

Perth and District Historical Society

Perth and District Historical Society - News Release – November 2024

The Perth and District Historical Society November 21, 2024 Meeting: The Cohens of Maberly

For the November 21, 2024, meeting of the Perth & District Historical Society, our guest, Karen Prytula will introduce us to the Cohen family of Maberly, ancestors of Leonard Cohen.

Karen Prytula, is the historical society's contact for our monthly meetings news articles which she incorporates into her Maberly column for the Frontenac News. Her involvement and contributions to historical groups extends to memberships on several boards and committees, such as Archives Lanark, the Carleton Place Municipal Heritage, Tay Valley Heritage Properties Township Working Group, Heritage Ottawa, the Lanark County Genealogical Society, the United Empire Loyalist Association and the Ontario Genealogical Society. She also submits articles for publishing in local history books and gives presentations on local historical topics. An example of such a presentation is the up-coming talk to us which will be on the late poet, novelist and singer/songwriter, Leonard Cohen.

Leonard Cohen's ancestors and great grandparents arrived from Poland to the hamlet of Maberly in 1869. At the time, that part of eastern Ontario was home to the region's largest Jewish settlements. The family became active in the life of the area and included operating a business with a general store and as a lumber merchant plus investments in several properties. The Cohen Family presence and the Leonard Cohen connection has been recognised with a plaque placed along the Maberly-Elphin Road.

In Retrospective: Our October 2024 meeting celebrating the 200th anniversary of Lanark County with a presentation by Jasmin Ralph, Clerk of Lanark County, was very interesting and informative, displaying her passion about her local history.

Coming Up: Presentation commemorating The Halifax Explosion of December 6 1917, by author Michael Dupuis (Society talk on The Winnipeg General Strike – September 2023) at the Perth Union Library. This takes place on Saturday, December 7 2024 at 1:00 pm. Contact the library for additional information.

The Perth and District Historical Society is dedicated to learning about and popularising our history and is a forum for discussion and celebration of our area's rich culture and heritage. The meetings are held the third Thursday of the month and are open to the public, at 7:30 pm at the Royal Canadian Legion, Perth-Upon-Tay, Branch 244, home of the Hall of Remembrance, 26 Beckwith St. E. in Perth. The usual "Toonie Fee" applies for each meeting. For information, contact Ellen Dean at 613-264-8362. Our website at www.perthhs.org has additional information about us and items of interest related to Perth and district.

Article submitted by the Perth and District Historical Society