



# Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum

Box 1718, B-883356 Highway 65  
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

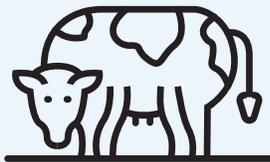
Phone: 705-647-9575  
claybeltmuseum.ca

January 2021

# Claybelt Spreader

Spreading the news...

***Preserving the history of  
the southern Little Claybelt  
Region 1880s to 1950s.***



The Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum is dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of South Temiskaming through the collection of artifacts and documentation that focuses on the settlement history of the Little Claybelt.

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Box 1718  
883356 Highway 65 East  
New Liskeard, ON  
P0J 1P0  
Phone: 705-647-9575  
Email: lchmuse@gmail.com

Charitable #0583526-50-19

Member of the Ontario  
Museums Association



Like us on Facebook  
@claybeltmuseum

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and with concern for our members, the Annual General Meeting for the Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum scheduled for February 10, 2021 is being postponed to a date later this year. Any nominations to the Board can be made now in preparation for the election of the Board by contacting the museum by email at lchmuse@gmail.com or by leaving a telephone message at 705-647-9575.

## Happy New Year to everyone.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. We are looking forward to a better and brighter 2021. Although we made the decision not to open the museum in 2020, we are hopeful that 2021 will allow us to open with all necessary safety precautions in place. In the meantime, we are very busy setting up our new displays and planning for the summer.

We look forward to reopening this summer if possible. If you are in the area, please take the time to visit "your" museum. It is about your pioneer families. It's your museum and we can't do it without your support. Your support will make it possible to permit our motto of "Our Heritage Lives On" to be a reality.

# The Carnegie Library



**CARNEGIE LIBRARY c. 1911**

In 1898, when the town was named Thornloe, a few citizens met to discuss the idea of a library. The first library board was composed of five men: J. J. Grills, W. R. West, T. McCamus, A. A. McKelvie, F. A. Magee, and three women: Mrs. George Grier, Miss L. Beavis and Miss A. E. Dowzer who was elected librarian. The first library was in the little frame school house on the north side of the Wabi River. Later it was moved to the fire hall and following that, it was in the home of Miss Linton.

In August of 1904, at a meeting of the Free Library Board of New Liskeard, the town council took over financial responsibility for the library. Seven hundred and forty books were turned over to the new board.

In March 1910, the library board asked New Liskeard Council for a free site for the library. In May 1910, the Carnegie Foundation offered \$10,000 to erect and furnish a library and the town guaranteed \$1,000 yearly for expenses. In June that year, council made a motion to give the library board the land at the corner of Wellington Street and Whitewood Avenue. Council had saved this location for a town hall. Architect H. W.

Angus of North Bay was hired to plan the building. The library board decided to use the triangular lot between Paget Street and Lakeshore Road.

In August 1910, the library board accepted the tender of P. O. Dalglish for \$8,000 to build the library. The face side would be 52 feet and the depth 42 feet, basement ceiling 10 feet high. It would require ninety cords of stone with the entrance of a Roman stone design. There would be a lecture room to seat 125 people. In early September 1910, council received a petition asking that the new library be given the original site chosen—the corner of Whitewood and Wellington. Council agreed

with the petition and the sod was turned immediately with the excavation being done by Mr. Mattice and the contractor from North Bay.

In the March 24, 1911 *Speaker*, it was announced that the library building was now completed. It was 52' x 43' with two storeys and was built of Burnt Island stone but the tuck pointing could not be completed until warmer weather. In the basement there was a lecture room which was 40' x 27'. Also in the basement was a smoking room, furnace room, storeroom and lavatory. Upstairs was a 16' x 16' general waiting room with a fireplace, a 16' x 16' book room, a 25' x 15' public reading room, a 14' x 15' ladies' room, a 16' x 15' children's room and a librarian's room of the same size.

The heating, plumbing and lighting were done by a local Mr. Murphy and cost \$1,200 more. The Carnegie Foundation donated \$10,900 to the project. All library books were being called in and adapted to the modern system for arrangement.

On July 7, 1911, the Carnegie Library was officially opened by acting Mayor Brown. He reported that the library had 3,246 books. When WWII started in 1939, citizens in the area who did not have Canadian citizenship papers were considered enemy aliens. The R.C.M.P. used the basement of the library to fingerprint all those people.

For over 100 years the library continued to service the area until the summer of 2020 when it was relocated to a more modern and accessible building. As of December 2020, the City, which had the building up for bids, accepted an offer from Woodland Heritage Northeast, a New Liskeard archaeological company, headed by Ryan Primrose.

*(Research from New Liskeard Women's Tweedsmuir History, New Liskeard Speaker and New Liskeard Herald.)*

**In memory of Dr. McNaughton, a drinking fountain and bronze likeness of him was placed to the left of New Liskeard Public Library main entrance. The memorial was an expression of heartfelt thanks for his life of strenuous and willing service.**



**DRINKING FOUNTAIN**

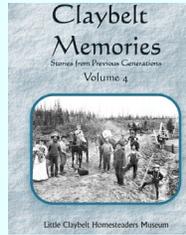
## Keeping Ms. Claybelt Safe

Photo courtesy of the Temiskaming Shores & Area Chamber of Commerce.



Thank you to the City of Temiskaming Shores and Dr. Tarp for making sure Ms. Claybelt is staying safe. Special thanks to Dr. Tarp for donating Ms. Claybelt's blue mask.

## Claybelt Chronicles



Our newest book featuring local pioneer history is well on its way to being published. After the success of our Claybelt Chronicles project featuring interviews with seniors of the area, we realized that we had missed some stories of previous generations. Although many of the pioneers had passed on, some of them had written memoirs which were generously shared with us by their families. Called Claybelt Memories, this latest book is the fourth volume in this series.

## Membership

At this time, we would like to acknowledge all those who have renewed their membership and thank those who made donations to the museum. The membership dues and donations help keep our museum operating. Please consider renewing your membership in our museum if you have not already done so.

Membership cost is \$15 for individuals or \$25 for a family membership. To donate artifacts, please contact the museum at 705-647-9575.

We issue charitable receipts for cash donations. Charitable #0583526-50-19.

Below is the 2021 Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum membership form. Please complete the form and mail it to us at **Box 1718, New Liskeard, Ontario, P0J 1P0.**

Thank you for your continued support.

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## Little Claybelt Homesteaders Museum 2021 Membership Form

Individual Membership (\$15.00)       Family Membership (\$25.00)

Also: please consider donations to the Museum:

Amount  \$20  
 \$50  
 \$100  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell me how I can volunteer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_