



October 2001 Newsletter

NEWS FLASH! THE "FORBES MEMORIAL READING ROOM 1901" WILL BE MOVED TO THE LOST VILLAGES MUSEUM ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2001. THE MOVE FROM NEWINGTON SHOULD COMMENCE SHORTLY AFTER 9:00 A.M. (AFTER SCHOOL BUSES HAVE PICKED UP STUDENTS). THE JOURNEY WILL TAKE THE BUILDING THROUGH INGLESIDE, (VIA DICKINSON DRIVE), AND DOWN COUNTY ROAD #2.

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society will be held on Monday, October 15, 2001, at 8:00 p.m. in the South Stormont Seniors' Support Centre, Ingleside, Ontario. A cordial invitation is extended to all members and guests to attend the October meeting. Once again, the executive appreciates the superb attendance at the September meeting, when Shaun Wallace, President of the Morrisburg and District Historical Society, addressed those gathered for the meeting. We encourage you to bring along a neighbour or friend. A warm welcome awaits.

GUEST SPEAKER: The guest speaker at the October meeting will be Chris Emard, of Standard-Freeholder fame. Some members will know Chris through his weekly articles in the Standard-Freeholder, "Handyman Hints", published in Saturday's paper. Chris has a most interesting way with words, and he is bound to captivate his audience. Some will know Chris through his work at Emard Lumber Limited, Cornwall. Others will know Chris through his purchase of one of South Stormont's most historic homes, the Empey/Thompson home on the Post Road, -just north of the "Lost Village" of Mille Roches. Actually, the mailing address for this property was Mille Roches, in pre-Seaway days. This was the site of the Henry Empey Inn, circa 1814.

Through his weekly column in the Standard-Freeholder, Chris has allowed us to understand the trials and tribulations of owning a stone, heritage home. Chris will share these stories with us.

In June, 2001, a honey can from the Thompson farm, was purchased at the Morrisburg Antique Festival, for display in our museum's store. In the summer of 2001, Doug Johnston, nephew of Clifford "Cliff " and Everard "Eff" Thompson, last of the Thompson line to live in this house, visited the museum and reminisced about his Mille Roches relatives.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR AND ATTEND THE OCTOBER MEETING.

The support received by your attendance at our monthly meetings is much appreciated by the executive. As we conclude this special "International Year of the Volunteer", let us continue to show to the community the interest, generosity and support by a caring membership. Our historical society has made wonderful progress since its inception in 1977, and, as we head to the 10th anniversary of our museum, led us all work to the aims and objectives of the society. Your attendance at monthly meetings means so much to the volunteers.

TRIBUTE TO MISS RUTH FOWLER, BY GEORGE HICKEY

We thank George Hickey for providing the members of the Lost Villages Historical Society with this "Tribute to Miss Ruth Fowler".

RUTH FOWLER

Ruth Emily Fowler was born in England and came to Canada with her parents, Frederick and Beatrice Fowler. The family settled in Cornwall about the time that Courtaulds arrived in that city.

A clever student, Ruth graduated from high school quite young, and attended Normal School. She began teaching elementary school at S.S. #4 in Aultsville in 1930, a career which was to span twenty-seven years in that village, only interrupted by the Ontario Hydro Power Project.

When a Grade "C" Continuation School was established in 1930, Miss Fowler was the principal of the Public School, but she also taught half-time as assistant in the Secondary School.

When the status of the school was raised in 1932 to a Grade "B" Continuation School, (4 Grades to Junior Matriculation), Ruth was appointed Principal, a position she held until 1957, when the village disappeared under the flood waters of Lake St. Lawrence.

Miss Fowler then accepted a teaching position at the new Osnabruck District High School in Ingleside, where she remained until her retirement in 1967.

Basically a somewhat shy, self-effacing person socially, but with a lively sense of humour, Miss Fowler earned a reputation for integrity, fairness and devotion to her work and to her students. Always well-prepared, she was a familiar sight walking to and from the school

with a load of books far in excess of those carried by her students. Her students were always her main concern, and she remained interested in their careers long after their graduation, often corresponding with them. She not only remembered them, but also the names and occupations of their children.

Ruth was a devoted member of the Anglican Church, and a charter member of the Lost Villages Historical Society.

Her passing in Cornwall, on August 14, 2001, at ninety-four years of age, brought to a close a life of cheerfulness, dedication and affection for those she served so well.

A MEMORIAL TO RUTH FOWLER

Former students and acquaintances of Miss Ruth Fowler have decided to honour the memory of a "special" lady by a "memorial" display case in the Lost Villages schoolhouse.

With many artifacts in existence from Aultsville High School, it was suggested that "Memorial Donation" be accepted for the purchase of a suitable display case for these artifacts. A plaque, in honour of Miss Ruth Fowler, will be affixed to the display case.

Should you wish to contribute to this memorial, please make cheque payable to the Lost Villages Historical Society, noting the "Ruth Fowler Memorial Fund". We ask that you forward this information and request to former students and friends of Miss Fowler.

FORBES MEMORIAL READING ROOM - 1901

The following information was provided by Mrs. Lillian Steele, former librarian at Newington Public Library. Lillian visited our display at the Newington Fair, and she felt that "her" history of the Newington Library would be of interest to our members. This library will soon be moved to the Lost Villages Museum. As this newsletter is being prepared, the Forbes Library now sits on the mover, ready for its departure from Newington. As already mentioned, this is expected to happen on Thursday, October 11, 2001. It will become the society's resource centre or "home", as Fran Laflamme so often expressed.

THE HISTORY OF THE NEWINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

On October 7, 1901, a meeting was held for the purpose of starting a Public Library on the grounds donated by Dr. Munroe. The only condition was that it should be kept open at all times, to all races and creeds.

In 1901, George Forbes, a former Newington storekeeper, built the substantial, neat brick building in which the library is located, in memory of his wife, Mrs. Forbes.

The 1st Constitution:

"Whereas George Forbes esquire of Montreal has offered to build, equip and fully donate a building for a Public Library in Newington".

"Resolve that we gratefully accept this offer and that the Institute be known as Forbes

Memorial Library''.

''The board of management consists of seven persons elected annually by the Institute on the first Monday of May each year''.

Church organizations and social groups of the district banded together to supply funds for the upkeep of the library and enlarged the supply of books.

The seven on the board kept the library opened and operating. Then, in 1917, a librarian received a salary of \$18.00, to make the fires and keep the building clean.

The building was wired in 1928, at a cost of \$34.65. Before, this library was lighted by means of lamps.

In 1934, the books in the library were catalogued. In 1947, the membership fee was raised to \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children.

With the assistance from the government and the patrons of Newington, and with the generous help and donations of the Women's Institute, the library was kept in operation. Then, in 1964, the people of Osnabruck Township held an election, and, as a result, the Newington Library became a Public Library in Osnabruck Township.

Since 1964, the library has grown steadily, with books coming from the ''Regional Library System'' and the magazines supplied. With the aid of the township grant, a greater quantity of books were purchased. We were also permitted to borrow books from the Cornwall Public Library.

The school children, with their teachers, come to the library every Wednesday, and a story is read to the Grade 1's and kindergarten children before they take their books home for the week. The children especially look forward to this every Wednesday.

The interest of the community is still high and questions are being asked about our new system that went into effect in January, 1971. They have a soft spot in their hearts for the place held by the library in the life of the community. They worked hard to keep it in operation in the past years.

In 1964, the total books borrowed were 1,630, and in 1970, the total circulation was 8,926. Membership in 1964 was 123, and in 1970, it was 355.

Repairs to the Newington Library began in 1969 with a rebuilding of the north wall which had been damaged at the time of the earthquake. Since then, an inside wall at the back of the library has been added, with new shelves; the heating problem was overcome with the addition of a new furnace and a new ceiling. New light fixtures were added, and the verandah and steps repaired and painted.

It was about this time, that we began borrowing books through the eastern Ontario Regional Library Board.

In 1970, the wiring was all changed and fluorescent lighting was installed, a desk and chair

was purchased, the verandah was again repaired and painted, along with window casings and interior floor. The total cost being \$568.11.

We borrowed from Cornwall, 86 books. The total circulation for 1970 -7,865. Total enrollment 355, 188 children from buses visited the library each Wednesday, and there were 70 local children. At this time, they came during the noon hour. At the end of this year, there were 2,662 books in the library.

During 1970, Mr. Nyland, Supervisor of the United Counties Library System, met with Osnabruck Township Council to discuss the possibility of our township going into the County System, which would include Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. After much deliberation concerning this change, the decision was made for us to become a branch in this new system. So, in January 1971, we were one branch among eight in this new United Counties system, and before the year ended, two more branches were added.

When we went into this new system, the library was open five hours on Wednesday, and children came by classes, instead of at noon hour. The increase in the school enrollment made the number of children coming at noon hour too great. Another venture was having the library open two hours Saturday afternoon, as well as the three hours on Saturday night. It has taken a year for the people to realize this added opportunity.

Two islands for books, new curtains and table top covers were added in this first year. Circulation for 1971 was 11,844, this includes books borrowed through the system. Now each person had to be registered and given a number which remains the same until 1974. Total enrollment at the end of 1971 was 300. All branches have received new books, and telephones were installed. Our library received some new shelving.

In 1972, the library went under another facelift, the varnished walls were painted a light blue, also chairs and floor, and all the old shelving was taken out and now we have all new. Also, a new sign was put up outside.

Perhaps Newington has lost a great deal in the last few years, but I feel we all should be proud of the fact that we have a library to go to when we wish to.

In September, 1972, Mrs. Elizabeth Beaudette joined the library working force and stayed until June, 1983. I was there from January, 1964 until May, 1979.

During these years, the L.O.B.A. held regular meetings in the library until 1982, when they disbanded with a membership of ten. For the use of the library, they donated a clock, a dictionary stand, and the magazine rack. The library also held District Director meetings for the Women's Institute.

During these past years, a rug was laid on the floor, and more isles for books were put in.

In 1988, Mrs. Scott is the Custodian, and the school has stopped coming. Circulation is low. Also, time of opening has changed to Tuesday evening and Wednesday, making a ten hour week.

FORBES LIBRARY DONATIONS:

We are grateful to Mr. Allan Forbes, Cornwall, Ontario, for his work in obtaining money for the refurbishing of the "Forbes Memorial reading Room". Allan has approached many members of the "extended" Forbes family, and they have been most generous to the project. We are happy to report that Allan has visited the site in Newington, and he is pleased with the progress of the move. He looks forward to the move of his ancestors "library" to our museum site, and to the society's "home" for its documents, books, etc.

OUR MEMBERS FOR 2001-2002

A final reminder. If you have not paid your 2001 membership for the Lost Villages Historical Society, please do it soon. We would certainly appreciate having you as a member. Once again, if you see a "happy face" above, it is time to renew. You may do so at our next monthly meeting, or you may mail the membership fee to Winnie Murdock, at the address on this newsletter. Thank you.

MEMBERS: 2001 - 2002

Alguire, Brenda; Alguire, Donald; Alguire, Kathleen; Alguire Mary-Lynn; Allingham, Glen & Janet; Amundsen, Adeline; Anderson, George & Janet; Applegate, Connie (Rae); Ault, Dale; Baker Beulah; Baker, Evelyn; Barkley, Margaret; Bedingfield, Robert & Frances; Bedingfield, Stephen; Bell, James & Barbara; Black, Ralph & Jean; Blackburn, George & Grace; Bredin, Edward M.; Britton, Muriel; Britton, Patricia M.; Britton, William A. Jr.; Brown, Gordon & Sherry; Brown, Sylvia; Brown, William & Rosemary; Brown, Walter; Brownell, Catherine; Brownell, Jim & Paulette; Brownell, Vale (Marcellus); Bruining, Heine & Ann; Bull, George & Ada; Burgess, Albert & Marian; Canough, Rita; Cassidy, Sylvia; Champeau, Nicole; Clarke, Bonnie (Cross); Clifford, Margaret; Coleman, Patricia; Collins, John & Jennifer; Cordon Consulting Inc.; Cornwall Township Historical Society; Cutt, Carley; Coulombe, Meg; Cousins, Mrs. Douglas (Jenny Shaver); Craig, Jane; Cross, Luella (Lou); Dafoe, Pauline; Denham, Rudi; Donnelly; Reg & Doris; Duncan, Dale; Elliott, Carson; Favretti, Joy P.; Fenton; Barbara; Forrester, Rick; Foubert, Patricia; Gallinger, William, Sharon & Kenneth; Gallinger, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd; Gardner, Mary; Gardner, Tom; Gault, Timothy; Gellately, Ross; Gillard, Ernest & Rita; Glengarry Historical Society; Glover, Winnifred; Goolden, Sandra; Gowan, Marilyn; Gowsell, Jeremy; Granger, Christopher & Lisa; Grice, Cheryl; Halliday, Linda J.; Harwood, Stan & Nancy (Fickes); Hickey, George & Nancy; Hill, David & Nancy; Hill, Dorothy; Holland, Nancy; Holtz, Eunice; Houmiel, Connie; Hughson, John C.; Hunter, Isabel; Hunter, Paul; Hunter, Robert; Jeacle, Jean; Johnston, Bud & Marian; Jordan, James & Eleanor; Julien, Vivian; Kellog, Sheila; Kennedy, Beverley; Kennedy, Helen; Keyes, Glenn & Kay; Kirkbride; Marian L. (Rafuse); Kuhn, Douglas; Lafave, John & Betty; Laflamme, Foch; Lambert, Patricia; Langevin, Simeon & Ruth (Canough); Lefebvre, Daniel; Leggett; Joyce; Lalonde, Ivan & Rita; Loucks, Arnold; Loucks, Wallace;

Lunn, Judy (Markell/Armstrong); MacDonald, Randal & Madeleine (Touchette); MacDonald, Wendy; Marin, Clive & Frances; Marin, Patricia; Markell, Glenn & Bonnie; McCracken, Marie; McEwan, Bryan & Joan; McGillivray, Alex; McIntosh, Donald & Lucy; McLaren, Connie; McLaren, Neil; McNairn, Nelson & Sandra; McNairn, Stanley & Kay; Mezzullo, Mickee (Cross); Moore, Neil; Morgan, Wayne; Morrisburg & District Historical Society; Moss, David; Murdock, Nancy; Murdock, Sally; Murdock, Susan; Murdock, Winnifred; Murray, Janet; Neville, Judy; Nisbet, John & Heather; Nixon, Mavis; O'Connell, Edith; O'Connell, Elaine; O'Connell; Patricia; O'Shaughnessy, Doris; Paice, Don; Pate, Angus & Diane; Pearson, Lois; Poirier, Donat & Dr. Jeannine; Poirier, Lillian; Prosser, Al. & Marian; Quenneville, Arthur; Rafuse, Alan; Rafuse, Richard; Ray, Pauline; Raymond, Alice; Raymond, Leda; Raymond, Leonard, Betty & Cathy; Reidy, Martin; Robson, Joe & Anita; Robson, Roy & Kim; Rombough, Lera; Ross, James & Betty; Rupert, Bryce & Enid; Rutley, William & Rosemary; Rutley, Vera; Rye, Tony & Hazel; Salmon, Lenora; Sandilands, Sonia; Sayers, Eugene & Bonnie; S.D. & G. Highlanders Museum; Shaver, Eric & Gail; Smelko, Mark; Smith, Kaye; Smith, Mona (Beckstead); Smith, RoseMarie; Snetsinger, Harold; Stewart, Keith; Stuart, Bruce; Stuart, Donald; Thompson, Audrey; Vanbaal, John & Gwynne; Vanderzweep, Madeline & Mary Frances; Vargas, Frances C. (Cook); Welch, Donald & Jean; Welch, James & Ann; Welch, Lawrence; Wells, Glenn; Wells, Merle & Shirley; Wheeler, Maggie; Whiteside, Peter; Williams, Nora; Windle, Sr. Verna

ROTHWELL-OSNABRUCK COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Jim Brownell represented the Lost Villages Historical Society at the annual Commencement Exercises, held at Rothwell-Osnabruck School on Friday, October 5, 2001. The Lost Villages Historical Society Award of \$200.00 was presented to Matthew Cloutier, a student in the Applied Sciences program at Queen's University, Kingston. Besides the Lost Villages Award, Matthew was also awarded the following honours at Rothwell-Osnabruck: Ontario Secondary School Diploma; Ingleside Ladies' Bridge Scholarship; Roh Max Chemistry OAC Award; Kraft Canada Scholarship; David Brown Construction Mathematics Award; HSP Inc. Engineering Scholarship; Ontario Power Generation Scholarship; French Immersion Certificate; Independent Order of Oddfellows Scholarship; Waldroff Bus Lines -OAC 1st Place Award; Achiever Pin for Academic Achievement in Chemistry OAC; Honour's Bronze Club Tab; Ontario Scholar; and the Governor General's Medal, presented to the school's Ontario Scholar with the highest average. WOW!! Well Done Matthew, and all members of the Lost Villages Historical Society extend best wishes for future success at Queen's.

NOTE: We thank Patricia Foubert for her continued financial support to the Lost Villages scholarship. In a letter to the recording-secretary, Winnie Murdock, Pat has made a suggestion that we increase the scholarship next year. She indicates that, with the increased costs to post-secondary education, the award which we present does not go very far. This topic will be discussed at a future monthly meeting.

BITS AND PIECES

Once again, we thank Nicole Champeau for her generous donation to the Lost Villages Historical Society. We are most fortunate in having Nicole as a member, and we thank her for generously donating some of her books to the museum's sales counter.

The 1924 "Star" hearse, generously donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society by Barry Brownlee, now has a "home" in the St. David's Anglican Church driveshed. A glassed-in front wall was built on the westerly bay at the driveshed by Jim Brownell; painted by Alan Rafuse; and screened by Donnie Alguire and Jim..

Congratulations to Nancy Hickey on her "big" win at the "Home and Trade Show" sponsored by the Cornwall Chamber of Commerce. We also hear that Doug Kuhn was also a lucky winner at this show. Congratulations!

The annual "Apples and Art Studio and Heritage Tour" was an outstanding success, once again. Teen Dancause, Joan Bingley McGillis, Pat Campbell, and Joan Julien, were delighted with the museum setting for their show, -the Roxborough S.S.# 17 Schoolhouse. Many patrons visited the Lost Villages site, and sales were brisk. A watercolour of the museum buildings, by Pat Campbell, was purchased quickly, and Joan Bingley McGillis sold her watercolour of the museum's Corn Crib to Donnie Alguire. This will look great on your wall, Donnie! The four artists hope to return for the 2002 "Apples and Art" tour.

A "Lost Villages" museum display was mounted at the annual "Waterfowl Day" at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary, on Sunday, September 30, 2001. Jim Brownell assembled the display, early Sunday morning, and Nathaniel Millward cared for the display throughout the day. We collected money for the Forbes Library move, and we had some of our books, videos and sweatshirts for sale. This was a successful day, and we thank Nathaniel for his help. This was his last day for summer employment in 2001 for the Lost Villages Historical Society.

Thank you to all those who assisted in providing dinner for the monthly meeting of the Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism's meeting, on Tuesday, September 18, 2001. Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism provided us with a most generous donation, and we thank them for their interest and support. As members of this organization, we are most grateful for the help extended by the administration and board, during 2001. We have established a wonderful relationship with Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism, and "huge" dividends are coming our way. This has been our most successful summer season, since opening in 1992. REMEMBER, next year is our museum's 10th Anniversary, August 9, 2002!

Appreciation is extended to all those who assisted with the tasks around the museum, during September and October. Many patrons have enjoyed visitng the museum during the month of September, and our "guest book" indicates that they have travelled from all

parts of the world in order to hear "our" story, -a rather unique one. Our numbers are way up this year, and we have had 17 tour groups in during 2001, and we are not finished yet! On Thursday, October 11, 2001, a group of students from Viscount Alexander Public School, Cornwall, will tour the museum, and participate in an interactive program, prepared by Jim Brownell. They will even get to do some "blacksmithing"! Two groups of students from Rothwell-Osnabruck School, lead by their teachers, Wendy Rombough and Judy Studnicki, participated in a similar activity on Thursday, October 4, 2001. They had a fun time learning about the history and heritage of the pioneers and the people who resided in the Lost Villages.

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS IN SEPTEMBER:

Jane Craig, David Hill, Tim Gault, Rita Canough, Gene and Bonnie Sayers, Vale Brownell, Clive and Frances Marin, Frances Bedingfield, Isabel Hunter, Mavis Nixon, Dale Duncan, Sally Murdock, Lenora Salmon, Merle and Shirley Wells, Rita and Ernie Gillard, Catherine Brownell, Barb and Ray Fenton, Alan Rafuse, Donnie Alguire, and Bryan McEwan. NOTE: It was through your generosity that we were able to keep the museum open on a daily basis during the month of September. Your assistance is appreciated.

The "Life and Times of Fran Laflamme" was the theme of Jim Brownell's presentation to the Cornwall Township Historical Society's meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2001, at the Raisin River Heritage Centre in St. Andrews West. Jim brought along the artifacts and memorabilia from the Fran Laflamme display in the schoolhouse. These items made a wonderful backdrop for this presentation. On Wednesday, October 10, 2001, Jim will address the ParkLane Seniors in Williamsburg, at a noon hour luncheon. The theme for this presentation will be the "History of the Lost Villages Historical Society and Museum".

On Friday, October 19, 2001, he has been invited to be the guest speaker at the St. Lawrence Agricultural Society's (The Williamstown Fair) Annual Meeting and Banquet, being held at St. Mary's Centre, Williamstown. This is "Canada's Oldest Annual Fair", and the theme for Jim's presentation will be "Volunteerism for Community Enthusiasm".

The Second Annual "Fall Festival", presented by the Stormont Community Foundation, will be held at the Lancer Community Centre, Ingleside, Ontario, from November 9th to 11th, 2001. More details will be presented in next month's newsletter, concerning this event. This early notice is being given as a call for help and volunteers at our society's display and sale. More details on this at the October meeting.

A "SPECIAL" thank you to Mary Lynn Alguire for her work at guiding the summer "Bus Tours" for the Lost Villages Historical Society. We had tremendous success with the tours this summer, and this was largely due to the excellent reports spread throughout the community by patrons. Mary Lynn, we truly appreciate your enthusiasm and generosity, and we hope that you will be back for the summer of 2002. It was truly a wonderful feeling to post the "Sold Out" signs on our roadside display board. This is a fundraiser which keeps on growing. We were especially blessed with many curious patrons from the Brockville and Ottawa areas. It pays to track down "free" advertising! More on our bus

tours in next month's newsletter.

As well, we extended "SINCERE THANKS" to Tim Gault for his dedication and culinary skills at our "Bus Tour" barbecues. Tim worked at all the barbecues this summer, and his help was much appreciated. As well, Tim helped with guiding in September, and he reported about his pleasure in taking part in this activity. Thanks Tim!

2001 BIKE-A-THON - LONGUE SAULT PUBLIC SCHOOL

The sixth annual "Bike-a-thon" from Longue Sault Public School will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2001, beginning at 11:30 p.m. at the Lost Villages Museum. This is an annual event at Longue Sault Public School, and the students always look forward to this visit to the museum. As in the past, the students will be treated to a barbecue, hosted by the Lost Villages Historical Society. If you have an hour or two to spare on this date, please give Jim Brownell a call at 534-2423, or see him at the next historical society meeting. Half the proceeds from this bike-a-thon are donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society. In the past, we have been the recipient of most generous financial help from the students, staff and school community. We look forward to "Bike-a-thon 2001". The Lost Villages Historical Society will donate a bicycle, to be won by a participant on the bike-a-thon. For every ten dollars collected, a ticket is given for this raffle. This makes for a wonderful incentive prize. For this year's bike-a-thon, the top seven collectors will be treated to a luncheon at Eastside Marios Restaurant in Cornwall. They will be escorted to and from the restaurant by limousine. Another excellent incentive to collect for this event.

OCTOBER MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2001, AT THE SOUTH STORMONT SENIORS' SUPPORT CENTRE IN INGLESIDE, AT 8:00 P.M. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!