

# SCROLLING THROUGH LIFE IN PRESCOTT

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

Everyone has a story to tell and the Friends of the Prescott Library have been capturing some of these stories from the residents of Prescott.

The Friends of the Prescott Library is a small group of individuals whose main goal is to promote the library as well to help the library financially. The committee decided to apply for a grant through Canada's 150 because they knew this was their opportunity to do something special to highlight Prescott. Peter Green, chairman of the committee, admitted that at first when they applied for the grant, the committee was a little unsure about what they wanted the project to look like, but as time went by their idea evolved.

"The main goal of this project is to give people in Prescott pride in their community and to give them knowledge about their

some of the stories. There have also been poems and music submitted.

The electronic book will have sound clips from the stories that were recorded. These sound clips will run approximately 2 minutes long and readers will be able to access these clips by pressing an icon in the story.

One of the members of the committee, Katherine Belrose, has been recording some of these stories. Belrose commented that some of the recordings have a strong focus on childhood memories and a lot of emotional feelings came through on tape.

"We have captured a few silent moments or a few moments of tears on the tapes as well," remarked Belrose.

All the stories collected are reviewed with the storyteller, and a waiver is signed before



and to give them knowledge about their community from a different perspective. This perspective is from fellow residents and not from academic research, but from day to day stories about day to day life," commented Green.

The group originally got their idea from a historical scrapbook that was created in 1984 for the 200th anniversary of Prescott. They decided to build on this idea, but in a more modern fashion and that is how the electronic Fort Town Memories Project came about.

The money from the provincial grant was used to purchase three laptop computers that had the capacity to do video as well as audio. Grant money was also spent on a story-telling workshop, as well as a computer workshop.

The committee advertised in local newspapers that they were looking for stories and they were overwhelmed with the number of people who replied. The stories range from 200 – 1000 words. Although their goal is to collect at least 150 stories, they will accept more.

Stories were submitted in the form of hand-written hard copies, typed copies and members of the committee also recorded

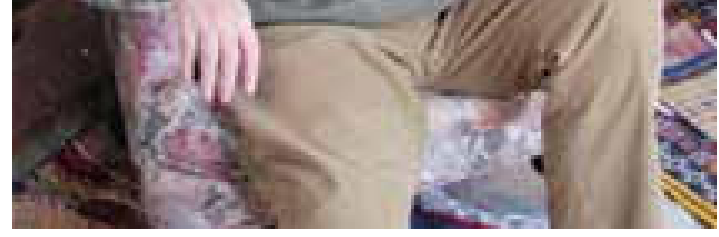
the story teller, and a waiver is signed before the story or audio clip is put into the book.

The committee hopes to have the majority of material collected by the end of March. At that time they will edit and categorize the stories, videos and music into the electronic book.

This exhibit would likely be setup in the library and allow readers to browse through the stories and audio clips. Although this exhibit would take place on Canada Day, submissions will still be accepted until the end of the year.

The committee would like to see more stories, music or poems from the younger generation.

"It's a book about Prescott and should be told through the eyes of all ages," said Green.



*Top: Katherine Belrose listens to one of the audio clips on the laptop computer at the library in Prescott. This clip will be included in the electronic book that the Friends of the Library are putting together with the help of a Canada 150 grant.*

*Bottom: Peter Green reads one of the stories for the Fort Town Memories Project.*

For more information on the Fort Town Memories Project contact Katherine Belrose at [kbelrose@gmail.com](mailto:kbelrose@gmail.com) or Peter Green at [chantagrie@bell.net](mailto:chantagrie@bell.net). **LH**

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The Prescott Library is located at 360 Dibble St W. 613-925-4340. The Library was formed in 1895 and without volunteers and funding from the town, could not offer the traditional Library services, events programs, and community services. In today's technology age, individuals don't realize or they take for granted how vital libraries still are in our local towns and communities. As we are all aware with school closures happening in some areas we shouldn't take for granted libraries, as they could be next. Support and help any way you can to make sure this treasured resource stays in place for future generations.**