



# Opeongo Lines



Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow  
The Heritage Renfrew Newsletter—Fall 2008 Edition

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

## On the Meaning of Heritage

If we think about the term "heritage" we gain a sense that it has something to do with our ancestors. We tend to inherit much, from those who went before us, and the very word "inherit" contains a component "herit" which is also found in the word we are exploring - "heritage".

Understanding the meaning of the term "heritage" helps one to understand the role of Heritage Renfrew.

The kinds of things we tend to inherit from our ancestors, are the kinds of things that Heritage Renfrew tends to make its business.

Cultural heritage, for example, consists of a nation's historic monuments and museum collections. Natural heritage consists of fauna and flora, natural resources and the landscape around us. Traditional heritage consists of those customs and practices we inherit from our ancestors.

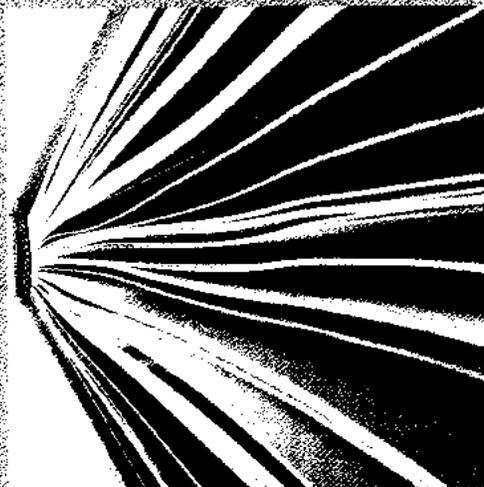
If we put all of this together, in an attempt to respond to those who might ask what Heritage Renfrew is all about, then we have a difficult time ignoring how important can be the role of Heritage Renfrew. Even still today Heritage Renfrew is a mere shadow of its former self. Nevertheless, an important issue presents, and it is up to the current members of Heritage Renfrew to determine how they plan to respond. The issue concerns the impending (to some) construction

of yet another drug store, in our town. This time its another "box" store, in our downtown. The question for Heritage Renfrew is this: Is a "box" store in the middle of downtown Renfrew compatible with our conception of heritage?

For one thing this "box" store drug store will be built on land currently occupied by "heritage"-type buildings, that include the Renfrew Bowlodrome and Breen Insurance. The buildings located on that block were built circa 1915-1925 and, like many buildings of their era invoke a certain amount of sentimental attachment.

"Heritage", however, must go beyond the sentimental, to also focus on the utilitarian aspects of what is about to be lost. Those aspects that resonate with residents are the aspects that

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- *An excerpt from : One Hun-dred Years of Presbyterian-ism in Renfrew County: 1830-1930*

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1881 one of the best attended meetings of the Renfrew Mechanics' Institute took place in the Temperance Hall. Once the minutes of the previous meeting were read the President asked a sub-committee assigned with the responsibility to investigate the matter of the Chambers' Encyclopedia to report on their findings. Messrs. P. Devine, J. Ward and J. Clark had been appointed at the behest of J.H. Walford to conduct the investigation following a complaint leveled by Mr. A. Smallfield.

According to Mr. Smallfield the Encyclopedia had been purchased for the library, but had gone missing. However, Mr. Walford had mentioned at the previous meeting that he had personally sold the Encyclopedia. [It should be noted that Walford was the proprietor of a large store which among other things

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**"Heritage Editorial Continues"**

should be brought out in a defence of "heritage" buildings, artifacts and traditions we might wish to prolong or preserve.

An "heritage"-based defence of one's downtown should probably reflect on the utility of a building, like a box-store, after the box-store owners pack up and leave. Currently, the three proprietors who have apparently agreed to sell their businesses to make way for the box-store retailer, occupy buildings that are useful, and are easy to turn over, to a new retailer. Unfortunately, the same probably cannot be said for prospective retailers looking to set up shop in Renfrew. If, when the previous box-store retailer leaves, but those who come behind cannot make use of the huge space which has been vacated, how utilitarian is the "box-store" in the first place.

These and other issues should be raised in November, when Heritage Renfrew will invite Professor Herb Stovel who "is widely acknowledged to be one of the foremost international experts in the conservation field today. Acting as trainer, educator, facilitator, adviser, author, negotiator and conflict manager, he brings his expertise to the fields of architectural and urban conservation, cultural landscape management, and risk management and preparedness, and is credited with developing many of the key principles and doctrinal texts by which conservation is carried out in Canada and abroad".

Do you have a viewpoint you wish to share? Write to us today to share your views. Information on future discussions related to this issue can be obtained by writing to the editor.



*Renfrew & Area Heroes from the Great War -*

*Lest We Forget*

- Campbell Grey
- James Leacy
- Colin Hickey
- Joseph Pritchard
- Alex McLaren
- Ian McKinnon
- Alfred Gagnon
- Sidney Catchpold
- Alfred Anderson
- Joseph Doyle
- Alex Shields
- Douglas Shearer
- Allan H. Eady
- A.T. Johnston
- Patrick Turner
- Wilfred G. Wilson
- Patrick Kenne
- James Duff
- Allan McPherson
- W.B. Henderson
- Harold ...
- W.B. ...
- Sidney ...
- Mac ...
- De ...
- Le ...
- Robert Black
- Alex McAllister
- Clinton McArthur
- Roy Dagg
- Jay Proudfoot
- Wm Graham
- Caldwell Scobie
- E.C. Thacker
- J.H. Richardson
- Stewart McTavish
- John McKeddle
- David McLaren
- E.C. Coles
- Stewart McTavish
- John McKeddle
- David McLaren

- Ferguson Bremner
- Cameron Mackay
- Lorne V. Frood
- Michael Narlock
- John Hastings
- Nelson Dempsey
- John Troy
- Samuel J. Dempsey
- George Philip Dupuis
- James Harty
- Wm J. Stewart
- Stuart Ridge
- Robert V. Anderson
- Douglas Bennett
- Gordon ...
- Arthur ...
- Gordon Harold Main
- Bob ...
- Quinn ...
- Wm ...
- Alfred Johnston
- Ernest Fishenden
- Charles Williams
- Stanton Clark
- Clarence Boyd Frood
- F.C. Carter
- Frank McGowan

- Thomas McGowan
- Wm. J. Young
- Ivan Grey
- Clarence James
- Sibary
- Samuel Wight
- Rev. J.H.H. Christie
- John Cregan
- William Wight
- Thomas S. Walker
- Duncan W. Graham
- John Leterski
- Bernard S. McIntyre
- Douglas Morrow
- Arthure Leslie Hendry
- Charles L. Porter
- George McArthur
- Arthur Fishenden
- Peter Cybulski
- Anthony Cybulski
- Mackie Muirhead
- May they rest in peace forever
- May they never be forgotten
- May their sacrifice bring about an end to all Great Wars

## "Book Along the Bonnechere Continues"

sold books and stationery]. Word added at the time that the Encyclopedia never did belong to the library anyway. Owing to "the manner in which the Encyclopedia had been kept" the investigating committee was unable to investigate the matter to their satisfaction. Nevertheless, they did recommend that the Committee accept Mr. J.H. Walford's offer to purchase the encyclopedia for \$25.00 on the condition that the Committee or Institute reimburse Mr. Walford \$21.00, which according to Mr. Walford was owed to him. Mr. Devine further elaborated that the state of the minute book prevented further investigation because the book had been tampered with. The minutes of the previous meeting in 1879 ended abruptly and a subsequent page had been torn from the book making it impossible to learn from the minutes the proper disposition of the encyclopedia.

It was clear to Smallfield from this exchange, and the admissions made by Walford during the previous meeting that something was amiss. Smallfield thus criticized the investigating committee, Mr. Devine and Mr. Walford stating he could not in good conscience accept these irrational explanations. Why, for example, would Mr. Walford be willing to purchase for \$25.00 a set of encyclopedias from the library when, according to Walford himself the encyclopedias never belonged to the library in the first place. Smallfield went on emphasizing that there was sufficient information in the books to allow someone to at least account for the committee's finances. Smallfield himself cited the funds at hand available to the committee in 1871, when a total of \$70.07 had been

available. Surely the Committee was able to account for any and all transactions undertaken with those funds.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1881 the Committee of the Mechanics' Institute was still languishing. Ten members attended the annual meeting wherein it was learned that a government grant had not been provided for, in 1870. Additionally, the controversy raised earlier in the year was continuing. Mr. Bannerman had been sent a letter asking him to account for what appeared to be missing funds. Despite his position as Treasurer he wrote back to the committee claiming no liability for the missing funds.<sup>1</sup> Reverend Campbell, James Craig and Mr. H. Carey were appointed to the sub-committee responsible for purchasing new books on which \$50.00 was expended.

1. *Renfrew Mercury*, 6 May 1881.

### **An excerpt from : One Hundred Years of Presbyterianism in Renfrew County: 1830-1930**

...In the beginning it was Scotch in the district of Bathurst. The Scotch being a fighting race, naturally were in the majority as immigrants, when their services as fighting men were no longer required. The "beginning", of course, refers to the first and second decades of the 19th century. The "services" of "fighting men" were no longer required, the author presumes, because the War of 1812 had ended, and the economies of France and Britain were devastated by war.

This feature explains why soldiers, and the Scotch element, predominated in this particular district of Canada, and it was

these sturdy pioneers who, afterwards, in search of better surroundings travelled farther into the wilderness to the West, and finally settled in and around what is now the town of Renfrew, then in the Township of Horton, bringing with them the thrifty habits and strong religious convictions formed in the land of the heather, haggis and shorter catechism...

....The Reverend Mr. Maitland, a method minister is given first position in the ministerial arrivals in Horton and McNab, and a number of others of the same faith soon followed in his footsteps. There was a Mr. Brownell, nicknamed "Boanerges", who mended boots and harness and preached the gospel. Mr. West was another of the same faith, and his peculiarity was that he was blind of one eye, his wife was similarly afflicted and so was his dog. He is credited with being the first resident Methodist minister here, but no dates as to his coming or going have been given...

...However, it is stated that the Reverend Mr. Kearns, a Presbyterian clergyman, visited the families of Horton and McNab in the homes in the early 30s, and then for a time the Rev. Mr. Fairbairn from Ramsay Township, near Perth, came occasionally to visit the people in this district. It was during one of his visits, about 1835, that one of the early tragedies of McNab took place, near Burnstown, when three people lost their lives in the Madawaska River, trying to cross in a canoe to attend church service being held at the home of Mr. Fisher on the East side of the River. In 1840 the Reverend Alexander Mann accepted charge of the widely scattered congregations of Pakenham, Torbolton, Horton and McNab.

*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.

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

President Dean Black  
613-433-3305  
dcblack@sympatico.ca  
Past-President Audrey Green  
613-432-4354  
ar.green@sympatico.ca  
Vice-President - vacant  
Secretary Darlene Mask 613-432-6242  
Treasurer - vacant  
Membership Chair  
Joyce Laird-McBride  
613-646-2375  
Home Children  
Dave & Kay Lorente  
613-432-2486  
Research  
Darlene Mask  
613-432-6242  
Directors  
Martin Munhall  
613-432-2225  
Ambrose Adamchick  
613-432-2225  
Vaughn Simmons  
613-432-2376  
Brian/Doris Long  
613-432-0887  
Stella Laviolette  
613-432-7722  
Irene Rekowski  
613-432-3423  
Olga Lewis  
613-432 6958  
Newsletter Editor  
Dean Black  
433-3305  
dcblack@sympatico.ca

### 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?

**HOME CHILDREN COMMITTEE REPORT on June Activities for Meeting of Heritage Renfrew Directors, 2008-07-01 By Dave Lorente**

1. **Total number of messages sent in 2008 to end of June** in response to HC matters:  
**343**
  
2. **2009 - YEAR OF THE HOME CHILD** - We shall attend the Nova Scotia Reunion.
  
3. **THE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM** - Still no answer to letters mailed months ago. We will submit another submission by registered mail.
  
4. **THE BNA's - NEW LIVES FOR OLD** - (UK edition) - We have enlisted the aid of a second qualified person to help with our review for a future *Opeongo Lines*.
  
5. **THE BNA's - NEW LIVES FOR OLD** (North American Edition) should now be available in the USA and Canada.
  
6. **RENFREW FISH AND GAME OFFICIALS** have been loaned more loose material re their 1950-s-1960's history.
  
7. **HOME BOY ART MONK's Autobiography:** The former Director of International Social Service- Canada, Aggie Casselman of Ottawa, spent a day with us and we drove her to Beachburg to visit Home Boy Art MONK whom she once helped to get a free trip to the UK.
  
8. **HOME BOY and SENATOR ANDREW MURRAY** of Australia will be retiring soon. He has been responsible for three studies into abuse in government "homes" for aboriginals, child migrants and Australian born 'orphans'. He has been a good friend to us and Canadian Home Children. He and one of his study groups visited Canada in 1998 at our invitation to see how we dealt with home children and he capably chaired our contentious presentation in 2001 at the International Conference on Child Migration in New Orleans.
  
9. **INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE - CANADA** has, like the mythological Phoenix, died and is risen from its own ashes after being cut last fall by the Harper Government after over 50 years of service for Canada with other countries world wide. The NGO's charter has been given new life, headquarters and financial assistance by Alberta.
  
10. **A Possible HC EXHIBITION IN CANADA AND AUSTRALIA** - Pier 21 is still negotiating with the Aussies..
  
11. **In MEMORIAM - Muriel M Davidson** - Muriel was not a Home Child but she was our go-between to Senator Lorna Milne in Home Children matters. She was also co-chair of the Canada Census Committee which successfully petitioned the Federal Gov to release the 1911 census with full family details which should greatly help in Home Children research.

**HOME CHILDREN COMMITTEE REPORT on August Activities for Meeting of Heritage Renfrew Directors, 2008-09-02 by David Lorente**

**1. Total number of messages sent in 2008 to end of August in response to HC matters:**  
**457**

**2. Art MONK's Autobiography is in its final stages.** The very limited edition should be at the printers this month.

**3. NUNNEY STATUE:**

a. Edward Hopkins of Saskatchewan visited us to give us a copy of the response he received only recently to his letter of last December to Gen Rick Hilliar. Another General wrote it in on Hilliar's behalf. It promised moral support and nothing else.

b. Sculptor Susan Murar of Stratford, who cast the bronze maquette of Nunney, sent a handsome pamphlet outlining her international achievements in Europe and North America. It will be helpful in further submissions.

c. No response yet from the CWM.

**4. The 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OUR HCC PETERBOROUGH BRANCH** chaired by Ivy Sucee will be celebrated on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. We have e-mailed our special greetings to be read to the gathering by Ivy because we shall not be able to attend in person.

**5. The neophyte party who submitted a brief full of errors to THE MUSEUM OF CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS on behalf of Home Children** without having it vetted by those who have been carrying the torch for years has chosen to no longer be associated with the idea. But the damage may be done. If the Museum accepts it as gospel and erects a display without further input it may precipitate lawsuits and undo much of the good will arising from the more positive approach we and others have taken for the last 18 years.

**6. Rev Ken MANKIN of the former Stephenson Homes (UK)** has requested our opinion of contrasting themes in some books on home children.

**7. NO FURTHER WORD yet on: - The Nova Scotia Reunion in October, - The Canada-Australia exhibit**

**8. A COPY OF THE WESTMINSTER LIST of 2,000+ Home Children sent from London north of the Thames** has been sent to the historian of the former St George's Home to replace the one that has gone missing.

**9. IN MEMORIAM GRACE SIMMONS,** though not a Home Girl herself, she and Vaughn have been very supportive of Heritage Renfrew's Home Children Canada Committee ever since we were formed in January 1991.