October 2017 Newsletter

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

The October Meeting

Date:	Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Time:	7:30 p.m.
Place	Pierces Corners RA Hall
	3048 Pierce Rd
	North Gower, ON

Subject:
The Irish Experience in the Ottawa Valley
The Speaker:
Terence Currie

Terry Currie was born, raised, and still lives on the family farm in former Fitzroy Township, settled by his great-great grandfather Pat in 1841 from Co. Fermanagh, Ireland. He attended Fitzroy Public School, Arnprior and District High School, then St. Patrick's College where he studied English and History.

After a career teaching at Almonte District High School, he returned to the University of Ottawa for an M.A. in History. His thesis, *The Ottawa Valley's Great Fire of 1870* became his first publicly distributed book. He has also written on church histories, presented courses on the History of the Ottawa Valley and a video documentary, "St. Peter Celestine Roman Catholic Church, Pakenham: the Jewel of the Ottawa Valley."

Thanks Georgie & Susan

Our thanks go out to Georgie Tupper and Susan Mckellar. On September 23rd, they were the guest speakers at the Ontario Genealogical Society meeting which took place at the James K. Bartleman Archives building on Tallwood Drive. They did an excellent job with a power point presentation extolling the virtues of setting up and maintaining a rural archives and the importance of preserving local history and keeping it in the community. They also invited all to attend our Heritage Forum in Kars the following Saturday. Thank you, Susan and Georgie, for being such good ambassadors for the Rideau Township Historical Society.

The Dickinson House

Despite a rainy start to the day, the volunteers at the House greeted 90 visitors who were interested in the displays and the history of the families. The attraction was the Harvest Festival sponsored by Watson's Mill.

On the second floor of the Mill, the Manotick Horticultural Society, assisted in part by your DH Committee, held a Flower and Vegetable Show which drew much attention. Members of the DH Committee received two prizes for their entries.

The next major event at the House will be the Victorian Tea held on 04 November, in conjunction with Women's Day in Manotick. The tea is sold out, however, so will not be advertised. The theme will be a "Pink Tea" to commemorate the Suffragette Movement of times past. Participants will be encouraged to wear something pink while the food will have a "pink flavor".

Preparations for the November 11 display are progressing, with the theme of "Vimy". Displays will incorporate material from Owen Cooke's forthcoming book on the veterans of Rideau Township.

Victorian Christmas Decoration making will take place on December 2 & 3. The Christmas tale reading on December 17 will be "The Shepherd".

A Forum Celebrating Our Villages' Heritage

Speakers: Guilio Maffini, Avery Marshall, Adrian Phillips, Amber Polywkan, and Paul Henry

Article by Susan Mckellar, Photos by Maureen McPhee and Owen Cooke

Over 50 people enjoyed a heritage forum in Kars presented by the Rideau Township Historical Society and Heritage Ottawa on Saturday, Sept. 30.

After welcomes from RTHS president Sandy McNiece, Heritage Ottawa vice-president Linda Hoad and Councillor Scott Moffatt, three speakers gave presentations.

Architect and Manotick resident Guilio Maffini spoke about design guidelines for rural villages. The importance of preserving villages is world-wide – the phrase "once the villages are gone, the culture is gone" comes from China. While villages often tend to be consumed by urbanization, the Ottawa region is very varied, with less population than some areas, so there are more opportunities here for preserving heritage in the 26 villages of the region.
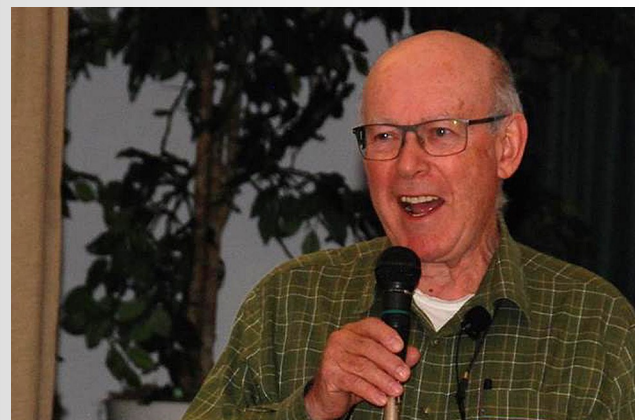

Guilio Maffini presenting

Maffini illustrated the use of the guidelines in discussions with the developer who is replacing the Falls House in Manotick. He had some advice for the village of Kars, including retelling the stories of the village, highlighting what remains, and being politically savvy in discussions with developers.

Avery Marshall and Amber Polywkan, City of Ottawa heritage planners, described the Ottawa's Heritage Inventory Project in which they are involved. The former informal heritage reference list is gradually being replaced by a more formal register. They are collecting information on heritage buildings through observation and research in the different neighbourhoods of Ottawa. This will be available to the public through GeoOttawa. As with the previous speaker, the audience responded with several questions and comments.

Then Paul Henry, City Archivist, outlined the participatory work of the Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives. He praised the Branch for its extensive use of volunteers and its use of a heritage building to hold the memory of the community. He also mentioned the importance of its holdings such as drainage maps and its LACAC files on heritage buildings, and the valuable contribution made by researchers. Volunteer Georgina Tupper spoke about the beginnings and development of the Branch.

Thanks to Ruth Wright for supplying coffee and snacks all day. A delicious lunch was served by members of the St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Kars, and participants had an opportunity to browse displays from different heritage organizations. Following this, Susan Mckellar gave a brief history of the village and Cameron Minor introduced the types of architecture in the village. Then the group followed him on a walking tour through the historic part of the village. They viewed about 15 homes, with Cameron pointing out architectural features. He also told stories about the families that lived there and the long-gone businesses like the steam mill, stores, funeral parlours and hotels.

The group returned to the hall to listen to Jim Mountain from the National Trust for Canada talk about regenerating main streets. He feels heritage is about people, building relationships, and managing change. He encouraged communities to consider questions like "what do we care about?" and "what are we proud of?". Mountain gave sev-

eral inspiring examples of work he has done with communities across the country. People were particularly intrigued by his description of the Manitou Mounds in Rainy River.

The day wound up with a bus tour of a loop from Kars to North Gower and back, viewing churches, barns, schools, and homes, with commentary provided by Owen Cooke. The bus stopped at the Rideau Branch Archives where the group was welcomed by Georgina Tupper; she pointed out some of its treasures and opened the vault for viewing.

A full day, entertaining and educational, an opportunity to make new friends and expand one's horizons!

The walking tour visited a number of heritage homes and buildings in Kars.

The walking tour encounterd a beautifully restored Fargo pickup. Remember those? The light spots are reflections.
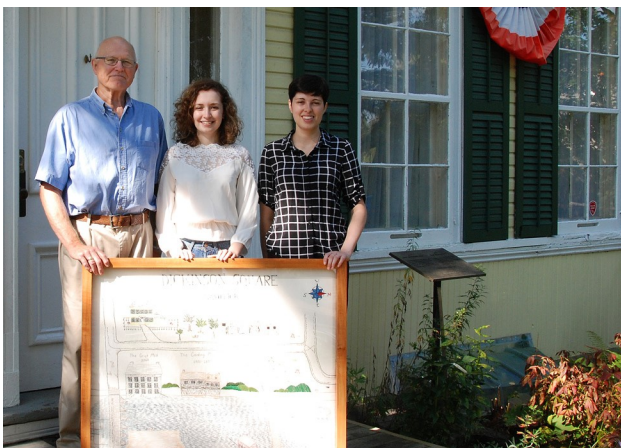

The bus tour of part of Rideau disembarks at Rideau Archives in North Gower
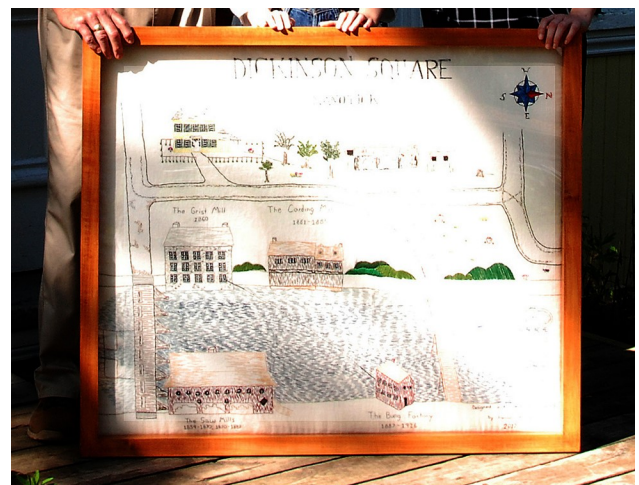
A Really Nice Gift

Dickinson House recently received a new artifact for the collection. One of our student Heritage Interpreters, Hannah Blaine, donated an embroidered map of the square, depicting all of the structures, both present and past. She had worked on it for two years. It was framed by her fa-

ther, John Blaine and will eventually hang in the stairway leading to the second floor. The Dickinson House Committee sincerely appreciates the work done by both Hannah and John Blaine,

Thank you Hannah.

Brian Earl, Hannah, and Elaine Egan from Watson's Mill holding the embroidery.

The embroidery as donated to the House.

News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives

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 Rowat papers at Rideau Branch (MGR033-09) contain a photograph of a landed airplane with a group of fourteen people, thought to have been perhaps either the first airplane at Ottawa or the first commercial night flight there. While neither appears to be correct, it is nevertheless an interesting image taken at the Uplands air field where, only a few years earlier, Charles Lindbergh had landed, and does likely depict a first flight in some sense.

The distinctive markings and appearance of the photographed airplane identify it as an all-metal Ford Tri-Motor owned by the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio. The Ottawa Journal had given over a week's notice that Hugh Carson Co. Ltd., local wholesaler for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company of Canada, was bringing the company's plane in so that local dealers and their friends could go up for what was for many their first time airborne. Carson's stamp appears at the bottom of the photograph's cardboard backing. Also stamped on the back is the name of the Hands Studios of Ottawa, probably hired to commemorate each flight with a photograph. William McConnell was pilot, with E.J. Quigley as his co-pilot (oddly, later to become the first air mail pilot in Liberia). Arriving with them on the plane were a number of Firestone executives from the Canadian head office in Hamilton, led by the president of the Canadian company, Earl W. BeSaw. The entourage also included J.A. Livingston, trade sales manager, and Russell T. Kelley, advertising counsel, later to become an Ontario cabinet minister. The Firestone plane made almost thirty flights over the city over two days, 17-18 September 1930, on this promotional stop in Ottawa, taking fifteen passengers at a time. But this was not the first time the Firestone plane had been to Ottawa. On 6 October 1929, it landed at the Ottawa Flying Club's aerodrome at Uplands Field as a service plane during the fifth National Air Tour, competing for the Edsel B. Ford Trophy. And the Firestone plane was to return again to Ottawa in August 1931, by which time it had reportedly visited 136 cities in almost 1900 flights, carrying nearly 20,000 passengers.

The man fourth from the left appears to be Russell Kelley, but otherwise the names of the other people who took the photographed flight are not known, so it is unclear how this photograph ended up in the Rowat papers. But there would seem to be a chance that one of the men about to take their first flight was John T. Patterson of Manotick or his son Jack, who together ran Patterson's garage at Manotick in the 1930s and 1940s. Jack married Nora Harris, sister-in-law of William Rowat, in 1932, which could explain how the photograph ended up in the Rowat papers. A further annotation in pencil is recorded on the back: "to keep." Clearly whoever took their first flight in the Firestone plane that day treasured this photograph, which is why it has ended up at Rideau Branch Archives.

Stuart Clarkson

Landed Firestone touring plane at Uplands Field, Ottawa, with tour group (MGR033-09-012)

If at any time you would are interested in joining the RTHS or making a donation please us the form below. Your address is requested so that we can mail you a receipt.

Sign me up as a member of RTHS

Rideau Township
Historical Society

Members of the Society enjoy:
- Monthly meetings featuring engaging presentations, followed by refreshments
- Group excursions to historical points of interest in Eastern Ont.
- Local books published by the Society and a monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to participate and contribute as volunteers

**For more information visit www.rideautownshiphistory.org,
facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory, and twitter.com/RideauTpHS.
Please send this form with a cheque for membership dues payable to:
Rideau Township Historical Society, Box 56, North Gower, ON, K0A 2T0.
A tax receipt will be issued for all membership dues and donations.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

**Individual Membership $10 _____   Life Membership $100 _____
Family Membership $15 _____   Donation $50 _____
(2 adults & school-aged children)   Other Donation $_____**

Thank you for supporting RTHS!