



Opeongo Lines

Fall

2015

Heritage Renfrew Preserving Yesterday for Tomorrow !

Library & Archives
Canada,
Home to
Heritage Renfrew
770 Gibbon Road
Renfrew, Ontario
K7V 4H4



Presidents Message

Earlier in the year we had a request for a student placement from Bonnie Bishop of the Renfrew County District School, Continuing Education. Student, Matthew Florent referred to as "Task Master" was with us for a short while and achieved a lot of work. We were disappointed to lose his help.

Some years ago my daughter Laurie did data entry for a project. A few summers ago her daughter Paige helped with chores in the Heritage room and to my delight my second granddaughter helped this summer. She was very interested in what everything was and why we had it, and where did we get it. She helped process donated books for the shelf and seemed to enjoy doing it. She wants to help gain next summer. I hope this enthusiasm lasts. We need young people to be interested and involved.

Heritage Renfrew participated in a mini conference held by Patrick's Family History Group. We exchanged holdings information with other groups. We were pleased to be part of such an informative session.

A fall bus trip was enjoyed in September. Starting at Renfrew we made our way travelling back roads to Golden Lake. Mt. St. Patrick, Cormac, Dacre, Castile, Augsburg, Ruby and Zadow. The highlights of the trip were a guided tour through the Golden Lake Reserve and meals at Golden Lake and Eganville Legion. Music was also enjoyed.

Heritage Renfrew had purchased a new scanner/motorized carrier to facilitate the digitization of microfilm and microfiche to searchable pdf files. This can also be used for preserving our film negative collection. At the present time we will be learning how to be efficient operators and then we can teach the public how to use it. This will enhance the preservation of archive material and collections. This is to the credit of our Web Master, Doug Fraser.

We are happy to know that Farrell's Landing sale will not take place. A Canada 150 grant has been applied for, to develop this area which will be known as "Linear Park". Heritage Renfrew has consented to provide a plaque in a suitable frame to be erected on the site.

Stay Safe and happy searching.....

Hours of Operation

Monday and Wednesday
from 1pm to 3pm

Closed all Holidays.

Special request appointments may be considered after contacting one of the Executive members of Heritage Renfrew .

General Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 1.00 pm to 3:00 pm. .

Website -

www.heritagerenfrew.ca

E-mail address-

heritagerefrew@gmail.com

Heritage Renfrew Executives -2015

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Darlene Mask	613-432-6242	myddmask@sympatico.ca
Past President	Olga Lewis	613-432-6958	olewis@sympatico.ca
Vice President	Jim MacGregor	613-432-9566	james.macgregor@sympatico.ca
Treasurer	Doug Fraser	613-432-5972	dfraser237@nrtco.net
Secretary	Dulcie Bootland		
Membership Chair	Earl Martin	613-432-4412	emartin23@cogeco.ca

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Mary Hass	
Joyce Laird McBride	Pat Patterson
Audrey Green	

Honorary Directors

Stella Laviolette	Irene Rekowski
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Past President Advisory Committee

Dave Lorente	Kay Gollinger Lorente	Marge Lindsay
Jim MacGregor	John Steele	Audrey Green
Dean Black	Doris Humphries	Mary Hass

Friendly Reminder**Membership Expiration Notification**

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Feature Article!



History – Algonquins of Golden Lake

It is our belief that we occupied North America since time immemorial. There is archaeological evidence indicating Algonquins occupied the Ottawa Valley for at least the last 10,000 years.

Our first European contact was with Samuel de Champlain in 1603. Numerous years after, Algonquins became allies with the French. At the conquest of 1759 when the French were conquered by the British, the British specified in the 1763 Royal Proclamation that 'the Indians should not be molested on their hunting grounds', meaning we could only sell our lands after a public council for that purpose was held and that our lands could not be sold until they were ceded [surrendered].

We never surrendered our land. The government took or purchased our land from other First Nations that had no claim to the land. We petitioned these purchases and the Crown acknowledged that we never entered into treaties, nor taken part in any surrendering of lands.

In 1774, the Quebec Act extended the boundaries of Quebec, which included areas of our land and in the 1791 Constitution Act, the Ottawa River became the dividing line between Upper and Lower Canada. This placed our land and people under two separate government administrations.

In 1873, after we petitioned several times for our own land, the 1745-acre Golden Lake Reserve was purchased from Ontario by Canada with our money. The reserve was vested with the Department of Indian Affairs in trust for us, allowing 'certificates of possession' and 'transference between members'' rather than land ownership, thus never able to participate in the dominant culture's system of finance whereby land can be used as collateral.

At the same time our land was given away for free to settlers by the government of Ontario and it was illegal for Indians to get free land grants. Inequities were made worse when Prime Minister John A Macdonald's government implemented the Indian Act in 1880. The Indian Act made it illegal for us to speak our language, use our drums, sing our songs, practice our ceremonies, wear traditional clothing, change any policy legally and other restrictions. This remained the law for 71 years, until these provisions were removed in the Act in 1951.

For many more years injustices occurred from having to have a permit to leave the reserve, a pink slip to drink alcohol to losing status and being forced off the reserve if marrying a non-Indian man. Even our soldiers who fought for Canada were treated unfair; they were enfranchised in order to fight, losing their status. Instead of being honoured when returned, they didn't receive any of the benefits other veterans received. Also, if you were away from the reserve for more than five years, you lost status.

The education system started with Indian Day School, where you could go up to senior 4th or grade eight. When the Indian Day School closed, boarding school was an option but most couldn't afford it. We could also attend high school in Eganville by train and return home at 8:00PM daily. Many children were taken to federally funded Catholic residential school at Spanish, Ontario. Like other residential schools, children suffered from physical and sexual abuse, punished for speaking Algonquin, poorly treated and fed, cut off from family, community and culture.

Another inhumane and disheartening part of our history is the "60's Scoop", referring to the adoption of First Nations children in Canada between the years of 1960 until the mid-1980's. Many children were taken by Indian Affairs and Children's Aid, often without consent. The agencies responsible considered us to be inferior because of our poverty, even though it was imposed upon us by unjust legislation and circumstances.

In 1966 Indian Affairs hired a band administrator and got rid of Indian agents; this was said to give us more autonomy, although all policy was still decided in Ottawa. The self-administration policy would allow us to administer the funding allocated by the Department of Indian Affairs. It was an attempt by the government to overcome its previous depleting assimilation and isolation policies, which had resulted in apathy, dependence, poverty, substance abuse, and a well-deserved mistrust of government. The new policy failed to address the core issue; an insubstantial land base to allow sustainable economic, cultural, traditional, agricultural or resource independence, development and management.

In 1985, amendments were done to the Indian Act to address discriminatory legislation and to be more in line with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In 2008, the Government of Canada issued a Statement of Apology to former students of Indian Residential Schools. The government is attempting to address the issues of our past. We are currently working with the federal and provincial governments to se-

cure a land claim agreement. The land claim aims to include a just recognition of Algonquin rights, title, natural resources, governance, compensation and other matters.

Our community has been working hard to restore our culture, raise healthy children and to build strong social and economic futures. We are proud of the following accomplishments:

- 1977-Tennisco Manor built for those requiring supportive housing and a new facility was recently built with self-contained apartments
- 1979-The Mindiwin Manido Daycare was established and today our children's school readiness programming is integrated with Algonquin, English and cultural teachings.
- 1984- a ball field was built
- 1987-first year of our the Annual Traditional Pow Wow at Golden Lake
- 1989- the Makwa Community Centre was completed and is used for classes, events, and recreational activities
- 1989-Pikwàkanagàn hired Community Health Representative; programs for medical transportation, drug and alcohol and community health were instituted.
- 1998-Current health centre opened.
- 2003-Our administration building was replaced
- Present-We currently have Algonquin language programs in our elementary schools in Eganville
- Present-We are building a Business Centre in our community for economic development opportunities
- Present-We have several health, social, educational and cultural activities for our members

The above text is a summary of *History of the Algonquins Omamiwinini: the Invisible People* written by Kim Hanewich, which is based on collections of writing from Joan Holmes, Kirby J. Whiteduck, and Greg Sarazin.

We welcome suggestions for next years bus trip !

HERITAGE RENFREW BUS TOUR 2015

1858	Renfrew	2nd Chute of the Bonnechere, now 4.9 square miles 3 rd largest town in the county, Petawawa, Pembroke Largest employer – health care facilities
1850's	Opeongo Line	124 miles - starting at Farrell's Landing
1860's	Building of Road cancelled – T.P. French was the road agent.	Line built to out the pine and bring in settlers.
1890	Railway completed to Barry's Bay	Ferguslea – KP – Kingston to Pembroke – 1883 – started by 1893 in Renfrew 1913 - CPR took over; 1960's closed down

Mount St. Patrick – Irish Settlement

High School, Convent – students from Quebec

Dacre – California Hotel (where the motel is now)

Balaclava - named after a victorious battle 1854 by the British, led by Colonel Griffith in the Siege of Sebastapol

1860 – Dam on left, sawmill on right (1000 in Canada in 1860)

Constant Creek flows into The Madawaska River

1903 – Saw dust burner built.

1900 - Lawsuit – one of first due to pollution of waterways.

Sawdust burner built so that it was not put into the creek.

1959 – Closed - last power mill to operate in Ontario

Owners for 89 years – Richards family

1983 - Government purchase the dam; rebuilt in 2013 – owned by MNR.

Scotch Bush Road

Fourth Chute of the Bonnechere – 1 of 5 chutes for moving logs were built;
now dams for electricity

Caves opened for 55 years. Was the bottom of a tropical sea, 500 million years ago Bonnechere River drains land ½ of size of P.E.I. and is one of the smallest major tributaries of the Ottawa River.

1891 Cormac – Mission of Brudenell until 1919

First church built on land donated by John Gibbons & Thomas Kelly

Burnt in 1916; Mass said in Castile School (Kevin Mullin's house)

As of 2004 – No Sunday liturgy but Wednesday night weekly Mass

Famous for a Pilgrimage to St. Ann's

1937 – Permission given to Father George by Bishop Nelligan

1938 – First Pilgrimage – altar moved from church to outside.

1939 - Shrine built - very much as you see it.

Crucifixion Scene – Father Ryan Holly's initiative.

Castile	An area of Spain: Irish, German, Algonquin Indians
Golden Sands	Lunch, soup, sandwich, dessert & drink
Golden Lake	Meet at the museum
Augsburg	'Augsburg Confession' 1530 (1492 – Cabot) (1519 – Martin Luther) Bavaria/Germany
Eganville	First called Fairfield Built on the 5 th Chute of the Bonnechere in a limestone valley Egan owned the limits; lived in Quebec; died in 1857. J.R. Booth bought the limits to supply lumber to build the Parliament Buildings