

Heritage Stewards

Donor News

November 2011

Detail from *Life of Josiah Henson from Slavery in Maryland to Freedom in Canada via the Underground Railroad*, 2009.
Painting by John Brown donated to Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site.

www.heritagetrust.on.ca

Message from the Chairman

As the Ontario Heritage Trust celebrates the International Year for People of African Descent, we are pleased to take this opportunity to profile a few of the recent donors and supporters who have made contributions to Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. These contributions have helped us to continue sharing the unique and inspiring story of Josiah Henson and the Dawn Settlement, both of which figure prominently in Ontario's history.

In this issue of *Heritage Stewards*, we also look at a few examples of different ways to give. The story of Doris McCarthy and Fool's Paradise speaks to the benefits of planned giving in protecting a legacy for the future. The article about the donated easement on the Covington property tells of a family's commitment to fulfil their parents' conservation dream for a natural heritage treasure. The story on some of the stewardship and donor events the Trust has hosted since last summer showcases special events that have helped to raise funds toward our work.

Each year, many donors and supporters help us to carry out our mission of protecting and preserving Ontario's heritage. I thank all of those who are listed in this publication, as well as those who have contributed in the past. Ontario has a vast and rich array of heritage – and we hope we can continue to count on your support to help ensure that it is conserved for the future.

Thomas H.B. Symons

Thomas H.B. Symons, CC, O.Ont, FRSC, LLD
Chairman

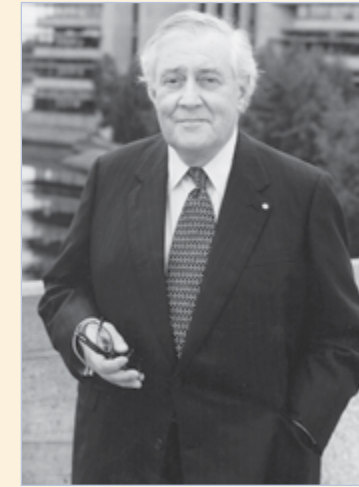
Planned giving: Doris McCarthy's Fool's Paradise

With the passing of Doris McCarthy on November 25, 2010, the country lost a revered and talented artist, best known for her landscape paintings. In addition to her artistic legacy, Ms. McCarthy also left Fool's Paradise – the magnificent Scarborough property where she lived and worked.

Ms. McCarthy bought the picturesque 12-acre (4.9-hectare) property on the Scarborough Bluffs overlooking Lake Ontario in 1939. She would go on to design the house and its additions, eventually making it her full-time home and studio.

As a place of artistic inspiration with tremendous natural heritage value, Ms. McCarthy was determined to ensure that the property would be protected after her death. In 1998, she donated Fool's Paradise to the Ontario Heritage Trust, along with a charitable remainder trust to maintain it in perpetuity. She retained a life tenancy, with the intent that the property would become a retreat for artists, musicians and writers, and a setting for heritage activities.

With her passing, the Trust is now planning the retreat Ms. McCarthy envisioned – giving other artists the opportunity to be inspired by Fool's Paradise, just as Ms. McCarthy was herself. We thank Doris McCarthy for her vision in planning for the future and the extraordinary gift she has left for generations to come.



Donations

Our sincere thanks to all those who generously donated to the Ontario Heritage Trust between July 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010. Your support enables the Trust to identify, preserve, protect and promote Ontario's heritage for present and future generations.

Friends of the Trust, including members of the Trust's Board of Directors, former members of the Board, staff, volunteers, foundations, corporations and other supporters of heritage, who responded generously to our request for donations were:

Individuals

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Ricardo Aldrey, Palgrave
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In Memoriam

Ron and Fran Shuebrook, Guelph, in memory of Doris Jean McCarthy
Nancy Sutherland, Toronto, in memory of Doris Jean McCarthy
Christine Booker, London, in memory of James Booker

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... and those donors who wish to remain anonymous.



Continuing a legacy of conservation

In 2004, Charlotte and Arthur Covington's four children – Eric, Nancy, Alan and Janet – inherited their parents' family vacation property on the shores of Bulls Eye Lake in South Frontenac County north of Kingston.

The four adult siblings were determined to honour their parents' long-standing wish to conserve the property in its natural state and prevent it from being developed as a cottage subdivision. Charlotte and Arthur had instilled the conservation ethic in their children from an early age. Determined to see their parents' legacy permanently protected, the Covington siblings reached out to the land trust conservation community and asked for help. In 2010, the Ontario Heritage Trust, with the assistance of its local heritage partner, the Land Conservancy for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (www.landconservancykfla.org), acquired a natural heritage conservation easement on the Covington property, permanently protecting its natural features and preventing its subdivision.

Today, the property continues to be owned, enjoyed and carefully stewarded by the siblings and their families with the easement involvement of the two heritage partners. The family successfully met the challenge of fulfilling their parents' conservation dream and proved themselves to be the next generation of keepers of the conservation flame. For more information on how you might secure your family's natural heritage legacy, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca and read about the Trust's conservation easement program.

The Covington family property consists of 32-acres (13 hectares) of wooded land and 700 feet (213 metres) of undisturbed shoreline comprising half of Bull's Eye Lake's boundary. It is located on the southwest edge of the Frontenac Arch, the broad and ancient granite ridge that joins the Canadian Shield to the Adirondack Mountains – recognized as the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO). The property has a diverse array of wildlife, flora and fauna, some being listed as endangered or threatened, and the biodiverse forest is a mix of conifer and deciduous tree cover. Diversity also marks its topographical features, including granitic outcrops, 35-metre (115-feet) cliffs, seven sinkholes, several ponds and glacial erratics. Aside from a small wood A-frame cottage, private laneway and walking trails, the property is undisturbed, which is unusual as the development pressure in this beautiful area is considerable.

Donors help tell the story at Uncle Tom's Cabin

RECENTLY, UNCLE TOM'S CABIN HISTORIC SITE RECEIVED TWO SPECIAL DONATIONS. WE THANK THESE GENEROUS DONORS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH ENHANCE THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE AT THE MUSEUM.

John Brown of London, Ontario – a former professor in graphic design at Humber, Conestoga and Fanshawe colleges – has had a long-standing relationship with Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. While touring the site in 2007, the museum curator remarked, "Wouldn't one of your pieces look fantastic on this bare wall?" In response, Mr. Brown created a stunning oil painting in honour of the life of abolitionist Josiah Henson. Comprised of 48 figures of various size and significance, the mural represents 16 notable scenes from Reverend Henson's life. Included are images of a young enslaved Henson on the auction block, his escape with his family on the Underground Railroad, and his meeting at Windsor Castle with Queen Victoria.

"When I first visited Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site many years ago, I was so impressed by the stature and respect that had been achieved by Josiah Henson – a man who had struggled against almost overwhelming adversity in his early life," said Mr. Brown. "His example of exceptional achievement inspired me to create a visual tabloid of his lifelong experiences."

Great-great-granddaughter of Josiah Henson, Barbara Carter, was moved to tears when the artwork was unveiled for her. "Mr. Brown has captured many of the remarkable moments in my grandfather's life. To see the triumphs, and the challenges he faced throughout his life in one painting is truly a moving experience."



On behalf of his family, Lyle Kersey of Toronto recently donated a Bible owned by Reverend Samuel H. Davis, his great-great-grandfather, to the permanent collection at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. Reverend Davis (1810-1907), born in Temple, Maine, was a Baptist clergyman who received advanced training at Oberlin College. From 1850 to 1852, he served as principal of the British American Institute under the auspices of the American Baptist Free Mission Society. The British American Institute was a school co-founded by Josiah Henson in 1841 to provide vocational training to refugee slaves. Reverend Davis later taught at a school for Blacks on the 11th Concession, Chatham Township, and became a prominent figure in the Amherstburg Association. He died on October 1, 1907, and is buried at the British American Institute Cemetery, across the road from the Josiah Henson family cemetery at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site.



Emancipation Day 2011 photos, left to right: Local RBC representatives Sandy Schepens, Judy Serruys and Cathy Wells; performance by the Muhtadi and World Drummers: choir from First Baptist Church, Toronto
Photos: Andy Stockdill

An eventful year!

Since last summer, we have hosted a number of special stewardship and donor events to raise funds toward our work. Here's a look back at some of the highlights:

Sandra Shamas in Wit's End III: Love Life



Earlier this year, the Trust hosted an evening of comedy and cocktails at the Winter Garden Theatre. Guests mixed and mingled before enjoying a hilarious performance by Sandra Shamas in *Wit's End III: Love Life* – the continuation of Sandra's story. Still on the farm, dealing with everything life has thrown at her, Sandra has tackled every hurdle and along the way poked fun at her own foibles in an earthy, honest and hilarious way. Special thanks to our sponsors for the evening, Urban Fare Catering, Exclusive Affair Rentals and Lara Beauty.



An Evening with John Barrymore



In January, Trust Chairman Dr. Thomas H.B. Symons and Mrs. Symons hosted a memorable evening featuring one of Canada's greatest actors, Christopher Plummer. A reception and dinner in the Winter Garden Theatre were followed by the final preview performance of *Barrymore*. Plummer drew the audience into the checkered, colourful and bawdy life of the great John Barrymore, destitute and ravaged by time, as he rehearsed for a comeback as Richard III. The careful balance of laughter and pathos in this play left the Trust's guests wishing for more. Our thanks to everyone who contributed to the evening.

A Hockey Musical

At last year's Toronto International Film Festival, *Score: A Hockey Musical* premiered at the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre. The film is lively, amusing and a little bit eccentric. Following the screening, Dr. and Mrs. Symons hosted a group of Trust supporters under the beech boughs and lanterns that grace the ceiling of the Winter Garden Theatre. Guests agreed that the evening was lots of fun, a great success – and very Canadian. At the 2011 Toronto International Film Festival the Trust was fortunate to host another special event, which will be profiled in the next issue of Heritage Stewards.

A Country Affair

In September 2010, Trust board member Dawn Bennett and her husband Matthew Certosimo hosted an afternoon garden party to benefit the Trust's Lincoln M. Alexander Legacy Fund. Guests enjoyed a feature performance by Latin jazz singer Amanda Martinez and raised funds in support of conservation projects at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, Scotsdale Farm and the site of Ontario's first parliament buildings.

"We have been admirers of the Honourable Lincoln M. Alexander for many years, not only in his capacity as the former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, but also as the former Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust. When the Lincoln M. Alexander Legacy Fund was established in honour of this outstanding Canadian, to further the important work of the Trust in heritage conservation across the province, it was natural for us to find a way to support and contribute to this initiative and the very important work of the Trust in preserving and protecting the cultural, natural and built heritage of Ontario. It is our sincere hope that we hosted the first of many such events in support of the essential work of the Ontario Heritage Trust."
– Dawn Bennett and Matthew Certosimo