



The Carleton Place & Beckwith Historical Society Update

Society and Museum News



Summer 2013

AT A GLANCE

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Museum News

It is the beginning of July and the Carleton Place and Beckwith Museum is almost half way through its summer season. If you have not yet visited the Museum please come in and take a tour of our very popular “Traveling Through Time” exhibit.



Be sure to look for our museum booth at **The Carleton Place Canoe Club Regatta**, July 20/21 at Riverside Park and at **Bridge Street Bazaar**, Saturday August 3. Join us for “**Behind the Scenes**”, a presentation on artifact handling and display, offered every second Sunday throughout the summer months!

Behind the Scenes
At the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum

- Artifact Handling Presentation
- Tour of Collections Area
- Tour of Exhibit Area
- Every second Sunday starting July 29 - 2013
- 11:00am - 12:30pm
- \$5.00 or FREE for Members
- Other dates and times can be set up for groups of 6+

Call for more information or to sign up

Persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult or we will be dealing with real children.

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Meet Our Summer Students



Hello my name is Kristie Bredfeldt. I will be entering third year of the Applied Museum Studies Program at Algonquin College in September. I have prior experience working in a community museum and I hope to bring those skills to my position here. This summer I will be focusing on cataloguing the archives as well as developing new programming. I look forward to learning more about the history of my home town and passing that knowledge onto visitors.



Hi, my name is Alexandra McGee. This will be my fourth summer working at the museum and I will continue my task of organizing the photographic collection. With a long line of family from Carleton Place, I am very dedicated to local history. I am heading into my fourth (and final) year of History at McMaster University, and plan to apply for my M.A. in the fall. This past school year I was given the opportunity to work alongside the Dundas Museum and Archives and the McMaster's Department of History on a public history project for the Dundas Cactus Festival – it was a great experience! I hope to see you in the museum and ask me for a tour... you won't forget it!

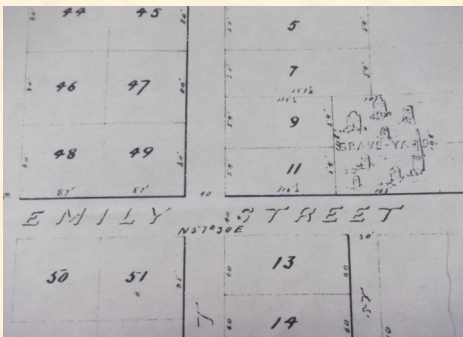
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Maps

History and geography go hand in hand, and maps stand at the intersection of the two.

Events happen in a location, and locations change names and boundaries over time, and may even 'fall off the map' altogether! Streets that once existed disappear. Islands that never existed are created by man to serve industry. A service station goes out of business because a new bypass reroutes the once prolific traffic. These changes are continuous and incessant. To understand the unfolding of history, it is necessary to consult as many maps as possible and to reconcile the secrets they reveal. Carleton Place and Beckwith Township are replete with mysteries revealed to those with a sharp eye and the right maps!



If you have 'old' maps of the town, local townships and counties, or even Eastern Ontario, the museum would be happy to make them available to local researchers. Even maps from the last few decades would be useful, be they road maps or topographical maps. If you no longer have use for it, we do!

-Lise Heroux

Look For Us Around Town!

Travelling Exhibits are on Display at:

- ◆ The Carleton Place Library
- ◆ Carambeck Community Centre
- ◆ Information Centre, Coleman St.
- ◆ Beckwith Township Office

War of 1812 and the Algonquin People

To acknowledge June as National Aboriginal History Month, I participated in the *From Truth to Reconciliation* forum at Carleton Place on 8 June 2013. I was hoping to hear stories about indigenous persons located in and around Carleton Place. While I did not feel personally responsible for the wrongs done to the indigenous people of the Mississippi watershed, I did bring my indignation and concern about the War of 1812, the settlement of Beckwith Township and the treatment of the indigenous population by British and Canadian governments. Others at the event shared my indignation about the exploitation of the Native population but we were guided to focus on solutions rather than getting stuck in the problem. The experiential exercises and verbal presentations were thought-provoking and motivating. No one spoke out in anger; there were no heated recriminations; there were experiences shared by Algonquin participants and ignorance expressed by some descendants of 'settlers' about the treatment of the indigenous Algonquin; reference was made to the 250th anniversary of the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the 400th anniversary of Champlain's visit to the Algonquin camp at Morrison Island in 1613, the Residential schools, the broken treaties, the Algonquin Land Claim in Ontario, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the response of the Government of Canada.

Elder Larry McDermott spoke extemporaneously on Algonquin history. The Declaration of 1763 required that concessions of land by Aboriginal Nations were to come through the King; individual settlers could not negotiate land transactions with Indian people, nor could they coerce indigenous people to give up their land.

Nevertheless, the settlers, trappers, hunters and squatters, incessantly invaded Algonquin land without permission. Even before the War of 1812, the Algonquin were petitioning the Crown about the land that was being taken from them; During the War of 1812, Algonquin warriors served with the British; the Aboriginal involvement was very important to the outcome of the war; the greatest numbers of casualties were indigenous warriors; more than the total casualties of British, Canadian and American combatants. Little attention has been given to the aboriginal contribution to the outcome of the 1812 War. After the War, the indigenous peoples had high expectations for settlement of land claims. Instead, more land was taken from them. The Algonquin never entered into an agreement to give up their land to the British King.

In 1816, the British purchased a vast area including present Lanark County to accommodate new settlers. The boundary area between the watershed of the Ottawa Valley and the watershed of the Great Lakes was shared by the Algonquin and Mississauga; the presumption of the Mississauga to ownership of the shared lands has resulted in continuing litigation over the disputed territory.

Algonquins of Ontario are now claiming rights and title to approximately 36,000 sq. km. of eastern Ontario. This claim was received by Ontario in August 1985 and the Province began initial discussions with the Algonquin in 1991. A Preliminary Draft Agreement in Principle between the Algonquin of Ontario, Ontario Government and Federal Government has been reached. The draft agreement is a working document to be used to develop a final agreement.

-Terry Skillen

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