



Peongo Lines

Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow

Heritage Renfrew Historical Society Newsletter - January 2008

In this issue:

Renfrew - 150 Years Young
Service Clubs of Renfrew
The Value of Volunteers

Renfrew

150 Years Young

The Celebration has Begun
Marjorie Lindsay and friends (left) looked better than the 150-year old apparitions some of the good-natured onlookers tended to want to call them. No, these four high-spirited non-spirits actually did a splendid job adding much to the festive nature evident in the throng that gathered to help open Renfrew's year of celebrations marking the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the town in 1858. Doug and Gladys Sidock, Norm and Kathy Dagg, along with countless others have crafted a super itinerary that twelve months from now will give us pause to thank them for the effort these wonderful volunteers have put in to bring history and heritage alive, in this town of ours.

The flag (left) was raised at Town Hall by Her Worship Mayor Sandi Heins, Father Peter Proulx performed the important ministerial association duties, and about 100 people gathered to pay respects not just to country, but also to kin - ancestors and early comers who forged the "Second Chute"



Peongo Lines is published four times per year, at a cost of \$3.00 per issue for non-members, free for members of Heritage Renfrew. Memberships are available for \$15.00 per year or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership. There are approximately 115 members in the Heritage Renfrew Genealogical Society.

from swamp, jungle-like thicket and forest into a thriving community that today remains relatively robust at 8,500 citizens. Added to the voices of our federal (Cheryl Gallant), provincial (John Yakabuski) and municipal officials were the musical refrains offered by Reverend and Mrs. Jim Wall, as well as a talented vocal chorus (below). Doug Millar was congratulated for his winning song "Renfrew: Jewel of the Valley" - a song that will serve as theme for the year-long celebration.

Finally, anyone interested in learning more about the upcoming activities is encouraged to consult the www.renfrew150.ca web-site for a complete and updated calendar of events.

In future issues we plan to publish articles on various service clubs in Renfrew. If you are a member of a service club, won't you write us to tell us about your club?



Renfrew's 150th Anniversary Celebrations were marked by song and and prayer. The spirit of Renfrew is strong, and 2008 promises to be a banner year for our town, if we could just get it to stop snowing.

Heritage Renfrew Annual General Meeting - February 5th, 2008 - featuring Isobel Eastman

Heritage Renfrew will hold its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday February 5th, 2008, at 7:00 PM at the Air Force Association of Canada lounge located in the former Hockey Arena on (264) Argyle Street, downtown Renfrew.

This year's Guest Speaker is Isobel Eastman, a local author, who has written about life and living in rural settings, like that of Renfrew. Born and raised on a Pakenham farm in Lanark County, and long-time resident of Carleton County for the past fifty years, Isobel Eastman is a talented writer full of vivid stories that will resonate with anyone and everyone who can either relate to rural experiences of their own or can trace their own roots back to ancestors who toiled in such settings long ago. The Air Force Association of Canada's Companions' Program this year is blessed with our Luncheon Speaker Isobel Eastman. Saturday 13 October



2007 12:45 PM Embassy West Hotel, Ottawa, Canada.

Finally, this will be an important year for Heritage Renfrew. A definite lack of interest in some of our key Board positions has revealed that the archives can no longer be effectively managed using former practices. It will be up to the membership to decide upon the viability of anticipated constitutional amendments. However, without your attendance your Board of Directors will have to affect such changes without the benefit of your sage advice. Some of these anticipated changes concern how to provide services to visitors and what services should be offered, if at all; how often will the Heritage Renfrew committee(s) meet; how many Directors is to be considered a quorum, etc...Again, it will be important for members to provide their views, and the Annual General Meeting offers up such an opportunity. Won't you participate? We hope you will. See you on February 5th at 7:00 PM in the Air Force Association of Canada lounge

From the President:

The year 2007 is now behind us, my first in the capacity of President. I know that those directors who remain interested in the well-being of Heritage Renfrew join me in looking anxiously toward our future, which might seem odd for a group of municipality-focused historians. Four Executive positions have remained vacant for much of the year, leaving some of us to wear two hats.

Heritage Renfrew's problems, vis-a-vis volunteers, are not any different from those afflicting other similar organizations. Thankfully, while Heritage Renfrew's mission is important, activities and support can decline significantly before the doors have to be closed. The question, today, is whether we should close our doors, and if we did what should be done with Heritage Renfrew's collection?

To be sure, these are not alarm bells sounding. These are merely suggestions for discussion at our next Annual General Meeting. As your President I am obliged to hold true to the Heritage Renfrew Constitution and By-laws, in respect of the number of Directors specified as essential or important for the efficient running of Heritage Renfrew. Rather than close the doors, with the cooperation of active Directors and Executive members we could be convinced to scale down the constitution and expectations with the promise that Heritage Renfrew will continue to fulfill its core mission, preserving the history of Renfrew and environs, and helping those in need of research assistance and material.

I hope as members of the Heritage Renfrew that each and every one of you will take seriously the need for volunteers, the need for amending the constitution, and the possible need for finding a future home for the vast and professional collection that is Heritage Renfrew's. Your input on any of these three issues will be most important and much appreciated. I look forward to speaking with you and meeting you at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

Dean Black

RESEARCH:

For those wishing to do research at Heritage Renfrew we have the following aids to help you in your research: The census records for Renfrew County from 1842 to 1901; Census records for Pontiac County from 1842-1901; Census records for Lanark County from 1851-1901; Family histories of local residents which were researched and donated by members; Church records on microfilm, St Francis Xavier Church, Renfrew, Our Lady of Angels Wilno Church; St Patricks Church records which are in binders from 1846 to 1908; Esmonde Roman Catholic Church records up to 1910; We have cemetery recordings for cemeteries local and some for the surrounding area; We have the Ontario Marriage records for Renfrew County done from 1869 to 1890; The books written by Carol McCuaig which have a lot of information on families who settled in this area and who also came into this area from other counties; The Renfrew Mercury from 1871 to 2004 on microfilm; Les and Aldene Church's BMD's from the Renfrew Mercury from 1871-1926; You can order in microfilms from the National Archives for research. It saves going down to Ottawa to do the research where the cost of parking is very dear indeed. There is no parking at the National Archives building; There are many reference books some purchased and some donated that are very helpful for research; There is also the IGI series on Microfiche of families all over the world with baptisms, marriages on them; Land Records also on Microfiche.

We have two reader printers to assist you in printing out information from microfilms. Cost of print outs is 25 cents for each copy; We have microfiche readers also as well as microfilm readers without the print out facility; We are open to the public two days a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays and a volunteer should be available to assist you; On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays you can make an appointment with one of the following volunteers and come in and do your research then. Olga Lewis 432-6958 Joyce McBride 646-2375, Martin Munhall 432-2225. We welcome you to our facility and hope to see you there.

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

Home Children Report

HOME CHILDREN COMMITTEE REPORT on December 2007 Activities for Meeting of Heritage Renfrew Directors, 2008-01-08

By Dave Lorente

1. Total number of messages sent in 2007 to end of Dec in response to HC matters: 857
2. CBC TV's segment on DON CHERRY's search for home child grandfather's records has been delayed to Thursday Jan 10 at 7:30 pm on local Channel 8.
3. NEW LIVES FOR OLD, the British National Archives book on home children is expected to be published in the UK this month (Jan).
4. The ORPHAN TRAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA is amalgamating with another group and may cease to piggy-back the Home Children Canada website which Bruce Ayler of Oklahoma designed and has managed free of charge for years. Special thanks to Bruce.
5. BRITISH ARMY WW I records are now being made available in the UK.
6. The HISTORY DEPT, St Michael's Catholic High, Kemptonville, hopes to invite us to address their classes on Home Children and Claude Nunney. This group was featured in the Ottawa Citizen and on TV in Nov for completing life size WW trench project on school grounds.
7. What HOME BOY Art MONK has completed too date on 4 chapters of his autobiography is in the layout stages. We are integrating photos with the completed chapters.
8. We have received Dr B Coldreys's DVD of research material on child migrant. H.R. might wish to consider packaging some of our research material in a similar profitable fashion. Such a move might enhance the collating and indexing of our holdings to international standards.
9. Re the proposed Nunney Statue:
 - a) We met with the editor of The Royal Canadian LEGION Magazine in Ottawa and showed him the statue we had commissioned. He was much impressed especially by the fact that Nunney was depicted with his back to the enemy and his rifle was over his shoulder as he exhorted his Canadian comrades of Ottawa's 38th (Cameron Highlanders) to follow him when they went over the top and took the hitherto impregnable Hindenburg Line on Sept 2, 1918.
 - b) We also discussed a possible article in Legion Magazine on Renfrew's Martin Cybulski who made the first Allied intrusion air raid into Germany in WW II.
 - c) We were given specific connections to meet with this month at the CWM re the statue.
 - d) Edward Hopkins of Saskatchewan has followed up on his promise to contact General Hillier and the Hon. Josee Verner, the Minister of Cdn Heritage re our Nunney Statue project. This will entail our communicating with both parties and others in military, museums etc.
10. Syd Baker's HCC website (BC) has shut down because of his wife Daisy's serious illness.

Have you got an interesting wedding photograph, of your ancestors? Can you boast of owning the oldest wedding photograph? Is there an especially interesting story to tell, in regards to an antique wedding photograph of your ancestors? You could win \$50.00. During our Heritage Week Luncheon (18 February 2008), beginning at 11:30 AM in our usual location (Trinity St. Andrew's Church 291 Plaut St. S.) we will be judging your antique wedding photo, and the story it has to tell. Lunch follows our annual Heritage Flag Raising Ceremony in front of Town Hall. We are particularly interested in wedding photos from the mid- to late 19th century. Come join us for a light lunch, and bring your oldest wedding photograph. A collection of the most interesting photographs will be submitted to the Renfrew Mercury as part of our 150th Anniversary.

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 \$9.00, 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, Admas-ton 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.

Upcoming Events

5 February 2008, 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM - Heritage Renfrew Annual General Meeting, to be held at 264 Argyle Street, (RCAF Association Lounge)
18 February 2008, Heritage Renfrew Luncheon and Flag Raising Day
2008 - 150th Anniversary of the Corporation of the Town of Renfrew



Heritage Renfrew Executive Appointments and Active Members 2007

Executive

President Dean Black 613-432-4354, dblack@sympatico.ca

Past-President Audrey Green 613-432-4354

Vice-President - Vacant

Treasurer - Vacant

Secretary Darlene Mask 613-432-6242

Membership Chair Joyce and Clarence McBride 613-646-2375

Home Children -Vacant

Research Darlene Mask 613-432-6242

Newsletter Publishing Editor Dean Black, 433-3305 dblack@sympatico.ca

Active Directors

Vaughn/ Grace Simmons 613-432-2376, Stella Laviolette 613-432-7722,

Irene Rekowski 613-432-3423, Pat Patterson, Dave Lorente, Jim MacGregor.

Active Members of the Past Presidents Advisory Committee

Jim MacGregor, Vaughan Simmons, Marjorie Lindsay, Dave Lorente

Honorary Directors

Carol McCuaig, Helen Clark, Don Campbell

Active members are those who continue to contribute to Heritage Renfrew's mission. We meet every first Tuesday of every month, except July and August. Come and join us, and share with us your stories, your books and your accomplishments. We look forward to your company. If you cannot make it to the meetings give us a call. We would be

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?

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.