



THE DOWNEYVILLE TIMES

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?



Two hundred years ago, 2,024 poor Irish citizens left their homes and loved ones in Ireland as part of a government initiative we now call The Peter Robinson Immigration. They sailed from Ireland on nine ships in May 1825 and made their way to Upper Canada.

632 individuals settled in Emily Township, mainly in the Downeyville area. We, their descendants, together with friends and families are holding a year of Commemoration to honour them. We celebrate their strength, courage & fortitude.

The year 2025 marks the Bicentennial of the Peter Robinson Settlers but 1825 was only the *beginning* of the Irish settlement in and around Downeyville and our neighbouring communities.

What's Going On?

Upcoming Events:

- Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!
- New Year's Eve Dance, yes, you guessed it..... Dec 31, 2024
Downeyville Hall 8:30 p.m.
Music by "Second Fiddle"
- Special New Year's Mass,
January 1st, 2025. 9 a.m.
- The Good Ol' Hockey Game-
Ennismore vs Downeyville,
Sat. Jan 18th, 2025.
Ennismore arena. 7 p.m.

For more information
on upcoming events,
follow us on Facebook, email us
and/or watch for our posters

200 Years of History

The world has changed so much in 200 years! In this newsletter we hope you'll take some time with us to think about the past generations. We believe there is value in looking at our past and honouring those who came before.

And of course, we'd like to have some music, some laughs and lots of fun along the way.

Please join the Peter Robinson Settler communities in our commemorations and celebrations.



Watch our future newsletters for articles on such things as Settler's News, Poet's & Writers, Downeyville & area History, a bit of Blarney *to be sure* and much more !

Everyone is Welcome - A Thousand Times Welcome

Céad Míle Fáilte!



Peter Robinson Settlers Downeyville 1825-2025



downeyvillesettlers1825@gmail.com





Share the History

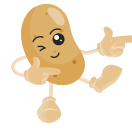
Helen Carroll and Barb Morrissey gave a half hour presentation to students at St Luke's school on Oct 15/24.

Ms. Young's Grade 3/4 class, Ms. Goan's Grade 5/6 class and Ms. Whelan's Grade 6/7 class benefited from these presentations.

Helen reports: "We discussed the 200th Anniversary Garden and why we're commemorating the bicentennial in Downeyville. We discussed conditions in Ireland in 1825, how Peter Robinson chose people to bring to Canada, what it was like for them leaving their loved ones and their country behind knowing that they would never see them again, what it was like arriving in the new rugged, foreign country and how the settlement of Downeyville came about. The children seemed very interested and engaged. Some made connections to their ancestors who have made an impact here."

The children were given information on some of the upcoming events.

Historical books such as *The Heart of Emily* by Mary Milloy Harrington, *Lilies and Shamrocks* by Howard Pammett and *The Irish Catholics of Downeyville - The Sullivan Family the First Settlers of King's Wharf* by Dan Sullivan have been loaned to the school for historical reference.



Garden Ready for Spring Planting!



You've no doubt noticed the plot of soil ready for a garden between St Luke's Church and the Rectory. The "200th Anniversary Garden" is well on it's way to success. The plot has been prepared by Marnie Callaghan, Helen Carroll, and Dan Carroll. Recently, Helen Carroll & Julie Chisholm along with Ms. Goan's grade 5/6 class and Ms. Young's Grade 3/4 class helped by covering the garden with a layer of leaves for the winter. The children enjoyed running and jumping into the pile of leaves in the garden which worked well to compact them down. The garden is expected to be tilled in the spring prior to the children planting potatoes and possibly a traditional Three Sisters garden (squash, beans and corn). The children will help tend the garden until the summer break. In September students will help with the harvest.



The presentation of **History of Downeyville Through Stories & Music** was held on November 17th and November 22nd, 2024. Simon Connell had a vision to present the History of Downeyville for the bicentennial of the Peter Robinson Settlers as a fundraiser with the proceeds going to the building fund with the goal of replacing the well worn floor at St Luke's Church. Simon is a descendant of John Connell and Mary Sweeney who travelled on the ship Regulus in 1825. The presenters researched their chosen areas well and they put on two special performances. The committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the event. The citizens of Downeyville and area always come through, whether it's with, music, research, technology, equipment, decorating, media, bar, kitchen & baking duties, acting and especially supporting the fundraising efforts by coming and enjoying the show.

Well done, Downeyville and friends!



**"We don't stop playing because we grow old,
we grow old because we stop playing"**
George Bernard Shaw



READ MORE



Peter Robinson Settlers Downeyville 1825-2025



www.nineships1825.com



Peter Robinson Settlers in Canada



_Douro 200th Anniversary



Ennismore Heritage Days



Young's Point Bi-centennial

[www City of Kawartha Lakes, Moments & Memories](http://www.City_of_Kawartha_Lakes_Moments_and_Memories)



YOUR STORIES



We would love to receive any relevant stories, quotes or poems to publish in future newsletters. Note: please keep them short as space is limited. If you have anything to share, please get in touch at

downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com or call
Leann at 705-344-5232