



# THE Ancaster Township

Historical society Est. 1950

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

Box 81123, Fiddlers Green P.O.

L9G 4X1

Ancaster, ON

Email: [ancaster.history@gmail.com](mailto:ancaster.history@gmail.com)

## Did you know that.....?

- 🏰 During the first thirty years, Ancaster Village was the largest and most important community within a forty mile radius.
- 🏰 The first settlers to be granted land in Ancaster were Michael Showers and his two sons Michael Jr. and Daniel. Michael Sr. was the first Loyalist to be allowed to cross from Fort Niagara into Canada to farm.
- 🏰 Wilson's Mills had many names in later years including Rousseau's, Union, Lodor's, Russell's, Egleston's, Jackson's, Peebles, and Cope's Mill.
- 🏰 In 1895 surveyors arrived to lay out the route for the Toronto, Hamilton, and Buffalo Railway branch line from Hamilton to Waterford. The Mineral Springs Station was built and became a loading station for the locals who shipped grain, hogs, cattle, apples, and moulding sand.
- 🏰 Thomas Lewis, of Concession 4, Lot 33, was the father of famous Hamilton actress Ida Lewis (1869-1950) who played under the name Julia Arthur. She was the leading Canadian actress of her generation, working in both Europe and the United States.
- 🏰 Mark Fortune (1847-1912) a former Ancaster man was one of the first class passengers on the Titanic. He did not survive.

\*\*\*Information can be found inside Ancaster's Heritage Volumes I and II

*"In touch with our past, welcoming the future..."*

Speaker's Schedule 2012/2013

Please note that all meetings from October thru April are held in the Ancaster Old Town Hall, 310 Wilson St. East, at 7:30 pm. Parking is available behind the Municipal Building. Visitors are always welcome, \$2 per meeting.

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Friday, September 14, 2012, at 6:00 pm.

**Antique Steam Engines**

Presented by Harold Kuret

*Steam Cooked Corn and Picnic Social for Members*

*At the Shaver Homestead, 1166 Garner Road West.*

Hosted by Jack & Shirley Cranston.

**Friday, October 26, 2012, at 7:30 pm.**

**History of Ancaster Post Office**

*Come and hear the stories behind the Ancaster Post Office.*

Presented by Mike Street

**Friday, November 30, 2012, at 7:30 pm.**

**Lake Ontario Naval History in the War of 1812**

*Insight into the 1812 War and what took place on Lake Ontario.*

Presented by Bob Williamson

**Friday, January 25, 2013, at 7:30 pm.**

**Restoration of Historic Mills**

*Listen to the tales of restoring historic mills and maintaining their historic values.*

Presented by Dave Ciancone :

**Friday, February 22, 2013, at 7:30 pm.**

**History of the Mills of Ancaster**

*An overview of the various mills that have operated in Ancaster over the span of more than 200 years.*

Presented by Bob Williamson

**Friday, March 22, 2013, at 7:30 pm.**

**\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE DUE TO GOOD FRIDAY\*\*\*\***

**Art of C. W. Jeffreys**

*Learn the history of C. W. Jeffreys and his inspiration behind many of his paintings*

Presented by Rev. Bob Brownlie

**Friday, April 26, 2013, at 7:30 pm.**

**Annual Meeting**

*Clementina Fessenden*












*The life and times of Clementina Fessenden, founder of Empire Day and mother to Reginald Fessenden.*

Presented by Beth Mills

Program Contacts: Bob Brownlie 905-906-7796 rlbrownlie@shaw.ca

Dave Matson 905-648-3225

Facts about the Ancaster Township  
Historical Society Est. 1950

-  Established on November 17, 1950
-  Inaugural meeting was convened by Mr. William C. Whitfield in the Township Hall
-  First public meeting was held on January 19, 1951
-  Society has proudly written and sold three publications: Ancaster's Heritage, Ancaster's Heritage Vol. II and Ancaster- A Pictorial History
-  Society has developed three leaflets;; Waterfalls of Ancaster; Historic Plaques in Ancaster; 45 Historic Sites of Ancaster
-  Meetings are held at 7:30 pm on last Friday of each month October thru November and January thru April at Old Town Hall, 310 Wilson St. East. Corn Roast is held in September at the Shaver Homestead, 1166 Garner Rd. West
-  The Fessenden Award is offered by the Society each year in Ancaster High School; Bishop Tonnos Secondary School and Hamilton District Christian Reform High School. The best local history student receives \$150 and runner-up receives a copy of A Pictorial History of Ancaster book.
-  Continual development of historical signage and plaquing for significant Ancaster locations.
-  Yearly contest for residents of Ancaster to locate the biggest tree of specified species.
-  Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is here and now. Yearlong events to involve the whole community have begun with this spring's presentation of Blood and Bandages.
-  Recreated the Gore Gazette newspaper for bimonthly distribution over the next three years.

 Established the Archives housed at Fieldcote and continue to support both financially and with volunteers

*Executive:*

Past President: John Deadman

President: Bill Filer

Vice President: Fran Cheyne

Membership: Melanie Blum

Promotions: Beth Mills

Secretary: Melanie Blum 905-387-5143

Treasurer: Raymond Wilson

Program Director: Bob Brownlie

Archives: Jim Green

Member at Large: Bev Pedersen (Foundations)

**Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum, 64 Sulphur Springs Rd, Ancaster & Griffin House** Invites you to become involved in a variety of activities and events: historical exhibits, art shows and sales, archives, special events, walking tours, gardens, gift shop, bus tours, and Music at Fieldcote  
For more info contact Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum **905-648-8144** fax 905-648-4857

*Membership in the Ancaster Township Historical Society has many benefits:*

- Volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization sharing an enthusiasm for local history
- Promoting awareness; knowledge and appreciation of local history
- Camaraderie with members
- Collecting, recording and preserving evidence relating to the history of Ancaster
- Discovering and celebrating exciting events that have made Ancaster what it is today and fostering a sense of community identity
- Access to our archives housed at Fieldcote Museum
- Recognizing individuals and organizations who have furthered the goals of the Society
- Yearly membership only **\$10** per person – Open to all individuals who support the goals of the Society.

Your membership fee will be used to support Society activities and events; help us communicate with our members and the public and allow us to maintain our incorporated status through association with the Ontario Historical Society. Becoming a member allows you a vote at the Annual General Meeting held in April each year. The membership year begins in September.



Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ postal code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone no. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Historical interests \_\_\_\_\_

New member? YES \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have also enclosed a donation to The Ancaster Historical Society  
in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information will be kept confidential and will only be used to inform you of The Society & related events. We do not make our contact list available to any other individuals or organizations.

Please remit to: Box 81123, Fiddlers Green P.O., Ancaster ON L9G 4X1

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