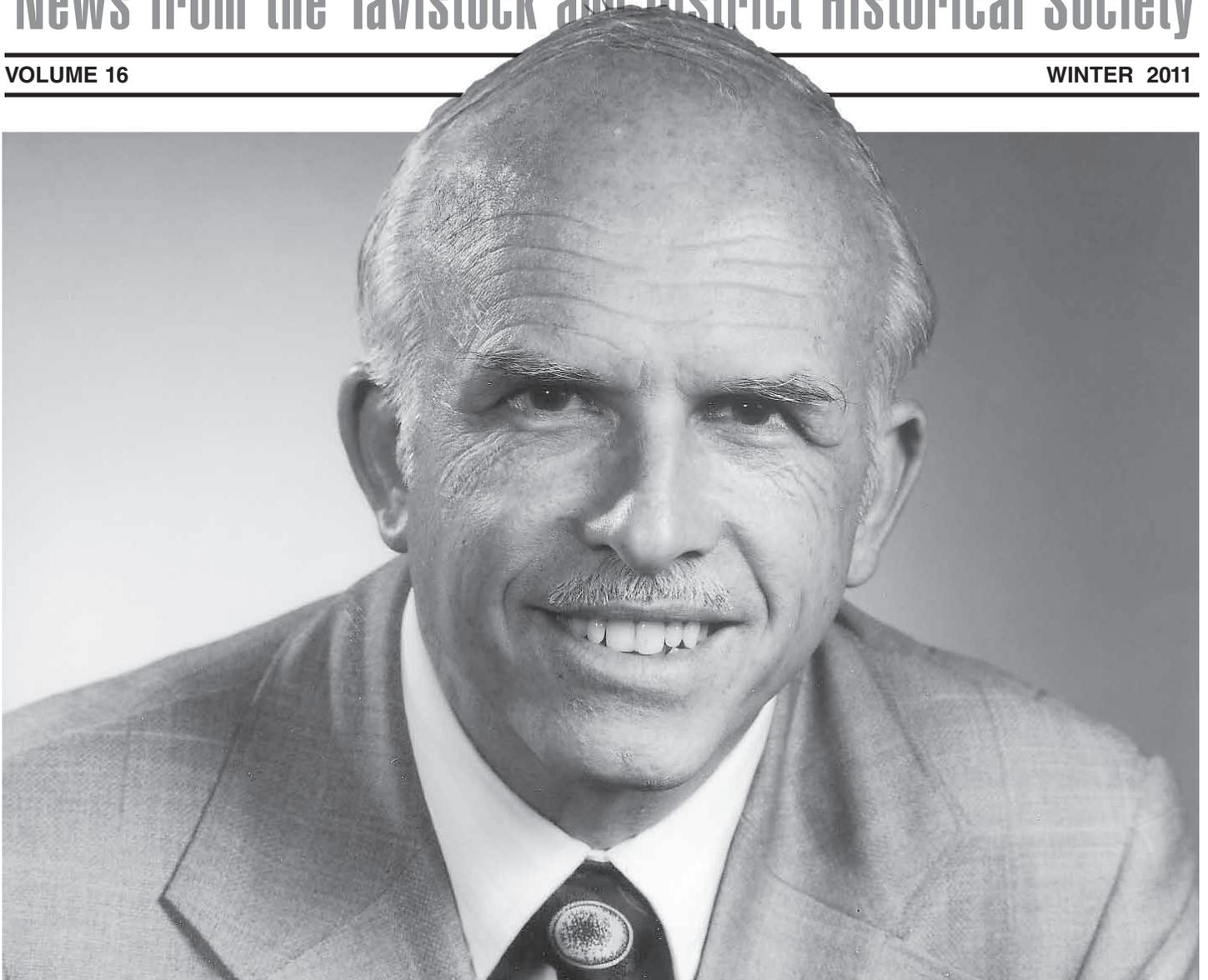


# YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

VOLUME 16

WINTER 2011



**DR. BRUCE HALLIDAY ~ 1926-2011**

Founding member of the Tavistock and District Museum and Archives Committee

**Tavistock & District  
Historical Society**

**Executive:**  
Secretary – Mary Nicklas  
Treasurer – Bob Rudy

**Directors:**  
Paul Bartlett  
Brian Bennett  
Roy Erb  
Bill Gladding  
Joyce Hill  
Barb Matthies  
Ed Pellow  
Shirley Wagler  
Tim Whitlock

Tim Mosher

**Founding Board Member:**  
Dr. Bruce Halliday\*

**Tavistock  
& District  
Historical  
Society**

37 Maria Street,  
Box 280,  
Tavistock, Ontario,  
Canada N0B 2R0

**MUSEUM  
HOURS:**

*Saturdays  
10am-12 noon*

*Other times  
by appointment:  
call 519-655-9915*

**SUPPORT THE  
WORK OF THE  
MUSEUM/ARCHIVES**  
Annual membership  
\$10.00 per annum

**■ BITS AND PIECES**

# Home Children update

Mary Nicklas has been compiling a list of British Home Children who lived in Tavistock or who were connected to families in the area. Their personal histories are also being included in a book that, when completed, will be available at the Archives. At right is a current list of those children who have been documented.

**TAVISTOCK'S  
HOME CHILDREN**

- Percy Alexander
- Amy Birch
- Mabel Birch
- George Bryant
- Alfred Cavey
- Edwin Chapman
- Frank Checketts
- John J. E. Dewberry
- Percy W. Dewberry
- Arthur W. George
- John Godden
- Percy Kendrick
- Louisa (Green) Mansz
- George Medhurst
- Stanley O. Melbourne
- Charles O'Dell
- Frank Parkhouse
- Herbert Patient
- Jim Pidioux
- James W. Powley
- Walter Raybould
- Julia Samuels
- Frederick C. E. Stevens
- Ernest Tallman
- Percy Thurgood
- Arthur E. Warwick
- James Watt
- Frederick S. Weston
- Herbert S. Weston
- Thomas Wharf
- Arthur G. Wiffen
- Ralph H. Wiffen
- Bill Woodfine
- Harry Wright

# Recent donations

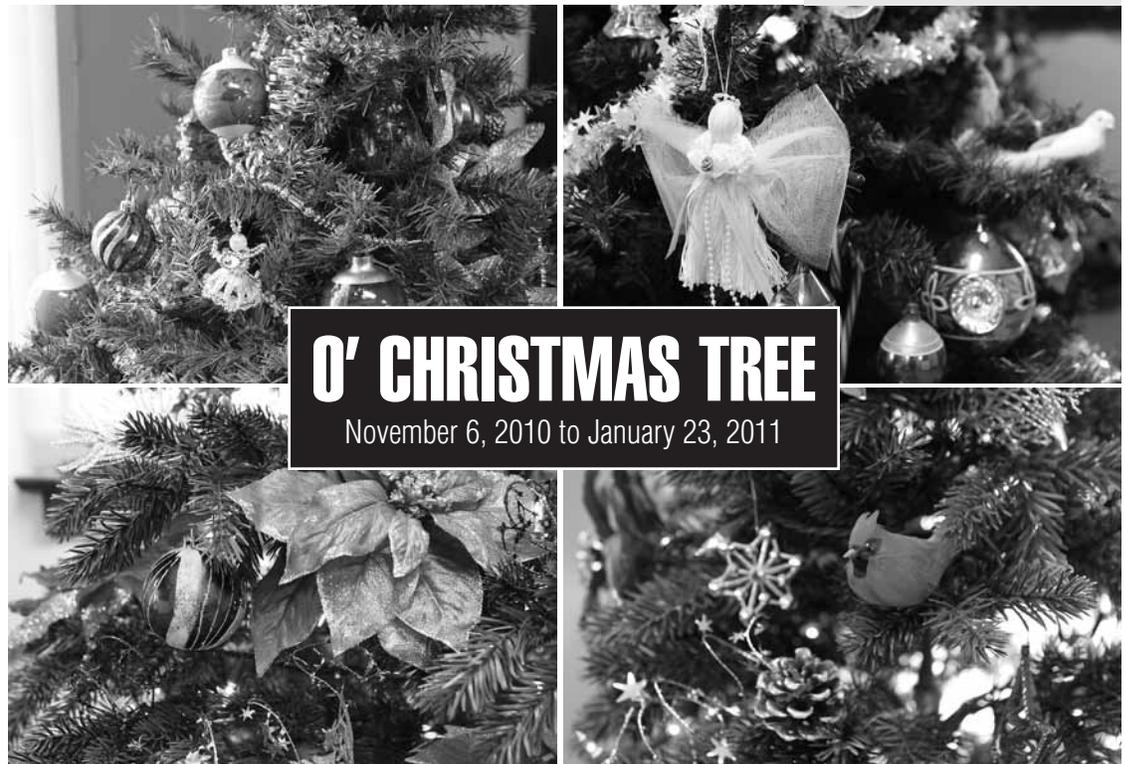
Several items relating to the Frieda Merklinger family have been donated. A 1940's rocking chair formerly owned by the late Stan and Alda Reibling has also been accepted into the collection as well as a hand-painted axe and hand saw from Harvey McKay, Woodstock.

# Digitizing the Gazette

Twenty-nine reels of microfilm from the Tavistock Gazette, including editions from September 1895 to December 1986, have been sent to MES Hybrid Document Systems in Markham, Ontario to be scanned and digitized. The entire collection will be made into searchable pdf documents and available at the Museum/Archives later in 2011.

# Web site

Board members will soon be establishing a web site for the Museum and Archives located at: [www.tavistockhistory.ca](http://www.tavistockhistory.ca)



**O' CHRISTMAS TREE**  
November 6, 2010 to January 23, 2011

# Did you know?

The Carnegie Library was sold in October 2010 to Dave and Kim Piggott of Plattsville, the same couple who renovated the Oxford Hotel. The library has already been gutted to begin another commercial/residential project.

**MUSEUM CALENDAR:**

Check your attics, scour your basements and plan to participate in the 2011 lineup. If you have a theme you would like to see implemented, please contact any of the Society directors.

# Vintage tea services in Quehl's Atrium

Quehl's Restaurant displays tea pots, cups, saucers and early photographs.



Displays will feature items related to the theme loaned by people in the community as well as artifacts from the Historical Society's permanent collection of Tavistock and area memorabilia.

**2010** - Year of the British Home Child

**Nov. 6 – Jan. 23, 2011**  
"O Christmas Tree"

**Annual General Meeting**  
**March 26, 2011**  
Tavistock Men's Club Hall - 1:00 p.m.  
(Doors open 12-4 pm)

**Beginning April 2**  
**From type to bytes:**  
Tavistock Gazette printing equipment and memorabilia

*Quehl's Restaurant has once again allowed the Tavistock and District Historical Society to display some interesting artifacts in their atrium, located in the main hall of the entrance. A stunning collection of photographs of local women in beautiful, period dresses and hats from the turn of the century are featured in large prints from The Lemp Studio Collection. An interesting arrangement of tea pots, cups and saucers are also on display, including colourful and whimsical collectible patterns and tea cups.*

Courtesy of Mrs. Barbara Matthies of Tavistock, several pristine examples of the Miss Priss Kitty and Blue Bird patterns created by the George Z. Lefton Company in the 1950s and 1960s, are on display.

According to the Collector's Encyclopedia of Lefton China published in 1999, Mr. Lefton was a Hungarian immigrant who arrived in Chicago, US in 1939. Although his background was in marketing and designing specialty clothing, he had a passion for collecting fine porcelain. The Lefton Company was founded in 1941.

Mr. Lefton travelled to Japan in 1945 to seal an importing agreement and the first Lefton China product marked "Made in Occupied Japan" reached the United States in 1946.

Probably the most colourful and collectible pattern is the Blue Bird. They are the cutest birds and one of the most sought after figural patterns Lefton came out with. They have flowers in their hair and the girls have a red bow while the boys have black bow ties. The 1950s pieces have a green marking on the bottom. Lefton made just

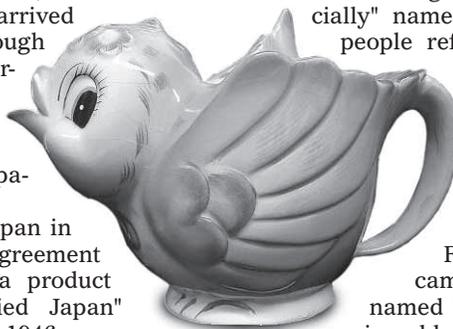
about everything in this pattern - a child's dinner set, tea pot, cookie jar, salt & pepper, sugar, creamer, pitcher, jam jar, butter dish, egg cup, tea bag holders, planters, and even wall plaques.

Lefton, Enesco, and Royal Sealy made a kitty condiment line of kitchen accessories back in the 60's. Although Lefton is the only one that "officially" named their line "Miss Priss", most people refer to all three manufacturer's kitty line as Miss Priss Kitty. Enesco actually named their line Winkin' Kitty.

Other patterns produced by Lefton included Toodles Maltese Dog modelled after the Maltese Shih Tzu/Lhasa Apso.

From the Lefton 1964 catalogue came the Cissy Cabbage Cutie set named because each item was covered in cabbage leaves. Even Cissy Cabbage has a bonnet made of cabbage leaves.

An interesting, large elephant teapot from the collection of Shirley Wagler and monthly flowered tea cups and saucers from Sherrill Calder also pay tribute to the great number of collectible vintage and antique china sets that can be found in homes around the village.



# Dr. Bruce Halliday

DOCTOR, POLITICIAN, FAMILY MAN, FRIEND ~ June 18, 1926 - January 1, 2011



*Above, an article that appeared in the Toronto Star Weekly magazine in 1966 which tells about the "crack medical team" of which Dr. Halliday was a founding partner in 1952.*

Dr. Bruce Halliday, MP, 84, of Tavistock, passed away peacefully at his residence with family by his side on Saturday, January 1, 2011.

He was born at Woodstock on June 18, 1926, a son of the late Rev. Clarence and Edith (Phillips) Halliday.

Bruce spent his whole life improving the well being of people whether they were his patients, his constituents or his friends. He worked tirelessly on behalf of people with disabilities.

Throughout his lifetime he was a member of many organizations, committees and received many honours for his contributions. To name a few ... he was a Founding Partner of the Tavistock Family Health Centre in 1952; a Past President of the Ontario Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1967; a Past President of the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1972; he was named "Family Physician of the Year" by the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1975; a Past Chairman of the Tavistock Public School Board and the Oxford County Board of Education; a member and Past President of the Rotary Club of Tavistock and was made a "Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow" by the five Rotary Clubs of Oxford County in 1982; a member of the Tavistock and District Museum and Archives Committee; served Oxford Riding as member of the House of Commons from 1974-1993; he was presented the Distinguished Service Award by the Former Parliamentarians Association in 2004; received an award from the Speaker of the House of Commons in Recognition of Parliamentary Leadership on Disability Issues.

Bruce was predeceased by his first wife, the former Janet McGhie on February 18, 1983.

He is survived by his second wife, the former Elizabeth Alice Vander Spek, whom he married on April 18, 1984; three children, Kathryn and husband Dan Cressman of

Plattsville, Mark Halliday and Andrea Halliday, both of Tavistock; one granddaughter, Lydia Cressman; one brother, Dr. Ian and wife Norma Halliday of Ottawa; his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Cornelius and Alice Vander Spek of R.R. #2, Tavistock, and several "Vander Spek" brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and their families.

Relatives and friends were received in the Francis Funeral Home, 77 Woodstock Street North, Tavistock. A service to celebrate the life of Bruce was held at Grace United Church, Tavistock, on Thursday, January 6, 2011 at 2 p.m. A private family interment was held in Grace United Cemetery prior to the service.

As expressions of sympathy, donations to Tavistock Community Health Inc., Grace United Church Living Legacy Fund or the Prostate Cancer Foundation would be appreciated.

**"Stars of the Town" Films**  
with John Lutman, University of Western Ontario  
featuring Tavistock in 1947-48  
**Saturday, March 26, 2011**  
AGM 1 pm - Men's Club Hall (Open 12-4 pm)

## ANNUAL MEETING



## Did you know?

Dr. Bruce Halliday had a passion for stamp collecting which he shared with his son, Mark. Through this interest, he initiated the process to have Canada Post create a cancellation stamp for the World Crokinole Championship as well as one for Punkeydoodles Corner Canada Day celebrations in 1982.