

# OPEONGO LINES

*PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW*



**Heritage Renfrew**

October 2009 Edition



Library & Archives Canada  
Home to Heritage Renfrew

770 GIBBONS ROAD  
P.O. BOX 1009  
RENFREW, ONTARIO  
K7V 4H4

## Message from the President

### Members of Heritage Renfrew

At the end of August, Heritage Renfrew organized a tour called "Up the Pontiac". It was very successful.

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard over the past few months, giving up Friday mornings for meetings on the Constitution & Bylaws and the "New" Operations Policy of Heritage Renfrew regarding hours of operation and duties of volunteers.

At October 6th meeting the Board of Directors unanimously passed the changes and additions to the Constitution & Bylaws. Please read the article on page 3 dealing with the changes. A complete report can be found at the Renfrew Archives. At the Annual General meeting 2010 all members attending the meeting will be asked to vote on the revised Constitution & Bylaws. For more info contact Audrey Green.

Starting October 7th Heritage Renfrew—Room of Collections will be open on Mondays & Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. –1 p.m. and by appointment. A volunteer will be there.

Every Friday morning volunteers will be there doing inventory (boxes, pictures, maps etc) and learning how to use the machines (reader-printer and copier.)

If you are interested in being a volunteer or know someone who could help us please call me at 613-432-5104. It is a good time to learn about the organization.

Our application for a grant from the Trillium Fund was denied, but we are going to make application for the November deadline. If there is something that Heritage Renfrew needs please send a note to us.

Sincerely Mary Hass President.



### 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

#### **Directors**

Martin Munhall .....613-432-2225

Pat Brydges.....613-432-2749

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

Marge Lindsay

Dorothy Skinner

John Steele

Doris Humphries

#### **Past Presidents**

Vaughan Simmons

Martin Munhall

Jim McGregor

Audrey Green

Newsletter Editor Olga Lewis

### **NOTICE**

Heritage Renfrew is changing the hours of operation due to lack of volunteers, and our efforts to accommodate as many researchers as we can. New hours of operation will be Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Other days and times by appointment only. The doors will be locked to the Heritage Room, and only directors will be allowed access . (see page 6)

In this issue are the changes to the by-laws and constitution that we will be introducing at the Annual General Meeting. A copy of the changes can be seen in the Heritage Room at the National Archives building, 770 Gibbons Road. Renfrew Ont.

NOTICE OF MOTION RE AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION by Audrey Green

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The directors of Heritage Renfrew are required to examine the constitution every two years with the purpose of updating it. A committee of Pat Patterson, Olga Lewis, Audrey Green and Joyce McBride made the first detailed study of the whole document this year and they make this notice of motion:

That the Constitution and Bylaws of Heritage Renfrew be amended as in the proposed copy which is now available at the Renfrew Archives for all members to examine and which will be posted at the Annual Meeting.

The following are the major suggested changes:

Constitution: Article 5. C Promoting the markings of historic buildings, sites and roads, Add: "after their official designation done by proper authorities — Federal, Provincial or Municipal councils"

Article 4 Meetings : 1 a. Add "to be held no later than Feb. 15, of each year, at which time the auditor's report shall be given

Add: e Only members who have held memberships for at least three (3) months shall be entitled to vote

2. Change Special Meetings to "Special General meetings" Add: " who have paid up memberships and who have been active members for at least twelve (12) months

Add" D. Applying in writing stating the reason for the special meeting.

Article 5 Officers and Directors Add: 5. Elections, after the President calls for the nominating committee's report all positions are deemed vacant. The nominating committee chair shall conduct the elections. When a name is recommended and seconded from the floor by two members in good standing that person must be present and agree to stand for office. Should it be impossible for that person to be in attendance then a letter of confirmation must be presented by the mover of the motion to the committee chair. A vote is then called for that position, before moving on to the next position.

Article 8 Amendments 3. Add "by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the board of directors present at the meeting.

#### By-Laws

Section 1 The President Shall Add "I" Represent Heritage Renfrew to the media concerning topics discussed at open meetings"

Section 2. The Vice President shall B delete "Help Conduct Business " Change to "assist at meetings and functions

Article 4 Committees Archives Committee/Genealogy Committee : Combine these two committees into one "The Archive—Genealogy Committee"

Change Heritage Luncheon Committee: The Ways and Means Committee, duties shall remain the same

Add four new committees: The History of Renfrew Committee, Public Relations Committee, Operations and Management Committee, Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

For other small changes see full document at the Heritage Renfrew Room, where a full document shall be, listing these changes plus word changes in some areas.

OUR TRIP UP THE PONTIAC COUNTY, QUEBEC THIS SUMMER



St Georges Anglican Church  
Portage-du-Fort



Presbyterian Church  
Fort Coulonge



St Theresa of the Little Flower  
Fort William

Mary Hass writes about our trip and its interesting churches and places we saw. The pictures shown on this page were taken by Earl Martin, who allowed us to produce them on this page. Many thanks to Earl for his good work.

Heritage Renfrew's tour "Up the Pontiac" was a great success.

Starting our tour in Renfrew under cloudy skies didn't dampen our spirits. Misty rain greeted us in Portage-du-Fort, but the friendly guides at St George's (1856) and St James the Great (1852) warmed our day. After lunch at Sonia's we stopped at the Pontiac Art School to look at a tugboat, possibly the tug pictured on the Canadian \$1 bill.

On to Shawville where we stopped to look at the large red brick homes Victorian style, built at the end of the 19th century from local brick yards. As we left Shawville we stopped to look at a large mural painted on the Giant Tiger Store depicting life in the Pontiac.

Then on to Fort Coulonge taking notice of churches in Bryson & Vinton as we drove along. By now the sun is shining and we are enjoying one of the few sunny days of this summer.

At Fort Coulonge we were met by local historian Theresa Slipsky at the Bryson House — Georgian wooden architecture— which has been restored and now tells the story of the lumber industry of the area. Then we toured the village, in particular Baume Street — Allie des Manoirs — to see many large stone homes built by George Bryson for his family. We also stopped at St Andrew's Church and Marchand Bridge— the longest covered bridge still in use in Quebec. Many pictures were snapped at these two locations.

Then on to our final destination —Fort William. We passed through Waltham, Chapeau and Chichester. Some of us saw a small bear cub cross the road in front of the bus.

At Fort William we enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner, a tour of the local area— a former Hudson Bay Co. trading post, given by Fr. Murray Tardiff, a beautiful sunset on the Ottawa River and an evening of fiddle music performed by 15 local musicians.

At every stop we were made most welcome. Written by Mary Hass

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**Death Notice**— **Arthur John ( Art) Monk** peacefully at Pembroke Regional Hospital on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at the age of 97 years. Art Monk of Beachburg, formerly of Toronto, beloved husband of the late Elvira Monk (nee Elliott) and by first marriage the late Beatrice Bennett. Dear father of Geraldine Hague (husband Keith), Floriday/ Barbara Vincent (husband Ronald) , Calgary, and Beverley Smith ( husband Donald) London. Stepfather to Ronald, Gary (Loise) and Weldon (Leona) Robinson. Grandfather of eleven grandchildren, two great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Predeceased by brothers George & Harry Monk. A special thank-you to Country Haven Retirement Home, Beachburg. Visitation at Malcolm, McDeavitt & Binhammer Funeral Home, 141 Renfrew street, Pembroke on Saturday from 7-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held in Grace United Church, Perreton on Sunday September 13,2009 at 2 p.m. Interment in Pine Hills Cemetery, Scarborough. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Grace United Church, Perreton.

PAT PATTERSONS, STORY AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE OTTAWA RIVER  
A MEMORY PRESERVED "THE ELISHA BEEMAN"

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The property, now occupied by Pontiac Division, was first settled by Elisha Beeman an immigrant from New York in the early 1800's, with his bride Katherine Maroney. He cleared the land and built a farm and raised four sons and four daughters.

In later years a grandson also named Elisha Beeman worked the land of the original homestead with his wife, Elizabeth Toner until 1952. He was a community spirited man who served for many years as a school board and municipal member as well as Mayor of Litchfield. His dedication to public service ended with his death on October 20th, 1964 at 90 years of age.

Soon afterwards a proposed kraft pulp mill by Consolidated Paper Corporation became a reality on July 3, 1965 with a sod turning ceremony featuring Quebec Premier Jean Lesage. The site included several farm properties covering 1250 acres which had been owned by Kenneth Stewart, Daniel Stephens, George Stewart, Loretta Beeman, Lyle Hodgins, Clifford Lawn, James and Fred Stickler, Mrs Elizabeth Stanton and Gladis McVeigh Cahill. At the peak of construction, Rust Engineering employed over 1000 people. The woodroom started in April of 1967 and the digester produced the first ton of commercial pulp in Mid-December of 1967.

At that time a boom boat built by Russell Brothers Ltd. Owen Sound, was procured to handle the logs transported down the river. On October 22nd, 1967 it was christened "Elisha Beeman" by the late grandson's daughters, Loretta and Hilda and by his youngest sister, Sister Mary Louise. On the fourth attempt Loretta succeeded in breaking the champagne bottle across the boat's prow. The ceremony took place on the same beach that had been the childhood playground of these ladies.

Over the years, the boom boat sank three times, ran aground on rock piles and winched itself over the log booms. It was beached for the last time during 1985, the year before environmental concerns ended the river transportation of wood and it sat rusting in the wood yard until it's restoration in 1994. Nathalie Mantha, a summer student and local artist, has captured the pride of all the working people over the years of the Pontiac plant in the scene depicted on the hull of the restored craft.

The memory of the first man to work this land is being preserved by this community in the name of their boom boat the "Elisha Beeman"

This boat may be seen in the village of Portage-du-Fort.



QUERIES:

I am interested in any information and particularly a picture of JOHN DUNBAR (1851-1916) who purchased the Exchange Hotel in Renfrew Nov. 1895 and operated it until his death in 1916. His wife Mary Jane (Dolan) Dunbar continued the business after his death. Clare (Dunbar) Stoppa stoppa1@nrtco.net

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**PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE**

**CEMETERIES:**

Castleford Cemetery	\$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	\$9.50
Springtown Cemeteries	\$8.00
Our Most Precious Blood Cem. Calabogie	\$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 Andrew's Cemetery Forrester's Falls	\$10.00
Opeongo Road Cemeteries	\$12.00
Mt. St Patrick Cemeteries	\$12.00

Plus mailing costs \$5.00 first item \$2.00 each additional item.

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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

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**OUR NEW HOURS OF OPERATION POLICY**

A motion by Pat Patterson, seconded by Stella Laviolette that this policy of new hours of operation be adopted was passed at the meeting of October 6, 2009. New hours to begin October 12, 2009.

- Hours of operation 10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m Monday and Wednesday. Doors locked at other times  
For days we are not open appointments may be made to do research by calling the following numbers (613-432-6958, Olga Lewis), (613-432-5104, Mary Hass)(613-432-5224) (613-646-2375 Joyce McBride) Darlene Mask (613-432-6242) Pat Patterson (613-432-5224)
- List of board of directors to be given to commissionaires. Only board of directors members to get key. The board of directors members are responsible for returning key to front desk.
- Use of machines under the supervision of volunteer staff only. Photo copier to be run by volunteers only
- Everyone must sign in when entering Heritage Renfrew room.
- Copies 25 cents each from photo copy machine 50 cents from reader printer.
- Board of Directors volunteers will get materials for research. Collections are out of bounds to researchers.
- All patrons who order in microfilms for research must make an appointment to use the readers at Heritage Renfrew.
- Copies of pictures from collections are \$2.00 per copy.

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Ken Stafford-Brown is working to put some articles into the computer used for research. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf. Ken is a member of Heritage Renfrew.

With the changes that are in progress we hope to have more research sources available to the public.

Olga: From The Renfrew Mercury.

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**The following article was written by Harry Hinchley some years ago and appeared in The Mercury  
"The Albion Hotel, From Farm House To A Hotel and Finally A Police Station"**

Mr and Mrs James G Forgie were the last couple to operate the Albion Hotel as a hotel. For many years they had been well known hotel people in Renfrew. They had conducted the Dominion House before coming to the Albion and in later years, ran the Union House where the bus stop terminal now stands.\*

The Albion had been built in the 1840's as a farm house for Xavier Plaunt who owned the land thereabouts. It replaced a frame house which stood nearby until it burned down.

Like many old stone houses, the downstairs had a long hall up the centre with a big kitchen on one side and a parlor and bedroom on the other. At the rear was a wing used as a kitchen.

Plaunts later converted their house into a hotel. The big kitchen became the dining room, the parlor the front sitting room or lobby and the back bedroom, the bar. The rear wing continued on as the most important room in the old hotel, the kitchen.

About 1859 Xavier Plaunt leased the hotel and moved up the Opeongo Road. Here on top of a hill that came to be known as Plaunt's Mountain he built a tavern which he successfully operated until 1872 when he turned it over to his son.

Back in Renfrew the Albion became one of the village's leading hotels. It not only provided good accommodation to travelers, but also provided space for banquets and meetings. Church services were even held within its walls as well as the early meetings of the strong Temperance society, the Sons of Temperance.

Across what is now Railway street stood the hotel's stables for accommodation of horses. The old stable pump was between the present Fire Hall and Library.

Some years ago when underground piping was being put in, the old stone cribbing of the well was uncovered. In front of the hotel was the public square and market place. Here also were held outdoor meetings, band concerts and other gatherings.

In 1916 Town Council took over the Albion for the town engineer's office and Police Station. The kitchen at the back was made into a cell block, and the upstairs apartments were for the police officers.

The building was painted and renovated and across the front was built a double veranda. In place of a battery of stoves for heating a furnace was installed.

The Albion was used as a Police Station and municipal building until 1970. Then as soon as the new police station was built and the department moved in, the old building was knocked down.

The site of the old town hotel that served Renfrew so well for so many years is now marked by a Historical Plaque erected in 1974 to commemorate Xavier Plaunt and the founding of Renfrew.

\* This site is now occupied by a lawyer's office.

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### NEW GARAGE FOR MAIN STREET

Following the erection of three service stations on Raglan street, Renfrew this year, which street forms part of the Ottawa-Pembroke provincial highway and which service stations are all of the best class, construction of a public garage of the latest and most approved kind has been begun on the same thoroughfare. The builder is Mr R McGarvey, the contractor M M J Sulpher and the site one of the four vacant lots which for a few years have served as a school garden. Construction work began on Tuesday, of this week and the contractor is enjoined to rush the work to completion.— Dimensions of the garage are to be 65 feet by 100. The walls will be of brick. The whole affair is to be most modern in construction and contain different special features. Cost will be about \$12,000. The site is a most desirable one which is remembered by older residents as once the location of the Peter Dougall Carriage works. Of the four vacant lots which for a few years have formed a gap between Renfrew and Anne streets at that point Mr McGarvey has taken the one at the north-west corner, getting it in exchange for one which he owned on Albert street in rear of the opera house (continued on page 8)

Members of Heritage Renfrew who will be assisting researchers are as follows: Olga Lewis 613-432-6958, Pat Patterson 613-432-5224, Earl Martin 613-432-4412, Joyce McBride 613-646-2375, Mary Hass 613-432-5104. To make an appointment to do research these are the numbers to call.

We are looking for more members to join Heritage Renfrew, where we do research and are working to preserve the history of our town, and the surrounding areas, Horton, Admaston, McNab etc. We have some projects on the go now, and more to come. Just a few hours of your time on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis will be most appreciated.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL FORM

Annual membership fees January to December, 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

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where he was burned out in a big fire of a few years ago.

While that open space on Raglan street served a good purpose as a school garden, everybody is pleased to see a start made on filling it with buildings, and the hope is general that all is going up there will be of the substantial character which Mr McGarvey is to construct.

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### MORE FROM PAT PATTERSON——

Pat Patterson recalls—— That during the early 1970's I received a call from the Portage-du-Fort Pulp Mill requesting assistance in recovering the Elisha Beeman, a small tug boat which had sunk in 30 feet of water about 200 feet from shore. Accompanied by my friend Doug Walker of Renfrew we attended the scene and found the "Beeman" laying upright on the bottom. A large cable was attached to the tug boat and then to a huge bulldozer on the bank of the river. With very little effort the tug was skidded up onto the shore with no damage at all. I was later told that the Elisha Beeman was put back in service within a few days.

It has been said that the Elisha Beeman is the small tug boat portrayed on the back of the Canadian \$1.00 bill. If that be the case then the little tug will live forever on in posterity.



### THE BRITISH HOTEL

The British Hotel stood for many years on the corner of Raglan and Opeongo streets. It was built in about the year 1860 by a James Kelley and served Renfrew and District for over 70 years. It was torn down in 1928 to make way for a service station, for the Frontenac/McColl Oil Co. It was run by a man by the name of M.J. Sullivan when it first opened.

Later it was replaced by a new brick garage for the Texaco Oil Co. With the closing of some service stations by oil companies, of which Texaco reduced the number of service stations it had, the garage was torn down and now is the site has an M & M meat shop and the Stone Meadows Kitchen Shop is on the other side of the building.