



Leeds & 1000 Islands Historical Society



Ogden, Maude and Berenice Marsh

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CONDOLENCES

Our Condolences go to the Family and friends of Cheryl (Cheri) White who passed away on Monday November 11.
Cheri was a long time member of the Historical Society.

Heritage Organization Grant

The Historical Society made an application to the Provincial Ministry of Culture for a Heritage Organization Development Grant.

This grant will be used to cover the cost of preparation and distribution of our Newsletters.

We wish to thank the Ministry of Culture for this assistance.

MEMBERSHIP FEES (Canadian Funds Please)

General (Family) - \$15.00 Association - \$20.00 Corporate - \$30.00

Our membership term is Sept. 1 to Aug. 31

Memberships available at any meeting or by cheque to:

LTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY Box 332 Lansdowne, Ont. KOE 1L0

To reduce printing & mailing costs of the Black & White Newsletter you can receive your "Full Colour" Newsletter by email - Contact Connie Burns - cburns@1000island.net

NEWSLETTERS

As our newsletter binder was growing too large, we have decided to split it into two.

Back copies of our newsletters are available for \$2.50 each

Copies 1 through 20 are available in a three ring binder - Cost \$62.00

Copies 21 through 40 - Cost \$62.00 - Binders with ALL copies 1-48 are available. Ask for price.

Due to the weight and high cost of postage, if these have to be mailed, postage will have to be added.

Also available now is a binder with a coloured cover insert or the coloured cover insert alone.

Ask the Executive for prices.

*As the season is fast approaching,
the Leeds and Thousand Islands Historical Society
wish everyone
a very Merry and Blessed Christmas
and a wonderful and Happy New Year 2020*



Words from the President



Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, to everyone who helped with the Lansdowne Craft Fair and to our wonderful vendors! Once again, we had a very successful day. We wish to express a special thanks to the Women's Institute for providing the food services for this event. Also, a special thank you to Pharmasave and Deb Buikema, who provided door prizes to help make our day even more exciting.

Winners of the Door Prizes were as follows:

<i>1st Prize: Pharmasave Gift Basket</i>	<i>Sam and Sara Kay</i>
<i>2nd Prize: Hand Soap and Hand Cream</i>	<i>Sheila Thompson</i>
<i>3rd Prize: Candy Cane Decorations</i>	<i>Kiki Olivier-Tailfeathers</i>
<i>(donated by Deb Buikema)</i>	

The Historical Society needs your support more than ever!!!! Please renew your membership! What about giving a membership as a Christmas Gift? For \$15.00/year you receive 2 newsletters and advance notice about our public meetings and special events.

Check out our updated website at: www.ltihistoricalsociety.org

*Work on the website is ongoing. We are adding new material almost weekly!
So, keep coming back to see more about the history of our area.*

Spring Meetings

Typically, we don't meet in January or February.

In March and April, we are planning very special meetings which will include information and possible visits to two renovated historical buildings in the township. The buildings are the former Presbyterian Church and the former Escott Public School. We are working on a special outing for May. Watch for more details.

Glenda Olivier, President

The purposes of the Leeds and 1000 Islands Historical Society:

- To promote an awareness of the past of Township of Leeds and the 1000 Islands and its importance in the development of Ontario,
- To preserve the past through a permanent collection of pictures and materials,
- To carry out research to compile authentic records of early buildings and properties,
- To provide an avenue through which this information can be made available to the community at large.



Article continued from Issue #50

Junius Writes

Gananoque, January 16th, 1865

Junius devoted much of his letter to the fire that had consumed the office and dry kiln of S. Skinner & Co.; he also bemoaned the fact that a vote to prohibit the sale of liquor in Gananoque had failed and the likelihood of increased rowdyism at night.

At the time Junius was writing his epistles the United States had been embroiled in the Civil War for over three and a half years; conscription had been enacted in 1863 and many men fled to Canada to avoid military service. Junius' opinion of these "skedaddlers" is evident.

Gananoque, January 23, 1865

Sir - The ice bridge between Gananoque and Clayton, United States is now pretty good, and several teams have crossed to and from here; a four horse team loaded with feed left Gananoque on the ice for Clayton on Saturday last and there seems of late a pretty good trade with the Yankees who are over here for flour, bran, shorts and many other articles they require which must be cheaper than on their own side of the river, however, if they would come and take away some of their miserable skedaddlers who are about half starved and too lazy to work it would be some relief to the people of Gananoque. There would be less begging and stealing of wood to keep themselves in existence and less whisky consumed.

A quite an accident happened at Marble Rock a few days ago - a person was driving his team down the hill near the new bridge (and not having a ladder with him) his team and wood went over the bank without any serious injury to himself or horses but I now warn the Council to see that a proper way is made to said bridge, if not the Corporation will be liable to pay any damage that may occur by their neglect.

Gananoque, January 30, 1865

Sir - I saw a statement in a newspaper some years ago that Gananoque was noted for cord wood and bad whiskey, which I think might more properly apply to the present time, for certainly there is an enormous quantity of the former coming into the Gananoque market. As to the latter there is always a large crop of whiskey and consequently a large crop of drunkards.

While I am speaking of cordwood I may say that the hardwood has become scarce near Gananoque and large quantities have been cut back of Marble Rock which will be brought in scows to the dam and run over in a kind of spout into another scow or eel-pot similar to the way they used to catch eels in old times at Marble Rock and which used to be called "Marble Rock Beef".

The Division Court was held in Gananoque during the week past and several cases of importance were tried before Judge Malloch, one of which was a case of smuggling a thrashing machine.

I am sorry to hear that on the judge's return from Gananoque to Brockville on board the cars on Thursday morning near Lansdowne, the car he was in ran off the track and seriously injured him.

I am, sir, your ob't servant, JUNIUS

Gifts That Keep On Giving,,,

Maude and Joe Guild...

Late last year the Historical Society was bequeathed materials that had been collected by the late Maude May Hennessy Guild and donated to us by her son Joe. These included a wonderful collection of photographs, diaries and a guest book dating from 1909 from Winnekenni Cottage just off Grenadier Island in addition to family photos from her own family.



Maude was a true daughter of the River; her parents David and Bertha, made their living off the river, pursuing many occupations such as commercial sturgeon fishing, boat building and care taking of cottages like Winnekenni.



These activities are richly represented in the hundreds of photographs.

(Continued on Pg. #6)

(Continued from Pg. #5)

Gifts That Keep On Giving,,,

Her family lived year-round on the River in a houseboat.



Maude (center back row)
attended and later taught at



the Grenadier Island School in
addition to other area
schools.

1909 Winnekenni Boat-house, and Skiff-house



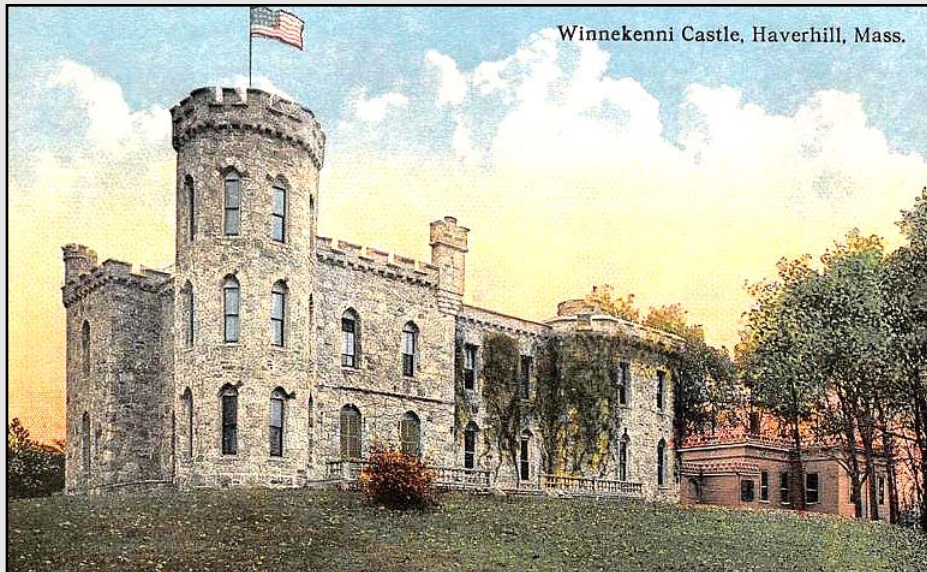
Winnekenni, Algonkian for "Very Beautiful", was built in 1909 by Austin Nichols son of Dr, James R. Nichols a successful chemist, physician and agriculturalist. Austin had no doubt been exposed to the demands of building projects; his father built a stone castle called Winnekenni Castle in Haverhill Massachusetts in 1873-5.

(Continued on Pg. #7)



(Continued from Pg. #6)

Gifts That Keep On Giving,,,



Winnekenni Castle, Haverhill, Mass.

The guest book is a true treasure, tightly bound within tiger stripe maple boards.

To have it disassembled and reassembled by a professional binder to permit scanning would have cost over 800 dollars. We are truly grateful to the folks at The Internet Archives at the University of Toronto campus.



Using their custom designed equipment for book scanning they were able to scan the entire book at high resolution without any damage, and they did it for free!

<https://archive.org/details/toronto>



The entire book can now be seen online at
<https://archive.org/details/ltiarchives>

(Continued on Pg. #8)

(Continued from Pg. #7)

Gifts That Keep On Giving,,,

More Generosity...

When subsequent Winnekenni owners Chris and Mary Smith heard of the Maude May donation they very generously offered the Archives further materials that they had retained from their time owning the cottage. Among other things, these treasures included photograph albums from the early 1900's, a diary of travels in Europe and North America in 1904 by Maude Nichols the future owner of the not yet built Winnekenni, loose photographs from the Nichols and May families and a range of materials related to the many activities of the Smiths in their participation in various organizations dedicated to the protection of the River.



In yet another gift arising from the May donation, Art Shaw's article in this Newsletter on the raising of a sunken boat in the Gananoque harbour, the Morningstar, arose from his discovery of the photographs whilst cataloging the May collection and then searching meticulously through Maude's diary for her description of the raising.

<https://www.recorder.ca/news/local-news/the-raising-of-the-morning-star>

(Continued on Pg. #9)

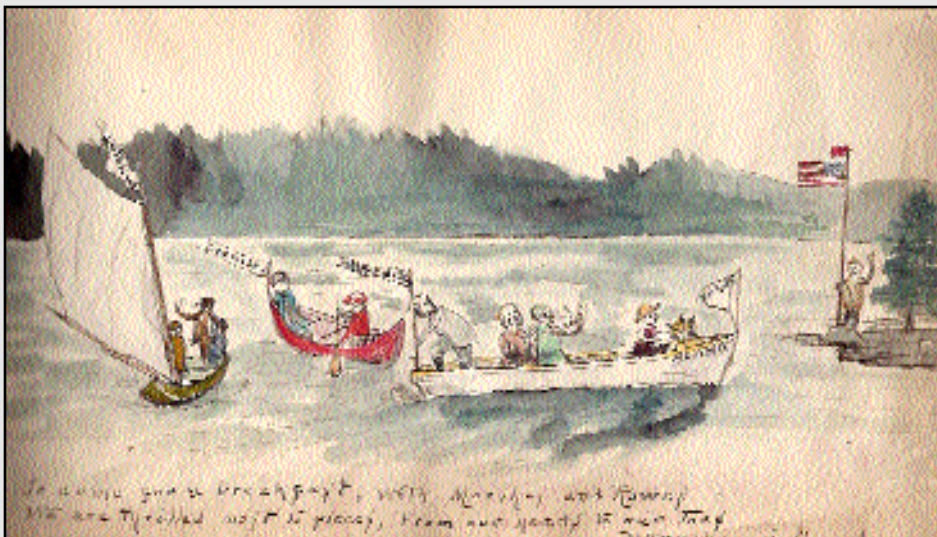
(Continued from Pg. #8)

Gifts That Keep On Giving,,,



The Marsh Rowe Family...

These related island collections began to arrive several years ago when Evelyn Marsh of California, and the current owners of Kenwood and descendants of the Marsh family, the Rowe family of Wisconsin donated scans of their family guest books dating back to the early 1900's. The two Marsh families, that of brothers Darius Augustus Marsh of the cottage Crow's Nest west of Grenadier and Ednor Marsh of the cottage Kenwood on Grenadier, were close friends of the Nichols and visited back and forth between the cottages leaving photographs and witty comments and poems in each other's respective guest books. Some photographs reappear in both the Marsh materials and the Nichols materials.



A search in the LTI Archives website under the keyword "Kenwood" brings up over 600 images including the magical one taken on Grenadier Island!

(See Cover Photo)

What tune do you think they're playing?



Gifts That Keep On Giving,,,

Let's hope that all these gifts will encourage other potential donors to share their treasures with the community. Donate, or lend for scanning, your photos, letters, diaries and other materials to the Archives; give a gift that keeps on giving.

These collections augment each other by building a sense of the community that existed within the Islands. Collectively they become more than what they would be in isolation. More will only strengthen the effect.

2018 WRAP UP - ARCHAEOLOGY DIG AT LYNDHURST.

By Art Shaw

Five pits down on the beach provided some of the most important discoveries.



This piece of primitive equipment was removed from the river. It is probably part of a device to open a sluice or a turbine, from a mill prior to 1897. The flume (circa 1912) is accessible, which carried water to the entrance to the turbine.



The flume (circa 1912) is accessible,
which carried water to...
the entrance to the turbine.



Turbine Entrance



T H E B E A T T Y D I A R I E S

[This part of his diary is continued on from our last issue #50, 2019 \(Page #8\).](#)

1868

- April**
- 7 Went to the fifth & sixth concessions & layed out a road . Stopped with Ben Herbison all night. Snowed all day & part of night. Billy got home today.
 - 8 Came home today. The snow is about 4 inches deep. Fine morning. Snowed and blowed in afternoon.
 - 9 Drew some wood from the sugar bush. Sleigh run well. Fine day.
 - 10 Drew 2 loads of hay from Thomas Bradley. Got 12 in one and 10 in other. Snowed & stormed most of day.
 - 11 Worked in the bush. The boys cut some wood in the sugrbush. The snow nearly gone..Snow at night with high winds.
 - 12 No meeting today. Very heavy frost last night.
 - 13 Heavy frost last night, clear and cold.. Drew 2 loads from the old house.
 - 14 Picked up some stones from the orchard in the forenoon. Plowed below the old house in the afternoon.
 - 15 No frost this morning. Plowed in the 2 fields in the northern part . I boiled sap in the bush. Ad chopped some Elm.
 - 16 Fine morning, rain about 10 o'clock light showers most of day. Bought a plow from R.B. Webster. He got it from Ogdenburg Price \$10.50 Plowed a little in north field.
 - 17 Plowed in the north field. Billie and me put up some fence in the middle of the second field.
 - 18 Ad plowed in north field. We fixed bunks and put up some fence.
 - 19 The Rev. Mr Wallar preached in the schoolhouse & Rev. Mr Carroll in the church in afternoon.
 - 20 Billie plowed in the north field. I worked in the garden.
 - 21 Ad left for Guelph this morning by the 3 o'clock train. Edwan Young went with him to Toronto. I went to John Ivies with Mr. Gillhoolie. I heard that he had 300 bushel of potatoes for sale. He had none. Fine day.
 - 22 Billie finished plowing the north field. then he plowed below the old house . Rain about 10.
 - 23 The ground is covered with snow this morning & snowed and blowed till 10 o'clock.
 - 24 Got 800 of hay from T. Bradley. Finished plowing at the old house this forenoon. Plowed the garden.
 - 26 Rev. W. Baker preached in the schoolhouse in the forenoon. I took him to Reeds Schoolhouse in the afternoon..
 - 27 Sowed 4 bushel of oats in the barn field. Snowed in the afternoon.
 - 28 Plowed in the field below the house in the afternoon. The snow was better.
 - 29 Finished the field this forenoon& dragged one ridge in the north field. We then sowed 5 bushel of peas & barley below the barn.
 - 30 Sowed 2 bushel of wheat in the new land. Rain in the afternoon.



A TYPICAL DAY IN THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

By Audrey Newell

If there were such a thing as a typical day in the one room schools in our township, it would begin when the pupils were called in at 9 a.m.. This was done by ringing the bell, either the large one in the belfry or a hand bell rung by the teacher or a designated older pupil.

Once inside the children “quickly and quietly” removed their outer clothing, which were hung on hooks positioned along the back wall. Lunch pails, which consisted of anything from sturdy empty five-pound paper sugar bags or honey pails to “boughten” ones were placed on the ledge below.

A pail of water, carried from a well across the road, was kept on a little table in the back corner. A small dipper hung nearby. The washbasin, hand soap plus a towel on a roller were nearby.

The pupils were seated at desks lined up in rows according to the grade.

Opening exercises began with singing a hymn, a Bible reading chosen from the King James version, followed by the Lord’s Prayer and singing of God Save the King or Queen.



Miss Audrey (Hill) Newell

After this a few minutes were spent catching up on Current Events. This included international, national and local news, e.g who had purchased a new car, or whose grandmother had come to stay.

At 9:20 work began in earnest. The blackboards were filled with exercises to be completed by the pupils. Arithmetic was the first subject of the day. Grades one and two had books or plasticene on their desks with which to work for a few minutes.

While one or two classes were being taught, all the others were at seatwork, some from the blackboard, others from oral instructions from the teacher. The younger children often learned much from listening to the senior grades. Older children often lent a helping hand to the younger ones. This would include spelling dictation, oral reading and arithmetic drills.

By recess time at 10:15 a.m. arithmetic and spelling had been covered for the day.

At recess everyone hurried into outer clothing, grabbed an apple or cookie from their lunch pail and rushed outside to play. As there wasn’t enough time to start a ball game, they would quickly begin games of tag, hide-and-seek, red rover, I spy with my little eye, etc.

When the bell rang at 10:30 a.m. they all trooped inside to study science or social studies. History and geography in grades 7 and 8 and also in grades 5 and 6 were combined.

(Continued on Pg. #13)



(Continued from Pg. #12)

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

By Audrey Newell

Writing and printing were taught as subjects. Rows of circles and up and down strokes were practiced. Then they finished off with a sentence, eg. "Aunt Alice ate apples".

Grades 1 and 2 would have their time to practice oral reading, either from the blackboard or their readers.

Noon hour was from 12 noon until 1 p.m. Lunch was quickly consumed so a ball game could begin by choosing up sides. The bats were often hand-crafted by a grandfather. Bases were feed bags stuffed with straw.

In the winter teacher and pupils enjoyed skating on a nearby creek which the older boys kept cleared of snow. Once again this was a noon hour activity. Valentine's Day was a special "Skate Day".

Rarely was the teacher observed out in the yard, unless he/she wanted to join in the fun. Sometimes the teacher would be called on to referee.

Often in the winter "hot lunches" were in order. These were very basic. Families would take turns sending homemade or canned soup or stew which the older girls heated on the wood stove. Occasionally the pupils brought potatoes to bake amongst the coals, or eggs to boil, each child printing his/her name on his/her egg.

Quite often on a birthday a mother would send a large birthday cake to be shared by all. Everyone enjoyed the celebration, including games and prizes. Children who lived within close proximity to the school would invite everyone home for a delicious home-cooked meal and birthday cake.

When classes resumed at 1 p.m. it was story time. For fifteen minutes the teacher read aloud from a favourite book. It might be "Swallows & Amazons" by Arthur Rowsome; "Heidi" by Johanna Spyre, or Mark twain's "Tom Sawyer and "Huckleberry Finn" etc. Some days one of the pupils would have a story or poem to share. Everyone enjoyed this quiet time.



Birthday Party

After this the pupils began their classes in art, health or other subjects.

Teachers were expected to follow the curriculum as outlined in the manuals from the Department of Education.

Afternoon recess was at 2:30 p.m. at which time Grade one and sometimes Grade 2 pupils were dismissed for the day. The older pupils raced around the yard, played Hop Scotch and other games.

Literature, Grammar and Oral Reading occupied the rest of the day. Many a good laugh was enjoyed while listening to a grade 8 pupil read Jerome K. Jerome's "Three Men In A Boat".

Homework was assigned in various subjects before dismissal at 4 p.m.

(Continued on Pg. #14)



(Continued from Pg. #12)

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE ONE-ROOM SCHOOL

By Audrey Newell

Once a week the music teacher, Mr. W.H. Thrasher (Later Miss Elizabeth Gray and then Mrs. .Sydna Day were hired) came to the rural schools to instruct the pupils. The song books used were compiled by G. Roy Fenwick and published by W.J. Gage, Toronto.

A choir was assembled and much practicing carried out to prepare for the Music Festival held each spring in the Lansdowne Town Hall. Each school in the district presented a number or two. Quite often several school choirs were combined. These choirs competed with schools from other districts at the Brockville Music Festival, winning many awards.

Miss Gladys Reid, the school nurse, made regular rounds of the local schools, checking general health of each child, giving inoculations and vaccinations, checking for head lice, and suggestions for healthy living.

The United Church minister, Rev. Selwyn Cook, visited periodically. The pupils appreciated the knowledge and love of birds he shared with them. He shared paintings and photos plus books and encouraged the children to watch for birds.

Very few schools had many books in their little corner library. A travelling library, consisting of a sturdy wooden box, containing 40 or 50 books for all ages would arrive once a month. This was a very exciting time. An older child would be chosen librarian and the lending would begin. The children were always eager to check out the "new" books. At the end of the month the books were carefully packed in their box and moved to another school. Then each school had a "new" library arrive.

Once a month the teacher or a parent would pick up a projector and 3 or 4 short films on reels from a nearby school. These were provided by the National Film Board. They were very good; including animal and bird stories, adventure, other countries etc. They were well received by the students and the community at large., as they were also generally shown at night so members of the community could attend. Those were the days before television, remember! Quite often lunch and a social time would follow.

Audrey (Hill) Newell taught at Mitchelville School, Union School, #19 Front of Leeds and Lansdowne, #22 Front of Escott from 1948 to 1956. These are her memories of her time there.



Mitchellville School
Class 1952



YEAR IN REVIEW 2018-2019

FROM THE SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT



September 2018–
Kathleen Burtch outlined the
Golden Age of Tourism – 1870 to
the 1900's

October 2018
Brian Porter led
us from
carriage to Car –
Brockville's Car
Industry
1911 - 1922



November 2018
Bill Boulton
walked us
Along Country
Lanes –
a review of his
new book.



March 2019
John Badowski took us through
4000 Years of Astronomy in 40 Minutes.



April 2019
Peggy House from the Rockville Museum
took us shopping at the All Natural
Department Store.



Paid up MEMBERSHIPS as of NOVEMBER 15, 2019

LAST NAME FIRST NAME	LAST NAME FIRST NAME	LAST NAME FIRST NAME	LAST NAME FIRST NAME
ABRAMS, GAIL ADAMS, WINSTON & WILMA ANDERSON, DEBBY ANDERSON, WAYNE ARBUCKLE, DON & GLORIA ARROWSMITH, BRENDA BROWN, JACK BRYAN, ELAINE BURNS, DON & PAT BURNS, GEORGE & CONNIE BURNS, JOAN BURTCH, KATHLEEN BURTCH, ROBERT CAVE, NELSON & SUNNY CHISAMORE, DON & DANNIE CLARK, SHIRLEY CORNETT, MARY JOAN CRAIG, BRUCE & BETTY CROSS, THORALD & MARY DEMPSEY, CLARK & DONNA DESJARDINS, MELANIE DOAK, ROBERT DORY, CHERI DOREY, GERRY & DONALDA DOREY, MARK FODEY, TERRY & FEMIA FOLEY, BRUCE & JOAN FOLEY, DONNA GAYLORD, DAN & JANET GEMMELL, JOHN GIBBINS, BOB GIBBINS, CHRIS & GINNY GIBSON-LANGILLE, SHIRLEY GILL, JULIA GREBBY, JOHN & MARIE GRIER, JAMIE & TRACIE GRIFFIN, ROBERT HAIG, HAROLD HAIRD, KIM HEATON, STEPHEN HEWITT, TED & PAT HUNT, ANNE HUNT, DOREEN JOHNSTON, JEAN KNOWLES, LLOYD LACELLE, WILHELMINA LANGTON, JIM & NANCY LAPOINTE, YOLANDE LATIMER, ILA LYNCH, CAROL LYNCH, PATTI	MABEE, KEITH MACKINTOSH, DOUGLAS & BLU MACLEOD, JOHN & MARION MALLORY, GLENNA MATTHEW, DOUG & MARY ELLEN McCRADY, EARL McKAY, MARION MOIR, RONALD MONTGOMERY, CHARLES MOORHEAD, LORNE & MARGARET MURRAY, PETER NUTTALL, BEN & HILDA NUTTALL, JAY NUTTALL, LINDA & CHOJNACKI, MARK OFFORD, HOSS & SANDI O'GRADY, CHRIS ORMSBEE, CHRIS PAGE, STEVE PECK, GARY PHILLIPS, BRIAN PILON, TELESPORE RATH, NORMAN ROBERTSON, MARY REID RONEY, GERALD RUNNING, MURRAY & DIANE SCHARF, RICHARD & MYRNA SHAVER, CAROL SHAW, ART SLY, KEITH SMID, HENRY SORENSEN, JOHN & LOUISE STEACY, MARLENE STOKES, WAYNE & KRISTI STRUTHERS, VELMA SWAN, MARION TEDFORD, ROBERT TEDFORD, ROGER & CONNIE THORBURN, JON VanWALRAVEN, NICK WALPOT, CINDI WEBSTER, BEATRICE WEBSTER, ERIC & NANCY WEBSTER, GEORGE & REBECCA WEBSTER, JEAN WHITE, FRED WILLIAMS, HOWARD	CORPORATE MEMBERS: FOX RUN BY THE RIVER RETIREMENT RESIDENCE GLENNDA OLIVIER ONTARIO WIDE REAL ESTATE, BROKERAGE HORTON HOMESTEAD FARM RTON BROKERS LTD. TODD GRIER EXCAVATING HONOURARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: ALLAN LINDSAY AUDREY NEWELL WILLIAM "BILL" BOULTON	<p>In order to save the L.T.I. Historical Society's costs involved in printing & mailing the B&W Newsletter issues, we would request that you consider having the Full Colour issue emailed to you.</p> <p>To sign up please Contact Connie Burns by email cburns@1000island.net</p>