



Rideau Township Historical Society

North Gower, Box 56, Ontario, K0A 2T0

April 2008 Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Coral Lindsay (rideauarchives@ottawa.ca)

- **Meeting** **Wednesday, April 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.**
at the Carsonby Community Hall
6045 Prince of Wales Hwy.

Speaker: **You, Members, friends, guests**

Topic: **Show and Tell: Your turn**

RTHS held a show and tell event in April, 2005 and by popular demand we'll do it again. You will have table space to "show" your treasures and 2-3 minutes to "tell". There will also be time to "look" at antiques, heirlooms and rare artifacts displayed by others. The Hall will open at 6:30.

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

For a ride call Brian Earl
613-692-2371

Thank you to the Carsonby Brownies who relinquished the Hall, their "good deed" for R.T.H.S. We appreciate it.

- **Last meeting:**

Rachael Brookes and Caroline Phillips, Parks Canada, presented slides of the archeological work at Burritts Rapids and Sappers Bridge. The artifacts on display included coins, cutlery, china and crockery. The Time Line Game was very popular.

Digital Affairs co-ordinator, Ron Wilson, demonstrated the RTHS website (www.manotick.org/rths).

Thank you to Melanie Hayes for the refreshments for both March and April. Great banana bread!

• **April 1.** Ron Wilson was the guest speaker for the Osgoode Township Historical Society at the museum in Vernon. A large crowd turned out to hear Ron's presentation on Rideau's Barns Project, including a number of Osgoode farmers as well as Elizabeth Stuart who will be 101 on July 7.

• **April 2.** The RTHS executive meeting was held at the home of Jane Anderson and it was decided to add more historical content to the newsletter beginning with *The Name Game* in this issue. Please send us your questions or items of interest. The newsletter is published on the second Tuesday, January-June, September-November and on the first Tuesday in December.

• **April 4.** Margaret Scott, RTHS member of long standing, was recognized in the April 4, 2008 issue of *The Packet* when she visited Devonshire Public School. It was a wonderful and nostalgic day for Margaret captured in a well-written article by Dosi Catroneo. Well done.

• **April 6.** The A.G.M. for Watson's Mill Management Inc. WWMI, was held on the 2nd floor of the Carriage House, Dickinson Square, and was also well attended. Public ownership of the Dickinson House, Carriage House, Ayers Building (Rideau Seniors), the Weaver's House, Clapp House, Cenotaph and Bridge Street will be finalized on May 31, 2008. The Mill is now (for \$1.00) the property of WWMI. Perseverance and good stewardship have prevailed. The future of the old/new cultural centre on the shores of the World Heritage Rideau looks great.

As soon as the Mill Quarter is established there will be volunteers from both WWMI and DSHMI (Dickinson Square Heritage Management Inc.) on that board.

Isabelle Geoffrion, Manager, will be working closely with the Ministry of Culture to assure that the provincial criteria and standards are met. The energetic and capable Isabelle may be reached at 613-692-6455 or E-mail watsonsmillmanotick@rogers.com. For more information try www.watsonsmill.com

• **Coming events:**

- April 18-19 **Book Fair**
Kars Public School will hold a used book sale Friday April 18, 4:30-8:00 and Saturday April 19, 10:00-2:00.
- April 23 RTHS executive meeting at Jane Anderson's
- April 29 President Mark Jodoin will be guest speaker at the Merrickville and District Historical Society Spring Dinner in the Kilmarnock Room, Sam Jakes Inn, 6:30 bar, 7:00 dinner. Dinner ticket \$35.00 in advance or \$40.00 at the door. Call Jill Gray – 613-269-4236 for a reservation and a menu choice.
- Mark will present the story of Stephen Burritt, soldier, spy and eventually founder of Burritts Rapids, a story worth hearing.

May is Museum Month

- May 3 Watson's Mill season opening 10:30 – 2:30
- May 3 – June 8 **Watson's Mill Used Book Sale**
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily in the Carriage House
- May 21 **"Ancestry" Workshop**
Wednesday, May 21, at 1:30 p.m.
Rideau Township Archives, North Gower
A genealogy workshop with instructor Diana Hall will be held in conjunction with the Ottawa Public Library. More information to follow.
- May 21 RTHS meeting Wednesday, May 21, at 7:30 p.m.
- The guest speaker for the May 21 meeting of RTHS will be the Ottawa photographer, Greg Newton, son of photographer and city councillor Bill Newton. Greg will present photos of their work with the Ottawa Citizen during the last 50 years.

June

- June 7 – 8 **Dickinson Days.** Who's in charge of the RTHS stall?
- June 7 – 8 **Doors Open** at the Archives and at the Dickinson House. More information coming soon.
- 2009: The **Manotick 150th Anniversary** committee, chaired by Peter Peers, Manotick Messenger, is proceeding with plans for 2009 celebrations. Brian Earl represents the RTHS on the Dickinson Square committees.
- 2010 Will we really have our new City of Ottawa Archives at CentrepoinTE? Let's hope so.

News from the Rideau 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).

Lucy Martin is preparing an exhibit on the history of the Orange Lodge at Kars and Mary Davidson is gathering photos and histories of the places of worship including those whose parish boundaries go beyond the former township. Would you like to help?

R.T.H.S. gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa.

THE NAME GAME

Can you locate these Rideau communities? What is the origin of their names?

Beckett's Landing	North Gower
Burritts Rapids	North Gower Corners
Carleton Golf and Yacht Club	The Periwinkle
Carsonby	Pierce's Corners
Dwyer Hill	Puddle Alley
Fairmile	Reeve Craig
Geddes's Corners	Sugar Camp Hill
Goodstown	Todds' Corners
Kars	Wattersons' Corners
Long Island Locks	Wellington
Malakoff	The Windfall
Manotick	
Nicholl's Island	

Five places had two names. Which ones? What crossroads, corners or hamlets are missing from the list? Define a village.

Mahogany Harbour is part of the west channel of the Rideau south of Manotick Village and was called Wattersons' Bay for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Watterson lived where C & N is now. They kept a tourist home (B & B) during the summer months and often boarded teachers during the school year. The house, barn and property were very attractive and well maintained.

Who chose the name Mahogany harbour? Was it John Johnston or his wife Joan? What year? Why? Members of the Manotick Classic Boat Club should ace these questions!

What are your recollections of the Harbour? We'd like to know.

John Carson, Ballimene, County Tyrone, Ireland, arrived in Lower Canada in the 1820's. He and his wife Mary Cummings pioneered in Gloucester in the Montreal Road – Carson Road area.

In the 1840's the family, including Robert, Charles and James Carson and a sister who married William Craig, purchased land in North Gower Township. Take a wild guess and tell us the name chosen for the post office and community after they settled here.

Note: Car Canada is at Todds' Corners. Is this part of Carsonby?

Like many locations in eastern Canada, Malakoff and Kars were named as a patriotic colonial gesture in honour of British and French victories over the Russians during the Crimean War, 1853 – 1856.

Sir William Fenwick Williams, a Canadian, led the British troops into the City of Kars and rescued the people. Where is that walled city? In what Canadian museum is Sir William recognized as the Hero of Kars?

Malakoff and Kars (in Rideau) each had another name. What were they?

Beckett's Landing was named for Thomas A. Beckett of Kemptville when he and his family moved here and established wharves on both Rideau shores for his ferry. The landmark, St. Paul's Anglican Church and Cemetery. 1872, stand on a high knoll on the north shore overlooking this flourishing hamlet. When did the Becketts settle here and give their name to the community?

Except, perhaps, for the Ottawa Locks which enter the Ottawa River, Colonel By's surveyors and engineers did not use aboriginal names for any of the locks along the Rideau Canal.

The Ojibway "Manotick" was therefore translated to "Long Island" since "Island in a River" was too cumbersome for Colonel By and his men either in their reports or for the lockstation at the northern tip of the Island.

When Dickinson, Currier and partners required an identification for their subdivision, Long Island Village was already established so they made an obvious choice, i.e. Manotick. The Ojibway were still travelling through the Lower Rideau and camping on the Island and the mainland so "Manotick" would have been familiar to the settlers living here since the 1830's

What is your theory on the naming of Manotick?

THINK ABOUT IT: Communities have social boundaries that differ from municipal or parish boundaries. One of our new life members lives in the Yukon, a descendent of a Long Island lockmaster. And where is Heart's Desire anyway? Or Maple Hill? or Echo Drive?

DID YOU KNOW? The City of Ottawa Ward 21 now includes the former Rideau Township as well as parts of Nepean and Goulbourn.