



Over The Bridge & Through The Woods

The Work Goes On

We have been working hard over the last nine months. We've received the very extensive report from Tom Murison, and have now applied for incorporation as a non profit organization. Working with Guelph University School of Scottish Studies, we are collecting stories from former owners and tenants, of the farm site and surrounding lands. We have contacted and received support from all the farm families that were at Fallbrook. In the next week or two we will be requesting your participation. Please consider what you can do as a **Friend of Fallbrook** to help out. No offer is too small, and as we all know, many hands make light work.

Out of The Meetings ...

We attended a meeting with Heritage Halton Hills (HHH) and representatives of Halton Hills Municipal Council (HH), at which Tom presented his report. On the basis of this information, we requested that both parties review our request for Heritage designation of the Fallbrook site. The

Council asked for time to review the report, and asked us to appear at the June 23rd council meeting. Later, due to a long agenda, we were put over to July 14th meeting. We felt that the report and power point presentation was very positively received, and that our request for designation

would be approved, but at the meeting it was another story. Again the question of money, and a business plan and fundraising were the topics that were first and foremost on the table, not the historical value of the site. The question raised

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House Investigation

Since our meeting at Limehouse in the spring, the steering committee has been working hard to try to protect the Fallbrook farm from demolition. Now, summer is nearly over, and many events have occurred in our quest to preserve the site of Fallbrook Farm. After our April meeting, Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC) agreed to secure the house, which they did. Tom Murison, a well known restoration consultant undertook to do an **Historical Investigation Report** of the site. His findings are comprehensive and run to 41 pages, including many pictures. He looked at the farm house, from the perspectives of the techniques and the materials that were used in its construction, and the surrounding landscape. He also investigated the stone structures that had been variously identified. Together with the land registry records, and through the use of **dendrochronology**, he was able to demonstrate the story of the log cabin, from the time when William McClure purchased the property from the Canada Company, in 1855. It was to this cabin that the Scottish emigrants, Donald McKay and his wife Jessie, and young son William came in 1877.

Dendrochronology:

The technique of dating a tree or log using the pattern formed by the annual growth rings revealed by taking a core sample, or slab with the bark attached. Thus the date the wood was cut can be extrapolated. Tom is experienced and a respected expert in this field. Article Toronto Star, dated May 30/2008.

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You Are Important to Us

You are one of more than a hundred and fifty people who have shown their interest in this project as “Friends of Fallbrook”. The list is growing, and it is completely confidential and only accessible to members of the Board of Directors. It is used solely for a means for distribution of information, e.g. this newsletter. Such show of support helps us as we seek acceptance from the various authorities we deal with. We ask you to encourage your friends and relatives to join us too. Your continuing support is a great morale booster for our team.

Meetings ...

(Continued from page 1, Out of The Meetings...)

by one of the HH councilors, as to whether or not financial responsibility had anything to do with the historical/heritage value of the property deemed necessary for designation, was never answered! There was no representation from HHH to speak to this. Fortunately, one councilor proposed that our case be deferred for four months, by which time we were told that we had to have a business plan and fundraising in place. Anyone able to help us in preparing this business plan will be warmly received. We appear again at the November council meeting. In the interim, we are approaching Ontario Ministry of Culture in quest of Provincial designation. We will also be undertaking incorporation as a non profit organization. These two items should give us the tools to access Foundations for funding e.g. Trillium Trust Fund. Without designation, this site and its history are in jeopardy.

Continued Investigations

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From then on, the property was a homestead, until it was taken over by CVC in 1973. It continued to be inhabited by tenants, until 2001.

Tom noted that the cabin was constructed using sawn logs that were cut in the winter of 1855 (see below), and probably built the following spring/summer. The McClure family owned the property, and it is believed that they used it as a wood lot. The cabin was possibly used as the miller's house. The fact that Tom's examination of the logs showed them to be sawn rather than hewn, led him to investigate the area, particularly the stone structures that were in the neighbourhood.



He was able to locate the remains of two mills, one a saw mill, the other a grist mill, a dam and slipway, and a beautiful stone bridge, similar in size and construction to those he had seen in Scotland. He was also able to identify a previously excavated and recorded Late Woodland Indian site, with a longhouse and accompanying out buildings. He detailed the renovations that the McKays did to the cabin/house as the family grew. Many features are consistent with those that characterized Scottish buildings of the day. This site shows signs of human habitation for over 500 years. While the Native site has been excavated and documented, there is a need to excavate the areas where Tom has calculated the saw and grist mills were located.

FRIENDS OF FALLBROOK

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www.electricscotland.com/history/canada/fallingbrook.htm

We Really do Need Your Help...

We need media contacts. We need you to write to Mayor Bonnette, your MP, and MPP, to the Minister of Culture, to the Toronto Star, Globe & Mail and National Post. Call your local Cable TV station and ask what they are doing to bring this story to the community.

