








365 Historical Facts




 Celebrate Our Local Heritage









Township of
**Leeds and the
Thousand Islands**




October, 2017



DATE	FACT	IMAGE
1	<p>Built in 1960 Hiscock School was the first consolidated school built in the township. It took pupils from all the one room schools in the west end of the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne. It closed in 2004 and all of the students were transferred to Thousand Islands Elementary School.</p> <p>(Information collected from William Boulton)</p>	
2	<p>Built in 1965, Escott Public School took pupils from all the one-room school houses in the Front of Escott Township. It closed in 2004 and students were transferred to Thousand Islands Elementary School.</p> <p>(Information collected from William Boulton)</p>	
3	<p>Lansdowne District Public School opened in 1963. It took in all pupils from the closed one-room schools in the east end of the Front of Leeds and Lansdowne Township. It closed in 2004, and was replaced by Thousand Islands Elementary School.</p> <p>(Information collected from William Boulton)</p>	
4	<p>Sweet's Corners elementary school opened in 1973. It was an amalgamation of 14 one room schools in the Rear of Leeds and Lansdowne. Today it is one of two schools operating in the Township.</p> <p>(Information collected from William Boulton and image courtesy of UCDSB)</p>	
5	<p>Thousand Islands Elementary School opened in 2004. The school is an amalgamation of the former Hiscock Public School, Escott Public School, and Lansdowne District Public School. Today it is one of two schools operating in the Township.</p> <p>(Information collected from William Boulton)</p>	




<p>6</p>	<p>On this day in 1996, Heritage Day celebrations took place in Lansdowne at the fairgrounds. A pumpkin contest was held and pictured below are the entries.</p> <p>(Image courtesy of Leeds and Thousand Islands Archives)</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>The Lansdowne Town Hall, which was converted into a fire department and town hall, was erected in 1890.</p> <p>Information from "Community Spotlight" from Mika Publishing 1974</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Prior to the formation of the Seeley's Bay Fire Department in 1950, Seeley's Bay had no fire protection. From one pump truck to the service you see today a lot sure has happened! The service grew to multiple pumpers and then an ambulance when it was taken over by the Ontario Hospital Services Commission.</p> <p>Information and image from "Community Spotlight" from Mika Publishing 1974</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Happy Thanksgiving! Mmmm Turkey! Speaking of turkeys... The Lyndhurst Turkey Fair came from back when local farmers brought their turkeys, geese and waterfowl to sell to buyers on the streets of Lyndhurst.</p> <p>Information and image from "Community Spotlight" from Mika Publishing 1974</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>The first telephone switchboard in Seeley's Bay was installed in 1908 and was operated by Anthony Putnam.</p> <p>Direct quote and image from "Community Spotlight" from Mika Publishing 1974</p>	
<p>11</p>	<p>We've been doing an awful lot of talking... We'd like to hear some family heritage facts and stories from you! Contact us with your pictures</p>	



	<p>and descriptions so we may hear the many voices of our Township!</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Lyndhurst and Seeley’s Bay bakeries served the villages and surrounding countryside. Tokens were once issued to farmers and other tradesmen in exchange for crops and services.</p> <p>Information and image from “The Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne. The Making of Community on the Gananoque River Frontier. 1796-1996” by Glenn J Lockwood. 1996. The Corporation of the Township of Leeds and Lansdowne.</p>	
<p>13</p>	<p>As women looked for a city escape and the pursuit of natural science, they gained an interest recreation on lakes and rivers. This also brought them to an ideal setting for romance and because of that, it was considered inappropriate for a woman to be alone with a man in a boat. Pictured is a group of women and men on skiffs on Charleston Lake.</p> <p>Information and image from “The Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne. The Making of Community on the Gananoque River Frontier. 1796-1996” by Glenn J Lockwood. 1996. The Corporation of the Township of Leeds and Lansdowne.</p>	
<p>14</p>	<p>Pictured is the Lyndhurst Citizens Band from 1902. The demand for music at the time and the desire to bring folks from the country side for shopping resulted in getting a man from Toledo to train local men.</p> <p>Information and image from “The Rear of Leeds & Lansdowne. The Making of Community on the Gananoque River Frontier. 1796-1996” by Glenn J Lockwood. 1996. The Corporation of the Township of Leeds and Lansdowne.</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>We couldn't be where we are today without the sacrifices of our veterans. Leading up to Remembrance Day, we will primarily pay tribute to some of our past veterans and highlight some of our memorial sites.</p>	


<p>16</p>	<p>Robert McNeil Miller - Miller was a private in the Flank Company of the 1st Regiment of Leeds Militia and was balloted at the age of 19.</p>	
<p>17</p>	<p>Nathan Hicock – Hicock held the rank of Ensign in the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia. Hicock participated in the attack and capture of Ogdensburg in February 1813. Later, he over saw construction of fortifications at Fort Henry in Kingston.</p>	
<p>18</p>	<p>Levi Hotchkiss – Hotchkiss was part of the Flank Company of the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia. At the age of 20, he was assigned the rank of corporal. He passed on March 20, 1814 at the age of 21.</p>	

<p>19</p>	<p>William Gilbert – Son of John and Anna Gilbert, William served in the militia with his two younger brothers, John and Enos. After his marriage to Mary Ann Franklin, William farmed and worked as a joiner in Seeley’s Bay. His sons John and Edward established carriage works in the village.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p>John G. Lloyd – On September 21, 1812, John was an employee of Stone’s mill. Stone’s employees joined the militia in defending an attack from Americans. After the war, John took to freight forwarding, married in 1820 and had 10 children.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>21</p>	<p>Allen Sweet – Sweet was a corporal in the Flank Company of the 2nd Regiment of Leeds Militia. Post his services, Sweet was a township clerk, justice of the peace and a Methodist lay preacher. He married Desire Sly and had 5 children.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	

<p>22</p>	<p>Asahel Kyes – Kyes was a member of the Flank Company of the 1st Regiment of the Leeds Militia. Kyes fell ill during the war and returned home. He died on July 14, 1823 leaving a widow and seven children.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>23</p>	<p>On this day in 1999, the Lyndhurst Public Library was officially opened in its new location. In the past, the library occupied several locations including a conservation hall, an old bookmobile, a rented storefront, and finally an old church. In January of 2001, the Lyndhurst Branch became part of the Thousand Islands Public Library system.</p> <p>(Information collected from www.ltipl.net)</p>	
<p>24</p>	<p>William Sturdivant – William was a private in the Flank Company of the 1st Regiment Leeds Militia. Post conflict, he returned to what is now known as Sturdivant’s Point. He had a wife and 12 children.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	

<p>25</p>	<p>James Struthers – During the war, Struthers was given command of the gunboat, Spit Fire, patrolling between Prescott and Kingston on the St. Lawrence River. He was part of the capture of Ogdensburg and was later captured and held prisoner for 9 months before escaping. Post war, James got married and took up farming.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>26</p>	<p>Joel Stone – Prior to the war, Stone had established a lumber mill post the American Revolution on land that was granted to him. Stone was a justice of the peace, customs collector and road commissioner and operated a ferry service across the Gananoque River. Stone served as a colonel in the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>27</p>	<p>Cleveland Stafford – In February 1813, Stafford was taken prisoner with 44 other men during a raid in Brockville. They were quickly released and a counter raid was inspired where Canadians and British burned boats and made off with American military stores. Cleveland served as a private in the Flank Company of the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	

<p>28</p>	<p>Levi Soper – Levi was commissioned as lieutenant in the Rifle Company of the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia. Beyond his service, Soper circulated petitions throughout the district in 1832 urging government reform. During the election of 1834 he threatened to call out the militia to maintain order at the hustings in Beverley where Tory thugs were intimidating voters. In reaction to Soper's threat the local justice of the peace closed the polling place; the Tory mob then turned on Soper and beat him severely. Undaunted Soper continued to espouse Reform principles, and was resultantly passed over for promotion in the militia.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>29</p>	<p>John Sly – Sly was a private in the Flank Company of the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia. Sly and others were wounded in the raid in February 1813. After his recovery, Sly continued in the Leeds Militia.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	

<p>30</p>	<p>Jeheil (Heil) Sliter - <i>`A company started from Kingston in Canadian gunboats for the reinforcement of the army at Niagara, just before the battle of Bridgewater [Lundy's Lane] and I was with them. We had reached Toronto when we met two schooners bringing the wounded from the battle. I assisted to get them into the hospital, horrified at first by the groans and shrieks of the wounded and dying, but after a few hours these feelings all left me and I could take hold of the wounded man with as little feeling as if he had been a beast. Soon after I was discharged and came home."</i></p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	
<p>31</p>	<p>Jonathan Sexton - Sexton served in the Flank Company on the 2nd Regiment Leeds Militia. As a civilian, he was one of the founding members of the Leeds Agricultural Society. Sexton had 12 children with Patience Washburn and 6 children with Chloe Rose.</p> <p>Information from 1812 War Veteran Commemorative Ceremony</p>	