

# *An invitation to sponsors and donors, from Gwillim Group*

DEAR EDITOR,

We, the Gwillim Group, a sub-committee of the Bradford West Gwillimbury Local History Association, are delighted to inform the community about our project to commemorate the Town's 150th Anniversary. We have commissioned a bronze sculpture of Elizabeth Posthuma Simcoe (nee Gwillim), to be placed in the Post Office Parkette on the corner of John and Barrie Streets (on the Yonge St. route). The sculptor is Brenda Wainman Goulet, who created the bronze sculptures of Dr. Bethune in Gravenhurst, and the Tom Thomson in Huntsville.

The subject of our sculpture, Elizabeth Gwillim, after whom our town was named (Gwillimbury), was the wife of John Graves Simcoe, the first Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada. Elizabeth was an accomplished artist, who painted pictures of many settlement areas where they lived, assisted in copying Simcoe's maps, sketched flowers, butterflies and fish, and kept journals

of life in the Colony.

Elizabeth is the central, life-sized figure in this stone and bronze sculpture; there will be two bas reliefs, one on either side. Under her right arm are her sketch book and pencils, as if she were coming from a day of sketching one of her famous drawings depicting life in Upper Canada. On the left side, the bas relief shows Elizabeth and John Simcoe meeting with Chief Grey Sail, who is holding their son Francis. Among the company are Native braves, members of the Queen's York Rangers, and Simcoe's dog, Jack Sharp.

Our statue, made of rock and bronze, will cost \$75,000 plus landscaping costs. We are hoping that the funding will be provided by the many families and businesses of Bradford West Gwillimbury, who have an interest in history, arts and culture. We have three categories of donations - Bronze (\$500-plus), Silver (\$2,500) and Gold (\$5,000-plus). The donors' names will be engraved on a

bronze plaque beside the statue. Tax receipts will also be issued.

Anyone who would like to discuss the project can visit The Bradford Print Shoppe, where the sculptor's model is on display, or call Mikki Nanowski at 705-775-4011. We are asking, by

artyou to be a partner in the creation of this historical landmark for Bradford's Sesquicentennial.

We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Verney, President  
BWG Local History  
Association.



**Mikki Nanowski with Artist's Model of Elizabeth Gwillim Simcoe sculpture, by artist Brenda Wainman Goulet.**