

The Pioneer Times

NEWS VEHICLE OF THE CLOYNE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The Original Pioneers

The members of the Pioneer Club in 1974 when *The Oxen and the Axe* was first published. Back L-R: Andrew Snider, Oscar Meeks, Harold Thompson, Irv Brown, Alf Wickware, Clarence Bishop. Middle: Lizzie Meeks, Ada Levere, Dorothy Thompson, Ruby Bishop. Front: Nadine Brumell, Elsie Snider, Gene Brown, Geraldine Wickware. Missing from the photo are Arleigh and Mildred Maitland. *Photo: The Oxen and The Axe, Second Edition, Second Printing 2020.*

■ IN THIS ISSUE

Volume 21, #2 Fall/Winter 2022-23

DIRECTOR and COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Message.....	2
Patron Report.....	3
First Trunk Sale	5

FEATURES

50 Years – A Few of the Highlights	3-4
50 Years – A Celebration	6-7
The History of Black Donald Mine	9-10

WE LOSE FRIENDS

Georgina Hughes	11
-----------------------	----

EVENTS

In-Person Meetings Return	8
Looking Back Booklet	12
Meetings and Coming Events	12



© November 2022
Cloyne & District Historical Society
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

The Pioneer Times

Volume 21, No. 2, Fall/Winter 2022-23

Communications Committee

Carolyn McCulloch – cargomcculloch@gmail.com

Cathy Hook – cathyhook@gmail.com

Cathy Newcombe – cathynewcombe@live.com

Photos by Ken Hook unless otherwise credited

The Pioneer Times is produced semi-annually by the Cloyne and District Historical Society. It is distributed free-of-charge in printed form and by email. Products, services and positions of advertisers, correspondents and contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Historical Society.

Cloyne and District Historical Society

Box 228

Cloyne, ON K0H 1K0

Tel: 613-336-8619

Website: www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca

Email: pioneer@mazinaw.on.ca

flickr contact: kenwhook@gmail.com

CDHS Board

President

Shirley Sedore

Vice President

Warren Anderson

Secretary

Ken Hook

Treasurer

Ian Brumell

Directors-at-large

Eileen Flieler, Catherine Grant,

Elsbeth McCulloch, Cathy Newcombe

The Cloyne and District Historical Society is a
not-for-profit Registered Charity
Charitable Number 89756 8217



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario.
Relève du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

2002, 2012, 2021 Recipient

President's Message

Hello everyone. It has been wonderful to get back to having regular monthly meetings. We saw some folks we hadn't seen for nearly two years. Wow! We had some wonderful presentations including one about how easy our new website is to navigate and the meaning of the Healing Garden that the Garden Club was building in the park beside the museum.

Our AGM was in June, and we have a new board member. Her name is Cathy Newcombe and she is full of enthusiasm and always willing to help out. We are very fortunate.

June 25th, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the CDHS which was originally called the Pioneer Club. We had music, cake, balloons, and a barbecue. Margaret Axford gave a brief history of the club and their efforts to start the museum.

We have some interesting speakers and videos planned for the winter months. We hope you will come out and enjoy them.

After a hiatus during COVID, we will be having our Christmas Luncheon again. It will be at Hunter's Creek Golf Club on December 5th at noon. The cost is \$20.00 and as in the past we would encourage you to bring a non-perishable item for the food bank.

Many thanks to my fellow board members, the committees and to Ken and Cathy Hook for all their work this past year. I feel so blessed to work with such dedicated people.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!
Shirley Sedore, President 🌸



You can become a Patron of the Museum (\$25 per household) or a Member of the CDHS (\$10 per person for 2023). The fee can be paid from our Website (Membership tab) or by sending an Interac e-Transfer to the following email address: cal21@mazinaw.on.ca

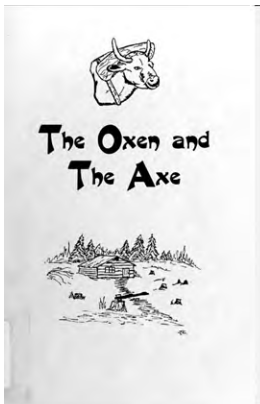
Patron Report

We have been well supported by our Patrons over the past two years plus despite the difficulties arising from the COVID pandemic. We are cautiously optimistic that these difficulties are lessening, but in the meantime, we welcome Patron memberships, renewed and first time, to be sent in person, online or in the mail as you choose. Please see the Patron and Membership Form enclosed in this newsletter.

Catherine Grant, Patron Committee Chair ❀

50 Years – A Few of the Highlights

The Pioneer Club began in 1972 as a group of dedicated individuals wanting to collect and preserve the histories and photos of the families who settled in our area. The



result was *The Oxen and the Axe* published in 1974. The book was edited by Gene Brown and Nadine Brumell. Assistant editor was Elsie Snider. It was printed by the Madoc Review with initial financing from The New Horizons Program. Four years later, a second book, *Unto These Hills*, now out of print, was published. *The Oxen and the Axe* was reprinted

by the club in 1978, 1983, and 1996.



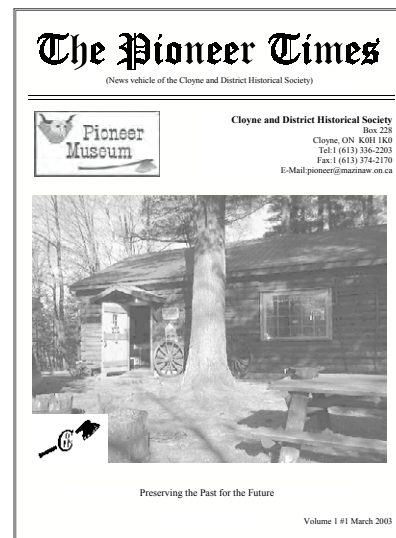
The Pioneer Museum. The original museum building was a 20 by 30 foot log structure made with local cedar logs. It opened in 1982. *Photo CDHS Archives*



The original Pioneer Museum sign. *Photo: 2000 CDHS Archives*

In early 2000 the club ceased operating as the Pioneer Club and became the Cloyne and District Historical Society. On May 5, 2001, the CDHS became incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.

In March 2003, the first *Pioneer Times* was produced.



Vol. 1, No. 1, March, 2003

Editor

Karyl Steinpatz
steinpat@kingston.jkl.net

Editorial and Production Committee

Sandi Brown,
sandi.brown@sympatico.ca
Carol Morrow
ncmorrow@sympatico.ca

Advertising

Marcella Neely
kmneely@mazinaw.on.ca

President

Margaret Axford

Secretary

Eileen Flieler

Treasurer

Ian Brumell

Directors

John Bolton, Marcella Neely,
Karyl Steinpatz



The first museum addition was completed in 2003 built by local workers and volunteers and overseen by Ian Brumell. *Photo: CDHS Archives.* The ribbon cutting linked the present with the past with Irene Wallace and her sister, Ruth Burley, both former board members of the Pioneer Club, and Geraldine Wickwire who with her husband Alf was part of the planning committee of the original Pioneer Club. L-R Irene Wallace, CDHS President Margaret Axford, Geraldine Wickware, and Ruth Burley. *Photo: Dave Deacon. Information and photos appeared in the Pioneer Times 2012 Fall Edition.*



The Oxen and the Axe second edition book launch was in 2008. Editors L-R Ian Brumell, Carol Morrow, Eileen Flieler, Margaret Axford. Missing from the photo Carolyn McCulloch. Printing of the book was supported by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The book had a second printing in 2020. *Photo: Cathy Hook*



Over eight hundred people came out to celebrate one hundred and fifty years of Cloyne history on August 8th and 9th in the summer of 2009. It all happened at the Cloyne Museum, the Barrie Township Hall, and the Pioneer Cem-

etry. Local entertainers supplied nonstop music in our newly paved parking lot while past residents, cottagers, people from surrounding communities, descendants from the original pioneering families, and dignitaries from the counties and townships commemorated the colourful history of Cloyne. *CDHS Archives*

2012 saw the building of another addition to the Pioneer Museum. Funding for the project was made possible through donations and grants from friends, local businesses, The Trillium Foundation, the MacLean Foundation, The Davies Foundation, and the New Horizons for Seniors Programme. The project was guided to completion by Ian Brumell and crew many of whom contributed work-in-kind.

On June 22, 2013, Georgina Hughes cut the ribbon at the grand re-opening of the Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives.

First Trunk Sale

Saturday May 21, 2022, 10AM-4PM.

Barrie Community Hall, Museum parking Lot.

Venue: Trunk Sale, Book Sale, Beverage Sale.

Two Local Bands performing – The new Pickled Chicken and Highway 41.

Holden's Hearth at Home, wonderful BBQ.

Finnegan's General Store, yummy half price ice cream.

The day started out with beautiful weather and much excitement. Coffee was on, and trunkers started arriving, setting up beautiful sales areas. Band members arrived to shop first and set up musical equipment. Lovely workers came and set up many tables of classic and interesting books.

A moment here to thank our club helpers, please forgive me if I forget to name anyone. Parking lot attendants: Ian Brumell, Warren Anderson, Joe Miller. Beverage canteen: Carol Lessard, Cathy Newcombe. Book Sale: Carolyn and

Gord McCulloch, Elspeth McCulloch, Cathy Newcombe, Ken and Cathy Hook. Clean up and pack up, EVERYONE. Doc and Mary Ruth and many others pitched in where needed with Janet Wilson orchestrating the event.

Summary: Due to extreme heat and many yard sales that popped up after Covid restrictions eased up a bit, sales started to wane around 1PM. It was suggested trunkers pack up, thank goodness as the Derecho Storm hit shortly after. There would have been much more damage and devastation in the parking lot. It was a moment in History none of us will forget.

I feel that for our first time the event was a success, but I would suggest hours next time be from 9AM-12 noon. People have many places to attend on the weekends. We run our own BBQ and drink area with members, we change entertainment options each year.

Cheers Janet Wilson, proud member, Cloyne and District Historical Society. 🌸



Top L-R: The New Pickled Chicken and Highway 41 performed. Bottom: The trunkers and their treasures. Two of the volunteers, Carolyn McCulloch and Cathy Newcombe at our very successful book sale.

Cloyne & District Historical Society Celebrates 50 years of preserving the past for the future

by Elspeth McCulloch

Fifty years have passed since the original Pioneer Club members joined to record and celebrate the rich history of their ancestors in the communities of Addington Highlands and North Frontenac.

On Saturday, June 24, 2022, about 60 museum supporters gathered in Benny's Lake Heritage Park in Cloyne. We tapped our toes to the "North of 7 Bluegrass" stylings of The New Pickled Chicken, enjoyed barbeque lovingly prepared by Janet and Joe Wilson and Cathy Newcombe, and reconnected with each other after two long years of COVID, and the storms that have recently ravaged our area.

During words of welcome from Shirley Sedore and Ken Hook, the museum staff, Rebekah Delyea, Josie Heyman, and Jacob Heyman distributed delicious, frosted chocolate and vanilla cupcakes. Margaret Axford spoke about the genesis of the Pioneer Club and its 50-year evolution of documenting the lived experiences of the local people. The community has continued to diversify and grow, with waves of new members from "South of 7" who come seeking the rugged beauty of this beloved land.

Catherine Grant of the Cloyne District Historical Society's Board formally welcomed the communities of Griffith and Matawatchan to the CDHS catchment area, an effort championed by Lois and Mark Thomson, publishers of the Madawaska Highlander. Thomson remarked

that the consolidation is logical as the communities of Denbigh, Vennacher, Griffith, and Matawatchan have many important historical linkages.

Nancy Strachan of the Land O'Lakes Garden Club spoke to the Truth and Reconciliation Medicine Wheel that has been thoughtfully and beautifully created as a remembrance of the Indigenous children who lost their lives and suffered staggering traumas in the Canadian residential school system. The garden lies between the Museum and the Barrie Hall on Highway 41. Strachan said that garden is designed as a large medicine wheel, featuring four sacred plants: cedar, sage, sweetgrass, and tobacco. It is the Garden Club's hope that this space can be used as an open and safe meeting place for dialogue and storytelling among Indigenous and Settler communities, so that together we may acknowledge the past and begin to heal.

The Cloyne Pioneer Museum is open every day from 10 am to 4 pm throughout the summer. Stop by for a museum tour or to pick up one of our many books about local history.

Follow us on Flickr, Youtube, Facebook and Instagram. For updates, membership, and (excellent) newsletters visit our site: www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca



The New Picked Chicken entertained in the museum while outside Cathy Newcomb, Joe and Janet Wilson were our barbeque chefs.





Top L-R: 2022 Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives staff – Josie Heyman, Rebekah Delyea, and Jacob Heyman. Rebekah is shown here distributing cupcakes to the crowd. Middle L-R: President's welcome from Shirley Sedore, Margaret Axford presented an overview of 50 years of history gathering and archiving by the Pioneer Club and the Cloyne and District Historical Society. Catherine Grant formally welcomed the communities of Griffith and Matawatchan to the CDHS catchment area. Lois Thomson, who along with her husband Mark, publish the Madawaska Highlander, pointed out the historical linkages between the communities of Denbigh, Vennacher, Griffith and Matawatchan and why their inclusion in our catchment area is such a good fit. Bottom: Nancy Strachan of the Land O'Lakes Garden Club spoke of the Truth and Reconciliation Medicine Wheel 'Healing Garden'. It is the centre piece of Benny's Lake Heritage Park.

In-Person Meetings Return

After two years of COVID-19 restrictions, we could finally have in-person meetings again and with a great roster of guest speakers.

At the meeting on April 25th, Elspeth McCulloch and Ken Hook demonstrated the new CDHS website.

In May, Rosemary Teed, from the Garden Club, gave a detailed report on the plans for the 'Healing Garden', a commemorative garden in Remembrance of the Indigenous children and survivors of the Residential Schools. The garden is located next to the museum and features four indigenous sacred plants – tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass.



Red Emond was our June AGM guest speaker. Red spoke about the history of Lions Club International and the Lions Club of Land O' Lakes. Lion Doug Galt thanked Red for his community efforts and in particular his contributions to the Lions Club of Land O' Lakes.

In September, President Shirley Sedore gave a presentation on the history of the Volunteer Ambulance. Following the presentation, Shirley and other members of the volunteer ambulance (Shirley Cuddy, Betty Peach, and Ian Brumell) answered questions from members. A transcript of Shirley's presentation is on the CDHS website.

At our October meeting, Margaret Axford introduced our guest speakers: Joanne Himmelman (Supervisor/Curator) and Heather Wilson (Archivist) of the Museum of Lennox and Addington County. Both presented their new website and extensive digital archiving projects, upcoming events and programs. Ian Brumell presented them with a gift of our appreciation – a copy of *The Oxen and the Axe* and the new *Looking Back* booklet.



Top Left. L-R: Doug Galt with June speaker Lion Red Emond. Bottom Left: 10,000 hours of service with the Volunteer Ambulance – 1995. L-R: Ian Brumell, Gloria Gray, Shirley Sedore, Shirley Cuddy, Rick Wilson. Photo: CDHS Archives. Top Right: October presenters, Joanne Himmelman and Heather Wilson of the Museum of Lennox and Addington County. Coming in November a 'For the Record' documentary from the 1980s featuring Gene Brown and Nadine Brumell, founding members of the Pioneer Club. The documentary was aired on TVO or CBC (or both) in the 1980s and was recently digitized.

The History of Black Donald Mine by R. Bruce McIntyre – March 4, 2020

Submitted to the CDHS by Garry Ferguson



The large building on the left was the village's amusement/dance hall. It was a popular destination on Saturday nights when many residents came to dance or watch a motion picture in the bench seating.

Photo: Garry Ferguson Album

The remains of a rather unique ghost town are not too far from Calabogie, but you won't find it on a map and you won't be able to see the old buildings. The once vibrant village of Black Donald Mines is long gone and buried under Centennial Lake.

Centennial Lake covers a mine that, for a time, was a world leader in the production of graphite, the mineral used for lead pencils, stove polish, metallic paints and especially as a lubricant for heavy machinery.

A St. Patrick's Day fire in 1912 was just one of many accidents or natural disasters that plagued the operations of the mine. A series of mine-shaft collapses in 1950 forced ownership to cease operations and it was the beginning of the end for the mine and the village.

The Black Donald Mines General Store was one of the busiest locations in the village. The store was the only source of supplies for the employees and their families.

Today, that mine, and the busy village that popped up during its heyday, are buried. It was a village where most of the early workers were of French descent and worked alongside a new wave of Irish men looking to improve their lot in life. The names of some of those early French settlers and Irish miners are still present in the area as some of their descendants still call the area home.

For the first half of the 20th century, the name Black Donald was associated with the mine. Irish and French workers spent long days with artificial lights strung along the shaft to help them find their way. Today, Black Donald is the name of a lake that is one of the most popular tourist locations in Greater Madawaska, a far cry from working underground in total darkness.

'Money People' Got The Mine Operational

The story goes that a homesteader named John Moore literally tripped over rock containing graphite while searching for his cows. That simple discovery led him on a six-year quest in search of 'money people' to invest in his find. In 1895, John Moore met Senator George McKindsey. The Senator gave him two dollars to cover the cost of leasing 167 acres of his land and he would return four months later to pay Mr. Moore \$4,000 for all surface and mineral rights on the property. The very next day, Senator McKindsey sold his newly acquired land to a group of businessmen who formed the Ontario Graphite Company. It wasn't a bad couple of days for the Senator who pocketed a whopping \$42,000 for the sale of the same site from Mr. Moore 24 hours earlier. He left the village bound for Ottawa with a nice little profit of \$38,000.

The mine was up and running in mid-1896 with 15 employees and by 1904, the company had a refining plant on-site and a workforce of 32 employees. And it showed no signs of slowing down.

A Village Is Born

That year, Rinaldo McConnell took over the day-to-day operations and he realized the potential of the mine and took steps to keep the men motivated in order to increase production. Within the first year of managing the mine, he had several more houses built for the married men and their families, as well as a larger sleep-camp for the other workers.

When war broke out in 1914, the demand for graphite sharply increased and the mining operation continued to grow, adding to the 77 buildings that dotted the landscape. The growing village grew to 118 during the war and employees were kept busy when not below the surface. New structures were built and among those buildings were a barber shop, a Catholic church, a school and a dance hall. All the buildings were lit with electric lights, except for the school which was located just outside the village.

By 1924, the mine reached the peak of its production. It accounted for 94 percent of all graphite in Canada, but managing the site was no easy task. The operation declined and by 1939 the workforce was down to only seven employees as most operations ceased when the mine was purposely flooded. Although World War II started in 1939 and several mines throughout Canada were heavily involved in the war effort, it wasn't until 1943 that operations returned to the village, and it appeared the resurrection of the mine had begun.

Residents cheered when Jack Wilson became the new postmaster in 1944. He told them the new daily mail service from Calabogie was a good sign and things were looking positive for the village. When they raised a beer to toast their good fortune, they thanked Mr. Wilson for a second time because he helped them get their beer. Because beer was rationed in wartime, it was often ordered by mail from Arnprior and shipped back to the miners.

The war-time boom had most of the men in the village return to the mine, but some replaced their shovels and tools with rifles and joined up to fight for their country. On three occasions the villagers came together to mourn the loss of three young men who left the tight-knit community to go overseas. They gathered to give comfort to the Brydges family after Walter Brydges was killed at Dieppe; they cried when word came back that Nick Danyluck died in a Japanese concentration camp, and they

attended church to say goodbye to Aldome Scully who was killed during the march to Berlin.

From Village to Ghost Town

When the war ended in 1945, the one-time rosy outlook for the mine and village was beginning to fade after several accidents and weather conditions took its toll. Production was halted several times due to mine shaft collapses. The loss of all electricity after a dam was washed away on the Madawaska River, combined with a fire in some of the key buildings, finally took its toll on ownership. In 1950 underground operations were terminated and by 1954, scrap dealers were called in to salvage whatever they could. The industry that fuelled the growth was gone and the village's fate was sealed.

Black Donald Mines was now just another Canadian ghost town. All that remained were a few burned out buildings. The residents who used to spend every Saturday night in the dance hall or had their hair cut at the barber shop or attended church every Sunday morning had long moved away. The one-room schoolhouse that paid Mamie Foran \$500 in 1918 to teach the French and Irish children daily lessons were closed when Stella Amell said goodbye to her students for the last time in June, 1962.

George and Margaret Kelly took over the post office after former Postmaster Jack Wilson passed away. On August 31, 1962, they sorted the mail one last time when the final delivery was made to the rural outlet.

Ontario Hydro purchased the site in 1959 with a plan to build the Mountain Chute dam. Contractors were brought in to bulldoze the remaining buildings to make way for the dramatic change of landscape envisioned by Ontario Hydro. In 1966, the dam was built, and the operating station was ready to go, when water was released to fill the 8,500 acres headpond.

After six months, the flooding ended, and the body of water was named Centennial Lake in honour of Canada's 100th birthday year in 1967. As water cascaded through the sluiceway of the Mountain Chute Generating Station on March 26, 1967, hydro employees gathered to celebrate the first day of operation. Perhaps some of them looked out on to the horizon and wondered where the final traces of Black Donald Mines were buried under the new 150-foot-deep lake.

CDHS Flickr Cemetery Site



We recently added *Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Cemetery* to the CDHS Flickr Cemetery Site. This cemetery is in Renfrew County on Church Road, Griffith. The CDHS now has 11 cemeteries from our catchment area on a second Flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/cdhs-cemeteries>

We Remember
Log drivers who perished on the
mighty Madawaska River
We know of their deeds
Only God knows their names

We lose friends

Georgina Hughes
(1925-2022)



Georgina Hughes had an enormous love for this community. She and her husband Stan were the first cottagers on Sheldrake Bay on Lake Skootamatta. Later, they built a store, and gas pumps on the property, and Stan became a Councillor for Addington Highlands. She committed her time and energy not only to the store where everyone gathered, but to a whole new level of fun on the lake.

Fortunately for the Museum, she brought that same energy as a volunteer, where she spent time guiding and helping visitors. When the new addition opened, she wore a period costume to demonstrate her quilting skills to the crowds. For a time, Georgina was in charge of the grounds surrounding the Museum. She improved them immensely.

That same talent morphed to many organizations. She was a charter member of The Garden Club, gave her time to Greystones at Bon Echo, planned and donated the sound system at Cloyne United Church, and helped the residents at Pine Meadow Nursing Home.

Georgina passed peacefully at the age of 97 on May 29, 2022 in Oshawa. We celebrate her well-lived life.

Carolyn McCulloch



Looking Back Driving Tour – 2022

Looking Back is the most recent release of the Cloyne & District Historical Society. This little booklet will take you down memory lane on Highway #41, from Kaladar to Denbigh. In the 1930s the highway was built to roughly follow the Addington Colonization Road. Author Marcella Neely conducted countless interviews along the route, to bring us an accurate history of the businesses that developed. It is packed with pictures and makes the perfect stocking stuffer for all those who love the area. Place your order through the website.

Events - Fall/Winter 2022 - 2023

November

Meeting of the CDHS

Barrie Hall – Cloyne

Monday November 21, 1PM

Video of a Gene Brown and Nadine Brumell interview televised on TVO 'For the Record'. This was a historical segment that has not been seen in 40 years or more. The video was professionally digitized from a VHS videotape. Everyone welcome.

Land O'Lakes Lions Club Santa Claus

Parade, Lions Hall Northbrook

Saturday November 26, 1PM

Be sure to attend this special parade with live reindeer and a Marching Band! Goodies for the kids at the Lions Hall afterward.

December

Land O'Lakes Lions Club Christmas

Extravaganza, Lions Hall – Northbrook

Saturday December 3, 10AM – 2PM

The CDHS will have a table with all of our books for sale. Great gifts for under your tree.

CDHS Christmas Luncheon

Hunter's Creek Golf Club

Hwy 506 – Cloyne

Monday December 5, 12 NOON

Tickets are \$20.00 per person. Contact Ken Hook at 613-336-3211 to reserve. Everyone welcome. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Land O'Lakes Food Bank.

January

Meeting of the CDHS

Barrie Hall – Cloyne

Monday January 16, 1PM

Guest Speaker: David Savigny on the history of the NEO (Northern Emergency Organization) – the forerunner to our volunteer ambulance services.

February – May

Meetings of the CDHS

Barrie Hall – Cloyne, Mondays at 1PM

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15

General Meetings – Everyone welcome

Online viewers can click below for quick access to our website:

www.cloynepioneermuseum.ca

Did you know?

Three members of the 2022 Cloyne and District Historical Society were also members of the Pioneer Club.

Margaret Axford, Roxanne Bradshaw and Eileen Flieler.