

Annual Report 2008-Lambton County Branch OGS

Chair

Alan Campbell

This was an eventful year for Lambton Branch-the year we went digital. By the 2008 OGS Conference in London, we had 80% of our publications digitized and organized so that we could search across these electronic files using Adobe Acrobat software. Our trial run of the system was at the conference. The roll out was on a tight schedule-two of our Marketplace workers were in-serviced at the Conference and the trainer had only used the system for a week. Despite the teething problems, we were able to help a number of researchers find information about their Lambton ancestors.

Other initiatives this year were:

- a British Home Boy directory for those who lived and still live in Lambton County. Our coordinator for this program is Barbara Luckham of Ridgetown.
- a reinvigoration of our Early Settlers program. We extended the time period from the 1860s to include those who came to Lambton County prior to 1901. We felt that this extension would allow the creation of a much larger index of people who had been in Lambton County. Our coordinator of this project is Noreen Croxford.
- indexing of the 1891 Township of Moore Census- although it is available on-line it will be a valuable addition to our searchable digital collection
- indexing of the Petrolia Advertiser-Topic starting in 1900

Lambton Branch presented \$ 1000.00 donations to both the Lambton Room and the Family History Centre. These donations allow both organizations to add items to their collections that will in turn benefit our members. Our executive meetings are held at the Lambton Room at no cost and our regular meetings are held at The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints at no cost. Lambton Branch members also have free access to the Lambton Room.

Vice Chair

Noreen Croxford

As my first year of Vice Chair comes to a close, it is my wish that many more of you consider taking the opportunity to work on the Council of the Lambton Branch OGS. There are several openings now, and working with a group of enthusiastic and energetic people has been a pleasure for me. They are always willing to help and educate anyone coming into a new position. Your help would be greatly appreciated, and the old saying that many hands make light work is certainly true in this case.

There have been many changes in this past year, and a good many of them have been electronic. Our Branch Council has been working hard to keep up with technology and working closely with the OGS head office in Toronto.

I wish everyone all the best in the coming year, and look forward to working to help the branch succeed in 2009. All of your help is and will be appreciated.

Treasurer
Robert McCordic

Lambton Branch Ontario Genealogical Society

Income Statement

For the year ended 31st December 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Income		
Membership dues	\$ 2,831.00	\$ 2,566.00
Interest/Exchange	462.67	203.54
Donations - Receipted	50.00	2,000.00
Donations - Non-Receipted	208.55	43.25
Newspapers	53.50	0.00
Queries/Research	422.55	623.00
Photocopies	0.00	0.00
Publications - Sales	1,830.90	5,281.50
Region Meeting	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,866.11</u>
Total Income	\$ 5,859.17	\$ 12,583.40
Expenses		
Opening inventory	\$ 5,129.28	\$ 5,101.66
Publication expenses	<u>913.24</u>	<u>1,026.78</u>
	6,042.52	6,128.44
Less: Closing inventory	<u>4,636.05</u>	<u>5,129.28</u>
	\$ 1,406.47	999.16
Stationery	10.00	3.15
Bank charges	0.64	71.00
Computer & equipment expenses	889.30	0.00
General operations	201.85	153.19
Insurance	204.12	447.37
Postage/Courier	217.11	213.13
Advertising/Promotion	188.25	5.62
Grants	2,000.00	3,000.00
Library expenses	414.03	404.49
Membership newsletter	1,470.03	1,429.08
Program - Speakers Etc.	487.46	355.00
Query & research expenses	115.54	69.96
Region expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,428.04</u>
Total Expenses	<u>7,604.80</u>	<u>8,579.19</u>
Net income (Loss) for the year	-1,745.63	4,004.21
Operating Surplus beginning of year	<u>11,863.69</u>	<u>7,859.48</u>
Operating Surplus end of year	\$ 10,118.06	\$ 11,863.69

Lambton Branch Ontario Genealogical Society

Balance Sheet

As at 31st December 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Assets		
Current		
Cash - Canadian Funds	\$ 3,141.82	\$ 3,003.78
- American Funds	654.66	1,655.11
- Exchange	142.72	0.00
- Petty Cash	0.00	50.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00	413.50
Inventory of Publications	4,636.05	5,129.28
Prepaid expenses	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	8,575.25	10,251.67
Capital Assets		
Equipment	1,612.02	1,612.02
Accumulated Depreciation	0.00	0.00
Library Holdings	<u>25.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>1,637.02</u>	<u>1,612.02</u>
	\$ 10,212.27	\$ 11,863.69
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued	\$ 94.21	\$ 0.00
Prepaid Memberships	0.00	0.00
Deferred Revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	94.21	0.00
Net Assets		
Surplus at end of year	<u>10,118.06</u>	<u>11,863.69</u>
	\$ 10,212.27	\$ 11,863.69

Secretary/Publicity

Janet Kelch

I sent out notices to newspapers, radio stations and television stations every month, except the summer months, advertising our meeting dates, speakers and their topics.

Cemeteries

Robert McCordic

We are working on four cemeteries.

- Mount Calvary Roman Catholic Cemetery, Wyoming which was transcribed in 2004 and Doug McCordic is finishing
- Bear Creek Cemetery, Moore Line at Telfer Road which was transcribed in 2006 and I am finishing
- Oil Springs Cemetery, South Plank Road which was transcribed in 2006 and Jane Teskey is finishing
- Riverside Cemetery, St Clair Parkway South which was transcribed in 2008 headed by Janet Kelch.

Membership

Dorothy Jaecques/Donna Scott

The attendance for 2008 was:

	Members	Guests	Total
Jan.	17,	5	22
Feb.	14	3	17
Mar.	19	5	24
Apr.	20	21	41
May	29	19	48
June	31	14	45
Sept.	20	18	38
Oct.	17	10	27
Nov.	18	10	28
Dec	17	11	28
Total	202	116	318

The Branch averaged 31.8 people per meeting.

Program

Fran Eagleson

The Lambton County Branch held 10 meetings with an average 30 people in attendance.

Topics included:

- a talk by a home boy
- a computer safety demonstration
- an update on the SS Nerissa information and website
- a power point presentation about a trip back to the Ukraine to find relatives
- a talk about researching relatives in the 18th and 19th centuries in London ,England
- an historical picture display and talk about the new Township of Warwick book
- a talk about the history of the discovery of oil in Oil Springs by Charles Fairbank
- a talk on UEL descendants brought several people from other areas to hear the story of Capt. Findlay Malcolm
- an excellent display of military medals and pictures of their owners with commentary by the speaker about his “adventures” in getting the medals for ancestors

- members brought family heirlooms and told about their genealogical value.

Publications

Alan Campbell- Production/Direction

Doug McCordic-Sales

Most of our Branch publications were digitized this year and then made searchable, thanks to Doug McCordic. Three licenses for Adobe Acrobat 8 were purchased this year in order to provide a search engine for the digitized Branch publications. Copy number one is used by Doug McCordic for sales purposes, copy number two is used by Ruth Mackesy for research purposes and copy number three is loaded on the Branch laptop for use at sales and information tables.

The following books were prepared and published in 2008:

- Lambton Lifeline Queries 2001-2007
- Collector's Roll for the Township of Moore in the County of Lambton, 1851

Revision of four cemetery transcriptions continued during the year. An indexing of the 1891 Township of Moore Census was initiated, with part one in the proof reader's hands and part two now being indexed. Transcription of the births, marriages and deaths in the Petrolia Advertiser Topic was also initiated starting with the year 1900.

Total of gross sales for Branch publications was \$1830.90. This included some county wide searches in our digitized publications.

Early Settlers Report

Noreen Croxford

This has been my first year at recording the Early Settlers, and I have enjoyed reading all of the family histories that I have received.

The Lambton Branch of OGS has for many years been collecting information about Early Settlers who came before 1862, but this year we changed that date to 1900. We have updated our information pages, and now have them available on our web site, where they can be filled in, then printed and mailed or emailed to our branch. The information is then placed into a book, indexed and made available in our library at the Lambton Room and at the LDS Family History Centre. It is our hope that changing the date to 1900 will add a considerable amount of information that will be available to researchers.

So far this year, I have recorded over 1,000 names, and am in the process of printing an index for them. Before the books go to the libraries, they will be scanned and added to the electronic database that our branch researchers can access.

Research

Ruth Mackesy Coordinator

Tom Mackesy Volunteer Researcher

Sheila Hewett Volunteer Researcher

Ancestor

John **HOOVER, VETTERS** or Catherine **STEPHENS**
from Warwick & Arkona areas

R. Earl **HARRISON**

Archibald **MACLEAN** and family of Marthaville

Researcher

Ruth Surges

Ethel E. Ingalls

Ian MacLean

Volunteer Researcher

Sheila Hewett

TICHBOURNE family

MATHESON

CAUGHILL, ELLISON

GIBBONS

SMITH

MANNING, COULTON, MCWATERS,

ROBERTSON

WARRENER

HUNTER

BEER, RONDEAU

WILSON (Petrolia)

FORD

WARWICK TOWNSHIP

WILLIAMS, LUCAS

HALL

CAMPBELL, PAPST

BRINDAMOUR, LAFORGE

WEDGE

Dorothy Hargreaves

Ruth Mackesy

Tim Lowrey

Judy Gibbons (x 2)

Janet Turk (x 2)

Wm. Mitchell

Richard Warrener

Leland Guest

Mary Cassar

Michael Gavin

Candice Poole

Carrie Stahler

Sue Norman

Sylvia Foreman

Ervan L. Amidon

Gail Smith

Judy Gibbons

Newsletter

Alan Campbell

Four issues were published as in previous years. Euphemia Township was highlighted in the March issue to coincide with Celebrate 2008, the celebration of 150 years of oil history around Oil Springs. June's issue was a compendium of material from a number of Townships but Moore was highlighted with an article about settlers living along the St. Clair River Road. Dawn Township was highlighted in the September issue. December's issue zeroed in two sources of genealogical information, land records and newspapers.

Twenty-six [26] queries were published for members. Twenty-five [25] websites both local and international were identified. Five [5] letters to the editor were received.

Lambton Lifeline Updates were sent electronically when timely.

The editor wishes to thank Linda Koolen and Donna Scott for acting as proofreaders and assistant editors.

Webmaster

Jane Teskey

This year we migrated our website to the OGS server and after a few changes we seem to be running smoothly. I have changed a few links and updated our Library file with Noreen's input. On line you may now fill in early settlers' forms, British home child forms and member's interest in Lambton County forms. We are trying to update our information and help others who are looking for family in Lambton County. The branch is also looking at adding more information to the website in 2009.

First Nations Research Resource Person

George Pitfield

We had five requests concerning information regarding researching Native Indians.

- a researcher required information concerning Indian Status, where and how to apply, plus what was needed.
- a researcher required information concerning where to research regarding Mohawk ancestry.
- a researcher wanted to know if there were any Genealogical D.N.A. Blood Banks in Canada, and where they were.
- a researcher required information on Metis, where to apply, Ontario or Manitoba.
- a researcher of the history of a Port Huron Native woman, wished information about her family who lived on the Aamjiwnaang Reserve in Sarnia.

Places of Worship

Gordon Dickson

I added cemeteries to the POW project as they are integral part of the POW project. All cemetery and POW information were put into a database from Word documents and paper format:

- Number of churches in database = 383
- Number of cemeteries in database = 118

I added 6 additional cemeteries to the cemetery list. Most of the cemetery locations are verified. I will revisit ALL POW and cemeteries to add GPS settings. I am gathering additional POW info. POW and Cemetery reports have been provided to the executive in an ongoing basis.

Library

Noreen Croxford

We are fortunate to still have our Branch Library housed at the Lambton Room in Wyoming. The excellent staff and hours of operation make it a very helpful and accessible location for researchers. Unfortunately the Lambton Room is a museum, and as such charges a visitation fee of \$5.00 per day. The positive to this situation is that as a member of the Lambton Branch OGS, you are admitted free of charge.

There were 22 books added to our holdings in 2008. We exchange 62 newsletters with other genealogical and historical organizations. We have increased the number of newsletters that are now exchanged by email, which has helped cut expenses considerably.

Total expenses in 2008 were \$457.03.

I am looking forward to a busy 2009.