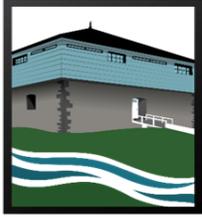


Merrickville and District Historical Society



Newsletter

President's Message

Spring 2018 has arrived(?)! Perhaps by the time you receive this, you'll be able to smell spring in the air, but at the moment it's a bit chilly -- must be downright cold at the Blockhouse Museum. Despite the weather, we're in the process of hiring our summer students (see the announcements section for more information). We've been enjoying some wonderful public lectures and invite you to join us for more on April 24 and May 29. Thank-you to the Legion for providing such wonderful hospitality for! And finally, with summer approaching I hope you'll consider volunteering on the weekends before our summer students begin full-time employment. We look forward to many special events throughout the season; there will be something for everybody. We hope to see you all soon!

Ann Martin

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blockhouse 2018

Another summer season quickly approaches, and the Blockhouse Museum is getting ready to put its best foot forward! On **May 12 from 10am to 12pm** the MDHS volunteers will be holding their annual "Blockhouse Spring Cleaning" to make sure that the museum is sparkling and ready for our first visitors. Anyone willing to donate some time and elbow grease is welcome to join in!

Once all the cobwebs have been cleared out, the Museum will be open on weekends beginning on **Saturday, May 19th**. These weekend openings, from May to June, are run by the MDHS volunteers and there is always room for more. Come find out what happens behind the scenes, learn to be an interpreter, and meet some of our incredible visitors!

Our official opening ceremony will be held **Saturday, June 23rd**, and we invite one and all to come ring in the new season with us! We are looking forward to a day full of exciting activities. If you would like to help out on the big day, please contact Ellen Hackett, 613-269-2621. See you there!



Merrickville-Wolford: 225th Anniversary

To celebrate the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Merrick family at the Great Falls on the Rideau River, various special events will be held regularly from May to the end of August. Up-coming celebratory events include:

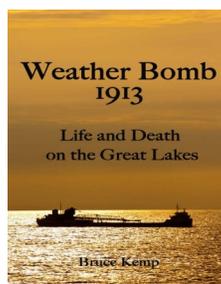
- * May 20th: "Roger Stevens & William Merrick", 2PM, Michael Whittaker
- * May 27th: "War of 1812 & The Rideau Canal", 2PM, Victor Suthren
- * June 1st: Traditional Mohawk Workshop, 2PM, Tasha Santiago @ Blockhouse Park
- * June 2nd: Traditional Mohawk Dance and Stories, 2PM, Tasha Santiago & Family @ Blockhouse Park
- * June 9th—10th: "Wampum of the Eastern Woodland First Nations", 10AM-4PM, Darren Bonaparte @ Blockhouse Museum
- * June 17th: "Klee Wick/Emily Carr West Coast Artist", 2PM, Laurie Carter
- * July 15th: "Battle of the Windmill", 2PM, Rene Shoemaker
- * July 19th: "Harry McLean: Merrickville's Eccentric Millionaire", 2PM, Wayne Poapst
- * August 5th: "Loyalists & Slavery", 2PM, Jennifer DeBruin
- * August 12th: "Fenian Raids", 2PM, Ross Jones
- * August 16th: Castle Minstrels: Canadian & Celtic Music, 2PM
- * August 19th: Merrickville Authors and Poets, 2PM
- * September 9th: "The History Buffs", 2:30PM-4:30PM, fiddler Ken Ramsden @ Holy Trinity Anglican Church (Supper to follow)

Check the Merrickville and District Historical Society Facebook page and other local online sources for details.

Up-coming Lectures

April

Aleta Karstad and Frederick W. Schueler explore Merrickville-Wolford's natural history. Aleta and Frederick have been a biologist-artist team for over 50 years. Their engaging lecture will be held on **Tuesday April 24th** at 7PM at the Merrickville Legion.



September

Congratulations to Bruce Kemp on his latest work, *Weather Bomb 1913: Life and Death on the Great Lakes*. MDHS looks forward to hearing more at our Fall lecture, **Tuesday, September 25**, at the Merrickville Legion. You can learn more about Bruce at his website: <http://brucekempphotography.net/>

May

Mike Venables describes how the crew at Bletchley Park broke the "unbreakable" German ENIGMA machines during WWII. Find out the true story behind Hollywood's "The Imitation Game". Attendees will be able to take home a working paper-based emulator of an ENIGMA. Lecture will be held **Tuesday, May 29th** at 7PM at the Merrickville Legion.



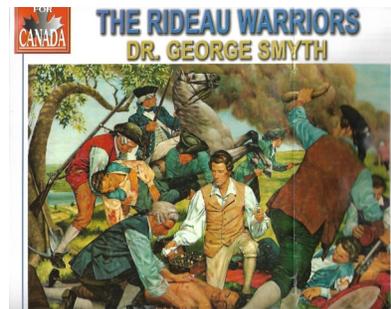
MDHS Archives

The Archives have installed new shelving units, as we continue to update our collection of pictures, photographs and artifacts. Since January 2018, we have accessioned 23 photographs/pictures and 192 artifacts. Items accessioned this past three months include books/booklets, newspapers, manuscripts, biographies, family histories and miscellaneous artifacts.

Of course the first stop for any genealogical researcher should always be the Alice Hughes Collections at the Merrickville Public Library. Once your library research is done, you may wish to investigate the MDHS Archives collection of genealogical records, accessible from the public access terminal at the library. The MDHS Archives has articles on village and farm life in Merrickville, on local physicians and their treatments, on the building of the Rideau Canal, on Jessop's Rangers, on the history of the Alloy Foundry, and much more! We are so grateful to the members of the public who have donated to our archives, allowing us to record the many-faceted history of this wonderful region. Thank-you!



Left: John Henry Ferguson, wife Lizzie Anne Phillips and daughter Addie.



Right: Cover of a puzzle entitled "The Rideau Warriors; Dr. George Smyth".

A Special Treat from the Archives

An item of interest from the MDHS Archives is a recipe book entitled 'Wartime Pickles and Relishes' by Edith L. Elliot. The excerpt below, from Consumer Section, Dominion Department of Agriculture, includes two recipes which were designed to allow people to fill their shelves with delectable varieties of relishes in spite of the wartime restrictions on the use of sugar. Try them out and let us know what you think!

Grape Catsup

4 pounds of grapes
 1 1/2 cups cider vinegar
 1 tsp cloves
 1 tsp salt
 2 tsp ground cinnamon
 1 tsp ground allspice

Wash and stem grapes. Place in saucepan with vinegar and cook for 15 minutes; rub through sieve fine enough to retain the seeds. Boil pulp until thick, add other ingredients and boil 1/2 hour. Fill into hot sterilized jars or bottles and seal.

Mushroom Catsup

Trim mushrooms, sprinkle with salt and let stand 12 hours, drain, wash and pulp. To each quart of puree add:

1 pint of vinegar
 2 tbsp ground made
 2 tbsp mustard
 1 tbsp salt
 2 tbsp whole cloves and whole allspice (in a muslin bag)

Boil gently until thick. Remove bag of spice and bottle hot.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for Interpreters



It's that time of year again! Applications are now being accepted for Summer 2018 Merrickville blockhouse Interpreters. This position gives students the opportunity to explore our heritage and present our history to over 10,000 visitors from across Canada and around the world. Students aged 15 to 30 are encouraged to apply to this exciting and rewarding position. To apply, please send your Resume and Cover Letter to info@merrickvillehistory.org by **April 20th, 2018**. We look forward to working with you!

Membership

Merrickville and District Historical Society encourages new members to apply. Members receive our online newsletter, as well as information on upcoming events and programs. Available membership packages are:

- Annual Membership (Individual) - \$10.00
- Annual Membership (Family) - \$15.00
- Life Membership (Individual) - \$100.00
- Life Membership (Family) - \$150.00

Membership dues can be paid at the MDHS Annual General Meeting, or sent to:

Merrickville and District Historical Society
 PO Box 294
 Merrickville, Ontario
 K0G 1N0, CA

Merrickville-Wolford 225: Special Exhibit

The Village of Merrickville-Wolford's MW225 Committee has been hard at work developing events for this special year. The Committee will be using MDHS' collection of photographs, housed at the Merrickville Public Library, to create a "roving exhibit" which will be displayed at several local venues throughout the summer. So glad to see that all of our hard work in establishing a "user friendly" database is being put to good use.

MDHS At a Glance

The current Merrickville and District Historical Society Executive Committee:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| • Ann Martin: President | • Nancy Warr: Secretary |
| • Jeffrey Murray: 1st Vice-President | • Michael Phillips: Treasurer |
| • Angela Beking: 2 nd Vice-President | • Andrew McKay: Past President |

Contact Us!

MDHS encourages public participation in all forms. Do you have questions, want information, or have an idea for a display? To get involved, please contact us:

Email: info@merrickvillehistory.org Website: www.merrickvillehistory.org Facebook and Twitter: [@MvilleHistSoc](https://www.facebook.com/MvilleHistSoc)

Thank-you to the contributors of this issue of the MDHS Newsletter; Ann Martin, Michael Phillips, Nancy Warr, Michael Whittaker, and Ellen Hackett.