

# OPEONGO LINES

PRESERVING YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW



Heritage Renfrew

September 2010 Edition

## Message from the President

### Members of Heritage Renfrew

I don't think anyone will forget the summer of 2010.

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Members of the executive have been very busy at the Archives. Many changes have been made. They are trying to bring us into the 21st century. Do try to make a visit some Monday or Wednesday morning to see the changes.

Volunteers have been busy finding information for visitors this summer.

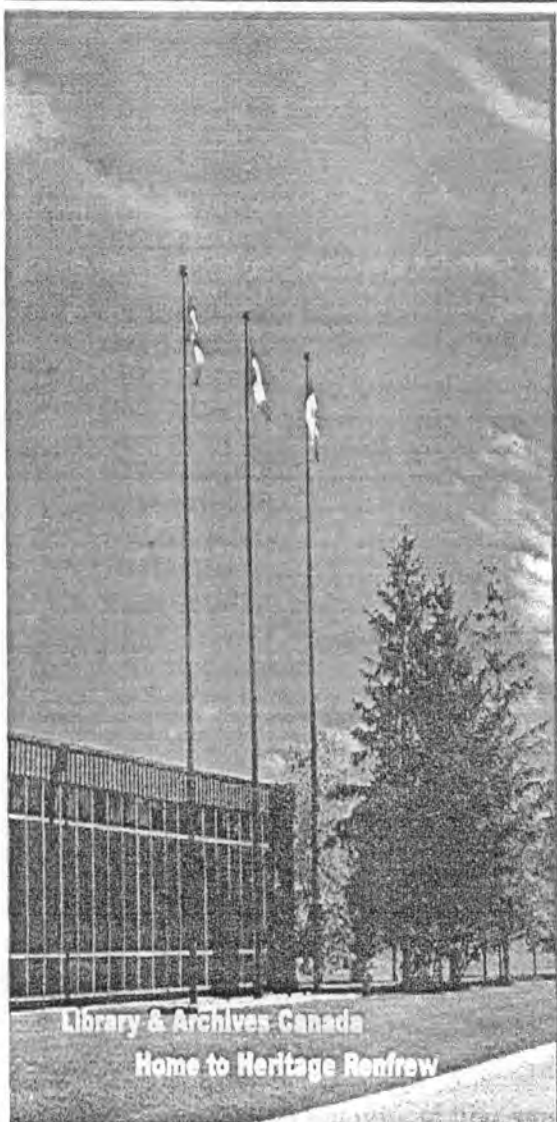
The Reader/Copiers, and printers have all been repaired. They were showing their age and thanks to Pat for tracking down a repair person and striking a good deal. These machines have to be in working order. Most researchers use them.

Thank you all volunteers.

Watch for information about our fall trip on Thursday September 23. Travel with us up the Opeongo Road to enjoy the fall colours, stopping at Moose on the Creek for lunch, at Lake Clear. Then continuing on to Foymount, Combermere, Crooked Slide Park (great for pictures) Shrine Hill at Wilno, then to Eganville Legion for dinner..

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Hass President.



Library & Archives Canada  
Home to Heritage Renfrew

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RENFREW, ONTARIO  
K7V 4H4

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## 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

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John Steele  
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Vaughan Simmons  
Martin Munhall  
Jim McGregor  
Audrey Green

Newsletter Editor Olga Lewis

**HOME CHILDREN REPORT:** In the September issue Dave Lorente will be giving his final report on Home Children. Dave has worked hard over the years promoting and researching Home Children that were sent to Canada and Australia. He and his wife Kay also founded Home Children Canada.

Dave lectures all over Canada and the United States and has made several trips to England getting information and recognition for the Home Children who were sent so far away from their homes.

**HERITAGE RENFREW VOLUNTEERS;** have been busy renovating our area for research. Improvements have been made, and the volunteers are busy putting into the computer data for research which makes it easier for those who use our facilities.

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

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE OFFICE?

By Pat Visinski

There have been a number of changes within the Heritage Renfrew Office

The Digitalization (Scanning) of the Renfrew Mercury Negatives

The need for additional storage space within the office has initiated this project. Our collection of Photo Negatives from the Renfrew Mercury currently takes up a great deal of valuable real-estate within the office. This collection includes photo negatives dating from the early 1960's to the early 2000's. The Process of scanning all photo negatives into the computer will reduce the storage space needed to house this collection. A special thanks to Earl Martin for his time and computer skills in this project.

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Our Microfilm Collection will be Expanding

Renfrew Mercury has asked us to store their collection of Microfilm. This will provide Heritage Renfrew with access to additional Newspapers from the surrounding areas, like Carleton Place and Almonte. We are in the process of transporting the many boxes of Microfilm from the Mercury office to Heritage Renfrew. They will be indexed and then made available to the general public. Upon completion of this project an updated list with details regarding the collection will be made available to all.

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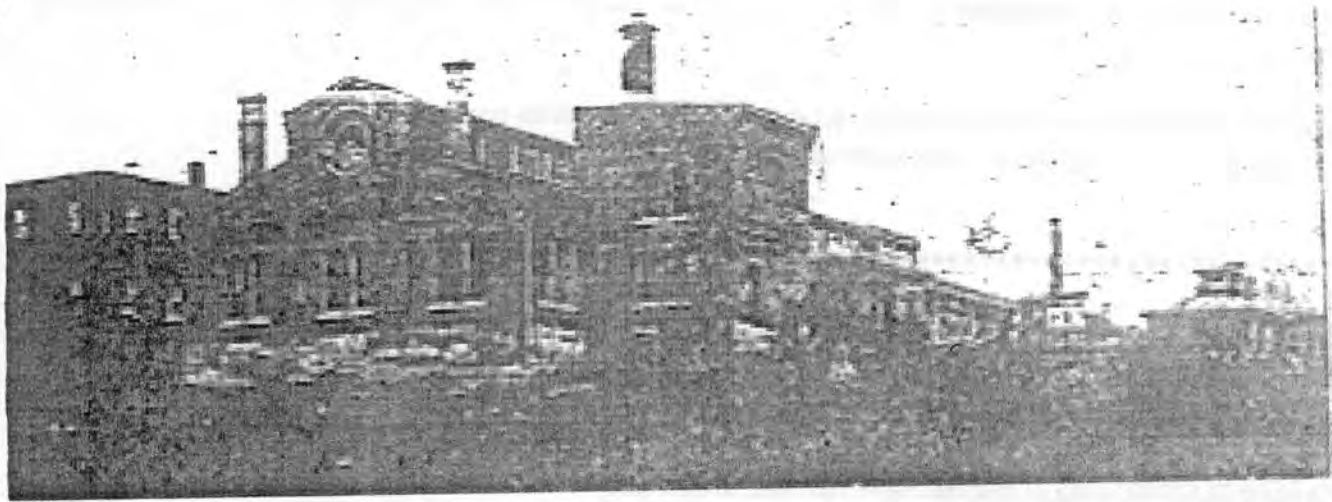
The Cal Green Photo Negative Collection Reorganization

We have now re-indexed and relocated the entire collection. Upon completion of this project, a process to access and view and provide copies of negatives in this collection will be finalized. Equipment needed for processing any request was provided by Pat Patterson, Earl Martin and Pat Visinski.

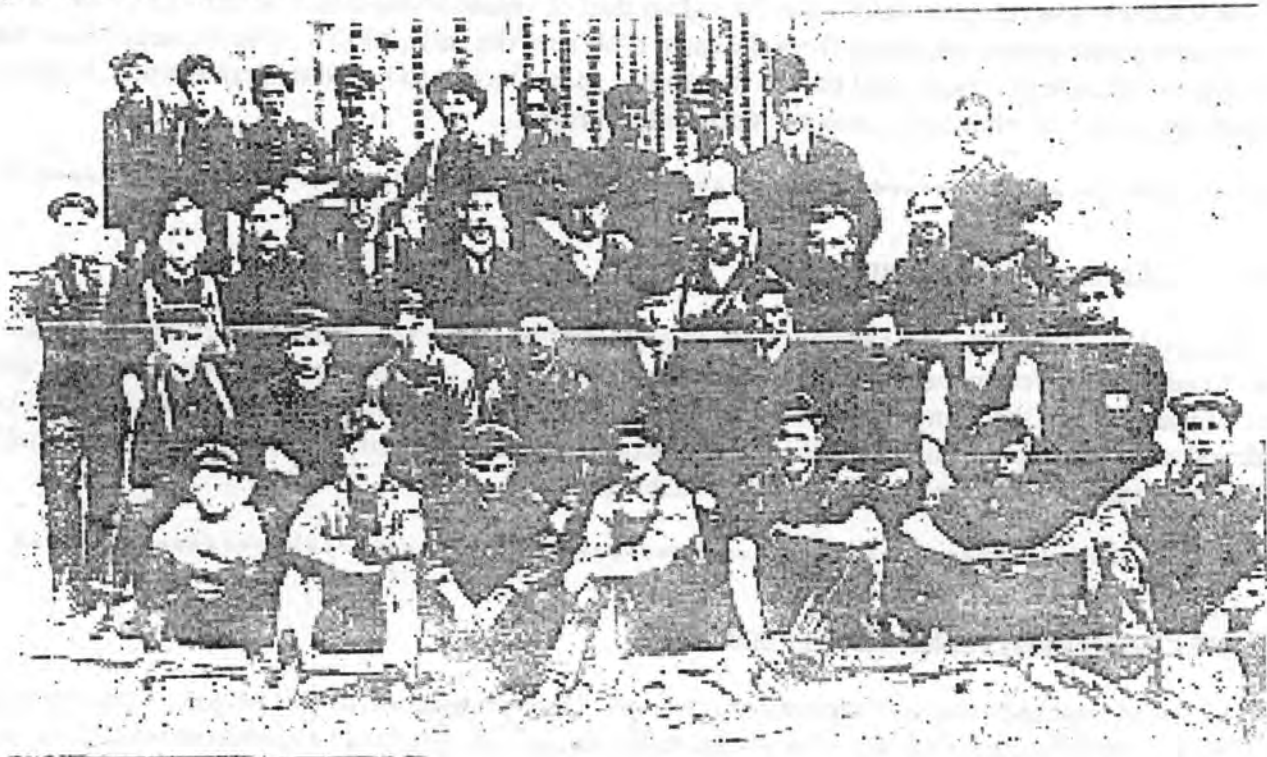
The Renfrew Junction of the K & P



B84



Factory of the New Renfrew Machinery Company, Manufacturer of the "Standard"



First Employees of the new Renfrew Machinery Company

First Row— Thos. Giles, Thorntan, Greatorix, Tompkins, Nordland, Hickey, Fraser

Second Row— Soderstrom, Campbell, Nicholson, Gus Soderstrom, W. Milne, Burton, Anderson, Cousens, F. Soderstrom

Third Row— Fishenden, J. Milne, Alf Runge, Farlie, F. Vickers, W. Hemphill, J. Dillon, Carleson, Wilkie, Brown, Cronin.

Fourth Row— Betts, Johnston, Carr, Alf Caughey, Caughey, Jas. Campbell, Dalzell, Thos Sheahan, E.H. Vickers, Neilson

F. Vickers in the 3rd row is Manager and Mr Hemphill alongside him is chief salesman. Messrs. Gus Soderstrom and W. Milne of second row are the inventors and chief mechanics. Mr Betts first row is chief of moulding dept.. Read from left to right..

Renfrew in the late 1800's and early 1900's was a busy industrial town, unlike the Town of Renfrew today. It was a thriving town with new industries being built all the time, and had entrepreneurs like M.J. O'Brien, Thomas A. Low, and others who developed industries and there was employment for many young men. In 1910 two new factories were built in the Town of Renfrew and the Jamieson Lime Co. purchased the Brick and Tile works and added them to their Lime Kiln industry. See page 7 for the story on the Jamieson Lime Kiln and Brick and Tile Industry.

The New Renfrew Industry ——— October 1910

Last year, just about this time, The Mercury exclaimed in large type—"Just watch us grow this year" All the things then prophesied did not come to pass in the full, but most of them did in some degree; and there were developments not then thought for at least only supposed to be possible in a few minds. Among those were what is popularly known as the "Separator Factory". True it is that Messrs Soderstrom and Milne were then working away on their improvements in the machine room of the Barnet factory under the progressive wing of Mr Low; but few there were to imagine that inside of a year with a fine establishment for the manufacture of this fine machine would be reared on the bank of the Bonnechere. But the expert mechanics worked away and produced something that received approval of the experts of the Experimental Farm, full, of the practical men who investigated it. Mr Low was joined in the enterprise by Mr O'Brien; the factory was rapidly pushed forward, the machinery ordered; the manufacturing staff, the selling staff and the office staff organized and the first complete machines turned out, last week. That all the delays incident to building getting fine new machinery, etc. should be overcome, and everything in operation in less than six months from the time the first sod was turned, says a good deal for the ability and push with which we give illustrations of the gentlemen who are the backbone of this enterprise, of the buildings of the staff of workers already engaged, and of the machine itself.

Though the buildings illustrated show part of one which is not of the Separator group, the office has yet to be constructed, so that what is shown is just about what the first plant of the Renfrew Machinery Co. will actually be; and when The Mercury last went over the establishment with Mr Low his only regret was that in certain portions there was not the room for future development that now seemed likely.

The particular good points of the "Standard" as compared with other machines are that, it skims faster, it turns easier, it is self-oiling, it is more compact, it requires less oil, it is easier to clean, it runs with less noise, it has a lower supply can, it has a centre balanced bowl, it has interchangeable bearings, it is stronger and more durable, it has enclosed dust proof gearing, it produces more butter fat from the milk.

And a claim of the makers is that a "Standard" will produce enough extra cream over pans or cans from a herd of eight cows to pay for itself in one year, or enough more than any other Separator with the same number of cows to pay for itself in ten and a half years.

There was a rumour about town this week that Mr Low has sold the factory to the Delchay firm. Questioning Mr Low over the phone on Thursday evening he said that there was not an atom of truth in the story—the matter had never even been discussed. He was at a loss to know what could have given rise to it. Neither was there any truth in the pretty story in last week's paper about a meeting some years ago at Kingston between himself and Rev. Messrs Lett and Childerhose.

The pictures on page four have been reproduced from photo that appeared in The Mercury at the time the story of the above factory was in the paper. Please bear with me if the production is not as good as one would like to see, as one must remember photographic equipment was very different in 1910 than what it is today.

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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

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.

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#### COMING EVENTS:

**FALL BUS TRIP**— This year we will be travelling up part of the Opeongo Trail and other roads to Combermere and beyond. The date of this trip is going to be Thursday September 23, 2010. We will leave the Archives building at 10:30 a.m. and will return at 10:00 p.m. Dinner is included in the cost of the trip and will be at the Eganville Legion on the way back to Renfrew. Lunch will be at Moose on the Creek at Lake Clear.

**OCTOBER MEETING**— The October meeting will be on Wednesday October 13 when we will be hosting the U.O.V.G.G. general meeting in conjunction with our own meeting. A special presentation to Dave and Kay Lorente will be made by the U.O.V.G.G., as well as one from the Heritage Renfrew Group.

The Flourishing Lime and Brick and Tile Industries of Renfrew— 1910

Who is the employer of the largest amount of labor within the town of Renfrew? Possibly in the summer it is the quiet-going J.A. Jamieson known more familiarly as Mick." In his lime-kiln. And brick and tile yard enterprises he unites natural wealth in the limestone clay of the neighborhood to the turn and muscle of over half a hundred of the residents— and proposes wealth for them, wealth for the country and it can fairly be hoped a fairly supply of wealth for himself, he deserves it: if constant assiduous attention to business counts. He is always "on the job" as the moderns say. In fact if Aleck's friends have a fault to find it is that he sticks closely to business that so far he has not had time to take unto himself a better half.

Responsibility came upon him early, he was only 21 years of age when his father the late John A. Jamieson died; just as the lime business had developed to a stage that promised to make it a considerable industry, those who had been watching, felt that Aleck had the business instinct in him so certainly that he could be depended on to keep the business going and certainly has justified that opinion. The lime business did fully develop; and there came a time a year or so ago, when some of the young business manager's friends were afraid that the "lure of the west" would call him, and that the object for greater things in an apparently larger field might take him away from Renfrew. And so it was with quiet pleasure they learned that Mr Fred Hilliard's determination to retire from his brickyard business he worked out in providing the larger opportunity for Alex Jamieson of Renfrew. Brick and tile manufacture seemed indeed kindred to the production of lime; much of the selling would be to the same customers; hence there was not only a future of economy in management available; but there was the certainty that each business would tend to attain the circle of knowledge of the business. The man who bought lime would now know that Renfrew also carried brick, and the man who bought brick would now know that Renfrew also produced lime. For a business man like J. A. Jamieson needed not to have printed letterheads or billheads.

And now for a few words about the initial industries. How few of those today gaze on the jagged hole at the base of the lime kilns shown in the larger illustration, know or remember that on top of the rock that was once where the hole now is was grown the first crop of corn or grain ever grown within the town of Renfrew. So it was however; for just back of where the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian churches now stand, pioneer Sgt. Henry Airth first broke ground. Within the memory of this generation, however, the spot has been given over to other uses. We fancy it was T.J. Somerville, a marble dealer, who first saw possibilities in the hill of rock. It was marble he was after. This would be in the eighties. But lacking capital the industry did not thrive. Mr Hilliard and an Ottawa marble company later had a try at it; but it was still marble they were after, The Ottawa people, however, found that some seams and cracks developed in the marble, and they continued only a season or two. Meantime the late J.A. Jamieson had built a lime kiln a little to the south of this property, and was getting the stone to burn from the field on the south side of Hall street (about where Mr J. Mayhew's residence is now situated). And when the marble industry faltered, Mr Jamieson bought this hill of rock and the land surrounding from Mr Plaunt. If we remember aright it was something like \$5,000 that was paid for the plot. At that period of Renfrew's growth this seemed a big sum; and men pondered —would Jamieson ever get it back? He built a new kiln near where the present trio are situated, and commenced to quarry and burn the rock. In 1899, Alex took hold. And out of the hole—now 200x300 feet across and an average of 20 feet deep— has been taken a yearly output of from 100,000 to 175,000 bushels of lime. Now, not much is being quarried. More could be taken out; but so near residences, the blasting and drilling is not only a nuisance, but the blasting is much more expensive than in a more retired spot. So now, though two of the kilns are burning steadily, it is chiefly upon rock which is drawn from the Jamieson farm in Horton during the winter months; some 20 teams being employed at that work while sleighing lasts. After a time the kilns will be removed to a point nearer the railway tracks; and what is now in some senses an unsightly gap in Mother Earth will be all refilled and covered with handsome residences. From 2,500 to 3,000 cords of wood are burnt at the kilns each year. Most of it is bought from the farmers of the district; though some has been brought from Madawaska on the G.T.R.

Continued on next page .

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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. 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 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.

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K7V 4H4 Canada

Membership  
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\$20.00 Outside Canada

### Jamieson Lime cont.

About twenty men are employed in this industry on an average; less in summer, more in winter. The product of the kilns is shipped to points between Ottawa and Fort William; more largely in the northern points. There are some particularly good qualities about this Renfrew lime. It is what masons call a cool-working lime—doesn't set so quickly as the blue limestone product, and the mortar made from its trowels very easily. It has great adhesive strength, and stands more sand. That is 100 lbs. of Renfrew lime will make more mortar. Brick layers say that they can do more work in bricklaying with this lime; can in fact lay 200 more brick per day; which means about 75 cents saved to the contractor or housebuilder on each bricklayer. "But," says the critic, "does it not pick or "pipp" a good deal in plaster"? It does if not properly or sufficiently slacked. The analysts say that if there is any pipping it is due to improper slacking, and experience proves that if proper care and time is taken in the running, there is no danger of pipping.

But the Jamieson Co. manufacture another grade of lime. This is at Eganville, where Mr George Barnes is in command, and where about a dozen men are employed. The lime manufactured at Eganville is of a character rare to find — free from phosphorus and sulphur; and it is used almost altogether for carbide and chemical purposes.

Last year as previously mentioned Mr Jamieson further enlarged his field of operations by purchasing Mr Hilliard's brick and tile making plant and renting the yard. Later on in the season Mr Jamieson purchased the Renfrew Brick and Tile Co.s yard (formerly Thos. Henderson's) down by the river side. Mr Jamieson has also developed into something of a building contractor; having sold some lots in his centre town property and built on them residences complete for purchasers.



The Original Brick Kilns of Renfrew

Pictured above are the brick kilns that once were on the Bonnechere river where the Air Force Park now stands. Also pictured is the old pumphouse which was for some years used as a duplex home, and was torn down several years ago. It was situated across from what was known as the swimming beach, which has been closed for many years also.