



Through The Windshield

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April
2011

Recognizing the Best

As many of you may know, each year our museum honours a few of our 'super volunteers' with an annual recognition award. This year, the awards will be given out at our first weekly cruise-in of the year, on Thursday, May 12th at 5pm.



Past award winners are: Bill and Linda Thoman, Dave and Barb Tanner, Jim and Gloria Moir, Harry and Mia Bergman, Don and Eileen Beneteau, Bob and Nancy Paterson, Ralph and Rose Bosse, Andrew and Connie Truan, Ab and Betty Ives, Dan and Jackie MacIn-

tyre, Jack and Sue Irving, Ted Brown, and Don and Marge Appleyard.

For 2011, the award winners, as approved by our Board of Directors, are: Glenn and Pat Young, Ted and Marianne Summerfield, Ed and Phyllis Jeffrey, Al and Audrey Hazael, and Walter and Margaret North.

Please plan on attending this event on May 12th. Harry says we are serving steak that night and the beer will be extra cold. Mark your calendars, and congratulations to all of the former and 2011 award winners. This is an honour that is truly earned.

"The only language that volunteers understand is courtesy."

Volunteer Alert!

Grab a partner, grab yourself a big Timmie's and come out to **Devonshire Mall between April 11th and the 17th to sell car raffle tickets.** Your shift is not long, and it's an *easy* way to be of great help to us. You might remind passers-by that car raffle tickets make great items to tuck into a greeting card, or they make clever gifts for those men

who are impossible to buy for. **We also need volunteers for our April 9th and 10th Militaria, Gun and Knife show.**

If you'd like to help us, **please call Kim at 519-776-6909** to book your date and time.

Upcoming Events

April

9th-10th: Militaria Gun and Knife Show

11th-17th: Raffle Car at Devonshire Mall. Volunteers needed. Call Kim at the museum. 519-776-6909

12th: Board Meeting, 7pm

13th: General Meeting, 7:30 pm

21st: Cruise-In, 5pm

30th: Andrews Auction, 9:30 am-?

May

5th: Cruise-In, 5pm

8th: Mother's Day Brunch

10th: Board Meeting, 7pm

11th: General Meeting, 7:30pm

12th: Cruise-In and volunteer awards

14th: Andrews Auction

19th: Cruise-In, 5pm

21st: Grand Master Dedication

26th: Cruise-In, 5pm

30th: Waterfest, through June 3rd.

Don't Miss Out!

URGENT!

Visit to Ford Dynamometer Lab a Huge Success

"I don't trust any country that looks around a continent and says, 'Hey, I'll take the frozen part!'"

**Jon Stewart,
on
Canadians.**

To the 40 members and other attendees who took part in the presentation by Dr. Jimi Tjong at the Ford Dyno Lab on March 9th; aren't you glad you were there? As we all learned, Ford's operations at the Essex Engine Plant in Windsor, has become the Center of Excellence for testing Ford engines from all around the globe. What we saw showed where Ford engine technology is and where it is headed over the next decade and beyond.

Thanks to member Dr. Walter North for arranging for this presentation and tour. Dr. Tjong is a former student of Walter's and to show his appreciation for all the support Walter gave him during his time at the University of Windsor, Dr. Tjong presented Walter with a wonderful Marc Williams designed plaque (casting of a 1950 Ford).

It is Walter who always arranges for many of our guest speakers to address our monthly General Membership meetings. He does this through his many contacts at the Algonquin Club. This is a group of historians who meet regularly in Windsor and Michigan to study and report on historical events.

Walter also runs the "flower fund" and arranges to send out cards and flowers to members who are ill or worse. He also has been the person who runs our Flea Market shows each year and is a former member of the board of HVSO. Whoever brought Walter into HVSO deserves a "finder's fee", don't you think? Walter and his wife, along with four other museum couples, will be awarded our "super volunteer award" at our first cruise-in on Thursday, May 12th.

Mickey Moulder

Wanted

Auto and motorcycle license plates

**Contact Bill
Thoman**

519-734-6551

150th Anniversary of the American Civil War

The Civil War anniversary will be commemorated this year, coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. Most of our American cousins will be more interested in their Civil War tributes.

Many of our fellow Canadians got involved in the Civil War. The Canadian government tried to stay neutral. When one of the Essex County MP's got personally involved in the battle the government sent out an order to stop; stay neutral or leave government. Thousands of Canadians got involved, with about 5000 being killed. Some signed for the \$200 being offered, others were forced into

signing by being cajoled, drugged or kidnapped into service. We were also the recipients of many Civil War draft dodgers. Four Union Generals were Canadian born, as well as 29 Medal of Honor recipients. The grand-nephew of Laura Secord was a doctor for the Confederates. Many Canadians, people and businesses flew the Confederate flag.

Four Canadian generals of the Civil War were: John McNeil, of Halifax, Henry Washington Benham, of Quebec City, Jacob Dolson Cox, of Montreal, and John Franklin Farnsworth, of Compton City, Quebec. (continued on page 3)

Breathing Easy in the One-Room Schoolhouse

Our 1907 one-room schoolhouse has long been a village favourite for students and other tourists. We use it for every field trip, and love the warmth that the “Good Cheer” potbellied stove offers in the cooler months.

Summer is a different story. The school, with its tall and numerous south and west-facing windows, can actually be so stiflingly hot inside that it withers our spirits quite a bit. Opening the doors helps, but the windows have long been painted shut, and are truly stuck in place.

Thankfully, Claude Labelle and Bob Caldwell have come to the rescue! They have spent a good portion of this past season making new schoolhouse windows that will actually open and let in the fresh air! I for one, am thrilled that we will have the opportunity to be more comfortable when the mercury spikes. At this time, the men are finished with the framework, and are adding the glass and stabilizing them with putty.



Our little schoolhouse is undergoing some much needed renovations. Thanks, Claude and Bob!

Model T Gets New Fenders, Body, Paint

A vehicle restoration is truly a labour of love. Has everyone had a chance to see the Model T fenders that our own Glenn Young spent this past winter fabricating and shaping in our garage? These fenders can be seen on our Champion Spark Plug Ford Model T truck, which is being restored, and for which Dave Tanner fabricated the wooden body. I believe Bill Thoman painted it. What a great job Glenn did creating these fenders! Nice

job, Glenn, and thanks to Dave Tanner, Bill Thoman and all the other volunteers who have put in so many hours and are still working on this vehicle restoration.

Mickey Moulder



Far left: Glenn and Roger in the garage, discussing the project. Left and top: A couple of closer views of the new fenders.

American Civil War

(Continued from page 2)

The First Shot of the American Civil War

April 12, 1861, Confederate General Pierre Toutan de Beauregard started the Civil War by taking the first shot. He had a Canadian connection. His grandfather was believed to have immigrated from Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. **Chris Carter**



Left: Our 1920 Dodge Bros. car at the Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance about 2 years ago. This was the first mass-produced car to have a one piece all steel roof panel installed by the Budd Company of Detroit.

Member's Antique Treasures Burn

Those of you who frequent the 50's Diner here at CTMHV probably know Joe Lucas. He's a member and frequent volunteer at our events and can often be seen sipping coffee in the diner, his mind all wrapped up in the New York Times crossword puzzle. Joe owned what was, until recently, an old Methodist church, filled with precious antiques, and had he decided to spend a fateful night recently in his building, as he occasionally does, he wouldn't be with us today. Joe's old church burned to the ground in the wee hours of the morning, on March 17. Gone are many thousands of dollars of irreplaceable antique pieces of furniture, books, and collectibles, and the building is no longer standing. But at least we still have Joe. He is fine, and we are so very grateful.



In the days following the fire, Joe had gone to the site, sifting through mainly ashes and melted metal, and found only a few small items from his vast collection. However, as the days unfolded, another treasure turned up quite unexpectedly. The following story is taken from The Windsor Star, as it appeared on March 24, 2011.

COMBER, Ont. — The flames may have reduced the historic building to rubble, but they also revealed a treasure forgotten about for 123 years. After fire destroyed Comber's former Mount Olivet Methodist Church (March 17th), firefighters stumbled across a time capsule sealed under the cornerstone when it was built in 1888.



"A lot of the historical people and the town people, as well as the firemen and me, are interested in seeing what the hell is in there," said owner Joseph Lucas, 69. "I have no idea. I haven't cleaned it, so I can't tell what else is in there. But there are some papers, and they're in good shape."

Top: Firefighters look on as an excavator takes down the remaining walls of the former Mount Olivet Methodist Church.

Above: Joe Lucas reveals the time capsule found under the cornerstone of his church building. Joe had plans to eventually convert the building into an antiques store.

Lakeshore fire department chief, Don Williamson said the blaze, which destroyed the building and everything in it, caused \$260,000 in damage. The building was full of antique items Lucas had spent the last 40 years collecting. The cause of the fire remains undetermined.

It's pretty hard when it's all wrecked like that," said Williamson. "You can certainly speculate on things, but unless you can concretely call it, it has to be undetermined."

The blaze broke out around 4:30 a.m. (on March 17th) on Main Street, also known as Highway 77. A large excavator was brought in to demolish what was left of the brick walls. Williamson made sure to save the large cornerstone from the front step as well as an old wooden sign from the days the building served as a Rebekah Lodge.

A firefighter was later surveying the debris and happened to notice a small space beneath where the cornerstone had been. (Continued on page 5)

Comber Fire, continued

“He reached down and pulled out this Crown jar,” said Lucas. “It’s a canning jar. It’s all still sealed. Everything is fine in there.” He’s planning to have a town gathering at the legion in a few weeks and crack it open. A lot of people are looking forward to the unveiling.

“I sure want to be there when they open it,” said Joan Mellow with the Comber and District Historical Society Museum, who co-wrote a book about the town’s history. She said burying time capsules in church foundations was a common practice at the time.

Mellow said the capsules often contained documents about church members and the minister, who funded construction for the building, and maybe even hymn books. Aside from that, she said it’s hard to speculate what other treasures might be hidden in the dusty jar. “Just something to preserve,” said Mellow, “People throw things out and they wanted to preserve some artifacts of the time the church was built.”

Even the fire chief is eagerly waiting to find out what’s sealed in the jar. “It will be very interesting to see what’s actually in there,” said Williamson. Mellow said one reason the time capsule has sparked so much interest is because the building was such an important part of life in Comber for so many years. “It was a hub,” she said. “Everything that was held in Comber was held there at that hall.”

Mellow said Mount Olivet, built in 1888, closed after a number of denominations amalgamated. For a while after that, it became a centre for young members of the church. Lucas said the Odd Fellows bought the building in 1930. It also served as a home for Rebekah Lodge, the women’s branch of the fraternal organization.

The building was a gathering place for local boy scouts and girl guide organizations. Business meetings were held there, as were wedding showers and community barbecues.

“It was the community centre of the town of Comber,” said Mellow. “Dances were held there. Everybody went to the Friday night dances from all over Essex and part of Kent County.”

Lucas bought it six years ago and planned to turn it into an antique shop. He had stocked it with items including farm tools, furniture and artwork, and was hoping to open soon. Lucas has spent the days since the fire digging through the debris in hopes of salvaging something. So far, he’s only found some soapstone carvings and the brass works from a French grandfather clock, dating back to the late 1700’s. “I just want to sit there and dig with my hands and see if I can come up with other treasures,” he said.

“A lot of (people), as well as the firemen and me, are interested in seeing what the hell is in there.”

Joe Lucas, on the time capsule found under the church’s cornerstone.



Above, the former Mount Olivet Methodist Church, burning in the early morning hours of March 17, 2011. Our member, Joe Lucas, is safe because he fatefully decided not to spend the night there, as was his original plan.

From the Education Desk



**The Wolf Cub Motto,
in French:**

'De notre mieux.'

**In English, this
means 'Do our best.'**

True or False?

*Canada officially
became bilingual
in 1959.*

**Answer on
back page.**

This month, we have a group of Wolf Cub Scouts coming for a visit, but it's a visit with a big goal. These young boys are on a quest to earn their Canadian Heritage badge, and what better place to do it than here?

It's going to be a long day for the kids, but a fun one, nonetheless. They'll be going on a museum tour, which will be capped off with a session of sketching their favourite automobiles. With the help of Nicole Denis, our resident francophone, the boys will be reciting their Wolf Cub promise, law and motto 'en francais,' and they'll learn a Canadian folktale while seated at the hearth of a log cabin fireplace.

Few field trips can be led by one person, so Mike Timoshyk, our Military Muster maestro, has agreed to speak to the boys about his service in the Canadian military.

The Wolf Cubs have to learn about the life of a great Canadian, so Jack Miner is our natural choice. After a presentation about 'the man who loved the birds,' we'll

tour his homestead. The boys will make a scrapbook of Jack's life and accomplishments.

I'm hoping this program will catch on with other scouting groups; girls and boys alike, and we'll see a lot more kids coming through our doors.

Look for our scouting ad in the 2011 Events Guide, and please mention our programs to parents and educators whenever you can!

We recently hosted a group of Colombian exchange students, thanks to our friends at Academie Ste Cecile, who make it a habit to come here about three times a year. These ESL students have a better grasp of English than I do of Spanish, and thankfully, they are expected to tour only in English! They traversed through both the car and EMS museums, while searching for answers to their Museum Detective questionnaires. I had a great time with the little nippers, and they were fascinated with all things in the museum, while teaching me how to say 'don't touch!' in Spanish... **"No tocar!"**



**Japanese Kawanishi
H8K seaplane after
strafing.**



**American soldiers in
Guam**



**Deck crew climbing up
to get pilot out. Note the
fuel tank under the foot
of the rescuer.**

Lake Superior Facts

- Lake Superior contains ten percent of all the fresh water on the planet.
- It covers 82,000 sq. km, or 31,000 sq. miles
- The average depth is 147 meters, or 483 feet.
- There have been about 350 shipwrecks recorded in Lake Superior
- Lake Superior is, by surface area, the largest lake in the world.
- A Jesuit priest in 1668 named it Lac Tracy, but that name was never officially adopted.
- It contains as much water as all the other Great Lakes combined, plus three extra Lake Eries.
- There is a small outflow from the lake at St. Mary's River (Sault Ste Marie) into Lake Huron, but it takes almost two centuries for the water to be completely replaced.
- There is enough water in Lake Superior to cover all of North and South America with water a foot deep.
- Lake Superior was formed during the last glacial retreat, making it one of the earth's youngest major features at only about 10,000 years old.
- The deepest point in the lake is 405 metres or 1,333 feet.
- There are 78 different species of fish that call the big lake home.
- The maximum wave ever recorded on Lake Superior was 9.45 meters, or 31 feet high.
- Some of the world's oldest rocks formed about 2.7 billion years ago, can be found on the Ontario shore of Lake Superior.
- Over 300 streams and rivers empty into Lake Superior with the largest source being the Nipigon River.
- The average underwater visibility of Lake Superior is about 8 metres or 27 feet, making it the cleanest and clearest of the Great Lakes. Underwater visibility in some spots reaches 30 metres.
- In the summer, the sun sets more than 35 minutes later on the western shore of Lake Superior than at its southeastern edge.
- It very rarely freezes over completely, and then usually just for a few hours. Complete freezing occurred in 1962, 1979, 2003 and 2009.

Which of the Great Lakes supports the most commercial fishing?

Answer on back page.



Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. We are all doing very well.

You won't recognize the house when you get home...we have moved. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles of home, so we relocated. I won't be able to send you the address because the last family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address. This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well though; last week I put a load in and pulled the chain and haven't seen the clothes since.



Your father's got a really good job now. He's got 500 men under him. He's cutting the grass at the cemetery. Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out if it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know whether you are an aunt or an uncle. Your brother Tom is still in the army. He's only been there a short while and they've already made him a court martial! Your uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.

I'm sorry to say that your cousin Seamus was arrested while riding his bicycle last week. They are charging him with dope peddling. I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice this week: first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of the chickens laid the same egg four times. We had a letter from the undertaker. He said if the last payment isn't made on your grandmother's plot, up she comes.

About that coat you wanted me to send you; your uncle Stanley said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets. John locked his keys in the car yesterday...We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out. Three of your friends went off a bridge in a pick-up truck. Ralph was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in the back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down. There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened.



Your loving Mum.

Ask a Child: What Does "Love" Mean?

Researchers asked a group of children what love means. Their answers are sure to make you smile:

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." **Rebecca, age 8**

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." **Billy, age 4**

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." **Karl, age 5**

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day." **Noelle, age 7**

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." **Tommy, age 6**

"My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don't see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night." **Clare, age 6**

"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." **Mary Ann, age 4**

"I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones." **Lauren, age 4**

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." **Karen, age 7**

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." **Jessica, age 8**

The best one came from a 4 year-old child whose neighbour was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked what he had said to the neighbour, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."



It's a Fact!

Being in love is healthy. Studies have shown that married men tend to give up unhealthy habits, like smoking and heavy drinking, which may lead to a longer, healthier life.

You Can Say That Again!

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. **Winston Churchill**

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury. **Groucho Marx**

I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it." **WC Fields**

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. **Rodney Dangerfield**

Money can't buy you happiness, but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery. **Spike Milligan**

Until I was 13, I thought my name was "Shut Up." **Joe Namath**



**"I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back."
Zsa Zsa Gabor**

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“Through the Windshield” is published in Essex County by and for the members of the Historic Vehicle Society of Ontario and the Canadian Transportation Museum and Heritage Village. Its purposes are to present business topics and varied items of interest, and to promote a spirit of cooperation amongst our members and families, as we strive to preserve our past in the present for the future. Any mistakes or errors in this newsletter are not necessarily the fault of the editor.

WE'RE ON THE WEB! WWW.CTMHV.COM

To contribute an article of interest,
send to MaryAnn Perry at:
education@ctmhv.com

Answer, page 6:
False: The year was
1969.

Answer, page 7:
Lake Erie

2010/11 HVSO Board of Directors

Chairman:	Harry Bergman
Vice-Chairman:	Mickey Moulder
Secretary:	Mickey Moulder
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	Jack Irving
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	Jim Moir
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Now that May is a month away, Cruise-In nights will soon be a weekly event. This year, we are in search of volunteers in the kitchen for light duty work. We have enough cooks, but we need people to serve from chafing dishes and replenish the food.

If you like people and enjoy coming to the Cruise-Ins, would you consider helping us out? If we get enough willing souls, we can rotate everyone, so that each person might only have to work once a month.

To lend a hand, please call
Kim at 519-776-6909.

