



May 2002 Newsletter

1. ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Member and "Friends" of the Lost Villages Historical Society are cordially invited to attend the ANNUAL DINNER MEETING of the Lost Villages Historical Society, to be held on Monday, May 20, 2002, at Trinity United Church, Ingleside, Ontario. The evening begins at 6:00 p.m., with the usual half-hour social time. A turkey dinner, with all the trimmings, will be served at 6:30 p.m., catered by the United Church Women of Trinity Church. Cost is \$10.00, and this fee will be collected at the door. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, May 14, 2002, by calling Rita Canough at 537-2388, or Jim Brownell at 534-2423. Feel free to leave a message on Jim's voice mail.

With this year being the 25th anniversary of the Lost Villages Historical Society, and the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Lost Villages Museum, we have much to celebrate. The executive of the society hopes that a large number of members and "friends" will attend. With this special anniversary, it would be a wonderful time to encourage a neighbour or friend to join the society. GUEST SPEAKER: The guest speaker for our annual dinner meeting will be Mr. John Cleary, Member of Provincial Parliament for Stormont, Dundas and Charlottenburg. John's roots go back to the former Township of Cornwall, and his website indicates his affiliation with the "Lost Villages" He was educated at the Wales Continuation School. A website biography of our guest speaker indicates that John Cleary was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in the riding of Cornwall in 1987, and re-elected in 1990 and 1995. In 1999, he was re-elected as the representative for the newly formed provincial riding of Stormont, Dundas and Charlottenburg. John Cleary served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture from 1989 to 1990. In 1990, he was appointed Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Co-Critic, and became Critic for Rural Affairs and Rural Economic Development in 1997. As well, he was a member of the Standing Committee on

Estimates, a committee which monitors government programs and expenditures, from 1997 to 1999. Currently, he is the Official Opposition Critic for Rural Affairs. John Cleary also has a long history of constituency involvement. He was elected to Council for the Township of Cornwall in 1972, and became Deputy-Reeve in 1974. From 1976 to 1987, John Cleary served as Reeve and was Warden of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry in 1983. Other community involvement includes serving as Chair of the Raisin Region Conservation Authority, the Board of Directors for Hotel-Dieu Hospital and Glen-Stor-Dun Lodge, and charter membership with the Cornwall Township Lion's Club. Prior to being elected to the Legislature, John Cleary operated a 300-acre farm, and worked as an industrial millwright at Domtar Fine Papers. Born in Lunenburg, Ontario, John Cleary was educated at Wales Continuation School, Avonmore High School and St. Lawrence College. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING: VICTORIA DAY, MONDAY, MAY 20TH.

ROTHWELL-OSNABRUCK SCHOOL CELEBRATES "LOST VILLAGES" HERITAGE

Since April 24, 2002, the grade seven, eight and nine students at Rothwell-Osnabruck School, Ingleside, Ontario, have been working on a study unit on the "Lost Villages" and the Hydro and Seaway projects of the 1950s. This activity will culminate in a special program at the school on Friday, May 3, 2002, and all members of the Lost Villages Historical Society are encouraged to attend. Teachers at the school have asked that this information be extended to all members of the historical society. INVITATION REMEMBERING... AULTSVILLE, FARRAN'S POINT, DICKINSON'S LANDING, WALES, MOULINETTE & MILLE ROCHES YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ROTHWELL-OSNABRUCK SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002, FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. TO REMINISCE. DURING THIS TIME, THE GRADE 7, 8 AND 9 STUDENTS WILL BE DISPLAYING THEIR LOST VILLAGES AND SEAWAY PROJECTS IN OSNABRUCK HALL. WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US FOR THIS TRIBUTE TO OUR HERITAGE AND LOCAL HISTORY, AS PART OF EDUCATION WEEK. On Wednesday, May 24, 2002, Maggie Wheeler and Jim Brownell made presentations to all grade seven, eight and nine students of the school, in Osnabruck Hall. Maggie's presentation centred on "A Violent End", which she published one year ago. Her imaginative presentation encouraged students to read the book, and learn more about the Hydro and Seaway projects,

through mystery and intrigue. Jim's presentation was through a slide presentation, "The Lost Villages, Then and Now". This presentation was most appropriate, as all students have had the opportunity to tour through the "Lands of the Lost Villages". The grade seven students at Rothwell-Osnabruck had their tour on the morning of May 24th. Mary Lynn Alguire, a teacher at the school, and a member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, guided the bus tour. Maggie and Jim have been invited to Tom Dumbrille's grade eleven English/History class, for presentations during the week of April 29 to May 3, 2002. Maggie's presentation will centre on "A Violent End", and Jim will be the quizmaster for a "Lost Villages Quiz". THE LOST VILLAGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY SALUTES THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT ROTHWELL- OSNABRUCK SCHOOL, FOR THEIR WORK IN KEEPING ALIVE THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE "LOST VILLAGES".

THANK YOU, -ERIC RICE!

On Saturday, April 27, 2002, while attending the "Home and Trade Show" at the Long Sault Arena, Eric Rice, a member of the Lost Villages Historical Society, donated a map of the "Lost Villages" of Wales, to the historical Society. This was Eric's home town, and his map was prepared from memory, possibly picking the brains of many people during its preparation. This is an outstanding contribution to the historical society, and it contains the identification of ninety structures in the village. This map will be enlarged, and will be placed in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room. It is hoped that viewers of the map will be able to add names, etc. to it. As an example, Eric has identified #21 as the Allan Grant house, which was later occupied by several different families. Hopefully, some of these families may be identified. To date, we now have five of the six "Lost Villages" mapped. These have been prepared from the memories of those who lived in the villages, and, in the summer of 2002, these will be mounted in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room. Hopefully, a map will be prepared for the village of Farran's Point. Let's put Farran's Point on the map! _____

IN REMEMBRANCE, STANLEY McNAIRN, U.E., April 18, 2002

Jim Brownell, president of the Lost Villages Historical Society and friend of Stanley McNairn, was asked by Kay McNairn to prepare a tribute to Stanley, for delivery at the funeral on Thursday, April 18, 2002, at St. Andrew's-St. Mark's United Church, Long Sault. With Stanley's love for the history and heritage of the Lost Villages, it was felt appropriate to include the tribute in this month's

newsletter.

In my remembrance of Stanley McNairn, today, I wish to open with a passage which he wrote in 1984, that great "Bicentennial" year, as he prepared the foreward to the book Heritage Highlights of Cornwall Township. I quote: "History is so much more than battles. The kings and generals, the pontiffs and magnates, the statesmen and geniuses, all have their role to play. But how much we owe to the fidelity and the efforts of ordinary people. I hope that I have, in some measure, enhanced your appreciation of their efforts by this personal approach to Loyalist history". Stanley wrote these words as he reflected on the life and times of his great-great- grandfather, the United Empire Loyalist, John McNairn. It was through the fidelity, patriotism, and efforts of this ordinary pioneer that Stanley was so proudly able to call himself, U.E., the great-great- grandson of a United Empire Loyalist. Stanley lived history; Stanley loved history; and it was through his love for the United Empire Loyalist story, that we, his relatives, friends and citizens of this community, have come to remember the life and achievements of a remarkable individual. At this point, I wish to say, too, that Stanley not only promoted the United Empire Loyalist story in words, but he also did it through his hard work and dedication to the St. Lawrence Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. At the outset, he became this association's Vice President, when it was chartered in 1978. Twenty years later, and in declining health, he was recognized with a Certificate of Merit, proudly accepted by his son, Nelson, also a charter member of the association. Stanley's guidance and wisdom will be sorely missed, however he would want members to carry the torch into the future, and proudly promote the United Empire Loyalist heritage. My association with Stanley began when I was about 17 years of age, a grade 11 student at Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School. I had just joined the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society, and Stanley and Kay were at the very first meeting I attended. Even at this relatively young age, I was impressed with the knowledge and wisdom which Stanley shared at the meeting, and, in subsequent years, I came to recognize a "genius", when it came to local history stories. Stanley possessed a wealth of knowledge for facts and details relative to local history, and he never failed to captivate and mesmerize this young and impressionable mind. I shall remember Stanley as being in a class of a few individuals, who could make history come alive. His stories, so carefully punctuated with exacting details, are those which are stored in my memory, and which will live with me for the rest of my life. When reflecting on the details from so long ago, I must mention that Stanley not only expressed history in words, as already mentioned, but he put into action

the tasks and deeds which he realized would carry the rich history and heritage of our local area into the future. In 1975, Stanley succeeded me as President of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society, and he served, with distinction, a two-year term in that capacity. He continued to serve the historical society well, remaining as an executive member for many years, and also serving on the committees for Inverarden Regency Cottage Museum and the United Counties Museum, in the Wood House. Whenever there was history and heritage to share in our community, Stanley was there, along with his greatest supporter, his wife, Kay. In those early years, too, Nelson was often in tow, and I know that his dad has left mighty big shoes to fill in upholding the history and heritage of the McNairn family. Just last evening, in Nelson's company at the funeral home, I witnessed his eagerness to share with others his beautiful loyalist pin on his lapel. His dad would be so proud. Besides Stanley's work with the historical societies in the area, for he was a member of the Cornwall Township Historical Society and the Lost Villages Historical Society, Stanley took an active interest in the affairs of the community, continuing to share with others, the foundation upon which this community was built. He continued to share with us the stories of the challenges faced by so many, during the upheaval of the Hydro and Seaway projects of the 1950s. He continued to share the sad details of losing a loyalist farm at Maple Grove and the problems encountered in moving his beautiful heritage home to its new location on Highway #2. As Stanley often reminisced with me about "the farm" at Maple Grove, I could see that his heart was forever at "the farm", overlooking the Cornwall Canal and St. Lawrence River. As well, how will we ever forget the stories he shared with us as to his dealings with Ontario Hydro's First Vice President and Member of Provincial Parliament for Grenville-Dundas, George Challies. I'm sure, today, Stanley is in heaven, setting the record straight, and resolving the problems associated with the turmoil of the 1950s. Stanley's interest in community life centred around the township's waterfront, a waterfront which became "off limits" to him at the time of the 1950s projects, and the product of the "great" inundation. Being such a strong "visionary", Stanley was always of the opinion that the waterfront lands were worthy of preservation for public use, and his "vision" for these lands centred on a "people's place". Even before the projects of the 1950s, Stanley had visions, and he challenged the powers that be, to work with local citizens to develop a "world class" tourist destination. Obstacles were thrown in his face at the time, however Stanley persevered. By his involvement on the Planning Advisory and Waterfront Development Committee for the Township of Cornwall, a committee which he served with distinction through the early 1990s, Stanley imparted knowledge and ideas which were visionary and challenging, and which will become the centrepiece for future work

to enhance our beautiful Lake St. Lawrence. I shall never forget one particular event which left a lasting impression on those who served with Stanley on this Waterfront Development Committee. This happened in 1994, as the committee worked to gather information and data on the waterfront lands, and as they prepared to tour the lands, a walk which would take them from Long Sault to Lakeview Heights. From beginning to end, Stanley walked the waterfront, imparting his knowledge of its rich history and heritage to committee members. Memories of the "walk" still are vivid in the minds of those who participated, and, as the reeve for the Township of Cornwall at the time, it was truly an honour to be in the company of Stanley, a "genius" who delighted in sharing his wisdom and knowledge with others.

The aforementioned details are but a few of the stories and memories I have of Stanley. As a long-time educator in the community, I salute Stanley for his efforts to promote local history in our schools. I know that Kay will have fond memories of their participation in my "heritage day" events, at the schools I had the privilege to serve. Stanley never failed, over the years, to find time on his calendar to accept invitations from schools and groups, and to impart his history stories to young minds. Stanley left his mark, in this way.

In concluding my remarks, today, I wish to thank Kay and her family for giving me this opportunity to reflect on the life of a truly outstanding citizen. My concluding thought reflects back on Stanley's concluding sentence in the foreward to Heritage Highlights of Cornwall Township. When thinking about the original Crown Grant farm at Maple Grove, he states, "There are those of us who can never forget what was!" May I say, all of us will never forget what was; a gentleman, Stanley McNairn. May he rest in peace.

BITS AND PIECES

A sincere "thank you" to all members and friends who attended the April meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society at the Forbes Memorial Reading Room. With the restoration work complete on the interior, this was an ideal venue for the meeting. President, Jim Brownell, recognized the dedication and hard work of three members of the society, regarding the restoration work. Alan Rafuse, Alex McGillvray, and Donald Alguire were given a round of applause for their efforts to bring this building to its present state, -absolute charm and beauty! It will become a wonderful "home" for the Lost Villages Historical Society. A "dream come true" for the charter members who worked so hard, twenty-five years ago. All members can hold their heads with pride and satisfaction. We now await its

official opening on "Canada Day" 2002. ***** Members of the Lost Villages Historical Society extend congratulations to three couples from our historical society who marked "Golden" anniversaries in April, 2002. GEORGE AND NANCY HICKEY, celebrated on April 12, 2002 BOB AND FRANCES BEDINGFIELD, celebrated on April 23, 2002 and "new" historical society members, JIM AND BARBARA McLELLAN, celebrated on April 19, 2002 CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FROM THE LOST VILLAGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY ***** On Friday, April 26, and Saturday, April 27, 2002, the Lost Villages Historical Society participated in the 3rd annual "Home and Trade Show" sponsored by the Township of South Stormont Chamber of Commerce. Once again, this was an outstanding event for the community, and a wonderful way to showcase our historical society to the public. Jim Brownell prepared the exhibit, around a "Royal" theme for the "Jubilee" year of Queen Elizabeth II, and the following members kindly attended the booth during the show. We thank George and Nancy Hickey, Jane Craig, Vale Brownell, Barbara Bell, Peggy Barkley, Mavis Nixon, and Tim Gault. The prize at our society's booth was a pass for two to a "Summer Bus Tour and Barbecue". The winner of the prize was Linda Villeneuve, Cornwall, Ontario. Linda and a friend must now choose from one of the seven bus tours offered in the summer of 2002. ***** The following information was received from Kristin Beveridge, one of the local organizers for the "Pilgrimage of the World Youth Day Cross". Mention was made of this event at the April meeting, and a number of members expressed interest in what was going on. The cross is making its third journey across Canada, and it will be in our local area on May 9, 2002. Erin writes: "The Pilgrimage is a well organized procession including police vehicles, emergency support vehicles; as well as a staffed mobile medical clinic. Approximately 60 pilgrims/youth from across Canada will be walking with the cross, and anyone who wishes to walk with the pilgrims is welcome to do so. May 9th, -There is a lot of ground to cover, so each break is quite short. The pilgrims will eat lunch at Floral Park (1:15-2:00 p.m.) and then they will walk to the Lost Villages Museum. The estimated arrival time is 2:50 p.m. They will be at the Lost Villages Museum from 2:50 p.m. until 3:20 p.m. Is it possible for the pilgrims to have a tour of the Lost Villages within this time frame?" Kristin has been informed that, while the museum is closed, Jim Brownell will meet the pilgrims in the Sandtown Advent Christian Church at the museum site, and give a short presentation on the history and heritage of the "Lost Villages". They will have an opportunity to tour the site, (exterior of the buildings), and the washroom facilities will be available, before proceeding to St. Pius X Church in Long Sault. Any society members wishing to join Jim at the museum on May 9th, at approximately 2:30 p.m., are most welcome to do so.

***** Congratulations to Rosemary Rutley, Recording Secretary of the Lost Villages Historical Society, and her daughter, Glenda Eden, of Old Crone Publishing, Ingleside, Ontario, on winning first place at the 2002 "Home and Trade Show" sponsored by the South Stormont Chamber of Commerce. Their works include: Bowering's Guide to Eastern Ontario; Voices from the Lost Villages; No Road Back, A grown Boy's Stories of Wales, by Donald Stuart; and Anyone Can Write a Country Song, also by Donald Stuart. Congratulations on a job "Well Done"! ***** Thank you to the following members who have supplied, or have offered to supply, documents, memorabilia and artifacts to the Queen Elizabeth II "Golden Jubilee" display. This display will be assembled at the Lost Villages Museum in June, 2002. Thank you to Judy Neville, Winnifred Glover, Mavis Nixon, Peggy Barkley, Catherine Brownell, Isabel Hunter, and Frances Bedingfield. As well, Linda Halliday, Ontario Power Generation and member of our society, has indicated that the chair, used by Queen Elizabeth II on June 28, 1959, while participating at ceremonies at the Moses-Saunders Hydro Generating Station, is being made available for the display. ***** Thank you to Lawrence and Ruby Morgan for the donation of a framed photograph of the Aultsville Men's Hockey Team, 1922; and the photo of the two-car ferry which travelled from Aultsville, Ont. to Louisville Landing, N.Y.

IN MEMORIAM

IT IS WITH SADNESS THAT WE REPORT THE PASSING OF TWO VALUED MEMBERS OF THE LOST VILLAGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

GRACE BLACKBURN

Passed away on Friday evening, April 12, 2002, after a long and gallant battle against heart and circulatory problems, in her 84th year. Grace was the beloved wife of George G. Blackburn, and mother of Andrea Thompson of Albany, Georgia; Mark Blackburn (Irene) of Winnipeg; and Ronald Blackburn of Ottawa. Grace was the grandmother of Kim, Aaron, Ben, Maxine and David; and great-grandmother of Victoria, Matthew, Thomas and Emily. Grace passed away with the glorious recording of her 1950's St. Thomas The Apostle Church 40-Voice Junior Choir, singing Handel's Alleluia Chorus in her earphones. Family, music, and the care for others were central to Grace's life. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with George and his family.

JAMES STANLEY McNAIRN, U.E.

Passed away on Saturday evening, April 13, 2002, after a four year struggle from

the effects of a stroke. Stanley was the beloved husband of Kathleen (Nelson) McNairn, and mother of Nelson and his wife, Sandra (Mitchell). He was the dear Papa of Mitchell, Stanley and Anne. Stanley was the last of the McNairn brothers of Maple Grove/Mille Roches, -Waurick, Oral and Geoffrey. As well, Stanley was the great-uncle of Lost Villages Historical Society member, Cheryl Grice, of Muncie, Indiana. Before suffering the debilitating stroke, Stanley was an active member of the St. Lawrence Branch, United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada; the Lost Villages Historical Society; the Cornwall Township Historical Society; and the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Historical Society. Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Kay and her family. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE