

JUNE 16, 1988

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Summer is upon us once again, and the staff of the Rideau Canal are busy serving the needs of tourists and local residents. While the lock staff finished preparing the locks for the navigation season and began to lock boats through the system, the canal's interpretation staff were working with school groups at the lockstations and preparing a number of exciting interpretive programmes for the summer.

As usual, the restored blockhouse at Kingston Mills is open to the public. Here, you can learn about the involvement of the military with the Rideau Canal, find out why there were soldiers stationed on the canal in the 1840's, and see how a flintlock musket works (10 to 5 daily).

At Jones Falls, staff in period costumes will tell you about the first lockmaster, Peter Sweeney, and show you his restored home. Find out what it was like to live and work on the canal in the early years, and then visit the blacksmith shop and see a blacksmith work his metal in the forge just as he would have in the 1840's. As well, for a small fee, staff of the Rideau Waterway Co-ordinating Association will lead you on a guided tour of the lockstation and show you all the points of interest (10 to 5 daily).

Beginning July 2 and continuing every weekend

until August 21, an exhibit will be open to the public in the blockhouse at Newboro lockstation. The exhibit is entitled "Uncovering the Past" and highlights the archeology done on the Rideau Canal by the Canadian Parks Service staff. What does an archeologist learn by digging in the ground? Find out on Saturdays or Sundays (except August 7th) from 9:30 to 5:30 (closed for lunch).

The Newboro blockhouse will also be the location of a series of evening programmes in July and August. We know a great deal about the first lockmaster at Jones Falls, but how did we find out? Discover the intriguing story of Peter Sweeney and help us put the pieces of the puzzle together in "Clues to a Character", Saturday July 2 and Saturday August 6 at 9 p.m. The heritage of the Rideau Canal that we all treasure is a gift from the past, but what would happen if we didn't take care of it? "A Present for the Future" will bring a different aspect of our heritage to life on Saturday, July 9, and Saturday August 20 at 9 p.m. "Isn't that soldier's uniform hot?" "Are you wearing a corset under that dress?" Costumed staff on the canal are often asked these and other questions about the costumes. "What is it like to wear a period costume?" "Did they really wear clothes like this back then?" We'll let you peek at a petticoat, find out what

it's like to wear a period costume and share some of our secrets in "Styles and Silhouettes" on July 16 at 9 p.m.

The biggest programme of the summer will be the ghost walk which is scheduled to take place three times. "Raising Rideau Spirits" will be an adventure not for the faint of heart. We will take a stroll around a lockstation after dark, tell some chilling ghost stories and, with a bit of luck, encounter the ghostly spirits of characters from the Rideau Canal's past. Join us July 23 at Long Island lockstation, July 30 at Merrickville lockstation or August 13 at Jones Falls. Programmes begin at 9 p.m. Don't be late or you may be left along in the dark!

The Rideau Canal is an important part of the heritage of Eastern Ontario, but there are many other fascinating aspects of our past. Take the opportunity to find out more about the area's unique museum community at "Picnic with the Past". Bring a picnic lunch, watch the boats lock through, see exhibits and demonstrations from many of the local museums at Kingston Mills lockstation on Sunday August 7 from 10:30 until 4:30.

We've been working hard to put together an exciting series of programmes for the summer. There's something for everyone. We hope you will join us at one or more of these events in July and August. Have an enjoyable summer.

An appreciation night for all the employers who worked with the school to make the Co-Op program a success will be held at Rideau on June 27 at 8:00 p.m. The employers' evaluations of the students have been coming in and it is heartening to see so many very positive comments on many of the reports. This seems to be a program that is working well and satisfying a need of students.

The Board of Education, at its meeting on June 13, gave approval for the establishment of an alternative program at Rideau if there is sufficient enrolment. Rideau's program will be different from others in that it will operate within the school building. The program will only operate if we can bring in about fifteen students so that the Provincial grants will pay for it. The idea of the program is to allow former students who did not graduate to get credits in a somewhat different setting. Because the program will be separate from the regular one it may also allow adults to pick up credits on a more flexible time basis. Anyone who wishes to make inquiries should call Ron Dobson at the school (359-5391) as soon as possible. We will have to have a sufficient number enrolled by the end of the month if the program is to begin promptly in September.

Commencement exercises are on Wednesday, June 29 at 8:00 p.m. in the school. This year marks the first time that a significant number of students will obtain the new diploma, the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (O.S.S.D.). The present grade thirteen class will mostly receive the old Honour Graduation diploma. The graduating classes will have its formal the following evening at the Holiday Inn in Kingston. This event is for this year's graduating class and their dates only. Diane McEwen, Lynn McGregor and Joe Tye have put in many hours of work in planning this event. Mr. Peter Sampson has been their advisor.

Exams are all finished on June 23. School begins September 6. A safe holiday to all students!

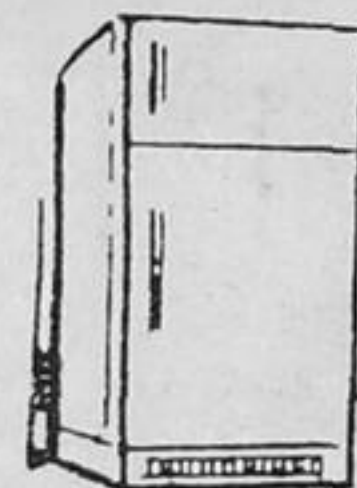
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