

The Pioneer Times

(News vehicle of the Cloyne and District Historical Society)



Cloyne and District Historical Society

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Preserving the Past for the Future

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The Pioneer Times

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From the Editor

Karyl Steinpatz

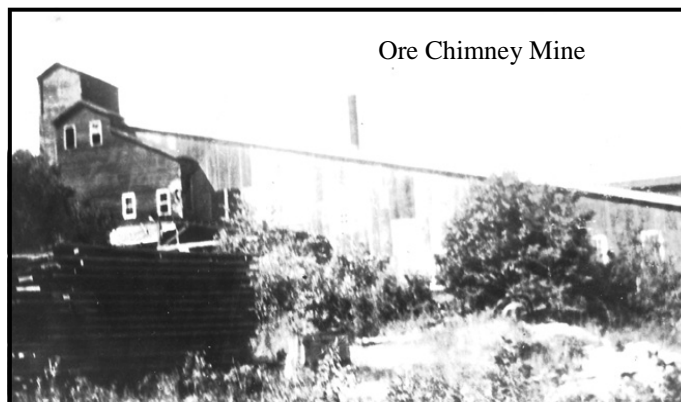
A picture is worth a million words, the old saw goes, and I decided to put that gem of a thought to work in this issue. The Historical Society's archived photos are stored on Ian's home computer, so recently I worked with him to choose some great material for the new centerfold of our newsletter. Take a look there now and enjoy the treasures we unearthed.

We have made a few changes in format and content of the newsletter this time 'round. Some of the reports have been dropped or condensed, and new ideas brought to the fore. As we all know, the Pioneer Museum is working to be a really renowned repository for genealogical information, so to that end Carol Morrow's column on genealogy research has been expanded to give more information on methods of, and computer sites for, researching.

Last month at the Annual General Meeting, some personnel changes were effected in the Board of Directors. Be sure to have a look at the masthead just to the left of this column to familiarize yourselves with the names of our new Board members. Welcome to Dorothy Pethick and Carol Lessard who have chosen to serve in this capacity.

John Bolton opted off the Board of Directors this year, having given crackerjack service over the last few. He's still with us, devoting time to different aspects of the Cloyne and District Historical Society and the Pioneer Museum. Thank you, John. □

Karyl



President's Message

Marg Axford

Serendipity or Fate?

Sometimes, historical research is just plain hard work—digging through transcripts, land records, registries of births and deaths. Other times, information just falls from the sky. You probably don't need examples of the former "slogging" category. So let me offer up 3 instances where one has to wonder if, indeed, we might be on the side of the angels.

Late this summer, a request came in via the Internet for genealogical information regarding the Woodcock family. Between our student museum employee and myself, we managed to find several pages of names and dates, which were duly mailed to the enquirer. Within a couple of weeks of that occurrence, I did a presentation in Arden for the Arden Happy Gang Seniors club. After the presentation, I was chatting with a lady who had done much work on her family history. The name of the family? You guessed it—Woodcock. An email to the original person has put those two researchers in touch via the internet.

One evening recently, Ian was at a local "fast food outlet" because the kitchen at home was on strike. He started to talk to a couple there who were also dining on pizza or chips, to discover that they were on a genealogical search in the area for his family's roots. These folks, who were Danish, lived near Flinton in the late 1800s. Research continues, as we try to help him with potential sources of data via email.

The third example is also a recent one. I was at home the day before the Heritage Bus Tour, doing some preparation, when a strange car drove into the driveway. The visitors turned out to be a couple from Sault Ste. Marie who were interested in the old powerhouse for the Ore Chimney Mine, which many of you will know is on the lot next to us. It turns out that the gentleman of the pair had been here before, years ago, on a historical outing led by

a man from Huntsville who has done a great deal of research on the topic of logging in this area, particularly as it was carried out by the Gilmour family. He has even written a book about the tramway from Mazinaw Lake to Pringle Lake, and another one about the Gilmour family. Our next task is to hunt down those two books, because the information they contain is certainly pertinent to our research here.

I leave the conclusion up to you. Is there something to be said for being in the right place at the right time? It would certainly seem so! These happenstance occasions help to make the business of historical research both fascinating and exciting. You just never know when the next bit of pertinent data will fall from the sky! □

Museum Musings

a guest column by Ian Brumell

This year has seen some amazing financial successes within the Historical Society. However, the hot weather through the summer made it very difficult to accomplish some of the "finishing" things at the museum; things like screen doors, finishing the trim, caulking and coating the logs on the outside.

However, we were able to install a film on the front window which has a multifold purpose. It cuts ultraviolet radiation by 95%; it cuts the amount of light entering the museum by about 50% and it makes the window, short of a truck going through it, unbreakable. This film therefore gives some comfort to those of us who are concerned about the deterioration of the artifacts by UV radiation as well as diminishing the break-and-enter possibilities.

We were also able to do a significant amount of work on peeling the outside logs and sealing most of the cracks. Next summer we hope to complete the caulking and apply a

(continued on page 11)

Financial Report


Ian Brumell, Treasurer

This past summer and past year marks a very special time in the evolution and maturing of the Cloyne & District Historical Society. It is the period where the Society comes out of debt and begins a long period of further growth toward making our Society and the Museum, a showcase for Mazinaw Country.

With revenue being generated from many sources this year, we have been able to pay off the line of credit we enjoyed during our expansion phase over the past several years. With generous grants from both local municipalities, museum donations, our Patron's programme, the sale of various fundraising items and the numerous Special Events we have hosted, our revenues were very close to \$13,500.

Against that number are the expenses which totaled nearly \$10,300. This gave a net income of close to \$3,200 bank balance, thus allowing us to pay off the line of credit and leave a current balance of \$1200. Our bank balance should grow to in excess of \$2,000 by year end due to a couple of further grants and some other fundraising events. The sale of our 2006 Heritage Calendars continues.

2005 was a very good year for the Society. We all should be pleased and thankful to the hard working Fundraising and Patron Committees. This past summer was not our best as far as visitors to the museum due to the hot weather, but all in all, the Historical Society has done well and looks to even better rewards next year. Thank you all.

If anyone wishes more specific financial information, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. 

Toonie Christmas Party

December 10, 1-4 pm

Barrie/Cloyne Hall

**Bring the Family for an Old-Fashioned
Sing-Song, Sweet Treats, a Visit from
Santa, and Entertainment**

Admission: One Toonie Each

Fundraising Committee Report


Marg Axford

The summer of '04 brought a flock of visitors to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum, in part to avoid the rain. In contrast, this summer, with its glorious sunshine and heat, kept those same flocks with their feet in the most convenient body of cool water. Our visitor number was down from 2,000 in '04 to 1,300 in '05, with most of the "damage" having been done in July. These are the vagaries of a business which relies to a great extent on tourist traffic! Revenues in the donation jar and the museum shop reflected the same downturn. Who knows what extremes of weather will determine our cash flow next year?

In other fundraising endeavours, the Blueberry Brunch this August was every bit as successful as last year's, with almost the same number of people attending, as was the Heritage Bus Tour, this year to Finton and up the O'Donnell Road. Our 2 annual bake sales have also been good sources of income for us, although revenues at the Thanksgiving one were down a bit.

Two more events are left on the fundraising calendar. The first is the table that we usually have at the North Addington Education Centre Christmas Craft Sale, being held this year on November 18 and 19. We'll be there, with copies of the '06 Heritage Calendar for sale, as well as our other books and items.

As well, be sure to mark December 10 on your calendar! That's the date of the second annual Toonie Christmas Party, at the Barrie Township Hall between 1 and 4 in the afternoon. There will be Christmas goodies, a visit from Santa, and entertainment, all designed to usher in the Christmas season in an old-fashioned, "historical" way. Last year's party was a neighbourly affair, with folks dropping in to chat over a cup of hot chocolate and staying to listen to some homegrown entertainment. We hope that this year's will be just as friendly and entertaining. If you missed it last year, try to come on December 10. Bring a child or grandchild - yours or someone else's - and have a conversation with Santa. Both children and adults last year found his knee a good place to be!

The fundraising committee wishes you and your family the very best over the holiday season! 

Museum Product List

Carol Morrow

Besides the special events which the Historical Society schedules to raise funds for our big building project, we have products for sale at the Pioneer Museum, some of which are listed below.

Books:

The Oxen and the Axe, by Gene Brown and Nadine Brumell

The Mazinaw Experience, by John Campbell

Bon Echo: The Denison Years, by Mary Savigny

Well-Worn Steps of Time, a book of poetry

Way Back in Clarendon and Miller, a history of that area

Coffee Mugs: featuring C&DHS logo

2006 Calendar: featuring area scenes of yesteryear, with descriptions

Note Cards w/ envelopes: 8-card pack, or singles

Framed Prints: from the original painting by Carol Brown, donated last year and on view in the Museum.

NOTE CARDS: FROM ORIGINAL PAINTINGS BY CAROL BROWN; CHOICE OF SCENES

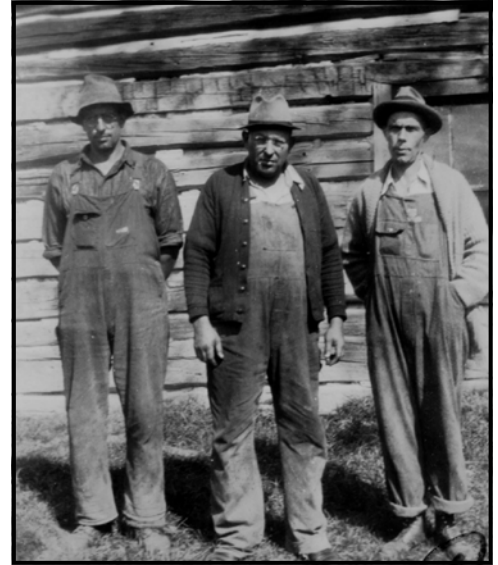
To purchase any of these products, contact us at pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca or visit our website:



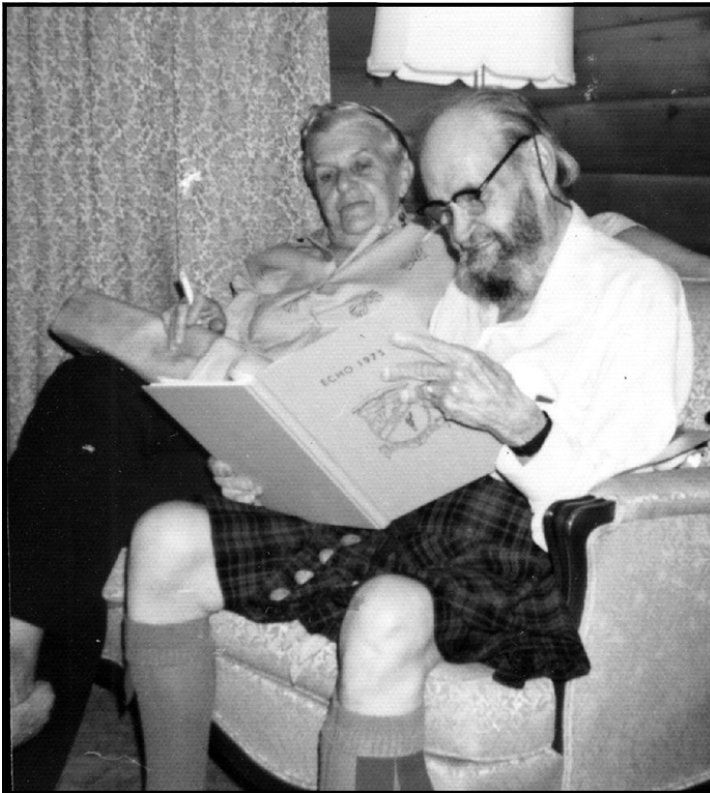
About 30 years ago, Albert Brownlee of Napanee rescued this organ from the old Hayburn Church before it was torn down. After completely taking the instrument apart, cleaning and reassembling it, Mr. Brownlee painted it the antique green colour which it remains to-day, and donated it to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. Last summer, Mr. Brownlee visited the museum, seeing the organ “in situ” for the first time, and had his picture taken with it. We thank him for his restoration work and his thoughtful generosity!



Threshing Machine back of Campbell's Bay; Jim, John & William Head; uncle, dad & grand-dad of Bernice Wise who donated the photo.



Log Home back of Campbell's Bay; John & Jim Head, and Charlie Snider. Charlie was the father of Ted Snider, the brother of Andrew Snider, and the uncle of Bernice Wise who provided the photo.



Merrill Denison and Nadine Brumell, abt 1950



Cass and Lulu Thompson, Northbrook, Ontario



Myers Cave, about 1944



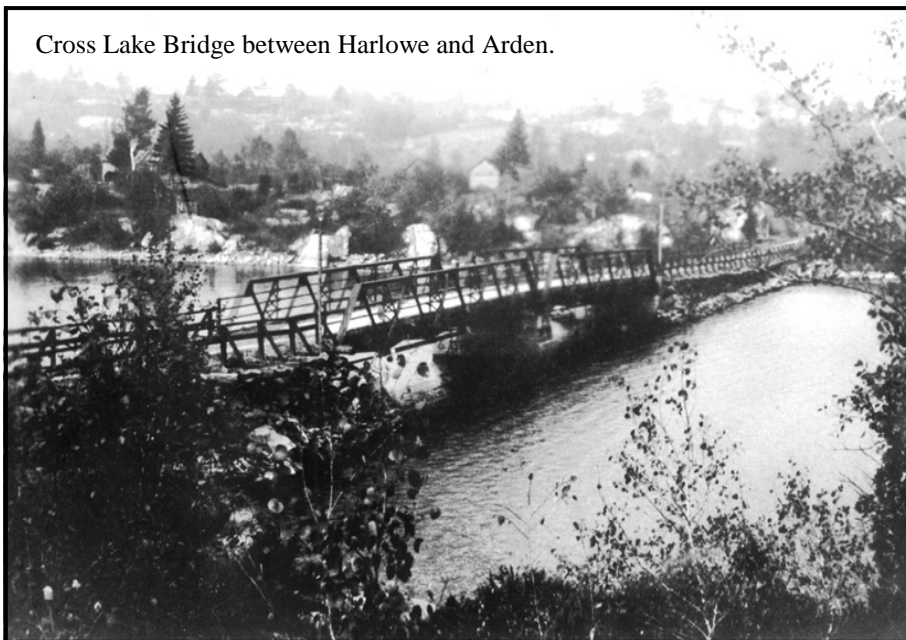
Going Down ... for the third time



Cloyne Store



Marble Lake School, 1947. Back—John Flieler, Ron Brown & Norvil Perry; Centre—Marjorie Head (Prentice), Eileen Allport (Marshall), June Perry (Hawley) & Don Salmond; Front—Shirley Head (Brooks), Eugene Brown & Barbara Brown (Dion). The teacher was Helen Perry (Eddy).



Cross Lake Bridge between Harlowe and Arden.



Northbrook in Winter, about 1930.



Before the Fire

Old Flinton



Schoolhouse

After the Fire

~~ From Museum Archives ~~

Head of the Lake (Mazinaw)

By Jemima (Spencer) McGarvey

There was once a small settlement and a mill at Mallory (Mill) Lake. This is the lake north and east of the head of Mazinaw out of which Mallory Creek runs around the shoulder of a mountain to drop down into the Mississippi a short distance above the bridge.

We had a schoolhouse there on the side of Thorn Hill, and the teachers changed quite often. There was Eugene Mellon, Leo Mellon, Mrs. Waterson, Mr. Davidson and Miss Stalker, maybe more.

People began to leave after a while. The mill shut down and the cabins were empty. The old schoolhouse was moved out and is now the drive shed at Brown's farm. The front part of the farmhouse was moved from Mill Lake as well.

When my Mother and Daddy and the family lived on the farm, my Mother kept a kind of Inn, and served meals to men working on the river or travelling through. I can remember she fed as many as fifty at a time, most of whom were loggers.

Sometimes men died in the camps or were killed on the drive and they were brought to our home. They were given some kind of decent burial half a mile south on the shore in front of the field where Indian stone tools and weapons were ploughed up. After a while the shore washed out and the graves washed out. There were a couple of skulls along the water but I don't remember what became of them.

The bridge had very heavy stone piers in lumbering days, and the east shore just below the bridge was built up with stone to keep the logs from running ashore and to help steer them out into the lake. I remember the last drive when the jobbers were finishing the clean-up of timber left behind by operators like McLaren. There were logs up-river and in the lake as far as I could see.

There were big fires too. One came up the west shore of Mazinaw and the sparks and burning bits of trees were driven across the bay by the wind. We had to keep a close eye out to see that nothing started to burn on our side. There was another fire which started at Mill Lake, but there wasn't much anybody could do in those days except maybe try to fight it at the creeks and hope for rain.

Farming was hard work. Not much attention was paid to the breeding of cattle. A cow was as fast and wild as the deer. It sometimes took man and dog hours to chase them out of the hills to where they could be milked. When the first threshing machines took the place of the flail and the farming mill, it was powered by horses walking around and around.

We didn't work all the time. There were dances and surprise parties and hay rides and sleigh rides and picnics. After Bon Echo was owned by the Denisons, groups used to run up from Snider Depot to dance there. The big rainboat was called the Minnie M. and Sheldon Hawley was almost always along with us.

Johnny Bey used to be around quite a lot. He knows (sic) so many things about medicines and healing. Once I burned my leg terribly and it didn't want to heal. Johnny treated it with bear's gall steeped and mixed with some other things, and it began to get better in no time at all.

Then there was a kind lady who used to invite me to Sunday dinner. As her usually Sunday dinner was stewed woodchuck with dumplings, I used to worry a lot thinking up good excuses not to go.

Later on, my sister, Lee, married George Brown and they stayed on the farm. I married George McGarvey and my brothers Milton and Charles set up homes of their own.



Patron Committee Report

Marcella Neely

A patron is one who supports, protects and fosters an enterprise. We are proud to boast over sixty of these loyal folk—some local, some seasonal and some who once lived here but have moved away. Because lives have been touched by this community, bits and pieces of family history remain here. Our Pioneer Museum must always be a source of genealogical and artifact collections.

For this reason and the attraction value from a tourism point of view, it is imperative that we continuously maintain and upgrade the museum.

The patron program was introduced last March to invite support and promote awareness of the Pioneer Museum. Through patron funding we have, so far, been able to purchase museum-quality supplies and sponsor a member to attend a museum care and preservation seminar. Through this we learned that, among other things, temperature, level of humidity, containers, light and pests affect the longevity of artifacts. Using this knowledge we are now able to preserve and protect items much more efficiently.

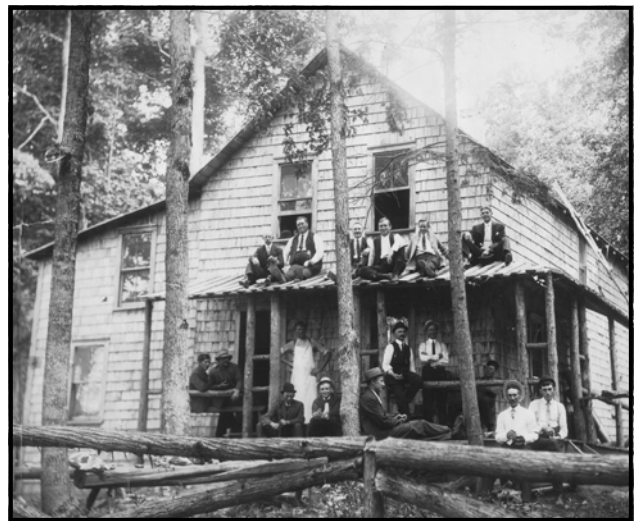
Patron fees are needed to fund ongoing maintenance and operation of the museum. Set-up, storage, displays, cataloguing, cleaning, clerical and promotional work is done by volunteer members of the Cloyne and District Historical Society, but funds are needed to purchase antiques and artifacts offered for sale at estate closings so we can keep them from being lost to the area forever.

In future, with the support of our patrons, we hope to fund rotating displays of personal collections in the museum, thus encouraging return visits.

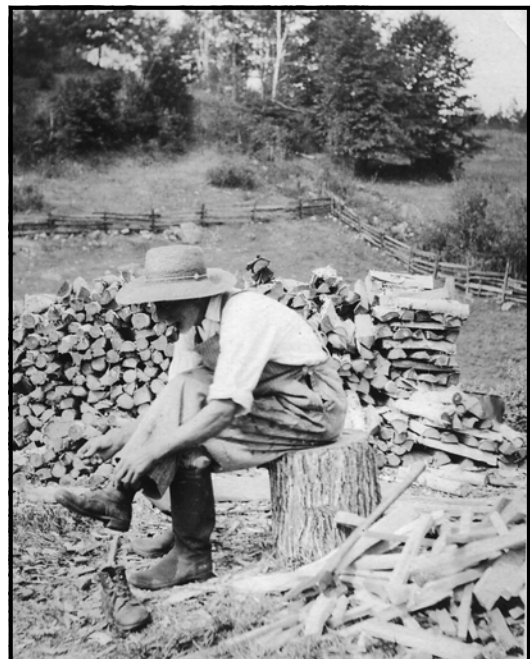
In September the Historical Society hosted a wine and cheese evening in the museum for its patrons. It was a very congenial and leisurely get-together, attended by about 40 patrons. It gave them the opportunity to look more closely at collected artifacts and genea-

logical files and discover their provenances. This promises to be an annual event, perhaps to be held in August next year for the benefit of cottagers who are patrons and may well leave the area before September.

Anyone wishing to become a patron of the Pioneer Museum should contact a member of the Cloyne and District Historical Society or write us at PO Box 228, Cloyne ON K0H 1K0. Email address: [pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca]. A patron registration form appears on the back cover of this newsletter. ☐



Mysteries: can anyone identify these photos of unknown locations and people? Call 336-2392.



Obits & Cemeteries

Carol Morrow

As I am sitting here writing this, I am reminded that Hallowe'en is just around the corner—the season of ghouls, and ghosts, and spooky graveyard shenanigans. Also, on the 11th of November, we are all reminded of another kind of death: that of all the brave soldiers who fought and gave their lives in two world wars. Probably these two events should not be linked, but my mind works in strange ways.

Not to sound too morbid, but this piece raises the subject of obituaries and cemeteries. In genealogy circles, a really good obituary is a valuable thing. It is a mini-biography of the subject person, and if you are an avid ancestor hunter, you should seek out those newspaper records. Usually the newspaper in the town where the person died will carry the announcement, or near where he/she once lived, or has living relatives. That town's library will keep archives of the paper on microfilm. If you know the approximate death date, you can scroll through the film and locate the obit without too much hassle.

A really good obituary will link three generations: the names of the deceased's parents, the spouse, and the children—and if you are lucky, even some grandchildren might be named, giving you a 4th generation. Likely some siblings will be named, and if the pall-bearers are listed, they may be relatives as well. You could learn where the deceased was born, where he/she grew up, where died, and where buried. Often the obit contains something about the career and organizations in which he/she participated.

Even what caused his or her death will be hinted at if donations to a specific charitable organization are mentioned, but you cannot always rely on this. A bonus would be if the survivors' residences are given, even in general terms, as you can then go to [canada411.ca] and click on “find a person”, enter the search data and up will pop an address and a phone number. You are well on your way to contacting a living person to help you fill in more of your genealogy gaps.

Now, for finding obituaries on the Internet, here is the fun part. There is a convenient volunteer service available at Obituary Daily Times at

[<http://www.rootsweb.com/~obituary>]. Click on “search the database” and enter your search surname. The database goes back to about 1998. Hopefully you don't have too common a name as the list can get long to sift through, but it's “better than nothing”. Once you find the listing you want, copy and paste it to your Notepad for safe-keeping; that's better than transcribing everything by hand and making a mistake. This web-site doesn't actually give you the obit.

The next step is to contact some wonderful volunteer person to send you the obituary. Go to [<http://www.ontarioobits.com>]. This is Jan Jones' effort. Read the page carefully and follow the directions. Click on “Ontario Obituaries Service”, then “Newspaper Lookups”. Send Jan an e-mail by pasting the listing onto your e-mailer with a short and polite request. If she can't access the newspaper you need, she can usually point you to someone who can, and the wait might be only a few days. She has a little fee, but I usually send her \$25 and that covers the cost for quite a few lookups. One caution: this is an Ontario service only.

Another feature of her work is sending cemetery photos. Some of her time is spent actually traveling to a cemetery for you. Jan gives the specific ones on her “route”. Owen Sound being one of them, she recently went there and sent some tombstone photos of my husband's deceased relatives; that was pretty exciting as we have just recently discovered his maternal line is from the Goodfellow family which came from the Deseronto area, and may even connect up with the Cloyne Goodfellows—something yet to be determined.

Take a look at some cemeteries on the “Fields of Stone” site. Click on that title at the top of Jan's home page and you can visit them by county. If you would like to give back what you use for free, you can arrange with Jan to donate your own photos. This is a really valuable service as it allows you to visit the gravesite of your dearly departed loved ones any time you wish. For the family historian it brings the life cycle of a search subject round full circle. □

Don't forget to bookmark those sites!!

Annual General Meeting

Karyl Steinpatz

On Monday, October 17, members of the Cloyne and District Historical Society gathered in the Cloyne hall for their thirty-third AGM. Surely, time does fly. How amazing that an idea for this organization, birthed over mugs of coffee and various kitchen tables, could have grown to such proportions. Now we boast a wonderfully spacious and much admired museum which is home to countless artifacts reflecting lives and lifestyles of area pioneers. The collection grows enormously every year and we are all justifiably proud.

Annual General Meetings are the forum for reports from all committees and so after the President's comprehensive report to the members, we were apprised by committee chairs of the past year's activities in fundraising, patron solicitation (a phenomenal success), museum collections and communications. The treasurer presented a glowing report of our resources and informed the assembled throng that our line-of-credit, which we used to build the museum, has been completely paid off.

AGMs also require elections to replace Board of Directors members who have served their terms. In the case of the C&DHS, this election of officers takes place every second year. The slate of officers for the next two years reads as follows: President, Margaret Axford, Secretary, Eileen Flieler, Treasurer, Ian Brumell. Officers are Eleanor St. Amand, Karyl Steinpatz, Dorothy Pethick, Carol Lesard.

A full slate of business was followed by a talk from our guest speaker, popular Mazinaw Lake artist, Carol Brown, who touched on her family's pioneering days at the head of the Mazinaw and her experiences growing up there. Carol had brought a full range of her art works which were very attractively set up on the stage, and she described to us how she came to make painting her life. Mostly, said she, it was homesickness for the Mazinaw when she moved to Kingston that caused her to

start painting scenes of that area. Her skills quickly grew and now she and her canvases are well-known. At the end of the meeting, members flocked to the stage to talk with Carol and purchase some of her works.

As always, the meeting ended with delicious snacks and animated conversation.

Regular meetings are held on the third Monday of every month, at 1:00pm in the Cloyne Hall. Everyone is welcome. □

Musing Musings

continued from page 3

coat of sealant which should even out the colouring of the walls and make the building even more weatherproof.

The remaining bits and pieces of electrical work will be completed next spring as well.

The grounds around the building were looking magnificent this summer due to the diligence of several volunteers who managed to weed, trim, pinch, rake and grade the gardens. Another year should see a lot of the shrubbery maturing, thus creating wonderful bushes and greenery.

We were able to beat back the hemp plants, the seeds of which arrived a couple of years ago in the topsoil we purchased. The local school kids were inordinately interested in the 'weed' and helped us by pulling some of it out for their experimentation.

Next year the museum building and property should be a mature and very attractive addition to the hamlet of Cloyne. We hope that everyone who is able will come and enjoy the artifacts, the building and the grounds. Thank you for being so supportive and understanding of the gradual completion of the project. □

**The Cloyne and District Historical
Society wishes everyone a Very
Merry Christmas and a Joyous New**

The Cloyne and District Historical Society
Box 228
Cloyne, ON, K0H 1K0

We invite you to show your support for local history by becoming a patron of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum, and/or becoming a member of the Historical Society. For all donations, including Patron fees, charitable receipts for income tax purposes will be issued for amounts of \$10.00 or more. Membership fees are ineligible by law for charitable receipts.

I wish to become a Patron of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum.

The annual fee of \$25 includes 2 newsletters, mailed free of charge, and a window decal.

Enclosing \$25.00 Patron Fee + _____ Donation = Total _____

On patron acknowledgments, my name or my company's name should appear

as _____

I wish to become a member of the Cloyne and District Historical Society

Annual Membership is \$5.00 per person. New _____ Renewal _____.

Membership\$_____

Donation\$_____

Postage\$_____ (Add \$6.00 if you wish newsletters mailed.)

Total\$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

For the Year _____