



# THE GRENVILLE SENTINEL

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Nov/Dec 2022

ISSN 0715-3783

No. 316

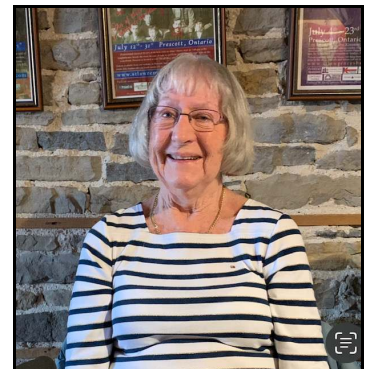
**Upcoming Events: *Annual General Meeting*** - Our AGM is scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> at 500 Railway Avenue. We will have our Annual Reports followed by a Show and Tell of an historical item you bring to share, and then refreshments.

## **Plowing Match, Kemptville, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>**

GCHS Volunteers, Jane Ramsey, Tom Van Dusen, Aira Darzins, and Fraser Laschinger, attended the Kemptville Plowing Match in Kemptville, greeting some of the 67,000 visitors that came to look at the displays. Many people stopped to have a chat about local history and genealogy. The heritage and historical tent where the group was set up had other groups from the area and there was good liaison between the different societies there.

## **Annual Dinner**

Our Annual Dinner was held on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Prescott Golf Club, where we had a most enjoyable evening with good food and good company. Our Master of Ceremonies was president, Fraser Laschinger. Our Award of Merit recipient this year was Valerie Schulz who has volunteered with our organization since 1993, serving in many different capacities over the years, secretary, newsletter editor, collections manager, president, and house tour co-ordinator. Whatever needed to be done, Valerie was ready and able to take on the job. Valerie had planned to be at the dinner, but unfortunately her stay at the hospital had to be extended. She was able to join us though by Facetime and expressed her pleasure on receiving the award. Congratulations, Valerie. And good news, Valerie is back home, feeling well, and joined us at the archives on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> and at our Christmas volunteer luncheon on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. It's good to have her back.



Award of Merit winner,  
2022, Valerie Schulz

## Dutch Immigration

Our guest speaker at our Annual Dinner, was Rene Schoemaker. Rene and his family moved to Prescott in 1953 from Holland, fleeing the aftereffects of WWII. Their first home was in the home where Barbara Heck was living when she died, an old stone house overlooking the river on the old Number 2 Highway. Four Dutch families totalling more than 20 people lived in apartments in this house and faced the task of finding jobs and food for their families. Rene vividly remembers running out of food when his father was laid off by the farmer he had been working for when the weather turned cold. Fortunately an anonymous gentleman arrived at their door with a large sack of potatoes and a variety of vegetables that were able to keep them from starvation until his father was able to get another job. The Dutch families helped each other, starting gardens on the property the summer following their arrival, and found ways to preserve their foods, such as burying food in soil and waxing vegetables using old melted down candles. Fishing down the hill from their home helped to supplement their diet. They had to set up a schedule and take turns having baths and washing clothes in the one bathroom in the building that everyone in the building shared. And of course there was no furnace or air-conditioning in the house back then. They did have fireplaces and these were put to good use. The Schoemakers took out their Canadian citizenship five years after their arrival in Canada. The Dutch immigrants who arrived in Canada learned English quickly, and proved to be good workers and good citizens.

Since Rene's talk, we have had some very interesting submissions about other Dutch

families immigrating to this area. Rene gave us more information on his family, Gerry Hogervorst shared details about his family's struggles and successes on their arrival in Canada, presenting us with a book on his family story, and Teresa Jansman shared the Jansman story with us. We would love to have more people submit stories of their immigration to this area from Holland for preservation in our archives. Was anyone sponsored by a church to get to Canada or after their arrival here? Just send articles to our email address.

Because of the interest in the Dutch immigration, we felt it was a good time to tell the story of Queen Juliana's visit to Prescott in 1952.

## Queen Juliana Visits Prescott

On April 26<sup>th</sup> 1952 Prescott was graced with a visit from Queen Juliana of the Netherlands while she was on a tour of the area from Ottawa to Kingston to connect with people from her country who had



Mrs. Berghuijs on left and Queen Juliana is on right, greeting people outside the Dutch Restaurant.

settled in Canada and to see how they were faring in their new country. Mrs. Henk F. D. Berghuijs, who operated the Dutch Restaurant at the corner of Centre and King Streets, received a phone call on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> asking her to host a

luncheon the next day at their restaurant for a visit from Queen Juliana and nine others, including the Dutch Ambassador to Canada and A. H. Lovink, along with members of her personal staff, to which she readily agreed. Mrs. Berghuijs, her husband, and brother Jacob Slofstra had arrived in Canada a year and a half earlier and opened their restaurant in Prescott. When the group arrived there were twelve people rather than nine and they arrived twenty minutes early. The Berguijs family coped with these changes and the queen and her entourage stayed in the restaurant for an hour and a half visiting, enjoying lunch and some Dutch treats, before they exited to talk with a group of Dutch residents who had been waiting to get a glimpse of their queen. She showed a genuine interest in the welfare of the immigrants and learning about their lives here.

### **Bob Mills Park, Goulbourn Township**

Bob Mills, Prescott resident for 50 years, was honoured in Stittsville on October 27, 2022 when Goulbourn Township officially named a park



on Atlas Avenue after him. Bob worked for 24 years as Director of Parks and Recreation for the township, and during this time he developed numerous parks, ball fields, and hockey arenas, enhancing recreation in the Stittsville community.



Bob always had an interest in sports while growing up and pursued this as his career, working in recreation in Prescott, Brockville and the Township of Russell for eight years, before taking the position with Goulbourn. Bob was inducted into the Brockville and Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2017 for being a founder and driving force with the Rideau St. Lawrence Kings AA Midget Hockey Association. Always interested in sports, Bob's favourite was definitely hockey, and he is now serving as Director of Player Development and Education for players in Eastern Ontario, helping players create profiles, develop academic and hockey goals, and assisting them with getting hockey scholarships when it's time for them to go to university. Congratulations, Bob!

### **William Headlam Diary – Part 9**

We resume reading the diary of events in the summer of 1880 that touched the lives of Prescottians.

Aug.18<sup>th</sup> Our new shell boat arrived this morning and is a beauty 31 ft. over all 11 inches wide wt. 31 ½ lbs without oars.

*The Prescott Rowing Club members were acquiring new racing shells, as evidenced by this entry and the one on May 5<sup>th</sup> which referred to Harlow Wiser's new shell.*

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> Last night finished the Prescott Fair for 1880. The three days were about the warmest this summer. Small races a failure.

*The annual fair was largely agricultural in nature but Headlam's interest was in the races, about which he usually made comments.*

Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> The great race between Quinn & McDonald came off yesterday at Brockville fine weather large crowd McDon. beat Quinn by ½ a length.

*It is unknown which Quinn was the racer but the family was well known in Prescott at this time. Barney Quinn was the great lacrosse player on the Prescott lacrosse teams during the game's period of greatest popularity, and his brothers Hugh and James Quinn owned and operated the Prescott House Hotel and Tavern on the south east corner of Edward and King Streets (long since demolished).*

Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> McDonald and Quinn race in Ottawa to-day. McD 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Headlam may have misspelled McDonald's name as there are many more Macdonalds in Prescott in that period. In any case it appears Prescott rowers were competitive in larger centres like Ottawa and not just at home.*

Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> The new Post Office opened this morning. H. Bromly first to get mail.

*The post office was located on the south side of King Street just east of the Daniel's Hotel. It was a handsome brick building with mansard roof and matched the smaller Customs Building directly behind*

*it on Water Street. Both were built by Nesfield Ward, one of Prescott's prominent builders, responsible for many civic and residential buildings in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.*



Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Hough's saw mill burnt down \$8000 damage.

*Further research will need to be done to determine where this mill was located. From the figure for damages, it would have been a large operation. James S. Elliott opened a lumber business shortly after this date which became the largest lumber operation in town by the turn of the century.*

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> General Garfield elected president to-day.

*U.S. President Garfield was felled by an assassin's bullet four months into his presidency in 1881 and he died from his wounds two and a half months later.*

Fraser Laschinger, 2020

### **Prescott's Young Militiamen in 1863**

There are very few photographs of Prescott residents that date back to 1863,

particularly ones with names attached to the people in the photo. Thus it was with much pleasure as a researcher at the Grenville County Historical Society that I received such a photo from Jim Plumb several years ago. Jim was born and raised in Prescott and is descended from a long line of Plumbs resident in Prescott stretching back six generations to the early 1800's.

The photo is one taken of Jim's great grandfather, Isaac William Plumb (1843-1912), when he was a twenty year old militiaman in Prescott. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century local militia recruited local men who were trained to provide military assistance to the regular British forces who were stationed in Canada to defend the colony against civil disturbances and outside aggression. There are four other young militiamen in the photo, all sporting rifles, and all from Prescott.

They range in age from 17 to 20. The three kneeling (L-R) are James Latimer, William John Levis and John Latimer. The two standing are William Sherwood and Plumb, who is on the right.



Front: James Latimer, William John Levis and John Latimer  
Standing: William Sherwood and Isaac William Plumb

The two Latimers were brothers, John two years older than James. Their father, George, had been a school teacher but died around 1851. By 1871, John was still in Prescott but James had moved away. William John Levis was the son of William Levis (aka Leves), listed as a gentleman in the 1851 census. He also died before the picture was taken of his son. William Sherwood was the son of Joseph Sherwood, a plasterer who lived in a stone house on the south west corner of George and Park Streets, which disappeared about fifty years ago.

Finally, there is Isaac Plumb, whose father, Charles, was a steamboat captain who went into business on Water Street. Isaac, his eldest son, in his turn carried on the family business on Water Street, dealing in ice, wood and coal. The business was to carry on for the next two generations of Plumbs which saw the introduction of heating oil. It was only when natural gas arrived that the Plumbs decided to get out of the heating business in 1974 and thus end the longest family business dynasty in Prescott's history.

Two of the militiamen in the photo, John Latimer and William Sherwood, were listed as privates in the No. 1 Prescott Rifles in 1866 and were awarded medals in the Fenian Raids. Fort Wellington was garrisoned by a British artillery battery during that period to augment the local militias.

We are so fortunate that this piece of local history has come down to us today which helps to bring to life those who went before us.

Fraser Laschinger, Dec. 6, 2022

## Volunteer Service Awards

The Ontario Government recognizes volunteers for providing committed and dedicated service to all organizations in Ontario. The recipient receives a personalized certificate and a lapel pin acknowledging their years of service. This year the award ceremony was conducted by Zoom on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to GCHS volunteers who received awards this year: Fraser Laschinger 15 years, June Blair 20 years, and Bonnie Gaylord 45 years.

## Grenville County Historical Society Now Has a Facebook Page

Tom Van Dusen has recently set up a Facebook page for our organization and is keeping people informed about our historical society. He includes interesting bits of history from our area. Make sure you check it out and feel free to post some comments.

## Helen Mott

Helen has been our publicity person for several years now, publishing articles about society events and taking many excellent photographs of historical events in our area. She took many of the pictures of the houses for the books that Sandra Robertson wrote on the houses in Augusta Township, Prescott, and Edwardsburgh Township. Helen has had some health problems, so decided it was time to retire from her volunteer work with us, and is now living in a retirement home in Manotick. We miss her regular visits to the archives. Thanks, Helen, for all your work over the years.

## Merry Christmas

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and get to spend time with friends and family. We always look forward to turkey, stuffing, and all the trimmings. Drives around town to see the Christmas decorations are always a highlight as well.



## Memberships

Annual Membership: \$20.00

Life Membership: \$200

**For those with annual memberships, it's time to renew for 2023. We hope to see you back again.**

*Make checks payable to Grenville County Historical Society Inc. and forward them to:*

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Membership Chair,  
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**Editor:** Bonnie Gaylord