

# The Carleton Place & Beckwith Historical Society Update

## Society and Museum News



**August 2012**

### **AT A GLANCE**

**Penguins in Carleton Place?**

**Beckwith Post 1812 WarTownship**

**Willoughby Park  
Aboriginal Contributions  
to Canada's Military Her-  
itage Lecture**

**David Findlay Award**

**Open Doors 2012**

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### **Penguins in Carleton Place?**

If you attended the Car Show at Riverside Park in June, you may have spotted a Carleton Place Penguin!



A Penguin is a 4 wheeled, two seated amphibious vehicle. Penguins were designed to be used by sportsmen, industry and the armed forces. Trailers and front wheel clip on skis were available options. Top speeds of up to 40 mph were claimed on land, and 4 mph on water!

**“The Penguin can carry two armed soldiers over muskeg as easily as two fishermen on a placid lake”.**

The first Penguin was built in Toronto, Ontario sometime in 1962 with production moving to Ottawa in 1963. In April, 1964 the Ottawa plant was forced to close down and production moved to Carleton Place, Ontario.

The Pengor company set up their assembly line in the former **Bates and Innes Mill** on McArthur Island and planned to produce 100 out Penguins a day. Penguins were built in various colours. A blue and white Penguin complete with trailer was presented to Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth during a Royal Visit to Canada, in October, 1964.

Unfortunately, in November of 1964 the company filed for bankruptcy, and in May, 1965 an auction was held to sell off all machines and parts. The total number of machines ever built was approximately 800.

Kevin Percy, a Carleton Place resident, has been collecting, researching and showing Penguin amphibious vehicles for many years. He will be bringing a few vehicles from his collection to display on the grounds of the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum during the DOORS OPEN ONTARIO event on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Come by and see a real Carleton Place Penguin up close!!

### **Beckwith—**

#### **Post 1812 War Township**

Past President Terry Skillen has produced a research report. It discusses the development of townships north of the Rideau River, including Beckwith, as part of a military plan for the defence of Upper Canada following the War of 1812. It will be sent separately to all Historical Society Members and also made available at the Museum for visitors and researchers alike.

*We welcome copies of your own research into local history or events, as well as family histories and genealogical information on local families. All will be added to our growing research and genealogical files at the museum and will assist in telling the histories of Carleton Place and Beckwith Township.*



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Society and Museum News Page Two

## Willoughby Park Opening

On July 11 the Museum presented a display on the life and work of local builder William Willoughby at the opening of Willoughby Park in the new Brigil subdivision in Carleton



Place. William Willoughby arrived in Canada in 1853, moving to Carleton Place in 1885. He lived on Lake Avenue East at the corner of Prince Street. Willoughby was one of the most extensive stone mason contractors in Canada. He helped to clear the right of way on the CPR railway from Carleton Place to the end of Beckwith Township, and built all the culverts along the route. He built 15 churches, 11 school houses, 4 town halls and countless blocks, minor buildings and bridges in the area, including the original Carleton Place Town Hall—now the Carleton Place and Beckwith

## Plan to Attend!

### “Aboriginal Contributions to Canada's Military History”

- a presentation by John Moses on September 26th, 7pm at The Moore House.

John Moses is a member of the Delaware band from the Six Nations of the Grand River. He holds a master's degree in Canadian Studies and is currently employed as a policy analyst at the Department of Canadian Heritage, where he is volunteer co-chair of the Aboriginal Working Group equity and diversity committee.

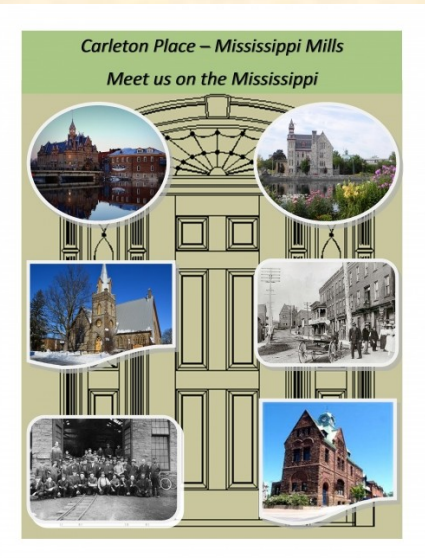
### DAVID G. FINDLAY AWARD – 2012

The David G. Findlay Award will not be given this year. The Award is intended to encourage and recognize those in our community to conduct and share new research in the area of our local history. A number of submissions had been made however after a serious consideration by independent judges it was felt that none met all of the award criteria.

## Volunteers Needed

Doors Open Carleton Place needs volunteers to welcome visitors to local heritage buildings on Saturday September 8. Call Jennifer at 613-253-7013 if interested.

[www.cpmmdoorsopen2012.com/index.php](http://www.cpmmdoorsopen2012.com/index.php)



## Traveling Displays:

Aug. 18: Corn Festival, Market Square

Aug. 25/26: Railway Days, Smiths Falls Train Museum

Every Thursday afternoon: Waterside Retirement Home



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