

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

November 2016 Newsletter

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

The November Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2016
Time: 7:30p.m.

Place Client Services Centre
2155 Roger Stevens Drive
North Gower



The Christmas Party

The 2016 RTHS Christmas party will be held December 14 at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick. The event will be catered. Further information will be available in the next Newsletter and on the web site.



Recent Christmas parties featured good food, a play and a sing along. Come along and enjoy the festivities again this year.

Bring a Friend. To arrange a ride call Brian Earl at (613) 692 2371.

The Speakers:

Georgie Tupper & Serge Barbe.

Georgie Tupper is a founder and long term member of the Rideau Township Historical Society. Serge was the Community Archivist with the City of Ottawa Archives (now retired) and for many years assisted the Rideau Branch on our open Tuesdays.

The photo below shows Serge with Dave Bullock who is a former City Archivist and now volunteers at the Rideau Branch on Tuesdays. All in all there is excellent cooperation between the City Archives and the volunteers at the Rideau Branch.



Subject:

Street Names in Old & New Ottawa

Our next meeting will feature two of our own members – Georgina Tupper and Serge Barbe. Georgie will discuss the origins of the street names we recognize today within the former Rideau Township. Serge will examine more widely how streets were named in Ottawa, and the illustrious settlers and others for whom they were named. Both welcome your questions about our streets and how they came about.

This Month

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The November Meeting | 4. Upcoming Program |
| 2. The October Presentation | 5. Dickinson House |
| 3. News from the Rideau Archives | 6. Dickinson Square decision |
| | 7. Participatory Archives |

The October Presentation *“Rideau Township in the News”*

Speaker: Stuart Clarkson

Article by Maureen McPhee, Photos by Owen Cooke

Stuart Clarkson's October 12 presentation "Rideau Township in the News" provided listeners with the results of his online research of international newspaper reports on Rideau Township and its communities.

In introducing the evening's presentation, Owen Cooke noted that Stuart is an RTHS member who is well-known to many as the Community Archivist who serves the public every Tuesday at the Rideau Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives in North Gower.

Stuart described the goal of his research and presentation as to show the historical links of Rideau Township to the world around it, as encapsulated in reports in international newspapers. He consulted two online sources to achieve this goal – the British Newspaper Archive and newspapers.com, the latter covering mostly American but some Canadian newspapers. The sources allowed him to analyze British and U.S. reports and compare them with those found in the Globe through the Ottawa Public Library.

Stuart shared a personal experience that demonstrated to him the impact that a single newspaper article can have and how it can shift your approach to a subject matter. A family obituary that he ran across in the Guelph Mercury caused him to undertake genealogical research that uncovered his family's colourful past.

Stuart referred to a 2002 study that confirmed that newspapers are still one of the most important sources for historical research. There are challenges in such research, however, due to the frequent unavailability of certain newspapers, their cumbersome design and inherent reliability issues. In searching for articles on Rideau, Stuart had to deal with the fact that names like Wellington and Marlborough are common and there is a Kars in Turkey. He found that the most productive names to search under were North Gower and Manotick, although he discovered that there have been two race horses named Manotick.

British Newspapers

The first mention of Rideau that Stuart found in newspapers was an 1857 advertisement by the British Emigration Office highlighting North Gower as a destination for settlers. Among other things, the ad stated that there was a particular need for female domestic servants. Stuart found 25 placements of this ad, primarily in newspapers in Ireland and Northern England. The reports reflect a British economic downturn at the time and the unavailability of employment in the homeland.

Early British newspaper reports sometimes contained the text of letters home written by settlers in Rideau. Such letters described the landscape and the settlers' experiences. A number of them had been weavers in the old



Ruth Wright thanks our speaker, Stuart Clarkson at the October meeting.

country but had to leave their looms behind and turned to agricultural labour in Rideau.

The newspaper reports showed a blood tie between communities like North Gower and areas such as Warwickshire in England. In the 20th century, ties to the homeland were also felt by Home Children who were brought to Rideau Township.

Emigration slowed in the 20th century, although some new ties to Britain resulted from the World Wars and the coming to Rideau of many war brides. As the century progressed, however, Rideau news in British newspaper diminished and changed in nature from reports on settlers to general newsworthy items, such as crimes and a 1919 visit to Rideau by the Prince of Wales.

U.S. Newspapers

Reports on Rideau Township in American newspapers were more similar to what one would have found in Canadian newspapers. The stories were more diverse, dealt with pure news items and rarely focused on settlers.

The earliest reference to Rideau that Stuart located in U.S. newspapers was an 1884 announcement of a new priest in North Gower. One of the most widely distributed stories concerned the death of the members of a Wilson family in a house fire. Reports relating to the Rideau Canal included a report on the owner of Macy's running his boat up on a rock near Manotick, as well as a trip on the Rideau Queen by the editor of the Bedford Gazette. Stories in later years referenced a 1957 air crash near Manotick and a 1989 armada to the 1989 Antique Boat Show. A 1981 item with an insert highlighted Watson's Mill as an Ottawa attraction.

Comparison with a Canadian Newspaper

Stuart reviewed the Globe to get a sense of how Rideau was treated in Canadian newspapers. The first mention was an 1848 report on 1848 Parliamentary returns to the Legislative Assembly. Thereafter, reports were similar to those in American newspapers, dealing with general news items but usually different stories from those focused on by the American newspapers. For example, the boating incident of the owner of Macy's was not picked up by the Globe, but the story of a deer jogging down the Main Street of North Gower did appear, reflecting a pastoral image of the village. A 1925 report on North Gower's desire to limit alcohol sales was consistent with the prevalence in the Globe in that period of reports on the temperance campaign.

In closing, Stuart said that he hoped had been able to provide a glimpse of how life in Rideau was and still is read about in newspapers. In carrying out his research, he found it interesting to see how we were and are part of a larger world.



Stuart Clarkson and Ron Wilson up for the evenings presentation.

Dickinson Square. Good News

After selling three of the five properties the city has decided to keep the Dickinson House and the Carriage Shed. The following press release, dated November 1, 2016, gives the details.

Ottawa – *The Manotick Mill Quarter Community Development Corporation, which was established by the City of Ottawa to save and redevelop key heritage properties in the core of the Manotick Village, is being dissolved after the sale of three properties.*

“The City stepped in when there was a lot of concern in the community about the future of Manotick’s heritage,” said Mayor Jim Watson. “We acquired several properties, set up a development corporation, and then recovered most of our funds through the sale of the buildings to new owners who will put the properties to good use. It’s a great win for Manotick and for the City of Ottawa.”

“We have managed to save heritage buildings that are in the heart of Manotick, while encouraging new uses for these buildings and providing opportunities for new business ventures,” said Rideau Goulbourn Councillor Scott Moffatt. “We are preserving our community’s history, while adding to the vibrancy and economic prosperity of our community for years to come.”

The Manotick Mill Quarter Community Development Corporation acquired six properties in the Mill Quarter, consulted with residents about possible development that would fit the community character, and then put the properties up for sale. Three of the six properties listed received good offers, while one property was retained by the City for the Remembrance Park development.

The remaining two properties, Dickinson House and the Carriage Shed, did not generate viable offers. The Board of the Manotick Mill Quarter Community Development Corporation recommended that the City keep public ownership of these two buildings, which is strongly supported in the community.

Today, the City’s Finance and Economic Development Committee approved a report that recommends retaining Dickinson House and the Carriage Shed and dissolving the development corporation. The report will go to City Council next for its consideration on November 9.

The RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from 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.

Participatory Archives

In 2015, I delivered a short presentation to a visiting delegation from the District of Columbia on the subject of Rideau Branch. In planning for their new facility, the delegation wanted to learn about the City of Ottawa Archives' various partnerships which connect the archival records it collects, stores and makes available to the public who both generate and use the collections.

I gave a short talk, supported by a slide show and short interviews with Georgie Tupper and Ron Wilson, highlighting how the volunteers at Rideau Branch embody those connections.

My presentation was met with many smiles and nods of appreciation by the Washingtonians. While certainly not a new idea, all sorts of professional archives have been recently drifting away from the approaches of the past to new dynamic and community-led models, often called participatory archives.

Rideau Archives has been pursuing this approach since its inception 26 years ago, and central to it is the participation of both our donors and our volunteers, who personally bridge the gap between the archival documents and the community, bringing meaning to the historical records. While once again thanking all the donors and volunteers to Rideau Branch and Rideau Township Archives over the years,

I would at this time particularly like to thank our most recent volunteer, Sue Gibson, for ensuring that Rideau Branch's exemplary work as the participatory archives for the former Rideau Township area will continue into the future.

Stuart Clarkson



The Tuesday group. From the left clockwise around the table: Susan McKellar, Silvia Kindl, Sue Gibson, Scott Cameron, Georgie Tupper, Mary Davidson, Dave Bullock, Patricia Pratt, Owen Cooke, Ruth Wright, Ron Wilson, Peter Satterly,

Rideau Township Historical Society

Wednesday, 16 November 2016, at 7:30 p.m.

North Gower Client Service Centre

2155 Roger Stevens Drive



Lord Nelson

for whom streets in Ottawa and Kars are named

Georgina Tupper and Serge Barbe

Street Names in Rideau and in Ottawa

Rideau Township Historical Society Minutes

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Carsonby RA Hall, Carsonby, Ontario

President Tom McDonald opened the meeting by welcoming approximately 24 members and guests. Moved by Bill Tupper that we adopt the minutes of the May meeting as published in the Newsletter. Seconded by Marguerite Rogers. Carried.

Financial Director Sandy McNiece reported that we have a bank balance of \$20,400 in the bank. We have total receipts of \$26,773.00 with expenditures of \$13,200.00. There are still outstanding summer student fees which will be paid when the student grants are received.

Membership Director Patricia Pratt reported that we have 22 single and 30 family memberships and she has received an additional family this week. There are 3 complimentary and 18 life memberships.

Program Director Bill Tupper outlined the upcoming meeting on November 16 with Georgie Tupper and Serge Barbe speaking on the naming of roads in Rideau Township. Our Christmas party will be held on December 14th at Knox Presbyterian Church in Manotick. Various options for the meal were discussed and most people were in favour of a catered meal rather than a potluck. There was some discussion of ideas to honour Canada's 150th Anniversary Celebrations next year. Some suggestions included: walking tours of the villages and possibly a driving tour; an old-fashioned picnic in the Park; a tour of former Township schools; an exposé of the tribulations and rivalries of the Canada of long ago; a discussion of famous people who lived in Manotick; the construction of small buildings or gazebos throughout the Township as a lasting memorial. Tom MacDonald suggested that we could support and cooperate with plans of The Mill and BIA. Anyone who is interested in assisting with these projects is most welcome. January's meeting will be the AGM and traditional 'Bring & Brag'. February's meeting is not yet definite, and March will be a presentation of research by summer student Hannah Blaine on James Currier.

Communications Director Maureen McPhee reported that there was a concentration of publicity around Dickinson House this summer and that Twitter was up and running and an RTHS Facebook account will be set up shortly.

Publications – Another 100 copies of '*Manotick Then and Now*' is to be reprinted and the book on World War I War Dead is on track for being published next year.

Dickinson House Director Brian Earl reported that Dickinson House employed 6 student heritage interpreters and 1 researcher this year. The Country Fair and Barn Dance was a success. Coming up is the Women's Day Victorian Tea on Nov. 5th (tickets still available), and the Nov. 11th Remembrance Day display this year featuring Lt. Col. David Fromow and his wife Barbara (RAF). On Sunday October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. there will be a dedication of Coral Lindsay's memorial tree at DH. Susan McKellar then proudly displayed an afghan made by the students at DH and presented to her to thank her for her knitting help this summer.

Grants – Sandy McNiece reported that a committee is working on the Application for the City of Ottawa grant, which is due on October 31st.

Youth – Nothing new to report.

Owen Cooke then introduced our Guest Speaker Stuart Clarkson who gave a very interesting and informative talk on "*Rideau Township in the News*", and its connection to the international community.

Ruth Wright thanked our speaker and presented him with the book *Kars on the Rideau*.

Moved by Doug Culham that we adjourn. Seconded by Brian Earl. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Tom MacDonald followed by snacks and a social gathering.