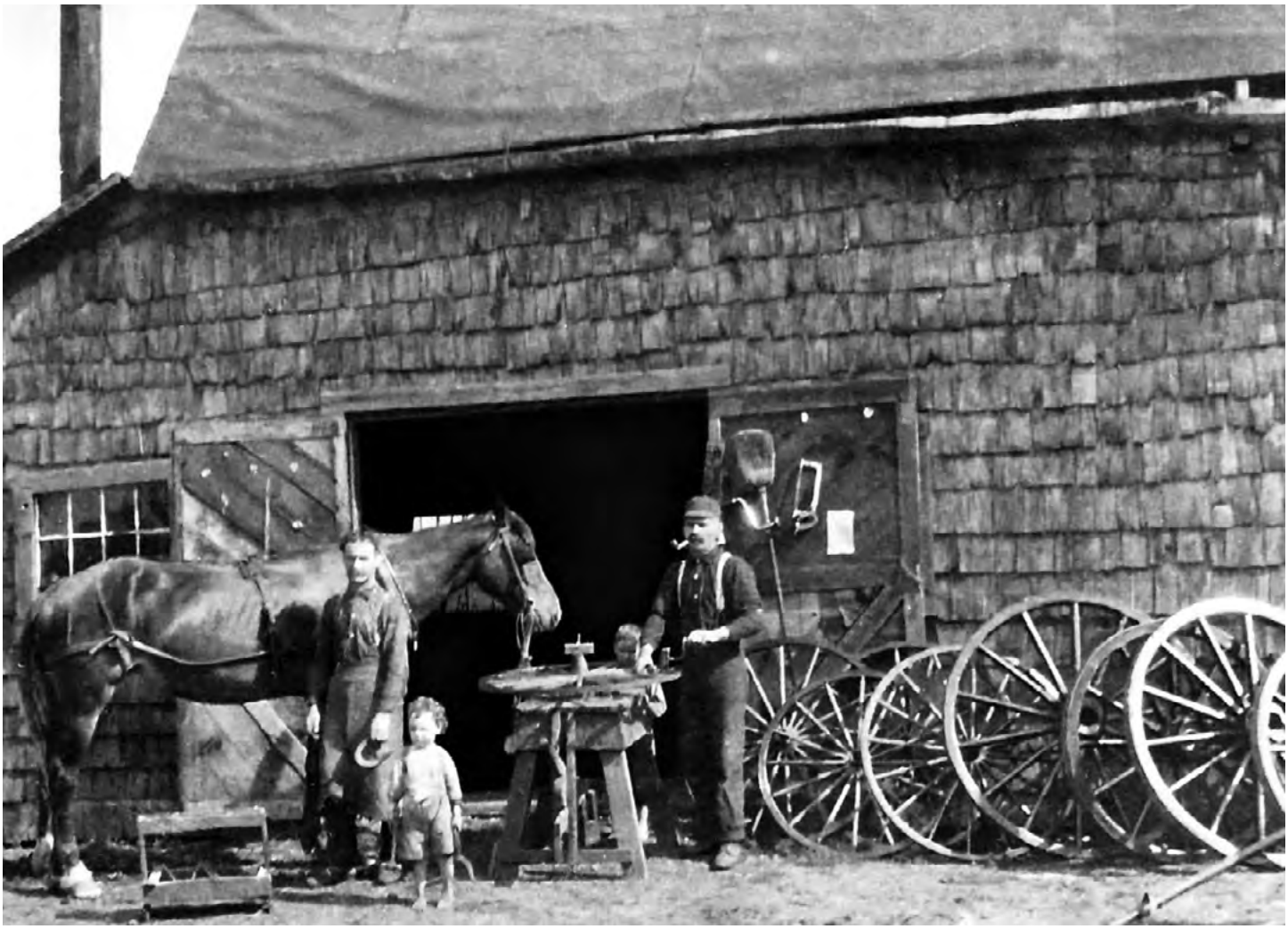
The Pioneer Times

NEWS VEHICLE OF THE CLOYNE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY



This is an early blacksmith shop in Flinton owned by Eli Allair. It was at the corner of Harrison and Clement Streets, next door and to the left of Joshua Stone's casket factory. Prior to becoming Allair's blacksmith shop, Joshua Stone had an undertaking room. One of the men in this photo is probably Eli Allair.?
Photo: Carol Lessard Album, Flickr.

■ IN THIS ISSUE

Volume 26, #2 Fall/Winter 2025-27

DIRECTOR and COMMITTEE REPORTS

President's Message 2
Museum Report 2-3
The Bookstore 3
The Green Organ Finds A New Home 8-9
Heritage Wall Updates 11

FEATURES

Flinton – The Village on the Skoot cont'd 4-7
Village of Flinton Street Names 11

WE LOSE FRIENDS

Wayne McLean 11

EVENTS

CDHS Guest Speaker and Event Photos 10-11
Coming Events 12

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Cloyne & District Historical Society
"Preserving the Past for the Future"

The Pioneer Times

Volume 26, No. 2, Fall/Winter 2026-27

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Autumn has arrived in a hurry after a beautiful September.

The museum will be put to bed for the winter this month after a successful summer with 1493 visitors! Some changes were made to the museum this year spearheaded by Wendy Hodgkins. There's a new display at the front door featuring our newest acquisitions, the Book Store cupboard was moved beside the front desk and Rex Henry completed some shelves to go on the tables holding farm tools so they can be better displayed. The green organ found a new home at a church in Lonsdale freeing up some much-needed space.

We have some great guest speakers coming up at future meetings including the history of the Ore Chimney mine and Slave lake by Ken and Cathy Hook, Jack White from the Tweed Heritage Centre speaking of the Hungerford smallpox epidemic and Sandor Johnson from Potter Settlement winery in the new year.

Our annual Christmas lunch is December 7 at the Harlowe hall with a traditional turkey dinner being catered by Pat and Dave Cuddy for $35pp. Tickets available at our general meeting October 19.

If you are in Flinton at the conservation area, check out the new historical plaque outlining the history of the dam and powerhouse. Rex Henry did a great job with the project!

As always, we welcome new members to our group!

Cathy Newcombe, President

Museum Report – 2026

The Pioneer Museum had 1,493 visitors this year and $2,304 was donated by cash in the Donation Jar or by card on Tip/Tap. Per person this is an average of just over $1.50 per visitor, the norm seen for many years. This compares to an average of 1,380 visitors and $2,233 over the past five years. With all the rainy weather this summer, we might have expected more people dropping in, although staff enjoyed an all-time-high of 120 visitors one day!



Recently donated items were highlighted in the museum this year. Many thanks to these donors and especially for their stories behind the item. Most were on the display table at the south door:

- Charles Pachter and Don Ross – print of The Rock. Read "Art, Archives and The Rock", written by Carolyn and Elspeth McCulloch, in the Fall 2025 Newsletter.
- Ian and Mavis Philips, Mazinaw Lake – Union Jack flag that hung in the living room of the family cottage on the Levere Road.
- Larry and Pauline Charlton, Tweed – Stirling District Softball League 1975-1976 Champions red jacket and coaches black leather jacket for Harlowe Northern Flyers hockey team that won the Tweed-Hungerford league championship 1983-84. Larry also added photos to our Flickr site.
- Janice Reavie, Flinton – Hand-made quilt was made for a fund raiser by the ladies of Flinton United Church in 1933. For 25 cents you could have your name stitched on a block and raffle tickets were also sold. Neil Reavie, Janice's grandfather won the quilt and gave it to his son Angus and Ora (York) for their wedding in 1934.
- Don McPherson, Mazinaw Lake – Handmade wooden-tined rake and one-person tree saw with a three-foot-long blade. We are not sure how these tools came to Mazinaw from Balderson, where they were used by the McLaren family from the late 1800s on their Bathurst farm.
- Maude Formosa-Topping, Flinton – "Flit Gun" c1940. This hand-pumped insecticide sprayer was found in the attic of the rectory at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Flinton.
- Donor unknown, Flinton area – Black metal money box with gold trim and key on a red string. Inside are sales slips including one from T.C. Graham Livestock, Tweed for the purchase of one cow for $137.15 from Ed Lessard.
- R. J. Vermeulen, late of Cloyne – Musical bells. R.J. often performed at local celebrations ringing her tuned bells.
- Brown Family, north Mazinaw Lake – Gene Brown was one of the founders of the Pioneer Club, the predecessor to the current Cloyne and District Historical Society. Her painting depicts "The Petzold Mill" in Denbigh that was a combination saw (for lumber) and grist (for grains) mill.
- Randy and Heather Jackson – New Williams treadle sewing machine used by Randy's grandmother Florence (nee Rose, of Rose Hill). It is in the Pioneer Room along with our favourite picture of her husband Ernie.

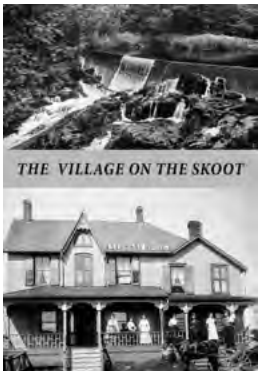


- Janet and Bill Lemke – 360-degree topographical map board from the Meyer's Cave Fire Tower. The map is on the outside back wall of the Schoolhouse. Read "Fire Towers and ... Fire Control" in the Spring 2026 Newsletter.

Last year we asked for help to "move along" the 1901 Hayburn United Church green pump organ, item #7 donated to the museum in 1982. Success! Thanks to Ken Hook for a last online posting and Ken and Ian Brumell helping get it loaded up to go. We are delighted and so too are the new owners. The organ moved to the United Church in Lonsdale, just down the road from Hayburn, and hopefully will be played at the (only) service next June.

Wendy Hodgkin

THE BOOKSTORE



The redesigned edition of Village on the Skoot, by Wilfred Laurier Lessard–republished by the Cloyne and District Historical Society (CDHS)–has sold out its first two printings, setting sales records for the Society. The book is now in its 3rd printing. "We've never seen anything like the demand for this book," said Cathy Newcombe, President of the CDHS. "Over the years, we've had many requests for a reprint. It took the dedication of a team of people to get it done–and done well."

Originally published as a community memoir by the Golden Circle Club in 1979, Village on the Skoot chronicles the people, places and events that shaped Flinton as well as Kaladar, Actinolite, Northbrook and Cloyne. With the humour, character and the occasional embellishment, Lessard brings the past to life. Reading it, you can almost picture him entertaining neighbours with a yarn and a fiddle around a winter fire, a century ago.

Carolyn McCulloch, who has sold CDHS books at the Lions Club Farmers Market for many years, said,

"People often asked for this book. We try to carry something for everyone, and this book tells Flinton's unique story when the old-timers could remember the stories of their own grandparents."

The book begins with poignant vignettes from the last days when the Algonquin people used the Skootamatta River as a waterway between the Bay of Quinte and the Madawaska, through Billa Flint's founding of the village for its strategic role in late-19th-century log drives, later mining speculating and operations, through the Great Depression and two World Wars.

The new edition was the passion project of Cathy Hook, whose vision framed the work and whose leadership saw it through design, editing and printing.

Released to celebrate Flinton's 150th anniversary in 2026, Village on the Skoot tells a story that could belong to many rural Ontario communities—and yet could only be Flinton's. Its remarkable reception demonstrates the enduring appetite for local history and the stories that connect generations.

To order, go to the CDHS website: https://cloynepioneermuseum.ca. We will also be on-site at the Winter Extravaganza at the Lions Hall in Northbrook on Saturday, November 28, 2026, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Elspeth McCulloch ❧

Flinton –The Village on the Skoot

Continued from *The Pioneer Times* newsletter, spring edition. https://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026-CDHS-Spring-newsletter-web.pdf

The tour of Flinton in the spring newsletter began at the Flinton Continuation School and ended at the Flinton Library and Cenotaph (911# 3641 Flinton Road). We continue from there. Wilfred Lessard used lot numbers when describing businesses and homes in Flinton. I will relate these to today's 911 numbers. All photos unless otherwise credited are from the *Village On The Skoot* and are in the Jackie Lessard Bleecker Album, CDHS Flickr. Jackie is the granddaughter of Wilfred Lessard.



House built in 1876 by R.E. Jones.

Clement Street is on the left. The house on the corner, lot 72 (911# 7 Clement Street) was built in 1876 by R.E. Jones. In the early 1970s it was owned by Damon Bryden and his wife Lena who also owned lot 62 (#10 Clement Street). In the late 1970s both lots were owned by their daughter and son-in-law Linda and Les Forbes. Damon

Bryden was the Reeve of Kaladar, Anglesea and Effingham Townships from 1936 to 1948.

Continuing on the Flinton Road to the corner, the barn on the right side of the road was originally Billa Flint's ox barn built around 1851.



Billa Flint's ox barn built around 1851. Davison`s Garage, can be seen in the background on the left.

John (Jack) Davison started out as a blacksmith in 1913 in the building later to become Davison's Garage. John's oldest son Earl, trained as a mechanic in WWII and when he came home, he helped Jack transition the business from a blacksmith shop to a full-time garage. John sold the business to his son Douglas who with his brother Earl operated the business for many years.



Davison's Garage – site of the first blacksmith shop built by Wm. Campbell. *Photo Debbie Van Ness, nee Davison.*

The Flinton Dam Conservation area is further on the right on the Deer Rock Lake Road.

The Flinton Road turns to the left (originally Holden Street). On the left is the first building in Flinton, Lot 75 (911# 3602 Flinton Road). It was built by Billa Flint around 1850 and operated as his company store. James Halley Stone bought the building from E.J. Mathews in 1901. The sign above the veranda read "J.H. Stone, Dry Goods and Provisions." In the 1970s it was the home of Douglas and Elizabeth Davison.



This house was Senator Billa Flint's first building from around 1850. It was operated as a company store.



J. Halley Stone carried on the business from his father, Josh Stone, in 1917. In 1918 he bought the storeroom across the street (part of Lot 90) from John Baker. Grain and flour were sold from the same building."
Photo: Cathy Hook, 2018.

Next door, on Lot 91 Holden Street (#3599 Flinton Road) is the home James Halley Stone and Edith May (Sedgewick) Stone had built in 1925 as their retirement home.

The home was left to their granddaughters Lorraine (Lessard) Bleecker and Maxine (Lessard) Tettman. It was the last residence of their son-in-law Wilfred Lessard.



Wilfred Lessard stands on the veranda of his home c1961.

The building on lot 92 Holden Street (911# 3595 Flinton Road) was originally built as barracks by soldiers of the 146th Battalion during WWI. It became the Township Hall for Kaladar Anglesea and Effingham hosting church dinners, dances and other community events. The council chambers were upstairs.



Township Hall for Kaladar, Anglesea and Effingham, 1960s? *Photo: Bud and Eleanor Fortier Album, Flickr*

The new Recreation Centre was built in 1983. Offices for the Township of Kaladar, Anglesea, Effingham were in the lower level of the centre. The Township amalgamated with the Township of Denbigh, Abinger, and Ashby in 1998 becoming the Township of Addington Highlands. In 2019 council approved the plans for the new office addition.

The yellow building with the orange door, lot 93 NE1/2 (911# 3595) was once the Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL). *Photo: Ken and Cathy Hook Album, Flickr*



The first school in Flinton – built in 1854 was on the SW 1/2 of lot 93. William and Verna Andrew purchased this lot and lot 94 in the 1970s (911# 3593 Flinton Road). Ownership transferred in 2003.



The first school in Flinton was built in 1854.

Across the street, there is an empty lot with a sidewalk that led to the "Tin School" which burned down January 5, 1945.



A house built by Francis Des Islets still stands (above left, 911# 3533 Flinton Road). Des Islets acquired from his father Nazare?, 2 1/2 acres on the N.E. corner of the S1/2 of lot 22, Conc. 3 which is outside of

the original village. The village was laid out on part of lots 21 and 22, Conc. 4. Wilfred Lessard wrote that his great-grandfather built a house for Francis Des Islets next door (other Lessard writings indicate it was a boarding house). OnLand Land Registry documents indicate Des Islets sold 2 of his original 2 1/2 acres (the boarding house?) to Delia Carty in 1875 who sold to Charles Stewart in 1880.

James McIlroy purchased this property and Flinton village lots 97 and 98 in 1902. Other owners of the House/Hotel over the years were, O'Keefe, Joseph Yanch followed by his son Stafford. In 1969 it was owned by James Chandler. His widow Ida Chandler sold to Margaret McLeod in 1973. Search OnLand records for information beyond 1973. The Stewart Hotel burned down in the winter of 1989.



St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church was built in 1873 on land purchased from Moses Lessard, (911# 3513).



Josh Stone's casket factory was built in the late 1800s (911# 30 Clement Street). There was a house on the vacant lot to the right, lot 38. Earl and Cora Davison lived there in the 1960s then sold to Hercy and Winnie Killingbeck in 1970. The house burned down and was not rebuilt.

Next door, to the left of the casket factory, and prior to becoming Allair's blacksmith shop, Joshua Stone had an undertaking room. At the time, Stone owned lots 38, 45 and 46. The photo of Allair's blacksmith shop is on the front cover.

Sources:

Most information was taken from *The Village on the Skoot*, Wilfred Laurier Lessard. First published – 1979. Republished by the CDHS – 2026.

History of the Recreation Club by Janice Andrew 2026 https://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/History-of-Flinton-Recreation-Club-2026-final.docx.pdf

County of Lennox & Addington Public Mapping. In the **List of Layers** toggle on the **Historic Geographic Township** and **Lot & Concession Boundary**. https://l-a-mapping-services-lennoxaddington.hub.arcgis.com/apps/ae68d117941b4567811492ac82b96eca/explore

OnLand is the online Land Registry Access. It covers the period of 1885-2008.

Village of Flinton – Lennox (29), Flinton, Book 8 – Plan 32A https://www.onland.ca/ui/29/books/55623/viewer/981699362?page=1

Lennox (29), Kaladar, Book 52 – Concession 1 to 5 https://www.onland.ca/ui/29/books/55564/viewer/964724768?page=1

The village of Flinton lot layout https://www.flickr.com/photos/cdhs/55638669331/ and a Kaladar Township (1867) lot map https://www.flickr.com/photos/cdhs/55639088305/ were recently added to our Flickr site and will help with your property searches.

The Flinton lot layout map, Kaladar Township lot map and OnLand records were used to provide additional property information.

Cathy Hook

The Green Organ Finds a New Home by Ken Hook

The museum committee and board agreed recently that we should find a new home for artifacts with no, or minimal local connection. This allows us room to accept artefacts that do.



The green pump organ, until recently on display in the Frontenac room, was one of the first artifacts donated to the museum (#7 in1982).

The organ was originally in the Hayburn United Church in South Fredericksburgh Township in southern L&A County. United Empire Loyalists settled the area in 1784. In 1867, Joshua Cadman, transferred half an acre to the Wesleyan Methodist Church. A white frame church was built, along with sheds for the horses. The church closed in 1967 on its 100th anniversary. The lot was eventually sold and the church was dismantled. We assume that the Brownlee family, who have a connection to the local Wickware family, saved the organ and in 1982 donated it to the Pioneer Museum.

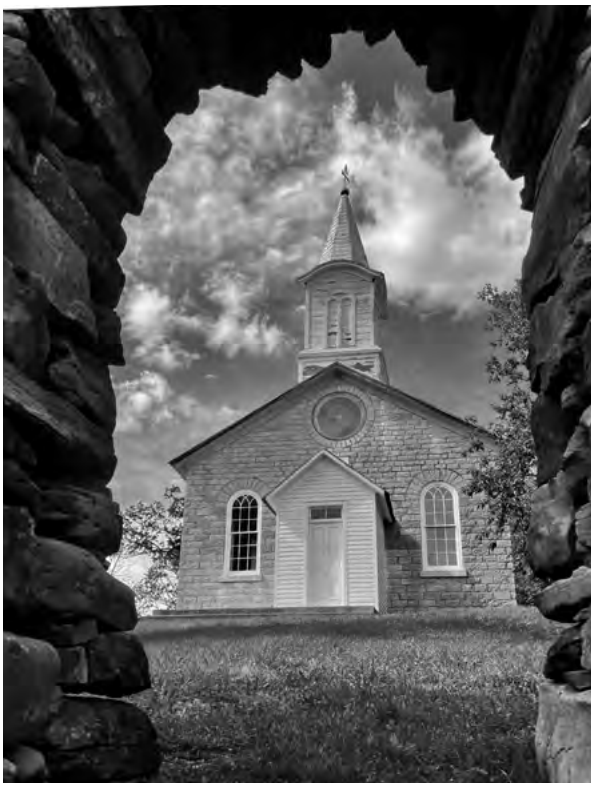


The CDHS has a procedure when deaccessioning artifacts. We try to return them to the original donor. An attempt was made to contact members of the Brownlee family without success.

A free ad was placed on the What's Happening… and the CDHS Facebook page. The ad was answered by Leslie Sweet, who had played the organ at the Lonsdale United Church until it no longer worked. The church does not have hydro so our green pump organ would be ideal and would fit with their historical designation.

Leslie visited the museum on June 12th. She removed her shoes, gently pumped the pedals and played a hymn. She mentioned that some of her relatives may have played the organ when it resided in the original Hayburn Church! Despite requiring a deep cleaning, it played well. On July 4th, Leslie and a small crew returned to the Museum and helped Ian and me load the organ onto a small trailer for transport to its new home.

Lonsdale is a small village located just north of Marysville in the Township of Tyendinaga in Hastings County. James



Lazier and his family came to Canada in 1791 after the American Revolution as United Empire Loyalists and settled there along the Salmon River. Lazier built a grist and flour mill out of limestone from the banks of the river.



The limestone Lonsdale United Church was built for the Wesleyan Methodists in 1868 becoming the Lonsdale United Church in 1925. It closed as an active congregation in 1967 but is designated as a Heritage church – it keeps its original wood stoves (patented in 1858), pulpit and pews and even the door key. There is a small cemetery behind.

The church is open one day a year, the first Sunday in June, for a special commemorative Service.

Cathy and I visited Lonsdale in September. The church sits on a hill at the top of Bridge Street. We peeked in the windows, and I took the photo above. We are pleased to have found the perfect home for our green pump organ.

Village of Flinton Street Names

The village of Flinton was surveyed in September 1859. The plan (32A) was registered May 18, 1874. There were 98 lots on 7 streets – Holton, Holden, Clement, Harrison, Edward, Jones, and John.

I recently discovered this photo on the *Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County Flickr site: HC04xxx Album*



The caption reads: A portrait of the five Clement sisters of Belleville, Ontario and their husbands. Their mother's maiden name was Bancroft.

Front row L to R: Dr. and Mrs. Rufus Holden, Hon. Billa Flint and Mrs. Flint
Back row: Mr. & Mrs. Harrison, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan & Jane Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Holton.
This photo was taken from an old daguerreotype circa 1880.

I think we can safely assume that John Street was named after John James Bleeker Flint born in 1838 and adopted by Billa and Phoebe Flint in 1842.

I have not found a family link to the name Edward but Edward VII who became King of the United Kingdom in 1901 was the Prince of Wales when Flinton was created (?).

Past Events and Speakers



The 2003 video, *Growing Up Canadian: Work* – from the National Film Board was shown at our May 18 meeting. Afterwards members shared their early work experiences.

In lieu of our June bus trip we shared a meal and boat tour at Fernleigh Lodge on Kashwakamak Lake.
Our potluck luncheon was held at the Barrie Hall in July.

Cathy Newcombe printed photos from the CDHS Flickr site to display at the Flinton Festival held in August. It was a popular draw and as a result we had excellent sales of *The Village on the Skoot* which was reprinted for the occasion by the CDHS. Below L-R: Daryl and Cindy Austin, Cathy Newcombe, Cathy Hook.





Jacqui Roberts spoke at our September meeting. Her grandfather, Mont Wood, was a WW1 Veteran and Northbrook's first police Constable. He was tragically killed on the Harlowe Road in 1951 while responding to a motor vehicle call. In 2026, the Hwy 41 bridge overpass at Hwy 401 in Napanee, was named in his honour. Read more about Constable Mont Wood and the bridge dedication.
https://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca/2026/05/14/constable-mont-wood-bridge-dedication-in-napanee/

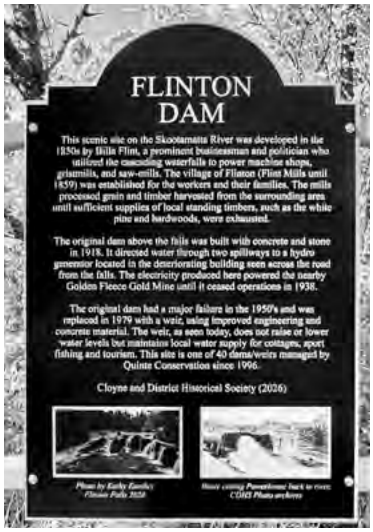


Land O' Lakes Community Services celebrated its 50th anniversary on Saturday, September 12, 2026, in Northbrook. Dignitaries, board members, staff and the community were invited to enjoy the day and reminisce about how it all began.

Organizations including the CDHS were asked to submit small items for a hermetically sealed time capsule that will be buried in a protected space at Pine Meadow Nursing Home. This photo was captured after a CDHS general meeting on September 21. The back of the photo notes names and positions within the CDHS. L-R: Carolyn McCulloch and Red Emond (Past Presidents), Cathy Newcombe (President), Cindy Austin (Secretary), Daryl Austin (Vice-president), Ian Brumell (Treasurer) and Ken Hook (Past President). Mark your calendars – the capsule will be unearthed and opened in 25 years.



A new plaque with the history of the Flinton dam was recently installed at the entrance to the conservation area parking lot.
Rex Henry spearheaded this project. The sign reads:



"This scenic site on the Skootamatta River was developed in the 1850s by Billa Flint, a prominent businessman and politician who utilized the cascading waterfalls to power machine shops, gristmills, and saw-mills. The village of Flinton (Flint Mills until 1859) was established for

the workers and their families. The mills processed grain and timber harvested from the surrounding area until sufficient supplies of local standing timbers, such as white pine and hardwoods, were exhausted.

The original dam above the falls was built with concrete and stone in 1918. It directed water through two spillways to a hydro generator located in the deteriorating building seen across the road from the falls. The electricity produced here powered the nearby Golden Fleece Gold Mine until it ceased operations in 1938.

The original dam had a major failure in the 1950's and was replaced in 1979 with a weir, using improved engineering and concrete material. The weir, as seen today, does not raise or lower water levels but maintains local water supply for cottages, sport fishing and tourism. This site is one of 40 dams/weirs managed by Quinte Conservation since 1996.

Cloyne and District Historical Society (2026)"

A video of *The Rise and Fall of the Ore Chimney Mine and Slave Lake Dams* was shown to a large crowd at our general meeting in October. It can be viewed online at the CDHS YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrsXlx-jyV9E



CDHS HERITAGE WALL PROJECT

The Heritage Wall at the museum is a project created to recognize and honour members and former members of the community who helped build our community.

We now have 19 plaques mounted on the museum wall. New plaques can not be mounted during the cold winter months but it is a perfect time for your family to make plans.

You can order a plaque to honour a person or family through:

Hart N Hart,
111 Industrial Blvd. Napanee. Call Andrea Moore at 613-354-9554.

Prices:

5x7 – black $25.00 with a gold trim option of $10.00 = $35.00 plus tax

10x12 – black $40.00 with a gold trim option $15.00 = $55.00 plus tax

The plaques can be portrait or landscape with symbols and or logos

To arrange for the plaque to be mounted on the Heritage Wall or if you have questions, contact me at 613-336-9593 or eflieler@gmail.com. If you would like to donate $20 to the project a tax receipt will be issued.

Eileen Flieler

We lose friends



Wayne McLean
(October 15, 1946 – May 30, 2026)

Wayne will be fondly remembered for the presentation he gave at our May 2023 meeting. With his daughter-in-law Marlean, he told the story of "The Rock Of Ages."
"Rock of Ages" is a massive piece of granite where the Spicer family carved their genealogy .

Carolyn McCulloch

THE CLOYNE **PIONEER MUSEUM**
IS CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

BUT YOU CAN VISIT
VIRTUALLY YEAR-ROUND!

1. Scan the QR code or, if online, click on the logo.
2. Enjoy audio and video files that explain many of the exhibits in our museum.
3. Download the free Bloomberg Connects app from the app store to enjoy our museum and over 1500 other museums, galleries, gardens, and cultural spaces around the world.



Events - Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

General Meeting Dates

General Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of the month, 1 pm at the Barrie Community Hall in Cloyne. Visit our website to confirm meeting dates and speakers ahead of time. https://pioneer.mazinaw.on.ca/

November

Monday November 16 – Jack White
Jack White from the Tweed and Area Historical Society will speak about disease epidemics in Hastings/ Prince Edward and L&A.

Land O'Lakes Lions Club Santa Claus Parade, Lions Hall – Northbrook
Saturday November 21 – 5PM
This year's theme is Christmas Through the Ages, so there will be floats and costumes from old-fashioned Christmases through to today's.

Land O'Lakes Lions Club Christmas Extravaganza, Lions Hall – Northbrook
Saturday November 28, 10AM – 1PM
The CDHS will have a table with our books for sale. Great gifts for under your tree.

Cemetery YouTube

Photos from the Flinton United Church Cemetery – 1867 were recently added to our Flickr site.

December

CDHS Christmas Luncheon
Harlowe Community Hall
Monday December 7, 2026
Arrive 12-12:30PM. Tickets are $35.00/per person for our traditional Christmas turkey dinner. RSVP by November 27. Contact Sandra Miller: 613-336-2564 or Cathy Newcombe: 613-921-3149. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Land O'Lakes Food Bank.

January – May 2027

January 18 – Sandor Johnson, Potter Settlement. Potter Settlement vineyards were initially planted in 1999, and the winery was established in 2015. Since then, they have won many awards for their small batch, artisan wines. Sandor will bring samples and product for sale.

February 15 – Peter Kuitenbrouwer. Peter will be talking about maple syrup production.

Yet to be determined are speakers for our general meetings March 15, April 19, May 17.

Cloyne Pioneer Museum and Archives
Open Daily from 10AM – 4PM
Summer Only
cloynepioneermuseum.ca