

The Pioneer Times

NEWS VEHICLE OF THE CLOYNE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



New to our Flickr page is this photo taken in 1913 of a General Store in Flinton owned by Robert Wesley Kimmerly. The baby on the post is Douglas Alkenbrack held by his father Claude, nephew of Robert Wesley Kimmerly. The exact location of the store is unknown at this time. *Photo: The Alkenbrack Family Album, CDHS Flickr website. Additional Information "A. Douglas Alkenbrack—Memories of a Daughter" by Eleanor Grennell, Lake Tales tab www.skootamatta.ca.*

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Cloyne & District Historical Society

The Pioneer Times

Volume 13, No. 2, Fall/Winter 2015-16

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2012 Recipient

We lose friends

Peter Turner 1932-2015



Peter was the memorable gentleman who ran the second hand book table at our Yard Sales. Some claim that he lived in the oldest house in Northbrook, and after offering it to the Historical Society for a Pot luck Lunch, he gave members a guided tour and we were able to learn about life in earlier times. He was responsible for selling the advertising that Northbrook merchants purchased in our Calendars.

Peter and his wife of 51 years, Mary Jane, were hard working members of the Historical Society. After they moved to Winnipeg where Peter died, Mary Jane chose to celebrate his life in the family cottage, one of the earliest on Lake Mazinaw.



Frank Matacheskie 1933-2015

When Frank Matacheskie came down from Massanoga (Sawyer-Stoll) to a dance in Northbrook as a young man, he met Lucy Hawley, married her and never looked back. A veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, Frank served in Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam and Germany. He brought his considerable talent home with him to start the Cadet Corp at the local school, became a volunteer in the local Fire Department, and



valued fund raiser for the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 328.

Frank (right) is shown here after his marriage at the reception in the Northbrook Hotel, with Ken Matacheskie and Cecily Hawley.

Frank and Lucy even stored some of the artifacts from the museum for a couple of winters, when there was only the original small cabin museum with no storage space.

He was a founding member of the Pioneer Museum Patron Program, and designed the decorative decal that identified all those who became Patrons. Frank was a director of the Cloyne & District Historical Society from 2006 to 2008. He loved genealogy and traced the history of the Hawley family that can be found in the archives.



Frank's contributions to the Historical Society and his community were significant. We shall remember him.



Eva Adams



While living in the Pine Meadow Nursing Home Eva Adams became the Volunteer of the Year. She passed away there on April 3, 2015 and her many friends there miss this lady with "the heart of gold".

In earlier times the Historical Society was the fortunate recipient of her volunteerism. She was a tireless helper at the Lumberman's Picnic and with her caring manner helped the organization in every way that she could. Sharing our memories of Eva help to keep her with us.

President's Message

Like Hurricane Patricia, Summer 2015 came quickly and it seems, disappeared just as fast. All we have left are memories and remnants of its passing.

I hope you all enjoyed your summer, made the best of it and spared some time visiting areas of historical significance. You will be happy to know, that the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives played a role in educating and showing summer visitors that our ancestors and their tools, albeit not as modern as what we now use, achieved results that left an epoch-making mark in our lives and area.

Your Board of Directors, curator and her staff as usual, played an important role in making sure that what is gathered, recorded, displayed and shown is in keeping with our mandate and did so in a fiscally responsible manner. What we can use and need from you, beside money (who doesn't), are family histories, letters and photos from attics, unusual tools, furniture and/or any items that may not appear to mean anything but may play an important role in history gathering. Before you trash anything, we would like a chance to view what you found in that old shed or attic. So please, never hesitate to contact us by the different means available and listed in this newsletter.

We had a good summer in Cloyne. The assistance of our young staff, patrons, members of the Society, visitors, curator, committee members and Board of Directors are all credited in some manner in helping us make it another successful summer. I invite you to peruse our website and note the inclusion of videos added at no cost on Flickr by our very dedicated and resourceful web technician.

To all of you, think of us over the winter as we plan and prepare to make 2016 a progressive year. We look forward to receiving you again and thank you on behalf of all for helping keep history a thing of the past but very relevant to the future.

J. J. (Red) Emond, President ❧

What a summer!

The summer of 2015 was a record-setter for the Cloyne Pioneer Museum. Whether it was the brand new sign south of Northbrook which advertises the museum, or the relatively new "Cloyne: Home of the Pioneer Museum" signs at either end of the village, or whether it was just a general feeling of needing to get out and explore after that crazy-long winter we all had, for whatever reason, 1450 people visited the museum during the 8 weeks of it being open.

Contributing to the many positive comments which we heard was a display featuring the early medical instruments of Doctor Ellen Blatchford. Also, several new items came in, including a gramophone found initially at the dump and a totally mysterious object donated by Lauder Smith, who is anxious for someone to explain its use!

We were fortunate to have a member of staff this summer who had taken a course in Geology at Queens. Her particular task, outside of welcoming visitors, was to catalogue the museum's collection of rocks and minerals, objects that have come to us piecemeal over the years, but with a substantial number coming from the estate of the late Bill Scott, a graduate of the Haileybury School of Mines in the 1950s. There is still one box of materials left to catalogue, but Jessica's work this summer goes a long way to filling one of the major gaps in the museum's database.

A big seller this summer in the museum store was a book about Billa Flint, who included the founding of the village of Flinton in his many achievements. It's an interesting read which explores Mr. Flint's complex personal-

ity. The man who built many mills in Flinton, Actinolite, Bancroft and Belleville, providing work for hundreds of employees over the years, was also the man who sold many shares in his "North Hastings Bronze Mine" to George Merrill, father of Flora McDonald Denison. We have sold out of the book, but the last time I checked in Tweed it was still available at the Tweed News.

With substantial increases in donations and sales as well as visitors, the museum committee is looking forward to another busy season in 2016. Many thanks to Eileen Flieler, Carol Lessard and Wendy Hodgkin for their assistance in so many areas, as well of course to Ian Brumell and Red Emond for their help with all that "guy stuff".

Margaret Axford, Museum Chair ✿



New museum acquisitions include a gramophone found in the dump and a "mystery object" donated by Lauder Smith that we need help identifying.

Photos: CDHS Facebook page.

Volunteers erect the new Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archive signs at the museum and south of Northbrook.

Photos:

Marcella Neely



CDHS Online Presence Grows

In the summer, museum staff set up a Facebook page for the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives. If you are on facebook, like us to receive updates.

We also have a YouTube page where you can enjoy videos pertaining to our area. We have 4 videos online, the most recent is of the Wintario Draw held at North Addington Education Centre in 1984. Check it out - I think you may see a few familiar faces.



Log Sawing Contest, Lumbermen's Picnic, Cloyne 1947. Dean Burgess and Kenneth Cummings of Enterprise grunt and groan through the log sawing contest finishing in about 30 seconds. The winning team did it in 16 seconds! *Photo: The Alkenbrack Family Album, CDHS Flickr website. Eleanor Grennell (nee Alkenbrack) lent the photos to us for scanning.*

We are very close to having 500 photos on flickr as one of 108 Commons Members. Our most viewed, with 11,588 views, 97 faves and 5 comments, is the photo of the Northbrook Girl Guides which appeared on our Spring 2015 cover. We are working on identifying all of the girl guides in the photo.

Here are some photos recently added to our Flickr site.



This year marked the 50th Anniversary of Bon Echo Provincial Park. In the early days park administration was handled by the Tweed Lands and Forests Office. This 1965 photo shows Mike Schwager (former caretaker) with Marion Devolin (left), Wanda Franks (2nd from left) and Sheila Mumby (far right). All women assisted with the early set-up of Bon Echo Park. *Photo: Bon Echo Provincial Park Album, CDHS Flickr website.*

Angels in the Shadows

This is for all you special people who so kindly respond to the requests for help, knowledge, support, artifacts, documents, photos, and financial contributions to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives. Although we as the Historical Society operate the museum we could not have accomplished what we are all so proud of without our silent partners.

Every community has its angels but we are abundantly blessed. We are constantly mindful and grateful. Whether it's a quick answer on the phone, reply to an

email, a donation of artifact, time spent on yard work, construction work, indoor facelift, the media, entertainers, presentations, clerical and technical help. Comments and suggestions are reflected in decision making. The list goes on. You know who you are. So many have participated and we will ask you again.

The leaders in the Historical Society are the spokes in the wheel but without our invisible circle of support our Museum could not continue to thrive.

When we each do a little, we can all do a lot.

Marcella Neely, Communications Committee Chair ✿

The Blake Island Story

History is most often told through the actions of many; perhaps it is most profoundly felt through the singular actions of a few. The story of Flying Officer William Blake has had a lasting effect on his nieces and nephews and their families, as well of course in a most profound way on his brother and sister-in-law, Richard and Edna Blake.

His story was first told to the CDHS at our annual pot luck gathering in July, 2006. Joanne Volpe, a summer-time neighbour of Richard Blake, told us about a pilot who had given his life in WWII to give his crew a chance to live. That man was Flying Officer William Vincent Blake, brother of Richard Blake of Guelph, now 96. The story was captivating.

In April of 1944, F/O William Blake, in his early twenties, was flying a Handley Page Halifax MkII when it was attacked by German fire over the Baltic Sea close to the coast of Sweden. The damage to the plane was significant. The mid-upper gunner had been wounded. In order to help his crew survive the attack, Blake flew the plane over southern Sweden where he ordered all of the 6 to bale out, which they did. At that point, the aircraft became uncontrollable; Blake managed to get the plane back out over water before it crashed into the sea near Solvesborg, Sweden. In spite of the attempts of divers, his body was never found.

To Richard and Edna Blake and their children, and now grandchildren, this event in 1944 became a defining mo-

ment in their family stories. After Joanne Volpe's presentation to the CDHS, it seemed appropriate to commemorate William Blake, who was so dear to his brother Richard. And so, a plaque was created, which was installed in a small ceremony on Blake Island in Lake Skootamatta on July 1, 2007.

Part two of this story takes place in London England, where a researcher named Kate Tame came across the CDHS website and read the story of F/O William Blake, who had been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross in February of 1944. Kate Tame does work searching the stories of WWII airmen for a British website called Aircrew Remembered. She was enthralled with this story and wondered if we had photos and perhaps local information. Eventually, she posted the whole story as we both knew it on her website. Included in her report of the events of April, 1944, are biographies of 4 of the 6 crew who baled out and survived. To check out her account, go to www.aircrewremembered.com.

No one knew that there would be a Part Three of the story until this summer when we heard that a memorial to honour F/O Blake, DFC was being erected in Solvesborg Sweden. From an article in the Hamilton Spectator, October 12, 2015, it appears that a Swedish citizen living in Solvesborg came across the story on its 70th anniversary in April 2014. He was impressed enough by the heroic actions of the pilot to organize this event, which included tracking down the Blake family in Canada to invite them to the dedication of the memorial on September 19, 2015. When I talked with Richard Blake on the phone to ask him if he was going to attend, he replied that he was not. "My



LtoR Richard Blake, 96, holds a photograph of his brother William Blake, a pilot in bomber command during the Second World War. William Blake. William Blake's Distinguished Flying Cross and his flying log showing the log for his last flight before his death on April 23, 1944. Photos: Mathew McCarthy, Waterloo Region Record - photos appeared in the Hamilton Spectator September 4, 2015

family thinks I am too old to make that journey” he said, acknowledging that it would be a tremendous effort physically. However, five of his family members did attend.



Jennifer Blake (right) and Christine Watson, nieces of William Blake, were taken to the crash spot on the water where they laid a wreath. *Photo: Blake family - photo appeared in the Hamilton Spectator September 24, 2015*

Those five, two daughters of Dick and Edna, their husbands and a granddaughter, found the Swedish people welcoming, friendly and helpful. The memorial is not unlike our own, a small cairn with a plaque. As part of the ceremony, the two Blake daughters went out in a boat and dropped a wreath on the water at approximately the spot where it is believed their uncle's plane went down. Even the telling of the event is moving; actually being there would have been both heartwarming and incredibly sad.

F/O Blake has had two commendations for his wartime accomplishments, one in 1957 with the naming of a lake after him in the NorthWest Territories and the second his Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded as a result of an amazing effort in February, 1944 when his plane was attacked eleven times by enemy aircraft before he could successfully bomb his target. His family has tried for a commendation in light of the heroic actions which led to his death a mere two months later. However, they were told that their efforts were too late; no awards have been made for WWII actions since 1950. Knowing that, it seems even more important for organizations such as our own to do what we can to shine a light on such courage and self sacrifice and to be truly grateful.

With thanks to Joanne Volpe and Kate Tame, and with the utmost respect for the members of the Blake family.

Margaret Axford, Cloyne and District Historical Society, Thanksgiving Day, October 12, 2015 🍁



Richard Blake views the memorial plaque at the dedication ceremony Canada Day 2007. Margaret Axford and Richard Blake *Photos: CDHS*



The "Tin School" in Flinton burned to the ground January 5, 1945. *Photo: Bolton Family Album, CDHS Flickr website.* Built to replace it, the Flinton Continuation School served the community until 1962. It is privately owned and has been vacant for many years. *Photo: Cathy Hook*

You can't help but notice the boarded-up brick veneer building on the outskirts of Flinton. Now privately owned and in a state of disrepair it was once called the most streamlined school building in Canada by Toronto Daily Star correspondent Ben Rose in his September 15, 1945 article. The layout is quite unique and there's a story behind that.

Our Spring Newsletter featured an article written by Eileen Flieler on the schools of Kaladar Township. Her article talks about the fire January 5, 1945 that destroyed the "Tin School" and the Flinton Continuation School, built to replace it.

Ben Rose's newspaper article is reprinted here so you will know a little more of the story.

To view the newspaper article at the Google news site follow this link: <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=kvE6AAAAIBAJ&sjid=fyoMAAAAIBAJs&pg=818%2C13434659>

It might be easier to go to the CDHS website > open the pdf version of this newsletter and click on the link.

CANADA'S MOST STREAMLINED SCHOOL IN VILLAGE OF 225 PEOPLE



CONTRACTOR and architect, Joseph Rashotte, left, and Wilfred L. Lessard, chairman of the continuation school board, study plans of Flinton's ultra-modern school

ULTRA-STREAMLINED SCHOOL PRIDE OF BACKWOODS TOWN



A PUPIL, Edmond Jerome, eleven, levels cement. The old school burned to the ground in January



FRANCIS TREPANIER, twelve, is a "carpenter." The new school can be evacuated in 30 seconds



RAYMOND JEROME, fourteen, is another of the six boys who spent holidays helping to build the school

ULTRA-STREAMLINED SCHOOL PRIDE OF BACKWOODS TOWN

by Ben Rose
Star Staff Correspondent

Flinton, Sept. 15 – The most streamlined school building in Canada is nearing completion at Flinton, a little backwoods village 42 miles north of Belleville with a population of 225.

It has provisions for the safety and comfort of its pupils that not even the biggest city school can boast. The story of how it came to be built here is as interesting as its setting.

The old public and continuation school burned to the ground last January. The pupils got out just in time. School Board members decided they would never again allow such a near-tragedy to happen.

Plans for new schools on file at the department of education were sent to the village. "But they were all of the two-storey type and we did not want any building in which escape of pupils on the second floor might be cut off in case of fire," said Wilfred L. Lessard chairman of the continuation school board.

Instead, the board found what they wanted in an aerial view of an ultra-modern school in a U.S. education magazine shown to them by Maynard Hallman, the public school inspector.

So with this picture and nothing more except their own enthusiasm they set out to build the new Flinton public and continuation school at a cost of \$40,000.

On Five-Acre Site

A five-acre pasture site at the edge of the village was secured and the

first sod turned on July 4. There was a decided lack of ceremony at the time: Mr. Lessard and the other board members, J. F. Davidson and Herb Marisette, did all the excavation work themselves.

Today the building is far enough advanced so that it is expected that classes will begin Monday. A formal opening is planned when it is completely finished.

Doubting Thomases were not the board's chief worry. Going ahead with a new-fangled school at the height of a building material shortage presented its problems. At one point, Mr. Lessard recalled, work was proceeding on a hour-to-hour supply of nails. A nail-hunting expedition from the village went to every store in every town and village within 100 miles and came back with only 100 lbs.

The school, of frame and brick veneer construction, is shaped like a broad V with two 140-foot wings forming the arms and branching off the lobby and principal's office.

Benefits Pupils' Vision

The contractor, Joseph Rashotte of nearby Tweed, although not a professional architect, drew up the plans.

The most revolutionary feature is the attempt to eliminate eyestrain, the wrecker of children's vision. More than half the wall space is devoted to light and ventilation. There are windows on both sides of the classrooms, with no corridor wall blocking out one side. This is made possible because the corridor in both wings is "outside" the building. It is low enough to allow windows above it to open into the classrooms. The roof of the rooms is slanted at a sharp

pitch so that light which strikes the ceilings will be reflected down on the desks. This reflection is lost when the ceiling is level with the windows, Mr. Lessard explained. The roof of the corridor is white crushed rock to help reflection.

There is an extra door in each classroom leading directly outside, instead of into the corridor, for quick exit. These doors are equipped with "panic locks" that open from the inside. The whole school can be evacuated in 30 seconds in case of fire.

"Built-in" Auditorium

An interesting feature of the building is its flexibility. The board continued to improvise even as it was rising. An auditorium was "built in" by putting a rolling partition between the household science room and the junior public school classroom. It can be rolled to one side for special occasions. At the last minute a stage and footlights were added.

The partition between the science room and the junior continuation class is made partly of glass to allow a teacher to be in one and exercise control over the other by the ability to see what is going on.

Other up-to-the-minute features are fluorescent lighting, sound absorbing walls, a public address system, terrazo corridors and lobby, linoleum floor coverings, individual lockers for pupils, a health room, tables instead of chairs in the junior grade, and a streamlined curriculum that will include music, household science and manual training.

There are 130 pupils enrolled and waiting for it to open, including a 19-year-old army veteran who will be one of five taking upper school subjects. Six boys are doing more than waiting, they are helping to build it, an action which hockey loving

youngsters will find hard to understand.

The driving force behind the move to put Flinton in the educational big league is the 50-year-old board chairman who is waging a self-declared war on illiteracy in the district.

Mr. Lessard and the other board members preach the gospel of education right in the homes, canvassing the parents to encourage them to keep sending their children to school. The board offers a subsidy of 31 cents a day to pupils who are not on the school bus routes as an incentive to come to school under their own steam.

Discard Old Ideas

The board believes in kicking some of the old ideas into a cocked hat.

The one about the good it does boys and girls to get up before daylight to come to school, for example. After a special survey, the board found just the opposite, that the early rising reduces their efficiency and keenness. For that reason the school opening hour in winter is advanced to 9:30 to give them a chance to sleep in a little.

There are six rooms in the new school, twice the number in the old.

The by-law authorizing the borrowing of \$40,000 from a Tweed bank was the biggest money by-law ever passed by the township municipal council. Later 10 and 20-year debentures are to be issued by the council to pay the bank loan. As they become due, principal and interest up to 90 per cent of the cost

of the public school wing and 75 per cent of the continuation school wing are to be paid by the department of education, Mr. Lessard said.

This will leave \$2,000 to be paid by the Kaladar township public school board and \$5,000 by the continuation school board. The former board's half share of \$5,000 insurance on the old building will take care of its obligation and more while the continuation board, favored with a \$300 grant from council, has \$2,200 to raise from its few score ratepayers. Mr. Lessard estimates the individual farmer will only have to pay about \$2.50 a year extra for the next 20 years in taxes for the privilege of having a school of which he can really be proud.

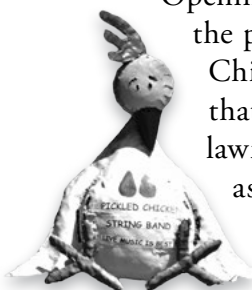
Fun and Fundraising

by Carolyn McCulloch

The decision to cancel our planned bus trip to the Irish Festival in the Tamworth Erinsville area was a good one. This display of music and dance was eventually cancelled by the Kingston organizers because of widespread thunderstorms that day. We look forward to better luck next year.

Saturday of the Victoria Day Weekend has now become Yard Sale Day in our area. We have recycled and renewed for years now, and are grateful to everyone who saves gently used articles for us. After the dust cleared, we had a profit of \$942.23.

Has anyone noticed how attendance at the Museum Opening has continually increased over the past few years? The popular "Pickled Chicken String Band" has a following that come early and bring their own lawn chairs. They flow into the Museum as we listen to folk songs with a twist. Our profit from the delicious BBQ at our annual event was \$241.40.





Ernest Lapchinski (left) was the winner of the walking stick hand crafted and presented by President Red Emond at our Pot Luck Luncheon. *Photo: Cathy Hook*

Warren Anderson's interesting log home on the Skootamata River was the venue for a Pot Luck Luncheon in July. Ernest Lapchinski was the lucky winner of a hand crafted walking stick made by President Red Emond.

Some of us attended the opening of The South Frontenac Museum in Hartington Ont. We welcome them to the world of archiving and collecting in their attractive heritage building.

Come out and join us at our monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month at 1PM in the Barrie Hall in Cloyne. Everyone is welcome to our program that celebrates the past in this area. In September, Larry and Ken Black and Eileen Flieler entertained us with stories of living in Harlowe. In October, Allan Kay displayed and talked about his collection of Antique Lamps.



Historical Society Pot Luck July 2015 hosted by Cathy Meeks and Warren Anderson. First Row (LtoR): Shirley Grant, Red Emond, Carolyn McCulloch, Roxanne Bradshaw, Wendy Hodgkin, Gordon Sparks, Cathy Meeks, Warren Anderson, Pam Lemke. Second Row: Ron Lovelace, Elinor Duncan, Sheila Rose, Eileen Flieler, Carol Lessard, Grace Kinney, Sandra Sparks, Marcella Neely, Joan Flieler, Beth Campbell, Dave Woodruff, Trevor Bethel, Gaile Bethel, Margaret Axford, Hugh Rose, Ian Brumell. Way Back: Bill Campbell, Ernest Lapchinski, Gordon McCulloch, Shirley Sedore. *Photo: Cathy Hook*

2016 Calendar

We still have a few copies of our 2016 Heritage Calendar available. Produced by the CDHS, this calendar features Historical Businesses.

\$15.00

Our calendars make great stocking stuffers and can be mailed to our purchasers.

To make arrangements for a calendar call Eileen Flieler 613 336-9593 or visit our online book store at www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca

The Cloyne and District Historical Society

For 43 years,
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

2016 Calendar



Sawyer-Stoll Clydesdale six horse hitch at the Royal Winter Fair, Toronto. *Cover Photo 2016 Calendar*

Events - 2015/2016

November

Meeting of the CDHS

Monday November 16, 1PM

Barrie Hall – Cloyne

Guest speaker is Canadian Artist Brian Lorimer. Mr. Lorimer spent two years on his commemoration of the First World War – "Project Remembrance".

December

CDHS Christmas Luncheon

Monday December 7, 11:30AM

Harlowe Hall

Please note the change in location of our Christmas Luncheon to the Community Hall in Harlowe. Gather at 11.30 for 12 noon. The cost has not changed, it is \$18.00. Please call Sandra Sparks at 613 336-0157 to reserve your ticket. Share your Christmas joy by bringing one can of brown beans.

Santa Claus Parade

Saturday December 5, 10:00AM

Northbrook

This is our first time entry into the Santa Claus Parade. There will be refreshments served for all ages in the Lions Hall afterwards.

January 2016

Meeting of the CDHS

Monday January 18, 1PM

Barrie Hall – Cloyne

Robbie Burns Supper

Saturday January 23, 2016

Lions Hall – Northbrook

Be there, as Gordon Sparks addresses the haggis. Don your tartans, and come for neeps and tatties, lots of Scotch and some Scottish Country Dancing. Cocktails are at 5.30PM and Supper is at 6.30PM. Reserve your tickets early from Gordon Sparks 613 336-0157.

February

Meeting of the CDHS

Monday February 15, 1PM

Barrie Hall – Cloyne

March

Annual General Meeting of the CDHS

Monday March 21, 1PM

Barrie Hall – Cloyne