



NEWSLETTER

Symmes Inn Museum

Year 2011

THE SYMMES INN MUSEUM'S 2011 ACTIVITIES : AN OVERVIEW

by Richard M. Bégin

(in collaboration with Alain David and Marie Louise Paradis)

The Symmes Inn Museum has just completed another very rewarding and fulfilling year in many respects. But it was also saddened and disappointed in other respects, as the reader will learn.

First, we have lost one of our pillars, who has been with us practically since the foundation of the Museum: Patricia Drew (Pomainville) passed away on July 6. I have included in this newsletter an article sent to the media this summer, and published in the *Aylmer Bulletin*.

However, Pat would certainly be proud to realize that the cause she fostered for such a long time in her life and which she took so much to heart is still alive and vibrant.

Last February, as usual since the foundation in 1997 of the *Table de concertation sur les archives privées de l'Outaouais* (an organization of which the Museum was a founding member, and which I presided from 1997 until it was dismantled at the end of 2008), we participated in the annual exhibit by Outaouais heritage/historical organizations. In 2011, each participant had a kiosk at the Hull Galleries, on February 19 and 20. The event is now supervised by the *Conseil régional de la culture de l'Outaouais*, with the usual close co-operation of the *Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec* whose support at the logistical and co-ordination level is greatly appreciated. Our thanks to the volunteers who represented us at this exhibition : Richard Bégin, Georgie Bracken, Patrick Brennan, Alain David, Bernard Ladouceur, Ronald Loyer, Hélène Parent and Tanya Parent.



Alain David and Georgie Bracken at the Museum's Kiosk, Hull Galleries, February 2011. [Photo: R.M. Bégin]



From left to right: Richard Bégin (President), Jean-François Nadeau (Secretary-Treasurer) and Hélène Parent (Coordinator) presenting the Annual Report at the Annual General Meeting, March 23. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

On March 23, we held our Annual General Meeting. The members of the Board currently are: Richard M. Bégin (President), Line Bertrand (representative of the *Société d'histoire de l'Outaouais*), Roger Blanchette, Kevin Bosch (representative of the *Aylmer Heritage Association*), Patrick Brennan, Alain David, Jacques Decarie, Ronald Loyer, Jean-François

Nadeau (Secretary-Treasurer), Jean-Luc Pilon and Lise Robitaille (Vice-President). Of course, Patricia Drew was also a member of the Board until her passing.



Marie Louise Paradis and Richard M. Bégin at the Museum's Kiosk, Expo-Arts, Château Cartier, April 8, 2011. [Photo: Pierre-André Simard]

Then, from April 8 to 10, as is the case since many years, and thanks to the gracious invitation of the Aylmer Arts Council, we took part in their annual activity, Expo-Arts. This year, for the first time, the event took place at the Château Cartier. It drew a large turnout, and a large number of artists took part ... as well as our two federal Members of Parliament, the incumbent at the time, Marcel Proulx, and the newly elected Nycole Turmel, both of which we proudly count amongst our members. Amongst the volunteers in charge of the museum's kiosk, we would like to mention: Richard Bégin, Patrick Brennan, Georgie Bracken, Alain David, Pat Drew, Bernard Ladouceur, Ronald Loyer, Marie Louise Paradis, Hélène et Tanya Parent.



Symmes Inn Museum's 2011 temporary exhibit: Kitchen and Cooking of the Past Created and assembled by Marie Louise Paradis, Alain David and Pat Drew. [Photos: Richard M. Bégin and Marie Louise Paradis. Montage by Richard M. Bégin]

The next step was of course the official opening of the Museum with our new temporary exhibit, *Kitchen and Cooking of the Past*, featuring both traditional recipes and appliances and other familiar objects of yesteryear kitchens. Organizing this exhibit was a substantial challenge, requiring an enormous amount of research, of time and energy on the part of our volunteers, and in particular, Marie Louise Paradis and Alain David (as well as, in part, Pat Drew, who was most happy to see the Museum feature once more some of the themes of an exhibit to which she had previously contributed: *Grandma's Kitchen*). We are also thankful for the invaluable support of professors (Michael Wheatley and Terry Quinlan) and of students in museum studies at Algonquin College who helped restore numerous artefacts belonging to the Museum and collaborated in the conception and the production of two interpretative banners on the Museum and the exhibition. Finally, this exhibition would never have been possible without the support of other members of the Aylmer and Gatineau community who graciously lent us various objects to expand the exhibition, and in particular Jacques Decarie and Gisèle Lalande from the *Musée de l'outil traditionnel de l'Outaouais* and the *Institut du patrimoine ouvrier et domestique*. Paul Thibault's expertise in the reproduction of heritage wooden objects and the restoration of artefacts was greatly appreciated, as well as Héléne Parent's research and documentation on aboriginal culture.

On Héléne Parent's suggestion, we introduced a new feature to the celebrations on Opening Day, Sunday June 5th. This year, the summer season started with an "aboriginal smudging ceremony" of about 30 minutes, by the elder Roseann Martin-Ampoch, of the Mi'gmaq First Nation of Listuguj, Quebec. Aboriginal artists were also attending from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., exhibiting and selling their crafts, such as dream catchers and other aboriginal artwork. A beautiful bedspread by Héléne Parent and Tanya Parent was also donated to the elder Roseann Martin-Ampoch on this occasion.



Tanya Parent, Murielle Boucher-Lalonde, Roseann Martin-Ampoch and Héléne Parent at the opening day of the Museum's summer season. [Photo: Tanya Parent]

The exhibition itself, *Kitchen and Cooking of the Past*, was greeted with great enthusiasm and many visitors enjoyed it all summer long. It was also reviewed in numerous articles, interviews, radio and televised documentaries.

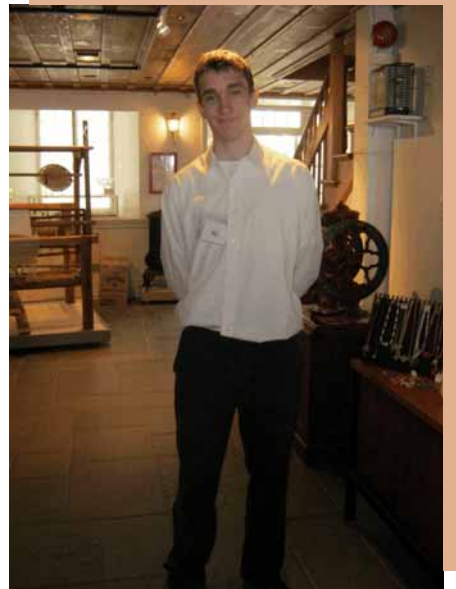


Last heritage bicycle tour of the Symmes Inn Museum, September 3, with guides Richard M. Bégin and Jean-Claude Carisse (purple shirt and white hat). [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

Soon after the opening started the heritage bicycle tours. For the seventh year in a row, the guides, Jean-Claude Carisse and myself, accompanied cyclists passionate about history ... and exercise three times during the summer (June 18, August 20 and September 3), for a journey through space and time at the heart of Old Aylmer. These guided tours of about three hours focus on the old District administrative centre that used to be Aylmer in the 19th century, and aim at helping the participants understand the importance of the Outaouais River in the history of the region. They can enjoy a beautiful mix of natural panoramas and cultural landscapes, while reflecting on urban development and the preservation of heritage buildings. Each

excursion was followed by a free visit of the museum and it primarily aimed at fostering an appreciation for Aylmer's history and its valuable heritage, both natural and architectural.

This summer, thanks to the "Summer Jobs Canada Initiative" sponsored by Service Canada (without which we could not keep our doors opened on such a regular basis during the summer), a young student named Éric Dupuis joined our team to work as a guide and receptionist. He worked with great enthusiasm and motivation, to the joy and satisfaction of all visitors and administrators at the Museum. As school programs start earlier and earlier now, he unfortunately had to leave us prematurely, but we could end the season (until Thanksgiving) without too much disruption thanks to Vincent Dorais, Lise Préfontaine and a few others who were in a position to step in, often on a volunteer basis.



Eric Dupuis, the young student who greeted visitors during Summer 2011. [Photo :Tanya Parent]

During the week end of August 6 and 7, our museum had, this year again, a kiosk at the Aylmer Auto Show (under a tent by the bicycle path along the beach at Parc des cèdres). This was the 20th season of the Show, but unfortunately its last. Patrick Brennan caught the eye of visitors with his model trains on miniature landscape. We would like to thank the volunteers who took part in this event: Patrick Brennan,



Patrick Brennan and his "little train" at Aylmer Auto Show, 2011 edition, at the Symmes Inn Museum's Kiosk. [Photo: Patrick Brennan]

Marguerite Charlebois, Alain David, Yvonne Ladouceur, Ronald Loyer, H  l  ne and Tanya Parent, and Anne Th  rien Quenneville. They manned our kiosk and the museum all week end. Thanks also to our student,   ric Dupuis, who, as he was doing all week (except on Mondays), reliably held the fort from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Museum itself.

The second week end of September, from September 9 to 11, we held the fourth edition of *Yesteryear's Fest*. This year again, the event attracted between 5000 and 6000 visitors throughout Old Aylmer, including about 1200 on Saturday, and 500

who came inside the Museum to visit and enjoy our temporary and permanent exhibits. This is an all time record for our regional history museum.

The 2011 program for the *Yesteryear's Fest* is still posted on the website of the Symmes Inn Museum (www.symmes.ca) as well as on the dedicated site designed for this year's event: www.fete-antan.ca.





Photos of 4th Yesteryear's Fest (September 7-9, 2011). [Montage: Richard M. Bégin. Photos: Richard M. Bégin, Thierry Bégin, Yves Gagnon and Jocelyne Lauzon]

The challenge was considerable in 2011. Without additional funds at our disposal, we nevertheless managed to provide activities and animation over an entire weekend, and to include for the first time an inauguration reception and an exhibit opening. The exhibit featured historical photographs (realized jointly by the Exhibition Center L'Imagier, the Aylmer Heritage Association and the Symmes Inn Museum) on display all weekend at the Monastery Residence. The Monastery graciously hosted the cocktail and the buffet at the opening. For the occasion, the President of the *Yesteryear's Fest's* Organizing Committee and President of the Symmes Inn Museum, Richard Bégin (dressed up as Charles Symmes, Aylmer's founder), arrived in a buggy, accompanied by Stefan Psenak. They were met at the entrance of the Monastery by the former mayor of Aylmer, Constance Provost, the General Director of the Monastery, Marc Lafontaine (also wearing period costumes) and various other guests. This was a wonderful evening, probably similar to functions held in the old days at the nearby heritage home of the fabulously wealthy John Egan, Aylmer's first mayor and Deputy of Ottawa County (of which Aylmer was then part).

On Saturday, as in the past years, exhibitors and visitors attended in great numbers, often dressed in period costumes (19th century). They gathered around the Symmes Inn and around 10, Rue Principale, but also all along Rue Principale and neighbouring streets. The exhibitors (about fifty of them) displayed their expertise in a wide variety of fields: art, production techniques, products, and crafts. Displays also featured heritage and museum studies, traditional crafts and trades, local agricultural produce, artwork, and natural sciences. Rides by tramway, buggy or horse-drawn carriages using Canadian horses were also included this year again, including guided tours on foot or in carriages. Animation was provided inside the Museum, as well as on the surrounding grounds.

From 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, under the main marquee, near the Symmes Inn Museum, as well as along Rue Principale, various artists performed, while others mixed with the crowd or joined people aboard the trolley bus. The day ended with the showing of a classic silent film under the main marquee, *Modern Times*, by Charlie Chaplin.

The British Hotel found again its former vocation as Court of Justice on Saturday and Sunday afternoon as the Théâtre Dérives urbaines presented its play, *A Trial at the British*.

On Sunday morning, at the Symmes Inn location, a yesteryear's brunch was served for the benefit of the Aylmer Food Center; animation was provided, and children could enjoy make up and magicians' tricks.

The 2011 Yesteryear's Fest was without a doubt a spectacular success and this year, it received unprecedented coverage from the press. This achievement is first and foremost the result of the close collaboration which, over the years, has evolved between the Symmes Inn Museum and Aylmer's business association (APICA: Association des professionnels, industriels et commerçants d'Aylmer), between culture and business. This collaboration can only mutually benefit business and culture, as well as the community as a whole.

Undeniably, an event of this stature could never have been possible had it not been for the support and experience of its Organizing Committee, including representatives of various sectors of activity:

Yesteryear's Fest Organizing Committee	
Richard M. Bégin	President, Organizing Committee + Symmes Inn Museum and APICA
TRADITIONAL CRAFTS	Danielle Potvin (traditional crafts) Yves Gagnon (knife sculpture) Diane Hudon (lacemaker)
ARTS	Diane Groulx (Aylmer Arts Council) Marianne Breton (Centre d'exposition L'Imagier)
HORSES AND BUGGIES	Michel Allen (Ferme Fabi, Canadian Horse Association)
MUSEUMS AND HERITAGE	Alain David (Symmes Inn Museum)
NATURAL SCIENCES	Marie Louise Paradis (Mycologues amateurs de l'Outaouais)
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT	Jean-Pierre Sylvestre (marquees, security, etc. and horses) Jocelyne Lauzon (APICA / animation and local agricultural produce) Hélène Parent (Symmes Inn Museum) Richard Côté (APICA / rue Principale, volunteers and security) Benoît Brière (Ville de Gatineau)

Subsidizing organizations and sponsors were essential to our success, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude:

<p>Ville de Gatineau Conférence régionale des élus de l'Outaouais Caisse populaire Desjardins Galeries Aylmer Stefan Psenak Hôtel Château Cartier Résidence Le Monastère Moca Loca Hôtel British André Laframboise Pierre Phillion Alain Riel Sylvie Goneau IGA Grande Rivière Loblaws Aylmer Pharmacie Jean Coutu Métro Aylmer Plus</p>	<p>Le Matinal Centre d'exposition L'imagier Pharmaprix Tigre Géant Brunet Plus Fleuriste Aylmer Boutik Shaman Dépanneur Rapido Fleuriste Glenwood Sol Tim Horton (chemin Vanier) Pizza la Différence Marché Laflamme Gabriel Pizza Uniprix Malibu Spa Pizza la Différence Ultramar (rue Front)</p>
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It is also essential to mention the contribution of numerous other volunteers who, in addition to those who were members of the Organizing Committee, contributed to the success of an activity of this magnitude. Hoping not to forget anyone, allow me to mention the contribution, during the very week of the event, of the students of the International Studies Program of l'École secondaire Grande-Rivière (there were 19 of them), as well as that of Suzanne Aubin, Richard Bégin, Thierry Bégin (our official photographer), Georgie Bracken, Kevin Bosch, Marguerite Charlebois, Maxime Comeau-Gauthier, Richard Côté, Robert Côté, Bernadette Doire, Vincent Dorais, Éric Dupuis, Brian Gargano, Louise Gauthier, David Gilbert, Claire Lacasse, Gilles Laroche (our master of ceremony during the shows at the main marquee), Jordan Leblond, Ronald Loyer, Bernard Ladouceur, Yvonne Ladouceur, Denis Lafrance, Jocelyne Lauzon, Héléne Parent, Tanya Parent, Francine Parker, Léo Routh, Mayumi Sakamoto, Tsukimi Sakamoto, Sylvain Taillefer and Cynthia Turpin. Alain David and Patrick Brennan were our English-speaking guides during the guided tours in horse-drawn carriages, while Roger Blanchette and two CEGEP students took responsibility for the guided tours in French. Finally, many volunteers from the Aylmer Heritage Association took charge of the guided tours on foot on Rue Principale.



The Museum's annual Harvest Festival. The 2011 edition was an unprecedented success. [Photo: Tanya Parent]

As usual, the annual Harvest Festival took place on closing day, Sunday, October 16 and this year's event was our most successful ever, according to Alain David! Not only were children able to decorate pumpkins, but they also had the opportunity to create their very own "aboriginal talking sticks" with the help of a métis teacher and storyteller, Murielle Boucher-Ladonde.

The Museum would like to thank the following volunteers for their outstanding contribution: Alain David, Yvonne Ladouceur, Ronald Loyer, Héléne Parent, Mayumi Sakamoto,, as well as Tsukimi Sakamoto-David and Janice Swan from Girl Guides

Canada. A special thank goes to out to Robert and Gloria Allston for their artistic flair in decorating the Museum for the event. It really looked fabulous!

Even if the Museum is closed to the public from that date (except for groups making special arrangements ahead of time), we never end the year without contributing in our own way to the Christmas celebrations and to the Santa Claus Parade which, as we all know, is a success year after year, and which starts precisely in front the the Symmes Inn Museum. A few years ago, we all agreed that, on the night of the parade, the Museum would be adorned with its most brilliant decorations and that there would be animation on the occasion. It was thus the evening we chose to offer the Volunteers' Dinner, our way to thank them for their important contribution over the year. As we all know, without this contribution, it would be impossible to guarantee the survival, creativity and dynamism of the Museum which is about to celebrate its 25th anniversary. Many thanks to Alain David, Ronald Loyer and H  l  ne Parent who prepared the tables, installed the Christmas lights and decorations, as well as to the caterer Authentika for serving a delicious meal at a very affordable price (this is always particularly appreciated by non-profit organizations!)

Indeed, in June 2012, we shall celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Museum's incorporation, and one year later, almost to the day, we shall celebrate the 25th anniversary of the official opening of the Museum to the public for the first time, in June 1988.

That is an important step in the history of an organization, but also of the entire community that has supported it during all those years. Unfortunately, in 2011, Ville de Gatineau has reduced its annual cash subsidy by 30%! And this reduction will apparently be maintained in 2012. In view of the fact that Ville de Gatineau had been planning to adopt a heritage policy since 2003, and more particularly since September 2011, this budgetary cut could not occur at a worst time, and places the survival, and *a fortiori* the long term growth of the Museum in jeopardy.

This being said, the museum nonetheless has deep roots in Aylmer, in Gatineau and in the Outaouais region as a whole, and recently, it has come closer to similar Outaouais organizations, joining other museums and interpretation centers, to create the **Outaouais Museum Network** (<http://www.reseau-museal-outaouais.ca>). Unlike other regions in Quebec, our local and regional museums don't receive as much support from our government, at times none. Hopefully, this network will allow us not only to lobby our public administrations more forcefully, but also to pool talents, resources, collections, publicity, etc.

In the summer of 2011, the Symmes Inn Museum was recognized by the program *Placements culture* of Quebec, an initiative of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Qu  bec, aiming at fostering cultural patronage, which is exceptionally rare in Quebec. Thanks to this program, each donation to the Symmes Inn Museum will be tripled by the Government of Quebec. And let's underline that, unlike many other non-profit organizations, the Symmes Inn Museum has kept its right to issue income tax receipts. Effectively, in order to take advantage of this unique and remarkable occasion, the Symmes Inn Museum is offering, this year only, the option to become **life-long partner** of the Symmes Inn Museum, by making a \$500.00 donation which includes an income tax reduction of \$210.00. We are calling particularly upon members and friends of the Museum this year in order to take full advantage of this generous **Placements culture** program. Some years ago, we missed our opportunity to be recognized by the Quebec government and to take advantage of adequate subsidies that would have enabled us to remain open all year around and to work more closely with the school system, in particular. Let us seize this opportunity this time. We rely on the support of all our readers and friends.

In closing, I would not want to miss this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the community that has been supporting us for close to a quarter of century, as well as to the subsidizing organizations and sponsors who have enabled us, in spite of our extremely limited resources, to accomplish so much. And of course, the members and volunteers who have supported us and continue to do so, year after year, at times week after week, deserve all our gratitude.

Let's hope that the year 2012 will mark a turning point in the history ... of the regional history museum which is the Symmes Inn Museum!



PATRICIA DREW (POMAINVILLE),
ONE OF THE PILLARS OF THE AYLMER HERITAGE COMMUNITY IS NO LONGER WITH US ...
By Richard M. Bégin

Over the last few months, we have lost several of our figureheads in Aylmer: Robert Middlemiss, Gérard Quenneville, Arthur Silverstone, Dennis Foran... Others are seriously ill. And here we are: on Wednesday, July 6, Patricia Drew (known for several years under the name of Pat Pomainville, since she was married to Jean-Charles [John] Pomainville for many years), left us too. She was 84-year old, but still very active, namely at the Symmes Inn Museum and at the Canadian Legion (section 33), in Aylmer.

A resident of Aylmer since the 1950s, she worked for UNESCO's Canadian Commission and was a member of the team sent to Paris for an international conference at least three times.

Unquestionably, she has been one of the pillars of the Symmes Inn Museum (formerly the Aylmer Museum) since its opening on June 5, 1988. Perhaps she wasn't there at the very creation and incorporation of the Museum, in June 1987, but she joined the team at the official opening of the institution, then located at 10 Principale Street, Aylmer.



Patricia Drew (Pomainville).

On opening day, they simply called her to give a hand, as a volunteer, as she had also been a member of the Aylmer Heritage Association since its inception, in 1975, and there has always been close links between the two organizations and their respective volunteers. On that day, she was at the Heritage Association's stand, selling membership cards for the Museum. From there, she became the receptionist for the Museum on Wednesdays for the summer season, and, at the very first Annual General Meeting, on October 13, 1988, was elected to the Board, and never left.

Indeed, she assumed the position of Executive Secretary for most of her tenure, up until two years ago. Graciously and enthusiastically, she did research, wrote articles, organized receptions and special events, mounted or conceptualized exhibits, translated, greeted visitors, created contests in newspapers, guided visits at the Museum, went to schools, prepared cookies, received artefacts, prepared advertising material and wrote an information newsletter for the members.

Perhaps she didn't hit the headlines during her some 35 years of involvement for the heritage cause and regional history, but, at the Museum, she attended all or most activities, be it the Carnival parades, exhibits or temporary kiosks in Gatineau's shopping centres (coordinated by the *Table de concertation des archives privées de l'Outaouais* and, later, by the *Conseil régional de la culture de l'Outaouais*), at Expo-Arts (by the Aylmer Arts Council), at the Aylmer Auto Show, at the Summer Festival, or elsewhere. She is the one who, for many years, (and it was very important to her) organized the Aylmer Museum's / Symmes Inn Museum's Harvest Festival, an annual activity for children and parents, which is held on the first Sunday following Thanksgiving. At one point, she

even played water baseball on the Ottawa River! And, over the last few years, despite her advancing age and health issues, you could find her at the Yesteryear's Fest.

Among the main exhibits mounted at the Museum of Aylmer, she did plenty of research and coordinated the mounting of *Grandma's Kitchen (1860s)*, *Aylmer's Doctors*, and *Carpenters and Housewives*. Since our move to the Symmes Inn, she was mostly involved in assembling artefacts and pictures to showcase the former Farley drugstore and its pharmacist Gougeon, in Hull, and she also put in place an important quilt exhibit in 2006, not to mention the smaller exhibits she enjoyed so much in the *Joy of Collecting* series.

She is the author of several articles and descriptive captions used by the Museum, such as the article on steamboats published in *The Great Moments of Aylmer*, a book she edited in English.

Over the years, she regularly went to primary schools to do some heritage and historical interpretation, bringing with her wash bowls, metallic or wooden sock forms, small pieces of soap which she agitated in a device conceived for making soap or bubbles, etc. When it came to the 150th anniversary of Aylmer's municipal incorporation, she provided objects which served for historical capsules, namely old artefacts such as saltcellars and pepper pots, potato pestles, school bells, darning eggs, etc.

Generally speaking, Pat Drew was a key person for looking after the volunteers, calling them, preparing or contributing largely to the regular newsletters, acknowledging their contributions. Besides, she was setting an example for other volunteers, making herself as available as possible.

Thanks to people like Patricia Drew, our collective memory is not yet completely buried or lost and new generations can appreciate those memories, the history, those antique objects which have accompanied us and have shaped us, all those things at the very basis of our common identity.

She received the Gatineau's Heritage Award in 2009, and she was nominated for the *Culturidades'* (the annual Cultural Awards Ceremony for the Outaouais Region) Heritage Award in 2005 and 2006.



Councillor Simon Racine, then President of the Commission de la culture of Gatineau giving Pat the 2009 Gatineau's Heritage Award, at Collège Saint-Alexandre, February 2009. [Photo: Richard M. Bégin]



ACQUISITIONS IN 2011

By Marie Louise Paradis

This year's temporary exhibit on the theme *Kitchen and Cooking of the Past* fostered many donations and loans for the Museum. **Ladies Yvonne Ladouceur, Georgie Bracken and Patricia Drew** donated numerous recipe books. It is of interest to note that the cookbooks "*The Markian — 1962-1963 Yearbook, of St. Mark's High School, Aylmer, Quebec*" and the "*Recettes des Gendarmes d'Aylmer Inc.*" as well as the book "*Our Special*



Spoke shave. [Photo : Marie Louise Paradis]



Plane. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

Recipes Cookbook, Ottawa Civic Hospital, Special Care Nursery" were produced in our region. In addition, a soap saver, a rattan linen basket belonging to Patricia Drew and a distaff cradle dating from 1880, a donation from **Mrs Hélène Boivin**, were added to our collection. We also received from **Mrs Ethel Guertin** a 1943 calendar from the E. Brazeau store, formerly located at 29, Broad Street, in Aylmer. In order to complete our temporary exhibit on *Kitchen and Cooking of the Past*, we purchased from an antiquarian an interesting small wooden icebox.

On January 2011, a collection of tools that had belonged to Mr John Dewar, father of the donator, **Mr Donald Dewar**, enhanced our reserve: a hatchet, a spoke shave, a sharpening stone, a punch, a hammer, several planes, a screwdriver, and a paint scraper.

Mrs Hélène Boivin gave us a baby's christening set used in 1914 as well as many other baby's clothes.

A wedding dress worn in 1957 and 3 cameras of various brands were offered by **Mrs Lucia Gagné-Dubé**.



Stoneware salting jar. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

Mrs Monique Tassé donated about a hundred objects having belonged to her parents, including over thirty 78 rpm records by various artists such as Jeanne d'Arc Charlebois, Estelle Caron, the Soucy family, and folklore music, some pink glass dishes, a stoneware salting jar, school books and religious booklets, a large Red Ensign flag used from 1921 to 1957 and many other objects.

A beautiful postal scale that had belonged to the Ritchie family was donated by **Mrs Mo Laidlaw**.



1943 calendar from E. Brazeau Store on Broad Street in Aylmer. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



Baby's christening set (1914). [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

Mrs Patricia Chase donated a silver plated bread tray, sewing patterns, various sewing books, and linen handkerchiefs for ladies and men.

At the opening of the museum for the summer season, in June, **Mrs Murielle Boucher-Lalonde** donated to the museum an aboriginal smudging ceremony set with user guide.



Postal scale which belonged to the Ritchie family.
[Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]



Aboriginal smudging ceremony set donated by Murielle Boucher-Lalonde. [Photo : Marie Louise Paradis]

Mrs Marie Louise Paradis donated a commemorative calendar of Saint-Paul's Parish, in Aylmer, displaying old photographs of the church.

We received from **Mr Randy Greene** two large photographs, one of which showing an aerial view of Aylmer after the 1921 fire, various tools, as well as a basket made of woven wooden slats which came from the house of E. B. Eddy.

Mr Howard Powles donated a clipboard ornate with an engraving of the Parliament and a small bag in soft leather.



Half-moon knife donated by Richard Huot. [Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]

Mr Richard Huot donated a half-moon knife that has belonged to an aboriginal inmate at the Hull prison in 1946, as well as a stone he believes is a primitive tool, a manual electric toaster, a small ladies matchbox from E. B. Eddy, a small electric travel iron (1951), an electric curling set (1930) which had belonged to the mother-in-law of the donator, Mrs Lucienne Lapointe from Hull, and a handmade tobacco chopper which had belonged to the grandfather of the donator's wife (Mr Fortier).

Finally, **Mr Alain David** donated three yards of 36 inch wood, two of which came from the Mondoux Hardware

Store of Aylmer, and the last, from "Builder Supplies" (Aylmer Building Supplies / Matériaux de construction Aylmer), also from Aylmer, and a square sign for the Aylmer Carnival.

Since the beginning of 2011, 179 new artefacts have joined our collection. We wish to express our gratitude to all those donators who have shown concern for the preservation of our heritage.



Aylmer Carnival sign, donated by Alain David.
[Photo: Marie Louise Paradis]