

# CONNECTIONS

Millbrook-Cavan Historical Society Fall Newsletter, 2024



**Charlotte Clements**, owner of The Joneses in Millbrook is one of MCHS's top supporters, and full of surprises! This fall she has produced a line of Needler's Mill merch for the Christmas season, with proceeds donated to the mill. Hoodies, tees, tops and mugs – drop in to do some Millbrook-themed holiday shopping and show your love for Needler's Mill!

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## *Our Special Thanks*

We get a lot of help from some amazing people. They appear like special gifts! We appreciate them so much: a shout-out to **Cory Cole** who designed our Fall Event poster; to **Bruce Gazley** who keeps our website fresh; to **Mike Lachappelle** who has helped us with work needed on Needler's Mill. Our very deepest gratitude goes to **Rachel Finnie** whose boundless energy and inspiration transformed our programming and communications during her time on our team. Thank you, Rachel!

## *Glenn Fallis, Modern-day Voyager, captivates crowd*

On Friday, November 1 at our Royal Canadian Legion Hall in Millbrook, we were grateful to have Legion volunteers bringing in more and more chairs as people streamed in the door. They all came to listen to his account of the 1967 Centennial Canoe Pageant and his adventures as sternsman for the Ontario canoe.

The evening began with a showing of the video shot, narrated and produced by Glenn and Greg Cowan, which followed the adventures of the canoeists from the launch in Rocky Mountain House in Alberta to the final sprint at the site of Expo '67 in Montréal. The evening was handily emceed by Dan Bourgeois, who invited questions from an audience eager to hear the nitty-gritty of the race that demanded such skill, strength and endurance. Glenn did not disappoint! From the 30-stroke-switch count to Millbrook-sourced tents for the always-dry Ontario team, audience participation gave rise to not just tales of the Centennial celebrations but to Glenn's lifelong passion for canoeing and finely engineered craft.

In Glenn's honour, funds equivalent to donations made at the door for the event were donated to Millbrook and District Food Share, using the windfall received this past August for rental of Needler's Mill for a film shoot.



Glenn Fallis draws a crowd! More photos page 4

## Millbrook-Cavan Historical Society Fall Newsletter, 2024

### *Who is your local living legend?*

In celebration of Heritage Week in February, MCHS is planning a program that depends on your suggestions and input. We want to capture some history! We are looking for your suggestions of people, community groups, local initiatives that made a splash or added a certain sparkle to the local scene at one time or another.

It can't be too long ago! The plan is to act on your suggestions by inviting the people involved, or responsible for what took place, to come and share their memories. Just what did it take to make a difference – create that splash or add that sparkle?

Like the evening with Glenn Fallis, we look forward to a whole lot of audience participation! We'll invite these movers and shakers to take their turn on the stage to talk about what it took, and then we will open up the floor to hear your own memories and questions.

Come and celebrate local heritage on Friday, February 21, 7:00 pm, at Millbrook's Legion Hall.

Send us your nominations! We look forward to hearing from you, [millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com](mailto:millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com).

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### *Congratulations, CM Libraries!*



Photo: Cindy Sutch Whitelaw

From the autumn of 2023 through the first half of 2024, Cavan Monaghan Libraries invited members of the community to explore ways to capture memories and life stories. This project

### *All gone!*

We have given away the last of our 3,000 copies of the self-guided Walking Tour of Historic Millbrook booklet. It is time for a new edition!



This free guide was compiled and

first produced by MCHS late in 2021. It includes a street map, photographs and descriptions of many of the fine examples of heritage architecture in Millbrook. It has been very well supported by our business community, who see it as a great way to encourage visitors and residents alike to spend a little more time in town.

A fresh new edition is in the works! In the mean time, you can access the guide on our website, [www.millbrookcavanhs.org](http://www.millbrookcavanhs.org).

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was supported by a Seniors Community Grant received by the library, and included a series of inspirational workshops. The result is a book!

It is a valuable book of memories and reflections by both lifelong residents and “come from away” community members who bring their own histories and perspectives to add to our collective heritage.

It also serves as a model for MCHS! Inspired by this collection, we will intensify our efforts to record our community's memories. Volunteers welcome – let us know if you would like to help.

*New in our Archives:  
A Wealth of Stories from Joan and Ivor Banks*

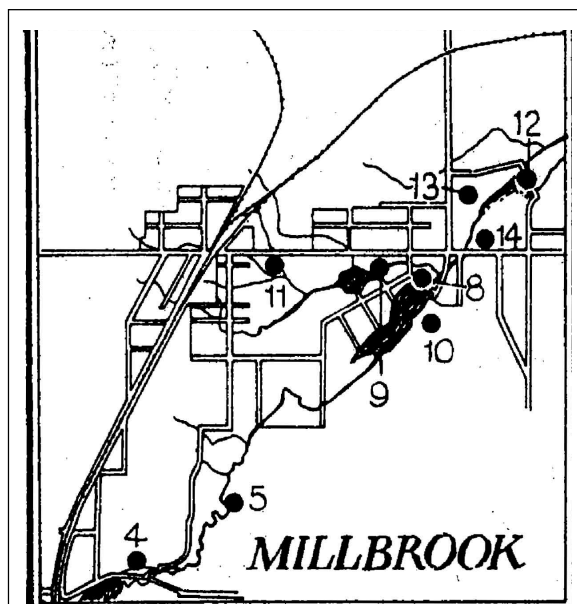


The Grace Presbyterian Cemetery sits at the corner of County Road 10 and the Fallis Line. If you stroll through the cemetery you will come across an unusual stone made from a millstone. The stone marks the resting place of Gordon Mclvor who died in 1909.

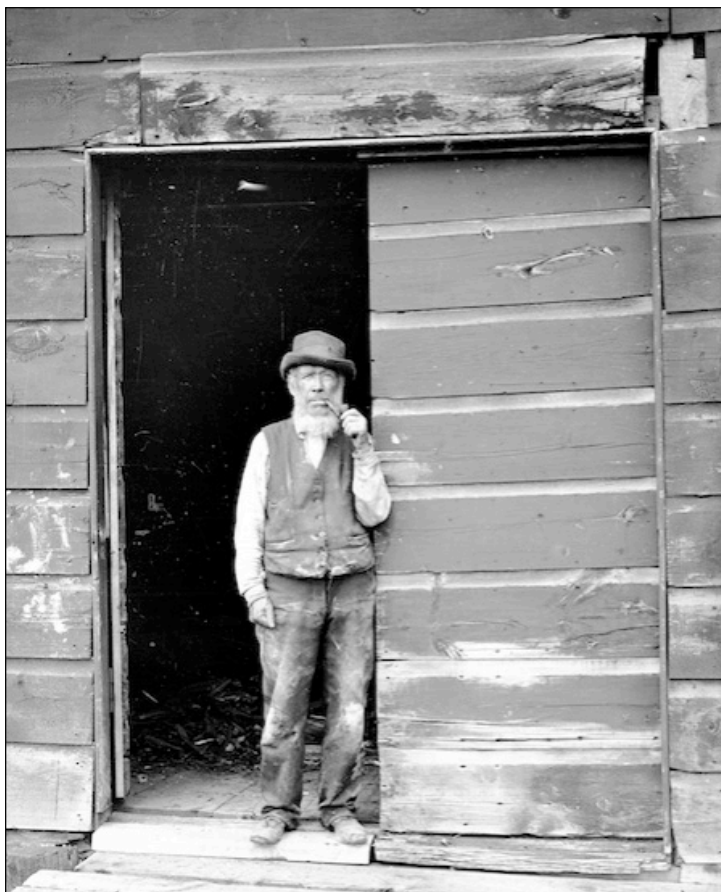
In the mid 1800's Mclvor dammed the stream running east between King and Anne Streets creating the Factory Pond, which powered the oatmeal mill he built on the site.

#9 marks the Mclvor oat mill on the map below.

This spring Joan and Ivor Banks, long time supporters of the Historical Society, made the drive from Ottawa to deliver the extensive family histories of the Mclvor, Lowry (Lowery), Windel and Ball families that they have put together over the past 20 years. Joan is a direct descendant of Gordon Mclvor, pictured below, at his mill.



Map showing the mills in and around Millbrook, from *This Green & Pleasant Land*.



The Historical Society is thrilled to add Joan and Ivor's work, comprising more than 25 well documented volumes to our collection of family histories.

In the collection is a short story written by Joan that comes out of her research into her great-great grandmother, Elizabeth Lowery Ball, who received as a dower from her husband John their newly built home at what is now 8 Bank Street South. It is a tale of one house and the very different experiences of two sisters.

*From the Life and Times of a Modern-day Voyager:  
our November 1 gathering with Glenn Fallis:*



Happy faces tell the tale!



*Last Call for Membership!*

If you have recently renewed your membership, or become a member, thank you! Your support helps us continue to responsibly maintain the archives, offer programming, and develop new projects.

If you would like to renew or join, **now** is the time! Our membership cycle runs from September 1 to August 31.

You can find our membership form on our website, [www.millbrookcavanhs.org](http://www.millbrookcavanhs.org), with payment options that include e-transfer.

If you have any questions about membership, please get in touch with us at [millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com](mailto:millbrookcavanhs@gmail.com).

*Thank you!*

*So, what is new?*

If you have a question that relates to something we might have in our archives – family histories, records of local events, and more – please email us. We will respond to all requests.

Interested in investigating your own family roots? Cavan Monaghan Libraries subscribes to Ancestry, Library Edition. On the last Thursday of every month (except December), a MCHS representative will be at the Millbrook branch to help you navigate the site and get you started! Library staff can also help at any time.

More in February. We will have news!