



January 2000 Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM!

A new year has arrived, and a "new" millennium is upon us. Some may argue this, however the world celebrated in fine style on the eve of 2000! I am sure that many were fascinated with the events which happened around the world, and offered a sigh of relief as the Y2K "horror stories" didn't come to fruition. The events in the Township of South Stormont were launched in fine style, with the lighting of the "Millennium Beacon Bonfire", a family skating party at the Long Sault Arena, and a "levee" in the John Cleary Room at the arena. The event was well attended, with over 300 participants in attendance. The event was sponsored by the "St. Lawrence Stepping Stones 2000" committee, and the Township of South Stormont. Watch for other events in the future. Carson Elliott, Millennium Coordinator, has promised an exciting year in the Township of South Stormont. With the success of the New Year's Eve event, he is confident of the success for future events. Happy New Year to all the members of the Lost Villages Historical Society!

ANNUAL "HERITAGE DINNER"

Since this is the only newsletter before our annual "Heritage Dinner" meeting, the executive asks that you take note of this important event and circle your calendar.

As well, call in your reservation to Rita Canough at 537-2388, by February 16, 2000.

The annual "Heritage Dinner" meeting will be held at the South Stormont Seniors' Support Centre, Ingleside, on Monday, February 21, 2000, at 6:30 p.m. The usual half-hour social gathering will commence at 6:00 p.m. The menu will consist of roast pork, with all the trimmings, dessert and tea/coffee. Cost is \$10.00, and this will be collected at the door. Please call and reserve your place, and invite a friend

or neighbour. As well, memberships for 2000 may be renewed.

As this newsletter is circulated to other historical societies in the area, we encourage you to attend. Please accept this as your invitation, and come out to celebrate "Heritage Day". Please call Rita Canough at the number indicated above for your reservation. We hope that you will join us in celebrating "Heritage Day 2000" in this new millennium! Feel free to publicize this event in your newsletter, too!

GUEST SPEAKER: The guest speaker for this meeting will be Yves Racine, a Restoration Technologist with Parks Canada, and a member of the City of Cornwall's LACAC, (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee). His topic will be "Heritage Conservation in the Downtown Business Core - A Case Study in Cornwall". With all the work we have seen happening to the facades of businesses on Pitt Street and Second Street in Cornwall, this topic should be of interest to members and friends. Mr. Racine gave an excellent presentation at the Eastern Ontario Regional LACAC Workshop at Williamstown, Ontario, on November 20, 1999.

"MARKING THE MILLENNIUM" COMMUNITY LEADERS - SOUTH STORMONT

Congratulations to the following members of the Lost Villages Historical Society on being named to the Marking the Millennium, -Community Leaders profile in the Standard-Freeholder on Sunday, January 2, 2000. Members honoured were Fran Laflamme, George Hickey and Stanley McNairn. As well, Fran's father, the late Henry Laflamme, was profiled. We also congratulate Theresa Quinn and Marland Murray, for the recognition they received for their work with the Cornwall Township Historical Society. Aultsville's "Doctor Ed", the late E.L. Brown, and Lunenburg's writer, the late Mabel Tinkess Good, were recognized for their community involvement in past years. Newington's history buff, artist, gardener, and county fair director, Elaine Hutchinson, was recognized for her community work and continuing efforts to preserve the Forbes Reading Room at Newington. Congratulations to you all from the Lost Villages Historical Society.

"HERITAGE" MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION

The following event is being publicized at this early date so that you may plan for this important "Heritage" Millennium Celebration. On Friday, April 14, 2000, at 7:30 p.m., the Cornwall Township Historical Society will host an important event

in the St. Andrew's Church Hall, (the second church built at St. Andrews West), to observe the year 2000, by celebrating our rich heritage and common goals. The society has invited many historical and heritage groups in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and Akwesasne. An invitation has been extended to all members and friends from the Lost Villages Historical Society to participate. The Cornwall Township Historical Society must know by April 7, 2000, how many will be attending, -for seat and snack/refreshment purposes. Please call Jim Brownell, (534-2423), or Dale Duncan, President of the Cornwall Township Historical Society, (534-2463). It is hoped that a large delegation from the Lost Villages will attend.

PROGRAM: Mr. Hugh MacMillan of Ottawa, archivist, historian, and author, will present "Adventures of a Paper Sleuth", -the title of his new book which is due for release in April. At the end of this newsletter, you will read about Hugh P. MacMillan, in an article copied from the Wednesday, December 29, 1999, issue of The Glengarry News, by Ken McKenna. You will discover that a truly amazing archivist and historian will be in our midst on April 14th.

Hugh MacMillan was in our local area in the mid-1970s, when he acquired the Bartle Brothers' photographic plates from the late John Brownell, charter member of our historical society. The late Alex Mullin, well respected reporter with the Standard-Freeholder, and member of our historical society, wrote about this archival acquisition by the Ontario Archives in a newspaper article titled Hooked On Past, Artist Showing United Counties 'As It Was'. He writes:

"...For instance, the home here which he, (ed. John Brownell), is currently restoring by gradual stages, was once the home base and studio of the Bartle Brothers, Herman and Simon, photographers of local fame in the past couple of decades of the 1800s to shortly after the turn of the century.

The Bartles had a travelling van which they set up for picture taking in various places, and they used to make photographs of the street scenes and public buildings, as well as some homes, at the various points they visited.

A number of their old glass plates survived in the tiny building the Bartles used as headquarters and photographic developing laboratory, which they had combined with a bicycle repair business contemporary with the Wright Brothers.

Nearly everything pertaining to the Bartle photographic enterprise, except the old plates which were laid up on shelves, has vanished, as such things do over the years. The plates are in the public archives now, (ed. thanks to Hugh P. MacMillan

and John Brownell), but the pictures made from them are here and some have inspired new paintings...".

CABOOSE COMING TO THE "LOST VILLAGES"

Canadian National Railway Caboose, No. 79095, is being donated by the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society to the Lost Villages Historical Society. This caboose, an acquisition by the S.D.& G. Historical Society from C.N.R. on July 28, 1976, will soon sit abandoned at the Wood House Museum site on Second Street West, across from Domtar Fine Papers. The caboose will be transferred to the Moulinette Station site by the S.D.& G. Historical Society, and it will be refurbished by members of our historical society. Stanley McNairn was president of the S.D.& G. Historical Society when Robert Burns, manager of the Rideau district of Canadian National Railways, presented the caboose in 1976. In a July 30, 1976 Standard-Freeholder article, it states:

"...The caboose, manufactured in 1921 for the former Grand Trunk Railway, was turned over to CN about a year later, along with Grand Trunk rolling stock and trackage, which included the line through Cornwall.

Since then, it has covered an estimated five million miles on Canadian rails, Mr. Burns said. It was scheduled to be scrapped this summer, but the railway accepted a request for a caboose from the Historical Society, and had the old caboose repainted and refitted to be ready for display purposes.

The vehicle did most of its travelling on lines in Eastern Ontario and Quebec, but it was brought to Cornwall after work in London, Ontario...".

The S.D.& G. Historical Society had originally intended to establish a museum featuring railway exhibits and displays. This never materialized, and the caboose has suffered some neglect over the past years. With hammers, nails, paint and polish, our society should have it restored as a "showpiece" at the Moulinette Station. The caboose is certainly not out of place at this site, for we know that it passed the Moulinette Station at its former site in the "Lost Village" of Moulinette. The space provided would make a fine "Museum of the River", to house some of the documents and memorabilia from our collection and from those provided by Alan Rafuse. It has been Alan's dream to have a room to tell the "river story". This transportation vehicle would be appropriate, albeit not for a "rail" story!

A July 30, 1976 newspaper photo from the Standard-Freeholder, in the possession

of Jim Brownell, shows a smiling Stanley McNairn accepting the caboose from J. Robert Burns, Canadian National Railway official.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

We wish to thank all those who came out to support "A Heritage Christmas" at the Manson/Lapierre Store at the Lost Villages Museum on Saturday, December 4th, and Sunday, December 5th. We are especially grateful to those who managed the souvenir and gift counters at this two day event. We realized receipts of over \$300.00, and profits will assist our society with winter expenses. Special "thank you" to Rita Canough, Vale Brownell, Joan McEwan, Lottie MacLeod, and George Willis for their volunteer help over this "A Heritage Christmas" weekend. Interior Christmas displays were arranged by Jim Brownell, and Donnie Alguire assisted Jim in arranging for the exterior light display. We have received many favourable responses concerning the light display this year. It seems that people noticed!

Did you know that Jim Brownell crafted the Santa Claus, sleigh, and reindeer, which graced the side of the log house, when he was fifteen year old, -his handiwork for his younger brothers and sisters, down on the farm? Now this display is a real "antique"! He has held on to this display over the years, although some of the reindeer were liberated by a couple of his brothers for their hunting camp at Calabogie. They say they used them as lures, although Jim thinks they used them for target practice, -with the claim, upon returning home, that they had "shot a deer"!

IN MEMORIUM

It was with sadness that we heard of the passing of Dr. Burton K. Wasson, on Thursday, December 30, 1999, at the Ottawa General Hospital. Doctor Wasson and Enid, his late wife, were long time members of the Lost Villages Historical Society, and they had resided at 23 Maple Street in Ingleside, for many years.

Doctor Wasson was a retired employee of Merck-Frosst Laboratory and Pharmaceutical Consultant for C.I.D.A. He was also the discoverer of Timoptic. To his family, David K. Wasson of Houston, Texas, and Janice (Wasson) Pewron of Ottawa, our condolences. Doctor Wasson's interment was at St. Lawrence Valley Union Cemetery, Ingleside.

It was with sadness, too, that we learned of the death of Beatrice McDonald, friend of Lost Villages Historical Society member Alex MacGillvray, on Sunday, December 19, 1999. To Alex and his family, and the McDonald family, we extend our sympathy in your time of sorrow.

GRATEFUL FOR PUBLICITY

At the December "Show and Tell" meeting of the society, member Shirley Wells brought to our attention the publicity we received through the December, 1999, issue of the Presbyterian Record". Susanne Matthews had written a story and included a photograph under the caption Celebrate" Day in Cornwall. This story was written by Ms. Matthews following the "celebration" service and picnic which was held by St. John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall, at the museum site on Sunday, June 30, 1999. The society was notified recently, that St. John's Presbyterian Church will return to the park for a service and picnic in 2000. We look forward to their celebration, and we hope to present our restored church at the same time.

Speaking of churches: THE SANDTOWN CHURCH

At this time, we await a call from Greg Sullivan Mover regarding the move of the Sandtown Church to the museum site. The roof has been prepared for its removal in one piece by a crane, and the building has been braced on the interior. As previously reported, the contents have been stored in the schoolhouse for the winter. Removing the roof in one piece should save time and labour, and the interlocking tin roofing plates should also be protected and preserved.

Did you know that the Lost Villages Historical Society once owned another church, the Willis Church of North Lunenburg, which was built in 1831 and demolished in 1985? Parts of this church may be found in and around the museum site. Some of the floor boards from the church were used for the floor restoration in the log house. Other pieces of wood from the church were used by the Boy Scouts to build a small chapel at Camp Tsotahoteh, (pronounced, Jo Ta Ho teh), across from the museum site.

BUS TOURS

We are most appreciative of the help given by "Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism" in promoting the Lost Villages Museum and Historical Society. Being a member of this organization, our society can claim direct success from the efforts

of the tourism office. In 1999, our bus tour visits tripled in numbers, over the previous year. The tourism office has been promoting our site as a place to visit, and we thank Candy Pollard and Mike Lalonde for their work.

For the 2000 tourist season, we already have two bus tours booked into the museum site, both the result of a visit Candy Pollard, Marketing and Events Co-ordinator for Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism, had made to "Bienvenue Quebec Bus Tour Show" in the fall of 1999. Yoyages Yvon Dupuis, a bus tour company from Montreal, has confirmed visits for Monday, July 17th, and Wednesday, August 23rd, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. As well as a museum visit, a "step-on" tour of the "Lost Villages" area, and the "new" towns, will be made.

"EMAIL" AND THE LOST VILLAGES

Stephen Bedingfield, a "long-distance" member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, had wanted to make a contribution to our society for some time. With deep roots in the "Lost Village" of Aultsville, and with the electronic age now bringing all parts of the world closer, he decided to set up a "Lost Villages Email List" where, as he writes:

"The Lost Villages email list is a place to discuss the histories and peoples of the villages and lands along the St. Lawrence River flooded by the International Seaway Project. On July 1, 1958, when the last cofferdam was blown, the waters of the St. Lawrence altered forever this area. Place names associated with this episode include the Ontario villages of Aultsville, Farran's Point, Dickinson's Landing, Wales, Moulinette, and Mille Roches (i.e. the six "Lost Villages"); as well as Iroquois, Maple Grove, Morrisburg, Santa Cruz, Sheek Island, Woodlands, and Louisville Landing (USA)."

The above text is what subscribers will see when making contact with the email list. To subscribe to "Lost Villages", send a blank email to: lostvillages-subscribe@topica.com

Stephen hopes to hear from anyone with email access and anyone having an interest in exchanging and sharing stories on the history and peoples of the "Lost Villages". Encourage your "email friends" to get in touch with Stephen. Thanks, Stephen, for sharing your interest and enthusiasm from far-away Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.

"SHOW AND TELL" MEETING MOST SUCCESSFUL!

The twenty-eight society members and guests were treated to a varied collection of artifacts, memorabilia, and stories, at the December 13, 1999 meeting. Thank you to all who took part in this annual event in December. Items of interest included:

Carson and Laura Elliott, -a Reeves Suction Sweeper, precursor to the modern vacuum, and a flip-lid, cap screw cream bottle from a former Cornwall dairy.

Winnie Murdock, -a picture of Frank Markell of Aultsville, a well-known baker, hunter and snowshoer. This picture was donated to the society by Lera Rombough.

The picture prompted many stories from former Aultvillites. Rosemary and Willie Rutley, -displayed a pinafore, which had been received from Rosie Dunlop, and an

early French-Canadian match holder. Dale Duncan, -noted that Mr. Hugh

MacMillan was interested in pinpointing the exact location of "Spanish" John

McDonald's homestead. Also, Dale noted that a door on the front of her house,

made of solid oak with iron grill, came from the "Presentation Brothers" house in Cornwall, -near Third and York. George Hickey, -displayed goggles which his

grandfather, an Aultsville businessman, wore while racing his horse on ice. Mavis Nixon, -displayed the original watering can from Lock 22 at Farran's Point, which

was used for watering the flowers at the lock house. Rita Gillard, -displayed a

reader from Mrs. Grace Moke, which is being donated to the society. Ernie

Gillard, -displayed and donated the Ottawa Journal newspaper bag which he used from 1939-1949, to deliver newspapers in Aultsville. Bud Johnston noted that he

had a copy of the last Ottawa Journal to put in the bag. Lottie MacLeod, -showed the watch which she had received from her father in 1914, upon passing her

entrance exams. Joan McEwan, -displayed a book, "The World's Great

Madonnas", given to her by the Reverend Howard Hamilton. Her favourite story is

"The Story of the Black Madonna". Vale Brownell, -displayed a medal which her

Baker ancestor had received following the Battle of Crysler's Farm. Jim Brownell,

-displayed two items, documented as belonging to Simon Fraser, -the key to his sawmill, which was destroyed by fire, and the keystone from the Fraser homestead

fireplace. These were purchased at Len MacDonald's auction sale in 1999. He also

showed an invitation to a school Christmas concert at S.S.#14, Cornwall

Township, held on December 20, 1946, at 2:00 p.m. From S.S.#14, he also

displayed the Trustees' Minute Book, covering 1904-1947, and the school stamp, which had been donated to the society by Paul & Grace Dippel of California..

Alex McGillivray, -showed his video of the move and restoration of S.S.#17,

Roxborough Township, now the one-room schoolhouse at the Lost Villages Museum. With the slides, photographs, film and video footage of the moving of our various building, we certainly have enough material for a documentary on

"The Creation of the Lost Villages Museum Site".

BOOKS BY REV. CHARLES H. DAWES

We are most appreciative of the work done by Bud and Marion Johnston in obtaining numerous copies of books which Rev. Charles H. Dawes had written. Reverend Dawes was once associated with the United Church at Moulinette and Mille Roches. Bud and Marion had obtained these surplus books from Ron and Nelda Isaac of Metcalfe, Ontario. They had been given permission by Reverend Dawes' son, Peter, to dispose of the books as they saw fit. The following books were obtained by Bud and Marion, and a complete set will be retained by the historical society. We have been given permission to sell the remaining copies, and use the funds for the historical society. Titles include: "Just Being Around, "Still Carrying On", "Foolin Around in Verse and Song", Always the More Excellent Way", "Taking the Strange Journey, and "Answering the Call". Thanks, Bud and Marion, for your work on behalf of the Lost Villages.

UNITED COUNTIES MUSEUM, THE "WOOD HOUSE" MOVE

A very interesting spectacle is being played out on Second Street West, opposite Domtar Fine papers Limited. After 160 years of occupying its prominent location on "Paper Mill Hill", the Wood House Museum sits on the mover, ready for its relocation to Lamoureaux Park in Cornwall. This museum has seen many visitors enter through its doors, to learn about the history and heritage of Cornwall and Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. Being one of Cornwall's "oldest" buildings, we are pleased to see that it was saved from the "wrecker's ball" and that it will sit in a prominent location on Cornwall's waterfront.

For many years this project had been talked about, -with Ed. Lumley, Member of Parliament, making the first sounds and words of its possible relocation. With Domtar's expansion and the possible removal of the building from the property, it speaks well for "history and heritage" to have it removed to Lamoureaux Park, -a site very near to the spot where the United Empire Loyalists first made their encampment at New Johnstown.

We extend "best wishes" to the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society on this ambitious project, and the very best of success in the future. By the time this newsletter reaches your hands, the move should be complete, and the restoration work underway.

For an excellent series of pictures and story on the "move", see Nick Wolochatiuk's article in the Friday, January 7, 2000 issue of the Seaway News.

MY DAD, -ROBIN CROSS, BY BONNIE CLARKE, OCTOBER 22, 1999

This eulogy to Robin Cross, by his daughter Bonnie Clarke, was presented at the Brownlee Funeral Home, Ingleside, on Friday, October 22, 1999. The society appreciates receiving the text to this eulogy, and presents it in this newsletter as a tribute to an outstanding Lost Villages Historical Society member. Robin's building and carpentry skills are with us in the first building which was restored at our museum site, -the MacLeod log house.

MY DAD, ROBIN CROSS

My dad's life was life, and he lived it to the fullest. He was born on July 30, 1913, to Naoba and Jim Cross. An enormous 14-pound baby boy, covered with wrinkles that never left. He was the third child, a brother for Bud and Issy. He grew up on his father's farm on the St. Lawrence River, with animals and hard work. Naoba was an exclusive dress designer from New York City. She married the farmer, Jim, and lived in rural Aultsville. Robin must have inherited Naoba's creative ability, but instead of gowns, he created with wood.

He obtained his driver's licence at the age of 15 and got his first paying job on the railway, laying ties. He often commented that this was the beginning of his stomach problems, and he had far too many of them. He lifted far more weight than he should have. In summers, he fired coal on the Alumis, a ferry that crossed between Aultsville and Louisville Landing on the U.S. side. In winters, he was an oiler on road construction. The crane operator on the projects he was working on was intoxicated more often than not, although not licensed, he operated the crane for Jack Dodge. These jobs took him all over northern Ontario where he fell in love with Algonquin Park, and took us regularly every Thanksgiving for nearly 20 years. We spent many wonderful times walking the 14 miles around Alien Lake and staying at Conway's cabin on Carson Lake.

At 18, he began courting Luella Cramer, who was not allowed to associate with those Cross's. They were known as the rumrunners, and I can still remember Rob telling me about the bullets whizzing past his head as the American police fired their rifles at him. He said it was the fastest he ever moved. Lou, or Cram, as dad would call her, enjoyed Rob's company and so, for eight years, managed to tell

stories to her parents and continued to go out with Robin until June 1, 1940, when they eloped. The wedding was in Arnprior, she returned home that night and back to work in Montreal on Monday. She was not allowed to be married and keep her job, and so they met on weekends for almost a year.

Robin obtained his crane operator's licence, and, at 22, was hired at Howard Smith Paper Mill unloading boats. He worked 8 hours on, 8 hours off, every day. He was working there at age 26 when he married Lou. Lou finally got up the courage to tell her boss she was married, and he insisted she tell her parents. Strange how those parents guessed what had happened long before she told them! She moved to Cornwall with Robin and also worked in the office at Howard Smith. Robin had been building a log house at the river's edge and hadn't mentioned to anyone that this was his new home. He built his first log cottage, affectionately known as the "little log" when he was sixteen, in his spare time. This time, it was quite a bit larger and he had to build a sawmill to cut the logs. Once completed, they moved to rural Aultsville, down the hill from the farmhouse at the river's edge.

Daddy Jim gave Rob the land at the far east side of the farm that surrounded the log house, with the huge stone fireplace that he built. It was called "Robin's Nest". This was home, not only for my father, but also for all of us. It would have always been, had we not lost our heritage, in the name of progress to Ontario Hydro.

Dad's father, at the age of 80, helped Robin dig a newer and deeper well. He showed him the route to go through the Long Sault Rapids when he was well into his 80's. Strength and stamina ran in the genes. The cedar rail fences erected by my grandfather still stand at the Canada Goose Sanctuary in Ingleside. This is all that remains of my grandfather's original 182 acres.

Working 16 hours a day at Howard Smith Paper Mills with two young daughters did not sit well with Rob, so he quit, bought 100 chicks and decided to raise chickens. However, he became far too busy building. He was always building. Even when he came home from building cottages, he would build boats in the garage. He could be found there every night. As a child, I learned how to hold wood a certain way so that it could be bent just so until it could be screwed into the frame. Lilbern Nephew asked him to build a cottage and he rented that cottage from us for years. He built whatever people wanted. Verna Bedingfield needed kitchen cupboards, Al Heagle needed cupboards as well. Someone needed a boat; someone else needed a house. He soon was in the house building business during the day, and the boat building business at night. Lloyd Brown asked him to build a home near ours, so we grew up with our cousin Lyle as a neighbour and leading mischief-maker.

His first outboard was called the "Bly" named after our good friend and neighbour Matt Marcellus. He built boats for Gen Froats and Lloyd Brown. He built a boathouse and docks and more docks and more boats. He then became a licensed mechanic for Evinrude Motors through Outboard Marine, so he could sell and service motors for the boats he was building. For a short time, he worked as a house inspector for Central Mortgage and Housing. He was offered bribes to pass homes of inferior quality. Some contractors would close in the walls so he couldn't inspect. He would make them take down the walls and would not pass an infraction. It had to be done right. At night, he built Rob-N-Lou. She was christened with an inaugural cruise to New York City. As we entered some high locks, Mickee and I couldn't throw the lines high enough, and Rob had us throwing lines on the roofs of high buildings half the night until we were able to throw the lines properly. We had embarrassed him and that was never going to happen again. My father built everything: our first boat -Shrimp, our water-skis, our walk in refrigerator, our sleighs and toboggans. Whatever we wanted, he built.

With the Seaway, my parents had to decide where to go. They looked at Florida, and the Thousand Islands. Robin insisted on land for land from Ontario Hydro.

Four of Hydro's best lawyers lined up against Dad -they wanted him to lease...remember you couldn't own waterfront property. Eventually, we did get land for land. We stayed in a stopover house in Long Sault while Dad built our house on the bay. Then he built the marina. We had municipal water lines put in on the property across the bay, divided it into lots and sold them. The road is now called Robin Road. All of this helped cover the cost of the house, marina and digging the bay. Rob then decided tourists would be interested in seeing the locks, the powerhouse and the control dam, which were not visible from the Canadian side. Hence, Long Sault Boat Lines began. When we had an overflow of people who didn't want to wait for the next tour, Rob would let Mickee and I take the tourists in our small boat and explain the various sites. We were allowed to keep the tips so we were always prepared to help. My mother explained to us at that time that dad was not well and probably would not live long enough to see us through high school. He certainly would prove her wrong.

In high school, when we were told to build a motor in physics class, I would go home and into dad's shop and simply build a motor. Most kids would not have had that opportunity. Howie Gallinger worked in the shop with Dad for many years, and was like a son to dad. He now has a very successful career with Air Canada. Although he officially had two daughters, dad unofficially had two sons...Jim Bell, his nephew was also very much a son to my dad.

Mum and dad operated the marina in Long Sault for 19 years. Then they were ready to retire full time and not just in the winters. They spent over 40 wonderful winters in Florida and made many new friends. They sold the marina to Marilyn Huffy in 1974. They sold the house a few years later and moved to Ingleside where dad built a small house on a large lot. They lived there for 13 years where he worked in his shop to build anything and everything for friends and relatives. He would not charge. If he charged, it would be work. He only wanted to do what he felt like doing, and this way he could say no when he didn't want to do it. Mum and dad moved to Amherstburg 9 years ago when Mickee's husband died suddenly and she came to live in the Detroit area. With an apartment on the Detroit River, dad kept a written record of every boat that passed.

Robin was always with a cigarette, and probably still is smoking. He was always ready for a good time and was always with a smile. He was always working and always loving it. If he didn't love it, he didn't do it. He loved children and animals and as far as he was concerned, they could do no wrong.

Our family would be pleased if everyone here would join us at the restaurant at the Long Sault Marina after the service for sandwiches and coffee. We thought it would be most appropriate. The piper will be there as well and we will celebrate his very fine life.

ETC. ETC...

Thank you to those who prepared the "goodies" which were served at our December meeting. These treats and the warm tea and coffee added a "festive" mood to the occasion.

Congratulation to Lawrence Welch, (Laurie, Lawrie, -not sure how to spell it), on winning the door prize at "A Heritage Christmas" in December. A Victorian style "St. Nicholas" was provided as the door prize, and all visitors were encouraged to fill out a ballot. The door prize was presented at our December meeting.
Congratulations!