

Sign details historical history of Limehouse kilns

Interpretive sign explains lime making history in the village

The reticence of many Limehouse Kiln Society members to get too excited about a new blue and white interpretive sign at the restored Powder Magazine in Limehouse is understandable – a sign at the entrance was destroyed by vandals three years ago, and is yet to be replaced, although a new sign is ready to be installed. Credit Valley Conservation Authority, whose sign at the entrance to the kilns was also destroyed by wanton vandalism in 2010, owns lands surrounding the kilns at Limehouse.

A 2003 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant helped pay for restoration of the Powder Magazine, used to store explosives used to produce lime in the mid-1800s. Development and installation of the new sign, and a similar “way finding” one at the Limehouse Ball Diamond kiosk, was the group’s biggest achievement in the past two years according to newly-re-

lected President Mary Shier in her report at last Wednesday’s annual general meeting of the Society, the first in two years.

Shier said they must decide what to do with the crumbling Draw Kiln, which has been partially restored and shored up after a north wall collapsed mid-way through the work to stabilize it. The Society has already received two Trillium grants – including \$150,000 to do the Draw Kiln work – and is reluctant to again apply for Trillium funding because the Society has not been able to finish the Draw Kiln work, estimated to cost approximately \$200,000.

One long-time Kiln Society member, Sue Cox, suggested it’s hard to get excited about fundraising to apply for matching government funds to continue the work when vandals get away with thousands of dollars damage. However, she also suggested there could be a way to come up

with matching funds to be able to apply for government grants. “I think as long as we’re prepared to find a way to fundraise...I think completing the work is viable,” Cox said.

The Society also receives \$10,000 from the Town annually through Heritage Halton Hills and an annual Mayor’s golf tournament started by the Society. Councillor Lewis suggested the Society talk with Town staff who may know of other avenues of funding.

Along with the interpretive signs, Shier said a comprehensive study called the Limehouse Kiln Study has been completed by industrial archaeologist Christopher Andreae, detailing the history and development of the lime industry that was a major source of mortar in Ontario in the mid-19th century.

She said in the past two years the Society has been available for walking tours for Girl Guides, a cycling club and a group of retired



SIGN UNVEILING: Members of the Limehouse Kiln Society and guests posed with a new interpretive sign at the site of a restored Powder Magazine in Limehouse last Wednesday. – Frances Learment photo

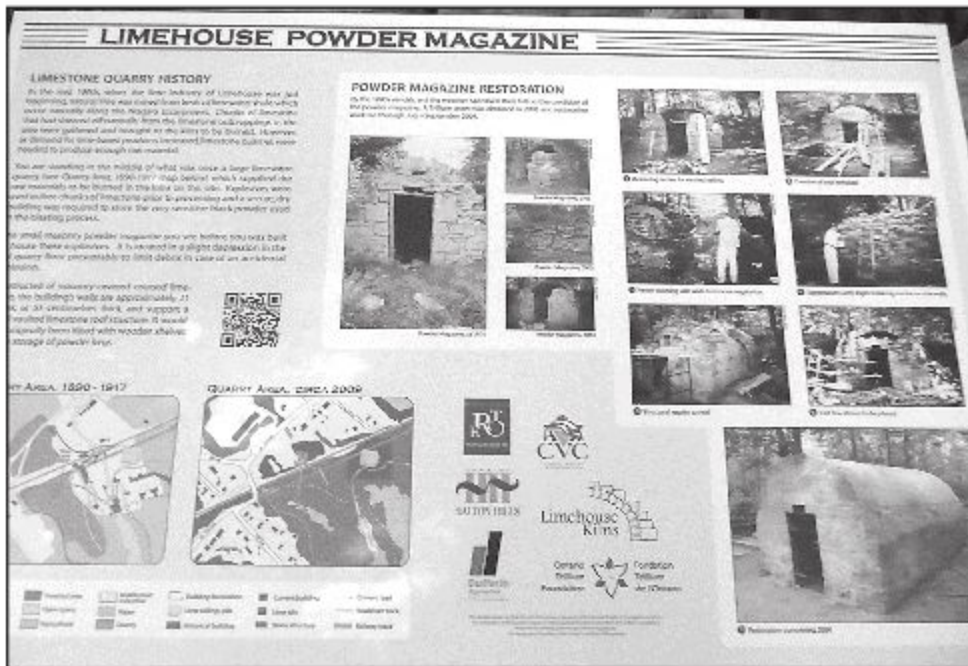
teachers. Shier also noted that the Society received a certificate of merit from the “Friends of the Credit” for leadership in restoring and promoting the Limehouse Kilns.

Future goals include new members – the replacement of one of three Society members leaves them looking for two

new members to meet their constitutional requirement of eight Board members. Shier said they also want two or three people to work on an ad hoc committee to research organizations that have an interest in heritage matters and access to money to help complete the Draw Kiln work. She

said they also want to find a webmaster to update and refresh the Society’s website.

The Limehouse kilns ceased production by 1918, and by the end of the twenties, the era of the draw kiln was over, due to changes in technology and depletion of wood for a heat source.



Draw kiln - Frances Learment photo

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“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”
 St. John 4:23 KJV

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Limehouse Kilns