



RIVERSONG

NEWSLETTER OF THE LOWER GRAND RIVER LAND TRUST INC.

Volume 14 Number 3

Autumn – 2008

A hotel, a church ... and the unexpected **DIGGING INDIANA AGAIN**

by Dr. John Triggs,
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In the midst of the summer, during an unusually sappy July and August, further discoveries were made at Ruthven Park and the former rural industrial town of Indiana. Once again Wilfrid Laurier University students, staff and volunteers returned to the site, for the third time since 2004, to continue a multi-year archaeological investigation of the property. This year, aided by three teaching assistants, and visiting history professor Dr. Lisabeth Robinson of Western Reserve Academy in Ohio, I instructed 17 students in field archaeology and artifact analysis. Despite minor setbacks due to torrential downpours and seemingly unremitting rainfall, the team uncovered previously unknown aspects of the former town founded by David Thompson I in 1832.

Excavation was conducted in three areas referred to below as Town Lot 2, the Presbyterian Church and Ruthven North Field. As always this type of work is labour intensive, yet it proceeds at a snail's pace to the untrained eye. The meticulous attention to detail that is required of all team members extends not only to the excavation of the various soil layers that have covered and obscured the 19th century landscape, but also to the reading of historical documents and the study of artifacts that provide the other sources of information. This is what makes the archaeological investigation of the town of Indiana unique in Ontario as the first multidisciplinary investigation of a rural 19th century industrial community.

Town Lot 2 is so designated because this was the legal description of the lot as shown on an 1844 town plan of Indiana. Today the town lot has lost its former context as a significant location on the former Colborne Street (Highway 54), the main transportation route linking Indiana to Caledonia and Cayuga (Figure 1, page 2). Beginning in the mid-1830s continu-

ing until the 1870s and 1880s this lot, situated at the north end of the town, fronting on Colborne Street, is thought to have been the site of one of the three 'hotels' in Indiana.

Seneca Township census records indicate that in the 19th century such establishments functioned more as rooming houses for the predominantly male industrial workers up until the 1860s. Although it is uncertain whether this is the Anglo-American hotel, specifically, since the existing land registry records and census records are not clear on this point, there are certain pieces of evidence that suggest this may be so. Artifacts recovered in the vicinity of the stone foundation of the roughly 400 square foot building, suggest a sizeable number of occupants – rooming houses usually had as many as 12 single males - as would be expected for a hotel, and possible American links (Figure 2). Terracotta clay smoking pipes stand

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Figure 1 – Aerial view showing location of former Town Lot 2, Village of Indiana, excavation area to the north of Ruthven Park, N.H.S. on private property. (Graphic courtesy of Pamela Schaus)



Figure 2 – Town Lot 2 hotel site under excavation during a rare sunny day.

as something unique in comparison to the more common white clay smoking pipes, the former manufactured in the United States. Also, the recovery of an 1838 U.S. penny provides another American association that, in terms of coinage, represents a unique discovery to date. Several varieties of tableware ceramic dating from the middle decades of the 19th century, container glass from pharmaceutical, soda water and liquor bottles represent the material evidence of the past residents. Further work around the structure, located on private property, is planned for the 2010 season. This may involve a search for privies – always a rich source of information on health and hygiene – and other outbuildings in an attempt to test the hotel hypothesis.

Another building situated on the south edge of the former town, within view of Ruthven mansion, was the small church constructed by David Thompson I in 1851 to be used by the Presbyterian and other protestant denominations at Indiana. The completion of this structure was stipulated in Thompson's last will and testament and a small plot of land was set aside for the construction of the church. Prior to excavation the presumed church location was obscured by small trees, undergrowth and long grass on a small hilltop which would have formerly overlooked town lots 13, 14, and 15 (excavated in 2004 and 2006) about 100 metres from the river's edge and about 300 metres from Ruthven mansion (Figure 3, page 3). A shallow oval

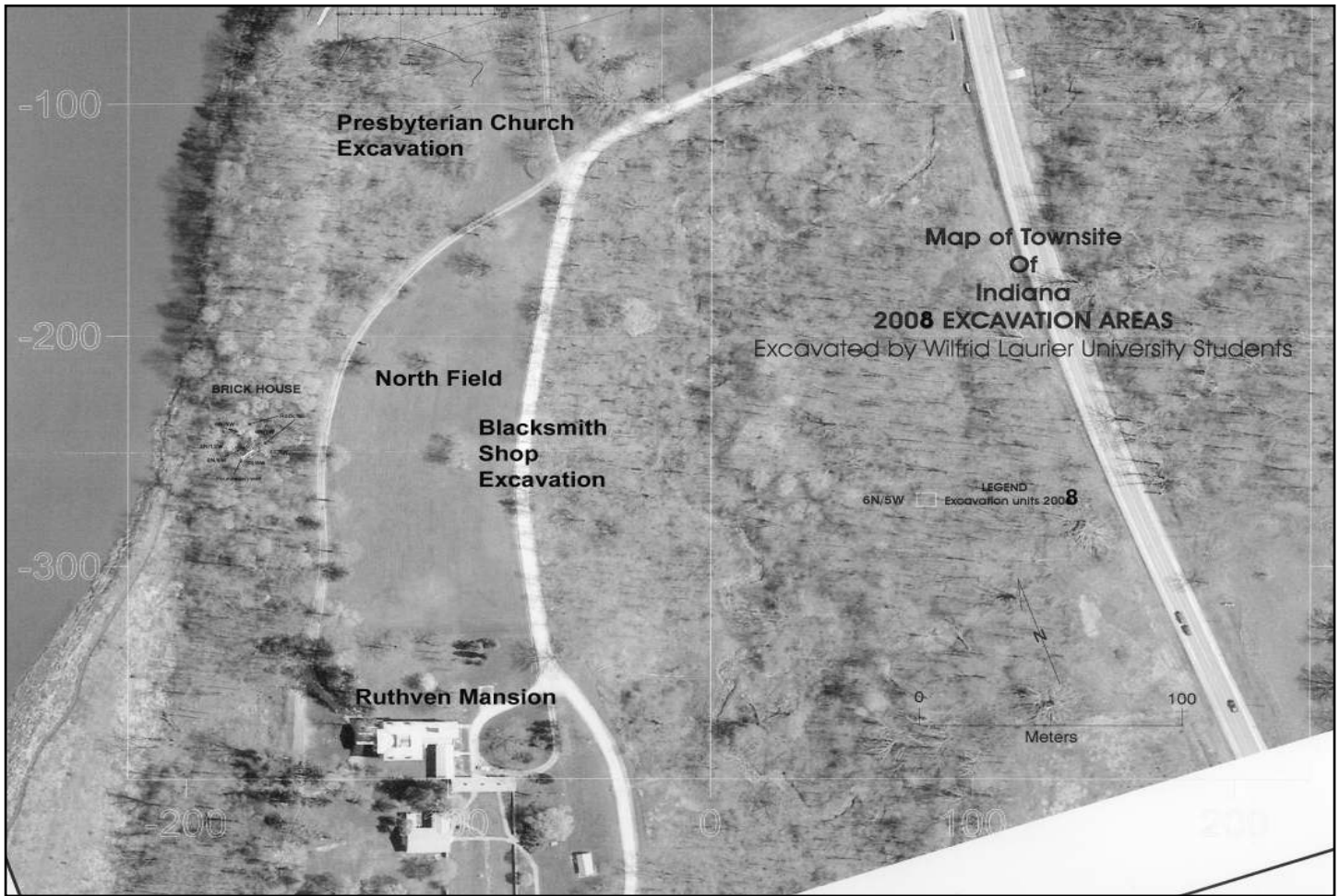


Figure 3 – Aerial view showing North Field blacksmith shop and Presbyterian Church site excavations. (Graphic courtesy of Pamela Schaus)

depression in the ground measuring about 10 metres across, filled with brick fragments and other architectural debris, later proved to be the cellar which, according to documents found in the Thompson family papers by Laura Quirk, Ph.D. candidate, was dug more than 20 years after the church was completed. Additional documentary evidence indicates that the structure was a frame building with a tin roof measuring 30 by 45 feet.

Excavation of the building this summer was directed towards defining the perimeter, and investigating the cellar as well as retrieving any further information that would shed light on how the building was used by the congregation. Soon after commencing excavation, evidence revealed that at least one foundation wall had been ‘robbed out’ meaning that some of the foundation stones had been taken away and re-used elsewhere when the building was torn down (Figure 4). A newspaper article from October 1954 that came to light later in the dig, confirmed that the church had indeed been dismantled early in the present century and the materials used to build a house. Other evidence suggested that the cellar was accessed from the west side through a hurricane-style door.

Historical archaeology requires meticulous attention to detail and, just as importantly, the ability to read the historical documents without bias and to revise previously held ideas as new information comes to light. This is a truism for all historical archaeologists and

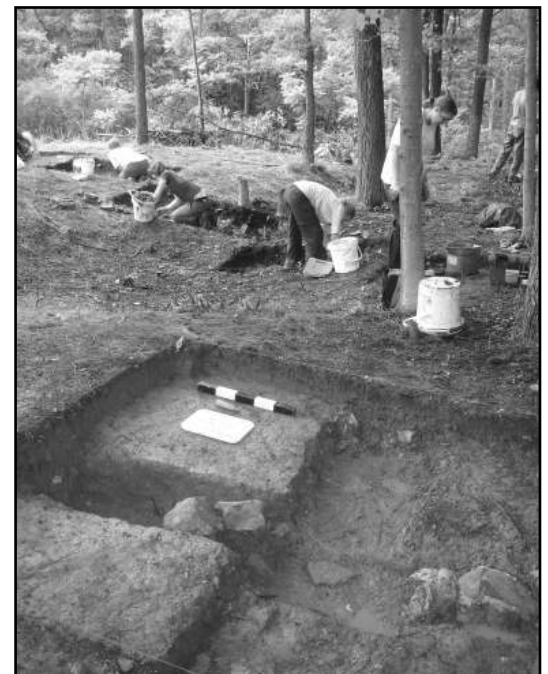


Figure 4 – View looking across cellar of church excavation with ‘robbed out’ wall trench at northeast corner of building.



Figure 5 – Excavation of blacksmith shop foundation walls, brick from the forge and a floor ‘sleeper’ trench after one of the numerous deluges that plagued the summer season.

something that we have to remind ourselves to do on a constant basis. A good illustration of this necessity is the question of the church’s orientation. Throughout the progress of the excavation our view of the orientation of the church changed as new information was ‘discovered’. At first the church was thought to have faced the former carriageway leading to Ruthven mansion. This was based on my reading of the cellar pit which I assumed would have been below the entire church. This line of thinking was dismissed quickly when an 1867 plan of Ruthven Farm clearly indicated that the church was rotated 90 degrees. Essentially this meant that the church must have faced either the mansion or the town, and that the cellar would therefore have been confined to the front or rear portion only. My own preference was for the church facing the mansion based on the assumption, wrong as it turned out, that Thompson would have chosen to view the front façade of the church as he approached it along the carriageway leading from his stately residence. My error in thinking was exposed by Dr. Robinson during her close reading of the map which clearly showed a steeple on the other side of the church – the side facing the town of Indiana. Although I had also examined the plan I had failed to notice the same feature, largely because of my built-in bias and not due to my failing eyesight - which would have been much

less humbling. More importantly, the orientation of the church towards the village residents speaks more about inclusion rather than exclusion – in keeping with Thompson’s selfless wish to build a church for Indiana’s residents.

As the excavation of the church drew to a close further pieces of the puzzle began to surface – pieces which had previously made little sense. The scores of ceramic tableware sherds dating to the 1830s and 1840s, for instance, seemed to suggest a domestic function for the building, and despite the early date of the items these were viewed as being representative of social gatherings perhaps held at the church. However, the recovery of additional household and domestic artifacts as well as a silver tinkling cone of the kind worn by native people in the early 19th century suggested a different interpretation. It is now thought that the church was built upon an earlier building perhaps belonging to a period before the establishment of Indiana itself. Excavations in the nearby north field provided some support for this new line of thinking.

Testing of the North Field, a vacant expanse of mowed lawn located north of Ruthven Mansion, was carried out during the first week of the field school. Shovel-sized pits excavated on a regularly-spaced grid of 10 metres revealed that a structure, or possibly structures, may be present below ground. A specific area was chosen where these finds were in greatest abundance and several excavation units were laid in. Within a day of excavation several sherds of early 19th century ceramic tableware, white clay smoking pipe fragments and surprisingly large numbers of horseshoe nails were unearthed. When viewed within the context of the other type of material being found, hundreds of small fragments of slag from burnt coal, the meaning was clear. The evidence almost certainly indicated that this was the site of a blacksmith shop dating to the early decades of the 19th century. Structural evidence of the shop is limited at present to several flat stones from a foundation wall, brick fragments possibly from the forge, and a burnt timber (Figure 5). Small numbers of thin window glass, wrought nails, and building hardware represent the range of building materials found.

Perhaps most interesting are the other types of artifacts recovered. Dozens of horseshoe nails points to a blacksmith who was also acting as a farrier. Rural blacksmiths were also called upon for any number of reasons to both manufacture items needed by a newly settled agricultural and industrial community, as well as to repair tools and farming equipment. These activities are represented by a huge number of scrap iron pieces – bar-iron from making nails, hinge pieces, roves (washers), hinge pintels, and other items - all

discarded as unusable after manufacture and repair as evidenced by the chisel and cut marks, welding and folding. In addition to iron, this smithy also cast lead musket balls as indicated by several newly made and un-fired shot, and lead stock. Such items are very rare archaeological finds at Ruthven Park and only a single musket ball has been recovered previously. Finally, the recovery of a few pieces of scrap copper further indicates that this material was also worked in the shop.

The question of when the blacksmith shop was in use is especially intriguing considering the evidence recovered to date. Presently the ceramic tableware – the most temporally diagnostic items – suggests a date anywhere from 1780 up to the early 1830s. The significance of this is that at the very latest the smithy dates to the time when Indiana was first established in 1832. As such it may be associated with one of the several shantytowns that arose during the digging of the canal and which were occupied by hundreds of workers – mostly Irish men and their families – for a very short period of time. Ads placed in the St. Catharines' newspaper for 1500 workers in 1831 indicate the scale of the Grand River Navigation Canal as a labour-intensive undertaking. If the smithy is indeed associated with one of these early shantytowns the archaeological and historical significance of this is without precedent as no such ephemeral town has ever been the subject of a multi-disciplinary investigation.

Another possibility is that the smithy dates to a period following the settlement of the Haldimand Tract by the Six Nations in 1784. In this sense the smithy may be associated with a community of early settlers – Euro-Canadian or native. The recovery of a silver trade brooch, a silver tinkling cone, and a few glass trade beads dating to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, represents the first material evidence of native people found at Ruthven Park during the Wilfrid Laurier University excavations attributed to this early historic period of settlement. Clearly further work is required before a substantive interpretation



Figure 7 – The two youngest members of the archaeological team working in the blacksmith shop - Olivia Robinson (left) and Kaya Daniels (right).

of the material is possible but the evidence recovered this year opens a door to investigating the question of contact between the Six Nations people and white settlers, a door that until now has been closed.

In 2010 the next season of excavation will begin with a new group of students and volunteers (Figures 6 and 7). In the meantime, the thousands of artifacts recovered from this year's excavation have to be analysed and examined within the context of the archaeological and historical information already gathered and which is still being assembled. During this post-excavation stage of the archaeological process, questions posed in the field this year will be answered and ultimately new questions will be formulated for the next season. This constant interplay between the new archaeological information and the existing historical documents is what makes the research at Ruthven Park an ongoing and engaging endeavour, and one that defines Ruthven Park as a vibrant national historic site.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are extended to Marilyn Havelka, CAO of Ruthven Park N.H.S. and Betsy Smith, President of the Lower Grand River Land Trust, for their unflagging support of the project. I also wish to thank my three volunteers who unselfishly devoted their summer vacation time to the project. Lisabeth Robinson, friend and colleague, has been instrumental in assisting with the supervision, teaching, research and excavation on site for the past two seasons. Lisabeth's daughter Olivia, age 6, and Kaya Daniels, age 7, were also actively engaged in excavation and cemetery research – gravestone rubbings. Thanks also to my Teaching Assistants, Sarah Daniels, Sarah Henderson and Nadine Kopp for their devotion to teaching and supervision. And finally, I wish to thank the students through whose efforts the archaeological investigation is made possible each season.



Figure 6 – The 2008 field crew – students, assistants, volunteers and field school director.

BUSY SUMMER, BUSY STAFF – RUTHVEN 2008

By Betsy Smith

President, Lower Grand River Land Trust

Since May 24th week-end, the Gate House at Ruthven Park has been crammed with energy, enthusiasm and youth. With financial assistance from Canada Summer Jobs, Service Canada; Summer Jobs Service, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (through Mohawk College); and Summer Experience Program, Ministry of Culture, four students were hired to carry out Mansion interpretation and grounds maintenance, office assistance plus many other functions that encompass Ruthven Park. Sean Whiting, Meagan Hewitt, Brittany VanDalen and Kaydee Kitson, all local university students, have been excellent summer staff and have been kept busy six days a week.

Kristina Hoppe-Schaus was hired through funding from the Ministry of Culture Summer Experience programme and is working on the collections management.

Christine Madliger is the Species at Risk Stewardship Coordinator supported by funding from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Christine is employed until February 2009 and has begun a study on the 13 species at risk and their habitats on Ruthven Park property, including GPS mapping of locations and potential habitats.

Christine is working in partnership with Andrea Raymond, Education Coordinator, funded by the JOY programme, who hit the ground running in June with elementary curriculum planning and implementation. Watch for all Haldimand County elementary school students and teachers receiving our new brochure in

September about the exciting programs coming up at Ruthven including areas of interest such as WW1 history, birdbanding, GPS protocol, science, and archaeology.

Robin Richardson has been employed at Ruthven for over a year and is the Cultural Maintenance Coordinator. Robin is responsible for keeping all the maintenance equipment in good repair, hanging the draperies, and everything else that a maintenance man would be responsible for on a 1400 acre country estate.

The Board of Directors of the Lower Grand River Land Trust is proud of its accomplishments and quickly attributes many of them to Marilynn Havelka, Chief Administrative Officer.

Over the past seven years Marilynn has taken Ruthven Park National Historic Site to the forefront locally, provincially and nationally in numerous areas of interest including historic building conservation, historic picturesque landscape, cemetery conservation, programming, co-operative education and entertainment throughout the year.

It is apparent that Ruthven Park is not only a beautiful National Historic house to visit or hold a special occasion such as a wedding or family reunion, but it is also a place where education prevails. It is a place where visitors from far and wide come to learn the history of the Thompson family and their importance in the development of early Canada, a place to conduct research and a place where education and conservation of buildings, flora and fauna are of prime importance.



Ruthven staff this summer: back row, Andrea Raymond, Marilynn Havelka, Sean Whiting, Christine Madliger, Robin Richardson; in front, Meagan Hewitt, Brittany VanDalen, Kristina Hoppe-Schaus, Kaydee Kitson

Know Your Species at Risk!

By Christine Madliger, Species at Risk Coordinator

Acadian Flycatcher
(*Empidonax virescens*)



This rare bird was banded at Ruthven.

Provincial Status: Endangered

Description: Olive-green songbird; yellowish belly; slightly forked, long tail

Distribution: In Canada, occurs only in Carolinian forests, with the most recent population estimate being 20-30 breeding pairs. This species is a neotropical migrant meaning that it breeds in North America, but winters in Central and South America.

Habitat: Large, mature tracts of forest. It is often found in wooded swamps and ravines, and it nests in the interior of forests, preferring to build its nest over water.

Threats: Forest loss is the biggest threat to the survival of the Acadian Flycatcher. This species needs tracts of forest at least 40 hectares in size, but these are becoming increasingly hard to find in southern Ontario due to expanding agriculture and residential development.

Ways you can Help: Support local conservation areas, parks, and banding efforts; support habitat-friendly forest management practices; avoid the use of herbicides and pesticides; spread the word about Species at Risk!

Learn more about Species at Risk at www.mnr.gov.on.ca



Assistance for this project was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources

The Annual General Meeting

of

THE LOWER GRAND RIVER LAND TRUST INC.

Will be held at

**Ruthven Park
Coach House, Cayuga**

**Wednesday,
October 1, 2008
at 7:00 p.m.**

The purpose of the meeting will be:

1. To receive and approve the Financial Statement and Auditor's Report for the fiscal year end May 31, 2008.
2. To appoint an Auditor for the 2008/2009 Fiscal year.
3. To elect Directors.
4. To conduct such other business that may come before the meeting.

Walter Peace, Secretary

Presentation:

"Ruthven's Arctic Connection"

by

Board Director

Rick Ludkin

Refreshments to be served.

BIRD STUDIES AT RUTHVEN PARK, SPRING 2008

By Rick Ludkin, *Bander-in-charge*

Although birding and banding go on at Ruthven throughout the year, it is especially intense during the migration periods in Spring and Fall. During these times there is a bird bander on site every day and, often, a number of other helping volunteers. This Spring we started banding on April 1st and didn't finish until June 6th. We only missed four out of a possible 67 days for 94% coverage. These days were missed due to really poor weather.

We set a couple of new records: perhaps the most important was the number of visitors – 432. The message is getting out there that Ruthven is not only a good place to see birds but, through the banding program, you can see them up close and personal. Thank goodness Ontario Power Generation donated the funds to expand the banding lab!

Another record was the number of net hours – 5,223 [a net hour = one 12-m net open for one hour].

Given the number of net hours, one would naturally conclude that we had a record number of birds banded. This was not the case.

We banded 1,512 which is our second highest total (last year we did 1,888). The rate of capture in April and May was quite low.

It's always difficult to explain fluctuations in our numbers but in the spring one thing is for sure: if the birds get half decent weather then they "go for it" – they fly right over Ruthven on their way to the breeding grounds. I guess breeding generates that sort of enthusiasm. Our sense was that the birds were late, held up by bad weather in April and then, when they got a chance to go in May, flew over.

The third record was the number of species we banded – 86, three more than ever before. On our biggest day, May 14th, we banded 86 birds, which, by comparison with some other Springs and certainly with the Fall is not a big deal. We have had some 100+ days in the Spring but they're fairly common in the Fall and we've even had 200+ days then.

The rarest bird we banded this season was an Acadian Flycatcher, which is a species at risk in Ontario.

A "new" banding first for us was Killdeer – we banded the 4 nestlings that the adults successfully fledged in the parking area. We'll be looking for them next year.

One of the most exciting things for me is the return and recapture of long-distance migrants that we've banded in previous years. We had some really interesting ones: a Great Crested Flycatcher, banded as an adult in 1999 (making it at least 10 years old), a

Brewster's Warbler (hybrid between a Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler) and a Northern (or "Baltimore") Oriole banded in 2001.

Our number one long-distance returnee was the Yellow Warbler – 36 returned, including one from 2000. We also retrapped 24 Baltimore Orioles banded in previous years. (I have included a chart of this Spring's retraps.)

As well as banding, we try to count all the birds that we see each day and estimate the number of each species for that day. This gives us a pretty good sense of the variety of birds that are around. In total we encountered 154 species (including 25 warblers) this spring. On average, you could expect to see 41 species at Ruthven on any given day in April and 60 in May. The most diverse day was May 25th when we ticked off 76 species.

These results are due to the tremendous commitment of time and knowledge by a large number of people. Thanks to all that made this such a successful (and fun!) season.

Days Volunteered

28+	Rick Ludkin, Brian Pomfret
14 – 20	Loretta Mousseau
7 – 13	Matt Searles, Peter Thoem, Gwenn French
4 – 6	Mitch Beck, Elaine Serena, Faye Socholotiuk, Cheryl-Anne Miller, Phil Alaimo, Jeff MacLeod (this does not include the enormous amount of time Jeff has put into developing and running the blog – check out: http://ruthvenpark.ca/natureblog)
1 - 3	Marg Ludkin, Daphne Payne, Jackie McInnes, Revven Martin, Shirley Klement, Richard Joos, Margaret Troy, Michelle Kenny, Rhiannon Leshyk, Beth & Jean Leishman, Norm Pomfret, Margaret Heslin, Mike Alkema

RUTHVEN RETRAPS, SPRING 2008

Some birds just can't get enough of Ruthven

Returning from	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	Total
Mourning Dove									1	1
Hairy Woodpecker				1					1	2
Downy Woodpecker							4	2	6	12
Northern Flicker								1		1
Eastern Wood Pewee							3	1		4
Great Crested Flycatcher	1									1
Tree Swallows								1	7	8
Blue Jay						1	1		2	4
Black-capped Chickadee						1		2	12	15
White-breasted Nuthatch					1	3		2	4	10
House Wren									2	2
Eastern Bluebird									1	1
American Robin							1		1	2
Gray Catbird					1			1	7	9
Red-eyed Vireo						1	1	1		3
Warbling Vireo							1			1
Brewster's Warbler			1							1
Yellow Warbler		1			1	1	5	16	12	36
Common Yellowthroat								1	4	5
Northern Cardinal						1			2	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							5	3	9	17
Indigo Bunting								2	2	4
American Tree Sparrow							1		1	2
Chipping Sparrow									4	4
Field Sparrow									2	2
Song Sparrow				1	1	4	1	2	12	21
Dark-eyed Junco						1			4	5
Red-winged Blackbird			1	1		1	1		4	8
Brown-headed Cowbird							4	2	6	12
Orchard Oriole							2	1	1	5
Northern Oriole			1	1		3	3	1	15	24
Purple Finch									1	1
American Goldfinch				1	1	1	3	8	25	39
Total	1	1	3	5	5	18	36	47	148	264

BOOKS TELL OF THEIR OWNERS

The Libraries at Ruthven

By Laurie Miller

There's something naughty about going through a family's library. You're rummaging around in their ideas: by what books they kept about them, you see into their minds.

That could be "libraries" at Ruthven, because the collection has three distinct layers: the founding collection, from the mid nineteenth century, consisting of just what a wealthy countryman of that period should have; the late nineteenth, early twentieth century collection of a fervently middle-class, established family; and the bright, engaged collection of an intellectual, creative bachelor.

And there is also the question of value. Though the collection will never be turned into cash, we should have some idea of what it is worth (and there are some gems).

As part of a significant collection the books can no longer be casually handled. So, let's put on our clean cotton gloves, remember never to open a book all the way, to use nothing but a pencil to take notes, never to scuff a book in removing it from or returning it to a shelf — and see what we have here.

Founding Collection

The founding collection lives in two massive eight-foot bookcases, each one ten feet high. Each has six shelves behind glass above waist height, and two more shelves behind wooden doors below. Every shelf is packed. On many shelves there are two ranks of books, the back one eclipsed by the front.

Sets of matched volumes parade the shelves like soldiers in rich red leather, green leather, black leather bindings with gold stampings, each regiment of uniform height. They make a wonderful show, and nearly all are in excellent condition.

Indeed, most of them are charmingly devoid of any sign of ever having been read.

These two bookcases live in the back hall now



(since Drew had them moved there about 1960), but they spent their first century or so in what is now the "Little Parlor," just to your left as you come inside the great main entrance portico.

That room used to be the "Library." When the local gentry, the grandees of Upper Canada, the prime minister, the very Duke of Devonshire himself and his vice-regal party came to Ruthven, the men would at some point have retired to the Library. It was a point of honour, among people of the right sort then, to have on display a collection of fine books in one's library, as proof of culture and intellectual status.

To have a show of many feet of fine book would be de rigueur, and Ruthven would not disappoint.

There is an eighteen-volume(!) set of Meuhlbach's historical novels. Four bound volumes of *Harper's* magazines from the 1850s and 60s. Headley's 1861 life of Washington (listed online for about \$125 today). A few bound volumes of mid-century *Punch*. *The History of the Martyrs*, by the Rev. E. Blomfield, in two volumes, 1810 (\$500). Half a dozen bound volumes of the *Illustrated London News* from the 1850s to the 70s. A six-volume history of Scotland by Thomas Wright (\$325) — the first volume showing some signs of having been read!

Pencilled on the flyleaf of a two-volume life of Wellington (J. H. Stocqueler, 1854, worth about \$175) is "D. Thompson, Ruthven Mansion, Indiana, February 29th, 1856." A man who writes his address like that, is pleased with himself.

There is a two-volume set of Kinglake's masterful prose in his *Invasion of the Crimea* (a few hundred dollars).

An 1868 *Life of George Stephenson and of His Son Robert; Comprising also a History of the Invention and Introduction of the Railway Locomotive* is worth only about \$50 today, but this one *has* been read. A torn bit of paper as a bookmark between pages 222 and 223 has been there long enough to slightly fox the pages. Did David Thompson, whose family fortune was built on the canal system that the railways blew away, feel he needed to know his enemy? Was he thinking of investing?

And then there are the gems.

You were nobody in the late nineteenth if you didn't have a Milton's *Paradise Lost* and a Dante's *Inferno* with the Doré engravings — and, of course, they're here.

The Milton is the Altemus Doré's *Masterpieces* edition, likely from 1889, and would have been an expen-

sive \$5 or \$6 new. Unfortunately the paper stock is such that the engravings are rather dim, and it is not highly valued now (about \$150).

Ruthven's *Inferno*, though, is excellent. From Cassell & Company, 1885, the engravings seem to glow on the page. (The printer has actually laid down a layer of silver behind the black.) It is worth about \$400 now, and a pleasure to see.

But the prize holding must be the Clarendon.

The three volumes of Lord Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England* came out one at a time, in 1702, '03, and '04, with a continuation volume often called the *Life of Clarendon* appearing in 1759. A raging best-seller, it was frequently reissued, with different dates on the title pages. It sold so well that Oxford university, the publishers, founded the still-running Clarendon Press with the profits.

It is rare to find all four volumes with first-edition dates, but Ruthven's are such.

This folio *History* has been called "one of the handsomest books thitherto produced in England," and it certainly is impressive. Ruthven's three main volumes are in very pleasing condition (the *Life* a little less so), and the value today might be \$2500 for the set.

Family Collection

In the middle period, the 1890s to the 1930s, the collection shifts from being mainly for show.

True, the Thompsons did still add some handsome sets.

There is a beautifully designed and printed twenty-four volume Millet Company "Oriental Series" from the 1920s. This, the "Occidental Edition", is "Limited to 750 numbered and registered copies, of which this is no. 207." The Millet company, though, being onto a good thing, also issued an "Ambassador Edition," in 750 copies; a "White House Edition," 200 copies, and so on. Still, volumes of Ruthven's "Occidental" set list for about \$150 each, today.

We have Holmes' works in thirteen volumes, the *Wit and Humour of America* in ten, de Maupassant in seventeen, and O. Henry in twelve. There is the inevitable Dickens, in more volumes than I care to count (well, thirty-five, actually, plus a three-volume *Life*).

All these are in the great bookcases in the back hall.

Upstairs in the front hall, though, are two more modest glass-fronted sets of what are usually called "lawyer bookcases," and in those, I think, are the books that the family actually read, loved, and used.

There is a thirty-eight volume set of Scott's Waverley novels that, however indigestible now, might well have been some family member's delight a century ago. *Wild Scenes from a Hunter's Life, with 300 Illustrations* (\$200) is from 1851, but maybe it lives up here



with mostly later books as much because somebody liked reading it as because it might seem too frivolous in the main library collection.

There is a *Ben-Hur*, and an *East Lynne*.

Andrew T. Thompson signed his *Three Comrades* (by Remarque) in pencil so firmly on the flyleaf as to leave legible imprints through the next two pages.

There is *A Search for America* (first edition, about \$75) by the enigmatic and sometimes duplicitous Frederick Philip Grove. Grove, internationally famous in the first half of the twentieth century, finished his days quietly on a farm near Simcoe. On the back page of this book is pencilled, "Finished Apr. 6th, 1928. An interesting and instructive book. A.T.T." Might Andrew T. have known Grove?

Books of religious instruction include *Eloquent Sermons by Rev. Wm. Morley Punshon and Other Eminent Divines* (1881), which sounds grim enough, but it is actually a landmark book in the development of the Methodist sermon as a *prepared* thing, rather than something inspired on the spot by the holy spirit.

There are oddities like *Northern Patagonia, Character and Resources, Vol. I*. That's from 1914, published by the Ministry of Public Works, Bureau of Railways, Argentine Republic. Was somebody contemplating an adventure? (About \$250 for Vol. I. There might be a second volume, of maps, somewhere at Ruthven, but I couldn't find it.)

There's an 1862 edition of *Infantry Sword Exercises*, published by the Adjutant-General's Office, Horse Guards. A famous little classic, that was published with line drawings and diagrams to illustrate the approved sword moves. Thomas Hardy owned a copy, and must have used it in writing *Far From the Madding Crowd*.

We Are Seven: the Little Mourner Comforted bears the inscription, inside the front cover, "Indiana Sabbath School Library No. 852" — a quiet reminder that there was a Sabbath School Library here once, and children to use it, and a Sabbath School, and a Protestant church, and an Indiana.

A flurry of racy items from the 1930s (*Sinful Cit-*

ies of the Western World, Crimes of Passion, etc.) is more than balanced by the bracing *What a Young Man Ought to Know* (1904, about \$35) and *What a Young Woman Ought to Know* (1913, about the same).

"A girl may think she is sisterly when she listens to a young man's cry for sympathy in some trouble," writes the redoubtable Mrs. Mary Wood Allen M.D. in the latter, but she finds this approach fraught with peril.

"Supposing she had listened with interest to his story," says Mrs. Allen, "and then, without laying her hands upon him, she had said, 'You are a man, a prince, the son of a King. You are strong to bear, brave to do... and then, with a strong, firm — I had almost said manly — grasp of the hand, she had sent him away, he would go feeling stronger."

The companion volume, by Sylvanus Stall D.D., dwells in oddly copious detail on both the opportunities for and the perils of unchaste sexuality.

To be fair, both books emphasize and reemphasize the vital importance of first getting to know the other person and then, eventually, maybe, after cool analysis and deliberation, letting a deepening acquaintance and understanding lead, if it does, to love; which is not the worst advice in the world.

Both agree that gambling, theatre-going, alcohol and dancing (and especially the waltz!) are terribly dangerous to the morals, and that tobacco will stunt your growth.

The Challenge of Russia, by Sherwood Eddy, (1931, of no particular value) certainly drew the attention of Andrew T. Throughout the book he marked dozens of passages in pencil, and on the last page put "Finished March 12th, 1931 — A.T.T."

And there are many volumes of the good, popular stuff you might expect: Carlyle's *Works*, *The Last Days of Pompeii*, *Plutarch's Lives*, *The Woman in White* — the things that a good, country family would use for instruction and delight before there was television, or even radio.

Drew's Collection

And then, filling a whole wall of his airy bedroom, there is Drew's collection.

An educated, accomplished actor, Drew appeared on CBC TV in the mid 1950s and early 60s with the likes of William Shatner, Larry Mann, Barbara Hamilton, and Robert Goulet. He also did an Everyman Theatre tour in 1946-47, and appeared in the NFB's *The Last Voyage of Henry Hudson* in 1964 with Powys Thomas, Tony Van Bridge, Hugh Webster, and Peter Donat. Pretty distinguished company.

He has, naturally, a lot of paperbacks — Mary Renault, Chaim Potok, Norman Mailer, Philip Roth. He also has John Cleveland and several by Lance

Horner, if that means anything to you.

But Drew's hardbound books are the real delight. He chose books often, and he chose well. Certainly, he did not buy first editions because he hoped they would appreciate in value, but some of those he bought have appreciated.

He has a quite a lot of the brilliant, sardonic Evelyn Waugh, but his *The Loved One* is the British edition (about \$25), with the Stuart Boyle illustrations that did not appear in the American. He also has Waugh's neglected *Helena* (\$100) — did Drew know that was Waugh's own favourite ("the only one he ever cared to read aloud to the family," according to Waugh's daughter)? I'll bet he did.

Being of the theatre, Drew has a number of books about that, too. He got Moss Hart's *Act One* in the first edition (\$75), probably because he was eager to read it. He also has Richard Stoddard Aldrich's *Gertrude Lawrence as Mrs. A.* in the first edition (\$100), likely for the same reason.

His taste for the various Sitwells (Edith, Osbert, Sacheverell) may seem dated now, but he hits more often than he misses.

He got Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* as soon as it came out, and that first edition is worth about \$85 now.

He has the first editions of Robertson Davies' first four novels, including the (rare) very first, *Tempest-Tost* (\$200); but why did Drew stop at *Fifth Business* (\$20) in 1970?

Quite a lot of humour, a shelf and a half of biographies, a number of books on history and on art, more than a few that some might think risqué — I think Drew would have been an interesting man to meet.

The prize of his collection? Well, Drew must have spotted Truman Capote very early, because he has the first edition of *Breakfast at Tiffany's: a Short Novel and Three Short Stories*, in excellent condition, with a fine dust jacket (like virtually all of Drew's hardbacks). According to Wikipedia, "A first edition of this book might sell for from \$500 to more than \$3000, depending upon condition."

We can never meet the Thompson family members now, but their books tell us a lot about who they might have been.

Interesting people.



SCIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

Forest loss and fragmentation are considered to be some of the most serious threats to biodiversity today. With Ruthven Park representing one of the largest remaining tracts of Carolinian forest in southern Ontario, conservation and stewardship are keys to the preservation of habitat.

A total of 13 species listed as “at risk” by the Government of Canada have been identified at Ruthven Park, including amphibians, birds, mammals, and herbaceous plants.

As a result of funding by the Ministry of Natural Resources Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, the Lower Grand River Land Trust has had the opportu-

nity to hire a new Stewardship Coordinator at Ruthven.

Christine Madliger, a recent biology graduate from McMaster University whose studies allowed her to specialize in biodiversity and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), will be working to map habitats, raise public awareness, and develop future research and conservation recommendations related to the site’s species at risk.

Christine originally became involved at Ruthven while bird banding with other McMaster students and went on to complete her undergraduate thesis project on the tree diversity in the park’s forested areas.

Through a combination of fieldwork, public outreach, and curriculum development, this six month project will allow science and stewardship to come together with the goal of protecting and enhancing habitats at Ruthven.

This endeavor adds to the many on-going activities seeking to promote awareness of the importance of maintaining the rich and varied ecosystems present within our park.



Elbows the Mad Scientist excites and intrigues the attendees at the second of this year’s Family Days.

MAD SCIENTIST LOOSE AT RUTHVEN ON FAMILY DAY

Elbows the Mad Scientist was one of the hits of the afternoon on August 23, the last of this year’s Family Days at the park.

The other Family Day of 2008 was July 26.

Elbows did his thing only on the second Family Day, but on both occasions the attendees were encouraged to visit the Discovery Centre, tour the mansion, participate in a scavenger hunt, visit the exploration station and play games outdoors.

Discovery Kits that included binoculars, books, and magnifiers were available to help folks get acquainted with Ruthven Park’s flowers, bugs, birds, and butterflies.



Christine Madliger, already at work in Ruthven’s Carolinian forest. She has joined the Ruthven team as Stewardship Coordinator.

Dear Friends of Ruthven:

Linda Jackson, who keeps us organized in the office, is currently off on medical leave. We wish her well in her recovery and look forward to her return.



Ruthven Park National Historic Site Presents: *PA Play Days 2008/2009*



Registration Information:

- **Cost:** \$25 per student, per day
- **Ages:** 5-11
- **Time:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Drop-off between 8:45-9 a.m. Pick-up between 4-4:15 p.m.)
- **Register:** Stop in at the Gate House from Monday to Friday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Call to reserve a place (905-772-0560). Pre-registration is required.
- **Payment:** Cash, Visa, Cheques payable to Ruthven Park

<p><i>Archaeology in Action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 26th, 2008 • <i>Work as a team to discover the mysteries that lay hidden within the ground. Investigate the site of the former industrial town of Indiana, create your own fossil, and dig up some incredible treasures just like the archaeology students from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University!</i> 	<p><i>Ruthven Remembers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 7th, 2008 • <i>Colonel Andrew Thompson, along with son's Andrew and Walter, fought in WWI. Join us as we prepare to honour Remembrance Day at Ruthven Park. View original artifacts, learn about life on the home front and discover the importance of the poppy.</i>
<p><i>Timeless Traditions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 5, 2008 • <i>Celebrate a century of Christmas traditions at the Thompson mansion. View decorations from the Victorian Era to the swinging 60s. Learn about how some Christmas traditions got started, create holiday crafts, and sample some tasty treats. 'Tis the season to celebrate!</i> 	<p><i>Victorian Valentine's</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 30th, 2009 • <i>Members of the Thompson family were great correspondents. Join us as we explore the origin of the Valentines and prepare to celebrate like the Victorians. Help us prepare decorations, delights, and games for the celebration.</i>
<p><i>March Break Camp</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 16 – 20, 2009 • Monday – Bugs, Bugs, Bugs • Tuesday – Plant Predictors • Wednesday – Soil Science • Thursday – Species at Risk • Friday – Birds of a Feather 	<p><i>Birds, Bugs, and Butterflies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 24th, 2009 • <i>Protecting 1,500 acres of land, Ruthven Park is home to many different species of plants and animals. Learn about the species at risk in the area, create homes for our feathered friends, and hike the property in search of bugs, birds, and butterflies!</i>

RUTHVEN BUBBLED AT CAYUGAFEST



When the town of Cayuga held its big annual “CayugaFest” on a mid-July weekend, Ruthven was, naturally, part of it.

Ruthven’s booth was set up specifically to appeal to the many families present, and the event was a great success.

Ruthven’s booth was informative, but fun, too.

Children were invited to guess the number of pieces of bubble gum in a gum-ball machine, and whoever guessed closest would win the machine.

In the photo at left, winner Kristen Rizzo, of Sherkston, holds her prize, supported by Rebekah, Mackenzie, and Ruthven Education Coordinator Kaydee Kitson.

GRANTS CRITICAL TO RUTHVEN’S MISSION

Conserving, maintaining and developing Ruthven Park National Historic Site depends on grants and donations from public-spirited individuals and organizations.

Two such most welcome grants were announced this summer.

From Burgundy Asset Management Ltd., CAO Marilynn Havelka received the following:

Dear Marilynn,

On behalf of our Chairman, Tony Arrell, our President, Richard Rooney and the Partners of Burgundy Asset Management Ltd. we are delighted to present Ruthven Park with a donation of \$10,000.00 towards the building of the park’s web site.

We wish you much success with this project and with your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Anna Chetti

Associate.

And, three weeks later, more good news, this time from the Grand River Conservation Foundation, in response to a joint application made by Ruthven and the Haldimand Stewardship Council.

We are pleased to inform you that your request of funding for your butterfly, blue bird and tree seed bed projects has been approved in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The grant cheque will be presented at the Grand River Conservation Authority gala awards evening in the fall.

Yours truly,

Ralph Beaumont

Executive Manager

Lt. Col. David Thompson Hangs Again

The formal dining room looks correct and proper once more. The patriarch has returned.

The grand portrait of Ruthven’s founder, David Thompson I, is back up on the wall, cleaned and refreshed from the conservationist’s studio, and ready for another couple of centuries.



On July 19, approximately 30 members of the Niagara British Car Club visited Ruthven for a mansion tour and to explore the grounds and the archaeological excavations.

LOWER GRAND RIVER LAND TRUST INC.

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Marilynn Havelka, CAO, Ruthven Park

Andrea Raymond, Education Coordinator

Linda Jackson, Office Coordinator

Robin Richardson, Cultural Maintenance Coordinator

Christine Madliger,

Stewardship Coordinator, Species at Risk

The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc.

c/o Ruthven Park National Historic Site

243 Haldimand Hwy #54, Box 610, Cayuga,

Ontario N0A 1E0 • 906.772.0560

email: ruthven.park@sympatico.ca

website: www.ruthvenpark.ca

THE LOWER GRAND RIVER LAND TRUST INC.

The LGRLT is a non-government, non-profit, charitable, community based organization.

The LGRLT has a mandate to protect land for its natural, cultural and agricultural values, as well as for education and research in its jurisdiction.

LOWER GRAND RIVER LAND TRUST INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____

Country: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Categories and Annual Fees

(Please check appropriate boxes)

Individual: \$24.00

Student: \$14.00

Family: \$30.00

Donation: \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Thank You for your Donation!

A tax receipt can be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Tax-deductible receipt required

Please make cheque payable to
The Lower Grand River Land Trust Inc.

FALL HOURS FOR RUTHVEN MANSION

The mansion is open for tours until October 13. Open Tuesday through Sunday and holiday Mondays from 11:00 am until 4:00 pm. Last tour at 4:00 pm. In addition, pre-booked tour groups can be booked at other times if required

THE PARK

The grounds are open daily during daylight hours for visitors who enjoy hiking, bird watching, picnicking or exploring.