

# TWO BIG EVENTS IN STAYNER THIS SUMMER

## STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SPRING, 2007 11th ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

It seems incredible that this is the 11th summer that Stayner Heritage Society has produced a day of entertainment and fun in Stayner.

The first celebration was held to honour the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of Stayner and was held at Centennial Park. The "Georgian Sound" provided entertainment joined by a special Heritage Choir". Brian Pounder interviewed familiar faces in the audience, many of whom are no longer with us.

Subsequently, a video was produced commemorating this wonderful day. Presently, we are arranging to have the material transferred to CD format.

Now, in 2007, we are planning the 11th Annual Heritage Day.

Following the popular pancake breakfast at Jubilee Pres. Church, and the parade along Main St., Catherine Walker is arranging a great program.

The Beinn Gorm Highlanders will start the program with their usual swirl. The internationally known, "Country Clem", will entertain interspersed with the band "Country Memories". You will enjoy hearing again some of the winners of the Clearview Idols Singing Contest of the past two years.

There will be lots for the kids to do, food for lunch and a chance to meet friends and enjoy the park.

Each year, we endeavour to have something different in the program. "Country Clem", although an experienced entertainer, is new to Stayner. In addition to portraying several comic characters in his stand-up presentation, he plays guitar and piano to accompany his songs. He has played to audiences throughout the U. S. and Canada. He gives a gift of "good clean fun".

Although Stayner Heritage Society has never charged admission for Heritage Day events, and despite the generous sponsors who support us each year, we still have expenses, such as rental of equipment, mileage charges, etc. Thus, again this year, you will see members at the various gates to the park collecting a donation from those entering. This collection enables us to continue to provide a top-rate day of fun for all

## BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

Stayner Heritage Society again recognized Black History month on February 21st with a remembrance of the Underground Railway, used by the escaping black slaves.

Carolynn and Sylvia Wilson of Collingwood showed artifacts, including chains and neck collars, which were used on the slaves in the 1700-1800's in the U. S. They traced the routes through which the runaway slaves escaped to "Canaan", meaning Canada. Carolynn sang many of the spirituals which those seeking liberation sang to encourage them on their journey.

Special guest, Shirley Hartley, showed her prized quilt of a map of the eastern U. S. with many of the escape routes marked with red thread. Along the sides of the quilt were stitched the common symbols used by the Quakers, especially, to aid those fleeing. These helping families along the route would hang quilts on the fence or in a window as a guide. A "log cabin" symbol would mean a safe haven existed there, an anvil would mean a blacksmith was nearby who could help..

The many who attended this event were privileged to see this priceless work of art.

## ANOTHER BIG BAND EVENT IN STAYNER IN AUGUST

Once again Stayner Heritage Society has booked the Toronto All-Star Big Band for August 18th in Stayner Arena. Mark your calendars. This band puts on a show. Even if you do not wish to dance, you will have an exceptional evening. The young musicians play many of the favourite dance numbers from the 30's and 40's, and they even provide a demonstration of "swing dancing", a fad that has come back in Toronto and elsewhere. Watch for more details.

And once again, we are pleased to announce that Hanna Motors is sponsoring the band!

## SCI BURSARY

As a part of our mandate to "make a difference" in the community, Stayner Heritage Society is sponsoring an annual history bursary at Stayner Collegiate.

## BECOMING A MEMBER

Perhaps you have been receiving this newsletter twice a year for several years, at no cost, but are not a member. Please consider becoming a member this year and helping us to preserve the history of Stayner and area.

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## THE GARTLAN STORY

*Dedicated to Elizabeth Gartlan Follis who died March 8, 2007, in her 90th year.*

*By Paul Gartlan  
Great Grandson of Michael Gartlan Sr.*

The Potato Famine was devastating for many families in Ireland -- the poor and the wealthy, The Gartlans, who ran a very successful brewery in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, were no exception.

Fortune gained. Fortune lost.

The migration to Canada was unsettled -- initially to Wellington Square (now Burlington), to Nottawasaga Township, The Batteaux and to Nottawasaga Station, now modern-day Stayner.

Michael Sr's Father, James, Michael, found pioneer life very objectionable after settling his family near Collingwood, trying to eke out a living on barren land. He was apparently lured by the \$1,000 offered to Canadians to join the American Civil War. He left the family of five children and Michael was his mother's helper from age 16.

Michael (1846-1924) was an enterprising lad in his teens. Loading merchandise on the Collingwood docks (the so-called new Chicago of the North), he caught the eye of Thomas Long, an Irish migrant, who gave him an apprenticeship in retailing at T. Long and Bro. in Collingwood.

In 1867, Michael, age 21, was sent to manage the Nottawasaga Station log store on the north side of Main Street which sold lumber, grocery, candy and dry goods. At some point the Longs rebuilt on Main Street.

Michael married Elizabeth Hall from Niagara on the Lake in 1880. Their children were: D'Arcy, Roger, Nan, Bess, Mollie and with second wife, Margaret Tobin Edward.

Michael later bought into the business to be called Long Bros. and Gartlan. Then came sole ownership and the name M. Gartlan and Co. Ltd., known thereafter as the Gartlan block.

Bess, in her memoirs, remembers life as a young girl living in the spacious quarters above the store before the turn of the century. She also states that, "During early childhood, I have no memory of my father (Michael). He was busy day and night in the store, managing, Keeping books, and later trying to

make the business pay him so that he might pay off the good friends (Longs) who sold it to him."

The business grew rapidly from a general store to Include Gartlan Grain and Seed Co. next to the CN rail.

They were the community's two largest businesses. Sons Roger, D'Arcy and Edward became part of the business and took over after their father died in 1924.

The mill thrived. Major customers were Habitant and Campbell soups. Gartlans was the largest supplier of split peas to the Caribbean.

Jim Mayne worked at the mill as a teenager, earning \$8 a week. His job was to get into a large suspended bag and pack sheeps wool with his feet. He recalls the 1922 Traffic Truck used to haul product. "It was chain-driven and had solid tires."

During the 30s, the Gartlan block was taken over by F. T. Hill. The mill carried on but Roger's health declined during The Second World War and he died in 1946. Sons Michael and Jerry,(who was then a teen), ran the company as Gartlan Brothers until 1950 when it was sold. Jerry Gartlan remembers working all night, loading boxcars with 500 bags of peas, stacked 10 high. Up to 500 acres in Perkinsfield, Elmvale, Minesing and Collingwood were contracted to grow peas. He recalls delivering the seed around Easter and picking up the crop in the fall. "The roads were bad. The pickups were difficult, especially at night when you had to find the entrances to the fields."

The Gartlan family was truly a pioneer and prominent family in Stayner.

(with files from Bev, Patti, Jerry, Chris, Betty, Jim, and Shawn Follis, The Stayner Sun and Simcoe County Archives)

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

May 30, 2007, Stayner Heritage Society will hold the AGM at Centennial United Church, 7:30pm. We are especially proud and pleased to have author Larry Cotton as our guest speaker. Larry's latest book, Whiskey and Wickedness, Vol. 4, includes in its coverage Stayner, Creemore, and New Lowell. The author specifically offers news snippets and stories about the hotels and taverns which thrived in these communities in the early years. Plan to attend for an entertaining evening.

A slate of officers will be presented at the AGM.

## ANNUAL TREE SALE

**Stayner Heritage Society  
is holding the annual tree sale  
Sat, May 5th  
in Railway Station Park  
from 8:00am until sold out.**

## VOLUNTEER WEEK

To recognize **Volunteer Week**, we are inviting all our volunteers to join us for lunch, following the tree sale. on May 5 at the Golden Apple.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2006-2007

Chairperson - Jeff Parton	428-3537
Past-Chair - Kevin Jerry	428-5459
Vice-Chair	
Secretary - Myrna Johnson	428-2540
Treasurer - Bob Charlton	428-6943
Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap	428-2917
Correspondence Sec - Edythe Philipps	428-2474
Membership - Barb Stransky	445-4468
Program - Catherine Walker	428-2719
Clearview Council Rep.- Robert Walker	428-3335
Chamber of Comm. Rep.- Rod Robinson	428-0343
Lions Club Rep - Pete Jerry	429-3269
Kinsmen Club Rep -	
Eastern Star Rep - Jane Forster	428-6119
Legion Rep - Mary Burkholder	428-3494
Horticultural Soc Rep.- Pam Townsend	428-2306
Masonic Order Rep. - John Hindle	428-2135
Clearview Theatre Rep. - Pam Townsend	
Community Reps - Shirley Parton(428-3902)	
Shirlie Millsap(428-2074)Ferne Allen(428-2137)	
Susan Brockwell(428-6062) Helen Hanna (428-5106)Lorne Stewary (428-2375)	
Judy Cox(428-2061)	
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster	
Technical Advisors - Jack Craig,	428-2323
Eric Harvey	
Auditor - Carol Marsden	428-3945
Directors - Lorne Stewart, Myrna Johnson, Bob Charlton, D. A. Millsap, Rod Robinson, Pete Jarry	

# TWO BIG EVENTS IN STAYNER THIS SUMMER

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY 11th  
ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY  
July 7, 2007**

**PARADE** - 11:00 from the works department through Main St. to the tracks.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** at Jubilee Pres. Church 7:30-10:30

**PROGRAM** - 12:00 beginning with the Beinn Gorm Highlanders swirl.

“**Country Clem**” and the band “**Country Memories**” will share the entertainment with some winners of the Clearview Idols of the past 2 years..

Brad Lebeck will have the horse and coach

**FOOD FAIR** - including “Pie in the Park”

**KIDZ ZONE** - with colouring, clowns and lots of fun.

**DRAWS & PRIZES** - 4:00

**STAYNER HERITAGE  
SOCIETY  
presents  
THE TORONTO ALL-STAR  
BIG BAND  
for a repeat performance  
in the  
STAYNER ARENA**

**August 18, 2007**

**TICKETS - \$25.00 or  
\$30.00 at the door**

**8:00 - 12:00  
entertainment, dancing  
and cash bar.**

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**ORDER FORM FOR TICKETS**

on the

**CATHERINE MARSHALL 1st EDITION PRINTS**

(Please cut & return with your cheque SHS Box 290,

Stayner On L0M 1S0 or call Myrna @428-2540)

**1/EAGLE in flight at Castle  
Mountain, Alta**

**2/ TUNDRA SNOWY OWL in flight**

valued at \$1500. each

**Tickets: \$5.00 or 3/\$10.00**

1st prize - Choice of one print

2nd prize - remaining print

**Draw to be made on  
Heritage Day, July 7, 2007.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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**TICKETS FOR BIG BAND DANCE**

(please cut and send with your cheque to SHS Box 290, Stayner On L0M 1S0 or call Myrna @428-2540)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

# OF TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_