

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

October 2016 Newsletter

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

The October Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2016
Time: 7:30p.m.

Place Carsonby Community Hall
6047 Prince of Wales Drive

Please note this meeting is on the second Wednesday rather than the third.



***Carsonby Hall,
(Harry Craig Centre)***

Fall Programme

November - Wed., Nov. 16 – Client Centre, North Gower – Georgie Tupper and Serge Barbe – “Street Names in Old & New Ottawa”.

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

Dickinson House

The dedication of Coral Lindsay's tree at Dickinson House will be held on the lawn on Oct. 23 at 2:00 p.m. The tree has been planted to honour Coral for her role in the establishment and operation of the house for all these years.

The Speaker:

Stuart Clarkson

Stuart is a Community Archivist with the City of Ottawa Archives. He works Tuesdays each week at the Rideau Branch in North Gower and is available to assist both visitors and volunteers with matters at the Rideau Branch or the main branch.

Subject:

Rideau as Seen by the Press

What do English silk weavers have to do with an inheritance scam and chow-chows? The common denominator, it seems, is the former Rideau Township. This presentation will explore a bit about how various populations -- in the Ottawa Valley and further afield on both sides of the Atlantic-- have read and therefore thought about Rideau over the years through the medium of the newspaper. Along the way, a few points of interest will be encountered concerning Rideau that may be not well known or well documented in other sources.

See the poster on page 6.

Canada 150

The RTHS is developing plans to celebrate Canada 150 next year. We are looking for ideas or suggestions as to what we might do to mark this event. We will make a plea asking for ideas and help with these endeavors at our Wednesday night meeting.

This Month

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The October Meeting | 4. Upcoming Programs |
| 2. The September Excursion | 5. Dickinson House |
| 3. News from the Rideau Archives | 6. Muriel Buck |
| | 7. Women's Day Victorian Tea |

Come and remember Coral and share your thoughts and stories about her accomplishments.

Tickets for the Nov. 5 **Women's Day Victorian Tea** at Dickinson House are now on sale. The poster on page 5 gives the details. Tickets will be available at the meeting on Wednesday. Remember this event sells out quickly.

Outing to Parliament Hill Wednesday 21 September 2016 Article and Photos by Owen Cooke

Some thirty Historical Society members and guests enjoyed an expedition to the national Parliament organized by Bill Tupper, our former President and former Member of Parliament. We travelled from the North Gower Client Service Centre in a Rideau Bus Lines schoolbus, driven by Gerry Egan, one of our members, in the late afternoon. On the way Bill pointed out an outcrop of Nepean sandstone along Hwy. 416 from which the Parliament Buildings are constructed.



Members of the historical society addressed by Bill Tupper. In the foreground, left to right are John Seabrook, Ruth Wright, Eleanor Aass, Annabelle Aass, Patricia Pratt, Dennis and Anne Osmond and Bill Tupper

Arriving on Wellington Street, we de-bussed at the Centennial Flame and, mingling with the other tourists, we walked up the impressive approach to the main entrance of the Centre Block. We proceeded to the Parliamentary



Members of the historical society on the approach to the Parliament Buildings. As can be seen in the background, it was a perfect evening.



In the Members' Entrance. Eleanor Aass admires the carvings high up.

Restaurant, where we enjoyed an excellent buffet supper. While there, we peeked into the New Zealand Room, one of the small private dining rooms used for special occasions, with an outstanding view up the Ottawa River to the Chaudière Falls.

Leaving the dining room, we were met by our current Member of Parliament, Hon. Pierre Poilievre, who introduced us to his friend and colleague, Erin Weir, NDP M.P. for Regina-Lewvan, who in turn introduced us to the members of his staff who were just going in to dine.

Our tour conducted by Bill Tupper began in the Members' Entrance. Bill pointed out that the interiors of the old Parliament Buildings were made almost entirely of wood and were a firetrap. This was borne out in the fire of 3 February 1916 which destroyed almost everything except the Parliamentary Library. The reconstructed buildings were of fireproof Nepean sandstone. Nowadays, repairs are made using stone quarried near Mirabel, Quebec. Much of the interior is in warm Tyndall limestone, which takes well to carving.

We viewed the symbolic carvings high in the cornices of the entrance. We also looked at the oil paintings of some of the prime ministers, and the bronze statue by Dr. R. Tait McKenzie of Lieutenant-Colonel George Harold Baker, M.P., killed at Mount Sorrel in 1916. Dennis Osmond provided further detail on McKenzie's local roots in Lanark and his medical achievements at his old medical school at McGill University.

We passed on to the House of Commons, empty late in the evening. We were free to try out the Speaker's Throne, or the seats of the various members, while Bill explained the seating arrangements for members and Parliamentary officials, and the various galleries, such as the press gallery and the public gallery.



Scott Cameron with R. Tait McKenzie's statue of Lieutenant-Colonel George Baker, M.P., killed in 1916.

Then it was on down the Confederation Hallway, noting the white marble floors from quarries near Lake Champlain in Quebec, and more paintings of prime ministers and dignitaries, to the Rotunda. A massive stone pillar here dedicates the restored building to the soldiers of the First World War, and expands upward to magnificent fan vaulting and carvings, while on the floor of inlaid marble, both from Quebec and abroad, is a 16-point compass star, surrounded by concentric rings of colour representing the land of Canada, the sea and the world.

We continued down the Hall of Honour to the Parliamentary Library, noting on the way the old Members' Reading Room, the Railway Committee Room and the location where the Sergeant-at-Arms, Kevin Vickers, shot Michael Zehaf-Bibeau in 2014.

The Parliamentary Library, Bill explained, was of the same wood construction as the old Parliament Buildings, and during the fire of 1916 was only saved by an alert employee closing the steel doors, which he showed us. He drew our attention to the intricately carved pine woodwork of the stacks, in which each carving is unique, and

to the floor pattern in cherry, oak and walnut. A display told the story of the fire. Bill told us that one of his constituents, living in a seniors' home at the time, had been a page in the House of Commons in 1916 and claimed to have led Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden out of harm's way.

Last we visited the Senate Chamber, the Red Chamber. Here Bill noted the use of Indiana limestone for trim and carvings, explaining that it was very easily worked. We also viewed the Senate foyer with paintings of Canada's monarchs, although some of these are copies.

We returned to the Main Entrance, where Gerry had brought our bus right to the door. By the time we got back to the Client Service Centre, after 10 p.m., everyone felt that we had had a full and rewarding day, and all agreed that Bill Tupper had put together a most memorable outing.



Harry Joyce in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's seat in the House of Commons.

Muriel Buck

Muriel Buck, a long time Historical Society member died on September 11, 2016 while in residence at Orchard View on the Rideau in Manotick. Muriel was born in 1921 at Dalton-in-Furness, Lancashire (now Cambria), England. In 1928 she moved with her family to Windsor, Ontario, where her father found employment with the Ford Motor Company. In 1934 she returned to England for high school and remained in England during World War II. During the war Muriel worked at Whitehall in the war reparations group on blitz damage assessment. Part of the responsibilities of the blitz squad was to put out small fires started by bombing.

Muriel met her future husband, Keith Buck, while attending school in Windsor, Ontario. Keith, (Captain and Adjutant 69th Tank Transport Division) looked her up when he was posted to the UK at the beginning of the war. They were married on August 18, 1945 and returned to Canada in September 1946. Keith began his studies at McGill University and Muriel found employment as an executive assistant to the President of Merck and Company.

Muriel and Keith moved to Ottawa in 1952 where Keith found employment with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and Muriel became a senior assistant to the Japanese Ambassador at the newly re-opened Japanese Embassy. She remained at the Embassy until 1958 when she left to raise their two children, Malcolm and Alison.

In 1955 the Bucks built a new home on North Riverside Drive in Manotick. Muriel in time would become one of the founders of the Kindergarden Program at Manotick Public School as well as the Manotick School of Ballet. She was one of the original shareholders in the Manotick Curling Club. She also organized the first swimming lesson programs at the Manotick swimming pool.

In 1973 Muriel, Keith and their family took up residence in London, England where Keith was appointed Minerals Counsellor at the Canadian High Commission. There she became a member of the Canadian Diplomatic Wives Association which undertook an array of charitable



activities. She served as President of the Association. In 1977 Keith became Secretary General of the UN International Lead and Zinc Study Group with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Muriel traveled with Keith to all 52 member countries, on all continents, on visiting missions.

The Bucks moved back to Manotick and their original home in 1983. Muriel became a member of the Rideau Township Historical Society, a keen supporter of Watsons Mill, the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, the Manotick Library and the Probus Club. She was a devoted and thoughtful citizen throughout her life.

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.

Franco-Ontarians of the Rideau Area

As mentioned in the Newsletter last February, settler Michael Wall gave instructions in 1855 for his sister to join

him in North Gower by travelling to Peltier's Wharf, about 21 miles up the Rideau River from Bytown.

This happens to be roughly the same distance to Lindsay's Wharf. Certainly, being still in rapid change due to the continual influx of settlers, not all names in the area had been worked out to everyone's satisfaction -- the vil-

lage of North Gower itself, for example, was recorded as Stephenville in an 1851 directory of the Province of Canada.

Although no connection with Lindsay's Wharf is currently known, the Peltiers had clearly arrived from Lower Canada already, since Anselm Peltier's daughter Agnes appears to have been born in North Gower Township around 1845.

Another variation of the name was adopted by Isaac Pelkie, who was recorded in Marlborough in the 1852 census before obtaining 50 acres at the south end of the Third Concession in North Gower sometime before 1861, and a man named Gaspar Pelkie had settled his family nearby in Nepean Township.

The names Peltier and Pelkie had come from the same surname, Pelletier, and this original form was also present in North Gower Township, with Joseph Pelletier being born there around 1849, according to his marriage registration.

Despite the challenges posed by such name variations, genealogical information about the Pelletiers and other families of French-Canadian origin in the Rideau area has been collected by local researcher Florence MacRostie, who kindly donated these materials to the Rideau Branch, where they are available in the reading room each Tuesday.

Stuart Clarkson



Victorian Tea

*November 5, 1:00 p.m.
Dickinson House Museum
1127 Mill St., Manotick*

*Reserved Seating - \$20.00/person
Tea sandwiches, scones & sweets*

*Tickets on sale at Dickinson House
Open weekends 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
or telephone 613-692-6455*

Dickinson House gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa

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Carsonby Community Hall
6047 Prince of Wales Drive

Stuart Clarkson “Rideau as Seen through the Press”



Although the truck volume in Manotick is down since the opening of Vimy Memorial Bridge (see page 4), the issue still remains a major concern for residents in and around the village. Rideau-Goulbourn Councillor Scott Moffatt will be holding a public meeting Thurs., Jan. 22 at the Manotick Arena to discuss this and a number of other issues pertaining to the Manotick Secondary Plan Update. JEFF MORRIS PHOTO

From the Manotick Messenger

Learn about our history through Stuart’s research of newspaper reports on Rideau Township and its communities from the 19th Century to the present.