



## President's message



*Dear Members and Friends,*

Greetings everyone and welcome to the North Grenville Historical Society's winter edition of our newsletter. We would like to acknowledge and thank Marguerite Boyer of the North Grenville Times for her invaluable assistance in putting together this newsletter and her ongoing support of the Society in all of its endeavours.

We are pleased to announce a number of significant donations to the Archives that include items from the Norenberg, O'Neill and Anderson families. Our volunteers at the Archives are busy assessing, documenting and protecting these artifacts for future generations. We are very appreciative and thankful to these families for helping us preserve our local history.

Please come visit us at The History Hub located at 148 Prescott Street, Kemptville. We are open Wednesday to Saturday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Browse around and see the trophy awarded to G. Howard Ferguson by the citizens of Kemptville in 1923 or have a look at the model of Bishop's Mills created by local resident, Tom Graham. All are welcome.

*We are always looking for volunteers, either at the History Hub or in our Archives located on the Kemptville Campus, 820 Heritage Drive. If you have a couple of hours a week or even a few hours a month we would love to have you join us. We need volunteers to staff The History Hub, work in the Archives helping to sort our collections, complete inquiries research, update our social media, assist with fundraising, etc. For further information please call us at 613 258-4401.*

*Karen Nickleson*

*President, North Grenville Historical Society*

## Support Our Legacy:

### Donate to the New North Grenville Historical Society's Endowment Fund!

As we continue our mission to safeguard and celebrate the heritage of North Grenville, we are excited to announce the launch of our new Endowment Fund. Managed in collaboration with the Ottawa Community Foundation and the North Grenville Community Fund, the North Grenville Historical Society's Fund ensures a sustainable future for the NGHS. By contributing to this fund, you play a pivotal role in securing the financial foundation needed to support our programs, projects, and preservation efforts for years to come.

Your donation becomes part of the NGHS's legacy, supporting our community's historical initiatives for generations and directly contributes to the preservation of North Grenville's unique history and heritage. The Ottawa Community Foundation's professional expertise ensures responsible fund management and optimal impact.

How does one Donate?

Go to Google and search for the "North Grenville Historical Society Fund". You will be directed to a secure page for the NGHS. Scroll down to the donate button. Follow the prompts. Once your donation is processed, you will receive your charitable income tax receipt within a few minutes.

Every donation, no matter the size, brings us one step closer to securing a vibrant future for our North Grenville Historical Society.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to preserving the rich history of North Grenville. Should you have any questions regarding the Fund please contact Geraldine Taylor at 613 808-8912

## The Anderson Collection



*This drawing of Anderson's Store (now the History Hub) is based on an illustration in the Canadian Illustrated News, dated 13 July 1878. At that time the store was owned by Andrew Blackburn."*



The North Grenville Historical Society was delighted to receive a recent acquisition from the old Anderson General Store. The items being offered are from the great-great-grandson of Wil-

liam H Anderson and are all related to the family and history of the store in Kemptville.

This site was the first, and largest, department store in the town of Kemptville. Equipped

with extensive warehouses, stables and sheds at the rear and the south, the business was bought out by an employee, William H. Anderson, who further expanded it. Business was so good that, in 1897, Anderson took on as a partner, Albert Langstaff, and the store became Anderson & Langstaff's. The partners expanded until the business occupied 20,000 square feet of merchandise. In addition to the twelve employees who looked after the customers, the store also employed another dozen in making clothing for sale. The sketch of the business dating from 1873 shows that, even then, a

large storehouse had been added on the south side to accommodate the Hardware and Large Stock.

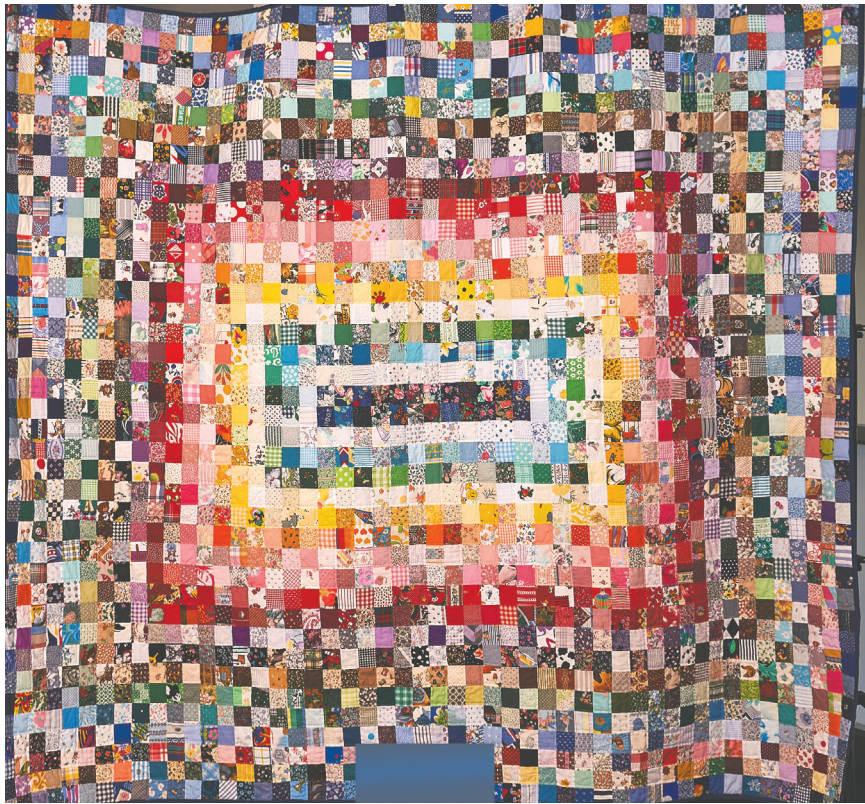
In 1903, the store handled a very wide range of goods: dry goods, groceries, shelf and heavy hardware, shoes, carpets, ready-made and bespoke clothing, furnishings, furs, oils and varnishes, tiles, and much more. For many years, in the driveway which runs beside the building, there was a water mill, which pumped water up from a well to a trough where horses could be watered while their owners shopped in the store.

In 1957, the store was described as: "Carrying

a complete line of modern goods in every department. Grocery, meat, electrical, hardware, paint and wallpaper, floor coverings, ladies wear, etc."

In late 1952, an addition was built on the north side of the store to house a Men's and Boy's Department. In later years, it became the Red & White store and has had various tenants since the store closed. One section of this historic building is now the home of the North Grenville Historical Society's History Hub. An appropriate location.





"Mary Boudreau inherited this 98" x 87" quilt with over 2000-2.5" coloured blocks. This is one of the quilts that her mother, Eleanor O'Neill, made after she retired from teaching at Holy Cross School in Kemptville. The quilt was made for the year of the millennium, 2000. Its 2000 different prints form a concentric-colour pattern. Absolutely amazing and so colourful. It is made of cotton and polyester and is very heavy."

## Quilter's Guild

In May 2023 volunteers from Kemptville Quilters' Guild and North Grenville Historical Society undertook the documentation of 127 quilts as part of the Eastern Ontario Quilt Documentation Project. Quilting history captures not only the finished work but also the stories of the people who made the quilt and the reason that the quilt was made. These stories are local stories, family stories and stories that might be lost to the future if they are not written down now by the people who know them. A book with these stories and a colour photograph of each quilt was published in December 2023 and is available at The History Hub, 148 Prescott Street, Kemptville ON, for \$25.00. This book will be of interest to both quilters and to history enthusiasts alike. Proceeds from the sales go to support both organizations.

## Board Members

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This special centrefold is made possible by the NGTimes and many advertisers that support local Newspapers

## List of Sponsors

On behalf of the North Grenville Historical Society, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the generous support of our sponsors. Their contribution has played a crucial role in our fundraising activities and remind everyone to please support these and other local businesses.

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### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Note: we will not sell or provide any of the information you provide here to any third party.

Pay by e-transfer to our e-mail address (please type "Membership" in message box), mail us a cheque or bring cash to our next meeting.

Membership Type:  Youth (\$25)  Single (\$35)  
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Contact by:  E-mail  Canada Post  Telephone

(e-mail is the easiest and most economical mode of communication for the Society)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

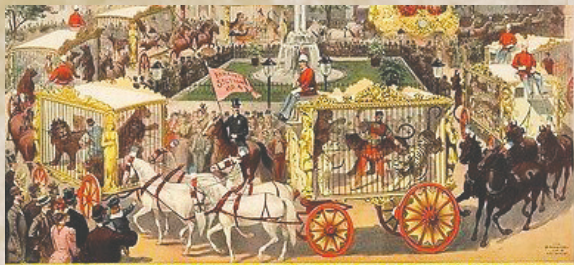
- Archives:**  Computer data entry  Sorting, shelving  
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 Display case management  Inquiries research  
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- Projects:**  Research local history topic  Organize book publishing projects  
 Maintain website  Publish "Quarterly"  
 Organize monthly meetings  Speak at local functions  
 Assist teachers, speak at schools  Summer student management  
 Other
- Board:**  Participate as Board member  Committee member  
 Raise funds  Media relations  
 Assist with administration  Government relations  
 Relations with other Historical Societies  Other

Contact: NGHS, PO Box 1239, Kemptville ON K0G 1J0  
Telephone (613) 258-4401 E-mail: [nghsociety@gmail.com](mailto:nghsociety@gmail.com)



**HISTORY VIGNETTES**

It seems that quite a crime spree took place in Kemptville in the summer of 1872, according to an Ottawa newspaper. There was no local newspaper here at the time, so these reports were sent by the Ottawa paper's Kemptville correspondent.

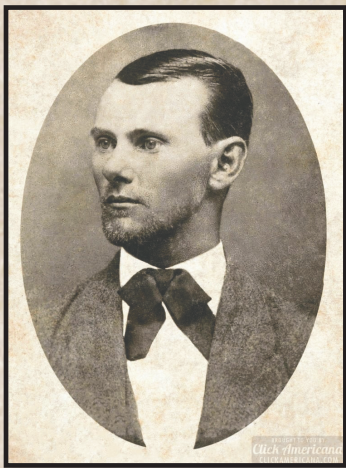


**From the Ottawa Free Press, August 9, 1872  
KEMPTVILLE**

During the time of the procession of O'Brien's Circus troupe through Kemptville yesterday, two daring and clever robberies were committed. The store of Mr. McKeon was entered whilst the clerks were at the door looking at the long line of caravans, and the cash box, containing valuable papers, was carried off. A similar robbery was made at the store of Bower, Porter & Bower [the Oddfellows Hall]. The safe was entered and the cash box, containing money and papers, being taken under exactly the same circumstances. We do not know whether any trace has yet been discovered either of the robbers or the booty. Store keepers had better take warning.

**From the Ottawa Free Press, August 14, 1872  
KEMPTVILLE**

A theft was committed here yesterday, by a man named Wilson, employed as stone mason by Mr. Fenton. He complained of being sick, and left work and went back to his boarding house, and ransacked his fellow boarders' rooms, breaking open the trunks. He took a large amount of money and clothing, and decamped by the first train. Most people in North Grenville have heard the story that claims a famous criminal resident here. But Al Capone is not the only such figure to feature in our colourful past, at least as far as rumour records.



**Advance, July 8, 1948**

Cannot find any trace of Jesse James having resided in Kemptville. The story that Jesse James, the famous outlaw and train robber of Oklahoma, had at one time resided in Kemptville and run a horse raising business, which appeared in an Ottawa paper on Tuesday, seems hard to trace to this town. Enquiries of some older residents bring no information and the story is looked upon as most unlikely, although it is hardly expected that he would go under the name of "Jesse James" if he was in this locality.

**From the Ottawa Free Press, July 26, 1872  
KEMPTVILLE**

**A Gold Excitement Raging**  
A short time ago a party of exploring Americans paid Kemptville a visit, but what their mission was they kept a profound secret. Yesterday, however, the news spread like wildfire, that gold had been discovered at Flint Hill, which is but a short distance from the village. A piece of rock, weighing 40 pounds, was sent to a celebrated assayer in New York, and found to contain 39 carats of gold and 35 grains of silver, the value of which is \$1.60. The excitement in the village yesterday was immense, and enormous prices had already been offered for the land.

The Independent Order of Good Templars belonging to this village made an excursion to Oxford Mills yesterday, where they held their annual picnic. The day, with the exception of a few showers in the afternoon, which slightly damped their spirits and Dolly Vardens, was fine, and "all went Merry as a marriage bell".

*Celebrating North Grenville's Heritage*

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Ambrose Clothier built this edifice as his family home around 1861, from bricks made from clay taken from the river bank, where his family owned a brick yard. Originally, a cupola topped the building, which was transformed into a feed store and home by Henry Dell after 1868.

**3 Clothier St E, Kemptville, ON 613-258-9492 www.solutionone.ca info@solutionone.ca**

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**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**NORTH GRENVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
3RD ANNUAL AT RIDEAU GLEN GOLF CLUB  
CIRCA 1929**

**JUNE 21ST 2024**



# Indigenous Trails Group

Eight individuals met at the History Hub in December to discuss commemoration of the First Nations' lasting imprint upon the landscape by their traditional trails, portages, and waterways south of the Rideau River. Along these routes in Anishinaabek territory, Europeans were first guided to what we know as North Grenville and Merrickville-

Wolford.

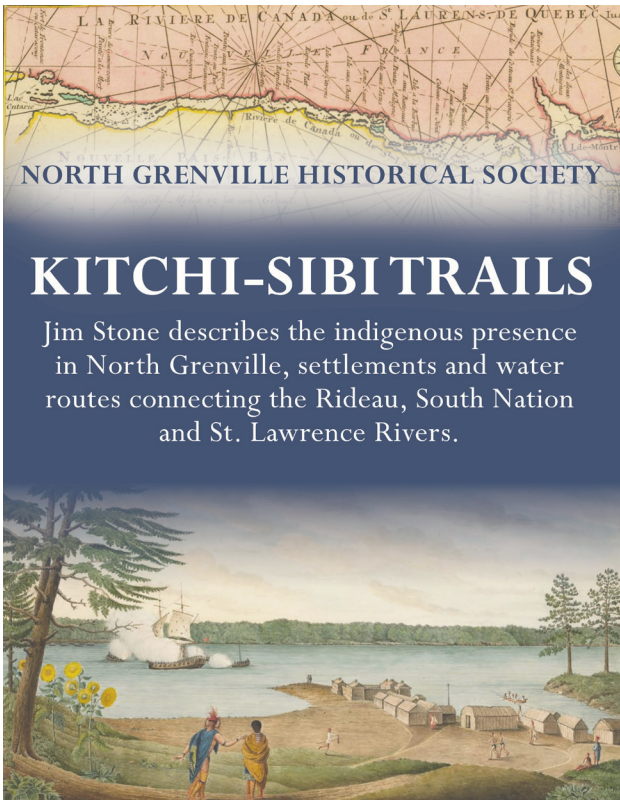
The discussion established a number of themes, further considered through online conversations. The group, as yet to be named, acknowledges we are on Anishinaabek territory. The outreach to the Algonquins of Pikwanagan First Nation will be fostered with timely updates, and their assertion of title confirmed.

Given many roads originated in whole or in part as trails and portages, identifying, mapping, and naming trails and portages linking water routes would be a primary objective. Charting traditional First Nation resources, and use First Nation names where possible, are important. Public outreach will include an online presence, handheld maps, informative signage, and the use of QR codes.

To introduce this organization, a delegation will attend a North Grenville Municipal Council meeting. A future event will be held to raise public awareness. Local museums, archives, historical societies, schools, and post-secondary institutions will be contacted.

A follow-up meeting is in the works.

**NGHS introduced the community to the Kitchi-sibi Trails Project with a talk by Jim Stone last June**



*Lt. Gershom French's map of 1794 showing the Indian portage routes between the Ottawa and St. Lawrence, connecting the South Nation and South Branch Rivers*