

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER  
SPRING, 2005**

**IRONIC EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT**

"At long last, we are able to announce to the world that we have secured a wonderful piece of property on the tracks for the rebuilding of a replica of Stayner Railway Station!!"

These were the words which you read in last spring's newsletter.

Alas, it was not to be!!

Environmental concerns and the high cost of bringing the site up to today's standards made it impossible for Stayner Heritage Society to purchase the property on Ontario Street next to the Lawn Bowling Club.

However, we are not giving up. There are some other sites in Stayner that we are considering. We will be sure to report when another Stayner Railway Station site becomes available!

Meanwhile, plans for the **9th ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY** are being made. The date is July 9th, with the usual festivities, parade, feature show, children's activities, food and fun.

The feature this year will be "**CLEARVIEW IDOLS SINGING CONTEST**". Catherine Walker has created a real crowd pleaser for this, our ninth, event.

Publicity and entry forms will circulate throughout Clearview and Southern Georgian Bay areas. The entrants will perform for the judges in a preliminary event in June. The top three singers in each of three categories will perform in Station Park Gazebo during Heritage Day, where a winner in each category will be chosen. Cash prizes will serve as further incentive.

The categories are:

- 1/ ages 13 to 18,
- 2/ aged 50 and over.
- 3/ open.

Interspersed with the three contests will be music by Ken Parton and his Cruisers. Those living in this area can secure an entry form at any library in Clearview and area, or by calling Catherine at 705-428-2719.

As you can imagine, the Heritage Day Committee are having fun putting this together. We know you all will try to plan your holidays this summer to be in Stayner on July 9th.

**ANOTHER SAD ANNOUNCEMENT**

We were sad to learn that George Grainger died in London, England on January 30th.

George was the subject of one of our profiles in a recent newsletter. As an actor in England, he used the stage name "Michael Stayner", commemorating his home town. His cousin, Mary Burkholder, has been our source of news from George over the years. Our condolences go to his wife, Diana and family.

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES**

Some weeks ago, there was a picture of our old Town Hall in the Stayner Sun with the caption "Thanks for the Memories".

I have been surprised that there wasn't a flood of stories from the readers of this paper sharing their memories of this wonderful old building.

In the Fall of the year (November), I have many memories of the Remembrance Day Services that used to take place in the upper floor. Just a small child at my first service, I watched the veterans, so straight and tall, marching to their place. This memory has stayed with me all these years.

Then came the Christmas Season with the Christmas Farmer's Market and Bazaar. A person could buy Christmas Dinner downstairs and the gifts and baking upstairs. The sights and smells were truly wonderful. (Mary's job was to wash the feet of the chickens that her father had brought to sell!)

Who could forget the great concerts and plays that were put on by local talent. I remember one in particular- especially the music and comedy put on by Norman Oliver, Harry Hawkins, Jim Wheeler, Howard Besse and Russ Somerville.

Another time, the program had a soliloquy by Beulah Brownridge. It was about a shy young girl out with her shy beau. All I remember is that at the very end when he kisses her goodnight, she says "I liked it real well"! This was followed by a very tender love scene mimed by Bill Hawkins with a table, chair and an old photograph as his only props.

The seating plan for these concerts was in Jones & Clemence's grocery store window (where Noble Insurance is today). When you purchased your ticket, your seat was marked on the plan with an "x".

Our High School Commencements were held in the Town Hall. The High School consisted of only three rooms and a lab on the second floor of Byng School. I had the honour of being the valedictorian the year I graduated, before I went on to Business College in Toronto.

There are so many more stories to tell and I just know that there are many ghosts hovering over Stayner's newest parking lot.

by Mary Burkholder.

**And There's More!**

Coincidentally, as Mary was writing her story, we received a letter from Elizabeth Brown, whose grandfather, Thomas McKechnie, was station agent during the years 1914-1921. She sent us some wonderful family pictures taken around Stayner and a copy of the prize list of "Stayner School Fair" held in the Town Hall about 1916. Our readers will recognize many of the names of the prizewinners.

**WAS THIS A FORERUNNER OF OUR HERITAGE DAY?**

(An excerpt from the Stayner Sun, June 2, 1921, sent by Elizabeth Brown)

**VICTORIAN DAY CELEBRATION  
LARGE ATTENDANCE AT THE PARK - A GOOD PROGRAM OF SPORTS PULLED OFF**

“Stayner’s celebration of the 24th of May was a decided success. The committee of the Town Council that had charge worked hard and got something into shape, and the weather being gloriously bright crowds turned out from all around..”

*a description of baseball tournament between Collingwood and Stayner follows.*

“About 11:00 o’clock a number gathered in front of the Town Hall and Mayor Sullivan said a few words as to the celebration of the day and the flag was raised on the flagpole given by the members of the Stayner Women’s Institute amid cheers.

“Shortly after noon the crowd began to arrive and under the direction of Mr. James Peattie, the Calathumpianse were lined up in the school grounds. Many of the school children forming up, some being in costume. The procession proceeded at once to the ground led by 2 pipers in highland costume discoursing martial music. Autos in numbers joined in the parade decorated with flags and it was like old times seeing a regular mob trying to get tickets to enter.

“Mr. W.A. Groves had an auto arranged with blacksmith’s forge and bellows and a pony undergoing the process of being fitted for horse shoes.

pic town hall

“A second auto was arranged for a wedding - the parson, the groomsman, and bride and assistants in suitable costumes. These were both prize winners...”

After the greater portion had obtained admission and there must have been 1400 the games began (baseball and football)...

“The fat-man’s race brought out four and W.A. Groves was the winner with Frank Nevil, second...”

“The committee in charge were: Mayor Sullivan, Reeve Lambert and Councillors Wheeler and McRae who appointed other committees to help out...”

“The entertainment in the evening was also a decided success. The committee had made arrangements with Mr. D.Solomon of Toronto to put on “The Silver Horde” by Rex Beach, one of the best films ever seen in Stayner. He also put on Charlie Chaplin in the “Emigrant” which brought forth much laughter. Miss Henderson of Toronto, pianist of the evening, sang a song “Where Do Flies Go” in a very pleasing manner. There was also a juggler who did some very wonderful feats with balls, plates, hats, etc. adding still more enjoyment to the evening.

**HERITAGE COMMITTEE : 2004-2005**

**SHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 25th, 2005, 7:30 PM**

**Stayner's Small Hall**

**Guest speaker-Dr. Bill Ives along with other  
entertainment.**

**ANNUAL TREE SALE**

**Saturday, May 7 2005 Station Park  
8:00AM on**

Chairperson -Kevin Jerry  
Vice Chair - Jeff Parton  
Past-Chair - Lorne Stewart  
Secretary - Myrna Johnson  
Treasurer - Bob Charlton  
Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap  
Correspondence Secretary - Edythe Philipps  
Membership - Barb Stransky  
Program - Catherine Walker  
Council Rep.- Robert Walker  
Chamber of Commerce Rep. - Rod Robinson  
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  
Masonic Order Rep - John Hindle  
Stayner Fair Rep - Judy Cox  
Community Reps - Shirlie Millsap, Ferne Allen,  
Shirley Parton  
History - Jim Paul  
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster  
Technical Advisors - Jack Craig, Eric Harvey  
Auditor - Carol Marsden  
Directors - Lorne Stewart, Myrna Johnson, Kevin  
Jerry, Bob Charlton, D. A. Millsap,  
Rod Robinson, Pete Jerry.

*Please note: At the Annual General Meeting on May 25,  
2005, a Slate of Officers will be presented. Anyone  
interested in holding a position on this Committee, is  
invited to submit your name to Myrna Johnson, Secretary  
(428-2540) prior to the meeting.*

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

**Dorothy-Anne Millsap, Myrna Johnson,  
Peter Millsap**

## **POSTER FOR HERITAGE DAY**

**SHOW FEATURE 12:00 Noon**

### **CLEARVIEW IDOLS**

winners to be announced at 4:00PM

**"Ken Parton & His Cruisers"**

**COTTAGE COUNTRY CLOGGERS, 3:30**

### **OTHER FEATURES**

**Pancake Breakfast - Jubilee 7:AM to10.00AM**

**Parade, 11:00**

**Beinn Gorm Highlanders**

### **FOOD FAIR**

**Hot dogs & beverages**

**provided this year by Stayner Minor Ball  
Assoc.**

**"Pie in the Park"**

**Cotton candy & Popcorn**

### **KIDZ ZONE**

**featuring a bouncy castle**

**Scavenger Hunt 12:00**

**Scooter the Clown Magic Show - 2:00**

**Colouring Contest**

**Lots of Games**

### **MEMORY LANE**

**Helen Hanna's "Guess the Antique"**

### **SPONSORS to DATE**

**Stayner Legion - Beinn Gorm Highlanders**

**Barb's ClothesCloset - Cottage Country**

**Cloggers**

**Wheeler/Spriggs Insurance - Bouncy Castle**

**Hanna Motors - Scooter the Clown**

**Other valuable Sponsors: Helen Hanna,  
Lafreniere Auto Sales, TimBr Mart, Stayner  
Chamber of Commerce, Stayner Lions Club,  
The Petal Pushers, Quanbury Decorating,  
Stayner Meat Packers, Stan Nixon Motors,  
Darpak**

### **Caps for Pics**

**1/ Stayner Town Hall, demolished,  
November, 2004**

**2/ Thomas McKechnie and Muriel  
(Elizabeth Brown's mother) at the Railway  
Station.**

**3/ The five McKechnie Girls - Back: Marjorie  
and Muriel . Front: Marion (Fairy), Ethel, Ella**

**4/ A part of the "Prize List" for "Stayner  
School Fair" at the Town Hall, c1916,  
containing many familiar names!-**