

The Rideau Township Historical Society

Preserving and Promoting local history for the former Rideau Township

September 2019 Newsletter

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

The September Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Meet at Client Services Centre,
2155 Roger Stevens Drive,
North Gower, ON



Fall Program

September 18, 2019, 7:30 pm
The Disappearing People
Dr. David Shanahan, historian and researcher.
Ottawa Client Services Centre, North Gower.

October 16, 2019, 7:30 pm
The Life of Joseph Currier
Gail Anglin, Storyteller
Manotick Place Retirement Community

November 20, 2019, 7:30 pm
Forgotten Railways of Eastern Ontario
D'Avon Wallace Documentary Film Maker
Ottawa Client Services Centre, North Gower

December 11, 2019 (time to be announced)
Historical Society Dinner
Caterers: Crescent Chapter Order of the Eastern Star
St. James Anglican Church, Manotick (to be confirmed)

Speaker: Dr. David Shanahan

Historian and researcher with the
Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians)

Member of the North Grenville Heritage
Advisory Committee

Editor of the North Grenville Times

Subject:

The Disappearing People The Ones Who Were Here Before

What happened to the original inhabitants after the European settlers arrived?



Quebec Family History Society

The Quebec Family History Society is holding a one-day conference on October 12, 2019, on Discovering your Quebec Roots.

It will be held at the Quebec Family History Society Heritage Centre in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue.

Information can be found at www.qfhs.ca.

The RTHS bus excursion to Perth
Saturday, June 15, 2019
Article by Sandy McNiece. Photos by Rod Brazier

Our Rideau Township annual bus excursion took place this year on June 15th and was to the historic town of Perth. We headed off to Perth from the North Gower Client Centre on a sunny day in a large very comfortable coach bus with about 20 people on board.

After arriving at Perth, we had a bit of a walk along the main street and in the farmer's market area. We then boarded our coach again and met Susan Cole who was our guide for the morning. Susan, who grew up in Perth, is a very accomplished historical interpreter who has an honours degree in history from Queens University. On our tour through the small streets of Perth, she pointed out numerous historic buildings with a short history on each, including who had lived there and how they factored into the life and times of the Perth community in the 18th and 19th centuries.



The Tay canal is a wonderful feature of Perth

Susan is a superb story teller who entertained our group with a number of fascinating and little known stories of the people and the area. The coach tour took about two hours and left our group with a real taste of historic Perth, first as a military encampment which developed into a prosperous thriving agricultural and industrial community on the Tay Canal waterway.

After our coach tour, we dined at Peter's Restaurant in Perth and enjoyed some good conversation over an excellent lunch.

After lunch, we had some free time for a short walkabout and then met up at the Matheson House Museum for a presentation and guided tour of the museum. The museum which is set up as an eighteenth century home is a "must see". The guides were very knowledgeable and



Perth is a town of beautifully restored historical buildings that have obviously been carefully maintained over the years.

gave our group a real sense of the life and times in Perth's bygone years.

After about an hour at the museum, we boarded our coach for our return journey back to the Client Centre in North Gower. For many of us who have visited or have driven through Perth in the past, I believe we were left



The group very much enjoyed the trip and the tours, not to mention the lunch.

with a much greater appreciation of the huge historical significance of Perth and would be interested in returning to explore more of the town at a later date.

For those who may be interested in a detailed historical account of Perth, Susan Cole has written a book called "A Matter of Honour and Other Tales of Early Perth" A good read!

Dickinson House

The summer season for Dickinson House has ended. During the period May to August, we employed three University and two high school students to act as heritage interpreters. Considering the complements written in our Guest Book, these young people did an excellent job and provided factual and entertaining information to our visitors.

Many thanks to Cameron Hill, Nicole Jackson, Melanie Lefebvre, Sophie Dewar and Elijah Kim for their service this year. The DH Committee wishes them every success in their studies in the future.

Dickinson House also had a table in Manotick as part of **A Taste of Manotick** on Saturday afternoon and evening, August 17, with a display and books for sale.

The next major event is the Women's Day Tea on 02 November. All the tickets for this event have been sold.

The North Gower Farmer's Market

The RTHS and the Rideau Archives hosted a table at the North Gower Farmers' Market Saturday morning, August 17, featuring the current Archives display on Main Street North Gower as well as new and used book sales.

The popular video of the 100th birthday celebration of North Gower Village (1950) and the Centennial parade in North Gower (1967) will be running.



Coral Lindsay Memorial Awards of Merit for History

RTHS was pleased to present two Coral Lindsay Memorial Awards of Merit for History this year. Brian Earl presented one to Mitchell Montero of South Carleton High School, and Allan Haan made the other presentation to Taylor Arsenault-Deraps of St. Mark High School.



Brian Earl with Mitchell Montero Below a note from Mitchell thanking RTHS.

Dear Rideau Township Historical Society,
I am thrilled and delighted that I was selected as the winner of the Coral Lindsay Memorial Award. Having worked at a historical site for the last few years, participating in community events and visiting local historical locations, I have learned the value of learning about, visiting and protecting local historical sites, and I hope this attitude continues, and I wish the Society the best of luck in spreading it. The money I have received will be put to good use in funding my education and I would like to sincerely thank the Society for both the money and their initiatives.
All the best, Mitchell Montero

On the left and below some other pictures of Perth



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.

Angling in Rideau Township

There should probably be more about fishing at the Rideau Branch Archives, given that the former Rideau Township was bounded on both east and south by the river from which the municipality took its name. But a few snaps of Hazel Wallace, along with several other Wallace family photographs, form the bulk of items currently in our collections which depict this popular activity.

Photographs are about all that can attest, as well, to The Rideau River Fish & Game Club, an important organization of anglers and hunters on both sides of the river that was established around 1948. It rapidly became popular, assembling over 400 members within just a few years.

Kars area residents Jack O'Callaghan and his sons Lewis (pictured below in a Newton photograph holding "two beautiful trout") and Fred were prominent in this group, which undertook conservation as well as sporting activities -- releasing thousands of small fry bass, muskie, and pickerel into the river, holding an annual fishing and hunting derby, and calling attention to the mistreatment of animals by negligent hunters.

The Ottawa Journal, in reporting on the Club's 1949 derby, included the names of two successful fishing holes at the time, Carters Point : (probably the point near Baxter's Conservation area, where William John Carter lived and farmed until 1959) and Coon Point, both apparently on the river somewhere south of Kars, in the midst of the Long Reach.



*Lew O'Callaghan and two beautiful trout
City of Ottawa Archives/CA030222*



Hazel Wallace holding a fish
COA, Rideau Branch/RV
272-06F-002



Hazel Wallace fishing by the
shore. COA, Rideau Branch/
RV 272-06F-009

Rideau Township Historical Society

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City of Ottawa Client Services Centre

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THE DISAPPEARING PEOPLE

THE ONES WHO WERE HERE BEFORE

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European settlers arrived?**

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