

# Opeongo Lines

# FLAMING FALL COLORS

## ANNUAL BUS TOUR - 29 SEPT.

We hope you'll join us on September 29th when we take our ANNUAL FLAMING FALL COLOURS BUS TRIP WITH A DIFFERENCE.

Because our trip coincides with a new promotion of the County's Maple Syrop Industry HERITAGE RENFREW will treat all those who travel by bus to a free Maple Syrop Muffin and Coffee at the OLD TOWN HALL at 08:30 a.m. The cost is \$1.40 for anyone else.

THE BUS WILL DEPART FROM LOW SQUARE across the street from the OLD TOWN HALL at 09:00 a.m.

We'll explore the OPEONGO TRAIL as far as Carson Lake, our lunch site and turn-around spot. Leonard Quilty and Hank Legris will regale us with the lore of the places we pass through. There'll be stop-overs, a chance to hike a portion of the original old road (but only if you want to) and - if we can find it - a visit to AL CAPONE's reputed Valley hide-away.

There'll be a printed hand-out for all. This will be especially handy for those who want to use their cars on that day or who wish to do the tour on their own later. We are producing audio guide tapes and 'wi' the grace o' God, the co-operation of the "little people" and the likes of Sony' they'll be ready for the 29th.

Naturally, we'll make a video tape of the event, show it on local TV and make copies available through our archives.

Cost is \$8.00 per person. Tickets can be reserved at the bus depot. Don't delay. Order yours now. It's first come, first served.

EDITORIAL

Ole Satchel Page, the stellar black baseball pitcher who was '39 going on 60 when he was finally allowed to play in the white man's majors, once philosophized that 'You should never look back: someone might be gaining on you.'

We have lots to tell you in this OPEONGO LINES about what lies ahead, but we'd be seriously remiss if we didn't look back at the work that went into Lumber Baron Festival II and congratulate all who made it the success that it was. I can't possibly mention all who contributed in so many ways to Heritage Renfrew's Main Street Display, the Plaquing Ceremony, the Baron's Entourage and the spectacular Open House at Carswell's Hill, but Marge Lindsay and her crew did a wonderful job in laying the groundwork and arranging the logistics for the Baron's walk-about and the Open House which attracted a thousand visitors. Special thanks to Margaret and Frederick Gibson who put the Lumber Baron's home at our disposal and proved such gracious hosts. We also should recognize the roles played by the University Women, the VON, the Balsam Hill Women's Institute and Lynda McLaughlin, who not only faithfully accompanied Baron Carswell to all events, but also became the youngest feature-writer Heritage Renfrew ever had. Her 'wrap-up' was printed on the editorial page of the Mercury last week. We hope you caught it. Thanks too, to the Mercury, especially for the coverage they gave us before the events occurred.

We welcome and thank Professor Cosentino of York University in Toronto for his timely article on Renfrew's role in professional hockey. It is timely, not only because the hockey season is upon us, but because it is a preview of still another book on Renfrew which underlines the role played by our own M.J. O'Brien, who will be honoured as Lumber Baron during the 1991 Renfrew Festival.

And now let's look 'down the line' and see what exciting goodies your directors have in store for you.

(It's amazing what these people will do on your behalf, just to stay 'ahead of the pack'.)

*Dave Lorente*

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FOUNDING FAMILIES OF HORTON, ADMASTON AND RENFREW VILLAGE

Even while work on Volume II of FACES AND FACADES continues apace, HERITAGE RENFREW has started still another book, this time on the FOUNDING FAMILIES OF HORTON, ADMASTON and RENFREW VILLAGE. Director Carol Bennet McCuaig heads the committee that will draft outlines on the several hundred families, as well as other individuals, mentioned in the 1842 and 1851 censuses. Sort of a ROOTS reference book for Renfrew and district.

JUNIPER BOOKS HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

Volume I of GENEALOGICAL EXTRACTS FROM THE EGANVILLE LEADER (Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1902-1909 and Death Notices and Obituaries, 1911-1913) is hot off the press and available for \$10.00 (postpaid) from

Juniper Books  
R.R. 2  
Renfrew, Ontario

Volume II (Death Notices and Obituaries, 1914-1921) will be ready this fall. It too is \$10.00.

You can do yourself a favor and order both for only \$15.00.

Births, marriages and deaths in the Eganville Leader cover a wide area of Renfrew County, including many notices from Renfrew, Pembroke, Killaloe, Mount St. Patrick, Calabogie, Cobden, Osceola, Ashdod, etc. as well as some from Lanark County when the people were related to Eganville families. Extracts from the obituaries contain everything that may be of assistance to the genealogist.

LUMBER BARON '90 - THE FILM (photography by Vaughan Simmons and Cable 12) will debut on Monday, 24 September at 4:30 p.m. on Cable 12 McLean Hunter TV. We invite you to tape it for your lasting enjoyment.

HOME CHILDREN - THAMES TV (England) - THE SHIRLEY SHOW (Toronto) AND HERITAGE RENFREW.

For the better part of a century, until the Great Depression, Great Britain eased her social problems at home by actually exporting children to Canada. Only in the last few decades has there been much awareness or interest in the fate of those children, many of whom came to the Ottawa Valley. Thames TV in London, England, is producing a documentary on the subject during which surviving 'children' will be interviewed. CTV's Shirley Show researchers are preparing for a program on the same theme.

So what has all this to do with HERITAGE RENFREW? Well, HERITAGE RENFREW was enlisted by producer Nick Rowen of Thames TV and later by the Shirley Show to provide background information and help them make contacts with Home Children from the Valley.

We are planning a presentation on the Home Children or Little Immigrants for our Annual Meeting in late January 1991. Meanwhile, watch your TV listings for the CTV production.

## RENFREW'S ROLE IN PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

If one were given the following multiple choice question; Renfrew can be identified with the following:

- (a) National Hockey League
- (b) The Stanley Cup
- (c) Creamery Town
- (d) Montreal Canadiens
- (e) All of the above.

The answer would be (e) All of the above.

The year was 1910, M.J. O'Brien, the wealthy Lumber Baron, mining magnate, decided to send his son, Ambrose, to hockey meetings in Montreal where the Canadian Hockey League was being formed. The attraction for O'Brien and his partners, the Barnets and Thomas Low, M.P., was the Stanley Cup which would be presented to the League Champion. Ever since 1906, when Cup Trustee Foran announced that professionals could compete for the trophy, M.J. took it on as a personal crusade. There were two ways he could gain it. One was to challenge the holder to a contest; but there were so many towns wanting to challenge and the trustees could only accept a small number each year. The other was to be in the same league as the Stanley Cup holders and end up in first place, automatically being awarded with the Governor General's silverware. In each case, however, Renfrew was frustrated and always it appeared to be Ottawa, the perennial Cup holders, who engineered Renfrew's rejection. As far as Ottawa was concerned Renfrew was a small town of 3,400, which should stick to turning out butter and leave the hockey to the big boys.

Turned down once again in 1909/10, M.J. decided to form his own league. O'Brien had mining interests in Cobalt and Haileybury. He contacted the Wanderers of Montreal, who also had been denied entry into the CHA. Another team was needed for an eight-game schedule. O'Brien put up the funds for an all French team from Montreal and was clever enough to ensure that his Canadiens were to be seen to be operated by local interests. The NHA was formed.

But O'Brien was not finished yet. In an era when a hockey player might earn \$100 for an eight-game season, O'Brien struck out to buy the best hockey players available. With salaries as high as \$3,000, a who's who in hockey appeared in the red and white of Renfrew: Cyclone Taylor, Lester Patrick, Frank Patrick, Newsy Lalonde, Bert Lindsay, Fred Whitcraft, Hay Miller, Herb Jordon and local favourite, Larry Gilmour. Ottawa sued for peace, and along with the Montreal Shamrocks, left the Canadian Hockey Association and joined the National, now with an expanded 12-game schedule.

Throughout 1910, hockey and the Stanley Cup, and the huge salaries were the topic of conversation. No, Renfrew did not win the Stanley Cup that year. The Wanderers did. Although, at a post season exhibition tournament on New York's artificial ice, Renfrew beat the Wanderers and were christened World Champions by the New York Press. They were also dubbed The Millionaires after M.J. paid off everybody's contract in cash before boarding the train to New York. The name has stuck ever since.

Renfrew operated for one more year in the NHA. A salary cap of \$5,000 per team was enforced as were new contracts prohibiting the free movement of players. The NHA became the NHL in 1917, the Montreal Canadiens are one of the most successful hockey franchises in history; the Renfrew Millionaires: the Valley Boys of Winter were like a bright meteor which lit up the sky, a part of this area's rich history.

Frank Cosentino

Frank Cosentino is a professor in the Department of Physical Education at York University in Toronto. He is a summer resident of Eganville and is the author of two forthcoming books: Not Bad Eh! Prose and Poetry in Canadian Sport; and The Renfrew Millionaires; The Valley Boys of Winter 1910. Both are to be published by General Store Publishing House Inc. in October 1990.

HERITAGE RENFREW'S NEW QUARTERS in the National Archives of Canada (Mitel) Building will be ready for us to move in furniture by mid-September. One month later, after our collection has been examined by Archives experts for mold, mites and other infestations, we shall start moving in our microfilms, records, etc. Meanwhile we are applying for a grant to subsidize the cost of readers, a copier, our own Individual Genealogical Index of 34 million names (to 1881), etc. Sometime in the future - security permitting - we'll have an Open House.

#### THE (MAPLE) SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS.

Seventeen years ago Dave and June Gardiner fell in love and bought a 100 acre farm on the Opéngo Line as a recreational escape from the pressures of city life in Ottawa. They planted fruit trees, put in a large garden and tapped twenty maples trees to make a few litres of syrop just for the fun of it. They were 'hooked'.

Today, they tap over 1000 trees. The sap is collected in special plastic tubing and the 'shack' is equipped with the most modern equipment. Their business is open year round for the sale of maple syrop and they have exported to Germany, southeast Asia, Australia, other provinces in Canada and to the U.S.

You'll have a chance to see their operation on the Heritage Renfrew Bus Tour on the 29th of this month.

2nd ANNUAL

# STEAM SHOW



SAT. & SUN.  
Sept. 15-16  
10 AM - 4 PM

REFRESHMENTS

TOWN & COUNTRY  
BANDS

NO ALCOHOL!!!!

Adults \$4

Children \$2

Family Maximum \$10

RENFREW

AT **Bill Burwell's Farm**

FRASER RD

Come and see Bill and his buddies 'let off steam' with the biggest little collection of steam engines you've ever - never - seen. Full size and miniature working engines, stationary boilers (each running other engines that in turn run a machine, blacksmith shop, saw mill etc)...tractors, steam boat, even a car running on wood chips and a hydraulic ram demonstration.

← TO CALABOGIE

BURN  
TOWN

All proceeds to the Renfrew <sup>DISTRICT</sup> Food Bank and Heritage Renfrew (to help finance their move to new quarters).)