

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

September 2016 Newsletter

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

The September Excursion

Date: Wednesday, September 21, 2016

Time: Bus leaves the North Gower Client Service Centre for Parliament Hill at 4:45 pm.



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

This Month

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Upcoming Programs

Wednesday, 12 October: Stuart Clarkson "Rideau as seen through the press", Carsonby Community Hall. *Please note that this meeting is one week early owing to another commitment by our speaker.*

Wednesday, 16 November: Georgie Tupper & Serge Barbe, "Street names in old and new Ottawa" North Gower Client Service Centre

December: Catered Christmas dinner
Date and time to be announced

The September Excursion

Instead of a regular meeting this September there will be a second excursion. This excursion will visit Parliament Hill for dinner in the Parliamentary Restaurant and a tour of Parliament led by Bill Tupper. The tour will include the Member's Entrance, Chamber, Hall of Honour, Parliamentary Library and the entrance to the Senate

The date for the visit will be September 21



Melanie's Third Floor Exhibit

Fall is fast approaching but there are still a number of things to do in Dickinson Square. Seeing Melanie's exhibit of "Trades and Professions of Old Manotick" is one such interesting possibility.

So be sure and visit the third floor of Dickinson House this summer, to see the special exhibit that Melanie Hayes and others have put together for our edification and entertainment. For many people it evoked memories of their youth or the lives of their parents or grandparents.

The exhibit includes many artifacts, photos and text. The concept and design of the artifact displays are Melanie's, and her daughter, Stephanie Cameron, assisted her in setting it up. Maureen McPhee produced the signs, drawing from two local histories, *Manotick Then and Now* and *Cheese Factories of Rideau Township*, as well as additional research.

It's on the third floor, but well worth the climb.

The June Excursion

The Bell House Museum in Bells Corners and the Diefenbunker Cold War Museum in Carp

Article and Pictures by Sandy NcNiece

Our RTHS field trip this year took place on Saturday, June 18 and included two very different but fascinating local museums. We had approximately 25 RTHS members and friends on the bus tour which started at the Ottawa Client Services Centre in North Gower and proceeded first to the Bell House Museum in Bells Corners.



The Bell House Museum

The Bell House (Fairfields Heritage House) which is operated by the City of Ottawa presents a history of five generations of the Bell Family from 1823 to 2000. The interior of the home has been refurbished with artefacts to reflect different themes of the Bell family history. The Bell Family had a history of entrepreneurial, philanthropic, professional and political activities. The Bell House is an impressive 19th Century Gothic Revival farm house. The house was originally built on 660 acres of farm land. Currently, beautiful lawns surround the house with a gazebo, gardens, and statuesque trees.

The representative from the City of Ottawa whose department oversees the museum provided a very informative tour and an information session on how the museum facility was managed.

This local museum is well worth a visit for its local history and rich array of artefacts that were used in farm homes in the late 1800s.

After completing the Bell house and grounds tour, our group headed off for lunch and refreshments at The Swan in Carp. This English Pub facility provided us with a wide selection of refreshments and food and a time to chat about world affairs, etc.

After a nice break, we continued on our bus tour to the Diefenbunker museum.

Our group was given an individualized tour of the quite massive facility with its many floors and special purpose rooms. Quite a “blast from the past” from the 1960 era.



The RTHS group ready to tour the Diefenbunker



The tour began with a presentation in their theatre.

The Diefenbunker was commissioned by Prime Minister John Diefenbaker (thus its name) in 1959, as part of his government's reaction to escalating tensions in the Cold War. The purpose of the bunker was to house key members of the government and military in the event of a nuclear attack on Canada. The safety of its nuclear roof would allow the Canadian government to operate safely underground for 30 days in order to assist with the governance and rebuilding of the country. The site in Carp was chosen as the perfect site for a 75 foot underground bunker and was within evacuation distance of downtown Ottawa. The location was in a natural valley and had ideal geological conditions for protection. The entire construction process took less than 18 months. The bunker is

100,000 square feet in size and is spread over four levels. The site was completed in 1961 and remained in continuous operation until it was decommissioned in 1994. During its operation, it had a staff of 100-150 people and was on a 24-hour shift rotation. At all times, it was stocked with enough fresh food and rations to feed over 500 people for 30 days and the building was prepared to go into lockdown at any moment.



The tunnel entrance to the bunker proper

Very fortunately, the facility never had to be put in use; however, it is a significant reminder of world tensions in our recent past.

Dickinson Square Heritage Barn Dance & Country Fair 2016

Article and Photos by Maureen McPhee

The third annual Heritage Country Fair in Manotick, organized by the Dickinson House Committee of RTHS, was held in Dickinson Square on September 2 and 3, 2016. The 2016 Heritage Country Fair was carried out in partnership with Watson's Mill, the Manotick Farmers' Market, the Manotick Horticultural Society, the Manotick Art Association, the ITR Theatre Company and Knox Church, with support from the City of Ottawa and many local businesses.



The barn dance was held on the second floor of Watson's Mill, an appropriate choice.



This bomb casing was a stark reminder of the serious nature of global politics at the time the bunker was built.

After a very full day, our group boarded our bus to head home. Yet another very interesting and informative RTHS excursion to see local historical points of interest in our community. I hope you can join us for next year's RTHS adventure tour where ever it may be!!!

The event got off to a great start with a family-friendly Barn Dance in Watson's Mill. The "Ever Hopeful String Band" provided the music and their caller, Pippa Hall, led dancers through traditional country dances in line and circle formations.



One of the best things about our barn dances is that both adults and children enjoy the fun.

On Saturday, September 3, Dickinson Square was filled with fair activities, including horse and carriage rides, a flower and vegetable show, art and baking contests, a family dog show, a model train display, an old-fashioned photo studio, food vendors and live musical and theatrical performances.

New this year was a performance by ITR Theatre of a one-act play entitled "Monday's Child". The schedule at the outdoor stage also included live music performed by Bruce Wilson, fiddle, and Audrey Davis, keyboard and vocal; as well as the "Thirsty Four Plus One" Dixieland Jazz Band.

The winners of the Country Fair contests were:



Pippa Hall and her poodle Micah, judged Best in Show at the Family Dog Show;



Lisa Lannin from Alberta for her chocolate raspberry pie and Margaret Cameron for her ginger cookies at the Baking Contest;



Lynn Roy for her painting of cardinals entered in the Art Show, as well as Rachel and Michael Berliant who shared the children's art prize;



More dancing



Sharon Wueppelman and Maxine Whelan, who were the people's choices in the design classes of the Flower and Vegetable Show.

The beautiful weather cooperated and contributed to a lively, end of summer celebration in Manotick's historic Dickinson Square.



We're sure the horses for the carriage rides enjoyed the day too.

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.

This past summer, Rideau Branch was fortunate to have the assistance of Nicole Belej-Corrigan through the Canadian Council of Archives under the Young Canada Works program. Among her work projects at the Archives, she was cataloguing digital files containing local oral histories, collected in the 1970s by the Heritage Committee of Rideau Township.

These histories, recorded on reel-to-reel tapes, capture conversations with 54 residents of North Gower, some further documented with 35 mm colour slides (23 sets).

For 48 of the interviews, indexes were created to aid accessing the information.

The original tapes, indexes and slides have been stored since their creation at Rideau Branch but recently have been converted by RTHS member Ron Wilson to digital formats and are now available for easy reference in the Rideau Branch reading room or can be provided on digital media, such as CDs, on request.

Stuart Clarkson

The following persons were interviewed:

Interviewee	Index	Pictures	Interviewee	Index	Pictures
Bartley, Mr Nelson	yes		Johnston, Mrs Merle	yes	yes
Beaman, Mrs Velma	yes	yes	Leach, Miss Eva.....	yes	
Beckett, Mrs Luella			Mackey, Mr Ward.....	yes.....	yes
Beggs, Mr Wilbert	yes	yes	McCord, Mrs Laura	yes.....	yes
Bell, Mr & Mrs Bert	yes	yes	McEwen, Mr Edwin	yes	
Brownlee, Mrs Dawson	yes	yes	Montgomery, Mrs	yes.....	yes
Brownlee. Mrs. Lona Moore	yes		Moore, Mrs Marguerite.....	yes.....	yes
Cameron, Mr Ken	yes		Nixon, Mr Maynard.....	yes.....	yes
Chambers, Mr Grant	yes		Nixon, Mrs Helen.....	yes	
Clarke, Mr Lloyd	yes		Potter, Mr George	yes.....	yes
Cole, Mr Howard	yes		Pratt, Mrs Eva	yes.....	yes
Cowell, Mrs	yes	yes	Ross, Mr Orval	yes	
Craig, Mr Harry	yes		Ross, Mrs. Evelyn (Baker)	yes	
Craig, Mr Hugh L	yes	yes	Scharf, Mr Albert.....	yes.....	yes
Craig, Mr Wellington	yes		Scharf, Mr Elijah.....	yes.....	yes
Craig, Mrs Helena (Carson)			Scharf, Mr Gordon.....	yes.....	yes
Craig, Mrs Sadie Elliot	yes		Scrollins, Mr William		
Dunbar, Mr. Mervyn	yes		Seabrooke, Mr Harry.....	yes.....	yes
Edwards, Mr Frank	yes		Shepherd, Mr Clifford	yes	
Findlay, Mr Ken	yes		Taylor, Mr Alfred	yes	
Flood, Mr Claude	yes		Taylor, Mrs Madeline (Craig)		
Greer, Mr Howard	yes	yes	Thompson, Major Vic	yes	
Harbison, Mr John	yes	yes	Wallace, Mrs Jessie (Potter)		
Hodgins, Mrs Jennie	yes		Wallace, Mr Algie	yes	
Jago, Mrs	yes	yes	Wallace, Mr Anson.....	yes	
James, Mrs Marion	yes		Watterson, Mr George.....	yes	
Johnston, Mr Russell	yes	yes	Whiting, Mr Melvin.....	yes.....	yes

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



Trip to Parliament Hill, Wednesday 21 September 2016

Our trip to Parliament, outlined in an earlier e-mail, has now been fully booked and there is a waiting list of those interested.

For those attending, please remember that we shall leave from the North Gower Client Service Centre, 2155 Roger Stevens Drive, at 4:45 p.m., to arrive at Parliament Hill about 5:30, go through security and to supper in the Parliamentary restaurant for 6:15, followed by the tour of the building.

Please remember that the dress code is business dress, jacket and tie for men and equivalent for women. Remember also that we have to walk from the Centennial flame to the Parliament building, for those thinking of high heels.

Please wear your RTHS name badge if you have one.