



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 10

October 2014

2014: A Year of Anniversaries

Several milestones have been reached this year. We can celebrate our county's 150th birthday with pride, but we also need to mark with some solemnity the passing of a century since the beginning of the First World War. The County of Lennox and Addington's sesquicentennial can give us an opportunity to examine how we have governed ourselves, who made a difference and what we have achieved in the past century and a half. Our townships were plunged into the thick of the Great War in 1914 and our citizens readily participated, both on the home front and on the battlefield. This issue focuses on the contributions the residents of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh have made locally, nationally, and internationally in the past 150 years.

Our Society

Members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society are your neighbours, your friends, your family. We are new to the area or have lived here all our lives. Some of us are descendants of the Loyalists who settled the shores of the Bay of Quinte. We all share a desire to deepen our knowledge of the history of our local community and to share our passion with others.

Our Executive

President:	Angela Cronk
Vice President:	John Gordon
Secretary:	Kathy Staples
Treasurer:	Stan MacMillan
Webmaster:	Susan Wright
Sales Director:	Peter Cameron
Cemeteries Director:	Tom Talbot
Communications Director:	Jane Lovell

Our Meetings

The Society meets every fourth Wednesday in the month at the South Fredericksburgh Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. All welcome!!

Our Website

<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/>

Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, including *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, please contact one of the following-

- Angela Cronk, President (373-8888) angelacronk@gmail.com
- Jane Lovell, Newsletter Editor (373-0199) jane.lovell@kos.net

A Glimpse of the Past



AFHS photo

A successful hunting party. 1934

Do you have an interesting photo of people, places or events that show things as they were in the past? Let us feature it here!

The Neighbourhood Messenger is an electronic newsletter distributed exclusively to members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

As the receipt of our newsletter is one of the major benefits of Society membership, we ask that you NOT forward the newsletter to friends or relatives. Instead, we suggest that you encourage anyone you think might be interested in receiving a copy of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* to join our Society. A lifetime membership costs \$5, and in addition to ensured e-mail delivery of the newsletter, Society membership entitles those interested in our local heritage to be kept informed of, and participate in, all aspects of Society activities.

Anyone can become a member by sending a cheque for \$5 made payable to the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, c/o Kathy Staples, 1105 - 828 Sutton Mills Court, Kingston, K7P 2S9.

If you are not currently an AFHS member please consider becoming one!

Events Calendar	
June 4 – November 30	Marine Museum of the Great Lakes at Kingston Kingston War Ships 1812 - 1814
October 29	AFHS Annual Heritage Harvest Dinner South Fredericksburgh Hall Displays from 5:30 p.m., Roast Beef Diner 6:30 p.m. Followed by "Heritage: Where do we go from here" presented by Dennis Mills
November 8	Macpherson House Bread Making Workshop: Learn this heritage skill in a pioneer kitchen using a brick oven 10-4 p.m.
November 18	Lennox & Addington County Museum & Archives The War Time Letters of Leslie and Cecil Frost 1915- 1919 with guest speaker and author Rae Fleming 7 p.m.
November 8	Macpherson House Bread Making Workshop: Learn this heritage skill in a pioneer kitchen using a brick oven 10-4 p.m.
December 8	Ameliasburgh Historical Museum Christmas in the Village 1-4 p.m.

1917

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Napanee Beaver
June 15, 1917

Feature Event: AFHS Annual Harvest Heritage Dinner

This summer we witnessed enormous effort and expenditure poured into the celebrations marking the County of Lennox and Addington's Sesquicentennial. A hugely successful evening concert featuring local and national talent was the highlight of a weekend that also saw the re-opening of the newly renovated and expanded Museum and Archives. The County and the Town of Greater Napanee showed commitment to the celebration of our past through spotlighting the birth of our county. In expanding and improving the usability of the Museum and Archives, they have also ensured that the old County Gaol continues to perform a relevant and useful function now and well into the future.

Governmental support of heritage is not new. We only need to look back to Canada's Centennial, when national, provincial and local governments provided grants and programs to communities and organizations. Not all funds made available were for throwing parties. Indeed, Adolphustown applied for grants to refurbish the Town Hall. As the Hall was still being heated by a wood stove at the time, an

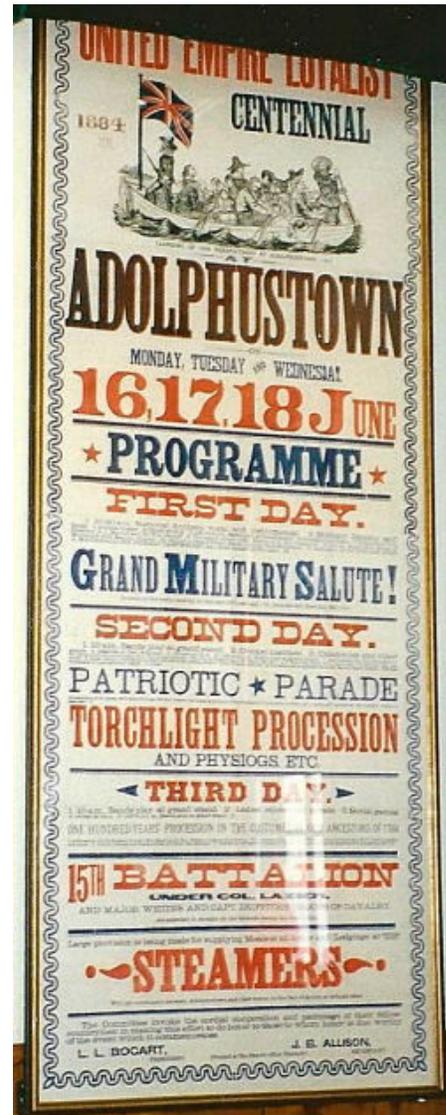
oil-fired furnace was high on the list of upgrades, as were new windows, a door, and hardwood flooring. To secure provincial funding, the town Council needed to show that the Town Hall was worthy of renovation in order to preserve it as an historic building. The 1965 council minutes read: "that the Clerk write the Department of Municipal Affairs, giving all the information regarding the age and historical nature of the Town Hall". The submission for funding was successful and in 1967 the council authorized "the spending of \$1,527 on the Interior of the Municipal Hall, Adolphustown, Under the Centennial Grants Program." "Provincial and Dominion Governments have offered to pay equal amounts along with the Municipality toward the repairing and restoring of the interior of the Municipal Hall." The council then passed a motion to "advertise for tenders in *The Beaver* for an oil fired forced air furnace to be installed in the Township Hall, Adolphustown".

The Ontario government was active in promoting the bicentennial of the province in 1984, encouraging communities across the province to celebrate the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists two centuries earlier. Adolphustown's extensive bicentennial celebrations were largely financed through fundraising activities of the township's citizens. The volunteer Centennial Committee, commissioned by the Adolphustown Town Council, provided leadership in the fundraising endeavors, and also sought financial support through provincial grants. For her efforts as Chair of the Committee, Kathy Staples was awarded an Ontario Bicentennial Medal. The Province of Ontario was also keen to celebrate its centennial in 1884, although it is unclear what roles the province and the municipality had in financing the three days of parades and bands, etc. that made up the celebrations in Adolphustown in June of that year.

Moving to the present, we see the hand of the province and the municipality in the issuing of awards recognizing people and organizations instrumental in preserving and promoting local heritage. Most recently, the Town of Greater Napanee issued Heritage Awards to the St. Alban's History Committee for their work in restoring the memorial tiles in St. Alban's Church, and posthumously to Reverend Bill Lamb for his decades of commitment to researching and acquiring artifacts for Old Hay Bay Church. Over the last three years residents of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh have been the recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award: Kathy Staples in 2012, Susan Wright in 2013, and Jane Foster in 2014. To have three citizens of our community earn such a prestigious award, three time in a row, from within a field of candidates from across Ontario, is a remarkable achievement.

Government support through financial assistance or through the granting of awards allows us to celebrate, preserve, and promote our history. This focus on the past, whether by the restoring or re-purposing of historic buildings, or by highlighting the history of our neighbourhood, instills a sense of civic pride but can also bring economic benefits to our communities today, and into the future.

Fellow AFHS member Dennis Mills is the Chair of the Greater Napanee Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee and will be our guest speaker at the Society's annual Heritage Harvest Dinner on Wednesday October 29th. In his presentation entitled "*Heritage: Where Do We Go From Here*", Dennis will draw on his decades of involvement in heritage organizations to illustrate the importance of heritage to us today and the how partnerships with government bodies can take advantage of local heritage to benefit our community in the future. **Please join us in this vital conversation!**



AFHS Photo
This original poster for the 1884 centennial celebrations returned to Adolphustown in 1984

Politics in our Blood

Jane Lovell

The citizens of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh have long had an active interest in politics. This is hardly surprising considering that the townships were settled by United Empire Loyalists. These early pioneers had fled the American colonies in the aftermath of the American Revolution, often leaving comfortable lives behind and abandoning established farms and businesses – all for their political beliefs. Those early citizens of British North America were quick to step up to serve in local, regional and national governments.

Municipal Politics: Up Close and Personal

The Constitutional Act of 1791 established the province of Upper Canada, and within a year the new Parliament of Upper Canada introduced a bill to define municipal governments. The bill sanctioned the convening of town meetings at which town officers could be elected or appointed. Adolphustown was quick to act and in 1792 assembled its first Town Council, consisting of a Town Clerk, 2 Constables, 2 Overseers of the Poor, 3 Pound Masters, and 2 Fence Viewers. The next year's Council expanded to include 4 Overseers of the Highway, 2 Assessors, 2 Town Wardens and a third Fence Viewer. The office of Overseer of the Poor endured only for 1792 and 1793. 1795 saw Overseers of the Highway and Fence Viewers amalgamated to 5 positions, but the meeting minutes for 1796 list Path Masters and Fence Viewers separately.

The offices of those early councils may sound odd to many of us today, but they were essential to the smooth administration of the nascent township. Pound Masters and Fence Viewers were heavily interrelated and addressed the fact that in those early years fences were few and rudimentary and livestock often escaped the bounds of their owners' property. The Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Adolphustown Council dealt almost exclusively with the management of livestock and property:

Dimentions of Hogs Yoaks, 18 inches by 24. Height of Fence, 4 ft. 8 in. Water voted to be no fence. No pigs to run till three months old. No stallion to run. Any person putting fire to any bush or stubble that does not his endeavor to hinder it from doing damage, shall forfeit the sum of Forty Shillings.

A half-century later free-ranging livestock continued to be a problem:

1843: That Hogs shall hereafter be Yoked, and either rung in the nose with wire or the gristle at the end of the nose cut $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

1846: Ordered that all cattle whatsoever, except Milch Cows and young Cattle under 2 years old, be prohibited from running at large from the 1st day of May to the 15th of November, it being understood ... that every kind of cattle is prohibited the rest of the year.

1849: Ordered, That everything is prohibited from running at large.

Pound Keepers were required to apprehend errant animals and feed them until they were redeemed by their owners. Those acting as Pound Keepers were also required to notify appraisers in order to assess damages caused by the animals running free across the countryside. The Adolphustown Council Minutes for 1837 show that Pound Keepers were to be allowed two pence per head for feeding swine and awarded two shillings six-pence for assigning damages to appraisers. Those appraisers were to receive two shillings six-pence for each successful suit for damages.

Path Masters were tasked with managing weeds and in 1799 eleven men were appointed to "subdue the growth of the thistles". Any landowner "remiss or negligent in stopping the growth of thistles on their premises" would be fined forty shillings. However, if the Path Master determined that the thistle problem exceed the ability of the landowner to manage it himself, the Path Master could order owners of neighboring properties to assist in the removal of the offending weeds.

Apart from ensuring that fences were sufficiently high and in an acceptable state of repair, the Fenceviewers were primarily involved in dispute resolution between neighbours. The Fenceviewer

settled disagreements over the location of fences and which party was responsible for the building or repair of a fence.

Other offices making up the Adolphustown Town Council in the early years included the position of Surety (1797 to 1834). This person ensured that residents sanctioned by the council performed their assigned undertakings, such as appearing in court, paying debts or fines, or following the conditions of bail.

St. Paul's Church was built in Adolphustown in 1822, and for the next 13 years two Church Wardens joined the two Town Wardens on Council. It was when the church obtained the status of Rectory and the accompanying self-supporting status in 1835 that the office of Church Warden was dropped from the roll of town officials.

By 1849 the composition of the Adolphustown Town Council remained little changed from when it was first formed. A century later the council had become a much more formal entity, but still retained many of the offices of the early councils. As with all townships within the County of Lennox and Addington the elected officials consisted of a Reeve and four Councilors. This elected body then appointed citizens to an array of positions, each receiving some annual remuneration for work done in performing duties of that office. In 1948 the Adolphustown Town Council consisted of a Reeve and 4 Councilors, each paid \$2.50 per monthly meeting, and the following officials:

- Clerk @ \$85
- Treasurer @ \$90
- Collector @ \$55
- 2 Auditors @\$25
- Assesor @ \$35
- Poundkeepers: 2 each for concessions 1,3,5, one each for concessions 2 & 4
- Fenceviewers: 3 each for concessions 1, 2, 3 and 3 covering concessions 4 & 5, @\$2 when fence award completed
- Stock Valuators: 2 covering concessions 1,2,3, and 1 covering concessions 4 & 5
- Weed Inspector @ \$10



AFHS Photo

Adolphustown Town Council 1964

Front Row - Gordon Mack (Reeve), Lyle Smith, Don Reynolds

Back Row - A.C. Davis (Clerk), Walter Shelley, Gilbert Brooks (Road Supt.), Jack Roblin

It is unclear when Stock Valuators first appeared on the roll of township officers but by 1948 these residents were responsible for determining the level of compensation owed farmers for the loss of livestock due to predation or other causes. The Stock Valuator was required to inspect the dead animal to determine how it had been killed. He would need to know the market value for an animal of that age and condition and then submit a compensation request to Council. In contrast to Adolphustown and South Fredericksburgh which had from 3 to 10 Stock Valuators in the 1950s and 1960s, North Fredericksburgh had only one Cattle, Sheep and Poultry Valuator who, in 1962, was paid \$5 per day (without mileage) for investigating livestock losses. As the most common losses were sheep and calves being killed or mauled by dogs, it is interesting to note that in 1962 the North Fredericksburgh Town Council decided against engaging a dogcatcher for the township.

By 1967 the Adolphustown audit was done by external auditors and the following officers had been added:

- Warble Fly Inspectors: 1 for concessions 1, 2 & 3 and another for concessions 4 & 5
 - The Warble Fly Inspector was paid for 48 hours at \$1.25 per hour and 117 miles at 8 cents per mile for total of \$69.36 that year.
- Building Inspector
- Tile Drain Inspector

By the end of the 1960s Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh all had Welfare Officers and Road Superintendents, adding to the ballooning roll of officers. In 1962 North Fredericksburgh boasted 60 appointments made by the five elected officials, including 28 Poundkeepers and 28 Fenceviewers.



AFHS Photo

South Fredericksburgh Council 1964

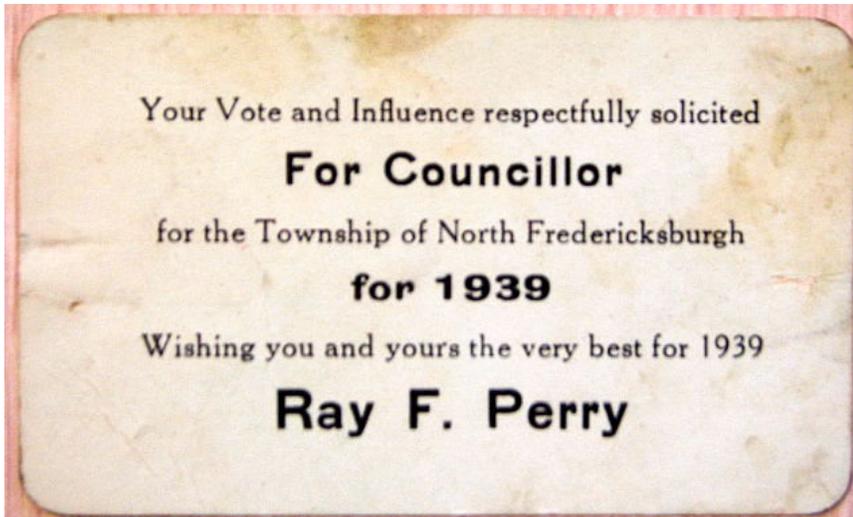
Walter Platt, Robert Dickson, Donald McCracken, Harold Creighton (Reeve), Grant Huyck

Amalgamation: A Controversial Move

Amalgamation in 1998 saw Adolphustown and North and South Fredericksburgh join Richmond and the Town of Napanee to form the municipality of the Town of Greater Napanee. The number of elected officials then fell from five per township to a Mayor and Deputy Mayor and one councilor from each of five wards. Only South Fredericksburgh remained intact within a single ward (Ward 1). South and North Adolphustown were split between Wards 1 and 2, respectively, while North Fredericksburgh found itself split between Wards 1, 2 and 5. The bulk of municipal offices of the absorbed townships fell under the jurisdiction of the new Town of Greater Napanee municipal organization. It is unclear whether Poundkeepers were employed by the townships at the time of amalgamation; certainly no such position now exists within the Town of Greater Napanee. However, the appointment of Livestock Valuers and Fenceviewers continues today.

There are obvious savings to be had by combining, reducing, or eliminating elected and appointed positions within the newly amalgamated municipality. Those savings were of benefit to the taxpayer, but also represented a loss of income for those people formerly employed by the old township governments. A major loss of income was also experienced by *The Napanee Beaver* which held the contract for printing all of the minutes, voters lists and election paraphernalia issued or used annually by the townships.

Many see amalgamation as an overall loss to the residents of former townships of Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh. Certainly community involvement in local government has diminished profoundly. This is especially noticeable when looking through meeting minutes from early councils and those from the 1940s '50s and '60s. Many families are represented year after year, often holding different offices, and often for long periods of time. Even the act of voting was a bigger event in the past, with yearly council elections involving multiple polls. Homeowners were paid (from \$3.50 in 1948 to \$10 in the 1960s) to "rent" their house out as a polling place, each officiated over by a paid Deputy Returning Officer and a Poll Clerk. In addition to the annual council elections, there were periodic referenda. Interestingly, as late as 1962 the North Fredericksburgh Council declined a petition by the Napanee Golf and County



AFHS Photo

Club for a liquor license, based on the result of a vote put to the township's electors. Of the questions appearing on the referendum, two of the five asked the township residents if they were in favour of granting licenses a) to premises that allowed women, or b) to establishments that were restricted to men only. In the same year the residents of North Fredericksburgh were asked in a special vote whether they were in favour of public games and sports on the Lord's Day.

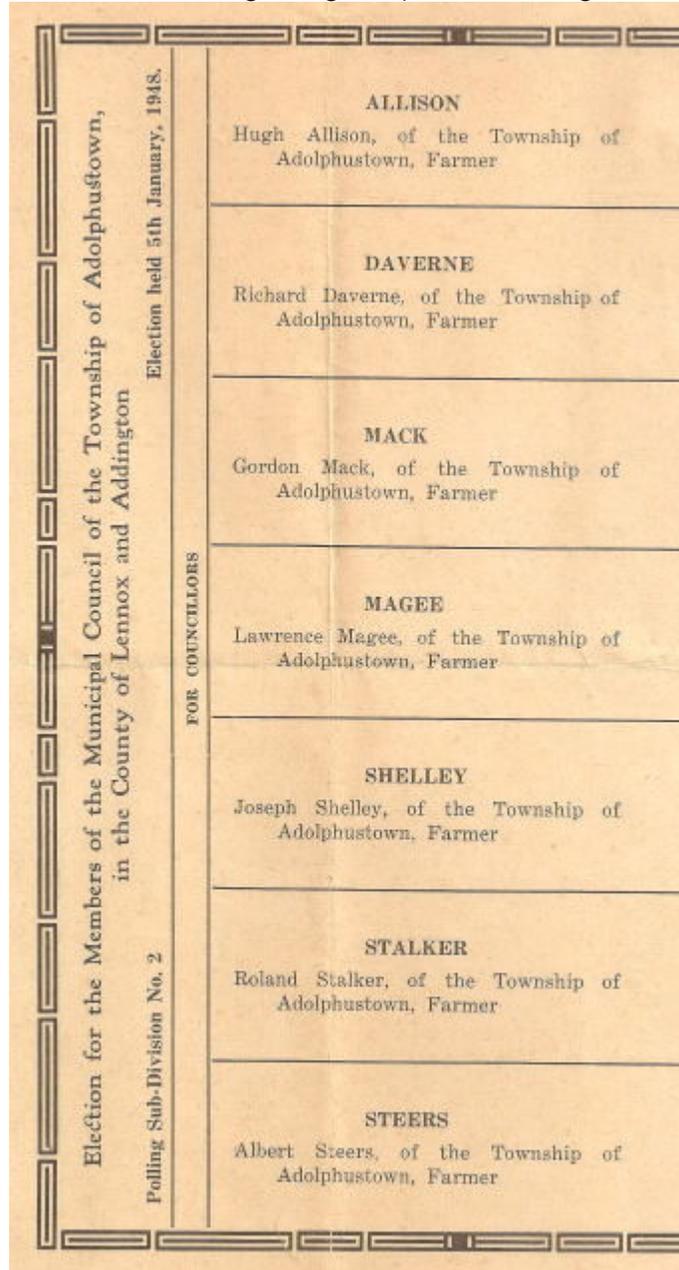
Many things have changed with amalgamation; some for the better. In Adolphustown, the office of Overseers of the Poor endured for only the first two councils of 1792 and 1793, but surely indicated the community's concern for the plight of the poor and underprivileged. Formal Relief and Welfare Officers appear on the council roll as early as 1941 in South Fredericksburgh. No such position was on the Adolphustown council at that time but many a motion was made by all of the township councils to extend relief to the poor, and on at least one occasion to recommend the intervention of the Children's Aid Society. Annual outlay for relief represented a significant portion of the yearly township expenses and covered such things as reimbursing shop keepers and suppliers for food, clothing, rent, fuel, dental and medical assistance. In addition, the township distributed monthly welfare cheques and paid for the internment of indigents. While the support appears laudable, it was very public. The recipients for the most part would be required to petition the council for assistance, and the amount and nature of the assistance was recorded as motions and expenditures in the meeting minutes, a public document. In some cases the expenditures were listed explicitly, noting not only the name of the benefactor, but also detailing the nature of the expense, such as an ax handle, milk or insulin. Not until the late 1960s was the name of the recipient replaced with "resident". While we may be aware of the poor or disadvantaged amongst us today, we are no longer party to the details of whatever assistance they may be receiving. Amalgamation introduced an arms-length relationship between social assistance and the public, shielding the less fortunate from the scrutiny of the community.

It may surprise some to learn that there was talk of amalgamation between Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh as early as 1966. In February of that year South Fredericksburgh moved "that this Council request the Christian Neighborhood to open discussion on the possibility of joining South Fredericksburgh and South Adolphustown townships into one municipality." When not contemplating the outright amalgamation of the two townships, there was discussion of merging school boards. From 1967: "this Adolphustown Council is in favor of joining with South Fredericksburgh for school purposes as long as Adolphustown Public School remains open." For many services, however, there was much "sharing" of equipment, whereby one township would compensate the other for the use of snow plows or graders.

A particularly interesting relationship between Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh was established for managing the disposal of garbage. It is unclear when municipal garbage collection began in each of the townships, but by 1961 Adolphustown was incurring expenses for a dump. In April 1963 a special council meeting was called to consider a resident complaint about the condition of the Township Dump. The council resolved "that the Township Dump at Jonathan Allen's cove be closed as of May 1st, 1963. Anyone found depositing garbage and refuse after the said Dump is cleared up will be prosecuted to the amount of \$50." In April of that year a company from Kingston was hired to clear the old dump and to maintain the new one. A proposal was made to establish the new dump in a field

north of Hwy 33, where a hole would be dug to receive the refuse. Annual rent for the Allen dump was \$50 and was to be the same for the new dump. The hole in the field proposal did not pan out, and in June it was proposed that "W. J. Donnan be employed to gather the garbage in South Adolphustown and supply a place to dump it and keep it covered at a rate of \$1,000 per year for 1 year subject to the approval of the County Health Inspector." That year the Kingston company engaged to manage the dump was tasked to deal with rodents at "the Bay Shore Road dump". Others were hired to cover the dump over. Two years later the council advertised for tenders for garbage disposal once again, this time awarding the contract to Henry Carroll for \$1,200, with Monday pickups, for one year starting June 1, 1965. Each house holder paid a tax surcharge of \$5 for this service. The management and funding of garbage collection and disposal of garbage was addressed once again in the Adolphustown Council Minutes from 1967:

- "The Municipal Council of Adolphustown deem it necessary to rent a suitable garbage dump for the dumping of garbage gathered from the ratepayers of South Adolphustown," " that the old quarry located on Floyd Allens's farm on lot 31 Con. 2 be rented from the said Floyd Allen at a sum of \$200 per year. Access to the garbage dump to be permitted at all times of the year and the Township to be responsible to keep the garbage covered and also to keep the road leading to the dump maintained for the garbage collector."
- Collection was to be made weekly in June, July and August, bi-weekly in April, May, September, October, November, and monthly in January, February, March, and December
- "Appoint Carson Brooks as garbage collector for 1967 and 1968 at a salary of \$1,100 per annum."
- "A levy of \$5.00 shall be imposed on each house and cottage holder living South of Hay Bay for the collection of garbage. Also a levy of \$2.50 shall be imposed on each house and cottage holder living North of Hay Bay for the privilege of using a garbage dump located on Leonard Fitchett's farm in North Fredericksburgh."
- "send a letter to each ratepayer in North Adolphustown explaining dump privileges in North Fredericksburgh."



AFHS Photo

The North Fredericksburgh dump to be used by North Adolphustown residents had been established five years before. From the North Fredericksburgh Council Minutes for 1962: A committee was appointed "to purchase two acres of land, more or less, from Mr. Leonard Fitchett, part lot 10, Concession 2, at a price of \$300, to be used as a Township dumping ground."

Certainly there has been plenty of discussion over the past few years about waste disposal for the Town of Greater Napanee, but whatever solution we arrive at will undoubtedly be more environmentally friendly than the minimally controlled or governed dumping practices prior to amalgamation.

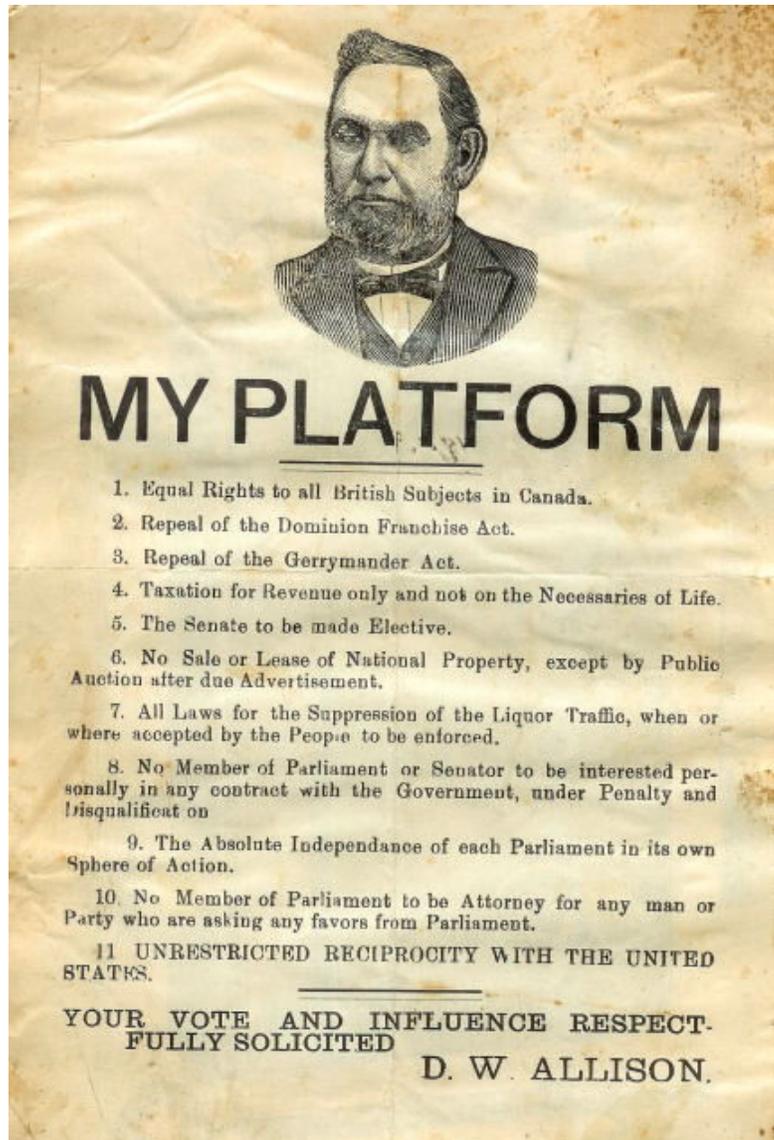
A quick note on County politics: Most simply put, "elected" officials making up the Lennox and Addington County Council are Reeves, Deputy Reeves and Councilors from the constituent townships (13 pre-amalgamation, and 4 now). A Warden is selected annually by the Council members from amongst their ranks. We should be proud to know that in the century following the separation of the County of Lennox and Addington from Frontinac County in 1864, 22 men from Adolphustown or Fredericksburgh have been selected from candidates representing 13 townships to serve as Warden.

Politics off the Home Patch

Participation in municipal politics prior to amalgamation was huge. We can also be proud of the civic duty of our citizens within government bodies with larger jurisdictions.

Things got off to a controversial start in 1792 with the 1st Parliament of Upper Canada when the member elected for Prince Edward and Adolphus Township, Philip Dorland, refused the Oath of Office because he was a Quaker. In June of the following year Peter Van Alstine took his place. The seat was won by a resident from Prince Edward for the 2nd Parliament, but when the ridings were re-structured for the 3rd Parliament, it was Timothy Thompson of South Fredericksburgh who took the new seat for Lennox and Addington. (Thompson had served as member for Lennox in the 2nd Parliament.) For the next 4 Parliaments (1809 – 1820) Thompson, Thomas Dorland, John Roblin, and Willet Casey shared the seat. Over the next two decades, no citizen from Adolphustown or Fredericksburgh was represented in the 9th to the 13th Parliament of Upper Canada. However, when the "Province of Canada" was established in 1841, consisting of "Canada East" (Quebec) and "Canada West" (Ontario), local residents were again elected to Parliament. Benjamin Seymour of Fredericksburgh sat as a Tory in the 2nd Parliament of the Province of Canada, and as a Conservative in the 3rd and 4th Parliaments. David Roblin then took the seat for the Reformers for the next two Parliaments, ending the run of local men to hold the seat in the Parliament of the Province of Canada.

With Confederation came the 1st Parliament of Canada in 1867. No local man was elected to the first 4 Parliaments, but when a seat was finally secured for the 5th Parliament it was with considerable



AFHS Photo

1887 or 1891

Fire! Fire!

Jane Lovell

The Dorland Fire Station was opened in the July 2008. The importance the fire hall was to play within the community was underlined in the ribbon cutting ceremony at which Peggy Allison did the honours. As the oldest citizen in Adolphustown it was fitting that she open the new facility, one that marked the beginning volunteer fire fighting in Adolphustown, thereby finally freeing our community from its long-time reliance on other municipalities for fire fighting. Previously, with no fire halls anywhere in our townships, we were dependant on pumpers and crews out of Bath and Napanee. Dealing with fighting fires has been addressed by township councils over the years. The following are excerpts from Township Meeting Minutes:

- **Adolphustown 1952:** “that Arthur Bartlett be paid \$10 for two night’s work watching township property during the fire which destroyed Fred Gallager’s Store.”
- **North Fredericksburgh, 1962:** Expenses: Town of Napanee, re fire fighting (Les Richardson’s property, December 1961, pumper, one hour \$75.00; and five firemen, one hour each at \$1.50 per hour)\$85.50
 - Total of 3 fires with the year: \$435
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1966:** Expenses: Bath Fire Department (5 fires) \$1125; Bath Fire Department, standby fee \$500
- **Adolphustown 1967:** “that this council are in favor of signing and agreement with the Bath Fire Department for protection to that portion of the Township which is south of Hay Bay.”
- **Adolphustown 1967:** “that any ratepayer who has a fire and calls the Bath Fire Department be required to pay \$85 and the Township the balance.”

Then and Now

Jane Lovell



Photo courtesy of Graham Robertson
1973

property until 1973 when they severed a waterfront lot from the farm to build a retirement home, and sold the farm. The last of the property passed out of the hands of the Robertson family when the waterfront lot was sold in 1993.

Lot 10 Concession 3 of South Fredericksburgh was granted by the Crown to Niclolas Peterson in 1802. The property passed through seven owners over the next 102 years. The 1904 purchase of the lot by George Herbert Rikely marked the beginning of the Rikelys' tenure on the farm, lasting more than 40 years. With the transfer of title to Henry (Harry) Humphrey Robertson in 1946 under the Veterans' Land Act, the longest ownership of the property by a single family began. The Robertsons farmed the



2014



Photo Courtesy of Graham Robertson

Shortly after the Robertsons moved to the farm, they set about modernising the house. By the fall of 1948 the updates to the kitchen were complete. Graham Robertson submitted the photo, above, likely taken in 1953. He recalls many of the details of the "new" kitchen. The dark red "Battleship Linoleum" was installed over the plank flooring. The lath and plaster walls and ceiling were replaced with "Gyproc" and painted with a white oil base enamel paint. The cook-stove was a McLary, the clock was a General Electric, red in colour, while the refrigerator was likely a Kelvinator. The drawer open at the bottom left-hand side of the photo was used for storing flour. Above it was one used for sugar. The drawers were built in under a red-coloured arborite counter top. The cupboards were the latest, built on site out of plywood, with chrome hardware, and painted the same colour as the walls. A brand new red and chrome dinette set replaced an old wooden table. The wooden table remains in the possession of Graham Robertson.

"History" is a Greek word which means, literally, just "investigation."

Arnold Coynbee

Clippings

The following are excerpts from Township Council Minutes.

- **Adolphustown 1824:** Ordered that the 2nd Concession do perform 25 days Statute Labor on the New Road in the Concession 1, 3 Concession do 50 days, and the 4 Concession do 15 days; and is further ordered that the above labor be performed in the month of May. Agreed that all the young men in each concession do work 2 days each, except James McGunion, none; John Clegg, 1 day; Alias Carnihan, 1 day. The Second Concession to work on the bridge on the south side of Battle Hill; 3 Concession to work to the cross roads of 2 Concession.
- **Adolphustown, 1948:** “that J. Roblin be authorized to open the front road enough to allow cars out in case of big storms also to have the old horse plow left at James Bird’s for use there.”
- **Adolphustown, 1948:** “that this Council recommends the operation of continuous service of a ferry in order that Highway No. 33 may be open for traffic at all times, between Adolphustown and Glenora.”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1951:** “that due to the entirely inadequate telephone service rendered by the Adolphustown Rural Telephone System, owned and operated by Mrs. Josephine Ballentyne, this Council goes on record that, in the view of health, fire, artificial insemination and general community welfare, that all support be given to the petition committee which has been appointed, and that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1952:** “that this Council take the necessary steps towards the establishment of a Municipal Telephone System”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1953:** “that the claims ... for broken springs on the Hay Bay Road be investigated and a committee appointed to get legal advice before taking any action.”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1953:** “that” councilor “be paid \$2, for legal advice form J. E. Madden re broken springs.”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1953:** “that owing to the unsafe condition of the floor the Township Hall will be closed to dances until further notice.”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1953:** “that no trailer shall be used for living or sleeping or eating accommodation of a person or persons within this municipality for more than sixty days in any period of ten consecutive months.”
- **North Fredericksburgh, 1962:** “prohibit the use of any land in the municipality of North Fredericksburgh for car wrecking yard purposes, and those now operating wrecking yards be instructed to dispose of same.”
- **Adolphustown, 1963:** “council are not in favour of restricting lands or lots for summer cottage purposes
- **Adolphustown, 1965:** Expenses: Grass cutting at Quaker Cemetery \$7.50; 2 men to brush in cemetery in Staples lane \$6.25 each
- **Adolphustown, 1965:** “that this Council pledge a \$30.00 donation to the Christian Neighbourhood Paper to be used for the purchase of a duplicating machine.”
- **South Fredericksburgh, 1966:** “that this Council give Even Brooks permission to sell the former school lot (Parma)”

The Great War Comes to South Fredericksburgh

Jane Lovell

This year marks a century since the beginning of the First World War. In recognition of that long ago event, one which so profoundly impacted the residents of our neighbourhood, an expanded version of an article entitled "The Unwin Brothers of Conway", originally appearing in our recently released publication *Voices*, is reproduced here.

SIGNALLER CAPTURED AT LANGEMARCK

Will Unwin Was Sent to Establish a Telephone in an Advance Trench.

SENT COMRADE BACK

After Retirement He Was Missing—Is Now Probably in Germany.

Writing to his mother, Mrs. W. Unwin, of Bath, Ontario, Sergeant V. W. Unwin, a signaller of the 2nd Battalion, confirms the news that his brother William, who was also a signaller, is missing. The first news of this was published in *The Star* in a letter from Signaller Warner.



Sgt. Will Unwin.

"I suppose you got the news over there by now of the brilliant stand that the Canadians made at Langemarck last week. Well, mother, I am sorry to have to tell you that Brother Will is missing. Now, you must not jump to the conclusion that he is killed, because I don't think it is as bad as that, but it is a week now since the engagement, and as he has not turned up, he is undoubtedly a prisoner in the hands of the Germans. I will tell you how he was captured, and you will see that if anyone did his duty on that day, it was Will.

"I had to send out four men to establish telephones in the trenches that we had taken in the early morning, and as it was a risky business, I called for volunteers. Of course, Will was the first to volunteer. They established telephone communication in the trenches mentioned all right. Then, after a time, we got orders to send a wire over to an advanced trench, to the right of the one where Will and his three signallers had established the phones. They had to traverse about a thousand yards of open country, so Will took another signaller with him and started off. They had not gone very far before the Germans opened out on the two of them with machine guns, so Will sent his signaller back, and went on alone. He got there all right, and put in the phone, and worked steadily all day, but towards night an order was sent through to the company in the trench where Will was, to retire. They did retire, and Will was with them all right, but the Germans had worked round on both sides of them, and only about half the company got back to our lines. So we have come to the conclusion that Will was cut off and taken prisoner.

Brother Laurie is safe and well, and both he and I came through the recent engagement without a scratch, but I guess the Canadian Division has suffered heavy losses; losses that will put the whole of the Dominion in mourning; but there is one thing, we have won fame, and made a name for ourselves and Canada, that will not soon be forgotten."

Brother Laurie is safe and well, and both he and I came through the recent engagement without a scratch, but I guess the Canadian Division has suffered heavy losses; losses that will put the whole of the Dominion in mourning; but there is one thing, we have won fame, and made a name for ourselves and Canada, that will not soon be forgotten."

Who Saw Pte. Unwin?



Pte. W. D. Unwin. him.

Pte. W. D. Unwin, signaller in the 2nd Battalion, 7th Canadian Division, has been missing since St. Julien, and his mother, Mrs. Wm Unwin, of Bath, Ont., is anxious to get word of

Sergeant Valentine Unwin's letter from the front in Belgium to his mother in Conway, printed in the *Toronto Star* in May 1915, paints a vivid picture of a story that played out all across the battlefields of the early years of the Great War. In his letter, Valentine expresses his hope that his brother William did not perish on his return from his successful installation of advance telephones, but rather was taken prisoner by the advancing German Army. Sadly this was not the case, although the precise circumstances of William's death remain unknown. His body was never recovered, but it is possible William was one of the first casualties of the German use of poison gas, a weapon which saw its inaugural use during the engagement at Langemarck.

Mrs. Unwin's hope that her son remained alive is poignantly evident in the clipping of almost a year later in which William's mother sought news of her son. William's wartime records show his Cause of Death as "Died in War, unknown cause". His name is inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial at Ypres.

Toronto Star

May 31, 1915 (above)

March 28, 1916 (lower right)

Valentine had re-enlisted. The end of the war arrived before he could be re-deployed to the front.

Laurence followed William and Valentine in enlisting by only a week, but such was the flurry of enlistment activity at the time that he was unaware that his brothers were also present amongst the initial convoy of Canadian troops to Britain. Laurence had obviously reunited with his brothers at the front by the time of William's death in April 1915. The end of the conflict found Laurence with a rank of Major. He was awarded the Military Cross for "distinguished and meritorious services in battle".

Within weeks of learning that William had been reported missing, the eldest Unwin brother Harry signed up, and after training in Canada and in Britain found himself in France by February 1916. By the time the Canadian forces participated in its inaugural engagement at the Somme in September of that year, Harry had advanced through the ranks to become Lieutenant. While the Canadians were successful in achieving their objective, it cost Harry his life. His wartime records show his Cause of Death as "Died of Wounds". His is buried in the military cemetery at Albert, France.

The outbreak of hostilities found Frederick Unwin serving in the British Indian Army. He participated in the Mesopotamian campaign from November 1914 until he was wounded during the British defeat at Ctesiphon a year later. Eventually evacuated to Bombay to recover from his wounds, he was spared the surrender of his division to the Ottoman forces, and the subsequent imprisonment of the British soldiers.

The last of the six brothers to serve came of military age at the end of 1917. Victor quit the farm in Conway in early 1918 to join the Royal Air Force where he began training as a mechanic at Camp Rathburn near Deseronto. He secured a discharge to assist his father in the harvest of 1918 and then re-enlisted in Toronto, only to have the Armistice declared a few weeks later.

The loss of two sons to the war was a devastating blow to the Unwin family. But the war years were not completely devoid of reason to rejoice. Two of the boys met and married their brides abroad. Frederick was wed in July 1915 in India, and Valentine married in England a month later. Valentine's wife remained in the UK while her husband was at the front, but returned with Valentine to Toronto when he retired from service in 1917.

The Great War may have been the death knell for the Unwin's farm in Conway. With many of their sons engaged in careers off the farm, the 1920 census finds William Sr. working as a laborer and living with his wife Melony and with their two youngest children in the home of their son Victor in Toronto.

Help Us Identify This:

We have no photographs we need help with for this issue.

Feedback from May's Help Us Identify This:

No feedback was received to identify the school, the teacher or the children in this rare photo of the interior of a one-room schoolhouse.

Do you have an old photo for which you cannot identify the people, the place, or the occasion? Let us scan it and we can feature in an up coming issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger*. One of our readers might know something that you don't!



AFHS News

Jane Lovell

The AFHS erected a display/book booth at both the Port of Bath Marine Heritage Festival in early June, and at the Napanee Waterfront Festival the following weekend. Disappointingly, the Bath festival was very lightly attended and not worthy of a return visit. In contrast, the inaugural Napanee Waterfront Festival had a healthy number of participants and folk in attendance. Considerable interest was expressed in our displays and we were generally well received.



Napanee Waterfront Festival



Peter Cameron & Jane Lovell

Cemeteries were the focus of many AFHS activities over the rest of the summer. Late May saw Susan Wright leading a tour of cemeteries in the vicinity of Hay Bay. We visited Big Creek, Ebenezer, Sillsville, Rombough, Rikely, Loyst, Diamond, Fischer, Quaker, and Trumpour cemeteries.



**Kathy Staples, Glenna Cuthbert, Tom Talbot, Susan Wright, Angela Cronk, Alan Hamilton
Big Creek Cemetery**

In mid June a small group spent a morning bush-whacking at Carscallen Cemetery. The jungle that greeted us on our arrival was daunting and quite frankly dispiriting. However, by the end of the day the grape-vine had been removed from the fence enclosing the central Carscallen monument, and much brush and many fallen limbs and toppled trees had been removed from some of the verges of the cemetery. The Town was contacted and several parks and facilities managers toured the cemetery



**Alan & Audrey Ann Hamilton, Tom Talbot
and John Gordon bush-whacking at
Carscallen Cemetery**



with a couple of our members in order to discuss what could be done by the Town to maintain the gains we had made. It was agreed that under the Town's current fiscal and staffing constraints, clearing of the portions of the cemetery where there are no headstones could not be done. However, some minimal additional clearing and other work was doable over the summer.

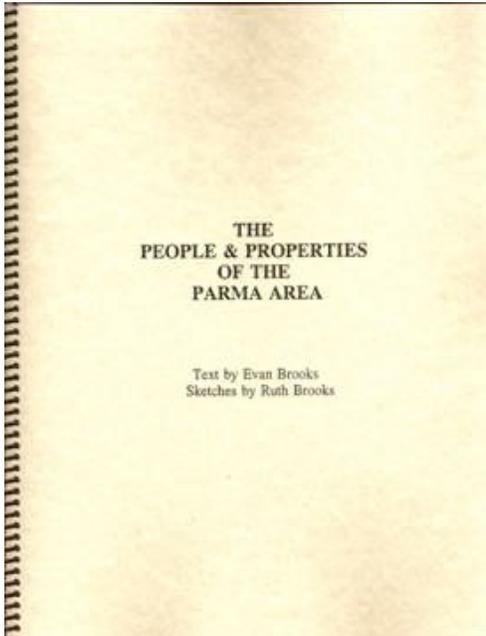
A second day was spent witching at Old Hay Bay Church in order to plot the graves we found when we first witched in and around the church in September of 2013.



**Lyle Smith and Susan Wright
at Old Hay Bay Church**



From the Book Shelf



The People & Properties of the Parma Area

Evan Brooks, illustrated by Ruth Brooks

The Parma district is the westerly portion of the 2nd Concession of the Township of South Fredericksburgh. Evan Brooks, with the aid of an old Atlas and the assistance of family and friends, recorded the names and activities of the families and properties of the Parma Area. The detailed publication gives property location by road and lot number and also includes children and marriage information of lot owners where available. Ruth Brooks, a well-known local artist contributed delightful pen and ink sketches of rural scenes.

The Society periodically publishes books reflecting our local history. Our catalogue now contains thirteen titles. (See our website (<http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/Books.htm>) for a full list, along with a brief description of each book.)

Haying Tools

A good tool helps a whole lot. When you need a good Fork with a properly balanced handle and best procurable material see those offered by

BOYLE & SON

Napanee Beaver
July 20, 1917

A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



May's Curious Thing

Match holders, also known as matchsafes or vesta cases, date to the mid-19th century, when friction matches were first introduced. While a boon to cigar-puffing fat cats and homemakers alike, early friction matches, which were also called vestas and Lucifers, almost did their job too well, sometimes bursting into flame in a user's pocket. Matchsafes keep these hair-trigger fire sticks from rubbing together and combusting prematurely. The golden age of matchsafes was around 1870 until the 1930s, when matchbooks and cigarette lighters obviated the need for most match holders.

What is this?



Submitted by Angela Cronk

Please contact angelacronk@gmail.com if you recognise this item. Tell us what it is called, what it is used for, during what era it was used, and anything else you can tell us about it.

Do you have some weird thing hanging around your home or barn? Take a photo of it and send it in – we can feature it here in a future issue.

From the Attic

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. Just about any old photograph would be of interest: photos of people, homes, farms, schools, churches, or community or family events. Even if you do not know the people or places in the photos, maybe someone else in the community does. Old publications relating to township businesses, schools and churches often contain fascinating details of life in their era.

Some items we are currently looking for:

OLD PHOTOS or Real Photo POSTCARDS:

- The Adolphustown Town Hall
- The South Fredericksburgh Town Hall at Sillsville
- The U.E.L. Cheese Factory, Adolphustown
- St. Paul's Church, Main Street Adolphustown
- The Old Store at Adolphustown
- The Old Hotel at Adolphustown
- Conway Store
- Conway Wharf
- Phippen Cheese Factory
- Fredericksburgh Train Station
- McDowall Presbyterian Church
- Camp Le Nid
- Glen Island

Other Correspondence:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Letters from political figures such as Sir W. Laurier, Diefenbaker, etc.
- Correspondence from someone serving overseas during either WWI or WWII

BOOKLET:

- Constitution and Roll of Officers and Members of Camp Le Nid, 1902

If you are looking for any specific photos or documents, let us know and we will add it to our "Attic" list. **Newly added items will be highlighted in blue!**

Contribute to *The Neighbourhood Messenger*

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* several times a year. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, a story to tell, or an event to publicize, let us know. Submissions for the next issue can be sent to jane.lovell@kos.net.

Contributors to this issue:

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All uncredited photographs supplied by Jane Lovell