



STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring, 2012.

16th ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY AND CELEBRATION OF THE 140th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF STAYNER

This year, Stayner is 140 years old. It is a time to celebrate!

The 16th Annual Heritage Day on July 7th, will be bigger and better this year.

There will be a Parade, as usual, but with many special features. It will course along Main Street at 11:00am.

In the Park, the Beinn Gorm Highlanders will lead off the entertainment; a heritage event in itself as they have led the parade and played for the crowd for many years.

In addition we are privileged to have the Base Borden Military Band this year. This is a sure crowd pleaser.

Other participants in the concert will be announced closer to the date.

You can expect all the usual attractions - "pie in the park", food fare, children's activities.

A special feature will be an ice cream stand, being created by Judi Robinson and her crew from Jubilee Presbyterian Church which is celebrating the Queen's Jubilee this year.

In addition, both Simcoe County and Dufferin County Museums will have interactive activities for everyone's enjoyment. The library and many organizations in and around town are planning to participate.

The Second Annual Heritage Antique Car Show will add another great dimension to the day. You will see many vintage cars, tractors and other vehicles in the parade and on show later. *Mark your calendar!*

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is another good news story. In keeping with the 140th Anniversary and the importance of the coming of the Railway to Stayner, we are having a special feature at our AGM on May 30th, 7:30 at Centennial!

Peter Coates will tell the story of the "Coming of the Railway" to the northern part of Simcoe County with picture and word. He has been working on this project for a long while and his research is very impressive.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The "business" part of the meeting is kept to a minimum!

Members of SHS heard some of Peter's presentation last October at

Cranberry Golf Club. He invited us to lunch in the clubhouse, which is the former Stayner Station!



We know that we will have a real treat on the 30th of May.

Members of Stayner Heritage Society enjoy lunch and atmosphere at the "Old" Station.

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ANNUAL TREE SALE

Once again. Stayner Heritage Society will be having a TREE SALE in conjunction with Stayner Garden Club (formerly Stayner Horticultural Society) at Station Park in Stayner, on Saturday, May 26th from 8:00am until all is sold!

VOLUNTEER WEEK

On the same day as the Tree Sale, we will be celebrating Volunteer Week by inviting all those who work at the Tree Sale to join us for lunch. The location is to be chosen later.

SUCCESSFUL CELEBRATION OF NOVEMBER 11TH VETERANS' DAY

Catherine Walker, program chair, welcomed close to 100 residents to the Heritage Society's "Remembrance Day Event" in Jubilee Presbyterian Church Nov 5th /11, with all the tables decorated in red & white. Rev May said a few words & a prayer before Don Doner played the Last Post followed by a minute's silence. Then we heard Red Skeleton's version of "O Canada" after which we sang. Attendees were treated to a buffet brunch after which door prizes were given out

Alicia Savage, Clearview's Deputy Mayor, said a few words about those who fought to keep us free "it didn't come without a price". The Georgian Girls: Sylvia McLeod, Barb McNally & Catherine Walker sang renditions of the old wartime songs such as "White Cliffs of Dover".

Graham Trude from Collingwood who served in Afghanistan as a tank driver, showed a DVD & sang a song he wrote about a buddy who was killed over there. Following another DVD, "they served because their country called", Susan Beharielle retired Lieu-

tenant Colonel commented and concluded her talk with "we must never forget". Almost every hand



Graham Trude performs.

in the room was raised when asked who had relatives who had served or were serving in Canada's Armed Forces. Pins & flowers were handed to all the veterans.

The Society's President, Jeff Parton, thanked all the military for attending & the organizers of the event & told how his grandfather in W.W.1 & his father in W.W.2 had both been critically wounded. The morning closed with the G. Girls & everyone singing "We'll Meet Again".

by Catherine Walker

A GOOD NEWS STORY

Although some of our Heritage has been lost, here is a good news story.

On the grounds of the new Multi-purpose OPP, EMS and Fire Dept building complex, recently built east of Stayner on Hwy. 26, will be a Heritage Garden. It will feature the Bell from the Bell Tower, torn down in 2001. The garden will include a commemorative plaque, shrubs, flowers and a memorial bench. Stayner Heritage Society has been instrumental in making this garden happen! Thanks especially to Manfred Leimgardt and his family for the work done.

A NEW LANDMARK

A walking trail has been created along the tracks stretching from below Stayner all the way up to and beyond Collingwood. Along this trail will stand markers pointing out various landmarks. Near the place where the Stayner Station stood, Stayner Heritage Society is sponsoring a historical sign to mark the place. Thanks to Bob Charlton for working on this project.

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

This website is a valuable tool for up-to-date information, historical facts and coming events. Check it out! Plans are in place to create a virtual museum where you can view some of the treasures we have been given waiting for a museum site in the future!

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Myrna Johnson

Peter Millsap

This is another story in the continuing saga of Stayner's History. Damion Nixon, grandson of Stan and Dale Nixon, is a Grade 6 student at Byng Public School and chose this topic for his project. It is appropriate at this time because of the Anniversary of the Town and because Peter Coates will be speaking on this subject at the AGM!

OLD STAYNER STATION

by Damion Nixon

On May 15th, 1854, the Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Railway was finished to Nottawasaga Station, now called Stayner. Settlement at Stayner coincided with the arrival of the railway in 1854. Construction of the line had begun in Toronto in the autumn of 1851. In 1855, the village was named Stayner after Thomas Allan Stayner of Toronto, who had owned land in the area (Concession 3, Lot 25) since 1839. Thomas Stayner was also Deputy Postmaster General between 1827 and 1851. In 1854 the Ontario (Oats), Simcoe (Straw) and Huron (Hay) Railway reached its terminus of Hen and Chickens Harbour, now Collingwood.

Its main function was to act as a portage system or short cut between Lake Ontario and Georgian Bay to transport people and goods, destined for western Canada (via Port Arthur) and the western United States (via Chicago).

After 1898 the records for the Town of Stayner are fairly well documented, but from 1854 until then there's nothing but a smattering of references in any of the Town's history books. The destruction of records by fire is certainly one reason for the lack of information. The two main sources of historical data in most communities: town halls and newspaper offices, were in Stayner's case both destroyed by fire.

The major settlement of northwest Simcoe County was 125 years ago. At the time of the railroad, Simcoe County was only 11 years old. Without the railroad Stayner would not have existed. Stayner has seen the railway come and go. At one time there were two passenger trains each way every day, and regular freight trains each way.



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A MEMBER

Thank you to those who are still supporting us through your membership.

The Stayner Heritage Society is a constant positive presence in the Stayner area working to preserve whatever of our history still exists. We have lost several historical landmarks in the decade since we began this task but we continue to fight!

We have not given up hope of having a home for the artifacts that have been gathered and stored in several places.

That is another fight that will continue!

Meanwhile, we have been presenting public events several times a year as part of our mandate, including Heritage Day in July, a Remembrance event in November and often, a winter event in February (some celebrating Black History Month), and the Annual General Meeting at which we have a special heritage-type program to which everyone is invited!

Your membership helps us to realize that all of these endeavours are not in vain.

A RECENT LOSS TO THE STAYNER LANDSCAPE

During the past year, Stayner has lost a towering landmark (continuing from the thought expressed above).

All townsfolk were saddened to see the complete disappearance of “Stayner Feed Mill”, owned by the Beattie family. Presently, an empty piece of land stands across from the Municipal Building where once high silos and the hum of the mill were a long-time part of Stayner’s landscape.



A sad sight! Wrecking balls demolish the Stayner Feed Mill.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

***NEW* Stayner Notes** - \$10.00+ \$3.00 shipping
We now have 3 different sets. The new set features 4 original drawings of Heritage buildings on Main St. by Anson Finlay.

***NEW* Postcards** - \$2.00 of a drawing of the Co-op Buildings by John Hindle; Fountain Park; the Gazebo.

***NEW* Prints** suitable for framing. See above for details; larger than the postcards

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