



February 2002 Newsletter

MARCH MEETING

EDITOR'S NOTE: PLEASE CIRCLE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR, AND PLAN TO ATTEND OUR MARCH MEETING. THIS NEWSLETTER IS A LITTLE EARLY, SINCE THE EDITOR IS UNABLE TO PREPARE ONE IN EARLY MARCH. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AT THE MEETING.

The March meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society will be held on Monday, March 18, 2002, at 8:00 p.m., in the South Stormont Seniors' Support Centre, Ingleside. Please plan to attend and bring a neighbour or friend. As well, you may wish to team up with other members and car pool.

It is hoped that members continue to support our monthly meetings. We have much information to share, and ideas to discuss. Your input is valued.

GUEST SPEAKER: Guest speakers for this evening's meeting will be Peter and Helen Ross, of Peter Ross Auction Service. Peter and Helen Ross have listed some very interesting auctions in our area, and I am sure they will have many interesting stories to tell us about "auction moments". You will remember that Peter and Helen's contributions to our society were recognized in the historical society's November, 2001, newsletter. Plan to attend this monthly meeting.

"LOST VILLAGES: GOING HOME", DINNER AND VARIETY SHOW

Don't forget to book your place at the dinner and variety show, sponsored by the R.O.A.R committee from Rothwell-Osnabruck School, and the Lost Villages Historical Society. Tickets are available at \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. In order to make this a success, we must have the support of the members of the society. If slightly over 1/3 of our members attended this event, and brought a neighbour or friend, we would have a SOLD OUT event. We encourage you to

do your part. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with a half-hour social time. A spaghetti dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the variety show will commence at 7:30 p.m. The program is expected to end around nine o'clock, or shortly thereafter. You will see members of our society making their debut on stage, - acting out Rosemary Rutley's "Little Red Riding Hood Revisited". Tickets are available at Home Hardware, Ingleside; Vale Brownell, 537-2531; Jim Brownell, 534-2423; and members of the R.O.A.R. committee.

"LIGHT THE LIBRARY" CAMPAIGN (SEE POSTER AT BACK OF NEWSLETTER)

With the restoration work at the Forbes Memorial Reading Room advancing at a rapid pace, it will soon be time to install light fixtures. As well, because of the height of the ceiling, it will be necessary to install two fans. A "Light the Library" campaign has been organized, with the hope that enough money will be raised to put the necessary light fixtures in the building. To date, we have had success with the campaign, and your help is appreciated. A special plaque will be prepared for the "Light the Library" campaign, and all donations will be supported with income tax receipts. To date, the exterior lights have been provided. Alex McGillivray has kindly donated the two lights for the front, and Vale Brownell has donated one for the back door. Cornwall Lighting and Electrical Centre, 1140 C, Brookdale Avenue, Cornwall, has agreed to provide us with the lighting fixtures for the basement, free of charge, provided we purchase the fans and lights for the main floor. As well, they have provided us with substantial savings on the main floor fixtures. We require four "school house" type fixtures, similar to those which once existed in the library. They are \$100.00 each. The fans cost \$115.00 each, and the bullet light kits, which will be attached to the bottom of the fans, are \$44.00 each. Cornwall Lighting and Electrical Centre has reduced the original cost for all the fixtures by \$175.90. We thank them for this generosity. This is your opportunity to assist with the restoration of the library. If you have already made your donation to the "Light the Library" campaign, we thank you for your generosity.

As a note of historical importance with the Forbes Memorial Reading Room restoration, an original light fixture from the 1901 library, (there were four), was found in the attic, before it was moved from Newington. This fixture will be displayed in the restored building, and the four replacements, mentioned above, will closely match the originals.

A "LOST VILLAGES" LIGHT FIXTURE TO HANG IN THE FORBES MEMORIAL READING ROOM

A spring project for the society will be the refurbishment of the Mille Roches United Church light fixture, which was donated to our society last fall by Wilfred Amell, St. Andrew's Road. Two light fixtures were salvaged at the time of the Hydro and Seaway construction, and stored, for all these years, in Mr. Amell's barn. The largest of the two fixtures will hang in the centre of the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, and it should be quite a conversation piece. The entire fixture must be stripped of its paint, as the original brass was painted, many years ago. _____

"DOORS OPEN ONTARIO"

Our historical society was invited by the St. Lawrence Parks Commission to share in Doors Open Ontario, an important program sponsored by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. President Jim Brownell has been in dialogue with Susan Leclair, St. Lawrence Parks Commission, and our participation will be on Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2, 2002, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Although the Forbes Memorial Reading Room will not be officially opened, (that will happen on Canada Day), the door to the Forbes building will be open to residents and visitors for a "sneak preview". What is Doors Open Ontario?

- in collaboration with a wide range of partners, the Ontario Heritage Foundation is launching a new province-wide program: Doors Open Ontario.

-Doors Open Ontario is a community-based celebration that will build pride in Ontario's heritage for residents and for visitors,

-During Doors Open Ontario, the doors of buildings of architectural and/or historic significance, many of which are generally closed to the public, will open wide. Heritage homes, estates, commercial buildings, court houses, churches, business offices, consulate offices, heritage schools and museums are just a few examples of buildings that may open their doors to the public, plus heritage gardens and natural heritage sites.

-Highly successful Doors Open events have attracted and enthralled enthusiastic crowds in Britain, Europe, and recently in Toronto.

-Doors Open Ontario will be a significant step forward for heritage tourism, with a launch planned for February 2002, during Heritage Week.

-The 2002 demonstration year will involve 10 to 20 community clusters across the province, and may be held in tandem with other local tours and events.

The Lost Villages Historical Society, through the kind invitation of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, will be included in the Brockville/Thousand Islands cluster, one of the 10 to 12 clusters mentioned previously. Once again, we appreciate this opportunity to work with our partners.

The Forbes Memorial Reading Room 1901 should be substantially completed by June 1-2, 2002, and this will be an ideal time to see the work which was completed since late-fall, 2001, when the library was moved to our museum site. Coffee and squares will be served from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on both days of this event.

BITS AND PIECES

-The Province of Ontario's Travel and Information Centre on Brookdale Avenue, Cornwall, kindly accepted our "heritage" display for the showcase in the centre. The display was prepared by Jim Brownell, and it was placed there on Sunday, February 10, 2002. It will be in place until March 19th. Drop by the Information Centre and take a peek.

-The members of the Lost Villages Historical Society wish to thank and congratulate Bill Lasalle and Dennis Carter-Edwards, members of Cornwall's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, (L.A.C.A.C.), for their work in hosting the annual "Heritage Fair" at Cornwall Square on Saturday, February 16, 2002. They did an outstanding job, and almost all the history, heritage and genealogical groups from Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry were represented. The volunteers in these organizations work extremely hard to promote their groups, and they are to be commended. Our society's display was assembled by Jim Brownell, and the following members assisted through the day: Rita Canough, Joan McEwan, Rosemary and Willie Rutley; and Tim Gault. Thank you for your help.

-During the Heritage Fair at Cornwall Square, our booth accepted donations to the "Light the Library Campaign". These funds will be put to very good use. For a donation, visitors to the booth could fill out a ballot, with the chance to win a Lost Villages Museum sweatshirt. The lucky and surprised winner, who was in attendance when we drew the ticket, was Mary-Frances VanderZweep of Ingleside. She is a member of our historical society. Congratulations Mary-

Frances!

-Also, during the Heritage Fair, two items were donated to the Lost Villages Historical Society. Mabel MacLean donated an oil painting of the Long Sault Rapids, circa 1953, painted by Doris Bouck. Doris spent many summer days at the Bouck cottage, west of Aultsville. As well, we received a 1940 school book from Wales Continuation School, -"Petits Contes Pour Les Petits". It was donated to our historical society by Ransom Ledoux, Cornwall. We thank Mabel and Ransom for their generosity. As well, our "newest" members joined the society at the Heritage Fair. We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Darcy Bush, R.R.#2, Lunenburg, to our society.

-Although much landscaping work is required at the Forbes Memorial Reading Room in the spring, much work has been completed on the interior. A substantial amount of money has been spent on the project, however this was anticipated beforehand, and funds were collected in 2000 and 2001. We continue to pursue funding sources, and we anticipate having the building ready for opening day, "Canada Day 2002".

-Four weddings have now been booked for the Sandtown Advent Christian Church for the summer of 2002. This heritage building has made its mark in the community, and it continues to be of interest to visitors and local residents.

-The Forbes Memorial Reading Room is in need of a good, used dehumidifier. Should you know of someone with such an appliance, and willing to donate it to the Lost Villages Museum, please let Jim Brownell know. Although the dehumidification system on the furnace works very well, we still require extra from a dehumidifier. Any help would be appreciated.

-Nicole St. Martin, of Preface Theatre, Toronto, has contacted the Lost Villages Historical Society for help, as she researches for a play which is being developed by this theatre group. Rosemary Rutley's "Voices From the Lost Villages" inspired Nicole, and others from the theatre group, to write a play based on the "Lost Villages". The "Lost Villages Study Kit" has been forwarded to this group, and they will be perusing the information from this kit, over the next month. As well, they expect to travel to our area, to meet the "folks" from the Lost Villages. You may get a call. Hope you will be able to assist.

GENEALOGY QUERIES

The following queries were received through our historical society's website. Any

information you may be able to provide would be greatly appreciated. If you have information, but cannot respond to the email address, please forward the information to Jim Brownell, who will forward to the respective email addresses.

ROLAND: I was referred to you by Candy Pollard, (Cornwall and Seaway Valley Tourism), for help in getting some history on the village of Iroquois, located on the St. Lawrence Seaway. My mother and I are working on our family history, as well as the history of Iroquois. My Great-great-grandfather is buried in the Point of Iroquois cemetery. His name is Samuel Franklin Rolland. His wife's name was Charlotte Serviss. We are trying to get some family history on the Rolland name...My great- grandfather was Samuel Franklin Rolland Jr., and his wife was Margaruite Reardon. My grandfather was Arnold Samuel Rolland, and his wife (my grandmother) Irene Vanschepen. My Great-grandfather and grandfather are buried in Minnesota. If you have information on the Rolland family please write to Jean Ayub at: or email at nasim@mediaone.net

ANTOINE: Pam Pratt sends the following query. "I have been trying to research my father's family tree, but I got stuck at his grandfather. My grandmother was Mildred Carrie Antoine, and was born in Moulinette. Her father was Charles Antoine. That's as far as I got. Any help with this Antoine family would be appreciated." Pam Pratt's email address is: pdpratt@sympatico.ca

The members of the Lost Villages Historical Society extends sincere sympathy to society member Maggie Wheeler, and her husband Robert Childerhose, on the passing of a dear father and father-in-law, Robert (Mac) Childerhose. As well, we extend sympathy to Robert's mother, Shirley Childerhose, and his sisters, Catherine and Krista. Mac Childerhose passed away on Thursday, February 14, 2002, in Ottawa.

LITERARY CORNER: BY HATTIE ELIZABETH MURRAY

The following letter was received from Jack Wilson, Ingleside, Ontario, on December 18, 2001.

"In the School House at the Lost Villages, there is a picture of my grandmother, Hattie Murray, with the students of Moulinette Public School. My grandmother was a teacher at the time. She taught in the 1940's and early 50's at a number of locations in the villages and country west of Cornwall. Some of the locations are now under water as a result of the Seaway development.

She took a great interest in the Seaway project, and wrote a piece about the Hydro-Electric power dam and Seaway development.

In my recent housecleaning of my office, I came across a school exercise book that contained this story of the Seaway and Hydro development, written by my grandmother, Hattie Murray. I thought it should become part of the documents and memorabilia of the school house at the Lost Villages Museum. So I am giving this book in hopes that you can put it in an appropriate spot at the museum."

The Lost Villages Historical Society wishes to thank Jack Wilson for this donation, and it will add to our archival collection, which will soon be together in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room at the Lost Villages Museum.

A JUNE 17, 1958 PREVIEW OF THE HYDRO AND SEAWAY PROJECTS BY HATTIE ELIZABETH MURRAY

The Robert H. Saunders Generating Station (ed. Robert Moses), built jointly by Ontario Hydro and the Power Authority of State of New York.

History: This vital development is being undertaken jointly by Ontario Hydro and the Power Authority of the State of New York. Together, they are building the vast project, and will share equally all construction, maintenance and operational costs, except for machinery and equipment in the respective power houses.

In 1913, the Commission began investigating after the first transmission by Ontario Hydro of power from the Niagara River. From these studies, completed in 1921, came the first formal statement on the power potential of the International Section.

In 1924, three members were appointed by each country to form the joint board. In 1926, the board made a report which confirmed the feasibility of the St. Lawrence Seaway and power development. On the basis of this report, the treaty was signed by the representatives of both governments in 1932.

In July 1953, the United States Federal Power Commission granted the Power Authority of the State of New York a licence to develop the power project in conjunction with Ontario Hydro.

In November, 1953, the President of the United States named the Power Authority of the State of New York as the entity to undertake the power project on the U.S. side. Both agencies swung into action.

Dependability of Flow: Ontario Hydro and its United States partner set about the

gigantic task of harnessing the International Section of the St. Lawrence River, one of the most dependable rivers in the world, -its maximum flow is only twice its minimum.

From the Ontario power house, Ontario Hydro expects an average output of 6,300,000.000 kilowatt- hours. By effective use of control structures, a headpond will be created immediately above the Canadian and United States powerhouses, to produce an average operating head of 93 feet.

Powerhouses: Harnessing the River requires the building of two powerhouses and two dams. There will be two adjoining power houses, one on either side of the International boundary. They will span the channel between the eastern end of Barnhart Island and the Canadian shore, -two miles west of Cornwall. The structures will act as a gravity dam and will have a maximum height of 162 feet by 3,300 feet long. Power will be produced by 32 generating units, 16 in each plant.

Long Sault Dam: This is located upstream, from the generating station from the upper end of Barnhart Island to the mainland of the United States. The purpose is to create a headpond and to allow any excess flow to bypass the powerhouses. This dam and power house (plant) will combine to maintain the head of water required to operate the generators. It will be 145 feet height, by 2,250 feet long. Special attention is being given to keep the gates and guides free of ice, by appropriate heating devices.

The fourth structure, a Control dam, 2,540 feet long and 67 feet height, was built at Iroquois Point, on the Canadian side to Point Rockway, on the U.S. side. Its main function is to regulate the outflow of water from Lake Ontario.

In addition to construction of these four structures, about 3 1/2 miles of dyking has been built on the Canadian shore, in the area extending north and west of the powerhouses. The function will be to contain the headpond or water storage area, which will be created by the Long Sault Dam and the powerhouses. The dyke required some 4,900,000 cubic yards of earth, and about 330,000 cubic yards of stone (rip-rap), along the sloping sides of the dyke.

Parkways: One of the most interesting but least know sidelights of the vast St. Lawrence power- navigation project is the creation of a 25 mile long parkway that stretches from Morrisburg to Cornwall.

The St. Lawrence Development Commission officials have taken over every foot of land south of re- located Highway No. 2, and turned it into a series of parks along the waterfront.

Between, and south of the new towns of Ingleside and Long Sault, a new highway runs over three bridges and a series of causeways, that form a scenic drive through, as yet, (June 17), dry land. This scenic drive will connect to the mainland, 10 of the 20 new islands to be formed when the power pool is flooded on July 1, 1958.

Drive along this route and you see scores of cottages, with people busily working on boats, and no water in sight. In only a few days from now, they will have the water lapping at their new shores.

Blasting Cofferdam A-1: An earth-shattering roar and mile high explosion, which will send some 27, 000,000 cubic yards of earth and water rising into the sky, will herald the creation of the giant 35 mile long international power pond, on July 1, 1958. The onslaught will be slow, about a foot an hour, for 12 hours, then slowly to about 6 inches every hour. On July 4, about 7 a.m., the flood will have reached its peak, and 90 feet of water will cover the low-lying regions (areas).

Thousand of U.S. and Canadian citizens will be on hand, around 8:00 a.m. on July 1, when the explosion is scheduled to take place. Creation of the lake will not only promise a headpond for the 2,200,000 horse power, but will also turn the area into a vacation paradise for tourists from Canada and the United States.