

## **GOOD NEWS!**

### **Railway Station/Theatre Projects**

Chairman, Lorne (with his committee ) has been working hard to make some progress on the rebuilding of the Railway Station, our stated mission as a Society.

Through countless meetings and phone conversations, over a period of 5 years, he at last is able to announce that **we have received the go-ahead!** Arrangements with Clearview Twp. are in progress and the Railway Conglomerate are in agreement. We will have more in the Fall letter.

Bobby Venton is also still working to get a Cultural Centre for the Arts in Stayner. He is making arrangements for a **dinner-theatre** in the refurbished Orange Hall on William St. , to begin in the Fall. This lovely, vintage hall will be attractive to theatre -goers. Good Luck to him!

### **What is Going to Happen this Summer**

**The 6th Annual Heritage Day** will take place on July 6th, again, the same day as the Lion's Truck Dance.

The location has been changed to Station Park to celebrate the presence of the new Bandshell, provided by the Stayner Lions Club.

Special entertainment , fun for the kids, a marketplace, lots of food and a beverage tent will greet all comers.

We will also hold an **Arbour Day** in Station Park on May 4th, 8am to 1pm. The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority supplies the trees and the prices are reasonable.

### **What Has Already Happened Since the Last Newsletter**

The float in the Santa Claus parade said it all! A replica of the bell tower was draped in black clearly stating that Stayner Heritage Society mourns the demolition of this landmark in July, 2001.

Now, the Town Hall must make way for the parking lot of the new Municipal Building, to be erected on the site of the former Ontario Hydro Building.

The general feeling among most community members is that our heritage is fast disappearing.

SHS has appealed to decision-makers to hold off on demolishing the Town Hall until all possible uses for this building have been exhausted.

Meanwhile, on a more positive note, Stayner Lions Club has started construction on the Bandshell/gazebo in Station Park.

The Heritage Group is planning to assist with the redevelopment of the rest of the park as the first phase in the restructuring of the Railway Station Complex.

Along with the revitalized Fountain Parkette on Main Street, it is evident that several organizations in Stayner are working hard to beautify our town.

### **Government Aid**

The Society was fortunate to receive a grant of \$600. from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation through the "Heritage Organization Development ".This is helping to fund this newsletter.

### **Seeking Help**

Do you have any home movies of the Stayner Centennial Parade of Saturday, July 1, 1972? Stayner Heritage Society would be pleased to hear from you.

We will transfer your movie onto video at our cost and give you the credit for your contribution in the final production.

We hope to produce an hour-long video of that great parade with its over 100 floats, bands and horses.

## **50-50 draw**

**sponsored by Stayner Heritage Society**

**Draw to be made  
July 6th at 4:00pm**

**TICKETS**

**\$2.00 or 3/\$5.00**

**proceeds to the redevelopment of**

**Station Park**

## Items for Sale

Stayner Heritage Society will have several items for sale on July 6th.

### **VIDEOS - \$20. +\$5 S.&H.**

1. **Memories of Our Town** - Main Street in August, 1949
2. **Stayner's 125th Anniversary Celebrations** - July 12, 1997.
3. **Millennium-Stayner** - July 13, 2000.

### **STAYNER-NOTES - \$5.00+\$2**

Pen Sketches of 4 of our heritage buildings (Wilcox Inn, Co-Op, Railway Station & The Patterson House). There are 12 notes in a pack. A nice souvenir!

### **WOODEN CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS - \$10.00+\$5.**

Unique, hand-made, these are proving to be very popular. The first one was the **Railway Station**. The latest is the **Bell Tower**. If sales continue, we will add a third building for the Fall.

### **SHS SPORTS CLOTHING**

In conjunction with "Lasting Impressions" store, we have arranged to have available with a choice of styles, colours, materials, types of crest - **Sweatshirts, Golf Shirts, Vests, Hats.**

**ARBOUR DAY**  
**Saturday, May 4th**  
**8am-1pm**  
**Station Park**  
**Stayner Heritage Society**  
*& Nottawasaga Valley Conservation*  
**are sponsoring a**  
**TREE SALE**  
**several varieties of trees**  
**reasonable prices**

*[The following story is another in an ongoing series featuring former Staynerites, gone but not forgotten! We thank Melba Bradley and Jim Paul for the story]*

## **THE PAUL FAMILY**

Like many families of Stayner, the Paul family first settled in Nottawasaga on the 4th line, known as Ballygrant. Neil Paul (1811-1883) and Isabella Campbell (1823-1901) immigrated from Islay, Argleshire, Scotland to Canada around 1834 to build a new home in the virgin bush land. Many a hardship was endured in the process.

Neil and Isabella settled on the south-half of Lot 21 (later, the Ed Beattie Farm) to raise their family of eleven. Between the years 1878 and 1885, eight of their children were lost due to illness. They were struck down in young adulthood between the ages of 18 and 21. Two more of their children were lost as infants, thus leaving the eldest son, John, as the lone surviving child.

The need for a place of worship was soon realized and in 1854 Neil and Isabella donated the land on which the East Nottawasaga Presbyterian Church and cemetery are now located. The original deed and list of donors still exists. This served as a church and meeting place where friends and neighbours gathered after the week's work. Many familiar names such as McQueen, McEachern, Campbell, Paul, McLellan, McLean and Currie are buried in this cemetery.

Neil wanted to be buried on the farm when his time came, so to appease him, his tombstone is partly on the farm and partly in the cemetery. Looking in from the road you can see that the stone is not in line with the rest.

John (1845-1913) was married to Flora McEachern (1849-1923) from the Egremont area and together they raised a family of twelve. Of these twelve there were four that remained in the Stayner area to raise their families, namely Duncan, William, Jannet and Christina.

**Duncan** (1876-1951) married Christena Edmonds (1873-1946) and had a family of seven. Until this marriage, only Gaelic had been spoken in the Paul household, but as Christena could not speak it, English became their spoken language. Duncan and Christena's family consisted of: Mary (died at the age of 13 after a fall and her leg had to be amputated), Florence (Mrs. Stan Handy), John, D.A., Sadie (Mrs. Smith), Luella (Mrs. Armon Thompson) and Christina (Mrs. Abbots).

Most of John and his wife Ida (Hughes) Paul's family are still in the Stayner area. J.D.

married Phyllis Knox (their family - Judy, Marjorie and Jim); Ruth married John Miller (11 children - Bob, Marion, Pat, Terry, Jack, Pauline, Mary, David, Glen, Carol and Nancy); Dorothy married Ken Barker (their family - Audrey, Shirley, Tom and Paul); and Lois married Charles Myles.

A carpenter by trade, Duncan's hobby was old time music and he was a well-known "Country Fiddler" of his generation. He was known to make many violins in his day with still a few in existence. The wood for the violins came from the farm of Murray Osburn on the 6th line of Nottawasaga. The wood for the necks was imported. Duncan once made a 3/4 size violin for his niece, Melba Paul. She never learned to play so he gave it to his nephew, Lloyd Gulley, whose family still own and play it.

At one time John and Flora Paul moved and lived on Manitoulin Island. While there, Duncan made his first violin using wooden shingles. When the family returned to mainland Ontario by boat, Duncan played that violin for the entertainment of the other passengers. He received his first few coins as a musician.

Duncan was awarded both a Silver and Gold medal at the CNE at the fiddling contest. The first year Duncan entered and was awarded a Silver; he was penalized for sitting down while playing. Apparently a country fiddler, when playing at home, usually sat in the corner.

The next year he is said to have challenged the judges to pick the best fiddle while being blindfolded. The second fiddle Duncan used for the test was yet unvarnished. That was the year that Duncan won the Gold. They say that Duncan never went back to that competition because he contended that the judges were unqualified, having selected the unvarnished fiddle as having the best tone.

**William** (1880-1956) married Florence Taylor (1893-1977) and raised a family of four: Melba (Mrs. Tom Bradley) is the only one that still lives in Stayner. Her family is Alice (Mrs. Keith Brown) and Bill Patton. Everett married Bea Thompson (family - Jim, David and Beth). Mary married Don Stephens and lives in Glencairn (their family - Robert, Carol, and Greg). Lastly Ken lives in New Brunswick with his wife, Mary Wylie (family-Stephen, Lynn and Catherine). William's family were all born and raised in Stayner.

William, also a maker of violins and a very well known country fiddler, played at many functions. One story goes that on the 2nd line, across from Glenn and Dorothy-Anne Millsap's,

lived a Patrick McSherry in a very small wooden house. Years ago when a person died the wake always included a dance and merry-making. When McSherry died, to make room for a square dance set, the coffin was placed outside in a snowbank until the wake was over. William Paul played the violin at his wake.

**Jannet** (1888-1988) married Wilmer Gulley (1890-1979) and had a family of six (Fred, Lloyd, Velma, Marion, Myrna and Ken). After their marriage they farmed on the 7th line of Sunnidate for 52 years, then retired in 1961 to Wasaga Beach. After Wilmer passed away in 1979, Jannett made her home among her three daughters until she passed away in 1988 in her 101st year.

Sons Fred and Lloyd remained in the immediate Stayner area all their lives. Fred married Florence Lamont. Lloyd, with his spouse, Thelma Gonneau, had a family of 14 children: Ray, Glen, Barry, Joe, Bonnie, Paul, Don, Lynda, Susan, Stewart, Ed, Dianne, David, and Sandra.

The Gulley family is well known in the area for their musical ability. Every year on the August holiday weekend the family hosts Gulleyfest, which is attended by friends, neighbours and relatives from far and wide. With over a hundred descendents of Janet and Wilmer, each inviting their relatives and friends, the mini bluegrass festival has grown immensely over the last decade. It provides a great weekend of family fun and entertainment.

The last child of John and Flora Paul remaining in the area was **Christina** (1890-1978) who married Joe Bristow (1890-1966). They had no family.

Duncan, William and Jannett along with Mike Watson played in a band that was many a Saturday night's entertainment in the old Town Hall. They played for weddings, dances, concerts and other social functions. For their performances they would receive a dollar.

The story of the Paul Family adds to the rich tapestry that is our heritage in the Stayner area.

caption # 1 **THE PAUL FAMILY**

**Back Row**, l to r:Christina, Flora, Lucy, Duncan, Sarah, William

**Front Row**, l to r: Bessie, Neil, Flora (mother), John, Isabella, Jannet

#2 **Jannet and Wilmer Gulley** at their wedding in 1910.

#3 **Duncan and William Paul**, in 1899, young well-known "country fiddlers" of Stayner

#4 **John Paul and Barney**, plowing over 2 miles of Stayner streets in 4 hours, in a bygone time.

during the photocopying.  
Just thought we should explain!

**6TH ANNUAL  
HERITAGE DAY**

**SATURDAY, JULY 6,  
7AM - 4 PM  
STATION PARK, STAYNER**

**breakfast  
Jubilee Pres. Church  
parade  
special entertainment  
including "Willie Nelson"  
marketplace  
food**

**fun for the kids**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 29, 2002,  
Huron Meadows Club House  
7:30 pm**

**SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT  
everybody welcome**

**SLATE OF OFFICERS, 2001-2002**

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 - Dave Bowes  
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, Shirlie Millsap, Ferne Allen  
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster  
Auditors - Carol Marsden, Harold Platts

**NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

**Quality of Pictures in the Newsletters**

When the newsletter is formatted on a Macintosh Computer, the quality of the pictures is often better than that being copied! However, this quality is lost, unfortunately,

D. A. Millsap, Myrna Johnson,  
Jim Paul, Peter Millsap.