



PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
WOODSIDE NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

THE WOODSIDE CHRONICLER



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Year of the Visitor

Issue 17

Fall & Winter 2007

Note from our Superintendent

It is the fall and time for pumpkin cookies at Woodside. Many people have told us how much they have enjoyed using the recipes they picked up here over the years. One of those recipes is for pumpkin cookies. We make them every year at Thanksgiving. If you have not had the chance to sample one and get a copy of the recipe, perhaps this is the year to do so.

You will likely enjoy looking at all the photographs that are throughout this edition of the newsletter. Last December, we updated our photo collection and we are pleased that we now have such a variety showing visitors and students enjoying their time at Woodside.

Costumes are an important part of our interpretation programme. They help to convey the lifestyle of William Lyon Mackenzie King and his family here at Woodside. We like to wear them and as you will see in the article on page 7, they are great conversation starters.

We are having fun with our designation of 2007 as the "Year of the Visitor." We hope you will visit us this fall or during the Christmas season and share some of your Woodside memories.

Kim Seward-Hannam, Superintendent

What's Inside ...

**Come and Join Us!
Woodside's Whatnot
Guests of Woodside
Guests at the Table
"It's My Bustle..."
Mackenzie King's community**

Visitor information

Open Daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed weekends from Saturday, October 13 to
Sunday, November 30 and Remembrance Day.

Admission Fees:

Adult: \$3.95 Senior: \$3.45
Youth: \$1.95 Family/Group: \$9.90
Children 5 & under: Free

All fees are subject to change.

Season Passes available.

Parks Canada's National Passes available.

Some facilities available for visitors with
mobility, hearing and visual disabilities.

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Aussi disponible en français



Parks Canada
Parcs Canada

Canada

COME AND JOIN US!

Woodside welcomes you to attend our special events this fall and winter season.

Weekend afternoons are special with baked goods, hot beverages and Victorian activities.

Traditional Thanksgiving

Friday, October 5 to Friday, October 12
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

From the moment you walk through the door of this 1890s home, the attention to the fall decorations becomes strikingly clear. Wander though the 11-acre estate, ablaze with fall colours.



"We come each year at Thanksgiving. What a wonderful tradition!"

Christmas Tea

Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



"A very enjoyable and tasty tea!"

Come join us for a cup of tea and delicious treats in the modern basement. Tour the home decorated for a Victorian Christmas. Reservations required by calling 519-571-5684 ext. 25.

Victorian Christmas Celebration

Saturday, December 1 to Sunday, December 23
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Experience the nostalgia of an old-fashioned Christmas. From the tabletop

Christmas tree in the parlour to the dining room with the prominent collection of china, these Victorian rooms are decorated in a style fitting the 1890s, providing a feast for the eyes this holiday season.



Woodside by Lamplight

Thursday, December 20 and Friday, December 21
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Decorated for Christmas in lavish Victorian style, the rooms will be gleaming with lamplight and candlelight.



"Wonderfully decorated home!"

WOODSIDE'S WHATNOT

Ever Wonder?

Have you ever wondered about the King family and their time spent at Woodside? Here are some of our visitors' most frequently asked questions:

- ◆ Is this the original house?



Original house (ca. 1888) NAC/C-7333

The house is not original. Woodside was reconstructed on the same site, using some of the same bricks and beams. Construction work started in 1949, and the house was opened as an historic site in 1952.



Before demolition (1945)
Photo: Kitchener-Waterloo Record



Reconstructed house (1990s)
Photo: Robert Roe

- ◆ Was William Lyon Mackenzie King born at Woodside?

Mackenzie King was not born here, although his birthplace is not far away. He was born at 43 Benton St. in Berlin (now Kitchener) on December 17, 1874. He lived at Woodside from 1886 to 1893.



WLMK over the years NAC/C-7352, C-7315, C-7134

- ◆ Were the Kings rich?

The Kings were considered middle class. It may seem as though they were rich, especially considering their fancy furniture that was popular at the time. Today, we think of the furniture as antique, but of course, back then it was not.



Original King family tea table Photo: Robert Roe

- ◆ Is the wallpaper original?

Although, the wallpaper in the house is not original, most of it is a reproduction of the styles and colours that would have been typical in the 1890s. For instance, the wallpaper in the parlour is the Willow pattern designed by William Morris in 1887.

- ◆ Is the stove in the historic kitchen original?



Welcome National stove in historic kitchen
Photo: Cam McGill

The stove currently found in the historic kitchen is called "Welcome National" and is very similar to the "Happy Thought Number 9" stove that was here when the Kings resided at Woodside.

NAC: National Archives of Canada

GUESTS OF WOODSIDE



Memorable Visits

Photo shoot by:



AT CHRISTMAS



To Woodside

Cameron McGill and
Lisa McRae '06



GUESTS AT THE TABLE

For many years, Woodside has offered visitors a “taste of the past” through recipes in the newsletter or at the site with samples from the woodstove. Sometimes people tell us how the recipe turned out. Every year, throughout the 1990’s and 2000’s, teacher Anne-Marie Periard brought her grade one students to Woodside. Once she gave us a sample of the jam she often made using a recipe she obtained at Woodside.

Peach Jam

Let your peaches be quite ripe, pare and cut them in small pieces; to every pound of fruit add one pound of sugar; put the fruit and sugar into a preserving kettle, mash all together, place it over the fire and when it begins to cook stir it over the fire until it becomes quite thick. Then take it from the fire, put it in glasses, and when cold, tie closely.



Did Mrs. King receive recipes from her friends? Did guests to Woodside ask for Jenny’s angel cake recipe? The family letters reveal that Bella intended to send Willie a dessert recipe cut from a paper. A pickled peach recipe, found among the King family papers in the National Archives, reveals that recipes were being shared. It concludes with the statement “If this is not clear, I’ll explain when I see you.”

The following recipe, found in the King papers, would be a wonderful addition to your own collection of treats suitable for guests. The use of wine is surprising as the King family did not drink alcohol. You could substitute apple juice.

WHITE FRUIT CAKE

1 cup butter
1 ½ cups pulverized sugar
whites of six eggs
1 wine glass of white wine
½ lb of citron (cut very fine)
½ lb of chopped almonds
½ cup cocoanut (*sic*)
3 cups sifted flour
3 teaspoons baking powder

Beat butter and sugar to a cream, add wine. Beat eggs to a stiff froth then add eggs and fruit. Sift baking powder in flour. Bake in two loaves if you wish.

Source: Library and Archives Canada, J14.

MODERN NOTES

Pulverized sugar = granulated white sugar

1 wine glass = ¼ cup of wine or juice

½ lb citron = 1 ¼ cup of candied citron peel

½ lb almonds = 2 cups of chopped almonds

Bake at 350 degrees F. for about 1 hour.

“IT’S MY BUSTLE...”

“It’s my bustle, it’s not all me.” Female employees are often overheard saying this. It is a great line, a funny “ice-breaker” to start a conversation about clothing of the Victorian era. Costumed interpreters have been a standby at Woodside for many years. Visitors always notice and comment on our clothing and the historic costume programme is a source of pride at the site.

It is always an exciting time for new staff and volunteers when they are assigned their costumes. Everyone wants that special costume that will transform him or her into a perfect Victorian gentleman or lady. We try to accommodate people’s tastes in terms of colours and styles. The layers of clothing and the way padding alters body shapes can take some getting used to. Most people, however, quickly become comfortable in their “new skin” and wear their costumes with delight and confidence.

The “costuming” begins with a choice of shoes. Gentlemen are easy to accommodate because they can wear quite historically accurate ankle-high black leather boots from “Old Order” Mennonite suppliers in Elmira. Ladies’ choices can be broader as appropriate shoes come in and out of style.

We have two basic costumes for the gentlemen; a “handyman” outfit or work clothing consisting of heavy trousers, a cotton shirt, braces (suspenders) and a waistcoat (vest). The more formal “business” or daytime attire is a three-piece “Sack” suit, white cotton shirt and collar. Each gentleman receives a pocket watch and chain and, if necessary, cuff links.

For the ladies, we focus on two styles. For informal wear, there is a tea gown or wrapper. These are one-piece dresses, either quite fancy in the form of the tea gown, or a very simple wrapper (a day dress).



Summer students dressed in their Victorian finery. Photo by R. Roe

The more formal outfit consists of a “walking” skirt and a “waist” (blouse). Underclothes in the form of bustles (a pad used to hold up the back of the dress) and petticoats are issued to each lady. The waists have flexible wires in them that show the general outline of a person wearing a corset. There are even reproduction corsets to try out, but they are too constricting to wear regularly. We have a variety of brooches, hatpins and watches from which to choose. Appropriate hats and coats are used when we are outdoors or at off-site events. We also have a small number of fancier costumes that would have been perfect for Victorian women to wear at afternoon affairs such as garden parties and afternoon teas.

The costume programme at Woodside has been supported with careful research by Parks Canada in order to balance the style of costume reproduced with needs of the staff in the museum setting.

We must give the impression that it is comfortable and natural for us to be dressed like this because our guests often ask if we wear this type of clothing all the time.



MACKENZIE KING'S COMMUNITY



This page highlights local events and places linked to Woodside.

When you flip through this edition of Woodside's newsletter, you will notice the high quality images taken by local professional photographer Cameron McGill, and his assistant, Lisa McRae of Pirak Studios. As part of a project to update our photo collection, they were contracted by the Parks Canada Agency to take photos showing visitor experiences at our site. Pirak Studios has been providing commercial photographic services for business and industry for over 40 years. Cameron and Lisa worked as a team to catch the interest and expressions of our visitors at Woodside. The photos will be used in ads, newsletters, fliers and on our web site.



To celebrate the 60th anniversary of the passage of Canada's Citizenship Act and the upcoming Citizenship Week, October 15-21, we encourage all of our readers to "reflect on the value of citizenship, what it means to be Canadian and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship." To find out more about Citizenship or to try the Citizenship Quiz, go to:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/about/citizenship/index.asp>



The Woodside Chronicler

General Editors: Carolyn Blackstock, Kathleen Lefaive, Kim Seward-Hannam and Aalla Sidahmed

Columnists: Carolyn Blackstock, Kathleen Lefaive, Robert Roe, Kim Seward-Hannam and Aalla Sidahmed

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