

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
INCORPORATED, 1998 **FALL, 2000**

GREETINGS FROM NEW CHAIR,
LORNE STEWART

Since I took office in May, The Stayner Heritage Society has been very busy!

We have been concentrating on some "heritage" type projects.

In addition to planning to rebuild the Railway Station, we have hopes for a band shell/gazebo structure in Station Park which will provide a place for community events.

We also have made some inquiries about upgrading the Bell Tower. At the SHS meeting on September 6th, Rod Robinson brought to our attention the fact that the Bell Tower is in bad repair and in need of attention if it is going to be saved.

Pete Jerry and I were requested to inform Council of the problem. On September 8th, we met with Clearview Township Administrator, Sue McKenzie. She was quite interested but directed us to take our concern to the Recreation and Culture Committee meeting on September 27th. They listened with interest, and indicated that because the Bell Tower is of historical value, it should be saved if it is not past repair! They would bring a motion to Council asking for an engineer study. We are checking to see if government funding is available for this project.

We are always aware of the need to keep informing members and the public of our aspirations and are pleased for this opportunity to address those interested in Stayner's heritage. I am confident that SHS is making a difference in Stayner!

UPDATE ON STATION PROJECT (AND "STATION HOUSE THEATRE")

There is a possibility that we will have a theatre in Stayner. Bobby Venton of Kudo Productions has hopes for a 400-seat theatre on the vacant lot on Main Street east of the tracks. This facility will be a great asset to Stayner, as has been stated before, and will be endorsed by SHS. Watch for developments!

pictures

HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

In conjunction with the Millennium celebrations, the SHS has been instrumental in making some improvements in the look of downtown Stayner.

First, there are four new signs gracing the four entrances to town - the portals where visitors form first impressions about the town. Pristine white with red lettering and surrounded with the logos of the Service Clubs and organizations in Stayner, these signs proclaim that the Town of Friendly People welcomes you.

On the lampposts along Main St., royal blue banners with "Heritage 2000" in silver have hung since early spring along with the gold and black banners provided by Stayner Lions' Club. With various other seasonal decorations, our Main Street presents an inviting atmosphere.

In addition, several newly painted dark green trash disposal units make more improvement.

The newly refurbished commemorative fountain near Oak Street, (work donated thanks to the Kinsmen) now is appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

Extra gardens, and a special planting around the fountain, courtesy of the Stayner Horticultural Society, put the finishing touches on the beautification project undertaken in Stayner.

Much of these improvements have been made possible through a grant of \$5460. from the Ontario Government Millennium funding program.

We also were fortunate to receive help towards the advertising expenses of the July 8th Event - \$1620. from the Government, \$1000. from Clearview Council, and funds from some private sponsors, such as Barb's Clothes Closet and Abernant Veterinary Services. This funding made it possible for us to hire top-rate entertainment.

Thank you all.

A SPECIAL WORK OF ART

The "Signature Wall Hanging" is ready for the Centennial Quilters. Shirley Parton has created a work of art. There are nearly 300 signatures and/or family names surrounded artfully with coloured strips.

It will hang in a prominent place until the museum is ready!

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WELL, WE DID IT AGAIN!

The July 8th Millennium Celebration was a huge success.

For those of you who were able to attend, you know what we mean. For those other unfortunate souls, we want to tell you a bit about the day.

To begin, the weather, a big worry, was beautiful.

As the crew preparing for the Craft Fair in Station Park was making last minute adjustments, and the food concessions were being set up in Centennial Park, Jubilee Presbyterian Church was full to the seams with pancake breakfasters.

The parade made up of imaginative floats, antique vehicles (including a genuine Victorian carriage), the Shriners in mini cars, clowns, and music, coursed through town and past many of Stayner's Seniors' Residences. This extended route gave shut-ins a chance to enjoy some of the celebrations.

We should also mention the winners of the prizes for imaginative floats - The Gourmet Shop of Home Hardware was first, Stayner Chamber of Commerce, second, and Perry's Daycare third. Congratulations to all the participants.

In Centennial Park, the South Simcoe Concert Band and the "Rose Fearon Irish Dancers" pleased the large crowd. Scooter the Clown entertained the very young children. All could indulge in party fare - hot dogs, ice cream or pie. The "Pie-in-the-Park" Booth was prominent under a red canopy. The delicious pies were made by women of Stayner churches.

Station Park, meanwhile, was bustling and artisans at the Craft Fair found that the location on the busy Main Street was great for business .

At 1p.m., the pre-teens enjoyed a dance in the Royal Bank parking lot. Jonathan, the Clown, like the Pied Piper, lead a phalanx of fans to the dance, on his unicycle, while juggling!

The "Hill Block" was an ideal location for the Art Show, prepared by the students at Byng School. Costumed hostesses welcomed all visitors. Two excellent commemorative murals were painted on the walls of Byng by local artists to tell the story of Stayner and the School. These are permanent Millennium mementos and visitors are welcome to view them.

The beautiful double wedding ring queen size quilt went to its permanent home at 4:00 pm, won by Lynn Hogg of Stayner.

Other draw prize winners at the Millennium Event were: C. Lawrence of Stayner who received the oil lamp, courtesy of Home Hardware, and Eileen Scruton of Barrie who won the selection of Aarden's Chocolates, kindly donated by Monica and Mark.

The "Beer Tent", opening at 4 p.m., and operated by the Kinsmen, offered an entertaining several hours featuring "The Gulley Family" and several surprise participants.

A Hamburg and Salad supper made a fitting conclusion to this part of the day.

The SHS was very gratified to have such great co-operation from so many people in planning and executing this ambitious project.

We also thank the Community and many visitors and tourists who supported these efforts and enjoyed an unforgettable

day in Stayner.

A video of the event will be available, details to follow.
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A COPY OF THE VIDEO DESCRIBING THE MILLENNIUM - STAYNER EVENT, PLEASE TELL US BY MARCH 1ST, 2001 .

pic of july 8

WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE MOVING!

With each edition of the newsletter, several copies are returned to us as you, the recipient have moved and we didn't know about it!

Please inform us of any change in your address, if you wish to continue to receive the SHS semi-annual newsletter.

[The following story is another in an ongoing series featuring former Staynerites, gone but not forgotten!]

THE WATSON FAMILY

The "Watson" Family has roots extending far back into the history of Clearview Township - in fact, on old area maps, there is a place west of Clearview sideroad called "Watson Settlement"!

The patriarch of the families, Thomas Watson, came to Canada from the Orkney Islands. Together with his wife, Jane (from Holland), they had a son, Joseph, born 1820, who married Margaret Schell October 22, 1840. They moved to Clearview November 2, 1864.

Joseph and Margaret had 16 children; Joseph's second wife, Miss McTaggart bore him five more children and lived to be 100 years old. They moved to North Dakota from where they corresponded with Effie Spicher.

The 11th son of this large family, William, will be the subject of this story. Hopefully, at a later time, we will be able to profile other members of the Watson family.

William, (1845-1928) married Martha Grogan, 1846-1931. They farmed at Sunnidale Corners (the farm later owned by John Weel). He loved to hunt and fish, and spent time at Jack's Lake (or the Klondike). He had a log house and a small barn. They retired to Stayner, living on Scott Street and Weir Street. They had seven children. The family all farmed in Sunnidale on adjacent farms.

Interestingly, most of these seven stayed in Stayner! And more interesting, many of them lived on Weir Street.

Jane, (1871-1937) married William Cauthers and had one son, Clarence. He was the druggist at the IDA store (now Maw T's!), and with his wife, Bertha, and chosen daughter, Lorraine, lived above the store. Highly regarded as prominent citizens, they contributed much to Stayner, and were also well known for the Pickwick Inn at Wasaga. Following Clarence's untimely death, Bertha remarried Bill Cody and later retired to Wasaga with Lorraine.

Agnes (b.1872), married Angus Buie. Their son, Albert, a bachelor, was Principal of Jarvis Collegiate in Toronto. Bert maintained a home near Stayner - a lovely field stone house just east of town. He was known for his love for cats and housed many of them. One of the daughters, Mary Catherine, married Clarence Wood - and that's another Stayner story for the future. Sons John and Bob still reside in Stayner. Both Mary and Clarence (Pete) are recently deceased.

Benjamin, (1874-1920) a bachelor, made a name for himself in the fledgling automotive industry. He is reported to have brought the first automobile to Stayner - it was called the LeRoy and was steered by a handle. In 1913, he was a maker and agent for the "Overland" car.

Archie Watson, (1876-1945), married to Jennie McCague (1878-1942), lived initially on Weir Street and had a

hardware (now Home Hardware). Of the five offspring, two sons, Frank and George, remained in Stayner. Mary, Margaret and Fredrick were the other members of the family. Frank took over the hardware and operated it with his sons Doug and Peter. (Fred, and twins, Jane and Judy, are the rest of his and Pauline's family).

George, a dentist, with his wife, Edith, also lived for a time on Weir Street. Their family were Marny and Bobbie.

While Archie was building the new house at 311 Main St. E. in 1941, he and Jennie boarded with Hattie and Gov Plowright, (at that time on the north side of Main where later Clarence Martins' lived). Three other familiar names in Stayner - Jack Hughes, Jim Cauthers and Jack Thompson - built the house for him.

Annie Watson, (1882-1956), married James Cauthers and lived beside her sister, Jane and Will Cauthers (Jim's brother) on Weir Street. (It should have been called Watson Street!) They had a grocery store in Stayner.

Clinton and Marie, the Cauthers twins, were born in 1914. Clinton married Mary Partridge, whose sister, Cora, lives in Will's house now!! Confused yet? William, Lloyd and Norman were James and Annie's other children.

Marie's son, Bill, and daughter, Kathy, and Clint's family - Garry, Carolyn, and Connie still have close ties with Stayner. (Jackie died tragically several years ago).

John Watson (1885-1962) married Nellie Rogers (1884-1974). They farmed at Sunnidale Corners until Jack bought a car dealership in Stayner about 1925. They moved to - you guessed it? - Weir Street! Their two children, Roger and Irene, also remained close to Stayner - Roger throughout his life and Irene after retirement. Roger and Elsie also contributed greatly to the enrichment of Stayner and area - their two daughters, Bev and Laurel, continue to do so.

As do Irene and George McNabb's two sons, Robert and Wayne, who follow their careers partly in Stayner.

The final member of William Watson's family, Ella Victoria, (1892-1980) married John Hood (1885-1962) (another well-known Stayner name!) Two of their daughters, Adeline and Floreen, live in Stayner. Floreen raised her family of Robert, Glenn, John, Lynda, and Norman in Feversham. Adeline followed a teaching career before retiring to Stayner. Clara, the third daughter, is deceased.

Dear Reader, We know that you enjoy renewing acquaintance with familiar names from Stayner's past. We apologize to the great-grandchildren of William and Martha Watson because space does not allow us to tell your stories. But there is always another time!

Thanks to Adeline Verner, the Watson historian.

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT SIGN TO BE THE
4TH PAGE
WITH INSET OF STAYNER NOTES
CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS**
Pete: I have sized it all to 10 so there is room for a couple of pictures. Do you think this size is too small?

Hi Pete - Here's an addenda to the newsletter-

CAPTIONS FOR THE PICTURES

1. Catherine Walker and Denton Brownridge are happy with Millennium-Stayner on July 8, 2000.
2. The Gulley Family entertain in the Big Tent at Millennium-Stayner on July 8, 2000.
3. see Jim Wilson picture
4. The SHS Millennium Executive hard at work - l to r:
5. Martha and William Watson. William with his horse.

CHANGE TO THE WATSON STORY:

Thanks at the end should include Adeline **Verner**

Instead of the **line near the end "sister clara died - change to "Clara, the third daughter, is deceased."**

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

**D.A. Millsap, Peter Millsap, Andy amillsap,
Myrna Johnson**

Please make a box for this announncement:

Announcement re Millennium Video:

**If you would like to have a video of the celebration
on July 8th, please let us know by January 1st**