

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

September 2013 Newsletter

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

The September Meeting

Date: Wednesday September 18, 2013
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Knox Presbyterian Church
5533 Dickinson Street
Manotick, Ontario



Topic: The Yukon

The Yukon is a long way from the former Rideau Township. However it turns out that it wasn't too far for quite a number of members of the RTHS to go there and bring back a wide variety of experiences that they are going to tell us about.

Speakers:

Different decades, different people, different interests! Several RTHS members will talk about their various experiences in the Yukon over the past half century. Owen Cooke travelled there as a child with his father in the 1950s. Bill Tupper worked for the Geological Survey of Canada and Oil Companies as a geologist in the 1960s. Barbara Humphreys went there in the 1970s on behalf of the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board to examine the abandoned village of Forty Mile, northwest of Dawson City. Doug Culham and Maureen McPhee lived in Whitehorse from 1987 to 1990, where they worked on surveying and land claims negotiations, respectively. Jack and Susan McKellar took a road trip in 2012. Oh yes, there may be a few pictures!

This Month

1. The History Scholarships
2. The June Excursion
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4. News from the Rideau Archives
5. Some Watson's Mill Events
6. Coral's Summer

**Bring a Friend,
Light Refreshments**

History Scholarships 2013

It was my honor to represent our society at the history awards of \$500 to a student from St Mark's Catholic High School (at the 27th annual graduation ceremonies) and a student from South Carleton High School (61st annual commencement ceremony). The awards were given to Chloe Janicki from St Mark's (June 27) and Jalin Blank from South Carleton (June 28).

The presentations involved large groups of over 200 and were held outside the schools. St Mark's was held at the Metropolitan Bible Church at the intersection of Prince of Wales & Hunt Club and South Carleton at Longfields Davidson Heights Secondary School. Both were excellent venues considering the scale, organization and presentations. In fact one of our members Scott Cameron piped in the South Carleton graduates.

The St. Mark's scholar Chloe Janicki has had a lot of interest in history during grades 10-12. Her plans are to attend the University of Ottawa for a Bachelor of Arts in history this fall. Her quote is very important: "It is easy to say

that the future is the most obscure place to look for answers, but many often forget that looking in the past not only gives answers, but gives the motive to discover more in the future. 'We learn from our past' is easily the most stated saying when referred to history."

The South Carleton scholar Jalin Blank has also had a lot of interest in history. His plans are to attend university with history a major factor.

I must say that all contacts I have with the younger generation, such as the above, makes me feel the future is in good hands.

Brian Sawyer
President RTHS



Chloe Janicki

The June Excursion to the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum and the Domaine Perrault Winery

Article and Pictures by Susan McKellar

19 members visited two excellent sites on June 22, the Cumberland Heritage Village Museum and the Domaine Perrault Winery, travelling by bus.

The Cumberland museum was very interesting, and well worth another visit. It is spread over 100 acres, with 32 buildings and 3,000 artifacts, and portrays rural life during the 1920s and 1930s. The entrance to the village is in the Vars Train Station, with a telegraph office at one end.

In the 1970s after the creation of VIA Rail 100 train stations were taken out of service. Many were torn down or burned, and the community was worried about the Vars station. At the same time, developers were building new houses in Cumberland and the town bought the present site of the Heritage Village to preserve some public green space. The local historical society purchased the train station and moved it to its present site (in three sections), and in June 1976 it was opened to the public.

Several other old buildings that were in danger of being torn down were similarly rescued and moved to the Heritage Village, including Knox United Church, a school-house, and several houses. And a group of volunteer firemen built a firehouse where their first fire truck, a 1938 International, now resides.

We were driven around the village in a covered wagon that kept most of the drizzle off. Our tour took us to the miniature railway operated by the Ottawa Valley Live Steamers and Model Engineers – some members might be tempted to return when it is running.



Brian Wright of course enjoyed touring the fire station with it's truck and equipment.

Next on our tour was the working sawmill, especially popular with the men, most of whom gravitated to the front row viewing section. We saw boards being sawn from a log, and then boards being trimmed. Equally fascinating was the demonstration at the pump factory of the manufacture of a wooden pump, made of tamarack wood, using a boring tool and various bits. The pump included a plunger rod, check valve, and foot valve. We were told that the city of Ottawa still has some wooden pipes, and that at one time 90% of its water pipes were made of wood. Several pump factories were in existence in the area at one time, although most have since disappeared.

Another gender split happened when we stopped at the print shop which was located next to Watson's Garage.



The print shop was certainly very well equipped for its period and the presentation was excellent.

I'm told that several men saw two old tractors there, one of which is still in use, as well as an old car (a Durant) and a number of old metal signs for motor oil, spark plugs, etc., from the 1930s.

In the print shop a volunteer described and demonstrated the operation of various machines in the print shop, and gave us postcards he had just printed which marked the 400th anniversary of Champlain's visit. He also talked about the evolution of the printing presses, including the hot type machines which were used from the 1880s until the 1970s and the current high speed ink jet printers.

We then were transported to the Domaine Perrault vineyard and winery, in Navan, which is also a dairy farm. Tom MacDonald surprised us with the news that the farm had belonged to his great grandfather many years ago, and remained in the family for some years. The large barn was built in 1860, and was the largest in Eastern Ontario for years.



Julie, our sommelier, gave a very interesting talk on the vines and their care, particularly through the colder seasons of the year.

We were warmly greeted by the sommelier, Julie Ricard, and escorted to their patio for lunch and wine tasting. Between the delicious picnic lunch supplied by our very capable tour organizer, Ruth Wright, and the several wines that Julie poured for our tasting, we spent a delightful couple of hours. We learned a lot about the process of grape growing and production of wine, and the enjoyment of pairing wine with food. We visited the building where the wine is made, aged and bottled, then went across the road to see the tiny grapes just beginning to grow on the vines. The sandy loam soil and the good drainage of the sloping field combined with the growing of cold hardy varietals that have been developed for this climate all contribute to a successful wine. Before leaving the winery several members visited the on-site shop; we were accompanied on the trip home by the occasional discreet clinking of bottles!

A very interesting and enjoyable day, thanks to our organizer Ruth, our bus driver Gerry Egan, the tour guides at the Cumberland museum, and Julie, our sommelier.

An Update on Dickinson House - Summer of 2013

Article and Pictures by Maureen McPhee & Jane Anderson

The 2013 Season

Dickinson House has been a very busy place during the 2013 season. The House has been open Wednesday through Sunday and Holidays, and will revert to its weekends only schedule beginning the week of September 9.

We are very fortunate to have a very loyal group of volunteer guides, who share their knowledge of Dickinson House with our many visitors. Three students - Brandon Kassis, Amy Nyentap and Tessa Kubanek - also worked at the house during the summer. All three were gracious and enthusiastic guides. In their spare time, they worked on the inventory and research projects, and kept our new Facebook page up to date. We invite you to visit us at www.facebook.com/Dickinsonhousemuseum. Brandon also produced and directed a new "silent movie" video, featuring the acting skills of many familiar faces from both Dickinson House and Watson's Mill. Brandon will be continuing at Dickinson House in the fall and will be joined by Kyle Trudel, who was a member of our summer staff in 2012. Welcome back Kyle.

On May 4, we unveiled our special Heritage Wedding Gown exhibit on the third floor. It was originally slated to be on display until the end of June; however, we have extended the exhibit until the end of the season, due to the favourable response from visitors. A centerpiece of the exhibit is Barbara Barkley's exquisite replica of a Victorian wedding gown.

In May, we featured a display of Heritage Tools and Trades. On June 1, we celebrated Moss Kent Dickinson's

Birthday in two ways. We participated in the parade on Friday evening with Lloyd Cowan graciously driving his 1931 Model A Ford, with costumed volunteers on board. The weekend also featured the introduction of an exhibit of framed Dickinson family portraits. The photographs, with information on each family member, will remain on display in the foyer of Dickinson House.

A mock Victorian wedding was a highlight of the summer. Leading up to the wedding, we held a Victorian Trousseau Tea, with artifact displays representing the contents of the bride's hope chest and music on the lawns presented by Musical Thought Studios. On June 15, the wedding day, all the stops were pulled out with a horse and carriage to transport the wedding party; live violin, guitar and bagpipe music; wedding cake and lemonade. Among the guests



The mock Victorian wedding drew much interest from the community and was very well attended,

were Pierre Poilievre and Scott Moffatt, both of whom addressed the crowd in character representing former Member of Parliament, George Dickinson (1888-91), and 1890 Carleton County Warden, John Scott Craig. The day was beautiful, as was the bride, Barbara Barkley, accompanied by her groom, Brandon Kassis. It was indeed a memorable event.



This picture of Brandon and Barbara, although taken this summer, was posed as would have been done in the Victorian era.

Other highlights of the summer have included a Heritage Garden weekend, with gracious assistance from the Manotick Horticultural Society, as well as Rowena Pearl's heritage music keyboard concert as part of a Lawn Social featuring homemade ice cream made by Brandon, fancy work by Barbara Barkley, and a baked goods table presided over by Melanie Hayes. August featured a Domestic Skills weekend with demonstrations of spinning, quilting, lace making, laundry and butter and ice cream making. This was followed up by a Concert by the Manotick Brass Ensemble and another very popular Lawn Social.

We invite you to join us on the weekend of September 14 and 15, when we will focus on heritage games. On October 5 and 6, we will feature displays and activities related to grain production, which will continue on October 12 as part of the Harvest Festival being organized by Watson's Mill.



A demonstration of doing laundry during the domestic skills weekend.

The Future of Dickinson House

As you know, the City of Ottawa wishes to sell or lease the properties that it owns in Dickinson Square, including Dickinson House. A Request for Offers (RFO) was issued on July 19 and all bids must be submitted by October 3. Offers will then be evaluated and successful bidders will be announced at a public meeting to be held before the end of the year.

At an RTHS meeting held on February 20, 2013, it was reported that the Dickinson House Committee had prepared a Business and Financial Plan for Dickinson House, which was available for review by members. The recommended option in the plan was for one entity to administer Watson's Mill, Dickinson House and the Carriage Shed as a single heritage destination. Through joint meetings between RTHS and Watson's Mill Manotick Inc. (WMMI), the most recent of which was held on July 31, it has been determined that this is a shared vision. A WMMI Mill Square Development Committee, chaired by Maureen McPhee, who also chairs the RTHS Dickinson House Committee, is currently assessing the implications of the Request for Offers. The goal is to determine how WMMI might respond to the RFO, so as to ultimately achieve the vision of a heritage destination in Dickinson Square including Watson's Mill, the home of the mill owners and the associated carriage shed. The future role of RTHS in relation to such a proposed heritage site would be to provide support in terms of volunteers, research on historical matters and ongoing efforts to expand the artifact collection at Dickinson House.

If members have questions relating to the RFO process and its implications for Dickinson House, they may contact Maureen McPhee at 613-692-8260 or by email at dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com.

Coral's Summer

The Dickinson House is not the only intense activity occupying the RTHS in the summer. We also have a major going concern in our own Coral Lindsay.

Program organizers from Burritt's Rapids to Ramsayville search for speakers to entertain their seniors' groups (and they have Coral's phone number).

Besides the clubs named above, there are similar ones at the Metcalfe "Stanley" and Osgoode Dr. Dowd" Apartments, The Manotick, North Gower and Osgoode Diners

Clubs, the Kars Branch of the Women's Institute and the North Gower Fellowship Club.

From her collection of +200 topics Coral has presented, in recent months, RMS Titanic, The North Gower Oil Well, Steamboats on the Rideau, Robbie Burns: Bard of Scotland, St. Patrick, Campbell Soup, ads, sang and dolls, Kars Village Stories, Chocolate: in the last 4000 years (It's good for you), as well as the Battle of Kars, Turkey, during the Crimean War, for a group who visited Coral from Turkey, June, 2013.

There is always space for displays related to the presentations, and a healthy lunch. Rarely does a member of the audience fall asleep!

Some Watson's Mill Events

The Mill is located at 5525 Dickinson Street, Dickinson Square, Manotick. Free parking on-site.

Web Site: www.watsonsmill.com

Watson's Mill hours of operation: Office hours: weekdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Mill is open to visitors daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please visit www.watsonsmill.com for a complete calendar of events.

- Manotick Farmers Market: Saturdays, 9:00am to 2:00pm,; at the Carriage Shed parking lot, in Dickinson Square.

Watson's Mill is proud to team up once again with local growers and producers to host a Farmers Market in Historic Dickinson Square. The Manotick Farmers Market is scheduled to run on Saturdays, from 9am to 2pm, through Thanksgiving Weekend at the Carriage Shed, across the street from Watson's Mill.

- Milling Demonstrations:

On Sundays from 1pm-3pm visitors will watch real millers operate the original machinery, while they make flour using historic methods. Seeing the Mill come to life is a great experience for the whole family! It is so memorable to hear the roar of the equipment as it gets started, feel the floor boards shake, and smell the unique scent of grain being milled into flour. See the web site in case special events preclude milling.

- Used Book Sale: Daily: from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm in the Carriage Shed. All are welcome! With thousands of titles to sort through, it is easy to understand why they keep coming back for more!
- Whiskey tasting at Historic Watson's Mill Friday September 20, 2013.

Presenting:

- A fine selection of whiskies
- Commentary and Tasting Notes by Guest Speaker Carol Anderson, GrapeScot
- Food Pairings by The Mill Tavern

Tickets: \$45 (Must be legal drinking age) Limited number, please call now for tickets: 613-692-6455



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 am 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.

Manotick Kiwanis Club Fonds

The Manotick Kiwanis Club came into existence in November 1960. In addition to its many contributions to the community, the club has produced a wealth of documentation recording the history of its activities, projects, names of members, etc.

So far, the records of minutes, annual reports, newsletters and other series represent 3 linear metres of documents when placed end to end.

The Manotick Kiwanis Club has donated more than its records to the Rideau Township Archives/Rideau Township Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives since 1999, including the lovely clock that adorns the Reading Room's north wall, and annual monetary gifts to the Friends of the Rideau Township Archives in support of its objectives.

For more information visit the Manotick Kiwanis's web site at

http://www.manotick-kiwanis.org/public/pub_page.aspx?PageID=76543



November 1995 in the Manotick United Church. Rich Wilson presenting the clock to Georgie Tupper and Audrey Renton on behalf of the Manotick Kiwanis

Since we had an excursion in June instead of a formal meeting of the Society, minutes are not available this month.