



Spring 2024

Généalogie et Archives Saint-Laurent

Newsletter

Ryan Gosling – Franco-Ontarian Roots and French Ancestry



Ryan Gosling, of Hollywood fame, was raised in Cornwall. That is a known fact. But his ancestry goes far beyond with links to Franco-Ontarians, Quebec and France.

Born November 12, 1980, Ryan Gosling was raised in Cornwall, in an anglophone family. He started his career here. Looking back into his genealogy it can be noted that there is a strong franco presence in his genes.

Ryan's father is Thomas Ray Gosling, son of Marie Yvette Brown (1926-1997) and grandson of Marie Anne Bélair (1907-1988) born in Alexandria. Belair's mother was Rosalie "Rose Anna" Proulx (1874-1930) from Saint-Eugène de Prescott in Ontario. Going up a bit further Thomas Proulx (1819-1900) born in Vaudreuil, settled in Lochiel. His wife was Sophie Catherine LaRivière (1832-1914). A few generations up and we find names like Pilon, Sauvé, Cadieux, Ladouceur et Pilon. The first to arrive in New France were Jean Michel dit Michaud (1640-1689) who married Marie Marchesseau (1639-1701), a Fille du Roi (King's Daughter). Ryan's ancestor, Jean Michel was killed in 1689 at the Lachine Massacre.

Ryan's mother is Donna Wilson. It is a similar story for her. Donna has two francophone grandmothers, Victoria Dextras (1899-1986) and Rose-Emma Lalonde (1901-1990). Victoria was the daughter of Joseph Dextras (1868-1961) and Elizabeth Quenneville (1871-1959). The couple is buried at La Nativité cemetery. Rose-Emma was from Saint-Raphael in Glengarry. The Dextras name is a derivative of Destroches, originating from the south of France.

Obituary websites

These are a few websites used and shared by Yvon Surprenant, one of our members.

<https://www.lenecrologue.com>

<https://www.echovita.com>

<https://www.necrocanada.com>

<https://www.clergenealogie.org>

Out and About – GASL On the Road

Starting strong in February with the Heritage Fair at the Cornwall Square, GASL members have been visiting like-minded organisations regularly.

The Heritage Fair was Saturday February 17th. GASL had a table and it was popular. We had visitors drop by and ask for help with their searches or how to get started.



Volunteers Louise Yelle and Larry McDonald are hard at work answering questions and helping with research enquiries.

The Heritage Fair was well attended. It was a good opportunity to network with other organizations.



On March 2nd, a group went to the Akwesasne Heritage Fair. The guest speaker was Gerald Taiaiake Alfred who spoke about his recently published book *It's all about the land*. The theme this year was Remembering our War Veterans. It was a pleasant day, exchanging and listening to presentations.



The opening ceremonies included a thanksgiving song by Bear Fox.



The theme for this year was Remembering our Veterans. Six military veterans from Post 1479 lined up for an honor song by traditional singer Mark Light. There was the presentation of a Pendleton blanket for Commander Mik Light. A satin star star quilt was also gifted to Jack Leaf, Akwesasne's remaining WWII vet. Mr Leaf is 99 years old.

On April 10th, a small group went to the Library and Archives in Ottawa to research individual projects and browse their collections.

On April 15th, GASL visited the Chesterville Historical Society. It was wonderful to meet everyone and their welcome was heartwarming. The visit included a lunch at Christ Church United and tour of the church.



[The Chesterville Historical Society](#) is open by appointment this time of year and Saturdays in June to August. It has a diverse collection with numerous artifacts and records of the area.

The Heritage Centre houses a large collection (over 30) of local cemetery transcriptions, which can be purchased by contacting the Historical Society.



They also have genealogical publications for a number of local families.

Christ Church United – Chesterville Visit (continued)



On the left is Christ Church United, centre is the alcoves where Sunday school classes were held. When the congregation was larger this room opened up to the sanctuary on the right.

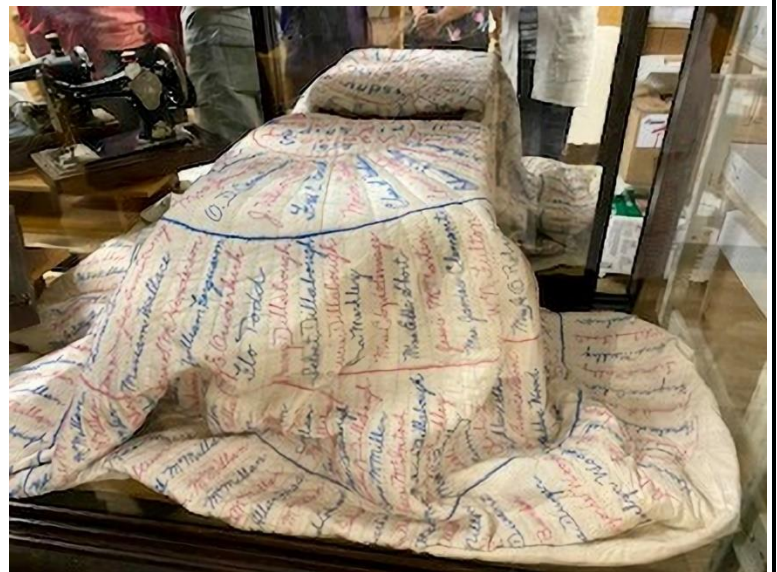
The church also holds a beautiful piece of artwork titled “Six Nations of Grand Bend Pow-Wow”. It is an oil painting on buffalo hide done by Jane L. Hoople.



The Dunbar Quilt – Chesterville Historical Society

"Dunbar Presbyterian Ladies Aid Society - 1929"

quilt that was donated to the Chesterville and District Historical Society by Mrs. Betty Sullivan. The pdf link below gives a brief history of each person who donated money towards the quilt as a fundraiser, starting in the centre inner circle with the name of M. W. Locke M.D. as 1.1, working clockwise around the circle. (1 being the first name in sequence and then going on to the 2nd circle, etc). Names in the outer circle or ring were worth 10 cents, 15 cents on the next ring, 20 cents on the next ring and finally 25 cents on the inner and smallest ring. The total available spots for sales were 443. The quilt was made in the Dunbar home of Mary Marcellus and Myrna Marcelis with the help from other members of the Ladies Aid Society. The quilt was almost full (two open spots) and would have generated \$ 66.90. Years later, the quilt showed up in Winchester and was bought at the Etcetera Antique Store by Betty Sullivan, who made the donation.



[Click here to view the pdf file with information for the names on the quilt.](#)



Spring 2024

240th Anniversary of the Founding of New Johnstown & the Royal Townships

On June 7-9, 2024, join us as we celebrate the 240th anniversary of New Johnstown (Cornwall) and the Royal Townships today comprised of the Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, as well as the Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

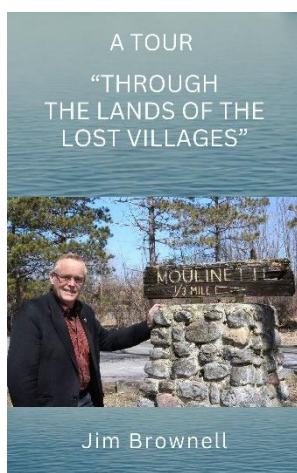
The celebration blends the past and present with a re-creation of this first 1784 community along with displays and presentations by present-day heritage organizations - immersing visitors in all that our region has to offer.

To learn more, see 1784.ca. GASL will have a table display all weekend.



The program will include:

- Heritage Village
- School Visits
- Evening Concerts
- Loyalist Arrival
- Drawing of Lots
- Living History Encampment
- Official Ceremonies
- Military Manoeuvres
- Heritage Demonstrations
- Military Tactical Manoeuvres



Book Launch – Jim Brownell

On Sunday, May 26, Jim Brownell, president of the Lost Villages Historical Society & Museum will be launching his new book **A Tour “Through the Lands of the Lost Villages”**. Based on the popular bus tour, the book is meant to be a guide through the history of the sites. The index has over 500 names of local families. The launch will be between 1-4 pm at the Lost Villages Brewery, 16133 County Road 36 in Long Sault.