

# The Rideau Township Historical Society

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

## May 2019 Newsletter

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

### ***The May Meeting***

**Date:** Wednesday May 15, 2019  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Place** Manotick Place Retirement Community  
1145 Bridge Street, Manotick, ON



### ***Larry Renton***

Larry died peacefully at the Rideau Veterans Health Centre on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in his 98<sup>th</sup> year.

See page 6 of this newsletter for some of Larry's contributions to Kars and the greater Rideau Township area.

### ***Speaker:***

The speaker for the RTHS May meeting will be "Professor" Lindsay Lambert.

Professor Lambert, who has a degree in theatre, brings the Magic Lantern Show back to life with a special twist, adding his own singing and sound effects to the traditional projectionist's patter. He has performed in dozens of venues in Canada, the United States and England. Drawing on his own collection of more than 150 glass slides, he enchants audiences with the lore and history of this truly magical device.

### ***Subject:***

The Magic Lantern Shows of "Professor" Lambert combine his skill as a performer, his love of history and his expertise in vintage lighting and photography. The comment of one of his friends sums it up best: "You take things that are old and dead and make them live again in new and interesting ways."

### ***Dickinson House***

The replacement of the fluorescent lights, and the repair and painting of the ceilings on the main floor are completed. The furniture and the artifacts have been replaced and are ready for visitors. The special display on the third floor, "Getting It Done - Heritage Tools for Everyday Use", is essentially complete. A few minor adjustments are still to be completed before the official opening on Saturday, 18 May. We are in a position to hire three University level and two high-school level students for the 2019 season.

Volunteers are always welcome to ensure a full complement of Heritage Interpreters on a daily basis. Please contact Maureen McPhee or Brian Earl if you are able to help.

### ***RTHS Excursion to Perth, Ontario***

#### ***Saturday, June 15, 2019***

**9:00 a.m.** Leave the Client Services Centre, 2155 Roger Stevens Drive, North Gower. Parking available.

**10:15 a.m.** Arrive in Perth

**10:30 a.m.** Meet Susan Code, the Hop on, Hop off Guide

**11:30 a.m.** After a morning of sitting, we will have ½ hour to visit shops, etc.

**12:00 p.m.** Meet at a restaurant for lunch, t.b.a. (Participants will be responsible for the cost of their meals.)

**1:00 p.m.** Time for a walk in the park or other activities as you wish.

**2:00 p.m.** Coach will take us to Matheson House for an hour tour of the house and museum.

**3:00 p.m.** Board the coach for trip back to North Gower.

**4:00 p.m.** The End of a great day!

The cost of the coach will be sponsored by the RTHS. Each participant is asked for \$15. to cover the tour guide, the driver, the museum entry fee and other expenses.

As the coach is a 26 passenger vehicle, we will be filling it on a first come basis, beginning at the next RTHS meeting on May 15th.

If you are unable to attend the next meeting, you may contact me directly after the 15th.

Dorothy Gray 613-258-7034 or [dorothyhgray@gmail.com](mailto:dorothyhgray@gmail.com)

# ***Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim***

***Presented by Sean Darcy, April 2019***

***Article by Maureen McPhee with extracts from presentation by Sean Darcy***

***Photos by Owen Cooke***

On April 17, 2019, RTHS welcomed as its guest speaker Sean Darcy, the Manager, Claims Assessment and Treaty Mechanisms, Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. The subject of Mr. Darcy's presentation was "The Algonquins of Ontario Land Claim and the Claim Assessment Process."

The presentation began with an introduction on the 10 communities that comprise the Algonquins of Ontario, who are currently negotiating a land claim agreement with the Governments of Canada and Ontario. Once a final agreement is reached by negotiators, over 8,700 Algonquins in these communities will be eligible to vote to accept or reject the proposed settlement. One of the ten communities is Golden Lake which did receive reserve land, despite the fact that none of the Algonquins ever signed a treaty surrendering aboriginal rights to their traditional lands.

Mr. Darcy's presentation included a map illustrating the large land claim area in Eastern Ontario that is the subject of negotiation. The area includes most of Algonquin Park and all of the former Rideau Township.



Mr. Darcy outlined the history of Algonquin use and occupancy of the claim area from the point of first contact with Champlain in the early 17th century. From the mid to end of the 1600s, warfare with the Iroquois caused the dispersal of the Algonquins from their traditional areas; however, when the Iroquois left, the Algonquins moved back in. The Algonquins established relations with the British, and under the Treaty of Swegatchy of 1760, they agreed to remain neutral. In 1857, a group of Algonquins who frequented the Golden Lake area for some 50 years petitioned the Crown for lands, and in 1864, Indian Affairs was given authority to purchase lands.

A preliminary draft agreement-in-principle was concluded among the Algonquins of Ontario, Canada and the Province of Ontario in 2012. Negotiations are continuing towards a final agreement, which would be constitutionally protected as a treaty. Key elements of the agreement-in-principle included \$300 million dollars for the Algonquins, transfer to them of not less than 117,500 acres of provincial Crown lands, and approaches to addressing Algonquin harvesting rights, forestry, parks and protected areas, culture and heritage, and how eligibility of individuals for claim benefits will be determined. Interests of others in relation to lands transferred to the Algonquins are to be protected and Algonquin Park will remain a park for the appropriate use and enjoyment of all. Key principles that the Algonquins wish to see reflected in a final settlement include reconciliation, clarification and constitutional protection of Algonquin rights, certainty of land title for all, expanded economic activity, cultural renaissance, and mutual respect for all peoples.

Mr. Darcy clarified that the Algonquins of Ontario claim ends at the Quebec border and a final treaty will not deal with the rights of the Quebec Algonquins, who have not submitted a claim in the Ottawa Valley. The signing of a treaty with the Algonquins of Ontario will not prejudice the rights of other aboriginal groups who are able to substantiate a claim in the same area that an Ontario Algonquins treaty would cover.

The Algonquins of Ontario claim is what is known as a Special Claim, as it does not fall within the parameters of existing land claims policies. The claim is similar to what is referred to as a Comprehensive Claim, in that it pertains to the assertion of unextinguished aboriginal rights and title; however, given that the claim area overlaps with regions used by other aboriginal groups who did sign historic treaties, the Algonquins could not meet the criterion that their use and occupation of the territory was largely to the exclusion of other organized aboriginal societies. In 1992, the federal Department of Indian Affairs developed guidelines for the assessment of such special claims.

Assessment and ultimate acceptance of a special claim for negotiation requires very rigorous application of tests established in case law. Mr. Darcy reviewed major Supreme Court of Canada decisions that resulted in the evolution of the law.

The Baker Lake ruling of 1979 established the following tests for assessing claims to continuing aboriginal title:

- that the plaintiffs and their ancestors were members of an organized society;
- that the society occupied the territory over which they assert Aboriginal title;

- that the occupation was to the exclusion of other organized societies; and
- that the occupation was an established fact at the time of assertion of sovereignty by Europeans.

The 1996 Van der Peet decision elaborated upon the Baker Lake tests. The court stated that: "Aboriginal rights arise from prior occupation of the land, but they also arise from the prior social organization and distinctive cultures of aboriginal peoples on the land."

The Supreme Court's 1996 decision in the Adams and Cote case stated that an aboriginal harvesting right could be confirmed without continuous occupation of a territory by the aboriginal group, if the activity was integral to the group's distinctive culture.

The Delgamuukw decision of 1997 established for the first time that aboriginal title is a right to land akin to ownership, whereas more broadly applicable aboriginal rights relate to access and use of land as opposed to its ownership. To prove aboriginal title, a group must establish that it exclusively occupied a claimed territory at the time of European sovereignty and has maintained connection with the territory to the present.

The Claims Assessment and Treaty Mechanisms Directorate of what is now Indigenous Affairs reviews claims submissions from Aboriginal groups, ensures that all facts relating to the claim are thoroughly researched, prepares an assessment report for review by the Department of Justice and on the basis of its legal advice, recommends to senior departmental management and the Minister whether the claim should be accepted and negotiated.

In reviewing a claim, Mr. Darcy said that his directorate looks for evidence of an historic aboriginal collectivity that was present in or using the claimed land at the time of contact with Europeans. Consideration is also given to current use and occupancy. In response to a question from the audience as to whether blood quantum is considered, Mr. Darcy said what is being assessed when a claim is reviewed is historical land use by a collectivity, not by individuals. An individual's background is only considered at a later date when a determination is made on who the beneficiaries of a signed modern treaty agreement are.

Mr. Darcy explained the detailed evidence and extensive historical documentation that an Aboriginal group has to submit to have their claim considered for acceptance. The Claims Assessment and Treaty Mechanisms Directorate must ensure that all facts regarding the claim are thoroughly researched and assembled for review by the Department of Justice. The Directorate looks at evidence beyond what the aboriginal group submits and then recommends either acceptance or rejection of the claim. If the claim is accepted, approval of a negotiation mandate is sought from the federal Cabinet. Facts matter, as very pointed questions are received from Cabinet Ministers.

Given that the results of the Directorate's work affect aboriginal peoples' rights and identity, it is very difficult when it is necessary to inform a group that its claim has been rejected. How historical records are used in the assessment process has a real impact upon peoples' lives.

In concluding his presentation, Mr. Darcy said that the greatest success of his directorate is the cooperative work they do with aboriginal groups to establish an unbiased fact base for a claim. This assists the parties in reaching a better understanding of the facts, as well as each other's position regarding interpretation of those facts. History is relevant in the work the directorate carries out, as it impacts the lives of aboriginal individuals and all Canadians. Mr. Darcy enjoys his work in that he gets paid to read historical documents and can contribute to recreating the fabric of Canadian society.

Mr. Darcy's presentation generated a great deal of interest, as reflected by the number of questions from the audience. In responding, he clarified that a claims settlement with the Algonquins of Ontario will not negate the rights of Quebec Algonquins in Ontario and vice versa, should the Quebec Algonquins negotiate their own agreement. He said the Quebec groups are talking among themselves in relation to any future submission of a claim.

A question was raised as to whether the claim area will be restricted by the fact that much of the land has come to have other uses. The response was that while the claim area will not be limited, there will be no expropriation of land owned by others. Thus, there will be limits on where Algonquins treaty rights may be exercised within the claim area. The Algonquins' loss of use of land will be considered in determining the nature of the benefits in the final settlement. There will be a financial cost to Canadians, and other aspects of the settlement will include surplus Crown properties, economic development opportunities, and perhaps a cultural building in downtown Ottawa. The purpose is to put the beneficiaries on an equal footing with other Canadians. They need an income base and economic development to allow families to support themselves and ensure the future of their children.

A questioner noted that the powers of the government and the Aboriginal negotiators seem to be unequal and asked what inspires Canada to move forward. In response, Mr. Darcy said that court cases have made clear that aboriginal rights recognized under section 35 of the Constitution must be dealt with and any infringement must be justified.



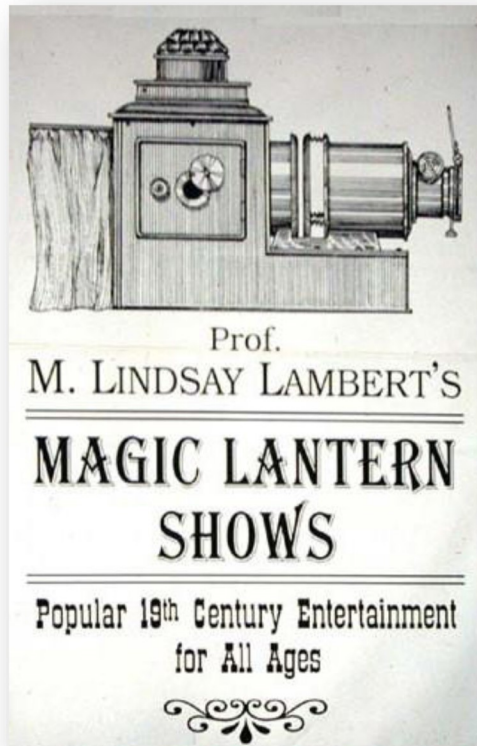
*Sean Darcy presenting*

Rideau Township Historical Society

Wednesday, May 15, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

Manotick Place Retirement Community

1145 Bridge Street, Manotick, Ontario



The Rideau Township Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the City of Ottawa.

## *News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives*

**Hours:** *The Rideau Archives is open every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at other times by appointment. (613-489-2926).*

**Resources and Services of the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives:** a monthly feature in this newsletter, celebrating the services and holdings preserved in your community's archives resource centre.

The village of North Gower was changing rapidly at the start of the twentieth century. It was a time of economic strength for the country, and there was great movement of people as railways shuttled recent immigrants and internal migrants, often to cities or to developing areas in western Canada or northern Ontario. The changing times and good fortunes of the village are evident in a listing in a 1904 directory of businesses in North Gower, including an insurance agent, a cheese manufacturer, a cigar-seller and a jeweller. These last two men, both newcomers to North Gower born in 1874 who dealt in luxury items, were Andrew Tuck and J.A. Graham.

Born in Oxford Township, Andrew Tuck moved with his family to Powassan, near North Bay, only to return to Kemptville after his father's death in 1894. The next year, Andie visited the village of North Gower with elder brother John A. Tuck, who kept a barber shop and sold cigars in Kemptville. Soon afterward, Andrew moved to North Gower, where he quickly became involved in local affairs: readings supporting the fledgling public library, meetings of Orange Young Britons Lodge No. 45, and trips to Eastman's Springs. He made village news in 1897 by purchasing a bicycle. In 1900, he bought David Barrows' old saddlery shop, at 8 Main Street. This building later became known as the "moved house" after it was relocated (from 6607 Fourth Line Road to 6586 Fourth Line Road). Andie married Lizzie Callander, daughter of James C. Callander, in 1901. Within three years, though, he had moved his barber shop down the street to 10 Main Street (now 6617 Fourth Line Road), where butcher William Moodie and tinsmith Dan Hagan were also located. Earlier, this property had served as Robert Morphy's commercial boarding house and, briefly, as Garland Pratt's grocery business. But after only a few years in his new location, Tuck headed west. He hired Thomas Cantry of Ottawa to take over barbering for the summer and sold the shop to his wife Lizzie for "love and \$2.00." In 1908, she sold her part of the 10 Main Street property to milliner Maggie Morphy and left the village to join Andie in Elk Lake, near Kirkland Lake.

When Andie Tuck left 8 Main Street, James Addison Graham, a jeweller and toy seller boarding with insurance man John Kerr, moved in. Born at Thomasburg in Hastings County, Graham was also new to North Gower, and at first his tenure at 8 Main Street was his only connection with Tuck. But this is North Gower, after all – in 1906, Graham married Violet Jane Pettapiece, whose father's first wife had been a first cousin of Tuck's wife's father. By

the time of his marriage, however, Addison Graham had left the Gower and was to spend the rest of his life in Perth. But the brief presence of Tuck and Graham in the village speak to the nature of North Gower's development just prior to the decision in 1905 to incorporate it as a police village.

Rideau Branch is pleased to support the Rideau Township Historical Society's research on the history of North Gower village that will be published later this year.

### **NORTH GOWER**

**Carleton Co    Population about 400**

**Acton R C, furniture, etc**  
**Andrews R H, tinsmith**  
**Barrows David, harness maker**  
**Bruce John, contractor**  
**Clark Bros, carriage makers**  
**Craig George & Son, general store**  
**Crawford Wm, blacksmith**  
**Duncan C Mrs, fancy goods**  
**Good Henry, shoemaker**  
**Good T L, carriage maker**  
**Graham J. A. jeweler**  
**Harkness F B, physician**  
**Kerr John, Local Agent SanLife Assurance Co**  
**Kidd Edward, cheese mnfr**  
**Leach W R, grocer**  
**McCordick Austin, physician**  
**McCurdy Joseph, hotel**  
**McEwen J A, blacksmith**  
**McGee J Y, blacksmith**  
**Montgomery A, merchant tailor**  
**Morphy Mrs, millinery**  
**Pettapiece Wm, shoemaker**  
**Scott Hiram, Postmaster and General Store**  
**Tuck Andrew, cigars**

*Farmers' and Business Directory for the Counties of Carleton, Dundas, Glengarry, Grenville, ... (Ingersoll, ON: Union Publishing Co, 1904), p. 635*

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

## *Laurence 'Larry' Renton*

Larry was a member of the committee responsible for planning the Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150th) of the village of Kars in 1972. Later he was the first chairman of the Rideau Township Heritage Board and in that capacity chaired the founding meeting of the Rideau Township Historical Society. Larry died peacefully at the Rideau Veterans Health Centre on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in his 98<sup>th</sup> year. He married Audrey Wood in Gloucester, England in 1944. They had two daughters, Kerry and Pamela.

Larry was educated in Ottawa, was a member of the R.C.A.F. in World War II, and co-owned Manotick Motors and Long Island Motors for 15 years. Fifty years ago he and Audrey moved to Briardene Farm, on the Rideau River south of Kars. In the five decades they enjoyed the farm Larry directed his energy and creativity to the Manotick Legion, the Kars Recreation Association, the Kars Fair, the United and Anglican Churches in Kars, and organizing go-cart races initially in Kars and then in Manotick.

Perhaps his greatest legacy is what is known as the Renton Forest. Thirty years ago Larry planted all the open land on their 200 acre farm in seedling trees. Six different species of trees were planted involving about 30 thousand seedlings. As these seedlings grew to young trees they

were pruned and access roads were developed and maintained. The Provincial Department of Natural Resources assisted with the planning, planting, and management of the forest. This managed forest, now in mid-life is one of the most prized and admired forests in private ownership in Eastern Ontario. In many respects it is more than a forest. It is a haven for wildlife and sanctuary for birds. Larry always expressed pride when the conversation turned to the forest.



*Larry at work in his garden*