

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE ADOLPHUSTOWN-FREDERICKSBURGH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Issue Number 11 February 2015

Party Party!

Celebrating 200 Years of Diverse and Enduring History in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh

January 11 this year marked 200 years since the birth of Sir John Alexander Macdonald. His contributions to Canada are being celebrated across the country throughout the year, with many

Our Society

Members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society are your neighbours, your friends, your family. We are new to the area or have lived here all our lives. Some of us are descendants of the Loyalists who settled the shores of the Bay of Quinte. We all share a desire to deepen our knowledge of the history of our local community and to share our passion with others.

Our Executive

President: Angela Cronk
Vice President: John Gordon
Secretary: Kathy Staples
Treasurer: Stan MacMillan
Webmaster: Susan Wright
Sales Director: Peter Cameron
Communications Director:

Our Meetings

The Society meets every fourth Wednesday in the month at the South Fredericksburgh Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. All welcome!!

Our Website

http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/

Contact Us

If you have questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the Society, including *The Neighbourhood Messenger*, please contact one of the following-

- Angela Cronk, President (373-8888) angelacronk@gmail.com
- Jane Lovell, Newsletter Editor (373-0199) jane.lovell@kos.net

communities laying claim to Macdonald as their own. We too, have some justification in staking a claim to Canada's first Prime Minister. While having such a prominent Canadian figure as part of our past is worthy of celebration, so are the successes of one of our local families. October this year will mark 200 years of stewardship of an Adolphustown farm by the Daverne family. Their tenure on the property has been fraught with hardship, but their perseverance and hard work allowed them to recover from disaster and maintain a foothold in our community. Both Macdonald and the Daverne family have left their mark here and certainly give us reason to celebrate!

A Glimpse of the Past



Photo courtesy of Mertie Jean Ackerman

The Ackerman farm on Hwy 33 at Sandhurst 1958

Do you have an interesting photo of people, places or events that show things as they were in the past? Let us feature it here!

The Neighbourhood Messenger is an electronic newsletter distributed exclusively to members of the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society.

As the receipt of our newsletter is one of the major benefits of Society membership, we ask that you NOT forward the newsletter to friends or relatives. Instead, we suggest that you encourage anyone you think might be interested in receiving a copy of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* to join our Society. A lifetime membership costs \$5, and in addition to ensured e-mail delivery of the newsletter, Society membership entitles those interested in our local heritage to be kept informed of, and participate in, all aspects of Society activities.

Anyone can become a member by sending a cheque for \$5 made payable to the Adolphustown-Fredericksburgh Heritage Society, c/o Kathy Staples, 1105 - 828 Sutton Mills Court, Kingston, K7P 2S9.

If you are not currently an AFHS member please consider becoming one!

Events Calendar		
March 7	Lennox & Addington County Museum "When I Was Young" Hon. Peter Milliken 2-4p.m.	
March 17	Lennox & Addington County Museum Irish Immigration: presented by Janice Nickerson of Upper Canada Genealogy – 7p.m.	
April 21	Lennox & Addington County Museum "Folk Songs of Lennox & Addington County and Region" Dr Allan Kirby – 7p.m.	
May 2	Lennox & Addington County Museum "WW I: Inheritance Interrupted" Jane MacNamara 2-4p.m.	
May 2	Macauly House, Picton "Mary's Odyssey" Follow a young maid, Mary, in solving an historic mystery. Various show times. Contact museums@pecounty.on.ca for tickets	
May 16	Lennox & Addington County Museum The Valients Memorial: sculptor Marlene Moore on researching and executing these bronze monuments 2-4p.m.	
Opening May 16	Old Hay Bay Church 9a.m 5p.m. daily	
May 17	Ameliasburgh Heritage Village Official opening of the 2015 Season and FREE Admission at the Museums of Prince Edward County. Special feature: "Welcome Weekend" at Ameliasburgh Heritage Village, featuring Loyalist era re-enactors (Sat. & Sun.) 11a.m. to 4p.m.	
Opening May 18	Macauly House, Picton Always a Quinte Boy – New Exhibit on John A. Macdonald	

A FRIENDLY WARNING.

REMEMBER

-COAL IS ADVANCING IN PRICE, BUT WE WILL SELL THE BALANCE OF OUR STOCK OF CHOICE HARD COAL FOR

5.00 PER TON

Or any portion of a ton at the same rate. Coal is mined in Scranton Division, and is as good as any sold in Canada.

We are still in the market for Live Hogs, Apples, Poultry, Butter and Eggs, Cordwood, Hides, Pressed Hay and Straw. We will sell you the highest quality of goods at prices to suit. We handle the Celebrated Windsor Salt. All goods sold for ready money, or produce taken in exchange. Bay from us and save your money. We pay the highest cash price for all kinds of Graio, delivered at our storehouses at Conway or Hay Bay.

HILL BROS

General Merchants, Conway, Out.

Napanee Beaver December 30, 1898

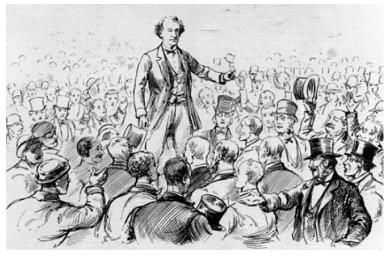
More Than Stolen Fish and Schoolyard Pranks The Macdonald Presence in Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh

Jane Lovell

The hype surrounding the celebrations of the birth of Sir John A. Macdonald has given us an opportunity to examine the details of his presence in our community. Somewhat surprisingly, not all of Macdonald's connections to our townships are well known.

Certainly, many of us are aware of the accounts from the late 1890s telling of young John Macdonald's fishing exploits along the shores of Hay Bay and of his attendance at the school in Adolphustown. Sadly, almost nothing tangible remains of his childhood sojourn in our community. A cairn near the Old Hay Bay Church marks the approximate location of the house where John's father Hugh Macdonald established a small general store in 1824 and where the family lived until 1835. Until he was sent away to attend grammar school in Kingston in 1827, at age twelve, John attended a rough log school in Adolphustown. The schoolhouse is said to have been located just to the east of St. Alban's Church. However, nothing has been found in the town records indicating the precise location of the schoolhouse and no remains of the building have yet been uncovered. The Macdonald family attended St. Paul's Anglican Church in Adolphustown, where Hugh Macdonald was briefly a Church Warden. The old church building was dismantled in 1998 and re-erected in Prince Edward County, so while the building is still in existence it no longer stands where John would have encountered it. Old Hay Bay Church is a a short distance from where the Macdonald house once stood, and although it is unlikely that the Macdonald family would have attended services in the Methodist church, there is an account published in a 1911 edition the Canadian Courier stating that Macdonald himself claimed to have "pleasant recollections of attending divine service with his family in the old chapel on Hay Bay." Regardless of whether the Macdonald family attended Old Hay Bay Church, it is probable that the young John would have played around or in the building itself.

In later years, Macdonald returned to Adolphustown on a number of occasions, the most notable being when he ran for the Lennox seat in the 1882 General Election. As part of his campaign tour, he stayed the night at the Adolphustown residence of J. J. Watson, and on leaving, both he and his wife Agnes made entries in the Watson's autograph album. The Watson home, which once stood across the road from St. Alban's Church, was demolished in the 1950s, but the Watson Autograph Album survives --certainly a wonderful artifact and absolutely tangible evidence of Sir John A. Macdonald's connection to our community.



Canadian Illustrated News July 21, 1877

On Macdonald's 1882 election circuit he spoke in Napanee and at the town halls in both Adolphustown and South Fredericksburgh. His visit to South Fredericksburgh may have been simple campaigning, or Macdonald may also have had some personal or business connection to the township. In 1848 he bought 100 acres along Road One at Conway. The narrow strip of land, 462 feet wide, ran along the east side of the road from the shore north for more than a mile and a quarter, and is presently home to the Old Conway General Store and the Conway United Church. The land was sold only five years later, and it unclear what lead him to purchase the land or

what use he made of it. Certainly, during the 1840s through to the 1860s Macdonald was active in land development and speculation, locally and across the province. Land transfer documents show that he also had a hand in several mortgages in North Fredericksburgh and Richmond, close to Napanee town center. Many of Macdonald's real estate investments failed to turn a profit, but the sale of the Conway lot, prior to the financial crisis and depression of 1857, netted £25 on his £275 investment.

Only the Old Hay Bay Church survives of the places that Macdonald frequented while living in or visiting Adolphustown. Nonetheless, our community and the greater Bay of Quinte region can claim to have featured throughout his life: from the misdeeds of his childhood along the shores of Hay Bay, through his articling and law practice in Picton and Napanee, to his short stint as a local landowner and his enthusiastic campaigning while Prime Minister to represent our county in the Houses of Parliament, and ultimately to his final political speech delivered at the Napanee Town Hall in 1891, a scant three months before his death. Not an inconsequential list of points of contact for our small corner of Canada.

For more on Macdonald in Adolphustown and to see the Macdonald entries in the Watson Autograph Book, check out our website: http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/Macdonald.htm.

Our latest publication, **Voices**, gives a colourful account of Macdonald's campaign tour through the region during the 1882 election, and includes the Macdonald album entries and photos of the home in which he and his wife stayed while in Adolphustown.

And what about them fish?

From 1910 to 1927 Allen Ross Davis owned the land on which the Macdonald house once stood. In his 1931 publication *Bay of Quinte Landmarks: The Mother-Church of Methodism and Sir John Macdonald's Boyhood Home*, Davis recounts the following:

When Sir John A Macdonald on one occasion in later years was addressing a political meeting in Adolphustown town hall, the chairman called upon Gilbert Casey, an old resident, to address the packed audience. His familiar local name was "Guy" Casey, and he always enjoyed a bit of fun. He said, in part: 'As you all know, my farm nearly adjoins the Paul Huff farm on Hay Bay, where the Macdonald family lived when they moved up from Kingston to Adolphustown. The next morning after they got settled in their future home, while I was fishing in Hay Bay at the front of our home, I noticed this lad, John A., coming along the shore where I was catching some very good fish - perch, bass and pickerel. As he came up I flung out a pretty big one, and throwing it from my line up on the bank, I spoke to this big-nosed Scotch kid, about eight years old, while I was putting another worm on my hook. He told me his name, and where he lived, with his two sisters, and father and mother, as he examined the fish, flopping about on the bank. He was greatly excited and rushed down to the water as I pulled them out, and then up the bank as I threw them to safety. This went on for some time when, as I turned to throw up another fish, I saw the rascal legging it for home as fast as he could go, with my biggest and choicest black-bass. I yelled at him, but he only ran the faster, and never let up till he Now, Mr. Chairman, before this large audience of electors of Adolphustown, I charge this candidate of that deliberate theft, many years ago, and sir, if he will not acknowledge here and now, and ask my pardon, I shall vote and use my influence against him in the election.'

Sir John was as solemn, when he arose from his seat on the platform, as was the speaker who had just sat down, and the grave faces of the audience displayed their fear that Casey had been nursing an old grudge all these years, the telling of which, and the demand for asking his pardon might have given offense.

"Mr Chairman, and yeomen of Adolphustown where I spent my happiest boyhood days," began Sir John, slowly and in a low tone, as was his custom, "what my old neighbour has told you about my theft of his beautiful fish is absolutely true; and I can recall as though it were but yesterday how frightened I was at that unearthly yell of our good friend which almost caused me to drop the fish so as to make better speed; but I managed to hold on to it when I saw he was not chasing me. I was clean out of breath when I burst into the house and fell headlong with it on the floor, and gasped for breath as I told my father where I found it, and that there were lots more where this came from. I humbly beg your pardon, Guy, and my only regret is that I can't steal another one like it here to-night, and have it for breakfast in the morning. Mother said is was the best black-bass she ever cooked."

Everyone laughed heartily. Sir John carried that meeting, and in the end won the election.



Napanee Beaver April 2, 1897

Daverne Farm Bicentennial

Alice Carlson

In 1815, on October 2, Irish Catholic immigrant, Richard Daverne Sr. purchased Lot Number 16, Concession 1 of the Township of Adolphustown from Conrad Van Dusen, U.E. L. who had been allotted this Crown grant of 200 acres fourteen years earlier. Richard paid Conrad 700 pounds.

This summer we are looking forward to celebrating our farm's Bicentennial. Keeping 100 acres (the East half of Lot 16) of the original purchase in our family has not always been a sure thing. Family histories and Registry history record the changes: Richard Sr., his wife Catherine, and their son, Daniel all dying in the cholera epidemic of the 1830's; the next generation's Richard dividing the farm in his 1869 will among his 3 children, Daniel, Catharine (Kate), and Ellen (Nell); their selling the West half to D. W. Allison and mortgaging the east half in 1875; discharging mortgages during the "barley years" of the late 1800s; and in 1935, selling a strip of land across the back of the farm to the Department of Highways for "public purposes"—the extending of King's Highway 33 from Picton to Kingston.



Photo Courtesy of Alice Carlson

The "carriage shed" c1912 - today's current barn

The 1930s were the most uncertain times for our family's ownership of the farm. Research about Canadian farming in the Dirty Thirties inevitably takes one to the catastrophic situation of the Prairies where the global depression, the complete fall in the price of a bushel of wheat "to thirty-eight cents—the all-time low in recorded history—"according to Donald Creighton's history, and a 5-year drought compounded to have such serious effects.

While history says that Ontario farms like ours in Adolphustown fared better than those on the prairies, the Depression was, nevertheless, a tough challenge for our family. In his writings, my father Dick described those years:

18-cent oats [after the 1929 stock market crash] Drought hit the farms here. The winter of 1933-34 was the coldest on record—22° F below for about 20 days from January 22 on, with no snow. Clovers, wheat, and apple trees died. The following dry year both hay and grain crops failed. The following spring, the old barn blew down in a 70 mph northwest gale. We should have rebuilt but there was no funds or income. That year we lost about five cows from malnutrition.

On April 8, 1935, my grandfather, George Daverne, wrote the following letter to the provincial Agricultural Development Board in the Parliament Buildings in Toronto. To explain his family's "present circumstances" he presents a litany of troubles: drought, crop failure, the need for building repair, the death of two horses, and the March windstorm.

Dear Sir.

I am writing in connection with our loan #11735, File # C1737 upon which a payment was due last December, we wish to give a clear account of our present circumstances.

During the last two seasons we have suffered from drought averaging 300 bushels of grain per year whereas years before we could grow 1000 bushels or more. During these three years we roofed one of our barns and a machine shed which absolutely needed it. All clover crops were killed so our stock was necessarily reduced.

In the fall of 1933 we sowed 30 acres of fall wheat which was killed out. Upon this land we sowed fifty bushels of barley the following spring and this was a total crop failure.

This spring two horses have died. This leaves us two for the springs work.

On March 17th this year our barn was blown flat by a windstorm.

At present our two sons and three daughters are home.
The boys are doing the farm work without wages. One holds a
First class school teachers certificate. One daughter is a trained
experienced stenographer without employment.

The boys are now engaged in spring's work and it saving the structure of the barn intending and desiring to rebuild.

For rebuilding considerable time and money will necessarily be spent the biggest expense being roofing costing over seventy dollars at the least.

That is the outline of present circumstances.

Our outlook is this-we have about fifty acres of good twice plowed land to sow this spring, twelve having been already sown. Under good conditions and prevailing prices we should have a crop value of six hundred dollars. We have also an income from sale of garden produce and cows.

Upon this outlook we are optimistic and will carry on to the extent of our ability.

Besides this loan our only debt are two years unpaid taxes. Is it possible for the board to grant us some readjustment of our loan upon the new Government plan? Could we obtain help of \$300 to rebuild the barn? Will the board grant us permission to cut timber for rebuilding?

Upon the farm at present standing is approximately 20 – 25 thousand feet of standing timber mostly softwood.

The value of farm land through this district with buildings is about 4000 – 4500 dollars per hundred acres. Our assessment is 2800 dollars with taxes of

\$131.48 - 1933 <u>\$133.64 - 1934</u> \$265.12 unpaid -

Will the Board send an inspector to us to see what assistance can be given us.

Yours truly,

George Daverne

Quite a list of challenges. But what I also notice is his "optimistic" outlook and determination to "carry on to the extent of our ability." Crops and prices should improve, gardens might prosper, timber could be cut. It is interesting that he must ask permission to cut timber for building a new barn. The "new Government plan" that George refers to may have been that of the Ontario Marketing Board, formed in 1931, which gave government loans for farmers to improve their herds and modernize their barns.

I do not know what response my grandfather's appeal received. Eventually, though, times did improve. In the larger picture, the Second World War brought more prosperity to Canada and to Adolphustown. My father notes that in the late 1930s, wheat rose to \$1 a bushel and the price for his tomatoes rose from 47 cents for sixty pounds in 1938 to 60 cents in 1944, \$1.20 in 1949. At some point, too, the farm's back taxes were paid, and another mortgage taken and later discharged.

We are planning celebrations here on the first weekend of August, remembering through our family's history that our farm reflects the course of Adolphustown history for the past 200 years. We remember too that we are lucky to be the custodians of a farm that has not always been easy to keep.

Then and Now Kathy Staples



The Rikely Family circa 1900s

AFHS Photo



2012

AFHS Photo

The Rikely-Hawley House on the east half of Lot 8 of Concession 3 Fredericksburgh Additional, opposite the Diamond Cemetery, and overlooking Hay Bay.

MYSTERY OF THE DRY STONE WALL

Duncan Hough

For several years Dave Sexsmith had been telling me about the interesting stone wall at the back of his and Lois's property on Lot 9, Con 3 Additional on Hay Bay. I had seen a low wall of flat limestone on the west border of his property and a similar 2 foot high wall near the Vandewater cemetery in Sillsville.

These were of flat limestone, mostly dinner plate size or slightly larger, probably picked from adjacent shallow worked fields. They had been carefully placed into a wall with no mortar.



Dave Sexsmith at the east wall

Imagine my surprise when he showed me the wall! It is a large wall, 2 and ½ to 3 feet high (4 feet for a ways) and 3 feet wide. It was evidently well built and in remarkable condition. It extends 560 feet on the east parallel to the line fence, fully 650 feet across the farm on the south, and roughly 400 feet on the north to the edge of a fairly steep slope. It encloses roughly 8 and ½ acres on a gently rounded knoll. Of the roughly 1600 feet of wall, 200 feet are missing, probably salvaged as a source of stone for foundations or road building. The remaining wall has 3 openings (gateways) and is in generally excellent condition after 100 or 150 or more years, a real tribute to its builders.

The pictures below show the general construction with flat lime stones in the wall and larger cope stones along the top. Intermingled with the limestones are granite hardheads.





Many questions arise. Who built the wall? Where did they get their expertise? Why build it and further more, why build it almost a mile from Hay Bay and the current road? How old is the wall? Where did the rock come from? Is this wall unique in the area?

Any answers to these questions are at best speculation. I talked to former owners of the farm, close neighbours and Jacob Murray, a young sheep farmer from Amherst Island who is a trained dry stone wall mason and who rebuilds walls as a part time business.

As for who built the wall, the best guess is the members of the Dafoe family, who according to Donald Hough in his book "Two Centuries in Hayburn", owned the west half of lot 9 from around 1800 to 1945. The 1871 census shows John M. (82), three unmarried sons James (55), Peter M. (52), and Zenis (49) and three unmarried daughters – Sarah (61), Minerva (57), and Mary Elizabeth (36) residing on the farm. The 1891 census shows James, Peter, Zenis and Mary Elizabeth still on the farm. One could speculate that the siblings were able to build the wall over a period of years.

Constructing a dry stone wall is very labour intensive. Jacob Murray tells me that if stone is at hand, two trained masons can build less than a rod (16 1/2feet) in a day, often closer to 10-12 feet. Here we



Opening in north wall

have almost 100 rods of wall. The labour to assemble the rock would be immense. Probably the wall was a project spread over many years.

Where did the expertise come from to build such a wall? Jacob says that many of the walls on Amherst Island were build by Irish or Scottish masons employed on the building of the Rideau Canal. At times they were laid off due to outbreaks of malaria.

In those times of no work- no eat, several of them came to Amherst Island and built walls, often for room and board. Might this be the case for this wall? Or could some of the Dafoes have been employed as youths on the canal and picked up the skills necessary to build such an enduring wall?

Where did the rock come from? Jim Powell (Maurice's grandfather) worked for the Dafoes prior to buying a nearby farm on the Gore Rd. Allan Hamilton, who owned the farm for 23 years recalls Jim telling him that he had been told that all the stone came from the farm. Most likely true, as who would buy stone?

Many of the stones, dinner plate or platter size were no doubt picked off worked fields. Tillage even with horse drawn plows and harrows would loosen stones that size. In addition, winter freezing and

thawing produced a new crop of stones each spring. Over many years successive stone pickings would produce enough pickings for a modest fence. Similarly the round granite hardheads probably came from the fields.

However, many of the stones, especially the top cope stones are larger and heavier than could have been pulled up by tillage. They must have been quarried somewhere and moved to the site by cart or stone boat. There is no evidence of a quarry on the farm. Could they have come from Hay Bay, either out of the shore or out of the water?



Southeast corner of wall

Whatever the source, the wall at 3 feet by 3 feet by 1600 feet long contains over 500 cubic yards of stone, all moved manually by man and horse or oxen with a cart or stone boat. Therefore, even more labour was expended building the wall.

Why would anyone build such a wall and why near the back of the farm a mile from the front of the farm? Jim Powell told Allan Hamilton that originally the road access to the farm was to be from the south, either at the line between the Concession 3 Additional lots and the Gore lots or from the current

Gore Rd. This would have put the walled area at the front of the farm. Allan tells me that he searched the walled field which was then less undergrown but could find no evidence of buildings or foundations.

Another possible reason the wall was built there is the land itself. The wall encloses roughly 8 and 1/2 acres of sloping apparently well drained land. Morley Garrison owns land adjacent on the east. He describes it as sand and gravel. The land immediately west is a maple bush, again indicating well drained land. Karl Niewmeyer, who lived on the farm in the early 1960's was told by neighbour Don Brooks that that was "the potato field". Anecdotally, the Dafoes produced vegetables for



Laying detail

sale. Is it possible that the wall was built as a heavy duty fence to protect higher value vegetable and potato crops from livestock and wild life? Once built the wall would be a low maintenance secure barrier. Or, is there some further explanation?

It seems at present that this wall is totally unique in the area. Maurice Powell tells me that he has hunted over all the land from the east end of Hay Bay to the west of Adolphustown and has seen nothing like it anywhere. Dan Garrison confirms this. Morley Garrison salvaged stone for his parking area from a wall on his Gore road farm south and east of the Dafoe wall. The stones from it are fairly large and he describes the wall as well built with large stones at the ground level as a base, a practice that Jacob Murray tells me is good technique.



I personally found a 300 foot wall on lot 1 Concession 3A earlier this fall. It is not nearly as well built and evidently was constructed to separate pasture land from worked fields.

Obviously, there are many questions yet to be answered and more information to be gleaned. I plan to have Jacob examine the wall in the spring and hopefully give his evaluation. Does anyone know of other walls in Fredericksburgh or Adolphustown? Does anyone have information on this wall? I and everyone I have talked with about the wall want to know more!

Clippings

Fredericksburgh Facts.

FREDERICSBURGH. /Feb. 6. – Lots of snow and good roads for first class sleighing. The Hay trade is almost a dead letter as there is very little being moved. The pressers have done comparatively nothing since Christmas. Our school is a thoroughly efficient and progressive one under the able management of Miss Dupree. Grimshaw & Co. are shipping out occasionally a car of hay, but beyond that there is none moving.

J. A. Close has completed the improvements in his mill, It is thoroughly equipped for a first-class gristing, and can now turn on two feed runs in case of a rush. One of the results of last week's storm was a little accident of unusual occurrence at the depot. A heavy bank of snow gathered over the track all along by the station and as the snow plough cam whizzing through Sunday morning, about 1 a.m., it pitched the snow straight through the several window, smashing them in and covering the floors with a considerable depth of snow. One of the sleeping rooms, with a large window facing the front, was occupied by the family of the caretaker. Mr. /root, who were awakened from their slumbers by the crashing of window class, followed by a rush of snow, which cover them in their beds to the depth of about a foot. They were immediately helped from their cold berth and took up quarters at the rear, none the worse of the mishap.

> Weekly British Whig February 7, 1885

Horses Drowned.

On Tuesday night last, while crossing Hay Bay from Napanee, Messrs. John Roblin and John Ruttan in separate rips broke through the ice south of Catfish Island. Both horses and rigs went to the bottom. Mr. Roblin had a narrow escape from drowning, and was rescued at the last minute. Mr. W. H. Diamond and some neighbors heard their cries for assistance, and in the rescue Mr. Diamond also fell in. He had a rope around him, and was pulled out by his comrads. Another attempt brought Roblin out. Mr. Ruttan succeeded in climbing out himself. The horses and rigs were still at the bottom of the bay Wednesday, but search was being made for them. The horses were valuable animals. Mr. Martin also went through the ice near Deseronto Tuesday but got out without serious mishap.

Napanee Beaver Jan 27, 1899

A Burglar's Outfit.

County Constable Sills has in his possession a burglar's outfit found at the G. T station on Tuesday morning. It consists of two black masks, three gags, six cords with slip loops on them, two other pieces of tope and two black hats, a hard and soft felt. Mr. James Richardson found them concealed in a pile of railway ties. The constable thinks the cords with the slip loops are intended to slip over the wrists of the sleeping victims and hauling the arms up over the top of the bad, the gags being then inserted in the mouth.

Napanee Beaver April 16, 1897

Clippings courtesy of Susan Wright & Jane Lovell

To see more old newspaper clippings check out the Articles page on our website:

http://www.sfredheritage.on.ca/articles.html

Me and My Potkukelkka

Jane Lovell

A potkukelkka is a Scandinavian kick sleigh. A small chair affixed to long thin steel runners is propelled by a rider standing on the runners and "kicking" with one foot, in the same way as one would ride a scooter. I inherited my potkukelkka from a neighbour, but the first potkukelkka I encountered was owned by another neighbour. That first sleigh was being piloted by Hertta Sarkkinen, then in her mid-80s, and was hurtling down the snow-packed road on Hertta's way back to her home at the bottom of the hill after having picked up her mail at our community mail box. In fact the road was more than snow-packed – it was icy – and provided almost no resistance to the slim steel runners of the sleigh, and certainly almost zero traction for my bicycle on which I was foolishly trying to navigate that hill. When I caught up with Hertta at the bottom of the hill after having picked myself up from a spill on the icy tracks, I asked her what she would do if the potkukelkka got going too fast or otherwise got out of control. She breezily replied that she would simply steer it into the ditch! As far as I know Hertta never had a mishap with her potkukelkka despite the many days over the years that she pushed the sleigh up the hill and sailed back down with her scarf and bag of mail flying behind her and her dog Tassu in hot pursuit.

Hertta no longer collects her mail using her potkukelkka and she has passed that sturdy little sleigh onto her daughter-in-law Marja Pere. Sadly, Marja and I rarely use our kick sleighs since we both live



Marja & Friend Finland c1955

at the far end of the road, most of which is flat and requires much kicking resulting in little sleighing. Only the prospect of descending "Hertta's Hill" entices us out periodically when the snow conditions on the road are in the "Goldilocks zone" of hard-packed or icy. We do, however, have another route to the mailboxes which involves no hills but is super fast. When the bay freezes over with no or very little snow we can scoot at great speed over the ice along the shore from our homes to just below the mailboxes. We then park our sleighs at the shoreline and ascend on foot through a neighbour's yard to pick up our mail.

Marja and I are not the only residents of Le Nid Point to do our mail route on our potkukelkkas. Kauko Virta, another neigbour in his mid-80s, makes the run up (and down!) most of the winter. Where Marja and I need icy roads to support our steel runners, Koukko can make use of snowy roads too. His potkukelkka is equipped with wider runners making the sleigh viable on a wider range of snow conditions.

That several potkukelkkas can be seen on the winter roads and bays surrounding Le Nid Point is not surprising. The point, after all, was once known locally as "Little Finland", and the Finns are famously known for their love of outdoor winter pursuits, only superseded by their fondness for indulging in the sauna and its attendant rituals. What <u>is</u> surprising is that there was ever a Finnish community in Adolphustown Township in the first place.

Immigration to the area around Adolphustown began in earnest, of course, with the arrival in the 1780s of the United Empire Loyalists fleeing persecution in the United States. Over the years other immigrants arrived on our shores, primarily from England, Scotland and Ireland. While there were several waves of immigrants from Finland to Ontario in the 1800s and early 1900s, few, if any, settled in the broader region around Adolphustown. It wasn't until after the Second World War that the Finns and other Europeans began to immigrate to Canada in large numbers in search of better economic opportunities than those available in post-war Europe. The Finnish immigrants found employment on the railways and in the mines and lumber camps of Quebec and Northern Ontario, as well as in the larger urban centres.

The Ruuths were a Finnish family who had established themselves in Toronto. It is believed that they first became aware of Bass Cove in the 1940s through their Toronto neighbours, the Wolfes, who

summered each year in one of the two farmhouses owned by Muriel Wolfe's sister Eva Plested. At that time the Plesteds owned the two 150-acre farms north of Bass Cove originally granted to Peter and John Ruttan as part of the U.E.L. land grants. When the Plesteds put the farms up for sale in 1949, the Ruuths purchased both of them. Throughout the 1950s Hannes Ruuth proceeded to subdivide the point between Bass Cove and Perch Cove into small lots and sold them to acquaintances from Toronto, many of whom were members of the Finnish Agricola Lutheran Church or who were involved with the Finnish construction industry. Thus began the populating of "Little Finland". By the end of the decade, all but 9 of the 68 lots had been sold, 53 of them to Finnish families.

Like immigrants from other northern European countries, the Finns brought to Canada a passion for the lakeside cottage. Often before purchasing a house, families would acquire land on which to build a cottage or a fishing or hunting camp. This was certainly the case for the Finnish families who bought lots on Bass and Perch Coves. And first on the list of things to do in establishing a cottage lot was the building of a sauna. These small huts sprouted up close to the shore all along the bays and for many families it was the only structure, besides the outhouse, that was erected on the lot for years. Cottages eventually replaced tents for sleeping, but the sauna remained central to cottage life. There are cottages on the point today that still do not have indoor plumbing but for which the sauna provides commodious bathing facilities in addition to its traditional uses.



All Photos Courtesy of Marja Pere

For many years the cottages on Bass and Perch coves were strictly recreational, and rarely used during the winter. There were nevertheless a number of families who would venture out during the wintertime, making full use of their saunas. This was no easy feat, as water had to be drawn from the lake through a hole augured into the ice. Intrepid sauna users would go so far as to chop larger holes in the ice in order to facilitate a cool-off plunge(!!). It is likely that these families brought the first potkukelkkas to the point, simply for scooting over the frozen surface of the bay, or for transporting auger and tackle out to a promising ice fishing location.

Left: Taking an icy plunge below Hertta's sauna, circa late 1970s.

Below: Hertta's grandchildren cooling off during a late winter sauna, circa late 1970s.



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Inkeri McCormack, who had recently moved to the point full-time, and who has now added her brand

Le Nid Point Potkukelkka Fleet

Riders: Kauko Virta flanked by his wife Tarja, Marja Pere and Inkeri McCormack on the shore above Bass Cove

Kauko and Tarja immigrated from Finland as adults; Marja and Inkeri as children. All had cottages on Le Nid Point and now live there full-time.

In recent years, some of the cottages on Le Nid Point have been converted to year-round homes demolished replaced with permanent residences. For those homes still in the hands of Finnish families, the sauna remains a feature on the property, and the still potkukelkka makes appearance on the bay or on the road to the mailboxes when winter envelops the point. Much to the delight of our local potkukelkka crowd, last winter we were joined by Hertta's niece,

new potkukelkka to our stable of sturdy little sleighs. Topping out at four, we may just have the highest concentration of potkukelkkas anywhere in Ontario south of Thunder Bay!



Big Reductions in Winter Footwea	ar
Men's Lumbermen's Rubbers. Regular \$3.50 and \$4.00. On Sale	2.9
Men's Oil Tan Moccasins. Sizes 6 to 11.	1.9
Women's Overshoes, 4-buckle and 2-dome style. Regular \$4 and \$4.50. On Sale	2.9
50 pairs Women's Felt Boots. Regular \$2.50 and \$3.00. On Sale	1.9
SPECIAL REDUCTION! Odd lines of Men's Black and Tan Boots, Welt Soles. On Sale	3.9
Get your SKI BOOTS and SNOWSHOES	at
Haines Shoe Hou	ıse

Napanee Beaver February 3, 1948

And More Than Furthermore....

The October 2014 issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger* highlighted contributions of our citizens to local, provincial and federal politics. Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh have a long history of family participation over generations in the governance of our community. One of the more notable families to serve were the Johnstons of Adolphustown. -- Ed.

Jesse and Roy Johnston, Father and Son County Wardens from the Old U.E. Township Jane Foster

In 1923, five years after the Great War ended, Jesse Johnston, Reeve of Adolphustown, was elected Warden of Lennox and Addington County. Two decades later, his son Roy Johnston would also be elected County Warden.

When both Jesse and Roy Johnston served as County Wardens, the County of Lennox and Addington was made up of thirteen municipalities: the townships of Adolphustown, South Fredericksburgh, North Fredericksburgh, Amherst Island, Ernestown, Camden, Richmond, Sheffield, Kaladar and Denbigh, and the Town of Napanee, the Village of Bath and the Village of Newburgh. The County was still a rural farming community with population concentrated in the Loyalist south.

The inaugural meeting of the 1923 County Council was held at the County Courthouse on January 23, 1923. Jessie Shibley Johnston, Reeve of Adolphustown, was declared County Warden by unanimous standing vote. Taking over from ex-Warden R.J. Hannah, Camden Township, he pledged to "safeguard the interests of the Corporation, against waste or undue expense of funds." He was welcomed by councillors singing "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow", followed by thirteen speeches by ex-councillors and new councillors.



N-11660 L&A County Archives Warden Jessie Shibley Johnston (1923)

Warden Jesse Johnston (1854-1936) brought with him a strong sense of history. The Minutes for June 12, 1923, published a list of County Warden's since the separation from Frontenac, beginning with John Stevenson and continuing to J.S. Johnston, Reeve of Adolphustown.

Jesse was the great grandson of James Johnston, U.E., who had settled in Ernestown in 1784 with Jessup's Loyal Rangers. Born at Bath in 1854, he married Helen Trumpour, Adolphustown, when he was 28. Jesse and Helen lived on the Trumpour farm in Adolphustown, with their two boys, James Roy and Thomas. After Helen's death, the boys lived with their maternal grandparents, the Trumpours.

A war memorial monument engraved with the names of the fallen had been dedicated in front of the Courthouse three years before and the Lennox and Addington Historical Society had published the War Work of Lennox and Addington, recognizing the war service and sacrifice of the men and women from Lennox and Addington.

In 1923, co-authors Reverend A.J. Wilson and W.S. Herrington, K.C., approached the Council for assistance with their War Work publishing costs. Council approved a grant of \$400 to the Lennox and Addington Historical Society.

Warden Jesse Johnston took a special interest in road work and for many years was a member of the Special Roads Committee for the County. The County had over 170 miles of road to maintain. He attended annual meetings of the Good Roads Association in Toronto. The Minutes note payment of the County's annual membership to Good Roads.

During the First World War when men were away overseas, County Road maintenance had suffered from the scarcity of labour. After the war ended, the County had adopted the Provincial Standards for roads since they were able to get a 60% reimbursement from the Province. During Jesse Johnston's term, County Road 12, Ernestown, from Odessa to Road No. 3 Camden near Yarker, was brought into the Provincial County Road System. Councillors agreed that Provincial County Roads should be maintained in superior shape to County Roads despite several claims for damages to cars on County Roads that came before Council.

The Township of Amherst Island was given authority to spend 50% of their road grant on building and maintaining a ferry from Stella to Millhaven, and the road from Stella to the Presbyterian Church was adopted as County Road 20. Council also provided a special grant of \$75.00 toward fixing Milsap's Corner in Newburgh. Later in his term of office, road machinery useful in County Road work was purchased at the sheriff's sale at Chisholm's Mines, north of Enterprise

Repairs to Haggarty's Bridge, the Kingsford Bridge, the floating bridge at Millhaven, and the Indian Lake Bridge were supported. As well, construction of Flynn's Bridge was undertaken thanks to provincial funding endorsed by W.D. Black, M.L.A.

Jesse Johnston farmed for almost three decades. When the Lennox Agricultural Society approached Council for a grant toward their annual exhibition, Warden Johnston didn't hesitate to join the Society delegates and address Council on their behalf. Grants for other County Agricultural Societies were also approved, as long as they held a fair: Addington\$500, Ernestown \$300 and Amherst Island \$450.

Jesse Johnston was gifted with considerable humour and made friends quickly. At the session of Council held om St. Patrick's Day, the Warden and Clerk appeared with Shamrocks in their button holes. This caused the Councillors to burst into song, singing "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary", followed by Auld Lang Sine". He also took delight in sending congratulations from Council to A.W. Haycock, son of J.L. Haycock of Adolphustown, on his election to the British House of Commons.



N-4370 L&A County Archives Lennox & Addington County Council, 1923 Warden Jessie Johnston fifth from the left, second row

At the end of his term of office, Council passed a motion to thank Warden J. S. Johnston, Reeve of the old UEL Township of Adolphustown for his "oft repeated hospitalities and entertainments". In January and June, Council members had enjoyed oyster dinners at the Campbell House. Johnston had a warm

spot in the hearts of Council for bettering his native county. This motion was carried unanimously with the singing "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" and remarks from every member of Council.

Jesse Johnston served in council until 1934. He died May 27, 1936 and was buried in the Bath cemetery.

Jessie's son, James Roy, became a councillor in 1936 and became Reeve in 1938 for one year. He returned to Council in 1943 as reeve and continued in office until 1954. In 1947, James Roy Johnston was elected Warden of the County of Lennox and Addington, just after the end of World War II.

The post war years had a different flavour to the conviviality of the 1920s. At the January 21 session of Council, County Solicitor, Gerald F. Smith, escorted Warden-elect Johnston to the Chair. In contrast to

his father's year as Warden, there was no singing of "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow" or "Auld Lang Sine". Congratulations were offered by ex-Wardens. Then Warden Johnston presented an engraved cane on behalf of the 1946 County Council to the outgoing Warden, J.H. Brandon, Ernestown.

The Post War Planning and Development Committee and social issues were the focus on his term of office. Continuing in the tradition of his father, grants to the Agricultural Fairs of Lennox, Ernestown, Amherst Island and Denbigh were made, as well as a grant to the District Seed Fair for 1947. The Federal Government was asked to resume subsidies on coarse grain since the price of grain was affecting hog production.

Canadian Legion Branch 137 approached Council about employing veterans on Township work. Road concerns were still on the agenda, including the possibility of an overhead bridge at Mooney's Crossing. A Reserve Fund for County Road Machinery and appointing a County Road Superintendent were new initiatives. Council moved to sell the \$9000 bond received from the Department of Transportation re the Sandhurst Airport Road and to request the Ontario Department of Highways to take over County Road 9, the River Road, from Napanee to Coles Ferry.



N-5039 L&A County Archives Warden James Roy Johnston (1947)

Council's primary focus, however, turned to health, welfare and educational concerns. A grant of \$700 was provided to Amherst Island for new secondary and elementary schools at Stella. As well, W.S. Herrington approached Council about a grant to the Napanee Public Library.

At the Courthouse, a new flag was purchased and an Underwood typewriter for the Sheriff's Office. Solicitors Gerald F. Smith and Kenneth Ham approached Council about using the Grand Jury Room for a library for the legal profession in Napanee.

Council considered making the brick house, the former jailer's residence, and garage at the rear of the County Registry Office available for use of the recently established County Health Unit. Then in April, Council initiated the purchase of a frame house on Robert Street for the Lennox and Addington County Board of Health under the Reserve Fund for Post-War expenditures. Carried by a vote of 10 yeas over 4 nays, the purchase was approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs and subsequently rented for \$30 monthly.

During Roy Johnston's term, County Council sponsored indigent patients at Kingston General Hospital and Hotel Dieu, committed children to the Children's Aid and provided representation to a District Tubercular Sanatorium Committee. The Warden also participated on the Lennox and Addington Old Age Pensions and Mother's Allowance Board.

A delegation led by Drs. Galbraith, Burns and Paul approached Council about a County Hospital. In March 1947, the Warden, Chair of the Finance Committee and County Clerk, toured Kingston Hospitals. However, by November Council had deferred any further action to the 1948 Council.



N-4395 L&A County Archives
Lennox & Addington County Council, 1947 Warden Roy Johnston fifth from left, front row
[The five women at the center of the middle row are four Stenographers flanking the Clerk]

At the January 28, 1948 meeting of Council, Warden Reeve Fred K. Jackson presented ex-Warden J.R. Johnston with an engraved cane on behalf of the 1947 County Council. Fellow councillors commended Warden Johnston on the careful attention he gave to County affairs during his term of office and the fair manner in which he has conducted the meetings of Council. The jovial singing of the 1920s was replaced with a hearty clap of hands, followed by the National Anthem.

James Roy Johnston died in 1954 at age 64. His funeral service was held at St. Alban's Church where he had been married four decades before to Mabel Lillian Chalmers. Active in community and church work, Roy Johnston had also served as a church warden.

Both Warden Jesse Johnston and Warden Roy Johnston presented their Councils with County Council photographs.

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

Marcus Garvey

Help Us Identify This:

As in our last issue, we have no photographs we need help with.

Do you have an old photo for which you cannot identify the people, the place, or the occasion? Let us scan it and we can feature in an up coming issue of *The Neighbourhood Messenger*. One of our readers might know something that you don't!

AFHS News:

Angela Cronk

Our annual Heritage Harvest Dinner was enjoyed by all. Roxanne McCaugherty prepared another tasty roast beef feast enjoyed by about 55 attendees. Dennis Mills, past Chair of the Napanee Heritage Committee spoke to the group about various government changes that will affect our historical future.

At our November 2014 Annual General Meeting, our next year's executive was decided and it will be the same as the previous one with one vacancy in the Cemetery chair.

We strongly encourage anyone who has any interest in preserving our past to offer some time to join our small, dedicated group. The time commitment is minimal (one meeting a month) with a few community events during the year. No experience required!!



Napanee Beaver July 2, 1897

From the Book Shelf

Our most popular book ever has been *Voices – Stories from Adolphustown and Fredericksburgh*, first published in the fall of 2013. *Voices* is a collection of snapshots in time, where each page is a complete story, capturing some aspect of life in our community for a specific year over the decades since the area was first settled. The volume is packed with vintage photographs, sketches and documents, illustrating 150 stories and articles submitted by 29 contributors.

With three printings under our belts, these books continue to fly off our shelves. There is a real thirst both within and outside our community for these stories – and folk are clamoring for more. Even before issuing of the first edition of *Voices*, we had begun a second collection. We have many stories already, but we need more! Please consider telling us **your** story.

Dig our your old photo albums, scrap books or keepsakes shoe-box. What you felt worthwhile keeping long ago is likely even more interesting today. Just a few words to accompany a photograph or a newspaper clipping can tell a unique story of events in our community or how we accomplished everyday chores in the past.

There are lots of things that can be a seed for a story. Here are some items around which a story can be told:

- An old document:
 - Deed
 - Will
 - Letter or postcard
 - Invoice
 - Newspaper article
- An old photo:
 - Family gatherings
 - Holiday snaps
 - Community events
- An "Artifact" -- something in your possession that was part of everyday life from years gone by.

The stories can be things you know about or have experienced, or that you remember being told by a parent or grandparent. Here are just a few story ideas:

- The war years
- The farm or the family business
- Community clubs or events
- Families overcoming hardship
- Life during the depression
- Leisure time activities
- Extreme weather
- Ancestors
- Farm or property histories
- School memories

Please add your voice to our next collection of stories from our community!

For help capturing your memories call Judy Smith at (613) 373-9328 or e-mail Susan Wright at southfred373@kos.net.

A Curious Thing

Angela Cronk



October's Curious Thing

This lovely deep purple bottle with a brass top has Colgate and Co. Perfumiers New York embossed on the bottom of it (Colgate began as Perfumiers). I have searched on line for an exact example of this bottle to verify what I believe it to be but have not found one. When I purchased it a few years ago, it caught my eye because it was exactly like a bottle that sat on my Grandmother's bathroom cabinet and from my memory contained tooth powder.

While dental hygiene has improved immensely over the ages, tooth powder has actually been around for quite a long time. The Egyptians used it, for example, as did ancient Asian cultures. Europeans tended to use plain toothbrushes with no water until around the 1800s, when cleaning powders became popular. Many people made their own, and some commercial preparations were actually quite dangerous, due to the use of toxic filler ingredients. Toothpaste began to be marketed in the late 1800s, although it

did not catch on immediately.

In modern times, people have fabricated their

own tooth powder using baking soda (sometimes with peroxide) as a natural way to clean your teeth and some dentists say it is as effective as modern day tooth paste!

The picture to the right shows a variety of tooth powder containers very similar to mine! This tin container is dated as 1915 and is being sold on line for \$125.



What are these?



Submitted by Angela Cronk

The round pieces are the size of a dime - the pink ones are newer interchangeable parts.

Please contact angelacronk@gmail.com if you recognise the item. Tell us what it is called, what it is used for, during what era it was used, and anything else you can tell us about it.

Do you have some weird thing hanging around your home or barn? Take a photo of it and send it in – we can feature it here in a future issue.

From the Attic

We are looking for old photos and documents from Adolphustown, North and South Fredericksburgh. Just about any old photograph would be of interest: photos of people, homes, farms, schools, churches, or community or family events. Even if you do not know the people or places in the photos, maybe someone else in the community does. Old publications relating to township businesses, schools and churches often contain fascinating details of life in their era.

Some items we are currently looking for:

OLD PHOTOS or Real Photo POSTCARDS:

- The Adolphustown Town Hall
- The South Fredericksburgh Town Hall at Sillsville
- The U.E.L. Cheese Factory, Adolphustown
- St. Paul's Church, Main Street Adolphustown
- The Old Store at Adolphustown
- The Old Hotel at Adolphustown
- Conway Store
- Conway Wharf
- Phippen Cheese Factory
- Fredericksburgh Train Station
- McDowall Presbyterian Church
- Camp Le Nid
- Glen Island
- Tarry Hall

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letters or postcards bearing postmarks from local towns and villages
- Correspondence from someone serving overseas during either WWI or WWII

BOOKLET:

Constitution and Roll of Officers and Members of Camp Le Nid. 1902

If you are looking for any specific photos or documents, let us know and we will add it to our "Attic" list. **Newly added items will be highlighted in blue!**

Contribute to The Neighbourhood Messenger

We publish *The Neighbourhood Messenger* 3 times a year: in February, May and October. If you have an old photograph or newspaper clipping to share, a story to tell, or an event to publicize, let us know. Submissions for the October issue can be sent to jane.lovell@kos.net anytime before the end of April 2015.

Contributors to this issue:

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