



# STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring, 2010.

## 14TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

*Mark your calendars for July 3rd, the date of the 14th Annual Heritage Day.*

Catherine Walker has been planning another wonderful show for us. We will have a special treat for all ages!

The headline act will be the "Stylamanders", a fabulous musical duo.

**Mark Kersey** is the keyboard player and a yo/yo National champion - winning his first nationals at age 11. He also performed on "Mr. Dressup" for 10 years.

**Paul Gibson** plays guitar and writes most of the songs they perform. He's also an actor who has performed everything from Shakespeare to Dudley the Dragon.

To complete the show, the "Double-Toe Cloggers" make a return visit.

The day begins, as usual, with the **Pancake Breakfast** at Jubilee, 7:00 am to 10:00 am followed by the **parade**.

We are encouraging all the young folk to be a part of the parade in the second annual kid's division - decorating bikes, pets, scooters, etc. Prizes will be awarded.

In addition, we have the usual treats - the **Beinn Gorm Highlanders Pipe Band** and the "Classic Country Memories" Band.

There will be a **Silent Auction, Food Fair**, including popcorn and cotton candy, and fun for the young folk.

Plan for a family reunion on July 3rd!

## HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

Have you visited the Stayner Heritage Society website [www.staynerheritagesociety.com](http://www.staynerheritagesociety.com)?

This site contains many valuable pieces of information, including the history of the Society, a list of our merchandise for sale, historical data and, the beginnings of a "virtual museum". Here the reader will be able to see some of the items we have stored until the proper facility can be found.

Creating this "virtual museum" is a time-consuming task and being done by Bob Charlton. (Thanks, Bob!) Presently, many details already appear on the website and so far, there have been many "hits" and several attempts to contact us.

Every newsletter, containing many stories of Stayner's past can be found on the website.

## STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY HISTORY BURSARY WINNER

For the year 2009, the winner of \$1000 History bursary, given each year by the Stayner Heritage Society to a student at SCI, was Christopher Greer. He plans to continue his education in a history-related field. This year's winner will be chosen after this school year ends.

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## SHOWCASE EVENT CLEARVIEW TOWNSHIP

Stayner Heritage Society was invited to be part of Clearview Township's **Health & Leisure Showcase Event**, February 27, 2010. This event allows folks to experience what Clearview has to offer.

We were happy to be part of this happening and enjoyed speaking with some of the many people who attended.

The display included among other things, our scrapbooks, our new flag, a curio cabinet displaying some treasures from days gone by, and a book of hand-drawn maps of Stayner and Wasaga Beach, done on linen-backed paper circa 1919. This was a great opportunity to visit and remember with local folks some of the wonderful heritage that belongs to our town.

Our "Memories of Stayner" video, filmed by Roger Watson in 1948, has been made into a DVD. We got to revisit this treasure on a laptop. If you haven't seen this, or if you haven't viewed your copy for a while, give it a try. What wonderful memories!

## ANNUAL TREE SALE

SHS will hold the Annual Tree Sale on May 8th, in Station Park from 8:00 am until sold out. There will be several species of trees and shrubs with reasonable prices.

The trees are supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. Sales occur in many communities on the same day.

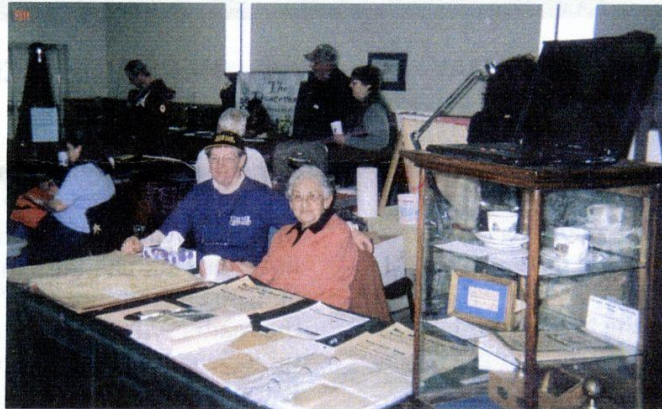
## VOLUNTEER WEEK

To recognize Volunteer Week, we are inviting all our volunteers to join us for lunch, location TBA, following the tree sale on May 8th.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Wednesday, May 26, 2009, Stayner Heritage Society will hold the AGM starting at 7:30 pm at Centennial United Church.

A slate of officers for the year 2010-2011 will be presented. The program will feature Norm Besse who will relate stories about the Besse family and the famous and sadly missed Besse's Dairy. Entertainment and refreshments to follow. All are welcome, member or not.



*June Holroyd and Ferne Allen enjoy answering your questions at the Showcase Event.*

## 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 lower our postal costs, while preserving the history of Stayner and area. Just receiving the Heritage Newsletter twice a year, and being up-to-date on the happenings in your home town, is worth the price!!

## HERITAGE SOCIETY CALENDAR, 2010

The project to create and sell a Heritage 2010 Calendar was a huge success. Ferne had to order more copies several times and she even had to sell her own! The scenes of Stayner, mostly in the 30's, proved to be very popular.

Thanks, Ferne, for an excellent effort!

*(The following is another in our ongoing series of stories of former families of Stayner)*

## The Bessees of Stayner

*by Norm Besse*

Reuben Besse moved to Stayner, the Town of Friendly people in January 1926 with his wife Mary, and their family of Howard, Joe, Helen & Jim.

Reuben Besse purchased a Creamery from the Campbell family; the building he purchased is still at the same location on Main Street today. The Campbell's had purchased this building which had been a movie theatre, and started a creamery. Reuben rebuilt the building, and added the dairy in 1935. The dairy was equipped



*The evolution of milk delivery.*



with the latest new technology, which included the pasteurizing of milk, the first such plant in Simcoe County.

The Reuben Bessees lived in two houses on John Street, and then moved to the big house with the turret on Sunnidale Street. Joe built a tennis court on this property.



*Reuben Besse's home on Sunnidale St.*

Reuben & Mary later moved to Main Street in the home that later was occupied by the Brownridge family. Helen Besse who was a teacher in Lorne Park, Ontario lived with her parents when in Stayner.

The Howard Bessees lived in a large red brick house on John Street. This house had formally been a Hospital, and Norman Besse was born here.

Howard married Laura and they had 5 children, Douglas, Donald, Mary Helen, Bob & Joan. The Howard Bessees moved to Orangeville in 1947.

Jim Besse married a Collingwood girl Dory Nicholson; her brother Ken was a reporter for the Stayner Sun for many years. Jim & Dory had two children Marion & Paul. Jim & Dory purchased their home at the corner of Cherry Street & Sunnidale Road from Joe & Annie when they moved to their home at 395 Main Street East. Jim & his family moved to Seaforth in 1950.

Joe Besse went to work in the Besse's Creamery in 1927; he married Annie Buie in 1936, and they had five children; Norman, Ronald, Alex, Alan, and JoAnn.

Reuben retired in 1940 and Joe eventually bought out Howard in 1947 & Jim in 1950. Joe expanded the business with the addition of the Powder Milk Plant in 1964.

Besse's Dairy was famous in Ontario for their quality ice cream & butter. Besse's butter won several awards at the Royal Winter Fair. "It's always better with Besse's Butter".

Joe was involved in sports, especially lawn bowling & curling and was instrumental in the building of the Stayner Curling Club.

Joe was also a musician. He played the piano in a dance band that included other Stayner boys, Jim Wheeler on drums, Buck Buchanan on banjo & Bill Beg on the sax. Joe also played the organ at Stayner Baptist Church, and he sang in the choir.

Annie was a very loving wife and mother who was very active in the community and especially in the Stayner Baptist Church.

All of Joe & Annie Bessees children worked at the Dairy at one time or another; either behind the bottle washer, working in the Ice cream parlour or



*Joe and Annie Besse.*

driving a milk truck at Wasaga Beach in the summers. Alan passed away in 1960, Annie in 1972 and Joe in 1996.

None of the Besse family presently lives in Stayner, but all the Besse children have fond memories of this wonderful little town. Norman (Rosemary) is retired, and living in Alliston, Ronald (Barbara) is retired & living in Toronto & Florida, Alex (Sharon) is practicing law & living in Collingwood, JoAnn (Bill) is retired and resides in Muskoka & Florida. The siblings get together often and still enjoy singing the great Baptist hymns, telling stories of Stayner and sharing a good glass of Butter-milk and a dish of Orange Pineapple Ice Cream.



Besse's Dairy, Main St., Stayner, Ontario.

### MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

As you no doubt know, Stayner Heritage Society offers several items for sale, especially during Heritage Day each summer:

**Stayner Notes** - \$7 + \$2 shipping

**Christmas Ornaments** - \$10 +\$5 shipping

DVD's (formerly in VCR format):

**"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).

If you wish to order any or all of the DVD's, please send \$10 for each (+\$5 shipping). Please stipulate which ones you prefer.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2009-2010

- Chairperson..... Jeff Parton 428-3537
- Past-Chair ..... Kevin Jerry 428-5455
- Vice-Chair
- Secretary..... Myrna Johnson 428-2540
- Treasurer..... Bob Charlton 428-6943
- Publicity..... Dorothy-Anne Millsap 428-2917
- Membership..... Barb Stransky 445-4468
- Program..... Catherine Walker 428-2719
- Clearview Council Rep..... Robert Walker 428-3335
- Chamber of Comm. Rep..... Claire Weston 428-3736
- Lions Club Rep..... Pete Jerry 429-3269
- Kinsmen Club Rep
- Eastern Star Rep..... Joan Wood 428-2711
- 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 428-2306
- Stayner Collegiate Rep..... Mason Elwood 428-0519
- Community Reps..... Shirley Parton 428-3902
- Shirlie Millsap 428-2074
- Ferne Allen 428-2137
- Susan Brockwell 428-6062
- Helen Hanna 428-5106
- Lorne Stewart 428-2375
- Judy Cox 428-2061
- June Holroyd 429-5075
- Edythe Philipps 428-2474
- History..... Jim Paul 428-2811
- Nominations..... Barb Stransky 445-4468
- Pam Townsend 428-2306
- Technical Advisors..... Jack Craig 428-2323
- Auditor..... Carol Marsden 428-3945
- Directors..... Barb Stransky 445-4468
- Bob Charlton 428-6943
- Pete Jerry 429-3269
- Lorne Stewart 428-2375

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Dorothy-Anne Millsap  
Myrna Johnson  
Peter Millsap