



# The Rideau Township Historical Society

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

## November 2009 Newsletter

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

### Next Meeting

**Nov 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Carriage Shed, Manotick**  
**Dickinson Square**

Talk by Dr. Andrew Iarocci on 1st Canadian Division, World War I.

### Later In the fall...

**Dec. 9, 6:30 pm.** *The annual Christmas potluck dinner will be held in the*

**North Gower United Church of Canada**  
**2332 Church Street**  
**North Gower, Ontario.**

*Music, great food, great company, great conversation. Please join us.*

### **Speaker: Dr. Andrew Iarocci**

Dr. Andrew Iarocci is a research fellow at the Canadian War Museum, where he has also served as Collections Manager, Transportation & Artillery. He teaches history in the War Studies program at the Royal Military College. His most recent book, from the University of Toronto Press, is *Shoestring Soldiers: 1st Canadian Division at War, 1914-1915*. He is currently working on a new study of mechanization and logistics during the First World War period. As a hobby, he enjoys tearing apart and rebuilding military vehicles.

### **Subject: "1st Canadian Division, World War I."**

In *Shoestring Soldiers: The 1st Canadian Division at War*, Andrew Iarocci draws on the tremendous wealth of primary sources available to historians of the Canadian Corps, as well as many more recent publications. The main thesis of the book takes issue with the popular myth that the 1st Canadian Division was largely an amateur formation. Iarocci adopts a revisionist approach to these earlier official interpretations, and challenges earlier official histories by Duguid in 1938, and Nicholson in 1964.

### **Help with the Christmas Pot Luck Dinner**

**Ann Cronin has once again agreed to organize the RTHS Christmas pot luck dinner. Helpers are most welcome to contact Ann at (613) 692-6273.**



Organizing Committee Web Site  
[www.manotick150.ca/](http://www.manotick150.ca/)

**Bring a friend**

**Light refreshments**

**For a ride call Brian Earl**

### Features This Month

1. The October meeting.
2. News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives.
3. The Dickinson House this Summer.
4. Places of Worship Exhibition at the Rideau Archives.

**Right, Building Highway 16 ca 1921**  
**Deja vue ?**



# Last Meeting

## Katherine Killins on "What They Wore"

Article by Lucy Martin

RTHS member and Manotick resident Katherine Killins spoke at the October meeting, re-capping what might be called the society's extra-curricular anniversary activities for 2009.

Killins began by expressing her appreciation for what organizations like RTHS already provide, along with the additional potential they offer. She continued by detailing some of her own wide-ranging interests in heritage activities.



Killins grew up exploring the back roads and history of the Niagara region. She wasn't especially drawn to the facts, figures and dates of history. Rather, her interests encompassed the broader tapestry of real life: the homes, the lifestyles, the heritage and the activities of the ordinary people who settled the region, folk history, if you will.

She and her husband Brian bought an old stone house in a mill town near Hamilton. The young family went to work restoring it, learning about historic paint, decor and customs. (They were successful enough for the house to be featured in magazines, the ones that somehow make home restoration look deceptively easy!)

In time, Killins became a historical interpreter at Dundurn Castle. While there, she developed interpretive programs for children aimed at sparking deeper appreciation for area history. She also trained staff, all the while maintaining an emphasis on making heritage feel fun and alive.

Additional career experience as an event coordinator added to her ability to juggle multiple tasks while creating festive atmospheres. (And stone house restoration must be addictive, since she and Brian are at it again with a fine old specimen near the town of Delta.)

When Manotick 150th organizers sought ideas for this year's festivities, Killins thought there ought to be activities that gave participants and observers a sense of walking in

the shoes, houses and gardens of their forbearers. She wanted to celebrate Manotick and generate community spirit, without forgetting the "fun" part!

Killins became the *de facto* coach, mentor and cheerleader for a core group of similarly-inspired enthusiasts.

Once gathered, our group needed to get moving, without having a lot of resources or money. It was decided the most efficient thing to do would be to utilize what was already on hand. Many already had heritage clothing, or an interest in creating outfits that looked the part. The long-established Manotick Art Show could be a venue for a heritage display. And why not supplement the Victorian tea hosted by Knox Presbyterian Church with a fashion show of real and make-believe historical characters?

At this point of the October meeting, those in the audience who came in costume were invited to another informal promenade, and to share details about their outfits, which they did. For example, Marguerite Rogers told us her



matching cap, cape and skirt were hand-sewn by Karen Barnett. Marguerite inherited the outfit from the late Shelia Deane, who wore it as a volunteer with the Canadian Guide Dogs, during Dickinson Day events of past years.

After explaining the thinking behind the activities, the rest of Killins' presentation revisited the events themselves, particularly the grand finale, Manotick Saturday Night at Harmony Hall. As reported in last month's newsletter, that event came off very smoothly and a grand time was had by all.

Killins offered proof of a rollicking party with photos taken by her niece, Rachel Ongaro. Some candid shots, along with formal portraits taken at the event, should be available for distribution at some future date. (Watch this newsletter for details.)

After the success of Manotick Saturday Night, the next questions seem to run towards "what next?" And "when?" Well, there are various schools of thought on that, including the show business adage: "Always leave them wanting more".



In fact, this particular group needs a breather and will likely stand down for winter. But the take-away lesson seems to be that combining imagination with collaboration (and a strong sense of fun) makes many things possible.

What heritage or community-focused events do we want to see next? And will you be part of making them happen?

The next occasion for merriment will be our annual Christmas pot-luck, graciously organized by Ann Cronin. Helpers are most welcome to contact her and keep the good spirit alive.



*From our  
September  
speaker*

Dear Mark:

I wish to thank you and the Rideau Township Historical Society for inviting me to speak to your members on 16 September. To be in that historic hall at Pierce's Comers amongst a group of friendly and interested people was simply ideal.

Your collective enthusiasm for local history is impressive when one looks at your list of publications, your plans and your activities. I am glad to have been a small part of that experience.

I appreciate too a membership in the Society and a copy of your fine book, Shadow Soldiers, a welcome addition to my military and Loyalist history library.

With kind regards, I remain,

Yours truly,  
*Glenn Wright*

Glenn Wright

*The Dickinson House This Summer*

We've added up the numbers and this was another banner year for the Dickinson House.

In spite of the construction and the rain and mud, we have hosted **3722 visitors** which is very close to what we had last year. And, we are open for six more days.

The House will be re-open November 21-22, 28-29, and December 5-6.



## *From the Rideau Archives*

### *Places of Worship in Rideau*



Cemeteries were sometimes established before the churches were built and these too were shared.

Pioneers of the Roman Catholic Faith travelled to neighbouring townships to worship. Catholic Churches in Osgoode, Goulbourn, Gloucester and Nepean townships have been included in the histories of places of worship in Rideau.

Histories of the Brunstad Christian Church (also known as The Church of Norway), the Ottawa Sivan Temple (Tamil Hindu faith) and the Rideau Valley Baptist Church of which little is known are also included.

Shirley Adams has once again prepared a first class exhibit for the Rideau Archives. The exhibit has pictures and information about the histories of Anglican, Presbyterian, United, Methodist, Wesleyan Methodist, Brunstad, Ottawa Sivan Temple, and Rideau Valley Baptist Churches all of which were at some time active in Rideau Township.

Places of worship have long been a focal point in communities, offering spiritual guidance and fellowship. Some have been remodelled and enlarged to accommodate growth of the congregation and some have been closed due to dwindling membership, especially in rural areas.

In the beginning, pioneers met in homes to receive spiritual guidance. The first churches built were almost always very small frame structures which looked very much like one room schools. Their distinguishing mark was usually the pointed gothic style windows which are still associated with churches. Often, different denominations would share one building until their own place of worship was built.



People who are interested in this subject can view the exhibit at the Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Archives, 6581 Fourth Line Road (Main Street), North Gower.

## *Help Needed at the Dickinson House*

Don't forget that volunteers are still needed for Saturdays, Sundays and holidays to act as hosts and interpreters for visitors to the Dickinson House. We will still be open throughout October.

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 House will be open November 21-22, 28-29, and December 5-6.

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