



CLOCKWISE: Live Music being played in on the Coach House grounds in the Gazebo; A museum volunteer standing beside plaque commemorating Canada's first Glassworks factory- Mallorytown Glassworks is on the grounds for visitors to learn the history of the factory; Mallory Coach House (1523 County Rd 2 Mallorytown On) Built in 1853

MALLORY COACH HOUSE

By Sally Smid

A cloud of dust, the clattering of horses' hooves and the rumble of wooden wheels signalled the arrival of the stagecoach at what is now known as the Mallory Coach House. Its arrival cued workers to quickly prepare a fresh team of four horses provided by a local dealer. It didn't take long for the stage to begin the next leg of the journey and speed was necessary in order to fulfill contracts. Usually loaded with passengers and government mail, it took eight days to travel from Kingston to Montreal on primitive and often dangerous roads in all kinds of weather. Stories were told of the stage often being stuck in mud especially in the spring and the passengers were often obliged to help push it out so that their journey might continue.

Stagecoaches began to use the route along Highway 2 in the 1820's and frequent stops were needed along the way. The Coach House was constructed in 1853 and was strategically located for this purpose. However, by 1855 the stagecoaches were replaced with the Grand Trunk Railroad, a much safer and more efficient mode of transportation. In 1861 it was recorded that Mr. Daniel Neville used the building as an inn where his family also resided. It later belonged to Dr. and Mrs. Haight. A Dr. Andress also had a business there as well. Until the 1900's,

Alexander Gibson used it as a tavern. The Coach House was abandoned after WWII, until it was purchased by Tony Kull in 1958.

Front of Yonge Township had foresight in buying the historic property in 2005. That year the original Mallory Coach House Heritage Committee gave the house its present name. It opened to the public on May 17, 2008 with an art show as well as a Mallorytown school reunion. Under the management of the 1000 Islands River Heritage Society, it has undergone major renovations and restorations, funded by a variety of grants and donations. Mallorytown is also the site of Canada's first glassworks factory, which began in 1839. The most famous piece of existing glass is the 'Mallorytown Pitcher' which is now on display at the Royal Ontario Museum. A reproduction of this piece is on display at the Coach House. An interpretive sign on the front lawn of the House tells the Glass Works story.

Today the Mallory Coach House serves as a small museum and offers a variety of displays and houses local archives. The Mallory Coach House Committee and the Thousand Islands River Heritage Society work together to preserve the heritage and history of Front of Yonge Township. It is open to visitors on weekends during the spring and summer months and local school students frequently visit.

The beautiful garden area and gazebo are also used for community events and for weddings, the Country Market, Socials, and Village Fairs. The construction of a drive shed has allowed the group to house larger items for their collection as well.

Visitors to events at the Mallory Coach House can't help but be aware of the friendly, country atmosphere and the energy and co-operation that makes the facility such a success. From the lilting tunes from local musicians in the gazebo, to home made baked goods and barbecues, arts and crafts displays, and local produce, the Coach House has become quite a hub for socializing and networking. It is now an integral part of the township and in many ways seems to have cultivated a spirit of pride and a sense of identity in this rural community. LH

EDITOR'S NOTE: To learn more about the Coach House or events being held at The Coach House visit the Front of Yonge Township website:

<http://www.mallorytown.ca/index.cfm/residents/mallory-coach-house/>