



The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

January 2013 Newsletter

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

The January Meeting is the AGM

Date: January 16, 2013
Time: 7:30 pm
Place: Knox Presbyterian Church
5533 Dickinson Street
Manotick

In addition to the business meeting/AGM there will be a program on Scottish heritage with Coral Lindsay.

At the AGM the executive will present reports on the years achievements, and on our financial status. The Treasurer will also present a draft budget for 2013 for adoption.

This Month

1. The Annual General Meeting
2. From the Pen of the President
3. The RTHS Christmas Party
4. The Dickinson House
5. News from the Rideau Archives

Bring a Friend, Light Refreshments

Speaker: Coral Lindsay

Topic: The Adventures (or Misadventures) of Robbie Burns

This will be a Scottish Heritage night. Members are asked to bring in any special Scottish relics or artifacts you would like to share. There will be some special Scottish treats. Invite a Scottish friend.

Piper Scott Cameron will entertain.

Och! Bound to be a wee bit 'o fun!! See you there!

Nominations for the RTHS Executive for 2012

Would you like to take on a more active role in your historical society? Do you have some good new ideas? Or could you simply do it better?

If you would like to take up a position on the executive for 2013, or wish to nominate someone else for a position (with their permission, of course), please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Nominating Committee:

Marguerite Rogers - smrogers5560@hotmail.com - 613-692-3802

Owen Cooke - oacooke@gmail.com - 613-489-3962

Lucy Martin - lucy@voiceworksnorth.com - 613-489-4005

Please note that there will also be an opportunity to make a nomination at the meeting on Wednesday, 16 January.

From the President's Pen

The Holiday Season for us has been special, spent in part in the company of friends and neighbours, the pleasure of interesting books, and more than our share of good food. We trust your experiences were somewhat similar. Georgie joins in sending our best wishes for a happy and prosperous 2013.

The past year was both interesting and progressive for the Society. It began with the Annual Meeting which elected a new executive and adopted the strategic plan, and ended with a delightful Christmas banquet. In between were seven informative public lectures, with four speakers from our own membership, and another with

deep roots in our community but now living in Arizona. We also enjoyed an informative field trip to Fort Wellington.

Three special events occurred in 2012. One was the unveiling of the restored Dickinson Memorial at Beechwood Cemetery. This project was led by Brian Earl and would not have been achieved without his leadership and the assistance of DSHMI and Councillor Moffatt. The second event was the inauguration of two Scholarships of Merit in History, one at South Carleton High School, and one at St. Marks High School. One of the scholarship winners was a member of our Society, Scott Cameron. Thirdly the Society received its first operating grant from the Province of Ontario.

Dickinson House also prospered in 2012. For the first time we received federal grants which allowed us to hire three students for the summer and to have Dickinson House open five days per week. We presented three musical concerts, five heritage craft demonstration weekends, two village heritage weekends, a Victorian Tea, a Christmas craft demonstration and seminar, and enjoyed a cooperative and constructive relationship with the Mill Board and its staff. We also filmed a short movie in the Square. Have you seen it? It is now available in DVD. All of the above resulted in record attendance,

Mr. Editor, this is my last opportunity to share some thoughts from "The Pen of the President". My term as President will be completed at the Annual Meeting, where a new President and executive will be elected. I know the next executive will take the Society to the next level as they initiate various strategies from the Strategic Plan. Being President has been an enjoyable experience. It has been a privilege to meet and work with talented and dedicated individuals and renew my acquaintance with an organization that I in a very small way helped initiate some 38 years ago. Thank you for that opportunity.



Photo by Maureen McPhee
Bill Tupper at his summer job in the Dickinson House. This occasion was the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Bill's colleague (seated) is Liz Blaine.

RTHS Christmas Party, December 2012

Article by Lucy Martin

Pictures by Lucy Martin & Sandy Wilson

Approximately 30 members and guests turned out on Dec. 12th for the RTHS Christmas gathering at Manderley Golf Club. Unlike some past parties, the evening was graced by mild weather which allowed for easy driving. At Manderley, no-host drinks were followed by a buffet of turkey, ham, lots of sides and an array of desserts.

After all that, it was entertainment time. Vice President Maureen McPhee paid year-end tribute to three student hires who helped Dickinson House have a very successful 2012. (Sarah Davies was unable to attend, but Kyle Trudel and Brandon Kassis were there.)

We were treated to a video production produced by this next generation of heritage interpreters, entitled "The Great Grist Wagon Robbery". (It can be seen on YouTube by searching for that specific title.)



My favorite parts? (Spoiler alert.) The way "our trusted companion" (Stuart Johnston Edwards) lifts his foot each time he gives his wife (Jessica Dash) a hug. The "trees" that wiz past fast moving rocks – er, wagons, were a hilarious touch. (Good job Melanie Parker and Allison Rowe as tree #1 and #2.) It was also amusing to see RTHS



President Bill Tupper show up as the crime family patriarch of young wagon robber Kyle Trudel. And who knew sandwich bread could stop bullets?

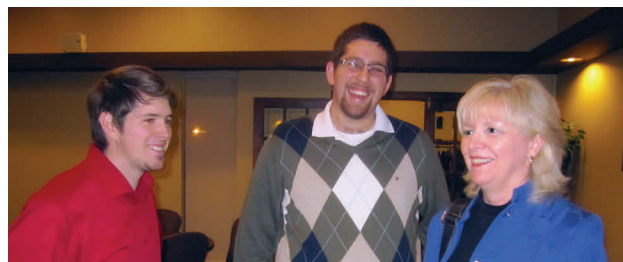


Photo by Sandy Wilson
Kyle Trudel, Brandon Kassis, Maureen McPhee

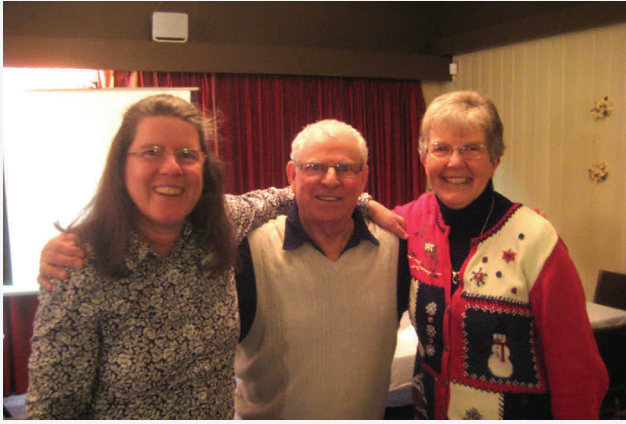


Photo by Lucy Martin

Lucy Martin, Len Goldfarb, and Pat Earl

In director's comments after the video, Kassis detailed some of that movie's challenges, such as maintaining continuity despite only having one pistol and one jacket for a scene with two actors.

A singer from Kanata, Len Goldfarb, enthusiastically rendered an extensive medley of hits made famous by Elvis and Dean Martin, interspersed with traditional and contemporary Christmas songs.

According to The Jewish Tribune, singing is a relatively new endeavor for the semi-retired Goldfarb, age 71. Previously, he owned Goldfarb's Olympic Sports Shop in Côte Saint-Luc near Montreal where the Tribune said kids might buy "their first pair of skates, baseball glove, football helmet and bicycle." As part of the "We Entertain Seniors" circuit, Goldfarb has now given over 100 performances in only a year.

Of course food and music are essential parts of the holiday season. Yet I suspect the best part of these gatherings is the opportunity to enjoy relaxed conversation with those we know well and others we wish to know better.

Thanks go out to Ruth Wright for organizing the evening. As always, ideas, suggestions and volunteers for next year's Christmas function are most welcome.



Photo by Sandy Wilson

Karliss Adamsons, Gerry and Linda Reasbeck, Brian and Ruth Wright



Photo by Lucy Martin

The Christmas fireplace at Manderly

The Dickinson House, 2013 Season

The Dickinson House Committee will begin its work almost immediately in preparation for the upcoming May to November season. Among the first tasks to be addressed will be the selection of the craft weekends and the various static displays that will be mounted in the front hall and on the third floor.

These displays were a great success this past year. We try to do something different each year to bring visitors back and the craft weekends and displays certainly accomplished that in 2012.

The other immediate task is to get the paperwork in for the grants for the hiring of the students for next summer.



Photo by Ron Wilson

Display at the Victorian Tea weekend

The Dickinson House can be thought of as a flagship project of the RTHS. As such it is important to have a good base of volunteers as well as the summer students.

There are a number of areas where interested parties can help us out. You can sit on the Dickinson House Committee to plan the activities, help with the mounting of the static displays and the craft weekends, join the cleaning bees when the house is tidied up, or work as costumed tour guides on the days when the house is open.

It doesn't matter in which area you volunteer. Its all good fun. You meet interesting people with common interests and invariably a good sense of humour. You learn about local history and connections that you won't find out about anyplace else. We get many interesting visitors, from far and wide, and from whom we frequently learn as much as they learn from us.

So give it some thought and if you can spare some time and have an interest, speak to any member of executive or the Dickinson House Committee to join up.



Photo by Ron Wilson

Part of the apples display at the Harvest Weekend

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).*

MGR032 The James McNiece Collection

James McNiece was born at Carsonby, Township of North Gower in 1910 and died in 2007 at the age of 96. Mr. McNiece was a former clerk of the Township of North Gower and a farmer near Kars. He was an active community member and a good neighbour. He held executive offices in the Loyal Orange Lodge, Ottawa-Carleton Ploughman's Association, Rideau Township Historical Society, etc.

Mr. McNiece donated his papers and other records to the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives. These records are available for viewing or research at the RTB.

Among other things, the James McNiece collection includes records relating to his activities with the Carsonby Orange Lodge, No. 371, genealogical notes for the McNiece family, the Watterson family (his mother was the former Lynn Watterson), the Cureston and Jamieson families, records of the Rideau Seniors Association (he served as Secretary), photographs, family and business correspondence, journals/diaries. There is also a selection of valuable books that are available in the Archives' Reference Library.



Picture courtesy Susan McKellar

James McNiece in September 2005 at a birthday party at his son's.

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