

# Glengarry Historical Society



MAY 2012

SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 42, ISSUE 3

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT - 1961

### Receipts:

Balance on hand January 1, 1961	\$ 89.69
Membership fees	44.00
Map sales	15.85
Social functions	152.02
Fiddlers' Contest	225.00
Highland Games	26.00
Museum canvass	1605.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2168.06</b>

### Expenses:

Dunvegan hall (rent)	7.00
Postage	122.50
Printing and advertising books	174.57
Bank exchange and charges	18.42
Ruth Home (speaker)	27.50
Hollinger House (books)	36.25
Museum labour	1061.70
Museum materials	239.91
Taxes	60.09
H. Wilkins (speaker)	5.17
Mrs. J. Morrison (treadpower, etc.)	32.00
Cash on hand	17.50
Bank balance	365.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2168.06</b>



## Dedicated to Preserving the History of Glengarry

### The Annual General Meeting

It's that time of year again when the Society reports to the membership on its previous year activities, financial situation and future events and plans.

While many members are in close contact with the Society either directly or through the museums, a large part of the membership is unable to attend events or meetings due to time or distance constraints. While we would definitely welcome our members in Langbank, Scotland, it is a bit of a trek to come in for a Thursday meeting.

One of the background activities that has been taking place over the past year is the administrative issue of financial reporting. The society is a Canadian corporation, and as such must submit Form T3010-1, a Registered Charity Information Return. In the past this has been somewhat problematic in that the society and the museums managed to settle on three different ways of recording and reporting. It's a Canadian thing. However, it did make year-end reconciliation somewhat tedious. Considerable effort has gone into aligning the financial reporting thanks to Don Wood, Mac Edwards, Kent MacSweyn and Terry Sweitzer. This will make future consolidated financial reporting substantially more clear and easy to produce. Several other similar issues exist, and will

### Next Meeting

- Date: May 17, 8PM**
- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
- Place: The Church on the Hill, Alexandria**

be addressed. The By-Laws of the society have not been updated for a good number of years. A new Ontario law, Bill 65 the 'Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010', is now in effect requiring us to revisit and update our By-Laws to ensure compliance. While legal opinions posted on the internet indicate nothing in particular that requires radical change within the GHS, new rights for members, protection for Directors, and audit related issues need to be examined and introduced into our By-Laws. If we do not do this, the law will impose a default set of By-Laws.

While not particularly exciting, these kind of administrative issues need to be addressed to maintain our status as a responsible corporate citizen.

See you at the AGM !

Glengarry Historical Society

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[www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.glengarryhistoricalsociety.com)

### 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.



## Letter of Commendation

Friday, March 30, 2012  
Museum and Technology Fund 2010-11  
Glengarry Historical Society

Dear Members of the Glengarry Historical Society,

I am writing this letter to commend you and your organization on your project, "Online Accessibility to the Glengarry Historical Society Archival Collection". We are very impressed with this project for a number of reasons including:

- a. the project was well thought out, and clearly articulated;
- b. the project was innovative;
- c. the project improved accessibility to the Society's resources;
- d. the project was finished on time, and on budget;
- e. partnerships with other institutions (VanKleek Hill Museum and Nor'westers and Loyalist Museum) not only improved the final product, but also demonstrated excellent leadership on the part of the lead organization
- f. the area east of Ottawa is less well funded than many other areas of the province, but the Glengarry Historical Society has consistently shown leadership and excellent use of scarce resources in this regard.

The Glengarry Historical Society, and Jennifer Black in particular (as the curator of the Glengarry Pioneer Museum) must be congratulated on this excellent example of "best practice" for the Museums and Technology Fund. We would encourage your organization to do a presentation about the project at the Ontario Museum Association's annual conference in November 2012 as an example of an excellent use of a Museums and Technology Fund grant. Congratulation on a job well done!

Yours truly,

Elka Weinstein  
Museums and Heritage Programs Advisor  
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport

**What can we add but further congratulations to those involved!!**



### April Guest Speaker

Rosemary O'Flaherty introduced the April Guest Speaker, Sine McKenna to give her presentation on the Gaelic Language in Canada. While the use of Gaelic has declined steadily in Canada since Confederation, a new Office of Gaelic Affairs created in 2006 hopes to reverse the trend and revitalize the interest in Gaelic.

A Gaelic motto to this end:

*'S fheàrr iasg beag na bhith gun iasg idir.*

*A little fish is better than no fish at all.*

### Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering with the Glengarry Historical Society or with one of its Museums, contact us for information on available opportunities. We are always looking for dedicated individuals who wish to join in local heritage work, events and programming.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Volunteer Recognition

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Glengarry Pioneer Museum, the Chair, Karen Davison Wood noted that it was National Volunteer week, and she paid tribute to the legion of volunteers who have been instrumental in the Museum's development over the past 50 years.

From the beginning, it was volunteers who cared enough about the history and artifacts of Glengarry that they ventured out to start a Museum. It was volunteers who scoured the countryside looking for a suitable site and who persuaded Margaret Crane of Montreal to donate her grandparents home to the new Society.

As the Museum grew, it was volunteers who donated their time and skills to dismantle and rebuild the various buildings the museum acquired. Working with the various curators, it was volunteers who developed events to encourage attendance and raise money for the Museum. Volunteers have done everything from museum cleaning, unplugging toilets, fixing and repairing buildings, repairing artifacts, inventorying the collection and working on annual events. Over the years, a legion of volunteers have given of their time and talents to ensure that the Museum would be a vital custodian of the history and artifacts of Glengarry.

Davison Wood noted that as part of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the Museum Committee wished to pay recognition to Susan Joiner and Bill Gilsdorf for the many hours they have devoted to the Museum since 1998. Susan Joiner was Chair of the Museum from 2002 to 2007. She was a member of the Book Sale Committee and one of the founders of the Fall Festival. She was also editor of Timelines and the driving force behind the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book: *At the Crossroads*. Bill Gilsdorf has been actively involved in a number of the Museum's building projects in the last decade including: the Stewart Barn, the Orange Hall and the Williams Pavilion. He was also Chair of the Museum Committee from 2007-2009. Bill has also been a one man fund-raiser writing grants, soliciting banks and business for funds to support the Museum.

Special volunteer plaques were presented to Susan and Bill shown in the above picture.



### Glengarry Pioneer Museum 50th Anniversary Recognition and Gift



At the GPM annual dinner and meeting on April 15<sup>th</sup> the museum received special recognition from the township of North Glengarry and from the Glengarry Highland Lodge of Maxville.

Mayor Chris MacDonnell began the evening with greetings from the township on the occasion of the Museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He praised the Museum for its events, and its role as a guardian of the history of Glengarry. At the conclusion of his remarks, the Mayor presented a plaque commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Museum. The plaque was received by Curator, Jennifer Black.

A second presentation was made by Gord White on behalf of the Glengarry Highland Lodge in Maxville. Indicating that the Lodge wanted to help support the renovations to the Big Beaver Schoolhouse, Gord White presented a cheque for \$10,000.00 to Executive Members Linda Fraser and Terry Sweitzer. Thanking the Lodge for their support, Linda Fraser indicated this money will allow

the Museum Committee to repair and paint the roof and the exterior of the schoolhouse, and also to replace the chimney.



## April 12, 2012 Meeting of the Glengarry Historical Society

( Sine McKenna speaks and sings her passion on the Gaelic language in Canada to the pleasure of the group of forty in attendance.)

GHS president, Allan Macdonell, welcomes all and quickly gets things under way with the reading of the last meeting (February ) minutes. Upon having presented these, the secretary, Richard Bleile puts forth a motion for acceptance which is seconded by Karen Divison Wood. Passed.

David Anderson extends his customary welcoming acknowledgement to the novel faces that join in the evening's events.

The main concern in the announcements is the reminder of the Annual General Meeting to be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The selection of the members on the Board of Directors for the next year will take place under the direction of a past GHS president, David Anderson. David Anderson reminds the audience of the process and asks to be contacted with any nominations to be added to the slate.

Ian MacLeod is asked to tell about a trip to Scotland.

Don Wood presents the treasurer's report which shows the GHS standing with some \$86,000 as the total of \$62,000 in securities and \$14,000 in cash. His motion for acceptance is seconded by Bruce McPherson and is passed.

Karen Davison Wood speaks for the Glengarry Pioneer Museum. She tells about the 230 people who attended the Ball for a profit of \$8,000. The AGM/pot luck will be next Friday (April 20). Opening at the museum happens on May 19 and 20. The official opening of the school house will be an appropriate initiative for a focus on educational features. An application for a museum and technological grant has led to a response of very complimentary comments for the workings of the GPM/GHS contained in a ministry letter which Karen proudly shares with the assembled.

The Nor Westers & Loyalists Museum will hold a lunch meeting on Saturday to begin working at the upcoming season.

Robin Flockton reports encouraging progress in the monumental archives project.

Bruce McPherson reminds people on membership and fees which can hopefully all be paid up at that next AGM. Promote your eligibility as a voter.

Rosemary O'Flaherty introduces Sine McKenna as the featured speaker (and singer).

Sine McKenna begins with a moving poem by Lachlin MacInnes and develops her presentation of love and passion for the Gaelic language. Approximately 200,000 Gaelic speakers at the time of Confederation, shrinking rapidly to only 80,000 by the year 1900 and today finding themselves to number only in the hundreds, mostly to be found in Cape Breton, and perhaps still a handful in Glengarry, would seem to spell out a somewhat disheartening story. A language often associated with poverty and "put down" (even to the point of government legislation in 1601) has had little chance to survive. However, in 2006 an Office for the Gaelic Affairs was established in Cape Breton and Sine McKenna is still

saying and singing her passion and intrigue with Gaelic.

Bruce McPherson thanks the speaker on behalf of the GHS.

McPherson then adjourns the meeting with a motion. Seconded by Robin Flockton.

Chatter, laughter, coffee, tea, with a few bites of savory delectables and a good evening comes to an end.....

*Richard Bleile (recording secretary)*

### A Triumph of Technology over Common Sense

Members receiving their newsletter via the Internet last month may have noticed the file size was abnormally large. That issue of the newsletter was produced entirely on my iPad whilst I lounged in the Florida sun. For those of you familiar with this kind of technology let me say that it wasn't as straightforward as I hoped, but nonetheless, the final result very closely resembles an issue produced on a desktop computer. While it was rewarding to say 'I did it!', I'll stick to my desktop computer for the future. And the file size will return to normal.....

## Membership Renewal

**This is Really Important!!**

**If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2012, make sure to do so at the Annual General Meeting, or by mail at the address on page 1.**

**Only members in good standing (ie. Dues Paid) are permitted to vote on issues at the AGM, or to stand for Positions on the Executive.**



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