



The Historical Society of Ottawa News

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Issue No. 126

September 2009

President's Report

By Herb Sills

This is my first report. I have said I will take on the presidency for a year and in that time we should be able to find a member who will replace me. You know our society was founded in 1898 as the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa and up to the last time I was president (1988-1900) there had only been two or three men in the president's chair. Since then I believe it has been all men. So I am looking for a lady vice-president who would become president when my year is up.

If you read the Ottawa Citizen you will have read the story by Robert Sibley about the statue of it-Col. John By in Major's Hill Park. I believe it was erected in 1976 and was partly funded by the Historical Society. He also describes Colonel By's house in the park which was visited by Frances Ramsay Simpson the newly-wed 18 year old wife of Hudson's Bay Governor George Simpson. She enjoyed a breakfast visit with Mrs. By on May 4, 1830.

Although the Rideau Canal was

completed in the autumn of 1831 it was not officially opened until the spring of 1832. The opening took the form of a cruise from Kingston to Bytown. Colonel By and his family and several of the contractors and dignitaries made the trip. Colonel By turned over command of the canal to Captain Bolton on September 1, 1832. The By Family set sail for England October 21, 1832 and arrived at Chatham November 25.

Captain Bolton was promoted to Major in command of the company of Royal Engineers and the Canal. He moved into Colonel By's house in Major's Hill

Park which unfortunately burned down January 11, 1849. Only the chimney remained standing. In 1973 archaeologists exposed the stone foundation and unearthed such things as spoons, sugar bowls and a chamber pot. Some items have been reproduced in bronze and put on display around the cottage site. You should make a point to go and see them some time.

Colonel By laid out the first streets of Bytown and he is commemorated as the Founding father of Ottawa.

Other stories by Robert Sibley have followed about statues in Gatineau and Rideau Hall.

Another event of this past summer harkens back over 100 years. A timber crib was installed in a permanent

home at the Pembroke waterfront.

It had been on display at the Museum of Civilization on Canada Day last year. It was brought back to Pembroke by truck and at the request of the city donated to the park by the Shaw Lumber Company at a cost of approximately \$25,000. The raft was rebuilt by John Shaw, Dana Shaw Fred Blackstein and Tom Stephenson. From our history we know the original log runs went down the Ottawa river and the St. Lawrence to Quebec City where the timber was loaded into the holds of sailing ships bound for Britain.

Newsletter Editor Required

Anyone who is interested in this volunteer position is asked to reply to anyone on the Board of Directors with their intent.

The position entails collecting materials provided by contributors, assembling them into the quarterly newsletter, sending the newsletter to the printers, and mailing the completed newsletters to the membership at large.

A computer, a printer, a scanner with optical character recognition, and internet access are all highly recommended, if not required to efficiently complete the newsletter.

Program Cards

Enclosed with the Newsletter is one of our Program cards for the 2009-10 season. We think we have some interesting speakers lined up. Fold the card in half and keep it yourself or give it to a friend.

Note that the November 27th speaker will be Brent Kirkham talking on "Canoes - Art on the Water". He was written up in the Citizen recently.

If you would like to have more cards for your neighbours, Church, Library, Residence or Club - contact Don Baxter at 745-3430.

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The Historical Society of Ottawa

Patron: Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

The Historical Society of Ottawa was founded in 1898 (as the Women's Canadian Historical Society of Ottawa). Its objective is to increase public knowledge of the history of Ottawa by its publications, meetings, tours, outreach and participation in local heritage events and also by its co-operation with the Bytown Museum, a store of artifacts reflecting Ottawa's history from Bytown days and into the present century. Its headquarters is in the Bytown Museum, Colonel By's Commissariat Building, constructed of stone in 1827 and located at 1 Canal Lane by the Rideau Canal between the Château Laurier and Parliament Hill.

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Society Email: hsottawa@storm.ca

Coming Events

Friday, September 25

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Bruce Straby
"History of the Phono-graph
from Tinfoil to Stereo"
Routhier Community Centre*
1 p.m.

Friday, October 7

Autumn Bus Excursion
Rideau Military Settlements
Departure: Lansdowne Park
08:30 a.m.
Pickup Fairlawn Plaza
09:00 a.m.

Friday, October 30

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Tom Stephensen
"Logging in Upper Canada"
Routhier Community Centre*
1 p.m.

Friday, November 27

Monthly Meeting
Speaker: Brent Kirkham
"Canoes - Art on the Water"
Routhier Community Centre*
1 p.m.
*Parking at the Routhier
Community Centre - from
Cumberland Ave., between St.
Patrick St. and Guigues Ave.

A note regarding Membership renewals - For regular members of the Ottawa Historical Society, your renewal date is shown on your address label on this newsletter. Please check it and see that you are up-to-date. If not, a renewal form is available for you to photocopy on the last page of this newsletter.

Successful Bus Excursion to Glengarry County Historical Sites

Reviewed by George Neville,
HSO Tour Chair

With 50 HSO members and friends on board a Healey coach, the group departed from Lansdowne Park shortly after 9:30 am, Thursday, 4th June 2009 heading first for the Glengarry Pioneer Museum (GPM) at Dunvegan via Hwy 417 and the Highland Rd. turnoff. With four days of cool, rainy weather having preceded us, it was a joy to have a pleasant, warm, sunny day for the excursion, rendered all the more fortunate when three more rainy days followed our return. Once well onto Hwy 417, the itinerary was outlined up to noon when we hoped to reach St. Andrews West for lunch at Quinn's Inn. While the museum visits of the day would provide insight into how pioneers and settlers of Glengarry Co. found habitation, lived, and developed commerce, some time was taken to sketch an outline of European historical developments throughout the 17th and 18th centuries that led to English, Dutch, German, and French (Huguenots) settlement along the Atlantic coast and inland of North America for political and religious freedom as dissenters. By the close of the American Revolution, Sir John Johnson was leading a group of MacDonalld Scots from the Mohawk Valley (of New York state) that had earlier come to America with Sir William Johnson (John's father who died in 1774) from the Scottish highlands following the disastrous defeat of clans under Prince Charles Stuart by George II's Royal Troops at Culloden in 1746. Within a year of the first Scots having arrived in Glengarry in the winter of 1783/84, another group of highlanders was brought over by Father MacDonell, to be followed by successive waves of Scottish immigration in the next 2-3 years.

This then, in simple survey terms of what otherwise is a complex mosaic of

developments, set the stage for our visit to several historic sites throughout the day.

Arriving at the open-air GPM, the group first congregated on the rear porch of the Orange Lodge Visitors' Centre (built 1867) to be briefed by Curator/Administrator, Jennifer Black, who outlined what one could find in the various buildings of the site – Olivier Hamelin's blacksmith shop (the last one of 89 shops in Glengarry

Co.) moved from Apple Hill in 2000, the Roxborough Township Hall (built 1869), a working cheese factory (modelled after an 1826 operation in Lancaster), the Old Star Inn (built ~1840s), a livery shed (60' long x 15' wide) originally from behind the Kenyon Twp. Hall in Greenfield, now housing a varied selection of farm equipment, the John Campbell hewn-log barn with the

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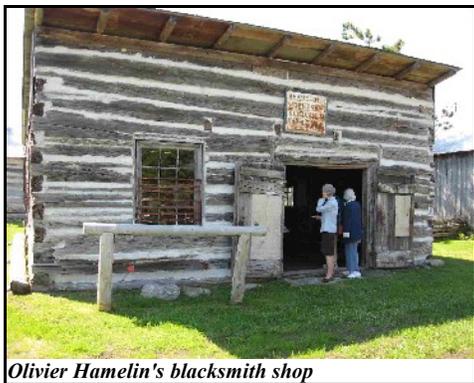
Treasurer's Report to July 31, 2009

Source	Revenue
Memberships	\$ 3,305.13
Donations	1,310.00
Sale of Pamphlets	91.00
City of Ottawa Grant	3,000.00
Prov. of Ontario Grant	911.00
Activities (spring bus trip)	1,535.00
Misc. (Postage credit re Newsletter)	10.40
Bank interest on checking account	3.42
TOTAL	\$10,165.95
Expenses	Paid Out
Diefenbunker storage room rental to Sept.30	971.01
Routhier Centre room rental	64.80
Membership dues - CR00 & Ont. Historical Society	116.50
Newsletter including envelopes and postage	876.18
Publications	20.14
Publicity	59.88
Office supplies	156.50
Postage	198.30
Photocopies	196.40
Post Box (shared use)	65.84
Telephone	770.00
Li brany	40.00
Activities (spring bus trip)	1,102.50
Awards	650.00
Donations (Brown Museum)	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	39.89
TOTAL	\$ 6,327.94
Bank Balance at July31, 2009	\$12,438.23
Term deposit at Dec. 10, 2008	\$10,585.65
GIC re Bequest from Mr. Walter Jachan	\$1,000.00
GIC re Bequest from Mr Gordon Cufflingham	\$4,002.44
*With all checks cashed	

Glengarry Excursion

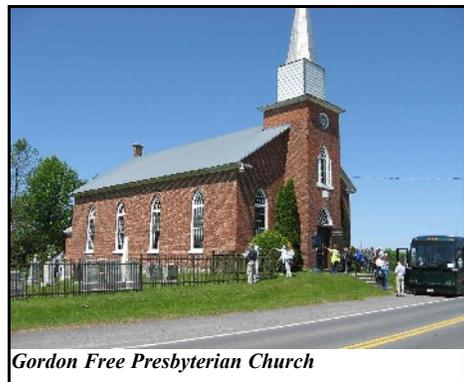
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museum's large collection of tools, and the latest acquisition, the trapper's log house replete with a wondrous collection pelts of local wildlife.



Olivier Hamelin's blacksmith shop

From the Dunvegan Museum, we headed south on Greenfield Rd. (Hwy 30), one concession, to turn west onto Concession 8 Rd. to bring us out onto the Highland Rd. at St. Elmo. On hearing of this route through some back country, Kent MacSweyn, a Director of the GPM, alerted us to a sharp 'S' turn in the road a short distance before reaching the Highland Road, and the fact that the middle point in this 'S' turn marks the eastern boundary of a one-mile wide strip of land running to the north-west



Gordon Free Presbyterian Church

from the St. Lawrence River into Roxborough Twp, known as Indian Lands, a passage way to hunting grounds.

At the red brick Gordon Free Presbyterian Church (built 1864) surrounded

by its still utilized cemetery at St. Elmo, we were met by Gordon Winters who had the church open for us. Since 1964 when it was closed on its centenary, it has held an annual memorial service each summer. As we sat in the pine pews, Gordon gave a brief history of the formation of this Free Presbyterian congregation and church at St. Elmo by the Rev. Daniel Gordon who came from Perthshire, Scotland in 1853. It was his son, Rev. Charles William Gordon who adopted the 'nom de plume' of Ralph Connor to write a series of books on Glengarry life, most notably "Glengarry School Days", "The Man From Glengarry", and "The Girl From Glengarry". Mr. Winters also told us about the old log Congregationalist Church (1837) located on the side road just north of St. Elmo.

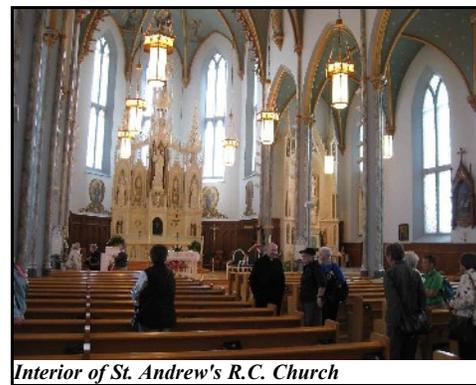
From St. Elmo we proceeded south through Maxville where the Maxville



Log replica of the U.E.L. Pioneer Church erected 1784

Fair Grounds were pointed out for the annual Scottish gathering of Highland Games each 1st August. Continuing south, the once sizable village of Dominionville was pointed out, now easily missed save for a couple of houses, to east on Hwy 43 for a short distance to turn south on Hwy 20 through the village of Apple Hill where the writer's father grew up (the site of the Hamelin blacksmith shop was pointed out on the west side of the road) and thence on to Martintown; thence west on the King's Hwy 18 to St. Andrews West arriving at Quinn's Inn at exactly 12:00 noon.

Following lunch, people strolled through the small pioneer cemetery beside the Raisin River where lay Simon Fraser, the explorer, and John Sandfield MacDonald, first Premier of Ontario, among others interred near the log replica of the U.E.L. Pioneer Church



Interior of St. Andrew's R.C. Church

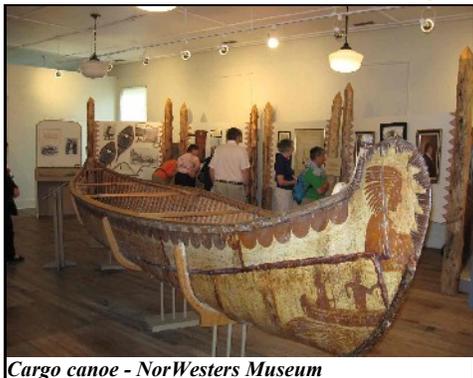
erected 1784, before walking across the road to visit St. Andrew's R.C. Church. Father Bernard Cameron, raised in the area, was a most gracious host at St. Andrew's Church, whose interior has been beautifully restored in the last few years. The church itself is the oldest remaining stone building in the Province dating from 1801.

From St. Andrews West, we retraced our route eastward along the King's Hwy to Martintown, founded by Malcolm McMartin in 1807 when he built the original grist, saw and carding mills on the Rivière aux Raisins [now simply called the River of (wild) Grapes]; thence onward to Chapel Rd. to turn south onto Hwy 27 towards MacGillivray's Bridge. After a short distance south, we could see to the east on the crest of a hill a fine stone house (Fraserfield Estate) with a widow's walk rising from the cottage roof lines, the former home of Alexander Fraser, quartermaster of the Canadian Fencible Infantry Regiment following the War of 1812, and later Colonel of the 1st Regiment of Glengarry Militia in addition to holding many other important offices during his lifetime.

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Glengarry Excursion

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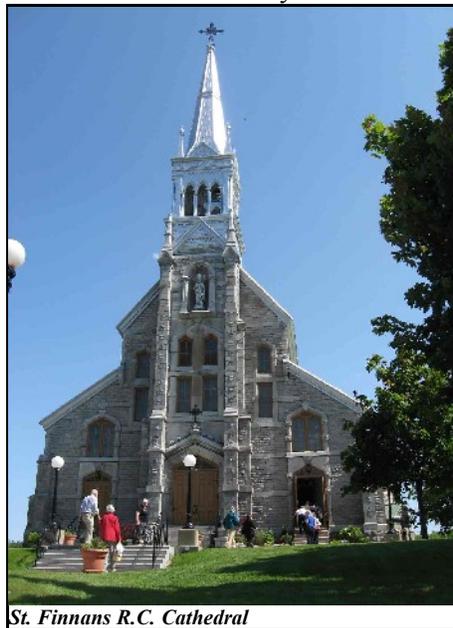


Cargo canoe - NorWesters Museum

Short of proceeding towards MacGillivrays Bridge, we turned to the south-east following a road paralleling the Raison River into Williamstown to visit the Nor'Wester and Loyalist Museum. The first floor of this museum (a Georgian-style structure originally built as a school in 1862) is given over to exhibits on Loyalist settlement led by Sir John Johnson into the area, and the upper floor is devoted to artifacts and displays pertaining to the fur trade and exploration by the Nor'Westers Company (an active competitor of the Hudson's Bay Company for the fur trade). Some of the principal Nor'Wester partners of the company, such as Duncan Cameron, Hugh McGillis, David Thompson, and John McGillivray, lived in that area.

By 3:00 PM, we were on the road again through Williamstown on Hwy 19 to Beaverbrook Rd. (Hwy 18) to view the ruins of St. Raphaels Church (destroyed by fire in 1970) from the bus on the south side of the road. *This church derives from the first of the MacDonell lands of Loch Quoich in Glengarry, Scotland, to suffer from a clearing (the 'Clearances') of the people. In the summer of 1785, then chief Duncan and his wife, the "light headed Marjorie" had agreed to turn its land into a sheep run. Within a few months the 520 inhabitants of Loch Quoich found themselves in the hold of the ship 'MacDonald' and bound for Glengarry County, Canada. Traveling with them was their parish priest, the Reverend Alexander MacDonell and their former tacks men (middleman

landlords) who without people had lost their livelihoods. Aided by the first arrivals, these immigrants largely settled themselves in Lochiel and Lancaster Twps. on the east side of the county. At St. Raphaels, the Rev. Alex. MacDonell saw the building of the first non-French, Roman Catholic church in Canada. It became serviceable in 1789 and was called the "Blue Chapel", a name perhaps associated with the wood from which it was constructed. A further 300 evicted MacDonells arrived in 1786 with still more following the clearings of 1787 and 1788. Worth noting, in 1787, the Rev. John Bethune (g-g-grandfather to Dr. Norman Bethune) arrived from Scotland and founded a Presbyterian church within the county*.



St. Finnans R.C. Cathedral

From St. Raphaels a short distance on Hwy 18, we turned north on Hwy 34 to visit St. Finnans R.C. Cathedral in Alexandria (original See of the R.C. Church in eastern Ontario, now in Cornwall), arriving punctually at 3:30 PM where Margaret Bartnikus, a former teacher at the Laggan school, was there to open the main door at the head of a mighty flight of steps. The climb was well worth it to view the beautiful interior with real stone pillars and a majestic Cavanaugh organ in the loft over the front door.

By 4:00 PM, the bus was heading east out of Alexandria on Hwy 10 past two concessions to proceed north via the Massiedale Rd. to McCormick, continuing north via Ouellette and MacMillan Rds. to Lochiel (formerly a village, now but a couple of houses) and thence north via the Old Military Rd. to Kirkhill on Hwy 24 just west of the Military Rd. Kirkhill is distinguished by two old stone churches a short distance opposite from one another on a broad hill, and the old Presbyterian church on the north side is the one that established the Presbyterian church in L'Original (recall the HSO bus excursion there in October 2007) as an ecclesiastical outreach. Continuing westward on Hwy 24 to Laggan at the intersection with Hwy 34, we proceeded north to McCrimmon's Corners found by veering off to the north-west into the hamlet of 2-3 houses where an old building on the east side of the road was found still bearing a sign-board, "Sons of Scotland Hall, McCrimmon's Corners" from which a large bell with a 30-inch swing was removed to the Glengarry Pioneer Museum at Dunvegan sometime ago. Having veered off the main north road, we were unable to locate the east-bound Lochinvar Rd. to Bredalbane, and decided to return south a short distance to pick up a convenient connection to Hwy 417 and commence our return to Ottawa. The significance of Bredalbane as an early site of Scottish settlement in the NE corner of Glengarry Co. was nevertheless explained in reference to Bredalbane, Scotland, in the highlands of Perthshire en route home, arriving at Lansdowne Park at 5:30 PM and at St. Richard's Anglican Church by 5:45 PM. It was a full, informative, enjoyable day.

*Excerpted from "Immigration to the area from Scotland" in Siol nan Gaidheal Canada – The Gaelic District, Glengarry <<http://www.siol-nan-gaidheal-canada.com/canada/ontario1.htm>>

**Autumn Bus Excursion –
Rideau Military Settlements –
Wednesday October 7, 2009**

By George Neville

Autumn Bus Excursion to Rideau Military Settlements (Wed., 7th October/09)

Please note changes in time and pick-up locations for this autumn excursion have been introduced: 8:30 AM departure from Lansdowne Park (Bank St. entrance) followed by 9:00 AM pick-up from Fairlawn Plaza (in front of Independent Grocer opposite Carlingwood Shopping Centre).

From Fairlawn Plaza the bus will proceed to Richmond (the 2nd military settlement, 1818-19)) via the upper reaches of the historical Richmond Road. Early buildings and their associations will be pointed out from the bus in Richmond until reaching St. John's Anglican Church for disembarkation to view its interior, etc. before proceeding further west to see the historical aspects of the Anglican cemetery as well as those of the Presbyterian and Roman Catholic

burial grounds side by side respectively to the south of the former.

From Richmond, we will proceed to Perth (1st military settlement, 1815-16)) via the 4th line of Goulbourn Twp. (old military road) to Franktown (Beckwith settlement, 1821) and via the old military road from Franktown to Perth for lunch at the Perth Restaurant (choice of soup or salad, roast turkey or ham steak, tea or coffee – no dessert at this sitting). Following a general coach tour of Perth and a visit to the Last Duel (Upper Canada) Cemetery, we will visit the Perth Museum.

From Perth the excursion will proceed to Lanark (3rd military settlement, 1821) via Balderson to arrive at the Lanark Landing Restaurant for a generous serving of carrot cake with tea or coffee, and proceed thereafter with a leisurely tour through some back country roads to take in the autumn foliage while making our way back to Ottawa.

Cost: \$50.00/person (all inclusive



The Historical Society of Ottawa gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Ontario.

except for \$10.00 reservation fee, non-refundable for no-show or non-medical cancellation reason one week prior to departure).

Contact: George Neville, HSO Tour Chair, 613-729-0579 or <george.neville@ncf.ca>.

**Membership Renewal Form
The Historical Society of Ottawa**

Date _____ Renewal/New _____ No. Members _____

Name _____

Name (for mailing) _____

Address Unchanged(Show Changes Below)

Street _____

Postal Code _____ Phone (res) _____ Phone (work) _____ E-mail Address _____

Interest (Activities?) _____ Volunteer? _____

Membership fees

Single \$35/year
Student \$10/year
Family \$50/year
Single Life \$350

Payment

Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Receipts will be issued for both membership and donation

Please photocopy and complete this form and mail it with a cheque, made payable to **The Historical Society of Ottawa**, to:

**Membership, The Historical Society of Ottawa
P.O. Box 523, Station B.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5P6**