



# STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring 2025

[Visit Us at www.staynerheritagesociety.com](http://www.staynerheritagesociety.com)

## A Quote To Think About

"History gives answers only to those who know how to ask questions"

*Author Unknown*

## Events To Be Remembered

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony took place at Station Park Stayner on December 5th followed on December 7th by the annual Kinsmen Santa Claus parade. Both events were well attended and enjoyed by all. The Stayner Heritage Museum was open to welcome visitors to view our Christmas displays and participate in Lucky Draw prizes donated by "Jamies" and Charles". Thank you to Mayor Measurers for visiting our museum and meeting our group.



Back Row  
(Left To Right)  
Roger Fry, Larry Cutham, Grace Beaman, Jeff Parton, Manfred Leimgardt, Barb Stransky, Jim Paul  
Front Row  
(Left To Right)  
Mayor Doug Measurers, Susan Brockwell, Phyllis Perry, Donna Paul

## You Can Help Build Our SHS Photo Archives

We are looking for the best snapshots of life in Stayner to add images to our museum collection. And we are willing to pay for it!  
Do you have colour photos from the 70s, 80s and 90s depicting life in Stayner? Submit a scan or

Stayner Heritage Society  
*Stayner Snapshots*  
PHOTO CONTEST

**\$300** Cash Prizes



Not digital, not black & white!. Enter your favourite snapshot from Stayner in the 70s, 80s and 90s. Post it on the Stayner Heritage Society Facebook page to enter and you could win one of our cash prizes. Check details on the Stayner Heritage Society facebook page. Teams, community events and family gatherings are welcome.

**Help Stayner Heritage Society build its photo archives**

photo of a photo and post it to the Stayner Heritage Society Facebook page. We will select the top 3 photos and reward you with cash prizes for scrounging around in your shoebox. Eligible submissions will have a chance to win a \$150 first prize or a \$75 prize for one of two runners up. Remember, to be from this era the photos should be in full colour and not digital. They should depict life in Stayner including community, family and sports. Please tell us who is in the pictures. Let the memories begin!

## **Feature Story**

### **The Browns – Brown's Butcher Shop**

**Thank you To Peggy (Brown) Wilson for  
Submitting This Story**

**Peggy is the youngest daughter of Howard  
Brown**

Clarksburg, Ontario was the birthplace and childhood home of my father Howard Brown. In his youth, he found employment at the Piggy Wiggy store in Cleveland, Ohio. Upon his return to Canada, he took over a butcher shop in Stayner that was previously owned by Ed Lambert. It was on February 16, 1926, shortly before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday that he acquired the store. On May 1, 1926, he took possession. Dad's brother, Oscar joined him as a partner in 1927.

At the time the interest rate was 5%. Mr. Lambert was certain they would default on the mortgage, and he would get the property back if this were to happen.

During the challenging times of the Great Depression that began in 1929, it was certainly difficult to sustain business. To ensure seriousness and credibility, my grandfather John Brown suggested that the business be J.H. Brown & Sons, for a fee per day. This partnership between brothers and father created a successful enterprise that endured for years. The family business expanded over time, with brother Ernie joining in 1932, though not as a partner. He worked there until enlisting in the army. He was discharged in 1942 with a damaged ankle, when he returned once again to the butcher shop. In 1949 he established his own business in Elmvale.

Meanwhile Grandpa John and Grandma settled in Stayner in 1939, where they resided on Saunders Street. When I was around 2 years old, I would just pick up the phone and the operator would come on and ask for the number I wanted to call and I would just say, "I wanna talk to my grandma. Oh, how times have changed.

Grandpa resigned as the truant officer of Byng school a month before his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was also the chair of the cemetery board. For 20 years, he was caretaker of the Missionary campgrounds.

Grandpa loved music. He played the button accordion and loved to sing. He was involved with the Missionary Church. In 1963, he had the privilege, at the age of 88, of throwing the first rock at the grand opening of the curling rink. My Dad also loved music and played the cornet. He later donated his horn to the Stayner band. Grandpa, Dad, his brothers as well as my brother Neal were all avid curlers. Dad supported having a club in Stayner as well as being a big supporter of lawn bowling in Stayner.

The commitment to the community was evident with Dad serving on the school board and town council. His belief in supporting local businesses was unwavering. He always told us "If they sell it in Stayner that's where you buy it." My father was a brilliant businessman and very forward thinking.



The butcher shop block also housed Wheelers Insurance which they rented from Dad for decades. Customers flocked for the renowned peanut butter, mincemeat, apple butter, and cheese cut fresh from large wheels. Livestock was sourced locally, and freezer lockers were available for rent showcasing Dad's innovation and customer convenience.

When my dad moved the slaughterhouse which was adjacent to the campgrounds, he donated

the property to the Missionary Church Camp. He then moved to a new location off Airport Road on 21/22 Side Road and built what today is known as Hoffman's Meat and European Deli. Besides the slaughterhouse, Dad had property across the back lane onto Gideon Street. That is where our barn was, and it kept Mom's horse and cow later becoming our garage. Behind the barn was an icehouse. Today you will recognize it as the building for McGregor Allsop and Harbourview Health Centre.

Dad owned a farm that was located off Highway 91 past the quarry on Concession 6. When I was young, there was a home and barn on it. Dad had cattle at the farm during summer. As a child I loved going with him Sunday morning to check on the cattle. When the farm was sold it was purchased by the government. It was a restricted property that they used for army training. Now it is part of the Niagara Escarpment and a popular hiking trail.

Back at the butcher shop, they worked hard and long hours. They supplied fish, meat, ground beef (as everyone made their own burgers) to many restaurants and resorts in town and in Wasaga Beach. Oscar was kept busy just making sausages! It was not uncommon for them to work night and day. Due to their busy schedules, Neal and Helen got married on a Wednesday as stores closed at noon. Mary & I were both married on a Friday.

Neal's passion for the butcher trade led him to take over the business in 1971 following Oscar's sudden passing, and Dad taking a short retirement before passing March 30, 1976. With a solid foundation laid by Dad, Neal continued the excellent service until the shop closed in 1977. The changing time and emergence of supermarkets impacted independent businesses, leading to the shop's closure after fifty decades of service.

Neal continued after shutting the doors to use his expertise and worked in Collingwood, Wasaga Beach and Elmvale. Neal loved Stayner, raising his family here. After he retired, he continued along with his youngest son Jamie to be an avid curler, golfer, and huge supporter of our local clubs.

December 31, 1977, after some 51 years of service to Stayner and the surrounding area, my brother Neal made the difficult decision to close its doors, and my mother sold the building to Mr. Jong. The family story is one of resilience, innovation, and community spirit. The Brown legacy will always be ingrained in this small town's history.

## Upcoming Events

### Stayner Heritage Society – Annual Meeting

The Annual SHS meeting will be held the evening of May 21st, 2025, at the Community Center, 269 Regina Street, Stayner starting at 7pm. Our guest speaker will be Marty Beelen. Marty is the Ward 5 Councillor for the Township of Clearview. We look forward to his message on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands. All are welcomed.

### Tulip Days Festival

The Stayner Garden Club welcomes everyone to the 9<sup>th</sup> annual tulip day festival celebrating the tulip blooms throughout Clearview Township during the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

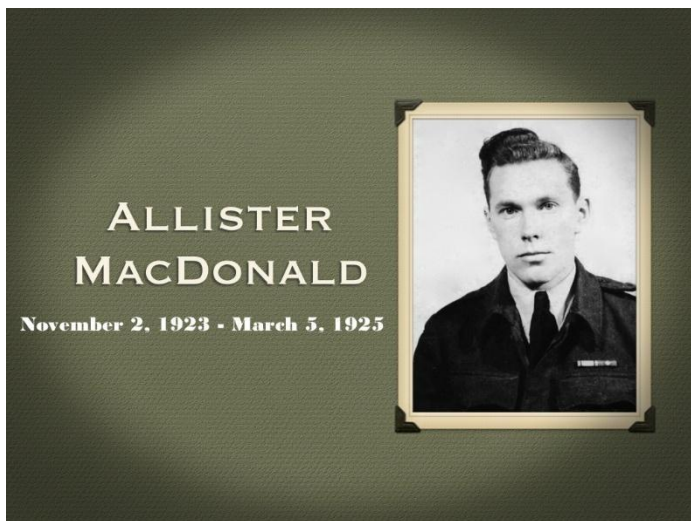




## **STAYNER MUSIC, MARKET & PARK IT**

Everyone is invited to an evening of fun and relaxation at the Station Park in downtown Stayner. Make part of your evening more enjoyable by visiting the SHS Museum. This year we are featuring Byng School. Come see our collection of class pictures, memorabilia and some 100 years of school history. Whether you attended Byng or not past school days will bring back lots of childhood memories. Our Heritage Society hosts look forward to meeting you each Thursday from ***June 5<sup>th</sup> to August 28, 2025 between 4 and 8pm.***

## **REMEMBERING A LOCAL HERO**



Allister was a great man who impacted everyone he crossed paths with.

He served his country and community for many years and was an inspiration for many! A memorial service will be held June 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Stayner Community Centre.

## **Stayner Heritage Society Annual Membership**

Your membership is especially important to our ongoing success. Your financial support is a vital part of our ongoing project initiatives. These projects include:

1. Remembrance Day Banners.
2. Thomas Stayner Award Administration.
3. SHS Museum /Artifact administration.
4. Historical House Research/Walking Tour programme.
5. Historical Video/Image preservation.
6. Web Site/Face Book administration. We thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued commitment to our Society. ***Our new Post Office Box Number is 9094.***

## **Stayner Heritage Society 2024/25 Executive**

Chairperson:	Jeff Parton
Vice-Chair:	Jim Paul
Secretary:	Larry Culham
Treasurer:	Carol Marsden

### **Committee Members include:**

Publicity/Newsletter:	Tom Scholte, Myrna Johnson, Barb Stransky, Larry Culham
Membership:	Myrna Johnson, Tom Scholte, Barb Stransky
Program:	Susan Brockwell, Janet Cubitt
Museum Committee:	Susan Brockwell, Barb Stransky, Phyllis Perry
History Rep:	Jim Paul
IT Rep:	Mike Scholte
Stayner Homes Project:	Roger Fry
Thomas Stayner Award:	Larry Culham
Legion Rep:	Manfred Leimgardt
Chamber of Commerce	John Broderick
Community Rep:	Bob Charlton
Nominations:	Jim Paul
Please submit enquiries, pictures, or stories through our web site at:	

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