

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

December 2010 Newsletter

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

The RTHS Christmas Pot Luck Supper

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2010
Time: 6:30 pm to eat at 7 pm
Place: Knox Presbyterian Church
5533 Dickinson Street
Manotick

Please note the change of venue.

This year the Pot Luck will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick instead of the Anglican Church in North Gower due to an expected large attendance.



Can we cook or can we cook?

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

From the Pen of the President

As the Holiday Season approaches I am reminded of the joys and benefits of friendship.

I have been impressed with the fellowship and goodwill that surround the Historical Society's activities. Our monthly meetings are pleasant, enjoyable events, full of chatter, respect for one another, and built around an educational experience. The fellowship around lunch is very special. Incidentally, our executive and committee meetings are also fun, with a pleasant mixture of respect, humour and creative ideas. Who said history was dull?

- At this time of year we become aware of those around us who are less fortunate and probably very lonely. Personally, I have never been lonely but regretfully I have two acquaintances that are very lonely. They are both males, my age, living alone, and somewhat disabled. In their day, they would have been described as big, strong, fearless and productive men. One, a retired RCMP officer is disabled as a result of a stroke, the other, a retired farmer is disabled as the result of a farm accident. Many of their friends deserted them when they became incapacitated. They are companionless, isolated, and generally very lonely. If we know anyone who is less fortunate or lonely we could invite them to a meeting of the Historical Society where they would feel welcome and comfortable. It could be a wonderful experience for them with the opportunity to find new friends.

- ***On the Eve of the upcoming holiday season may we give thanks for our many blessings and especially the blessing of fellowship and friendship.
Season' Greetings to RTHS members and friends***

This Month

1. The November Meeting
2. Kars on the Rideau
3. Watson's Mill 150th
4. The Dickinson House
5. News from the Rideau Archives

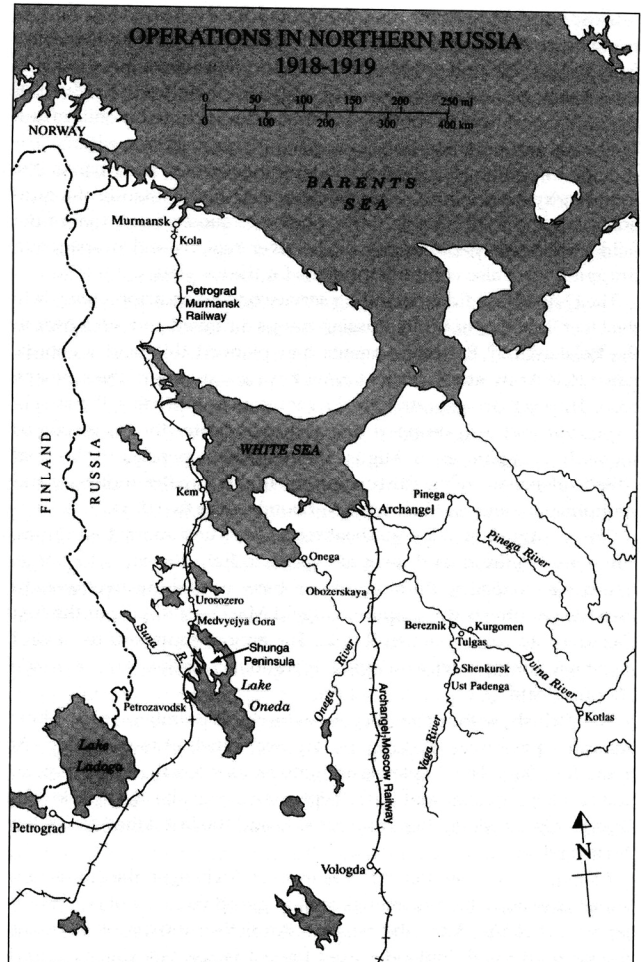
The November 2010 Meeting

Canadians Flying in North Russia, 1918

Article by Maureen McPhee & Susan McKellar

RTHS Director and retired National Defence archivist, Owen Cooke is author of *The Canadian Military Experience 1867: a Bibliography*. Among Owen's contributions to various projects and publications is his chapter on "Canadian Airmen and Allied Intervention in North Russia, 1918-19" in the book *Canada and the Great War: Western Front Association Papers*. The experiences of these airmen were the subject of Owen's presentation to the Society.

Owen began by reviewing the situation at the outbreak of World War 1, a war in which Canada was automatically involved as part of the British Empire. Using a PowerPoint presentation, as well as slide images, he described how the Allies initially tried to shore up the ill-equipped Russian forces through military missions to Russia. Following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, Allied interventions continued in the Russian Civil War of 1917-21, a war with few pitched battles. Owen described the experiences of more than 60 Canadian airmen who flew in this bitter war. He showed pictures of some of these men and their air-planes, explaining the problems encountered, such as attempting to use water cooled engines in an Arctic environment.



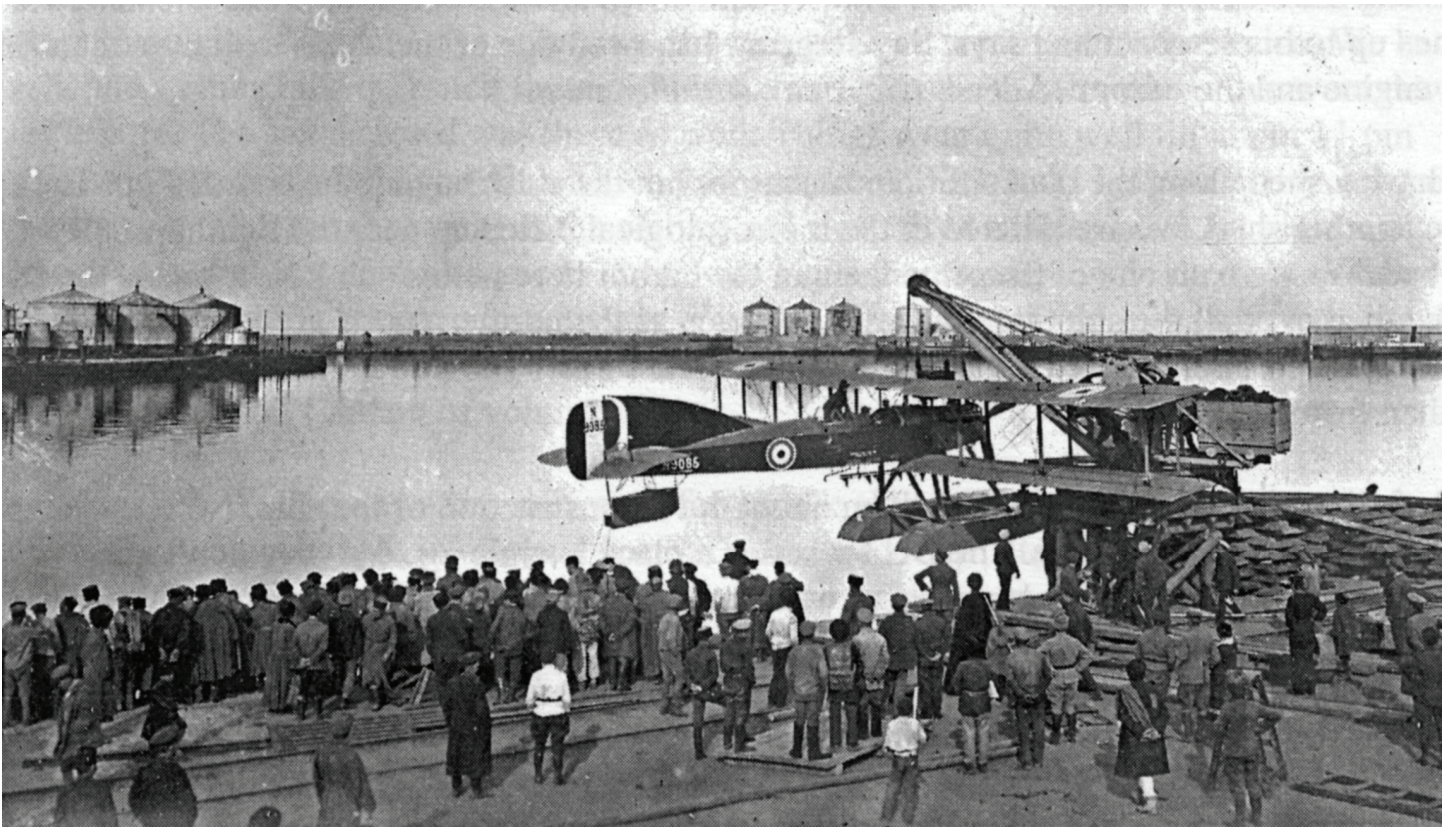
Owen Cooke, Bob Morrison, Bill Tupper, and Doug Culham following the questions and answers at the end of the meeting.

Owen connected his presentation to the local community by asking Bob Morrison to speak about the diary of his father, who volunteered to fight the Bolsheviks in the Caspian Sea area. The diary relates, for example, how the British converted a Russian ship into a seaplane tender, which lowered the planes into the sea and hoisted them back on board. The British, who wished to prevent Bolshevik approaches towards India, were able to dominate

the region for 6 months, until they decided to pull out. During questions and answers following Owen's presentation, it was learned that John Palmer, a RTHS member, has a taped interview with his father, who was part of a 1919 expeditionary force that went to North Russia to recapture Allied supplies.



The meeting was held in the Carriage Shed at the Mill in Manotick.



Short 184 seaplane at Petrovsk on the Caspian Sea during the Allied intervention of 1918-19. This aircraft was flown by R.G.K. Morrison of Chesterville. His son attended the meeting in the Carriage House.

The Dickinson House Season of 2010

The Dickinson house has been open a total of 65 days in 2010 and we have had well over 4000 visitors, a new record. It has been another very successful season with which the RTHS should be proud. As a token of our appreciation all volunteers will receive a certificate at the Christmas Dinner at Knox Presbyterian Church on the evening of December 8.

Coral Lindsay has arranged that there will be carol singing, apple cider, and refreshments at the Dickinson House on December 4 and 5, which are the last two days the house will be open until next May.

In regard to next year, program planning for the 2011 season is well underway. Work with the City of Ottawa on a 2011 Licence of Occupation (LOO) is progressing. The RTHS is pursuing a joint LOO with Watson's Mill in which costs such as grass cutting would be shared.



Making ice-cream at the Dickinson House in 2009.

Kars on the Rideau

The first printing of *Kars on the Rideau* was quite successful, selling out in just one week. Please note that a second printing of an additional 200 copies has been done and the book is once more available for purchase. The book is available at the Kars General Store, Manotick Office Pro, the Dickinson House December 4 & 5, and at the Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Archives on Tuesdays. They are also available from Ellen Adamsons at (613) 489 2350.

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 Archives welcomes its newest volunteer, Madeline Bongers, a recent graduate from Acadia University. A resident of Kars, Madeline majored in Classics and has acquired experience while working as an Archival Assistant at the Clarington Museum and Archives in Bowmanville, Ontario. Welcome aboard Madeline.

The branch held its annual meeting with Archives management on November 16 to report on its progress and development, an occasion to pause and recognize the volunteers' contributions to the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives. Since January 2010, a total of 2822 volunteer hours have been logged for the preservation and promotion of the community's heritage. Thank you.

Why not join the RTHS?

- attend the meetings and enjoy the presentations
- meet other people interested in local history
- find fascinating projects to volunteer for
- get assistance and advice with genealogical and historical research
- learn more about local history

Meetings are held monthly (except for July and August) at various locations in the former Rideau Township including Manotick, Kars, North Gower and Carsonby. We also do excursions to historical points of interest.

Yearly membership costs are \$10 for a single & \$15 for a family.

Contact the [Membership Director](#)

150th Anniversary of the Mill

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

Isabelle Geoffrion 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 throughout the year.

[Events for Fall 2010](#)

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