

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2009**

THE 13TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

It has become an established fact that Stayner celebrates Heritage Day every July! This year's event, planned for July 4th in Station Park, promises to be another great one.

The South Simcoe Concert Band will be the feature attraction in the show. The usual Pancake Breakfast at Jubilee and Main Street Parade will precede the show.

At the park, the Beinn Gorm Highlanders will set the tone and other acts will be included also. The Food Fair has been expanded to include, as well as the usual hotdog stand, "pie in the park" candy floss and popcorn a new feature this year, an ice cream stand (to raise funds for "The Door" youth drop-in centre in Stayner).

There will be the usual fun for the kids, including Darci Que and Emily.

Sponsors who have already agreed to help defray the costs this year: Rwinhart Foods, Wheeler/Spriggs Insurance; The Royal Canadian Legion, Stayner Branch; Helen Hanna.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 13th annual Heritage Day.

ANNUAL TREE SALE

SHS will hold the **Annual Tree Sale** on **May 9th**, in Station Park from 8:00 until sold out. There will be several species of trees and shrubs with reasonable prices.

The trees are supplied by the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority. Sales occur in many communities on the same day.

VOLUNTEER WEEK

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

On Tuesday, May 26, 2009, Stayner Heritage Society will hold the AGM starting at 7:30 at Centennial United Church.

A slate of officers will be presented.

You won't want to miss the great speaker, **Dr. Bill Ives**. In addition, trumpet virtuoso, **Don Doner**, will play us some jazz!

All are welcome, member or not.

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION

On February 17, 2009, Stayner Heritage Society held its fourth Black history celebration.

This year, Ann and Ron Harrison, were guest speakers. Although they are residents of Orillia, they both have roots in the Queen's Bush/Owen Sound Black History story.

Ann's ancestors, the Lawsons, escaped from slavery in Maryland, and travelled, through the Underground Railroad, to the Queen's Bush area (approximately where Kitchener stands today). Her family has been involved in the Civil Rights Movement since the beginning and her cousin, Dr. Fred Lawson, stood with Martin Luther King Jr., on the balcony of the motel the day he was killed.

Ron's great-grandfather escaped from slavery in the Everglades in Florida and traveled through the Underground Railroad to "the farthest destination on the Underground Railroad from the United States", which turned out to be Owen Sound!

For many years, Ron's family operated the quarry in Owen Sound and many of the heritage buildings existing today in that area were built with stone from the Harrison quarry. In fact, Owen Sound was founded by the black families who arrived there and later, greeted the first white sailors who found haven in the Sound nearly 200 years ago.

This was an educational evening for those in attendance who heard many more stories during the fellowship and refreshment time.

All present agreed that we have definitely added to our list of friends as we explore the history of our area.

**SHOWCASE EVENT - CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP**

Stayner Heritage Society was invited to be part of Clearview Township's Health & Leisure Showcase Event, February 28, 2009, which allowed folks to experience what Clearview has to offer.

We were happy to be part of this happening and enjoyed speaking with some of the many people who attended.

The display, we set up, included among other things, our scrapbooks, signature quilt and our new flag. This was a great opportunity to visit and remember with local folks some of the great heritage that belongs to our town.

Our 'Memories of Stayner' video, filmed by Roger Watson in 1948, has been made into a DVD. We got to revisit this wonderful treasure on a laptop. If you haven't seen this, or if you haven't viewed your copy for a while, give it a try. What wonderful memories!

HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

Stayner Heritage Society now has a website **staynerheritagesociety.com** This site contains many valuable pieces of information, including information about the Society, a list of our merchandise for sale, historical data and, in the future, a "virtual museum". Here the reader will be able to read about the items we have stored until the proper facility can be found, and see pictures of the items. This will happen in due course!! Presently, many details already appear on the website and so far, there have been many "hits" and several attempts to contact us.

BECOMING A MEMBER

Perhaps you have been receiving this newsletter twice a year for several years, at no cost, but are not a member. Please consider becoming a member this year and helping us to lower our postal costs, while preserving the history of Stayner and area.

NEW HERITAGE FLAG

Stayner Heritage Society now has its own flag, useful for parades and public functions. On a dark green background, it shows the heritage crest with bell tower and shaking hands of friendship, and the date of the incorporation of the Society, 1998.

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY HISTORY BURSARY WINNER

For the year 2008, the winner of \$1000. History bursary, given each year by Stayner Heritage Society to a student at SCI, was **Holly Janda**. Holly plans to continue her education in a history-related field. This year's winner will be chosen after this school year ends.

Featured in this edition is a well-known Stayner personality , Dr. Bill Ives.

This article is used with permission from "On the Bay" Magazine.

At 81 "and a half" years of age , family physician Dr. Bill Ives shows no intention of laying down his stethoscope. Born and raised in Stayner he has lived his whole life in the town of 3100, embodying over 50 years of medical service not only to his local, but also to a global community. "It's the best feeling anybody can get," he enthuses, "when they're able to serve or do something for others. It's that giving of yourself."

Though he claims to be 'semi-retired', his current curriculum vitae speaks otherwise. As advisor physician for the local nursing home in Stayner, he tends to a case load well in excess of 40 patients. ("I think the average age is 88. I have a couple of sweeties who are over 100," he notes, adding wryly, "it makes you feel young.") He is also in-house physician for the Salvation Armies addiction rehabilitation program at Hope Acres, and has been since the facility first opened in 1967. And he continues to trek annually to South America, which he has done for 23 years, to minister medically to impoverished villagers in the mountains and jungles of Ecuador. On one hand he is the quintessential small-town family doctor who has delivered three generations of his local community , while on the other he is a shining example of extra-community thinking - of going beyond the boundaries of his local medical practice to work with those in other communities that are 'continents apart' both figuratively and literally from us.

His focused commitment to the Hippocratic oath is coupled with a poignant wisdom not found in medical textbooks. "Lots of the time my best medicine is to be an ear. The biggest problem now is , and always has been, that people are lonely. That's the commonest disease going. If you can just sit and listen, it always amazes me how often a patient will say 'thank you so much, I feel so much better,' when I haven't done a darn thing!" An energetic bundle of common sense, of community commitment - he's been a board member of the Clearview Community Theatre from "the get-go" - and of a delightful if practical irreverence ("We have six churches too many," he says of Stayner's seven. His prescription: "If we could put all the people in one and just rotate the ministers....it would probably be a good thing for everybody"). Ives himself attends chapel once a week at Hope Acres of his own accord, then goes to church on Sundays "as penance".

His annual volunteer treks to Ecuador are spent working alongside local doctors helping the poor who have little or no access to medical care. Typical of his mentoring nature he has brought with him over the years on these missions "about 40 to 45 people from Stayner and the Creemore area," many of whom were high school students learning valuable life lessons. "They find the people are so grateful - even if they can't do something for them, they're still grateful. They come back enlightened". Of his own Equadorian experience he says simply, "They give me far more than I give them." Humility aside, this doctor's healing powers go far beyond the medical.

FROM OUR READERS

In response to our popular feature in the last edition, **Dr. R. E. Ives**, we are including two letters:

..I was so pleased to read about the remarkable life of Dr. R. E. Ives. He was the doctor who "brought me into the world" Thank you for this information.

...June (Dunlop) Ballard

...After reading the Dr. Ives story, I felt I must add my reminiscing as well.

As you may know, I lived next door to Dr. Ives until I was 16. I would wander over as a small child (not telling anyone at home I was going) with my latest mess of poison ivy. He would kindly tend to me and send me on my way with a small bottle of calamine lotion with a cork in it.

I was often over to see his flower gardens, goldfish pond and lily pond; also MaryCatherine's "play house" that had a couple of cots and orange crate furniture.

I can never recall being sent home or restricted in any way in my wanderings. I did know, however, the back garden where the "glads" were was off limits. (I'm not sure how I got that message!)...Now, the occasional night when I have trouble falling asleep, I will start at the front of the property and...imagine the whole property from the traffic at the front to the gardens and ponds at the back...What a nice way to go to sleep.

I remember him doing surgery on brother Eric, on our kitchen table. Eric had a nasty cut from a discarded stove pipe while snow sleighing down our hill. We were all shoo'd into the front room and told to stay there! I remember the smell of ether. When I was a teenager and at Pete Oehm's "Dollar Store" on Christmas Eve, the Lighthouse men would come in extolling the virtues of Dr. Ives, buying gifts for him and asking us to wrap them nicely...Shirley (Dickey) McLeod.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

As you no doubt know, Stayner Heritage Society offers several items for sale, especially during Heritage Day each summer :

Stayner Notes - \$7.00+ \$2.00 shipping
Christmas Ornaments - \$10.00 + \$5.00 shipping

DVD's (formerly in VCR format):

"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).

If you wish to order any or all of the DVD's, please send **\$15.00** for each (+\$5.00 shipping). Please stipulate which ones you prefer.

***NEW THIS YEAR:

"HERITAGE CALENDAR FOR 2010"
containing photos of Stayner heritage buildings **\$20.00**(+ \$2.00 shipping)

MINI HERITAGE SOCIETY FLAGS
They will be available on Heritage Day, 2009 at the Heritage Booth.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE : 2008-2009

| | |
|---|----------|
| Chairperson - Jeff Parton | 428-3537 |
| Past-Chair - Kevin Jerry | 428-5459 |
| Vice-Chair | |
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| Treasurer - Bob Charlton | 428-6943 |
| Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap | 428-2917 |
| Membership - Barb Stransky | 445-4468 |
| Program - Catherine Walker | 428-2719 |
| Clearview Council Rep.- Robert Walker | 428-3335 |
| Chamber of Comm. Rep.- Claire West | 428-3736 |
| Lions Club Rep. - Pete Jerry | 429-3269 |
| Kinsmen Club Rep - | |
| Legion Rep - Mary Burkholder | 428-3494 |
| Horticultural Soc Rep.- Pam Townsend | 428-2306 |
| Masonic Order Rep. - John Hindle | 428-2135 |
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| Stayner Collegiate Rep. | |
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| Helen Hanna (428-5106) | |
| Lorne Stewart(428-2375) | |
| Judy Cox(428-2061) | |
| Edythe Philipps(428-2474) | |
| Nominations - Barb Stransky | |
| Technical Advisors - Jack Craig, | 428-2323 |
| Auditor - Carol Marsden | 428-3945 |
| Directors - Lorne Stewart, (1yr), Bob Charlton(1 yr), Pete Jerry (2 yrs), Barb Stransky (2yrs). | |

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

D. A. Millsap, Peter Millsap, Myrna Johnson