



The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

January 2012 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

Date: Wednesday January 18, 2012
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Knox Presbyterian Church
5533 Dickinson St.
Manotick, Ontario

This Month

1. The December Xmas Dinner
2. From the Pen of the President
3. News from the Rideau Archives
4. Coming Events
5. Motions for approval at the AGM

Auditor's Report 2011

Please note that Sandy McNiece has once again agreed to conduct the audit of the Society's books for the past fiscal year. We thank him for this and look forward to his report

From the Pen of the President

The Tupperts had a rich and enjoyable Holiday Season. We hope your experiences were similar. Family and friends are central to the holiday experience. We, by choice, were separated from family but telephone and email helps transcend the distances.

Our Annual Meeting is only a few days away. Annual Meetings are an opportunity to reflect on the year just over and to lay a foundation for the coming year. That foundation involves the election of a new executive, the adoption of a budget, and this year the approval of a strategic plan.

The Executive the Society elected for 2011 were a creative, constructive, enjoyable, no-nonsense group to work with. They presented an educational group of speakers, Schaub, Fytche, Lindsay, Tupper, McKellar, Shanahan, Cameron and Cook dealing with topics which ranged from Log Fences and Home Children to the Evolution of the Tank. These were all very special nights. We also enjoyed excursions to Fulford Place, Lyn Heritage Museum and the City of Ottawa Archives. The year culminated with a Christmas dinner get together that has been re-

Topic: *The RTHS Annual Bring & Brag*

Speakers: *Our RTHS Members Themselves*

RTHS Members are the speakers at this annual event which allows members to show their historical artefacts.

So unearth that old treasure! Dust off your special antique! Dig out that ancient relic! Do some research, spin a tale, share your feelings and memories It will be hard to top last year's collection of treasures and tales, but let's try!

Note that the January meeting is also the Annual General Meeting of the Society at which elections for the board will be held and there will be at least two motions for approval.

Bring a Friend, Light Refreshments

ported as "pretty special", "most enjoyable", "lets do it again", "an event that involved no cooking".

There were also two fundamental developments which were not seriously on the agenda this time last year. One was the development of a Business and Financial plan for Dickinson House, and the other the creation of a Strategic Plan for the Society. Both have far reaching implications for the Society. The Dickinson House plan is the Society's view as to how Dickinson House should be developed, managed and financed as a heritage destination in cooperation with the Board of Watson's Mill. The Mill Quarter Board of the City, probably in 2012, will make the initial fundamental decisions about the future of Dickinson House.

The development of the Strategic Plan involved a comprehensive dialogue among the membership of the Society as to how the Society is presently functioning and how it should evolve over the next ten years. The plan in its final form is a consensus. That consensus, looking forward, is a set of values and a vision for the Society that is balanced, realistic, responsible and achievable. I hope it is a proposal that the members will accept at the Annual Meeting.

The December Christmas Dinner

Article by Lucy Martin

There's an ad with the tag line: "That was easy!" The 2011 RTHS Christmas dinner was held December 14th at Manderley on the Green. And was it easy! Fifty-two members and friends gathered on an unusually mild winter evening. After mingling over punch or cocktails, everyone settled in for a roast turkey buffet.

Listening to monthly speakers is interesting but it is also nice to sit, eat and chat at length. At our table, my husband and I discussed our 20-year-old son's hopes to travel and work in Germany with Hanna Schaub and her son Bill, who did that himself, in his younger days. A couple I shall call "anonymous" remarked upon the risk of sitting at the correspondent's table. (It's true, reporters can be quite dangerous that way!) And I learned that table-mate Lynne Webb and I are some sort of very distant cousin, based on a common ancestor from the early 1600's.

With President Bill Tupper away in Florida, Vice-President Maureen McPhee held forth with brief remarks after the meal. She thanked Brian Earl, Rowena Pearl, Manderly staff and Susan McKeller, for putting the event together. Program Director Susan McKellar then presented a quick review of the past year's lectures and outreach efforts, which was followed by a presentation of slides on another successful season of RTHS activities at Dickinson House, set to music by the Manotick Brass Ensemble.

Rowena Pearl graciously provided pleasant music throughout the evening. Once everyone was settled in with coffee, tea or dessert, Pearl then provided excellent keyboard accompaniment for a solid session of Christmas Carols. (Her spouse, RTHS Director Will Pearl, was un-

able to attend. Someone has to keep the retail sector functioning in the peak season of shopping!)



Rowena Pearl at the keyboard

There are pros and cons to each style of gathering. This one offered convenience, at a final cost of \$32 per person. Looking ahead, should members prefer the cosy (and more affordable) church hall pot-luck, that simply requires sufficient volunteers - without over-burdening the same stalwart souls time after time. If you have thoughts or comments for next year's December party, or wish to volunteer, please get in touch with anyone on the executive board.



Manderly provided a varied and tasty buffet which was enjoyed by all

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).*

The City of Ottawa Archives is presently in the process of developing a *Strategic Direction and Communications Plan* to refine the Archives' strategic direction, and establish a communications strategy to reach out to the community. The services of the communications firm NIVA Inc. were retained to assist with this initiative. A representative, Mr. John Thurston, met last fall with the group of volunteer staff of the Rideau Township Branch to collect their views and input/suggestions for the future development and direction of the City Archives. The RTHS Newsletter shall keep you informed of the plan's progress.

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

Notice of Motions

The following motions will be put forward at the January 18 AGM.

"It is moved that the strategic plan as presented at the November meeting and outlining the Mission, Vision, Values and Key Result Areas for the Rideau Township Historical Society be adopted as the Strategic Plan (see page 4) for the Society covering the period 2012 to 2017."

"It is moved that the budget as presented and discussed at this meeting be adopted for the 2012 fiscal year."

(Note that members who wish to review the budget prior to the AGM may obtain an advance copy by contacting Colin Wright at 613-489-3790 (home), 613-489-3372 (office) or cjwright@howright.ca (email))

2012 Memberships Now Due

A reminder: very-reasonable annual dues for 2012 are now being collected. (\$10 individual; \$15 family) See Membership Director Pat Earl at any meeting, or mail your cheques and the form on page 5 to:

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

Renewals and new members are always welcome.

Minutes of the December 14, 2011 Get Together

by Owen Cooke

The Rideau Township Historical Society met at Manderley on the Green, Carsonby, for a Christmas buffet. Members and guests gathered in the bar for punch and conversation from 6 pm., and were seated at 6:30. Maureen McPhee was master of ceremonies, standing in for President Bill Tupper, who is in Florida. She introduced the organizers of the evening - Pat Earl, Sandy Wilson and Susan McKellar. Brian Earl said grace. Rowena Pearl played keyboard Christmas selections through the meal. Members helped themselves from the extensive turkey and ham buffet, with salads, potatoes, rice, vegetables and desserts and all the accessories.

At 7:45, over coffee, Maureen introduced Susan McKellar, Programme Director, who presented a brief slide show of the 2011 year's meetings. She also drew attention to the publications of 2011, beginning with the Newsletter and its popular "Pen of the President" column. She noted that

while *With Only a Suitcase* was not an official Society publication, it had been edited and published by Ellen Adamsons, a Society member. The other notable publication in 2011 was the second printing of *Kars on the Rideau*.

Maureen presented a photo essay of shots from the Dickinson House season of 2011, with accompaniment from the Manotick Brass Ensemble. The Ensemble had presented a baritone horn to Dickinson House during 2011.

Then Susan distributed song sheets and Rowena led the members and guests in a selection of Christmas carols and Christmas favourite songs.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. amidst wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from members and friends.

Coming Events:

War of 1812 Bicentennial Symposium

A History Conference
February 25, 2012
University of Guelph
Web Site: www.livinghistoryconference.com

The 41st Regiment of Foot MLHG is thrilled to partner with the organizing committees of the London and Hamil-

ton Living History Conferences to present the 2012 War of 1812 Bicentennial Symposium

Hear leading experts on the War of 1812 and the Regency Period share their insights, expertise and passion! The roster of exceptional speakers combined with a world class facility will make this symposium one of the key-stone events to kick off the bicentennial years!

Watson's Mill

The Mill is located at 5525 Dickinson Street, Dickinson Square, Manotick. Free parking on-site.

Web Site: watsonsmill.com

Watson's Mill Presents... A.Y. Jackson and the Artists of Manotick. Wednesday January 25, 7 pm in the Carriage Shed across from Watson's Mill. Sheila King will provide a historical perspective of A.Y. Jackson, and his work with the Group of Seven.

Watson Mill members \$2, non members \$5.

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

The mission of the Rideau Township Historical Society (RTHS) is to stimulate interest in the history of the people, communities, institutions and industries within the boundaries of the former Township of Rideau, as well as historical subjects in general.

MISSION

RTHS will be recognized as a well-established Ontario heritage society with an active membership that, while working in cooperation with others:

- Provides high quality historical programming and interpretation;
- Researches and publishes authoritative works of local history; and
- Encourages the establishment of heritage destinations that engage the public and enhance knowledge and understanding of historical matters.

VISION

- Importance of telling the story of historical development within the former Rideau Township and elsewhere.
- Responsibility to engage local residents and the public.
- Importance of partnerships with like-minded organisations, to maximize effort and use of resources.
- Importance of marking and preserving historic sites.

VALUES

KEY RESULTS AREAS – (Where we focus efforts) & Related Strategic Objectives (What we need to do)

1. Excellent Programming & Publishing

- 1.1 To seek out high quality speakers on a broad range of topics.
- 1.2 To increase the number of excursions.
- 1.3 To continue publishing a range of authoritative works of local history, including smaller booklets.

2. Effective Promotion & Communication

- 2.1 To increase regular promotion, advertising and reporting of RTHS activities in local newspapers; use of public notices; and broader distribution of new newsletters.
- 2.2 To establish a committee to work with the Communications Director, including members from outside the RTHS Executive.
- 2.3 To improve joint communications with other heritage organizations.
- 2.4 To have more RTHS booths at events such as fairs, conferences and community celebrations.

3. Attraction of Adequate Funding

- 3.1 To establish a committee responsible for grant applications and fundraising, the Chair of which will be a member of the RTHS Executive.
- 3.2 To recruit an individual with expertise in grant applications.
- 3.3 To hold targeted fundraising events.
- 3.4 To establish a fair but sufficient membership fee.
- 3.5 To charge an entrance fee for certain key RTHS-sponsored public events.

4. Heritage Destinations

- 4.1 To explore management and restoration of Dickinson House, with a view to operating a living museum therein.
- 4.2 To cooperate with Watson's Mill Manotick Inc. in developing Dickinson Square into a national heritage destination.
- 4.3 To explore the feasibility of a second museum in North Gower, with a special focus on fire-fighting artifacts.
- 4.4 To explore the marking and preserving of other historic sites.

5. Increased Membership

- 5.1 To recruit new members, with a particular focus on young people.
- 5.2 To use social media and communications technology to connect with members.
- 5.3 To invest in youth through sponsored heritage projects and history scholarships or bursaries.

RIDEAU TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2012 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: