



The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

January 2009 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

The **next meeting** will be in the Carriage Shed on the Mill Square, Manotick, January 21, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

This meeting is also the annual general meeting for the Society and will include the election of officers for the coming year.

2009 Membership Dues

2009 memberships are now due. Our dues remain a remarkable bargain - \$10 for a single membership, \$15 for a family for one year or \$100 for a life membership. Please use the attached sheet to renew your membership, either by mail or in person at the next meeting.

Speakers: **Cam Trueman**, Watson's Mill
Greg Newton of Greg Newton Photography

Subjects

- Presentation by **Cam Truman** on Watson's Mill Student Guided Walk Program
- Presentation by **Greg Newton** on the plans for the Manotick 150 Celebrations. See the sites watsonsmillprograms@rogers.com and www.gregnewtonphotography.com

The Manotick 150th Anniversary

The year 2009 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of Manotick. A committee, chaired by Greg Newton of Greg Newton Photography, is proceeding with plans for appropriate celebrations throughout the year.

The RTHS is participating in these celebrations.



Visit the committee website at www.manotick150.ca/ for more information.

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

Features This Month

1. Coral Lindsay: Manotick person of the year.
2. The December Pot Luck Supper.
3. Dora Stamp: Manotick's Historian.
4. The Web Site is up.
5. Visitors at the Dickinson House. Where did they come from?
6. Manotick 150th.
7. News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives.

Coral Lindsay: Manotick's 2008 Person of the Year

Coral was named person of the year for Manotick due to her long service preserving the history of the area covered by the former Rideau Township and beyond.

In particular her central role in furnishing and bringing life to the Dickinson house this past summer and fall was recognized as a huge success. More than 3700 visitors were given guided tours with live explanations of the history of the house and its owners.



Last Meeting: December 2009 Pot Luck

North Gower United Church
North Gower,
December 10, 2008

Article by Lucy Martin

Once again RTHS members gathered for a jolly evening at the North Gower United Church.



A snowstorm concluded just in time to make everything look very Christmas-like indeed. Those able to dig free and venture forth arrived with lots of good food to share.



Brian Earl (trumpet), Pat Earl (piano), Louise Vandenberg (flute) and Lloyd Youngerlead (guitar) lead our sing-along carols. The band was in fine form despite working their second gig (and feast) of the day.

In the door prize draw, Lloyd Youngerlead won a hot-off-the-press copy of Paul Kitchen's "Win, Tie Or Wrangle: The Inside Story of the Old Ottawa Senators 1883-1935".

Scott Cameron won a future copy of Dora Stamp's book of



newspaper columns on Manotick history, updated and being reprinted for release on Dickinson Day and to coincide with Manotick's 150th anniversary events, next summer.

* * *

Special thanks to Ann Cronin and her many helpers for organizing the event and to Katherine Killins for the festive décor. We hope everyone enjoyed a good holiday season.



A Preliminary Analysis of Visitors to Dickinson House

Dickinson House, Manotick, was open approximately 62 days during the period from 07 June to 07 December, 2008. About 3,768 visitors came through the doors during that time, although at times there were so many “guests” that it was hard to keep an accurate count. Of those that saw through the house, 1,932 signed the guest books. Of those who signed, 1,252 gave an indication of their place of residence. An analysis of where the 1,252 came from is has yielded the following table

Many of the visitors entered comments along with their names. These comments were very favourable and generally expressed the desire that the house be restored to the period and be maintained as an historic representation of the times.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Visitors</i>	<i>Comment</i>
The National Capital Region +	875	As far as Kemptville, Rockland, Cumberland
Eastern Ontario	71	Kingston and east.
Remainder of Ontario	112	As far as Thunder Bay
Quebec	45	Western Quebec to Montreal & Quebec City
Maritime Provinces	23	Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick
Prairie Provinces	23	Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta
British Columbia	24	Mostly from Vancouver
United States	41	From Atlantic to Pacific
International	38	Europe, South America, Mexico, Australia

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In Memory of Dora Stamp

Dora Stamp, Manotick’s unofficial historian, passed away on Sunday, December 28, 2008.

Dora had earned the title “Manotick’s unofficial historian” even before the Manotick Centennial in 1959 when she put together many articles for “The Manotick Story”, the centennial souvenir booklet put out by a special Manotick Centennial Committee. She was a native of Manotick and a long time member of the RTHS. She lived with her parents in the blue house just north of Dr. Leach’s house on the corner of Main and Currier.

Dora commuted to Ottawa each day throughout her working life, but still was able to participate in village activities and to record Manotick history in publications such as the Centennial booklet, and in articles in the South Carleton Gazette, later in the Nepean Clarion, and then the Manotick Messenger, a signal service to the village.

Dora knew Manotick and life in Manotick from childhood. She saw the Village through many quite different phases in her lifetime. She was a keen observer of happenings in the village and had a special knack for putting things in perspective. Because of Dora, present and future generations can get a good feel for and understand the history and development of the village over the past century and a half.

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).

The Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Archives is starting the new year with solid core of 15 volunteers, a number we will try to increase over the year. 2008 was a productive year for the Branch. Hopefully we can do even better in 2009.

Manotick 150th / Watson's Mill Presents

by Cam Trueman

"Watson's Mill Presents" is a public lecture series presented by Watson's Mill, a local not for profit society dedicated to promoting and preserving Watson's Mill as a social, cultural and educational focal point for the community and visitors.

This lecture series will support not only the Mill as a focal point and tourist destination, but will also support the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Manotick.

The planned program for the lecture series is available at www.watsonsmill.com/Events.html.

The lecture series begins with a presentation in January on "Fashion Trends and Tragedies of the 1860's" followed in February by a period costume workshop.

Fashion Trends and Tragedies of the 1860's

Date: **Wednesday January 28 2009**
Time: 6:30- 8:30 pm
Location: Carriage Shed in Historic Dickinson Square-
Cost: \$5.00

Begin the Manotick 150th birthday celebration with this stunning visual presentation of the fashion trends and tragedies of the 1860's. From bodice to brocades, this evening lecture series will highlight the remarkably quick changing fashion patterns in the Mid Victorian era. Guest speaker Edwina Richards, will enchant audience with pictures and fashion phrases guaranteed to reveal a deeper understanding of Victorian deportment.

Period Costume Workshop

Date: **Saturday February 7 2009**
Time: 1:00- 4:30 pm

Location: Carriage Shed in Historic Dickinson Square-
Cost: \$25.00

Get into the spirit of Manotick's 150th birthday celebration by exploring creative ways to make historic period costumes on a shoestring budget. Watson's Mill Manotick Inc is pleased to host this fascinating workshop on developing the right style of dress for the Manotick 150th. Renowned costume expert Edwina Richards will guide participants on the process of developing a Truly Victorian style of dress.

The workshop includes:

- A dress down demonstration of Men's and Women's fashion ensemble
- Hat Making
- Gathering the appropriate material
- Thrifty ways of creating period dress
- Resource sheet handouts

Edwina Richards is a local dress maker, costume designer who has had more than 25 years of experience of designing and producing exquisite custom clothing for museums around the globe. Her recent work includes the production of Colonel By and Lady By's costume for the Rideau Canal designation as a UNESCO world heritage site.

Watson's Mill is one of the few remaining operating grist mills in North America and the only industrial heritage site in the City of Ottawa. The Mill is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. through October, and open on Saturdays and Sundays in November. The Mill is located at 5525 Dickinson Street, Dickinson Square, Manotick. Free admission and parking on-site.

The New RTHS Web Site is available.

After a long and tortuous journey the new version of the RTHS Web Site is available on a server operated by Bluehost.com. Be warned however that it has a lot of pictures and will therefore be slow for low speed users. The URL for access is <http://www.rideautownshiphistory.org>.

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