



# STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

[www.staynerheritagesociety.com](http://www.staynerheritagesociety.com)

Incorporated, 1998.

Fall, 2015.

### 18th ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

There was a change in the concept of Heritage Day this year. Was the day a success? Some of the members and Clearview Township's Recreation Director thought that holding the day on July 1st, instead of the usual Saturday after the holiday would be beneficial. Because the weather was not good, some of the planned activities were curtailed. The Pancake Breakfast served by the Scouts went well. The Heritage Ride, with Dalt Lowe and Robert Walker as hosts were very popular, as was the steam engine and corn on the cob operated by Manfred Leimgardt.

Other activities planned in the Park were well attended and appreciated, especially the Concert, arranged by Susan Brockwell and Catherine Walker. Featured were the "Georgian Sound Band", the "Jason Redmond Band" and the Dance Room.

The Silent Auction went well, as usual, as did the food concessions.

Jane Coutts reported that: "The parade was a great success! I was so excited to see so many little faces show up for the parade. We had about 21 show up at the beginning of the parade and lots joined on along the parade route. Those are the kids whose names I didn't get and at the end because of the weather and confusion, they all disappeared quickly so I didn't get their names. That actually worked out because I only got twenty DQ coupons so wouldn't have had enough. Anyway, I think combining the two celebrations was worthwhile parade wise. Too bad the weather was not warmer!

Some features of the afternoon included the Colouring Contest whose winners were:

5 and under girl - Maddox Brownridge; boy - George Gennings

6-8 girl - Kendra Curl; boy - Corbin?

9 and over girl - Olivia Walker; boy - Evin Bouchard.

Other prizes include: The oldest attendant - Ina Evans; 50-50 winner - Andy Millsap.

The SHS will decide if we should return to our customary day for the 19th Annual!

### SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT HAS HAPPENED IN STAYNER!

Something significant has happened in Stayner. Clearview Township (where Stayner is situated) purchased the Co-Op building, beside the railroad tracks, a year ago. After renovations, the site was ready for the use of the township.

In the newer section at the North end, the township decided

that the space could be shared by 3 organizations: an Ontario Tourist Information centre serving the Georgian Triangle Area, Stayner Chamber of Commerce, and Stayner Heritage Society. The rest of the

large building was made available for many organizations, including SHS, for storage. This is beneficial to us as, for the past 20 or so years, we have had the items donated and collected stored in many places, and were paying rent for a portion of those items.

Now, situated in the centre of town, we have a small space for a permanent display of some treasures, and a site where we can show the articles we have for sale. Some of the interesting merchandise has been

made by a local artisan, Al Matchett, from the tin shingles saved from the landmark Bell Tower which was demolished in the early 90's. Items such as tables, window boxes, urns, birds and trees have been of interest to shoppers.

Stayner Heritage Society appreciates the opportunity to be visible to all and to be able to live up to our motto: "A Future for Stayner's Past".



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### SHS ANNUAL BURSARY WINNER AT SCI

The winner of the 2014-15 \$1000 bursary, given by SHS to a graduating student planning further education in a history-related area, is Amanda May Ellen Dickson. She is studying at Nipissing University.

Congratulations, Amanda!

### NEWS ABOUT THE WEBSITE

Mike Scholte has been refining our website. Now, you can find a new section labelled "Fireside Chats". Here, you will hear interviews with present and former Staynerites.

If you wish to be interviewed for this site or know of someone who should be included, please let us know.

Remember, also, to check the Website to find out about Coming Events.

### THE SIXTH ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE EVENT

Stayner Heritage Society will present the sixth Remembrance Day event On November 7, at Jubilee Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$5, available from members of SHS or at Barb's Clothes Closet on Main St.

At 9:15, a Continental Breakfast will be served.

Following the opening ceremonies, guest speaker, Ted Lee will tell of his experiences. June Flynn and guests will provide special music and Tom Scholte will show, from his collection of Roger Watson photos, a new DVD. Mike Scholte will show his newest entry into the website, a collection of photos of "Local Canadians who have served our Country".

### BLACK HISTORY EVENT

In February, we are planning to hold our annual Black History evening. Date and time will be announced. At each of the previous events, the speaker has been outstanding and often has had a book to sell for those interested.

### EXCITING COMING EVENT

Back by popular demand, the "Blazing Fiddles" are returning to Stayner on April 29, 2016. The event will be held at the same place, Clearview Community Church, at 8:00, tickets \$25. Please mark your calendars as you do not want to miss this exciting dynamic group. We know it will sell out quickly. Tickets will be ready in January. Watch for details.

### MEMBERSHIP IN SHS

Over the years, members have come and gone. Because of the cost of postage, we have been culling the list.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PAST 5 YEARS, YOU WILL NOT BE ON OUR SPRING MAILING LIST.

However, if you wish to renew your membership, please return the enclosed form as soon as possible.

Great things happening with Stayner Heritage. Now that we have our new premises, anyone can visit the site during open hours. See what your faithful commitment has helped to do.

### MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The following items make excellent gifts. Samples can be seen at the Heritage Centre in the former Co-Op Building during open hours.

**Stayner Notes** - \$10 + \$3 shipping we have 3 different sets. The latest set features 4 original drawings of Heritage Buildings on Main St. by Anson Finlay. They are packaged with an SHS pen, suitable for gift-giving.

**Postcards** - including a drawing of the Co-Op Buildings by John Hindle, photo of Bell Tower, Gazebo, Fountain, etc., \$2.

**Prints** - 4x6 of various Stayner landmarks. suitable for framing. The Fountain Park, The Gazebo, and the Hindle drawing of the Co-Op building. The prints are \$3.

**Christmas Ornaments** - Hand-crafted, wooden, depicting Railroad Station, Bell Tower and Town Hall - \$5. Must be picked up as shipping cost is \$6!

### DVD's

"Memories of Our Town" (Bill Ives and D.A. Millsap narrators of the Roger Watson film taken in 1948)

"The 125th Anniversary of Stayner in 1997"

(narrated by Brian Pounder, video by Maryanne Buie)

"Stayner's Millennium Day, 2000" (narrated by D.A. Millsap, video by Maryanne Buie and Gren Bray).

"Stayner Granite Club - A Celebration of 50 Years" - b Tom Scholte

\*NEW\* "The 18th Annual Heritage Day, July 1, 2015" by Tom Scholte

"Fireside chat with Dr. Bill Ives and others, at Blue Mountain Manor, spring 2015", by Tom Scholte.

If you wish to order one or more of these unique recordings of special events, send \$15 + \$2 for shipping.

**Baseball caps** - 4 colours (red, navy, green, black) \$15.

**BELL TOWER SHINGLE ITEMS FOR SALE** - Replicas of the Tower, Urns, Window Boxes, trees, birds, butterflies, golfers - large variety of items. If you are interested in having a Bell Tower item for yourself or for a gift, please contact Ferne Allen - (705)428 2137 for prices.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Myrna Johnson

Peter Millsap



Another in our ongoing collection of stories of Stayner people.

## JOHN WOOD

"It's hard to recall all the changes that have been made to this town over the years, and to think; that I've really seen a lot of them happen."

John Alexander Wood was born in Stayner on August 12th 1928, the first of two sons born to Clarence (Pete) and Mary Wood (nee Buie).

John was born at the home of his Grandmother Buie at 208 Weir Street in Stayner where his parents were living at the time. The mid-wife, "Grandma Gibson" had only to walk down from 218 Weir Street to assist. Brother Robert joined the family in 1931 and the boys have remained close friends and co-workers throughout their lives.

John's father Clarence had moved to the Stayner area with his family in 1918 when he was 17 from Parry Sound. Clarence Wood started a bakery in Stayner after he married, which he owned from 1927 to 1935. It was operated from the rear portion of the building that fronted onto 7281 Hwy #26. When the opportunity to sell the bakery to Ernie Rye presented itself, Clarence sold but the appeal of operating his own business again, influenced Clarence to open another bakery in Stayner in partnership with his brother Errol (Earl).



They worked out of a building that fronted onto 318 Main St (7200 Hwy #26) and the lot extended back onto Weir Street. Access

to the bakeshop was from Weir Street, as the rear of the property was used for the bakery. The brothers Clarence and Errol each had half of the front of the house for their families to live in. The property was situated right beside the old United Church manse (7204 Hwy #26). The bakery didn't really have a retail area, as all the product was generally delivered, but the smell of the bread baking would encourage "old Rev. Graham" the minister to stop over for a visit with the bakers in the morning and to pick up a fresh loaf.

A new location for the Wood Bakery was selected in the 1940's when it moved to the vacated tomato canning factory at 236 Huron Street, previously operated by Russ Baker, Catherine Walker's father. The new location was conveniently located near the railway station and the Stayner station became a favourite stop for the train crew as they slipped over to the bakery when they were "oiling" the wheels.

In 1942 John was 14 and working at the bakery along side the other men. They were all listening to the radio. "I will never forget the still silence in that room when the radio announced we were at war. The moment that WWII was announced. I will never forget it."

At 15, John got a part time job driving the milk truck for Besse's dairy as well as helping out at the bakery. During the war years, customers had to have the right amount of coupons to buy the butter and "by golly, those coupons had to tally up right" at delivery each day.

"I spent a summer working out at Edenvale Airport." (second relief field location for Base Borden and the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan BCATP) "Worked in the mess hall washing dishes. I guess I was 17, I was still in high school." "Bob was helping Dad at the bakery that summer and doing deliveries, while I was helping with the war effort. So much training was happening at that time at Edenvale.

John helped Dr. Hanna now and then in his final year of high school, grade 12. The local veterinary would call John when he needed a hand during the war, because so many men were away.

"Soon after this, in 1947 my father sold his share of the bakery to his brother Errol (Earl) and purchased O.W. Stiver's lumber mill. He formed a company with my brother Bob and myself."

In 1947 the 19 year old John Wood along with his 16 year old brother Bob, still finishing high school, worked side by side with their father to make a success of *Clarence Wood and Sons Ltd.* (7446 County Rd #91) The local sawmill was purchased at a time when the industry was just coming out from under the WWII rationing and lumber control regulations"

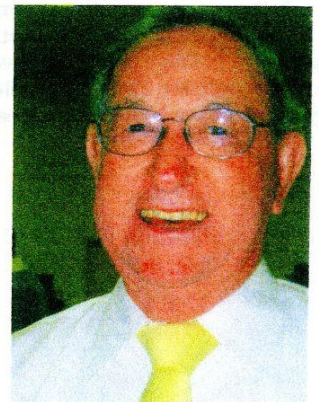
Using the expertise of the local lumbermen in the Parry Sound area, we accessed the lumber we needed. A stationary sawmill had been set up on the dock, so the logs were sawed into rough lumber right on the dock, moved and loaded onto train cars and sent by rail into Stayner. McGarvey was the man who was hired to cut the lumber, O.W. Stiver, was entrusted with the responsibilities as the foreman. "It was a huge operation for all of us. Over 20 carloads of lumber were delivered to Stayner, loaded onto trucks and transported to the Wood Mill. Every board loaded and unloaded by hand, but we had lumber to sell!"

Over the years the Wood Mill supplied lumber for the original Stayner Community Centre, the Stayner Curling Rink, the Masonic Hall, the original Stayner Fire Hall, PUC building and the Wasaga Beach Community Centre, as well as too many homes in the Wasaga Beach and Stayner area to count. Bob commented to the *Stayner Sun* in 1996 that "all the lumber we supplied, amounted to a whole town."

The mill didn't just sell lumber, it also manufactured the windows, door, staircases and steps. Custom ordered, custom made. I have to say, we (Bob and John) got to be pretty good with a square, a plum line and the Pythagorean theorem." We had real good help with Charlie Curran and Bert Stiver at the mill. Those guys could cut wood taking fractions from their square. We were lucky to have them."

John's education and experiences at Byng Continuation School, (239 William Street) which taught grades 1 through to 13 seemed to develop his leadership skills and prepared him for working in the family business.

"W.J. Wright was the principal and he was someone you didn't want to get on the wrong side of," reminisces Bob. "He was ex-military, a big man. He wore shoes that had metal heel and toe plates and when you heard his





step coming down the hall, it got your attention. More than once you would come out of class and see some senior boys doing push-ups in the hall as W.J. loomed over them”.

Following in their father's footsteps, John and Bob weren't very old before they was lacing up the skates. “A game of shinny any place we could find some ice.”

John's father, Clarence Wood had been recruited to play for Galt Intermediate Hockey as a young man and now his son John had to make a tough decision when Hap Emms, from the “Barrie Flyers” wanted him to play Barrie Jr A hockey; they were sponsored by the Boston Bruins. The Barrie Flyers would be the Barrie Colts today. He didn't go that route.

John's love of the sport lead to playing school football and baseball and decades of hockey games, both playing and coaching.

Even with his very busy life, John found the time to marry his high school sweetheart, Joan Noble, by then an elementary school teacher. They were married at the Stayner Baptist Church on April 8, 1950 and celebrated with a reception at the Wilcox Hotel (now the Wilcox Place Apartments, 244 Main St E). Their social life together included many friends and family. They were both active in their perspective Lodges. John had followed his father's example and became a member of the Masonic Lodge in 1950. The young Wood couple were both avid curlers, enjoyed the family cottage at Wasaga Beach and were participants in the community at Jubilee Presbyterian Church where John sang in the choir and Joan was always the appreciative audience.

During their early married years, John also volunteered for the Stayner fire department taking many a fire call at his house, when it was his turn to “keep the phone”. John also lead the local Boy Scout group, 1st Stayner Scouts and took part in the 8th World Jamboree in 1955 which was held at Niagara on the Lake.

John and Bob became the Wood Bros. just before the mill sold in 1972 and Clarence Wood & Sons Limited was dissolved. They continued this partnership for 16 years when they would combine their 25 years plus of carpentry experience and carry on as Wood Bros. Construction Company. The company lasted until the men decided that they should maybe think of retiring in 1995. Many of the homes in Stayner and the surrounding area were constructed by the Wood Bros.

Over the years, John took every opportunity made available to him to pilot and fly.

They welcomed their 7 1/2 year old son, Gregory Alexander, into their family in 1972.

John's greatest enjoyment is reminiscing about the many people he has had the privilege to meet, share time with and, most importantly, to laugh with. That's what Stayner's history is made up of. Just ordinary everyday people, living ordinary lives, I am very lucky, I have known some great people!”

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2015-2016

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