



THE DOWNEYVILLE TIMES



Peter Robinson
1785 - 1838

Upcoming: Peter Robinson Events

- Family Movie Night
Thurs. April 10, 2025 - 6 p.m.
- Peter Robinson Settlers 1825
"The Play"
Friday May 9 - 7 pm
Saturday May 10 - 7 pm

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

Downeyville Hall Upcoming Events

- Progressive Euchre - Apr 4 - 7 pm
- Pub Night - Apr 5 with
TJ Shirk- 7:30 pm
- Community Cafe - Apr 6
- Family Movie Night - Apr 10 - 6 pm
- Hockey game viewing (Leafs vs
Montreal) - Apr 12 - 7 pm
(doors open 6:30 pm)
- Elections Canada Polling Station
Apr 28 - 9:30 am - 9:30 pm
- May 2- Progressive Euchre
- May 4- Drive thru Beef BBQ
- Peter Robinson Settlers 1825
"The Play"
Friday May 9 - 7 pm
Saturday May 10 - 7 pm

More info - Downeyville Hall
on Facebook



Call Mary Connell
@ 705-793-2013

if you can lend a hand
on August 3, 2025 or
the week of August 1 to 9, 2025.
Many hands make light work!



Oisín and Niamh on their way to Tir na nÓg, illustration by Alfred Herter, 1899

Oisín was the most handsome man in Ireland, so much
so that the fairy princess Niamh fell in love with him and
carried him off to Tir na nÓg, 'The Land of Eternal Youth'
where they lived for three hundred years.



Molly Malone
Statue, Dublin, Ireland

EDITOR'S NOTE FROM THE DESK OF MOLLIE MALONE, 1825

It's April 1825 and Peter Robinson is
forced to reduce his list from
50,000 applicants to a mere 2,000
candidates who will travel on nine
ships to Upper Canada.

From April 12th to April 26th Mr
Robinson is circling the Blackwater
Valley area to issue embarkation
certificates.

It is a difficult task for Peter
Robinson who finds it "painful to
decide" among so many worthy
candidates, who should stay and
who should go.

He says, "I never had a more
unpleasant duty to perform than
that of making the selection."

Some of the people who have been
lucky enough to be chosen are
having second thoughts about
what lies ahead and what's left
behind.



Happy
Easter

Everyone is Welcome - A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!

Céad Míle Fáilte!



downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com

Peter Robinson Settlers Present

1992's "Into The West"

Thursday April 10, 2025



Family Movie Night

Bring your sleeping bags, pillows & favourite stuffies!

Throwback Thursday

Downeyville Hall • 6-9pm
 Pizza • Drinks • Popcorn • Treats
 \$15 for 1 Medium Pizza & 4 Drinks
 To place an order: downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com



PETER ROBINSON SETTLERS - 1825


The Play

Downeyville Hall
 Playing Fri & Sat May 9 & 10, 2025
 7 PM \$20.00




Downeyville Peter Robinson Committee presents

PETER ROBINSON SETTLERS - 1825
 The Play
 Downeyville Hall
 Playing Fri & Sat May 9 & 10, 2025

No 

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
 Friday May 9 & Saturday May 10
 call or email Mary Connell
 705-793-2013
 (for e-transfer payments use
downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com and
 insert your ticket number) 
Not available on Ticketmaster

Find out what happened to Oisín and Niamh in
 Tir na nÓg.
 "INTO THE WEST"
 Family Movie Night

Thank you

Sweet! 

With the unpredictable weather the Sap Social could have been a sticky situation

Thank you to Dan, Leah-Ann & all the Volunteers who helped make the 'Sap Social' a Sweet Success.



Thank you!



Thanks to Bob Carroll and all the talented and enthusiastic volunteers who made the 2025 Irish concert what it always has been; a way of showcasing local talent and humour, keeping the Irish traditions alive and giving future generations a sense of Downeyville pride. The music, stories and humour are shared experiences that bond the community together.



Dan Carroll



Leah-Ann & Rose Carroll

The maple syrup donation jar was filled to the brim and was donated to the Omeme Food Bank.
 Thanks everyone!

Jeffrey and Jim Herlihey



Stephen, Martin and Raymond Herlihey



Chris Herlihey



april

Downeyville Calendar - April 2025

These are direct descendants of Patrick Herlihey 1783 who came on the Brunswick from Mallow, Cork to South 1/2 Lot 14 Concession 12, Emily Township



YOUR STORIES



UPDATE

“LETTER OF 1827”

With regard to the letter from 1827, which was published in last month's newsletter, we have had several inquiries as to whether John Callahan's son Cornelius, who stayed behind in Ireland on bad advice, ever made it to Canada.

Mary Callaghan has replied as follows:

“Cornelius eventually came to Canada in the mid 1830's. He married Mary Twohey, daughter of Dennis Twohey and Catherine Mahoney. Cornelius died in 1847 leaving Mary with six children, the youngest also died in 1847. Cornelius, Mary and baby Cornelius are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Lindsay.

A few years ago we discovered Mary Twohey Callaghan's 1884 funeral card in the family bible at the Callaghan farm in Reaboro. It had been there 138 years and no one knew who she was. The discovery of the card and finding DNA cousins on Ancestry who descend from Cornelius proved our connection and rewrote our family history. My great great grandfather Dennis was a younger brother of Cornelius. These discoveries proved we descend from Peter Robinson settlers, John and Norah Callaghan.”

It is amazing how a letter found in a digitized copy of an old Irish newspaper, and a card found in a family bible, can open a small window into the lives of people who would otherwise simply remain names and dates on a family tree or on some moss covered headstone.



Cornelius Callaghan & infant son Cornelius



Mary Twohey Callaghan

RECIPE REVIVAL

Celebrating our Heritage through Food!

Nothing stirs up childhood memories like the taste and smell of some delicious meal that Grandma used to make. Do you have an old family recipe along with a story you'd like to share? The City of Kawartha Lakes has a website page called 'Recipe Revival' where they collect recipes with stories that showcase the region's historical past and influence our food and drink. If you're interested in joining in, have a look at the website. Laura Love would "Love" to hear from you.



www.kawarthalakes.ca/recipes



Poet's & Writer's Corner

IRELAND, A TERRIBLE BEAUTY IS BORN.

Irish poet William Butler Yates spent a large part of his lifetime trying to revive the Celtic spirit in the Irish people who, after 700 years of colonization by the English, had all but lost their language, their culture and their identity. In his final poem, "Under Ben Bulbin", Yates called on younger poets to take up his cause, to remind the Irish people of their heroic past and to give Ireland back her pride and her dignity.

“Irish poets learn your trade
Sing whatever is well made,
Scorn the sort now growing up
All out of shape from toe to top,
Their unremembering hearts and heads
Base-born products of base beds.
Sing the peasantry, and then
Hard-riding country gentlemen,
The holiness of monks, and after
Porter-drinkers' randy laughter;
Sing the lords and ladies gay
That were beaten into the clay
Through seven heroic centuries;
Cast your mind on other days
That we in coming days may be
Still the indomitable Irishry.”

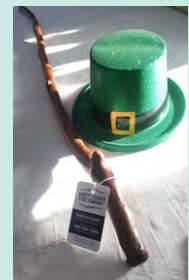


“We have always found the Irish a bit odd.
They refuse to be English.”
- Winston S. Churchill



THE GREAT DOWNEYVILLE IRISH CHALLENGE!

GET YOUR NOMINATIONS IN !



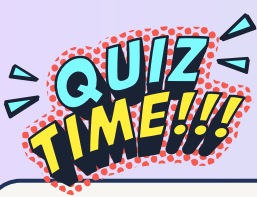
Deadline for nominations

May 31st, 2025

It's a grand shillelagh the
Lord Mayor will be havin'

downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com

Do you have some memorabilia that you would like to share with us?



- 1: In what year did the first Downeyville Irish Concert take place? **We have no idea !!! Do you? Our best guess... the 1920's**
- 2: When was the first Parish rectory built? **Only 1 rectory built in 1880.**
- 3: When was St. Luke's Hall built? **1919.**
- 4: Who was the first parish priest in Downeyville? **Father John Burke was 1st resident priest in 1852 & lived in a local hotel.**
- 5: Which was built first: the original parish rectory or the current St. Luke's Catholic Church? **Church built first in 1857: Rectory built in 1880.**
- 6: How many families have a Downeyville and Douro connection? **Mary Connell counts 23.** 🤔
- 7: In what year was the first Mass said at St. Luke's Catholic Church and who was the priest? **Father John Bourke in 1858.**
- 8: In what year was the new St. Luke's Catholic Church built? **1858 - The original log Church was built in 1833.**
- 9: From whom did the diocese purchase the Church property and in what year? **Bartholomew Downey in 1857/1858.**



"More Irish than the Irish themselves"



Cornelius Jilesen, like the whole Jilesen family, represented everything that's good about Downeyville. He will truly be missed.

The Claddagh is one of Ireland's most recognized and precious images. Two hands embracing a heart adorned with a crown symbolize the purity of a cherished relationship – friendship (cairdeas), love (grá) and loyalty (dilseacht).



The Potato Eaters
Vincent Van Gogh



A diet consisting primarily of potatoes and buttermilk might sound like a 'dismal repast' but, it seems this humble combination provides almost all the nutrition required for sustaining a healthy body. As an indirect result of this and the fact that the Irish poor came to depend on potatoes and buttermilk for sustenance out of necessity, birth rates increased, mortality rates decreased and Ireland's population nearly doubled from 1790 to 1840. As the population grew larger, the farm plots grew smaller and the dependency on potatoes was almost total. That left Ireland very vulnerable when the potato blight hit in 1845.

[READ MORE](#)



downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com



[Peter Robinson Settlers Downeyville 1825-2025](#)



www.nineships1825.com



[Peter Robinson Settlers in Canada](#)
[www City of Kawartha Lakes, Moments & Memories](#)



[Douro 200th Anniversary](#)



[Ennismore Heritage Days](#)



[Young's Point Bi-centennial](#)



[asphodelnorwoodhistoricalsociety](#)



Portrait of Lady Lavery as Kathleen Ni Houlihan

Kathleen Ni Houlihan is a mythical symbol and emblem of Irish Nationalism found in literature and art, sometimes representing Ireland as a personified woman.



YOUR STORIES



We would love to receive any relevant stories, quotes or poems to publish in future newsletters. Please keep them short as space is limited.

If you have anything to share, please send your submission to
downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com or call Leann @ 705-344-5232

Everyone is welcome!

