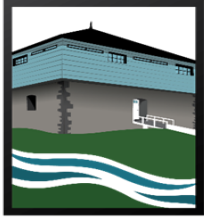


Merrickville and District Historical Society



Newsletter

President's Message

Hello! It's good to be back! This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date on all the comings and goings at MDHS, including the latest news from the Blockhouse Museum, current and on-going projects, and our exciting up-coming events. MDHS is proud to be re-launching our newsletter after a two-year hiatus with this special hard-copy issue, after which we will be providing e-mail newsletters at regular intervals. We at MDHS want to thank you all for your unfailing encouragement and support, and we look forward to continuing to celebrate the history of Merrickville-Wolford (and beyond) with you!

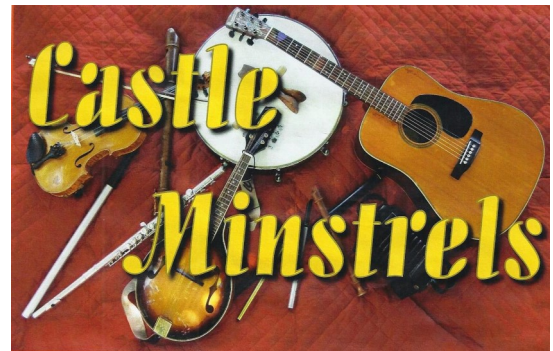
Ann Martin

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Castle Minstrels: October 29 2:00 PM

The Merrickville and District Historical Society proudly presents the Castle Minstrels, a musical event showcasing the folksongs of Canada: the traditional music of our colonial roots. Come join us on **Sunday, October 29 at 2:00 PM** at the Merrickville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and enjoy an afternoon of music and fun.

No tickets are necessary: a donation will be collected at the door. For more information please visit www.merrickvillehistory.org or email us at info@merrickvillehistory.org.



MDHS Annual Dinner: November 28 5:30 PM



Join us for our Annual Dinner on **November 28, 2017**. The roast-chicken dinner will be followed by a presentation by the award-winning author of *Emily Carr's B.C.*, Laurie Carter, who has just moved to Merrickville. The evening will also include a brief Annual General Meeting. Doors open at **5:30PM**, the meal will be served at **6PM**. Tickets for the dinner are available for \$25 from Gillian Gray at 613-269-4236 (leave a message).

SUMMER 2017

This summer the Blockhouse Museum was once again open 7 days a week, with the help of four summer students.

Peyton Horning just began her grade 12 year in high school. As a special project, Peyton created a virtual tour of the Blockhouse, which MDHS will be posting soon on our website. We would like to thank Peyton for the great initiative she brought to every task she completed.

MacKenzie Chambers returned for a second year at the Blockhouse. As a special project this summer, MacKenzie worked on writing a script for a new interactive video for the Blockhouse schoolhouse display. We would like to thank MacKenzie for her outstanding work in making our visitors feel welcome in both French and English.

Dante Vignuzzi, a recent high school graduate, worked to update the information cards on the Blockhouse artefacts. We wish Dante all the best with his future studies and his work as a Parliamentary Page in the House of Commons.



Elizabeth Robinson is a History student at Concordia University, and returned for a second year at the Blockhouse. As a special project, Elizabeth continued last summer's project of completing condition reports on the Blockhouse artefacts. This is part of MDHS' initiative to digitize the Blockhouse Museum collection.

LaCrosse: the Culture of Akwesasne

This summer the Blockhouse Museum was very proud to work with the **Akwesasne Cultural Centre and Museum** to improve our acknowledgment of Aboriginal peoples. As part of our celebration of Canada 150, the Akwesasne Cultural Centre and Museum loaned the Blockhouse Museum an exhibit showcasing the game of Lacrosse. This exhibit explored the legendary Akwesasne origins of Lacrosse, as given to the Akwesasne nation by the Sky Spirits. This exhibit provided a deep and insightful overview of Akwesasne culture, and MDHS looks forward to furthering our understanding of Canada's indigenous peoples.



Celebrating Canada 150

Museum Statistics

In honor of Canada 150, MDHS participated in several special events during the 2017 season. These included:

- Special costumed tours for the passengers of the Kawartha Voyageur Riverboat.
- The Akwesasne La-Crosse Exhibit.
- Expanded events on Canada Day and during Canal Fest.
- A special talk by Paul Fortier about Foods of 1867, with samples of scotch egg and haggis fritters.

During the 2017 season the Blockhouse Museum was happy to welcome visitors from exotic places such as Serbia, New Zealand, and Kemptville. Between May and October 2017, the Blockhouse Museum was visited by **10,637** people. This surpasses the visitor count of 2016 (10,251 visitors), making 2017 the Blockhouse Museum's best season ever. A huge thank-you goes out to the volunteers, workers, and supporters who made this possible!

The Blockhouse Festival



BLOCKHOUSE FESTIVAL
2017
MERRICKVILLE
June 17 - 18, opens 10:00am

Heritage Trade Fair
Military Encampment
Special Daily Activities

Saturday Entertainment - 7:00pm
Akwesasne Dancers & Singers
Ottawa Valley Fiddler Ken Ramsden

Military Encampment:
Royal Navy & Provincial Marine, French & Indian War, American Revolution, War of 1812, 1837 Rebellion, Fenian Raids

Heritage Trade Fair:
Aboriginal Lore, Dance & Drumming, Gunsmiths, Blacksmiths, Tailors & Seamstresses, Feathers, Fur & Leather, Fur Trade & Trappers, Children's Games, Toys & Activities, Colonial Lighting, Silhouette Artist, Aboriginal & Colonial Jewellery & more

info@merrickvillehistory.org

MERRICKVILLE DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COMMEMORATING 150 YEARS LEADING TO CONFEDERATION

On July 17th and 18th we commemorated the centuries leading to 1867, from pre-contact First Nations to the Fenians Raids on the eve of Confederation. Re-enactors, heritage exhibitors, and historians from Ontario, Quebec, and New York brought history to life with displays of traditional wampum, contemporary First Nation crafts, 18th-century quilting, leather work, military and navy encampments, United Empire Loyalist presentations, and local Tweedsmuir Histories. New was the Saturday-evening entertainment provided by Barry's Bay Fiddler **Ken Ramsden**, and **Natasha Smoke Santiago of the Storyteller House** from Akwesasne, involving the presentation of Mohawk dances and legends. A big thank-you to all participants! If you have ideas about events you would like to see at next year's Festival, please let us know.

Thank-you!

MDHS would like to acknowledge the wider community for the support it receives. Special mention goes to Blake Hart and the Parks Canada Lockstation staff, the staff of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, and Chris Chinkiwsky at Coba Studios for their efforts this summer. As we move into our winter programming, we are also grateful for continued support of the Merrickville Legion, for hosting our public lecture series and providing our annual dinner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Tallman Exhibit



MDHS is proud to announce the accession of a brand-new display honoring **Lt. Stanley Bliss Tallman**. Lt. Tallman was born in Merrickville in 1892, and in 1914 enlisted in the Royal Canadian Dragoons at Valcartier, Quebec. Lt. Tallman served in France during World War I, and died on November 5th, 1918. He was 26 years old.

MDHS is honored to commemorate Lt. Tallman's life and death with this display, donated by Mr. Gordon Tallman. The Tallman display will make its first appearance at the **Merrickville Legion for November 11th, 2017**.

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

Contact Us!

MDHS encourages public participation in all forms. For queries or information on how 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 Whittaker, and Elizabeth Robinson.