

# Remember Markham

NEWSLETTER OF THE MARKHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
AND MARKHAM MUSEUM

Editor: Lorne R. Smith

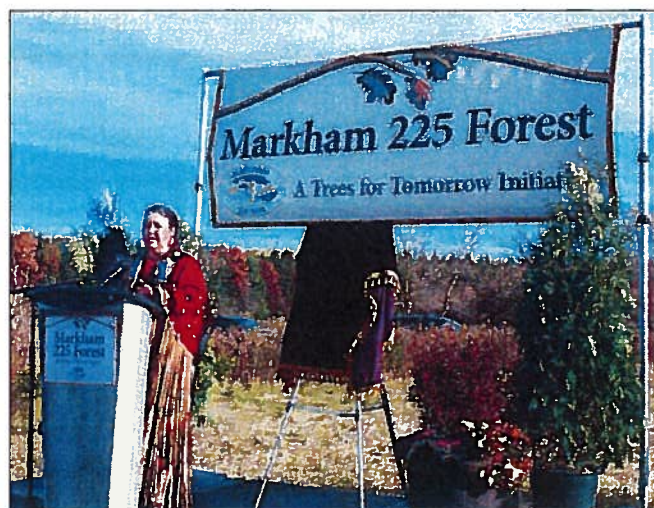
Winter, 2019

## *Official Markham 225 Forest Community Creates Living Legacy*

MARKHAM, ON, October 29, 2019. On Saturday, October 26, 2019 Mayor Frank Scarpitti and community volunteers planted the Official Markham 225 Forest in the south end of Milne Dam Conservation Park. Announced during Applefest festivities, this forest commemorates the 225th Anniversary of the City of Markham by creating a living legacy of 225 Bur Oaks, magnificent trees that are especially meaningful for the City of Markham and the Trees for Tomorrow program.

"That same intrepid spirit that led William Berczy and the early settlers defines us," says Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti. "Our community is evolving, and to know our future, we must understand our past. The Markham 225 Forest will be here for generations, contributing to a healthier, greener world. As the Bur Oak takes root and grows, it will serve as a reminder of the power of community."

A land blessing and smudge ceremony led by Elder Suzanne Smoke officially kicked off the event. Mayor Scarpitti then planted a ceremonial



Elder Suzanne Smoke

### COMING EVENTS

**December 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.**

Baptist Church, Markham Museum  
Christmas Program

Christmas Pot Luck Supper

Bring a meat or vegetable dish or salad

And some Christmas goodies

Refreshments supplied

Carol Singing with Doug Groat  
in the 1856 church

**No meeting in January 2020**

**February 10, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

Transportation Building, Markham Museum  
AGM and Show and Tell or Bring and Brag

**March 9, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

Collections Building, Markham Museum  
Guest Janet Reid, Curator, Markham Museum  
Modern Museum Collection Policy and  
Recent Accessions

**April 20, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

Transportation Building, Markham Museum  
Program to be announced

Note: Third Monday because of Easter

**May 11, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**

Cedar Grove Community Centre  
7667 14th Avenue, east of Reesor Road  
Guest Ron Brown  
"Ontario's Railway Heritage"

**June 9, 2020**

Bus Trip.

Details to be announced

tree before working with families, youth and community groups to prepare and plant the Bur Oaks. All participants took home White Spruce saplings ready for planting.

The Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) is the official tree of the City of Markham and its leaf and acorn is pictured on all park signs. An enduring symbol of strength, power, durability and survival, Bur Oaks can live up to 400 years.



*Hello All!*

*2019 has marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Markham Historical Society. In 1969, John Lunau became the first president of the Society and he, along with William Rutledge, MHS's first Vice-President, approached Mayor Alma Walker on the subject of purchasing the Mount Joy School as the Society's home. In 1970, with the support of Mayor Walker and the assistance of the Markham-Unionville Lions Club, the Markham Historical Society Museum was founded and the Mount Joy Schoolhouse became the first museum building.*

*It was fitting, then, that on Sept 28, 2019, Mayor Frank Scarpitti announced in a ceremony at the Museum that the Collections Building would be re-named the John Lunau Centre in honour of John's contribution and commitment to the collection and preservation of Markham's heritage.*

*The Markham Historical Society's Board of Directors also felt that this anniversary was the perfect opportunity to review our own mandate. We asked ourselves what we believed our role and our goals to be with respect to our community, Markham Museum and the residents of Markham. A big thank you to all Board members for the time you committed at so many of our meetings to discussion and to sharing your ideas and experiences.*

*So, as 2019 draws to a close, I would like to introduce our new Mission Statement and letterhead, and our revitalized logo. This message is printed on our new letterhead that also showcases the revised logo in the upper left corner and our new Mission Statement across the bottom. Our next 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary begins in 2020 and will be kicked off with the development of a new website that will offer both our membership and the wider community information about our group and our programs and activities. Stay tuned for more on this!*

*We hope you agree that the Mission Statement captures our role within our community and that this statement along with the revitalized logo and new letterhead places us in good stead as we move forward, continuing in the footsteps of John Lunau and others, to gather, preserve and share the history of Markham.*

*Best regards  
Sue Smitko, President*

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#### OUR MISSION

To support the Markham Museum and the wider community by promoting and sharing information, artifacts and personal stories from the history of the City of Markham



FALL / AUTOMNE

2019

# CHOnews

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY HERITAGE ONTARIO/PATRIMOINE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE L'ONTARIO

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## GORDON CHURCH AND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ST. ELMO

KAREN DAVISON AND DANE LANKEN

Two historically and architecturally interesting 19th century churches stand a stone's throw from one another at the crossroads of St. Elmo, in Glengarry, Ontario's easternmost county. The churches aren't used anymore, haven't been for years, and their future is uncertain.

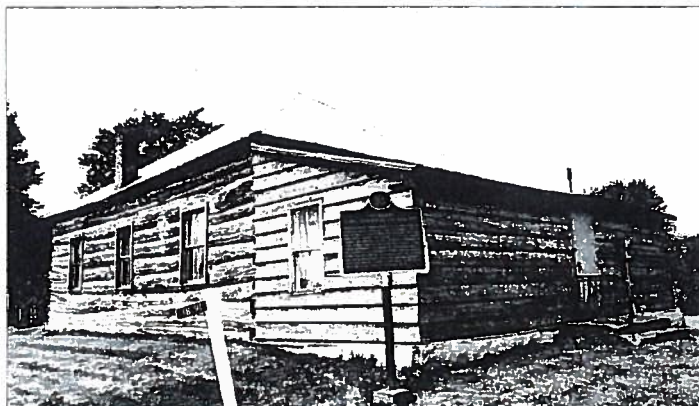
That's not for want of trying. The Township of North Glengarry, the local museum, the local historical society, a good many local people, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada are all concerned. Losing the buildings is unthinkable. But exactly how they are to be preserved and re-purposed is unclear. There are complications with location and re-use, and though the buildings remain in good shape, time is ever the enemy.

The two churches are the Congregational Church, a large, square pioneer log structure erected in 1837 (making it the oldest Congregational church in Canada), and a stone's throw away, the Gordon Church, from 1864, a prominently-set, red-brick, lancet-windowed Gothic Revival perfect country church.

There is not much to St. Elmo other than the two churches. It's in a prosperous agricultural area a few kilometres north of Maxville, Ontario, a village whose normal population of under a thousand

swells to 30 or 40,000 the first weekend of every August when it hosts the internationally-renowned Glengarry Highland Games.

A Congregational parish was organized among Highland Scottish settlers around St. Elmo in 1823, and the hand-hewn cedar log building – standard construction for all buildings in the area at the time – was put up 14 years later. Congregationalism, wherein individual congregations maintain considerable independence, originated in 16th century England and found widespread support in pioneer-era Canada. There were 111 Congregational churches in Canada in 1925 when the Congregationalists voted to join the United Church of Canada.



Congregational Church

Photograph: Township of North Glengarry

Back in the mid-19th century, the St. Elmo Congregationalists became embroiled in the Canadian version of the long-running dispute between the official Church of Scotland and the breakaway Free Church of Scotland. In the 1860s, a Free Church minister, Rev. Daniel Gordon, was barred from the Congregational Church, and he did the only reasonable thing: he built his own church, that

handsome red-brick Gothic Revival one just a stone's throw away.

*Continued on page 3.*

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# OHS BULLETIN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ONTARIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 212

OCTOBER 2019

## HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Daniel Dishaw, OHS Communications & Outreach Coordinator  
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Last year, the OHS updated its award categories to be more inclusive to a variety of organizations, projects, and individuals. While the Awards for Authors remain the same as in previous years, we have updated our Awards for Outstanding Achievement. Details and eligibility parameters for the new/updated categories can be found in the brochure included with this *Bulletin*.

To nominate, please visit [ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca). Alternatively, you can fill out the brochure included in this *Bulletin* and send it (along with all supporting materials) to 34 Parkview Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 3Y2. Supporting materials may also be emailed to [ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:ddishaw@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca).

*The following awards are open for nomination this year:*

### OHS PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Recognizing an outstanding contribution to the preservation or promotion of Ontario's history.

### CARNOCHAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizing a lifetime of achievement in heritage preservation and public history.

### RUSSELL K. COOPER PUBLIC PROGRAMMING AWARD

Recognizing a programming initiative that has brought greater public awareness to an aspect of Ontario's history in the past three years.

### DOROTHY DUNCAN PUBLIC HISTORY AWARD

Recognizing an outstanding public history project completed in the award year.

### HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD

Recognizing an exceptional contribution towards the conservation, preservation, or restoration of a built-heritage or natural-heritage site in Ontario.

### INDIGENOUS HISTORY AWARD

Recognizing significant contributions toward the promotion and preservation of Indigenous history or heritage in Ontario.

### CEMETERY PRESERVATION AWARD

Awarded to an individual or a not-for-profit heritage organization for having demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the preservation and protection of cemeteries in Ontario.

'HONOURS AND AWARDS NOMINATIONS' CONTINUED ON PAGE 4...

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ONTARIO  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY Since 1888

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## OHS LAUNCHES NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

Sarah McCabe, OHS Project Manager and Librarian  
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As part of the OHS's ongoing efforts to modernize and provide accessible and up-to-date service to our membership, the OHS is excited to announce the launch of our new online membership system.

OHS members and *Ontario History* subscribers may now log in at any time to update their mailing address and other contact information, and to renew by credit card; cheques by mail are also still accepted.

For the first time, all organizations that incorporated through affiliation with the OHS may securely log in to their OHS accounts to see their corporate documents (constitution, Ontario corporation number, bylaws, etc.), which the OHS preserves as part of our legal obligation and core mandate to support our affiliated groups.



To access your membership information on the Ontario Historical Society's website, click on the LOG IN tab at the top of the main page and follow the LOG IN button on the Member Dashboard page.

Instead of a letter in the mail, members and journal subscribers with an email address will receive an email 30 days in advance of the renewal date with a link to pay by credit card through our secure payment system. A reminder email will be sent seven days after the renewal date if no payment has been received.

To begin, go to our website ([www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca)) and click LOG IN at the top right to reach the Member Dashboard. Click the blue LOG IN button there and follow the instructions to (re)set your password. Try it today! Please let us know if you have any questions.

The OHS thanks everyone who donated towards our new online platform and membership system, especially the Laidlaw Foundation. Thank you for your continuing support of the OHS as we go through these changes to try and serve you better. We are excited to continue to support the people and organizations of our province doing the work to protect and promote the history of all Ontarians.

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