

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
SPRING, 2006**

A WORTHWHILE PROJECT

Once again, spring is here! And, once again we are appealing to the members and adherents of Stayner Heritage Society. You will remember that in the Fall, 2005 edition, we outlined the plan for Stayner Small Hall.

Since then, the doubts about the plan still exist. However, we are again reviewing this plan with you with the hope that you will rethink your reservations.

By purchasing Stayner Small Hall, the executive of Stayner Heritage Society believe they would be fulfilling a part of their mandate of preserving the heritage of the Stayner area.

However, they need the help of the community to accomplish this fact. Unfortunately, we have not been able to acquire the funds necessary during the past few months.

Anyone who attended the Black History Celebration on February 22nd, (where a capacity crowd gathered to hear author Janie-Cooper Wilson tell about her pioneer black ancestors who settled near New Lowell), can see that this hall could be a centrepiece in Community life.

The executive, in reviewing earlier plans to secure property on which to rebuild the railway station, now wonders if it was a stroke of fate that they have been unsuccessful so far in that venture. If they had been successful, they would have been raising atleast ONE MILLION dollars. How could they have done that when they are having such difficulty raising \$225,000. to purchase the fully ready Small Hall?

At a recent meeting, the Executive of Stayner Heritage Society has voted to continue to attempt to raise the remainder of the funds necessary to purchase this building until May 31, 2006. This decision gives those who have been reluctant, a chance to step forward.

The business plan which has been proposed for the operation of the Hall, if SHS is successful in securing it for the Community

of Stayner, will ensure that the promissory notes are repaid, the community has a meeting and social events place, and a valuable heritage building has been saved.

Please commit to this project as you are able.

line drawing of John Hindle of small hall?
or the 2 pics used in the fall

NEW STAYNER NOTES

A new set of Stayner Notes will be available on Heritage Day, July 8th.

This set will include 4 each of: The Town Hall, the Bell Tower, the original Library, and the Small Hall. There are 12 notes in a package.

There will be also available more of the first set, including: the Co-op, Wilcox Inn, Patterson House (now a B&B owned by Maureen Weatherall), and the Railway Station.

This is not only a good souvenir of Stayner, but it is also a reminder of our heritage buildings, some of which no longer exist.

BIG PLANS FOR 10TH ANNUAL HERITAGE CELEBRATION

It is hard to believe that SHS has been providing a wonderful day of celebration for the community of Stayner and friends for a decade.

We have big plans for the summer celebration of the 10th Annual Heritage Day - in fact, there are going to be THREE celebrations.

On June 7th and 8th, the Preliminaries for the "Clearview Idols Singing Contest" will be held at Jubilee Presbyterian Church at 7:00pm. The public is welcome. There will be a \$3.00 admission fee each evening. This is an entertaining event.

On July 8th, the traditional Heritage Day will occur in Railway Station Park. It will begin with the usual pancake breakfast and parade. The Clearview Idols Singing Contest will form the program, interspersed with the popular "Cottage Country Cloggers". The Heritage Scavenger Hunt and Colouring Contest will provide fun for the kids. The kiddie "Tractor-Pull", a favourite feature at Stayner Fair, will be an addition on Huron St. Many other features are planned.

Then, on August 19th, in Stayner Arena, Stayner Heritage Society is hosting the award-winning TORONTO ALL-STAR BIG BAND. This band, consisting of 17 young musicians and 4 vocalists, will be sure to please everyone, whether you wish to just watch and listen, or dance up a storm. There will be a cash bar and snacks, door prizes etc.

We are limiting the number of tickets to be sold. Thus, if you will be able to attend, get your tickets early. They will be on sale soon at \$25.00 each. You can reserve by contacting secretary, Myrna Johnson, at 428-2540 (or any other member of the Executive - see phone numbers below) or by mail at Box 290, Stayner, On, L0M 1S0. **COME AND JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES.**

Sponsors to Date for Heritage Celebrations

For August 19th

Hanna Motors will generously sponsor the "Toronto All-Star Big Band"

For July 8th

Chapman Real Estate, Carruthers-Davidson Funeral Home, and Jerry's Body Shop, (singing contest)

Barb's (Cottage Country Cloggers)

Spriggs Insurance (Scooter the Clown)

Stayner Legion (Beinn Gorm Highlanders)

(The following story is another in an ongoing series featuring former Staynerites, gone but not forgotten!)

Frances Grace Ford

A sad event occurred in Stayner in March when life-long resident, Grace Ford, died. The following appeared in the Stayner Sun, and we reprint it here with permission.

GRACE FORD, the winner of last year's Thomas Stayner Award, died on Saturday. She was 87.

Daughter-in-law Tish Ford told The Sun on Monday that Ford died of liver, lung and bone cancer. She was diagnosed in early December and subsequently moved to Stayner Nursing Home, where she passed away on the weekend.

The award she received at last year's Stayner Chamber of Commerce Business Awards ceremony was special to her, her daughter-in-law said.

Judges selected Grace based on a 14-year commitment to the Stayner Public Library Board. Many other things she was involved with helped her win as well. She was a volunteer driver for the Children's Aid Society (CAS), ferrying wards to appointments and did work through United Church Women.

"Her enthusiasm toward her town and its heritage is unending, and she is an individual who possesses a very strong community spirit and has definitely made a difference to Stayner and the lives of its citizens," Ford's daughter-in-law wrote when nominating her last year. She recounted Monday that her mother-in-law was "a very caring and outspoken person. No one pulled the wool over Grace's eyes. If she had something to say she said it. You always knew where you stood."

Grace Johnson was born and raised in Stayner. She attended Byng Public School and subsequently Stayner Continuation School. Her parents were Vern and Eva Johnson. Ford's dad was a tailor, who had a business where R.C. Robinson Mens Wear is now located on Main Street.

Growing up and as a young woman Ford loved to play sports. "She played hockey, baseball, whatever was going back then she enjoyed it," Tish Ford said.

Helen Hanna, 87, Ford's best friend, recalled the first time they met. "We've been friends for over 75 years. They'd moved to a new house on John Street and I'd heard there were two little kids there. So I lived on John Street too and I went up the walk and there she was standing out front," Hanna said.

Growing up the two played sports together and as adults were often in each other's company, Hanna said, adding she was a bridesmaid in Ford's wedding.

Ford lived most of her life in Clearview Township, except for a few brief stints, including one when she worked building airplanes for the deHavilland Aircraft Company in Toronto during the Second World War.

"She was always very good with her hands. It was not uncommon for her to fix things at my place," her friend said.

She married her husband Fred shortly after the war ended and the couple lived on a farm at Sunnidale Corners for 20-plus years, until moving back to town. The Stayner home was the one Ford grew up in as a little girl, Hanna said.

"She loved Stayner too — it was her favourite place. She was a big believer in buying locally, which I guess stems from when her dad was in business."

Hanna noted her friend was also a good mother. She raised two boys, Tom and John.

"She also cherished every moment with her grandchildren and great grandchildren," Tish Ford said.

In terms of entertainment she loved to play cards, although Helen said she thought Ford enjoyed the social aspect more than the game itself. Reading was another favourite thing, her daughter-in-law said. Ford was a big diary writer as well and kept one since she was a youngster.

Helen Hanna said she will miss her friend dearly.

pic of Grace Ford

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

May 31, 2006, Stayner Heritage Society will hold the AGM at Stayner Small Hall, 7:30pm. The local singing group, "Georgian Girls", will entertain. All are welcome.

NEW FORMAT FOR MEETINGS

This year, those planning the programs have attempted to delegate much of the business to committees so that the meetings can include more heritage-type content. This will be of more interest to the public which also would become more aware of the work of SHS.

The Black History Celebration on Feb. 22nd was an example.

ANNUAL TREE SALE
Stayner Heritage Society
is holding the annual tree sale
Sat, May 6th
in Railway Station Park
from 8:00am until sold out.

VOLUNTEER WEEK

To recognize **Volunteer Week**, we are inviting all our volunteers to join us for lunch, following the tree sale. on May 6 at the Golden Apple.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2005-2006

Chairperson - Kevin Jerry	428-5459
Vice Chair - Jeff Parton	428-3537
Past-Chair - Lorne Stewart	428-2375
Secretary - Myrna Johnson	428-2540
Treasurer - Bob Charlton	428-6943
Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap	428-2917
Correspondence Sec - Edythe Philipps	428-2474
Membership - Barb Stransky	445-4468
Program - Catherine Walker	428-2719
Clearview Council Rep.- Robert Walker	428-3335
Chamber of Comm. Rep.- Rod Robinson	428-0343
Lions Club Rep - Pete Jerry	429-3269
Kinsmen Club Rep -	
Women's Institute Rep - Helen Hanna	429-5106
Eastern Star Rep - Jane Forster	428-6119
Legion Rep - Mary Burkholder	428-3494
Horticultural Soc Rep.- Pam Townsend	428-2306
Masonic Order Rep. - John Hindle	428-2135
Clearview Theatre Rep. - Pam Townsend	
Community Reps - Shirley Parton(428-3902)	
Shirlie Millsap(428-2074)Ferne Allen(428-2137)	
Susan Brockwell(429-6551)	
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster	
Technical Advisors - Jack Craig, (428-2323)	
Eric Harvey	
Auditor - Carol Marsden	428-3945
Directors - Lorne Stewart, Myrna Johnson, Bob Charlton, D. A. Millsap, Rod Robinson, Pete Jarry	
Pete Jerry, Kevin Jerry	