

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
FALL, 2006**

10TH HERITAGE SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

In the summer of 2006, Stayner Heritage Society had ambitious plans to celebrate the 10th summer of heritage happenings. There were two major events. Heritage Day on July 8th, featured the finalist singers in the "Clearview Idols Singing Contest", the "Classic Country Memories Band", and the "Cottage Country Cloggers". Thanks to the over 100 volunteers and the generous sponsors, the large, enthusiastic, crowd enjoyed a perfect summer day in Station Park.

On August 19th, attractive decorations transformed Stayner Arena into a dance pavilion reminiscent of an earlier era. The Toronto All-Star Big Band, composed of 17 young musicians and 4 vocalists, delighted the crowd with a first class show featuring the familiar big band sounds of the 30's and 40's. Some youthful swing dancers helped many remember what it used to be like! Once again, a cohort of willing volunteers achieved a memorable event in Stayner.

Thanks to the generous support of Hanna Motors, this event was possible. Later in the newsletter, we are including "The Story of Hanna Motors", read on August 19th by Hillary Hanna-Scott, grand-daughter of Doug and Marjorie Hanna.

Proof of the success of this event is found in the fact that there were many requests for a repeat performance in 2007. And SHS has booked the band to return to Stayner on August 18th. Watch for details and include this in your summer plans!

REASONS TO CELEBRATE AND TO MOURN

In May, SHS held another successful Tree Sale in Station Park, earning over \$1000. for future projects.

In September, during a four day period, we decorated and staffed a booth at the Great Northern Exhibition thus raising awareness of the work of SHS in the community.

Sadly, we report the deaths of two friends of SHS. Doug Cameron, husband of Dorethy Wyant, a member of the "Classic Country Memories Band" (performing on Heritage Day in 2006) and of the group, "Kenny and the Cruisers Band" (appearing in 2005) has died. He will be missed in the Stayner Community where he shared his many talents and abilities.

Also, Marjorie Hanna died in October. SHS appreciates the donations given to the Society in her memory.

**PLANS FOR SPECIAL MEETING IN
NOVEMBER**

Last year, the SHS Executive decided to hold more "heritage-themed" meetings during the year. In February, we celebrated Black History" month. On Wednesday November 22nd 7:30 p. m., we are hosting another event in the Stayner Small Hall.

"**Remembrance, Heritage style**" will feature David Brunelle, a reinactor of the War of 1812, specifically the "Siege of Wasaga Beach". Mr. Brunelle provides an unusual and interesting experience, reminding the audience of the historical importance of our area.

This meeting is open to all, members and non-members.

This feature, occurring in each newsletter, remembers people and families from Stayner's past, gone but not forgotten.

THE STORY OF HANNA MOTORS

(Written by Helen Hanna and read by Hillary Hanna-Scott during the Big Band Dance , August 19th, 2006.)

Hanna Motors began over 50 years ago and has had a very bittersweet and interesting history.

After finishing Grade 13, the founder of Hanna Motors, Doug Hanna, decided he wanted to go to University, but found it impossible to be admitted, as returned soldiers were given priority over younger men.

School teachers at that time were very scarce, so after six weeks training at Teacher's College, Doug had no trouble getting a job as a teacher. He did so well – that after teaching two years in rural schools, he was hired to teach in Orillia.

In 1951 he married Marjorie Campbell and their first daughter, Susan, was born in 1952.

During this time, he had become friends with a young man who was selling cars in Orillia, and many times after school Doug would help him. He soon realized that selling cars appealed to him. Later, Doug rented a lot in Orillia and had Joe Spiker as salesman.

In due course, he moved to Stayner, bought a garage from George Fagan and sold new and used cars there. In 1955, he purchased the garage of Keith Robinson in Collingwood, which also included the Ford Franchise. This was a bold decision for a young man in his twenties, but with long hours and determination, the business survived.

In 1958, Doug decided his brother, Ed, was working too hard as a veterinarian, so persuaded him to join Hanna Motors as a

salesman.

When Doug bought the business in Orillia, a boat was included in the deal which he traded for a new boat – and with two other men, they started out to Collingwood by way of Lake Simcoe. On the way to Collingwood, the boat hit a pole and sprung a leak and almost sank and Doug was drowned. Before this, Doug had tentative plans to move back to Orillia with his family which now consisted of Susan 8, Debra 6, Sharon 5, and Paul 3. Sadly, the move never took place.

As brother Ed had only been in the car business for two years, he decided it was impossible for him to carry on alone. To help him, Ed chose his brother Jim (who was a car salesman for Watson Motors) and Lyle Dickey as head mechanic . So after buying the business from Marjorie, the three of them now owned Hanna Motors. Many people said a business couldn't succeed with three owners, but it did.

In 1996, Ed died with kidney disease, and two years later, Lyle succumbed to cancer, leaving Jim as sole owner. With him is a dedicated staff, including his two children, Kim and John and Lyle's sons, Tim and Brian. Two dedicated staff Jeep and Jim Dickey are also faithful and valuable assets.

Hanna Motors, known for its honesty, friendliness and integrity, is now a highly successful business in two locations, Stayner and Collingwood.

pics - heritage day, tree sale, dance, hanna motors

POSTER OF CHRISTINE MARSHALL PRINTS