



# NEWSLETTER



Autumn 2012

camh



Volume 20, No. 2

Friends of the CAMH Archives

A not-for-profit charitable corporation of hospital volunteers

## EIGHT YEARS ON – The Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery



**New entrance gate to the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery.**

**(Photos: Ed Janiszewski)**

It has taken eight years to reach the present stage of memorializing the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery.

Progress has been made by partnering with volunteers: Geoffrey Reaume and the Psychiatric Survivor Archives of Toronto (PSAT); Deborah Quiggan and Nancy Barkman from “Among Friends,” a social support with the Lakeshore Area Multi-services Program; the New Toronto Historical Society; local history buffs; a supportive Liberal MPP, Laurel Broten; and most importantly, the descendants of those buried at the cemetery. Persistence, cajoling, sweat, equity, and publicity combined to acknowledge these long forgotten people.

Eight years prior to the 2004 formation of the Lakeshore Asylum Cemetery Project (LACP), the South Etobicoke Residents Association had fought the sale of “surplus land” to a developer wanting to build crematoria on the site. Studies costing tens of thousands spent by the Association failed to move the Harris Government to rethink the sale. Fortunately the

next Government did block the sale, in perpetuity.

From 1988 to 1992, the Ontario Historical Society’s Cemetery Preservation Section volunteers, led by Marjorie Stuart, documented the 154 flat markers, which they published. Their complaints about the disgraceful condition fell on deaf ears.

The 1979 closure of the burial grounds and ensuing years of neglect have been corrected through the efforts and voices of the foregoing organizations and a caring community. Let us hope that there will in future be no gaps in remembrance.

– by *Ed Janiszewski, Volunteer*

**Historical plaque text: please see next page.**



**Sophie Sunderland (l.), a CAMH Archives and LACP researcher visiting from Perth, Western Australia, and Nancy Barkman (r.) of “Among Friends”.**

## **Cemetery Plaque Text (English)**

**Lakeshore Asylum Cemetery, c. 1890 – 1979, formerly Ontario Hospital (New Toronto), and Mimico Asylum Burial Grounds. Also known as the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery.**

### **Historical Background**

Established in 1890, this cemetery contains the remains of 1,511 individuals who died at the Mimico Asylum/Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. Construction of the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital on its 60 scenic acres beside Lake Ontario began in the 1880s, as a healthy respite facility for patients who would be transferred from the Province's existing asylums.

The "Mimico Branch Asylum" opened on January 21, 1890 under the administration of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum (later the Queen Street Mental Health Centre), receiving its first 116 patients on that day from Toronto – though ten male patient labourers were in residence beginning in 1889 to prepare the site for later occupants.

By 1892 it was decided that the Mimico Asylum (so renamed) should become a fully integrated facility in its own right, rather than a branch for long-stay patients only, which it remained until it was closed and partially re-merged with the Queen Street facility, in 1979.

The first burial took place in 1890 and the last in 1974. For 84 years, the cemetery at Mimico was used to bury patients who had no family or insufficient funds to make other arrangements. The cemetery was divided in half by a central north-south road. Roman Catholics were buried on the west side of the cemetery and Protestants were buried primarily on the east side. The rows are marked at each end by a small square stone inscribed with a letter or a number corresponding to the burial register.

There are 50 graves in a row, aligned in pairs end to end, and 25 in width. Most of the burials were unmarked. The placement of 154 small markers with the name and year of birth and death of the deceased only began in 1957.

It is our sincere wish that these souls will find peace and tranquility.

*For further information:*

[www.psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com](http://www.psychiatricsurvivorarchives.com)

## **Ontario's Leucotomy Program: The Roles of Patient, Physician and Profession**

**by Brianne Collins, University of Calgary – Hewton Bursary Recipient, 2012**

Psychosurgery — most commonly known as "lobotomy" — has a long, colourful, and often tumultuous history in which it has been viewed as both a panacea and a horror-show. Although research on the topic has been conducted in the United States and Europe, very little research existed on psychosurgery in Canada. Where scholars have examined Canada, only a cursory overview of Ontario's experience has been provided. As a result, many questions remained unanswered including how the program was administered, how patients were chosen as candidates for the procedure, and who the leucotomized were.

In order to address the gap in the literature, my thesis presents a detailed account of psychosurgery in Ontario by investigating the roles of profession, physician, and patient. I discovered that the leucotomy program in Ontario began in 1941 and continued into the mid-1960s, the process used to administer the treatment was bureaucratically organized and streamlined, and over 1,400 patients were leucotomized during this controversial era. I was also able to identify the surgical technique used in Ontario—frontal bilateral leucotomy—as compared to the more commonly employed

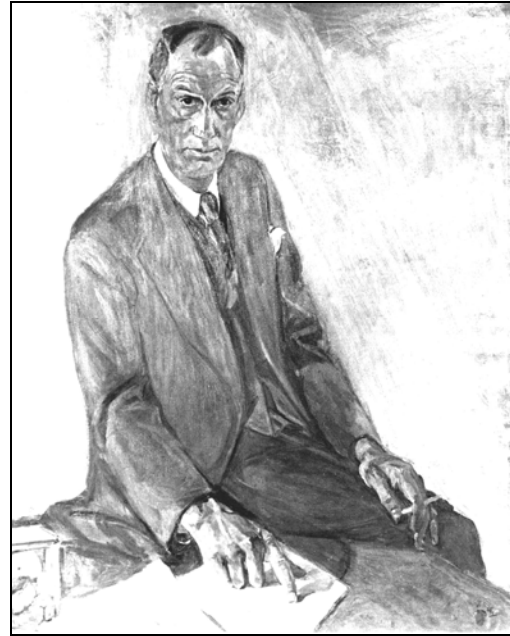
lobotomy procedure.

I completed this project for my master's thesis, defended in early September 2012. I could never have anticipated the quantity or quality of the material I would find. The process was exhilarating, yet morally challenging. In the end, not only was I able to delve into an area with limited research; I was able to offer a moderate and balanced approach to the topic.

The completion of my thesis would not have been possible without receipt of the Hewton Bursary from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Archives in Toronto. The Bursary allowed me to travel to Ontario numerous times to complete my research. I would also like to thank John Court for his gracious assistance throughout the project.

Continuing on at the University of Calgary, I began my PhD there in September 2012 under the excellent supervision of Dr. Hank Stam. I will be expanding my research on psychosurgery to the rest of Canada where, like Ontario, very little work

has been done in the area. Based on initial research, it seems that I will have yet another interesting story to tell.



**Canada's first neurosurgeon, Dr. K. G. McKenzie of T.G.H., was the first to attempt prefrontal leucotomy in Ontario, in 1941. Photo of McKenzie's portrait by Frederick H. Varley, courtesy of CAMH Archives.**

## Readers' Corner

**Kathleen Kendall, "From Closed Ranks to Open Doors: Elaine and John Cummings' Mental Health Education Experiment in 1950s Saskatchewan" (Histoire sociale/ Social History, Vol. 44, no. 88, Nov. 2011, pp. 257–286, published by the University of Toronto Press)**

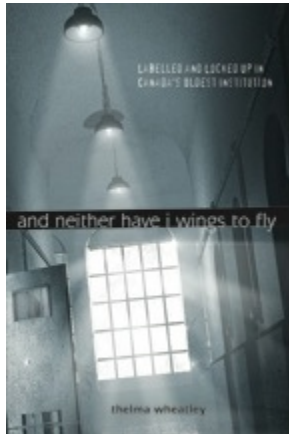
***Kathleen Kendall is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology as Applied to Medicine at the School of Medicine, University of Southampton, U.K.***

During late 1951 and early 1952, a married couple, social biologist Elaine Cumming and psychiatrist John Cumming, led a mental health experiment in Indian Head, Saskatchewan. The study, which was intended to inform strategies toward deinstitutionalization, sought to determine if attitudes regarding mental illness could be changed through commonly used educational practices. It was shaped by the shared interests of powerful philanthropic, charitable, psychiatric, academic and governmental bodies to create healthier

citizens and a stronger democratic nation through expert knowledge. However, in addition to the disappointing findings indicating that attitudes remained unchanged, the town appeared to close ranks against the research team. Nonetheless, the Cummings' later association with sociologists at Harvard University enabled them to interpret the results in a way that lent the study credibility and themselves legitimacy, thus opening the door to their careers as very successful researchers and policy-makers.

## AND TO COME:

**Thelma Wheatley, *AND NEITHER HAVE I WINGS TO FLY: Labeled and Locked Up in Canada's Oldest Institution* (Inanna Publications, York University)**



### **Quoting from the publisher's forthcoming book-jacket synopsis:**

Thelma Wheatley has pulled off a rare piece of writing telling the tragic story of Daisy Lumsden and her family within the framework of a meticulously researched study of one of Ontario's most destructive social endeavors. Her book will reveal the social biases and misguided benevolence that created the Ontario Hospital School in Orillia, and the human and systemic failures contributing to the extraordinary abuses that occurred there. Still, at its centre, the book reveals a human story and the humanity is always present even when lurking in some very dark places. "It is a compelling read." – *Gordon Kyle, Director of Social Policy & Government Relations, Ontario Assoc. for Community Living.*

*(Book cover courtesy of Inanna Publications)*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Since the last newsletter, CAMH has had its Grand Opening of three new buildings at Queen Street, with the dedication of the new cornerstone. There was food galore, interesting entertainment from present and former clients, and tours of the new buildings.

We were delighted to be joined by several Friends of the Archives' members, including Drs. Mary McKim of London and Sandy Macpherson, and Sarah Carson, one of our talented former Archives Interns, now an archivist with the Toronto City Archives.

The two sections of the plaque from the original 1846 cornerstone, which was retrieved with a supporting contribution from the FOA's Greenland Fund, following its 2010 discovery near Trenton, has now been restored. It will soon be securely displayed in the CCB Hearing Room, near our new archival-historical exhibit on display in the Doctors Association Building. The exhibit's starting point is shown here: →

It was quite a summer – I spent most of it watering my flower and vegetable gardens – and the early start brought an early end except for the herbs which I am now drying for winter use.

Hallowe'en is just around the corner, and about five minutes after that will be Christmas.

May I wish all our members and friends the very best of the holiday season and hope that your celebrations are joyful.



**Please visit the newly-commissioned archival-historical exhibit, *Breaking Down Barriers ~ The CAMH Story*, on the main floor of the Doctors Association Building, Queen Street.**

– Vivienne Gibbs



**workman arts**  
artists with extraordinary minds

20TH ANNUAL  
**RENDEZVOUS WITH  
MADNESS**  
FILM FESTIVAL



## RENDEZVOUS WITH MADNESS SYMPOSIUM PRESENTS: TITICUT FOLLIES, COMPLETELY CUCKOO AND CHEZ SOI

Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM – 4:00PM, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King Street West, Reitman Square



TITICUT FOLLIES



COMPLETELY CUCKOO



CHEZ SOI

The screenings will be followed by a panel discussion.

### Films and Directors:

**Titicut Follies:** Frederick Wiseman

**Completely Cuckoo:** Charles Kiselyak

**Here at Home (Chez Soi):** An interactive web documentary brought to you by filmmakers, participants and mental health professionals.

### This Program is supported by:

**camh**



**Friends of the CAMH Archives**

A not-for-profit charitable corporation of hospital volunteers



**Tickets: \$25**

### 3 EASY WAY TO GET YOUR TICKETS:

1. **ONLINE** at [www.rendezvouswithmadness.com](http://www.rendezvouswithmadness.com)
2. **BY PHONE:** 10 am- 7pm daily  
416-599.TIFF (8433) Toll free:  
1.888.599.8433
3. **IN PERSON:** 10am to 10pm daily  
TIFF Bell Lightbox, Reitman Square,  
350 King Street West (at John Street)

**About the Festival:** The Rendezvous with Madness Film Festival, a Workman Arts signature event, explores Cinematic representations of mental health and addiction.

**About Workman Arts:** Workman Arts facilitates aspiring, emerging and established artists with mental illness and Addiction issues to develop and refine their art form through its arts training programs, public performances/ exhibit opportunities and partnering with other art organizations.

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## Hewton and Griffin Bursaries for Archival Research in 2013

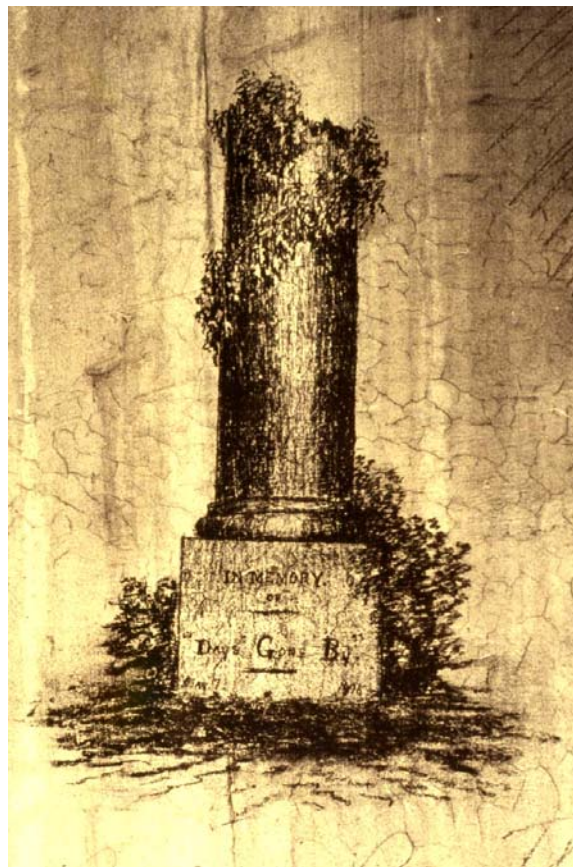
The Friends of the Archives at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), dedicated to the history of Canadian psychiatry, mental health and addiction, have established two endowment funds. These funds annually provide bursaries in memory of their late colleagues, Ms. E.M. (Lil) Hewton and Dr. J.D.M. (Jack) Griffin, O.C.

The main purpose of the bursaries is to provide financial assistance to students, and others not necessarily associated with an academic institution, who propose to undertake archival research on an aspect of the history of mental health or addiction in Canada. The FOA board at its discretion may approve bursaries to a maximum of \$2,500 each.

There is no application form. Candidates are invited to submit a letter of intent not exceeding 300 words, together with a budget and résumé, not later than November 30, 2012. These awards are conditional on the bursary holders agreeing to submit progress reports within one year, and a final report including a financial synopsis within two years of receiving the bursary.

Please submit an application for the year 2013 by the November 30th, 2012 deadline to:

Vivienne Gibbs – President, Friends of the Archives  
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON M6J 1H4  
Or by e-mail: John\_Court@camh.net



**ABOVE:**  
Opened at CAMH on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 in the archival-historical exhibit, *Breaking Down Barriers ~ The CAMH Story*. This unsigned drawing by a patient or staff member was etched as graffiti, or found art, onto the metal flank of the 1846 – 1976 Queen Street Asylum dome’s interior 12,000 gallon fresh-water tank. It is inscribed, “In Memory of Days Gone By” and dated in 1878.

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## Membership Renewal Notice for 2013

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Prefix: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\* **Membership:**                   \$ **20.00**     (valid through December 31, 2013)

\* **Donation:**                     \$ \_\_\_\_\_     (optional, at your discretion)

**Total:**                     \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* **An Income Tax receipt will be provided for your membership remittance plus any further donation.**  
Please complete and mail this form together with a cheque, payable to “Friends of the Archives”

**Please remit:** Friends of the CAMH Archives, 1001 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M6J 1H4