

The Pioneer Times

Cloyne and District Historical Society

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Cloyne & District Historical Society



“Preserving the Past for the Future”



The Pioneer Times
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President's Message

by Carolyn McCulloch

With this Newsletter, we open a new chapter in the history of the Cloyne and District Historical Society. It is official - we are planning an addition to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. Are we excited? You bet. We have a go ahead from the Twp of North Frontenac who owns the land on which the Museum sits.

Many of us attended the 5th anniversary of the Clarendon-Miller Community Archives. We were spellbound by veteran story-teller Mary Cook, as she unraveled her tales of pioneer women in the Ottawa Valley.

Our own spring highlight was Ron Brown, author of *"The Backroads of Ontario"*, *"Ontario's Ghost town Heritage"*, and *"The Train Doesn't Stop Here Anymore"* at our April meeting. Folks from near and far brought their own collections of this popular writer for autographing.

We were so proud to enter our Pioneer Pacers in the Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life, for the second year. Can you imagine that the combined teams and sponsors rose over \$130,000? We live in a small but wonderfully generous community.

We have a fresh new website. Parts of it are still under construction, but basically, you will be able to access all kinds of information here. Use it to keep up to date on what we are doing. The address is <http://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca>. We have also successfully digitized and made searchable our local United Church of Canada's congregational records. Our archives continue to grow with the intensive input of our student/summer staff.

We increased the number of Heritage Calendars produced by our capable committee, led by Dave Deacon. There are still a few left, but you will have to hustle. Come to our booth at The North Addington Education Centre on November 16th from 1pm to 6pm to purchase one.

The May 24th weekend remains our date for a mammoth yard sale. Please keep this in mind as you recycle and reuse. Just let us know, and call us. We are so eager for merchandise that we have even been known to pick up and store items for this sale.

This year our annual potluck luncheon was held at Deacon Hill, overlooking beautiful Lake Mazinaw. Many thanks to hostess Trudy Deacon for organizing this.

[Please skip to p. 4 for the rest of Carolyn's message.]

Financial Report

by Ian Brumell

2011 has been another successful year for our historical society. Financially speaking, we have had enough cash in the bank to keep all our balls afloat by paying all bills and have a bank balance of \$3,307.48 as of mid October.

The Historical Society was able to garner employment grants from The Young Canada Works program (YCW) of the Canadian Museums Association which has been very generous to us over the years. We had funding for two students from them. In all, we employed 4 students over the summer for which we are able, in addition to the YCW grant, to claim two dollars per working hour (beyond those hours paid for by YCW) from the Summer Jobs Service of the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. These grants have made it possible for the historical society to train and give experience to many students over the years. We continue to employ one student until the end of the year under the YCW program.

The number of museum visitors was down about ten percent, making the overall sales volume down a bit, but we came out of the summer with sales in the order of \$3,850.

Our reserve funds, managed by Raymond-James Financial Services in Kingston, stand at close to \$24,000. These funds, as with our Community Fund administered by the Napanee District Community Foundation, are subject to the vagaries of the world financial markets and as such don't currently grow as one would hope. The Cloyne and District Community Fund did return about \$1,100 from its 2010 investment, but 2011 probably won't meet that target. That 2010 investment return was not claimed and was turned back into the fund for future use.

As is detailed more fully in this newsletter, we are entering a building phase. Personnel are needed to assist in this regard, particularly when it comes to fund raising through grant writing or by other means.

The Patron committee under the able direction of Marcella Neely has been a great benefactor for the Society. Our deep thanks go out to those who have contributed to her committee.

I encourage anyone with questions about our finances to contact us at any time, via email to:

[<pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>](mailto:pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca)



We are growing again!

This spring, the Pioneer Museum acquired about 2/3rds of the collection which Bill Scott had at his house at the Ashby Lake Road turn. Some of you may remember the display of old phones which we set up a few years ago. That display represented less than half of Bill's phone collection. Then there are the rocks and minerals, glass bottles, fishing lures, books, magazines, photographs and so on that formed his overall collection! In addition, we still have 2 boxes of Mary Lloyd Johnson photos to put into the archives and store. And then, there is a donor who for the moment chooses to remain anonymous, who wishes to give us his entire collection of logging books, local history books, tapes of interviews, family histories and many other items.

We are swamped! Even the archives is getting full! The phrase "storage space" is a contradiction in terms; there is none left!

To remedy our situation, the Board of Directors passed a motion to build an addition on the south side of the museum. This will expand our available display and storage space considerably.

A presentation has been made to North Frontenac, with council expressing its approval and support. How the interior space will be set up is a winter's work project, with Board members and others contributing ideas.

We are definitely in need of assistance from you. We are hoping that a handful of people will volunteer some time this winter to help with grant writing, interior designing, budget planning and fundraising. Please call me at 613.336.2203 or Carolyn at 613.336.6858, or drop an email to [<pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca>](mailto:pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca) to see how you can help. Some of these tasks, such as budget planning or ideas for interior design, could be done by email, so don't let not being local for the winter stop you!

New Website Up and Running!

A year ago, the Board of the CDHS made a commitment to have the society's website upgraded and modernized. Just recently, the major work has been completed by John Conrad of Ompah. There are still a couple of sections not yet completed, but work on these is continuing. We still have to provide John with some newer photographs and the "store" section needs some explanation of products. For those of you who have been wanting to read this newsletter online, past editions are ready and waiting for you! Be sure to check it out at: [\[pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca\]](http://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca).

[Continued from President's Message.]

Chris Anstead, postal historian introduced us to the local world of postal routes, post marks, post offices and rail routes in his excellent presentation in September.

In the last few years, we have been invited to join with the Hastings County Historical Society at their Annual Banquet. The speakers have always been outstanding, and this year was no exception. Senator Mike Duffy spoke of *The Political History That Doesn't Get Written*. Stay tuned on this. The Hastings group likes us so much that they want to come up for a reciprocal visit in the non-black fly season.

Rhena Pollard Cole, our famous pioneer who may have been Charles Dickens's model for *Little Dorrit's* Tattycoram, now has a plaque near her grave in the Harlowe Pioneer Cemetery. Many of her descendants from near and far joined us in October to celebrate her story.

If you are not yet a member of The Cloyne & District Historical Society, please consider joining us. We meet on the third Monday of the month at 1PM in the Barrie Hall. We have a lot of fun, preserving the past for the future. □

The O'Hara Mill Homestead

Some of the best historical treasures are right in our own backyard. Members of the Cloyne & District Historical Society took a not-too-far bus trip in June, 2011 to discover the O'Hara Mill Homestead on Deer Creek, just north of Madoc, Ontario. We were graciously received by the Volunteer Association and



In the late 1850's the James O'Hara family had constructed a farmhouse, carriage house, wood working shed, various out buildings, and a saw mill dam on the present site. These buildings have been faithfully restored by dedicated volunteers and craftsmen. The 1861 schoolhouse was moved from Elzevir Township, and the school teacher there put us through a strenuous lesson.



The enthusiastic guides for each of the buildings were dressed in period costume and took an avid interest in the O'Hara story. The old house contained the family belongings, and we were able to see the original curtains made by an ingenious woman who dyed them with horse urine, as well as apple corers, a blanket made by a small boy to pass the time while he was ill, the cook stove, and other tools used by these early pioneers who overcame incredible odds of survival in order to establish a permanent settlement and gain hope for a bright and prosperous future.

The heritage gardens boasted vegetables and flowers and industrious gardeners shared some of their produce with us. We loved the setting of the mill with its working "English Gate Upright Frame Saw", (the only one of its kind in Ontario) and the new limestone dam surrounded by woodlands.

The O'Hara Mill Homestead rates high on our list of things to see in this beautiful area. Make sure to visit the place where nature meets history in early Hastings County. □

[O'Hara Mill Photos courtesy of Trevor Bethel. Article written by Carolyn McCulloch.]



Freedom Is Not Free!

by Dick Dodds

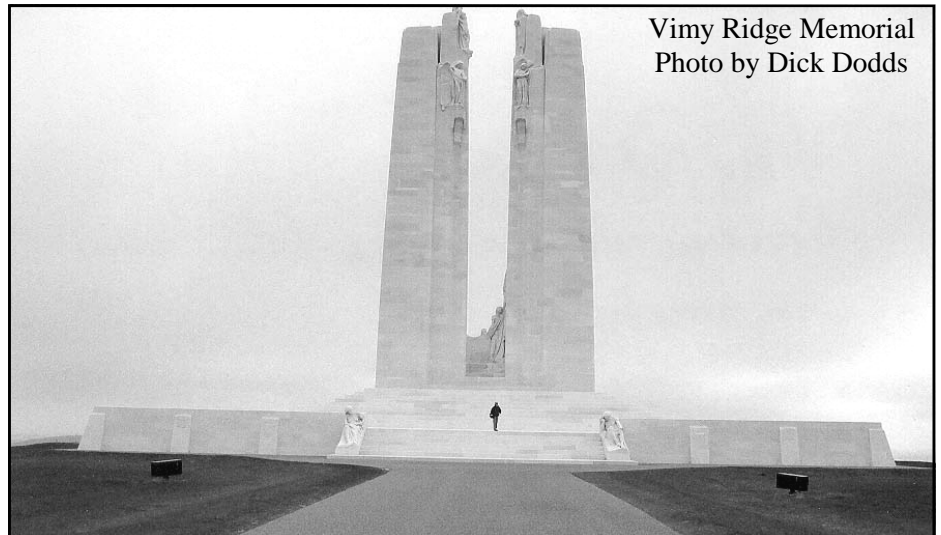
It was during the ill-fated World War II Market Garden Operation in Holland, as the British and the USA forces were desperately trying to capture the bridge at Arnhem, that a 20 year old member of the Dutch resistance said to his mother, "Mum, the bridge is safe". The Germans had wired the bridge with dynamite and were ready to blow it up if the Allies appeared to be winning. In spite of extreme danger, Jan Van Hoof, swam the Rhine river at night, cut the wires leading to the dynamite, and saved the bridge. The next day, while assisting the Americans with translation, he was killed by a German sniper. This was one of many little known stories shared with us as we visited the battlefields of World War I and II in France and Belgium and the 65th Anniversary of the liberation of Holland.

It is a trip every Canadian should experience, where the heroics and sacrifices of our military and ordinary citizens become very real and very tragic.

Vimy Ridge, with its enormous Monument made of stone from Croatia, given by the people of Canada to honour those Canadians who had lost their lives while winning the Ridge in WW I, can be seen for miles. On the monument there are the names of 11,285 Canadian soldiers who had been killed during the attack but whose bodies were never found. Even Hitler visited the Monument and posted guards around it to protect it during WW II. Surprisingly he did have a decent bone in his body after all! The cemeteries nearby are a testament to the sacrifices of Canadians, many as young as 18 years of age. It was at Vimy Ridge that Canada won the admiration of its allies as the British and French, at great human sacrifice, failed to win the coveted Ridge. Canada moved in and with a great battle plan, persistence, ingenuity and sacrifice, took the Ridge. One can still see the trenches and the tunnels used during the assault. In fact, the area around the Ridge is still fenced off as live ammunition is often discovered below the surface after over 90 years. Sheep are used to control the grass to reduce vibration as the authorities will not allow machines near

detonate unexploded bombs and harm the Monument.

A few miles from the Ridge we visited the stark graves of over 44,000 German soldiers, each marked with a black iron cross, a French cemetery with 1000's of white crosses as far as one can see and a small British cemetery. One of the strategies of the Canadians during the battle for the Ridge was to tunnel under the German trenches - a mere 700 meters away - and blow up the enemy. These massive charges left huge craters, and one beautifully manicured crater is now known as Zivy Crater Cemetery, and a war grave for 30 Canadians - 25 known and 5 unknown.



Vimy Ridge Memorial
Photo by Dick Dodds

Canada lost over 66,000 soldiers during WW I and the world lost over 9 million civilians and soldiers on both sides of the conflict. Sadly, the overall number of dead, as a result of WW II, has been estimated at 53 million! Unlike today, the majority of Canadians killed were buried in foreign lands, far away from their loved ones.

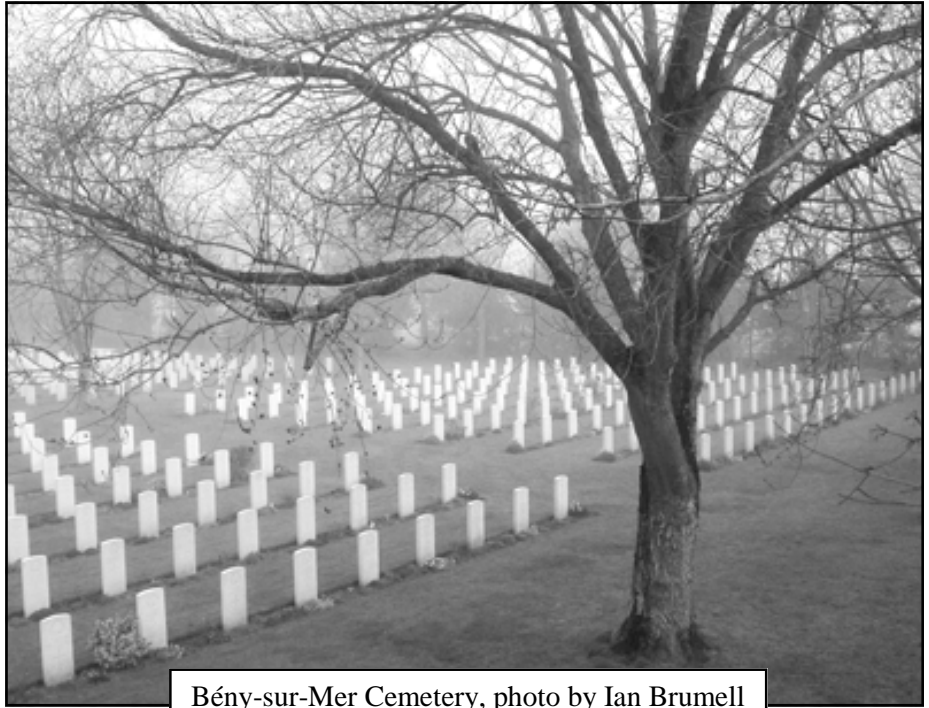
Dieppe was our next stop to view the allied invasion area where General Montgomery and Lord Mountbatten blundered and, at a dreadful cost of lives, tried to achieve the unachievable. It was at Dieppe that 900 Canadians died and 1,944 were taken prisoner, and all for naught. My uncle was one of those prisoners and we stood on the very spot where he was riddled with machine gun bullets. We visited Dieppe 50 years ago and although the city has changed, there are still tributes to the Canadians who were sacrificed. Sadly the young people in this French city know little about the invasion. Although a bitter defeat, the allies did learn tactical lessons which stood them in good stead on D-Day. Montgomery did admit that "The price of this experience was excessive" - an understatement to say the least.

We turned our car towards Normandy, passing very prosperous farms and fields of bright yellow mustard, looking much like a patchwork quilt. Wherever we looked we saw hundreds of wind turbines taking advantage of the winds from the North Sea. Before arriving at Courseulles-sur-Mer and Juno Beach, we faced two very emotional experiences. First, we visited the war grave at Bretteville-sur-Laize where over 2000 Canadian soldiers are buried. Included in this well-maintained cemetery is the grave of Major Jock Thom, the father of a dear friend who was two years of age when her Dad was killed. Margo never knew her father nor did he ever see her.

The next heart wrenching stop was at the Abbey d'Ardenne, west of Caen, where the sadistic German officer, Kurt Meyer, had 27 Canadian prisoners murdered in the garden next to the Abbey, following D-Day. There is a tribute to these brave young men and it just rips your heart out to look at their pictures - too young to die, especially in the manner they were executed. At that moment we thanked God that our son was too young to experience the cruelties of war, but we wept for those families whose loved ones paid the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of all of us.

We moved north to Courseulles-sur-Mer on the English Channel, the location of the Canadian invasion on June 6, 1944, code named Juno. The first wave of our military landed at low tide and had to run over 300 yards up the beach facing artillery, mortars, mines and anti-tank guns. Many perished as they were shot leaving the landing crafts, others drowned carrying 80 pounds of equipment and luckily others were spared in the face of the bombardment. Their goal was to take the town and move south to Caen. It was the beginning of the end of Nazi domination in Europe but at a terrible cost to the allies and the enemy.

As a tribute to the Canadian military, our government, with the encouragement and assistance of many veterans and citizens, built the Juno Beach Centre. It is an impressive structure filled with many reminders of the war and staffed by bilingual Canadian students on leave from their studies. All along the beach there are reminders of the battles - abandoned German bunkers, monuments, plaques, tanks and pictures. There are so many stories which should be told, and so little time or space.



Bény-sur-Mer Cemetery, photo by Ian Brumell

We travelled north to the Netherlands, visiting both Kinderdijk, where many of Holland's famous windmills adorn the canals and the magnificence of the Keukenhof where hundreds of acres of tulips were in bloom - breathtaking to say the least. Thousands of the tulip bulbs are shipped to Ottawa each year as a "thank you" from the Dutch Royal family for our huge contribution to the liberation of their country and for providing them sanctuary during the war. As we travelled Holland, it mattered not that we were too young to have fought in WW II; being Canadian was enough to bring praise, adoration and huge signs of appreciation. Canadian flags adorned most houses and farms throughout Holland. On Mother's Day, Dutch women came onto our bus and handed bouquets of flowers to all female travellers. They will never forget.

On May 2 we met up with 38 other Canadians who arrived in Amsterdam to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Holland. For the next 8 days we visited war cemeteries at Groesbeek, Osterbeek, Bergen op Zoom and Holten, important battlefields at Nijmegen, Arnhem and the Schelde, the National War and Resistance Museum at Overloon, the two hour parade at Apeldoorn honouring Canada's sacrifices and the Nazi concentration camp at Amersfoort. It is interesting to note that Groesbeek is the one cemetery open to accepting bodies of those killed but only recently found. At Holten War Cemetery candles are lit and placed at each gravestone every Christmas.

We were blessed with the presence of seven veterans who had served in Europe and had so many stories to share with us. One of the veterans while fighting in Apeldoorn turned 25 on May 8, 1944 and sixty-five years later, on May 8, 2010, turned 90 in Apeldoorn! We did celebrate his birthday. Another veteran who had landed at Juno and fought his way through France, Belgium and Holland, once had the task of driving behind enemy lines to pick up a German Officer and transport him to a hotel in Wageningen for the signing of the peace treaty. Apparently the German Officers walked into the room, signed the surrender and walked out without uttering a word.

One of the Canadians in our group was born in Holland and was five years old when the war broke out. He can remember many of the hardships endured by the Dutch. His family burned everything in their home, including the doors to keep warm. His mother boiled tulip bulbs for food and sadly, when the Germans blockaded all food supplies to Holland, his father along with 20,000 others died of starvation. He recalled vividly the food drops by the allies which were permitted by the Germans beginning April 26, twelve days before the signing of the peace treaty. Those drops saved his life.

Over the years, we have travelled the world, but this journey had such a profound effect on all of us. Seeing, feeling and hearing the ravages of war send powerful messages, messages which must be heard by everyone. A little boy standing beside me at the military parade in Apeldoorn looked up at his mother and said, "Mum, what is war?" She bent down, and as I listened, she spent the next few minutes talking about how people seem to want to bully others and finished by saying war was a terrible way to settle differences and to be free. I was reminded of the words we saw on a gravestone of a 20 year old, killed October 5, 1944, which said, "Some day we'll understand". The mother's words didn't seem to move the child, but her tears certainly moved me. After this trip, I am even prouder to be known as a Canadian where freedom is a right, but sadly, freedom is not free!

Dick and Wilma Dodds reside in Napanee and are CDHS patrons.



200th Anniversary Celebration

As a historical society, we would be remiss if we didn't mention the big celebration coming up next year, the 200th **Anniversary of the War of 1812**. As a new nation within the British Empire, this little war was Canada's first chance to step up and fight her own battles, so to speak. Many circumstances came together to instigate this conflict. To Ontarians, it signified successfully repelling invasion from the United States.

In fact, the War of 1812 was an outgrowth of the larger conflict between Britain and Napoleon, the North American front, so to speak. The Royal Navy had control of the oceans. To thwart French aggression, Britain was stopping trans-Atlantic crossings; this consequently interrupted American trade with Europe, and in President Monroe's mind, this needed to stop. Maybe taking Canada away would settle Britain down, expand America's territory and bring new resources into their realm. Good plan but it didn't work out that way.

What somebody forgot to tell Monroe was that Upper Canada settlers were in large part the sons and grandchildren of those people who were loyal to Britain in the first place. They had gotten out of that pot and weren't about to jump back into the frying pan. Besides which, a bunch of new Brits and Scots had come over in the meantime, and all those Six Nations people had an axe to grind against America too.

With the burning of little York, it was "Game on, Dude"! After all the bloodshed and skirmishes along the border from Mackinac to Montreal, after all was said and done, led by British commanders, local militia supported by native tribes, we turned in a united front and chased those Americans back where they belonged. They must have learned their lesson because they've left us alone for 200 years. The point of this little article is that the War of 1812 was an extension of the Napoleonic Wars, considered just an annoying series of insignificant skirmishes somewhere out in the colonial boondocks.

Next year there will be celebrations and re-enactments of many key battles such as Lundy's Lane, Chippawa, Queenston Heights, Beaverdams, Stoney Creek, Crysler's Farm and countless others in communities all across Ontario.

Check out [<http://www.warof1812.ca/battles.htm>] for more information on the War, or just google War of 1812.



Tombstone Tech – Mixing Eternity and Technology

<http://www.sync-blog.com/sync/2011/08/eternity-is-now-blessed-with-a-touch-of-tech.html>

Learning about someone's life story after their death might become easier, thanks to a Seattle monument retailer.



Photo Courtesy: Quiring Monuments;
Posted August 10, 2011

Eternity is now blessed with a touch of
technology By Bruno Marsala

Some might think this is just wrong but I personally think it's pretty neat. A touch of current technology gives anyone today – and for generations to come – the ability to learn about a life lived, all with just a few clicks. Imagine this: you walk into a cemetery equipped with nothing more than a smartphone (or iPad). You pass a headstone with an epitaph that you just can't resist and

bend down to read more. Then, with a simple scan from your smartphone over a QR code, you're taken to a detailed website where you can read and watch videos (and see photos), and suddenly become immersed in the history of someone's life and times here on earth.

Seattle's Quiring Monuments has begun offering what they call "living headstones" which are basically headstones complete with all the usual details plus a QR code that immediately hardlinks to a dedicated memorial website for your loved one as part of the service they provide. For those who don't know what a QR (quick-response) code is, it's basically like a bar code, similar to what you would find in a supermarket on any product that passes through the checkout isle. It's roughly the size of a postage stamp and contains a pattern of black squares against a white background. Once scanned by a smartphone or iPad (with a 3rd party app), the code can trigger many different events like delivering basic textual information, contact/address download details, launching email or SMS based text messages or, in this case, opening a link to a dedicated website in honour of the memory of a cherished loved one. They are becoming more and more popular at trade shows, events and even on public signage because they help deliver electronic information quickly and easily. They are also considered environmentally friendly, as the need for print media is reduced.

Online memorials are nothing new, but adding the ability to quickly learn about someone's story with the simple scan of a smartphone is. I think it's a great way to share the uniqueness that we all possess and combine history with technology. Maybe I am out to lunch, but I would certainly be happy to have one on my headstone when that day comes.

What about you readers? Is this just a gimmick or is it something you might consider?



**Coming up is our
"Old Fashioned Christmas"
family get-together on Saturday,
December 10th at 1:00 pm. Please join
us at the Barrie Township Hall
for Christmas entertainment,
a sing-song, and a visit from the
Jolly Man in Red!**

**Once again the CDHS Historical
Calendar is a huge success.
There are very few of the 2012
remaining. If you haven't
purchased yours yet, contact
Gordon McCulloch at 613-336-6858 or
send an email to:
pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca.**

Fall Bus Trip

by Carol Morrow

Anyone who didn't climb on the Historical Society bus 24th September missed an interesting trip and one that was really informative. About 22 brave souls bounced their way down to Kingston that day to learn more about John A. Macdonald, our very first Prime Minister. We met Sir John A. in the flesh, reincarnated for us by an actor Brian Porter from Brockville who lives, breathes and jokes the part he portrays.

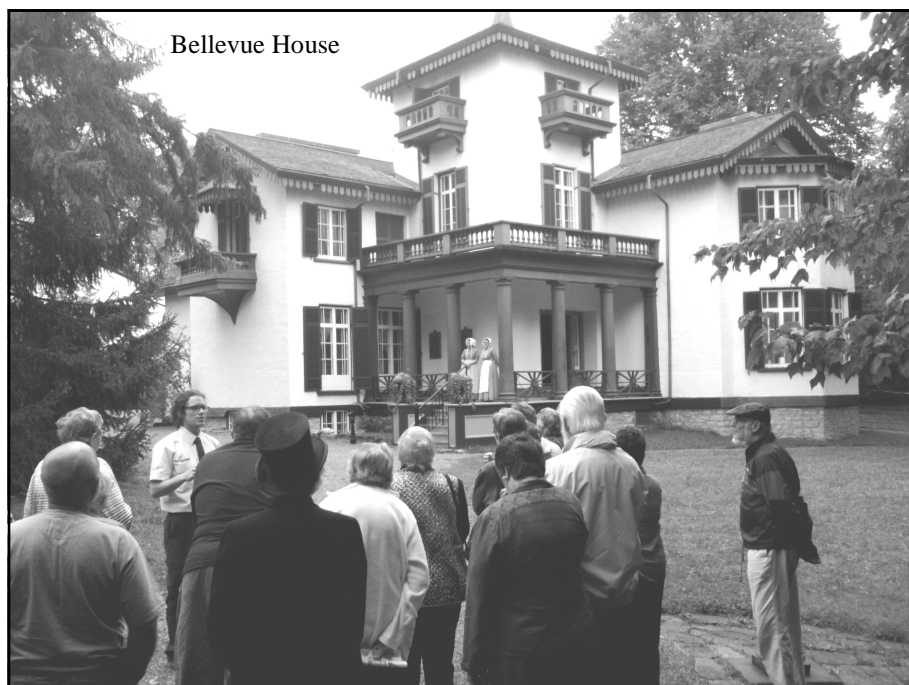
Down on Rideau Street, there is a residence that was once home to the Macdonald family back in the day. It is still a residence for two elderly ladies who keep Sir John A.'s memory alive by furnishing their home with period pieces. The upstairs bedroom which was Sir John's study is laid out in much the same way as it was when John used it. The front rooms are steeped in Macdonald collectibles and artifacts of him and of the era, as well as some drawings and sketches of the man. There is one cluster of small statues of him in a corner by the original fireplace. The little tables with their china pieces and the settee and side chairs make you recall Victorian times. As well as show-casing their home and welcoming the public into it, these ladies share stories of the Macdonalds' years there in the days when Sir John was establishing a law practice on Queen Street. His office building is still there though it operates under

During a schnitzel lunch at the Amadeus restaurant, actor Sir John A. kept us amused with anecdotes about himself in former times. He fully admitted that he had been quite a boozier on occasion and scandalized the office of prime minister. He was just being honest, he said.

The afternoon was spent out at Bellevue House, the King Street Italianate residence which is the one most people are familiar with as Sir John's Kingston home. In actuality, the family only lived there about a year and a half, one reason being he found it too far from his downtown practice. Bellevue House has been restored and is administered by Parks Canada. Their interpretive centre there presents an excellent overview of John's career. I asked Actor John about his family and was surprised to learn that he had two wives. In 1843, he married Isabella Clark whom he had met the year before on a trip to Britain. They had a son John Alexander Jr in 1846; sadly, that little boy died in 1848. In 1850 they had another son, Hugh John. Despite having two children Isabella spent most of their married life an invalid and died in 1857. Hugh was raised mostly by John's sister and her husband. In 1867 Sir John married a second time, to Agnes Bernard, and in 1869 they had a daughter Mary. She was hydrocephalic and never did walk or fully develop mentally.

After an illustrious career as a politician and prime minister of the new nation, Sir John A. died in office 6 June 1891 and was buried in Cataraqui Cemetery in Kingston near his first wife, Isabella. Following his death, Agnes and Mary returned to England to live. Agnes was given a peerage, Baroness Macdonald of Earnscliffe (their Ottawa home). Agnes died in September 1920 at age 84 and is buried in Eastbourne near London. Mary outlived her mother, passing in 1933 at age 64, a phenomenal accomplishment for someone with her affliction. She actually had a remarkable sense of humour, developed a basic understanding of the small world within her home, and fit into the family activities quite suitably.

Sir John served almost 19 years as prime minister. In typical Canadian fashion, he has no capital cities named after him, nor is there a towering memorial in the nation's capital to his memory. There are statues of him scattered around the country (inclu-



ding Kingston City Park) and 11th January is Sir John A. Macdonald Day but usually passes unnoticed because it is not a federal holiday. He does have an airport (Ottawa) and a major highway named after him.

Sir John's only surviving son, Sir Hugh A. Macdonald was an influential politician in his own right, serving in the federal House of Commons as a member and a cabinet minister, and becoming premier of Manitoba in 1900 Jan-Oct. He was created a Knight Baronet in 1913, died in Winnipeg in 1929, and is buried in St John's Cemetery there. He and his first wife had a daughter who married and had two sons, one of whom survives (or did until a few years ago, and may still) and lives/-d in Winnipeg.

To learn more about the Macdonald Saga, visit websites:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_A._Macdonald] ;
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agnes_Macdonald_1st_Baroness_Macdonald_of_Earncliffe] ;
[http://www.mhs.mb.ca/docs/people/macdonald_hj.shtml]

In conclusion, if you haven't been there yet, some day when you are kicking around Kingston, go out to Bellevue House for an hour or so. It's quite nice, and well restored. Refresh your memory in Macdonald lore.

We had a good trip. Thanks to Sandra Sparks and Carolyn McCulloch for organizing the day, using their valuable Kingston contacts for our benefit. □



Thanks to Ken Hook for the photos of the trip.

Pioneer Museum Patron Program

by Marcella Neely

The museum is now closed for the season and plans for the society will soon be in high gear for 2012.

Our program recorded 61 renewals and 4 first time museum patrons this year. While this is down from last year, we were still able to cover the cost of the museum liability insurance and purchase supplies.

We are grateful for the continued support and generous donations. Though there is fierce competition for charitable dollars in our small community, we must keep in mind that our museum is the only place that records and houses history for our descendants.

The ongoing archiving is preserving genealogy and many visitors have already found surprises in their heritage. Our web site is now current and we encourage you to visit.

If anyone knows of a business, individual or organization looking for an income tax break, please consider the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. Donations generate a tax deductible charitable donation receipt and our program is 100% volunteer administered. □

Gull Lake Camps

Letter to the Editor from Joan Lindey

The article last spring on the camps back in the 40's and 50's certainly caught my eye.

There were others on Gull Lake and at least two are still going with their original names. Newton's cottages are now run by their son, Lyle. My parents, brother, sister and I stayed there for several years, then tried Stelroys on the same road as Kirks Cove. We then discovered a new camp just being built - Camp's Bay. We were the first people to stay there when Jean and Hugh Hillier owned and built it. It was later sold to Ken and Doreen Black and they owned it until just a few years ago.

I have not missed a year since 1948 spending at least a week on the lake. We even spent some of our honeymoon on Kennebec Lake. The highlight each year for me was to head north to the Land o' Lakes.

Ken came up with our family one year and also loved it. We bought our lot a few years after we married, built our cottage and have been coming up to Kash for 45 years, 20 of which we have enjoyed here as our retirement home.

It is always great to receive your newsletter and be reminded of many of the happenings from the past. Thanks for all your good work. The original founders of the Pioneer Club would be thrilled to know how well it is doing. □

Fame Comes to Harlowe, Part Two

By Marg Axford

The Harlowe Cemetery, near the gravestone of Rhena Pollard Cole and her husband Oris, was the site of a dedication of a plaque on Sunday, October 30, 2011. The plaque, erected by the Historical Society, North Frontenac municipality, descendants of Rhena and Oris and the Ontario Heritage Trust, was designed to honour the courage and determination which brought Rhena to Harlowe.

Over the past couple of years, we have become familiar with the details of Rhena's story: her early years of poverty and destitution in the England of the early 1800s and the intervention in her life of the famous novelist Charles Dickens, who in 1847 established a home for young girls who were without means. The goal of Dickens and his benefactress, Angela Burdett Coutts, was to educate these young women and then have them emigrate to one of the colonies. Over the course of the next 10 years, approximately 100 women had the benefit of life in this strict but welcoming home, a place of refuge from the hardships of the streets of London.

Unlike many of her housemates, Rhena emigrated to Canada and ended up in Buckingham, Quebec, where presumably she worked as a domestic. There she met Oris Cole. In 1856 they were married and then "followed the timber" west to Cloyne and Harlowe, where they established a home and raised their children.

At least a dozen of those children's descendants gathered in Harlowe for the dedication of the plaque to Rhena. From across the country, as far away as Terrace, BC, these people came to honour a woman whose spirit of courage and spunk continue to be alive in the family. Both tears and laughter were present at the gathering, as relatives who hadn't seen one another for many years, or who were meeting for the first time, exchanged stories about their connection to Oris and Rhena. Great grandchildren Sandra Chisholm of Terrace, BC and Laura Delyea of Harlowe were joined by great granddaughter Laurie Gillies and her daughter Alice of Toronto as they unveiled the plaque dedicated to Rhena.

The accompanying photographs show the plaque with those who removed the cover as Alice read the text. Tea in the Harlowe Hall at the conclusion of the event offered a welcome respite from the cool wind and a further chance for relatives to exchange phone numbers and continue to chat at what appeared to be a very welcome family event. □



Photos by Ian Brumell



Above, Sandra Chisholm, Laurie Gillies, Laura Delyea.



Reference Books for Genealogy or Local History Studies

1. Frontenac County: County of 1,000 Lakes
 Away back in Clarendon-Miller
 Back of Sunset, a history of Central Frontenac
 Way Back in Frontenac (Northern Townships) - Census Information from 1860-1900
 Memories, by Eleanor Flieler
2. Lennox and Addington County: The Smiling Wilderness
 Historical Glimpses of Lennox and Addington
 Way Back in Addington (Northern Townships)-Census Information
 from 1860 to 1900
 The Story of Old Hay Bay Church
 Lennox and Addington Atlas
3. Cloyne/Bon Echo: Bon Echo - The Denison Years
 The Mazinaw Experience
 The Oxen and the Axe
 Unto These Hills
 The Art of Bon Echo
 Sunset of Bon Echo
4. Denbigh: This Was Yesterday
5. Flinton: Village on the Skoot
6. Northbrook: When I Was a Boy - The David Trumble Story
7. Ottawa Valley: Eganville, Jewel of the Bonnechere
 Lumber Kings and Shantymen - Logging and Lumbering in the Ottawa Valley
 Heart and Soul- Portraits of Canada's Ottawa Valley
8. Matawatchan: St. Andrews United Church, Matawatchan
 The Carswell Story - 350 Years of Pioneering History
 The Strong Family - 150 Years in Canada
 Matawatchan, A Glimpse into the Past
9. Eastern Ontario: Whiskey and Wickedness
 Historic Sites and Monuments of Kingston and District
 Land Roll Book - Land Agent Records 1865-1893 for South Canonto, Palmerston,
 Clarendon-Miller, Abinger, Denbigh, Hinchinbrooke and Olden Townships
 Where the Heck is Balaheck? - Unusual Place names in Eastern Ontario
 Chalk, Challenge and Change - Stories from Women Teachers in Ontario, 1920-1979

These books can be borrowed from the museum on a sign-out list. Contact Margaret Axford for this.