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and, while the corner stores and boarding houses that typified the area for much of its history are gone, a community made up largely of recent immigrants beginning new lives in Canada and young families battling the economic and social insecurities found in this century still exists.

The sole drawback to *Italians of Fort William's East End, 1907-1969*, is the lack of contextualization of the findings within the larger body of literature on the Italian-Canadian experience. For example, a more detailed engagement with the work of Robert Harney, Bruno Ramirez, Franca Iacovetta, and John S. Zucchi would have provided interesting comparative opportunities, particularly on how the experiences of immigrants can be shaped by local and/or regional circumstances. That said, *Italians of Fort William's East End, 1907-1969* makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the Italian immigrant community in Thunder Bay during the twentieth century. One hopes that other historians will adopt Piovesana's approach and use it to explore the history of other immigrant communities in the region and beyond.

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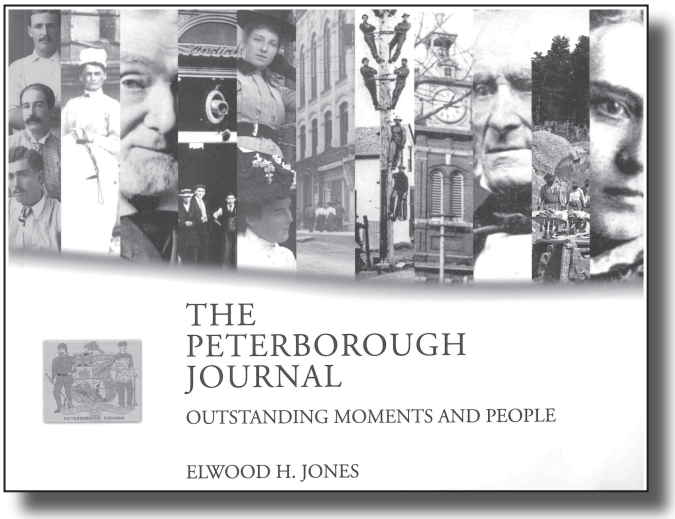
The Peterborough Journal:
Outstanding Moments and People

by Elwood H. Jones

Peterborough, Ontario: Trent Valley Archives, 2012. 184 pages. $40.00 hardcover. ISBN: 978-0-98103-414-0. $25.00 paperback. ISBN: 978-0-98103-413-3 (www.trentvalleyarchives.com)

Peterborough, Ontario, as anyone familiar with Upper Canadian history knows, was named in honour of Peter Robinson, the prominent political figure who oversaw the first major immigration to the area—even Wikipedia says so. Such is the myth, but not the truth. By the time of the 1826 Robinson-sponsored Irish Catholic settlement, the town was already officially Peterborough. A quibble? No. To ignore the chronology of the naming of the town is to diminish the significance of Zacheus Burnham, influential landowner and Surveyor General of Newcastle District. Burnham named the town (and two others, Ashburnham and Keene) as "a reminder from his boyhood days in New Hampshire." Peterborough was thus Peterborough "long before ... the



Lieutenant Governor [was told] that Peter Robinson would accept the name as a compliment." Further, the selection of the name Peterborough was "readily acceptable to a wide range of early settlers, including a large contingent of Irish Catholic settlers who arrived... in August and September 1825." Also, one "might consider what names might have been offered had the intent been only to honour Peter Robinson."

These quoted comments are all from a single entry (1826 February 4) in an extraordinary book, *The Peterborough Journal*. They serve to illustrate the truth of its author's opening sentences: "Chronology is basic to historians. The key to understanding stories is to know which events come first. It is also useful to know that was happening simultaneously, or what happened later." Obvious perhaps—yet a truth commonly neglected.

Elwood Jones is an oft awarded, much admired and deeply appreciated Ontario historian. As Professor Emeritus of History at Trent University, he continues to focus much of his research and writing on his home city of Peterborough. In this, his third volume published by the Trent Valley Archives, he presents Peterborough's history structured entirely as a chronology, dating from its origins through to the year 1913.

The book's first draft, so to speak, was compiled a century ago by Peterborough journalist F.H. Dobbins, whose career began in 1864 and thus spanned much of the period he sought to encapsulate. He drew on his own writings, files and memories as well as files of Peterborough's several nineteenth-century newspapers to compile a "Historical Index of Peterborough." The work was "not a History," he insisted, but "a compilation and relation of facts from which history is written... not a narrative but an encyclopedia." Dobbins' effort was never published. Almost a hundred years later, Elwood Jones took it —edited it, amended it, expanded it, shaped it—and produced this fascinating volume.

The chronology begins with nearly a full page on the 1615 visit to the area by Champlain, but then leaps forward two hundred years. Modern Peterborough's history only began in the 1820s. Year by year, often month by month, even day by day, the growth and change of the city is revealed. These entries—mostly brief paragraphs but sometimes several columns in length—are each datelined and refer to some specific event or incident. One helpful feature: each entry is flagged with a symbol to categorize it—thus an image of a bird flags entries about religion, a steam engine those about railways, or megaphone municipal events and visits. These symbols allow the reader to move through time selectively tracking a specific theme or subject. There are 16 different categories—sports, industry, military, agriculture, etc.

Although the focus of each entry is always local, familiar Upper Canadian figures appear from time to time. Some were living in the area: Charles Fothergill (1819, May), Catharine Parr Trail (1832), Sanford Fleming (1846, September). Others were passing through: Lieutenant Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland (1826, February 4), evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1897, October 21), and, of course, Sir John A. Macdonald (1872, July 12, etc., etc.). Indeed, every election, local and national, is logged.

Turning the pages, even a casual perusal informs the reader about the making of canoes (1886, etc.), the digging of the Trent Canal (1896, etc.), or the opening of the Quaker Oats mill (1908). Entries announce the arrival of a circus (1858 and various years thereafter), but none, alas, describe this now all-but-forgotten form of entertainment. One intriguing entry

(1846) records the members of "The Cavan Blazers," but does not say what they did to fulfill their purpose of "the young embarrassing the old." Another entry (1885-1886) details the efforts of the "Anti-Sawdust Crusade," to prevent lumber mill waste from clogging waterways. Most entries are more mundane—storms, trials, accidents, and assorted public gatherings. When news arrived of the Boer War victory at Mafeking (1900, May 18), we are told that "Bells rang, whistles blew, guns fired. Fire brigade turned out and tore things up. Cannon crackers made fearful din. The night was glorious one for noise..."

Interspersed with almost a thousand dated entries are dozens of archival images. Genealogists and other serious researchers will rejoice to find the book fully indexed and its sources listed. An appendix logs, for the year 1913, Peterborough's "Fraternal and Benefit Societies" and its "Sporting Organizations." It also names all 23 mayors and the more than 800 town and city councillors who served from 1850-1913.

The closing entry (1913, December 17) announces the hydro-electric lighting of the city under municipal ownership. As this work amply and aptly testifies, it was an enlightened century. Dare we hope for a companion, twentieth-century volume?

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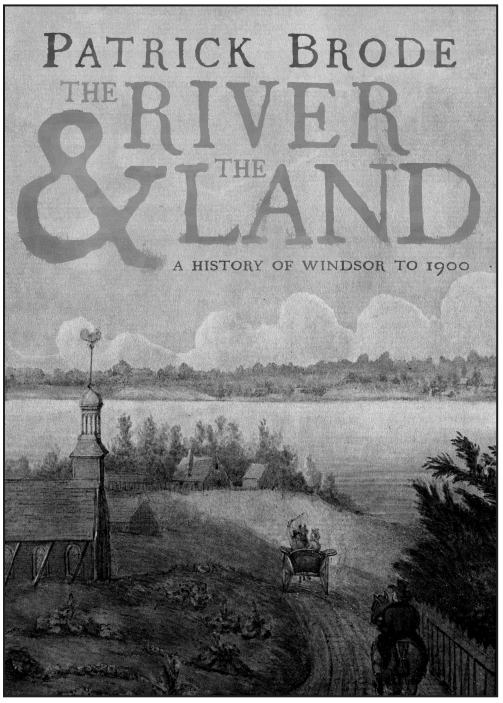
The River & the Land: A History of Windsor to 1900

by Patrick Brode

Windsor, Ontario: Biblioasis, 2014.
$29.95 hardcover. 192 pages. ISBN 978-1-92742-889-4 (www.biblioasis.com)



The Straits," "the Ferry," and "South Detroit" (as the City of Windsor has been variously called), has had a long history of habitation and settlement. This is due in large part to its geographic position on the southern approaches to the Detroit River. From as early as 1701, European settlers took advantage of the opportunities that the location of the future Windsor afforded. Residents continue to benefit from Windsor's location to this day.

With this wealth of history, I've always been amazed at the paucity of publications issued to tell this fascinating story. Titles by Neil Morrison (1954), Father Ernest Lajeunesse (1960), and my late friend and colleague R. Alan Douglas (2001), remain as the few standard works available. It is therefore most timely that Patrick Brode's