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PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW



Heritage Renfrew

July 2009 Edition

Heritage Renfrew

"PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"



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Internet & Phone Access

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Web-Page :
www3.sympatico.ca/renfrewarchives

Phone : 613-432-7534

Message from the President

Members of Heritage Renfrew

Heritage Renfrew has been very busy over the last few months. We have completed:

1. Application for Trillium Fund
2. Revisions to Constitution & Bylaws— thanks to Joyce McBride, Audrey Green, Olga Lewis and Pat Patterson
3. Pictures of designated heritage properties in Renfrew, thanks to Earl Martin.

A group from Heritage Renfrew visited Pembroke Archives. It was very informative and we came back with new ideas for making H.R. more organized.

Olga Lewis was interviewed on Heritage Radio. She spoke about many buildings on Main Street. She knows the history of most stores & houses on Raglan Street. Olga & Audrey are planning a book about Main Street.

At the end of July — Going Bananas Day in Renfrew Olga Lewis will be recounting what buildings were where the Rexall Drug Store is now—also the tragic events that happened there. Audrey Green will take you on a tour of the Post Office, Pat Brydges will do a tour of the Bowling Alley and I will take you on a walking tour of the north end of Raglan Street—Patrick Street to Monroe. Watch for more info in the Renfrew papers.

We are also planning a bus tour of the Pontiac near the end of August. Visiting churches in Portage, guided tour of Shawville & Fort Coulonge, visit the Chutes and then on to Fort William for dinner and an evening of music.

Hope you promote Heritage Renfrew and encourage members and non members to participate in these two events planned for the summer.

Sincerely Mary Hass President.

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HERITAGE MEETING

Join us every first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., in the Heritage Room at the Renfrew Archives



MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION NOTIFICATION

Subscribe to *Opeongo Lines* for the new year!

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2009 are **\$15.00 (\$20.00 outside of Canada)**.

Membership gives You:

- News updates in *Opeongo Lines*
- Microfilm & Micro fiche of Census Records
- Local newspapers
- Land records
- Birth, marriage & Death information
- Cemetery & reference books

RENFREW ARCHIVES DIRECTORY

Executive

President

Mary Hass 613-432-5104

Past-President

Dean Black 613-433-3305

Vice-President

Pat Patterson 613-432-5224

Treasurer

Olga Lewis 613-432-6958

Secretary

Darlene Mask 613-432-6242

Membership Chair

Joyce Laird-McBride 613-646-2375

Home Children

Dave & Kay Lorente 613-432-2486

Research

Martin Munhall 613-432-2225

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Martin Munhall 613-432-2225

Pat Brydges 613-432-6564

Vaughan Simmons 613-432-2736

Brian/Doris Long 613-432-0887

Stella Laviolette 613-432-7722

Jim MacGregor 613-432-9566

Irene Rekowski 613-432-3423

Earl Martin 613-432-4412

Clarence McBride 613-432-2375

Audrey Green 613-432-4354

Past Presidents Advisory Committee

Kay Gollinger Lorente

Les Church

Marge Lindsay

Dorothy Skinner

John Steele

Doris Humphries

Newsletter Editor Olga Lewis

Honorary Directors



NOTICE

Heritage Renfrew is hoping to have new members join our organization, those who are interested in preserving the history of our town, and also those who are interested in doing their family history. We have members who are willing to help those doing family histories, or who are doing other research projects.

We are currently reorganizing our research material so that it is readily available for research. Our website has been terminated for now, and a new website will be up and running in early September.

RESEARCH:

It was announced that as of June 1, 2009, the Ontario Government's new Adoption Information Disclosure Act, came into effect. It will now be possible for those researching their families to access the adoption records that apply to the person doing the research. A child can now find who their birth parent/parents were and a birth parent will be able to find the child they gave up for adoption. For some this will be good news, and for others who had children out of wedlock, and gave them up for adoption to avoid being subjected to the shame that accompanied such an event, it will certainly cause some problems and soul searching. If you are an Ontario resident and want to access the information go to the provincial website, www.ontario.ca, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on Adoption information and follow the instructions to download the forms you need to submit.

INFORMATION PLEASE:

Send in your queries to Heritage Renfrew, Newsletter Editor, and they will be published in this space.

Queries from members searching for ancestors will be printed in this space. If you have a query about an ancestor you have lost track of, send it to us and we will try to find the information for you.

We have volunteers who will look up obituaries and other items that could be of help.

For help in accessing records at the Heritage Renfrew room at the National Archives building, these members will be happy to help you: Olga Lewis 613-432-6958, Martin Munhall 613-432-2225, Pat Patterson 613-432-5224, Audrey Green 613-432-4354

Our website has been terminated for the time being so all queries should be sent in by mail to Heritage Renfrew, 770 Gibbons Road, P.O.Box 1009, Renfrew Ontario, K7V 4H4.

Our new website will be up and running hopefully in early September. Our new location will be on the Town of Renfrew website, and for information just click on the names of members who are available to help you, and send in your requests for information to them by email.

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**Help
Wanted**

Would you like to spend some of your spare time working in the Renfrew Archives?

Contact:

Any Member listed in the Directory [page 2] or e-mail: renfrewarchives@sympatico.ca

visit our Web Site @:
Www3.sympatico.ca/renfrewarchives

DONATED FAMILY TREES

- Peter Dick Family Lois Dick
- Ferguson Clan Glenda Tippins

DONATED BOOKS

Heritage Renfrew gratefully acknowledges the generosity of these donations.

Canadian Railways Wayne Tasse
Grattan Twp. Elaine Hanniman
Collection of 11 Books Pat Patterson
(most on Prince Edward County)
Tweedsmuir History Books
Rosebank Women's Institute 1979—
2004
Renfrew District University Women's
Club 1995—1999
Township of Brougham minutes 1893-
1919

The following books were all donated
by Shirley Mask Connelly
Polish Pioneer Families (Brudenell)
Brudenell Revisited
Kashubia to Canada
History of Wilno Heritage Society
Renfrew's First Polish Families
Across the Grain (Toys) Jim Smith
Collection of Interviews DVDs Jim
Austin

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PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE:

CEMETERIES:

Castleford Union	\$8:00
Goshen Cemetery	\$15.00
Sand Point Cemetery	\$ 9:00
Flat Rapids Cemetery	\$ 6:00
St Alexander's Cemetery RC	\$ 8:00
Hillcrest Public & Lakeside Cemeteries Calabogie	\$9.50
Our Most Precious Blood Cemetery Calabogie	\$ 8:00
Springtown Cemeteriew	\$ 8:00
Malloch Road Cemetery Arnprior	\$30.00
White Lake Cemetery	\$20.00
North Horton Cemetery	\$12.00
Haley Station Cemetery	\$10.00
Rosebank Cemetery	\$15.00
Admaston Public Cemetery	\$12.00
St Andrews Cemetery Forrester's Falls	\$10.00
Opeongo Road Cemeteries	\$12.00
Mt. St. Patrick Cemeteries	\$12.00
Plus Mailing Costs, Subject to Change	

Founding Families of Admaston	
Horton & Renfrew	\$10.00
Faces & Facades	\$ 2.00
Index Cards small	\$.75

COMING EVENTS

WALKING TOUR: July 24, 25, 26.

July 24: Where the Rexall Drug store now stands on main street

July 25: Bowling Alley and Post Office

July 26: Across from Patrick Street on Raglan street.

August 28: Bus Tour up the Pontiac in Quebec.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER!!

Please send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive *Opeongo Lines* electronically via e-mail. Send your request to: olewis@sympatico.ca



SITES TO CHECK

Renfrew County Website
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

Leeds and Grenville Branch
www.cybertap.com/genealogy/

Arnprior & District Archives
www.adarchives.org

Upper Ottawa Valley Group
uovgg@valleynet.on.ca

Ancestry.co.uk

Great Briatrain records for people

Gencircles.com

Canadian records for people

Www.polishroots.org

Polish genealogical site

Www.rootsweb.com

For sharing research

Www.familysearch.org

Family History Centre free search



Olga: From The Renfrew Mercury.

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Scott and Sons Celebrate 90 Years In Business, In 2007

Scott and Sons Hardware have served the residents of Renfrew for ninety years. It has been a fixture on the Main street since 1917.

The company's founder Lorne Scott, was born in the Ottawa area of Hazeldean in 1895 and moved with his family to Renfrew when he was three. He quit school at the age of 13 and worked for two years in a confectionary store. He then went to work at French & Co., a local hardware business, where he remained for six years.

When he was 21 he was offered a partnership in a small business operated by Alex Stirling. Stirling had recently acquired the hardware business of P.S. Stewart, but as he had business interests in the Elk Lake district of Northern Ontario, where he spent most of his time he required a partner to manage the Renfrew store. The partnership operated under the name Stirling & Scott from May 1917 until December 1920, when Scott bought out Stirling's share of the business. The newly named Scott Hardware was located in the building now occupied by Draperies Plus.

In 1930 Lorne Scott bought the Guest Hardware and Tinsmithing business and moved into the Guest building at the corner of Raglan and Patrick streets, where Homestead Discount is now located.

In the early 1940's Scott bought The Ottawa House, a dilapidated building, which at one time had been a hotel in Renfrew's early days. He tore the hotel down and replaced it with the current building which he designed himself. The grand opening of the new store was held on the evening of Thursday March 14, 1946, and was attended by 2000 people.

In 1948, the business was incorporated and the name became Scott & Sons Hardware Ltd. Lorne Scott was assisted in the operation of the business by his sons Earl and Murray. Lorne died in 1966 at age 70.

The Scott family has seen many changes since Lawrence Campbell Scott founded Renfrew's longest serving hardware in 1817. Jeff Scott who runs the Scott and Sons Hardware with his brother Paul, remembers when the store closed on Wednesday afternoons and Sundays.

Then in the 1960's Sunday-Monday closures were common. Friday evening openings became the norm, then it was expanded to Thursday evenings. Now its seven days a week, with many stores staying open on what used to be holidays. "Retailing has really changed — we have to work harder and longer," said Jeff Scott.

Jeff said the store has been blessed with a number of dedicated staff over the years who stayed with the company for 30 and 40 years. "The staff was loyal to the company and the company was loyal to the staff," he said, noting there were no layoffs, even in slow times, "It was more like a family."

When Lorne Scott went into business in 1817 there were seven hardware stores in downtown Renfrew, and today there are none. The Scott Hardware is still doing business in downtown Renfrew today with the same friendly and helpful service to all customers, that was a trademark for over ninety years.

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The committee chairperson has noted that our renewal form did not have the changes in membership fees that were done two or three years ago. The changes have now been made to the renewal form, stating the correct amount for membership in all the categories. Please make out all cheques or money orders to Heritage Renfrew for payment of dues.

Heritage Renfrew welcomes new members, and if you know of someone interested in being a member of Heritage Renfrew, send them along to us. We are a congenial group and welcome others

NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

Annual membership fees are now due! For the year \$15.00, outside Canada is now \$20.00.

Name _____

Address _____

City/town _____ Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

For Year _____

New Renew

Mail to: Heritage Renfrew Archives
Membership Chairperson
Box 1009
Renfrew, Ontario
K7V 4H4 Canada

Membership
\$15.00 General
\$25.00 Corporate
\$ 5.00 Youth
\$20.00 Outside Canada

From the Renfrew 150th articles submitted to the Renfrew Mercury

A Community is Born: According to the Wm. E. Smallfield-Rev. Robert Campbell Story of Renfrew, written between 1900 and 1905 and published in 1919, on the eve of its reaching the status of village in 1858, there was little to commend Renfrew in favourable notice. Its bridges were in bad condition. There were no sidewalks.

"In the centre of the village, which from Mackay's corner down was swampy. McDougall's log fence helped pedestrian traffic not a little when the rain stirred up the mud," said the book.

The book said the young inhabitants of the village were more concerned with improving the state of their own houses at that time, "than spending money on sidewalks, though drains would have been welcomed. By the time Renfrew became a town in 1895, the citizens had sidewalks, drains, fire protection, police, a jail, library, post office and electric lights.

For the first time Renfrew had a mayor, James Craig, and the community's future was bright. The first public meeting to discuss waterworks was held, the high school was enlarged, the town paid \$300 for a site for a new hospital, and many frame buildings on the main street were being replaced by brick and stone buildings.

Governor General of Canada Lord Aberdeen came to town to open the Renfrew Creamery and Renfrew became known as the Creamery Town. One year later its mayor was James Clark, and the population in 1896 had risen to 3,069 people.



A PHOTO REPORTED BY A MEMBER OF THE RENFREW CREAMERY
MADE IN 1895 BY THE LAMONT PHOTOGRAPH COMPANY

Due largely to the untiring efforts of A.A. Wright, the Renfrew Creamery was established in 1895. Under able management it was said to be the finest creamery in Canada and Renfrew was known as The Creamery Town. Lord Aberdeen came to Renfrew to open the Creamery in 1895.



UPDATE

Home Children Canada=s
NEWSLETTER

July ~~May~~ 2009

Dave Lorente, founder, 107 Erindale Ave, Renfrew ON, K7V 4G3. <lorente@sympatico.ca>

N.B. A REMINDER

Requests re locating and amplifying on what is in Home Children Records should only be sent to John Sayers, Chair of BIFHSGO

Home Children Committee, 2157 Fillmore Crescent, Ottawa, ON, K1J 6A1. Ph (613) 747-5547

E-mail <sayersji@sympatico.ca>

1. ... ***A Something=s in the breeze and it just might be from an old stamping ground*** whom we at HCC have begged for almost two decades to do something tangible on behalf of Home Children. We can=t tell you exactly who or what or even when or why, but we hope to be able to advise you all as soon as something happens - if indeed it happens at all. Anyway, we thought you=d enjoy having a clue.@

Do YOU REMEMBER THE ABOVE ITEM IN OUR MAY UPDATE? Did you notice the deliberate misspelling of >stomping=? That was your clue to the recent news item that declared >it= did finally happen!

**CANADA POST WILL ISSUE A HOME CHILD STAMP
IN OCTOBER, 2010.**

The clue was in the word >stamping= ground because we had early notice that Canada Post had finally buckled down and considered the requests some of you and I began making to them almost twenty years ago. Sad to say the good news comes a year late. **This year - 2009 - and not 2010 - is the 140th Anniversary of British Child Migration, as we know it to post-Confederation Canada.** You should know, too, that New Brunswick is the only province that responded to petitions to the Federal and Provincial governments to officially declare **2009 - The Year of the Home Child@.** I firmly believe that our deceased Governor General Romeo LeBlanc had something to do with that and that is perhaps why N.B. politicians knowing of his heart-felt message in the Open Letter that our most sensitive Governor General had sent us and our volunteer chairs across the country a decade ago. That message, which (see page 2) was read at all HCC reunions held across Canada in 1999! Romeo LeBlanc - God bless him - got it right. Sure, all had not been perfect but in Athose days of yore@ Canadians suffered too from World Wars and >The Dirty >30's and the Home Children who also lived through it soon realized that they too were proud Canadians and that in the long run catharsis trumps litigation any day. DL



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL
LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL



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OTTAWA

A country's history is made up of glorious episodes that enrich the collective memory and are related in the history books. It also includes sombre, disturbing periods not mentioned in these books, events that give rise to a sort of collective amnesia. Canada is no exception. Some chapters of Canadian history summon forth our national pride; others, however, make us uncomfortable – we would prefer to simply ignore them.

The fate of the 100,000 children Great Britain sent to Canada between 1869 and the economic crisis of the 1930s is one of these sad episodes, and we are only now beginning to fathom its full sense. We know today that many of these children were exploited, humiliated and mistreated. After long years of silence, they have begun to talk about their experiences and search for their true origins. They are not demanding justice, and are not motivated by resentment. They simply wish to heal their wounds and raise others' awareness of what they went through. We should not forget the debt we owe these people, for they and their descendants contributed to the growth of our country. One of them said he was now proud to be a home child but was prouder to be a Canadian. Home Children Canada is playing a leading role in helping the survivors and their descendants regain ownership of their past, and I congratulate this association for the marvellous work it is doing.

I hope everyone attending the meetings organized by Home Children Canada finds the experience rewarding. These meetings will be filled with emotion, to be sure, and also with a sense of fellowship and dignity. I send to everyone my best wishes for health and happiness.

Roméo LeBlanc

June 1999