



Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum Newsletter

Volume XXXVIII No. 2 September 2011

An Irish Pioneer Day

The Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum presented the 35th Annual Pioneer Day and Strawberry Social on Saturday July 23rd. It welcomed over 250 people to the museum grounds to join in on the Irish themed festivities.

Exhibits featured agricultural equipment like antique tractors, steam engines and a variety of ploughs. There were many vendors as well that were around during the day such as **Watson's Mill, Irish Society of the National Capital Region and the Ploughman's Association** who brought along the wonderful Queen of the Furrow Sarah McFadden. She was asked to **draw the name for the 'Name the Pig contest' for the clay oven pig** that was made by Gary Briggs and the OTHSM staff. Gary was making bread in the clay oven during the day with flour that was donated by Castor River Farm.

In keeping with the Irish theme there were different entertainers that performed throughout the day. The three

musical acts were The Fumblin' Fingers, Robin Averill and The Newfie Two. Along with the musical entertainment two authors graced the stage with insights about their books. First to the stage was Caroline Pignat who talked about her novel **'Greener Grass' a story written about a family during the potato famine in Ireland.** The other author was Joy Forbes who talked about her book **'Perseverance, Pranks & Pride - Tales of the One-Room Schoolhouse'.**

We again would like to thank all those who helped out with this year's Pioneer Day. We have received lots of positive feedback from those who attended this year and we hope that we can get even more people to attend Pioneer Day next year in celebration of the Historical Society's 40th anniversary.

Kristie Bredfeldt
Pioneer Day Organizer



Gary Briggs with mud oven.



The Fumblin' Fingers perform.



Queen of the Furrow Sarah McFadden with Kristie Bredfeldt.

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June Newsletter

Unfortunately our June newsletter was delayed and the decision was made to move ahead with the Sept. issue.

Our apologies to the membership.

New Museum Sign!

If you have driven past the museum lately, you may have noticed that we have replaced the faded sign at the highway. The new sign was done by Classic Graphics of Kemptville.



Who are we?

If you can identify the subjects of this image please contact the Museum at 613-821-4062 or oths@magma.ca



Osgoode Township Historical Society and Museum

A Farewell to Museum Staff Kristie Bredfeldt



I have always had a love of history and decided that I wanted a career that would bring me closer to history. After high school I attended Wilfrid Laurier University. I majored in Archaeology and minored in Medieval Studies. After two years I had decided to take some time off from schooling to get some experience in the field. I was then hired as a summer student at the OTHSM to work on the Artefact Inventory Project which was to catalogue all the artefacts found in the Exhibit room. In September I was hired on full time as the Assistant Museum Manager. During this time I have continued the Artefact Inventory Project and completed the cataloguing of all artefacts in the exhibit room. Com-

ing to the close of my position here at the museum I am working with the many photographs that we have here at the museum. I encourage those who have family roots in the township to come in and take a look at our unidentified photographs to help us identify the photos that were donated without being identified.

During the past year that I have been with the museum I have achieved many things inside and outside of the museum. At the museum I made my very own bronze plaque of Dr. Hamilton Allen and Hamilton Leigh Allen which is displayed in the museum now. I also had the opportunity to be the organizer of the 2011 Pioneer Day. Outside of the museum I became

certified as wedding planner, moved into a new apartment in Ottawa and became Miss Ottawa Canada and competed in the Miss Canada International Pageant.

I am now going back to school in September for Museum Studies at Algonquin College in Ottawa. This is a three year program and I will graduate with an Ontario College Advanced Diploma.

I want to thank everyone who has been a part of my time here at the museum for making it a memorable one. I want to especially thank Ann who has been here with me the whole time. I will miss you lots.



Stephanie

This fall I will be attending my third year at Trent University, where I am studying Archaeology. History, specifically the hands-on aspect of it where I can actually touch the objects of everyday life of the people long past has always inspired me. As a little girl, my parents took me to many museums. The opportunity to work in a museum and discover the secrets to what happens away from the public eye has been amazing. I have learned so much during the past 3 months, not only how a museum operates, but the history

behind Osgoode Township. Many of us would like to live in an interesting place; a key place in history. While Osgoode Township is not key to greater history, it certainly has an interesting history of its own filled with the past struggles of farmers, silly pictures of unidentified people, and stories that have long since been forgotten. This opportunity, along with the great people I have worked with will never be forgotten.



Boyd Block machine refurbished by volunteer James Krause



John

I have lived in Osgoode since I was nine years old, my family moved there from Maxville, Ont. I am about to start my fourth year at the University of Waterloo where I am studying History. Working at the museum was a very interesting experience; there was a lot of variety. I learned a lot cataloguing the Agricultural Barn, partly from the labels and research books but also from talking to visitors, people who had actually used

those tools and machinery or ones like them. I would learn from one person, then would share that knowledge with the next visitors and learn something new from them. I also did some work with the photograph collection and it was interesting to see faces from a century ago. Then there were the extra activities: participating in a parade at Upper Canada Village, creating a wax model for a bronze plaque, helping to build a bread oven out

of cob, Pioneer Day, and more. I really enjoyed working here this summer.





Royal Visit by Coreen Atkins Sheldrick

Several years ago I inherited the **scrapbook of my husband's Aunt Joan** (nee Smith) Sheldrick. Aunt Joan was an avid Monarchist of Irish descent. Since her youth, she had collected newspaper clippings pertaining to and about the British Royal Family. This **collection is an historian's treasure trove**. Recently, while browsing through one of these scrapbooks, I was reminded of the various "Royalty" related artefacts in our collection. With **this Spring's Royal Wedding and the Royal Visit to Canada**, I was **inspired to look at the "Royal" influence on Osgoode Township**. On May 22, 1939, the King and Queen, as part of their pre-war tour to rally the Common-

wealth, continued their cross-Canada train trip, by leaving Ottawa for Toronto and stopping at many small communities along the way. One of their stops was Morrisburg, where Osgoode Township resident and Historical Society member Frances Iveson was able to take the snapshot to the right.

We also have a photograph of Victor Kennedy acting as chauffeur to the Royal couple during that same visit.

Please stop into the Museum to **view the many "Royalty" related items** in our collection.



King George and the Queen Mother at the back of the Royal Train. May 1939, Morrisburg, Ontario. Image taken by Frances Iveson.

Bronze Casting by Coreen Atkins Sheldrick

Work is still ongoing with the Bronze casting workshop started during 2010. Many of the wax molds are now complete and some pouring of the bronze has been done. There are several more plaques in the works. Stop by the museum to see the pieces already completed by volunteers. Once all of these plaques are completed and ready for display, announcements will appear on our Museum website as well as in the newsletter.



Gary Briggs and his son James pour bronze at their workshop.

New Museum Website!

Thanks to the hard work of volunteer Mo El-Shentenawy the Historical Society and Museum is thrilled to report that it has a new website. Check out our new site for updates regarding programs and activities and for online exhibits coming soon.

www.osgoodemuseum.ca



Don't Forget:

Membership Renewals are due now.

Contact the Museum to renew and make sure you don't miss out on any upcoming events or news reported in the newsletter.

The OTHS&M gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of



Limited Edition Metcalfe Fair Poster

The OTHSM is reproducing a limited number of copies of a poster advertising the 1933 Metcalfe Fair. We will be selling these items at the Metcalfe Fair (Sept. 29—Oct. 2, 2011) and at **the Museum for as long as supplies last**. **Don't miss your opportunity to own a piece of history and support the OTHSM**. Contact the Museum to reserve yours today for \$20.

Volunteer Corner

If you have some spare time, an interest in Osgoode Township history and would like to volunteer your services, we want you!

We are currently looking for people who would like to be on one of the committees, act as Directors, help with collections projects or help with outreach activities. Please contact the museum if you think you may be interested.



Bette Crerar and Helen MacDonald work on a quilt during Pioneer Day.

Contact Us!

Osgoode Township Historical
Society & Museum

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Check out our new webpage!

www.osgoodemuseum.ca

Museum Hours
Tuesday—Saturday
9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.



Mayor Jim Watson and Councillor Doug Thompson at the dedication of the new Vernon play structure

Upcoming Events

Kids Craft Day—Make a Treasure Bag!
Saturday, Sept. 10—1-3pm Cost: \$5

Adult Workshop—Willow Basket Making
Saturday Oct. 15—1-4 pm Cost: \$25

Kids Craft Day—Halloween Crafts
Saturday Oct. 22—1-3 pm Cost: \$5

Remembrance Day Ceremony
Saturday Oct. 29, 11am

Adult Workshop—Learn the Art of Crochet
Saturday Nov. 5, 1-4 pm Cost: \$25

Kids Craft Day—Lets make Mittens
Saturday Nov. 19 —1-3pm Cost:\$5

Adult Workshop—Christmas Lanterns
Saturday Dec. 3—1-4 pm Cost:\$25

OTHSM Christmas Dinner—Metcalf Golf
Tuesday Dec. 6—RSVP @ the Museum

About Us

The Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum traces its founding back to November 23, 1972 when the first meeting to organize "The New Horizons Historical Group" was held. Their purpose in establishing this group was to do research, create interest, collect data, preserve and publish the history of Osgoode Township and the genealogy of its residents.

The initial objective was to prepare a story for the Township of Osgoode's 150th Anniversary in 1977. It was on August 8, 1973 that the founding group signed an agreement with the Township of Osgoode covering the use of the building and property known then as the Vernon Public School. The group held their first meeting in the school on August 23, 1973.

The official opening of the Museum was held on September 21, 1973 with many interesting articles of bygone days on display for the first Visitors' Day. The Agricultural Museum building was subsequently built and officially opened on August 12, 1989. It now provides a home for the vast farming and industrial collection held by the Museum.

The Historical Society continues to collect information and artifacts relating to life in Osgoode Township and make them available to the public.