

Corkery Road to play charity concert in Gananoque

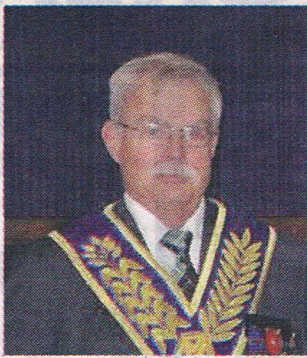
By LORRAINE PAYETTE

EMC News - When the genealogy bug bites, it can bite hard and deep. People have been known to travel incredible distances just for a chance to see the headstone of an ancestor, or find a birthplace, or even to look at obituaries buried deep in the archives of tiny libraries, museums, and historical societies. Imagine yourself heading out to discover your ancestors. And on your quest to find your roots, you receive a treasure you were never expecting.

"In May this year, I discovered some family roots for my mother beginning with ancestors in Scotland and coming to Lanark in 1832," says Ray Winfield of Gananoque. "They landed in Brockville and traveled to Lanark to homestead. Alexander McKay and his family left Dornoch, and on the journey he lost his wife who died at sea and gained a granddaughter who was born in Lanark on the way to the homestead. His tombstone is in the settler's wall at the church in Middleville."

This inspired Winfield and his wife, Pat, to take a trip to Lanark to visit the tombstone while returning from business in Ottawa. They decided to stop for lunch in Almonte.

"While having lunch, we noted posters for a Celtfest in the community, so we asked



Submitted photo

Ray Winfield is helping his wife Pat arrange the Corkery Road Charity Concert.

what it was. Seeing we were interested in the Celtic theme, the waitress at the restaurant suggested we go to a store run by her friend's mother where she sold Celtic goods.

"While in the store, I purchased some raffle tickets to support the event." Not wanting to miss out on all the fun, the Winfields decided to attend the Celtfest in July and had a fantastic time. Near the end of the day, the raffle was held. They couldn't believe their ears when the winner was Pat Winfield.

"We didn't even know what the prize was," said Ray, "so we went down to collect."

Pat had just won a private performance by the band "Corkery Road".

Not knowing what to do with such an unexpected gift, they discussed it all the way

home. And being the people they are, the decision came naturally.

They chose to share their good fortune with the community and raise some money for charity at the same time. A discussion with the band's representative was all that was needed to turn a private party into a public concert, with all monies raised going to support Christ Church Gananoque and the Shriners' Hospital for Children - Canada - Building Fund.

"Please help us celebrate this gift by attending and spread the word to friends and family," says Ray.

The concert will take place on Sunday, Oct. 23, from 2 - 5 p.m., with the doors opening at 1:45. It will be held at the Gananoque Kinsmen Hall at 400 Stone Street North, with tickets selling for \$5 at the door and children under 12 free. A cash bar will be available for those who wish to indulge, and it is hoped that people will feel inclined to make generous cash donations to either or both of the charities. Gifts of \$15 or more will qualify for charitable receipts. For more information on the concert, please contact Pat or Ray Winfield at 613-382-2498, or e-mail them at winfieldpat@sympatico.ca. For more about the band itself, please go to <http://www.corkeryroad.ca/>.