

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**  
**INCORPORATED, 1998** **SPRING, 2000**

**EXCITING TIMES**

**STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY** is **THE** organization to join (if you haven't already done so).

Over 100 members already agree that plans for **MILLENNIUM-STAYNER** on July 8, 2000, and the **STATION/THEATRE COMPLEX** are very worthwhile reasons to become involved.

Your membership fee all goes to the work of the Society and this work is all for the preservation of Stayner's past and the insurance of Stayner's future. There are great things happening in Stayner!!

**MILLENNIUM-STAYNER July 8, 2000**

The day is fast approaching. A large **parade** coursing through town on a lengthened route to pass most of our senior's homes, starts the day off.

The 3 bands present for the parade will entertain at a concert in Centennial Park later. Joining them will be Stayner Byng School's Millennium Choir and a contingent of dancers from the Riverdance Company. Former Stayner "old boy", Brian Pounder, will be the popular Master of Ceremonies again.

Meanwhile, in Station Park, an all-day Craft Fair and entertainment, beginning after 3:pm will continue to please visitors. The Simcoe Cloggers will follow the Heritage draw for the Quilt etc.

Lots of fun carries on at the Kinsmen's Beer Tent with a bevy of local talent to entertain until 8pm. A hamburger supper will be offered for all from 4pm.

Finally, the Lion's Truck Dance finishes off a full day at 9pm.

It is difficult to list the dozens of folk giving countless hours to make this a memorable day in Stayner. Here are some who are giving leadership: Lorne Stewart, parade; Catherine Walker, Concert and Tent Entertainment; Bob Allen, Hot Dog Stand; Fran & Burt Somerville, Ice Cream Stand; Ferne Allen, Craft Fair; Shirly Millsap, Supper; Rod Robinson, Downtown Displays; Masonic Order, Clean-up.

Add to that the Gulley Family - Sound System, large tent and talent; Heritage Society & Horticultural Society - flowers, decorations, new signs, banners and general beautification of the town.

Well, you get the idea and by now, we hope, you will be planning to attend!!

Since the last newsletter, an exciting new concept has surfaced. Yes, the Railway Station will become a reality. But in addition, the original Station House will probably also reappear - this time as "The Station House Theatre".

Bobby Venton, a resident of Stayner and a promoter of quality entertainment has partnered with the very successful Drayton Summer Theatre Company to explore the possibility of building a theatre in Stayner. It was not difficult to make a deal with Ron McDermid for the use of his car lot (former station house property)

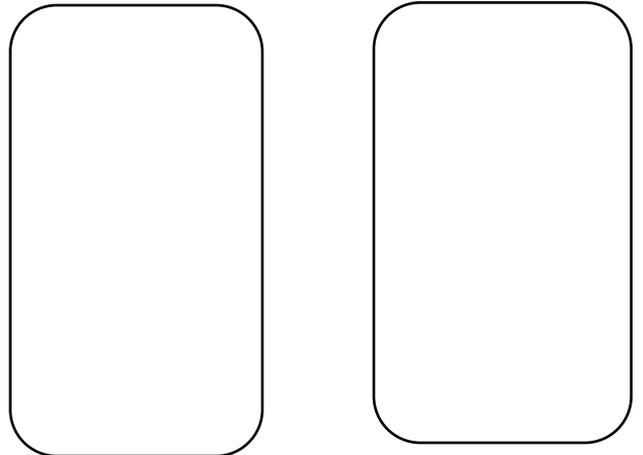
The prime location of station land happens to be perfect for this project. Stayner Heritage Society has fully endorsed this venture as the theatre and station go well together as a complex on each side of the still-operational tracks.

Think of the possibilities for Stayner in the hub of the Georgian Triangle Tourist Area!!

**SHS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Now the reader realizes why it is important to become a member of "Stayner Heritage Society". Decide to become a part of this important forward growth in Stayner.

Interestingly, the word "heritage" connotes the past. Yet, it is definitely the future that we are foreseeing.



**STATION/THEATRE COMPLEX**

**GETTING THE WORD AROUND**

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The challenge of getting the word around is being met in several ways. We are anticipating a large crowd for July 8th are are taking measures to insure this!!

This newsletter is one of the best means we have to reach people who have connections with Stayner but, perhaps, do not receive the local papers.

(If you want to know what is happening between newsletters, consider subscribing to the Stayner Sun!)

The media, including papers (we have sent releases to over 12 area newspapers concerning Millennium-Stayner), Radio, TV and Cable, local MP's (Paul Bonwick) area newsletter are some of the means we are using to get SHS message around.

Other methods are through Georgian Triangle and Huronia Tourist Bureaus, various publications, such as "Good Times" Magazine, and word-of-mouth.

Various events have provided a publicity opportunity for SHS. The Santa Claus Parade allowed many citizens to view a replica of the railway Station, painted exactly as it was in the familiar maroon and yellow.

The Home and Garden Show at SCI on April 1 &2 gave us good exposure as will two stints in the Stayner IGA at the end of May and June. At these events, we are able to sell millennium buttons, quilt tickets, signatures, hasti-notes, videos, and memberships.

All tolled, Millennium-Stayner on July 8,2000 should be on every holiday calendar!!

### **SIGNATURE QUILT**

Many people have submitted signatures and also memorial names for the Signature Wall Hanging.

Although we published a signature deadline, we have decided that no deadline is necessary.

Because of the expertise of our co-ordinator, Shirley Parton and the Centennial Quilters, we find that late signatures, purchased even on July 8th itself can be woven into the wall-hanging. What is already submitted will be quilted and on display. However, you will be able to still take part.

Many are now purchasing an "in memory of--" spot, for a former Stayner relative or friend. This hanging will be a historical record of Stayner and its noble past. It will hang in a prominent place, hopefully in the new Station.

### **WE HAVE BEEN BUSY SINCE LAST LETTER**

As you have read so far, we have been busy planning and publicizing the Millennium Event, as well as being a part of the exciting developments concerning the station park.

We have also been applying for funding to assist in the expenses of this event. Myrna Johnson, Sec.Treas. , Dorothy-Anne Millsap, Chair, and Lorne Stewart, in-coming Chair, have been concentrating on this aspect.

We were turned down by the Lottery and Gaming people because our project was not advanced enough. We have recently applied to Ontario 2000 for our Cultural Event and for another source which will fund beautification of the Main Street.

At the same time, we have been reporting on the last summer's "Music in the Park" Event as we received some funding because of the International Year of Older persons.

All of the paperwork takes many hours but hopefully the results will be worthwhile.

We are also planning for the Annual Meeting to be held May 24th. At that time, a new executive will take over.

### **PICTURE OF SANTA CLAUS FLOAT**



THIS BACK PAGE SHOULD BE A POSTER FOR JULY

## **The Mathers Family**

rest ads for July 8th

In the spring of 1865, John Mathers and his wife, Christina Bannerman, along with their infant son, David, moved from Bond Head to Stayner. The trip took two days by horse and wagon.

John bought a piece of property on the north side of Main Street that ran from Elm Street to what is now the Pearson Block. There, he ran a business which included a cabinet shop, a wood-working shop, a carriage shop and a harness and blacksmith shop. David learned the cabinet work from his father, and made coffins when required. When David bought the block where the funeral home is now, he opened a furniture store and funeral business.

A few years later, his brother, William John, opened a carriage shop next to David's property. When William John died, the Noisy River Telephone bought the property, put up a new building and moved their office from Creemore to Stayner.

David Mathers and his wife, Rebecca Ausman, had two sons, Jack and David. In the early 1900's, (1910 or so), David was suffering with arthritis and finding it hard to carry on with the funeral business. By 1916, he encouraged his son, Jack, to resign from the Toronto Bank in Pretoria, Ontario, and return home to take over the business.

Arterial embalming was done extensively in Toronto, but not in small towns, so Jack went to Toronto and worked for the W. J. Stone Funeral Home to learn this new procedure. When he returned home, he married Pearl Hewson. They had two sons: Russel David and George Harold (Harry). Russel obtained his funeral director's license in 1939. That same year, he joined the air force as a flying instructor. Harry obtained his funeral director's license in 1943, and was married to Bernice Kindree on May 5th the same year, just two months before Russel lost his life in a plane crash in Western Canada.

Harry and Bee had five children: Russel, Alan, Anne, Marion, and Susan. Both sons became funeral directors, though only one remained in the business. The Mathers Funeral Home was sold in the fall of 1974.