



# Opeongo Lines



Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow  
The Heritage Renfrew Newsletter—Winter 2009 Edition

The Opeongo Lines is published four times per year, at a cost of \$3.00 per issue for non-members and \$1.00 for members of Heritage Renfrew

donned vintage garb during our Lumber Baron Festivals, visited hospital patients, seniors homes and, on occasions, schools.

Grace had a heart of gold and loved life, her family, neighbours and her pupils. She had a special place in her heart for the under privileged and took time from her housework, gardening, crafts and teaching to make things for them and help them on their way. She loved her garden, veggies and flowers, the wild life that visited her farm, her travels in North America and abroad, cooking and sewing. Most of all she loved her family and regaling them with tales of local history to instill a love of heritage and country.

It is fitting that in 1998 some official recognition came her way when she was named a Citizen of the Year and was one of those featured on the Ontario Heritage Foundation's

### Editor's Note ...

As we go to press we have learned of the sudden death of MARGARET PATTERSON, beloved wife of Heritage Renfrew Director Pat Patterson and mother of young Pat and Corry. Margaret, too, with Grace Simmons, assisted 'religiously' with preparations and served at our Heritage Luncheons and events. She shared Pat's love of history and last year accompanied him to Vimy Ridge where the couple were chaperones for the students of Renfrew Collegiate who also participated. Like Grace, Margaret, too, gentle soul that she was, loved and was loved for who she was and we are better for having known them.



After a long illness, on August 22, 2008, GRACE SIMMONS, a longtime active Editor with her husband Vaughan, of Heritage Renfrew, went to be with her Lord, quietly, thankful to be at peace. She will be remembered.



## Heritage Renfrew Welcomes Professor Herb Stovel and Andrew Jeanes to November Presentations

On 26 November 2008, Professor Herb Stovel from Carleton University spoke to a gathering of approximately 60 people from Renfrew and the surrounding area. The topic of his presentation was "Revitalizing the Downtown Core and the Relevance to Renfrew of Heritage and Cultural Influences in the 21st Century. Stovel asked important questions, important for those who believe preserving aspects of Renfrew's past is essential even though modern-day pressures can reflect the need to follow a different path.

He drew on a number of examples, to make his case: Kluane Wrangell - St. Elias/ Glacier Bay; Nahanni National Park Reserve; Wood Buffalo National Park; Sgaang Gwaii; Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks;

Waterton Glacier International; Peace Park; Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump; Dinosaur Provincial Park; L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site; Gros Morne National Park; Old Town of Lunenburg; Historic District of Quebec; Miguasha Park; and the Rideau Canal (2007) and the Joggins (2008) fossil site in Nova Scotia.

Stovel argued that the challenge for world heritage is to control development, in some aspects, but, he also expressed caution. Controlling planned development is important, but at the same time those interested in heritage

must go about their work by contributing to attracting and nurturing development. Ultimately, the challenge is to balance development and heritage conservation. The method by which one achieves such a balance begins with awareness.

Stovel describes heritage as being about historic properties being conserved, but the key is the stories told by heritage buildings about the people and the place. Conservation activity, therefore, needs to be directed toward those stories as much as to the buildings that supposedly project

them. Treated properly, heritage is a repository of community memory, a source of pride and identity, and an aid to maintaining a sense of place and a

sense of continuity. Heritage is also an economic asset, not an economic constraint.

Stovel explained three approaches relevant to the issue of heritage: heritage planning tools such as designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; adaptive re-use of core buildings of which one of the better examples has to be the

Town of Almonte, in our area; and "Main Street Canada" which involves the revitalization of the downtown core.

The example of Ottawa, and the Council's efforts to respect Ottawa's heritage, was cited: "In recognition of the non-renewable nature of cultural heritage, and as the steward of Ottawa's cultural heritage resources, the City

will continue to preserve those resources in a manner which respects their heritage value, ensures their future viability as functional components of Ottawa's urban and

rural environments, and allows them to continue their contribution to the character, civic pride, tourism potential, economic development, and historical appreciation of the community".

With respect to the re-use of the downtown core, Stovel demonstrated how the citizens of Crowsnest Pass in Alberta, Blairmore, and Fort Macleod, preserved the original look of the downtown core constructed in the mid- to late-19th century, while making modern-day use of the facilities possible. the approach to be taken toward the "Main Street" idea is built around 4 points: ORGANISATION, design, marketing, economic development.

Initial focus is on the merchant community: the approach treats commercial core historic buildings as a mer-

chant's best image and promotional assets. The approach gains interest



Arthur Ave	Renfrew	McDougall Mill Museum
301 Barnet Blvd	Renfrew	Airth House
O'Brien Rd (Renfrew Industrial Park)	Renfrew	The Gibbons House - designation repealed 1999 (demolished)
152 Plaunt St	Renfrew	Renfrew Fire Hall
91 Plaunt St S	Renfrew	Bonnington House - designation repealed 1987
154 Quarry Ave	Renfrew	The Fraser House
86 Queen St	Renfrew	The Hoch farm - farm house & barn
276 Ragan St S	Renfrew	Rhonda Ann Fashions
Ragian St	Renfrew	swinging bridge
248 Raglan St S	Renfrew	the Mackay Building
254 Raglan St S	Renfrew	Fraser's Mens Apparel (former Mackay general store)
262-268 Raglan St S	Renfrew	Victorian commerical buildings
270 Raglan St S	Renfrew	Toronto Dominion Bank
274 Raglan St S	Renfrew	Sidney's Discount Store
278 Raglan St S	Renfrew	The Barnet Block
301 Raglan St S	Renfrew	The Chown Block
340 Raglan St S	Renfrew	O'Brien Apartments
223 Raglan St S at Renfrew Ave E	Renfrew	The Handford Block - designation repealed
13 Raiway Ave	Renfrew	Renfrew Carnegie Library
254 Raglan St S	Renfrew	Fraser's Mens Apparel (former Mackay general store)
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223 Raglan St S at Renfrew Ave E	Renfrew	The Handford Block - designation repealed
13 Railway Ave	Renfrew	Renfrew Carnegie Library

1855 and support of the residential community - launches a cycle of renewal focussed on the downtown. It is important to go about the restructuring such that the revitalized downtown core can compete with the box stores and the malls. Done properly, the downtown becomes a place to be, not a place to flee.

1850  
1913 Almonte Ontario's approach to adaptive re-use of the downtown core, it was explained, was marked by the following attributes: there was no conventional financing; it was led by architects working directly with builders, and owners; it was tackled in increments, as the money became available.

1913  
1896 Additionally, the accommodation created is diverse, less expensive than new accommodation of the same size. Finally, the downtown core and its mill buildings turned around in 15 years. Today there is a growing downtown resident population, but there are no designated properties

1894 Heritage is about stories, and there are many opportunities to involve local people in learning about, communicating these stories, and bringing them back to life.

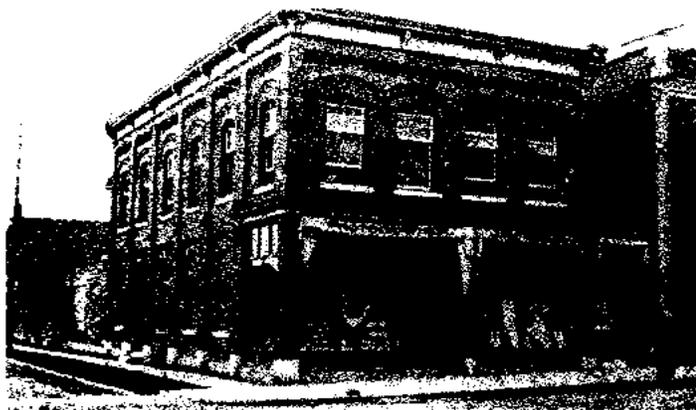
1909  
1903 Sharing the stage with Professor Herb Stovel was Andrew Jeanes, a representative from the Ministry of Culture. Mr. Jeanes spoke on "Heritage in Renfrew: Working with the Provincial Heritage Framework". Jeanes emphasized that municipal cultural planning involves the strategic and integrated planning and use of cultural resources in economic and community development, and it recognizes the important

1915  
1901  
1897  
1901 role of culture in establishing a sense of place, attracting and retaining talent and creating new wealth. "The great thing with culture is the opportunity to achieve quick wins, and get started on small projects right away: get doing at the same time that you get planning. A lot can be done by mobilizing your volunteer sector. When it comes to waste diversion,

1894  
1909  
1903  
1915 nothing beats re-using an old building; between 20-30% of landfill in Canada is construction and demolition waste

Existing building stock can provide affordable housing (for example, unused upper floors in commercial buildings)." Jeanes later confirmed that Renfrew has 15 designated properties; that the last designation was recorded under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1983 and the Handford Block was designated in 1982. If you would like to learn more about these presentations, come and speak to members of Heritage Renfrew anytime.

Listed above is what is believed to be a complete list of heritage-designated properties in and around Renfrew.



The Handford Block, then and now.



*The following publications and excerpts are available for purchase at Heritage Renfrew:*

Castleford Union \$9.00, Goshen Cemetery \$15.00, Sand Point Cemetery \$6.00, Flat Rapids Cemetery \$6.00, St Alexander's Cemetery R.C. \$8.00, Hillcrest Public & Lakeside \$9.50, Our Most Precious Blood Cemetery \$8.00, Springtown cemeteries \$8.00, Malloch Road Cemetery \$30.00, White Lake Cemetery \$20.00, North Horton Cemetery \$12.00, Haley Cemetery, \$10.00, Rosebank Cemetery \$15.00, Admaston Public Cemetery, \$12.00, St Andrew's Cemetery \$10.00 Opeongo Road Cemeteries \$12.00 Mt St Patrick Cemeteries \$12.00 plus Mailing cost of \$3.50 for first publication and \$1.50 shipping and handling cost, plus mailing cost of \$1.50 each for additional items purchased.

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Membership Expiration Notification: Subscribe to Opeongo Lines for the new year! Subscriptions for the calendar year are \$15.00 (\$20.00 outside of Canada). With subscription comes membership and membership gives you: the latest Heritage Renfrew news updates in Opeongo Lines, access to microfilm & microfiche collections held at Heritage Renfrew, including Census Records, Local newspapers (Renfrew Mercury, Renfrew Advance and the Renfrew Weekender), Land records, Birth, marriage & Death excerpts from local papers and other sources, general information, maps, and Cemetery transcripts & reference books.

## *Heritage Renfrew Appointments 2008*

### Executive

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613-646-2375

**Home Children**

**Dave & Kay Lorente**

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**Research**

**Darlene Mask**

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**Directors**

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### Past Presidents Advisory Committee

Kay Gollinger Lorente

Marge Lindsay

Dorothy Skinner

John Steele

Doris Humphries

### Honorary Directors

Marjorie Lindsay

Carol McCuaig

Helen Clark

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## **Heritage Renfrew Meetings**

Won't you join us? Heritage Renfrew meets on the first Tuesday of each month, July and August excepted, at 7 p.m. in the Heritage Room at the Renfrew Archives, 770 Gibbons Road, National Archives of Canada facility (off O'Brien Road). You will be a welcomed addition to our team of Renfrew historians and genealogists. Share with us your research interests. We will be pleased to include your interests in our quarterly newsletter. Share stories and questions, share successful research experiences and advice. The accumulated experience amongst members of Heritage Renfrew is remarkable. See you soon?



Heritage Renfrew Home Children  
Canada Committee  
David Lorente, Founder  
107 Erindale Ave  
Renfrew ON, K7V 4G3  
<lorente@sympatico.ca>  
ANNUAL REPORT ON 2008  
ACTIVITIES and PLANS FOR 2009

Tempora mutantur et nos mutantur in  
illis - Times change and we change with  
them.

Home Children Canada Committee  
founders have long been members of  
BIFHSGO - the British Isles Family History  
Society of Greater Ottawa. Indeed in the  
early 1990's, it was after a presentation to  
this newly-formed group in which I had  
told of my four-year search in my retire-  
ment at the National Archives through  
unindexed ship manifests for my home  
boy father's port of entry data, that my  
friend and fellow member John Sayers  
conceived the idea that BIFHSGO mem-  
bers - volunteers all - should compile  
for our National Archives website a ship  
manifest database of the more than one  
million British children, age 18 and under,  
who had come from Britain to Canada  
without parents. John mobilized a group  
of some 30 volunteers and thanks to  
them, I - and you - can now find Dad's  
name - or indeed anyone's - in seconds.

Years later, as BIFHSGO's Home Children  
Committee of volunteers' task neared  
completion, the group became anxious  
to put their newly acquired knowledge  
of child migration to some further use,  
so they accepted another challenge I  
made in 2001 to BIFHSGO at still another  
presentation in Ottawa. And so they of-  
ficially took over the answering of all  
inquiries re locating the personal files of all  
home children. I have since directed all  
such inquiries that came my way to John.  
But I could not - and cannot at times  
- help but also respond in some way to  
those who phoned me or to friends of old

who had remained in touch for almost 20  
years. But even in those cases, I send cop-  
ies of the requests and my responses to  
John so that he could amplify on them.

But time marches on and in my dotage  
- I am now an official octogenarian - I  
realize I am increasingly anxious to find  
time to write the books I started in some  
small way years ago on

a) my own family history, b) how, in  
retrospect, Canada's official modern  
response to the child migration story has  
greatly differed from the actions taken  
by the British and Australians and  
c) the story of Renfrew Collegiate Cadet  
Corps and its marksmen in war and  
peace.

And so I shall shortly become a sort of  
hermit and de-activate - for several  
months at least - my current e-mail ad-  
dress and devote myself to organizing the  
several dozens of banker's boxes of files  
I - and my dear mother - have accumu-  
lated over a century and start writing.  
Please understand. It is most important  
that I finally do something just for my  
own siblings, my wife and six children,  
their spouses, thirteen grandchildren and  
four great grandchildren. Duty calls!

Dave

ANNUAL REPORT on 2008 ACTIVITIES  
by  
Heritage Renfrew HOME CHILDREN  
CANADA COMMITTEE

1. Total number of messages sent in 2008  
in response to HC matters .....  
.....645

2. 2009 - YEAR OF THE HOME CHILD.  
Thanks to Cecil Verge and the group  
he has headed, Nova Scotia and New  
Brunswick are the only provinces in  
Canada to declare 2009 the Year of the  
Home Child. We hope to attend their  
reunion in Cape Breton in October.

3. For info re QUARRIERS of Scotland  
Canada= Home Child HOME COMING,  
phone Fred at 416-482-5017 or E-mail  
wardle@sympatico.ca. No date has been  
set yet for the trip.

4. Our NUNNEY STATUE project to  
commemorate Canada's most decorated  
soldier for bravery - Home Boy Claude  
NUNNEY, MM, DCM, VC, has once  
again failed. The Cdn Legion Magazine  
promised to give us free publicity to raise  
funds across the country for it if we can

get someone to accept it but Cdn War  
Museum officials have not responded to  
our briefs.

5. Kudos to John Sayers and his volun-  
teers at BIFHSGO who have begun sifting  
through 270 old Federal Immigration  
volumes for Home Children names for  
their LAC files and website.

6. The British National Archives book:  
New Lives for Old: We continued help-  
ing the authors in 2006 and 2007 but  
when we saw the errors in their proposed  
working draft we realized they could not  
be acknowledged and corrected before  
the Spring 2007 publication because the  
person in charge refused to back down.  
We approached British and Canadian  
Government officials but they said they  
could not interfere. We then asked

John Sayers to send copies of official Cdn  
records that refuted what was proposed  
and we ceased our own active involve-  
ment. The book was finally published a  
year late - as we predicted. It is avail-  
able only through a UK and USA distrib-  
uter. The BNA asked us to pen our own  
critique of it. It will appear later in 2009.

7. DISPLAYS: We have produced our  
own 16 feet of Displays on Home Chil-  
dren, and RCI Cadets. We have also  
run into delays re accessing our Parks  
Canada Display and are exploring the  
advisability of having Pier 21 lend it to a  
travelling joint British-Australia Display.

8. ASSORTED OTHER MATTERS: a) We  
have:

a) privately purchased author Dr Barry  
Coldrey's CD on material he has re-  
searched in the UK on Child Migration to  
Australia;

b) assisted the CBC producers of the  
genealogical series WHO DO YOU THINK  
YOU ARE to produce a program on Don  
Cherry by providing contacts in England  
from the agency that sent his Home  
Child grandfather to Canada for him to  
interview;

c) replaced the list of 1,000+ Home Chil-  
dren from London's Westminster Diocese  
set to Ottawa's St George's Home that  
went missing at Holy Rosary Parish;

d) assisted the National Children's Home  
Rev Kenneth Mankin  
with his research;

e) sent welcome messages to the 10th An-  
niversary celebrations of Iuy Sucee's  
Barnados Home Children group in Pe-  
terborough;

f) maintained contact with and involved  
former ISS-C director Aggie Casselman

with visiting Home Boy Art Monk;  
 g) produced a photo essay for the Renfrew Mercury on the RCI Mural on the History of Renfrew;  
 h) entertained Ed Hopkins of Saskatoon who tried to involve General Hilliar in our Nunney Statue Project,  
 i) endorsed the Lochwinnow Women's Institute nomination of Former HR Director and President Doris Humphreys for the Casgrain Volunteer Award;  
 j) Contacted Paul Gross, actor and director of Passchendaele, re using his battle site to depict the life of Claude NUNNEY;  
 k) assisted author Yve Pelletier with his book on The Cemetery of Notre Dame in Ottawa;  
 l) made displays for and attended two RCI Reunions for classes in the 50's; m) interviewed and published (limited edition) free of charge The Arthur MONK Story, a Home Boy's Autobiography.

Dave

**Annual Heritage Renfrew Luncheon**  
**Trinity St. Andrews' United Church**  
**291 Plaunt St.**  
**Renfrew, ON**  
**Monday 16 February 2009**  
**11:30 AM to 2:30 PM**

**Beans, Soup & Sandwiches**  
**\$7 per person**

**Annual Heritage Renfrew General Meeting**  
**National Archives Facility on Gibbons Road**  
**beside the Best Western Inn**

**Thursday 19 February 2009**  
**7:30 to 9:30 pm**

**Featuring Valley Heritage Guest Speaker - Norm Lemke**

## Ontario Heritage Week 16-22 February 2009

The Ontario Heritage Trust has chosen the theme "Uniquely Ontario" to celebrate Heritage Week 2009. This theme offers an opportunity for communities across the province to celebrate the landscapes, architecture and traditions that make them unique. Each community in Ontario possesses its own distinctive character and Heritage Week provides an ideal platform to promote and celebrate these differences.

A special Heritage Week kick-off event is set for Friday, February 13, 10 a.m. at the St. Brigid's Centre for the Arts and Humanities in Ottawa. This event will include remarks from several dignitaries and will feature the unveiling of a new provincial plaque. The Trust will also be organizing events for some of its own museum sites such as Fulford Place in Brockville and Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden. Details of these events will be announced soon.

Communities across Ontario will celebrate Heritage Week with their own special events and activities that range from exhibits, lectures and workshops to informal gatherings and tours. The Trust is hosting a webpage dedicated to listing these Heritage Week events and activities. Please continue to visit this page, as we will be updating it often with new Heritage Week event listings.

Heritage helps build stronger communities and improves our quality of life. Working together, we can ensure that our heritage is protected for present and future generations. We look forward to an exciting Heritage Week celebration!

Renfrew Heritage Week - Heritage Renfrew Activities

On Monday 16 February 2009 Heritage Renfrew would like to raise the Heritage flag at the Town Hall to mark the beginning of Heritage Week in Ontario.

Later on, beginning at 12:00 Noon at Trinity St. Andrews' United Church, 291 Plaunt Street, Heritage Renfrew will host the Annual Luncheon. Members and friends are welcome - the public is welcome - to join us for lunch, beginning at 11:30 pm.

Two \$50 prizes will be offered for the best stories. The theme of this year's Heritage Luncheon is "Famous Founding Families from Renfrew to Douglas". One story relating to a Douglas family is eligible for a prize, while a second story relating to a Renfrew and area family is eligible for the second prize. (Personal stories are essential - previously published material is not eligible for consideration).



On Thursday, 19 February 2009, Heritage Renfrew will hold its annual general meeting. The meeting takes

place in the Atrium of the National Archives Building on Gibbons Road, beside the Best Western Inn near the Canadian Tire store on O'Brien Road.

The Annual General Meeting features Mr. Norm Lemke as guest speaker. Norm has spoken at a number of valley events. His heritage-based interests are fascinating. Following the guest speaker's presentation which will begin at 7:30 pm, the meeting will begin. After the meeting snacks and drinks will be available.

We hope that all of our members might come out to participate in the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 19 February 2009 at 7:30 pm.