



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **WALK INTO THE PAST ...**

#### For Immediate Release

July 26, 2013

PETROLIA, ON - The Petrolia Heritage Committee invites you to Walk into the Past on Saturday, September 14, 2013 at Hillsdale Cemetery (3725 Petrolia Line), Petrolia. The Petrolia Heritage Committee will be hosting the first historical walking tour of the site. This event promises the visitor guided tours and an accurate recounting of historical events in period costume courtesy of the Petrolia Community Theatre, featuring story-telling about colourful characters from Petrolia's past. Guided tours leave every 15 minutes, and run between 1pm and 4pm.

From farmers to foreign drillers, visitors will learn about all of the remarkable people that helped to create and shape our community. More than just a pleasant walk, the visitor is invited to spend the afternoon delving into the history of beautiful, historical Hillsdale Cemetery.

The Petrolia Heritage Committee and Young Canada Works, Heritage Organizations Student Eric Curragh have partnered with Petrolia Community Theatre (PCT), St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA), Lambton Historical Society, Lambton Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Lambton County Archives and Victoria Playhouse Petrolia to create a one of a kind walking tour of Hillsdale Cemetery.

Liz Welsh, a member of The Petrolia Heritage Committee is "...encouraged by the number of people who can't wait learn more about past residents of Petrolia and area from a historical perspective..." Proceeds from the event will go to the ongoing maintenance and beautification of Hillsdale Cemetery.

Interpretive materials will be made available by Sharon Nethercott of the SCRCA regarding the flora and fauna of Hillsdale Cemetery, and she will help bring the past to the present by activating several new geocaches. Members of Town Staff, Lambton OGS, and the Lambton Historical Society will be available to help visitors further their research into their own family trees. Lambton County Archives will be on site to introduce the “historypin” project, a project for Petrolia, including user-generated archives of historical photos, videos, audio recordings and personal recollections all in digital format. Various interpretive maps and documents will be available to help identify symbols and other unique features of Hillsdale.

Tickets are on sale now by visiting the Victoria Playhouse Petrolia Box Office, 411 Greenfield Street, Petrolia. Individual tickets are \$10, a family of four (2 adults, 2 children) is \$25, and any members of Scouting or Guiding of all ages are free if they are in uniform. Payment methods accepted are cash or cheque only. Advance purchase is suggested as a limited number of tickets will be available on September 14, 2013. Participants may encounter wait times without advance purchase.

For more information about this event please call (519)882-2350.