

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

January 2010 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting, AGM & Annual Bring & Brag

The January meeting is the Annual General Meeting for the Society. In addition to reviewing the status of projects and finances there will be the election of Officers for the coming year.

Date: Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Knox Presbyterian Church, Manotick

Business: Annual General Meeting

Topic: Annual Bring and Brag

2010 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.

The Party's Not Over

Watson's Mill celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2010.

Isabelle Geffrion and the Watson's Mill Team have announced a year-long celebration to commemorate this anniversary. Stay tuned to their e-news at www.watsonsmill.com and celebrate with them through out the year.

Speakers: RTHS Members

This will be the annual "bring and brag" session for member to show their historical artefacts.

So unearth that old treasure! Dust off your special antique! Dig out that ancient relic! Do some re-research, spin a tale, share your feelings and memories....

Bring your special something and tell us about it (5 minutes or so each). It will be hard to top last year's collection of treasures and tales, but let's try!



Bring a friend

Light refreshments

For a ride call Brian Earl

This Month

1. Annual General Meeting
2. 150th year, Watson's Mill
3. Footprints in the Snow
4. The Spring Program
5. Letter from Sarah Bennett
6. News from the Rideau Archives

Watson's Mill Presents: "House Calls: Stories from the Black Bag"

What do doctors carry in their black medical bags? Remember when house calls were a daily routine for rural doctors? From measles to mumps, family doctors cared, treated and followed up with patients right in their own homes. The golden age of family medicine?

On Wednesday **January 27 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Carriage Shed at the Mill, Dr. O.B. Wilson** will reflect on his experiences as a family doctor in Manotick since his arrival here 55 years ago. Dr Wilson will delight audiences with personal perspectives and fond memories of people, places and events



Footprints in the Snow

As probably all our members know now, the December potluck supper had to be cancelled owing to the first heavy snowstorm of the season. We hope to re-schedule it early this year.

Not everybody got the message. Your reporter didn't check his e-mail and trudged through the snow, trying each door of a darkened church. A few minutes later Peter Satterly drove down from Flag Station Road and also trudged through the storm, to find only - Footprints in the Snow.

The RTHS Annual General Meeting

The Rideau Township Historical Society will hold its 2010 annual general meeting on Wednesday evening, January 20 in Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Reports on the status of finances, membership, etc will be presented. Also the proposed budget for 2010 will be presented for comment and direction from the membership.

The January meeting is our annual meeting to select the Society's executive for the coming year. In preparation, our President, Mark Jodoin, appointed a nominating committee of Brian Earl and Owen Cooke to canvass the membership to find persons willing to serve on the executive in 2010. The committee will present its recommendations at the meeting.

Note that further nominations at the annual meeting are welcome.

Note also that the responsibilities for all the candidates will not be determined at the AGM. Several directors will have their responsibilities assigned to them at the first meeting of the new executive.

The first meeting of the new executive will be held at the home of Susan McKellar on January 25, 2010.

Bernard "Barney" McCarnen was born in Manotick in 1841 and watched the Dickinson - Currier development. New research from past interviews with Barney is shedding new light on the Dickinson era and what was taking place back then

Upcoming Meetings The Spring Program

February 17, 2010, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Kars: Maritta Saharinen will show pictures and talk about the history of the Women's Institute in Carleton County, with displays by her able assistant, Coral Lindsay.

March 17, 2010: RTHS members Barbara Humphreys and Winston Spratt will talk about that undiscovered treasure, the Clapp House in Manotick.

Sometime this year local author Teresa Charland will tell us about the legendary Merrickville businessman Harry McLean. Teresa spent 10 years researching and writing her book, Building an Empire: "Big Pants" Harry F. McLean and His Sons of Martha, published in 2007 and available at your local library.

The program for April, May, and June has not yet been finalized. June will feature an excursion as in past years.



Old Mill, Royal Bank, Dickinson House

We Always Like to Hear from our Summer Students...

Hi Susan,

I wanted to let you know that I will, unfortunately, still be in Lennoxville on December 9th. I have five exams this semester, and my last one is only on the 11th. I hope that everyone has a great time at the Christmas Party.

I also hope that you can pass this message on to the Rideau Township Historical Society:

Dear Members of RTHS,

I am extremely grateful for the money I received from the Rideau Township Historical Society. As a student every cent counts. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that RTHS was providing me with money to help out with driving expenses.

I hope that my work at the Rideau Archives during this past summer, and my volunteer efforts during the previous fall have been a valuable contribution to the Archives and the RTHS. I wholly enjoyed my time at the archives. The juxtaposition of working independently and with all the volunteers was a great experience. I learned so much this past summer, and I look forward to working at the archives this coming summer.

At present, I am working towards completing a History Honours at the University of Bishop's. This winter I will be applying for various masters programs in History and in Public History. Fingers crossed I will have good news in April.

Hope everyone is well. Thank you.

Sarah Bennett

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 once again starting the new year with a solid core of 15 volunteers, a number we will try to increase over the year. 2009 was a productive year for the Branch. Hopefully we can do even better in 2010.

Large Format Scanner

In the continuing effort to keep abreast of the technology the Rideau Branch has acquired a large format scanner. It was acquired from the main branch of the Ottawa Archives.

The scanner is an Epson with an 11" by 17" bed that will allow us to scan poster size documents at high resolution.

Our Microfilm Camera

Rideau Township Historical Society owns a valuable flat-bed microfilm camera, given to us a number of years ago by Xebec Imaging when they got out of the manual filming business.

Since then, the camera has been housed at Rideau Archives, and has made some money for the Friends of Rideau Township Archives (a committee of the RTHS) by contracting microfilming jobs. Microfilm technology seems to have been made obsolete by digital imaging in the past few years, and now the camera sits unused.

It is too good to throw out, but takes up too much room at the Archives. Over the last several weeks volunteers have disassembled the bulky machine and will store it above the Archives vault for the present. This will make room for the new (to us, at least) large digital scanner in the reading room.

Do you know any group who might want the camera?

If so please contact the Rideau Archives at (613) 489-2926 on a Tuesday.

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

RIDEAU TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

Single: \$10.00 _____ Couple: \$15.00 _____ Life Member: \$100.00 _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal code: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

I/We prefer to receive notices and news by: e-mail: _____ hard copy by mail: _____

I/We agree that the Executive Committee may use the above personal information for internal Society use. Members' names will not be made available to individuals or organizations outside the Society.

Signature(s): _____

Please submit this form with your cheque payable to **Rideau Township Historical Society**

To: Owen Cooke, Membership Director
Box 56
North Gower, ON K0A 2T0