

Gloucester Historical Society

Newsletter No. 2

November 1981

Meeting

Sunday, November 1st

at 1.30 p.m.

South Gloucester United Church Hall

(directly south of Rideau Carleton Raceway at Albion & Rideau Rd.)

Coral Lindsay, teacher-librarian, Carleton Board of Education

will speak on

“Dolls, Toys and Playthings from the 1890s to 1930s”

Do come and enjoy this delightful speaker.

Members, friends, grandparents, parents and children are welcome.

Gloucester Historical Society's first public venture was a very successful one — a display of old photos at Gloucester Fair for five days in June. Many thanks —

- to City of Gloucester Council for helping to defray the cost of reprints made from borrowed photos;
- to all those Gloucester residents and friends who loaned precious old pictures thus helping to make the show a tremendous success;
- to an anonymous member who paid for the printing of the membership application cards distributed at that time; and
- to the members who manned the display.

For the 1981 Gloucester Fair, G.H.S. has been invited to set up an old-fashioned kitchen, June 9th to 13th. Have you a kitchen artifact to give? or lend? Do you know someone who would be so generous? David Nolan 822-6603 will be in charge.

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In July G.H.S. was requested to recommend a name for a road in Gloucester, specifically the stretch on Regional Road #8, east of Highway 31. After a thorough search of related material, the name “McKenna Road” was submitted. Hugh McKenna owned land on Regional Road #8 in 1821, being one of the first settlers in Gloucester. What is now Highway 31 was a very narrow rough trail from Bytown to South Gloucester in 1827-28 ending in a wall of tall trees and thick underbrush. No entry had been made into Osgoode until that winter when Hugh McKenna and his “neighbour” James Telford went in after strayed cattle which was a desperate situation. After bone-chilling hours of slashing out a path they found the cattle and also came upon a little settlement near the present village of Metcalfe. These settlers had come in by way of the St. Lawrence and Castor Rivers. Not having known about the South Gloucester settlers nor about a trail into Bytown, they were greatly surprised to know of closer supplies than on the St. Lawrence Front. The new trail was opened up to join with Gloucester and the rest is history. G.H.S. considers “McKenna Road” to be an appropriate name for this southern part of the City of Gloucester.

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Our project on the histories of the first School Sections in Gloucester needs a coordinator. Anyone willing to take this on?

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Judy Howard, one of our members, has commenced translating a history of Orleans into English. We are looking forward to its completion. Thanks Judy.

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Cathy Stokely, another member, during the summer transcribed reels of 1825-1834 Gloucester assessment rolls. Thanks Cathy. Could anyone assist her? An arrangement with the Ottawa Public Library allows our use of their machines.

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Eldon Lough has kindly presented G.H.S. with a 1920 3' x 5' map of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ottawa. Many thanks.

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The Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) has visited several buildings within the City of Gloucester with a view to designating them as "Heritage".

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G.H.S. affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society was made official on Sept. 12th, 1981. Benefits from this move will be evident as the years go by.

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Following a request from the Editor of the new "Gloucester Leader" to write an historical column, your President has complied with three instalments to date.

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Do come and bring a friend to hear Coral Lindsay and see her toys on Sunday, November 1st. She is a delightful speaker. I am sure you will enjoy the meeting.

Grace Johnston
President
822-0657