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By William A. Warnick
180 Rosslyn Ave. South
HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5
Phone 905 549-6086 E-mail wwarnick@cogeco.ca
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Heritage Months give us Cause to Think - Big and Small!

February is the month we remember our past. For the life of me I do not know why we choose February! I hate winter and would just as soon stay home! It is also the month in which our black friends celebrate Black History month. This year the Dunnville District Heritage Association will again hold their annual history exhibit at the Dunnville Library. It will be on Saturday February 19th. Angela Files, a former history and English teacher from Brantford will attend this year to observe the tenth year of commemorating Black History. Though of white ancestry she became interested in Brantford black history. I suspect she soon realized in order to understand Brant County's black history it was necessary to study the big picture. Of course, this led her to examine the Underground Railroad and its effects on a number of Ontario counties. She has recently written a very interesting and easy to read book explaining how the black African slaves from the United States stealthily immigrated, and settled along the Grand River. In understandable language and good use of graphics she offers an overview of black history starting in the 1400s, taking us into the 1800s. I believe her display will be an especially worth while place to visit, and I know when talking with Angela you will find her a remarkably interesting person.

Sometimes it is easy to forget about people who are so well-known to us that we fail to give them credit for what they have accomplished for, and in our community. I have been meaning to write about Steve Powell for some time. As I have mentioned before, I find writing about people I knew or people who still have close family in the area very difficult. This is because I am not a reporter and do not have a reporter's instincts nor their objectivity. I knew Steve best as the father of one of my early girl friends. He played the role of *scare the blank-it-tee-blank, out of the boy friend* to a tee. I think he liked me because I gave back as much as I got! Steve was much more than a beau's father. He was a shipbuilder for shipbuilders. You cannot visit a port on Lake Erie nor many others of the Great Lakes without finding a tug, barge, fish-boat, or some other floating marine machine that Steve did not have a hand in building or refitting. I have had so many people say to me. "Write about Steve Powell!" Well not today; at least not the full story. But for you who are interested, here are but a few boats Steve built before he was taken from us at too early an age. They are; The Dollar Boat, Burton Dick, Ciscoette, Crosley Bros, Ella May, G. W. Jackson, Keenosay, Patricia P., Patricia June, Paula M., Peelee Island Ferry, Points Anna, Porky P., S & A, Waterman 2, Waterman 1.

The Festival of History; along with Mr. Francis and his staff at the Dunnville Secondary School, are working on an idea where students will be asked to do a history project using various mediums including photography, painting, and writing. It is hoped they will find historic buildings, people, and other items of interest to document. In respect to this project, this area has many fine old buildings and interesting people who built them. Some are more obvious than others. Just seeing these structures begs the questions; who, how, and why? The McCallum mansion on the Feeder Canal at Stromness comes to my mind. What has surprised me about Senator Lachlan McCallum's mansion is that other than those of us who grew up in Sherbrooke, and a few others raised only a few miles away even know where it is, let alone any of its history. Senator McCallum was elected to Canada's first parliament for the federal riding in Monk in 1867. I believe he was a rather kindly fellow, but I also suspect he was about as stubborn as an old mule, often finding himself in the middle of spicy political controversies. So little about this man has been written, yet he should be the subject of a book. The story should not only tell of his political and business interests,

it should speak to the man, his family, and his strong religious convictions. Maybe there is a university student studying history or political science who needs a subject for their thesis. Would it be appropriate to name Lachlan McCallum as Moulton and Sherbrooke's First Citizen of the 19th century?

Ever since the first Port Maitland, Festival of History, we have attempted to interest local, and not so local artists in preserving this area in art. In past articles I have briefly written about artists from the Bohemian Club of Buffalo, who each summer for more than twenty years brought students to Port Maitland to learn the art of sketching and painting. Each winter they would return to Buffalo where *(The Reform Press -)* "... they would hold their annual exhibition and issue a handsome hundred-page book, containing a catalogue of several hundred pictures, and list of members engraved business cards. In the catalogue we notice the following sketches pictured at Port Maitland, Burnham's Island, Byng, Dunnville and vicinities. The catalogued prices for these pictures range from a dozen dollars up to \$800. Mr. George Clarke, who was here last summer, now has a standing order from a large publishing firm in New York for all the sketches he desires to furnish. Among other pictures, contributed; *At the mouth of Sulphur Creek, The Mill at Dunnville, Cottage on the Beach at Port Maitland, High and Dry on Grand River, Sulphur Creek, Dip Net* If you have items, you wish to have written about or pictures you would be willing to lend me, please drop me a note. Let me know how you feel about these articles. William (Bill) Arthur Warnick 180 Rosslyn Ave. South HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5 e-mail wwarnick@cogeco.ca Phone 905 549-6086. *on the Gravel at Byng, Sketch of Dunnville, Sketch of Port Maitland, An Old Bridge, The Lock at Dunnville, On the Grand River, Sketch from the Hotel Veranda at Port Maitland, An Old Canadian Farm House and Log Cabin, Early Morning Sketch, On the Beach, Old Fish Houses.*" The shame of this, is today, few of these early representations are to be found!

Now to finish my story from another article found in the Dunnville Gazette. "A grizzly bear was seen on the canal bank on February 2, 1920 by Agent Thomas Kenney of the TH&B and after catching sight of his shadow, Old Griz was seen to slink back into his hole, which if signs do not fail means six weeks more of hard winter."