From the President

As I wrote in the last issue of Chronicle, the Constitution of the Society has not been reviewed or amended since 1986, and that amendment superseded one made in April 1975.

We must ensure that we are working in as transparent a way as possible and that our constitution is up to date to avoid scrutiny by governmental departments. So after 25 years, the executive of the Society is undertaking a thorough review of this important document to make sure it is up to date and reflects and anticipates changes to our activities and initiatives and the way in which we communicate with our members and the general public. The current constitution, for example, specifies that we only communicate through a newsletter and the Picton Gazette; the Internet, email and websites were far off on the horizon in 1986. Once the review is complete we will present the recommended changes to the membership to vote on at the Society’s next Annual General Meeting.

That said, the current constitution specifies that the AGM be held “as close as may be found convenient to the first Friday in April…” How it came to be held in November of each year is anyone’s guess. As a result, we are scheduling the Annual General Meeting for April 15, 2012 by which time all recommendations will have been completed, drafted and sent to the Members for consideration before the meeting. As with any document of this type, times change and we must make sure our constitution changes with them. More information about the AGM will be sent in early winter.

The executive of the society is also working to establish a committee to establish the criteria and processes necessary to review applications to fund history and heritage related projects in our community. As a not-for-profit organization, we need to divert funds currently in our bank account to such causes to maintain our charitable status. This initiative will also be on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting in April.

Also included in this issue of Chronicle is a catalogue of publications the Society has had a hand in publishing or distributing. These are available for sale at Books & Co. in Picton, at the Picton branch of the public library or by mail order as detailed in the catalogue.

We are excited to announce the upcoming publication of The Settler’s Dream Property Location Key in the next few months. Information about this book is included in this issue. We anticipate additional titles to be added to the current list in the near future.

Finally, Chronicle has undergone a bit of a facelift to simplify the layout and make the copy more readable; I hope you approve!

On behalf of the executive of the Prince Edward Historical Society, thank you for your continued support, and all the best for the holidays and new year.

Debi MacDonald, President

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Evergreen House

The First Resort at the Sand Banks on West Lake

Researched and Written by Phil Ainsworth

Today the Sandbanks Provincial Park is a destination vacation spot for hundreds of thousands of tourists every summer, yet a hundred and fifty years ago it was just a huge pile of sand between Lake Ontario and West Lake stretching from Wellington to West Point.

(Continued on page 5)
Lakeshore Lodge

The date that Lakeshore Lodge was built is in dispute. Some believe that it was built in 1893 by Daniel MacDonald, who was originally from Scotland, and his business partner John Hyatt. However, guest books dating back to 1880 predate the above claim. One thing is for certain: for its time the Hotel was truly an experience that attracted many ‘out of towners’ and even some locals as well.

The Lodge included a billiard hall, bowling alley, dance hall and of course what is a resort without an ice cream parlor.

Guests were met with a stage coach at the drive, and met at the door by the manager who always extended his welcome personally to each guest.

In its original state, the marvelous three storey building was known for its large verandas on the main floor, and the second and third storeys. The large hotel boasted both an east and west wing in addition to the large, extravagant foyer.

Cottages were also built on the 60-acre lot for those who preferred a smaller and more private setting, also on the lake side.

If you would like further information about this amazing building, please refer to:

- Prince Edward County: An Illustrated History (Campbell, Davies and Robertson, 2009) P. 92;
- A History of the Lakeshore Lodge (County Magazine, Issue 34, Winter 1984);
- The Settler’s Dream (Cruickshank, Stokes, de Visser, 2009) P. 130.
Sharing Common Goals
By Christine Renaud

The Prince Edward County Archives, as part of the County of Prince Edward Public Library, plays a major role in preserving the history of the County as does The Prince Edward Historical Society. The two organizations also share specific goals as outlined in the Historical Society’s mission statement, “to preserve, protect and promote the history and heritage of Prince Edward County.” Another mission is “bringing together members of the community interested in preservation, research, and promotion of local history and heritage.” To that end, the Historical Society regularly features speakers to educate and entertain on a variety of history related topics. On Thursday, November 17th, the Society presented Marc Seguin who spoke at the Picton Town Hall about the lighthouses of Prince Edward County.

The Archives, likewise, has two projects underway with comparable goals of preserving and promoting the rich history of the County. One is a “Digitization Day” planned for December 10 at the Archives adjacent to the Wellington branch of the library at 261 Main Street from 10a.m. to 4p.m.

Digitizing historical documents is an important aspect of historical preservation and aiding research. The public is invited to bring items such as postcards, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, newspaper articles, legal documents or photos to be scanned. “Many people have papers that are significant in telling and preserving the stories of Prince Edward County,” says Archives Manager Krista Richardson. “The idea of the Digitization Day is to encourage people to bring their documents, photos, letters and so forth to us to have them scanned so that they can be preserved digitally.”

Those who bring in materials will have the originals returned and will also receive a copy of the electronic scanned version. This can then be shared with others through e-mail and in other ways. They can be printed too.

Digitization is an important aspect of archival storage and retrieval too. Many pieces of history in paper form can be lost, damaged or will deteriorate, and scanning helps record these for posterity. “The postcards, letters, scrapbooks, diaries, newspaper articles may then, if not copyrighted, be made available through the Internet for others to retrieve and examine,” says Richardson. The library has been fortunate to receive, from the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, a Museums and Technology Funds (MTF) grant to hire a digitization assistant for a limited time.

Another upcoming project of the Archives is the creation of The 2012 County of Prince Edward Public Library & Archives historical calendar. The calendar will feature events with information based on the vignettes by Peter Lockyer and History Lives Here Inc., as well as other images from the past, including a month highlighting County lighthouses and one month featuring the historic Carnegie branch of the County of Prince Edward Library.

For more information on the Archives and the Prince Edward Historical Society, contact Krista Richardson at 613-399-2023 or e-mail: krichardson@peclibrary.org. Please visit the Historical Society’s website at http://pehistsoc.wordpress.com.

The
Mariners’ Museum
at South Bay

The Mariners’ Partnership Committee is seeking men and women to become committee members, and others to be casual volunteers.

For specific details about this unique opportunity and what it involves, please telephone Diane Denyes-Wenn, site curator, at 613-476-8392.
Preserved, Protected, Renovated: The Ameliasburgh Town Hall

The John M. and Bernice Parrott Foundation has just given a grant of $14,400 to the Ameliasburgh Town Hall Working Group to be used toward the renovation of the kitchen of the Ameliasburgh Town Hall. This money, along with a grant of $2500 given by The County Community Foundation in November will make the complete renovation of the kitchen possible in the spring of 2012. The kitchen renovation is Phase II of a community driven project to upgrade and renovate the Ameliasburgh Town Hall which was built in 1874 and described at that time as being, ‘the finest rural hall in Prince Edward County.’ Located in Ameliasburgh Village off County Road 19 on the shore of Roblin Lake, the hall was designated a heritage building in 1984 and continues to be the only public meeting hall serving the entire north end of Prince Edward County.

In October 2010, representatives from eight community groups formed the Ameliasburgh Town Hall Working Group to work in partnership with the Municipality of Prince Edward County to renovate this beautiful historic building. The goal was to have a fully renovated hall that is accessible, has a modern audio-visual system, and a modern kitchen that meets current Building Code and Public Health Standards.

In less than a year, the Working Group raised over $15,000 through community fundraising events to pay for a multi-media projector, a large motorized screen, an eight speaker sound system, new fire retardant drapes and ceiling tiles, ceiling fans, and electrical work. The municipality funded and is just completing the installation of two new accessible washrooms, a wider hallway and doorway, and a new tile floor.

The complete renovation of the kitchen was Phase II of the project and it will become a reality in 2012. The Working Group would like to thank the Parrott Foundation, The County Community Foundation and everyone who has supported our work to preserve this heritage building as a vital part of our community.

Prince Edward Historical Society
Set to Publish The Settler’s Dream Property Location Key

The Prince Edward Historical Society has licensed the name and images of The Settler’s Dream book from the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward, the copyright holder, to use to create an accompanying guide. The Settler’s Dream Location Key will be a directory of the civic address locations of the properties featured in the original book and the 2009 reprint. Maps, photographs and other information will make for an informative book that will enable people to locate and view these rich architectural gems. The Key will also specify buildings that have been demolished over the years.

The Location Key was created by members of the team that reprinted The Settler’s Dream in 2009. Additional input and support came from the Prince Edward Heritage Advisory Committee (PEHAC) and the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Quinte Branch.

The Society expects the book to be available for sale in the late winter and will publicize availability in Chronicle, on the Society’s website at www.pehistsoc.wordpress.com, and through Internet and mail promotion. Copies will be able to be purchased directly from the Society or from local retailers in Prince Edward County. A list of outlets will accompany the press announcements.

Proceeds from sales of the Property Location Key will be used to help fulfill the Society’s mandate to preserve, protect and promote the history and heritage of Prince Edward County.
Pioneer settlers cut the trees on the dunes and sold them to local builders of lake schooners for masts. They also planted crops on fields near the dunes once the tree stumps were removed.

Tourism was just a dream of a few entrepreneurs and one of the first to pursue this dream was a man from Lennox and Addington County named Elon Allen. People in Picton and from away were looking for a place to relax on vacation during summer months and the sand dunes were a unique geographical feature.

The road built from Bloomfield to West Lake had been extended to West Point and then joined up with the road from Picton to East Lake. At an intersection that is now buried under the sand dunes, Mr. Allen purchased three acres from local farmers, Robert and Richard McDonald, and on it built a clapboard hotel roofed with cedar shingles. He named the tourist resort, Evergreen House. Vacationers came by buggy or coach from the steamboat landing in Picton. The year was 1875.

Elon Allen was a restless man and he quickly grew tired of operating the hotel and sold it in 1879 to a 23-year-old Picton entrepreneur named Arthur William Hepburn. Hepburn had recently married a daughter of J. S. McCuaig, who owned and controlled all the wharfs and freight sheds in Picton Harbour.

Hepburn hired William C. Blood in 1882 as the manager of Evergreen House. Blood had been the manager of Sand Banks' Hotel, located a short distance away. Farmers, Daniel McDonald and John Hyatt, had built this hotel on the road to West Point on ten acres along Lake Ontario (more familiarly known today as Lakeshore Lodge) shortly after Evergreen House was built. Needless to say McDonald and Hyatt were not very pleased with Mr. Hepburn's 'sheep-stealing'.

In 1886 Hepburn, now busy with shipping and other interests, sold Evergreen House to Hallowell farmer, Jonathan Conger and his wife, Mary Ann.

The Congers were the last persons to own and operate this hotel. As the result of tree removal from the dunes by the pioneer farmers the shifting sands were steadily encroaching onto the roads around the dunes and onto the Evergreen House property. The dune behind the hotel was over twenty feet high.

Weather and natural circumstances were leading to a decision to close the hotel when Mr. Conger died there in 1905. His widow lived at the hotel until her death in 1910. The building was purchased from the Conger estate in 1911 by John Whattam, who had recently acquired the former Sand Banks' Hotel. Whattam had renamed the expanded hotel, dance hall and cottage complex, West Point Summer Resort and the hotel had been renamed Lake Shore House.

Whattam demolished Evergreen House and likely used the building material for further development of the resort at West Point, adding to the space for recreational activities or building more cottages.

The sand continued its movement of several feet a year until the location of the former Evergreen House was buried forever.

A few years later in the 1920's, local farmer Amos McDonald petitioned the provincial government to assist the West Lake farmers in reforesting the dunes. This action eventually stopped the dune movement and the resultant inundation of good farm land that had been initiated by the tree-clearing actions of their pioneer ancestors so many years before.

Now summer campers at the Park run across the dunes and head for a swim in the lake where Evergreen House once stood.

Please visit the Prince Edward Historical Society’s website at www.pehistsoc.wordpress.com for up-to-date information about the Society’s activities and upcoming events.
On October 13th the Society presented Maria Moncur, a PhD Candidate at Queen's University. Her well attended, engaging, presentation focused on War of 1812 storytelling in New York, and Upper Canada & Ontario between 1815 and 1915.

Then on November 17th, Marc Seguin made an equally well-attended and engaging audio/video presentation about the history and architecture of the endangered lighthouses of Prince Edward County.
Since 1899

The Prince Edward Historical Society
To Preserve, Protect and Promote the History and Heritage of Prince Edward County

Application for Membership

Annual membership is $10.00. Membership dues and donations to the Society allow it to preserve, protect and promote the history and heritage of Prince Edward County. Memberships make great gifts!

Please find enclosed my $10.00 payment for membership or my donation of $______ to the Society.

Is this a new membership _____ or a renewal _____? (Please check one)

Name (please print): ___________________________________________ Telephone:____________________

Address: ___________________________________________ Email Address:_______________________

The Prince Edward Historical Society is affiliated with the Ontario Historical Society and the Archives Association of Ontario, and is a Registered Charitable Organization. A receipt for Income Tax purposes will be issued for any donation over $20.00.

Please mail this completed application and your payment to:

The Prince Edward Historical Society, C/O Prince Edward County Archives
261 Main Street, Wellington, Ontario K0K 3L0—Attention: Membership
www.pehistsoc.wordpress.com
The Prince Edward Historical Society
Publications Catalogue

The following publications are available at Books & Company, 289 Main Street, Picton, ON (613) 476-3037; the Prince Edward County Archives, 261 Main Street, Wellington, ON (613) 399-2023; and at the Picton Branch of the Public Library.

Please call the numbers above for further information or to order by mail.
Quantities may be limited.

Net proceeds from the sale of all publications, prints and maps enables the Prince Edward Historical Society to continue to preserve, protect and promote the history and heritage of Prince Edward County.

Prince Edward County Historical Maps & Prints

The Downes Prints
Artist: Captain John Pepper Downes
(Prince Edward Historical Society; 12 prints, 12” x 10”, ready for framing)
$10.00

During the 19th century, Captain Downes was a prominent citizen of Picton, holding positions including Justice of the Peace, Captain of the Local Militia and County Clerk Treasurer. His residence is still standing at the intersection of Downes Avenue and Main Street, Picton (behind the Bank of Montreal building). During his time here, he created a number of pencil interpretations of Prince Edward County, twelve of which have been reproduced by the Prince Edward Historical Society for all to enjoy.

Tremaine's Map of 1863 Prince Edward County
By: Prince Edward County Public Archives
(Prince Edward County Public Archives, 2007; 11x17 colour graphic)
$3.00

Originally produced in 1863 by George C. Tremaine of Toronto, The Tremaine Map of 1863 was the first of its kind to print the names of the land owners of Prince Edward County in addition to town directories on the map itself. (Please also see Tremaine's Map of Prince Edward County, Upper Canada, 1863 in the publications section.)
The Calnan family history in Prince Edward County dates back to 1832. The author takes the reader back to the original Calnans of Ireland and discusses the various lineages of the family, their homesteads, places of burial and the family stories that have been passed down through the generations; complete with a family tree.

David Leavitt, His Relationships, and the Bloomfield Universalists
By: A.G.W. Lamont
(1993; 83 pages)
$10.00

Lamont discusses the History of Universalism in Prince Edward County, its structure, ideas, history and the County’s first-hand experience with it. Lamont also discusses the history of the Leavitt family within Prince Edward and the Quinte area complete with a list of descendants.

The Calnan Family 1832-1981
By: Aileen Calnan Foster
(Aileen Calnan Foster, 1981; 226 pages)
$20.00

The Calnan family history in Prince Edward County dates back to 1832. The author takes the reader back to the original Calnans of Ireland and discusses the various lineages of the family, their homesteads, places of burial and the family stories that have been passed down through the generations; complete with a family tree.

The Crystal Palace
By: David R. Taylor
(Corporation of the County of Prince Edward, 1997; 16 pages)
$3.00

The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward first published this booklet in 1997 at the unveiling of the building’s ceremonial plaque. The history of the Picton Fairgrounds from the 1800’s to the construction of the replica structure in 1890 and its subsequent reconstruction are the focus of the Taylor’s booklet.

Millennium Edition: Historic Prince Edward
By: The Prince Edward Historical Society
(Prince Edward Historical Society, 2000; 60 pages)
$10.00

The Millennium Edition is an illustrated historical account of Prince Edward County highlighting the United Empire Loyalists; the County’s Maritime history; its agriculture & townships; prominent places & people; and religious places of worship.
**History of the Churches of Prince Edward County**
By: Compiled by the Picton Branch of the Prince Edward County Women’s Institute, revised and edited by Patricia C. Taylor  
(The Picton Gazette Publishing Company, 1971; 162 pages)  
$10.00

Begun in 1965, this book is a comprehensive history of the churches of Prince Edward County including photographs of each, notes about denominations and appendices of clergy in chronological order.

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**On the Edge of History: Dorland's Creek and the Mills**
By: E.D. Taylor Ashton  
(Hermitage Publishing Corporation, Ottawa, Canada, 1996; 200 pages)  
$30.00

Ashton focuses on the history of Hillier Township ranging from the settlement of the town to post World War II. He pays particular attention to the agricultural industry that it supported, including its mills.

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**Munro’s Demorestville**
By: J.E.R. Munro  
(Prince Edward Historical Society, 1989; 19 pages)  
$3.00

Munro begins with the history of the early settlement of Demorestville, the town's settlers, its businesses and supportive statistics and demographics. The booklet offers a concise and accurate notation of the small township of Sophiasburgh.

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**My War**
By: Major G.L. Giroux  
(G.L. Giroux Publishing, 1999; 108 pages)  
$20.00

Written in Giroux's personal notation style, the author details his experience growing up within a small rural town in Ontario, and his service in the Second World War.

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**Tremaine’s Map of Prince Edward County, Upper Canada, 1863**
By: Philip J. Ainsworth  
(Spiral bound, reproduced text, 2006; approximately 125 pages)  
$35.00

As a guide to the map, the reproduced text provides sectional maps and directories in addition to an index of landowners and subscribers. The booklet includes acknowledgements; Tremaine’s Map of Prince Edward County, 1863; a Map of Picton from Tremaine's Wall Map; an introduction, notes and history of the Map; a Master Index of landowners and subscribers by township; subscribers’ directories and an Index of Places and Names. Data and information provided within the text are in chart form and the maps are consistent throughout the booklet. (Please also see Tremaine’s Map of 1863 Prince Edward County in the Maps & Prints section.)
Federal Census’ of Prince Edward County

1901 Federal Census Township of Hallowell Including the Village of Bloomfield, County of Prince Edward (Ontario)
By: Philip J. Ainsworth
(Spiral bound, reproduced text, approximately 125 pages; 2004)
$28.00
The information transcribed from the 1901 federal census is divided into six sections: north of West Lake, Irvine Gore, II Produced; the village of Bloomfield, Military Tract I and I; Military Tract I, east of West Lake and Block H; Gore G, Military Tract I and II, north of Carrying Place I and II, and Lot A; and east of Carrying Place, Block B, Gore K, II north of Black River, Loyal True Blue Orphanage; the final section consists of II and III west of Green Point I, II and III Produced, Gerow Gore, Gore E, Block D, I, II and III Military Tract. The information and data is in chart form and maps are provided.

1901 Federal Census: Township of Athol, County of Prince Edward (Ontario) Including the Village of Cherry Valley
By: Philip J. Ainsworth
(Spiral bound, reproduced text, approximately 74 pages; 2007)
$20.00
The information transcribed from the 1901 federal census includes birth, marriage and death registers in addition to alternate names. The reproduced text is divided into three sections: concession 1 south of East Lake, Gores A & B and the Village of Cherry Valley; concession 1 south of East Lake and concession north of East Lake; and concessions 2,3,4 and 5 south of East Lake. Maps and charts are included.

1901 Federal Census and Municipal Assessment Roll: Village of Wellington, County of Prince Edward (Ontario)
By: Philip J. Ainsworth
(Spiral bound, reproduced text, approximately 70 pages; 2006)
$20.00
The Municipal Assessment Roll is divided into sections which consist of maps of the Village of Wellington; Introduction and Notes; the Federal Census Name Index; Federal Census Data; the Municipal Assessment Roll Name Index and the Municipal Assessment Roll Data. The information and data is in chart format.
1901 Federal Census: Township of Sophiasburgh
County of Prince Edward including Demorestville
and Northport
By: Philip J. Ainsworth
(Spiral bound, reproduced text, approximately 100 pages; 2006)
$30.00

The information transcribed from the 1901 federal census includes birth, marriage and death registers in addition to alternate names. The reproduced text is divided into four sections: concessions I and II west of Green Point, Gore C, Telegraph Island, Village of Northport, Grassy Point and Foresters Island; concessions I, II and III west of Green Point, Village of Demorestville, Big Island and Gore D; concessions I and II southwest of Green Point; and concessions I and II southwest of Green Point, Gore D and Gore B. The information provided within the reproduced text is in chart form and maps are provided.

1901 Federal Census: Township of South
Marysburgh County of Prince Edward (Ontario)
Including the Village of Milford
By: Philip J. Ainsworth
(Spiral bound, reproduced text, approximately 70 pages; 2007)
$20.00

The information transcribed from the 1901 federal census includes birth, marriage and death registers in addition to alternate names. The reproduced text is divided into three sections: concessions west of Point Traverse and round and south of South Bay; concessions north and south of Black River, the Village of Milford and Gore A; and the concessions north and south of Black River, south of South Bay, west of Point Traverse and the Village of Milford. Maps and charts are also included.