

# OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW

HERITAGE RENFREW

SEPTEMBER 2011



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

## Message from the President

### **Members of Heritage Renfrew**

I hope all our members had a very enjoyable summer this year. It was a hot and humid couple of months but nice to have for vacations or being at the cottage.

We hope to have our extended hours in the evening one night a week, which will be a Monday from 6 pm to 9 p.m. Research or work can be done until 8:30 p.m and close up from 8:30 so we can be out of the Archives by 9 p.m.

Thanks to Ken Stafford the head of security for endorsing with his superiors our request for the extended hours.

Earl Martin is making good progress in putting into the computer the pictures from the Renfrew Mercury. We have devised a way of storing the negatives, thanks again to Earl's ingenuity. He came up with a way to store the negatives that saves a lot of space.

We had a very successful open house this July. My thanks to Joyce and Clarence McBride, Martin Munhall and Darlene Mask for their help in making it a success.

A fall bus trip was planned for September and was a great success. Thanks to the efforts of Mary Hass and Pattie Brydges.

We are always looking for new members and would like to see many who would like to volunteer a few hours a week or in a month of their time to Heritage Renfrew.

**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**

**Treasurer**

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

**Secretary**

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

**Membership Chair**

Joyce Laird-McBride ..... 613-646-2375

**Directors**

**Honorary**

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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 ..... 613-432-6242

Pat Patterson ..... 613-432-5224

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 looking for new members who would enjoy working together with other members preserving the History of Renfrew and other projects.

**My sincere apologies for the mistake I made in the location of Blimkie's Booth in our last issue. It was located midway between MONROE and Patrick streets on Lochiel street. The booth on the corner of Monroe street was the Freamo booth, later owned by Arlene McCallum and lastly by Esther..**

This year our constitution is up for review. The committee for doing this has been appointed and a full report will appear in our December newsletter.

We have been requested to have another open house which could be considered for this fall or in the winter

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, munhall@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.

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OPEN HOUSE

We had a very successful open house on Tuesday July 26, 2011. There were several people who came to see what we had to offer in the way of research and we were able to help quite a few. Some we had to send on to other organizations who had information that we did not have.

Many thanks to Joyce and Clarence McBride, Martin Munhall and Darlene Mask who so willingly gave of their time and help.

My thanks to Cory Dunfield, manager of the National Archives building for allowing us the use of the kitchen to serve tea and coffee. It was a great help.

BUS TRIP.

Our fall bus trip will be on September 22, 2011. The bus will leave the Renfrew Archives Building at 10:00 a.m. and travel to Barry's Bay where a stop will be made for lunch, and then on to Algonquin park where there are several historic places to visit. One is at a museum and there is also a trail that can be walked for those who would like to do so. Returning to Renfrew with a stop on the way back for supper at the Eganville Legion. Full cost of the trip is \$40 per person which includes supper but not lunch. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a trip to one of Ontario's historic parks.

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## LIST OF INTERNET SITES FOR RESEARCH

[c.mfcreative.com/pdf/trees](http://c.mfcreative.com/pdf/trees)

[ingeneas.ca](http://ingeneas.ca) A site with Canadian immigration records and other information, that is a great help to researchers, a small fee is charged if you want to have a copy of any information listed.

[collectionscanada.ca](http://collectionscanada.ca) Government of Canada site, has census and other records, searchable census records online from 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1881 you can access on Ancestry.com for a fee. To view and extract information from the 1881 you must visit the National Archives building in Ottawa or any genealogical group who have reels of census film.

[www.genesearch.com](http://www.genesearch.com) German ancestry/passenger lists

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca) Archives of Ontario site lots of information on where to look for records. Now situated at York University in Toronto.

[familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) The Church of the Latter Day Saints site with lots of genealogical information and it is free

[automatedgenealogy.com](http://automatedgenealogy.com) 1901—1911—1916 census site indexed

[Tbaytel.net](http://Tbaytel.net) Bill Martin's site lots of information, church records, directories and other information

[Www.nic.bnc.ca](http://Www.nic.bnc.ca) newspapers at the Archives and other newspapers on microfilm

[Looking4kin.com](http://Looking4kin.com) this site has lots of genealogical information

[Homepages.rootsweb/ancestry.com](http://Homepages.rootsweb/ancestry.com) this site has marriages of Ontario that have been taken from the Marriages of Ontario Registrar General's records, and go from 1869 to 1927 not all years are complete but a good site to visit. They also have other records up there and best of all the site is free. Hopefully it will never be absorbed by Ancestry.ca.

For users of Ancestry.ca the Mount St Patrick Church records are now online there and you can search it for a fee. Not all information found on this site is accurate as people send in their family trees mistakes and all. It costs about \$234 per year to be able to search most of this site. Whenever they have a freebie for a two week period, you only get to search a small portion of this site.

### MAYOR LOOKS BACK, SEES SAMPLE OF PIONEER CONSTRUCTION

Mayor D.W. Stewart believes that achievements of the past may provide a pattern that would be profitable to follow today.

When speaking at the annual dinner of the Chamber of Commerce, Saturday night, the mayor said that the town had its up and downs and has grown greatly, "thanks to the forward thinking of those hardy pioneers who have preceded the members of this organization."

The mayor explained the town is dismantling an old house behind Low Square and many had wondered at its construction.

The house was a large two storey structure. The foundation was stone and there was some evidence in places that the cellar had been hewn out of solid rock. Clapboard, a plaster coating and one inch boards laid flat with plaster between each board made up the walls. The main beams which supported the main floor were huge hand hewn pines laid horizontally about four feet apart. These beams were hewn flat both on the top and the bottom of each log. The sides of each had been left rounded. These beams fitted, socket like into slots which had been dug in the foundation for this purpose.

Large windows gave ample light to the occupants. Old fashioned lighting fixtures could be seen hanging like chandeliers from the main dining room.

The house was built in the 1860's by George Dougall as his residence. It was built long before the building reconstructed by Raglan Realities and which was now the Medico Legal office building. It had lawns and gardens extending down to Raglan street and for many years was very beautiful.

Mr Dougall operated a wagon shop on the site now occupied by John Pershick's garage. That was a bustling industry in its day, employing several men and no doubt made many of the sturdy wagons which were used in building the agricultural community.

"This man worked under conditions which would seem almost impossible today ", the mayor said. "I am told that all his power requirements for spoke turning , boring and dressing the hardwood lumber used was developed by horse power—yes, the original type, a horse plodding in a circle hitched to a bar that turned the mechanical device operating his machines.

"This man used the facilities which were available and obviously thrived under those conditions. He planned for the future. He and his kind should provide excellent patterns for us.

"Let us grow as they did".



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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 Amprior	\$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

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) 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.

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Renfrew Mercury 1965

IMBLEAU FOUNDRY NOW OPERATED BY THIRD GENERATION  
OF FAMILY

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For three generations the Imbleau Foundry on Bridge street has been operated by the Imbleau family and it is now the oldest manufacturing firm in Renfrew.

The firm was founded in 1876, 89 years ago.

Luc Imbleau, grandfather of Cherrie Imbleau the present owner, established the business. He was born in France and came to Canada when a youth. He married in Three Rivers, Que., and started from there to locate a business of his own.

He travelled by rail and got as far as Sand Point which was the end of the Railway line in those days. He decided to go to Renfrew, which looked to be a good prospect for an up and coming young business man. From Sand Point, his luggage had to be carried by wagon. His only money was a trunk full of silver and this trunk fell off the wagon and broke open. The silver coins were strewn all over the road and the men driving the wagons helped Mr Imbleau to pick up his money.

He did not immediately build his foundry, but first worked in James McNicol's axe factory. From here, he decided to go into business for himself. He built his foundry across the river where the woolen mill stands today on the banks of the Bonnechere. The reason for settling there was to have sufficient water power to run his machinery.

Cast iron kettles, coolers, cast iron frying pans and cast iron bean pots for shanty use in the bush were the first products manufactured by the foundry. At that time Mr Imbleau and a helper ran the business.

Lumbermen were the chief buyers in those early times and a lot of the work put out by the foundry was paid for by barter. The only firms which paid cash were the larger lumbering companies.

Luc had two sons, Merille and Henrie, known as Rouge, who were born in the terrace which Mr Imbleau built on Argyle street. When the two boys were old enough to work, they were employed in the foundry. He then moved the foundry to its present location. The old front part of the building was the whole business at that time and was burned down three times and rebuilt three times.

Following Luc's death, Henrie and Merille took over the business and mostly manufactured the same products which had been made by their father. A few years later Merille left the business and went to Toronto. This left the foundry in the hands of Henrie and his son Cherrie. When Henrie died, Cherrie and his mother were owners and operators of the firm. Cherrie's mother died and his sister, Yvonne went into partnership with him and they were, and still are, CONT'D 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.

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.*

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

For Year \_\_\_\_\_

New  Renew

<b>Mail to:</b> 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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**IMBLEAU FOUNDRY (continued)**

sole owners or the foundry and the machine shop.

An extension was built to the old foundry in 1916 and at that time scales were made and contract work was done. The foundry manufactured the nosings of shells and did general contract work during the First World War.

There were six men employed then. At the outbreak of the second World War, the foundry again manufactured nosings for shells and ten men were employed.

The foundry employes 45 men at the present time and manufactures municipal castings, smoke control tubes which are used in large factories and mines, and repair parts for all models of Renfrew Machinery stoves. Contract work is also done from coast to coast.

There have been only a few accidents in all the long years of operation, the most serious being in 1948 when Daniel Marcella lost his arm in a gas tank explosion.

Editors Note: This factory is still going strong today and is the oldest running manufacturing business in Renfrew.

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