

CANADIAN
FRIENDS
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION

THE MEETINGHOUSE

Meeting in Print

Volume: 2010– 1

1st Month 2010

Inside this issue:

- CFHA Chairman's Message 1
- CYM Quaker Archives 2
- CFHA Historical Store 3
- Book News
- Union Is Strength
- Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Coldstream 4—5
- Beatrice Bridgen: A Radical 6
- Get to Know CFHA Executive Members 7
- Robynne Rogers Healey, Co-Editor of Canadian Quaker History
- CFHA 2010 AGM 8
- Coming Events
- Jane's Corner

Want More?

www.cfha.info

Editor: Barbara Horvath

CHAIRMAN's MESSAGE: CFHA INCORPORATION

Dear Members of CFHA Incorporated:

It is with pleasure we announce that, following our Annual General Meeting, the process of formal incorporation has been completed. We are now officially the Canadian Friends Historical Association Incorporated. With the completion of this process a new form of the Canadian Friends Historical Association has come into being!

At the same session the revised and updated Constitution and Bylaws were also approved, as was our budget for the current year. Responding to some concerns about the 2008 increase in membership fees, we approved the Treasurer's recommendation that student and senior membership fees be reduced by \$5, to \$20. This reduction went into effect immediately. Regular membership remains \$25. per year.

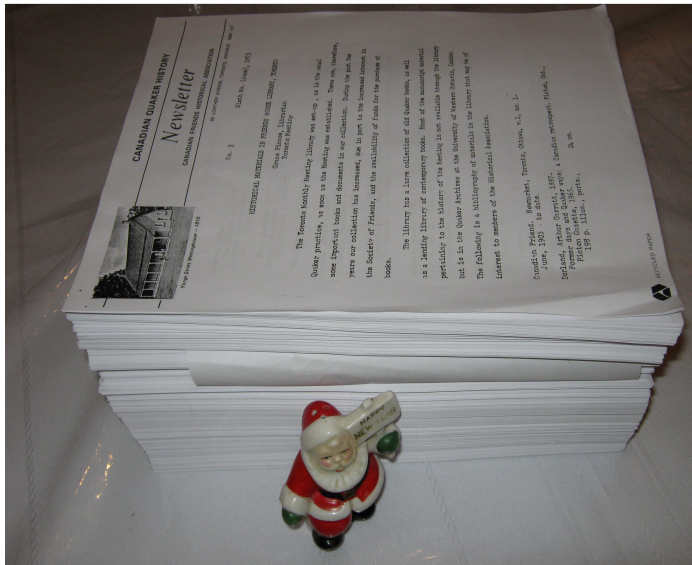
A special note of appreciation is due to our Treasurer, Andrew Cresswell, for his diligence and professionalism in completing the incorporation process and for preparing the draft revisions to the constitution and bylaws. Thanks to all who helped to organize and participated in our AGM, and to Pickering College for including CFHA in their 100th anniversary celebrations.

For those of you not able to attend the AGM, the draft minutes and reports are available from the CFHA Secretary (contact secretary@cfha.info).



INCORPORATION A WATERSHED—OUR VOLCANIC PAST

CFHA's incorporation marks something of a watershed; we now have the fundamentals in place to really get 'down to work'. In the past few weeks I have helped scan past CFHA Newsletters so they may be posted on our website. Even with some issues missing, the stack of copies of editions 1 to 54 measures approximately 16 cm (7 inches)



Gordon's stack of CFHA Newsletters

Photo: Gordon Thompson

Canadian Yearly Meeting (CYM) Quaker Archives

CYM has formed a Working Group to consider: how CYM can continue to support the ongoing collection and preservation of Canadian Quaker records and materials, what role technology should play in both preservation and ensuring accessibility, and how the many tasks can be effectively shared among committee members, volunteers and the archivist. The Working Group will report to CYM in August 2010. Barbara Horvath is convening the Working Group, which will collaborate with the CYM Records Committee. Interested persons can contact Barbara at barbara.horvath@sympatico.ca

Renew your CFHA Membership

If you haven't already done so, please renew your CFHA membership. Continue to be informed and updated as we build upon our Quaker knowledge and legacy.

The membership form is available at CFHA's website:
<http://www.cfha.info/membership.html>

Renew at a rate of \$25 per year, \$20 for seniors or students. Or, receive a life membership for \$250.00.

Canadian Friends Historical Association was founded in 1972 with the aim of preserving and making known the religious, cultural, social and pioneer heritage of Quakers from their first settlement in Canada until today.

CFHA is open to all who share an interest in Canadian Quaker History. Membership fees support the activities of CFHA and help maintain CFHA's website.

Chairman's Message cont.

high and contains an astounding 1300+ pages. This is an impressive visual in itself, but what is truly remarkable is that almost all of these pages are PACKED with useful references, sources, directories and reports. Today's efforts truly build upon a broad and solid foundation; one feels deep respect and gratitude for the almost volcanic energy of earlier CFHA members and directors.

Building on that foundation requires a broad understanding of the work already performed. This is where YOU come in—as participants and contributors in our combined quest for better understanding of our Canadian Quaker history and legacy.

To assist all of our members and interested members of the public to engage in this sharing, we will make available in the coming months all the contents of Newsletter and Journal back issues up to the last 10 years on our website, cfha@info.ca, under the "Publications" tab. Explore these back copies and enjoy the rich intellectual and spiritual stimulation these pages contain. Respond to the information you discover; share with us your questions, comments and any additional knowledge which you alone may be able to contribute to our collective appreciation.

Gordon Thompson, Chairperson CFHA

Norman Jolly Honoured at CFHA Annual General Meeting

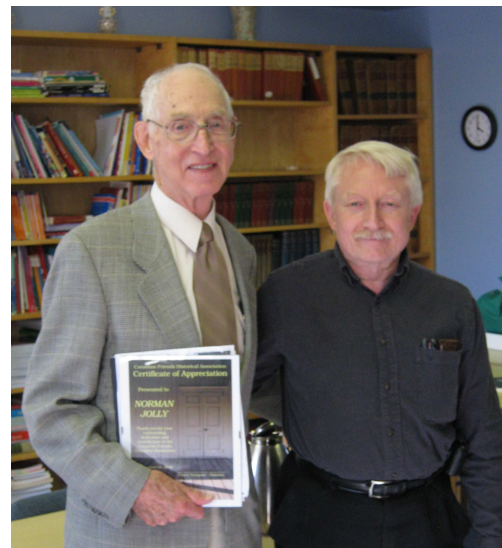


Photo: Andrew Cresswell

At September's AGM, Norman Jolly was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his many years of active support of CFHA. Many, many thanks to Norman!!

Canadian Friends Historical Store The CFHA Storefront is finally open!

Missing a certain issue of The Journal?
Have yet to get your hands on Timothy Rogers' Journal?
Can't wait any longer for the new CFHA E-Journal compilation CD?

Come in - we have what you are looking for!

Special promotion - print copies of past editions of The Journal are now \$5 (plus postage). Currently we have in stock:

#64 - Underground Railroad, William Allan, and The Dorlands

#68 - Jails and Justice Special Issue

#69 - Uxbridge Heritage Double Issue

#71 - Quaker Whalers, Quakers and their Textiles, and Job Hughes

#72 - Friends Peace Testimony

Monograph Series #2 - The Journal of Timothy Rogers - \$15 (plus postage)

E-Journal - The Canadian Quaker History Journal 1998-2007 - \$10 (plus postage)

Check back as we add new items to the CFHA Storefront! All of your purchases support the Canadian Friends Historical Association. To make a purchase, contact Ruth Jeffery-Maclean via email at secretary@cfha.info or Gordon Thompson at 905-471-9528.



"Union Is Strength": W.L. Mackenzie, the Children of Peace, and the Emergence of Joint Stock Democracy in Upper Canada

Albert Schrauwers
University of Toronto Press ©

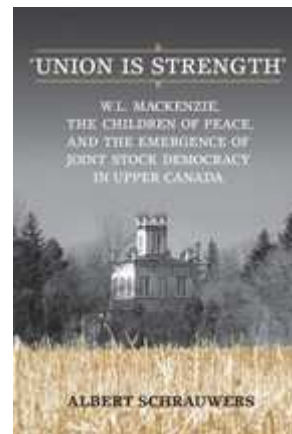
Nineteenth-century Canada experienced two other revolutions apart from those of W.L. Mackenzie and Louis Riel: the transition to capitalism, and to responsible government.

"*Union Is Strength*" argues that these major socio-political changes happened in Ontario without a revolutionary moment because of the intertwined relationship of reformers with capitalists. Examining a small, utopian socialist group, the Children of Peace, Schrauwers traces the emergence of a vibrant democratic culture in the province from the decade before the Rebellions of 1837.

Schrauwers shows how the overlapping boards of unincorporated joint stock companies managed by both Toronto reformers and the Children of Peace produced a culture of deliberative democracy in competition with the "gentlemanly capitalism" of chartered corporations. "*Union Is Strength*" is an insightful study of both nineteenth century Canada and the ways in which regional political cultures arise.

Available from U of T Press:

<http://www.utppublishing.com/pubstore/merchant.ihmtl?pid=10367&lastcatid=130&step=4>



EMMA FIELD, Vol. II, by Carol Williams was launched in Ottawa on Oct. 6th, 2009. This continuation of Emma's story presents her involvement with the abolition movement and the underground railroad while teaching at Nine Partners Friends School on the Hudson River, in New York. The novel depicts the changes underway in larger society and the influence Friends have on those changes, as part of their life experiences.

Emma Field, Vol. I gives a picture of a pioneer Quaker family in the mid- 1800s on a farm on the shores of Lake Ontario. The novel is available from Quaker Book Service, www.quaker.ca/qbs.

Carol Williams is already at work on Volume III continuing one woman's story to depict the emergence of women impacting modern history.

Celebration of the 150th anniversary of Coldstream Meetinghouse.

From remarks by George Webb, September 27, 2009

Today we are celebrating the Meetinghouse and the efforts that have been made in the past but we are reminded of the spiritual awareness that underlies the physical manifestations of what is around us.

The first Indulged Meeting of Friends in Coldstream was held in 1849 in the home of David and Susan Zavitz and later meetings were in the home of Benjamin Cutler.

In 1850 a small frame Meetinghouse was built and was later replaced in 1859 by the present building. The original land was donated by John Marsh and Benjamin Cutler and was increased to the present two acres by a donation in 1887 by Caroline Cutler after the death of her husband David. Contributors to the building fund were Pine St. Meeting, Yarmouth Meeting, Malahide Meeting, and Lobo Meeting. The original cost of this building was \$700. The dimensions are 32'x50' = 1600 sq. ft. The brick came from the brickyard in Poplar Hill. People who helped build the Meetinghouse include the names of Rutherford, McLean, Cutler, Marsh, Hill, Zavitz, and Cornell.

The structure of the Meetinghouse is brick three courses thick. The roof supports and supports for the centre partition are post and beam using notched joints for support. Under the carpet is a wooden floor of wide pine boards.

The form of the Meetinghouse is a traditional Quaker style having two sides with a partition that could be raised and lowered. Meeting for worship was always joint but the partition allowed the men and the women to have separate business meetings. The partition was raised when matters of common interest were discussed.

The mechanism for raising the partition is in the attic. Two sets of wooden pulleys are connected to a box filled with stone and mortar. It is easier to raise it with two people,



Partition Mechanism

Photo: George Webb



Coldstream Meetinghouse

Photo: Pat Moauro

but if necessary one person can raise and lower the partition.

The Meetinghouse in Sparta is a similar design. About 28 years ago the ropes broke. The weights fell and damaged the ceiling. Fortunately no one was hurt. It was not long before Chester Brown, who at the time would have been in his late 70s, went up in the Coldstream Meetinghouse attic and changed the ropes on our pulleys for braided cable.

The Meetinghouse was originally heated with wood stoves. The heating was changed to oil, then propane and now natural gas.

After returning to the area when they retired, Lew and Margery Muma took a special interest in maintenance of the Meetinghouse. Lew did the electrical and plumbing repairs. Margery took it upon herself to make our life more comfortable by making the original cushions that are on some of the benches. Recently, the foam has been replaced and the fabric turned inside out to give us the increased comfort we enjoy now.

For several years, Evert Kobes was the caretaker of the meetinghouse. He was a painter by trade and would often refresh the paint. You may notice that the upper partition on the south side has boards painted different shades. The colours and number of boards of each colour was done to represent various statistics with regard to the Meeting and the Bible.

Regular maintenance of the Meetinghouse and grounds is now provided by Sandy and Oliver Muma. Members of the Meeting also take an active part in its

upkeep, doing what we can with workbees using our own skills and contracting out when we were not able to do the work ourselves.

The Porch as it is today, is deeper than the original and the posts were then closer to the edge of the porch. The posts in the middle are worn at the bottom. When the carriages would come in the lane they would come up to the porch. There was a set of wooden steps where the women would step down. The wear on the post is from the whippletrees, the wooden part of the harness hanging in front of the horse, would bang into the post. Some of the windows at the front of the Meetinghouse have the muntin bars chewed. This was from a horse that found itself trapped and was trying to get out.



The Porch

Photo: Pat Moauro

Much of the glass is original and has the wavy patterns typical of the technology of the day. In the summer the sun shining through the windows makes a fascinating pattern on the wall in the front corner.

A carpet now covers the original Pine floor. The carpet was a gift from Florence and Chester Brown. When they approached the meeting about donating a carpet, they wanted to make sure that all Friends had a chance to express their opinions. Quaker decision-making depends on clarity of the members to move forward; if someone objects, more consideration is given. It is possible for a member to not be completely sure but not willing to object. When the idea of the carpet came to the meeting to a person we said "I really like the pine floor but would not stand in the way of this decision." And so we have a carpet which, as the parent of small children at the time, I appreciated how it muffled the sound of their feet.

In the early part of the last Century the Meeting hosted Genesee Yearly meeting several times. This was a gathering of 70 - 100 Friends coming from as far away as upper New York State. Picked up by carriage from the train in Komoka, they would be billeted in the homes of nearby

Friends, with the children sleeping in the hayloft. Sometimes people attending the meeting would return to member homes for meals. Some years meals would be provided at the Meetinghouse.

Originally there were horse sheds that extended from the meetinghouse back to the cemetery.

These were removed, as horses were no longer used. The last remnant, used as a wood shed, was removed in 1969. When the township offices were torn down for new buildings, the north side of the Meetinghouse was used as the Municipal library for several months - a very cold winter for Mary Higgs, the librarian.

Today our primary use of the Meetinghouse is to have regular Meeting for worship each Sunday morning. At different times over the years it has been used for different functions as need arose. Occasionally local organisations use the meeting space.

When the organizing committee for this celebration of 150 years considered how we might feature the building, they realised it is a good place to listen to music and that a concert might be a very appropriate way to enjoy the Meetinghouse. At the time this building was built, Quakers were not always easy with music. They were just beginning to appreciate the contribution it makes to the fabric of our lives. But we were very pleased when Jenny and Ron Nauta readily agreed to perform.

As we go about our daily business we are sometimes challenged to maintain our focus on a right relationship with God, our Friends and Family around us. The Meetinghouse is a quiet place that carries with it the spiritual energy of those who have gone before and it allows the space and fellowship to rest, refocus and recharge our own spiritual journey. When you talk to people about their memories of the past it is usually those moments of human and spiritual contact that helped lift them that they talk about.



Photo: Pat Moauro

Beatrice Brigden – A Radical Quaker?

Andrew Cresswell

As any teacher will tell you, our summers are precious. I had the opportunity this past summer to drive out to Alberta with my sister and nephew. During our return trip, I arranged to get some time away to explore the Manitoba provincial museum in Winnipeg.

A special collection was on display of artifacts related to the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919. The general strike lasted for 37 days, ending in a clash between the strikers and the Royal North-West Mounted Police in Market Square. On June 21, known as Bloody Saturday, thousands were charged by the Mounted Police, and shots were fired – in the end one man was killed, over 30 were severely wounded, and hundreds were arrested.

As I wandered among the display cases and grainy black and white photographs, my eyes caught a glimpse of a solitary black bonnet – a Quaker bonnet. The description stated:

This bonnet belonged to a family member of Beatrice Brigden. It is possible that she kept it because she believed in the Quaker belief in peaceful activism. While living in Deloraine, Manitoba, Brigden became active



Photo: Andrew Cresswell

in the Methodist Church and its program of social reconstruction, which called for the dismantling of the capitalist system and its replacement with a new co-operative social order. Brigden became a strong advocate of social justice. She worked with noted strike leader Helen Armstrong and the Women's Labour League to support the strikers in 1919. She became an important leader in the Independent Labour Party, and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), predecessor of the New Democratic Party (NDP).

On my return, I did a bit more research into this fascinating woman. Beatrice Brigden was born in Belleville, Ontario on January 30, 1888 and moved with her family to Manitoba a year later. Her mother was of Quaker stock, but the family became associated with Methodism as a result of the influence of J.S. Woodsworth, a circuit preacher around the Deloraine, Manitoba area. Beatrice studied at Albert College in Belleville, Brandon College in Manitoba and graduated in 1912 from the Royal Conservatory in Toronto, with a degree in psychology and vocal expression.

Her connection to Methodism and the Social Gospel movement led her to dedicate her life to a variety of causes, mostly advocating the rights of women and children. Continuing her work on social and political issues through the CCF, she ran, unsuccessfully, in both provincial and federal elections. Undeterred, she focused on human rights work in the province, and advocacy for women at the federal level. She helped found the first Native and Métis Friendship Center in 1958, and was awarded an honorary degree from Brandon University in 1973.

Beatrice Brigden died in 1977.

Beatrice's biographer, Valerie Regehr, noted that her religious ideals remained unchanged, while the institutions in which she practiced religion did. In fact, Beatrice returned to Quakers, the faith of her mother, after World War Two.

She was fond of saying that "Jesus kindled a light and we have been following that gleam ever since."



Photo: Manitoba Archives



Yonge Street Meeting House

We need your help! To bring a more national focus to our work, we are looking for quality photos of meeting houses, Friends, burying grounds, etc. from any era that can be used on our website, newsletters and Journal. Digital images are preferred, or you can contact us to arrange to get a digital image made from a print.

Please email images to andrew.cresswell@peelsb.com. Include as much information as you can about the image. Every image will be properly referenced. Please note that by sending us an image you are also giving CFHA permission to reproduce the image. Watch for your images in upcoming CFHA publications!

Get to know CFHA Executive Members

In the next few issues of The Meetinghouse, we will include profiles of the members of the Executive Committee, those individuals who ensure that CFHA is an active, vibrant and viable organization.

Robynne Rogers Healey, Co-Editor, Canadian Quaker History Journal

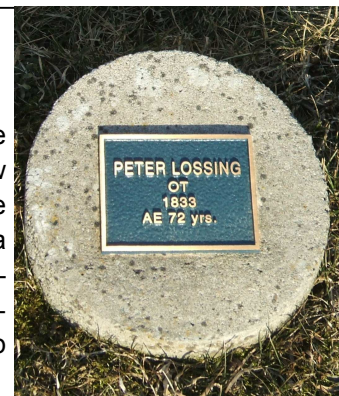
Robynne Rogers Healey, PhD is associate professor of history at Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia. At TWU she holds a number of positions: chair of the Department of Geography, History, Political and International Studies; History stream coordinator in the Masters in Interdisciplinary Humanities program; and co-director of the Gender Studies Institute.

She is the author of *From Quaker to Upper Canadian: Faith and Community among Yonge Street Friends, 1801 - 1850* (2006) and a number of articles on Quakers in Canada and the Atlantic world. Her current areas of research include Quakers in the Atlantic World and Quakers and peace. In addition to her membership in CFHA, she holds memberships in the Friends Historical Association, the Canadian Historical Association, the Quaker Studies Association, the Canadian Society of Church History, and the Canadian Committee on Women's History.

Robynne lives in Columbia Valley, British Columbia (one of the prettiest places on earth) with her husband and youngest daughter, a number of dogs and cats, and a growing herd of horses. When she is not teaching, doing research or committee work, she can be found with her horses, reading, or doing volunteer work in her community.

The Mystery of OT.....

In the previous issue of The Meetinghouse, Andrew Cresswell asked about the meaning of "OT" found on a grave marker for Peter Lossing in Norwich. Jane Zavitz-Bond sent us some follow-up information.



There were three Lossing family stones with OT inscribed. They were a bit 'fancier' than the others in the old Quaker Street Cemetery one mile north of Norwich. It is thought these stones were added a bit later, reflecting the family's improved circumstances and a bit of 'status' in the local community. Marie Avey instigated the castings. They were placed near the original stones.

'OT' was the short form for 'Obitus Tempus' (time of death), according to one who worked with the casts at the Tilsonburg firm. The Lossing family collected funds for bronze replicas of the inscriptions before the original stones became unreadable (limestone weathers faster than granite). OT was not usually found in Quaker burying grounds.

Canadian Quaker Built Heritage

CFHA welcomes Donna Moore's offer to assist in the documentation of Quaker built heritage. A goal of CFHA is the completion of a registry of Quaker edifices which survive or once existed. Progress was achieved in the 1980's and a volunteer participant survey form developed. Donna's experience working on the preservation of the Moore House in Sparta will be very valuable in taking up this initiative.

Canadian Quaker History Journal: Style Guide

Contributors should send their paper to the editors in electronic form, preferably as an attached file (MS-Word or Wordperfect in either PC or Macintosh format). Clearly specify the version of Word or WordPerfect.

Contributions should be sent to both Robynne Healey (robynne.healey@twu.ca) and Albert Schrauwers (schrauwe@yorku.ca).

CFHA conforms to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed., and Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. Spelling outside of quoted material should conform to the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary* (2004).

The Call for Papers and complete Style Guide are posted on the CFHA website, www.cfha.info

Mark your calendars now: Saturday, September 25, 2010 2010 CFHA Annual General Meeting and Conference: The Quakers of Norwich Township

Join members of the Canadian Friends Historical Association for the 2010 Annual General Meeting and Conference in the heart of Southern Ontario. Hosted by the South Norwich Historical Society at Woodlawn Place on the grounds of the former Pine Street Meeting House in the village of Otterville, CFHA will explore the faith, fellowship and fragmentation of Friends. The popular bus tour is being planned too! More information will be available in the next edition of The Meetinghouse.

Gordon adds:

While scanning in old CFHA newsletters I came across information concerning the next life of this fine meetinghouse: it was sold to a person (who is named in the article) moved THREE miles—so we have a search radius to look for it—converted to a tool shed and painted bright red. All of this in 1905—it may not be bright red any more if indeed it still stands. It would be great to find it and include it on the bus tour.



Coming Events:

February 20, 2010 Newmarket Heritage Day

CFHA is pleased to participate in the 2nd Newmarket Heritage Day, organized by the Elman Campbell Museum. The program at the Community Centre includes heritage cookery, quilting, re-enactors, displays about Newmarket history, and dancers from Nin Os Kom Tin. Drop by the CFHA table to purchase some back issues of the Journal (Discounted!) or CDs etc from the CFHA Historical Store. Yonge Street Meeting is also participating.

June 25—27, 2010 Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists

This 18th biennial conference is held at Wilmington College, Ohio. For updates on the program and registration information, go to:

http://www.guilford.edu/about_guilford/services_and_administration/library/fhc/cqha/2010.html

Jane's Corner

Judy Wellman let me know the Farmington Meetinghouse has been listed as an historic landmark and will be preserved on a new site. Financial support is needed. This is of particular interest to Canadian Quakers because Farmington was the home meeting of Sunderland P. Gardner, a Genesee YM minister who traveled to many Friends Meetings in Canada. His memoirs (1895) are a valuable resource for his descriptions of the many Meetings he visited and the Friends he met and stayed with. The copy in the family library at Locust Grove had a receipt tucked inside for the wood shingle roof for the present meeting house when it was built in 1865. Samuel Haight paid the \$325 as a gift to the meeting. *****

Origins of the term, "Quaker": John Hobart, in *Quaker by Conviction*, writes: "The Religious Society of Friends owes to Gervase Bennett a debt of great magnitude. He was a 17th Century English JP...credited with being the first to refer to George Fox and his companions as "Quakers." Applied scornfully as a term of derision, the term has become one of respect, and forerunner of the word, "Quakerism," as a name for that way of life in which Friends interpret their religious beliefs." The name, "Religious Society of Friends," seems to have first been used in the New York YM (Orthodox) Discipline, published in 1836, their first Discipline after the Separation. *****

The CYM Archives welcomes 'old' Quaker books, which current owners may no longer want or have space for. Some may be valuable as rare resources, but other discarded books will be more significant in the future as fewer surviving volumes take on greater value.

The Meetinghouse is published three times annually
Submissions to The Meetinghouse should be submitted
By Email: newsletter@cfha.info
By post: Canadian Friends Historical Association
PO Box 21527 Newmarket, ON L3Y 4Z0
Ph: 905-471-9528 Website: www.cfha.info