

NEWSLETTER

April, 1979

No 18

The Board and Officers of Heritage Renfrew:

Officers:	Board of Directors
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and Financial Sec.	

NOTICE OF MEETING

The April Meeting of Heritage Renfrew will be held in Program Centre of the Public Library on ~~THURSDAY~~ EVE. APRIL 26, 7.30 p.m.

MR. DAVE LORENTE will give a talk, illustrated with slides on GREECE AND ROME IN RENFREW

- classical influence on local architecture.

As usual, the program will be followed by light refreshments.

The Meeting is open to the General Public. Admission is free.

BUS TRIP TO OTTAWA To Firestone Art Collection will be held MONDAY, May 14th, Bus leaves 9.15 am returns about 4.30 p.m. Tickets \$5.00. Details inside.

FIFTH UPPER OTTAWA VALLEY HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM, In Algonquin College Pembrook Saturday May 26th. Details inside.

1979 Membership

There are still a few of last year's members who have not yet renewed for 1979. It is not too late and memberships (\$3.00) may be paid to either:

Mrs. D. W. Stewart Sr.
167 Hincks St. E
Renfrew, K7V 3S3 Phone 432-2541

or
Mrs Neil Clark
163 Argyle St. S.
Renfrew Phone 432- 5423

We expect to include list of Members with next Newsletter which will be mailed only to paid up members

HERITAGE RENFREW PROGRAMS

As mentioned on Page 1 Mr Dave Lorente is our speaker for meeting on Thursday, April 26th. Mr Lorente has been to Greece and to Rome and has made a special study of the ancient architecture and taken many photographs which he has made into slides. He also has photographed many buildings which show a similarity to those of great interest to see the points of resemblance.

On Monday, May 14th we are taking a BUS TOUR to visit the Firestone Art Collections in Ottawa. The bus will leave the Bus Station, Argyle St at 9.15 a.m. Return is expected to reach Renfrew around 4.30 p.m.

Please bring your own lunch.

The return trip is to be by Almonte where we will have a conducted tour of the many historical sites in the Town.

Tickets which are \$5.00 per person are available from Helen Clark, at Neil Clark's office, 163 Argyle St.

Accommodation is limited to 47 persons and members are to have first chance until May 1st.

It is through the kind efforts of Mrs Frank Ryan that the trip to the Firestone Art Collection has been made possible. The visit to Almonte is arranged by Miss Jean Steel, President of the Almonte Historical Society. Their good work is much appreciated.

Mrs Frank Ryan, a Director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and a former resident of Renfrew initiated the negotiations which were to result in the acquisition of the Firestone Art Collection and residence in 1972. She has continued as Chairman of the Advisory Committee whose role it is to make the collection available to as many people as possible in the Greater Ottawa Area. We hope Mrs Ryan will be able to join us on May 14th.

Mr Fred Wade, formerly from Renfrew, as Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, was one of the principal participants in the arrangements to accept the Collection. This is the largest gift so far to the Ontario Heritage Foundation from an Ontario resident. In the agreement Professor and Mrs Firestone remain as curators and Professor Firestone who teaches Economics at the University of Ottawa will conduct the tour of the Collection in two groups.

The Firestone Collection was donated to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1972. Professor and Mrs O. John Firestone also gave the imposing home at 375 Minto Place in Rockcliffe which houses the collection. The house was built in 1961 with the double purpose of accomodating four young children and a large number of paintings.

The collection was started in the early 1950's with works of the Group of Seven and some of their friends. It was then extended to other Ontario artists, French Canadian painters, and finally to the Atlantic and Prairie regions. The collection reflects the personal preferences of Professor and Mrs Firestone. It has a three-part focus: historical, regional subject dimension. It also emphasises the impact since 1896 of two particular segments of the Canadian art scene: the Group of Seven and French Canada.

The collection consists of 1234 items worth more than \$500,000. It is chiefly 20th Century works and over half are by the Group of Seven

There is one room devoted to A J Casson, sole survivor of the Group of Seven with 138 paintings including one from each year of his life from 1918- 1976. There are also modern works by such artists as Harold Town, Jean Paul Riopelle and sculptor Louis Archambault as well as works by Borduas, Pellon Picker and de Tonnacour.

(Heritage Renfrew Programs Cont.) She has prepared a most informative brochure to go with the film which depicts the script. We would like to review this but have not space at this time; But we list her books of suggested sources for further reading:

Clyde C Kennedy, The Upper Ottawa Valley.
A R M Lower Great Britains's Woodyar; British America and the Timber Trade, 1763-1867
John Hughson and Courtney Bond Hurling Down the Pine
Charlotte Whitton, A Hundred Years A-Fellin'.

JUNE, 1979

We expect to have a conducted tour of Renfrew's Main Street on some fine June evening. A person knowledgeable in Architecture will explain the features of many of the handsome Victorian facades. Look for further information in the Mercury.

Donald MacKay, The Lumberjack. Incidentally when the Committee to choose a book of non-fiction for the Governor General's award started with almost 300 books they finally narrowed the list down to four, one of which was "The Lumberjacks". Of this book the Globe & Mail says: "Mackay's book (The Lumberjacks) is a superb marriage of text and pictures, a nostalgic but not sentimental discussion of one of Canada's primary industries - logging."

June 25 - July 1 is CANADA WEEK. Heritage Renfrew will be participating and details will be announced.

SEPTEMBER, 1979

Mrs Kathryn Freemark (nee Lindsay) has agreed to talk with our audience and show slides on the subject: "Bird Communities in Isolated Wood Lots". Kthy recently began a Master's program in Biology with emphasis on ecology at Carleton University, Ottawa under Professor Gray Merriam. She is assisted by a two-year scholarship from the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council.

Additional program features hopefully to be seen this spring include:
1. Renfrew Centennial 1958 film donated recently to the Renfrew Archives by Mrs Helen Hobs on behalf of her sister in Winnipeg.
2. Audio-visual presentation of LUMBERING IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Heritage Administration Branch, after the Ottawa Valley Heritage Conference held in Arnprior in October, 1978.

M. Lindsay
L A C A C Renfrew

Miss Vrenia Ivonoffski, Community Projects adviser, who did such a very outstanding job in organizing the Arnprior Conference writes: "I became very attached to the Ottawa Valley during the Arnprior Conference and no am always keen to keep informed about developments in the area."

In February Renfrew Town Council appointed 7 members to the local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee to serve one year, and to replace the first committee of 5 members appointed in June, 1977, under the Ontario Heritage Act, 1974.

Members of new Committee are: Earl Anderson, Les Anderson, Harry Hinchley, Marge Lindsay, Lennox Vaillancourt, Mayor Audrey Green and Councillor Maureen Legris. Les Anderson is Secretary to LACAC, Harry Hinchley, Corresponding Secretary and Marge Lindsay is Chariman.

The functions of this Committee are:
(1) To advise Council which Heritage Buildings in Renfrew should be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Purpose of designation is to have owners of such buildings consult the Town about proposed exterior changes or demolition. The "Survey of Heritage Buildings in Renfrew" established the buildings that are architecturally or historically important. The Survey contains well researched reports supported by photographs. Some reports were done by volunteers using a guideline developed by Heritage Renfrew and under the auspices of that Association. Others were done by a summer student trained in research and architecture through and Ontario Government program, Experience '78. These reports may be examined at any time upon request.

(2) Public Education. i.e Publications, audio-visual presentations, plaques and other programs

To date one advisory report to designate the exteriors of 6 buildings was accepted by Council in August, 1978. These buildings are:

1. McDougall Mill Museum owned by the Town.
2. The Fire Hall, owned by the Town
3. Renfrew Public Library
4. The Gibbons Stone House owned by Industrial Commission
5. Sgt Henry Airth Stone House owned by Mr and Mrs David Stewart
6. O'Brien Opera House, O'Brien Apartments owned by Renfrew Properties Ltd.

Currently the Committee plans

- (1) Design of a local plaque
 - (2) Support of the Business Improvement Area Committee of the Retail Merchants Association in their plan for the Downtown Core.
 - (3) Support to further meetings to discuss an Opeongo Road Assoc.
 - (4) 1979 publication
 - (5) A second advisory report to Council.
- Marjorie Lindsay
Chairman

This event is to be held on Saturday, May 26th in Algonquin College, Pembroke from 9.30 a.m on. The forenoon is to be devoted to several short talks and opportunities of viewing the many displays which will be set up in the exhibition hall.

After lunch, at local restaurants there will be a short session followed by a bus trip over part of the old Pembroke and Mattawan Road.

The date is a month away and final plans have not been completed but Clyde Kennedy, as coordinator is busy on the details which is a guarantee of a good day.

The general theme is to be the early colonization and lumbering roads of the Valley. Two of the most famous are the Opeongo Road and the Pembroke and Mattawan Road.

Marilyn Miller, who wrote that excellent book "Straight Lines in Curved Space - Colonization Roads in Eastern Ontario" is to be one of the speakers. Marge Lindsay is also to give an illustrated talk on "Early Houses on the Opeongo Road near Renfrew". Leonard Quilty Reeve of Admaston, whose farm is on the Opeongo Road is to tell some things about the road as it is related to Admaston and Upper Townships.

Clyde Kennedy, who has written about many of the roads of the Valley will have some new information to give on subjects of interests.

Heritage Renfrew, and some of its members will be contributing exhibits to be on display in the hall during the sessions.

The meetings are open to anyone interested and there is no registration fee or admission charge.

As in other years, a good attendance is expected from up and down the Valley and a welcome awaits all visitors from Renfrew.

JOHN MUNRO SENIOR

by
Mrs D G Munro

- May 9th, 1807 John Munro was born in Culrain on the border of Rosshire and Sutherlandshire in Scotland. He married Barbara (name unknown) and they both came to Canada in 1836. They spent the first four years in Lower Canada where four children were born: Mary E in 1836 or 1837; John in 1838; Hughina Mackay (or McMay) in 1840 and Barbara Helen (sometimes called Ellen) in 1843. The first wife died and John afterwards married an Ellen Cameron, date unknown. In 1843 they had a daughter Catherine born in Horton Township in 1844 or 1845, 1845 John Munro had a small hotel on Smith's Creek near where Mc Veitch's blacksmith shop used to be.
- 1847 appointed one of the four wardens of the township at a meeting held in Horton school house on the 5th Concession.
- 1851, owned a hotel with 20 apartments.
- 1852 was a pathmaster
- 1852 John Munro, James McLaren and Xavier Plaunt were appointed examiners of the qualifications of the inspectors of beef and pork for Horton.
- 1853, April answered questionnaire sent out by Dept of Agriculture (abstracts from this follow)
- 1853 treasurer of County Agricultural Society.
- 1854 at a public meeting held on July 4th in Munro's Hotel, Renfrew Hon Francis Hincks was chosen candidate to represent Renfrew County in the Legislative Assembly
- 1855 won 2nd prize for best saddle horse and 2nd prize for best bushel of onions
- 1855 daughter Hughina Mackay Munro died and was buried in the family burial plot in the McDougall property.
- 1855 - pathmaster in Horton
- 1867 advertised Munro's Hotel for sale in Perth Courier possession May 1st.
- 1858 January 4th, John Munro bought from John Lorr McDougall one acre with other lands included - lots 30 and 31 for \$50.
- 1859 April 1st was at the founding meeting of the Renfrew Cemetery Co and was appointed to the Board of Directors
- 1859 Charter member of Renfrew Masonic Lodge No 122.
- 1859 was a member of Grammar School Board
- 1861 treasurer of Viillage of Renfrew
- 1862 Renfrew Masonic Lodge No 122 expressed a preciation of John Munro Sr prior to his leaving Renfrew
- 1862 March 22th sold to Agapit Lesperance 1 acre with lots 30 and 31 for \$60
- 1862 Moved to Arnprior (?) or Bytown (?)
- 1864 Nov 1st, joining member of Dalhousie Lodge No 157 at Bytown described as hotel keeper aged 58.
- 1867 January 1867 resigned from Dalhousie Lodge
- 1868 charter member of Madawaska Lodge No 196 Arnprior
- 1871 in census of Arnprior listed as foreman. He lived on Elgin St.
- 1873 returned to Renfrew to live. He built a house on Renfrew St (which is still standing). Behind this house were shed stretching to railway tracks. He went into business as a forwarder.
- 1873 May 3rd attended first meeting of Eddy's Lodge in Hull and signed the Visitors' Book.
- 1873 attended another lodge meeting of Eddy's Lodge on June 26th and signed Visitors' book.
- 1874 November Daughter Catherine was married to William Blackburn in the house on Renfrew Street.
- 1875 Signed the burial certificate for John Munro Jr in Montreal
- 1876 January 28, was a foreman of the jury investigating the the accidental death of a Jamieson in front of Munro's freight shed.
- 1877 April 23, John Munro's wife Isabella died and was buried in the family burial plot in the McDougall property.

(John Munro Senior - Cont)

1879 John Munro's name appears on list of eligible voters in elections.

1896 The directory of Bruce County shows John Munro to be a freeholder of lot 4 concession 2 in the Viillage of Kincardine.

1897 May 13th Write-up in the Kincardine paper of John Munro's 90th birthday.

1897 December 15th. John Munro died. Buried in Kincardine cemetery.

Summary of Questionnaire filled out by John Munro in Renfrew, Original in Public Archives

On April 1st 1853 John Munro replied to a questionnaire sent to emigrant farmers by the Minister of Agriculture.

He stated that he had come to Canada in 1836 from Parish of Kincardine, Rosshire, Scotland. He was a Presbyterian by religion and a carpenter and miller by trade. His post town had been Bonar Bridge. The leading men of district were Sir Chas Ross of Balnagowne Bart and H A P Munro of Novar.

John was 29 years of age, married but with no family. After paying his expenses he arrived in Canada with 5 shillings. He settled in Lower Canada where he remained for 8 years.

Wild land was selling in Horton Township for 8 shillings per acre. John Munro paid cash for land in the township. By 1853 he had $\frac{3}{4}$ acre cleared and he valued his land at \$1 per acre. He valued his property including buildings and improvements at \$550.

Wages for labor were \$8 - 10 per month with board for male servants and \$3 per month with board for females.

John Munro owned 3 horses and 4 cows. He valued the horses at \$15 to \$30 and the cows at \$4 to \$6.

Under General remarks

John Munro wrote:

"This village is situated in the midst of a well settled country and has flourished beyond anticiipation for the last six years, and I am convinced that had the proprietors of our splendid water power (the Second Chute of the Bonnechere) improved it or disposed of it to those who would - our village would have been now double its size and population."

(signed) John Munro
Renfrew, April 1st, 1853

"I certify that I know John Munro Esq of Horton and that the statements he has made in answer to the foregoing questions put to him by the Minister of Agriculture are substantially correct.

(Signed) William Faichney
BOOK REVIEW Reeve

Marc Denhez Heritage Fights Back
Don Mills: Fitzhenry & Whiteside Ltd.
1978 286 pp. many illust. \$9.95

The book reviews many phases of the heritage movement in Canada. It is described as "an indispensable handbook for any person or organization interested in saving a single building. Heritage legislation is reviewed and financial techniques are dealt with. There are 2 pages devoted to 1976 Heritage Day activities in Renfrew which is described as "perhaps the most imaginative and active Heritage Day community in Canada." It tells how Kinsmen's Club joined with Heritage Renfrew in the promotion.

Marc Denhez B.C.L. is a Montreal lawyer who is Research Director of Heritage Canada. He has been the Canadian spokesman at several international conferences on the protection of our national heritage.

- H. H.

RAGLAN STREET, RENFREW

(From the LACAC Book issued for the Peterbor Conference, August, 1978)

Concluded:

A few doors further north is the Renfrew Municipal Building built in 1893 by the Sons of Temperance, a local temperance society. At that time Temperance Societies, dedicated to the promotion of abstinence from alcoholic beverages were strong organizations and were able to finance the construction of temperance halls for public use. For many years this building was known as the Temperance Hall and a stone with this name was embedded in the brickwork. For many years Renfrew's Temperance Hall was used as the town's public hall and theatre until taken over by the Municipality and used as a Town Hall and Municipal Offices.

Across the street from the Municipal Building is Low Square so named in honor of Hon Thomas A Low who was elected to the House of Commons three times as Member for South Renfrew. He became Minister of Trade and Commerce in Mackenzie King's cabinet. He was for many years one of Renfrew's leading industrialists and business men. The stone memorial in the centre of the square was his gift to the town.

The square was originally a field in front of Xavier Plaunt's stone house, later the Albion Hotel. It was used for many years as Renfrew's Market Place. After the property was taken over by the town Low had it landscaped and planted and made into a park. In gratitude for his generosity the town named the area Low Square.

Raglan Street was likely named after Lord Raglan, the commander of the British forces in the Crimean War. This war which ended about the time the lower end of the street was being surveyed and developed as a subdivision in 1857 by John Lorn McDougall one of Renfrew's pioneers.

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The stone grist mill which McDougall built about this time is still a prominent feature of the lower end of the street over the Bonnechere River. It is now the McDougall Mill Museum.

About a mile further north but easily visible from most of Raglan Street is Renfrew's famous Pinnacle, a high range of hills that has withstood the grinding of the glaciers that covered Renfrew thousands of years ago during the ice age. High on the Pinnacle like a white speck is the "White Rock" a huge erratic boulder carried and dropped by the glaciers. --- H. Hinchley

HISTORICAL PLAQUES OF THE VALLEY

The Pembroke and Mattawa Road

At the Tourist Information Booth
Riverside Park Highway 17, Pembroke

Constructed primarily as a supply route to the lumber camps in the Upper Ottawa Valley, this colonization road was begun in 1853 and opened the following year as a winter road from Pembroke to the mouth of the Mattawa River. The relocating of a portion of the road between Petawawa and Point Alexander in 1863 and improvements on other sections resulted in the opening of some forty miles for year round traffic in 1867. Eight years later the entire 98 miles was completed. Some sections of the road were later incorporated into the present Highway 17, but a long section of the original road remains between the Canadian Forces Base, Petawawa and Deep River.

QUIZ

In the Valley there are four plaques with historical errors permanently cast in metal.

Where are they?

WHO CAN TELL OF THE REIDS
OF FERGUS LEA WOOLLEN MILL?

A letter to "Heritage Festival Committee" has been received. It reads as follows:

In February 26, 1979 issue of Macleans Magazine I saw an article stating that the Town of Renfrew has had its 6th Annual Weeklong Heritage Festival recalling the community's 122-year history.

My great grandfather, Ephriam Reid and his wife Elizabeth came to Renfrew County in 1842 from Paisley Scotland. They set up a carding mill at edge of Smith's Creek. I think a woollen mill was later set up on the West Bank of Reid's Creek near Reid's Lake which I think is about 5 miles south of Renfrew. They had 8 boys and 4 girls. All grew up in Renfrew area.

After death of Ephriam in 1887 sons Samuel and Charles ran the mill until they joined the march westward to Saskatchewan in 1902. They came west to Indian Head and later settled in Francis, Sask.

Samuel Smith, Reid (my grandfather born 1882 and his sister born 1884 (both born in Renfrew County) came west with their parents in 1902 and settled in Francis, Sask. in 1903.

My father (Samuel Reid) farmed in the Francis district until 1944 when he retired and moved to Regina. he died in 1964.

My sons still farm in Francis district. I live in the next town, Sedley.

No doubt when you have these long heritage festivals there are brochures and periodicals in hour papers about the history of Renfrew. I would appreciate you sending me some of these items. I will gladly reimburse you for any cost to you.

I would like to have the names of people there who may trace their ancestry back to the Reid family,

(signed) Marion Connaughty
(nee Reid) Sealey, Saskatchewan

SQG 4KO

REGIONAL COUNCIL AT PERTH Page 8

Heritage Renfrew was represented at Regional Council held in Perth on April 7th by Marge Lindsay, Dorothy Skinner, Clyde Kennedy and Harry Hinchley. About 60 representatives from heritage groups and historical societies of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec were present. Regional Councils, sponsored by Heritage Canada are held in all parts of the country from coast to coast where heritage bodies may get together and discuss common problems and matters of interest.

The morning meeting was devoted to business. Dr James Pendergast of Merrickville District Historical Society was elected President and Miss Jean Cameron of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society, Cornwall was elected Secretary. The fall meeting is to be held in Brockville.

The meetings took place in the McMartin House built in 1830 and recently restored and made usable by Ontario Heritage Foundation. It is now used by the Senior Citizens.

After a substantial lunch served by the Senior Citizens the afternoon was devoted to some studies of the Heritage buildings of Perth.

There was a slide presentation and commentary by Mrs Jean Norry of the University Women's Club dealing with the Stone houses of Perth. This was followed by visits to the Matheson House, now the Perth Museum and to the "Inge-Va" house where by courtesy of Mrs G C Inderwick visitors were shown through this fine old stone house built in 1823 and now owned by Ontario Heritage Foundation. It is furnished throughout with period furniture,

It was on the grounds of this property that the famous last duel in Perth was fought in 1833 as testified on the bronze plaque. The day was well worth while and of benefit to all representatives.