



# STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

[www.staynerheritagesociety.com](http://www.staynerheritagesociety.com)

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring, 2014.

## THE 17TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

The 17th Annual Heritage Day on July 5th, promises to be a great one.

The concert will be the showcase along with the Heritage Walk, featuring Dr. Bill Ives. All the usual treats including food, fun for the kids, antique car show, silent auction, photo display, and a real homecoming event will await you. Mark your calendar!

## THE SHINGLE PROJECT CONTINUES

(galvanized tin shingles from Stayner Bell Tower)

We still have a number of one of a kind items created by local artisans using the 'bell tower shingles'.

They might find a place in your garden or in your home, as a gift or just for you. They range in price from \$11.00 - \$75.00.

The pieces will be available at:

- Music in the Park Farmer's Market on selected Thursday evenings.

- SHS Heritage Day, July 5th.

If you would like to have a piece before then, please call Ferne Allen 705-428-2137.

## STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Wed. May 26th, 7:30 at Centennial United Church, SHS will hold the AGM. Tom Scholte will be our special guests talking about the 50th Anniversary of Stayner Granite Club. All are welcome, member or not!

## STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, Nov. 9th, 2013, SHS hosted the 4th annual Remembrance Day event. Jeff Parton, Chairperson, welcomed close to 100 people to the beautifully decorated room at Jubilee Presbyterian Church. Don Doner played the Last Post, followed by a one minute silence and the singing of "O Canada". After the blessing by Rev. May, breakfast was served.



*Ken Parton and his group open the Remembrance Day Celebration*

Jared Auclair, SCI student introduced a DVD about the trip taken by Barrie Eastview students

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in 2010 to Vimy Ridge and Normandy Beaches, celebrating the 65th anniversary of the end of WWII.



*Photographer Robert Thompson  
(photo by Michael Gennings)*

Susan Brockwell introduced Taylor Jones, SCI student who gave a very interesting description of his experiences in France and England with the Cadets.

Bob Charlton introduced our guest speaker, Robert Thompson, who spoke on his 37 years in the Military as a photographer.

Ken Parton finished off the event with 2 pipers and a drummer playing Amazing Grace.

**A REMEMBRANCE DAY TO REMEMBER!**  
by Catherine Walker

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A MEMBER**

Thank you to those who are still supporting us through your membership.

The Stayner Heritage Society is a constant positive presence in the Stayner area working to preserve whatever of our history still exists. We have lost several historical landmarks in the decade since we began this task but we continue to fight!

We have not given up hope of having a home for the artifacts that have been gathered and stored in several places.

That is another fight that will continue!

Meanwhile, we have been presenting public events several times a year as part of our mandate, including Heritage Day in July, a Remembrance event in November and often, a winter event in February (some celebrating Black History Month), and the Annual General Meeting at which we have a special heritage-type program to which everyone is invited!

Your membership helps us to realize that all of these endeavours are not in vain.

## **BLACK HISTORY EVENT IN FEBRUARY**

A very successful and well attended Black History event was held on Feb. 18, 2014 at Centennial United Church. Author and lecturer, Janie Cooper-Wilson's talk on Southwestern Ontario's black settlements was excellent and prompted some very thought-provoking comments and questions. The music provided by Don Doner and Catherine Brown relating to Black History and the progression of same was the "icing on the cake" and enjoyed by all! Our thanks to June Holroyd for organizing the "well-themed" refreshments.

by Myrna Johnson



*Don Doner and Catherine Brown  
(photo by Jeff Parton)*

## **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Myrna Johnson

Peter Millsap

## **Russ Baker's Life Story**

by Catherine Walker and Susan Brockwell

Russ Baker was born May 20, 1902 to James and Mary Ellen Baker on a farm on the corner of the 6th Line and Hwy 91. He and his sister, Irene, attended school in Duntroon.

Russ was a prime example of a willing volunteer throughout his life. He continuously contributed to the growth of our town. He also had several business enterprises, which included: a chicken hatchery located behind Jubilee Presbyterian Church, and Baker Canning Factory located south of the Co-op. He grew the tomatoes on the farm and employed 20 people. Russ decided he needed someone to share his life - so he chose Gladys Millie from Creemore. She worked in Blackburns and Russ thought she was "pretty special". Gladys had a beautiful singing voice and her dad was the choir director and her mom, the organist, in the Anglican Church in Creemore. They were married on Dec. 27, 1931. Joan (deceased) was born in 1933, Catherine in 1934, and Susan in 1942.

In 1940, Russ joined the RCAF. While stationed in Ottawa in 1942, preparing to ship out, he received a telegram from Dr. Ives Sr. saying "me and mommie are fine, love Susan" He was able to get leave to go home to his new daughter before shipping out.

Gladys kept the home fires burning with her Hairdressing Business.

After returning home from the War, Russ and Gladys started building the business, known as Kingsway Gardens in 1947. It started as a greenhouse and gardening business and later the florist business was added. Gladys took the Florists course in Guelph and Catherine took the same course

11 years later. Susan had her own hairdressing business on Main Street.

In 1976, after 30 years, Russ and Gladys sold Kingsway Gardens and retired to their home on Point Street. Gladys passed away in 1979. Russ carried on caring for the property and creating in his workshop clocks, curio cabinets, kayaks and coffee tables. Russ was very instrumental in forming "Flowers Canada"

and became a Director. Russ used his gardening skills to care for town parks, cemetery and lawn-bowling greens.

Russ was instrumental in numbering the homes in Stayner! He was a charter member of the Stayner Lions Club and Royal Canadian Legion. He managed the "Rockets", (Juvenile Hockey Team) as well as running the booth at the old arena for hockey and Teen Town dances.

Russ was instrumental in promoting artificial ice in the old arena and his efforts were commended when he was presented with the Bicentennial Award in Stayner from Ontario's Premier, Bill Davis for outstanding service to the community.

Russ also published 2 books. The first

was in 1988(at the age of 86) "Curling in Simcoe County". The next year, he published "Lawn Bowls Canada". He also wrote a column for the Stayner Sun, called "The Way I See It". The Editor, Dave Phillips, often commented on Russ' wide range of interests and humility.

He was a "doer - not a teller", whether it was organizing projects, sports, or any other field.

Russ was among the first to volunteer his help. He was proud of his community, and over the years, one of its finest ambassadors! The Town of Stayner was much richer for having Russ Baker as a resident!



*Gladys and Russ Baker*

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The following items make excellent gifts.

**Stayner Notes** - \$10.00 + \$3.00 shipping

*We now have 3 different sets*

The new set features 4 original drawings of Heritage buildings on Main St. by Anson Finlay.

They are packaged with an SHS pen, suitable for gift-giving.

**Postcards** - including a drawing of the Co-op Buildings by John Hindle, photo of Bell Tower, Gazebo, Fountain etc. \$2.00 each.

**Prints 4 x 6**, suitable for framing of various Stayner landmarks -The Fountain Park, The Gazebo, and the Hindle drawing of the Co-Op building. The prints are \$3.00 each.

**Christmas Ornaments** - Hand-crafted, wooden depicting Railroad Station, Bell Tower and Town Hall - \$10.00 + \$6.00 shipping.

### DVD's

**"Memories of Our Town"** (Bill Ives and D. A. Millsap narrators of the Roger Watson film taken in 1948)

**"The 125th Anniversary of Stayner in 1997"** (narrated by Brian Pounder, video by Maryanne Buie)

**"Stayner's Millennium Day, 2000"**(narrated by D. A.Millsap, video by Maryanne Buie and Gren Bray).

**\*new\* "Stayner Granite Club - A Celebration of 50 Years"** - by Tom Scholte

if you wish to order any of the DVD's, please send **\$15.00** + \$2.00 shipping. Please stipulate which one you prefer.

**Baseball caps** - 4 colours (Red, navy, green, black) \$15.00

### BELL TOWER SHINGLE ITEMS FOR SALE -

Please refer to the info on Page 1.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2013-2014

Chairperson - Jeff Parton

Vice-Chair - Bob Charlton

Past Chair - Kevin Jerry

Secretary - Myrna Johnson

Treasurer - Carol Marsden

Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Membership - Barb Stransky

Program - Catherine Walker, Ferne Allen,

June Holroyd, Susan Brockwell

Clearview Council Rep - Robert Walker

Chamber of Commerce Rep - Manfred Leimgardt

Lions Club Rep - Bob Charlton

Eastern Star Rep - Richard Marsden

Masonic Order Rep - John Hindle

Legion Rep - Manfred Leimgardt

Horticultural Garden Club Rep - Pam Townsend

Clearview Theatre Rep - Pam Townsend

Stayner Collegiate Rep - Mary Ellen Walker

Community Reps - Shirley Parton, Judy Cox,

Phyllis Perry

Emeritus - Pete Jerry

History - Jim Paul

Nominating Committee - Pam Townsend,

Barb Stransky

Technical Advisor - Jack Craig

Auditor - Sandra Squire

Directors - June Holroyd (1yr) Manfred Leimgardt

(1yr) Bob Charlton (2 yrs) D. A. Millsap (2 yr)

## STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

This website is a valuable tool for up-to-date information, historical facts and coming events. Check it out! Plans are in place to create a virtual museum where you can view some of the treasures we have been given waiting for a museum site in the future!