



November Event Details

Rideau Township Historical Society
Presents

**a Tour of
RIDEAU HALL**
Official Residence of the Governor General of Canada



**November 12, 2022
11:00 a.m.**

RTHS has arranged a guided tour of Rideau Hall, to be followed by an (optional) luncheon at the Canal Ritz.
Participants will be responsible for their own transportation; however, some carpooling may be possible.
The tour is free, but participants will select and pay for their meal. Please advise if you will be joining us for lunch when you register.

**To register, and for more information visit:
www.rideautwphistory.org
or email us at rideautwphistory@gmail.com**

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

Additional information on visiting Rideau Hall and the Canal Ritz can be found on Page 5

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

President's Message

A recent statistic indicates that 25% of Canadians are immigrants. Quite astounding for a country where mother nature is trying to make your life difficult either with the heat of summer or the cold of winter.

Last month's Society meeting was the launch of a book published by the RTHS titled *Reflections of an Island-Born Woman* by Nyamme Samuels. It was perhaps not history in the making but a story that began in Jamaica, then via Saskatoon, Ottawa and finally Osgoode Township. Ms. Samuels is now 96, with a mind as sharp as ever. For those who wish to read a little more about Nye, Ruth Wright has written an article for this month's newsletter. For those wishing to read an inspirational book about the struggles of an immigrant family her book can be purchased through the RTHS website.

Save for First Nations, we are all from immigrant stock at one time or another. My own family originated from Norfolk England and over a 25-year period beginning in 1800 settled in Beverly Township outside of Hamilton. The question then becomes: "What would have made life in Canada so attractive or so bad in Norfolk that travel to the new world was an acceptable risk". We all have our histories, and these are stories that deserved to be remembered. So, for Nye, she married a Canadian, a graduate of McGill, whose first job was in Saskatoon.

This month's RTHS event is another excursion. We will be touring the residence of Canada's Governors General – Rideau Hall, followed by a lunch at the Canal Ritz. The Ritz has a wonderful menu, and while the canal has been emptied, I am sure the socializing will more than make up for it. Event details, including how to register, can be found elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter.

Event planning is now well underway for the new year. January is our AGM and "Bring and Brag"; for February, our guest will be Willy O'Ree, the first black player in the NHL; and in March we will once again host Richard Van Loon, who will speak to us about "David Thompson: Canada's Epic Mapmaker".

As always, if there are topics or guests you think would interest our members, please let me or one of the executive know.

Doug Culham, RTHS President

December's RTHS Event

As in previous years, we are planning a members' Christmas party for our December event. Details will follow when available.

In Memorium

John Robert McKellar

July 24, 1942 - October 17, 2022

It is with sadness that we mourn the passing of Jack McKellar, the husband of Susan for 58 years. Susan is an active member of RTHS, serving in many capacities on the Executive Board (President, Past President, Secretary, Publications). Jack and Susan were long-term residents of Kars and dedicated volunteers in the community.

Jack's career was in aerospace research which brought him to Ottawa to work at the National Research Council wind tunnel for many years. Following retirement, he consulted for DeHavilland and was a flight test engineer for Bell Helicopter. He was a world-class marksman and competed internationally for Canada. He loved fishing and the great outdoors and he and Susan traveled throughout Canada from Newfoundland to the Yukon.

Jack was an active member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Kars and is interred in the adjacent cemetery. Our condolences go out to his wife Susan, his children Robert and Margaret (Michael), his granddaughter Erin, and siblings Nancy (Greg), Neil (Charlotte) and Mar-yAnne (Chris).

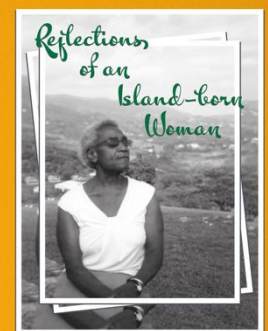
Report on October's RTHS Event

Book Launch:

Reflections of an Island-Born Woman by Nyamme Samuels

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, Rideau Township Historical Society was pleased to host the launch for Nyamme Samuels' book entitled *Reflections of an Island-born Woman*. This book recounts the life story of Nye (as she is affectionately known) Samuels from her beginnings in Jamaica to her present-day life in Osgoode Township. This was a wonderful event, and at Nye's tender age of 96, this was indeed an occasion to be celebrated.

President Doug Culham opened the proceedings by welcoming approximately 45 guests and Nye's family



Nyamme Samuels

members who were able to attend. He then introduced Nye and gave a brief background of her life.



The Book Launch at the Kars' RA Centre was well-attended.

Nyamme Victicia Goodridge was born on July 3, 1926 in the parish of St. Andrew, Jamaica, later known as Jones Town, and was raised in the parishes of Kingston and St. Andrew. She was the first-born of Charles Frederick Goodridge and Gladys Eunice Campbell. Life in Jamaica was not easy, and in her book, Nye tells stories and accounts of the times and various memories of these early days. Books and music played a prominent role in her upbringing. As a youth, she sang in various choirs, and later often performed solos and won awards for her clear and beautiful *a cappella* renditions. She was a violinist with the Surrey Philharmonic Orchestra, the precursor to the Jamaica Philharmonic. She pursued a career as a pharmacist with Jamaica's Ministry of Health.

In September 1959, at the age of 33, her life took a different turn when she married Eric Royston Earl Samuels, a McGill Graduate student. In 1960, she joined her husband in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. What a culture shock that must have been, coming from the warm southern breezes of Jamaica to the chilly northern winds of Saskatoon. As she said, it wasn't too bad since a friend had gifted her a fur coat before she left. They lived there for 2 years, and then moved to Ottawa where her husband continued his career with the Radiation Protection Division of the Ministry of Health. He was also a tireless community worker and received accolades for his efforts. Both Eric and Nye became Canadian Citizens in 1970. After 44 years of marriage, Eric unfortunately passed away in 2003 and is buried in Kars, Ontario.



In the Spring of 1971, the Samuels purchased a rural farm property on Rideau River Road in the Township of

Osgoode where Nye remains today with her son Colin and his family. Nye and Eric raised three children - Alwyn (1963), Althea (1966) and Colin (1969). Nye was a dedicated volunteer in many organizations in the community: Women's Institute, Girl Guides, school organizations, and Kars United Church to name only a few. She took part in many seminars and workshops promoting antiracism, ethnocultural equity and diversity. In 2002 she received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award. Despite having experienced many instances of racism herself, she carried on, never faltering in her resolve to overcome prejudice and always give her best - a true example of the adage *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*.

Thanks go to Susan McKellar, who was instrumental in bringing this book to print, to Owen Cooke for helping with proofreading and editing, to Nicholas Fairbank for layout design and Rod Brazier for the initial cover design.



Thank you to Althea and Colin for speaking at the book launch. The love they have for their mother is truly evident. Following the words of Althea and Colin, Nye rose and spoke and then sang in her clear, melodic voice the *Jamaican Anthem*, hummed the words to *This Land is Your Land*, and immediately transitioned into singing *It's a Wonderful World*, which tugged at our heart strings and brought tears to our eyes - a truly moving performance!

Nye then made the first cut of the cake, which we all enjoyed eating, and she spent a great deal of time visiting and signing books, even though she has many visual challenges.

Most of all we say 'thank you' to Nye Samuels for a truly inspirational book (one well worth reading), for her tenacity and perseverance to make this world a better place in which to live, and for her commitment and strength of will in overcoming adversity and challenges throughout her lifetime. Thank you for your service to the community, Nye. It is a privilege to know you.

*If you would like to purchase a book (\$12.00), just visit the RTHS website to place your order, and it can be arranged. Books are also available for purchase at the Rideau Archives in North Gower (open every Tuesday).

Ruth Wright



Ruth Wright presents Nye Samuels with a celebratory cake.

Rideau's Built Heritage

**5561 Manotick Main Street,
Manotick (the Dr. Leach house)**



5561 Manotick Main in the 1950s

This attractive house on Main Street in Manotick was built about 1876 by a wagon maker by the name of Jonn C. Hicks.

The original section in the centre, before the many additions were added, was a fairly simple but well styled structure of red brick with yellow brick trim over the windows and yellow brick quoins (now painted white). About six years after it was built a kitchen wing was added on the north side and an office on the south side; in later years the house was further expanded by the addition of front and side porches (one of which is now closed in) and a bay window. The very decorative woodwork or "gingerbread" trim on the eaves and front porch – a distinguishing feature of the house – is typical of a style of architecture known as Gothic Revival, which became popular in the late 1860's. Somewhat similar trim can be

seen on a few other houses in the area but not in such profusion.

Behind the house was a two-story carriage shed and stable with a ramped entrance from the side street. At some point the upper level was removed, and the structure served as a workshop for a period of time.

In 1882 Mr. Hicks sold the house to Dr. Groves, who added the kitchen and office and conducted his medical practice from there; in 1916 Dr. Groves sold it to Dr. A.B. Hyndman, one of his associates, who occupied it briefly before departing to take up practice in Carp. It was then bought (for \$3000.00) by Dr. J.E. Leach, whose home and office it remained until the late 1950s. There were several changes in ownership after that and the house was converted into three apartments. In more recent years, the house has been home to a number of retail businesses.

This house is a well-known landmark in the area due to its long occupancy by Dr. Leach who was a widely respected and well-beloved Doctor who served Manotick and area for nearly sixty years, and for whom Dr. Leach Drive in Manotick is named



View from Currier St. showing carriage shed (c.1950s)

The historical interest of the house and its distinctive architectural style were further recognized in 1983 when it was designated a Rideau Township Heritage Building under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act.

This property is presently the subject of much community concern and controversy due to its deteriorated condition, the damaging impact of property adjustments made by the current owner, and its future preservation.

Sources: Rideau Township Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) files. Courtesy of the Rideau Branch, City of Ottawa Archives, North Gower.

More Details About the Rideau Hall/Canal Ritz Excursion

Information from Rideau Hall

The residence and grounds can be reached by car, taxi or bus. Parking is not available on-site, but free street parking is available in the surrounding neighbourhood (for a maximum of 3 hours), and visitors may enter on foot via Sussex Gate, Thomas Gate or MacKay Gate.

Visitors with reduced mobility will be able to be dropped off and picked up at a specific location on-site. Please contact Rideau Hall by emailing guide@gg.ca or calling 1-866-842-4422 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Let them know the date and time of your arrival so that they can authorize your access to the residence and provide more detail on the drop-off location.

Our tour guide will meet us by the fountain in front of the residence. The tour will commence promptly at 11:00 a.m., so please arrive 10 minutes in advance.

All visitors are asked to go through a metal detector before entering the residence. To facilitate this process, it is recommended that you leave personal effects in your vehicle when possible. Backpacks, large bags and video recording devices are not permitted in the residence..

Covid-19 Health and Security Measures

- Visitors are asked to follow all public health protocols.
- Guests must self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 before they arrive on the day of the event and stay home if they are feeling unwell.
- Proof of vaccination is not required.
- Masks are required for all visitors aged 5 and over.
- Masks are recommended for children between the ages of 2 and 5 when supervised and able to do so.
- Masks are not required for children under the age of 2.
- Visitors must maintain a 2 metre distance from staff at all times.

About the Canal Ritz

The restaurant is located at 375 Queen Elizabeth Drive-way. Free parking is available in a lot on the other side of the road, accessible from Fifth Avenue. We will be seated in a separate area on the ground floor of the restaurant with a view of the canal.

How to Connect with RTHS



<https://rideautwphistory.org/>



www.facebook.com/rideautownshiphistory



rideautwphistory@gmail.com



<https://twitter.com/RideauTpHS>

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://rideautwphistory.org> and 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 and email a scanned copy of the form to the same email address.

Name:

Address:

City & Postal Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Date:

Are you a new RTHS member?

Yes _____ No _____

Individual Membership \$15 _____

Life Membership \$100 _____

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

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!

