

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

March 2009 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

March 18, 2009

Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives

6581 Fourth Line Road
(Main Street)
North Gower, Ontario

Speaker

Serge Barbe,
Community Archivist, City of Ottawa Archives.

Subject **Communities & Archives**

Do you have family papers and photographs? Do you belong to an organization that has records? Are you wondering about what should be kept, and where?

The City Archives is a foundation for local heritage preservation and programming. The City Archives identifies, acquires, organizes, preserves, describes and makes publicly accessible textual and electronic civic government records, rare books, historical publications, maps, plans, microfilms, films, photographs, postcards, documentary art, and corporate memorabilia. They also collect community-generated records and papers created by individuals and organizations that enhance our understanding of the history and evolution of Ottawa.

Serge will discuss the broad terms of this mandate as it relates to the City of Ottawa Heritage Plan. The presentation will feature information about some of the fine examples of community documentation held by the City of Ottawa Archives. He will also touch on the more specific questions that potential donors may ask about their own personal documentation.



The Manotick 150th Anniversary

Richard McDonald received a framed proclamation from the city acknowledging Manotick's 150th anniversary.

Catherine Killins has suggested a **Harvest Ball** to be held on Saturday, 03 October in Harmony Hall. The ball is to be a costume affair in keeping with the 150th celebrations.

Sounds like a very good idea to us. Catherine is proceeding with further developing her plan. Ideas anyone?

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

**For a ride call Brian Earl
613-692-2371**

Features This Month

1. The Manotick 150th.
2. The February meeting.
3. News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives.
4. Ottawa Heritage Day 2009

The April Program

The April meeting will be held in St. Andrew's Church Hall at Kars. The topic will focus on the Dionne Quintuplets who will be 75 years old on May 28, 2009. The program will include references to several others known as the world's most famous children in the context of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The May Program

The May meeting will be at Knox Presbyterian Church Hall in Manotick. Jane Anderson and Ron Wilson will describe the process of republishing Dora Stamp's book on Manotick, an hope to have copies available.

Last Meeting: Annual Bring & Brag

Carsonby Hall, 6045 Prince of Wales Drive
Carsonby, Ontario, February 18, 2009

Article by Lucy Martin

RTHS meetings reflect diversity in their subject matter, but never more so than at the popular "Bring and Brag" sessions. This year, once again, members arrived with a wide array of treasure. With apologies if I missed you, or mischaracterized your presentation, here's a compressed summary.

Stu Rogers brought a trade ax from the time of Champlain. The handle had been replaced but the blade dated back to early years of European contact in Canada.

Susan McKellar described her collection of 200 family letters, dating back to 1832. She read from one sent to her great-great grandparents, describing a death that was followed by a swift home-based funeral, as would have been common at the time.

Melanie Hayes shared items left to her by the late Dora Stamp, including the 101 year-old wedding certificate of Stamp's parents and Dora's scrapbook of the centennial celebrations for Manotick in 1959.

Scott Cameron shared a beautiful 1915 portrait of his Great-Grandfather, Wilfred Carter, who served in WW I.

Jane Anderson brought in a large copy book in which her Great-Grandfather Robert Fulton practiced his (beautiful) penmanship. Fittingly, she read a poem he penned about being remembered by future readers after he was gone.

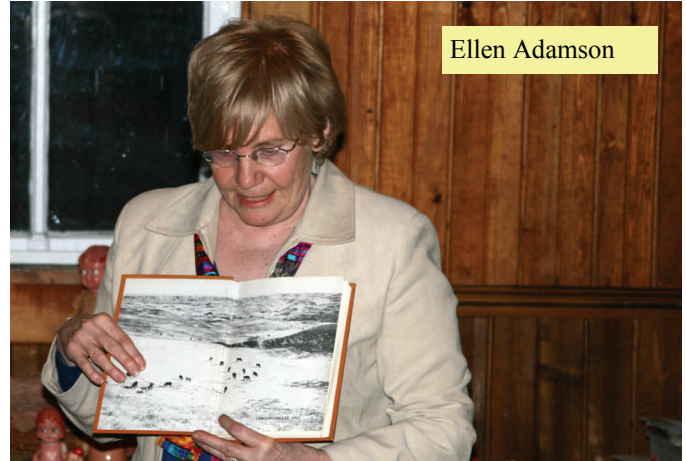
Katherine Killins brought bowls and photos that represented family, fun & good luck when hunting for treasures--wherever they are found.

Coral Lindsay brought an array of old dolls and other items illustrating the many uses of celluloid, a pre-cursor to modern plastic. The dictionary explains celluloid is a "tough flammable thermoplastic composed essentially of cellulose nitrate and camphor". Wikipedia says its most common use today is in ping-pong balls and guitar picks.

Eric Field brought a portrait of Samuel Matthews, an adventurous sea captain from Maine who was a pensioner of the War of 1812 who died in 1884 at the age of 93.

Ellen Adamson began by explaining that before she was Coral Lindsay's neighbour for 30 years, she hailed from Alberta. She grew up on prairie farm land where Indians camped and vast herds of buffalo once roamed. Ellen had an array of artefacts, photos, books and even a pub-

lished story recounting the profound connection people feel with their home territory.



Yours truly brought perfume bottles contained in carved tropical wood to suggest the flower or fragrance found within. These belonged to my grandmother who purchased them at Gump's Department Store in Honolulu, Hawaii in the mid 1900's.

Brian Earl brought lead soldiers riding horses pulling a limber & gun at a full gallop, a depiction of an infamous encounter at Korn Spruit during the Boer War in late March of 1900. An interesting account of this can be read at: <http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol122ms.html>

Brian Sawyer brought an assortment of brass coach and fox-hound horns, and even played a blast or two. He also had some unique horns made of animal horn!





Owen Cooke brought military insignia and officer shoulder boards as worn during the cold war, when the Soviet boast was the west could be overrun and conquered to

the Rhine River in just 72 hours. (The insignia were training aids, so NATO forces could recognize the foe should they arrive uninvited.) Owen commented on how remarkably "chintzy" the items seemed.

From her extensive home collection of over 1,000 lamps, Val Lister brought a cluster of petite oil lamps from the Middle East. Their simple charm was enhanced by their obvious antiquity.

Mark Jodoin brought a history of England (written in French in 1768) which proved to be a book hollowed out to conceal who-knows-what, from thieves or counter-spies. He also bought a handsome tin box with depictions of scenes common to the life and times of Sir William Johnson and his son John in New York's Mohawk Valley in the mid-to-late 1700's

Please forgive me if anyone, or the best part of what was shared, was inadvertently omitted. As always, the bring & brag was a very interesting meeting indeed!

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).

Dora Stamp

From the estate of the late Dora Stamp the archives has received a number of documents and clippings including a collection of her certificates and diplomas, mementoes of her numerous travels and holidays here and overseas, copies of her writings, many newspaper clippings from Ottawa Valley towns, and of local interest, funeral cards from local families, genealogies from branches of her family, Manotick centennial celebration notes and various community and personal papers. These will be added to the material previously given to the archives by Dora.

This Summer

As in previous years the archives will be open for both days of Doors Open in June. It will also be open for the North Gower Discovery Tour in September.

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.

Heritage Day 2009

By Lucy Martin

Heritage Day--the third Tuesday in February--is held to celebrate and preserve the cultural and historic qualities of our unique communities. City Hall hosts the main event, which resembles a mini-trade show with over 40 displays by museums, historical societies, archival organizations and genealogical societies, to name a few. A good display of period costumes wandered about--a few were authentic, others were replicas.

Champion town crier Daniel Richer conducted the formal ceremonies and proved to be a witty master of ceremonies as well. Attendees were also treated to live Irish music, the Lisgar Choir, and an original history-based vi-

on the Manotick 150, and Watson's Mill, we collectively



gnette from Vintage Stock Theatre, all of which added interest to the proceedings.

Sandy Smallwood received an award for reclaiming older buildings that otherwise probably would have been demolished. He also gave an interesting presentation on heritage architecture.

RTHS members Coral Lindsay, Susan McKellar, Ron and Sandy Wilson, Stu and Marguerite Rogers, Peter Satterly, and yours truly attended. The RTHS table contained a display on historic Manotick and showcased books published or distributed by RTHS. ("Whiskey and Wickedness" seemed to attract the most interest, we sold out of the volumes on hand!) Since the adjacent tables focused



formed a little "Manotick Avenue".

Deputy Mayor Marianne Wilkinson presided over the formal portion of the ceremonies, which included the presentation of an official certificate commemorating the 150th anniversary of Manotick. Find more information at: <http://www.manotick150.ca/>

Heritage Day at City Hall is a good way for heritage insiders--professionals and volunteers--to meet and reconnect. RTHS attendees remarked that it would be even better if publicity and attendance could be expanded to reach a wider audience. Consider being in attendance next year yourself!

For more information, visit ottawa.ca/heritage or the Council of Heritage Organizations in Ottawa (CHOO) at www.choocopo.ca.

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