

# OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW



Heritage Renfrew

March 2010 Edition

P51

## Message from the President

### Members of Heritage Renfrew

On behalf of myself I would like to thank the Executive and the Board of Directors for their enthusiasm and hard work over the past year.

We have sent out four newsletters, worked on the book about Main Street (Raglan Street) Renfrew, worked on two new fundraisers for the coming year—a Heritage Pizza from Domino's in Renfrew and an Irish Stew luncheon in March, received new books for our collection, reviewed most of our M.S Files, held a successful bus tour called "Up The Pontiac", documented in pictures the designated Renfrew Heritage Properties, worked on updating the constitution and by-laws, kept our equipment in working order, applied for a Trillium Grant, placed an ad in the local newspapers asking for donations to the Archives, investigated having an internet connection, and a web page and have continued helping people interested in getting information about their ancestors.

We are continuing to collect the birth and death notices from local newspapers and putting them on computer files.

We are looking forward to 2010. I hope you can continue to keep Heritage Renfrew a growing organization. Please come to our fundraiser— Irish Stew luncheon being held in March.

Sincerely Mary Hass President.



Library & Archives Canada  
Home to Heritage Renfrew

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

P82



# MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION NOTIFICATION

Subscribe to *Opeongo Lines* for the new year!

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2010 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

Ellen Kinley ..... 613-281-7304

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's Annual General Meeting was held at the Archives building 770 Gibbons Road on February 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Members accepted the changes to the bylaws and constitution amendments.

Members wishing copies of the constitution and bylaws please get in touch with Audrey Green at 613-432-4354

QUERIES:

Queries are welcomed in our newsletter. They are free to any member who is searching for ancestors for their family tree.

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Heritage Renfrew's Annual General meeting was held on February 2, 2010 with Pat Patterson chairing the meeting.

President Mary Hass was away but had sent in a letter stating she would stand for another term as President of Heritage Renfrew.

Before the business of the meeting was conducted the members were entertained by a display and talk on how furniture was made in the 1880's. Mr David Fleming demonstrated on some of the old tools that were used in the 1800's just how chair rungs were made from wood.

He used a piece of wood that he had cut from a log with a cutter used in the 1800's and the wood was cut down the grain not across it. The stick of wood was then taken over to a planer which was on a bench and the wood was planed by hand to reduce and shape it from square to round. Then it went to a lathe that was again hand and foot driven and made the rung for a chair. He also demonstrated on how the holes were drilled in the chair seat so that the legs could be attached to the chair. All in all a very interesting talk and display of the use of tools used in making furniture in days gone by.

Mr Fleming has a workshop in Cobden where he makes furniture using these tools and it is called "Spokeshave Workshop". He is open to the public and issued an invitation for anyone interested in his work to call in and see him.

After a short business meeting where the minutes of the Annual Meeting in 2009 were read and approved, the treasurer's report given for 2009, along with the Assets of both the investment assets and the fixed assets were given as well.

The chairman then declared all seats vacant and the elections for 2010 was held. Olga Lewis chairman of the nominating committee presented a list of officers for the year 2010, and then proceeded to hold the elections for 2010. Mary Hass having sent in a letter of intent to stand for President of Heritage Renfrew for 2010, and no other nominations were received after a call for them three times, was declared President for 2010. Vice President is Pat Patterson, who was unopposed as no further nominations came from the floor, after calling for them three times. Also unopposed were Secretary Darlene Mask and Olga Lewis Treasurer. No nominations came from the floor for these positions.

The Board of Directors were re-elected with one new member being nominated from the floor. The Board of Directors for 2010 are as follows: Audrey Green, Pattie Brydges, Pat Visinski, Vaughan Simmons, Joyce McBride, Clarence McBride, Jim McGregor, Martin Munhall, Earle Martin, Stella Laviolette, Irene Rekowski and Ellen Kinley..

Olga Lewis editor of the newsletter asked Mr Fleming to do an article on working with the old tools used for making furniture in the 1800's, which article when received will appear in a newsletter.

Audrey Green then presented the changes to the constitution and bylaws. Each new change was read out and any questions about the changes were answered by Audrey. Copies were available to those who wanted them to be able to follow what was being presented. After the changes were voted on and approved with one minor change being added to the constitution, Audrey stated that anyone wishing to have a copy could get in touch with her and she would provide them with one. All of the Executive and Board Members of Heritage Renfrew will receive a copy of the Constitution and By-laws.

No further business arising at the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Pg 4

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Are you housecleaning out your attic or back shed? Don't throw away all those old papers, books, letters and maps. We will take them off your hands, even pick them up. We, Renfrew Heritage Society, may now have room for your old stuff. Let us decide if they are of value or not.

As you know we save and preserve old history in many forms for your benefit and perusal. Give us a chance to determine if your items can be of benefit to someone else. Give us a call.

Mary Hass President 613-432-5104, Pat Patterson Vice President 613-432-5224

Olga Lewis Treasurer 613-432-6958, Audrey Green Past President 613-432-4354

\*\*\*\*\*



**David Fleming using the shaper while Pat Patterson Looks on.**



**David Fleming explaining the use of the planer**



**Flag raising for Heritage Day by members of Heritage Renfrew February 15 2010**



**Mayor Sandi Heins and Joyce McBride holding the certificate of appreciation for all the work Heritage Renfrew has done, which was presented to Heritage Renfrew by the mayor.**

COMING EVENTS IN THE AREA:

P85

**GENE-O-RAMA OTTAWA BRANCH MARCH 26—27**

At Library and Archives Canada See [www.ogsottawa.on.ca](http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca) for more info.

**ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY REGION 8 ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY APRIL 10**

This will be the third time in UOVTGG's twenty years of operation to host this event and a good opportunity to network with genealogists from other parts of Eastern Ontario.

\*\*\*\*\*

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY ROOTS:

There are many research information sites to search on the internet that are available to anyone doing family research.

The National Archives has several sites available, one where the census records from 1851 to 1911 are searchable online. The 1851, 1901 and 1911 census records can be viewed as they were written, and they are also available on Automated Genealogy in a shorter form.

There are immigration records available on the Amicus website of the National Archives and there is also a site named Ingeneas.ca where one can find ancestors who came into Canada in the 1800's.

Under [CollectionsCanada.ca](http://CollectionsCanada.ca) there are numerous other records one can search.

Publications of cemeteries, church records and family histories are available at many of the genealogical groups who have research facilities. Public Libraries also have a lot of information in publications and most libraries where computers are available also have access to Ancestry.com where many family histories and other information is available.

Newspapers on microfilm are another source of information, for births, marriages and deaths, as well as some interesting stories about people who were municipal, provincial or federal officials.

Heritage Renfrew has the Renfrew Mercury on microfilm from 1871 to 2007. These are a valuable resource for searching for ancestors who resided in this area, as well as the surrounding area.

We also have the Eganville Leader on microfilm from about 1902 to 1935.

Our census records on microfilm are 1841 to 1901 for Renfrew County, 1851 to 1901 for Pontiac County Quebec, and some Lanark County census records as well.

We have several family histories and more are being donated as time goes by.

We also have books written by Carol McCuaig on various townships in Renfrew County, books written by Shirley Mask Connolly on the Polish families who came to this area and the Wilno and Barry's Bay area. Books written and donated by other authors of the area as well.

The Heritage Renfrew room is open to the public on Monday's and Wednesday's from 10 am to 1 pm and someone is always there on staff to assist any who come to do research.

We have collections that have valuable research material in them which can only be accessed by our staff, but can be viewed by researchers under supervision.

Pg 6

**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

\*\*\*\*\*

**OUR NEW HOURS OF OPERATION POLICY**

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) (613-646-2375 Joyce McBride) Darlene Mask (613-432-6242) Pat Patterson (613-432-5224)

Copies of pictures from collections are \$5.00 per copy. Those wishing copies of any pictures must comply with the copyright laws as set down, if using the pictures for publications. A form has been prepared that one must sign to obtain copies of pictures which has the rules listed on it for use of the pictures.

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMING EVENTS:**

**IRISH STEW LUNCHEON — MARCH 10, 2010 FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.  
COST \$8.00 PER PERSON.**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER——**

**ANNUAL BUS TOUR——**

**OPEN HOUSE AT RENFREW ARCHIVES——**

Olga: From The Renfrew Mercury.

181

THE O'BRIEN THEATRE  
CONSTRUCTED IN 1929 AND OPENED IN 1930

Renfrew's new "Talkie Theatre" the construction of which is under way by Mr. M.J. Sulpher, contractor under the supervision of A. Abra Architects, 55 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa.

The exterior will be in Renfrew brick to match the old opera house, trimmed with stone as indicated on the drawing. A large metal and chain marquise will be carried over the main entrance as shown and will be brilliantly illuminated at night and should add considerably to the lighting of Raglan Street.

Two pairs of entrance doors and in the entry vestibule where ticket bars are located at each end. From the vestibule you pass into a large opening in which are retiring rooms for the ladies and gentlemen. At each end there is access to the stairway which leads to the upper part of the auditorium. Two separate exits are provided for this part that lead directly to the street. The main entrance from the foyer to the auditorium is 15 feet wide and sloped so that there are no steps anywhere for patrons using the main auditorium.

The whole of the floors are to be covered with durolitic asphalt flooring in selected colours providing for noiseless flooring throughout the auditorium.

Everything throughout the building is to be thoroughly fireproof and conforms in every way to the latest regulations governing theatre construction by the Ontario Government. The roof will be of gypsum 4 inches thick carried on steel beams.

The interior will be finished in a soft-toned grey plaster with acoustic properties suitable for a talkie house, relieved with ornamental work in a different tone. The ceiling is suspended and fashioned to produce the best possible effects for sound pictures.

The stage opening is provided wide enough to take care of the newest development in pictures so that New York productions with sound, colour and depth may be produced at any time.

The electrical equipment will be complete in every detail, all concealed lighting with floor lights in all aisles, with the best possible controls and precautions for taking care of all emergencies.

Plumbing and heating contracts have been let to John Conley & Company of Renfrew and call for a first class up-to-the-minute job in every respect.

The total cost of the building without furnishings is nearly \$50,000 and it will seat 750 people. The contracts are to be completed by May 15, 1930.

The M.J. O'Brien Limited are showing their faith and optimism in Renfrew and the Ottawa Valley in putting up-to-date fireproof theatres in Pembroke, Renfrew, Arnprior and Almonte.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE GRAHAM ESTABLISHMENT  
ENLARGED MATERIALLY

The British American Oil Co. has added materially to the size and quarters at the corner of Raglan and Munroe streets, by the addition of a garage at the rear. Built of concrete blocks the contract for which was held by Mr W.N. Moore who in less than two months completed the work. To make room for the garage removal took place of a wooden building which in days of yore served as storage warehouse for a hardware store and which was later used as a Chinese Laundry. Mr Gordon E. Graham who occupies the premises will now be in a better position than before to serve the public in his line. An annex of concrete blocks is joined to a substantial old stone building and appearance presented is all that people residing in that section of the town could wish.

188

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. Pat Visinski 613-433-

To make an appointment to do research these are the numbers to call.

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES BY FEB. 28, 2010, ONLY PAID UP MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER, WHICH IS PUBLISHED FOUR TIMES A YEAR.

### 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



THE MCEWEN HARNESS SHOP

The McEwen Harness shop which stood on Raglan street beside the hardware shop owned by McGarry and Legris. The McEwen Harness shop was used as a restaurant in the 1950's run by the Politis family. They moved to Ottawa and a Mrs. Armstrong purchased the building. The lot on which it stood is now part of the Rexall parking lot..



Black Donald Church

This church served the people of Black Donald and area for many years. It was torn down after the flooding of Black Donald in the 1980's. The village and the mine where graphite was mined for many years were flooded out after the dam was built at High Falls. This resulted in a lake being formed which was quite large and is known as Centennial Lake. The flooding also encompassed the lake at Black Donald.