



STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Incorporated, 1998.

Fall, 2009.

13TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

by Jeff Parton

Since 1997, early in July, the Stayner Heritage Society has been greeted by almost perfect weather. This year was no exception, albeit a little cool for July but certainly no worries of heat prostration. Catherine Walker, usually acting as Master of Ceremonies was away in Switzerland and these duties were handed over to President Jeff Parton for an afternoon of top-rated entertainment. The entertainment again was superb and kudos go out to Catherine for organizing another wonderful show.

The day started off with the traditional pancake breakfast put on by the Jubilee Presbyterian Choir, followed by the parade organized by super volunteer Manfred Leimgardt. At the Gazebo once again the Binn Gorm Highlanders and the South Simcoe Concert Band set the tone for the show. The high quality was continued with the "exhortation" by Town Crier Roy Wilson and his wife Kay followed by greetings from Mayor Ken Ferguson, Mike Gennings (Chair of Stayner Chamber of Commerce), Stayner Heritage Society chair Jeff Parton, and last but not least Lion's club representative Robert Walker.

After the opening ceremonies the South Simcoe Concert Band continued on with some more tunes from the Big Band era. Following that a series of performers featuring John Haines & Jim Robichaud, Matthew Lawrence, Waverley Rice and rounding out the afternoon entertainment was the popular Double Toe Cloggers. One reason the show is so well received each year, is the Sound System, operated by Gren Bray and his helpers. During intervals Gren supplied us with all genres of melodious tunes.

The sponsors who made the entertainment possible were: Reinhart Foods, Wheeler/Spriggs Insurance, Stayner Legion, Branch #457, Stayner Chamber of Commerce, and Helen Hanna.

Throughout the Park and Gazebo area there was lots of activity. Shirlye Millsap, June Holroyd, and the ladies

of various Stayner Churches sold their homemade pies from their stand; Murray Lowe, Goldie Hendry and their helpers entertained the crowd while they sold hotdogs and drinks; and Jamie Thurman & children plus Julie Main ran the popcorn and candy floss stand. Thanks to the dedicated core group who annually operate the Heritage Booth, entrance gates etc.

Throughout the park, the children found several activities to do. Jamie Thurman and her daughters, Katrina and Ashley looked after Pat's Playland for the small children. The Colouring Contest was operated by Jill Ruppert, Andy Millsap, and Dayn Leyshon. The picture this year was "The Gartlan Building" drawn by Anson Finlay. Also, Darci-Que, Emily and Molly, the dog, entertained the children with balloon animals, face, and button painting. As well, Martha Auclair looked after the kid's bike decorating in the Parade.

New this year was Stayner's FUD Restaurant running a Silent Auction and many local businesses and individuals contributed prizes towards this. A huge thanks goes out to Regan Gorman and FUD for organizing this terrific fund raiser.

Carol Cooksey won the 50-50 draw worth \$240. that was conducted by Mike & April Gennings.

The SHS thanks all those named above and many more, not named, who volunteered to help make this day such a success. Clearview Firefighters helped set up and take down, an invaluable service.

It was truly a wonderful day in the Friendly Town of Dingwall, I mean Stayner.

May God rest Bobby Oliver.

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ANOTHER LEGEND IN OUR TOWN

When the Bell Tower was demolished several years ago, the Bell was saved, fortunately. Anyone who grew up in Stayner in the 30's, 40's and early 50's, had his/her life governed by the Bell. It rang at 12 noon to remind everyone that it was time for lunch. At 1:00, it signalled the return to work or school. Then, at 6:00, the bell told us it was time for dinner. For a time it rang again at 9:00 in the evening as a curfew to remind the youth that they should be home. Constable



Hy Oliver was bell ringer for many years.

When a fire occurred, the bell rang in several rapid dongs to summon the firefighters and chief Clarence Martin.

During Heritage Day, 2009, the Bell was the star attraction. Manfred Leimgardt took on the task of having the bell refurbished and a cart built so it could ride in the parade. Many enjoyed ringing it to once again hear those pure tones.

Now, plans are being made to have the bell prominently housed in a display area at the front of the new multiple Fire-Police-Ambulance building which will be situated East of Stayner on Highway 26.

Stayner Heritage Society has been asked to take part in these plans.

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY GOES TO THE FAIR by Barb Stransky

On Saturday September 26th and Sunday September 27th, Stayner Heritage Society was set-up at the Great Northern Exhibition. We had a great spot just inside the door and many folks passed our way. Our new flag donned the display and we had a number of items for sale including the 'Stayner Heritage Society calendar for 2010' which depicts Stayner scenes from the 1930's.

We had the opportunity to reminisce with new folks to the area as well as old timers.

The DVD of 'Memories of Stayner' which is footage of the bustling town in 1948 was also for sale and is a popular item.

The Heritage members who prepared and manned the booth for both days enjoyed this time of sharing memories of our town.

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

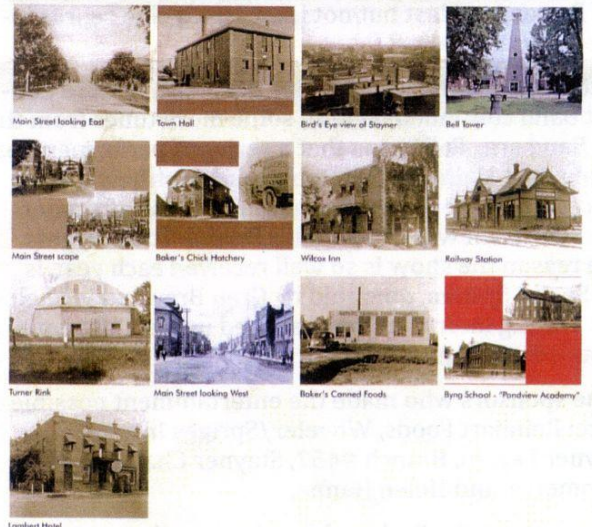
As you are able, we urge you to check out the Stayner Heritage Society website, staynerheritagesociety.com. This site is constantly updated and contains many valuable pieces of information, including news about the Society, a list of our merchandise for sale, including our Heritage Calendar for 2010.

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY 2010 CALENDAR

You can order the calendar, depicting scenes in Stayner during the 30's approximately, by sending your cheque to:

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
Box 290, Stayner, ON, L0M 1S0.

The price is \$20.00 + \$2.00 s&h.
Special to MEMBERS, \$15.00 + \$2.00 s&h
The calendar makes a great Christmas gift!



Each newsletter contains a story of a person or family important to Stayner's history

NAOMI LOWE, A Stayner Legend

Ode to Stayner's 'Main Street Expert' - Naomi Lowe celebrates 100 years

By Sharon Weatherall

There's a living archive in the Town of Stayner who not only store records and newspaper clippings neatly in her apartment but also keeps very vivid and accurate memories filed in the drawers of her amazing mind. Those who know her would have to agree there are few events or happenings that have taken place in the town during the past century that Naomi Lowe does not know about - if any were missed then she must have been out of town (or napping) when they happened. In fact her extensive book of knowledge extends far past the community and into the world.

Born in Barrie on August 1909, Naomi Ruth Glenn has lived through and witnessed events in the past 100 years that most people would not have even have read in books including two world wars and other wars of the 20th century, the Great Depression, the new Millennium, the beginning of air flight in Canada and the first man on the moon to name a few.

The respected and much loved matriarch of the Lowe Family celebrated her 100th birthday at the Stayner Community Centre on Saturday - the hall was filled to capacity and decorated with memorabilia of the past including Naomi's own mother's wedding dress.

"She has seen more changes over the years than most people see in a lifetime," said Monica Lowe Menecola one of Naomi's 23 grandchildren.

The day began with a social time in which guests lined up to extend best wishes to the centurion on her exciting milestone. In return Naomi shared hugs, kisses and excited greetings to those she knew or hadn't seen in some time. Referred to over the years as a nanny, guardian angel, nursemaid, marriage counsellor, doctor of ailments, loving mother, grandmother and great-great-grand-granny, the centurion has filled many roles in her life time. A photo story accompanied by Kenny Ches-



ney's song 'Don't Blink' was shared with guests highlighting Naomi's life and the fact that time goes faster than you think. Sitting front centre, she watched quietly smiling softly as the years of her life rolled by in a moving visual presentation.

Naomi was born to Fred and Everalda Glenn - a little sister to Alec, Leon, Mary-Ann, Louis, and Della and big sister to Geoff, Winnie and Harry - who was in the audience having travelled to Stayner for the occasion from Edmonton with his wife Florence.

"At the young age of 13 Naomi's father was killed in a workplace accident leaving a young wife to raise the family. Each of the children worked hard to pull their weight and help support each other. Working at many different jobs, Naomi was approached to work as a nanny for a young butcher - Arthur Lowe, who had just lost his wife after childbirth," said Menecola emceeding the formal portion of the day.

"Arthur had four children - Ken (deceased), Helen, Tom (deceased) and baby Don (deceased). Naomi was the nanny for many years until she fell in love with Arthur and married him and together they had Dalton. Arthur died in 1969 and Gramma has been on her own for 40 years. She is very independent and self-sufficient. To be 100 and still live on your own and still have great health and a great mind is awesome."

Naomi's grand daughter Myrna Lowe Whitley read a letter from Lisa Gibson a former Stayner resident whose life had been greatly touched by Naomi. She referred to her "live guardian angel" as "The Main Street Expert" who knew everything about the town from keeping track of things from an apartment window up above the stores. In her letter Gibson referred to Naomi as a char-

acter in time in ever sense of the word saying "it takes a special kind of person to live in this world 100 years".

MPP Jim Wilson commended the spunky, quick-witted 100 year old for her commitment to the community and the difference she has made to the lives of so many people over the years.

"You are well loved Naomi and get better press than I do," joked MPP Wilson.

Following the formal presentations a member from each family branch (which includes 23 Grandchildren, 45 Great Grandchildren and 24 great-great-grandchildren and three great-great-great grandchildren) extended heart felt birthday greetings. Bill Lowe, Barb Smith Cummings, Christine Lowe Bintakies, Murray Lowe and Myrna Lowe Whitley shared emotional stories and memories about Naomi. During the speeches many references were made to her sharp mind and ability to stay on top of even the smallest of things taking place within the family and the community.

Barb Smith Cummings drew a chuckle from the audience when she said 'Nonie' always has an opinion about everything and was never one to mince words. Smith Cummings mentioned her grandmother's 'famed' medical book which carries remedies gained through experience over the years. Apparently one has only to call and ask the Nonie the question and off she'll go to check the book calling back a few minutes later with the treatment. Coming from someone that's lived one hundred years those remedies would definitely be tried and true.

"She was the very first 'Queen of Recycling' always doing a better job than some of us do today," said Smith Cummings explaining the buttons, zippers and rags Nonie cut from old clothing and her basement full of furniture and drapes.

Grandson Murray Lowe said his grandmother was always there to step in for emergencies and for anyone when help is required.

"I stand in awe of her acute awareness when asking anything of history," said Lowe.

Myrna Lowe Whitely said during her grandmother's long 3651 day journey she had learned to be 'in the know' about everything in life including sports and politics, through perfecting the art of asking questions - even to the point of asking if you were wearing your long underwear if there happened to be a chill in the air.

Petal Pushers of Stayner provided 100 pink roses in honour of Naomi Lowe's 100th birthday and musician Waverley Rice provided entertainment and played 'Happy Birthday'. There were refreshment, food and lots of cake. Dalton Lowe - Naomi's son provided tours around town in his antique car.

From the stage Monica Menecola wished all those who attended a "big thank-you" for coming and making Naomi's big day a special one as the birthday girl - who in her well known fashion, preferred instead to experience small one-on-one visits with each and every person in the room and took her time doing so.

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