

WHAT WE HAVE LOST

We are sorry to report that, recently, Stayner has lost yet another heritage structure.

In July, after an engineering firm condemned the Bell Tower as being unsafe, the demolition crew moved in before the week was out!

Citizens, including members of Stayner Heritage Society, were saddened at the loss of this distinctive Stayner landmark. However, Mayor McKee has assured us that a facsimile will be rebuilt - but when - and where??? Many feel that an exact copy should reappear in exactly the same place that the old one stood.

As the Tower came down, some citizens reflected that we have lost much of our heritage. The Arena was condemned and disappeared, the Station was sold, and the Co-Op was torn down.

And there is a further concern! The Town Hall is also being slated for possible demolition, again because of an engineer's report. This historic building, built in 1908 and the site of many town events in past years is one of the few remaining heritage buildings.

SHS is working to help find an alternative for the Town Hall. There are several options being suggested: refurbish it to present day standards; sell it; tear it down, use the land for parking, and erect a new municipal building.

There will be a use for the Town Hall if new Municipal offices are built. Perhaps this use is not immediately clear. Many SHS members are **NOT** in favour of demolition.

If you feel strongly about the replacement of the Bell Tower or the future of the Town Hall, write a letter to the Editor of the Clearview Sun or attend a Council Meeting!

BALLOT CONCERNING THE DEMOLITION
OF THE TOWN HALL

This ballot gives SHS members and adherents a chance to have input into the fate of Stayner Town Hall.

Send it to:

Stayner Heritage Society,
Box 290, Stayner, Ont., L0M 1S0.

If you want the Town Hall to remain standing, DO NOTHING! If you feel that it should be torn down, send this ballot .

WHAT WE HAVE GAINED

In addition to preserving Stayner's past (what is left of it!) we have been also looking to the future by helping to beautify our community.

Thanks to a grant from the Government of Ontario which helped us, we were able to erect **four new signs** at the entrances to Town. They contain the logo or crest of the major organizations in Stayner.

We also, along with the Kinsmen and Horticultural Society, helped create a beautiful "Fountain Parkette" at the corner of Main and Oak.

This **Fountain Parkette**, begun in 1972 as part of the Centennial celebrations, had fallen into disrepair, tree roots had presented a further problem, and the brass plaque containing Stayner's legend had disappeared.

Now, all of these things have been repaired and replaced.

The Kinsmen, with the support of Township employees, expended many hours repairing the water lines. They also purchased the new bronze figures atop the structure.

The SHS donated a new bench, with a small plaque, a new trash unit, and a hanging sign.

The Horticultural Society engaged the Landscape architects, Vogel-Moore, to design the beautiful gardens now there. The HS looks after the maintenance, and has done so for 30 years!

Many have donated their time to complete this project. We hesitate to mention names because we might leave an important one out. But, we wish to acknowledge the volunteer spirit of Fran Moore who donated her time, Roy Ward who maintains the fountain, and Manfred and Bill Leimgardt who did all the mortar work.

In total, this beauty spot welcomes residents and visitors to our town.

Other improvements for the Main Street during the Millennium provided by SHS were **blue and silver banners** hanging on each lamp post proclaiming "Heritage 2000". We also placed several **waste disposal units** along the street.

In addition, SHS is also working in conjunction with the Lions Club to **improve the Station Park**. We now have in place an approved development plan for the park. The Lions are building a **gazebo/band shell** which will be the focal point. This is the first phase of the **Railway Station Project**.

You can see that Stayner Heritage Society is working for the betterment of our community.

I (name) _____

**AM IN FAVOUR OF TEARING DOWN
THE TOWN HALL**

IN THIS ISSUE:
LOST & GAINED
STAYNER WWII PILOTS
CHRISTMAS MERCHANDISE

MUSIC IN THE PARKI

In July, "Music in the Park", celebrating home-coming and the "International Year of Volunteers", was a great success because of MANY VOLUNTEERS!!

The "Georgian Sound Big Band' and the "Georgian Ladies Double Trio" led by Catherine Walker, entertained throughout the afternoon. "Pie in the Park" was a very popular booth. Women from several Stayner Churches made and sold delicious pies, whole or by the peice! Other food concessions, along with entertainment for the children and a Craft Fair were enjoyed in our beautiful Centennial Park.

STAYNER FAIR BOOTH

Jack and Ellen Craig convened the SHS booth at the Stayner Fall Fair, Sept. 14th and 15th.

Our baggage cart, found in a very poor state a while ago and completely refurbished by Bob Wood, held the place of honour. The red cast-iron wheels and red tongue gave it a glamour that the earlier state lacked. The wood is finished in a natural shade.

From the cart, several volunteers sold our new wooden Christmas tree ornaments - a nice sketch of the Bell Tower. We also had a few of the ornaments from last year, showing the railway station. Once again, also, the Stayner-notes sold well. Several visitors took out memberships or bought a video.

The public relations from such a venture is invaluable and many more folk are now aware of the work of Stayner Heritage Society.

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NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Dorothy-Anne Millsap, Myrna Johnson,
Peter Millsap

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[The following story is another in an ongoing series featuring former Staynerites! }

In keeping with the spirit of Remembrance Day we offer this article

Submitted by Jack McFarlane

WORLD WAR TWO PILOTS FROM STAYNER

Probably no other town of the same size has produced as many Second World War pilots as Stayner. I will attempt to list them, but as I left Stayner in 1936 and have only returned for visits, my list may not be complete. If I have omitted names, please forgive me.

Cec Bell, Bob Birkett, Gel Birkett, Walter Clemence, Ken Glenn, Stan Groves, Russ Mathers, Jack McFarlane, Walter Scott, Nelson Seeler, Ellis Taylor and Roger Watson. With the exception of Russ Mathers and Walter Scott, all the rest survived the war.

I was always amazed how often we kept running into one another. When I was first learning to fly, I ran into Nelson Seeler (my first cousin) at Goderich where he was a flying instructor and I was a student pilot. A couple of years later, my job was testing aircraft for a Maintenance Unit at Summerside, P.E.I. and one of my duties was to proceed to an aircraft factory about once a week to pick up a new plane to replace one of our old ones which were well past their retirement age. On each of these trips I required an extra pilot to fly back the plane we used to go there. I called the Control Tower and asked for a spare pilot. No one was more surprised than I when Gel Birkett walked into my office with his parachute under his arm. We had an enjoyable day together. I think it was Gel who told me that his brother Bob and Stan Groves, both from Stayner, were pilot and co-pilot on the same aircraft somewhere in B.C. On the very next trip, who do you think they sent me, but Cec Bell. Cec was the one who took my place at the Toronto Dominion Bank when I left Stayner. As this station had hundreds of pilots, none of us knew the others were there. As surprises usually come in threes, I kept looking for the third one from Stayner. Of course it never happened.

Some time later, I was home on leave from the West Indies, visiting my father and mother, (12th line of Sunnidale). My father told me, "I think your old friend Roger Watson is flying Harvards over at Edenvale." As I had never flown a Harvard, the next day found Roger and I high over Wasaga Beach. I had not done any aerobatics for a long time as I had been flying heavy aircraft where aerobatics are not possible. Roger figured I needed a refresher course and I was inclined to agree with him. We spent about two hours burning up the sky over Georgian Bay. When it came to rolls, loops, and spins, Roger was a professional, while I would always remain an amateur when it came to aerobatics. After we landed, I said in fun to Roger, "How much fuel do you figure we used in our two hours of having fun?" Roger's answer was "about \$100. I used to like to try to pull Roger's leg and

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vice-versa, so I said "I guess we owe the Government \$100." Roger suggested we leave it till after the war. After the war, Roger and I met many times and on one occasion, the subject of the \$100. came up. Roger's answer was, "Since you came back from overseas all in one piece, I'd say that \$100. was a good investment." We both seemed to realize then how fortunate we both had been, so nothing more was said.

SLATE OF OFFICERS, 2000-2001

Chairperson - Lorne Stewart
Vice Chair - Jim Paul
Past-Chair/Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap
Secretary - Myrna Johnson
Treasurer - Bill Trotter
Correspondence Secretary - Edythe Philipps
Director/ Membership - Barb Stransky
Director/ Program - Catherine Walker
Director/Council - June Carruthers
Director/Chamber of Commerce - Rod Robinson
TechnicalAdvisors - Glenn Millsap, Jack Craig
Lions Club Rep - Pete Jerry
Kinsmen Club Rep -
Women's Institute Rep - Helen Hanna
Eastern Star Rep - Jane Forster
Legion Rep - Mary Burkholder
Horticultural Society Reps - Pam Townsend, Jack Sparrow
Masonic Order Rep. - Bill Trotter
Stayner Fair Rep - Shirley Parton
Community Reps - Peg Gilbert, Shirlye Millsap, Ferne Allen
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster
Auditors - Carol Marsden, Harold Platts

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO!

It is never too late to become a member of Stayner Heritage Society.

Your \$20.00 annual fee is put to good use. We are able to pay our dues in various organizations, such as "The Ontario Historical Society", and our operating expenses, such as, newsletter costs and liability insurance each year. We are also able to provide the very special merchandise which we offer as souvenirs and further fund-raisers. The Heritage Days, held each July are also very costly, as we have not, to date, been charging admission. And, of course, we are acquiring a fund for a capital expenditure, such as the rebuilding of the station.

Even though you might not live in Stayner, by being a member, you are doing your part for the good of your beloved town.

And, as you have learned from reading the above articles, we are in a vulnerable position.

SHS is a Society which exists solely for the betterment of the Community of Stayner.

HERITAGE MERCHANDISE

**Unique, hand-made in Canada
wooden Christmas
ornaments**

**2 in the series now available
Stayner Railway Station
&
The Bell Tower**

(If sales continue to go well, a third heritage building will be added next year)

\$10.00

(add \$5.00 for s&h for mail orders)

STAYNER-NOTES

12 notes in a package, 3 of each of 4 buildings.
The pen sketches are originals and comprise

The Co-Op

The Wilcox Inn

The Railway Station

The Patterson House on Point St.

\$5.00

(add \$2.00 for s&h)

Heritage Videos

1. Memories of Our Town.

Taken from movie footage owned by Roger Watson. Many have been delighted to see family and friends strolling along Main St. in the late summer of 1948. Narration by Bill Ives and D. A. Millsap.

2. Stayner's 125th Anniversary Celebration - July 12, 1997.

Narrated by Brian Pounder, you will meet many people you know and hear Brian interview them. The whole day from the parade to the closing is included.

3. Millennium-Stayner - July 9, 2000.

Narrated by Dorothy-Anne Millsap with expert videography by Marianne Buie and Gren Bray. A wonderful souvenir of a memorable day.

\$20.00 (+ \$5.00 s&h)

