



The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

January 2011 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting, AGM & Bill Schaub's on Central Europe

At our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 19 January, your Nominating Committee will present a list of candidates for your approval. There are still opportunities for anyone who wishes to become a Director of the Society this year. For a modest commitment of time, you can learn the workings of the Society, gain some personal satisfaction and meet other heritage-minded members. If you would like to become a Director, either let the Nominating Committee know (oacooke@gmail.com or phone 613-489-3962) or simply appear at the meeting and indicate your interest.

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives
6581 Fourth Line Road (Main Street)
North Gower, Ontario
Business: Annual General Meeting
Presentation: Central Europe

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

Topic

Our Trip to East Germany, 20 Years after Re-unification: A Look at Heritage Preservation and Restoration

Speaker

Bill Schaub, president of Watson's Mill and a "Valley lad", will show and discuss some of the 3000 slides he took on his month-long trip. The presentation will feature several towns in East Germany, including Dresden, and some towns in Bavaria, West Germany, including Coburg where his parents were born.

2011 Memberships Are Now Due

The Rideau Township Historical Society remains the same educational and entertainment bargain it has always been - only \$10 a year for a single membership or \$15 for a family. To join for 2011, please fill out the attached form (even if your address and phone are unchanged), sign and either pay by cash or cheque at the January meeting, or mail to:

Membership Director
Rideau Township Historical Society
Box 56
North Gower, Ont
K0A 2T0

From the Pen of the President

- The Tupper's Holiday season was tranquil and enjoyable, enriched by neighbours, friends, e-mails, greeting cards and telephone calls. We hope your holiday season was equally pleasant and laid a foundation for a productive 2011.
- 2010 was a positive year for Rideau Township Historical Society. The programs for the monthly meetings, the field trip, the book launch, the fellowship, and operating Dickinson House were all landmark occasions. The reasons for the success evolves in part from the creativity of the Executive Committee and the height of the bar set by the expectations of our membership. The work of the Executive, in particular that of the Secretariat and Committee Chairs is impressive, always responding with leadership, creative ideas and solutions to problems and challenges, and being willing to go the extra mile to make it happen. The organization of the book launch was a classic example.
- Your President eased into his role. In reality all he had to do was listen and watch things happen. Unquestionably, the high moment for your President was standing along the side wall of the Kars RA Hall on October

This Month

1. The 2011 AGM
2. From the pen of the President
3. The December Pot Luck
4. The 2011 program
5. News from the Rideau Archives
6. Watson's Mill Winter Events

20th and observing a moment of great euphoria, as the community conveyed their appreciation and respect to Coral Lindsay for her contributions to our local history as expressed in the "Kars on the Rideau, Second Edition". Our thanks to her and her editorial team. October 20th was truly a remarkable night for Coral, our Society and the Community.

- Another highlight of the year was the successful operation of Dickinson House. Those volunteers who have committed and contributed to this endeavour are to be thanked. Their work is much appreciated. The foundation for something very special is developing at Dickinson House.

The December 2010 Pot Luck

The RTHS had a good year in 2010 with a notable increase in membership. As a result the usual venue for our Christmas get together, the North Gower United Church Hall, was no longer large enough to accommodate us. Instead the event was held at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick. We extend our thanks to the North Gower United Church for having us all those years in the past.

We also extend our thanks to Knox in general for use of the Church Hall on such short notice and to Melanie Hayes in particular for the setup and decorations. The room was beautiful as can be seen in the pictures included here.

Highlights of the evening included:

A welcome by Mark Jodoin during which he inadvertently let slip a little known accomplishment of his. Mark has written and published a book entitled "Shadow Soldiers of



the American Revolution". Well done Mark!

The food as usual was excellent. It tasted as good as it looks in the picture. Maybe RTHS should think about opening a restaurant. Maybe not. If that night was any indicator we would probably eat the profits.

The music program was in two parts. Scott and Margaret Cameron serenaded us on the pipes and drums during the buffet dinner. We had the rare pleasure of hearing Christmas music played on the pipes.

After dinner we had a sing-a-long with Susan McKellar on the piano. Besides some familiar Christmas carols we sang several compositions consisting of familiar melodies with lyrics by RTHS's own Oscar Hammerstein, Coral

Lindsay. Included were such perennial favourites as "Bring Back the Steamboats".

Next came the awards ceremony. Certificates of appreciation were presented to the Dickinson House volunteers



for their beyond the call of duty support in presenting its history and characteristics to visitors this past summer and for other endeavours.

The one glitch of the evening occurred at this point. Sandy Truman, in preparing the list of volunteers from her records, put the names in the order in which they first volunteered at the house. Mark prepared the computer slide show in that order.

Coral, who was handing out the certificates, being an organized person, of course immediately sorted the certificates into alphabetical order. This all was very fortunate because it resulted in Coral and Mark doing 5 minutes or



RTHS Upcoming Programs in 2011

The following is a look at the RTHS program as it now stands, for the rest of the winter and spring. Venues have not as yet been determined. They will be announced closer to the date of the presentations.

Come and enjoy these stories about our local history and the fellowship of the RTHS community.

February

Dust off your treasures and bring them along to the Show and Tell meeting! From large to small (Owen's button), old and new, your stories bring the items alive.

March

Eugene Fytche, author of *400 Years of Log Fences*, will share his knowledge and illustrations of this aspect of Eastern Ontario pioneers' lives.

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

April

Coral Lindsay and friends will talk about the Dickinson House and the families that lived there, then will lead us on an insider's tour of the House.

May

2010 was declared the Year of the Home Child, to honour and celebrate the courageous children who came on their own from the British Isles to make new lives in Canada. Some of them lived in Rideau Township, and we hope to hear their stories.

June

An excursion will take us off to Brockville, to tour Fulford Place, a magnificent Edwardian mansion overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Senator George Taylor Fulford made millions from "pink pills for pale people" and built this 20,000 square foot home between 1899 and 1901.

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](#)

News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives

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

Please note.

In preparation of its move to a new location, the ***City of Ottawa Archives*** has suspended its walk-in service as of December 31 until further notice. City Archivist Paul Henry expects little disruption of service to the public. "We should be moved and fully operational by early April. And in the meanwhile, we will continue to provide service by phone and e-mail. Our new home will provide much more reference and consultation space for researchers as well as access to modern research tools."

The new \$38.6 million state-of-the-art facility (supported by \$20 million of provincial funding) is a dual-purpose building. While it will predominantly house the City's new Archives, about 25 per cent of the building will be home to a new materials centre for the Ottawa Public Library. The new facility will be located at the corner of Woodroffe Avenue and Tallwood Drive.



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

Watson's Mill Day Camp Friday January 14th 2011 "Outdoor Winter Fun!"

On Friday January 14th 2011, Watson's Mill continues its Children's Day Camp Program for the 2010-2011 year with a special day of Outdoor Winter Fun! Snow activities, nature games and outdoor camp lore will highlight the endless opportunities our Canadian winters offer. Parents, this is your chance to escape from cabin fever and provide a fun outdoor day for your child. Themed activities, crafts, games and a special "show and tell" of vintage winter apparel make Watson's Mill camps a day not to be missed, and a sure-fire way to get out of the house and take advantage of the community around you!

Other Day Camp Programs available:

- Friday February 18th 2011- Day Camp
- Monday February 21st 2011- Heritage Day Camp
- Monday March 14th 2011- March Break Day Camp

Day Camp programs are located in the Carriage Shed community space across the street from Watson's Mill and are recommended for children ages 6-10. Camps begin at 9:30 and runs through to 3:30 pm. Children will be provided snacks but are responsible for their own lunch. Program cost, \$25/child, \$5 discount for Watson Mill Members, all proceeds go to support Watson's Mill programming.

To register or for more information:

- Phone: Cam at 613-692- MILL (6455)
- E-mail: Cam Trueman at watsonsmillprograms@rogers.com
- Or drop in at our Offices, 5524 Dickinson Street (the Carriage Shed across the street from the Mill)

Watson's Mill Presents...

"Perseverance, Pranks and Pride: Tales of the One Room School House"

Not too long ago, the rural countryside was dotted with one room buildings that housed young eager children ready to learn. Teachers of these "school" houses had the monumental task of preparing and delivering lessons to these multiple aged students while at the same time coping with limited resources, no electricity or running water, outside washrooms and a wood stove. How did these pillars of the pedagogical community do it?

On Wednesday January 26 2011, local author and educator, Joy Forbes, will share her adventure as she recorded the stories of local Ottawa Valley residents and their experiences in one-room school houses. Was the strap an effective deterrent? Did fear of failure motivate students (and teachers) to do better? Was the one-room school house really the beginning of self directed learning?

Admission is \$5 per person, in support of Watson's Mill programming. Call us for more details 613-692-6455.

More from the Pot Luck Supper



Heritage Day In Ottawa

The City of Ottawa will celebrate **Heritage Day** on Tuesday February 22, the day after Family Day. As usual there will be a large number of heritage organizations from Ottawa and the area represented. The Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Archives will have a table and a display as in previous years.

The event will be held in the lobby of City Hall at 110 Laurier Avenue West from 11:30 am to 2pm.

Come and enjoy the displays and learn about the group of organizations involved in preserving and protecting our past for the education and enjoyment of future generations

RIDEAU TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2011 MEMBERSHIP

Single: \$10.00 _____ Family: \$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

Note to New Members:

The Society can no longer afford the increasing cost of embossed plastic name tags. We shall provide a paper tag in a plastic holder. If you would like an embossed name tag, we can provide them for \$5.00.

Please indicate here for an embossed name tag at \$5.00 each: _____. Please show number required and names to be embossed: