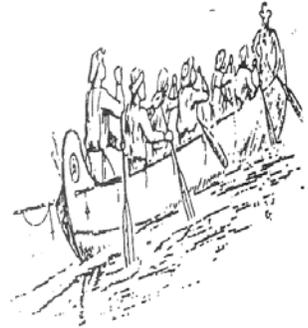

GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, February 3, 2005
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Alexandria United Church-on-the-Hill
Topic: **Annual General Meeting & Potluck Dinner**



Welcome to our 2005 Season !

I trust that you all had a very happy Holiday Season, ate too much, put on a few pounds, and are ready and willing to come to our **Annual General Meeting** and eat even more! The meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 3, 2005** at the **Alexandria United Church-on-the Hill**. Please remember, as in the past, that the pot-luck begins at **6:30 p.m.** rather than our usual starting time. The operative word here is '**pot-luck**' so don't forget to bring a dish.

Our agenda this year includes:

- A moment of silence for those members who have died during the year
- The Financial Report
- Reports from our two museums: where they have been and where they are going
- Plans for the upcoming year
- Any new and/or other business
- Nominating local representatives

• Election of the 2005 Executive

If there is any other business you would like to see added to the agenda, please contact me before February 3 at 525-1011 or by email at rosemary.oflaherty@sympatico.ca.

2004 in Review

Our first meeting last year was a round table with **Velma Franklin, Ken McKenna** and **Gwen Morris** discussing the Irish in Glengarry. They kept us entertained with their tales and provided some food for thought on minority groups within our very Scots county.

In April, **Sister Kathryn Cameron, CSC**, represented the Sisters of Holy Cross from St. Margaret's Convent. Sister Kathryn, a well known local musician and teacher spoke on the history of the Sisters in Glengarry which dates back to 1856 and their considerable contribution since then to local education and family life.

Hugh P. MacMillan and his cousin, **Susan MacMillan Kains** spoke at the May meeting of their struggle to repatriate documents pertaining to Glengarry from the U.S. They subsequently donated the documents to the National Archives and informed Canadian author Charlotte Gray of their existence. Ms. Gray put them to good use in her biography, Flint & Feather: The Life and Times of E. Pauline Johnson, Tekahionwake.

As always, June is picnic month and this year, **Father McDougald** of St. Raphael's parish graciously hosted the event. **David Anderson** and **Bernie MacCulloch** chronicled the historical significance of the ruins. "**The Friends of the Ruins of St Raphaels**" held a gala event last summer marking the two hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Reverend Alexander Macdonell and the tenth anniversary of the founding of this very worthwhile citizen group. In addition, we heard from Angus (Hughie Rory) MacDonald and Duncan A.A. Macdonell who regaled us with snippets about growing up in St. Raphaels.

Although the GHS does not meet in July, there was a local event worthy of historical note. On July 21, 2004, the **Sir John Johnson House** celebrated the unveiling of the historical interpretive plaques which, in conjunction with **Parks Canada**, were installed on the premises. Congratulations to all who worked on this project which compliments these lovely, historic grounds.

I am happy to report that we experienced a considerable increase in attendees in September, October, and November, clocking-in at over 60 members present in September and October and **over 70** in November! Small wonder, as we had a slate of venerables indeed.

Velma Franklin had us in stitches in September as she led us through the vagaries

of an outsider who moved to Glengarry and became an insider *par excellence*. In October, we heard from a usually quiet and unobtrusive quarter, the Dutch in Glengarry. In true Van Der Byl style, **Michelle Van Der Byl** touched many chords of memory for her audience as she recounted anecdotes of the Van Der Byls growing up in Lochiel. Our grand finale in November was the incomparable **Len Fourney** who, as Provost Marshall at the end of World War II was responsible for all Canadian Provost personnel in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. Len was named Officer in Charge of the Firing Squad for the planned execution of German General **Kurt Meyer**. In fact, at one point, Meyer was handcuffed to Len (and **NOT** the other way around as Len was quick to observe).

I know that everyone at the GHS joins me in thanking **Velma** (twice), **Ken**, **Gwen**, **Sister Kathryn**, **Hugh P.**, **Susan**, **Father McDougald**, **David**, **Bernie**, the **Sir John Johnson House**, **Michelle**, and **Len** for their contribution to the history of Glengarry.

Special thanks are in order to **Joan P. MacDonald** who welcomed us to the **Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum** for our November meeting. **Onagh Ross** kindly donated three books at that meeting for auction which netted the GHS some \$60.00. Thanks, **Onagh**.

Litigious Women?

Historian and author, **Royce MacGillivray**, with whom you are all familiar due to his prolific work on Glengarry, has provided us with a treat this month; a review of a recently published book that touches upon Glengarry history. Royce writes ...

"Members of the historical society may be interested in a highly entertaining

volume by the legal scholars Constance and Nancy L. Backhouse, The Heiress vs the Establishment: Mrs. Campbell's Campaign for Legal Justice. Published in 2004 by the University of British Columbia Press on behalf of the Osgoode Society for Canadian Legal History, it recounts the 14-year long struggle in the law courts of **Mrs. Elizabeth Bethune Campbell** (1880-1956), of Toronto, to retrieve as much as she could of a family fortune she believed had been embezzled by the trustee of her widowed mother's estate.

In 1930, Mrs Campbell, although she had no formal legal training, acted as her own lawyer and boldly argued her case in person before the privy Council court in London, probably the first woman ever to argue a case before this court. To the surprise of everyone -- except perhaps herself -- she won. As it turned out, the money she sought evaded her in the end, but her brilliant courtroom exploit was applauded by the newspapers of Britain, the United States, and Canada.

There are several Glengarry connections. Mrs. Campbell's father, **James Bethune**, born in Charlottenburgh Township, was one of the leading Canadian lawyers of his time. The claim that he was the grandson of the celebrated pioneer minister, the **Rev. John Bethune**, is unlikely to be true, though there was probably a family connection. Mrs. Campbell's sister, Annie Bethune McDougald, was married to Alexander William McDougald, an ingenious man who at one time operated the grist mill in Alexandria. He published a very good history of Glengarry in numerous installments in the Glengarry News, while his wife had some note as a poet.

Elsewhere in the family, there was a McDougald connection with the **Argus and Hollinger** corporations. Quite remarkably, the Bethune family believed that at one stage the young **Mackenzie King** and the future Mrs. Campbell were preparing to marry. If so, she

would have ended up as the wife of Glengarry's MP, as well as being wife of a Prime Minister. But in that event, of course, she would likely have missed the chance to be a celebrated litigant."

Thanks for the review, Royce. We are always so very glad to hear from you.

A Word from our Museums

GLENGARRY PIONEER MUSEUM: A YEAR OF GROWTH

Under the leadership of our new Administrator, Rosemary O'Flaherty, 2004 was a year of growth—growth in the number of visitors, memberships, volunteers, donations, and heritage buildings now on site. The total number of registered visitors surpassed last year's record of 1515 by at least 175 persons. Wow! Thanks to good organization and very favourable weather our two major fund raising events, the annual Book Sale and the Fall Festival, surpassed the previous year's revenues by close to 50%.

We started our 43rd year with the careful deconstruction of two heritage buildings given to the Museum: a century log barn donated from the property of the **Stewart family** by **Ian Stewart**, and a one-and-a-half-story log building, deeded to us by the Township, that once housed the **Orange Lodge** and, later, **the Women's Institute** in Dunvegan. With the help of four participants from the Katimavik program both buildings were moved to the Museum site last summer. Helped by a generous donation from **Ian Stewart**, the **Stewart Barn** was reconstructed and dedicated in a ceremony in October. Our fingers are crossed that we will be successful with a Trillium Fund request that will enable us to reconstruct the Lodge Hall in Spring 2005. When completed it will become our first-ever, year-round administration building and reception center on-site.

In addition to our permanent exhibits there was a successful needlepoint display and demonstration and a winter sleigh exhibit in the new Stewart barn. The level of activity at the Museum – major events, special exhibits as well as daily welcoming of visitors – is possible only with the generosity of our pool of at least 80 volunteers, a steering committee of 28, and the valuable assistance of our summer student, **Lindsey Howes**.

The **Glengarry Pioneer Museum** will continue to grow into one of the most significant heritage tourism sites in the region. In addition to our annual Book Sale scheduled for the second weekend in July, and the annual Harvest Festival, scheduled for the last weekend in September, key events planned for the 2005 season include:

- Glengarry Community Art Show running from Opening Day, May 21, 2005 through to Sunday, May 29, 2005.
- A Pioneer Food Festival scheduled for Sunday, June 5, 2005.
- A “Silver Céilidh” on August 14 celebrating our senior citizens and “the way we were” in Glengarry
- On August 28, the Museum will also host “Glengarry Glows: A Festival of Lights.”

We hope to once again sponsor the Highland Society’s **Feis Glengarry** on September 24th and, at a yet to be determined date, we will have the official opening of the Lodge, once it is reconstructed.

**Susan Joiner &
Bill Bradford,**
Co-chairs, Glengarry Pioneer Museum

See You on February 3rd Rosemary O.

THE NOR’WESTERS AND LOYALIST MUSEUM: FROM ONE SUCCESSFUL SEASON TO THE NEXT

The Board at the **Nor’westers and Loyalist Museum** wishes everyone the very best in 2005. We are planning our **Annual General Meeting** for **Monday, February 28, 2005** at **10.00 a.m.** at the **Museum** and would welcome anyone who wishes to attend.

Already things are shaping up for the summer program and we are anxious to complete the agenda so that it can be circulated. Watch for your next **GHS Newsletter** for full details on our 2005 season. We have also recently obtained some interesting artifacts, but more of that later. As a wonderful start to our 2005 season, we would like to congratulate **Dr. Hugh P. MacMillan** on the recent publication of his book, **Adventures of a Paper Sleuth**. Well done, Hugh!

Joan P. MacDonald

**Chair & Curator,
Nor’westers and Loyalist Museum**

The Notice Board

Janet Ritchey of Burnaby B.C. has been in touch with GHS member **Jean McLennan** looking for mutual ancestors. Both Jean and Janet share great-grandmother, **Margery Grant**, who was married to one **Murdoch Robertson**. It is this Robertson connection that Janet is researching. Apparently Robertson & Grant attended the Baptist Church in Breadalbane and Janet and Jean discovered their graves, through the good offices of **Harold MacMillan** in the MacLaughlin Cemetery on Highway 34 on the way into Vankleek Hill. (My apologies if I spelled MacLaughlin incorrectly). If you have any information about the Robertsons, could you let Jean McLennan know?