

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
to attend

A LITERARY SOIREE



at
the Residence of Lumber Baron '94

*Mr & Mrs J.J. McFadden
270 Lochiel Street
Renfrew*

Kindness of Janet and Tom Edmondstone

*Saturday, 28 May, 1994
8:00 p.m.*

\$10.00 per person BY INVITATION ONLY

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It is rare that Heritage Renfrew's activities are by invitation only, but that is the case with two upcoming events:

- the opening ceremony for Lumber Baron Festival '94 on 28 May, and
- the 4th Annual Reunion for Home Children and their descendants on 11 September.

A word of explanation:

THE LITERARY SOIREE

Heritage Renfrew, with the kind cooperation of Janet and Tom Edmondstone who have offered the use of their home for the event, has organized the first event of Lumber Baron Festival '94, - a turn-of-the-century LITERARY SOIREE featuring the readings of writers with Renfrew connections.

Robertson Davies will be featured. After all, he went to school here and he celebrates his 80th birthday this year. The other Davies, W.R., the English hobo poet who immortalized the kindness of Renfrew people, will also be remembered. Portage Pierre will trek in from the shanty, as will others. This is the teaser: you are invited to come and see for yourself who they are.

Doris (Pierre?) Humphries, Geo. Cooke and Kay Lorente, among others, will provide the histrionic orations. And what would such an evening be without solos by Olive Phillips with Janet Osborne at the piano! Of course, there'll be refreshments.

The Edmondstone home was once the residence of this year's Lumber Baron and his wife - Mr and Mrs J.J. McFadden. Members of Heritage Renfrew will appreciate that because the SOIREE is being held in a private home we must limit attendance to 50 on a first come, first served basis. Your invitation is attached. Please send it, with a cheque for the \$10.00 per person fee, to Heritage Renfrew Treasurer Helen Clark, at 135 Quarry Avenue, Renfrew, K7V 2W3.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS IS 16 MAY 1994. DO IT NOW
(or even sooner!)



A LETTER TO THE EDITORS OF LOCAL NEWSPAPERS RE THE FUTURE OF RENFREW'S LUMBER BARON FESTIVAL

Heritage Renfrew has been an involved sponsor of the Lumber Baron Festival since its debut six years ago. We are greatly concerned about the future of what we consider a unique and most worthwhile event.

The intent of this letter is not to criticize in any way the many dedicated volunteers who have worked so hard in the past and who are, even now, working on Lumber Baron Festival VI (LBFVI). We have the greatest praise and admiration for what they have essayed and accomplished in the past and for what they aspire to do in the years to come. We have supported them in the past, support them now, and will support them in the future because, after all, the LBF organization is working for the community as a whole and deserves every citizen's support.

Our concern arises from the fact that there appears to be dwindling support, both morally and financially.

The people of Renfrew have an enviable record in supporting good causes ranging from local sports teams, victims of mishaps, and our hospital to national charities and social agencies. However, judging from the recent campaign for funds, from individual comments and from letters received, it seems that some organizations, businesses, and perhaps even some citizens of this town have not been fully convinced that the Lumber Baron Festival is really a worthwhile cause.

Perhaps initially, in a rush of enthusiasm spurred by government grants, the sponsoring agencies assumed that the purpose or mission of the event would be clear. Hard economic times and the cutting off of all grants have forced a re-evaluation of the situation, i.e. is this an event and a cause that local organizations, businesses and people of Renfrew really want to support?

Heritage Renfrew believes that the cause is a worthy one, but the community at large must adopt it as such before it can or will support it.

The Festival Committee's financial picture has changed in the course of five years from one of government grants, corporate sponsorship and free advertising of all events to one of no grants, tight money and a need to pay as you go. This situation places a heavy burden on the LBF organizing committee and it now must devote precious time and effort to fund raising rather than to planning Festival events.

Sad to say, the Festival Committee has no access to any part of the revenue it generates by increased tourism and citizen involvement during Festival Week. Sadder still, not all those people and organizations that do benefit choose to support the Festival financially.

To summarize, the LBF Committee has no assured source of income and must rely on dedicated sponsors and the generosity of the community for all its funding.

Heritage Renfrew hopes that each citizen and, more important, each business and organization in Renfrew and district, will review the situation and dwell on the benefits that accrue from our Festival.

We believe that the Lumber Baron Festival is unique for historic, cultural, educational, economic, tourist and public relations reasons. We believe that it is good for the citizens of the area and enhances Renfrew and district's image as a place to live. We believe that the overall benefits derived from the Festival are as important as any cause one might choose to mention.

It is our considered opinion that formal acceptance of this idea will raise the status of the LB organization and elevate it to the level in the community that it deserves, i.e. comparable to any other non-profit service, charitable or social organization.

We also make bold to suggest that if the LB Festival's cause or mission is formally acknowledged, then the mandate of the LB Committee must also be changed.

The burden now placed on an annually appointed committee and its chair is simply too great. The very fact that the chairperson in the past has been discouraged from running a second time is the best possible argument for a larger committee with a longer term of office. We respectfully suggest that a standing committee or board of directors with an executive secretary be appointed/elected for overlapping terms of 2 and 3 years (to ensure continuity of experience on it and on all sub-committees). We also feel that designated sub-committees should be chosen to deal with fiscal matters, planning and advertising/promotion and that the best people in town should be chosen regardless of affiliation. These committees can draw up needed SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) sheets to ensure effective long term planning and day-to-day operations.

It is singularly fortuitous that the Renfrew and District Volunteer Bureau is being formed in our community. Perhaps we could use that clearing house to locate persons interested in helping - in being executive secretary, parade marshall, public relations person, fund raiser, fan club organizer, or simply to volunteer in minor capacities.

Heritage Renfrew invites the citizens, organizations and businesses in Renfrew to fully support Lumber Baron VI. Meanwhile, we invite your response to our suggestion that the present situation be reviewed and that changes be effected to reflect the increased responsibilities that go along with running Renfrew's Lumber Baron Festival.

Address your letters to me at Heritage Renfrew, Renfrew Archives, 77 Gibbons Rd, P.O. Box 1009, Renfrew, Ont. K7V 4H4, or at my home, R.R.#4, Renfrew, K7V 3Z7.

Sincerely,



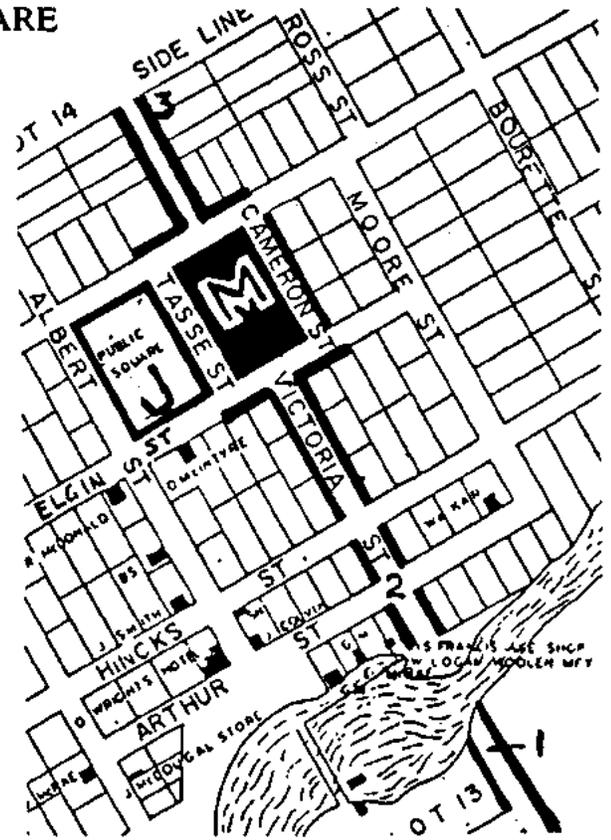
Con Hunt, (aka JR Booth, Lumber Baron '93 & J.J. McFadden, Lumber Baron '94)
on behalf of the Directors of Heritage Renfrew

ONE MAN'S DREAM.....A POTENTIAL NIGHTMARE

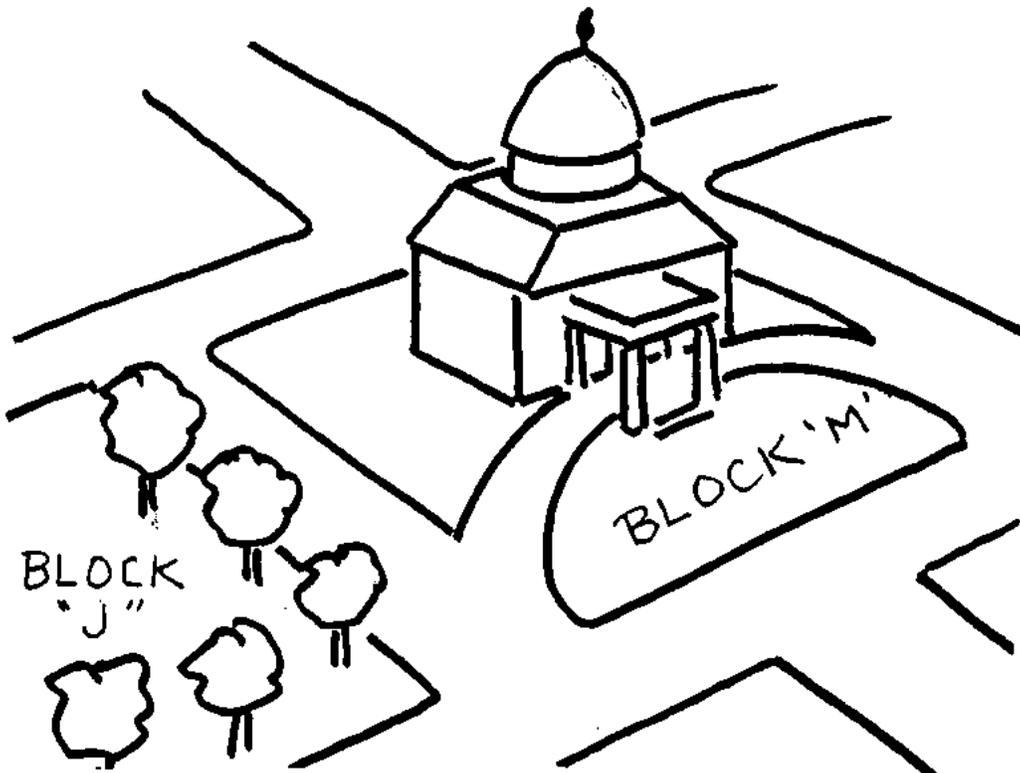
In the 1850's Sir Francis Hincks was this area's MP and the country's Prime Minister. He anticipated that Renfrew, because it was centrally located and thriving, would be the seat of the new County of Renfrew's government. Accordingly, he purchased two parcels of land on the north side of the Bonnechere and donated them to the village. One was to be the site of the new County Offices; the other was to be a Public Park next door.

This section of the 1854 map of Renfrew has been highlighted to show Block "M", the proposed site of the County Buildings, and Block "J", the Public Park next door.

1. Raglan Street S was then called Horton Street.
2. Victoria Street would later become Raglan St N.
3. Victoria Hospital would later be built here.



A hypothetical reconstruction of the proposed Renfrew County Government Offices with the Public Park next door.



When the county seat was granted to Pembroke instead of Renfrew, the Town found other uses for Block "M". Block "J" continued to be a Public Park.

Victoria Street, which gave its name to the hospital, park and schools in the area, was forced through Block "M" and the name was later changed to Raglan Street North.

Houses were built on the east side of the block and the west side was divided into lots 22, 23 and 24.

In the 1890's the Town would sell lots 22, 23 and 24 to the Renfrew Public Board of Education and the first Victoria School (known as Ward School) would be built there. Ward School would later be torn down to be replaced by a larger Victoria School. To accommodate the larger building the Board of Education bought the closed Tasse Street allowance. Block "J" continued to be used as a public park and play area.

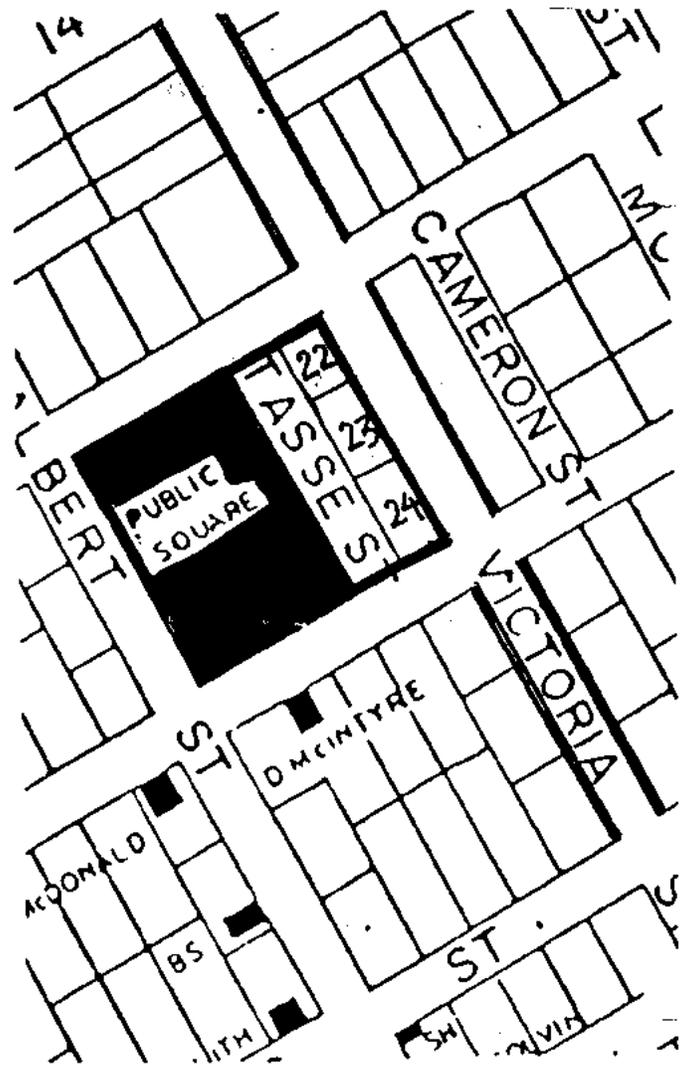
In the late 1960's County Boards of Education replaced the local Boards and took unto themselves all properties owned by their predecessors. In the case of Victoria School, this would mean, Blocks 22, 23 and 24 of Block "M" and the Tasse Street Allowance.

SO WHERE'S THE POSSIBLE NIGHTMARE?

No deeds have ever been issued or used in the transfer of land on which the school is built. And now the Renfrew County Board of Education is also claiming Block "J" - the only 'safe' Parkland in Renfrew north of the Bonnechere River. (The other parks are on the banks of the Bonnechere.)

Heritage Renfrew feels the Board has a legitimate claim to lots 22, 23 and 24 as well as the Tasse Street allowance, but not to public parkland that our citizens have been using for almost 150 years.

As we go to press we hope that Renfrew Town Council stands its grounds and that the Renfrew County Board of Education, when apprised of the facts, will act in the best interests of the children - and citizens of Renfrew - and stop what must appear to some as proposterous posturing.



THE 4th ANNUAL REUNION OF HOME CHILDREN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

This year's Reunion will be held in Ottawa at Holy Rosary Parish facilities on Wellington Street on Sunday 11 September. This same complex was once St George's Home, the only Catholic Distribution Home in Canada for Roman Catholic Home Children between 1904 and 1934. There were two such Homes in the Ottawa Valley; the Salvation Army had one across the street adjacent to the Grace Hospital. They too will be involved in the afternoon's ecumenical ceremony. The Archbishop of Ottawa will be there and perhaps two other bishops. We also hope that the former Barnardo Children and their descendants from the Bellevilla area will be able to attend.

At the Open House you'll have the chance to walk the halls, meet Home Children and hear tales of what the Little Immigrants' story is all about. There will be an exhibit of posters on Home Children and displays by families who meet the challenges made in the past by the Stone, Smith and Brennan families. Local, provincial and federal government officials will be there. A Cabinet minister will bring greetings from the Prime Minister. Barnardos After Care in England have offered to send someone over. There is a strong possibility that we will have another surprise visitor from the UK. We also hope to be able to announce at that time that Heritage Ontario will erect a provincial historic plaque on the site within the year....the first such plaque in Ontario's history.

There's a farmer's market nearby so expect parking to be almost impossible. (We are arranging with local groups to use nearby facilities.) The church itself - our assembly area - also presents a problem because it is very small. It accommodates little more than 200. ***SO PARTICIPATION IN THE AFTERNOON'S CEREMONY MUST BE BY INVITATION ONLY AND HOME CHILDREN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS.***

There will be no charge. However, should you wish to contribute to the erection of the historical plaque in Renfrew or the one at St George's in Ottawa, you may do so at the Reunion or anytime by mail. You will receive an income tax receipt in return.

If the demand is great enough, Heritage Renfrew will send a bus down from Renfrew to accommodate Upper Ottawa Valley folk. Individuals who signify that they are interested in this bus transportation from Renfrew to Ottawa will be contacted.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR RESERVATIONS RETURNED TO THE LORENTES BY 31 MAY.

That's early.....but we have a lot of planning to do.