



February 2000 Newsletter

HERITAGE DAY 2000, FEBRUARY 21, 2000

Thank you to all members and guests who supported the Lost Villages Historical Society's annual "Heritage Dinner" meeting. It was encouraging to see such a large crowd celebrating "heritage" on this special day, and the society appreciates the attendance of guests from other historical societies. We were delighted to see guests from the Cornwall Township Historical Society, and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society. As well, we had representatives from the City of Cornwall's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) .

HERITAGE FAIR

Congratulations to Dennis Carter-Edwards, and a group of local "history buffs" from the City of Cornwall's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee for getting this year's "Heritage Fair" off the ground. For years, this event was sponsored by the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society.

Seeing that this organization was not proceeding with the fair this year, this committee took the "bull by the horns" and initiated this year's fair. We hope that members of the Lost Villages Historical Society will come out to the Brookdale

Mall on Saturday, February 26, 2000 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Lost Villages Historical Society will have a display in the fair, and help is needed during show time. If you can spare an hour or so, please let Rita Canough (537-2388) or Jim Brownell (534-2423) know.

In the words of the committee, "As we turn our attention towards the new millennium, we in the heritage community recognize the importance of preserving the past. The Heritage Fair is an opportunity to share the rich heritage of Eastern Ontario with others."

Tell your neighbours and friends about this "history and heritage" fair. As in the past, many interesting displays will be set up for your perusal. Show the community that you care about local history and heritage!

MARCH/APRIL MEETING DATES

Plans have been finalized for the March and April meetings of the Lost Villages Historical Society. Both meetings will be held at the South Stormont Seniors' Support Centre in Ingleside, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Don't forget to circle these dates on your calendar, as the next newsletter is a combined March/April presentation, due to March Break..

The March meeting, on March 20, 2000, will feature Maggie Wheeler, a local writer and a resident of Ault Island, South Stormont. Maggie is working on a "historical mystery", with the base being in the Aultsville and Farran's Point areas of the Lost Villages. This historical mystery will feature historical details from the Hydro and Seaway projects of the 1950s, and the history of the "Lost Villages". These details will evolve around fictional characters. Maggie hopes to publish this book by November, 2000.

The April meeting, on April 17, 2000, will feature Heine Bruining, a Councillor with the Township of South Stormont and a resident of the farming community in South Stormont. His topic will cover Dutch immigration and history in our local area, and his presentation will be supported with personal facts and other family stories from the local Dutch community. Heine made a similar presentation to the Cornwall Township Historical Society in 1999, and his presentation was very well received.

CONGRATULATION, DONALD STUART!

The Lost Villages Historical Society wishes to congratulate Donald Stuart, a charter member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, on the recent publication of his book, "No Road Back, A Grown Boy's Stories of Wales". His book was published by Old Crone Publishing, Ingleside, Ontario, and edited by Glenda Eden in November, 1999. Donald dedicated his book to Wilda, and, as the forward states, "Central to No Road Back is the farm that Donald Stuart grew up on, near Wales, at the west part of lot 7 and the east part of lot 8 in the Township of Osnabruck, Stormont County. That farm now lies mainly in the shallows of the St. Lawrence River. The small woodlot west of the Union Valley Cemetery on

Highway #2 is what remains of the woodlot which was so vital to the family farm and the young boy's imagination."

The Table of Contents includes, "Up the Creek and Through the Woods", "Rural Roots", and "The Village Proper". "His recollection of farm and village life along the St. Lawrence are significant not only because they are of a place that no longer exists, but because they reflect a way of life that has changed dramatically in the last 50 years."

The book features the following photographs:

1927 Wales Hockey Team; Ransom and Connelly Store, Main Street; Wales Orchard 1948, Duane Smith and Margaret Corlyon; D.H. Smith's Feed Mill, Seed Cleaning and 1928 Truck, John Dunlop and Donald Stuart; St. David's Anglican Church; Mrs. Linda Stuart with "Pal"; Mailman, Bob Hoople; and Donald at Nick's Bridge over Hoople's Creek.

BOOK SIGNINGS

-Donald will be signing his books at the "Heritage Fair" on February, 26, 2000, at the Brookdale Mall, from 10:30

a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Come out and support "our" local author at the Heritage Fair.

-Donald will officially launch his book at the "Sanctuary" Book Store, 217 Pitt St., Cornwall, on Friday, March 24, 2000, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Joan Levy-Earle invites one and all to her store for this event.

-The Lost Villages Historical Society will "salute" Donald at a "Tea and Book Signing" in the South Stormont

Seniors' Support Centre on Sunday, March 26, 2000, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

We encourage all society members to support the literary efforts of the "grown boy" from Wales, Donald Stuart.

Don't forget to mark your calendar!

LOCAL BUSINESS SUPPORTS HISTORY AND HERITAGE

You may have seen it, but if you haven't, may I suggest you take a peek. What is

it? It's the S.G. Wells & Sons tow truck! Painted on the side panels of this tow truck are three historical scenes from this business's past. The art work was completed by Guy Frechette of Ingleside, and they are truly "works of art"! The Lost Villages Historical Society commends Mark Wells and his business for their efforts to promote the history and heritage of the business, and their early years in the "Lost Village" of Aultsville. The first building depicted on the side panel of the tow truck is that of their first business venture in East Williamsburg.

"Thumbs Up" to S.G. Wells & Sons, and our best wishes as you continue to support "history and heritage" in the Township of South Stormont.

CORSET WORKSHOP

The following information was received from Margot Dixon, costume expert from Upper Canada Village, and she asked that it be passed on to members of the Lost Villages Historical Society. As Margot mentioned, " It makes such a difference to be wearing a costume and to wear it properly. I have visited many museums and explored this topic and compared historic costuming, theatre costuming and everyday wear. I find being on site, in costume, and speaking to people, as well as sewing on dresses and talking about the practical side of life, gives me a unique perspective. I'm afraid that even some museum staff dress up for the outer appearance rather than understanding the need for the complete presentation.

Event: Two Day Corset Workshop

Teacher: Edwina Sutherland

Sponsored by: Chesterville & District Historical Society

Date: Saturday April 8 & Saturday April 15, 2000

Time: 9:30 - 5:30 each day

Location: Upper Canada Village Interpretive's Staff Lunch & Locker Room,
Morrisburg (may be changed to Chesterville - if suitable facility can be
found)

Cost: \$150.00, payable in full by Feb 25, 2000

Contact: Margot Dixon, 613-984-2880, Box 54, Finch Ont. K0C 1K0

email: davidixo@enoreo.on.ca

Description: Edwina is a Master Dressmaker from Ottawa who has been producing historical clothing for museums, historic sites, reenactors and theatres for 20 years. Her clients include sites such as Ford Wellington in Prescott, Woodside House in Kitchener, Rideau Hall in Ottawa and the Halifax Citadel. She has also made theatrical costumes for the NAC, and theatrical costumes and exhibit items for the Museum of Civilization.

Edwina will supply each participant with a corset kit, 16 hours of instruction, as well as written instructions. With her guidance, each participant will make their own custom fitted corset. Good sewing skills are required. Each participant will supply their own sewing machine. An additional supply list will be provided when registration is confirmed.

Registration: First come, first serve. Space is limited. Deadline is Feb. 25, 2000. No refunds after March 1. (although the society will try to supply substitute names from a waiting list, if available.) Cheques payable to The Chesterville & District Historical Society.

SUMMER EVENTS AT THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

The following information was recently submitted to Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism for inclusion in their spring and summer publications. As a member of this organization, our society appreciates the support of the staff at the tourism centre. The executive of the society hopes that members will encourage friends, relatives and other organizations to participate in our summer events. Regarding our summer tours, please pass this information on to other organizations in Eastern Ontario. Many groups would appreciate hearing about these tours, and support them.

HERITAGE BUS TOURS THROUGH THE "LOST VILLAGES"

Join us for a guided tour through "Lost Villages" country. See the sites of the six "Lost Villages", and learn about the Hydro and Seaway Projects of the 1950s. The tour includes stops at the Lost Villages Museum, the Robert Saunders Generating Station, and the Iroquois Locks. As well, brief stops will be made at points between.

Tours begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Lost Villages Museum, with return at approximately 4:30 p.m. A barbecue, included in the activity price, will conclude this activity.

Tour dates: July 16 & 30, 2000

August 13 & 27, 2000

September 10 & 24, 2000

Reserve your tour by calling the museum (after June 18, 2000) at (613) 534-2197
or (613) 534-2423 (until June 18th). Cost is \$12.00/person

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FLEA MARKET-TRUNK SALE-BAKE SALE

Join the Lost Villages Historical Society as a patron or vendor at our summer fundraisers. Rent a space for \$10.00. All proceeds to aid the Lost Villages Museum's operations.

Saturday, June 24, 2000 and Saturday, August 26, 2000, Time: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Barbecue from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free Admission

Reserve your space by calling the museum at (613) 534-2197 after June 18, 2000, or 537-2531 (Vale Brownell)

CANADA DAY AT THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

Join the Lost Villages Historical Society and the Township of South Stormont's "Stepping Stones 2000" Committee as we celebrate "Canada Day".

Activities begin at the Lost Villages Museum at 12:00 noon, with the singing of "O Canada", and the raising of the Canadian Flag. Entertainment and barbecue continue throughout the afternoon.

At 3:00 p.m. the "official opening" of two heritage buildings at the museum site will take place. A one-room schoolhouse, (S.S.#17, Roxborough Township), and the Sandtown (Advent Christian) Church, from "old" Osnabrock Township, will display the history and heritage of the "Lost Villages" schools and churches. As well, they will tell the story of the people associated with these heritage structures.

One and all are invited to visit the museum site at Ault Park and celebrate our history and heritage on "Canada Day".

BITS AND PIECES!

-The St. Andrew's West Fire Department donated two fire extinguishers to our society for use at the Lost Villages Museum. We are grateful to the department for their generosity, and we hope that we never have to use them.

-"Fran's Friends" were the BIG winners at the "Millennium Quiz", sponsored by the Township of South Stormont's St. Lawrence Stepping Stones 2000 Committee. We congratulate the team, and we thank the committee and all those who were involved with this activity. Clive and Frances Marin took over from Fran Laflamme in formulating the challenging questions, and Glenda Eden and Frances were the judges for the occasion. Gord Shaver, Lunenburg resident and radio personality from 101.9 F.M. "The Blaze", was the quizmaster.

-Jim Brownell travelled to Grenville Christian College, Brockville, Ontario, on February 3, 2000, and made a presentation to a "Lost Villages" study group. While there, he presented the "Lost Villages Study Kit", and students are now exploring the contents of this study kit. Some of the students recently visited with Jeannine and Donat Poirier, members of our historical society. They were fascinated with Jeannine's book, "A Children's Guide to the Lost Villages", and they had many interesting questions for Jeannine and Donat.

-On "Heritage Day", Monday, February 20, 2000, Jeannine made three presentations to history classes at Longue Sault Public School. She has had a busy schedule of speaking engagements since launching her book in 1998, and she reports that 2000 should be just as busy.

- "Nevada" ticket sales at Ingleside's Home Hardware support the Lost Villages Historical Society. When at the hardware store, support the society and hopefully win some money!

-A grant application in the amount of \$5,000.00 was made to the Canadian Pacific Heritage Fund. Our grant application is being reviewed, and grants in the first phase will be announced on March 31, 2000.

-Our grant application to the Trillium Foundation was not approved, however we were encouraged to submit another application, once the move of the Sandtown Church is completed. They will not fund "bricks and mortar", however they will help with the restoration work inside, (ie. the restoration of the organ and other appointments). Another application will be completed in the near future.

-The move of the Sandtown Church will be "any day", as reported by Greg

Sullivan on February 19, 2000. Apparently, Greg has had a very busy winter, and our church project has been delayed. He has assured us that it will be soon, and he does realize our "target" date of July 1, 2000, for its official opening at Ault Park.

-The society recently acquired another oil painting of the Long Sault Rapids, painted by the late Jane Firn. Her daughter-in-law, Muriel (Casselman) Firn, was from Aultsville. Muriel Firn now resides in Cornwall and her daughter, Karen (Firn) Wooding, is on staff at Longue Sault Public School. The family is delighted that the painting will hang at our museum.

-We received a lovely note of "thanks" from Lou Cross, following the publication of the eulogy, delivered at Robin's funeral, in the January newsletter of the society.

She writes, "Our hearts will always be from our village we came from, "Aultsville", and I would like very much for my girls to have life memberships."

We welcome Mickee (Cross) Mezzullo and Bonnie (Cross) Clarke as life members. We also wish Lou the very best following her recent surgery. Word is that she is doing just fine! All the best!

-The Lost Villages Historical Society has been offered a booth at the South Stormont Home, Trade, Tourism and Business Development Showcase at the Long Sault Arena on April 28-29, 2000. This event is being sponsored by community businesses and the St. Lawrence Stepping Stones 2000 Committee. More on this in the March/April newsletter. Congratulations, too, to the organizers of the South Stormont Chamber of Commerce. Membership in this organization will pay dividends for our society. Discussion on this will be held at a future meeting.

-Don't forget the Cornwall Township Historical Society's "Millennium Event" on April 14, 2000. This event will be held at the St. Andrew's Church Hall at 7:00 p.m. Guest speaker will be historian and author, Mr. Hugh P. MacMillan, with his presentation "Adventures of a Paper Sleuth". Check January's newsletter. More info later.

-Our sympathy to the Cornwall Township Historical Society and the Maguire family on the passing of Melicent (Mel) Maguire, on Sunday, February 13, 2000. Mel was the recording secretary of the society, and she was a dedicated and faithful member of the society for many years.

-Our society will soon be featured on a web site being developed by Variety 104/Blaze 101.9, Cornwall. We have been invited to submit information and photographs for a feature entitled "S.D.& G. Today, EXPERTS ONLINE". The

radio station hopes to have this feature up and running by mid-March. More on this later.

-Our society will host a "Lost Villages and Loyalist" bus tour for the 2001 convention of the United Empire Loyalist Association. This convention will be held at NavCan in Cornwall, and many guests are expected to attend. Jim Brownell has been working with the St. Lawrence Branch of this organization, in preparation for the 2001 convention.

-The Dunvegan Pioneer Museum is looking for volunteers to participate in a workshop involving the construction of mannequins for historical costumes. The workshop is designed by the Canadian Conservation Institute, and will be given by qualified instructors. No previous experience is necessary, as the technique is fairly simple but time-consuming, and will require a two day commitment. If interested call Brenda Kennedy, curator of the Dunvegan Museum, at (613) 527-1612. The workshop is anticipated for mid-March.

-We remember and send a "special" hello to those from the society who are confined to their homes or residences.

Bernie Windle, at home; Fran Laflamme, at home; Stanley McNairn, at Woodland Villa; and Pat Daye, St. Joseph's Villa. Should you know of other members who have been having trouble getting "out and about" in recent months, please let the executive know.

-Congratulations to Abby Fontaine and her class of Grade 7 Immersion students at Longue Sault Public School for the "great" projects on the Lost Villages. The students have completed a study unit on the villages, and these will be included in a "special" show at the school in the near future. Recently, two young gals from this class did an on-site video taping from the home of Stanley and Kay McNairn, on County Road #2, across from the museum site. Having heard that this home was moved from Maple Grove, they were absolutely delighted that permission was granted to tape from this property, and they were so appreciative of Kay's kindness. These gals will never forget this aspect of their history studies at Longue Sault Public School. President Jim Brownell was also pleased to see the interest and excitement by Ms. Fontaine, a "new" teacher at the school. She found the theme fascinating, and instilled this enthusiasm into the minds and hearts of her students. Congratulations Abby!

-The washroom project at Ault Park is still "on track". Although this project has generated some press during the past year, (from one individual's letters and

reports to the press), it is much needed at this township park. The elderly and disabled, not to mention all patrons to the park, should not have to squeeze into a "Johnny-on-the-Spot". Surely, in this day and age, better accommodations can be provided. From drawings prepared by township staff, the facility will not be the "Ritz". We construct what we can afford. Our society has provided septic system design drawings, courtesy of M.S. Thompson/Rosemount Design Group, Cornwall.

-We pay the Hydro bills, too! After copying the museum's meter number from the Hydro pole at Ault Park and calling the Hydro office, this same individual, (referred to above), was surprised to find that we do pay our bills.