

# The Rideau Township Historical Society

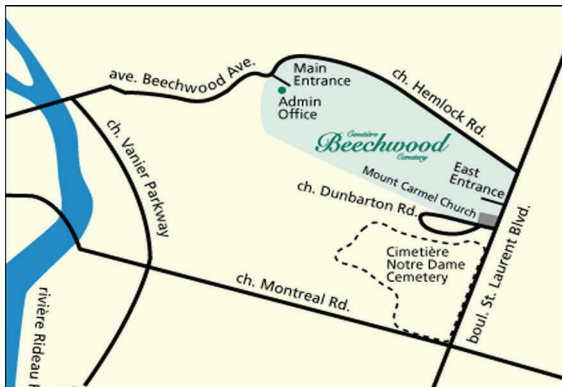
*Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township*

## May 2010 Newsletter

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

### May Excursion

**Date:** Saturday, May 29, 2010  
**Time:** 10 a.m.  
**Place:** Beechwood Cemetery  
Beechwood Ave. (see map)



### *150th Anniversary of the Mill*

**Watson's Mill** celebrates its 150th anniversary in 2010.

Isabelle Geoffrion and the Watson's Mill Team have announced a year-long celebration to commemorate this anniversary. Stay tuned to their e-news at [www.watsonsmill.com](http://www.watsonsmill.com) and celebrate with them throughout the year.

### *Excursion Information*

On Saturday, May 29, 2010 we will meet in the parking lot at the Manotick Mews at 9:00 a.m., leaving by 9:15. If you have your own carload and are going directly to Beechwood, please be there by 10:00. Our tour will start at 10:15.

Beechwood Cemetery is in Ottawa on Beechwood St. (<http://www.beechwoodcemetery.com/splashpage.html>). We will then be treated to a guided tour of the cemetery, viewing graves of prominent Canadians and Manotickians such as the Dickinsons and Curriers, as well as Canada's National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces.

Designated as a National Historic Site by The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 2002, Beechwood is one of only a few cemeteries in the nation to have received this honourable title. We will then have lunch together at the nearby Clock Tower Brew Pub, 422 Mackay St. We have to confirm the numbers for lunch by May 26, so please call Susan McKellar (489-3961) by May 25 if she doesn't already have your name on the list.

(<http://mackay.clocktower.ca/>).

*Bring a friend*

*Light refreshments*

*For a ride call Brian Earl*

### *This Month*

1. Excursion in May
2. The April Meeting
3. News from the Rideau Archives
4. The Dickinson House
5. Beckett's Day
6. Kars on the Rideau

### *Beckett's Day*

**Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

**1:00 - 400 pm**

**Rideau Restaurant Area -  
7780 Merlyn Wilson Drive**



Re-enactment of the founding of Beckett's Landing by the first surveyors and unveiling of the Official Sign - 1:00 p. m. with special guests. Maplewood Ceilidh Band. a Church and Cemetery Tour, a 1790's Period Costume Contest, Family Games, Heritage Crafts, and High Tea (Refreshments).

# *The RTHS April 2010 Meeting*

## *Mark Jodoin spoke on "How I Spent My Summer Vacation"*

*Article by Lucy Martin*

**RTHS past-president Mark Jodoin** spoke to an appreciative audience of 32 about activities promoting his first book "Shadow Soldiers of the American Revolution: Loyalist Tales from New York to Canada" (History Press, 2009)



**Mark Jodoin describing his summer 2010 activities at the April 2010 meeting of the RTHS.** He had a very interesting summer promoting his book both north and south of the border. The level of interest that he found in local and regional history was truly gratifying.

Jodoin was introduced by recently-elected RTHS President Bill Tupper, who was leading his inaugural meeting after wintering in Florida. (Welcome back, Bill!)

A graduate of Carleton's school of journalism, Jodoin's initial careers included TV, high tech and international marketing and consulting before pursuing his growing interest in North American Colonial history.

Jodoin's book focuses on the tumultuous events that led to the settlement of English Canada and the key figures who founded many towns in our own area. Jodoin began with a series of articles entitled "Rideau Warriors" for *Esprit de Corps Magazine* -- material he expanded into "Shadow Soldiers". David Wilkins, United States Ambassador to Canada (2005-2009) wrote the book's forward, including the wry observation that "most Canadians think they know everything about America, and most Americans think they know enough about Canada."

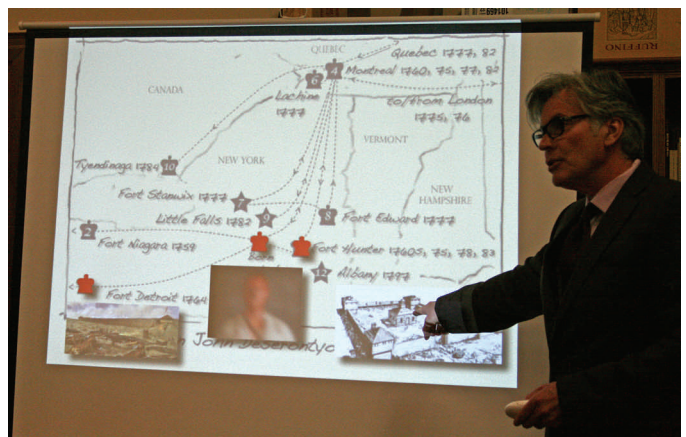
Jodoin spent a good part of 2009 speaking about the topic and signing his book at various heritage organizations

and events in Quebec, Ontario, Vermont and New York, home territory for historic figures in "Shadow Soldiers" such as Joseph Brant, Mary Hoople and Simon Fraser.

Jodoin made extensive visits to northern border states to gather his material -- research that continues for a planned sequel on Loyalists from Vermont. Jodoin emphasized that regional history enjoys some of the best growth in the publishing market. He says opportunities abound for would-be authors and urges those interested to take the plunge.

In his talk, Jodoin provided thumbnail sketches of Captain John Deserontyon, Major Edward Jessup, Dr. George Smyth, and Sir John Johnson, with photos illustrating their American home towns, their bold adventures when the American colonies rebelled and the places they founded or influenced after war and expulsion forced them into Canada.

RTHS members hardly need reminding that history is full of wonderful stories, and that many aspects of Canada's past could be better explored. Jodoin was especially struck by the warm camaraderie of the heritage community on both sides of the border. Wherever he went, Jodoin said he was met by "smiling faces and helpful hands" among people genuinely interested in understanding the region's common history. Most certainly, Jodoin's book and talks help advance that worthy goal.



**Mark is displaying the points where battles were fought in the revolutionary war.** Unlike the War of 1812 the protagonists in this war were Britain and the USA. The British were trying to recover their colonies. In the War of 1812 Canadian territory was threatened.

## *The Dickinson House, Summer of 2010*

"Dickinson House re-opened for the 2010 season on the weekend of May 1st. 80 visitors toured the building's heritage displays.

Visitors included a number of Tomkins, who were relatives of Anna Watson. They were "so happy to see Uncle Harry's house once more".

Members will realize that this years "Opening" is more than a month earlier than the last two years when we opened for "Doors Open/Dickinson Days" in early June.



*Grand opening day for Watson's Mill and Dickinson House included music on the lawn by the Manotick Brass*

The early opening was to coincide with the summer season of the Mill.



*Dickinson House volunteer Margaret Cameron masters stilt walking as Melanie Hayes, her Grandmother, looks on.*



*From left to right Barb Barkley (Watson's Mill volunteer) , Nicole Tomkins, Coral Lindsay, Terry Tomkins at the Dickinson House on May 1.*



*While we have all the rooms we had last year, there are changes to all, and we have two additional rooms on the second floor and all of the third floor.*

*So it is very worth while to come back this year to see the new artefacts and rooms.*

## *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).

### *Twentieth Anniversary*

The Rideau Township Archives/Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Archives was founded in 1990. It operated as a township archive, operated by volunteers, until amalgamation of the Township into the City of Ottawa. From that point the Archives has been known as the Rideau Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives with specialties in the area of the rural part of the city.

Three volunteers will give a presentation on the development and history of the Rideau Branch to the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

Georgie Tupper will speak to the establishment of the Rideau Archives and its development. Owen Cooke will give a presentation on Thomas Watterson. Coral Lindsay will describe the process of preparing a provenance for a collection of material from a local Monahan family.

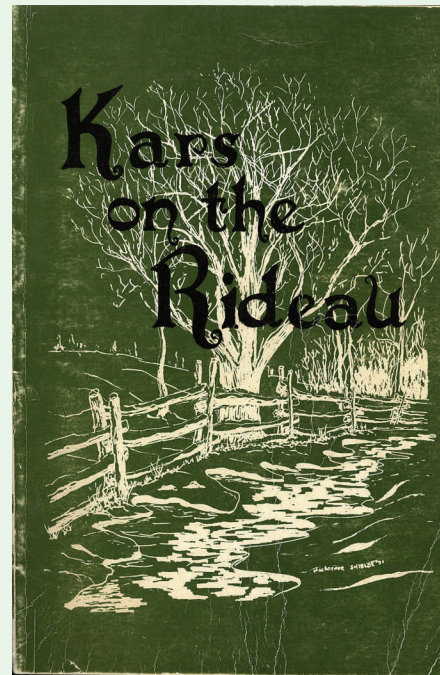
### *The Next RTHS Publication*

One of the important functions of the RTHS has been – and continues to be – the publication of material relating to local and regional history. Last year we published a second addition of *Manotick Then & Now*.

The society's efforts this year will be represented by a second, revised edition of ***“Kars on the Rideau”*** by **Coral Lindsay**. The goal is to have this publication available for sale at the Kars Fair.



*School kids waiting on the Lorne Bridge to cross from the Osgoode side to attend Kars Public School.*



### *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

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](#)

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