



GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

50

TH

ANNIVERSARY

GLENGARRY PIONEER MUSEUM

Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

It's that time of year again! Only, this year is special for the Historical Society and the Pioneer Museum - Both have been in existence for **50** years. Something special to celebrate and be proud of. So get out those recipe books - you can try out those recipes you wouldn't dare at home..... It's time for the Annual Potluck Dinner. Business will be kept to a minimum, enjoyment will be kept at a maximum. Bring a friend - as a bonus, each new member gets to meet either Dane Lanken or David Anderson, free of charge. Seriously, our membership contains a wealth of interesting and knowledgeable people. This is a chance to have a chat with many of them, while enjoying a taste of the efforts of Glengarry's finest cooks. See you there - February 2, 6pm, Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria.



POTLUCK DINNER

Annual Potluck Supper

- Date: February 2, 6PM**
- Speakers: Anyone, and Everyone - It's the Potluck Supper !!**
- Place: Church on the Hill, Alexandria**

Glengarry Life

For many of its 50 years the Historical Society has collected together records, anecdotes and history of Glengarry to be published in an annual volume called 'Glengarry Life'. Some of the contents of the first issue are reprinted in this newsletter

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Help Save a Tree

We encourage the use of electronic mail to help us control costs. Please submit your email address if you are comfortable with this format. You will also be able to enjoy the newsletter in full colour rather than just B&W.



The History of the Society (From 'Glengarry Life', 1961-62)

The Glengarry Historical Society was organized by a small group of local citizens and residents of the county in the fall of 1959. They were inspired and motivated by one idea - to preserve and maintain for posterity some of the relics and some record of the customs and ways of life of their Scottish pioneer ancestors who settled this county one hundred and seventy-five years ago. Faced with the ever-quickening pace of modern progress, the demolition of old buildings, the widening of the old roads, and the fact that the county's fine antiques were steadily disappearing into far-distant collections - these people wished to preserve some of Glengarry's remaining treasures in order that they might form a tangible and concrete link with the past, so that the present generation, and those yet to come, might know and appreciate how much they owe to their pioneer forefathers.

The actual organization began with a committee appointed at a Folk School held at Donald Fraser's in 1958, under the chairmanship of Mr. Hugh MacMillan and Mr. Campbell Fraser. With the guidance of this committee the Society itself was formed in the following year. The first president was Mr. Hugh P. MacMillan of Alexandria, the Vice-President Mr. Campbell Fraser, the Secretary Mrs. W. A. MacKinnon, and the Treasurer Mrs. D. J. MacCrimmon.

The Society began by gathering information and instruction for its own benefit and for the benefit of others. It wished to define and make clear its background, and use the information as a guide to future plans. Many interesting talks have been given by persons with historical knowledge. Among the first of these was given by Professor Charles Dunn, of New York University. He spoke in the summer of 1960 while he was doing research in this district on the customs and traditions of the area's early Gaelic speaking settlers. In September of 1960 Miss Marion MacRae of the Ontario College of Art gave a lecture on "The Architecture of the Old Eastern District", illustrated with her own beautiful slides. At the next meeting, Mr. John Matheson of Brockville gave a general history of Glengarry, Mr. R. J. Fraser of Ottawa, a former Dominion hydrographer, outlined the contribution of the Scots to the exploration and development of northern Canada, and the far west. Miss Ruth Home, from the Toronto College of Art, and a director of the Jordan Museum of the Twenty described the setting up of a museum, and how to make a success of it as a community service. Mr. James Gooding of the Ontario Department of Travel and Publicity gave much useful information on the establishment of the museum also. Miss Louella Dunlop of Williamstown, and Mr. Mack Alguire of Cornwall gave an interesting talk on the literature of this district, pointing out how fortunate it is that many distinguished authors have written fine prose and verse about Glengarry and its people.

On the more practical side of the ledger considerable efforts have gone into fundraising. A fall dance accompanied by an

old-time fiddlers' contest has been held every year. The Society also maintains a booth at the annual Maxville Highland Games. Here are displayed examples of fine antiques of particular interest to this Scottish county, works by local artists and writers, and various other items of historical interest. Booklets and maps issued by the Society are also sold here.

It was early realized that a permanent museum building was essential - a place where the Scottish relics that were already being acquired might be suitably and safely displayed. More funds were necessary and in the fall of 1961 a canvass of interested residents of Glengarry was carried out by the directors of each particular district, and hundreds of former Glengarrians were contacted by mail. The President's hope that small sums might be contributed by great numbers of people, rather than large sums by a few, was most encouragingly realized. The Society is also very grateful for the funds donated by various interested groups in the county, and for the continual support and publicity given by Mr. Eugene MacDonald, editor of "The Glengarry News". Much volunteer labour has gone into the restoration of the museum building, and the work would not be nearly so far advanced except for the untiring efforts of the curator, Miss Christena Ferguson. The number and quality of the articles donated to the museum has been most gratifying, and it is earnestly hoped that still more interested citizens will be moved to contribute items of historical value, so that the collections already begun may be rounded out and completed.

Volunteer Opportunity

Yes, it's the chance of a lifetime to exercise your creative talents by volunteering to be the next editor of the GHS newsletter! The current editors will not be able to continue in this role as of next summer. All you need is a little familiarity with your choice of computer word processing program, some e-mail expertise, and an ability to shamelessly snaffle images from the internet, and you're a potential editor. The current editors offer startup support for a newcomer. You are free to change the format, and all production costs are covered by the GHS.



Step right up !!

Contact the current newsletter editors at :
newsletter@glengarryhistoricalsociety.co for more information.

What's Happening ??

Stay up to date with coming events of the GHS, the Glengarry Pioneer Museum and the Nor'Westers and Loyalist Museum by regularly checking the GHS website Museums/Events section. www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com/GHS/Events.html

50th Anniversary

Pioneer Ball & Dinner

February 25, 2012
Glengarry Sports Palace

featuring
Ashley MacLeod and Paddy Kelly & The Fourmen
Period, Scottish or Semi-Formal Attire
Cocktails – 6 PM ... Filet Mignon Dinner† – 7 PM



Dinner & dance only
\$50
per person

Tickets available from...
Home Hardware – Maxville (cash only)
MacDonald's Cleaners – Alexandria (cash only)
www.GlengarryPioneerMuseum.ca (credit cards)

† Vegetarian meal available. Call 613-527-5230.



Come join us for some mid-winter fun at a Pioneer Ball & Dinner to celebrate the beginning of the 50th anniversary year of the Glengarry Pioneer Museum.

The event will take place on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Glengarry Sports Palace, Alexandria (transformed into a pioneer setting). Cocktails & appetizers are at 6 pm, followed by a sit-down filet mignon dinner at 7 pm. There will be dancing (including some old fashioned country dancing mixers) to live music provided by Ashley MacLeod & Paddy Kelly and The Fourmen. Dress is 19th century period costume, Scottish attire or semi-formal.

There will be a silent auction of heritage items and works by local artisans. The raffle prizes include: a weekend trip for two; lunch at the House of Commons with Pierre Lemieux, MP and attendance at Question Period; two Senators' tickets; and other prizes.

Tickets are \$50.00 each, and are available from:

- MacDonald Cleaners, Alexandria and Home Hardware, Maxville (cash only)
- Glengarry Pioneer Museum website (www.glengarrypionermuseum.ca) for credit card purchases.

As part of the organizing committee, I also have tickets. If you think you would like to join us for what promises to be a great evening (or make up your own table), please contact me at (613-525-2483) or flipflockton@hotmail.com.

Flip Flockton

Do you have heritage items tucked away in your attic, basement or barn? If you do, would you be prepared to donate a "treasure" to the silent auction at the GPM's Pioneer Ball. Blair Williams would be delighted to hear from you at: telephone, 613-525-2886, or by email, blairandjean@hotmail.com.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Minutes of the General Meeting of November 3, 2011, Held at the Church-on-the-Hill, Alexandria

At Alexandria's Church on the Hill, the society's president, Allan Macdonell, opens the meeting and asks the secretary, Richard Bleile to present the minutes of the previous (October) meeting. Minutes are presented along with a motion for acceptance. William MacMillan seconds. Passed.

Allan Macdonell informs the GHS audience that due to the need for time to prepare and coordinate the required financial reports, the Annual General Meeting time will be repositioned to later months such as in April or May.

President Macdonell draws attention to the 50th Anniversary of the Society and a celebration event of a "Gala Ball".

Dane Lancken speaks about the plaque unveiling at Quigley's and the Munroe/McIntosh commemoration which will occur on Main Street across from the High School at noon on November 14. Basil McCormick is saluted for his extensive contributions in the organizing work at Quigley's.

David Anderson's report on behalf of the Nor'Westers & Loyalists museum only reiterates the points made by Gay Hamilton regarding the successful and satisfying year despite the unforeseeable challenges.

Bill Gilsdorf rings with the tone of the Pioneer Museum. There are the Julia Danskin old time dance lessons to be enjoyed nearby. Lead on directly to the Heritage Ball in the late winter. And.....in the meantime there is a pointer to the Commemorative Booklet effort which, despite having attained some fairly substantial funding like the \$2000.00 contribution from Enbridge, still needs to find more supportive funding. Mr. Gilsdorf tells that the barn raising for the pavilion went well. He adds that the museum had a successful "haunted Halloween walk" which will be repeated next year.

Robert Gale tells of the November 11th "fly by" featuring two F-18 Hornets at 11:08 am.

Grant Cameron makes his way to the front to introduce one of the respected farmers in the region, Gordon Ferguson, who along with his wife, Elizabeth, will be sharing their experiences in exploring an uncle's ventures as a soldier in the First World War.

With Gordon Ferguson narrating and Elizabeth reading parts of a number of letters, the story of John Albert Ferguson (1895-1917) is revealed. John enlisted as soon as possible with the Fifth Canadian Mounted Rifles. During the harrowing journey past the deadly German U-Boats the soldiers had to sleep on deck with lifejackets. By 1916 letters were telling about being in the "hell on earth" trenches in France. On April 24, 1917 John Ferguson was buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery in France where can also be found the graves of 349 Canadian soldiers.



In thanking the Fergusons, Thelma McCaskill commends them for preserving these letters.

Robert Gale moves adjournment.

Richard Bleile (recording secretary)



I WANT YOU TO PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES IN FEBRUARY
The Historical Society relies on your continued support to achieve its goals.

Proposed Change to By-Laws

The Executive of the GHS unanimously supported a motion put forward at the latest Meeting of the Executive by Vice-President, Robin Flockton. The motion reads:

In accordance with GHS By-laws, 12(c), it is proposed that the February 2012 meeting of GHS be designated a Special General Meeting for the purpose of presenting the proposed By-law change.

The reason for designating the February meeting as a 'Special General Meeting' is to hold a membership vote (as required by the By-laws) on a motion to amend the existing By-law defining the timing of the Annual General Meeting. It is moved :

In accordance with the GHS By-laws, 12(a), it is proposed that the Annual Meeting of the Glengarry Historical Society be moved from the month of February (Section 5(a)) to the month of May.

Currently the different accounting practices of the two museums, and the Historical Society creates problems when trying to present a consolidated budget statement at the Annual General Meeting. By changing the date of the Annual General Meeting, sufficient time is allowed to prepare the necessary budget statement.

Please consider this, and be prepared to vote at the February meeting.



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