



THE OFFICERS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Provincial Archives Photo

Moorehouse Collection

* First outing of the Society, 3 June 1932 at the
Dr. Morehouse Camp, Upper Keswick

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* Fredericton's Neglected Founder, Governor Thomas Carleton - Page 2

YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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This is the official newsletter of the York-Sunbury Historical Society, Inc., Officers Square, Queen Street, P. O. Box 1312, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5C8 Telephone: (506) 455-6041.

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The York-Sunbury Historical Society, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1932, and incorporated in 1934, with the aim "to gather and preserve objects and traditions of historical interest in the region of central New Brunswick and particularly in the Counties of York and Sunbury, and to read and publish papers dealing with the same."

Individual memberships are \$15.00 per year and \$150.00 for life.

Corporations, individuals or organizations may also become sustaining members.



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Editor.....Paul M. O'Connell
Committee Member...Dr. Chris Turnbull

GOVERNOR THOMAS CARLETON

After scarcely being in the new province for more than a few months, the new governor of this infant British colony wrote the following letter from Parr Town to Lord Sydney, Colonial Minister:

"I have the honour to inform Your Lordship, that having in the course of last winter, visited the principal settlements forming on the Saint John's River, I have fixed upon St. Ann's Point, about seventy-five miles from the mouth of the river, as a station well situated for the future seat of the Provincial Government, and within a few miles of that part beyond which the river ceases to be navigable for vessels of any considerable size. Here the foundations are preparing for the Metropolis of New Brunswick which as a mark of respect of His Royal Highness the Duke of York I have given the name of Frederic's town which I hope may meet with His Majesty's approbation."
(1)

This single decisive action, established Fredericton as the capital of this new wilderness province and conveyed on it the name it bears today.



THOMAS CARLETON
GOVERNOR OF NEW BRUNSWICK 1784-1817

Who was this man that Frederictonians owe so much for its very existence, and recognize so little. While there are place names in the province that honour him, the capital city has only one short street, so named, in the downtown area.

The following short introduction, on this remarkable man, provides us with an insight into his origins and the events that shaped his life prior to his New Brunswick appointment. It was written in 1914, by one of this

- (1) Maxwell, L.M.B., "The History of Central New Brunswick," 1937.
- (2) Photo from "Historical Guide to New Brunswick" by J. Clarence Webster, 1928.

Province's outstanding historians, W. O. Raymond, as part of a paper presented to the Royal Society of Canada.

"Thomas Carleton was born in Ireland in 1735, the youngest son of Christopher Carleton of Newry, County Down. He joined the 20th regiment of foot as a volunteer in 1753, was commissioned ensign in 1755 and promoted lieutenant and adjutant the same year. Although less distinguished than his illustrious brother, Sir Guy Carleton, his career as a soldier was highly creditable. He served in the expedition against Rochfort, under St. John Mordaunt in 1757. The next year he was with the Duke of Marlborough at

St. Maloes, from whence he embarked with his regiment for Minden where they joined the allied army under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick. He was present at the battle of Minden on August 1, 1759, and the sword which he carried on that occasion, with his name engraven on the blade, is still in possession of the Carleton family. He was now promoted to the command of a company in the 20th regiment. He took part in the night attack on Hirschburg and was present at the siege of Wesel and the Battle of Camper, under the

hereditary prince of Brunswick, in 1760. The next year he was appointed aide-de-camp to Lord Frederick Cavendish, with whom he returned to England at the close of the war.

Carleton rejoined his regiment at Gibraltar in 1765 and did garrison duty for the next four years during which period he was absent ten months, on leave, travelling in Minorca, Algiers, France and Italy. He was quite linguist, being acquainted with the French, German, Italian and Spanish languages.

Carleton came of a fighting stock and the military instinct led him in 1774 to obtain leave of absence to serve in a

campaign with the Russian army, then engaged with the Turks on the lower Danube. He was present at an attack made by the Turks on a large corps of Russians posted on an island in the Danube opposite Silistra. The Turks were repulsed with loss, and a negotiation ensued which led to the peace of Carnaji. Carleton visited Constantinople, returned to the Russian army in Wallachia and then visited St. Petersburg, where he spent the winter, returning to England in 1775.

4.

The outbreak of the American Revolution now turned his face in a new direction and led to his spending nearly thirty of the best years in his life in America. He came to Canada in 1776, and was appointed to the responsible position of Quarter Master General of the Northern Army, commanded by his brother Sir Guy Carleton. He was present at the naval action on Lake Champlain in which the ships of Benedict Arnold's fleet were taken or burnt. At the conclusion of hostilities in 1782 he went to England where he married the widow of Captain Edward Foy, late of the Royal Artillery. She was a native of New Jersey and her maiden name Hannah Van Horne.

In July, 1784, Colonel Carleton was selected as first Governor of New Brunswick. His commission is dated the 16th of August, 1784. He was not apparently very anxious to undertake the duties of governor of the new province and at first declined the office. Afterwards he accepted it on the understanding that he was to be transferred to Quebec the next year.

(i)

- (i) See Winslow Papers, pp. 214, 221. Lord Sidney on April 19, 1786, announced the appointment of Sir Guy Carleton as Governor-General with headquarters at Quebec, and the position of Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec was offered to Thomas Carleton. But Lord Sidney added in his letter that the King believed that he would be of essential service if here were content to remain in New Brunswick, and Carleton at once consented to do so. Three years later there was again a vacancy in the Lieutenant-Governorship at Quebec, which the Secretary of State, Lord Gentiles, stated the King had postponed filling until Carleton's wishes should be ascertained. Grenville said that the reasons for his remaining in New Brunswick still existed, and Carleton did not hesitate again to express acquiescence in his Majesty's desire. (3)

On his arrival at Saint John (then called Parr Town) on November 21, 1784, he was very enthusiastically welcomed by the inhabitants. They presented him with an address in which he is referred to as the brother of their illustrious friend and patron Sir Guy Carleton; they also mention his services as colonel of the 29th regiment during the late rebellion. The

- (3) W. O. Raymond, "The First Governor of New Brunswick and the Acadians of the River Saint John," 1914.

governor replied in modest terms.

Carleton at once set to work to organize the province. He was fortunate in having the help of a very able Council, which included such men as George Duncan Ludlow, James Putnam, Gabriel Ludlow, Isaac Allen, Joshua Upham, Edward Winslow, Daniel Bliss, William Hazen, Jonathan Odell and Gilfred Studholme. Equally important were the services of Ward Chipman the Solicitor-general and of George Sproul the Surveyor-general. Sainte Anne's Point was selected as the site of the seat of government and called Fredericton. The province was divided into counties and parishes. Magistrates, sheriffs and other officers were appointed and on May 18, 1785, Saint John was incorporated, with all the civic machinery requisite for the administration of its affairs. It is in consequence, by a good many years, the oldest incorporated in Canada."

The choice of Fredericton as the seat of government did not sit well with all inhabitants, particularly those of the more developed Port of Saint John. In a later dispute with the Governor's Council over the fixing of the sittings of the Supreme Court, Lieutenant Governor Carleton wrote the following letter to the Duke of Portland:

"One of the first acts of my administration, was to establish four stated times in every year for the sittings of the Supreme Court, in such town or place of this province as the Governor or Commander in charge at the time being, shall by his residence make the principal Seat of Government, and shall also fix upon to be the repository of the public records of the Province. This order was drawn up in such a manner as to avoid the mention of any particular place, because it was my intention which had been publicly declared, to fix the Seat of Government not at the principal seaport, but at such place as should appear the best situated for encouraging the progress of settlement and cultivation in the interior parts of the country. A situation was very soon after fixed upon, at a place then known as St. Ann's Point.....This place has the further advantage of being nearly in the centre of the Province... the best and fittest I could have found....The Seat of Government was for the time being at St. John where the courts were regularly held. On the faith of my decision, so soon made public....., numerous and flourishing settlements have already been made on the upper parts of this river.... which must contribute to

the safety and facility of that communication with Canada.

It could not be expected that a measure of this sort would meet with general approval. The members from the counties of Saint John, Charlotte, and Westmorland are a majority, have hitherto entertained the hope that at some future occasion the Seat of Government may yet be removed and finally fixed at the commercial metropolis.

In the year 1791 a bill was passed by the Assembly for fixing the time and place of the sittings of the Supreme Court, appointing the terms to be held alternately at Fredericton and the city of St. John. To this bill the Council dissented, not only on the ground of interfering with the prerogative, duly made and authorized by His Majesty's instructions, but also because they were convinced that the proposed alteration was an unadvisable departure from the English mode of

administering justice, in reality as a step preparatory to an eventful change of the Seat of Government, which would involve a breach of public faith to all such as had made improvements in situations where otherwise they would not have attempted settlement. This bill has been renewed in the Assembly and rejected by the Council in several successive sessions." (4)

He returned to England in 1803 and in his "retirement" continued to act as the Lieutenant-Governor in absentia. The Province was then governed by a succession of military officers or "Administrators" -- these men shared Carleton's salary of £ 1,500 a year.

Thomas Carleton died in England in 1817 at the age of 81 and was buried in the Carleton family vault at Nately, Scures, Hants.

Perhaps someday, Fredericton will appropriately honour its founder.

The Editor

(4) Maxwell, L.M.B., "The History of Central New Brunswick", 1937.

Curator's Corner



Cynthia Wallace-Casey

Another summer at the York Sunbury Museum, and this year's summer exhibits, titled "All About Windsors" and "Pewter - Then and Now", are perhaps even more special because of the cooperative spirit which made them possible.

Tim Dilworth, who curated the Windsor Chair exhibit, has been able to assemble an impressive variety of chairs; supplementing the York Sunbury Historical Society's collection with pieces from the Provincial Collection and Kings Landing Historical Settlement. The attention and cooperation extended to the York Sunbury Museum by the staff of Tourism, Recreation and Heritage and Kings Landing has been much appreciated.

"Pewter - Then and Now", curated by Fredericton pewtersmith Carol Cronkhite, displays fine examples of both old and new pewter. Her efforts, as well as those of Donna King and the New Brunswick Craft Council are to be applauded. Supplementing the Society's collection of 18th and 19th century pewter are modern pieces representing the work of Fredericton trained pewtersmiths. It is generally accepted that Dr. Ivan Crowell initiated the pewter craft in Fredericton in the 1960's. Judging from the variety of representation works on display, there is little wonder that today Fredericton is referred to as the "Pewter Capital of Canada"!

Society News

The Society's Board of Directors met at Officers' Square for its monthly meeting on March 29th. This was the first meeting chaired by the new President, Gideon Mersereau.

One of the responsibilities of the President is the naming of the Chairpersons for each standing committee. The following persons were named as chairing the appropriate committee:

Nominating	-	Harry Quinlan
Memberships	-	Donna Wallace
Projects	-	Tanya Dove
Publications	-	Peter Thomas
Collections Management	-	To be named
Finance	-	Fred White
Programme	-	Elizabeth Earl
Publicity	-	Nancy Reid
Society Auxiliary	-	Ellen MacGillivray

Frognotes

For those of you who read the account of the giant Morehouse Frog in the Spring issue, another article has come to light, this time written by Dr. Morehouse himself. The article appeared in "The Amateur Sportsman" of May 1904, and provides an accurate account of Dr. Morehouse's harrowing experience. We reprint the article in its entirety:

That Big Frog

Editor The Amateur Sportsman:

A short time ago (September 1903) a brief article with cut of a large frog, the skin of which is now in my possession, appeared in "The Amateur Sportsman". The article was, unknown to me, sent in by my brother, who is a taxidermist and who set up the skin for me. Since then I have had a number of letters inquiring as to the genuineness of the photo or frog, or both. Not having time to answer those inquiries, I would like you to insert the following short description of the frog and its capture:

In the spring of 1902, I spent several days camping out on the banks of Lake Skoodwoobskis, on the Mactuagua, enjoying the scenery and fishing. One day I took my shotgun and dog and wandered away

about a mile from camp. I was simply enjoying myself and looking for nothing in particular. I saw an opening in the bushes, and on coming to it I found myself on the shore of a small pond, which, although I had never seen it before, I knew to be the pond known as the "Devil's Hole," that I had often heard of. It is only about one acre in extent, but has the reputation of being bottomless, and haunted at that. It is gloomily situated among surrounding hills. Fishermen who have visited it tell strange stories of dismal sounds which are said to continue throughout the night and which no one has yet succeeded in accounting for.

It was a very fine day, and seating myself on a log by the shore I began to take a sun bath and soon was fast asleep. I must have been dreaming about something, for all of a sudden (whether I dreamed it or not) an awful roaring sound caused me to spring bolt upright. I would have thought it only a dream but for the fact that my dog came cowering to my feet, whining piteously. I sat down and began stroking his head, when boom! boom! came the sound again from right beneath my feet. So

sudden and startling was the sound that I jumped several feet. As I did so something seemed to fall off the bank, not more than twenty feet from where I stood, making as much commotion in the water as a man falling from the bank would. As I stood gazing at the water I saw the head of some animal come to the surface, followed by part of a body, which swam to a projecting point of land about one hundred feet distant, where it came to rest, and immediately boom! boom! was heard across the water. The monster now began to crawl out of the water, and I could see that it was nothing more or less than an immense frog, but such a frog I had never seen or heard of before. I at once determined on its capture - alive, if possible. I hastened toward it with all speed, with the intention of getting between it and the water, which I succeeded in doing, and drove it into a pile of brush. My dog now regained his courage and came to my assistance, and in spite of all I could do he seized the animal by the top of the head, biting through the skin, killing him instantly. The dog, I might say, is a powerful brute, and I had some

difficulty in beating him off with the barrel of my gun. Clearing away the brush, I succeeded in dragging my prize out. Judge of my surprise when I found him minus a hind leg, and yet, although not as large, nearly as heavy as my dog. With much difficulty I dragged him to camp. My bother, who was present, got out his tapeline and pocket scales and found that he measured thirty-eight inches from tip to tip and weighed forty pounds. My brother took charge of him, and now the skin, properly set up, occupies a prominent place in my office.

I believe there are other and perhaps larger frogs in that pond, but I have never since had time to go to see. I hope next season to take a trip there and will investigate, as I am anxious to secure a perfect specimen.

P.S. Since writing the above I have been informed that the pond is still haunted, as the same sounds have been heard by fishermen in that vicinity. Must be more frogs there.



O. E. Morehouse, M.D.

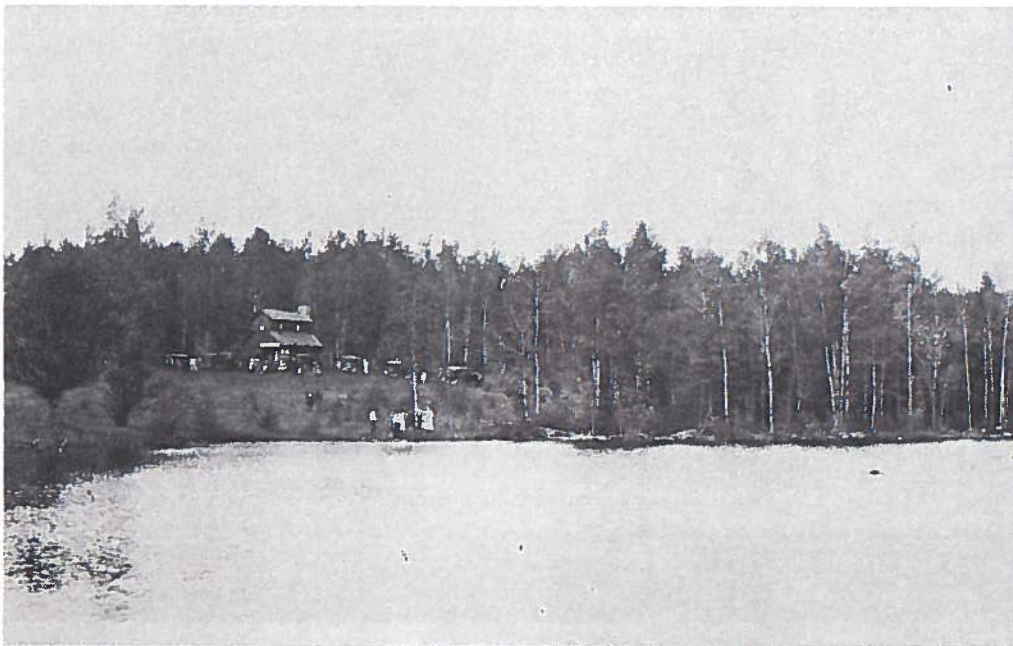
FIRST SOCIETY OUTING

Our new Society lost little time in conducting activities following its organizational meeting on February 16, 1932. The occasion was the King's birthday, June 3, 1932, a public holiday in Fredericton at that time.

The Daily Gleaner reported that the people of Fredericton and vicinity observed the holiday quietly, except for the traditional firing of a Royal Salute of twenty-one guns by the 90th Howitzer Battery, on the flats in front of Waterloo Row. Ideal weather made it possible for many to take part in outdoor activities such as tennis, golf, picnicking and motoring parties.

Perhaps the largest and most impressive "motoring party" was organized by the York Sunbury Historical Society; the first outing for our Society. The Daily Gleaner of June 4, 1932 reported on the event as follows:

"Members of York-Sunbury Historical Society and their guests to the number of seventy-five held their first outing at Upper Keswick, Friday afternoon. Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Morehouse being the hosts. The outing which took place in the afternoon and evening was favored with the best



Camp Waybak showing trout pond and Society picnic
Photo courtesy Rupert Morehouse.

of conditions, ideal June weather occurring.

The attendance was particularly gratifying, as the Society has been in existence only a few months.

The excursion travelled by motor leaving the Post Office building in Fredericton at 2:30 o'clock. The run was made without mishap. The residence of Dr. and Mrs. Morehouse was the rendezvous and some time was spent there (viewing) the collection of firearms made by the doctor as well as his collection of mounted birds and animals native to New Brunswick, and other specimens being objects of interest. The "Frog Band" came in for especial comment. Later the motor-party proceeded to Camp Waybak, also the property of Dr. Morehouse, located on the opposite side of the Keswick River some two miles distant from his home. An artificial trout pond was there found to be one of the features.

The big fire-place of the camp was used for coffee-making and a competent corps of ladies soon had supper served. Grace was said by Rev. Dr. Wightman, a member of the Society, and ample

time was devoted to the meal. On the motion of J. L. Neville seconded by Dr. George W. Bailey, both officials, a vote of thanks was extended to Dr. and Mrs. Morehouse through the President of the Society, His Worship Mayor Clark. Dr. Morehouse replied in characteristic vein, expressing pleasure because of being in position to entertain his visitors. The party was the largest which ever had been at Camp Waybak, he said and he hoped that in another year's time the Society could make another visit.

The offering of thanks by Rev. Mr. Spry, a guest of the day, concluded this part of the proceedings.

The National Anthem was sung by all present. A suggestion to auction the provisions which were left over was altered to donating them to needy people in the vicinity.

The committee of ladies in charge of the picnic was as follows: Mrs. J. L. Neville, chairman; Countess of Asburnham, Mrs. John Harvey and Mrs. F. A. Good. Assistance was given by F. A. Good, R. P. Gorham, J. L. Neville and D.J. McLeod."

Mr. Rupert Morehouse, son of Dr. Morehouse was a young boy at the time and attended the picnic at Camp Waybak. On the cover picture of this issue, he is the bespectacled young man, seated front row, fourth from right. He also identifies his father as the white hair, mustached man, standing with cap in hand to the left of the picture. Standing next to Dr. Morehouse, going towards the right of the photo, is Lady Ashburnham, Mrs. W. G. Clark, Mrs. Oscar Morehouse, and Mayor W. G. Clark, President of the Society.

Dr. Morehouse was a well known citizen of York County and was one of the founders of our Society, as well as an active member. He was also a member of the legislative assembly for the area, and was an avid hunter and amateur taxidermist. He had a hunting camp built near the headwaters of the Keswick River. This he christened, Camp Malarky, and was the scene of many a hunting expedition. One reported ten day hunting expedition in 1907

yielded a moose, a caribou and a deer. The adventures of Camp Malarky were written up in articles that appeared in the Rod and Gun Magazine in 1907 and 1908. Along with his brother, Avery Morehouse, he practiced taxidermy and produced the frog band displayed at the museum, around 1900. (One of Dr. Morehouse's 1904 articles appears in this issue's "Frognotes").

Camp Waybak is no longer standing but the trout pond is still visible if one were to journey up the Lower Stone Ridge Road near Burtt's Corner. Dr. Morehouse passed away on January 1st, 1935.

Society Members are asked for their assistance in identifying other individuals who appear in the picnic group photo that appears on the cover.

The Editor

Society Events

☐ The York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum is pleased to announce its summer schedule of exhibits.

June 1 - September 30:
"PEWTER-THEN AND NOW"

Fredericton is often referred to as "The Pewter Capital of Canada." This exhibit, Guest Curated by the New Brunswick Craft Council, illustrates past and present trends in the craft of pewter.

June 1 - September 30:
"ALL ABOUT WINSORS"

A selection of 18th and 19th century Windsor Chairs from the Museum's permanent collection.



Society Events

☐ The York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum is pleased to announce its fall schedule of new exhibits.

November 1 - May 1:
"VICTORIAN ELEGANCE"

The return of romance, femininity, and grace through a tribute to women's fashions of the 1800's.

November 1 - May 1:
"RECENT ACQUISITIONS"

A behind the scenes look at the necessary and important process of cataloguing and accessioning artifacts donated to the York-Sunbury Historical Society Museum.

Items on display that aid in explaining this process are selected from the many artifacts that have been donated to the Museum during the past year.

☐ The Association of Museums New Brunswick Inc. are sponsoring a number of events in the coming months. For further information contact our Curator or the AMNB at 503 Queen Street.

July 7-8 Care of Fine Art
 Collections and
 Paintings.
 Location: Sackville

Sept. 9-10 Historic Architecture,
 Conservation
 Considerations.
 Location: Buctouche

Sept. 29-30 Annual Training
 Conference Museums and
 the Public.
 Location: Edmundston

Oct. 1 Annual General
 Meeting.
 Location: Edmundston

Oct. 16-23 Fall Study Tour.
 Location: State of
 Maine



OFFICIALS QUARTERS
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK
HOME OF THE YORK-SUNBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

MUSEUM HOURS

Summer (May - Labour Day)

Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 6 pm
Thurs. (July & August) 10 am - 9 pm
Sun. (July & August) 12 pm - 6 pm

Fall (Labour Day - Thanksgiving)

Mon. - Fri. 9 am - 5 pm
Sat. 12 pm - 4 pm

FROGGY WEEKEND

☐ Put on your favourite froggy flippers and hop on down to the York Sunbury Historical Society Museum's 3rd Annual FROGGY WEEKEND in celebration of our famous 42 pound Coleman Frog!

This year, the frantic frog frolics will include a fabulous program, COLEMAN FROG CAPERS, which will be offered to the public, as well as daycare and summer camp groups. These Coleman Frog Capers will run from July 25 to August 4 and are divided into three separate classes to accommodate individual age groups. FROGGY FUN consists of activities that are designed for preschoolers to 5 year olds. FROGGY FROLICS consists of activities designed for children from 6 to 8 year olds. FROGGY FRANTICS consists of activities designed for 9 to 12 year olds. To register your child in any of these programs, call the Museum at (506) 455-6041.

FROGGY WEEKEND FESTIVITIES will begin Friday, August 5 when the Town Crier officially opens Froggy Weekend after the Changing of the Guard ceremony in Officers' Square. The public is encouraged to wear the colour GREEN on August 5 and 6 which will grant them FREE admission to the Museum for supporting their favourite

froggy friend. The public will also get a chance to enter in a contest to win a dinner for two of frog's legs, donated by the Bar-B-Q Barn. The draw will take place Saturday, August 6 at 5:00 p.m. Hop on down to the Museum on Friday, August 5 and be the first to enter this fantastic froggy contest!

Froggy Weekend festivities will continue on Saturday, August 6 with an array of activities for young and old alike on the froggy weekend and pioneer themes. Free cake, balloons, and refreshments will be given out to all who come to the Museum in honour of our celebrated Coleman Frog. For youngsters visiting the Museum, free face painting will take place on the balcony all day today. Come and get your face painted and show your festive froggy spirit!

Both Coleman Frog enthusiasts and Museum supporters are cordially invited to attend the York Sunbury Historical Society Museum's fabulous 3rd Annual Froggy Weekend, August 5 and 6, 1988. See you there!

Julie Kirkland
Promotions Officer



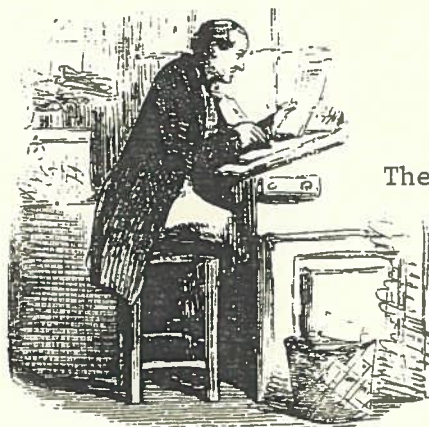
"That's just an old wives' tale. Princesses don't give you warts."

The Last Word

Oh those lazy days of a St. John Valley summer are here to enjoy again - especially since this newsletter is finally going to press.

Historically speaking, I would like to suggest one project for each Society Member to consider, before the summer is out. Get some paper and pencil, and possibly tape recorder, and record some oral history from one senior citizen in the community. You'll make their summer worthwhile, and yours as well - and contribute to the recorded history of our area.

I have taken the liberty to make a small change to the cover format for this issue. Perhaps those perceptive souls amongst you can find what it is, as you relax on a hot summer day. As well Chris Turnbull joins me on the newsletter committee to provide some help and inspiration. Have a good summer.



The Editor

