

OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW



Heritage Renfrew

MARCH 2011 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

Our Annual General meeting brought new members to the executive of Heritage Renfrew.

I am pleased to have with me on the executive First Vice President Pat Visinski, Secretary Patti Brydges, Treasurer Ken Stafford-Brown, Past President Mary Hass.

We are looking forward to having a great year ahead with many things being planned for the future success of Heritage Renfrew.

Pat Visinski has been busy working on getting our collections in a data base program which will be a great asset in being able to identify where our information on various things is located, and which will make it easier for our volunteers to assist those who are doing research at Heritage Renfrew.

He and his committee of Earl Martin and Pat Patterson have been reorganizing our site and Earl Martin is putting into the computer pictures from the Renfrew Mercury going back as far as 1962, and upwards which when done will also be a great asset to researchers looking for pictures that were in the Renfrew Mercury during the years they may be researching.

We have the Cal Green negatives that were donated to Heritage Renfrew. They are indexed and can be made available for viewing. There is a fee if anyone wants a copy of a picture for their own use the pictures are not to be used for commercial gain.

The history of the Main Street of Renfrew is an ongoing project and anyone who has pictures or stories of stores and other things on the main street, their input would be greatly appreciated. Any information on this project can be sent to Olga Lewis, care of Heritage Renfrew, 770 Gibbons Road, P.O. Box 1009, Renfrew Ontario K7V 4H4.

Olga Lewis

President Heritage Renfrew



MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION NOTIFICATION

Subscribe to *Opeongo Lines* for the new year!

Subscriptions for the calendar year 2011 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

Olga Lewis..... 613-432-6958

Past-President

Mary Hass 613-432-5104

Vice-President

Pat Visinski..... 613-432-3683

Treasurer

Ken Stafford-Brown..... 613-570-1076

Secretary

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

Membership Chair

Joyce Laird-McBride 613-646-2375

Directors

Honorary

Martin Munhall 613-432-2225

Vaughan Simmons 613-432-2736

Stella Laviolette 613-432-7722

Ambrose Adamchich..... 613-432-

Directors

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

Darlene Mask..... 613-4326242-

Past Presidents Advisory Committee

Dave Lorente

Vaughan Simmons

Martin Munhall

Jim MacGregor

Audrey Green

Doris Humphries

Past Presidents

Kay Gollinger Lorente

Marge Lindsay

Dorothy Skinner

John Steele

Dean Black

Newsletter Editor Olga Lewis

Heritage Renfrew is now on the Town of Renfrew Website advertising who we are and how to get in contact with us.

We have a new website hosted by Ken Stafford-Brown who has graciously offered to do this for us. Our new email address is as follows: heritage-renfrew@bell.net. Over the next several months we are hoping to receive emails from researchers who are doing research in our area and could use our help.

In other sections of this newsletter we have listed upcoming events at Heritage Renfrew in the coming months and fund raising events also.

We have a queries column and would like to receive queries to publish in the newsletter for anyone doing research on family history or other research. Sometimes others who get the newsletter have information they are happy to share with their fellow researchers.

QUERIES:

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

For information or help in research we have available email addresses to contact:
olewis@sympatico.ca, mmunhall@sympatico.ca , pvisinski@sympatico.ca

We are going to send our newsletter out electronically to anyone who wishes to have their newsletter sent in this way, Please send your email address to heritage-Renfrew@bell.net to add your name to the list.



A PICTURE OF THE BAND SHELL THAT WAS IN THE PARK AT LOW SQUARE FOR MANY YEARS

In the late 1880's and early 1900's Renfrew had a citizens Band which performed each week during the summer months at Low Square, playing a wide variety of music for the entertainment of the citizens of Renfrew. Many were the band concerts, which were always well attended and greatly appreciated by those who came to see and hear the band play. There was no seating at the park, and the visitors had to bring their own chairs so they could sit down and enjoy the concerts.

Sadly the band shell exists no more. It was taken from Low Square to the Fair Grounds some years ago and was used for the entertainment of fair goers for some years. It was torn down and was replaced by a newer structure not so colorful as the old Band Shell.

HERITAGE RENFREW ANNUAL MEETING

Heritage Renfrew's Board of Directors for 2011

Standing L to R, Martin Munhall, Clarence McBride, Darlene Mask, Reeve Audrey Green, Patrick Visinski (Vice President) and Jim McGregor. Seated L to R, Earl Martin, Joyce Laird McBride (Membership Chair) Olga Lewis (President), Pat Brydges (Secretary) and Mary Hass (Past President). Missing from the picture Is Ken Stafford-Brown (Treasurer), Vaughan Simmons, Stella Laviolette and Patrick Patterson.

At this year's Heritage Renfrew Annual Meeting, guest speakers, Garnet Wilkes of Griffith and Norman Schiemann of Eganville, provided historical information about Slate Falls, located on the Madawaska River near Griffith. Using a Power-Point presentation they provided photos of both the area and of the stone marker inscriptions depicting names of loggers who lost their lives while working the river in the early 18 And 1900's.

Also at this year's meeting, Martin Munhall, Vaughan Simmons, and Stella Laviolette were made Honorary Directors, in recognition of their long term commitment to Heritage Renfrew.

At the February 1st regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors it was decided that Ambrose Adamchick should also be an Honorary Director, in recognition of his many years of service and membership in Heritage Renfrew.



Just a few Heritage Renfrew members braved the chilly weather Monday morning Feb.21, for the raising of Heritage Renfrew's Flag to kick off Heritage Week in Renfrew. Those brave souls from L to R are Reeve Audrey Green, VP Patrick Visinski, Earl Martin and President Olga Lewis. The Heritage Renfrew Group would like to invite everyone to visit and view first hand our operation in our office at the National Archives Canada Building at 770 Gibbons Road. For those who may be interested in preserving Renfrew's Heritage and would like to get involved in one of our many projects please contact us at 613-432-7534 or email us at heritage-renfrew@bell.net

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:

EXPO 150—— RENFREW COUNTY 150 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

GARAGE AND BAKE SALE ——IN MAY OF THIS YEAR,

SPAGHETTI DINNER _____ -

PIZZA SALES EVENT _____

FALL BUS TRIP——-DESTINATION TO BE WORKED OUT SOON.

THESE EVENTS WILL BE WELL ADVERTISED AS TO DATES AND PLACE IN THE MEDIA AND BY POSTER.

MCDUGALL'S SAWMILL: Renfrew Mercury 1872

We shall commence our notes upon the principal business establishments of the village of Renfrew, (which we shall give from time to time, in accordance with the intimation made last week) with an account of the Renfrew Saw Mill, on the south bank of the river Bonnechere, in which considerable alterations and improvements have been in progress during the past winter, and are now fast approaching completion.

The mill was originally built in 1855, by Sir Francis (then Mr) Hincks, and at that time contained only a single upright saw, which could cut about 2000 feet of lumber a day. It remained in this comparatively primitive condition for about six years, when it was taken charge of by Mr Wm. McKay, the agent for Ross, Mitchell & Co. to whom Mr Hincks had at that time disposed of his property in the village. A circular saw was then put in the mill, which cut about 9,000 feet a day of 12 hours.

About three years since the mill came into possession of the estate of the late Mr. J.L. McDougall; and is now the property of Mr. S.McDougall, who is making the improvements above alluded to at an expense of \$5,000.

These improvements consist of the addition of a second circular saw, with 2 new butters and one edger, and a lath and shingle machine. To make room for this machinery an addition has been made to the main building (which is 40 by 66 feet) of 16 feet by 60. The necessary extra motive power is obtained from a leftel Turbine wheel, of 35 horsepower, and a Lion wheel, of 20 horse power, (the latter made in Renfrew) with a head of 10 feet of water. The place for the flume for these wheels had to be blasted out of the solid rock—six feet deep, twelve feet wide and thirty feet long, to procure the necessary head of water. The impression flume in which the wheels are placed is a solid structure of timber held together by massive iron bolts and the cost of the wheels, flume and blasting was \$1,500.

The Planing Machine, which is of the newest style, and manufactured by Messrs. McKechnie & Bertram of Dundas, is driven by the same power as the circular saw; the Shingle Machine, and the Butters and Edger, by the Lion wheel. The Planing Machine is capable of planing, tonguing and grooving all at once. The cost by the time it is in operation will be \$650. the cost of the Shingle Machine is about \$350.

Besides the above machinery, there are two Butters and one Edger, necessary for preparing lumber for the American market to which it will be forwarded via the Canada Central Railway, as soon as the road is open to this point.

With an average supply of water— the head being 16 feet— the motive power of the mill will now be equal to 90 horsepower; and with this, if the supply of water does not fall short, Mr McDougall expects to cut about five million feet of lumber during the coming season. To obtain this quantity he will saw about 30,000 logs— equal to 20,000 standard logs. To accomplish this work the mill will be kept going night and day during the season. To facilitate the hauling of the number of logs from the river to the gangway, we should mention that an endless chain will be employed. The cost of this chain is \$300.

The principal product of the mill, it will be noted, is not designed for local consumption. The lath and shingle machines will however supply the home demand, which is anticipated from the growth of the place, and will do away with the necessity which has recently existed of fetching those necessities of house-building from a distance.

At the time the mill was erected such a thing as shipping lumber for the American market, from a place so far inland, was scarcely even dreamed of. The increase in the extent and power of the mill, afford a very fair illustration of the change generally which has taken place in the importance of Renfrew, as a business centre within the last few years.

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 613-433-3683

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

PLEASE NOTE: FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR 2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES BY FEB. 28, 2011, . 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



This picture shows Renfrew's timber dam, built around 1900 and replaced around 1938 with a concrete dam. Today when the head pond is drained, the concrete headworks and timber base are visible and the old penstocks can be seen on the left-hand side.

AN OPEN HOUSE IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE FALL, TENTATIVE MONTH OCTOBER.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER IN THE WAY OF RESEARCH, AND WHAT HAS BEEN DONE OVER THE PAST YEAR OR SO, DIGITIZING OUR COLLECTIONS AND OTHER THINGS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO DO RESEARCH.