

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

June 2009 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

Instead of a meeting in June there will be an excursion to Vintage Wings of Canada in Gatineau. See the box on the right for info.

In the fall...

Sep. 16, 7:30 p.m., *Pierce's Corners Hall: Talk by Glenn Wright on "Early Days of the RCMP"*

Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., *St. Andrew's, Kars: Katherine Killins and friends will present "What they wore".*

Nov 18, 7:30 p.m., *Carriage Shed, Manotick: Talk by Dr. Andrew Iarocci on 1st Canadian Division, World War I.*

The June Program

Saturday, June 27: Excursion to Vintage Wings of Canada in Gatineau.

Web Site: www.vintagewings.ca

- Travel by bus, leaving North Gower at 9:00 a.m. sharp from the Client Service Centre on Roger Stevens Drive.
- Tour of the vintage airplanes by Michael Potter, Dave O'Malley, and one other followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant.
- Returning to North Gower about 2:00 p.m.
- Cost of the day is \$40, including the bus ride, lunch and a donation to the Vintage Wings of Canada organization.
- Please register for the event by contacting Susan McKellar at 613-489-3961 or susan.mckellar@rogers.com by June 20. Please bring family, friends, and neighbours. So far we have about 40 people signed up, with 32 riding the bus and 36 for lunch. We have room for 48 on the bus. Let's try to encourage prospective members, and guests so as to fill the bus!

The Manotick 150th Anniversary

The RTHS has printed 500 copies of the second edition of Dora Stamp's book "Manotick Then & Now, Reflections & Memories". This was an RTHS contribution to Manotick's 150th anniversary celebrations.

In addition members have appeared in period dress at a number of occasions including the Manotick Art Show, the Dickinson Day Parade, and the 100th Anniversary of the Women's Institute.



Organizing Committee Web Site

www.manotick150.ca/

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

For a ride call Brian Earl

Features This Month

1. The Manotick 150th.
2. The May meeting.
3. News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives.
4. The June program. (Vintage Wings Field Trip)
5. The Dickinson House this summer.

6. The Dickinson Day Parade and the RTHS booth.
7. Upcoming Events
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The May Meeting

April 20, 2009, Knox Presbyterian Church,
5533 Dickinson Street, Manotick, Ontario

Speakers: Jane Anderson and Ron Wilson

Article by Lucy Martin

Hot off the press: Manotick Then and Now, Reflections and Memories.

Just in time for summer events celebrating Manotick's 150th Anniversary, Ron Wilson and Jane Anderson proudly unveiled RTHS's latest publication, a revised and updated second edition of Dora Stamp's original compilation of columns and articles about Manotick, its people and history.

Two-years in the making, this edition was officially launched at the May meeting, which included tributes to Dora, who died last December at the age of 94. Stamp's cousin, Helen Stinson Wall reprised a eulogy that spoke to Stamp's wit and many interests across a long and fruitful life.

Wilson quipped that the revision represents the "blood, sweat, toil and tears" of many dedicated volunteers, too many to name individually in this article! Anderson expressed her thanks while presenting complimentary copies to key contributors.

Wilson gave a slide presentation detailing the many tasks that must be done to render an out-of-print book into the computer files and such required for print runs of today. Besides format issues and design choices, considerable hours were also spent updating information, current street addresses and creating an index of last names.

Further research for this edition also produced a whole section with information on trades found in Manotick, along with map listing the addresses mentioned, and the



voter list from 1900. All-in-all, the book now presents an amazingly detailed record of Manotick, invaluable for research and personal enjoyment.

The book launch alone saw sales of just under 30 books. As this article goes to press, just after Dickinson Days, close to 130 copies are already gone, from the press run of 500. The book makes an excellent acquisition or gift, and all proceeds from the sale price of \$20 go toward current and future publishing work by the RTHS.

Congratulations to all for making a real contribution to the heritage of our area and a fine tribute to the memory of Dora Stamp.

Upcoming Events

The Fashion Show: Katherine Killens and Co. has an entourage of models wearing costumes, 1860 – 70-?? to celebrate the Manotick 150. There will be a dress rehearsal at Coral Lindsay's house, 6836 Rideau Valley Dr. S, on Monday afternoon, June 15. Those participating may wish to advise others, kindly.

The Victorian Tea: On Saturday, June 20, 1:00 – 4:00, the RTHS fashion models will hit the runway for the Knox Church Victorian Tea, Manotick. Lucy Martin will write and present the commentary. The tickets are \$8.00 or \$5.00 for seniors and are on sale at Office Pro or at the church office (613-692-4228).

Last Month

Probus: Coral Lindsay on very short notice stepped in as speaker at the June meeting of the Probus Club in Manotick. The scheduled speaker had cancelled Coral gave her presentation on Sir John A. MacDonald which was very well received.

Vintage Wings of Canada RTHS Field Trip June 27th, 2009

by Lucy Martin

Vintage Wings of Canada isn't a typical museum. The not-for-profit charitable foundation doesn't have regular visiting hours. It does host periodic open house events and welcomes group tours by appointment. Vintage Wings also brings their planes right to the public at other venues. The mission statement of Vintage Wings is: "...to acquire, restore, maintain and fly classic aircraft significant to the early history of powered flight. A particular focus is on aircraft of Canadian importance."

Founder Michael Potter and Vintage Wings have been in the headlines recently. Controversy arose after the air force authorized the diversion of C-17 transport plane to help move a P-40 Kittyhawk from New Zealand to Canada. (The C-17 was returning from Afghanistan.) The WW II relic was rescued from the jungles of Papua New Guinea in the late 90's. Vintage Wings took over the restoration project in 2006, work that now continues in the Gatineau hanger.

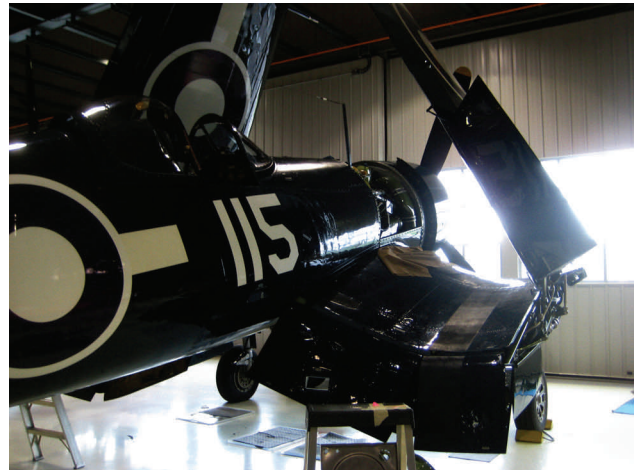
A second controversy involves the purchase of a rare Y2K Spitfire. Initial restoration for that plane was begun by a volunteer group in British Columbia, using a federal grant and donor contributions. To the dismay of some who wanted to keep the plane in B.C., Vintage Wings of Canada will finish the project, after acquiring the plane from the Canadian Forces for \$1.

Obviously, the allocation of tax dollars and rare artifacts can provoke disagreement. Seeing how Vintage Wings of Canada uses the planes lends perspective to this issue.

Our small advance delegation was treated to a hanger tour from Potter and Marketing Director Dave O'Malley, on a cold Sunday in early May. The aircraft in residence have been restored, detailed and polished to a truly stunning degree. Potter and O'Malley lead a small army of volunteers and contributors who make the labour of love happen. The visit offered a small glimpse of the considerable expertise underpinning the organization.

Remarkably, these showroom-perfect planes still fly. They are maintained and flown, with gusto that approaches pure joy. Many of the planes make scheduled appearances at Ottawa's Aviation Museum. Also, Vintage Wings' Canadair Sabre 5 will be part of a special fly-by with the Snowbirds over Parliament Hill on Canada Day. This cold-war jet was used by an earlier RCAF precision team, the Golden Hawks, back in 1959, to mark the 50th anniversary of powered flight in Canada. The 100th anniversary is being observed with various events across 2009.

Vintage Wings of Canada works to celebrate the past, while keeping passion for flying alive today. Saluting the men and women who served their country and helped advanced aviation is a sub-text of all they do. As Potter put it, "They were absolutely vital in changing the course of history. And, increasingly, young people are not being



taught what happened." Potter's summary was heartfelt, "We love the airplanes. We love the challenge of flying them. But we love the fact that we can do all that and actually reflect back on some wonderful stories of very courageous people."

If you like planes, or WW II history, if you have an interest in mechanics or engineering, it doesn't get better than this. If you appreciate the art of technical restoration and tasteful display, this is a rare opportunity. If you want to see what the fuss in the papers is all about, come along too! Tell your friends and act quickly, as our chartered bus is nearly full. There is also another opportunity to visit at their next open house event, on September 19th.



Michael Potter, Vintage Wings

The Dickinson House, Summer 2009

The RTHS will be conducting interpretive tours of the Dickinson house as we did last year. This is a joint project between Watson's Mill Inc., Dickinson Square Heritage Management Inc., and the RTHS.

On the Thursday and Friday before Dickinson Day, a posse of RTHS volunteers moved furniture, pictures, books, and a variety of other historical items into the house and arranged same in the various rooms. The material on display is on loan mainly from Mark Jodoin, Coral Lindsay, and Georgie Tupper.

Thanks to Coral Lindsay, Mark Jodoin, Ellen & Karl Adamsons, Susan McKellar, Lucy Martin, Owen Cooke, Georgie Tupper, Ron & Sandy Wilson, ..., for supplying the trucks, cars, and manual labour to accomplish this in only the two days.

For those who visited the Dickinson House last year, you have to come back. The displays are almost all new and include much of Mark Jodoin's Canadiana collection, which from a historical point of view are absolutely first class.

The house was open for Dickinson Day and Open Doors, June 6 & 7. We had more than 1200 visitors in the two days, an excellent start to the summer. The Dickinson Day visitors were not deterred by the construction for which they deserve kudos. Thanks to the City of Ottawa for arranging the sewers contract to not dig up the streets before Dickinson Day.

Photo top right. The Victorian Settee from the Collection of Mark Jodoin.

Photo on the right. A binnacle from a Rideau Canal Steamboat.



A Special Thank You

Thanks to RTHS President, Mark Jodoin, for lending a collection of Canadiana and other 19th century furnishings and antiques for the House. There were countless enthusiastic complements from the 1232 guests on the Doors Open/ Dickinson Days June 6 and 7. Well done Mark!

Help Needed at the Dickinson House

Volunteers are needed again this year for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to act as hosts and interpreters for visitors.

On-the-job training is provided and period costumes are appropriate. Last year the 25 volunteers welcomed almost 4,000 visitors.

Please call Coral Lindsay, 613-489-2029, if you can help.

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

RTHS in Dickinson Day & the Parade

The RTHS had both a booth at Dickinson Day and a float in the parade on the Friday night. Some pictures.



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)

This Summer:

As in previous years the archives will be open for the North Gower Discovery Tour in September.

Doors Open:

The Rideau Branch had a successful "Doors Open" this month. Visitors were very interested in the historical and genealogy work done here. We can expect a number of them back.

Want a Costume for the Manotick 150th ?

If anyone is interested in acquiring a period costume for the Manotick 150th there is a local source. Rosemary Hayes is a seamstress with skills in making vintage reproductions. She can be contacted at rmmhayes@hotmail.com or by telephone at (613) 485-1822. Rosemary advertises reasonable rates and a variety of patterns, including a small selection of menswear.

