



STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Incorporated, 1998.

Fall 2021

Visit Us At www.staynerheritagesociety.com

MUSEUM BITS & BITES

“The Signature Quilt” is one of the items that has been on display at the Heritage Museum. It was started in the millennium year of 2000 as a fundraiser for the new Stayner Heritage Society and at \$10.00 a block, it generated \$2,000. The blocks were sewn together by Shirley Parton and the ladies of Centennial United Church did the quilting. Thankyou to all that participated in this project.



Brian Pounder was one of the founding members of the Stayner Heritage Society and, over the years has been a valued contributor to our projects and activities.



Stayner Heroes Memorial Flags

We are extremely pleased to advise our readers that, inspite of Covid 19, our project to create memorial flags to honour our veterans has continued throughout 2020 and 2021.

Last year, 38 banner/flags were displayed on Stayner’s Main Street lamp posts during the month preceeding Remembrance Day. In 2020 and 2021, 18 new Banners were added to our collection. A total of 45 Verterans Banners will grace our Main Street in the fall of 2021.

Stayner Heroes Flags Con'd

Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, a dedication of our 18 new Banners has not been possible. We are hopeful that the Royal Canadian Legion Stayner Branch 457 will be able to hold a Remembrance Day service on November 11th and, if so, the Heritage Society would dedicate the new banners at that time. This would take place at the Cenotaph on Gideon Street, Stayner.



The images displayed above are part of the new 18 Banners added in 2020 and 2021 respectively. If you are interested in honouring a veteran, please contact Barb Stransky, Tom Scholte or Myrna Johnson. Your support of this very worthwhile project is very much appreciated.

Stayner Heritage Society Membership

Your ongoing membership support is very important to making our projects possible as we strive to maintain the heritage of our community. If you have not already done so, please renew your membership by returning the enclosed form as soon as possible.

REFLECTIONS OF OUR HISTORY

The Stayner Sun

‘One man’s (or woman’s) trash is another man’s treasure’

For more than a year, the Stayner Heritage Society’s Museum Committee has been mining Stayner’s history in a treasure trove of old editions of *The Stayner Sun*.

Sixteen years ago, the collection came perilously close to a dumpster.

A committee consisting of Ferne Allen, Susan Brockwell, Phyllis Perry and Barb Stransky worked, usually weekly, among the museum artifacts and newspaper files, together with volunteers Nancy Rumney and, Donna and Jim Paul.

Donna and Jim have created a topical index of articles that include binders of news events, family history, church news and sports.

Sifting through decades of Stayner’s past, the committee has created a “social media” deluge from a time when the newspaper was the Facebook of the community, a much sought-after read, mostly on Wednesdays.

Interested parties are welcome to view the collected news items when the museum is open.

First conceived and published 143 years ago by H.S. Harcourt, *The Stayner Sun* passed through more than 15 different investors and publishers and almost as many Stayner office locations along Main Street.

What is remarkable is that the newspaper survived as long as it did under one flag in the notoriously volatile and political media world of early Ontario.

On Aug. 28, 1877 Harcourt launched the newspaper and promised an independent news voice.

“The Sun shall speak well of only them who are public benefactors; ill of only the foes of the government and community.”

“And to the chronic grumbler, we have a word to say, and that is, if you desire to grumble, do so, but do not imagine that The Sun will wag your jaw.”

The owner/publishers with the longest tenure – from 1947 to 1977 -- were two enterprising journalists Edythe and Dave Phillips who were embedded in the community and raised two children here.



In 1989, Fritz and Terry Schuller, together with their daughter Alicia Savage, purchased the newspaper from Alliston Press in a bid to build a stronger business through local ownership.

The company, Schalsun Inc., also launched *The Wasaga Sun* (1993) and *The Angus-Borden Sun* (1997) to extend the advertising reach and defend against incursions from other publishers.

It is a credit to the Schuller family that they acquired and maintained what newspaper people refer to as the morgue – the collection of back issues going back for generations and used for reference and research by the staff.

In 2003, in a frenzied sweep of media consolidations and buyouts, Metroland (a division of TorStar) became the owner of the Schalsun papers and many other family-owned independents throughout central Ontario.

The buyouts were also the swansong for many small-town papers as the internet and social media ate into local advertising dollars. By about 2006 the *Wasaga* and *Stayner* weeklies were merged into one title, *The Sun*, with vastly reduced – and less localized -- editorial content. It was evident the economics of community newspapers had changed – probably forever.

A giant waste bin had been set up outside the offices of *The Stayner Sun* in 2005 as Metroland was preparing to close the local office.

Then-editor, Michael Gennings lamented the potential loss of the collection and one of the Heritage Society's long-serving members, Manfred Leimgardt started the search for a place to store the truckloads of papers.

The papers which had been moved many times were stored in a corner at a public works department building at Sunnidale Corners (the former Sunnidale Corners Fire Hall), then at a self-storage unit on the north side of town, and then to its current location at 200 Huron Street,

the former Stayner Farmers' Co-op store where the Society displays and stores its artifacts.

Society volunteers built and rebuilt shelving in attempts to protect the increasingly fragile paper which had always been stored under less than ideal conditions.

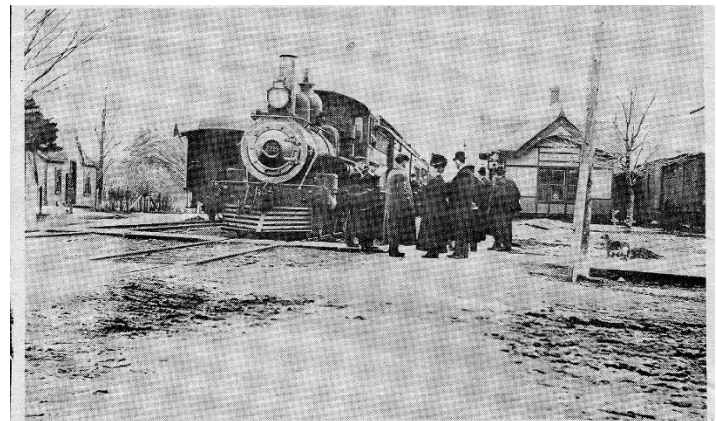
Going through the various editions is a slow and meticulous process – often given over to significant distractions that typically begin with a conversation, “Do you remember her? Where would that store be located...?”

It's like turning trash into treasure.

The contributor, Larry Culham, is a member of the Stayner Heritage Society and a former reporter, editor and managing editor for The Stayner Sun and The Wasaga Sun...

A Look Back To 1910 Stayner was a busy community.

Our thanks to Kenneth Paul, who recently donated a well organized binder collection of newspaper articles on our community and surrounding area, to Stayner Heritage Society. The article below is just one of many memories. Thanks Kenneth.



STAYNER GRAND TRUNK STATION in 1910 was a busy place. There were six trains daily, with the exception of Sunday, when there were only four. Southbound trains to Toronto arrived at Stayner at 8:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., while those going north to Collingwood and the end of the line at Meaford, arrived at Stayner at 12:15 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Each train carried mail, passengers, parcels and, of course, the Toronto newspapers. According to Herman Cauthers of Barrie, who loaned this interesting photograph to *The Sun*, there were not any paper routes in those days and people had to obtain their newspapers at the drug store. The *Mail and Empire* and *The Globe* came on the noon train, while *The Star*, *The Telegram* and another Toronto evening paper arrived on the two later trains. Mr. Cauthers has identified the Stayner men in this picture as Elmer Cherry, Bill Spiker and Kim Kirkwood, all being barbers. The lady was not identified.

Newsletter Committee

Tom Scholte, Myrna Johnson, Barb Stransky