

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
SPRING, 2004**

EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

At long last, we are able to announce to the world that we have secured a wonderful piece of property on the tracks for the rebuilding of a replica of Stayner Railway Station!!

Attempts were made to acquire the land which was the original site of the station. Since that land, now part of the Stayner Co-Op and integral to their operation, is no longer available, we had to look for an alternative location.

Just a few weeks ago, Bob Charlton was able to negotiate a deal with Doug Cripps for the parcel of land on the East side of the tracks, fronting on Ontario Street and running from the Lawn Bowling Club to Superior Street. The property is slightly more than an acre and is being acquired for \$125,000. SHS will make a modest down payment and Mr. Cripps has agreed to take back a mortgage. The final details are currently being worked out between Bob Charlton, Doug Cripps, and our lawyer, George Demery.

Everyone with vision can see that this property will make an ideal site for the Station Project. Not only is it large enough to accommodate the station and ample parking, but also, there is enough property to provide for future expansion and a public park. It is also within sight of the recently completed Station Park on Main Street.

After eight years of hard work, it is great to see the progress that has been made. This was the mandate of SHS since it was formed, and we know that all of you will be happy to see our Station return, looking just as it did when it was first built, if at a different location!

Needless to say, we now have a massive fund-raising project ahead of us. After investigating, we have determined that there is no government grant money for the purchase of land. This means that we must raise the funds to cover the purchase ourselves, together with the help of the rest of the community and interested parties.

The Executive Committee is currently exploring the possibility of a major donor. They are working at developing various fund-raising projects, and in due course, will be establishing a donation campaign. At present, we are running our "Arena Window Mirror" draw which will conclude on July 10th, 2004. Since the prize was donated for this draw, every dollar from ticket sales can go right to the Station Fund.

This is the first stage in this major project and what an exciting one it is. We know that you share this excitement and that we can count on you to help us meet the challenges of this important endeavour!!

**PLANS FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY
JULY 10, 2004**

Our program director, Catherine Walker, has succeeded in booking for the 8th Annual Heritage Day, some wonderful entertainment. Our feature artist is **Deb Misener-Jones**, guitarist, vocalist, yodeler and entertainer! Deb brings over 20 years of experience as an entertainer, including appearances at Roy Thomson Hall. Also appearing are **Cal Fenwick**, accomplished 18 year old whistler, and **Ian Leith**, 16 year old virtuoso on the violin, accompanied by **Jack Hawthorne**. The **Georgian Trio x Two** and the popular **Cottage Country Cloggers** will round out the show for a great afternoon.

In addition, we will have the traditional events including pancake breakfast starting at 7:00am at Jubilee Presbyterian Church with entertainment. Along Main Street, the traditional **parade** will course at 11:00am.

Along with the show, we will again feature **Memory Lane**, including this year demonstrators of heritage activities and a Craft Sale. This will be set up along Huron Street.

The **Food Fair**, including "Pie in the Park" and many other goodies, adds much to the day.

We are organizing special **activities for the children**. Dayn Leyshon is already planning the Scavenger Hunt. Watch for details. Scooter the Clown has been booked for her "Magic Show" and a walk-about with hand-outs. A "Play Fair", with several play stations will be set up in the parking lot.

Displays in The **Small Hall** will be a part of the day. Brad Lebeck will transport folk along John St. to the Hall in his beautifully restored Victorian Coach. Blue House Antiques will mount one of the displays.

The **raffle** this year features the "Old Arena Window Mirror", created by Robt. and Mary Hunter. Draws and prizes will be given at 4:00pm at the conclusion of the festivities.

Plan your holidays to include this special annual day in Stayner. Fun for all ages.

pic of mirror

Following is another sketch of a former Staynerite, gone but not forgotten. This time it is fitting to remember Albert Culham and his daughter, Della, in view of her generous donation to Station Park.

Albert E. Culham

Ab. Culham was a prominent figure in Stayner throughout his long life. The son of Morris Culham, he was born on the 9th Line of Sunnidale at Clearview Corners. Following a brief period of education at Poplar Grove School, he left at 9 years old to become an apprentice to Mr. Sol. McBeth, butcher in Stayner. In addition to the butchering business, he moved to become the book-keeper for Mr. McBeth's successor, Mr. Ed. Lambert (became Brown's butcher shop later).

In 1922, Ab. began selling life insurance, then general insurance and about 1932 became an auctioneer.

In 1914, he married Elizabeth Lageer. Their daughter, Della, worked with her father throughout his working life in the insurance office and at the auctions. He said that he could not have managed without her help.

The Culhams were also faithful members of Stayner (Methodist) United Church, where they held various offices and the Orange Lodge. Ab served on the Library Board, and played in the Stayner Town Band. He told numerous stories about the years when the band played many concerts and at the Turner Rink two night each week. Ab. was also a member of the Fire Brigade, serving as chief 1922-1968.

In 1947, he became clerk of the Town of Stayner, which position he held for twenty-one years, and later, auditor for the Town, and Federal Returning Officer during elections. His many services to the town were honoured during the Centennial celebrations in 1972, when he was named "Citizen of the Year".

Always a good story teller and historian, he has left an invaluable history of Stayner which serves as a source for much of the information of the Town we have today.

Della honoured the memory of her family when she bequeathed a sum of money to the Heritage Society upon her death. A plaque in Station Park marks this fact.

(Information for this sketch taken from an article written by Edythe Philips for the Stayner Sun 1975)

PLAQUE IN STATION PARK

Many have gifted the park and in addition to the names placed on the benches, a plaque has been erected naming those who also have shown civic generosity. The plaque reads as follows:

Station Park

"Stayner Heritage Society landscaped this park in June 2003 with the aid of a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation together with a bequest from the Estate of Della Culham and the co-operation of the Township of Clearview.

Chairperson - Lorne J. Stewart

Vice-Chair - Jeff Parton

Past Chair - D.A. Millsap

Secretary - Myrna Johnson

Treasurer - William Trotter

Lions Rep - Pete Jerry

Contractor - DarPak Ltd. Stayner"

Benches have been sponsored by the Leimgardt Family and Noble Insurance. A third has been placed in Memory of Glenn Millsap.

SHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 26th, 2004, 7:30

**Special Guest Speaker - Martine McKeown
Music Guests - Waverley Rice**

ANNUAL TREE SALE

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Station Park

7:am - 11:00am

RAFFLE

Robert Hunter salvaged several windows from the old Arena before it was demolished. He has made one of those windows into an attractive mirror which he has donated to SHS as a raffle prize. The draw will take place at Heritage Day, July 10, 2004 at 4:00pm. We are enclosing three tickets with this newsletter which we encourage you to purchase to support the draw. Return the completed stubs with your payment in sufficient time to meet the deadline. The address is Box 290, Stayner Ont., L0M 1S0.

EXCITING NEW MERCHANDISE

A third in the series of wooden Christmas Tree Ornaments will be available on Heritage Day. This will depict "Stayner Town Hall, 1908". The sketch was done by our resident accomplished artist, Jo Christopher. She also did the other two sketches, "Stayner Railway Station" and the "Bell Tower" for the other two ornaments. We have also ordered more of the Station, as the previous two orders are nearly sold out. This merchandise project has proven to be very popular both with long-time Staynerites and newer residents as they are truly heritage mementos. Although the Town Hall is still standing (and we haven't given up hope of saving it permanently) it is slated for demolition.

Visit the Heritage Booth on Memory Lane during Heritage Day and see the varied items we are offering.

pic town hall

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2003-2004

Chairperson - Lorne Stewart
Vice Chair - Jeff Parton
Past-Chair/Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap
Secretary - Myrna Johnson
Treasurer - Bob Charlton
Correspondence Secretary - Edythe Philipps
Membership - Barb Stransky
Program - Catherine Walker
Council Rep.- Robert Walker
Chamber of Commerce Rep. - Rod Robinson
Lions Club Rep - Pete Jerry
Kinsmen Club Rep -
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 -
Stayner Fair Rep - Judy Cox
Community Reps - Peg Gilbert, Shirly Millsap, Ferne Allen, Shirley Parton
History - Jim Paul
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster
TechnicalAdvisors - Jack Craig, Kevin Jerry
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 26, 2004, 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**

CAPTIONS FOR PICS

- 1. Arena Window Mirror - created by Robt. and Mary Hunter. Draw to be made on Heritage Day.**
- 2. Stayner Town Hall Sketch - done by Jo Christopher and being used for the third wooden tree ornament design.**
- 3. Mr. A. E. Culham.**
- 4. Miss Della Culham.**
- 5. Station Park Plaque, to be dedicated on Heroitage Day, 2004.**