

# The Rideau Township Historical Society

*Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township*

## September 2018 Newsletter

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

### ***The September Meeting***

**Date:** Wednesday September 19  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Place:** Burritt's Rapids Community Hall  
23 Grenville Street  
Burritt's Rapids.

### ***Domestic Skills***

During summer weekends and holidays at the Dickinson House various special events and displays are featured. One such event is the "Heritage Domestic Skills". The following picture is from this summer's event which was quite well attended.

See page 3 for more.



*A young guest learns all about spinning.*

Photo by Rod Brazier.



*On the June excursion we visited the beautiful St. Clare's Mission, Dwyer Hill.*

Photo by Owen Cooke

### ***Speaker:***

**Author: Claire Smith**

Claire Smith was a former member of the Canadian Equestrian Team in the '90s. She competed in the 1994 World Equestrian Championships. She also travelled to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, where she placed 14th, with her late gelding, Gordon Gibbons.

At the European Championships in Great Britain in 1997, Claire suffered a disastrous fall when her horse flipped over a jump. She was hospitalized for 6 weeks before returning to Canada. She then spent time in the St. Vincent's Hospital in Ottawa, where a brain trauma unit is located.

### ***Subject:***

Claire's story takes us through her therapeutic recovery process. You will be inspired by the determination and will of this amazing woman. Claire's book, "Falling Into Now", will be available for sale on September 19th.

### ***A Reminder, RTHS Publications***

Sales of RTHS publications continue at various locations (including Dickinson House, Rideau Archives, and the Manotick Office Pro) and at special events such as "A Taste of Manotick" which was on August 18 this year. Thanks to Sheila Stewart of Office Pro, the RTHS had a table displaying several publications; this provided an opportunity to talk to passers-by about the books and the Society and to sell a few books.

[Click here](#) for a list of available publications.

### ***Congratulations to Kristen Kelly and Tess Palmer***

Each year Rideau Township Historical Society is pleased to present awards to a high school student from each of our local high schools. The deserving student is selected by the history departments of their school. This year Scott Cameron attended the graduation ceremonies to present the Coral Lindsay Memorial Award of Merit for History to

**Kristen Kelly** - South Carleton High School

**Tess Palma** - St. Mark High School

Kristen has been actively involved in the Richmond Fair, various horse associations and 4H clubs, and is enrolled in the Business Program at St. Lawrence College.

Tess has taken numerous history classes at the high school level and will be attending McGill University to study Psychology and Aboriginal History.

# *RTHS June Excursion*

*Article by Sandy McNiece*

*Photos by Owen Cooke*

We had a beautiful warm day for our trip this year. We left from the North Gower Client Centre and headed first to the Pinhey's Point Historical Site, which is on the Ottawa River close to Dunrobin. The Pinhey Estate is an 88 acre heritage park and house that is currently owned by the City of Ottawa. The house was originally built by a London, England merchant by the name of Hamnett Pinhey who emigrated to the area around 1820 to reinvent himself as a landed gentleman in the colonial frontier.



RTHS at Pinhey's Point.

The manor itself is preserved as much as possible to how it would have been in the mid-1800's. The guides we had for the tour were very informative and gave a fascinating account of how the manor operated at the time. After the tour of the manor house, we were taken to the adjoining cemetery and church ruins by Bruce Elliott who gave us a very full accounting of the people and families who had lived at Pinhey's Point and were buried in the church cemetery. In short, for those who have not been to Pinhey's Point, it is well worth a visit.

After our tour of the Pinhey's Point grounds, we went to the new St. Mary's Church built in 1909 which replaced the original church. It is a beautiful little church which is well cared for.

Our next stop was a brief visit to Camp Woolsey which is a Girl Guide Camp at nearby Crown Point. We toured an historic cottage at the camp which was named after a member of the family, Anna Pinhey, who donated funds for its restoration and ongoing support.



*Bruce Elliott lectures at old St. Mary's Church*

Having worked up a good appetite, we stopped for lunch at *The Glen Restaurant* in Stittsville before heading on to our last stop at the St. Clare Mission Church on Dwyer Hill Road. The original church was a small wood chapel 40 ft. by 30 ft. which was built in 1849. The original church was replaced in 1915 with a church on the opposite side of the



*Lunch at the Glen was enjoyed by all.*

road. The current church is architecturally unique with a steep pitched roof and has beautiful stain glass windows. Well worth a visit if you are in the area.

That completed a full day of touring some beautiful historical sites and structures which are right in our own backyard.

[The RTHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received from the City of Ottawa.](#)

## Dickinson House 2018, Summer Activities

Article by Brian Earl & Maureen McPhee

This summer has been quite busy at Dickinson House. The Celtic Tea on July 14th was a great success. Music supplied by Bagpiper Scott Cameron and Celtic Harpist Susan Toman was very much appreciated by the audience.



*Celtic Harpist Susan Toman*

Photo by Maureen McPhee

The Art-in-the-Square activity by the Manotick Art Association on July 28th also proved to be successful. Visitors were able to see various artists in action and purchase paintings. Of particular note was the impromptu do it yourself painting to which visitors were encouraged to add their personal

touch. Background music was supplied by Rowena Pearl on her portable keyboard. The music was especially enjoyed by the students and volunteers in the House.

The Heritage Domestic Skills Demonstration on August 12 attracted quite a crowd of interested parents and children. The youngsters were encouraged to wash a shirt using hand soap and a scrub board. There were a number of ladies who gave us their time to demonstrate spinning, weaving, lace making and quilting. Their willingness to help is very much appreciated. Our collection of an-



*Art work on display at the 2018 Art in the Square*

Photo by Rod Brazier.

tique washing machines was also on display and attracted interested visitors. Melanie Hayes demonstrated butter making at 1 p.m. and Maureen McPhee oversaw ice-cream making at 2 p.m. Both were ably assisted by visitors and our own students.



*Guests got hands-on experience with doing laundry.*

Photo by Rod Brazier

and moved on. The Dickinson House Committee sincerely thanks our university students, Alicia Torrington-Smith, and Nicole Jackson, as well as our High-School students Justine Brazeau, Lindsey Williams and Elijah Kim for their excellent service during the summer. We wish them all well and success in their studies.



*Guests being served at the Celtic Tea*

Photo by Maureen McFee

## *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.

### ***Attic Treasures Appraised at the North Gower Farmers' Market***

On Saturday 11 August, Rideau Branch of the City of Ottawa Archives teamed up with the Rideau Township Historical Society for a special event at the North Gower Farmers' Market's annual Heritage Day.

While Susan McKellar, Georgie Tupper and Ruth Wright sold publications on local heritage topics at the RTHS booth, Rideau Branch set up just opposite with a few panels from its current exhibition on local community involvement in the First World War, entitled "The Ties that Bind."

The Branch also held a travelling antiques appraisal session, evaluating and commenting on a number of local family heirlooms and historical items that were brought in. Rideau Branch volunteer Owen Cooke, former Chief Historical Archivist for the Directorate of History and Heritage, Department of National Defence, was on hand to give comments and advice on militaria, while Rideau Branch archivist Stuart Clarkson responded to queries concerning antique books and coins.

They were joined by the City Archivist, Paul Henry, who assisted market-goers with lithographs, textiles, and other materials. Highlights included a painting on ivory of a British officer in India, Dutch coins dating back to the Napoleonic era, and a set of blue handblown glassware, consisting of five tumblers with a pitcher decorated with an enamelled motif. Rideau Branch thanks Rideau Township Historical Society and the Farmers' Market Association for this opportunity to celebrate Heritage Day at the Market.

Stuart Clarkson



*Georgie and Ruth talk with a visitor to the North Gower Farmers' Market's annual Heritage Day*

*Photo by Owen Cooke..*



*Paul Henry discusses a painting brought to the event.*

*Photo by Owen Cooke*

### ***In Memoriam***

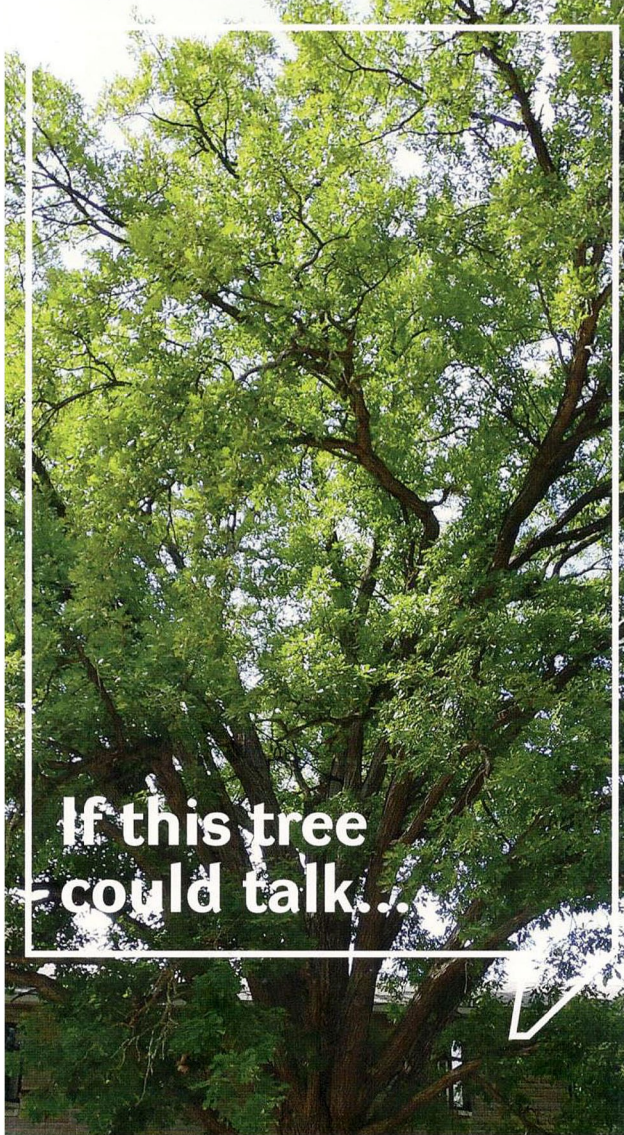


Atsuko Cooke (née Yamanaka) died suddenly Saturday, September 8, 2018 of a brain haemorrhage. Atsuko was born in Wakayama, Japan, and attended primary and high school there and in Osaka. She received a B.A. in English literature from University of Osaka, then a B.L.S. from University of Toronto and an M.L.S. from McGill University. She followed a career in public service as a librarian and information officer, first with McGill University, then with the federal government with Canadian International Development Agency, Health and Welfare Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the International Development Research Centre.

Always passionate about art, following retirement she studied at Ottawa School of Art and exhibited in many venues. She was a member of the North Gower Artists' Society and the Go-Figure Group at Burritts Rapids. Some of her figure work will be featured in the Merrickville Art Guild Studio Tour, 22-23 September in Burritts Rapids.

A resident of North Gower for more than forty years, Atsuko leaves behind her husband Owen and sister Makiko in Wakayama as well as nephews and nieces and their families in Japan.

## An Ontario Heritage Tree Project



If this tree could talk...  
It would tell us Ontario's history.  
Add to the story by nominating your tree.

**Trees are not just beautiful landmarks** and the heart of healthy ecosystems, but characters in the stories that form our history.

A Heritage Tree is a tree, or group of trees, linked to significant figures or events from history which may be unique based on size, form, shape, age, or species. Examples include trees that:

- Were planted by a historical figure, or are located on historically-significant land
- Have been marked or modified by First Nation groups
- Are notable for their age or species
- Served as inspiration for a well-known work of art

We invite Ontarians to join us in celebrating the social, cultural, and historic legacy of trees in our communities.

If you know a special, storied tree in your neighbourhood or community, share the story with us!

### HOW IT WORKS

Help us tell the story of Ontario's trees:



**1.877.646.1193**



**info@forestsontario.ca**



**www.heritagetree.ca**

Forests Ontario will provide resources and guides for individuals, groups, or classrooms to identify and nominate potential Heritage Trees.

Once a tree is recognized as a Heritage Tree, we'll add it to an interactive database and provide a plaque for nominators to affix to their tree, marking its status as a Heritage Tree.

To find out more or nominate your tree visit

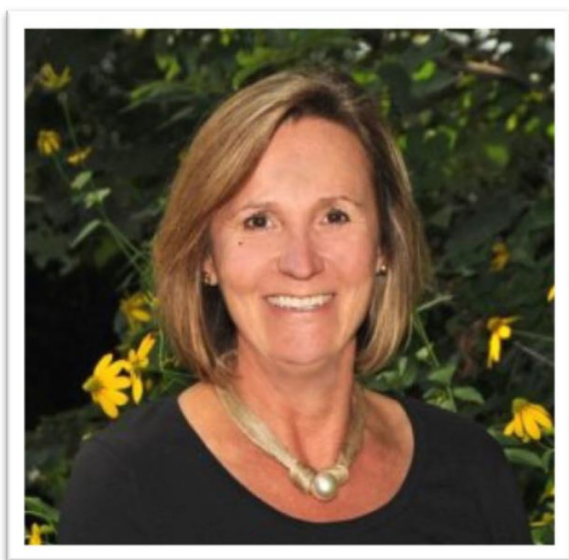
[www.heritagetree.ca](http://www.heritagetree.ca) or email to [info@forestsontario.ca](mailto:info@forestsontario.ca)

# Rideau Township Historical Society

Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at 7:30 p.m.

Burritt's Rapids Community Hall  
23 Grenville Street, Burritt's Rapids

## "FALLING INTO NOW"

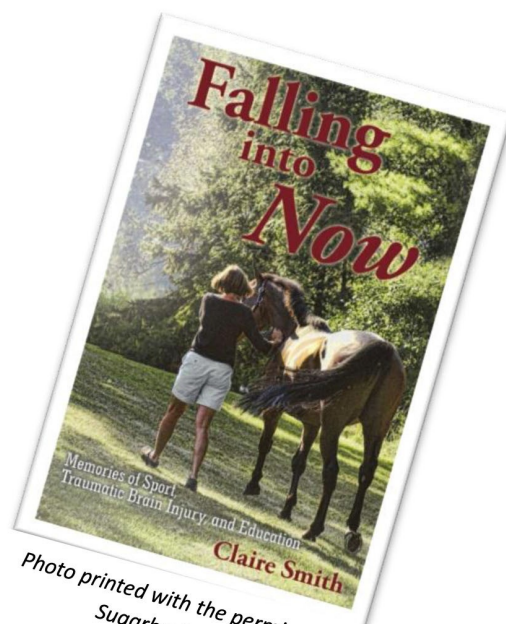


*Photo printed with permission  
of Arranel Studios.*

Claire Smith is a former  
**National Equestrian Team**  
member.

You will be inspired  
by the determination and will  
of this amazing woman.

Guest Speaker  
**Claire Smith**



*Photo printed with the permission of  
Sugarbush Studios*

Claire's book, "**Falling Into Now**",  
will be available for sale on  
September 19th.