



# Rideau Township Historical Society

North Gower, Box 56, Ontario, K0A 2T0

## February 2007 Newsletter

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

- **Meeting**      **Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 7:30 p.m.**  
at the Rideau Township Archives  
6581 Fourth Line Road, North Gower

**Speaker:**      **Mark Jodoin**

**Topic:**      **Roger Stevens, the first settler on the Rideau  
within the boundaries of modern Ottawa**

"Settler, Scout, Soldier, Spy" is the subject of this month's RTHS presentation and the title of an article featuring Roger Stevens which appears in the latest edition of *Esprit de Corps* magazine. It tells the story of this Loyalist mill owner from Vermont who fought for the British as a frontier spy during the American Revolutionary War. At the close of hostilities, he found his way to Canada and settled on the Rideau. Stevens had carried out countless dangerous missions behind enemy lines, was captured on three occasions, and escaped hanging each time only to die mysteriously on a tributary of the Rideau (now Stevens Creek) in the company of William Merrick, from whom Merrickville draws its name. This adventurer, woodsman and rowdy-man pioneered the settlement of modern Ottawa.

Mark Jodoin is president of the Rideau Township Historical Society and author of the *Rideau Warriors* series of feature articles in *Esprit de Corps* in 2007. The magazine has a circulation of 30,000 and features stories related to matters of defense and of the Canadian military. The *Rideau Warriors* series honours the Rideau Canal's 175th anniversary and the men and women of the Canadian military currently serving overseas.

Light refreshments

Bring a friend

For a ride call Brian Earl  
613-692-2371

- **Last meeting:**

Stu and Marg Rogers presented a fascinating multi media history of the Adena, Hopewell and Mississippian cultures with excellent visuals.

The A.G.M. reports were received and the 2007-8 executive elected. Thank you to past presidents Richard McDonald and Jeff Cronin and Directors Eric Field and Ron Wallace. You may assume the role of consultants to the newcomers!

- **Executive 2007-8 Directory:**

Past Pres.:	Jeff Cronin	613-692-6273
President:	Mark Jodoin	613-692-6964
Vice-President:	-	
Secretary & Membership:	Brian Earl	613-692-2371
Treasurer:	Pat de St. Croix	613-489-2316
Publications:	Jane Anderson	613-692-4147
Newsletter:	Coral Lindsay	613-489-2029
	Susan McKellar	613-489-3961
Digital Affairs:	Ron Wilson	613-692-3009
Directors:	Dennis Osmond	613-692-4741
	Greg Hutton	613-692-1669
	Ron Wilson	613-692-3009

- **INVITATION**

His Worship Larry O'Brien and City Council with CHOO/COPO invites us to the annual Heritage Day Ceremony and Reception at noon on February 19 in the Jean Pigott Hall. This is our once-a-year opportunity to wave the Heritage flag. Let's go.

- **Future meetings:**

March 21	a speaker on railways
April 18	Mark Brus from Parks Canada
May 16	??
June excursion	??

Suggestions welcome.

- **Executive meeting:**

**February 28, 2007, 7:30 p.m.** at the home of Mark Jodoin.

- The Thomson memorial plaque has been installed and the executive agreed to find other ways to recognize and honour founding families.

### **News from the Rideau Archives . . .**

**Hours:**

The Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 4:30 p.m. (613-489-2926), and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month.

**Sunday, March 4, 2007: *Who's Here and What's Here***

We have a treasury of information about the people and events in our past. Four of our volunteers will present a few of their favourite stories and information about how to learn more using both traditional and new technology.

**February 4, 2007:** As a result of good publicity the Manotick Messenger or The Packet will carry a summary of the Lindsay's Wharf presentation in the Heritage issue.

- **Wanted:**

The LeGoueffes, a North Gower farm family, emigrated from France in the 1960s and would like someone to help write a history of their experiences from the 1930s to the present. Please call 613-489-2642 for more information.

- **The Osgoode Village Story**, second printing, is for sale in Julee's Quilt Shop, Osgoode Main Street, for \$15.00, 613-826-1243. The Lighthouse history is included.

- **Rideau 175 Parks Canada:**

- **May 22, 2007**, Official Opening of the celebration at the Parks Canada-Rideau Canal Museum, in Smiths Falls.
- **June 30, 2007**, Colonel By and other surprises at the Ottawa Locks.
- **September 1, 2007**, a tribute to labour at the Jones Falls lockstation. Call 1-888-773-8885 or [www.rideau175.org](http://www.rideau175.org)
- “**Route Canal**” is a weekly podcast radio show about the Rideau 175 and may be downloaded free from [www.podcastproducer.ca](http://www.podcastproducer.ca) in Ottawa.
- RTHS president Mark Jodoin is writing a series of articles entitled **Rideau Warriors** for *Esprit de Corps*; 1-800-361-2791. The first two, Roger Stevens, and the Burritt Brothers, have been published. Well done!
- The Merrickville Historical Society Rideau 175 lecture series begins on March 18. A season ticket costs \$25.00 or there is a \$5.00 admission at the door. Call John Cowan, 613-269-3067.
- Friends of the Rideau published **Rideau Reflections**, edited by Ken Watson, 1 Jasper Ave., Smiths Falls, Ont., K7A 4B5, tel. 613-283-5810 or email [kwatson@kos.net](mailto:kwatson@kos.net).

*Question:*

How should the members and friends  
of the Rideau Township Historical Society  
celebrate the **Rideau 175**?  
Suggestions welcome.