

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

September 2009 Newsletter

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

Next Meeting

Sep. 16, 7:30 p.m., *Pierce's Corners Hall: Talk by Glenn Wright on "Early Days of the RCMP".*

Driving directions are on page 6.

Later In the fall...

Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., *St. Andrew's, Kars: Katheryn Killins and friends will present "What they wore".*

Nov 18, 7:30 p.m., *Carriage Shed, Manotick: Talk by Dr. Andrew Iarocci on 1st Canadian Division, World War I.*

Dec. 16, 7:30 pm. *The annual Christmas potluck dinner. Music, great food, great company, great conversation. Please join us.*

Speaker: Glenn Wright

Glenn is the co-author (with Desmond Morton) of "Winning the Second Battle: Canadian Veterans and the Return to Civilian Life, 1915-1930". Glenn is also a consultant for the military segments of the TV series "Ancestors in Your Attic".

Subject: "The Creation of the RCMP, Ottawa and the Search for a Home"

Glenn Wright will speak on the RCMP presence in Ottawa. While long associated with western Canada, especially since all training is still done at Regina, the Mounted Police have been a presence in Ottawa since the headquarters were moved here from Regina in 1920.

He will discuss why this occurred when it did, the creation of a national police force, the absorption of the Dominion Police (in Ottawa since Confederation) and the search for a home, concluding with the acquisition of the Roman Catholic Seminary building on Vanier Parkway and the future move to Barrhaven.

Manotick Saturday Night A Harvest Ball



[Click here for more info or see page 5](#)



Organizing Committee Web Site
www.manotick150.ca/

Bring a friend

Light refreshments

For a ride call Brian Earl

Features This Month

1. The Manotick 150th.
2. The June Excursion..
3. News from the Rideau Branch, Ottawa Archives.
4. The Dickinson House this Summer.
5. Colonel By Day, the RTHS Booth.
6. Manotick Saturday Night

Help Wanted !!!

The RTHS will be selling our publications in the Marketplace at the September 18-20 conference of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO), held at Library and Archives Canada, Wellington St., Ottawa.

Volunteers are needed to help at the RTHS table for a couple of hours on Friday evening, during the day on Saturday, or Sunday. To volunteer contact Susan McKellar at susan.mckellar@rogers.com or 613-489-3961. Thank you.

The June Excursion

Article by Lucy Martin

June's field trip to Vintage Wings of Canada was a great success. The nearly-new hanger facility near Gatineau has all the charm of yesteryear, plus modern features like a heated floor and a fire protection system.

Our party of forty-five was divided in two groups for the guided tours. It's no exaggeration to say the planes gleamed in showroom condition. In addition, fascinating restoration work was being conducted in several areas. (See accompanying article on Deryck Hickox.)

The post-tour lunch was a congenial affair at the adjacent Cafe Napoleon. It included door prizes and the (gently) forced enrollment of four new members.

There is so much aviation history and technology happening at Vintage Wings that interested readers would be well advised to visit their website and dig in.

[Vintage Wings](#)

On the website you will also find the latest information on a non-fatal crash on August 29th, involving the Tiger Moth and pilot Howard Cook:

Best wishes for a full recovery for pilot and plane.

It's worth mentioning that Vintage Wings participates in different events throughout the year where you can see the planes up close, or admire them in flight. The 2009 flying season is listed here:

[2009 Flying Season](#)

Their next open house takes place September 19 from 10 am - 4 pm.

Our thanks to tour guides Jay Hall and John Foster as well as all the staff and volunteers of Vintage Wings of Canada for a truly memorable experience!

See the article on Deryck Hickox, on page 4 for further information on Vintage Wings.



RTHS members listen intently in front of a WW II Corsair.



The group at North Gower



Michael Potter, Vintage Wings

Want a Costume or a Bonnet for the Manotick Saturday Night?

If anyone is interested in acquiring a period costume for the Manotick 150th there is a local source. **Rosemary Hayes** is a seamstress with skills in making vintage reproductions. She can be contacted at rmmhayes@hotmail.com or by telephone at (613) 485-1822. Rosemary advertises reasonable rates and a variety of patterns, including a small selection of menswear.

How about a bonnet? Contact **Sheila Percival** of **Bytown Bonnets** at (613) 692-3428.

Colonel By Day, 2009

Colonel By Day is a family day, held on the Civic Holiday weekend at the Ottawa locks. It celebrates the founding of Ottawa by Colonel John By and the accomplishments of he and his workers in building the Rideau Canal. The day is primarily about local history. Celebrations include heritage performers, musical acts, costumed characters, children's activities and more!

The RTHS and several other historical and genealogy societies attend, making it an excellent opportunity to share information and ideas.

The RTHS was represented this year (on a very beautiful day) by Lucy Martin and Ron & Sandy Wilson.



The Dickinson House, Summer 2009

Many Thanks

Homecoming Weekend July 31 – Aug 3

Thank you to Gerry and Linda Reisbeck for the Friday night 10-mile dinner.

Thank you to the 13 volunteers who took a turn hosting the 387 visitors through the Dickinson House

Thank you to the members in costume who carried the RTHS banner in the parade

Thank you to everyone who enjoyed the Picnic in spite of the Sunday morning showers.

Thank you to Katheryn Killens for drapes for the Dickinson House parlour. We're making a good beginning in restoration.

Thank you to the RVCA for the gift of the Notary Public Ontario seal belonging to William B. Dickinson, second son of Moss and Elizabeth Dickinson. Both George and William served as notaries.

Working with D.S.H.M.I.

This year the Dickinson Square Heritage Management Inc. will provide a grant of \$75.00 per day to RTHS for each day that our volunteers host visitors in the Dickinson House.

During June, July and August we were open 29 days and will receive \$2,175.00. Thank you to the 18 members and 2 non-members for taking their turns. Everyone welcome.

Multi-tasking on October 3

The Stroke Support Association of Ottawa's 12 Annual House Tour Fundraiser will include the Dickinson House on October 3 between 10:00a.m. and 4:00p.m. The tour this year has houses in Greely, Osgoode and Manotick.

Even though you plan to party that evening at "Manotick Saturday Night" ([obligatory](#)) you might give one or two hours at the Dickinson House. Call Coral at 489-2029.

This Summer at the Rideau Archives

Rideau Archives was busy over the summer. Again, the City Archives provided a summer student with a little financial help from our Historical Society.

Sarah Bennet from Kemptville, a Bishop's University public history student, and a former Rideau Archives volunteer, organized a great volume of former Rideau Township records held at the North Gower Client Services Centre. Fortunately we shall continue to see Sarah, as she has joined the Historical Society.

A new volunteer for Rideau Branch, Sarah Davies, is a resident of North Gower. Sarah is attending high school and visited the Archives in July expressing an interest in

volunteering. The Archives always welcomes new volunteers.

Sarah was exposed to many projects, from typing labels to organizing original material and excelled in all areas. She also plans to volunteer at the Archives for North Gower Discovery Tour on September 12th & 13th. She has an interest in history and her community, has joined the Historical Society, and has a very pleasant personality - a great volunteer. Thanks Sarah.

The display "**Places of Worship in Rideau Township**" continues to take shape, and may be viewed during the **North Gower Discovery Tour, 12-13 September**. The Archives will be open both days during the Discovery Tour.

Heritage Keepers: Deryck Hickox

By Lucy Martin

While touring Vintage Wings one distraction was a jovial bunch of guys vigorously hammering away on a section of frame. Writing this in early September, I must confess I cannot remember if the part in question was going on, or coming off. What was unforgettable was the crew's spirit. That Saturday, along with countless other days, was spent cheerfully saving historic planes for the pleasure and education of future generations.

Their fearless leader, Deryck Hickox, was all patience in the face of my not-very-well informed questions: What's this? What's that? How do you know what to do next?

Hickox and his volunteers were busy doing whatever it takes to rebuild a Westland Lysander. "We're wonderful people, you know? We take things out of the garbage and we make them work again." Hickox explained the plane in question is over 60 years old and spent perhaps 30 of those years just sitting in a field. When he's not saving the Lysander he's supervising the restoration of a Hawker Hurricane. And once those two are done, other planes need just as much help.

Hickox started in the Air Force and went on to enjoy a career with Air Canada and built his own planes. He was also a founding member of the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton, before retirement took him to PEI. Hickox said it was there he got the call of a lifetime, asking if he'd like to coordinate restorations at Vintage Wings of Canada. "The telephone cord broke as I drove out the driveway."

At age 69 he hopes to spend at least another 40 years doing what he loves best. Hickox says he's not involved in the flight line maintenance, his sole function is to look after the restorations. He said restoration is a year-round activity, thanks to temperature controlled conditions. "This is a wonderful building, and we have what we need to work in here."

Hickox is among just a few paid staff at Vintage Wings, which is organized as a charitable foundation. He's quick to praise the many volunteers. They run the gamut, from

expert to novice, happy to learn whatever they don't yet know. "I had a great, great crew in Hamilton, when I did the one restoration there. I was concerned, quite frankly, that I would have trouble finding another crew that was as good. But, not a problem!"

"They come through the door and they want something to do. It's my job to find out what level their skills are and how I can best utilize them. We have job requirements all the way from cleaning parts to putting airplanes together. It's wonderful! Come on out and try it!"

After seeing the results, I sort of took exception to at least one comment Hickox made: "When it's finished, a good restoration does not look better than when it left the factory."

Better go scuff those planes up a bit more. They're looking much too good.



Photo: Deryck Hickox heads the volunteer-based restoration efforts at Vintage Wings of Canada

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 September and 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 RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa.

Manotick Saturday Night A Harvest Ball

What is it?

- An RTHS special social event for the Manotick 150th on October 3rd at the Legion Hall, Manotick, from 7:30 - 11:00 p.m.



- *A Harvest Motif*



- A dress-up event to make or parade your historic-style outfit targeting 1860 - 1900.
- Parade of Costumes



- A dance floor, bring your best steps of then & now.



- Live fiddle music from Rideau & Osgoode fiddlers.
- Checkers or Crokinole anyone?
We hope to have board games.



- Admission includes sandwiches, light refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages.

Tickets

Priced for families, admission is

- \$15.00 for individuals
- \$35.00 for families (two adults and all children living at home).

Tickets may be purchased at Dickinson House on weekends or by calling Sandy Trueman (Manotick) 613-491-4663 or Susan McKellar (Kars) 613-489-3961.

Come and enjoy the fun !!!!

Ice Cream Days in Dickinson Square

Ice cream days in Dickinson Square are one of the activities put on for kids on several Sundays during the summer (generally on milling days). The event takes place on the lawn of the Dickinson house and is hosted by Sandy Trueman.

Having ice cream in the old days was not as simple as putting down some money at the grocery store. The pleasure had to be earned with a certain amount of labour. At Dickinson house the kids get to experience it all on the way to the treat at the end.

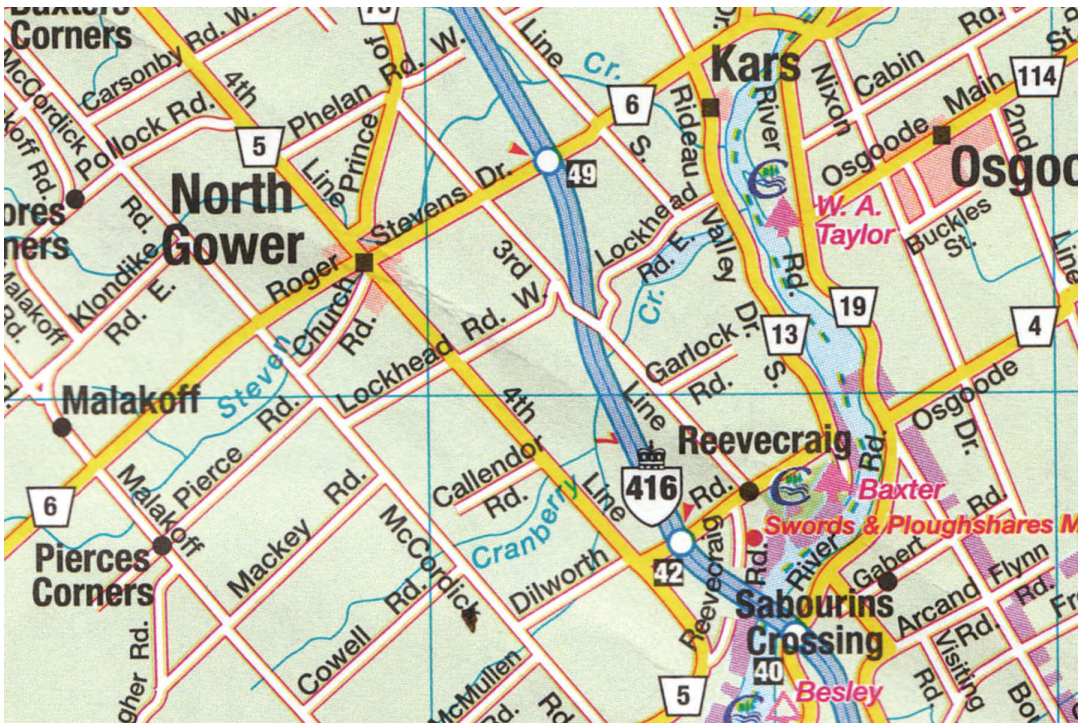
The first job is to make crushed ice from an ice box size block of ice using a mallet. Boy that ice is hard! Then its load the ingredients into the ice cream maker and place the crushed ice and salt around the inner pail. Is that it? No way! Then it's get on the crank until either your arms drop off or the ice cream is frozen. It's good to have lots of help for this part of the job.

Finally, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. After all that work, boy does the ice cream taste good.



At least you get to sit and hold down the ice cream maker after your turn on the crank.

Driving Directions to Pierce's Corners



- Proceed to North Gower as usual.
- Take Church Street to McCordick Road
- Turn left onto McCordick, then take the first right on Pierce Road
- Follow Pierce Road for about 2 km to Pierce's Corners at Malakoff Road
 - The meeting is in the Pierce's Corners Hall