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Heritage Renfrew

June 2011 Edition

Message from the President

Members of Heritage Renfrew

During the last three months we have made progress with our inputting into the computer of the Renfrew Mercury pictures that we have at our Archives.

Our computer that we were using crashed due to being infected by a virus which destroyed our programs, but we were able to save most of our files. They were cleaned of the virus free of charge and a 200 gig hard drive was also donated for that computer free of charge. The computer is now being used to store other files and a new computer was purchased which has a larger capacity for loading on pictures and other data. A new negative scanner for the 16 mil. negatives had to be purchased as the new computer has Windows 7 as the operating system and it would not recognize our other machine.

We will also be purchasing a new flat bed scanner which will be compatible with Windows 7 as well.

Our vice president Patrick Visinski tendered his resignation in April, and so we are at present without a vice president and collections manager. I have been doing what I can to continue the work started by Pat, and more volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

After a very rainy and cold spring, we welcome the warm summer weather. I hope everyone has a pleasant summer holiday.

I am planning an OPEN HOUSE for the middle of July and hope it will be successful in attracting a lot of visitors and new members.

Olga Lewis

President Heritage Renfrew



Library & Archives Canada
Home to Heritage Renfrew

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



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*
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- Local newspapers
- Land records
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.....

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Newsletter Editor - Olga Lewis

Heritage Renfrew is looking for new members who would enjoy working together with other members preserving the History of Renfrew and other projects. Anyone who would like to join our group and serve on the Board of Directors would be most welcome. If you are retired and looking for something to do a few hours a week come and join us. We will teach you how to assist others doing research, it can be fun, and enjoy the company of others who are interested in history and its preservation.

An OPEN HOUSE is being planned for mid July, where we will show what we are about and where we are.

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 ,

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.

DO YOU REMEMBER ? A LOOK AT THE PAST ON MAIN STREET



Wilfred Godin 25 years in business

Wilfred Godin will complete 25 years of business at his booth on Raglan street, May 19, 1957. In the booth built by himself as a form of summer employment, after a layoff from Renfrew Refrigerator Company, Wilf Godin began business with \$54 worth of stock. Twenty five years later he is still at it.

In addition to "Wilfred's Place" on Raglan street south, Wilf has dispensed hot dogs and soft drinks at the Fair for 22 years. Except for some holidays he has yet to miss a day's work.

Born in Pembroke, Mr Godin married Miss Gertrude Stafford of Vinton Quebec, September 10, 1918 in St Francis Xavier Church. He is the father of three children, Florence, who is teaching in Ottawa, Ernie of Renfrew and Mrs Howard Cooney of Toronto. In 1932, the lower part of Raglan street, was the quiet section of main street, the only stores near being M.Vice's grocery and Lorne Scott's hardware store.

Wilfred has seen many changes in Raglan street since he started business and believes that only three other merchants have passed the quarter century mark in the same business location. Many of Mr Godin's first customers still visit the booth and it is the first stopping place for many in Renfrew for a visit. Mr Godin doesn't regret never having gone back to work in a factory. His "summer job" was the start of a successful venture in business because of public response says Mr Godin. Renfrew Mercury May 30, 1957

Going through an old newsletter of Heritage Renfrew that was published in April of 1981 I came across an item which I would like to share with our members. It shows just how important was the preserving of historical data to the members at that time. The article is as follows:

MICROFILMING THE RENFREW MERCURY

One of the most worth-while projects for a long time and making them available to the general public has been the micro-filming of the old issues of the Renfrew Mercury. This has been made possible by the public-spiritedness of Mr. Fred Runge, General Manager of the Renfrew Mercury, the co-operation of Heritage Renfrew and the financial assistance of the Wintario grant.

Some idea of what was involved may be had when it is considered that the old files of the Mercury make a pile of about 10 feet high and Les Anderson and his staff of assistants had to count this pile sheet by sheet.

They were then loaded into a van and Fred Runge transported them to the microfilming company in Toronto where every sheet was individually phototgraphed on both sides. The cost of this work was over \$4,000.00 which, as mentioned, was borne by Fred Runge, Heritage Renfrew and Wintario.

Copies of the microfilm were made for Renfrew Mercury, Heritage Renfrew and Archives of Ontario. Heritage Renfrew is loaning its copies to the Renfrew Public Library where they may be examined by the general public after a microfilm reader has been obtained.

What are microfilms? Microfilms are reels of films of photographic reproductions of old issues of the Mercury, page by page. Each page has been photographed and reproduced in an image about the size of a postage stamp. To view the film it has to be passed through a READER which projects an enlargement of the image on a screen about the size of a TV picture.

The READER is a complicated mechanism consisting of switches, levers, motors lenses and other things all of which are enclosed out of sight in a box. In general appearance the reader bears some resemblance to a Television. The cost is well into four figures.

This is a brief description of the equipment which Renfrew Mercury and Heritage Renfrew are making available to the people of Renfrew through the Renfrew Public Library.

Of what use are microfilms? It is not easy to place a figure on the use that a set of microfilms of the Renfrew Mercury may be to the people of Renfrew in the days to come. In the first place they cover over 100 years history of Renfrew. Almost everyone at some time or another wants to see a back issue of the Mercury. Important events in town, school graduations, sports events, obituararies, weddings and hundreds of other happenings in town over the years have all been recorded in the Mercury write-ups.

Such accounts may not only be seen, but if desired, through a service that is being worked out, photocopies of actual pages may be available. The value of these microfilms will be realized more and more as time goes on.

The financial burden of this project is rather heavy on the limited resources of Heritage Renfrew. So for this reason we appeal for public support by attendance at the Antique Show and paying the \$1.00 admission—or making a further donation—in order to show support of this worthy public benefit.

Editor's note: The microfilms are available for reading at Heritage Renfrew, at the National Archives building. On microfilm are the Renfrew Mercury from 1871 to 2007 and on disc from 2008 to 2010. The Renfrew Mercury is no longer available on line nor is it being preserved by the owners in any form at present, as far as is known. While preserving newspapers is costly, it is a valuable part of our local and national history.

An Open House at Heritage Renfrew Archives is planned for mid July, which will be open to the public so that they may see what we have available for research, for family histories, reference research for projects, and all of our research. We have newspapers on microfilm other than the Mercury, church records for some local churches, census records for Renfrew, Lanark, and Pontiac counties from 1842 to 1901. We hope to soon have the microfilms in for the 1911 census. We hope to add to our collection of research tools in the near future.



GRAHAM'S NEW SUPER-SERVICE BUILDING, RAGLAN STREET

These two pictures show the buildings that were once at the corner of Munro street and Raglan street. The upper photo shows the garage and service station that was built to replace the structure in the lower photo. The building in the lower photo was built in the 1880's and was a hardware store for many years. When gasoline became a very much needed commodity several oil companies purchased property in Renfrew and each built their own service stations. An article about the lower service station appeared in the Renfrew Mercury in the 1930's.

THE GRAHAM ESTABLISHMENT ENLARGED MATERIALLY

The British American Oil Co. has added materially to the size of quarters at the corner of Raglan and Munro 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 much 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 in that section of the town could wish.

Rg6

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:

Open House planned for July 2011.

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.

February 27, 1874

UPPER OTTAWA MACHINE WORKS AND FOUNDRY

Mr. J.R. Smith, the proprietor of the Upper Ottawa Machine Works and Foundry, Renfrew Village, has recently invented a new Force and Suction pump,--- an experimental trial which we witnessed on Wednesday afternoon, and the result appeared to be successful and satisfactory. The pump, through one hundred feet of hose, drew water from across the Foundry well in sufficient quantity to fill an ordinary coal oil barrel in 12 seconds. The force necessary to do this amount of work is transmitted through a shaft of only 1½ inches -- the diameter of the main shaft of the pump.

The machine stands on a solid iron base, two feet in diameter, and is about two feet and a half in height. It consists of two cylinders, two rollers, and air-drome, on slack and on tight pulley, and a fly-wheel, with handle attached, so that it can be worked either by hand or steam power. As Mr. Smith has not yet patented his invention, which differs from any existing force or suction pump, he does not desire to make the details of the working parts public at present.

The machine at work on Wednesday is designed for use rather as a suction than a force pump, and would be suitable for emptying vats, wells, etc., rapidly when required. Another pump, with modifications intended to render it effective as a force pump, for throwing water to a distance, is in course of construction, and when ready we shall report how large a stream it can throw, and to what distance. It appears probable that these pumps, attached to a tank of sufficient capacity, would prove very effective for extinguishing fires, and being far cheaper than the ordinary fire engine, might be made at least to serve as very valuable auxiliaries to the complete efficiency of a fire company.

As a mere piece of workmanship--and quite independent of the new application of mechanical principles the inventor claims to have embodied in it,-- it is very creditable to the proprietor of the Machine Works and his assistants. It is solidly and compactly put together, and although there is no attempt at merely pretty looking or ornamental work, there is a neatness and finish about the bright iron parts of the pump, which gives it a handsome appearance. it might not attract special attention in a city Foundry, but it shows that the tools and machinery in use at the Upper Ottawa Machine Works are of the most improved and effective description, and in the hands of competent artisans can turn out work of a kind far superior to anything hitherto attempted in this County.

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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.

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 _____

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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



Pictured above is Blimkie's Booth which was a popular spot for soft drinks, bars ,cigarettes and other treats for 25 years. It was on the corner of Lochiel and Munro street. The booth was taken over at one time after the Blimkie's retired, by Arlene McCallum who served hot dogs, hamburgers, home cooked meals etc. for several years and later was known as Esther's where more of the same was dispensed. Esther's closed at that location several years ago and moved up onto Raglan street at the Bear's Den. Both businesses are now gone from Raglan street. The building still stands at the corner of Lochiel and Munro street.