




**November Meeting Details**


Rideau Township Historical Society  
*Presents*

## Journey to the Pacific


*Alexander Mackenzie and the first recorded crossing of North America north of Mexico*  
*featuring*  
**Richard Van Loon**



Following on his well-received presentation last June covering 6,000 years of travel up the Ottawa River and into the West, Richard Van Loon, President and Professor Emeritus of Carleton University is back with the remarkable story of Alexander Mackenzie's ground breaking Peace River expedition of 1792-93. Based largely on Mackenzie's detailed journals, we'll follow the explorers through the Athabasca and Peace River regions, across the Coast Mountains, on to Bella Coola and the Pacific Ocean.



Alexander Mackenzie.  
 (1764 - 1820)



Mackenzie's commemoration of his completed journey at Bella Coola, 1793

Join Us Via ZOOM  
 November 17th, 7:30 p.m.

To register, or for more information visit:  
[www.rideautwphistory.org](http://www.rideautwphistory.org)

Ottawa  
*Preserving and Promoting Local History for the former Rideau Township*

**Report on October's Feature Presentation**

**What's in a Name?**

*An exploration of naming conventions for the City of Ottawa and the journey to renaming Rideau-Goulbourn Ward*

**Featuring Scott Moffatt,  
 City Councillor for Ward 21**

The recent City of Ottawa Ward Boundary Review provided all councillors with the opportunity to review both ward boundaries and ward names. As a result of the review, several boundaries were changed, and some ward names were changed, including our own.

Ward 21 will now be called Rideau-Jock, instead of Rideau-Goulbourn.

As Councillor Moffatt pointed out early in his presentation "Every street name in Richmond has a story" and by extension, every geographic feature or artificial entity also has a story. The question is: *what stories do we want to honour?*

Councillor Moffatt began his presentation by sharing a little about his family history - which dates back to the earliest settlement of Richmond, just after the war of 1812. He then went on to explain how, in earlier times, place names were chosen to commemorate important personages.

He provided the example of Marlborough Township, which was named after the first Duke of Marlborough (who was active in the early 18th century, serving five monarchs.) While the Duke had a fascinating career and a unique family tree that, moving forward, includes Winston Churchill and Princess Diana, he never actually set foot in Canada.



*John Churchill,  
 1st Duke of Marlborough*

On the other hand, the Duke of Richmond, for whom the town of Richmond is named, not only lived (and died) in

**A Look at Coming Attractions**

**December 15th:** Our seasonal get together. Watch this space for all sorts of surprises!

**January 19th 2022:** Our AGM and a special guest who will share with us how his interest in history informs his art.

**February 16th 2022:** Chris Rogers is going to spend some time with us and (interactively, we are sure) work with us to understand how music provides a way to learn history!

our region, but he came close to being one of the Fathers of Confederation.

With the threat of invasion from the United States very much on his radar, the Duke, as Governor General of Canada, (1818-1819) firmly believed that unification of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada was necessary, and he campaigned for such an outcome. Sadly, he died of a rabid fox bite and the title of Father of Confederation would fall to others.



*Charles Lennox,  
4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond*

The Duke of Richmond had named a tributary of the Rideau River the Goodwood River. However, a local Frenchman, whom we only know by the name of Jacques, drowned in that river, and it was his name that stuck. Over time, “Jacques” was anglicized to “Jock”.

Moffatt gave a number of other examples of how local communities received their names. It seems that you had an excellent chance to have a village named after you if you were a post-master. John Sumner was postmaster of what is now Ashton, and the community was called Sumner’s Corners for a time, but it was changed to Ashton, the village in Manchester, England from where his family originated. Postmaster Thomas Tubman was urged to lend his name to what is now the community of Munster, but he declined and chose the name Munster in tribute to his family’s roots in the province of Munster, Ireland.

Now, on to Henry Goulbourn! (Most of this research comes from *Henry Goulbourn, 1784-1856-A Political Biography*, Brian Jenkins, 1996)

Councillor Moffatt confessed that, prior to doing research into the origins of the name Goulbourn, he really had little idea about who Goulbourn was, and what connection to Canada, if any, he had.

Goulbourn was born in London, England and lived there all his life; the closest he ever came to North America was when, as a Member of Parliament, his



*Henry Goulbourn (Goulburn)  
(1784 – 1856)*

signature went on the Treaty of Ghent that ended the War of 1812.

The Goulbourns owned a plantation in Jamaica. (Amity Hall) When Goulbourn Senior died in 1805, the estate passed to his wife, and eventually to Henry.

In 1807, Britain abolished the slave trade, and abolished slavery in 1834. This put slave owners in the position of not being able to buy more slaves to support the labour of their plantations. To preserve his economic advantage, Goulbourn urged his Jamaican estate manager Thomas Samson, to put male and female slaves in closer quarters so as to acquire additional slaves through procreation.

Goulbourn never visited his Jamaican estate, leaving its management to Sampson, who had a reputation for cruelty and dishonesty. Sampson actually owned slaves on his own plantation and regularly stole food for these slaves from Amity Hall, to the detriment of the Amity Hall slaves.

The mismanagement eventually came to Goulbourn’s attention and he fired Sampson in 1818.

Goulbourn, who was a sitting MP, lost the 1826 election, largely because his ownership of 250 slaves came to light. He claimed ignorance of the plight of his slaves, but since he had fired Sampson a number of years prior to the election because of his mismanagement and cruelty, he was not generally believed.

Goulbourn appears to have tried to improve the working conditions of his slaves, promoting the “principle of amelioration”, but he always stopped short of abolition, for the simple reason that his was not a wealthy family by heritage, and his wealth was largely based on income from the plantation. He did not free his slaves until the law forced him to, and even then he was paid handsomely for each and every slave, as per the Abolition Act.

Prior doing research for a podcast in October 2020, (*see below for links to the 3 podcasts in which Councillor Moffatt covers place names*) Councillor Moffatt did not know the full story of Henry Goulbourn, and he did not come forward with his concerns about Goulbourn’s name being attached to his ward until he got the full story, and as part of the boundary review noted above.

In considering commemorative names, Moffatt is of the opinion that individuals like politicians should be judged by what they do for their community, and a balanced approach to these matters should be taken.

For example, when we judge the legacy of John A Macdonald, there are positive accomplishments as well as negative aspects to his story. Moffatt believes that we should continue to commemorate the accomplishments of Macdonald, and make sure to tell the entire, balanced

story of his legacy, including, for example, the architecture of the residential schools program.

Henry Goulbourn, continued Moffatt, was no Sir John A. Macdonald. He did not play any role in the development of the ward that carries his name, and there is not much evidence that, in his time with the Colonial Office in England, he did anything noteworthy. He contributed nothing that earned him the respect provided by commemoration.

Moffatt is of the opinion that a politician like himself is paid to do his job and should do it without the expectation of having his efforts commemorated. It is the efforts that a citizen makes for the love of community, with no expectation of personal profit, that are worthy of acclaim. Our own Bill Tupper was cited as an example of such a citizen.

Moffatt wanted to stress that he is not trying to erase past history; he wants to tell the story of Henry Goulbourn, as does the Goulbourn Museum. But he went on to point out that it is just a ward name; people living in Ward 21 do not identify themselves as being from Rideau-Goulbourn; they are from Manotick, or North Gower or Kars.

The fact remains that, in Councillor Moffatt's opinion, a former slave owner, who never did anything for our ward, should not have that ward named after him.

Current and future commemoration is a whole different story from the past, and maybe we should move away from the idea of naming something after an individual.

The decision to name Ward 21 after two of the most prominent geographical features, rather than an individual with at best a checkered past makes sense. When reviewing the discussion around the name change, Moffatt advised that there had been some conversation about the possibility of selecting an indigenous name, but there is some debate as to which indigenous peoples were on the lands that Ward 21 encompasses, and therefore concern over which language to use to name the ward.

Moffatt concluded by saying that he recognized that the name change could be polarizing, because people care about where they are from, and what place names represent. He felt that a name should tell a story, and that we – as society need – to have an ongoing conversation about what story we want to celebrate.

A very lively question and answer period followed - subjects ranging from individual street name changes to how the Goulbourn Museum is working through these issues, to a brief discussion of the impact of systemic racism on place names and commemorative stories.

Thank you Councillor Moffatt for an enlightening and thoughtful presentation, and thank you to the members of RTHS for your participation.

#### Links to the naming podcasts for further information:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/26-why-is-nepean-called-nepean/id1510007742?i=1000499629117>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/27-an-update-on-the-ward-boundary-re-view/id1510007742?i=1000501296824>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/28-scotts-thoughts-on-the-citys-ward-boundary-and/id1510007742?i=1000502073167>

## RTHS Recognition/Awards Program

### Attention All RTHS Members

The Rideau Township Historical Society has established a Recognition/Awards Program and Committee to honour individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to the preservation and promotion of heritage in communities in our area.

The process for identifying nominees for the awards will be through an annual nomination process by our Society Membership. The nominees will be reviewed by an in-house Recognition/Awards Committee and a presentation made at our annual general meeting.

**Volunteers are so important and critical to the ongoing success and the life blood of our RTHS Society and our community.**

So folks.....if you have any suggestions, please submit them by email, writing or phone to any of our RTHS Executive who will pass them on to the Recognition/Awards Committee.

**Deadline for suggestions for the 2021 year is Dec 31, 2021.**



## How to Connect with RTHS



<https://rideautwphistory.org/>



[www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory](http://www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory)



[rideautwphistory@gmail.com](mailto:rideautwphistory@gmail.com)



<https://twitter.com/RideauTpHS>



<https://dickinsonhouse.org/>



[www.facebook.com/Dickinsonhousemuseum](http://www.facebook.com/Dickinsonhousemuseum)



[dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com](mailto:dickinsonhousemuseum@gmail.com)

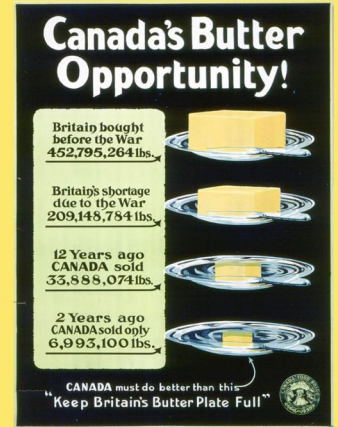
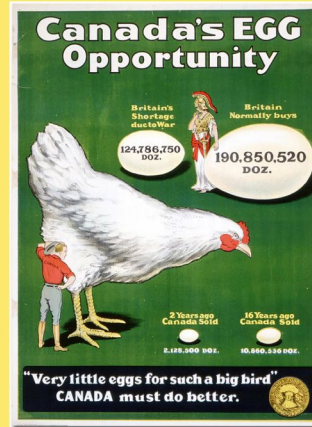
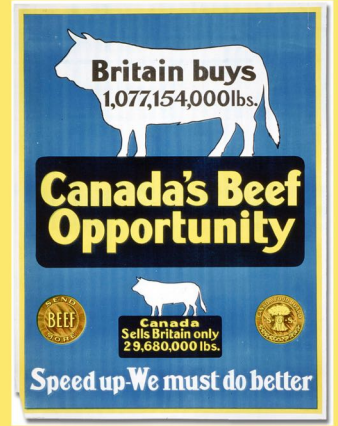
## Did You Know?

That a new item or article about Rideau Township history is posted daily (Monday to Friday) on the Rideau Township Historical Society's Facebook Page (see web address above.)

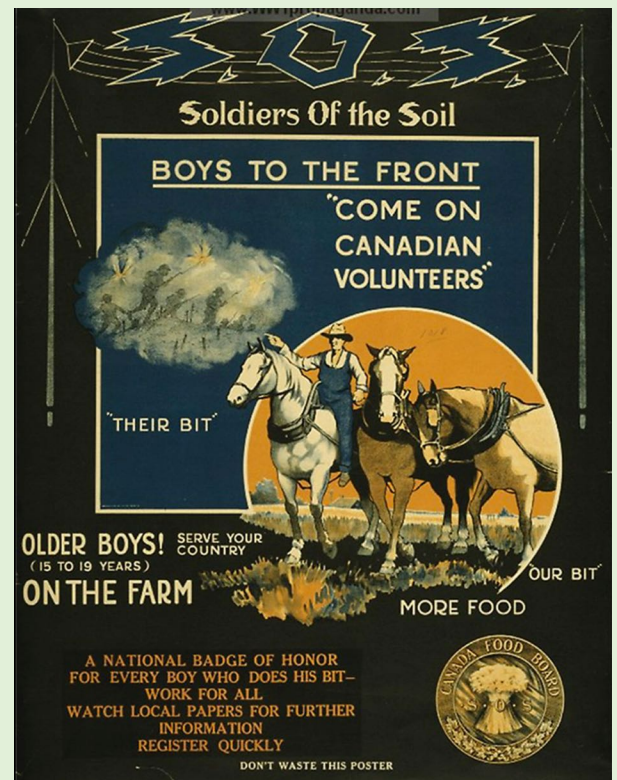
Since 2018, the number of people "Following" the RTHS Facebook Page (those who "subscribe" to our daily posts) has grown from under 50 to over 600, and the "Reach" of our Posts (the number of people who actually see any of our posts) has grown from under 100 to over 1,000!

If you haven't visited our Facebook yet, we invite you to check it out at [www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory](http://www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory). We promise you'll find something of interest, and likely something you didn't know about Rideau Township history and heritage.

*And while you're there, don't forget to "Like" and "Follow" us!*



Wartime posters encouraging farmers to increase production



# Sign me up as a member of RTHS



Members of the Society enjoy:

- Monthly meetings featuring engaging presentations, followed by refreshments
- Group excursions to historical points of interest in Eastern ON
- Local books published by the Society, and a monthly newsletter
- Opportunities to participate and contribute as volunteers

For more information visit <https://rideautownshiphistory.org> and [facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory](https://facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory).

Please mail this form with a cheque for membership dues payable to: Rideau Township Historical Society, Box 56, North Gower, ON, KOA 2T0, OR pay by e-transfer to [rideautwphistory@gmail.com](mailto:rideautwphistory@gmail.com) and email a scanned copy of the form to the same email address.

Name:

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Address:

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City & Postal Code:

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Telephone:

Email:

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Date:

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Are you a new RTHS member?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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Individual Membership \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Life Membership \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership (2 adults & school-age children) \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

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Donation \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Other Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Receipts for paid memberships will be issued when we are able to meet face-to-face, but tax receipts for donations will be issued at the end of the year.*

**Thank you for supporting RTHS!**

## Rideau Township Historical Society Minutes

### ZOOM Meeting

October 20, 2021

Susan McKellar opened the meeting at 7:30 by welcoming approximately 27 members and guests. A brief business meeting then ensued.

Susan informed the membership that a group of volunteers was working on the Grant application to the city of Ottawa and it will be submitted next week.

Also, RTHS has operated Dickinson House for several years and the amount of volunteer work required is becoming untenable. Therefore, RTHS is presently in negotiations with Watson's Mill Manotick Incorporated as they assume responsibility for the management of DH, with the end goal of eventually making Dickinson Square a unified tourist destination. RTHS will still maintain and manage the Collection of artifacts in the House for the duration of the contract.

### Reports:

**Finance** - All is in good order and we are on budget as of the end of September.

**Membership** - We now have 49 members, 4 for 2022 and 1 for 2023. A letter has gone out to members with past due accounts and this has achieved some positive results.

**Communications** - Margot praised and thanked Rod Brazier for his excellent work and postings on the Website and on Facebook and Twitter. Page views have increased 80% over the past 30 days, largely because of his endeavours.

**Publications** - We hope to publish Nye Samuel's autobiography and the North Gower history book in 2022.

**Moved** by Sandy McNiece that we approve the minutes of the last RTHS meeting on June 16 as circulated. Seconded by Margot Belanger. Carried.

**Program** - Myra McFarlane would welcome any suggestions for speakers or presenters and she encouraged members to contact her anytime. She may be reached by email at [myra.mcfarlane@icloud.com](mailto:myra.mcfarlane@icloud.com).

Myra McFarlane introduced Councillor Scott Moffatt who gave a talk ("What's In A Name?") on the process of changing the name of the Rideau-Goulbourn ward to Rideau-Jock and why the decision to drop the Goulbourn name was made.

Following a question and answer period, thanks were extended to Mr. Moffatt for his very interesting and straightforward presentation.

Susan McKellar then thanked all for attending, wished everyone a good evening, and closed the meeting.