

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
FALL, 2007**

THE 11TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

This writeup first appeared in the Stayner Sun in July. We thought that our readers would enjoy a more detailed account of the day, rather than the usual sketch!

The 11th annual Heritage Day was a resounding success. The weather, performances, activities, food and participation all combined to create a great day in the "Friendly Town".

Following a bountiful and successful breakfast at Jubilee, a large crowd watched the parade, co-ordinated by Manfred Leimgardt, as it coursed down Main St.

The "Classic Country Memories Band" entertained those arriving at the park while the "Beinn Gorm Highlanders" formed to enter the park. After their popular swirl, Town Crier, Roy Wilson, and Kay set the gala mood. Andrea Weston opened the show with "O Canada". Greetings came from Clearview Township through Mayor, Ken Ferguson, from Stayner Chamber of Commerce through Mike Gennings, and from Stayner Lions Club through Shawn Davidson. Jeff Parton, President of Stayner Heritage Society, expressed his gratitude for the work of the Heritage Society, and Dorothy-Anne Millsap, co-ordinator of the day, outlined the many planned activities for young and old.

"Country Clem", alias Don Vair, was a crowd pleaser with his stories and songs. Interspersed with his appearances was music from the Classic Country Memories Band and the winners of the recent Clearview Idols Singing Contests, Matthew Lawrence, Stephanie Israelson, Heidi Smith and Lance Dobinson. These talented performers were all very well received.

The Barbeque, "Pie in the Park" and other goodies kept everyone fed. Thanks to Shirlie Millsap and her helpers from various Churches for the pie stand; thanks to Murray Lowe, Goldie Henry, and Susan Hall for the BBQ and drinks; and thanks to Marlene Davidson, and helpers for the cotton candy and popcorn.

The winner of the 50-50 draw, receiving \$352.00 was Jean McEachern.

The winners of the 1st Edition Christine Marshall prints were Maureen Anderson (prop of "The Gables" B.& B.) and Martha Atkinson, both of Stayner.

The kids had fun colouring, hunting for things, or playing games supervised by Diane Millsap.

There were many winners of various contests and draws. Here are the names.

The winners of the "Kiddie Tractor Pull", organized by Edina Van Stavaren, and sponsored by Stayner Rental, were:

under 35 pounds - Abby Dunlop, Claire Gonsalves, Daniel Miller

35-45 pounds - Evan Weel, CJ Lemieux, Hannah Weel

45-55 pounds - Jared Auclair, Noah Buckingham

Over 55 pounds - Cody Buckingham

Those taking away prizes from the "Colouring Contest" supervised by Gayle Favalaro and Jill Millsap :

under 5 - Madison Blackmere 1st, and Claire Gonsalves, 2nd.

6-8 years - 1st Kelsey Smith, 2nd Gina Park

9 and over - 1st Bryn Millsap, 2nd Stephanie McLeod.

The picture that they coloured this year was the Railway Station. (Each year, the children colour an artist's rendition of a heritage building in Stayner.)

Every participant in the Scavenger Hunt, run by Pete Millsap, won a voucher to Dairy Queen.

Darci Que and her daughter, Emily, entertained the children throughout the day with balloons and buttons etc.

Thanks to all of these workers, as well as those with displays and sales booths.

And thanks to the many other volunteers, including the Clearview Firefighters (who helped set up and take down). The day would not be possible without your willing help.

The day also would not be possible without the generous sponsors:

Town Crier, Roy Wilson sponsored by **Stayner Chamber of Commerce**

Beinn Gorm Highlanders, sponsored by **The Stayner Legion,**

Country Clem, sponsored by **Reinhart Foods**

The Country Memories Band, sponsored by **Wheeler/Spriggs Insurance**

Darci-Que sponsored by **Helen Hanna**

Kiddie Tractor Pull sponsored by **Stayner Rental**

OTHER VALUABLE SPONSORS: Quanbury Flooring Centre, Quanbury Decorating Centre, Sharon Holland of Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

Stayner is truly a great town.

COULD STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY ACCOMPLISH ANOTHER RINGING SUCCESS IN THE SAME SUMMER??

The answer is YES. The Toronto All-Star Big Band again thrilled the many revellers who attended the evening on August 18th in Stayner Arena. The attractive decorations, friendly greeters and helpful workers all combined to create a wonderful evening of nostalgia.

The Toronto All-Star Big Band, composed of young musicians and vocalists, all between the ages of 17 and 21, delighted the crowd with a first class show featuring the familiar big band sounds of the 30's and 40's.

Thanks, once again, for the generous support of **Hanna Motors**, who made this event possible.

ANNUAL TREE SALE

For several years, Lorne Stewart has arranged for a **Tree Sale** through the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. This event is duplicated in several communities around the area as a fund raiser. Our sale, held on May 5th, netted us over \$1000. once again to help us in our work in Stayner. Thanks again, Lorne.

SCI BURSARY

As we reported in the Spring Newsletter, Stayner Heritage Society has set up a History Bursary at SCI. We are pleased to announce that Kim Main is the winner for 2006-7. Kim, who has been a volunteer at Heritage Day for several years, is planning to continue her education at Sir Sanford Fleming College in Peterboro and has stated that the \$1000. she won will be a great help!!

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the SHS Annual General Meeting, May 30th at Centennial United Church, the guest speaker was Larry Cotton.

Larry, a planning engineer, has worked in the planning departments of several counties and municipalities in Ontario. While he was in these communities, he took the opportunity to research the history of the people and place. As time went on, he began recording the results of his studies.

In Stayner, he was telling about his series, Whiskey & Wickedness. In each Volume of this series, he traces the beginnings of the community through the creation of the taverns and hotels, as, he notes, the first structure to appear in any location, is the tavern, followed by a loft which would be used as lodging for the traveller.

The area of Stayner and Clearview are included in Volume 4 of the series.

All of those present were very interested in Larry's knowledgeable account of the beginnings of Nottawasaga and Sunnidale Townships, the coming of the "Ontario, Simcoe and Huron Union" Railway, and the founding of Stayner.

Larry answered many questions during the refreshment time.

SOME NEW MERCHANDISE!

Since the book, **Whiskey and Wickedness, Vol.4**, was so popular at the meeting, we arranged for Larry to send us more. They have been available in some of the stores downtown, and at the United Church Bazaar. However, we are giving our readers an opportunity to get a copy. You can send a cheque for \$20.00 + \$5.00 for postage to Myrna (address below), and we will send it to you.

Don't forget, we still have the Christmas Tree Ornaments (\$10.00+\$5.00 post) and Stayner-Notes (\$7.00+\$2.00post). These items, very suitable for Christmas giving to those who know Stayner, contain pictures of some of our heritage buildings, many of which are now demolished.

To obtain any of these items:
**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY,
Box 290, Stayner, ON., L0M1S0**

Operation Knapsack

This story is a departure from the usual "family" story. However, this story shows what one person can do! Brian Pounder has been a member of Stayner Heritage Society since the beginning. Although he lived and worked in Orillia for many years, he still has a place for Stayner in his heart!

The school term is over and a student at Park Street Collegiate Institute in Orillia, Ontario opens her locker with a sigh of relief. She dumps several handfuls of pencils, pens, coloured highlighters and markers into her battered knapsack. She rifles through her notebooks, some of them barely used, and stuffs them in. Three binders, a pencil case, some unused duo-tang folders, a calculator and her locker mirror also go in the bag. There. The locker is ready for a new student in the fall. She dumps the knapsack in a large box filled with other bags and loose school supplies, then walks out the door. She feels a tingle of excitement. Summer is about to begin.

Each year at the end of the school year, mountains of perfectly good leftover school supplies enter our landfill sites, but at five Ontario schools, these supplies will be picked up, sorted and shipped overseas to children in such impoverished countries such as Bangladesh, Guatemala, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Operation Knapsack is the brainchild of retired Orillia teacher, Brian Pounder, who despaired at such waste. His repeated suggestions that the supplies be kept and re-used the following year fell on deaf ears. After a vacation in the Dominican Republic alerted him of the desperate shortage of such materials in developing countries, he wondered how he could connect the need with the supply.

..."I met a high school friend, who is now a missionary in Honduras," explains Brian. "I asked her if she could use some school supplies. She answered, 'Yes'. I gathered a knapsack full of supplies for her from the empty lockers. It was then that I decided to turn a negative into a positive." That was in 1987. Today, Park Street Collegiate Institute, Orillia District Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Patrick Fogarty Secondary School, Twin Lakes Secondary School and Elmvale District High School participate in the project. Brian supplies posters and morning announcements and decals for the collection

boxes. His friend, Jack, helps him collect the filled boxes. Brian's garage morphs into a sorting station and other friends come to help. Every pencil is sharpened, every pen checked to ensure it works. Binders are cleared of used paper and checked for graffiti or damage. Good ones are kept for distribution, the others are recycled.

Sometimes Brian finds himself holding a sharpened pencil and imagining the child who will receive it.

Brian and Jack package the pencils and pens in tennis ball containers. One container holds 75 pencils or 45 pens. After 20 years, he has the process pared down to a science. "A normal knapsack holds about 150 pencils, 90 pens, 6 erasers, 20 highlighters, 20 markers, 15 to 20 duo tangs, 3 or 4 binders, 12 rulers, two math sets, six pencil sharpeners, the odd mirror, calculators, paperclips, crayons, glue sticks and 20 tennis balls," lists Brian.

As an avid tennis player, he includes the fuzzy yellow tennis balls for play.

When he hears of people traveling to developing countries for vacation or business, he asks them to take supplies, eliminating shipping costs. He packages the school supplies in easy to carry knapsacks, boxes that fit into luggage or large hockey bags. In retrospect, it makes perfect sense that Brian has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and Economics, considering how many countries the supplies reach and the recycling value of his project.

His involvement both as a participant and a leader in Cubs and Scouts has led to his objective threaded throughout Operation Knapsack. "As a leader, one objective I tried to instil in the boys was to develop strong values and take an active part in creating a better world," he says. "I strongly believe this.

"This project keeps a lot of usable material from going into the landfill site. It also sends a message to our students about contributing to those in need throughout the world.

Charity begins at home, whether it is my home, Orillia, Ontario, Canada, North America or the world and the world is our home. It is satisfying to know that you are helping children who have nothing."

Meanwhile, on another continent, perhaps in the Philippines, Ethiopia or India, a small child eagerly accepts a small package of pencils, a notebook, an eraser and a florescent yellow

tennis ball. He examines each treasure with wonder. He rubs the fuzz of the tennis ball against his cheek and grins widely. He has never owned anything before. He feels a tingle of excitement. School is about to begin.

If you would like to start such a project in your own school or city, please email Brian at brian.pounder@smpatico.ca.

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