

## United Empire Loyalist Heritage Centre Museum Allison House, Adolphustown



Allison House Museum and Archives, Adolphustown  
Photo courtesy of [www.uel.ca/Museum](http://www.uel.ca/Museum)

changes last year. The galleries have been reinterpreted and the central hall of Allison House has been restored to its 1878 colour scheme. The original burial grounds used by the Loyalist settlers are located a short distance from the museum. David Allison died in 1909.



Tom Riddolls, Curator / Director  
of Allison House

Tom Riddolls, curator and director of the UEL Allison House Museum, was one of two HCHS guest speakers at its February meeting. Tom holds university degrees in art history and artifact conservation and has worked in places like Sudan, Spain and in the United Kingdom where he appeared on the popular television programs *Time Team* and *Archaeological Detectives*.

Allison House had fallen into disrepair when the Province of Ontario finally bought it in the 1950s. Much work has been carried out on the house over the past year by Tom and his staff. It was they who discovered the original paint during their restoration. In his presentation Tom showed diagrams of how the house used to look. Unfortunately the past has seen alterations such as the removal of the front porch and the third story tower that stood over the front entrance. The museum gallery showcases valuable personal effects that travelled with the Loyalists from the United States to their new home in Adolphustown.

## Archives Relocation

By Sharon White, Chair,  
Archives Relocation Committee

We are very pleased that both Hastings County and the City of Belleville are working in partnership with the Historical Society towards a new community archives.

You may have heard that, in its recent budget deliberations, the City of Belleville allocated money for a new archives facility. There is an existing building now under consideration and we are hopeful that it will be announced within the next few months. We are expecting the new archives to hold the City and County archival records as well as provide a new and better home for the Society's collections.

Some of the basics have been worked out but a lot of questions remain: How should the partnership work in the new facility? What arrangement will make best use of the space, and what renovations will be needed? Our Archive Angels will continue their good work, but will there be professional staff as well, and how will this be managed?

The successful "Project 100" has raised funds to equip the new archives and more fundraising will follow. Our society has committed to purchase the necessary climate controls, shelving and other requirements for the long-term preservation of our valuable archives, as well as modern computer equipment and work areas for our volunteers and researchers.

There's lots of work ahead - all this as well as preparing for the actual move! Please get in touch with me or any Board member if you would like to contribute or discuss.

## The Royal Yorkers First Loyalist Regiment Raised On Canadian Soil (www.royal Yorkers.ca)



Scott Turrall with his son Thomas is seen here in the uniform of The Royal Regiment of New York.

*Photo by Doug Knutson*

Scott Turrall and his son Thomas lent an authentic air to the Society's February meeting on the topic of United Empire Loyalists and Allison House with their period dress (1776-1783). Thomas is a UEL descendent on his mother's side and in fact about a third of the audience attending the meeting claimed UEL ancestors. The *King's Royal Yorkers* recreates Loyalist soldiers and their families who fled to Canada to form the first Loyalist regiment raised on Canadian soil. The American Revolution saw the King's Royal Yorkers on active service with the Northern Department. The proclamation called on "All Intrepid Able-Bodied HEROS who are willing to serve His Majesty

King George the Third, in Defence of Their Country, Laws and Constitution, against the arbitrary Usurpations of a tyrannical Congress." Recruits would be rewarded at war's end with their laurels and "100 Acres of Land where every gallant Hero may retire and enjoy his Bottle and Lafs."

The second speaker of the evening, Norman Hawley of the UEL Association, presented an outline of the upcoming 225th anniversary of the landing of the Loyalists at Adolphustown. Celebrations are planned for June 13th. Three hundred military re-enactors are expected to participate. According to Hawley they have a real penchant for detail in their dress and accouterments. There will be a military encampment the public can visit and tactical demonstrations with an exciting skirmish or two. Various tours will be available including a visit to William Fairfield Senior's house, circa 1789, at the Loyalist Parkway Gates. Check on-line under UEL Adolphustown for details.

### Project 100 A Success!

"Project 100" for the raising of funds for the new Hastings County archives

is complete. The names of the 100 contributors will be honoured on a plaque in the new building when that milestone is finally reached.

### Lenny Williamson

The Society's sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Lenny Williamson who recently passed away. She had been a charter member of HCHS since 1957. A reporter for *The Intelligencer*, Lenny wrote a series of articles on some of Belleville's early buildings. She also spoke at a meeting of the Society held in the master bedroom at Glanmore National Historic Site, before it was restored to bedroom status. Her topic was the Ku Klux Klan, which had been active locally in the 1920s and 1930s. Wearing traditional Klan attire, Lenny related to the audience (including at least one former executive member of the local Klan) some of the activities of the group, described by a member as "Protestant and of good character."

## COMING EVENTS

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### A Geological Tour of Prince Edward County

Bob Ross will conduct a geological bus tour of Prince Edward County on May 9. Tickets will be available through the HCHS. The tour will depart at 8:30 a.m. sharp from the northeast parking area of Bay View Mall next to Bridge Street.

### UN International Day

The United Nations Association In Canada, Quinte Branch, is sponsoring a UN International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The date is March 21, 2009 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. The keynote speaker is Doug Knutson of the Hastings County Historical Society. The topic is "Quinte's Abolitionist" Dr. Alexander Milton Ross. Doug's talk will include a visual presentation. Tea will be served. Call **613-966-3928** to register. The deadline for registration for this free event is March 19th.

### U.E.L. Celebration!

This year marks 225 years since the landing of the Loyalists. Celebrations are planned for this June at Adolphustown (see story on this page).

### The Last Prime Minister?



Who was the last Canadian Prime Minister to be born in England? Put on your thinking cap. You might be surprised!

We'll print the answer in the next issue of *Outlook*.

# Belleville's Kilties Band Tours The World

These photographs are reproduced from an album titled *The Kilties' Tour of the World, May 1st. 1908 to September 1st. 1910*. Something of the story of the Kilties was told in last month's issue of *Outlook*. They were hailed as the greatest Scottish band in the world and the pride of all Canada. The

Kilties, a permanent touring organization, operated out of Belleville. As can be seen the Drum Major, Roderick Bain MacKenzie, all seven feet one-and-a-half inches of him, figures prominently in many of the photos. Hastings Heritage Centre has the photo album.



Camel transport in Western Australia



A Kiltie takes the reins, Western Australia



In front of the Grand Oriental Hotel, India. The man holding the sign is advertising the Kilties Band.



Aboard the *S.S. Lunka*, November 8, 1909, off the Indian coast. A rest before the next performance.



The Kilties' welcome at Suva, Fiji, August 3, 1908



Ready for the Buller Gorge Trip, New Zealand

# Belleville Hockey Club 1907 - 08 Season

team there certainly should have been no complaints from any of them about lack of ice time. The hockey sticks look a little short and the goalie pads would give our modern day net minders the willies!



With the playoffs looming for the Belleville Bulls we thought this Hastings Heritage Centre photo from a century ago was

appropriate for our March issue of *Outlook*. We don't know who the young men are but if they represent the entire

## Bobbie Geneja

Bobbie Geneja, who passed away this past month, was an original member of the Hastings County Historical Society, joining back in 1957. Her father, Tom Wrightmeyer, was the Society's first president (1957-1958). Over the years Bobbie represented her father at special Society events, her last participation being its 50th anniversary in 2007 along with numerous other past presidents. Her photo was included in the November 2007 issue of *Outlook*.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Speaker  
Bill Hunt

Topic  
**Dancing In The Sky**  
(WWI Flight Training At Deseronto Airport)

Monthly meetings start at 7:30 and are held in the Auditorium of the Quinte Living Centre, 370 Front Street, Belleville

DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR APRIL ISSUE OF  
*OUTLOOK* IS MARCH 26, 2009

## Hastings County Historical Society Directors

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HCHS Website

[www.hastingshistory.ca](http://www.hastingshistory.ca)

Hastings County Historical Society is based at the old township office in Cannifton. Please address mail to General Delivery, Cannifton, ON, K0K 2K0. Outlook is published in January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November for the friends and members of the Hastings County Historical Society. The editor, Bill Kennedy, can be reached at 613-962-5991, or email [<kennedypec@aol.com>](mailto:kennedypec@aol.com)

HCHS MEMBER ADDRESS