

THE BRAMPTON HERITAGE Times



A NEWSLETTER OF THE BRAMPTON HERITAGE BOARD

2017

THE 2017 EDITION OF THE BRAMPTON HERITAGE TIMES WELCOMES A YEAR OF CELEBRATION as the nation of Canada turns 150 years young. Brampton's local history and heritage represent and are inherently connected to Canada's development, birth and growth as a nation, from the 1860s Pendergast log house to the recently rebuilt St. Elias The Prophet Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Canada:

A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

2017 is also the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Brampton as the seat of Peel County. By the mid-19th century, Brampton was a rapidly growing town. Its importance in the budding nation was recognized when it was chosen by Peel residents as the County Town, the community where the Peel County Council sat and where municipal buildings were erected. Construction of the County Buildings and Alderlea began in the year of Confederation and both speak

to the formal recognition of the country and Brampton as a place of prosperity and growth.

During the transformative period which followed Confederation in 1867, many of Brampton's oldest community groups and institutions formed. In 2016, the Lorne Scots marked their battalion's 150th anniversary. The creation of the battalion was integrally linked to the defense of the then infant country and represents the local contributions made

to crisis and war efforts throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Central Public School, where many of downtown Brampton's youth were taught, celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2016. As Canada's distinct international identity was forming on the battlefields abroad, the school was being built.

Grace United Church, originally 40x60 feet in size, opened for service in the year of Confederation. A neighbourhood quickly formed around it, encouraging

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City of Brampton's

FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

BY DOUG MCLEOD

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED WORK HAPPENING ON A FEW OF THE HOUSES AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS IN OUR downtown. The owners of these buildings are utilizing the City of Brampton's Façade Improvement Program.



Top: 15 Main Street North, before.
Right: 15 Main Street North, after.



Look again at 23-27 Queen St. East on the south side - here is another owner whose storefront was improved with the help of this City sponsored program.

The aim of the program is to support the ongoing revitalization of the historic downtown core, by way of providing supporting grants to offset costs related to façade improvements undertaken by landowners and businesses. Improved building appearances enhance the overall attractiveness of the area for new business, for shoppers and for people wishing to live, work and/or conduct business in the area.

This program complements the mission of the Brampton Heritage Board to identify, conserve and promote cultural heritage resources in Brampton.

We hope that businesses in the downtown core will take advantage of this program as well as the Designated Heritage Property Incentive Grant

Farewell

RONALD FREDERICK KEE

Fred Kee was always active in the community - he served as Chairman of the Chinguacousy School Board, was a Chinguacousy Volunteer Firefighter, an Alderman with the City of Brampton and a Provincial Fence Line Viewer. He also sat on the Brampton Fall Fair Committee and the Province of Ontario Parole Board. For many years Fred championed local heritage and shared his vast knowledge by holding a position on the Brampton Heritage Board. His contributions to the early development of heritage conservation in Brampton will not be forgotten. 🍁



Top: 208 Main Street North (before). Bottom: 208 Main Street North (after).



CONTINUED FROM COVER

its expansion over the next 150 years. It now serves a vital role for the less fortunate in our community. St. Elias The Prophet Ukrainian Catholic Church, on the other hand, was built in 1995 by more recent immigrants to Canada. After suffering a devastating fire, this local landmark has been rebuilt with the commitment of its faithful congregation.

Landmarks such as Pendergast, Alderlea, Peel County Courthouse, the Armoury, Grace United Church, Central Public School, St. Elias, and many other buildings, groups, institutions and individual residences mark milestones this year. As Canada celebrates its 150th we acknowledge each of them and their contributions, large and small, to Canada's identity and pay tribute to immigrants, new and old, who have and will continue to shape this country. 🍁

Program, which offers a matching grant of up to \$5,000 available to owners of designated buildings.

The transformation of our downtown is certainly wonderful to witness. Some of our most cherished buildings are being lovingly restored by property owners. The heritage fabric of these buildings is being utilized to its full potential as property owners uncover and restore

architectural gems. Restored buildings translate into new businesses and renewed life in Brampton's downtown. We thank everyone who has invested in our downtown, particularly those who are making our past part of the future. Much of Brampton's downtown developed in the era of Confederation. To see these buildings given new life is a fitting tribute to Canada's 150th. 🍁



THE LORNE SCOTS'

150 Years

BY DAVID WHYTE

IT IS DIFFICULT TO FATHOM THE INCREDIBLE CHANGE THAT HAS OCCURRED DURING THE PAST 150 YEARS IN BRAMPTON AND THE WORLD.

The telephone was invented, world wars raged, automobiles prevailed as a means of transport and the age of computers and cellular phone technology altered our lives.

At least one thing has remained constant: the Lorne Scots Regiment, established in 1866 as the 36th Peel Battalion of Infantry.

As a youngster in the 1960s, I remember the energetic siren of bagpipes and drums in parades, and the presence of troops at the Cenotaph on any frigid November 11th. When my teenaged years ensued, friends occasionally appeared in high school with the requisite army hair cut. It then rang clear to me that the military was close and real, not a topic in a history textbook or a story from a veteran. "The Lorne Scots Militia is where we train Thursday evenings", I was told by my friends, and on weekends and in summers they would vanish to exercises at various military bases. As an adult, I have grown to admire and understand the history, significance and traditions of the Lorne Scots.

Since I reside near the Chapel Street headquarters and Brampton Armoury (circa 1915), there are constant reminders of their presence; men and women in uniform, marching troops and even the occasional group of soldiers masked in camouflage in the local parks. That will get your dog's attention on a walk!

To understand their history, we must look prior to Canadian Confederation. The Lorne Scots pre-date both Canada and the City of Brampton. During a recent conversation with present Regimental Sergeant Major, CWO A.F. McKelvey, CD, he graciously outlined a brief history of the Lorne Scots. In fact, when asked about his knowledge of the Lorne Scots pre-WWII, he smiled and calmly expressed, "well that's an inherent requirement of my position!"

Before the War of 1812, local farmers

would take up arms in small groups as citizen-soldiers. This was the early genesis of the Lorne Scots. With the Confederation of Canada slated for July 1, 1867, the local inhabitants realized they could no longer rely on their mother country, England, for military support. Hence, the first iteration of the Lorne Scots Regiment was established on September 14, 1866.

In 1914 at the dawn of WWI, the Minister of Militia and Defence, Sam Hughes, created an expeditionary force of 300 men to attend Val Cartier, Quebec to act as recruiters for the military. The Lorne Scots contributed and were put to work. The list of Battle Honours for the Lorne Scots is extensive. In 1899, many served in the South African Boer War. In WWI, the Regiment comprised much of the First Canadian Division and they were involved in combat at multiple locations, which are listed on



Above and top right: Photographs from the unveiling of the Dedication of Service Monument in Gage Park in Fall 2016.

Bottom right: Historic photograph of Lorne Scots on Queen Street, c. 1940. Photograph courtesy of PAMA.

the Cenotaph; Hill 70, the Somme and Vimy Ridge are but a few.

R.S.M. McKelvey cited the Lorne Scots involvement in WWII as the highlight of their history, during which they fought in every Canadian engagement except for the defence of Hong Kong. More recently, veterans served in United Nations and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) operations, and many Lorne Scots were deployed to Afghanistan.

According to General Rick Hillier, over the last few decades, Canadian citizens have become much more appreciative of our service men and women. This was iterated to myself by General Rick Hillier a few years ago and again by R.S.M. McKelvey who said “now when I am in uniform someone will want to pay for my coffee or have a selfie taken with me!” The service to

Canadian citizens in times of need, such as the 1997 Manitoba floods and 1998 ice storms, galvanized appreciation for our troops. The Lorne Scots have always been on alert and have served in such situations.

The City of Brampton continues to acknowledge the Lorne Scots' contributions to our community, Canada and the world. During the 150th celebration on Sept 16th, 2016, Mayor Linda Jeffrey, City Council, the Lorne Scots and other dignitaries including the Colonel-in-Chief His Royal Highness, the Duke of Kent attended an unveiling of the Dedication of Service Monument in Gage Park; R.S.M. McKelvey was the artist and designer of this monument. During the dedication and at a later Remembrance Ceremony, Mayor Jeffrey made reference to the military and civil services we benefit from through the Lorne Scots, and

the “transferable skills” the reservists learn during their military training. R.S.M. McKelvey added that leadership, organizational skills and teamwork are but a few benefits reservists offer to Brampton as students, employees, and citizens.

In 1969 at the Brampton Fairgrounds during the regimental parade, then Mayor William Brydon granted the Freedom of the Town to the Lorne Scots. The presented scroll proclaimed to the Regiment, “the right as long as roses shall grow, to enter and march in the Town of Brampton at all times with colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.” In Brampton, the Flower City, our roses will continue to grow and the Lorne Scots will continue to thrive as an integral part of our community. 🍁

“HORRIBLE WOODEN CAUSEWAYS”

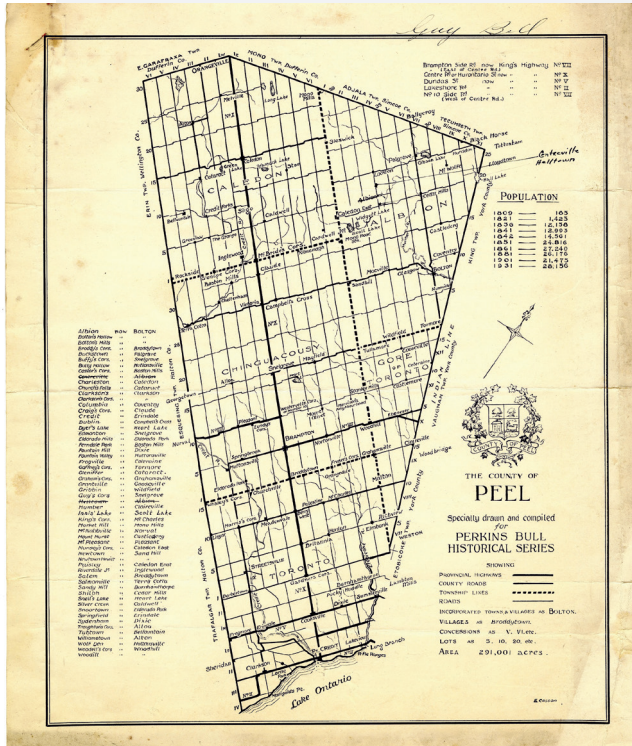
The Rise & Fall

OF CORDUROY

BY KYLE NEILL, SENIOR ARCHIVIST, PAMA, GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

MOST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED THE VAST NETWORK OF ROADS THAT LINK OUR HOMES, WORKPLACES AND OTHER DESTINATIONS TOGETHER.

It is easy to forget that the first European settlers to Peel had to contend with dense forests, uneven terrain, and dangerous waterways when attempting to travel any great distance.



This page: County of Peel roadmap, 1930s, Wm. Perkins Bull fonds.

Opposite page top to bottom: Main Street South looking south. Photographs were taken by or given to Wm. Perkins Bull in the 1930s and show remnants of the “original corduroy road on Lake Shore Road just west of Port Credit on Lot 22, Concession 2 SDS [South of Dundas Street]” in Toronto Township (now the City of Mississauga).

The earliest types of “roads” in the Peel area (Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon) were beaten dirt footpaths and “blazed” trails - surveyed trails cleared of trees, brush and smaller boulders. Peel settlers soon realized that such trails were not meeting their needs, especially when seeking to travel over muddy and swampy lands.

Their solution? “Corduroy” roads. Such roads, named after the ridged cloth of the same name, were constructed of logs laid crosswise across the travelled surface. The logs, which were not squared or flattened, provided a raised surface for travellers to use. In really marshy areas, workers would place larger base logs, or “risers,” to support

the logs forming the main travelling surface. Workers would sometimes fill in the gaps between the logs with dirt or gravel, in an attempt to make a smooth travel surface.

Constant traffic wore down these roads quickly, and travel accounts are full of complaints about the corduroy roads:

“This road [Dundas or Lake Shore Road] being formed of the trunks of trees laid crosswise, without any coating of earth or stoves, was more abominably jolty than anything a European imagination can conceive. Over these horrible wooden causeways, technically called corduroy roads, it would be misery to travel in any description of carriage...”

Basil Hall, Travels in North America in the years 1827 and 1828 in Three Volumes, Volume 1 (Edinburgh 1830)

Portions of most of the early roads in Peel were likely, at one time or another, corduroy roads. The roads were relatively easy to construct, and settlers had access to vast quantities of timber that had been removed from the land while clearing personal properties and trails.

The corduroy roads across Peel were eventually replaced with newer, more dependable roads. Replacements included: wood planked roads (processed lumber); “macadam” roads (layers of crushed stone named

ROADS IN PEEL




after Scottish engineer John Loudon McAdam); “metalled” roads (crushed stone bound with coal tar); and finally, asphalt concrete (gravel and crushed stone bound together with bitumen).

Who knows what lays hidden beneath older roads found throughout Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon? Perhaps a



construction crew will be lucky enough one of these days to unearth old road surfaces long hidden from view.

For more information on the development of the early road network in Peel, please check out our blogpost “From mud to pavement: the early history of Peel roadways as told by our records” available at <https://peelarchivesblog.com/2016/06/30/earlyroadways/>.

For those interested in roads in the Peel area, the Region of Peel Archives at PAMA holds a great deal of relevant material. The Reading Room’s hours of operation can be found at <http://pama.peelregion.ca/>. 

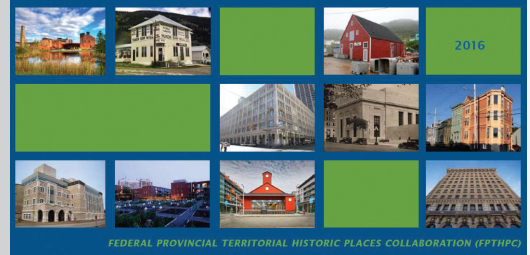
BUILDING RESILIENCE


GOVERNMENTS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS ACROSS NORTH

America are seeking ways to better address climate change and the conservation of our natural environment.

BUILDING RESILIENCE:

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE REHABILITATION OF BUILDINGS IN CANADA



At the same time, there is growing understanding that conservation of our cultural heritage is important for healthy communities with strong economies and good quality of life. Only in recent years has the link between heritage conservation and sustainability of communities gained credence and momentum. *Building Resilience: Practical Guidelines for the Retrofit and Rehabilitation of Buildings in Canada* serves as a “sustainable building toolkit” that will enhance understanding of the environmental benefits of heritage conservation and of the strong interrelationship between natural and built heritage conservation. Intended as a useful set of best practices, the guidelines in *Building Resilience* can be applied to existing and traditionally constructed buildings as well as formally recognized heritage places. 



Reconstructed Pendergast Log House.

AS PART OF BRAMPTON'S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, THERE COULD BE NO MORE FITTING tribute to our early pioneers than the opening of the Pendergast log house on the grounds of Historic Bovaird House.

Pendergast

NEARING COMPLETION

BY MICHAEL AVIS

One hundred and fifty years ago, the back-breaking labours of men and women carved a life out of the wilderness, and in doing so laid the foundations for the country we all love and cherish. The Pendergast log house is one of the last known surviving log structures in Brampton. As such, the significance of preserving and promoting this piece of local history cannot be overestimated.

John Silverthorn, the first owner of the property the Bovaird House is situated on, arrived at his wilderness property in 1819 and immediately set about building his own simple log home. While it would not have resembled the Pendergast log house in height, it is likely that the floor area of his log cabin would have resembled the main living area of Pendergast, excluding the kitchen 'tail' addition.

For reasons that remain unclear, in the mid-1820s the young Silverthorn sold his log cabin with its contents and the one hundred acres to Peter Chisholm. Records indicate that Chisholm had to

enlarge Silverthorn's original modest dwelling to accommodate his wife, mother-in-law, niece and nephew. With a good-sized kitchen being a priority, we can only speculate that this may have been the time that a large kitchen 'tail' was added.

Vic Snow, a heritage log building specialist, has guided the Pendergast restoration project and all parties involved paid constant attention to historic authenticity and accuracy. With public access and tours of the log house being a priority, certain concessions had to be made; however, emphasis was always given to maintaining the historic integrity of the building.

As with all designated heritage buildings, restoration work must include, as much as possible, the repair and reuse of all original features. Naturally, there are some instances where deterioration has progressed to the point where repair and reuse is not practical. In these cases, replication of original features is allowable. Sadly, many of the Pendergast's sash windows were

beyond salvage and required replication. With the original windows serving as templates, exact copies were produced. Successive years of overpainting were painstakingly removed until the smallest traces of the original paint colours were revealed, thus allowing for exact duplication. Considerable time and effort were spent locating authentic period glass for every window in the building.

The original log house would have been heated by the centrally located Rumford fireplace. For the protection of the valuable period furnishings and fragile artifacts during our annual winter hiatus at the museum, central heating was installed. The heating unit is tucked away out of sight in the cellar, which is not accessible to the general public.

Log house interiors also tended to be dimly lit. With dark log walls and small windows, lack of abundant light was commonplace. In an effort to address this problem, some settlers chose to paint their walls and ceilings with a

lime wash [whitewash]. In Pendergast, the massive elm log walls have been left natural but all of the ceilings and one bedroom were completely lime washed in order for visitors to visualize how settlers tried to increase the light in the house. Electrified period tin chandeliers and candle wall sconces will also create the atmosphere of how the interior of log homes would have been illuminated.

The long road to the re-creation of the typical living quarters of early Brampton settlers is now in sight. Soon the doors will open and visitors will be able to experience the rustic setting similar to the one that early Brampton pioneer James Silverthorn and later the Chisholm family would have called home. The effort to recreate an original farmstead on the Bovaird House property with all of the typical features – brick house, log

house, barn, milk house, garden, etc. – is coming to fruition and is a great window into the past. We are delighted that Pendergast will be opening its doors in this, the 150th year of Canada.

The Brampton Heritage Board acknowledges with gratitude the generous contributions of Hayford Holdings towards making this project a reality. 🍁

St. Elias Church RESURRECTED

Just over two years after the community watched in disbelief as flames engulfed the cherished structure, St. Elias The Prophet Ukrainian Catholic Church has opened its doors once more.

The church was originally built in 1995 in the unique wooden Boyko style of architecture. The accidental fire, which was caused by incense igniting, destroyed the church, but its congregation remained united, as efforts to reconstruct the local landmark began immediately.

Construction of the new church commenced in May 2015 on the footprint of its predecessor, and followed much of the original design. The new church is characterized by its timber construction, and its three iconic cupolas are now covered in copper instead of cedar shingles. While the structure has been completed, the iconography that decorated the worship space will take years to finish.

The reconstruction costs, a price tag of over \$6.3 million, were partially covered by insurance and aided by generous private donations. Even with these funds, costs remain significant. Despite the obstacles, on October 1, 2016, hundreds of parishioners and guests attended to celebrate the consecration and opening mass of the rebuilt St. Elias. The new church is a symbol of perseverance and the triumph of faith.

Contrary to popular belief that heritage buildings have to be old, St. Elias is the youngest designated building in Brampton, likely the Province and perhaps even in Canada. The strength of the congregation, the beauty of the church, and their contributions to our community are all elements that inspire us.



Reconstructed St. Elias Church, November 2016.

Each community, faith, and group add meaningfully to our cultural and social landscape. As we take time this year to appreciate all the things that make Canada what it is, the strength of our diversity and its manifestation in the landscape cannot be overlooked. 🍁

Ghost

BY JEFF CHALMERS

OF A CHANCE

Leonard Beech peers out the north window on the second floor of the school building, staring down at the house he once shared with his wife, Mary Ellen, until their untimely death. The small bungalow at 24A Alexander Street sits on the same lot as the school where Mr. Beech worked as a custodian in the 1960s.

That building is Central Public School at number 24 Alexander. Of Mr. Beech, some people say that they can still catch an occasional whiff of his pipe tobacco.

The building, now owned by the City of Brampton, has served as a Recreation and Arts Centre since 1984 and in 2016 celebrated its 100th anniversary. The City purchased the building after it was condemned in 1983; dwindling enrollment and more modern schools opening in and around the downtown rendered it obsolete. The site itself had been utilized as one for education since 1856, replacing the old Central Public and Grammar School in Brampton's downtown core.

Designed by well-known Toronto architect firm Ellis and Connery, the structure wasn't completed until well into the 1920s. And yeah, it looks like a school alright; a squarish building with red brick, white windows and a central entrance. The leafy streetscape where Alexander Street curves into Union

Street to the south of the school is lined with well-maintained century homes, some of which have been designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

As with any older building, it's interesting to consider who might have passed through its doors, and how it bore witness to so many historic events both locally and worldwide. Given that approximately 300,000 Canadians were in uniform when the school first opened, it's safe to assume that while Brampton's population at the time numbered less than 8,000, many students likely had family and friends contributing to the effort during WWI. Local resident Bob Crawford, who enrolled at Central Public at the height of World War II in 1942, tells the story of a certain teacher, Mrs. Krauss, a German, who would occasionally break into tears before her students upon learning the news of what was happening back home. One of Mr. Crawford's fondest memories is one of Friday afternoons at the school when then-principal Harold Laughlin

would hold open forums and discussion on the politics of the day. It's difficult to imagine the conversation not including William Lyon Mackenzie King who, as Prime Minister, began mobilizing Canadians a week before Germany invaded Poland in September 1939.

Naturally, there are countless tales wrapped in the history of any building of this vintage and Brampton-based Steve Collie, who for over 10 years has hosted his ghostly After Dark Tours downtown, suggests that the school is in fact haunted. How else does one explain the images of an ivory white apparition caught on camera inside the school? Or back at 24A, papers that were moved around, sometimes from a desk into a filing cabinet. One staff member said that they were once narrowly missed by an airborne stapler.

Leonard and Mary Ellen never made it to the hospital that fateful March day in 1970. What should have been a 10 minute drive to Peel Memorial to visit their daughter and celebrate the arrival of a grandchild, turned to tragedy when the couple was involved in a fatal automobile collision en route. He died that day, his wife the following day. 🍁



Photo on left: Front façade of Central Public School. Photo on right: Stairwell at Central Public School.



Canada 55+ Games, Opening Ceremony.

Before Canada

RECOGNIZING OUR PAST

PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD HAVE COME TOGETHER TO LIVE, WORK and play in Canada, and over 520,000 people have chosen the City of Brampton as their home.

The City's residents represent more than 200 cultures and speak more than 800 languages, which forms one of Canada's most diverse cities.

Long before the establishment of Canada in 1867, and prior to the influx of European settlers in the early 1700s, the lands that are now known as the City of Brampton were still considered an untouched wilderness – a swampy area covered with dense hardwood forest. The Credit, Etobicoke and Humber River, meandered through the land, shaping the forests.

People have been living in this general area for centuries. Archaeological evidence found within our borders confirms that native peoples established hunting camps and small villages along the Credit and Humber river valleys from about 8000 B.C.E.

The heritage community in Brampton is reminded of the Indigenous peoples' contribution to our heritage with each archaeological report they read. As we reflect on Canada's 150th, we take this opportunity to celebrate the rich contributions Indigenous people have

made in shaping the City of Brampton and Canada as a nation.

The City of Brampton is committed to recognizing the history of past inhabitants. Looking forward, the City intends to celebrate indigenous culture through strategically placed commemorative plaques and signage on lands that are historically relevant and contain high archaeological potential. 🍁



The Brampton Heritage Times is a publication of the Corporation of the City of Brampton. For more information please contact a Heritage Planner at 905.874.2618 or 905.874.3744.

The Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) is the Municipal Heritage Committee established under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The BHB was established in 1976 to advise City Council on all cultural heritage matters. Its mission is to work together with various levels of government and citizens to preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the City of Brampton.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

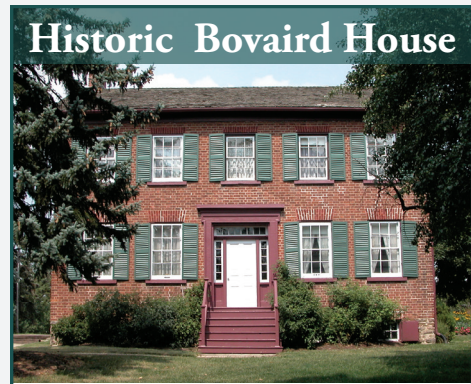
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2017

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