

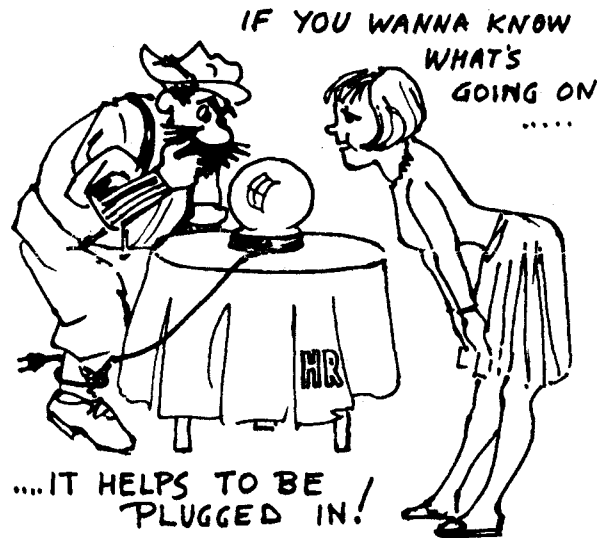
# OPEONGO LINES

*The Voice of Heritage Renfrew*

*Saving Yesterday for Tomorrow*

No 3 June 1997

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**....AND SO WE'RE TELLING YOU OF THINGS TO COME, OF A FEW RECORDS, AND SOME FIRSTS**

## **1. HISTORIA POLSKA OD RENFREW po angielsku**

*Our Polish Dictionary  
tells us that just might mean*

## **POLISH HISTORY OF RENFREW (in English)**

with expert  
*Shirley Mask Connelly*  
on Wednesday 17 September, 1997

sponsored by Heritage Renfrew

The Open Meeting will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall, courtesy of Father Mervin Coulas. There are also tentative plans for a Polish meal to precede the talk, but

details have to be worked out. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW** for what promises to be an exceptional evening! And watch your local papers and TV station for final details closer to the date. If we go ahead with the supper there will probably be a charge, but there will be no fee to attend the presentation afterwards, and as usual at Heritage Renfrew get-togethers, all are welcome.

## **2. ONTARIO TO HONOUR RENFREW'S BID FOR THE STANLEY CUP - WITH YOUR HELP!**

In the triangle formed by the cairns to Champlain's lost astrolabe (Hwy 417), the Canaan Church (Burnstown Road) and the Dacre Pioneers (Hwy 132), there are 29 historical plaques. We hope there will soon be an even 30. Ontario Heritage Foundation historians have accepted our suggestion and recommended to their Board that a prestigious Provincial Historical Plaque be erected at Ma-te-way Park to commemorate the role of Renfrew and the O'Brien family in creating the 1910 Millionaire's Hockey Team (which lost the 1910 Stanley Cup Finals), initially financing the franchise of the Montreal Canadiens, and helping to form the NHL. Such plaques cost about \$7,000 - an amount normally paid in the past by the government. However, time and the rules are changing and locals are now asked to contribute \$2,500 towards such projects. Heritage Renfrew has already contributed \$500. We are asking for contributions from individuals and local groups. We will issue a receipt for income tax purposes for all donations over \$10.00

*Cheques should be made payable to HERITAGE RENFREW and clearly labelled RENFREW MILLIONAIRES' PLAQUE. Mail your donation to HERITAGE RENFREW, P.O. Box 1009, Renfrew ON, K7V 4H4. DO IT NOW!*

Should the amount be oversubscribed we propose to use the excess funds to subsidize purchase of special Renfrew Millionaire Historical Plaque road signs from the Ontario Ministry.

## **3. APOLROD**

APOLROD is an acronym for the society that mushroomed earlier this year to solicit help in stopping the proposed shredding of Ontario Land Records which was to start 1 July 1997. The group has already succeeded in having the process delayed over a year and in having some changes in procedure accepted. Heritage Renfrew will be involved in the process of evaluation and in recommending alternative storage for Renfrew and area records. If you would like to get involved contact Olga Lewis, Frank McMahan, or Dave Lorente.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP HITS RECORD HIGH!**

Membership Chair Gordon Cross reported at our June directors' meeting that we had a record total of 282 members. However, some members have not paid their annual dues (\$6.00 per person or married couple) and he suggested that a reminder be sent out with this newsletter. We hope you will continue to support the work of Heritage Renfrew which is becoming increasingly well-known both locally and abroad. (As an illustration

of this last point, we had a visitor from Ottawa a few weeks ago who came up to do genealogical work. He was delighted to find that we had the information he was looking for and he told us in leaving that he heard about us on the Internet from a contact in Australia.)

#### **5. RENFREW ARCHIVES - "BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME!"**

Our "field of dreams" is not the size of the legendary baseball field, but it is serving the public well. Last year Renfrew Archives had over 900 users (volunteers and visitors). This year we have passed the 1,000 mark already. Special thanks to our volunteers.

#### **6. HERITAGE RENFREW MUGS!**

We invite you to bend elbows with a Heritage Renfrew Mug, whether you are tossing back milk, pop, tea, coffee, Adam's ale or....whatever! You can pick a mug at Renfrew Archives, or wait until they go on sale during the Lumber Baron Festival.

#### **7. POTENTIAL DIRECTORS & CHANGE OF DIRECTORS' MEETING DATES**

As you can see from the above, our work is constantly expanding and we know that there are members out there who have skills and knowledge that would be of great assistance to the Board. Please call any of the present executive and offer to serve as director if you would like to get involved in the work of a vibrant, active organization. We welcome your participation. We meet regularly once a month at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday at the Archives.

#### **8. LUMBER BARON FESTIVAL**

Heritage Renfrew will again be participating in this community celebration which will feature this year a Renfrew Victoria Hospital component. Lumber Baron '97 is Mr Tim Freemark who will play the role of his great-great-grandfather Andrew McCormack. Marge Lindsay is again coordinating the Strolling Players and Gladys Sidock and Sylvia Hodgins have the parade float well in hand. John Steele has arranged for a display in McPhail and Perkins window. Watch for it too.

**9. OPEN HOUSE DAYS** at Renfrew Archives during Lumber Baron Festivities are **ONLY FOR VISITORS TO THE 'FREW**. There will be two, and perhaps three, days for visitors to trace their local roots and take advantage of expert assistance.

**10. Our local GENEALOGY CLASS** meets once a month. A new course will start in the fall.

#### **RETROSPECTIVE**

Since our last newsletter we sponsored an Open Meeting at which Jim Slavin gave a most interesting talk on his recent travels in Ireland. The combination of slides, music and poetic prose was much enjoyed by all present. Maraget Ritza summed it up well when Jim stated in response to a query that he had NOT kissed the Blarney Stone. Margaret's retort brought down the house: "Well, obviously you didn't need to!"

HAVE A HAPPY SUMMER! (Whatever happened to Spring?)

## HOME CHILDREN NEWS

### 1. PROVINCIAL PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE HOME CHILDREN

The Ontario Historical Foundation will unveil a provincial plaque, the first of its kind that we know of in Canada, on Sunday June 14, 1998, at Holy Rosary Parish in Ottawa. The building was formerly Orpington House and then St George's, a Receiving/Distribution Home, through which passed almost 30,000 Home Children, most of whom were placed in the province of Quebec, many in Francophone homes.

2. **Heritage Renfrew's HOME CHILDREN CANADA 8th ANNUAL REUNION (1998)** will be held in Ottawa at that time (14 June 1998). **RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW with Dave Lorente at 107 Erindale Ave, Renfrew ON K7V 4G3 Canada Tel/Fax 613-432-2486; e-mail <lorente@renc.igs.net>.** In 1994 our cut-off was 200 and more than 300 showed up. We already have overseas speakers coming at their expense for the occasion.

3. Our aim is to **HELP** Home Children get records and to **TELL** the Home Child story. And so, since 1991 we have answered **4,000 REQUESTS FOR HELP** and this year alone have made 8 presentations in Killaloe, Cobden, Foresters Falls, Ottawa and Montreal.

4. **SPECIAL THANKS** to the Quebec Family History Society and Gary Schroder's Roots 97 Committee for co-hosting our successful 7th Reunion at McGill University. **GUEST SPEAKERS** were Teacher/Author **JOAN FOSTER** of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and **IAN WAKELING**, Archivist and Records Manager for the Church of England, who both came from overseas at their own expense. Special thanks to them and to **LIZZIE SMITH** who spoke on behalf of the Francophone descendants of Home Children. Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe whose grandfather was an Irish Home Boy was unable to attend.

5. **THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND REUNION of HOME CHILDREN and descendants IN BELLEVILLE**, sponsored by Glanmore, the Hastings County Museum, is on Sunday afternoon Sept 21. **COLLETTE BRADFORD** will be guest speaker. There is a \$10 fee for the luncheon. Information from Rona Rustige at 257 Bridge St E, Belleville ON K8N 1P4.

6. **COLLETTE BRADFORD, HEAD OF AFTER CARE AT BARNARDOS**, will be visiting Ontario cities in mid-September. To ascertain her schedule and arrange a personal interview contact her in England at Barnardos After Care. (see researcher's Kit)

7. **THE BAMPTON's HOME CHILD REUNION** is slated for Melbourne, Quebec, SE of Montreal, on September 28. Details from Pauline or Sarge at (819) 824-3478.

9. We are working on a meeting in Britain, probably in 1998, to coordinate efforts by social workers and archivists over there on behalf of Home Children.

**FLASH:** Watch for news of our **FALL COLOURS BUS TOUR** (late September or early October) which just might include a trip to the new National Archives in Gatineau.