



September 2000 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society will be held at the South Stormont Seniors' Support Centre, Ingleside, Ontario, on Monday, September 18, 2000, at 8:00 p.m. Circle your calendar and plan to attend. Invite a family member, friend or neighbour to attend with you and hear about our plans for the fall and winter. We have had a very active membership at our monthly meetings during the past few years, and the executive would certainly like to see this continue.

With a new season, comes the many activities which must be planned and carried to fruition. This will be the main activity at this meeting, and updates will be given on the many activities which were done during the summer months. The Lost Villages Historical Society has established and continues to maintain a very high profile in the community, (much to the chagrin of one South Stormont resident, see Seaway News of September 8, 2000). It is with your help that this has happened. Please come out and support our local history and heritage. If you have new ideas, too, we would very much like to hear from you. As well, we are always searching for program subjects and speakers. If you have any ideas, we would very much like to hear about your ideas.

SANDTOWN CHURCH TO OPEN AT AULT PARK

On Sunday, September 24, 2000, at 2:00 p.m., a special service will be held to dedicate the Sandtown Advent Christian Church at the Lost Villages Museum. Plans are being formulated at the present time, and musical selections will be performed by "Walk by Faith". Scott Sayers, son of Gene and Bonnie Sayers, members of the Lost Villages Historical Society, is a member of this group, and he has made the arrangements for the music. Local clergy, representing the faiths

from the "Lost Villages" have been invited to provide the readings for this activity. A plaque will be unveiled, dedicated to the pioneers of the Advent Christian faith in Osnabruck Township, and to the Casselman/Neville families. A cordial invitation is extended to members and friends of the society to attend.

Much work has gone into the restoration of the church, and we look forward to its completion. Mr. Bill Brown, formerly of Moulinette, will be restoring the organ on Tuesday, September 19, 2000. He has given it a preliminary assessment, and he feels that it is quite sound, and should require little work.

The windows have been restored, and we are grateful to Mr. Rick Forrester, Long Sault, for his skill at the wood restoration on them. He has done a superb job, and we thank him for working to meet our deadline. The chimney will not be completed by opening date, however this is a project for early October. It is our hope to have a fully functional stove, which is already in place, and we do plan for a "Christmas" carol presentation in December.

Speaking of churches, we thank Frances Bedingfield for her kind donation of three 1919 church envelopes from Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church. Although not church artifacts from a "Lost Villages" church, they do represent the heritage of a "lost" church, and a church which had strong connections to the Presbyterian churches along the "front" of Osnabruck Township. Thanks Frances!

SUCCESSFUL FLEA MARKET/TRUCK SALE/BAKE SALE

Our second summer FLEA MARKET/TRUCK SALE/BAKE SALE was very successful, and we thank all those who gave of their time and talent to make this fundraiser a success. The BOOK SALE was especially profitable, and we thank those who donated books for the sale. We could not compete with the eleven vendors who came to the park for the sale, and our BOOK SALE was unique to the day's events. We also thank those who prepared the baked goods, etc. for the bake sale table. Your work and generosity is appreciated. Our profit for the day was \$593.00, (\$110.00 from vendors; \$155.00 from bake sale; \$148.00 from barbecue; and 180.00 from sale of books). Well done!

The following are to be thanked for their generous help on the day of the sale: Rosemary and Willie Rutley, Mavis Nixon, Peggy Barkley; Donnie Alguire; Joan McEwan, husband, Bryan, and daughter Patti; Lottie McLeod; and our summer student, Jonathan Irvine.

ENCORE SENIORS PROGRAM AT ST. LAWRENCE COLLEGE

Jim Brownell has been invited to prepare and present an eight week program for the Encore Seniors' Program at St. Lawrence College, Cornwall. This program will start on Monday, September 25, 2000, (2:30-4:30 p.m.), and run until Monday, November 20, 2000. By now, you probably received the "Encore Seniors" brochure in the mail, and you probably noticed the profile of the Lost Villages Historical Society. The eight week course will include lectures, slide presentations, field trips, etc. The tentative program includes:

September 25, 2000: Slide Presentation, "Tales of the Lost Villages, Then and Now".

October 2, 2000: The "Lost Villages" connection to Upper Canada Village, (visit to the village).

October 16, 2000: Bus Tour through the lands of the "Lost Villages", and museum visit.

October 23, 2000: The "Lost Villages Study Kit", and the development of a bibliography.

October 30, 2000: Our "western" Lost Villages, Morrisburg and Iroquois, by Lyle VanAllen.

November 6, 2000: Underwater Explorations of the "Lost Villages", from a charter boat.

November 13, 2000: Tour and video presentations at the Robert Saunders Generating Station.

November 20, 2000: Meet the authors.

ELDERHOSTEL CRUISE AN EXCITING ADVENTURE

In early August, 2000, Jim Brownell was invited to present a "Lost Villages" program to two study groups on an Elderhostel Cruises on the St. Lawrence River. The northbound cruise began in Warren, Rhode Island, and sailed to New York, then up the Hudson River to Troy, New York. At Troy, the ship, the "Grande Caribe", owned by American Canadian Caribbean Line, Inc. headed west to Lake Ontario, following the Erie Canal to Oswego, New York. A cruise through the

waters of Lake Ontario brought the 82 American seniors to the St. Lawrence River, then it was on through the Thousand Islands. It was at the Crylser Marina, on Saturday, August 18, 2000, that Jim joined the group for an overnight stay on the ship. The ship slipped out of the marina at approximately 4:00 a.m., headed for Montreal. After a bountiful breakfast, the seniors assembled in the lounge for the lecture. With a start time of 9:30 a.m. for the lecture, they were prepared and ready at 9:00 a.m. Wow! Were they fascinated with "our" story of the river, and our "Lost Villages". The ship docked in Montreal for the evening, and Jim said goodbye to some very inquisitive seniors. To round out their tour, they cruised on to Quebec City, and the Saguenay River. At Quebec, the seniors departed for Warren, Rhode Island by bus. Eighty-two seniors had made the bus trek north to Quebec City, and they were to travel in reverse, taking a similar cruise through the south tour. On Tuesday, August 29, 2000, Jim met the new Elderhostel group in Montreal, and spend the evening with the seniors. A delicious dinner was served, and participants were entertained by a jazz group from Montreal. Once again, the ship slipped out of the Montreal port at approximately 4:00 a.m., on Wednesday, August 30, 2000, and headed westward to Crylser Marina. A fascinating day was spent with lectures in the lounge, and with observations of the locks, canals and beautiful Lake St. Francis and Lake St. Lawrence, from the upper deck. 164 Americans returned home with a better understanding of the mighty St. Lawrence River, and the Hydro and Seaway projects of the 1950s. Jim brought along the "Lost Villages Study Kit", and the display panels which he had assembled on the Lost Villages Museum.

LOST VILLAGES SUMMER DAY CAMP A SUCCESS

Perhaps you noticed, while visiting at the Lost Villages schoolhouse, the children's projects which were assembled throughout the building. These projects were completed by the children who participated in the Lost Villages Summer Day Camp Program. Ann-Marie Bourgon was back to the museum for a second summer with the camp, and her organizational skills were excellent. The children had fun, while learning about the history and heritage of the local area. Ann-Marie was capably assisted by student volunteers: Megan Robertson, Ashleigh Marlin, and Natalie Krol. The Lost Villages Historical Society extends sincere appreciation to these dedicated volunteers. We also extend a sincere thanks to Ann-Marie's mom, and Ann-Marie's friend, Eddie. Thanks so much!

THE ST. LAWRENCE HOTEL, DICKINSON'S LANDING

We are most grateful for the generosity extended by Donald Stuart, charter member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, in the donation of a large framed painting of the St. Lawrence Hotel in Dickinson's Landing. Along with the painting, Donald took pen in hand and jotted some notes on this artifact. Donald writes:

"This is the painting John (Brownell) used to make a picture for the Dickinson's Landing plate. I would like to donate it to the Lost Villages, hoping it will be taken care of. The painter, who signed it AK/1898, was an American, Alfred Klue, who was in this area when the Cornwall Canal was being deepened. He boarded at the hotel, which was run by my great-grandmother at the time, Mrs. John Fisher, who was born Hezekiah Hanes, a daughter of Adam Hanes. She passed away in this house, about 1930, living with my grandmother, Linda Fisher Stuart."

Thanks, Donald, for your continued interest in the preservation of our local history and heritage at the Lost Villages Museum.

ALICE RAYMOND'S "LOST VILLAGE"

Alice Raymond, a member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, contributed the following poem to the Lost Villages Historical Society recently. She writes: " I wrote this poem to somehow put into words how I feel about my Lost Village of Mille Roches. I am sure everyone who has lost their village, through the building of the St. Lawrence Seaway, must feel the same way."

LOST VILLAGE (MILLE ROCHES)

I walked along the village streets, The flowers bloomed in well-groomed lawns,
to greet my neighbours there, The birds were flying high.

We shared our smiles, a word or two, The air was filled with quiet
as I was passing by. peace beneath a clear sky. .

I walked along the river bank, Oh how I long for yesteryear,
and saw the rippling waves. perhaps for just one day,

I watched the seagulls soaring there, To roam those old familiar streets,

so graceful in their play. and wish that I could stay.
And I saw the steamers passing
by to hurry on their way. The years have passed, the memories fade,
yet in the long night hush,
What happiness within I felt, I'll live again within my dreams,
to spend this precious day, in my old town, Mille Roches.
In my hometown I loved so much,
so gentle in its way.
Then I awoke 'twas just a dream,
the dawn had filled the sky,
And my heart was filled with sadness,
for my village lost in time.

SUMMER BUS TOURS

Our summer bus tours have been very successful, and 38 participants enjoyed last Sunday's tour, Sunday, September 10, 2000. Besides those from the local area, we continue to attract participants from Ottawa and beyond. For the last tour, we even had tourists participate from England. The final tour of the season will be held on Sunday, September 24, 2000, at 1:00 p.m., from the Lost Villages Museum. We hope that you will spread the word and encourage relatives, friends and neighbours to participate. The bus tour arrives back at the museum site at 5:00 p.m. for a barbecue. The tour and barbecue costs \$12.00. We have had excellent reviews for our tours, and we thank Mary-Lynn Alguire for her interest and support of this activity. The following note was received recently from Ann Gibbs, a participant on the August 27, 2000 tour.

"Just as brief note to tell you how much I enjoyed the bus tour of the lost villages, on Sunday. Mary Lynn was an excellent guide, with her information and trivia. Her voice is perfect for that job...(a job like that could be waiting for her after retirement!) Thanks to our bus driver too. We felt like ours was a touring coach, not a school bus. he was great. Hope this tour can be held again in future summers.

Keep up the good work."

APPLES AND ART STUDIO AND HERITAGE TOUR

Our museum site will host three artists on Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 pm. Pick up your tour guide at our museum site, and participate in this two-day event. The autumn colours, and the artistic expressions, should make for a delightful weekend. This annual event is always a popular activity at our museum site, and you are encouraged to come out and meet the artists.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SEPTEMBER MEETING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 8:00 P.M.,
SENIORS' SUPPORT CENTRE

OPENING OF THE SANDTOWN CHURCH, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH,
2:00 P.M.

LAST BUS TOUR OF SEASON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1:00-5:00
P.M..