion of Canada.

In 1869 Rev. R.A. Fyfe D.D. suggested an effort be made to send a Missionary to the **“North West”** and that a delegation comprised of Rev. T. Baldwin of Ingersall, and Rev. T.L. Davidson D.D. of Aylmer, go and explore & report on the conditions of the country and the possibility of establishing a Baptist Church or Churches. The small group including Dr. Fyfe of Perth, set forth June 16<sup>th</sup> 1869. The group made its way through the states via railway and on the 4<sup>th</sup> day reached St. Cloud, Minnesota. Then switching to mule and cart for 9 days made **their way by “Trader's Trail” back to Canada** where they reported that **“we wrote “Canada” on the British side of Boundary Post** took off our hats and

awoke an awful stillness by **singing ‘God Save our Gracious Queen’ with full hearts”** The first buildings they came across were **“three long houses, thatched with mud and straw and is 60 miles from Winnipeg”.** All told, it took fourteen days and a distance of over fourteen hundred miles. The delegation reports that **“Winnipeg is a small town, consisting of about thirty log buildings, and one single brick structure”** which in **Rev. Baldwin's letter he describes as “a drug store” and likens their group to “Spies”.** Dr. Baldwin also reports that **Dr. Davidson is “sick with the ague”**

The report outlines, climate, soil, political, religious, conditions and the labors of this group, all of course I cannot recount here. Throughout I am awe struck by their accounts at the vastness of the area they are exploring. Dr. Baldwin reports coming upon Portage La Prairie a small settlement and **“some three settlers”** and if I may say so, if we could see the faces of these men at times they would have a look of incredulity. Can you put yourself in **these men's shoes coming from a somewhat populated area of the world to this nothingness?**

Regarding Climate they report **“Through what we experienced and otherwise learned, we write in the opinion...”** **No cell phone** applications to advise you of the weather, they had to live through it! Are you still with me?

Rev. Colin Campbell  
 McLaurin D.D

To Be Continued

**New Board of  
 Directors 2012**

The following Directors were elected at our AGM on February 7, 2012:

Gary Briggs—President  
 Sandra Toll—Vice President  
 Kelly Fekete—Secretary  
 Carolle Dallas—Treasurer  
 Harvey Linton—Director  
 Alec Ball—Director  
 Kim Sheldrick—Director

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### 2012 Canadian Sculpture Competition: Local Finalist Gary Briggs

“A record-breaking number of finalists have been selected for Canada’s largest outdoor sculpture competition in St. Andrews, New Brunswick. Twenty-one finalists have been chosen from all over Canada to compete in the 2012 Canadian Sculpture Competition at Kingsbrae Garden.

“What a nice surprise just before the holiday season,” said Gary Briggs, a selected finalist from Osgoode Ward. “My wife and I will deliver the finished work in June and are planning a holiday in the Kingsbrae Garden area.”

The finalists will be working to complete their sculptures over the next few months. The sculptures will then be shipped or personally delivered to Kingsbrae Garden in

time for the annual awards ceremony being held on June 14, 2012.

The first-prize winning work from the 2012 Competition will find a permanent home on display with the Kingsbrae Sculpture Garden. The second-prize winning work will also be on display at Kingsbrae Garden.

This will be the fourth consecutive year for the Canadian Sculpture Competition held at Kingsbrae Garden, a breathtaking 27 acre public garden featuring more than 50,000 perennials, a rare Wollemi Pine, a sculpture garden, exotic animals, children’s activities, an art gallery and so much more!

**Congratulations, Gary and best wishes in the upcoming contest!**



### Belonging: Journey of a Home Child

Area Schools early March  
Public Performance March 16, 2012 at the OTHS Museum

Emily Margaret McLeary arrives in Osgoode Township after a long journey from an orphanage in Scotland. From the the moment she sets foot off the train and is delivered to her new home by the postmaster, her unexpected arrival is met with caution and suspicion from townspeople. Belonging chronicles the unforgiving struggle of a home child searching to fit in.

Funded by City of Ottawa (Heritage), this project is a partnership between Just Kiddin' Theatre and the Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum. The production will tour area schools early March and will conclude with a FREE PUBLIC PERFORMANCE at the Osgoode Township Museum in Vernon on March 16.

Reserve Your Seat Now!

<http://www.eventbee.com/v/justkiddintheatre/boxoffice>



Who am I?  
If you can identify the subject of this image please contact the Museum at 613-821-4062 or [oths@magma.ca](mailto:oths@magma.ca)

Limited Edition Metcalfe Fair Poster  
The OTHSM has reproduced a limited number of copies of a poster advertising the 1933 Metcalfe Fair. We will be selling this item at the Museum for as long as supplies last. Don't miss your opportunity to own a piece of history and support the OTHSM. Contact the Museum to reserve yours today for \$10.





## PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS A HERITAGE GARDEN AT THE MUSEUM

The OTHS Museum wants your opinion about establishing a heritage garden on the museum grounds. A heritage garden is a collection of the flowers and vegetables grown by the early settlers of Osgoode Township.

Why grow a heritage garden? When will it start? Who will come visit it? Where will it be located? Who will pay for it? What will it do for our community? What will we do with the vegetables and flowers?

Find out your community's answers to the-

se and other important questions!

Please attend a presentation by Gary Briggs who will also moderate a discussion, on Saturday, March 10, from 4 – 5pm at the OTHSM (7814 Lawrence St., Vernon, ON).

Light refreshments provided.



### Open House at the OTHSM

May is Museum Month! Join us at the OTHSM on May 12, from 9-5. Get a behind the scenes tour of our collection and enjoy some light refreshments.

The OTHS&M gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of



**Don't**  
Forget:  
Members  
hip  
Renewals  
are due  
now.

Contact  
the  
Museum  
to renew  
and make  
sure you  
don't  
miss out  
on any  
upcoming  
events or  
news  
reported  
in the  
newsletter

### Rev. Dr. R.A. FYFE—continued from page 1.

**Born in LaPrairie across from Montreal on October 16th 1816.**

**His parents emigrated from Dundee Scotland in 1809.**

**He was converted under the ministry of Rev. John Gilmore of Montreal.**

**He attended Hamilton University and spent summer vacation as a Missionary in the back woods of Ontario.**

**Dr.Fyfe became the first Baptist Minister in Perth where he organized the Church.He then became a pastor in Toronto.**

**In 1860 he established the Baptist College at Woodstock, known then as the Canadian Literary Institute.**

**Proposed and participated in the forging of Missions in the 'North West'.**

**RA Fyfe died at the age 62, in September of 1878.**

**(information provided by CC McLaurin Pioneering in Western Canada 1939—See page 1 of Newsletter)**



Rev. Dr. R.A.Fyfe

# Buggy Restoration



The OTHSM is excited to announce that restoration work on the leather seat back and splash guard of the McLaughlin Buckboard in its collection is now complete.

**The work was carried out by Henderson's Furniture Repair of Ottawa.**

Before:



After:



## Upcoming PD Day Camps and Workshops

March 14-17th—Spring Break!

Spring Break Programming featuring heritage crafts and activities. \$5 per child.

March 14— 1-4pm, Big Rock Candy Mountain Day!

March 15—1-4pm, Junior Pioneer Day!

March 16—1-4pm, Old-Fashioned Toys and Games Day!

March 17—1-3pm, **St. Patrick's Day Crafts!**

April 7th— Easter Egg Hunt

April 21st—Kids' Crafts—Sock Monkeys

1-3 pm—\$5 per child.

April 27th—Kids' PD Day Camp

8:30-5:30 pm—\$25 per child

Camps fill quickly so register early!

May 26th—Kids' Craft Day

1-3pm, Painted Flower Pots

Please call 613-821-4062 for more information.



## Recipe Round-up

### Apple Barley Pudding

4 Tablespoons Pearl barley  
1-1/2 pounds Eating apples\*  
2 ounces Sugar  
3/4 Tablespoon Double cream  
1 liter Water

\* Peeled, cored and sliced.

Put the barley in the water and bring to the boil. Add the sliced apples and continue cooking gently until the barley and apples are soft. Press through a sieve, or put through the blender, and put back in the saucepan. Add the sugar and lemon juice and bring to the boil again. Remove from the heat, allow to cool, and then chill. Serve cool with the cream stirred in. Servings: 4

## Monthly Members' Meeting with Speaker

The Osgoode Township Historical Society invites the public to a presentation of "The Music Within," by Kathy Kelsey, local filmmaker, on March 10 at 2p.m.

The film explores the history of Theatre Organs.

Light refreshments and a discussion period to follow the film.



## Volunteer Corner

If you have some spare time, an interest in Osgoode Township history and would like to volunteer your services, we want you!

We are currently looking for people who would like to be on one of the committees, act as Directors, help with collections projects or help with outreach activities. Please contact the museum if you think you may be interested.



## Art Show and Tea

Call for Submissions!

We want your art!

**Works in any media are welcome.**

All work should be brought to the museum on Tuesday, April 10, framed and ready to hang or display. You may offer it for sale.



## Spring Art Show and Tea

*Saturday, April 14—1-4 pm*

Come and support the works of your favourite local artists and craftspeople!

There is no cost for admission but donations are welcome. Tea and Dessert—\$5.00.



# Contact Us!

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

7814 Lawrence St.  
Box 74  
Vernon, ON  
K0A 3J0

Phone: 613-821-4062  
Fax: 613-821-3140  
Email: oths@magma.ca

Check out our new webpage!

[www.osgoodemuseum.ca](http://www.osgoodemuseum.ca)

Museum Hours  
Tuesday—Saturday  
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



**OSGOODE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

# SPRING EVENTS

## Osgoode Township Museum

**7814 Lawrence Street, VERNON, ONTARIO**  
(Corner of Lawrence & Bank Street/HWY 31)

### APRIL

**EASTER EGG HUNT & CRAFTS FOR KIDS**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 7th, 1pm until 3pm - COST: \$5 Per Child

**ANNUAL SPRING TEA & ART SHOW**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 14th, 1pm until 4pm - Free Admission!  
Artists exhibit free of charge, and may sell their artwork at the event.

**PD DAY CAMP FOR KIDS - MYTHS & LEGENDS!!!**  
FRIDAY, APRIL 27th (Catholic Board) - 8:30am—5:30 pm—COST: \$25 Per Child

### May

**ADULT & TEEN WORKSHOP— THE ART OF DECOUPAGE**  
SATURDAY, MAY 5th, 1pm—4pm — COST: \$25 Per Person

**OPEN HOUSE & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA**  
SATURDAY, MAY 12th, 9pm until 5pm - Free Admission!

**KIDS CRAFT DAY—PAINTED FLOWER POTS**  
SATURDAY, MAY 26th, 1pm until 3pm - COST: \$5 Per Child

### June

**PD DAY CAMP FOR KIDS - JUNGLE SAFARI !!!**  
FRIDAY, JUNE 8th, (All School Boards) 8:30am—5:30 pm—COST: \$25 Per Child

**KIDS CRAFT DAY—MAKE A JACK-IN-THE-BOX!**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 16th, 1pm until 3pm - COST: \$5 Per Child

**ADULT & TEEN WORKSHOP— THE ART OF CALLIGRAPHY**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1pm until 4pm - COST: \$25 Per Person

**Call 613-821-4062 to Register !**

## About Us

The Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum traces its founding back to November 23, 1972 when the first meeting to organize "The New Horizons Historical Group" was held. Their purpose in establishing this group was to do research, create interest, collect data, preserve and publish the history of Osgoode Township and the genealogy of its residents.

The initial objective was to prepare a story for the Township of Osgoode's 150th Anniversary in 1977. It was on August 8, 1973 that the founding group signed an agreement with the Township of Osgoode covering the use of the building and property known then as the Vernon Public School. The group held their first meeting in the school on August 23, 1973.

The official opening of the Museum was held on September 21, 1973 with many interesting articles of bygone days on display for the first Visitors' Day. The Agricultural Museum building was subsequently built and officially opened on August 12, 1989. It now provides a home for the vast farming and industrial collection held by the Museum.

The Historical Society continues to collect information and artefacts relating to life in Osgoode Township and make them available to the public.