



## May 2003 Newsletter

1. The Annual General Meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society will be held on Monday, May 19, 2003, at Christ Anglican Church Hall, (Corner of Mille Roches Road and Bethune Ave.), Long Sault. This dinner meeting will be catered by the Anglican Church Women, and cocktails will commence at 6:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. As in the past, the women of the ACW will welcome us to a ham supper, with all the trimmings, dessert and tea/coffee, for \$12.00. The pleasant surroundings of Christ Church Hall will welcome many members and "friends" of the society. It is hoped that this date has already been circled on your calendar. Please call Rita Canough at 537-2388, by May 14th, to reserve your place. We look forward to having you at this event.

The annual meeting will give the Executive members the opportunity to report on the activities of the past year, and it will be a time to welcome new members to the Executive. If you would like to stand for office, please give Joan McEwan, Past-President, a call at 537-2541. Jim Brownell will be stepping down as president of the society, after serving in this position for ten years. He encourages one and all to continue working to the aims and objectives of the society, and to support the new president in the future. We have developed a dynamic and resourceful society, with many active members ready to lend a helping hand. Continue to make the Lost Villages Historical Society "YOUR" society. Your ideas and help are appreciated.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Mr. Gordon Brown, Chairman of the St. Lawrence Parks Commission has accepted our invitation to attend. Mr. Brown is a tireless worker on the Commission, and he has witnessed the development of many projects, (with some frustrations), during his time on the Commission. With our close association with the Commission in recent years, and with many similar objectives, I am sure that Mr. Brown's presentation will be most enlightening. Gordon Brown is a Commissioner from Gananoque, owner/operator of The Quality Inns and Suites, and the Lobster Trap Restaurant.

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## MUSEUM "CLEAN-UP DAY", SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2003

As reported at the April meeting of the Lost Villages Historical Society, Saturday, May 10, 2003, is "Clean-Up Day" at the Lost Villages Museum. Many hands will make light work, and we hope that a number of members and friends will show up with buckets, vacuums, dusters, etc. etc. All buildings require a good spring cleaning, and all help is appreciated. Work will commence at 9:00 a.m., and we hope for a sunny day. Some minor repairs are required on the ceiling of the church, for we had a water leak around the bell tower. Hopefully, this will be repaired in time for our first tour, on Wednesday, May 14, 2003. The MacLeod Log House is in desperate need of new curtains. Do we have a seamstress in the society?. These are not fancy curtains, just plain hems, and a sleeve for the rod. Call Jim Brownell if you would like to take on this task. There are four windows, - eight panels.

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## BITS AND PIECES

The Lost Villages Historical Society's booth commanded much attention as patrons visited the South Stormont "Home and Trade Show" on Friday, April 25th, and Saturday, April 26th. The society's booth was prepared and erected by Jim Brownell, and the following members represented the historical society during the two-day event. Our thanks to Merle and Shirley Wells, Tim Gault, Isabel Hunter, Nancy Rutley, Rita Canough, Lenora Salmon, Vale Brownell, Jane Craig, and Dale Duncan for a job "Well Done". Our booth was awarded the "Silver Medal" by the Chamber of Commerce. In 2001, we received a similar award. The attendance prize at our society's booth was a ticket for two for our Summer Bus Tours. In a draw by the show coordinator, Nicole Giroux, Terry Brownell was the lucky winner.

On Monday, April 21, 2003, a black maple was planted at the Lost Villages Museum, to commemorate "Earth Day". Mr. Tom Manley of Berwick, Ontario, donor of the tree, welcomed about ten environmentally conscious citizens to Ault Park. Jim Brownell, president of the Lost Villages Historical Society, and Heine Bruining, Deputy-Mayor for the Township of South Stormont, each spoke on the importance of planting a tree on "Earth Day". Councillor Ray Fenton, and Betty de Haan, CAO/Clerk of the Township of South Stormont, also attended the celebration.

Remind friends, neighbours and summer guests to the community that "Summer Bus Tour" tickets are now available at the following locations: The Picket Fence, County Road #2, across from the museum site; The Crafter'z Market, just east of Woodland Villa, on County Road #36; and at the Lost Villages Museum. Tickets must be purchased in advance, at \$15.00/adult, and \$10.00 for children, pre-school and elementary school.

Jim Brownell was a guest speaker at Rothwell-Osnabruck School on Tuesday, April 22, 2003. He presented the Fran Laflamme slide show, - "Tales of the Lost Villages, Then and Now", to the grade seven students, and he made a presentation to the grade eight students on the technology used in moving the buildings during the Hydro construction. On Friday, May 2, 2003, he attended at Rothwell-Osnabruck School, to view the Lost Villages projects which had been prepared by the senior elementary students. The students did an outstanding job with research and presentations, and these projects were also on display during the "Spring Fling", sponsored by Rothwell-Osnabruck and the Lost Villages Historical Society, on May 3, 2003.

Jim Brownell was a "Roaster" at the "Glen Cunningham Roast" on Saturday, April 19, 2003, sponsored by the Morrisburg and District Lions Club. For many years, Glen has been a community activist for the preservation of history and heritage, and he was most deserving of some special words from his "friends". Hopefully, it's still that way! Information, taken from the program, may be found at the end of this newsletter.

In the April newsletter, mention was made of the donation made to the Lost Village Historical Society by David and Nancy Hill. They had donated some artifacts from Nancy's late uncle, Captain Frank Dishaw. Alan Rafuse has provided some information to the society on the "Steamer KEYNOR", a ship which Captain Dishaw guided through the St. Lawrence Seaway. Information on the KEYNOR may be found in this newsletter.

We are delighted to hear that Anne-Marie Shields continues to make steady progress on her pictorial history of the Lost Villages. Anne-Marie attended the South Stormont Chamber of Commerce "Home and Trade Show", and she was able to make more contacts for her book. Anne-Marie hopes to have the book ready for the 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2004, -marking the 50th anniversary of the commencement of the Hydro and Seaway projects.

In a recent conversation with Anne-Marie Shields, president Jim Brownell was asked the question: "Who prepares the Lost Villages Newsletters, each month?"

The answer: He has prepared all newsletters since 1992. This is a tremendous effort, with deadlines always looming. Submissions are always appreciated. The newsletters, since 2000, have been posted on our society's website: [www.lostvillages.ca](http://www.lostvillages.ca). Thanks for your encouragement and support.

Our society's website just celebrated a milestone. The 10,000th visitor to the site logged on to the site on Saturday, May 3, 2003. We appreciate the assistance of Raymond Lacroix and Jim Brydges, in keeping the site up-to-date. They are always prompt with our requests.

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### Steamer KEYNOR

Owner: La Verendrye Line, Limited Built: North of Ireland Shipbuilding Company, Limited, Londonderry, Ireland, -1914 Hull No: 58 O.A. Dimensions: 261' X 42'6" X 20'6"

The bulk freight Steamer KEYNOR takes Mr. John Stewart Norris as its specific namesake. The prefix in the vessel name refers to the original name of the owning company.

Mr. Norris was born on January 6, 1874 in Montreal, Quebec, and was educated at Royal Arthur School and Bishop's College before beginning his career as an office boy with the Guarantee Company of North America in Montreal, Quebec in 1888. He stayed with that firm until joining Bell Telephone Company in 1891 as a general office hand and mailroom clerk. In 1896, he saw an advertisement in the newspaper for an accountant and shorthand job, and decided to apply. Though he had neither talent at the time, his ambition and convincing manner won him the job. He became secretary to Sir Herbert Holt, president of the Montreal, Light, Heat and Power Consolidated, and a new career was launched.

Advancing rapidly, he was elected secretary-treasurer in 1906, and general manager in 1910. He was this fleet's first president since the vessel firm was a jointly-owned subsidiary of the utility. Mr. Norris was named president of Montreal Light, Heat and Power Consolidated in 1932, and retained that post until 1944. Mr. Norris also held other executive positions concurrently and he was active in numerous civic and charitable affairs until his death in Montreal, Quebec, on June 26, 1956. His namesake survived him by only five years, being sold for scrap in 1961. The suffix, NOR, bore proud tribute to one of Canada's leading industrialists.

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## A GLEN CUNNINGHAM TRIBUTE

The following is taken from the program, presented at the "Glen Cunningham Roast", on Saturday, April 19, 2003.

"We are here tonight to honour Glen Cunningham with a roast. Glen was born in Williamsburg Township and has spent all his life in his community. He has been involved in every aspect of his community over the years. He began his career as a farmer, became a carpenter and a cabinet maker. He became an authority on the history and the culture of our area, while serving thirty years on the staff of Upper Canada Village. He served on the Councils of our Township and County. He is a great humanitarian, a leading member of our Lions Club, headed the "Save The Train Committee", and assisted in projects for the Winchester Hospital and Upper Canada Playhouse. He has become a world traveler, and, upon returning, will always comment on the fact he believes that South Dundas is one of the greatest places on earth and promotes the history and culture of his community. His most recent project is the "Mural Committee" of the township. We appreciate the opportunity to honour and to roast our friend here tonight."

## THE FORMATION OF "OLD MILLE ROCHES"

While sorting through some of the papers in the Fran Laflamme collection, Alan Rafuse made a most interesting discovery, one which helped him to understand the creation of that part of Mille Roches known as "Old Mille Roches". Many will remember this location at the eastern end of Sheek's Island, and many will remember those who lived in this area, across the swing bridge from the mainland. The following information is from the COMMITTEE OF PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF MILLE ROCHES, dated Mille Roches, March 31, 1836; and the REPORT OF THE PETITION OF THE PROPRIETORS OF THE VILLAGE OF MILLE ROCHES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CORNWALL, TO THE HON. THE COMMONS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, 1836.

## COMMITTEE ON PETITION OF THE INHABITANTS OF MILLE ROCHES

The Memorial of the Proprietors of the Village of Mille Roches, in the Townships of Cornwall and Eastern District. MOST HUMBLY SWEARETH:

That the said Village is situated upwards of five miles above the Town of Cornwall, on a branch of the River Saint Lawrence, being a stream adequate to every mechanical work and manufactory requiring water privileges, which

happiness of situation was not enjoyed by any place, within the distance of fifty miles, either up or down the river.

That, therefore, said Village was rapidly improving, an extensive Grist Mill, Marble Factory, and Marble Saw-Mill, Carding Works, and Clothiers Works having been erected, and many artisans and mechanics settled, and preparing to build and settle therein.

That the manner in which the canal is now laid out has destroyed all these prospects, the line of which strikes from the river above the Village, intersecting the main road, and then runs South East until it again intersects the road and goes by the river a considerable way below the Village, and the Commissioners have, in consequence, altered the said high-way which formed its main street and led from Montreal to Toronto, running the same still east of the canal, thereby completely isolating the village and entirely cutting off all communication with the adjoining country, except by a small tunnel or current totally inadequate for the transaction of business, and turning aside the concourse of travelers; and which now is, and every winter will be stopped with ice by the rising of the river throwing back water therein; as the annexed map more fully explains.

That by these destructive changes all lucrative intercourse is absolutely lost. and your memorialists, instead of the pleasing hope of trade and commerce, are now obliged to look for other homes, many of whom after residing there the best portion of their existence. That in addition to the above calamitous state of their affairs, a few of your memorialists own lands contiguous to the marble quarry in the vicinity of the village, now excavating to build the Locks, where Mr. Mills the Engineer laid out a few acres for the use of the labourers, entirely insufficient for the purpose; there being upwards of forty houses, or shanties, now erected round the quarry - and the labourers have now used a large quantity of fuel which grew on land exterior and far beyond the area allotted them by the Engineer, and as the poor men are unable and unwilling to pay therefor coercion would lead to evil consequences and only tend to a bill of expenses on the district - thus the owners are deprived of the fuel necessary for their own houses, without hopes of redress.

That your Memorialists would by no means trouble your Honourable House with their grievances only after submitting them to the Commissioners, praying for remuneration, they declined acting on the case, by arbitration or otherwise on the plea that the power vested in them gave them no authority, thereby throwing your Memorialists on the decision of the Legislature. Nevertheless, your Memorialists conceive that the act in reference to the Village is full and explicit - therefore they

have no desire to trouble your Honourable House with any amendment therein, but merely that you will be pleased to desire the Commissioners, forthwith, to act up to its spirit, as well as its letter, and further to extend its benefit towards the payment by them of the wood now used, or which may be used by the labourers in said Quarry, extra to the quantity allotted by the Engineer, which has long since been used in erecting their shanties and for fuel.

That these grievances are by no means exaggerated, as the premises, which, only three years since, would let from thirty to fifty pounds yearly, could not now be rented for any sum, except to labourers on the canal for some trivial pittance - a class of tenancy not desirable to occupy valuable buildings.

Thus your Memorialists humbly lay their case before your Honourable House, confiding in your clemency and in full confidence that you will be graciously pleased to desire the Commissioners to effectually enter into the merits thereof the act with as much promptitude as its nature admits, and their distressed and uncertain conditions crave, for which, as in duty bound, they shall every pray.

Signed by George Robertson, and thirty-four others.

#### REPORT OF THE PETITION OF THE PROPRIETERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MILLE ROCHES

The Select Committee to which was referred the petition of George Robertson, Sewell Culter, Elijah Burpee, Thomas H. Maxwell, Nelson Stevens, Wm. J. Hamilton, and twenty-nine others, proprietors of the Village of Mille Roches, on the River Saint Lawrence, have, in obedience to the order of the House, enquired into the allegations and complaints of the petitioners, examined witnesses and agreed to the following report.

The petitioners set forth that Mille Roches is situated about five miles above Cornwall, on a branch of the Saint Lawrence, in a situation conferring extensive water power, which the inhabitants had improved; that at the time the Saint Lawrence Canal was laid out, the Village was in a prosperous condition, and that the main high-way, or post-road, between Montreal and Toronto passed through it, forming its main street; that the canal has intersected the post road both below and above Mille Roches, and the Commissioners have altered the highway and taken it to the other side of the canal at a distance from the Village, thereby isolating the Village and entirely cutting off all communication by land with the adjacent country, except by a small culvert, which is stopped by ice in the winter and very inefficient as a carriage road in summer; that the trade and intercourse of the

inhabitants are greatly impeded; that the fuel in the neighbourhood is burnt up by the labourers on the canal; that the Commissioners decline or refuse to build those bridges which would restore Mille Roches to its accustomed prosperity, although premises which three years ago would have rented at from thirty to fifty pounds yearly, could only be now let to the canal labourers at a trifling rent.

Your Committee have examined Messrs. Shaver and Norton, two of the Saint Lawrence Canal Commissioners, who state, that besides the culverts the Board contemplate the erection of scows, to be drawn across the canal; that bridges were not built because it was considered by the Board that their erection would be very injurious to the navigation; and that no compensation was ordered to be paid to the inhabitants of Mille Roches for damages, although injury had been done them by the loss of the post road and the traffic of their Village, for which, in the opinion of Messrs. Shaver and Norton, "they ought to receive a fair compensation by arbitration as stated by the act."

These Commissioners think it would be better that the petitioners should be paid their damages, and that no bridges should be erected, it being the opinion of the Canal Board that the erection of the bridges that would be required under the act would prove ruinous to the navigation; as also, that there is reason to fear that the culvert will not fully answer, and that the people should be remunerated whether the scows and culvert fail or succeed.

Mr. McLean, Member for Cornwall, considers that the former road should be restored by bridges as the only effectual means of affording full relief to memorialists who have very strong claims for relief. Your Committee are of opinion that it was the duty of the Commissioners to hasten to compensate the proprietors of property in Mille Roches, whose claim to relief is well established.

On a reference to the Canal Act there appears to be ample powers conferred on them for that purpose.

Your Committee respectfully submit for the consideration of the House a resolution framed in accordance with the views they entertain, as stated in this report. D.A. McDonell, Chairman.

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**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LOST VILLAGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON MONDAY, MAY 19, 2003, CHRIST CHURCH HALL, LONG SAULT. CALL RITA CANOUGH AT 537-2388 TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE DINNER.**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CORNWALL TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2003, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE RAISIN RIVER HERITAGE CENTRE, ST. ANDREWS WEST. THEY WOULD ENJOY SEEING MEMBERS FROM THE LOST VILLAGES HISTORICAL SOCIETY ATTEND.

#### IN MEMORIAM

Richard Forrester It was with sadness that we learned of the passing of Lost Villages Historical Society member, Rick Forrester, on Saturday, April 26, 2003. Rick was a community activist, always willing to roll up his sleeves for worthy community projects. We shall never forget his energy and skill, as he restored the windows on the Sandtown Advent Christian Church. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to his wife, Dorothy, and his children: Richard, James, Mark, Laurey, and Glenn; and his fourteen grandchildren.

Leitha Casselman Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family of Mrs. Leitha Casselman, who passed away on Tuesday, April 22, 2003, at the age of 95 years. Leitha Casselman and her daughter, Betty Neville, were the donors of the Sandtown Advent Christian Church to the Lost Villages Historical Society. Sympathy is extended to Ron and Betty Neville; Mary Smart; and Joan and George Rutley; and her seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Danny Stewart A friend to many, we mourn the passing of Danny Stewart, on Thursday, April 24, 2003, at the age of 45 years. Danny was the son of John and Shirley (Wells) Stewart, Home Hardware, Ingleside. The Stewart family has been long-time supporter of the Lost Villages Historical Society. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.