

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

February 2010 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
6810 Rideau Valley Drive South,
Kars, Ont
Business: Regular Monthly Meeting
Topic: 100 Years of Women's Institutes in
Carleton District

2010 Membership Dues

Members are reminded that the 2010 membership fees are now due. Fees remain the same low \$10 for an individual, \$15 for a family membership. Please complete the attached form and pay either at the next meeting or by mail.

Speakers

Maritta Saharinen, President of Carleton District Women's Institute.

Coral Lindsay, Tweedsmuir History Coordinator of the Kars Women's Institute.

Subject

100 Years of Women's Institutes in Carleton District

The program will be based on a PowerPoint presentation and accompanying displays from the 100th Anniversary Celebration held in June 2009 in North Gower.

150th Anniversary of the Mill

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.



Organizing Committee Web Site
www.manotick150.ca/

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

For a ride call Brian Earl

This Month

1. Results of the AGM
2. The Bring & Brag
3. The Women's Institute
4. 150th year, Watson's Mill
5. News from the Rideau Archives

Watson's Mill Coming Events

Monday, February 15, 10:00am
Heritage Day: Our Changing Landscape

Wednesday, February 24, 7:00pm
Watson's Mill Presents... Lecture Series

Friday, February 26, 7:30pm
Scotch Tasting Event

Monday, March 15, 9:30am
March Break Day Camp: Writing on Walls

RTHS at Heritage Day in Ottawa, Tuesday February 16th

The RTHS will be present at Heritage Day at Ottawa City Hall, 110 Laurier. Come and join us for the ceremony at 11:30 a.m. in Andrew S. Haydon Hall, followed by a reception and Heritage Fair in Jean Pigott Hall. This year's theme is "Heritage of Sport and Recreation".

Results of the AGM

The new year opened with the Annual General Meeting on January 20 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick with approximately 42 members in attendance. Treasurer Brian Killins presented the annual budget, which was adopted at the meeting.

The Nominating Committee (Owen Cooke and Brian Earl) then presented its slate of candidates for the annual election. The members voted unanimously to accept the slate as recommended by the Committee. The new list of officers are as follows.

Bill Tupper - President (new term)
Coral Lindsay - Vice-President (new term)
Mark Jodoin – Past President (new term)
Brian Killins - Treasurer (term expires 2011)
Maureen McPhee - Secretary (new term)
Owen Cooke – Membership Director (term expires 2011)
Ron Wilson – Director and acting Webmaster (term expires 2011)
Lucy Martin - Director (term expires 2011)
Susan McKellar - Director (term expires 2012)
Brian Sawyer – Director (new term)
Gerald Reasbeck - Director (new term)
Cam Trueman - Director (new term)

Some responsibilities for the Directors that are listed without responsibilities remain to be assigned.

Welcome to new board members and many thanks to out-going Past President Jeff Cronin and Publications Editor Jane Anderson for their faithful service.

January's Featured Event: Bring & Brag by Lucy Martin

With business taken care of, it was time for the always-popular Bring & Brag show.

With apologies for errors or omissions, here's how the evening went.

Dennis Osmond brought in a charming writing slate, possibly from his cobbler great-grandfather's cottage, probably dating from the early 1800's. Such slates would have been found in any school of the time.

Val Lister once again took the "oldest item" prize, with four choice examples of antique lamps dating from 3600BC to the 1880s.

Margaret Cameron, hands down, took the memory and poetry prize with her A-Z recitation and demonstration of charming items associated with Annabelle, a doll from the 1890's. Well done Margaret!

RTHS President Mark Jodoin's first book was published last year, "Shadow Soldiers of the American Revolution".

Jodoin proceeded to display some of the 80 historic and original illustrations used in the book, the oldest being a print of Quebec City, circa 1775.

Ronald and Scott Cameron brought a father-son display of artefacts from the first and second world wars, including a bayonet, helmet and utility belt.

Marguerite and Stuart Rogers opened a complex family chronology with their iconic Channel Island Cabbage stick (cane).

Joan Emily Evans shared a large and fine picture of a woman dear to her heart, her Grandmother Emily Farrell. Evans recently found a personal journal written by her Grandmother in 1892, at about age 18.





Larry Ellis reported he has acquired thousands of stamps, “after collecting for thousands of years!”, including a cancelled commemorative envelope and stamp from the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Cam and Sandy Trueman shared a lovely glass vase which had come to Sandy’s great-grandparents as a wedding gift around 1900.

Lucy Martin inherited a trio of small, hand-made figures that nicely represent family, immigration and continuity. Lore holds that her great-great-grandmother, Kirsten Gortz, made the dolls to pass the time while sailing from Denmark to the United States in the late 1880’s.

Jane Anderson shared a quaint metal toast rack. As a new bride, she bought the rack as a Christmas present for her Scottish husband Ed. The rack symbolizes a profound culinary culture clash: how to serve and enjoy toast. Hot from the toaster? (North America’s choice.) Or cold on a rack?

Brian Earl brought a pottery shard that could be ancient or merely old, plucked from the ruins of a Roman city called Baluzium (now Baluza) in the Gaza Strip of Northern Sinai. Earl was there serving as a UN truce supervisor in the Middle-East in 1977.

25 years ago Jeff Cronin’s son began – but did not complete – a large model airplane. A few month ago, Cronin finished putting it together. The model depicts the SE 5, a one-man WW1 British fighter. Cronin shared some historic photos of the plane found on the Internet.

Susan McKellar gave Val Lister a near-run for oldest antiquity. Her great-grandfather William Johnson collected many fine remnants of native stone tools. One of the spear points may date back to 2500 B.C.

Owen Cooke won the understatement award, stating “All I brought was a button.” This particular specimen was a Christmas gift from a dedicated button collector and is something of a rarity, coming from the Canadian Air Force. That branch of service only existed as such from Feb 1920 - March 1924, after which it was the Royal Canadian Air Force

Betty Bartlett most likely took the prize for the last item selected: she found a great photo of early township history at 7:15 pm that evening. It was taken at a plowing match, probably in 1974. Looking quite a bit younger were: David Bartlett, Richard McDonald, Garnet Donnelly, John Wilson and Bill Tupper.

Brian Killins brought coins collected by his grandparents, Cecil Winston Killins and Gertrude Johnson Killins, who lived in the Niagara Peninsula. His favorite was a U.S. \$5 gold piece minted in 1901.

Coral Lindsay could have brought any number of collections to share, but this time it was a specialized line of dolls. These simple dolls exemplify a bigger story of innovation in food production, marketing and popular culture. In 1869 Scotch immigrant Joseph Campbell opened a canning factory in New Jersey which evolved into the red-labeled soup company still famous in our time. The innovative company went on to produce condensed soup, ushering in the era of “just add water”.

One of the first and most successful female cartoonists, Grace Gebbie Wiederseim Drayton, created the Campbell Kids beginning in the early 1900’s, during her first marriage to an ad executive. Marketing featuring the Campbell Kids first appeared on streetcar and then in magazines.

Most of the presenters could have easily spent an entire lecture with great details connected to each presentation. Thanks to timekeeper Brian Earl for gentle reminders favouring brevity.

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

The Women's Institute

The Women's Institute is a non-profit volunteer organization founded in Stoney Creek in 1897.

The first WI group in our area began ten years later in North Gower, followed by Stittsville and Manotick a couple of years later.

The WI motto is "For Home & Country".

Each branch offers unique educational monthly meetings. In addition, the WI writes and presents resolutions to various levels of government; conserves local history through Tweedsmuir History Books; and organizes ROSE (Rural Ontario Sharing Education) Sessions that are open to the public.

At the moment the Carleton District Women's Institute consists of ten active Women's Institutes:

Dunrobin WI, Greely-Manotick Station WI, Johnston May WI, Kars WI, Kenmore WI, Lorne Sutherland WI, Metcalfe WI, Richmond WI, South March WI and Vernon WI.

We are part of Eastern Area Women's Institute, Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario <http://www.fwio.on.ca>, and Federated Women's Institutes of Canada www.nald.ca/fwic/index.htm. In addition,

Women's Institute is an affiliate of the Associated Country Women of the World <http://www.acww.org.uk> which has member societies in over 70 countries.

Come to the February meeting and see the Tweedsmuir History books for Manotick, North Gower and Kars, containing photos, family histories, farm histories, and more...

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