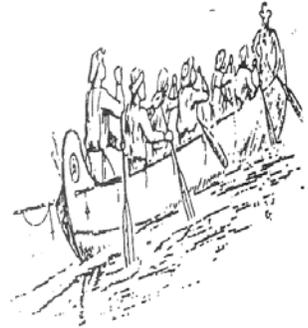

GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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NEXT MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2005
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Place: Alexandria United Church-on-the-Hill
Topic: **Le Pacte Rural: Saint-Télesphore & Dalhousie**



Le Pacte Rural

Exciting things are happening these days along Côte-Saint-Georges in the parish of Saint-Télesphore/Dalhousie. Plans are well underway to revitalize the area as a recreational tourist attraction involving a broad cross section of the population: the municipality, in particular Saint-Télesphore **Mayor Claude Cyr**, community business leaders, the children, parents and staff of the one room school house and the public, not to mention GHS members **Edith and Don McCrimmon** and the **McNaughtan Clan**, among others.

So as Bugs Bunny used to say, “What’s up, Doc?” The Committee for the Revitalization of the area seeks to develop local heritage sites that have languished from lack of attention. It has established comprehensive goals to accentuate the beauty of the local landscape. The plan will roll out in phases, the first of which was the

restoration of the historic Côte-Saint-Georges Presbyterian Church and the neighbouring cemetery subsidized by a grant from Le Pacte Rural, a joint municipal and Quebec provincial government program.

The second phase of the plan, now underway encompasses structural repairs and cosmetic improvements to the water tower, located along side of the CPR tracks in Dalhousie. The regional municipality of Saint-Télesphore assumed responsibility for the tower in the 1960s and is now in the process of acquiring the land adjacent to the tower which includes an underground reservoir with a capacity of 100,000 gallons fed by an infrastructure of underground streams. This reservoir will also fulfill the more pragmatic role of servicing the local fire department.

In making improvements to the water tower, the first priority is of course structural integrity. The field stone base of the tower needs to be recemented while the wooden

upper part wants repairing and repainting. The roof requires extensive repairs and a new

Valorisation de la tour d'eau de Dalhousie" in Première Édition by Madeleine Desmarais).

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The Water Tower at Dalhousie
Source: Première Édition

door and window are definitely on the agenda. The Committee will employ specialized artisans for the work with appropriate materials to maintain its period authenticity. This phase of the project will cost somewhere in the range of \$15,000.

The old CPR station at Dalhousie showing the Water Tower in the distance. Source: Première Édition

The second phase of Le Pact Rural will provide for a picnic area with a complementary field stone terrace and a pedestrian trail with benches and picnic tables constructed to augment and highlight the rustic ambience of the tower. To soften the noise of passing locomotives, the Committee will plant trees along the fence of the CPR right-of-way. This phase should weigh in at about \$12,500.

Cyr, The "Seer"

Claude is indeed a "seer," a visionary whose philosophy of life has served him well; "respect yourself and those around you, first of all, like what you do and then do what you do both right and well. Be honest, offer a valid service to the public." Claude began life in the city of Trois-Rivières, QC, relocating to Montreal in 1967 to study accounting at l'école des Hautes Etudes Commerciales. He must have been one of the school's brightest stars for his future career lay as Treasurer and VP, Finance with such prestigious corporations as Monsanto and Nortel. He was the first Director of Finance at Tetraultmont, as well as serving stints at both Union Carbide and Gulf Oil.

The third phase of the restoration plan will enhance the 1998 repairs to the one room school house which was built in 1884 at the cross roads of Côte-Saint-Georges and Route 325.

As part of the master plan, an additional \$25,000 will be spent to improve radio telecommunications in the region, once again, for the benefit of the Fire Department. Another \$2,500 will be spent to computerize the municipal library. As journalist Madeleine Desmarais put it, these regional improvements witness to the dynamism of the recently elected municipal council of Saint-Télesphore/Dalhousie, not the least of which is **Mayor Claude Cyr**, our speaker on **Thursday, March 3, 2005**. (Source: "Pacte rural:

His heart, however, remained on the farm of his childhood on the outskirts of Trois-Rivières and, in 1977, he decided to relocate outside of Montreal, close enough to commute into the city to work but far enough removed to satisfy his hunger for the rural life.

His first experiment was in the Laurentians but when he saw an add in the *Journal de Montréal* for an 80 acre farm in

Saint-Télesphore, his interest was piqued by the small town atmosphere. He headed out to “Saint-T.” one Saturday afternoon, bought the farm on the spot and the rest, as they say, is history.

Eventually he bought the property adjoining Côte-Saint-Georges Presbyterian Church which he converted back into a farm in 1990. Those red farm buildings you can see from the road belong to Claude.

Today, Claude still commutes into Montreal and works as a mentor for young entrepreneurs, developing their business plans and finding them financial backing. In the past several years, Claude has developed 5 to 6 of these entrepreneurial companies, each today a multi-million dollar enterprise. He has suppliers and buyers all over the world as well as close to home. One of his more recent projects was developing a film for the Heart Institute in Ottawa to the tune of close to \$300,000.

Closer to home, Claude has been a whirling dervish that landed on the municipal scene in November 2003. In addition to the recreation redevelopment project, Claude participated in the refurbishing of the Round Church in Dalhousie Mills, had an outdoor ice rink built in Saint-Télesphore complete with electric lights, boards, and a sound system. It appears that he is a wonderful negotiator currently working on a \$1 million dollar project to enlarge and repair the roads around Dalhousie as well as contracting with the CPR to buy the land that the water tower and proposed recreational area presently occupy.

If you think I’ve given you a lot of information here about the restoration project and Mr. Cyr, believe me, I haven’t even scratched the surface. I couldn’t write fast enough to record all the information Mr. Cyr provided. The man is a veritable dynamo and I’m sure Saint-Télesphore/Dalhousie will benefit enormously from his administration.

Memorial Monument to Loyalist Lieutenant Jeremiah French

Mark your calendars for the gala events of Saturday and Sunday, June 18 and 19 in Williamstown. A new memorial monument to Loyalist Lieutenant **Jeremiah French** will be unveiled on Sunday, June 19 as part of a Loyalist Heritage Day Weekend. French was the first member of the Ontario Legislature for Stormont from 1792 to 1796.

On **Saturday, June 18**, the recreated King’s Royal Regiment of New York will parade its old regimental colours through Williamstown to the **Nor’wester and Loyalist Museum** where they will be retired. Following the retirement ceremony the “Royal Yorkers” will parade back to the **Sir John Johnson Manor House National Historic Site** where they will perform an eighteenth century military drill.

On **Sunday, June 19, 2005**, Loyalist Day in Ontario, **Trinity Anglican Church** in Cornwall will conduct a service at **10.00 a.m.** to honour the memory of French of the King’s Royal Regiment of New York. Descendants of the French family, as well as members of both the St. Lawrence and Sir Guy Carleton branches of the United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada will attend along with the King’s Royal Regiment of New York and members of various historical associations within SD&G. A dedication ceremony for the new French monument will follow at **2:00 p.m.** in **Maple Grove Cemetery** (Vincent Massey Drive).

For more information please contact: **Captain Michael Eamer CD UE**, St. Lawrence Branch, at 613-937-3953, e-mail eamerp@sympatico.ca or **George Anderson** of Nepean at 613-226-6348, e-mail andrew1@magma.ca. (Source: Extract from Doug Grant’s UEL Newsletter as provided by David Anderson).

The Notice Board

One of his own thistles to **J.T. Grosmith** and *The Glengarry News* for donating a subscription to our local newspaper, raffled off at our Annual General Meeting. **Many thanks, J.T.**

Speaking of *The Glengarry News*, it's Auld Lang Syne Column of February 9, 2005 carried an item of interest to the GHS, to wit,

“A reminder that sixty years ago on February 2, 1945, one **Lieutenant Leonard Fourney** of Glen Gordon was promoted to captain while serving in Holland. Sound familiar? None other than GHS member **Len Fourney**, our speaker of last November.”

Membership Renewals

Please take note folks, that in order to streamline the membership process, we have revised our modus operandi. All membership renewals will now be due on **February 1** of each year, beginning in 2006, which coincides with both our fiscal year and our Annual General Meeting.

What does this mean for this year, 2005? If your membership is due any time up to and including August 31, 2005, you are paid up to January 31, 2006. If your membership is due on and after September 1, 2005, you are paid up to and including January 31, 2007. The same dates apply to new members.

Now, no-one's to get their knickers in a twist!! If you have objections, we can work something out just so long as we get everyone renewing on February 1 each year.

The Website

We **desperately** need volunteers to work on our planned website. As announced at the AGM, GHS member **Evelyn Scullion** has agreed to head up this project. Evelyn, as many of you know, is a well-seasoned genealogist and the author of *The Frasers of Fraserfield*. Information and sign-up sheets will be available at each meeting. So, please, if you can spare a few hours here and there, do give Evelyn a hand. You can either return the sheets directly to Evelyn, to me at any meeting, or mail them to the GHS.

Our newly elected Executive

For better or for worse, for the 2005 season, we remain:

President:	Rosemary O'Flaherty
Past President:	Grant Cameron
Vice President:	Allan Macdonell
Treasurer:	William O. Gilsdorf
Secretary:	Basil McCormick
Membership:	Fred Boyko

See You on March 3rd

. . . . Rosemary O.