

### **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HERITAGE DAY!**

From the time on Friday Evening when Laura and Allen McNabb arrived with the tent, to the time when the crew took it down, the 7th Annual Heritage Day was a great success.

The breakfast put on by Jubilee Presbyterian Choir started everyone off .

The parade, co-ordinated by Manfred Leimgardt and Kevin Jerry, coursed down Main Street. Featuring big and little horses, imaginative floats, tiny cars, antique vehicles and people having fun, it drew a large crowd.

Newly dressed Station Park received the crowd with a wonderful band concert. The Beinn Gorm Highlanders led the crowd in and entertained for several minutes.

Next, the South Simcoe Concert Band played many familiar tunes. The Cottage Country Cloggers were a hit and kept the people tapping their toes until the 4:00pm time for the draw for the Heritage Chair and other prizes. Catherine Walker arranged and presented the wonderful program.

Meanwhile in the auditorium of the Evangelical Missionary Church, just across the vacant lot, Bobby Venton and Co. delighted the audience with the original musical **Lady & the Tramp**.

Folk were able to have lunch of sausage on a bun or hot dogs with beverage, provided by Bob & Ferne Allen with helpers. Or they could get home-made pie and ice cream from Shirlie Millsap and her helpers at the "Pie in the Park" booth. Cotton Candy and popcorn also helped create the festive atmosphere.

A new addition, "Memory Lane"(along Huron St. to Gideon), featured several activities and crafts of yesteryear - rug hooking(Lana Grainger), quilting (Shirley Parton), blacksmithing (Scott McDonald), butter churning (Fran & Burton Somerville & Marion & Gord Coukell). Helen Hanna's booth "Guess the Antique", complete with prizes for complete correct sheet, was very popular. Manfred Leimgardt, once again, set up his great model rail display.

Brad Lebeck generously conveyed groups in his authentic Victorian Coach, along John and Oak Streets to Stayner Small Hall. Newly opened, the Small Hall contained heritage displays. Proprietor, Robert Levant, along with members of SHS welcomed visitors to this delightful addition to

Stayner's "sites worth seeing".

June Carruthers, Dayn Leyshon and others provided more fun for the youth, making Heritage Day truly a day for everyone!!

### **Glenn Alfred Millsap**

The community was saddened to hear of the death of Glenn Millsap, July 26th. He died of heart failure after 6 months of failing health. A founding member of Stayner Heritage Society, Glenn always had the needs of the community of Stayner as a priority. Because he was in business on the Main Street for over 40 years, he was well known throughout the area. A commemorative bench is being placed in Station Park in his memory. He will be missed.

### **FINAL TOUCHES IN STATION PARK**

Stayner Heritage Society is placing special park benches and picnic tables in the beautifully landscaped Station Park in the spring. They are already here and just have to be assembled. One bench remembers Glenn Millsap. Another is placed by the Leimgardt family and the third is donated by Noble Insurance.

The park, landscaped by Darpak of Stayner, funded by a Trillium Grant, has received rave reviews from the many visitors and especially from those attending the weekly "Jazz in the Park" events. The park serves as a focal point for Stayner. This landscaping project is the first stage of the rebuilding of the Railway Station.

### **ANNOUNCING A NEW HERITAGE RAFFLE**

Robert Hunter had foresight when he acquired the windows from the old arena before it was demolished.

Now he and Mary have created beautiful mirrors from these windows. They are donating one to Stayner Heritage Society for a raffle.

Tickets for the raffle will be available, starting on "Santa Day" in Stayner. Plan to aid S.H.S. in its work and perhaps acquire a piece of Stayner history.

**ANOTHER MEMENTO FROM THE OLD  
STAYNER ARENA**

Co-incidentally as we were preparing this newsletter, a parcel arrived from George Sheffer. It contained a plate planed from a piece of hemlock, retrieved as the arena was being demolished. Mr. Sheffer, like the Hunters, had the foresight to salvage some samples of a building which meant a great deal to the Stayner Community. He signed the plate on the back. It will have a prominent place in the Museum. Thanks, George!

**GOOD WORK, BILL!**

It is with regret that we say farewell to Bill Trotter, our faithful treasurer for the past several years. Bill and Jean have moved to St. Clements, near St. Jacobs. We will miss his accounting abilities, as well as his engineering expertise. He has promised to return for our meetings for a while, for which we are grateful!

Bob Charlton has agreed to take over the treasurer's duties, for which we are also grateful!

**WHERE DID THEY GET TO?**

Augmenting our regular feature of honouring a Stayner family, we are doing it a little differently this time. A reader has suggested a column entitled "Where Are They Now?" This time, we are presenting sketches of three former Staynerites.

**Ozzie Burkholder & the Athabasca**

The Athabasca was a Tribal Class Destroyer and she was big, powerful, and beautiful. On January 9, 2003, the Toronto Star reported that a diver had located the underwater grave of H.M.C.S. Athabasca. She was torpedoed by a German Destroyer in the English Channel off Brittany on April 29, 1944.

This news item brought back many memories of that time for a Stayner family. One of their own was reported missing as having been on board as a leading Telegraphist. That person was Oswald (Ozzie) Burkholder.

His part of the story is told in the "Unlucky Lady", a story written and published by Emil Boudoin, (whose brother was a survivor but spent the rest of the war in a POW Camp in Germany), and Len Burrow of the R.C.A.F. (whose younger brother was reported as "missing and presumed dead").

Ozzie's story goes like this - at 2200 hours Ozzie arrived at the Devonport Dockyard to join the Athabasca Crew at number 5 jetty. He had been on a special course in Northern England and was returning wearily to his ship. He was challenged by the Shore Patrol who wanted to know where he was going. On giving his destination he was told that the ship had just left the dock and he was adrift. As it turned out, he really was "adrift", as all his gear, clothes, and records of all kinds were on board. It took about two weeks for the good news to get back to Stayner that he was alive and well. One Hundred & Twenty-eight of the crew were lost that night of a total complement of 261.

Ozzie's next ship was a Corvette - the Leaside and he had many a stormy Atlantic crossing on convoy duty between St. John's and Londonderry.

Ozzie died of a brain aneurism at the age of 60.  
*(submitted by Mary Burkholder)*

**John Ross**

John Ross was born in Stayner in 1919 and died of a heart attack in 2003 in Chilliwack, B.C. John started to Byng School in 1925 and graduated from Grade 13. John had a brilliant mind attending University of Toronto on a full scholarship. He became a Presbyterian minister. In 1943 he married Kathleen Cosens and took up a 4-point charge in Creemore, Ont., completing his final year at Knox College extramurally. He was ordained to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in 1944 and went on to earn his PHD in Philosophy. John's desire to be involved in academic life was fulfilled in 1957 when he became Dean of St. Andrew's Hall; the first Chaplain of U.B.C.; and the founding minister of the University Hill congregation. He was an outstanding public speaker, preacher and author of three books - This We Believe, This Backlit Universe, and yet unpublished The Time Syndrome. In addition to all that he was also a poet, artist, photographer, inventor, and carpenter.

Sunday afternoon and evenings were special times for his children, Robin, Dawn, Martin, and Karen. He was faithfully devoted to Kay his wife of almost 60 years (the last 12 spent in a wheelchair) fully honouring his wedding promise "in sickness and in health".

*(submitted by Helen Hanna)*

**George Grainger alias Michael Stayner**

The editor of our Heritage newsletter asked me to do a short biography on the life of George

Grainger after he left good old S.C.I. in Stayner. There is to be a series just to bring our readers up-to-date on some of those who have left and gone on to follow their dreams.

While teaching English and Drama as a High School teacher, George put to good use his own training in drama from the Paul Endershy School in Vineland. It was this experience that turned him to the acting profession.

He eventually moved to England to the Webber, Douglas School of Singing & Dramatic Art in London. There he took up permanent residence to pursue his career as an actor in theatre, television and film. The Actor's Equity already had an actor named George Grainger, so he chose Michael Stayner as his name. As years went by and he retired his name has become Michael Grainger.

In the year 1963 approximately, he married the former Diana Gordon who was born in St. Catharines and who also worked at the theatre in Vineland in Theatre Management. She was also a model and a qualified pilot. She had a daughter Michelle from a previous marriage and in short order they went to England too and so they became a family of three.

Mike and Diana owned an antique jewellery business for a few years out of London and did extensive travelling in pursuit of merchandise. Their present home and permanent abode is an old church which they have made into a very beautiful home close to the border between England and Wales. Mike is a great gardener and his flowers are a sight to behold. Mike and Diana have two wonderful granddaughters.

Mike is still George to me and has never lost his zest for life or his wonderful sense of humour. Forgive me, George, if I have rewritten your life history different from your remembering - age is a factor here.

Your cousin, Mary (Burkholder)

*If any of our readers would like to submit a sketch of someone you knew in Stayner and tell us "where are they now", please send it to Helen Hanna, Box 1966, Stayner, ON. LOM ISO.*

### **HERITAGE MERCHANDISE**

Don't forget that we still have merchandise for sale - **Videos** of some Stayner past glories, **Stayner - Notes** (depicting 4 Stayner heritage buildings), Unique, hand-made in Canada **Christmas wooden ornaments** (station and bell tower) and **CD's** (Bobby Venton Norman Amadio). All of these items make great Christmas gifts. Inquiries may be directed to Secretary Myrna Johnson, Box 290, Stayner, or phone 428-2540.

### **HERITAGE EXECUTIVE : 2003-2004**

Chairperson - Lorne Stewart

Vice Chair - Jeff Parton

Past-Chair/Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Secretary - Myrna Johnson

Treasurer - Bob Charlton

**Directors** -, Lorne Stewart, Myrna Johnson, Bob Charlton, D. A. Millsap, Rod Robinson, Pete Jerry.

#### **Committees:**

Correspondence Secretary - Edythe Philipps

Membership - Barb Stransky

Program - Catherine Walker

Council Rep.- June Carruthers

Chamber of Commerce Rep. - Rod Robinson

Lions Club Rep - Pete Jerry

Kinsmen Club Rep - Paul Van Staveren

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 - Judy Cox

Clearview Theatre Rep - Richard Paul

Community Reps - Peg Gilbert, Shirlye Millsap, Ferne Allen, Shirley Parton

History - Jim Paul

Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster

Technical Advisors - Jack Craig, Kevin Jerry

Auditors - Carol Marsden, Harold Platts

### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

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

*CAPTIONS FOR PICS*

1. *John Ross*
2. *Michael Stayner (George Grainger)*
3. *Ozzie Burkholder*
4. *Members of Stayner Heritage Society receiving a cheque from the Trillium Foundation via MPP Jim Wilson. From left: Jim Wilson, Lorne Stewart, Myrna Johnson, Mary Burkholder, Pete Jerry, Shirlie Millsap, Helen Hanna, Richard Paul, Bill Trotter.*
5. *The ever popular Beinn Gorm Highlanders lead the parade.*
6. *The first "Jazz in the Park" event .*
7. *Station Park landscaping begins.*
8. *The 7th Annual Heritage Day - Chairman, Lorne Stewart addresses the crowd.*
9. *The crowd-pleasing Cottage Country Cloggers at the 7th Annual Heritage Day.*
10. *"Arena Window Mirror", created by Robert Hunter.*