

---

---

# GLENGARRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

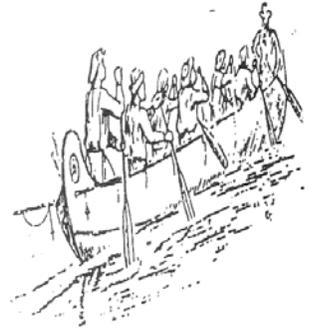
BOX 416 ALEXANDRIA ON K0C 1A0  
June 2005 Volume 35 No. 5 ISSN 0229-6705

next issue: October 2005

---

## NEXT MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, June 16, 2005  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Norman Konlup's Home (Old Dunvegan Schoolhouse)  
**Topic:** Ringing Again! The Dyer School Bell



### Ringing Again! The Dyer School Bell

June is PICNIC month. So, “🎵 pack up your sandwich in your old kit bag 🎵”, bring a lawn chair and a drink and join us at Norman Konlup's home, aka The Old Dunvegan Schoolhouse at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 16**. You will find Norman's home on County Road 30 (the Greenfield Road) just a few steps north of the Glengarry Pioneer Museum, on the right hand side of the road, across from the Kenyon Presbyterian Church. You can't miss it. It's the only one in town with a cupola and a bell. Now that's not just “a” bell but “the” bell, that is to say, the old and well-travelled Dyer School Bell and the central focus of our illustrious gathering on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Tracy Millidge** from Dalkeith will entertain us with music from her violin, accompanied by her husband on the keyboard. **Karen Campbell** has hinted she might be able to procure a piper for the occasion and, if he can make it, **Ian MacLeod** will top off the evening's entertainment.

As always, we will eat first. After all, we can't possibly expect to focus on history if our bellies are empty. Then on to the more serious aspects of the evening. We will have the unveiling of the Bell and the historical plaque commissioned by the GHS which will reside on Mr. Konlup's front lawn to direct tourists to the historical significance of the Bell.

Our speakers will be GHS Vice President, **Allan MacDonell** and Schoolhouse owner, **Norman Konlup**. Allan has spearheaded the effort to have the Bell installed in the Schoolhouse as well as making all the arrangements for the plaque ... with a little help from **Grant Cameron**. Believe me, their efforts at hanging that Bell in the Schoolhouse are worthy of a meeting in itself. Scrambling up pointed schoolhouse roofs and/or hoisting oneself up in a cherry-picker are not the activities of choice for those of us over age 29!

Norman Konlup will speak to us, not only in his new role as “keeper of the Bell,” but from his perspective as Dunvegan's current and foremost historian. Norman has

been researching the history of Dunvegan for the past few years including that of his own primary residence. We look forward to snagging Norman for a History of Dunvegan sometime next winter. (Did I really have the gall to mention that odious “w” word ???).

So do join us on **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in Dunvegan to hear Allan and Norman recount the fascinating history of this Bell that has travelled from Glengarry all the way out to beautiful British Columbia and back. The GHS thanks **Peter Delaney** and his mother for their generous return of the Bell from whence it came. If he is able to make it, Peter’s brother, **Deanne Delaney** of Montreal, will join us for the unveiling. Hopefully, the Bell has come to its final resting place, so “Ring the Bell, close the book, light the candle.”



The Dyer School Bell in the cupola of Norman Konlup’s home (The old Dunvegan Schoolhouse) Dunvegan ON, May 28, 2005

## The Blacksmith Stone

Thanks to **Wendy Wert** and her son, **Todd Rozon**, another little gem of Glengarry’s past has been preserved. As you wend your way through Lancaster Village, you may have noticed **The Blacksmith Stone** beside the entrance to **Rozon Insurance**. It rests, appropriately, in a shady nook, under the pines, a reminder of days gone by and the thriving commerce that once surrounded the carriage trade. According to Wendy,

“This stone was found well buried in the mud when the excavation to build Rozon Insurance Office commenced in 1983. The pre-existing building had been a repair garage and car dealership.

In researching the deed for Lot 1, North of Monk Street (where the stone was located), some of the owners were:

**December 1892:** George Elder who sold the lot to William Dewar while John McNaughton held the mortgage.

**June 1899:** William Dewar sold the property to William Scott who was a wheelwright.

**July 1911:** William’s son, Arthur Scott, also a wheelwright owned the property.

**1913:** The property was again sold to Don Tobin.

When speaking with Lloyd MacDonald, well into his eighties, he said that as a small boy he and his brothers would watch the blacksmiths working in the shop as they shod the horses and made rims for wagon wheels. These were the two Frappier brothers; one married with no children, the other a bachelor.

The outer edge of the Blacksmith Stone was used to make the rim of the wheel,

while the hole in the middle accommodated the wheel axle

After speaking with Lloyd MacDonald, I phoned my former father-in-law, René Rozon, who is 85 years old and lives in Williamstown. René had supervised the demolition of the old car dealership, where the forge had remained in the back of the shop and said that the stone was found at the back of the garage, just lying on the ground.”

In his booklet, “My Memories: Village of Lancaster: 1887-1987,” **Oscar Ménard** also described the double lot that eventually became Rozon Insurance, showing the close relationship between the carriage trade and the blacksmithy. Says Mr. Ménard with respect to the site of Hugh McLean’s horse cart manufacturing business:

In 1885 “the business was purchased by W.T. Scott who in turn resold it, in 1903, to McLachlan Co. who continued to manufacture carts until 1921. In 1939, the old warehouse was torn down and the lot sold to Mac’s Motor Sales who operated a car sales lot till 1984 at which point it was purchased by the present owner (1987), Lloyd Rozon.

This now takes us to the corner of Monk Street where in 1861 William Slater erected a blacksmith forge that he operated until 1879 when he sold the business to William Dewar. In 1902 the property was purchased by Mr. Bertrand and later changed hands a number of times; first to Mr Cuerrier then Mr. Poirier, and finally Raoul Frappier in 1933. The latter operated the business until 1941.

In the early forties the property again changed hands a number of times. Sold in 1941 to Theodule Aubry, it was resold in the same year to Mr. Brunet who in turn sold it to Abby McNaughton. In 1946 Charles Fitzhugh and Don MacDonald purchased the

property for a used car sales and body shop but went out of business in the same year. (This is presumably Mac’s Motor Sales?). Later the business reopened, this time under the name Town and Country Motor Sales Co. which operated until 1984 when it was finally taken over by a finance company that in turn sold it to Lloyd Rozon.

The latter demolished the building and started construction on the new insurance office that now occupies the site.”

This is just a little snippet of Glengarry history remembered and preserved by historic-minded citizens. Many thanks to **Wendy Wert** for sharing her memories and the story with us and to **Todd Rozon** who graciously allowed me to photograph the Blacksmith Stone.



The Blacksmith Stone  
Lancaster ON, May 26, 2005

**Extra! Extra!**  
**Read All About It**  
**Onagh's got the books and we're**  
**going to shout it!**

It’s the rare society, association or cause in Glengarry that has not profited from **Onagh Ross’ Book Room** (or Rooms). In the month of May alone Onagh raised \$250 for the CHEO Telethon, \$300 for Polio, and

\$300 for Mental Health. Her plan for the month of June is to raise money for ALS and MS. Perhaps now would be a good time to give something back. Onagh needs help raising a new building to house her books. If you can give her a hand in any way, please call her at 528-4488.

Onagh will be selling books at the **Apple Hill Forestry Centre on June 18<sup>th</sup>** and at the **Williamstown Fair, August 6 and 7** where she will share the proceeds of that sale with the historic **Sir John Johnson Manor House**.

***NOR'WESTERS & LOYALIST  
MUSEUM***

2005

**SUMMER PROGRAM**

**MAY-Opening -May 21<sup>st</sup> - Jul 25<sup>th</sup>**

- Opening Exhibit – Barns – designed by Linda McLaren
- Meet the artist- Jackie Meuller Jones (date to be announced )

**JUNE - 18 -Loyalist Weekend-  
Sat - June 18<sup>th</sup> - Williamstown, ON**

King's Royal Regiment Enactment Battalion  
Retiring of Company Colors- 10:00 a.m. at the museum,

KKR drills on Manor House lawn in the afternoon,

Military Ball at the Fair Grounds on Sat. night. Tickets available at MacDonald's

Grocery. Costumes optional, entertainment, Music supplied by "Antrim"

**Glengarry Celtic Music Hall of Fame  
providing music**

South Glengarry Band

Refreshments available at Ol'Bridge Café, Jack's Pub and at St Mary's Church,

- Celebrating Historic Williamstown Village

- Info: Call Museum 347-3547

**JULY- 9<sup>th</sup> - House and Garden Tour**  
**Tour of houses and gardens in the area, lunch included. Call Museum 347-3547 for tickets, going fast**

**AUGUST 5-7** Williamstown Fair –  
Photography Display  
**9-12** Children's Program –  
Register at the museum  
**24** Wine and Cheese  
Annual Fund Raiser,  
Tickets available  
**27** Exhibits – Textiles –  
Linda McLaren designer

**SEPTEMBER 9 & 10** Open Doors  
**23 - 24** Apples and Arts  
Tour & Apple Pie and Quilts  
at the museum

**October 10** Closing for the season  
**17** Bridge and Dessert Party –  
Char- Lan Arena

For information

Contact Museum at 347-3547

or

Joan P MacDonald at 347-2217

**See You on June 16<sup>th</sup>**

. . . . . **Rosemary O.**