

# The Rideau Township Historical Society

*Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township*

## April 2009 Newsletter

Newsletter Editors: Coral Lindsay and Ron Wilson (rideauarchives@ottawa.ca)

### Next Meeting

April 15, 2009  
7:30 pm.

#### **St. Andrew's Church Hall at Kars**

6810 Rideau Valley Drive South  
Kars, Ontario

#### Also at the April 15th meeting

**Fashion Show** (Ellen Adamsons – Katherine Killens) - Costumes for Manotick 150

Don't miss the demonstration of how to make a fashion statement at Manotick 150 celebration, using second hand clothing.

*At the meeting there will also be a display "Remembering Dora" with some of the bequests to the R.T.A. and family members.*

### Speaker

**Coral Lindsay,**

### Subject

**Nine world-famous children of the Great Depression of the 1930s**

#### Skill Testing Questions:

1. Name the world's most famous child in the "Funny Papers" beginning Aug. 5, 1924?
2. The world's most famous princess was born April 21, 1926. What was the name of her younger sister?
3. Who was the world's most famous child movie star born April 23, 1928?
4. Five world - famous children were born May 28, 1934. Where do three of them live now? How old are they? Can you name them?

**The Church Hall will be open at 7:00 p.m. to see the depression -era displays.**

## **The Manotick 150th Anniversary**

Catherine Killins is proceeding with planning for the **Harvest Ball** to be held on Saturday, 03 October in Harmony Hall. Costumes and music are the efforts of the moment.



**Bring a friend**

**Light refreshments**

**For a ride call Brian Earl  
613-692-2371**

The RTHS and the Archives staff and volunteers were saddened to learn of the passing of Shirley Hatcher, Bill Tupper's sister, in Truro, N.S. Our thoughts go out to Georgie and Bill.

### Features This Month

1. The Manotick 150th.
2. The March meeting.
3. News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives.
4. The May program.

### The May Program

The May meeting will be at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall in Manotick. Jane Anderson and Ron Wilson will describe the process of republishing Dora Stamp's book on Manotick in the digital age. We hope to have copies available.

### The June Program

The June program will be a visit to the Vintage Wings collection of historic aircraft, an exceptional and beautiful restoration and display. More details on the web site soon and in the next newsletter.

# *Last Meeting*

March 18, 2009

Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives, 6581 Fourth Line Road, (Main Street)  
North Gower, Ontario

**Speaker**, Serge Barbe, Community Archivist, City of Ottawa Archives.

## *Article by Lucy Martin*

Serge Barbe is well-known to RTHS volunteers who help staff the North Gower Branch of the City Archives. Friendly and efficient, Serge is there every Tuesday, with the skill to connect individuals and communities with archival resources. Thousands of readers have also worked through the Ottawa Citizen. Heritage Day Quiz prepared by Serge with the help of his heritage friends.

As a history major at the University of Ottawa, Serge knew he liked the field, but felt teaching wasn't the right path for him. His career solution came with a start at the National Library and Archives of Canada, followed by 25 years of engaging work with the City of Ottawa Archives, including extensive research on the history of Vanier.

The definition of "Ottawa" has changed over time. Today's City Archives faces a daunting mandate: to preserve and share the corporate records of all 12 different cities and townships amalgamated into one by provincial mandate in 2001.



chives will be allotted 60% of the total space and the building is designed to allow for future expansion.

In his talk, Serge explained the city's adaptation of a proactive Community Documentation Plan, as developed by archival authority Richard Cox. How should the stories and records of a city be organized? The Cox model proposes subject groupings: Agriculture; Business, Industry and Manufacturing; Education; Labour; Medicine and Health Care; Military; Politics, Government and Law; Population; Recreation and Leisure; Religion; Science and Technology; Social Organization and Activity; Transportation and Communication. Archival materials relating to multiple topics (as could easily happen with Labour and Manufacturing, for example) are cataloged for cross reference as needed.

Serge offered tips for working with archival material, including precious items in your own family collection. For better preservation, use gloves for handling and acid-free material for storage. Unbound flat papers should be stored vertically.

Ideal storage conditions are 18 degrees Celsius with humidity ranging from 40-45%. While this sometimes requires artificial climate control, you may be able to find ordinary spaces in homes or buildings that reasonably match these conditions. Store important items away from direct sunlight, with some UV protection if exposed to indirect light. Photos should be handled by their edges.

Post-talk, I asked Serge about high points in his work. Without giving any secrets away, he said archival records sometimes provide answers to some very personal questions, such as a search for natural parents. Some of his

## **Arts & Architecture**



*One of many categories of items for acquisition by the Ottawa Archives.*

Along with a wide array of contemporary responsibilities, the 'new' City Archives also inherited 100,000 boxes of old city documents. The cumbersome mission should become more manageable with the completion of a new Centrepont facility at the corner of Woodruff and Tallwood, slated to open in the fall of 2010. The 80,000 square foot building will be shared with the Ottawa Public Library's Collection Development Services. The City Ar-

favourite career memories involve detective work that ended with moving human discoveries.

Serge's best tip is something we all know, but frequently neglect. Whenever possible, all photos should be labelled! With ordinary lead pencil, note on the back of photos relevant names, dates and other pertinent details (location, special event, etc.). A simple pencil inscription can eliminate all manner of mystery and extra work later on, for ourselves and for those to come.

If you have items that will help tell Ottawa's story, or if you need help doing archival research, feel free to contact the City Archives.

Web information is at:  
[http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/archives/index\\_en.html](http://www.ottawa.ca/residents/heritage/archives/index_en.html)

Or come see Serge Barbe in person, along with a regular cadre of RTHS volunteers, at the Rideau Township Branch in North Gower, Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm:

6581 Fourth Line Road (Main street)  
613-489-2926  
email: [rideauarchives@ottawa.ca](mailto:rideauarchives@ottawa.ca)

## **News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives . . .**

### ***Hours:***

The Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 4:30 p.m., and at other times by appointment. (613-489-2926).

### ***This Summer***

As in previous years the archives will be open for both days of Doors Open in June. It will also be open for the North Gower Discovery Tour in September.

The volunteers at Rideau Archives have been very busy over the last month, continuing to acquire and organize new material. One volunteer attended the biannual Canadian Aviation Historical Society book auction to bid on works for the Reference Library.

Ron Wallace brought in a collection of agricultural textbooks, used by his father in a very early class at Kemptville Agricultural College.

We also received a donation of early cookbooks, most of them Canadian. We have acquired the documentation for the Ontario Municipal Board hearing in 2008 regarding the Mahogany Harbour development in Manotick – some 2 cubic feet of documents.

We continue to work on the next exhibit at the Archives, titled “Places of Worship in the Rideau Region.” This will be opened in time for the North Gower Discovery Tour this September.

## **Want a Costume for the Manotick 150<sup>th</sup> ?**

If anyone is interested in acquiring a period costume for the Manotick 150th there is a local source. Rosemary Hayes is a seamstress with skills in making vintage reproductions. She can be contacted at [rmmhayes@hotmail.com](mailto:rmmhayes@hotmail.com) or by telephone at (613) 485-1822. Rosemary advertises reasonable rates and a variety of patterns, including a small selection of menswear.

- The RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa.

## *The RTHS and the Manotick 150th*

The **committee of interested members of the Rideau Township Historical Society** continues working to create special events honouring Manotick's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

We have now promised to participate at the opening of the Manotick Art Show on May 1, with a display of authentic period costumes by Coral Lindsay, as well as our members attending and strolling around the show wearing historical dress. We would welcome further numbers of participants to pass out information about our event in October. If you have an old fashioned costume (men and women) and would like to join us we would be very pleased to have you.

The Knox Presbyterian Church is planning to hold an authentic Victorian Tea on Saturday June 20, and the Historical Society is planning to present a Fashion Parade as part of the event. Members who are able to dress in historical costume will walk to musical accompaniment and descriptive commentary during the afternoon. We are encouraging men, women, and children to be part of this

parade. If members or their families have costumes or useful items to contribute, we can make use of them to dress others who would like to participate.

The Dickinson Days Parade, as well as Homecoming Parade, will offer an opportunity to take part and raise our visibility in the community, as well as promote our community costume party in October.

We have now given the October party a name, "Manotick Saturday Night". Further details will follow soon, as decisions are confirmed.

We would ask that any member who would like to participate, donate or loan a costume, or join our group, would let us know early in April so we can plan to include you.

Please contact Katherine Killins at (613) 692-11462 or Marguerite Rogers at (613) 692-