

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
SPRING, 2003
GOOD NEWS FOR SPRING!**

Stayner Heritage Society is making plans for the **7th Annual Heritage Day**, to be held on July 5th, at Station Park.

We are targeting families this year with fun for all ages.

Following the traditional Pancake Breakfast at Jubilee Pres. Church, starting at 7:30, and the Parade along Main Street, the festivities will start in the park at 12:00 noon with the **Ravenna Pipe Band**.

There will be two performances of the original exciting children's musical "**Lady and the Tramp**", 12:30 and 2:30, at the Evangelical Missionary Church Hall, adjacent to the Park. All tickets will be sold in advance - \$10.00 and children 5 and under, \$5. Get your tickets early as space is limited. **Watch for details!!**

The musical was created by Bobby Venton and Tony LaChappelle and has been very well received.

Meanwhile, as well as the **Pipe Band**, the **South Simcoe Concert Band** and the **Cottage Country Cloggers** (sponsored by Barb's Clothes Closet) will entertain from the Gazebo.

A new feature this year will be **Memory Lane**. You will be able to stroll along Huron Street and see demonstrations of crafts and activities of yore. There will also be a children's section with several **Activity Centres**. Lots of fun, games, contests and prizes for all ages.

There are several other features in the planning, and will be announced when they are finalized. However, we are pleased to announce that there will be "Cart Rides" with the miniature horses of John and Gayle Gordon in conjunction with the children's activities.

Bring a lawn chair and plan to meet your friends and have lunch at the **Food Fair**.

MORE GOOD NEWS

During Heritage Day, you will have an opportunity to hear excerpts from the excellent CD made by **Bobby Venton and Norman Amadio**. Mr. Venton, who lives in Stayner, is the owner of KUDOS, a company promoting the Arts in the Georgian Triangle Area. Over the years, he has amassed a large company of talent and is producing concerts and shows throughout the year in this area.

This current project is the result of his friendship with Norman Amadio, internationally-known Canadian Jazz Pianist.

Along with Mark Hathaway on tenor sax, Lenny Boyd on Bass and Bruce Campbell on drums, Bobby provides great vocals for 10 Jazz Classics, including "Fly Me to the Moon", "Ain't Misbehavin'", and "Kansas City".

The CDs will be on sale for \$15.00. The quality of the CD is excellent and SHS is honoured to be associated with it. Proceeds from sales will go to SHS projects..

EVEN MORE GOOD NEWS

The "Stayner Small Hall", formerly the Orange Hall, has been opened, finally. Mr. Robert Levant is renting this delightful facility to organizations and groups. Our **SHS Annual General Meeting** will be held there, May 28th, 2003 at 7:30, courtesy of Mr. Levant. Everyone is welcome. Plan to attend to see what your Heritage Society is up to! There will be entertainment.

REBUILDING THE RAILWAY STATION

We assure our readers that we have not lost sight of this, the original aim of SHS.

Acquiring sufficient land in the location suitable for the building (it will not be able to go where it was originally) has proven to be a long procedure. However, some dedicated SHS members have been pursuing this venture and are doing everything possible to make this dream a reality. At press time, we have just been informed that we have received a **Trillium Grant** to help with the landscaping of Station Park, the first phase in this project. The news gets even better!!

ANOTHER EXCITING PROJECT

You could be the proud owner of a beautiful "Heritage Rocking Chair". The raffle was launched at Christmas. SHS member, June Robinson, has donated a **Boston Rocker** complete with hand-painted Folk Art. We are selling tickets - \$2.00 or 3/\$5.00 in several businesses down town including Barb's Clothes Closet, R. G. Robinson Clothing, and Wheeler's Insurance or from SHS members. The draw will be made on Heritage Day, July 5th in Station Park at 4:00pm.

**ANNUAL MEETING BOX
SHS Annual Meeting,
May 28, 2003, 7:30 PM
in Stayner's "Small Hall" (formerly Orange
Hall)
courtesy of Mr. Robt. Levant.
Entertainment, Everyone welcome.
Come and see what the SHS is up to!**

**ARBOUR DAY - TREE SALE
Saturday, May 3, 8:00am
Station Park
trees supplied by the NCVA (some larger
trees available)
sponsored by SHS**

STORY OF THE GALBRAITH FAMILY

(The following story is another in an on-going series featuring former Stayner area families. We thank Marion Haverson for the story.)

Five generations of Galbraiths have been respected Canadian citizens; most of these folks have lived for many years in the Stayner area.

William Galbraith, Sr., the son of William and Jane (Wilson) Galbraith, was born in Tyrone, Northern Ireland in 1842. He came to Canada by sailboat in his late teens. In the early 1860's, he used his "good hammer" to help build the Canadian Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. His farming experience began when he worked on a farm in the Streetsville area. The family of his first wife, Hannah Morrow (who died at the age of 29 in 1876) lived in that area. He then purchased about 140 acres of land on the 4th Concession of Flos Township and built the large, two-story brick house, still on the property. He married Martha Ann McMurray, daughter of James and Eliza Jane McMurray of Sunnidale Corners, on December 26, 1877 in Zion Presbyterian Church, when the church was a year old. Martha died, at the age of 22, in childbirth in October 1878. In 1896, he married Mary Speers. In 1927, William and Mary retired from farming and moved into their son's Sunnidale home, where two stoves burned all night to send lots of heat upstairs. William died June 25, 1928 and Mary died May 18, 1929. The names of all his three wives are on William's tombstone in the Stayner Cemetery.

William James Galbraith (October 13, 1878 to September 27, 1953) married Lucinda McCulloch (October 3, 1883 to March 21, 1972), daughter of James and Jane (Noble) McCulloch of Connor on February 28, 1906. Lucy had come to New Flos to teach school January 1, 1900 and stayed until February 1903 when she went back home because she had lost her voice! William attended school during the winter months only, excused during the summer to help on the farm, beginning at S.S.#1 Sunnidale at the age of 4 and then later at the New Flos school. He was playing football at the age of 12 when one of his ears was hurt, causing deafness to settle in; no suitable medical care being available in those days. One of his teachers recognized his talent in artwork drawn on his slate. His cartoons and written articles appeared in several newspapers, including the Barrie Examiner, in the late 1930's. Their subject matter was a mixture of agriculture and politics.

William built a two-story frame house on a stone foundation on the lower Flos farm, next to his father's land. This house burned down in December 1917 as the result of a chimney fire. The family then moved to a farm on the Sunnidale Road, north of Sunnidale Corners. William and Lucy called this place "Mapledene", because of the row of maple trees growing along the length of the lane. The Mapledene farm was sold in May 1966.

In 1902 William and others travelled by train to Guelph to learn how to plant and nurture seedling trees. He planted evergreen trees along the fence rows, around his property, and bordering Ebenezer Cemetery to act as windbreaks. He and his family planted 1000's of Red and White Pine and Norway Spruce trees on the Flos farm between 1928 and 1935. This farm is now part of the Simcoe County Forests. Instead of heavy farmwork, he preferred to grow nursery stock. He planted crops from seeds obtained from the Guelph Agricultural College; i.e. new varieties of clover and wheat. He cleaned his clover and alfalfa seed by hand with a magnifying glass. There was good demand for this new wheat and its sale brought the income needed to feed his family. His strawberry plants (Senator Dunlop, Premier, and Everbearing varieties) and raspberry plants (Latham Viking and Marcia

varieties) were bundled and shipped all over Ontario. He raised many types of apples and other fruit, perennials, and vegetables too.

The following are the members of William James Galbraith's family:

Unfortunately, **Mervyn Wendall Galbraith** (born June 19, 1911) spent many years at the Ontario Hospital in Woodstock and at the Penetang Mental Health Centre, but he always wanted to come home to take over the farm. Several implements and other pieces of equipment were still awaiting his return at the time of his death, April 23, 1970.

Martha Muriel (March 16, 1915-June 15, 2000) had two big brothers to help her walk to school. She took classes at the Toronto Normal School to learn to be a teacher. But she worked along with her husband, William Clarence Haverson, on their farm in Sunnidale Township, from the date of their wedding, November 15, 1941 until he died March 28, 1985. Their three children, Marion Lucinda, William Donald and Clarence Douglas, and four grandchildren, are busy keeping the memories alive.

Mary Jean (born June 15, 1918) was a public school teacher for many years. She married Robert William Lynn Russell on September 14, 1940 and raised two children, William Robert Wayne and Lynda Jean. Mary now lives in Midhurst, helping her two great grandchildren with their schoolwork, because her grandchildren do not have time to do so.

James Douglas Galbraith (born November 8, 1908) has led a long and interesting life. He walked two miles to a one-room country schoolhouse, first in New Flos and then at S.S.#1 Sunnidale. It was a big step from there to the Stayner Continuation School. He bicycled the five miles to high school, but in the winter, he drove a horse and cutter. He'd take some hay to feed the horse, in the Wilcox drive shed, at noon. In January 1928, he started going by train to Collingwood to go to the High School to get University entrance requirements, especially Chemistry. After graduation from the University of Toronto's Medical School in 1935 and a year's internship at Toronto Western Hospital, he and his new bride (he married Florence Margaret Virgin, daughter of John and Annie Virgin of Toronto on June 12, 1936) travelled out west to work in Bella Coola. He acquired a position in the United Church's hospital. While there, the tuberculosis problem among the Indians became a particular interest and concern for him. He would treat Native children with tuberculous meningitis at the residential schools as much as possible, having no anti-tuberculous drugs, and arrange to send others home to die. It was in Bella Coola that their first child, John Lynn, was born.

In September 1941, the Federal Government opened its first sanatorium for Indians at Sardis, B.C. Douglas' first task as its staff doctor was to choose those most in need of sanatorium care. This hospital and a second one at Naniamo soon filled up. When a third hospital was proposed, Douglas was appointed to take over an Air Force hospital at Miller Bay, near Prince Rupert. Shortages of material and personnel caused by the war prevented the hospital from admitting patients until 1946. By then, there was a great backlog of tuberculous patients so that the hospital soon became completely filled. In addition to hospital care, there was an increasing emphasis on field work in the specialty of tuberculosis as well as in other areas of health care. So Douglas travelled to all the Indian reservations in northern British Columbia, taking with him special drugs for treating tuberculosis, that had

become available in the early 1950's. Cases of severe tuberculosis could now be treated successfully. Douglas was transferred to Edmonton in 1966, with the responsibility for the control of tuberculosis in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The rate of tuberculosis among the Eskimos at that time was found to be one of the highest in the world. It was decided to give medication to these natives at their home, under a supervised plan. It was an immediate success as the rate of tuberculosis dropped dramatically by the late 1960's. Douglas retired at the age of 65, in 1973, and bought a house in Victoria, B.C. Gardening can be a year-round venture in Victoria and he has had many flowers and vegetables to tend as a retirement hobby. He still goes for a walk around the neighbourhood each day and talks with his son, David and family in Edmonton on the telephone weekly. He is now busy writing his memoirs on a new computer.

JAZZ CD

**featuring: Bobby Venton, vocals,
internationally acclaimed Jazz pianist,
Norman Amadio, Mark Hathaway, tenor sax,
Lenny Boyd, bass and Bruce Campbell,
percussion.**

**Includes 10 familiar and beloved ballads. \$15.
First public airing on Heritage Day, July 5th.
(anyone wishing to order a CD, please contact SHS,
Box 290, Stayner. Include 3\$ S&H)**

PIC OF COVER OF CD IF POSSIBLE

HERITAGE DAY RAFFLE

**Heritage Boston Rocker,
complete with hand-painted folk art by June
Robinson
Tickets: \$2.00 or 3/\$5.00.**

**On sale now at Wheeler's Insurance Office, Barb's
Clothes Closet and through members of SHS.**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2002-2003

Chairperson - Lorne Stewart (reinstated-Jim Paul's work schedule had prevented him from continuing)

Vice Chair - Jeff Parton

Past-Chair/Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Secretary - Myrna Johnson

Treasurer - Bill Trotter

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 - Shirley Parton

Community Reps - Peg Gilbert, Shirlee Millsap, Ferne Allen

History - Jim Paul

Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster

Technical Advisors - Glenn Millsap, Jack Craig

Auditors - Carol Marsden, Harold Platts

Directors - Lorne Stewart, Myrna Johnson, Bill Trotter, D. A. Millsap, Rod Robinson, Pete Jerry.

Please note: At the Annual General Meeting on May 28, 2003, 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**

CAPS FOR PICS

1. The Galbraith Family, 1945.

**Back, l to r: Mervyn, William John, Douglas
Front: Muriel, Lucinda, Mary.**

2. A More Recent Picture, 1990.

**Mary Russell, Douglas Galbraith, Muriel
Haverson.**

**3. This wooden sign was erected to honour
Dad's passion for reforesting the
unproductive fields of our Flos farm, now
owned by Simcoe County Forests.**

**4. Dr. Douglas Galbraith wearing the Order of
Canada Medal he received in 1999. He was
recognized for his pioneering medical work in
remote First Nation communities in B. C. and
the Northwest Territories.**