



# Society Newsletter

## Large crowd visit museum grounds in August to witness Monarch Butterfly tagging and release



Looking on with intense interest is MP Rick Norlock, far right, and his wife, Judy. Seated is guest lecturer and scientist Donald A. Davis from Toronto

### *East Durham Historical Society*

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**Preserving the past  
for future generations**

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### **In this issue**

**President's Report**

**August butterfly release**

**Remembering Ralph  
Hodgson**

**Lakeshore Quilters Guild**

**John Morand Woodturning**

**Name change**

More than three hundred visitors from across Ontario came to witness the tagging and release of the elusive monarch butterfly. Some folk heard about the event from as far away as Alberta.

Among the deeply interested was our own Member of Parliament, Mr. Rick Norlock, and his wife Judy. Throughout the day as part of the Society's summer program, more than 400 butterflies were tagged and released by self-proclaimed citizen scientist, Don Davis, a practice he has pursued since 1968.

Each fall, monarchs travel up to

20 miles a day to cover the 3,000 miles to the mountains of Mexico, where they will winter. Mr. Davis holds the Guinness world record for the longest butterfly migration — a butterfly he released in Presqu'ile Park was recaptured weeks later in Austin, Texas.

Davis is originally from Colborne and while his fulltime profession is in child protection in Toronto, he has actively been involved in "Citizen Science" programs related to the Monarch butterfly since 1968. For the past 24 years Don has participated in the annual Monarchs and Migrants weekend over Labour Day week-

end at Presqu'ile Provincial Park. He has now had many Northumberland-tagged monarchs recovered in Mexico.

The flight of the monarchs is still a mystery, and events like this at the Museum help unlock the mystery as well as provide an opportunity to enjoy nature's wonder. The Monarch's scientific name, *Dansus Plex-xipus*, was inspired by the Greek myth of Dansus, in which the king's daughters fled the country in order to avoid marriage. Check this site for more info:

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/monarch/DavisDonMX031706.html>.

# President's report



**EDHS is pleased to have the support of the following business members**



**David G. Watson**  
Pharmacist/President  
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Welcome to our second 2010 Newsletter of East Durham Historical Society.

Just a note to let you know we have received final clearance from the Government for our name change to "Port Hope and District Historical Society" [formerly East Durham Historical Society] and the process is ongoing.

We had a very successful summer at Dorothy's House Museum [DHM] and look forward to next year's calendar of events. Thank you "ALL" for coming to DHM this past summer and to the Volunteers for your support.

Over the summer the collection of artifacts at the museum has increased to include the following: wooden pump organ, grindstone, old wooden washing machine, dolls, wedding dress, tea set, photos, kitchen utensils, old tools, old books and numerous other items. The list and the names of the donors will be provided to the membership in a later edition of the newsletter when the objects are catalogued.

Many thanks to the generous donors for their contributions towards preserving history for future generations.

Thank You

Joan Parrott,  
President



**Children enjoying wonders of nature at DHM with butterfly specialist, Don Davis, August 28, 2010**



**John Morand Wood-turning Demo, July 4, 2010. Joan Smith and Juliette Morand looking on.**



**Lakeshore Quilters Guild, July 24, 2010 at DHM**

Perseverance is a great element of success. If you only knock long enough and loud enough at the gate, you are sure to wake up somebody. — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## Remembering Ralph Hodgson, O.B.E 1897- 1948



Brigid MacAoud, great great granddaughter, Bil MacAoud, great grandson, Aleda Wedekind, great great granddaughter, Ralph Hodgson, grandson, Geoff Hodgson, great grandson, Fred Hodgson, grandson, Marion Hodgson, Daughter-in-law [nee Dickinson, married to Nelson Hodgson], Callum Wedekind, great great grandson, Michelle Hodgson, great granddaughter. AND Jack, the dog!

Ralph Hodgson was born in Yorkshire, England, and moved to Canada at an early age. He studied law and when the First World War broke out, he joined Toronto's 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion and shipped overseas.

In 1944 to the end of demobilization Canadian War Amps came pouring back from Europe in hospital ships. As the Lady Nelson touched the pier in Halifax, the next stop for them was Civvy Street. Then, a "strange and wonderful thing happened." Into the ward bounced Ralph Hodgson, and swinging between his thumb and finger was a miniature artificial leg. For most of the amputees it was a preview. "Not only did Ralph walk, spin and dance, but he finished up by jumping off a waist-high table," said witness Cliff Chadderton. This encouraging demonstration was the kind of picture the wounded soldiers needed.

Ralph was there as the Dominion Place-

ment Officer, the man who would help them get back on their feet, get jobs and provide the chance for them to re-establish their lives. Ralph had himself "walked the walk," having lost his right leg at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. After the war ended, Ralph worked for the Department of National Defence and in 1917 was appointed the first placement officer for the War Amps of Canada.

Ralph kept plugging away until all Amps from both wars had found the jobs that should have been rightfully theirs, and for his outstanding efforts he was awarded the Order of the British Empire by King George VI in 1946. Sadly, he passed away in January 1948.

On July 18, 2009, members of the Hodgson family and local dignitaries formally dedicated a memorial boulder, with an engraved plaque,

located at the entrance to the Ralph Hodgson Memorial Park to honour the park's namesake. The entrance of the naturalized park is located on the south side of Jocelyn Street just west of Crossley Drive. The plaque reads: Ralph Hodgson Memorial Park, Ralph Hodgson, O.B.E. 1897-1948. Injured at Vimy Ridge, 1917, Awarded the Order of the British Empire for devotion to the needs and welfare of war amps and the blind.

The Hodgson family originally owned 44 acres of land in the Jocelyn Street area and one of the stipulations when the property was developed was the creation of a park and memorial, according to Mr. Hodgson's daughter-in-law, Marion Hodgson. [Sources: *Cliff's Personal Blog and Northumberland News*]

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"I was delighted to learn that the Ralph Hodgson Memorial Park was officially dedicated in his hometown of Port Hope, ON. A most fitting tribute to a fondly remembered friend indeed."

— Cliff Chadderton on Sept 25, 2009

## Society name change

The East Durham Historical Society, founded in 1964 with the ongoing goal of preserving local history, will soon be sporting a new name according to the President's report.

The new name was decided by a majority vote of the membership. The Society was originally called East Durham because the area was part of Durham County. Since amalgamation when the former Hope Township and the Town of Port Hope became the Municipality of Port Hope the name of the society has been under review. The Society owns and maintains Dorothy's House Museum,

produces various publications on early families, and on local history.

The Society's first newsletter appeared in September 1993 under the heading "Daily Times." This masthead, including the September 1999 issue, was used for 15 newsletters up to that date. Starting in April 2000 it was decided to change it to "Newsletter."

Everybody is invited to contribute to its contents, preferably with an historical angle and subject to editing to fit the format.

Contact the writer with questions and or submissions at: [cmorgan@eagle.ca](mailto:cmorgan@eagle.ca)

## Tenth Anniversary for 100-year Time Capsule

It was the largest project that the EDHS undertook in 2001. According to then president John van de Wall, "The idea came to us when both the Town of Port Hope and Hope Township announced their plans to amalgamate. We thought this was an excellent opportunity to let future generations know what life was like for the people in the area before the merger of the two municipalities came into effect on January 1, 2001. We not only regarded this occasion as an opportunity to preserve our history but also as an opportunity to raise funds for our Society."

The capsule was buried on a Saturday, June 23, 2001 at 10:30 a.m. "it was a beautiful early summer day," John wrote later, "and approximately 70 people witnessed the historic event." Among the people present were Mayor Rick Austin, Deputy Mayor Aldo D'Agostino, Northumberland MPP, Doug Galt and Karen Chalovich, representing Paul Macklin, MP. "The ceremony was given an extra dimension of solemnity by Mark Foster who played the bagpipes, adding to the drama of the occasion." Mr. van de Wall said.



L-R, Sanford Haskill, John van de Wall, Jackson Peacock, Neil MacKellar and Cal Morgan. Mr. van de Wall holds the official plans for burying a time capsule in June, 2001 in St. John's section of the Port Hope Union Cemetery

## Events Calendar

Regular Monthly meeting at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Meeting Room, 22 County Rd. 28, Port Hope, ON

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**Wed. October 20, 2010 — 7:30 p.m.**

**Guest**

Ken Andrus, CBO, Municipality of Port Hope ON

Theme: Restoration & Designation of Heritage Homes

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**Tues. Nov. 9, 2010 — 7: p.m.**

**Guest**

Major Brenda Tucker, CFB Trenton,

Theme: History of the Military

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**December 1, 2010, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Wassail Bowl Celebration at Roseglen Village  
53 Wellington St. Port Hope, ON

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**Wed. January 19, 2011 — TBA**

**Wed. Feb. 16, 2011 — TBA**

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**Sun. March 27, 2011 — Heritage Fair at  
Lion's Centre, Thomas St. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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### Membership Rates

Single \$15.00  
Couple \$25.00  
Business \$40.00  
Life \$75.00