



STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Incorporated, 1998.

FALL 2019

Visit Us At www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Veterans Memorial Banners

“They answered the call”

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving and Remembrance, we can proudly look across our great nation and give thanks for all our blessings and for the men and women who serve and continue to serve and protect our nation. They came from both urban and rural communities, from all walks of life, from a mosaic of backgrounds. They all shared a common goal - to protect and defend the freedoms enjoyed, not only by their generation but generations that would follow, freedoms which we enjoy today in this land called Canada, in this community we call Clearview.

We are pleased to have completed the first phase of this project. A total of 26 banners honoring our First and Second World War veterans have been mounted on the downtown lamp posts and will remain there until after Remembrance Day.



The Stayner Heritage Society

*Cordially invites you to attend
the dedication of our*

“Veterans Memorial Banners”

Date: Saturday, September 28, 2019

Time: 2:00 pm

*Place: Stayner Cenetaph
217 Gideon Street*

Reception to follow at Canadian Legion Branch



*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning*

The banner project was conceived a couple of years ago and was based upon love, gratitude and remembrance to those within our community that served. For all of us at the Heritage Society, it was an emotional journey. The entire Heritage Society team made this project happen and they are to be congratulated for a job well done.



A special well attended dedication of the banners was held at the Cenetaph on Saturday, September 28th. Special guests included Mayor Doug Measures, Federal MP Dr. Kellie Leitch and, Pastor Merv Brockwell. Our thanks to Ella Baker for leading us with O Canada and to Ken Parton for his bagpipe musical selections. Our sincere thanks to Jim Sieli of the Canadian Legion Stayner Branch 457 for hosting the reception following the ceremony.

We wish to thank all the families of the veterans for their ongoing support as well as the Stayner Chamber of Commerce and other local organizations. The Heritage Society plans to have the second phase of this project completed for the fall of 2020.



The entire Veterans Memorial Banner dedication ceremony can be viewed by visiting our web site at www.staynerheritagesociety.com

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

Canada Day Celebrations

The Stayner Heritage Society and the Stayner Chamber of Commerce celebrated Canada's birthday on July 1st as a joint venture. We were very thankful for the beautiful weather which allowed us to hold this event at Station Park once again ! Following the annual Road Race, a pancake breakfast was enjoyed by all at the gazebo, sponsored by the True North Academy.



Our parade was one of the highlights, with a “20 piece” Highland Marching Band and over 50 young people participating in our “kids’ category”. The Chamber’s efforts in providing various activities for kids was wonderful! The displays were excellent and entertainment with “50 Years Late” enjoyed by all. Our thanks to the many financial supporters and volunteers who made this a great Canada Day!



“Market & Park It”

The Thursday evening Market and Park It event had another successful year. Both local and out of town visitors enjoyed the music entertainment and products and service offered by the various vendors.



The SHS museum was well attended and we express our thanks to the host volunteers who did an excellent job greeting our guests and providing them with information about our community's history.

The Tenth Annual Remembrance Day Event

The Stayner Heritage Society will be hosting the 10th Annual Remembrance Day Service on Saturday, November 9th, 2019 at Jubilee Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$5.00 and are available from SHS members and Barb's Clothes Closet on Main Street in Stayner.



A continental breakfast will be served at 9am. Dave Morrison, retired RCAF pilot is our guest speaker. Other guests include Don Doner, June Flynn and Ken Parton. A video presentation of the Veterans Memorial Banner Cenotaph ceremony held on September 28th will also be shown.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this inspirational morning to honour the men and women of our community who served and continue to serve our Country.

Stayner Heritage Society Membership

Your Membership helps to support many of the projects and programs undertaken by the Heritage Society. Thank you for being a member of our Heritage Society. If you have not renewed your membership this year please complete the enclosed membership form and return at your earliest convenience

A Bit of Trivia

Can you guess the population of Stayner in 1924?

766 966 1366

Answer on the Last Page

Stayner Business Community

THE PEARSON BLOCK

The Pearson Block was built in 1884 along with other red brick buildings on the Main Street with brick from the Stayner Brick Yard which was at the eastern end of Town.



Figure 1 The Pearson Block 2019¹

Mr. McKeggie, who is listed as a private banker in the 1881-86 Stayner Directory, was in part of the block until the Bank of Toronto located elsewhere on the Main St. in 1899.^{2,3,4,5}

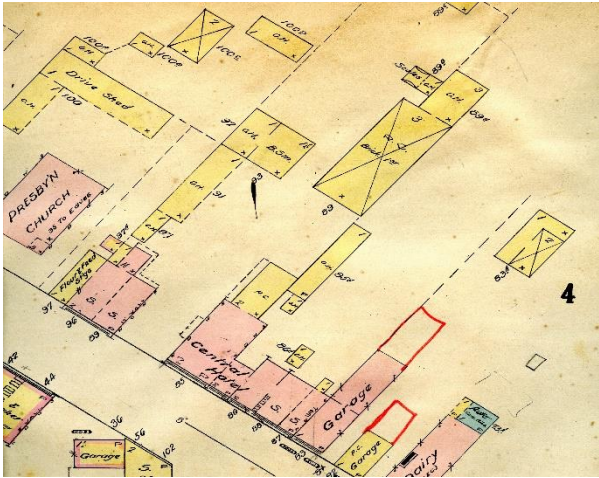
A Mr. Gillespie had a grocery and dry goods store for several years^{4,5}

Neil and Margaret Ellen (Crawford) Pearson were both born in the Stayner area. Neil in Stayner circa 1852 and Margaret in Warrington in 1876. They were married in 1896 and lived at 208 Main St. W. The home has since been demolished.⁸ Their daughter Kathryn (known as Kate) was born in 1898 and their son Neil Duncan was born in 1900. Neil Pearson bought the block in 1904.⁸ The family moved to the accompanying apartment. The third and fourth generations of this family have lived here for one hundred and fifteen years. Is there any other family in town that could challenge this record?

The Pearsons ran a grocery, flour and feed business and had a barn behind the building. The 1924 Map of Stayner shows the Pearson Block with the barn and a blacksmith shop owned by a Mr. Wines in the early 1940's.⁸ This blacksmith shop serviced the horses visiting the Central Hotel, which was owned by the Wilcox family, across the lane.^{3,8}

daughters, Sarah and Margot. They live in Midhurst.

The 1924 Map of the Town of Stayner shows the most westerly part of the block as housing a feed store. The centre section was the egg grading part with the graded eggs going to Copaco in Barrie.⁸ The eastern part was the grocery store



Neil Pearson died in 1919 and Mrs. Pearson and her daughter Kate continued the grocery business in the eastern store.

Kate Pearson married William A. Spellman, the engineer who oversaw the paving of Stayner Main Street. This was done during the time when A. J. Sullivan was Mayor with his last term ending in 1928.² Their son Pearson was born in 1941.

They continued in the eastern store until the mid 1940's, at which time Helen O'Malley set up her women's wear and hat shop. Miss O'Malley sold the business to Edith Brown in 1953² who continued catering to the women of the town.

Peter Leiher, with the help of his father, took over the eastern section with a laundromat following Edith Brown's move down the street in 1958. He continued in this location until he sold the business to Mr. & Mrs. Wilson in 1974.²

Pearson and Marion (Wallace) Spellman were married in 1969. In the early 1980's Marion Spellman opened a gift shop called Knit & Kaboodle, a going concern for almost forty years to this day in 2019.

Pearson and Marion's son Richard was raised in the Block. Richard and his wife Christine have two

The west shop has had continuous businesses. The Stayner Sun had its early beginnings as Stayner's newspaper in this west shop in 1890.² The Pearsons had a feed part here as shown on the 1924 map of Stayner. The 1931 Stayner Directory shows this western section was "The Stayner Shoe Repairer" run by an Oliver Quesnelle. Over the years, other shoe repair businesses owned by Alex Willette and Frank Gerrior (father of Bob Gerrior) were in the western section. Ron Barron's shoe repair business was there in the 1950's. There was also a Christian education store run by Chris Taylor in the 1970's as well as a toy store later. Rick Gowan had his printing shop in this space followed by Dan Haight's sign shop.⁸ The tenant in 2019 is Terry Duits with her flower shop.

The centre premises have had several tenants over many years. Sometimes these tenants occupied the whole space and at times it was divided into two spaces. The egg grading held the whole space in the early years moving to half probably in the 1940's. George Thompson Jewellers was in half when he first came to town in the 1950's. After George Thompson moved downtown, Hoskins Bakery had their retail sale space here. (Their bakeshop was down behind the building currently occupied by Exit Realty at 7280 Main Street). Hoskins sold the business to George Aikins before they gave up this bakery retail outlet. After Hoskins, Frank Barron had his barber shop here.⁸

Later the centre portion went back to full space with Helen Meeks Beauty Salon, Bob Bouchard's Men's Wear, Mrs. Heatherington's Fabric Shop/Seamstress business⁸ and an antique shop.^{5,6}

The Ministry of Transportation has had their Service Ontario site in this space since the early 1980's.

The "Hall" space on the second floor has hosted several societies: The Chosen Friends, The Canadian Order of Foresters and The Masonic Order. The Masons moved to their new Temple on Louisa Street in 1961.⁴

This grand old building has stood for one hundred and thirty-five years, a part of our heritage for longer than any of us can remember. Thank you to the Pearson/Spellman family for being such good stewards of this property and an active part of our community.

Notes

1. *Stayner Sun* (Aug.31/77 and Nov. 16/83 editions)
2. *Stayner Sun* (various editions)
3. Jerry Prager. *Stayner: "The Missing Years" 1854-1898 (1884)*
4. Albert E. Culham, *The Village of Stayner: a memoir of life and living in a small Ontario community.*
5. "Places and People" A History of Stayner (Stayner Bicentennial Book Committee, 1984).
6. *:1924 Map of the Town of Stayner.*
7. *1931 Stayner Directory* (Stayner Businessmen's Association,1931)
8. Pearson Spellman

The information is documented where possible, but memories play a part in all these sources.

The Stayner Heritage Society
2018-19 Executive

- Chairperson.....Jeff Parton
- Past Chair.....Kevin Jerry
- Vice Chair.....June Holroyd
- Secretary.....Myrna Johnson
- Treasurer.....Carol Marsden
- IT Rep.....Mike Scholte
- Publicity/Newsletter.....Tom Scholte
- Membership.....Tom Scholte
Myrna Johnson
Barb Stransky
- Program.....Ferne Allen
June Holroyd
Susan Brockwell
- Museum Committee.....Manfred Leimgardt
Ferne Allen
Phyllis Perry
Susan Brockwell
Barb Stransky
- Auditor.....Sandra Squire

Answer to Trivia Question

- Directors.....Manfred Leimgardt (1)
Richard Marsden (1)
June Holroyd (2)
Tom Scholte (2)

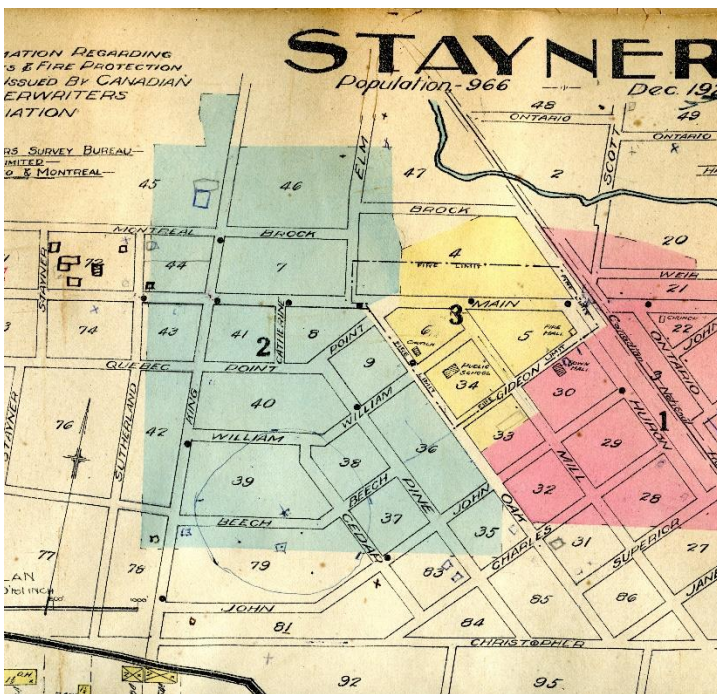


Figure 2 Population Stayner 1924 -966

