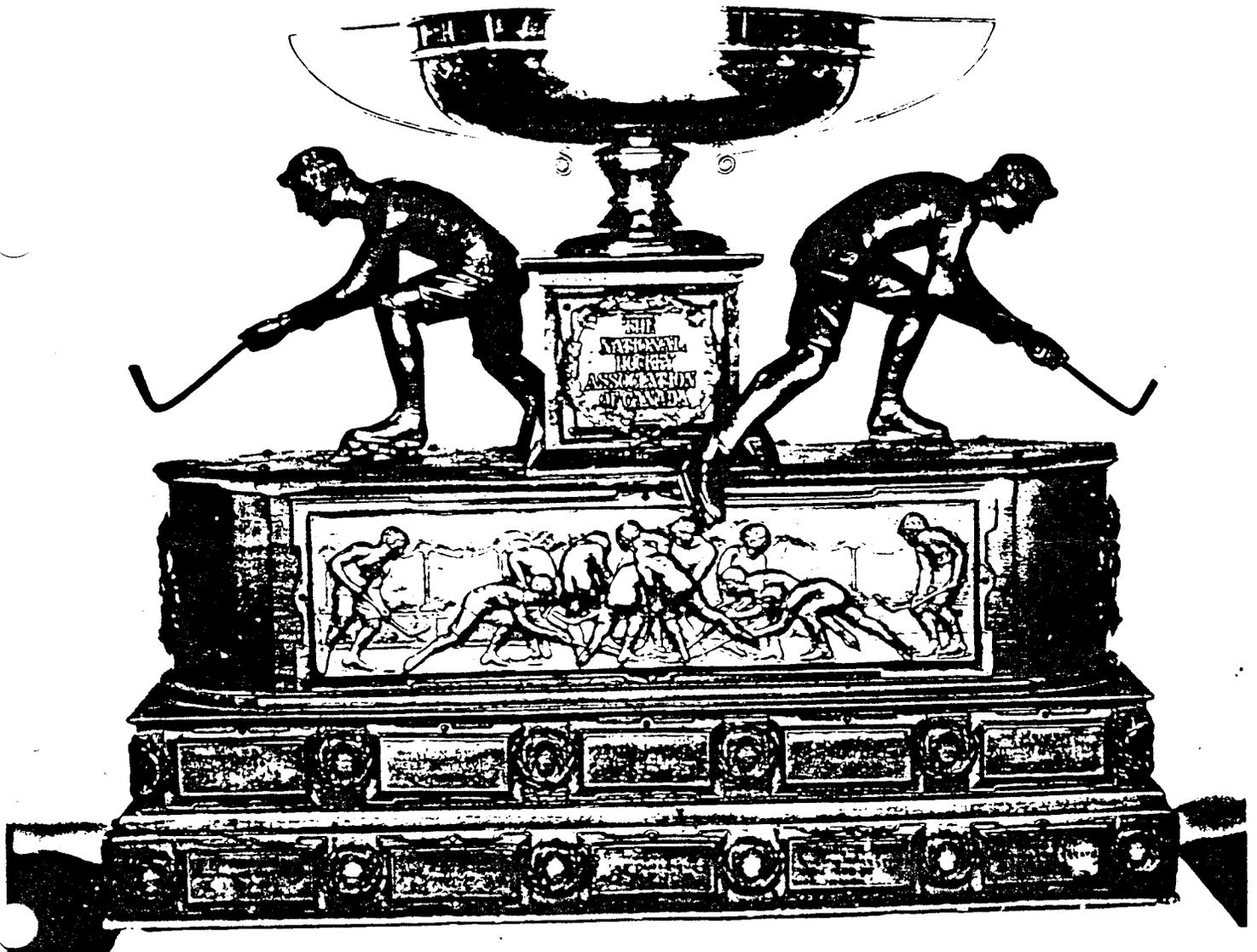


# Opeongo Lines

*October 1991.*

News from Heritage Renfrew, 770 Gibbons Road.  
Renfrew, Ontario, K7V 4A2.



*Just a note to say:*

Our sympathy goes to longtime, faithful member, Les Anderson,  
on the passing of his wife, Betty. We miss her too.

.....

Les Anderson has taken up the task of Membership Committee Chairman again.  
If you forgot to renew in 1991, or wish to renew early for 1992, please clip this form  
and mail it with \$5. 00 single, or per couple.

*Heritage Renfrew Membership*

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone: .....

Mail to: Les Anderson,  
R.R. 2, Renfrew, Ont.  
K7V 3Z5.

Open meeting, Wed Oct 23, 1991, 7.30 p.m.  
at the Library Programme Centre

**Alan Rayburn of Nepean**  
on  
*Geographical Names of Renfrew County.*

Admission free

Refreshments.

.....  
*Time flies:*

Oct 15, 1951 - Charlotte Whitton became Mayor of Ottawa,  
the first woman to be mayor of a Canadian city.

.....

Reminder: Have you submitted your  
research for our book,  
*Founding Families of Admaston, Horton &  
Renfrew Village?*

Thought for the day:  
Did Socrates take his cup of hemlock  
from an early hockey trophy?

(See page 4.)

# *The classic touch*

by Dave Lorente.

Having the O'Brien Cup in Creamery Town for the Lumber Baron Festival was a classic touch in more than one way. Marge Lindsay deserves 'kudos' for arranging for it to be here.

That Greek word is quite appropriate, by the way, because there was a strong Greek influence in the design of the Cup, and besides (and I expect that most people even in the Hockey Hall of Fame are not aware of this) there is tangible evidence that the Greeks invented the game, centuries before Christ. It staggers the imagination to think that Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Alexander the Great and others might have played goalie, defense, centre or wing - maybe even rover - on their local team.

If this is too much for you to believe, check the facts out with sports buffs Dorothy Skinner and Chip Troke, who actually spent most of an afternoon in the National Archaeological Museum in Athens two years ago, tracking down the 'evidence' I had spoken of in class. I have photographic proof that they found it.\* The photo shows them admiring a relief sculpture on the base of a statue. The statue is long gone. It is interesting to speculate that it may have depicted a Greek Gretsky; only the 'face-off' on the base remains. Anyone who has ever visited Greece will understand why the players wear no skates and why the 'tools of battle' more closely resemble lawn hockey sticks.

Nor did the Greeks put ice in the liquid they were wont to quaff when they got together to 'bend elbows' after a work - out in the gymnasium, and if the O'Brien Cup was in the room when they adjourned for their 'symposium' they would notice atop it the flat saucer-like cup with twin handles. They would refer to it as a 'kylix' - their word for the classic Greek drinking cup - the kind used at parties.

Readers may be familiar with the names of two other Greek pottery forms - the Krater (crater) and amphora, though moderns apply them to geographic features and fragrant tobacco, but, back to the kylix.

The O'Brien trophy weighs about 50 lbs, and most of the weight is in the base which has relief sculptures depicting hockey players scrimmaging. They in turn are topped by identical players racing left and right away from the central feature, the pure silver kylix. The free - standing players wield sticks that seem to be half-way in the evolutionary process between the 23 to 25 centuries - old Greek sticks (or modern lawn hockey sticks) and the 20th century 'tool of office' Mario Lemieux uses.

The Cup itself - the kylix of silver from an O'Brien mine - merely rests atop the trophy. It is not attached. A simple knob of wood fits snugly into its base to prevent it from slipping off when the trophy is moved. The kylix is designed to be lifted off - to be used. And the kylix had only one use!

Which begs a question or two: who conceived the design? Was he aware of the ancient Greeks' contribution to the history of hockey? Who wrought the sculptures, so much like the ones you might see in Robert Tait Mackenzie's Mill of Kintail, near Almonte? What 'classicist' thought of using the Greek kylix form? Did any of the players who surely quaffed from it almost eight decades ago realize that they were re - enacting scenes depicted on Greek vases in the 'pentacontaetia' - that brilliant 50 year period two and a half thousand years ago - that utterly changed the world? Was M. J. O'Brien himself aware of the significance?

Tantalizing - classic- questions.

(\* Unfortunately this excellent colour photo would not reproduce satisfactorily on a black and white photo-copying machine in order for us to show it here. Ed.)

The picture on page one shows the O'Brien Cup.

# Manuscript collections in Renfrew Archives

by Marge Lindsay.

It was reported in the July 1991 newsletter that we are ready for researchers in the Renfrew Archives in the National Archives building (formerly Mitel.) Dave Lorente outlined the microfilms and fiche available at the Archives.

As well as many photographs, special local newspapers, books, films and tapes, there are over 40 manuscript collections organized into about 36 acid-free archival boxes.

Makes for interesting browsing. Just a sample or two:

**MS 40 Hugh W. Bryan collection:** from the price list of Garden & Field Seeds of Lyman, Clare & Co., Montreal, dated Feb 15, 1872:

60¢	1 lb turnip seed
25¢	1 oz broccoli seed
75¢	1 lb cabbage seed
5¢	1 dozen ears of Adams early sweet corn.

The menu of the Dew Drop Inn (East end of Renfrew) 1932-1935 informs us that 25¢ will buy a luscious banana split.

**MS 2 Sara Payne Dempsey Collection:**

Enjoy the booklet *A Flagpole Sitting in the Town of Renfrew, 1933*, P. J. Villemaire, as well as several photographs, probably taken by A. L. Handford, of the departure of young soldiers from the 240th Regiment about 1915 at the stone CPR station in Renfrew, with a large crowd to see them off. Les Fraser identified Joe Pauze in one of the photographs, in the late 1970s.

**MS 19 McNab family collection.**

There are many letters from Scotland dating from 1812 - 1900. Duncan McNab of Callander, Scotland, has not heard from his brother, Angus, Killaloe, Canada West, for a long time.

In a long letter to Angus dated March 12, 1833, Duncan writes about the family, politics in his area, the weather, weaving contracts and accounts that are owed by 'Arch. McNab' and could he, Angus, collect them. It also appears that, according to rumours in Callander, 'Arch McNab' may come to Scotland this summer to settle his affairs. Duncan strongly urges Angus to press the Chief for payment.

Duncan also requests information about conditions and requirements to come here, and whether Angus thinks it's a good idea or not.

Among the many books, some of them valuable, according to Judy Beattie, archivist, is the minute book 1902 - 1930 of the South Renfrew Liberal Reform Association and *The Lumberman's Timber Mark Guide 1874* by J. Barnwall Jackson.

Films and tapes are also available - Les Fraser reminiscing with Les Anderson, John Lindsay, Denzil Dale, teacher and students at RCI, and John Moran speaking out on local affairs to Marge Lindsay, as only he could.

An expanding genealogical section directed by Carol McCuaig is an important asset. We welcome a photocopy of a family record at any time.

Renfrew Archives was organized in 1977 by archivist Judy Beattie, Ottawa. She trained Heritage Renfrew volunteers and continues to be available for consultation from time to time. The collections may be perused Monday to Friday 9 a.m to 5 p.m. excepting holidays. We suggest making appointments by calling Dot Skinner, 432 - 2302; Dave Lorente 432 - 2486 or Marge Lindsay, 432 - 3126.

# Heritage Review

by Doris Humphries, president.

October, 1991

Since our July issue reached you, many events have occurred. Our participation in the **Lumber Baron Festival** was noteworthy, and thanks go to all Heritage Renfrew members and friends who helped in a variety of ways. Our contribution of \$1,500 to the Festival Committee was the profit from the O'Brien Open House.

The unveiling of the plaque at Castleford to mark the beginning of the Opeongo Road at Farrell's Landing, was a pleasant, well-attended event. The weather was delightfully sunny and guest speakers' remarks were interesting. The Johnston family, Bob, Julie and Jennie, entertained during refreshment hour at the Horton Sportsplex.

Heritage Renfrew Annual Fall Tours did a trip into the Pontiac on Sept 21 and another on Sept 22. Beautiful scenery and interesting historical sites made for pleasurable hours. Con Hunt and Doris Humphries were tour guides. At Portage du Fort, Elsie Gibbons got on board and did a great job telling us the history of St George's Anglican church, the war memorial, Lady Bond Head memorial, and other sites.

Our guide at the Bryson farm house, built at Fort Coulonge in 1854, was Claudette Pleau and she is to be thanked especially for guiding us on Sunday to see the other Bryson family homes in the village.

The Flaming Leaf Tours up the Opeongo Line on Sept 28 and 29 were ably guided by

our members Con Hunt and Dave Lorente. Great scenery and interesting stops made for happy touring. To quote Marion McQuade, who did a tour on each weekend: "I'm just drunk with colour!"

Bill Burwell's steam show got a hand from our cameramen Dave Lorente and Vaughan Simmons, and from Helen Clark, Judy Anderson, Marge Lindsay and Doris Humphries in the booth or helping to park vehicles. We will be receiving part of the proceeds as a contribution to further Heritage Renfrew endeavours.

Dave has told the **Opeongo history** through slides and commentary at the Arnprior Historical Society, Central School, Renfrew and Miramichi Lodge.

Doris told "How Castleford got its name" to a grade 7 class at Central.

Dorothy Skinner conducted a walking tour of the same class in the Swinging Bridge area of town.

Carol Bennett McCuaig's book *Eganville, Jewel of the Bonnechere, 1825 - 1991* received a great response during Eganville's Centennial and is available in bookstores throughout the Ottawa Valley. She has recently taken part in several television and radio programmes in connection with the book, and assisted in preparing a special Centennial issue published by *The Eganville Leader*. She is currently writing a series of genealogical columns for *The Leader* on founding families of Grattan & Wilberforce.