



## June 2000 Newsletter

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### SUMMER AT THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

Summer is upon us, although the rain has slowed things down. Activities at the Lost Villages Museum are in full swing, and many patrons have already visited the site. This Millennium year promises to be a busy one at the museum. We hope that all members and friends will visit, and, perhaps, volunteer for a few hours or so. Many hands make light work!

With so many irons in the fire, it was impossible for the author of the newsletter to get one out to the membership earlier. The business of the historical society has certainly increased over the past year, and queries constantly come to the society. Volunteers continue to work hard, and the executive certainly appreciates the help. If you feel you have a talent to share, or some time, please read on. You will read about a "call for help"

The Sandtown Church has been moved to the museum site, although it has not been parked in its new location. Because of very wet conditions in the park, it was impossible to move the church in on "move day". In mid-June, an attempt was made to move it over to the site, however the moving truck became stuck in the soft earth. Greg Sullivan will soon make another attempt, with bulldozer and winch, to move the church onto the site. Much work has been done on the church to date, with new gyprock replacing the fragile material on the interior, and the building has received two coats of paint. Alex McGillivray has done an excellent job at restoring the roof, after Greg Sullivan moved the building to the site in two sections. Mr. Rick Forrester and Mr. Jerry Zeran have agreed to fix the windows which have been damaged by dry-rot, over the past century. Mr. Gordon McGregor of Glengarry Aggregate has donated the cement for the foundation. Alan Rafuse continues to apply his painting skills to the project, and Donnie Alguire spends countless hours at the site. When the church is moved to its final resting place, there will be much finishing work to do before the church artifacts

can be moved back into it.

We are most grateful to Mr. Bain Lazette, Lakeview Heights, for his kindness in storing the pews and other church artifacts at his warehouse, just east of the museum site on County Road #2. As soon as the church has been restored, these artifacts will return home.

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## CANADA DAY AT THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM

The St. Lawrence Stepping Stones 2000 Committee has worked very hard to plan for Canada Day celebrations at Ault Park, home of the Lost Villages Museum. Events begin at 12:00 noon, with the singing of O Canada, and the raising of the Canadian flag. Entertainment will continue throughout the afternoon, and will conclude at 5:00 p.m. At 3:00 p.m., the official opening of S.S.#17, Roxborough Township, will be held. This building will give us the additional space to tell the story of the "Lost Villages" schools. Plan to bring your lawn chair, and enjoy the barbecue, hosted by the Lost Villages Historical Society. Rosemary Rutley and Guy Lauzon will host the entertainment section of the program, which will feature Sylvester MacDonald and the Clansmen, South Stormont Line Dancers, the Golden Girls Canada Day Salute, Christina Short, Elvesto Presley, The Subjects, and KooKoo the Clown Magic Show. There will be races, games and prizes for the children. Plan to have a piece of the "Canada Day" birthday cake, a 4'X 8' cake! Rain or shine, Canada Day will be celebrated with style. Two large tents will be provided by the millennium committee.

## ANNUAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

The annual meeting of the society, held on May 15, 2000, at Our Lady of Grace Church Hall, Ingleside, was well attended, and many fine comments were received from those who attended. We thank the social committee of Our Lady of Grace for their work in preparing the delicious Italian supper. We were pleased to see so many out-of-town members and guests join with our regular members. In attendance was Meg Coulombe from British Columbia, searching for information on her Cook/Atchison relatives, and stories about the "Lost Village" of Aultsville. Kaye (Ransom) Smith from Etobicoke, Ontario, attended, as did her husband. She was delighted to see so many enthusiastic members, and she had a good visit to the museum site. Upon arriving home, Kaye even to pen in hand and wrote to the "Seaway News" concerning the washroom facilities at the museum site. She was "ticked off" over what she had read in "Scuttlebutt". Thanks Kaye! From the east

coast, we had Bill Brownell in attendance. Although not a member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, he did much work for our organization while he was "home" on a holiday. He repaired the barbershop ceiling, and assisted with the restoration of the Sandtown Church. As well, he planted a "memory" tree in Ault Park. He thoroughly enjoyed his time at the museum. We thank him for his help!

Sandra Shouldice, President of the St. Lawrence Chapter of the United Empire Loyalist Association, gave an interesting talk on the "Loyalists", and she came dressed in a period costume. As well she provided some details on the "United Empire Loyalist 2001 Convention", being held in Cornwall..

Once again, thank you to Lenora Salmon for her suggestion of a church organization for catering services at our annual dinner. It was very successful!

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## SPRING HAPPENINGS!

The Lost Villages Historical Society captured "second" place at the first annual "Home, Trade, and Tourism" show, held at the Long Sault Arena on April 29-30, 2000. Much work went into the display, and we thank all those who took time to visit the show and the Lost Villages display. Many fine comments were made concerning our entry, and we were delighted to receive the recognition for our efforts. Thank you to the volunteers who assisted during the show. We appreciate your help, and we know that your efforts added to the success at our booth. We made \$480.00 in sales/donations during this two day show. Fantastic!

On Sunday, April 30, 2000, Jim Brownell met a group of bus tour operators at the museum site. This group had been invited by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to tour the area and become familiar with the tourism potential. Although the museum buildings were not cleaned for such early visitors, the bus tour operators were delighted with their stop at the park and museum site. As well, Jim escorted the operators through the Long Sault Parkway, where he provided commentary on historical sites in the area.

The Historical Society of Ottawa visited the museum site on June 9, 2000. Jim Brownell met the bus at McIntosh Inn, Morrisburg, Ontario, had lunch with the participants, and then escorted the group along County Road #2, the Long Sault Parkway, and eventually to the museum site. Participants were very pleased with their day, and many promised to return for future visits, and to bring relatives and friends. We thank Lenora Salmon, Ernie Gillard and Joan McEwan for volunteering at the museum site for this event

President Jim Brownell received a cordial welcome when he addressed the Kingston branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society on Saturday, May 20, 2000, at the Kingston Public Library. Many participants arrived with pictures in hand, and they thoroughly enjoyed to narrated slide show. A "special" thank you is extended to Fran Laflamme for kindly providing the slides for this event.

The J.S. Macdonald/Kinsmen School, South Stormont, held a spring barbecue at Ault Park on Thursday, June 8, 2000. Despite the cool weather, the children and staff from the school had an enjoyable time. Our museum buildings were open, and the children learned about the history and heritage of the "Lost Villages". Carson Elliott, chair of the school council, prepared a barbecue for all participants. We thank Rosemary Rutley, George and Nancy Hickey, Joan McEwan, Lottie MacLeod, Rita Canough and Donnie Alguire for volunteering for this event.

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## THE LOST VILLAGES SUMMER DAY CAMP

Plans for the second annual "Day Camp", sponsored by the Lost Villages Historical Society, have been completed, and brochures will be distributed to schools in South Stormont during the final week of the school year. Ann-Marie Bourgon will return as the volunteer coordinator, and she has many activities planned for children, ages five to eleven.

The dates are as follows: Ages 5 to 7 years, -July 10, July 24, August 14.

Ages 8 to 11 years, -July 17, July 31, August 21.

The cost is \$25.00 for all three days, or \$10.00 per day. The Day Camp will from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ann-Marie seeks enthusiastic young people, between the ages of 13 to 16 years to act as volunteers. They may register by contacting Ann-Marie Bourgon at (613) 248-0442, or at the Lost Villages Museum.

Activities at the Day Camp include: Arts and Crafts, Games, Barbecue on August 14 and 21, Strawberry Social on July 24 and 31, Nature Hikes and Museum Tours.

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## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED, A CALL FOR HELP!

From time to time, it is necessary to have historical society members at the museum site. This is especially important when bus tours book in to visit the site. Do you have some time to spare for the historical society? If so, please give Jim

Brownell a call at 534-2423. We would very much like to have a schedule drawn up for "special" occasions during the summer and fall months.

Some activities requiring some "extra" help by society members:

Canada Day, Saturday, July 1, 2000, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. (volunteers in buildings and for working at the barbecue)

Bus Tours on July 4th, July 19th, and August 23, 2000. Jeannine Roy-Poirier will escort these bus tours, as she is bilingual, and this is a tour out of Montreal. It would be great to have our members assist in the buildings from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Lost Villages Bus Tours, July 16th and 30th; August 13th and 27th, and September 10th and 24th. Mary-Lynn Alguire will escort the tours, however some help is required at the barbecue which follows. About an hour of your time would be required at each barbecue, (4:15-5:15 p.m.)

As well, we require the assistance of a society volunteer to be an advertising contact. This individual would contact all the local newspaper, radio stations, etc., in order to spread the news on our events. This is not a huge task, however it requires someone who will take pride in having the notices of our activities circulated.

**IF YOU CAN HELP AT ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS, PLEASE GIVE JIM BROWNELL A CALL AT 534-2423. YOUR HELP IS APPRECIATED**

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## SPRING CLEANING

On Saturday, May 20, 2000, a "Spring Cleaning Bee" was held by the Welch family in the Manson/Lapierre Grocery Store at the Lost Villages Museum. With buckets, cleaner, and vacuum in hand, Jim and Anne Welch, Jean and Donald Welch, and Helen (Welch) Kennedy, made quick work of cleaning out our store. They washed the windows inside and out, dusted the artifacts, washed and dusted the shelves and display cases, inside and out, and vacuumed the floor. This help was much appreciated. All other buildings were cleaned by Jim Brownell.

Alan Rafuse applied a second coat of paint to the schoolhouse at the museum site. With a few details to complete on the interior, things are almost ready for the official opening on Canada Day.

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## WASHROOMS AT AULT PARK

Despite what the "Seaway News" says, the visitors and patron to Ault Park, the St. Lawrence Bike path, and the Lost Villages Museum, will soon enjoy the comforts of indoor washroom facilities. Mr. Bob Cottrell was awarded the contract to build the washroom, and he has worked diligently on the project, despite the inclement weather. Mr. Cottrell has been cognizant of the heritage buildings at Ault Park, and he constructed a building which in keeping with others in the park. With its cedar roof, and board and batten siding, the washroom should be ready by the July 1, 2000 weekend. This project has created some messy grounds around the museum site, however we must put up with some mess in order to achieve the comfort which this building will provide. The Lost Villages Historical Society thanks the Council and Staff of the Township of South Stormont, for their help in having this facility erected. It will certainly enhance the park

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## SUMMER STUDENT

Jonathan Irvine, a graduate of Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School, and presently in his second year at the University of Guelph, has been hired as the summer interpreter at the museum site. He commenced his work on June 17, 2000, and he is enthusiastic to learn as much as possible about the Hydro and Seaway projects, and the "Lost Villages". He is presently working through the "Lost Villages Study Kit", and he finds the information fascinating. When at the museum site, stop by and wish Jonathan well. A little encouragement goes a long way! By the way, Jonathan is the son of John Irvine, a former principal with the local public school board. Welcome aboard, Jonathan, and have an enjoyable summer!

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## BITS AND PIECES!

Many donations have been received by the Lost Villages Historical Society, and these will be highlighted in the next newsletter. With the necessity to have this newsletter out before Canada Day, time does not permit the inclusion of this information in this month's newsletter. We are grateful for the kindness extended to our society and museum by so many generous people. Keep up the good work!