



protect further damage to the product. He put the wagon in his shed, unhitched the horses and retired to the house for the evening. His luck was about to change later that night. The chemical reaction within the rain soaked quicklime was able to generate enough heat to ignite the combustible wooden wagon. That night, the complete shed and its contents were lost in the ensuing fire. Fire was another one of the hardships that our perseverant forefathers routinely faced. Calls for help to 911 didn't exist so residents were left to their own almost futile devices to battle these destructive fires.

The Ross Kiln operated until the late 1920s. By that time smaller local kilns were no longer economically viable. The Ross' enjoyed many prosperous years and when it closed, the kiln was being run by the second generation Clarence Ross. During the 1930s, Clarence went to work on the construction of Courtaulds with a team of horses and dump cart.

The legacy of the Ross family lives on and is immortalized as Ross Avenue located a few blocks from the original Ross Farm House on Cornwall Centre Rd.



The original Ross Farm House on Cornwall Centre Rd.

The Editor would like to thank Stuart Clark for the input he provided for this article.

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## Welcome New Members



The CTHS has recently added the following members to our roster: Karen Martin, Don Kenny, Stephen and

Johanne Cameron. When you see them please give them a warm welcome. Also take note that Don Kenny is a former member of the S D & G Geological Society. He has agreed to handle all genealogy inquiries that come through our web site. If anyone needs information on genealogy, Don is the member to go to.

## President's Pen



Once again we have reached the end of our 2009-2010 year. I would like to thank you all for committing to the various tasks and events especially for our bake sale on Mothers' Day. With everyone's interest and help it all seems to go more smoothly. We raised \$440.00.

Kenneth McDonald



Would you like to save a tree and help us control our newsletter cost? The looming HST will add 5¢ more in mailing cost to each newsletter.

This will total approximately \$1.10 to photo copy and mail the newsletter. We encourage everyone to receive their newsletter via email. Not only will you receive it before your friends and neighbours, it will arrive in living colour rather than B&W. Just send us an email [info@cornwalltwphistorical.ca](mailto:info@cornwalltwphistorical.ca) to sign up for this option. Thank you to those who have already signed up.



Our June **pot luck** event is set for Tuesday June 22 at 5:00 pm at the Heritage Centre. All are welcome. Just bring along your favorite dish. See you

there.

At the May 2010 CTHS meeting, guest speaker Sheena McKenna talked to CTHS members about the Gaelic language and how it influenced local culture. Immigrants arrived from Scotland in the early 1800s with few possessions; only their culture, music and language. From the Highlands of Scotland, most immigrants settled in P.E.I., Glengarry County or Cape Breton Nova Scotia. Sheena explained how the Scots faced almost insurmountable odds crossing the ocean and clearing land and setting-up farms once in Canada. It was their culture and music that sustained them in those difficult years.



Sheena discussed the decline in the use of the language and the reasons for the decline. She says, however, that the echoes of the Gaelic language can still be heard throughout Glengarry County. There is resurgence in the interest of the language. Currently, Gaelic is taught in 16 schools in the province of Nova Scotia. Sheena finished her presentation with a Gaelic song that is dedicated to those who preserve tradition and history.

Sheena left members with a copy of this poem, *The Gaelic Voice in*

*Canada*, written by Lauchlin MacInnes which captures the spirit that the Scottish culture had on the development of early Canada. Lauchlin MacInnes was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Kenyon in Glengarry County. The poem was written in 1993. L

### **The Gaelic Voice in Canada**

I am the Gaelic voice in Canada:  
I am an essence of the making of  
Canada:  
Not just a wistful memory  
Nor an echo from the western hills  
Nor an afterthought in a history book.

For I was here, and their voice was  
through me, and no one can ever undo  
what I did.  
So I was and I am, and I will be an  
essence of the making of Canada.

I am the Gaelic, and I rose from the age  
when Europe spoke in Celtic tongues.  
And now the blood of the Celts, and  
their voices, are deep in Canada's Soul.

So hear my voice where the staining  
seamen haul sails against the wild  
Atlantic winds.  
I came ashore with the Hector's people;  
and later I comfort the dying and living  
in sickly immigrant ships.

So then I lift a new song above the Bras  
d'Or waters, and sound along Cape  
Breton's rugged shores, and the Garden  
of the Gulf hears my haunting music  
from tip to tip inside Prince Edward's  
sweet isle.

I am the Black Watch, charging  
Montcalm's abatis at Ticonderoga and  
the 78<sup>th</sup> Fraser Highlanders in victory on  
Abraham's Plain.  
And my voice surmounts the wild  
snowstorm on Christmas Eve to throw  
back Montgomery and Arnold from the  
ramparts of Quebec.

And my voice is heard at Johnston Hall  
on the Mohawk,  
And I give my oath and I keep it loyal,  
to fight for the Crown and our homes;  
and after bloody retreat I begin a new  
life beyond the St. Lawrence.

Now hear me over the muskets at  
Queenston Heights, before the death of  
Brock's aide, John MacDonell and at  
Chateauguay when "Red George" and  
his Highlanders share victory for Canada  
with the Marquis de Salaberry.

And all along the fur trade trails the  
Gaelic is there, and in from Hudson's  
Bay and the bitter North I am there and  
with the Scots in Montréal and Fort  
William,

And with Mackenzie on his River and to  
the Pacific with Simon Fraser on his  
fearful Stream, to set our boundaries.

And I relay the Message of our God to  
all through lips of our divines, in many  
Christian faiths, and through John  
Bethune and the Big Bishop, Alexander  
MacDonell, and in the humble worship  
of our pioneer Christian homes.

And I speak through these heroes:  
Spanish John MacDonell and other  
United Empire Loyalists; James  
MacLeod, with the RCMP at Edmonton;  
and the Highlanders with Lord Selkirk at  
Fort Garry and at Kildonan and Baldoon  
and Price Edward Island.

There was MacLean of the Hudson's  
Bay Company discovering the Great  
Falls of Labrador and Nicholson to  
Ungava Bay and fort Chimo;  
The North West Fur Trading Company  
leading Canada to the Pacific and my  
voice speaking through MacKay,  
MacGillivray, MacTavish, MacKenzie  
and Fraser.

And I speak on the Glengarry timber  
rafts on the Ottawa and on the St.  
Lawrence to Quebec City;  
And Yes, I was there when they drove  
the last spike for the Canadian Pacific  
Railway at Craigellachie, to unite  
Canada from sea to sea.

And above all, I speak through the  
mothers and wives and daughters, with  
their courage and hardships and  
ingenuity. They nurtured a race that  
made Canada great,  
And their blood still runs in this nation.

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At the  
May AGM of the CTHS, the following  
members were acclaimed to office and  
committee:

**Officers:**

President: Bill Costello

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: Maureen McAlear

Recording Secretary: Don McIntosh

Past President: Ken McDonald

**Committees:**

Building Manager: Charlie Cameron

Membership: Margaret MacDonald

Greeting Cards: Terry Trueman

Newsletter: Don McIntosh

Rentals: Terry Trueman

Publicity: Suzanne Grant

Meeting Reminder Calls: Vera Joyce

Special Events Coordinator: Helen  
MacDonald

Past President Ken McDonald becomes  
chair of nominations for 2010/2011

Thanks to everyone who helped with the  
landscaping in front of the Heritage  
Centre. The planters that Bernie  
MacDonald made have been fully  
stocked with a mixture of annuals and  
perennials and it looks great.

Shortly, the Heritage Centre will be open  
to the public on Sunday afternoons.  
Suzanne Grant will be calling on  
members who are willing to give us a  
few hours of their time to act as greeters  
on a Sunday afternoon in either July or  
August. Can you help us? You meet  
some of the nicest people who stop in to  
visit the Heritage Centre.