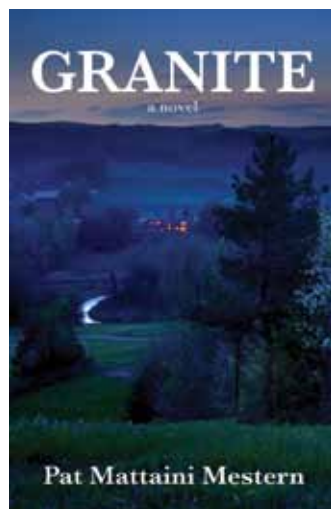


Book Views: Local Settings Except for California

By Gloria Hildebrandt

Granite

By Pat Mattaini Mestern



Fergus author Pat Mattaini Mestern sets her novel first in 1798, then in 1962, near the fictitious town of Seven Springs that may, from hints given, have been inspired by Orangeville or Creemore. The **Niagara Escarpment is a silent partner** in the plot.

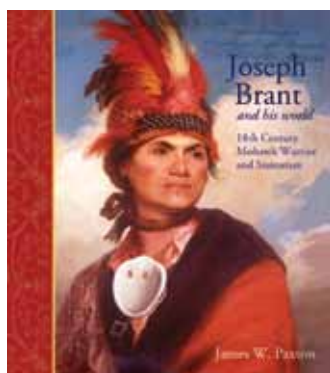
Native history, small-town gossip, a celebrity in hiding, development concerns, the threat of gravel

pits and a romance come together in an easy-to-read entertainment that many people will be able to relate to.

Dundurn Press, 2008, softcover, \$21.99.

Joseph Brant and his world: 18th Century Mohawk Warrior and Statesman

By James W. Paxton



This is a good addition to the material about Thayendanegea or Joseph Brant, "one of the most famous Aboriginal men of his day." Not a simple biography, this is a presentation of how world events

affected Brant and his family, tribe, neighbours and enemies. Full-colour illustrations appear on almost every page, enriching the text and showing fascinating details.

Paxton presents Brant's mother Margaret and sister Molly as strong characters who had varied and interesting relationships.

Brant's 1785 visit to England and his reception by London's court is detailed. Here he completed his translation of the English version into the *Mohawk Prayer Book*. His portrait painted during this time is the book's cover illustration. Although in North America Brant was based at Grand River, **he built a house near Burlington Bay** and moved there around 1803. A reconstruction of this house is now the Joseph Brant Museum in Burlington. Brant's body, which had been buried in Burlington, was moved to the Mohawk Chapel in Brantford in 1850.

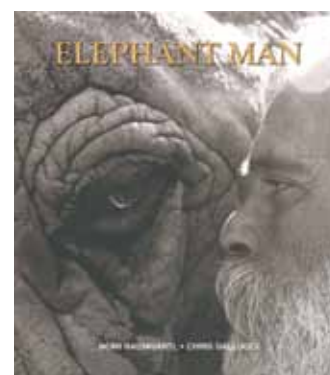
James Lorimer & Company Ltd., 2008, softcover, \$19.95.

Full of facts and figures, it is perhaps the opinions and **brief biographies of celebrities** that are the most enjoyable. Convicted murderer Evelyn Dick, comedian Martin Short, conductor Boris Brott and doughnut king Tim Horton are some of the Hamiltonians featured.

MacIntyre Purcell Publishing Inc., 2008, softcover, \$14.95.

Elephant Man

By Nomi Baumgartl and Chris Gallucci



Animal lovers will cherish this love story between Chris Gallucci, an ex-biker, and Timbo, a five-ton grey African elephant bull.

In 1975 Gallucci got a job on a California movie set with 100 wild big cats and two elephants. Gallucci asked to be Timbo's trainer. About 28 years of care later, Gallucci said "I have the personality of an elephant and he has mine."

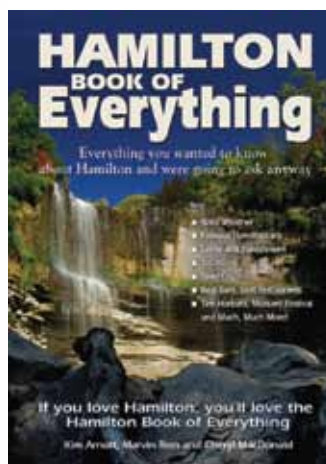
Baumgartl's photographs of the two show an amazing similarity in their eyes, facial wrinkles, even their expressions. These photos show less wildness in Gallucci than intelligence and sensitivity in Timbo. Some close ups could easily be of either one.

Timbo died after 30 years with Gallucci, leaving him as lonely as a widower. At bottom, this is a delightful, optimistic lesson about **how humans could be relating with animals.**

Firefly Books Ltd., 2008, hardcover, \$39.95.

Hamilton Book of Everything

By Kim Arnott, Marvin Ross and Cheryl MacDonald



This is a fun book to dip into at random and absorb short snippets of information about Hamilton. It's described as "a fascinating, fun-filled snapshot of this complex, and sometimes contradictory city we call home."



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