



Friends of  
**LINCOLN'S  
HISTORY**


# NEWSLETTER

Fall Edition

November 24, 2022

## Friends of LINCOLN'S HISTORY BOARD NEWS

### Guest speaker at our Annual General Meeting scheduled for Dec. 7, 2022



**About The Author**

Dave Cook lives in Applewood Acres, Mississauga with his wife Sophie and son Jonathan. His father, Norman, was born in Dixie and attended Dixie P.S. Dave's early years were spent on Runnymede Road, near The Junction in Toronto.

In the late 1940s the family purchased property on the 6<sup>th</sup> Line, Malton where he attended Elmbank and then Malton public schools. The family moved into Applewood Acres in 1957 after their Malton property was expropriated for the airport expansion. Dave attended Applewood P.S. and then Gordon Graydon S.S. He is a former, newspaper reporter, radio broadcaster, municipal councillor and for many years was active in North American motorsports as an owner of a race car and later as General manager of Mosport's Ascot North Speedway. *Fading History* is Dave's third book. His first is *Apple Blossoms and Satellite Dishes*, the history of Applewood Acres, Mississauga's first major development built west of Toronto. His second book is, *From Frozen Ponds to Beehive Glory*, the story of Dixie Arena Gardens.

Photo by Dorothy Bogacz

### Donation News

**Thank you to the Rockway Community for the generous donation that was given to us. So sorry to see your beloved community centre go, but please rest assured that we will keep its' memory alive with the monetary donation given to us, plus all the pictures, minute books and other documents you have sent us.**

### Annual General Meeting Announcement

By: Bill Salter

After a 2-year hiatus, the in-person **Annual General Meeting** of the *Friends of Lincoln's History* is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 7th, 2022** in the Harbourside Sanderson Room at the Beacon Harbourside Resort Hotel.

Guest speaker for the occasion will be Dave Cook from Mississauga, a noted Author & Historian who has written several books on the western area of the GTA. He was 'discovered' by our very own Archivist Ruth M. Smith at a History Event in Ancaster, and shares with Ruth the distinguished status of being a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International. In 2009 Dave was presented with the Heritage Mississauga Foundation Award, and in early 2018 he was appointed Councillor of the City of Mississauga and the Region of Peel to fill a vacancy. Following his interim appointment Dave was appointed to the City of Mississauga's Committee of Adjustment. (Prior to these appointments, Dave had served as a 3-term elected Mississauga Councillor in the 1980s). His presentation will cover a brief outline of many stories ranging from sports to royalty. All stories touched the western areas of the GTA. Many of the topics are of international significance known the world over but took place in the Milton, Mississauga, Port Credit and Etobicoke areas. They include the Last Grand Duchess of Russia, The Lancaster Bomber, AVRO Arrow and Flying Saucer, Franklin Roosevelt's top secret train trip with his War Cabinet through Niagara, Hamilton, Oakville, Mississauga, Etobicoke and on to Manitoulin Island, and what took place there resulted in a military tribunal. The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, A man who walked on the bottom of the Great Lakes after the war picking up practice bombs for metal recovery.

**The meeting will open at 6:20 for Reports, Election of Officers and associated administrative items, with the Guest Speaker scheduled for 7:00 pm, followed by Q&A session.**

Admission is free to members of the FLH and \$10.00 for non-members. This will also be a good time to renew your membership for 2023. We hope all of you can join us for this meeting.

# Hip Hip Hooray here comes the band

**From: Beamsville's band history a colourful one....by Bill Soby in 2001**

"Beamsville's history of band music dates back to the early 1870's, when it was called The National Band and played from its bandwagon that was decorated with colourful paintings of musical instruments. The band disbanded in 1890 and the instruments were stored away. "

"In a meeting at the International hotel on Dec. 11, 1895, the National Band came back to life. They played at open air concerts, the rink and fall fairs. However, it only lasted two years. In 1908, when the idea for an Old Boys and Old Girls reunion was planned, someone said, "Let's have a band." A meeting was held and the Beamsville Council approved a \$50 grant. The National Band was back and a few months later, a benefactor came forward. Moses F. Rittenhouse, who was born in Vineland but now a millionaire lumber dealer in Chicago donated \$460 to outfit the band, saying, "You furnish the music and I'll furnish the dough."

"The now-called Beamsville Citizen Band, under the direction of James Zimmerman, contributed to the success of the reunion."

In 1912 the band was heard by the Commanding Officer of the Second Dragoons of Hamilton and were asked to become their Regimental Band. The band was mounted on horseback and to this day remains the only band ever to have been formed in the country. During the war years, 1914-1918, the band continued to play at open air concerts. "

"When a band competition was introduced at the Canadian National Exhibition in 1924, the Beamsville Citizens Band soon became a fierce competitor and by 1929 won 3rd prize in their category. In 1931 they won 2nd prize under the direction of Dave Nelligan and William Barclay, Cornet Soloist took first prize. "

"During the war years 1939-1945 the band played on, depleted by the number of regulars serving in the war. They were there for the celebration of V.E. Day in downtown Beamsville. "



Pictured on the left is the band in 1910.

Mr. M.F. Rittenhouse supplied the band with new band uniforms in 1908. This is the band that played at the Old Boys and Old Girls reunion in 1908.

The picture on the right shows the band on horseback. For a short time during WWI the band was part of a horse mounted military unit for the Hamilton Militia District. This particular picture was taken at Petawawa in 1919.







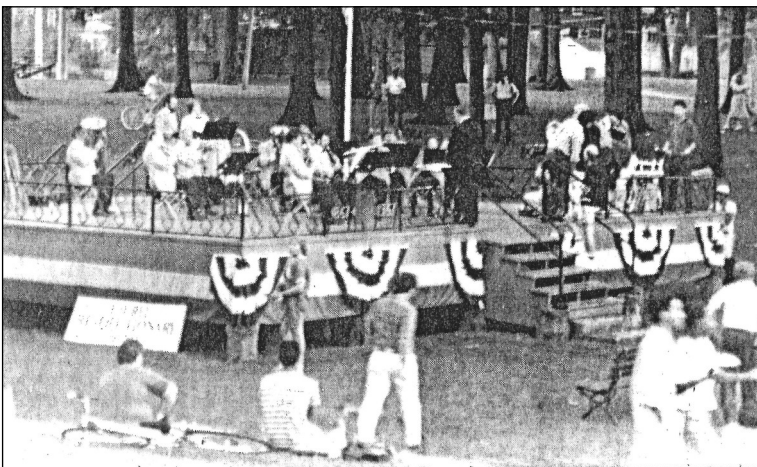
The picture on the left was recently donated to us by Colin Saunders of Hamilton. This picture was taken in 1926 at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. The band competed in many competitions at the C.N.E and usually placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Lucky for us most of the names were written on the back of the picture.



Pictured on the left is the band in 1960 at the C.N.E. in Toronto. Again we were lucky that most of the names were listed on the back of the picture.

Front Row from the right—Donald Romagnoli, Dave Presley, Murray Lumley, Alf. Hemings, Bill Rannie, Jr., Albert DeLean (Director of Music), Glen MacGregor, David Romagnoli, Mike Proscyshn and Les Shirton.

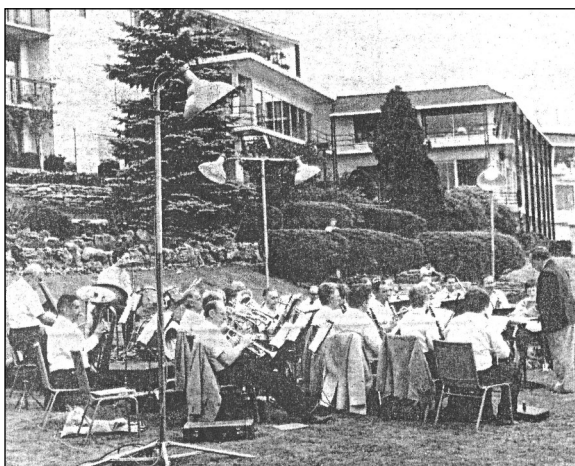
Back row from the right—A.F. Romagnoli (Band President). Frank Allen, Al. Gretsinger, Lealand Jones, Ellward Starr, Jack Wilcox, Frank Jones, Herb Lindsay, Harold Babcock and John Tennant.



The Lincoln Concert Band shown in this picture was given the unique opportunity to appear in the 1970 Hollywood film **Stanley & Iris**. It starred Jane Fonda & Robert DeNiro.

It was filmed at the Alex Christie Bandshell at Kew Gardens in Toronto.

This picture appeared in the **Lincoln Post Express** Aug. 31, 1988. The band at the Kew Gardens bandshell.



This picture appeared in the **Lincoln Post Express** July 8, 1987.

The caption read:

**“Tribute to a Friend”**

“Brian Rodgers and the Lincoln Concert Band performed the second of a series of five ‘Garden Concerts’ at the Beacon Motor Inn in memory of John Tennant who played and conducted in the band”.

The band played many concerts at the Beacon Inn.



## Beamsville Braves — THE END OF AN ERA By: Bob Miller

The passing of Coach Al Kellogg, who was in his 90th year, brings closure to the era of the Beamsville Braves.

The Braves represented Beamsville for six ball seasons in the OASA (Ontario Amateur Softball Association).

The Braves dynasty actually started in 1959. The Beamsville Softball Association combined the Midget and Juvenile players to form a more Competitive team. The nucleus, with additional players each season, propelled this team to the OASA Juvenile and Junior C Division Championship for the next five out of six years.

In 1959, the Beamsville Juveniles defeated Stittsville to win the Juvenile C OASA Championship. The next year Al Kellogg became the new Coach of the team and brought with him a major change. The Team had new uniforms and a new name "Braves". That season, Beamsville was defeated in the OASA Juvenile C Ontario Semi-finals. That wouldn't happen again.

The year 1961 proved to be another major change for the Beamsville Ball Team. The Braves were now a Junior Team and played in the St. Catharines Softball Association—Senior League.

The thought being stronger competition would make the team better. When OASA play-offs began, the Braves dropped back to be the Junior C Team to represent Beamsville.

The next four years saw the Braves play Capreol during Thanksgiving weekend for the Junior C OASA Championship. Capreol won in 1961 and 1964. The Braves won in 1962 and 1963.

In 1962 the Braves also played the New Murray Royals for the St. Catharines Softball Association League Championship. The Royals won the fifth and deciding game to win the league trophy. After 1964, the nucleus of the team was too old to continue to play junior softball. Many players went on to play senior softball in the area and others left Beamsville to pursue various career choices.

In later years, some old teammates decided a reunion was in order to celebrate past successes and to reunite with old friends. A golf tournament was successfully held at Twenty Valley Golf Club and ex-players came from far away cities in Canada to relive and retell old stories. As usual, Coach Al had the last word.

It seems only fitting, with the passing of Coach Al Kellogg in the year 2022, the 60th anniversary of the Braves first OASA Junior C Championship and Coach Kellogg's first OASA Junior C Championship as our Coach, the final reunion would take place.

It's like he still has the last word.



Bob Miller contacted the FLH and asked if we would be interested in running the Beamsville Braves article in the newsletter. When he came to visit us, he brought with him, a catchers mitt, a baseball bat, a wooden plaque and lots of pictures and newspaper clippings. We will Have a display set up at our Annual General Meeting on Dec. 7th and Bob plans on being there too.

Beamsville Braves continued on next page.....





OASA JUNIOR C CHAMPIONS — Beamsville Braves made it 1-1 with Capreol when they brought back the Junior C championship after a double victory over the northern champions last week-end. The railway towners snatched the cup last year in a thrilling play-off battle, only to have their victory celebrations spoiled by the Braves who dropped the first game here but turned the tables with victories Saturday and Sunday in Capreol.

Here they are: front, from left, George Lightfoot, Bob Miller, Ross Shepherd, Don Andrusiw and Basil Earle; rear row, Coach Al Kellogg, Dave Allan, Bill Berg, Ted Lizak, Butch Dustan, Gerry Dillow, Jim Burrows, Don Clarke, Larry Christie, Ollie Ransom, Bob Burrows, official statistician, and Curt Turner, assistant coach.

## 1962 OASA Junior C Champions — The Beamsville Braves

### Victory Celebration

Don Cranfield lower left corner of picture.

Standing on top left to right: Curt Turner (Coach), Dave Allan, Bill Berg, Jim Burrows, Ross Shepherd, Ted Lizak, Don Andrusiw, Bob Miller, Basil Earle, Gary Dillon and Bob Burrows

Seated inside truck is Vaughan Shepard.



# A Story of a Forgotten Aerodrome

By: William E. Chjkowsky

A bottle of wine, a clean bed, The Royal Flying Corps offers its pilots, for about two and a half months. This is their life expectancy on the western front. The Corps during the summer of 1916 suffered a serious loss of men and aircraft. To replace them they will have to come to Canada. In January 1917 a Royal Flying Corps staff arrived to establish 20 flying squadrons, build aerodromes, train pilots and supply the Corps with trained personnel. The aircraft supplied was the Curtiss JN4 (Jenny). Training started immediately after the corps arrived. By April 1917 six aerodromes were built in Ontario. During that same month the Americans entered the war. Lacking trained personnel, the American pilots were sent to Canada to train along side our Canadian pilots. In return, both American and Canadian pilots would train during the winter months near Fort Worth , Texas.

Beamsville was to become the R.F.C. last aerodrome built in Canada during WWI. It was chosen because this area is where all tender fruits are grown and was considered to have the mildest winters in Ontario, and had the least amount of snow. In October 1917 British Engineers leased 300 acres of flat land one mile east of the town of Beamsville. Another 25 acres on the shore of Lake Ontario were also leased for gunnery and bombing practice. To the south of the main camp, one third of a mile away, another 70 acres of flat land and small ravines were obtained. The ravines were for machine gun practice and the flat lands would house 150 tents. Construction began immediately. A spur rail line was brought into the main camp. Heavy hydro lines were brought in from Hamilton and a water supply was piped in from the lake. The aerodrome would consist of nine flight hangars 110 feet long by 66 feet wide, a hospital, jail, headquarters and all the necessary buildings required to function as a flying field. When completed Beamsville would consist of 65 wooden structures, including one thick wall brick and concrete structure used for ammunition storage. Three squadrons, 54 planes were to be assigned as soon as the hangars were completed. Accommodations for the men were also started, they would remain secondary, the Corps remained tented until the field became completely operational. Three hundred tradesman and carpenters laboured throughout the winter which turned out to be the worst in recent years, recording cold temperatures and heavy snows. Despite harsh winter conditions the camp progressed rapidly. On February 18, 1918, the clerical and headquarters staff moved in. On March 12, the first military equipment arrived followed by aircraft and machine guns. A portion of the camp was ready for flying and on March 21st it was opened for the public to view.

The official title for Beamsville was the School of Aerial Gunnery. It was a finishing school for pilots before receiving their wings and going overseas. On March 31st, twenty pilots arrived to complete their training. The same day witnessed the first flight with a safe take off and landing. The second flight proved somewhat embarrassing to the Corps, it crashed into an orchard causing minor damage to the aircraft. More men and equipment poured into the camp and on April 8th almost five hundred Corps members arrived by train from Texas accompanied by their aircraft. On their arrival, flight instructors took over the first complete training course in Beamsville. April 1918 saw 243 pilots receive wings, average flying time per pilot was seven hours and forty minutes. In June a fourth squadron was added, its function was to train observers exclusively.

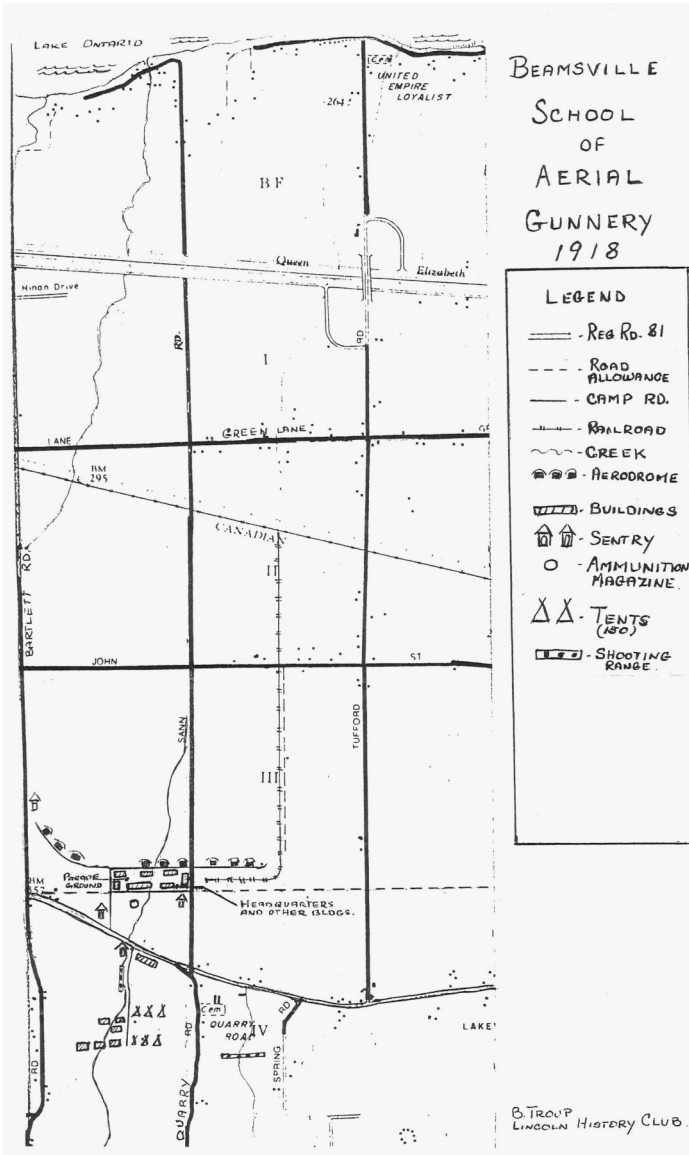
Beamsville was the most advanced training in all of Ontario. The pilots who would complete their course here would learn the refined art of killing from an aircraft. Under the guidance of returned flyers their course consisted of gunnery and photography. They would start on the ground with machine guns firing at paper airplanes, then photography with camera guns before moving to a plane, next to Lake Ontario where targets are towed behind an armoured boat. Then bombing and firing into trenches along the shore and courses in aerial maneuvers. June's flying time was 11 hours and 182 pilots received wings. In July Beamsville became the School of Aerial Fighting and 262 wing received. Also training would carry on seven days a week. Training carried on through the busy summer into autumn. It slowed down in October when an influenza epidemic closed down 10 percent of the camp. By mid month the hospital had seventy patients at one time. Permanent barracks were ready for the enlisted men and three Avro's, the Corps newest trainers arrived. Flying time was 10 hours with 281 wings received.

On November 11, 1918 at wars end, flight training ceased. Only an early class received their wings, others left the camp wingless returning to civilian life. Orders came to disarm the camp and vacate it as soon as possible. The machine guns and a portion of aircraft were returned to Toronto, two large holes were dug and thousands of rounds of ammunition buried. Several farewell dances for the officers were held at the Gibson residence, men and equipment left the camp daily. By Christmas the Beamsville Aerodrome was empty of Corps personnel and civilian guards were hired to protect the remaining property and aircraft. In January the remaining camp equipment was sent to Hamilton and put up for auction. The final stages of flying came on February 24, 1919 when the remaining aircraft were flown to Leaside.

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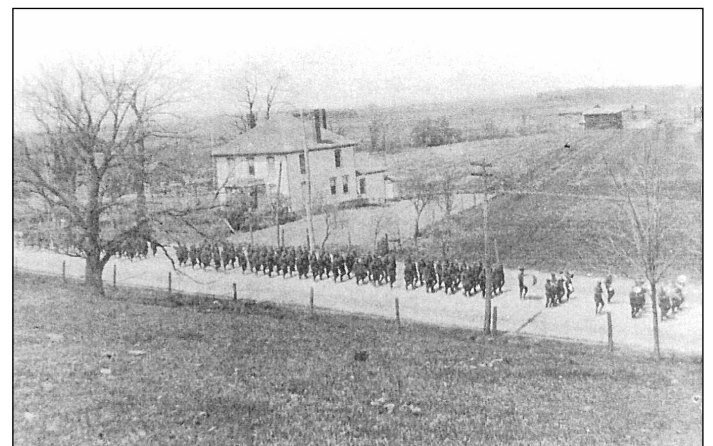


Beamsvilles potential of fourteen hundred officers, cadets and enlisted men was never reached. Its busiest month was July, with the camp housing about nine hundred men. The life span of the camp was a little over a year with only a little more than eight months of flying. During its brief existence, the flag at Beamsville would fly at half mast fourteen times in respect for their members killed in flying mishaps. The first was on April 17, 1918 when Cadet E.B. Boyne crashed. The last on November 22nd when Lieut. T.E. Logan was killed. Their bodies were returned to their home towns for burial or interned at Beamsville Mount Osborne Cemetery. In total Beamsville would produce 1200 pilots for the Corps.



Above Picture - Officers Mess Hall was located west of Quarry Road on south side of Hwy #8, across from where the present day Blue Sky Nursery stands.

Below are the aircraft hangers, barracks and water tower.



Above picture—Troops marching in front of house that is now the Blue Sky Nursery property.

RCAF Season's Greeting postcard pictured on the left.

