



# STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring 2022

Visit Us At [www.staynerheritagesociety.com](http://www.staynerheritagesociety.com)

## **News & Information** **From Your Heritage Team**

### **Stayner Heroes Memorial Flags**

Our project of creating memorial flags to honour our veterans continues. Last year, 45 banners were displayed on the downtown lamp posts during the four week period leading up to Remembrance Day. Eighteen new banners were dedicated at the November 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day service, and a luncheon was hosted by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 457 Stayner. If you would be interested in honouring a veteran, please contact Barb Stransky, Tom Scholte, or Myrna Johnson for details. Your continued support of this very worthwhile project is very much appreciated.

### **Stayner Heritage Society Museum**

The Music, Market & Park It will be a go this summer. It will run as usual on Thursday evenings from June 2 – August 25<sup>th</sup> (5:00 – 9:00pm). Our Heritage Museum will be open on Market nights. We invite you to come by for a visit, a chat, a look around while enjoying refreshments. In addition to our local artifacts you will enjoy browsing our Stayner Sun newspaper collection.

### **Canada Day July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

Plans are underway to once again celebrate Canada's birthday! This will be a fun filled Community activity and all are welcomed. Please watch for further information on our website, Facebook, and local newspapers.

### **Stayner Heritage Society Annual Meeting**

Our Annual meeting will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Clearview Township Community Hall on Regina Street, Stayner. This is a great opportunity to meet our Heritage Team and learn about our projects, particularly our Heritage Home project. Please see event notice on page three of this newsletter.

### **Stayner Heritage Society Membership**

Your membership and special donation support is important to making our projects possible as we strive to maintain the heritage of our community. Please renew your membership by returning the enclosed form as soon as possible.

## Our Feature Story

These short stories of Stayner in the 40's and 50' were told, as Dalt remembers them, to his daughters Myrna (Lowe) Whitley and Monica (Lowe) Menecola in 2021.



*Dalton Lowe*

Dalton was born in Barrie, ON and moved to Stayner in late 1939 when his parents relocated here to open A.E. Lowe Meat Market on the Main Street. He was about 6 years old when he moved to Stayner.

Dalt has lots of memories and these are only a few. More memories are at the Museum for you to peruse.

### Downtown Stayner Businesses during the 40's and 50's

#### On North Side (east end to west end)

Beside Al Morrow's grocery store was a little barber shop run by Arnold Atkinson. On Saturday nights, children were able to buy popcorn from his popcorn wagon that sat out front of his barber shop. He often had entertainment as well. FT Hill also had a dry good store. Darcy Gartlan also had a butcher shop. These stores made up the "Gartlan Block." I remember getting rides from Darcy Gartlan and his wife to Wasaga Beach on the occasional Sunday.

There is lots of great information on the Gartlan family. They had Gartlan money (like Canadian Tire money) and a large safe for their money and valuables.

The Stayner Sun was in the next set of buildings beside Russ Somerville's grocery store. Bill Ross owned the Stayner Sun and then sold to Dave Phillips. Albert "Ab" Culham sold real estate and insurance out of the Stayner Sun building. Ab Culham was also the town treasurer and the chief of the fire department. During this time, I had been called to jury duty, a half a dozen times, which I felt was more than my share. Upon inquiring the reason of being called so frequently I learned that the town clerk was responsible for submitting names. Ab

Culham was not a big admirer of mine as I was on Town Council at this time and he submitted my name often hence the frequent calls.

**The Lambert Hotel** (current Golden Apple Restaurant) was in the next building on the Main Street and part of this building was a Pool Hall. Caplan's bought the hotel and switched the Pool Hall into a restaurant. Viola Lee (my wife), Johanna Van Beek, Joan Armstrong, and May Adams all worked there as servers.



Front of Lambert Hotel, Vida Perry, Viola (Lee) Lowe, Joan Craig in 1949 and Viola Lowe and Betty Leighton in 1950.

Pete Oehm had the **Five to Dollar Store**. This building was heated by sawdust. I remember going down to the basement and the basement was chuck full of sawdust. This was during the war. Sawdust was used for a couple of years. Helen O'Malley had a Dress Shop then Maurice's grocery store. Then Modern Men's Wear owned by Ted Finn and Clinton Cauthers.

The next set of buildings was **Besse's Dairy (Creamery)**. This building was originally built by the Clark family as a movie theatre. Norm and Percy Lawson were just a couple of names I remember who would deliver cream every morning to the creamery. Joe Besse would take milk to Wasaga Beach as well as make deliveries around town. Mary Connell worked there for many years. It was a favourite spot to buy ice cream.

The **Massey Harris Dealer** occupied the next set of buildings. I was told by my mother that George Glenn ran the Massey Dealership and was chief of police before my family moved to Stayner. This

would have been my mother's uncle. I understand that the Glenn's moved to the Stayner area at the same time as the Beattie's. These families moved from Sinclairville near Hamilton. George Glenn moved back to the Hamilton area after selling the Massey Harris Dealership. To the best of my knowledge D. Hodgins took over the dealership as I do not remember any other owner. D. Hodgins kept chickens at the back of this building. A little side story about D. Hodgins chickens- one Halloween, the older boys at Byng put the Reazin Girls' cow in the school along some chickens from D. Hodgson's and a goat from George Webb's to add chaos and excitement to a boring school day. It was heard that George Webb yelled out the window "hey you got my goat!" and one of the boys replied back "we damn well do!"

Jim, who was Chinese, owned the restaurant which was next to the Massey Dealership. Some of my friends and I were riding five abreast down the Main Street. We were peddling "to beat the band" and at this time, Jim was trying to cross the street. He was unsure if he should continue to cross the street or return to the curb. I could see him trying to make up his mind as he stepped forward and backward. He finally decided to return to the curb which was in direct line of my bike path. Jim turned to face me square on to straddle my bike in attempts to slow me down. Unfortunately, my speed was too great, and I knocked him over onto the side of the street where the horse manure was swept. He skidded along the curb getting his clean white shirt dirty with horse manure. I don't believe he ever forgave me for that, but I truly was trying to avoid hitting him.

Also, in this building was J.F. Lynn who repaired shoes, boots, and leather ware. Andy Cauthers ran a barbershop next door. Later in years, this building was converted to Ford's Restaurant then the Old Dutch Inn and now Honey Monster. There was a Billiard Hall put in by Bill Fisher beside Ford's Restaurant. Prior to this there was a store that carried harnesses for horses- it was owned by Mr. Maynard.

Next was the Wilcox Inn (currently 7308 Hwy 26 also known as the former Stayner Nursing Home). There was a lawyer in a small shop, too. The first

lawyer I remember was "Beam." I don't remember "Wilcox" but I do remember George Flicker who managed the hotel. George Flicker would decorate the hotel and Christmas tree so beautifully that people travelled for miles to see the display at Christmas time.

The next block of buildings was the Pearson Block (was the Knit n' Koodle until 2021). Most of this block was used as the grocery store and egg grading however there was a small lean-to at the far end and Mr. Willette used this as a shop where he made boots strictly for hydro workers. It was a special high cut boot. Many men who drove truck would buy them too. He also sold shoes there.

**Thank you, Dalton, for sharing your memories with our readers.**

### Historic Homes of Stayner

'An Introduction To Our Built Heritage'

#### Stayner Heritage Society

Hosted by

#### Clearview Public Library

Invites you to

#### The Society's Annual General Meeting

- **Place:** Stayner Community Centre, 269 Regina Street, Stayner
- **Date:** May 24, 2022
- **Time:** 7:00 pm
- **Tickets** are free but limited and may be picked up at:
  - Stayner Branch Library
- Or reserved by calling
  - Myrna Johnson at 705-428-2540
  - Susan Brockwell at 705-888-1016

The community of Stayner has a wealth of historic homes and the Stayner Heritage Society has been researching their history with the objective of building a resource for future generations. To date information on some sixty homes has been collected and we will be presenting photos and a short history for a selection of those homes, to introduce this resource database to the community.

*Light refreshments served  
Face Masks optional*

#### Newsletter Committee

*Barbara Stransky, Myrna Johnson, Tom Scholte*

