

SOME GOOD NEWS

We are tempted to begin with the bad news and the disappointments that have occurred since the spring letter. However, the good news far outweighs any doom and gloom we could spread.

To begin, the 6th Annual Heritage Day on July 6th, was a great success. A perfect day in Station Park allowed all of the planned events to happen, thanks to many volunteer hours by many dedicated supporters.

Following the Jubilee Church breakfast and the parade, Bobby Venton and Catherine Walker presented a wonderful show in the new Band Shell/Gazebo. Along with many talented local artists, the Willie Nelson tribute artist, Eric Cooper, lived up to his reputation.

The Marketplace, Food Fair, and other entertainment made for a great day of fun. A "wishing well" placed in the centre of the park marked the official beginning of the fund-raising efforts of the SHS to begin landscaping the park, now that the Lions Club have provided the beautiful Gazebo/Band Shell.

On September 21, The Lions held the official opening of this attractive structure, which is visible up and down Main Street and is a great addition to the beautification of the Town. At the Heritage Meeting on October 30th, they presented SHS with a cheque (proceeds from hotdog sales at the opening) to help with the landscaping. We are fortunate to have this Club of generous men who largely designed and helped build the structure to suit its location and for the use of the public.

Another very positive event occurred this Fall when the Stayner Youth Group, under the leadership of June Carruthers, donated another park bench to the Fountain Parkette. This area forms a beauty spot in the west part of Town.

The fact that the Town Hall will not be demolished is also good news (more about that later). It is one of the few heritage buildings left.

And finally, another positive event was the SHS booth at the Stayner Fair in September. We featured the heritage buildings that are a concern - the Bell Tower (which the mayor promised to rebuild), the Town Hall and the Railway Station. Hundreds of signatures were collected for two issues - 1/ urging the Council to rebuild the Bell Tower and 2/ to expedite the opening of Stayner Small Hall (more on that subject later).

All in all, the past 6 months have been busy!!

THE BATTLE GOES ON

Although the decision to keep the Town Hall intact was good news, what is going to happen to it is now a concern. As the mayor said in a recent edition of the Sun, whoever ends up with it must have "deep pockets".

The furor over the decision of Clearview Council to go ahead with new Municipal Offices has made headlines for several weeks. It was clear that the will of the people was that the present building be renovated instead. SHS had lobbied to save the building and felt that SHS members were in favour of this as only 1 reply came back after last Fall's poll to ascertain who was in favour of demolition!

At the time of writing this letter, a petition is circulating urging the taxpayers to lobby to get the new building stopped. If you, the reader, is a taxpayer in Clearview, and you are in agreement, you can sign this petition at Home Hardware in Stayner or call Reta McCort at 428-5343. Unfortunately, this should be signed by November 15th, which does not give much time!

Another horror story concerns "Stayner Small Hall". Mr. Robert Levant, owner of the former Orange Lodge has renovated to create an attractive multi-purpose hall in Stayner. Already, a theatre group from Toronto was interested in performing there as part of a small dinner theatre. However the project is stalled because of bureaucratic red tape. The outcome is not clear as the matter is "in the hands of the lawyers" at the time of writing. Pages of signatures gathered at the Fair and urging Council to allow the hall to open have not been of help yet.

And we are sorry to report that little progress has been made on the plans to rebuild the Station. We are applying for a Trillium grant to help with the landscaping of the Railway Park as the first phase of the whole Railway Project. As this has been the major intent of SHS since its inception, we are feeling frustration at the length of time taken with efforts to get the station started.

It will be clear to our readers that several other concerns have been clouding our vision, including our disappointment that the prospect of rebuilding the Bell Tower seems to be disappearing!

You, as members and adherents of SHS, will be interested in all of these issues. The newsletter committee will continue to keep you informed.

In place of our regular feature of honouring a Stayner family, we are remembering the Byng Reunion of 1992.

THE THING TO DO IN '92

Can you believe that 10 years have passed since the Byng School Reunion? It seems like yesterday that, at the "wind-up party" in August, those present voted to use the proceeds from the very successful event that June for an Archives cabinet for Byng and as seed money to begin a Heritage Society.

Now, a decade later, the beautiful solid oak cabinet stands prominently in the entrance hall of the school, and a thriving society is working for the betterment of the community of Stayner.

Ten years later, people still recall their joy at being present at a major celebration in this town. As the commemorative book, **70 Years, A Celebration** states, the ties that one feels to the hometown are very strong and life-long.

To illustrate these feelings, we offer a poem, written by Yvonne (Makinson) Rowe of North Vancouver after she attended the Reunion.

REUNION

We stood and talked together, but our eyes still scanned around -
For a vaguely familiar older face, wearing a smile or a frown,
Maybe it will be wrinkled, maybe even fat,
But the eyes usually stay the same, we'll have to look for that.
There's Marion, Marge and Donna, the Barker girls from "The Beach".
The beach of course is Wasaga, in Central Ontario speech.
Marg and Connie Priest were there with aching hearts I'm sure
A loving husband and father had died the week before.
There's the Bannerman brothers, Norm and Cliff
And sister Muriel too -
Ann Maguire and husband Bob Fryer -
They've a dentist son near the "Soo".

There were oh so many people - lots of memories, tons of fun.
Few people spoke of their families; of the course their lives had run.
We mostly talked of days gone by, old loves and spirited pranks,
Said, "My dear, you haven't changed a bit."
And accepted the same with thanks!

There was fat little Freddie Watson, now skinny as a rail
And a flame who dumped me years ago, looking

gaunt and strangely frail.
Ray Rumble couldn't be there, he was coming back the next day,
In a box with six brass handles - a brain tumour took him away.
The Dickey Family all were there, all that is but Joan,
She too was taken all too soon to her eternal home.
There was, of course, old Doc Ives, and it made me feel bad
Cause it was only yesterday "old" Doc Ives was Billie's dad.
Miss Canada 1952, Marilyn Reddick was there,
Now she sings in a local band, around Collingwood I hear.

Saw Marion, Audrey and Wilma, Marlene Daley and husband Al,
Joan Wood and Dorothy Tebbey, and Ruth my dear old pal.
It seemed as if no time had passed once we started to reminisce,
About parties and escapades and curfews that we missed.
Of Billy O'Connor and a night at the pub,
We were grossly under age,
We landed home smelling like breweries,
My mother was enraged!!
I didn't know a hangover could last so bloody long,
But it was worth it just to hear
Billy and Ruth sing, "The Mechanics Song"!

Betty Makinson came from California; both Bob and wife June from Bramalea,
And sister Yvonne from North Vancouver,
A most heavenly place, you'll agree.
The Boyer kids - Marilyn and Carol, Gary and Kathy too,
Linda Robertson French from Barrie, only to mention a few.
Far too soon the hour arrived for ending these few days
A brief and touching reunion, then gone our separate ways.

There's just one thing that bothers me, maybe in 2022
There'll be a Byng Centennial and alumnae
will be few
A handful of us over 90, feebly shuffling on ahead
Will blearily squint at each other,
And exclaim - "My God, I thought you were dead!"

As a matter of interest, this poem is an illustration of how far our newsletters go, and how many lives they touch. Yvonne was visiting her friend, Marilyn (Boyer) Jennings of Calgary. When Marilyn showed her the newsletter, Yvonne remembered that the first time she had flown was with Roger Watson 54 years ago. She promptly became a member of S.H.S. and sent the poem to us! Thanks, Yvonne.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
Dorothy-Anne Millsap, Myrna Johnson,
Peter Millsap

SLATE OF OFFICERS, 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
Director/ Membership - Barb Stransky
Director/ Program - Catherine Walker
Director/Council - June Carruthers
Director/Chamber of Commerce - Rod Robinson
Director/History - Jim Paul
TechnicalAdvisors - Glenn Millsap, Jack Craig
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, Shirly Millsap, Ferne Allen
Nominations - Mary Burkholder, Jane Forster
Auditors - Carol Marsden, Harold Platts

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IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO!
(repeated from Fall, 2001 Newsletter)

It is never too late to become a member of Stayner Heritage Society.

Your \$20.00 annual fee is put to good use. We are able to pay our dues in various organizations, such as "The Ontario Historical Society", and our operating expenses, such as, newsletter costs and liability insurance each year. We are also able to provide the very special merchandise which we offer as souvenirs and further fund-raisers. The Heritage Days, held each July are also very costly, as we have not, to date, been charging admission. And, of course, we are acquiring a fund for a capital expenditure, such as the rebuilding of the station.

Even though you might not live in Stayner, by being a member, you are doing your part for the good of your beloved town.

And, as you have learned from reading the above articles, we are in a vulnerable position.

SHS is a Society which exists solely for the betterment of the Community of Stayner.

HERITAGE MERCHANDISE

**Unique, hand-made in Canada
wooden Christmas
ornaments**

**2 in the series now available
Stayner Railway Station
&
The Bell Tower**

(If sales continue to go well, a third heritage building will be added next year)

\$10.00

(add \$5.00 for s&h for mail orders)

STAYNER-NOTES

12 notes in a package, 3 of each of 4 buildings.
The pen sketches are originals and comprise

The Co-Op

The Wilcox Inn

The Railway Station

The Patterson House on Point St.

\$5.00

(add \$2.00 for s&h)

Heritage Videos

1. Memories of Our Town.
Taken from movie footage owned by Roger Watson. Many have been delighted to see family and friends strolling along Main St. in the late summer of 1948. Narration by Bill Ives and D. A. Millsap.
2. Stayner's 125th Anniversary Celebration - July 12, 1997.
Narrated by Brian Pounder, you will meet many people you know and hear Brian interview them. The whole day from the parade to the closing is included.

3. Millennium-Stayner - July 9, 2000.
Narrated by Dorothy-Anne Millsap with expert videography by Marianne Buie and Gren Bray. A wonderful souvenir of a memorable day.

\$20.00 (+ \$5.00 s&h)

Pic Captions Fall 02

1/ Lions Band Shell/Gazebo, erected June, 2002 in Station Park. Ribbon-cutting Ceremony, Sept. 21/02. l.to r. Lorne Stewart, Chair of SHS, Lion Roger Burkholder, Mayor Bob McKee, Lion Robert Hunter, Zone Chairman, Paul Vanaltera, and Lion, Lorne Bunn.

2/ Former Orange Hall, erected 1867.

Renovated "Small Hall", owned by Robert Levant.

3/ Stayner Town Hall, erected 1908, one of few remaining heritage buildings and centre of controversy this Fall.

4/ Byng School with lawn sign advertising "The Thing to Do in '92".

5/ Reunion Chairperson, Brian Pounder addressing a large crowd from the steps of Byng, June 13, 1992.

6/ Archives Cabinet in the entrance hall at Byng with builder, Rick Kaon.

INCORPORATED, 1998

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL, 2002