



THE EXPRESS

Glengarry, Nor'Westers &
Loyalist Museum
Newsletter

March Meetings

A group of steadfast volunteers led by the former museum director, Wendy Wert, met earlier this month to further discuss plans for the community garden on the museum grounds. Of these volunteers are many who overlap with the Williamstown Green Thumbs and so, we know we are in very capable and knowledgeable hands! Some things that were discussed was the further expansion of our edible items in terms of perhaps adding some raspberry or blackberry bushes to the front of the shed where we get full sun all day. The museum was fortunate enough to receive a generous donation from St. Andrew's and Knox United Church, \$200 of which was slated to be spent towards the museum community garden program. We are very grateful for this contribution and the opportunities it affords. We'll keep you posted on what new additions occur in the garden this spring! For now, however, we'll just have to wait and watch for the snow to melt and be carried to the Raisin River (in time for the canoe race, hopefully) by the ravine that separates the museum and MacDougall house.

Another meeting that took place in these past weeks was with Kenny MacDonald, David Anderson, Shauna Baggs, and myself at the Bethune-Thompson House, where David lives. Shauna Baggs is the new Economic Development and Tourism representative for the Township of South Glengarry and so we wanted to more formally introduce ourselves to

her as well as give her an overview of many of the rich historical sites in the area, starting with the Bethune-Thompson House itself. Shauna is quite amiable and we're excited to have her working for the township. Before starting work for the Township of South Glengarry, Shauna worked for the United Counties of SD&G and she also has some past experience working in heritage sites as a summer student.



On one stormy evening, Norma and I drove to Hudson where I spoke to the Hudson Historical Society about the North West Company at their March meeting. They were quite interested in the Nor'Westers and many audience members intend to visit the museum in the summer!

The Glengarry, Nor'Westers & Loyalist Museum has got a new website, visit us at:

www.glengarrynorwestersandloyalistmuseum.ca

.....it's a long name but we promise, it's worth it!



Norma and I have been busy at the museum preparing for the “Glengarry My Home: a Banquet & Evening of Music” set to take place at the Tartan Hall at the arena on Saturday, April 27th. Pictured below is a book of Scottish Songs that dates from the 1930s that Norma found at a flea market. She thought it would be nice to peruse at our dinner—perhaps we’ll be singing from it by the time the night is through! Along with the compiled songs is a bouquet of dried Scottish heather that I sent away for online....I’ll bet a few of our original Glengarry settlers would have brought a sprig or two with them before leaving the Highlands.

With just under a month to go we want to remind you that tickets are available from museum directors (a list of them is provided on our website) as well as at the museum itself! You can call in at 613-347-3547 or email gmlmuseum@gmail.com to reserve.

Please note that tickets **MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE** for this event and will not be sold at the door the night of. The only tickets at the door will be for pick up for those who have reserved them.

Glengarry My Home: a Banquet & Evening of Music



...get your tickets!

WASHROOM WOES

It seems as though the washrooms at the museum will be staying as they are for the time being. Because of the provincial building code, the township has reached a dead end in terms of trying to find a solution to the issue of washrooms and accessibility for this spring. The museum is a designated place of assembly and so, despite relatively light washroom traffic, the building code will not allow for the scaling back to one washroom as was requested under the United Counties Accessibility grant.

About a year ago, the washrooms at the museum got a tiny bit of attention in the way of a lick of paint, oddly, all thanks to the Canadian Centre for the Great War. When visiting the centre, located in an old industrial building on St. Patrick Street in Montreal, Norma and I noticed that they used every bit of wall space they could for the display and storage of their extensive First World War collection, even the washrooms. In the artefact room of the museum, we previously had several large highly decorative frames whose plaster was at risk of being damaged by the way the frames were stored, stacked against one another. Being neither Nor'Wester nor strictly Loyalist, we needed to find a space for these pieces that wouldn't disrupt the flow of the other exhibits. The washrooms, with ample wall space and the added bonus of limited light exposure, was the perfect place to hang these pieces and have them visible—but more importantly, safe. However, with washroom construction postponed indefinitely, this little washroom facelift will have to do for now.

As many of you know, Pierre Roy has done extensive work for the Williamstown Fair with his involvement in the St. Lawrence Valley Agricultural Society as well as with the Lancaster Legion Claude Nunney Branch #544 and LAV III monument. Pierre currently is on the museum board of directors so we're quite thankful to have him representing us on this matter of museum infrastructure. Pierre is seeking that the funds granted to the museum under the United Counties accessibility program be used to address other issues in the building that were proposed in the original, larger scope of work. He is hoping that instead of washrooms, we can have the doorways addressed. The three south facing doors are in poor condition and the centre door used as the main entrance to the museum does not meet accessibility standards with the doors not deemed wide enough. There is also the issue of the back door which has come into much greater use as the museum has expanded it's programming to the grounds. The back door, which is solid and only can be opened from the inside, is not an ideal passageway for guests attending one of our growing number of outdoor events under the pavilion. If these doors were replaced we would not only have increased accessibility but also a less costly heating bill, I'm sure!

Shown to the right is some of the work in repairing and repointing damaged brickwork that the township hired Porter Restoration to undergo. Pictured is the workstation of Gerald Côté who spent many days at the museum repairing the brick. Only age-appropriate, salvaged brick was used so that it matched the existing exterior. He replaced as many of the original bricks as he could, paying special attention to any with a signature carved into them. Here you see the various layers of brick that make up the museum's exterior. An interesting feature showing this corner is the way in which the bricks on the inside are lighter and more orangey-red in colour. Gerald explained to me that this was because the bricks on the inside wouldn't have been fired in the kiln as long and so would be less of a match against the elements. This class of bricks, easily identifiable by their colour, would have been sold cheaper and often used in places that wouldn't see direct weather. Gerald has done much restoration work in the area as well as some high profile jobs further afield. Naturally, the work was certainly completed on a longer timeline than any new brick laying job. However, Gerald's meticulous attention to detail and respect for the old ways of craftsmanship is clearly demonstrated with the care he took in making these repairs blend seamlessly into the existing wall of the museum. Thanks, Gerald!



SUMMER STUDENTS

Spring is here and that means that summer will be soon upon us! As usual, the museum will be looking to hire two summer students to help with the 2019 season. Anyone who meets the criteria as outlined on our website under the heading "Hiring: Join Our Team" is encouraged to apply by sending their CV and a letter of intent to the museum by April 12th, 2019.



EASTERN TOWNSHIPS MYSTERY TOUR 2019 BUS TRIP SEPTEMBER 18TH, 19TH, & 20TH, 2019



All aboard!

Seats for our 2019 Eastern Townships Mystery Tour Bus Trip are filling up fast! As of this week we stand at about 4/5 occupancy of our 52 seater coach bus. To avoid disappointment please register your interest and confirm your booking with trip director, Wendy Wert, by calling her at 613-347-3098. Please remember that, out of fairness to all passengers, only those who have made the requisite deposit of \$200 per passenger for the trip will have their booking confirmed.

As usual, complete itineraries are provided upon embarkation but if you'd like a sneak-peek at what we'll be up to, please check out our 2019 events listing on our website where you can find an electronic copy of the trip details. If you'd prefer a hard copy of the itinerary, please don't hesitate and give me a call at the museum and I can send one along in the mail to you.