

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

April 2019 Newsletter

Newsletter Editor: Ron Wilson (rideauarchives@ottawa.ca)

The April Meeting

Date: Wednesday April 17
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Ottawa Client Service Centre,
2155 Roger Stevens Drive,
North Gower, ON



The Winter/Spring Speakers and Subjects

May: Wednesday, May 15th
Magic Lantern Show
Presenter: Professor Lindsay Lambert
Time: 7:30 pm.
Venu: Manotick Place Retirement Community,
1145 Bridge Street, Manotick
June: Saturday June 15th, Excursion to Perth, Ontario. More info at the meeting on April 17th and in the next newsletter.

Gene-O-Rama 2019

The RTHS had a book table this past weekend at Gene-O-Rama 2019, the annual conference of the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

Giulio Maffini, Sandy McNiece and Susan McKellar had the opportunity on Friday evening and Saturday to chat with several people about the Society, its activities, and the Rideau township area – we heard lots of stories and even sold 5 books.

Speaker: Sean Darcy

Sean Darcy has worked on Aboriginal issues for over 30 years, and is currently the Manager of the Claims Assessment and Treaty Mechanisms Directorate of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada. Mr. Darcy is also an adjunct professor in Canadian Studies at Carleton University, teaching at the graduate level on Indigenous issues

Subject: Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim

The land which comprised the former Township of Rideau falls entirely within the traditional territory of the Algonquins of Ontario. The Algonquins have never signed a treaty and, since the early 1990s, have been negotiating with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to address their claims to outstanding Aboriginal rights and title in the territory.

Mr. Darcy will discuss the history of the Algonquins in Ontario, the Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim, and the assessment of claims to continuing Aboriginal rights and title.

See the poster on page 3 for more information.

Dickinson House

We are fast approaching another season. Work such as the new light fixtures and ceiling painting etc, is nearing completion. Members are encouraged to think about volunteering as tour guides or for various other jobs such as spring cleanup. Lets roll up our sleeves and make it another good summer.

Contact Brian Earl at (613)-692-2371 or brian.earl@sympatico.ca

2019 Memberships Now Due

A reminder: very reasonable annual dues for 2019 are now being collected. (\$10 individual; \$15 family) See Membership Director Gary Bagley at any meeting, or mail your cheques and the form on page 5 of this newsletter to:

RTHS P.O. Box 56 North Gower, ON K0A 2T0

We Apologize

We regret we neglected to acknowledge the contribution of **Dr. David Shanahan**, of the North Grenville Historical Society, to last month's article on M. M. Teasaw.

RTHS March 2019 Presentation

My Naval Career

Presented by Capt. Peter Milsom

Article by Pat Earl, photos Captain Milsom

On the first day of spring, the RTHS met at the North Gower Anglican Church and welcomed Captain Peter Milsom as speaker. Capt. Milsom's topic was Life in Canada's Cold War Navy.

Beginning his talk with an overview of his naval service, Capt. Milsom told us he had served for thirty-two years including time aboard seven ships: HMCS Scotian, HMCS Cornwallis, HMCS Stadacona, HMCS Buckingham, HMCS Skeena, HMCS Huron, and experienced the sad event of seeing the official end of HMCS Saguenay as it was sunk to create a reef for a fish habitat.



Captain Milsom as a young seaman and one of the ships he served in.

In the mid sixties, he took courses in Manitoba, learning to fly and there received his Pilots Wings. Later, back in Nova Scotia, he learned to fly naval helicopters and was part of a global demonstration showing that small ships could carry heavy helicopters.

One of Capt. Milsom's proudest moments was when he was appointed the first Naval Commandant, Canadian Forces School of Administration and Logistics in Camp Borden. He retired from Naval Service in 1991 and joined National Defence as a civilian executive.

Capt. Milsom moved on to talk about the Cold War. The Cold War, 1949-1991, was a time of tension between the United States / West Block and Russia / East Block because this conflict involved nuclear arms, neither side could afford to attack the other and therefore the name Cold War. This was a dangerous time in history and especially for the navy as western ships were constantly shadowed by Russian ships.

These were times of the Cuban crisis, the Vietnam war, trouble in Afghanistan, Olympic and hockey battlegrounds. Canada pulled its weight during this time of world tension. Louis St Laurent was one of the architects

of NATO and during the 50s and 60s, Canada took part in all NATO and peace keeping missions. Our navy was sharing the sea with seven other navies, some not well trained in manoeuvres especially at night. Many men were lost at sea during this trying time. Finally with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the reuniting of Germany, and in 1991 the end of the Soviet Union, the Cold War came to an end.

Capt. Milsom shared several other interesting experiences of his long 56 year career, showing overhead photos as he talked.

At the end of the evening when asked questions, he gave his view on unification and integration of the armed forces. Integration, he said, was a good thing because it joined together specialized units such as medical and procurement teams and saved some money. However, unification was bad as it took away the pride of being special, of team work, making all look alike. Many left the service at that time.

Today, things are back to three services -air, army and navy. This is all about the people and in closing his words say it all: ***The navy is not a career - it is a way of life!***



A Canadian warship at sea



The NATO logo

**Rideau Township Historical Society
Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 7:30 p.m.**

Ottawa Client Service Centre
2155 Roger Stevens Drive, North Gower



Image from Algonquins of Ontario Website

Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim



Totem Pole, East Gate Algonquin Park
Carved by Dan Bowers

Guest Speaker

Sean Darcy

**Manager, Claims Assessment
and Treaty Mechanisms
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada**

The Rideau Township Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.

News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives

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

Resources and Services of the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives: a monthly feature in this newsletter, celebrating the services and holdings preserved in your community's archives resource centre.

Archives Awareness Week

The Friends of the City of Ottawa Archives is an organization which exists to support and promote the interests of the Ottawa and Rideau branch Archives. This year, in support of the Ontario Archives Awareness week, they provided promotional assistance and total funding to the Friends of the Rideau Archives as they took the initiative to provide 3 local public programs.

About 25 people attended Stuart Clarkson's illustrated presentation on House History at the Rideau Archives in North Gower on Tuesday evening, Apr. 2. He talked about sources of information, and illustrated the process by focusing on one house in North Gower, describing what he had learned from different sources. The audience was quite interested, and there were several questions and much discussion. Several people expressed their intention to come back on a Tuesday when the Archives is open to do some research.

Archives Awareness week continued on Saturday at the Manotick Legion. In the morning was the Archives in the Attic event. We were able to welcome some enthusiastic parties who brought in photos, certificates, and other paper artifacts from various earlier decades and even centuries. Stuart Clarkson, Owen Cooke, David Bullock and Ruth Wright were on hand to welcome visitors and assist them in laying out their artefacts and to admire and offer advice on how to preserve the many unique treasures. One participant was able to find information on the whereabouts of a long scroll painting which had been in his possession for many years.

The afternoon took a slightly different turn as the City of Ottawa Digital Archivist, John Lund, made a presentation dealing with the storage of digital photos. There were approximately 40 people who attended this very informative and worthwhile talk and received many tips on how to organize and preserve digital photos. There were many questions which John answered expertly and he emphasized that we should not throw away our print photos as they will last longer than the digital photos. He also stressed the importance of backing up all of our work, and keeping up with the latest trends and updates in technology. He offered a copy of his presentation to attendees if

they wished to receive one and informed us of other workshops and presentations that were available which might be beneficial to pursue at a later date. The Friends of the City of Archives President, Gilles Seguin, was also on hand to welcome guests and inform the attendees of other services provided by the organization and encourage them to join, and we thank him for his support and financial assistance. Thanks to Rod Brazier who assisted by taking photos at both events.

Thanks to all who participated in these events, and a special 'thank you' to Dave Bullock who spearheaded and organized this initiative.



One of the presentations at the Legion on the Saturday.



Stuart Clarkson (red shirt) and Dave Bullock (blue sleeves) examining and discussing artefacts.

[The RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa.](#)

Sign me up as a member of RTHS



Rideau Township
Historical Society

Members of the Society enjoy:

- Monthly meetings featuring engaging presentations, followed by refreshments
- Group excursions to historical points of interest in Eastern Ont.
- Local books published by the Society and a monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to participate and contribute as volunteers

For more information visit www.rideautownshiphistory.org,
facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory, and twitter.com/RideauTpHS.
Please send this form with a cheque for membership dues payable to:
Rideau Township Historical Society, Box 56, North Gower, ON, K0A 2T0.
A tax receipt will be issued for all membership dues and donations.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Individual Membership \$10 _____
Family Membership \$15 _____
(2 adults & school-aged children)

Life Membership \$100 _____
Donation \$50 _____
Other Donation \$ _____

Thank you for supporting RTHS!