



STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring, 2015.

BLAZING FIDDLES IN APRIL

SHS is thrilled to announce that we are presenting the "Blazing Fiddles" on April 24th in Clearview Community Church on Airport Road in Stayner.

The concert, featuring this internationally-known musical group, will begin at 8:00 pm.

Tickets are \$25 per person.

This will be an energetic, highly skilled event which we know will be well attended.

If you wish tickets, call Myrna Johnson at 705-428-2540 or from any member of the SHS Exec. (See list later in Newsletter)

18TH ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY

This year marks a change in Heritage Day.

It has been decided that Stayner Heritage Society will combine with Stayner Chamber of Commerce to hold a grand celebration on JULY 1st. This is an experiment! The usual activities for Heritage will occur at the usual times: parade 11:30 am; Scouts' Pancake Breakfast, 9 to 11; Antique vehicles; food and fun in the park; prizes and draws, 3:30.

The Chamber events will commence thereafter.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

This website is a valuable tool for up-to-date information, historical facts and coming events. Check it out! Mike Scholte is our new webmaster and is doing a superb job. We are hoping to incorporate a list of the items we have been given with pictures in future.

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will occur on Wed. May 27th, 2015 at Centennial United Church.

Our special guests this year will reflect the 40's-50's era in Stayner.

Brian Pounder is a faithful charter member of SHS and has hordes of memories of his home town. He will tell some stories. Don Doner, one of the original members of the Teen Town Band will play some music. A couple of other surprise guests might appear also! Everyone is welcome. Come and be entertained!!

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 - \$75.

The pieces will be available at -

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

- SHS Heritage Day, July 1st.

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

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STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATION

On Saturday, Nov. 14th, 2014, Stayner Heritage Society hosted the fifth annual Remembrance Event. After Ken Parton and his Pipers got everyone's attention, Jeff Parton, Chairperson, welcomed close to 100 people to the red and white themed decorated room. The Last Post was played by trumpeter, Don Doner - followed by a one-minute silence and the singing of "O Canada". After Rev. May asked the blessing, everyone enjoyed a bountiful breakfast. Tom Scholte showed the DVD, "Homefront Battlefield" - featuring veterans returning with scars. Catherine & Susan shared their memories with a DVD of their parents, Russ & Gladys Baker, during and after the war. Jeff Parton also related the story of his father, Bruce, wounded at age 17. Manfred Leimgardt told the other side of the war story - growing up in Germany. The poignant event ended with Ken Parton's Pipers and a sing-a-long with Catherine Walker at the piano.



Ken Parton and his Pipers.

UPDATE ON OUR NEW HOME IN THE FORMER CO-OP BUILDING

On Tuesday, March 24, we had a tour of the former CO-OP building, now owned by Clearview Township. There we will be able to store the items we have been given, and hopefully create a display for the public of some of these things. We will endeavour to accomplish this feat to be ready for the Thursday Farmer's Market during the summer.

HEALTH AND LEISURE TIME SHOWCASE

On Saturday, March 21, SHS had a booth at the Showcase event in Stayner Community Centre. The passersby were very interested in the Map Book, which was used in Wheeler's Insurance Office for many decades. "Hand done" in 1924 on linen sheets, each page shows a section of Stayner with lots and buildings drawn. In later years, an addenda was included to show a young Wasaga Beach. Spectators were also interested in the photo albums and small artifacts we had on display. Many are interested in the work of SHS.



*Chairperson Jeff Parton and
Barb Stransky*

BLACK HISTORY EVENT IN FEBRUARY

A very well-attended Black History Event was held on Feb. 25, 2015 at Centennial United Church. Our guest speaker was co-author, Peter Mayler. His book, "A Stolen Life" captures the story of Richard Pierpoint, one of Ontario's first African settlers. Clearview Theatre's "Ukulele Group" provided entertaining and challenging music. Thanks to all who made this such a successful evening!



*Peter Mayler, Author of
"A Stolen Life"*

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Myrna Johnson

Peter Millsap

In this issue, we are offering some "stories" from former Staynerites for your enjoyment.

This story comes from Ken Paul

One day it was quiet at Somerville's Grocery, where Ken worked as a teenager. Thus, he took his bike to the station to watch the train come in and unload.

Station agent, Art Mortson had called his son, Tom, in to help out.

After the train left, Tom came to Ken with a bag and asked him what he was doing.

When he replied, "Nothing", Tom asked him to take the bag over to the Bank of Toronto as he was so busy. He was to give it to either Frank Crosby or Helen Bellwood and no one else!

Later, Tom asked Ken if he knew how much money was in the bag? When Ken heard it was over \$7000.00, he was floored!! Would that kind of trust exist today?

Barbara (Wheeler) Elliott has a teenage story also.

My story took place over sixty years ago.

I had just past my 13th birthday - glorious summer was upon us.

A phone call came that revealed the next summer adventure - a trip to Ottawa on a Reinhart Vinegar truck.

The call came from Betty Martin. She excitedly asked me if I would like to go with her on this - off the wall - excursion.

Don Lowe, her neighbour, had the trip to make. Usually his wife, Shirlie, would go with him for company but Betty was invited since Shirlie couldn't go. So Betty phoned me.

The Vinegar truck was going to Ottawa. Now I had never been to Ottawa, so that in itself was exciting.

Early morning - still dark - we boarded this huge truck. I don't know how many wheels this truck had but we almost needed a ladder to get into it. I had never even been close to such a vehicle. King of the Road. We went off in a blaze of glory with country music blaring.

First stop, other than necessities, was Brighton, ON. Lots of stuff went off the truck at Brighton and lots of stuff went on. Not sure if it was all vinegar but by the smell I think it was. We offered to help the loading process but Don wouldn't allow it.

The sun shone, the wheels rolled, the talk and music never stopped.

We got to Ottawa as the sun was starting to go down. We rolled past the Parliament Building lit like New York City. We could hardly believe our eyes. Awestruck to say the least.

Our next stop was the Chateau Laurier. Don announced this was where Betty and I would spend the night. He was going to a cheaper truck friendly place somewhere else.

Now if you can picture two young teens, wearing shorts, going into this first class Hotel where royalty had stayed and asking for a room for the night you will know how I think about it all these years later.

We actually were allowed to stay. We paid in cash - no credit cards in those days. There was a swimming pool - we had no suits so we couldn't use it but to even see a pool in a hotel was more than 2 Stayner girls had ever seen before. The whole place was more exhilarating than anything we had ever experienced.

Don arranged to pick us up out front the next morning. More loading and unloading before starting the long trek home.

As I look back all those years ago, one things astounds me.....Our parents allowed us to go!!

Brian Pounder's memory is very acute and he offers this one.

The Stayner Teen Town was very active in the 50's. The main social events were dances. We would rent the hall of the arena, spin some records and dance the night away.

Gordon Oliver decided to form a band. Gordon played the clarinet, Donald Doner played the trumpet, John McAlister played the trombone, Glenn Sawyer played the piano, Wally Baynon played the stand-up bass and Bobby Jones played the drums. Lorne Doner, Donald's dad, played the violin for the square dances and I was the caller. The band was called the "Dixie Teeners". They played a lot of Dixie-land music as well as big-band tunes. They were very good.

Each New Year's Eve, a dance was held, for everyone, in the arena hall. One year, the "Dixie Teeners" were asked to play for the New Year's Eve Dance. They were delighted. The only problem was Bobby Jones would be out of town for the event - no drummer. I was the solution. I am not very musical and had no idea how to play the drums. We borrowed the big-bass drum from the Orange Lodge and someone else had a kettle drum. My job was to sit on a low stool behind the bass drum with a pair of drum sticks, bob my head to the music and every now and then raise my hands with the drum sticks in them. It was a long evening sitting there doing nothing until it was time for a square dance - then I would do my thing and then back to pretending I was Gene Krupa. It was the only time I got paid to make sure I did nothing. No one on the dance floor even noticed I had not struck the drums.

Another one from Ken

Around about 1949, Ken decided to take his bike to the dump on Warrington Rd. to shoot rats. His mother asked him to drop in to the drugstore to get her a tin box of aspirin as she had a headache.

With his gun on the handlebars, he set out.

Later, he parked the bike and gun outside the drugstore and went in. Dr. Ray Ives was in there talking to the druggist, Art Poole. He asked Ken where he had been and when Ken told him, he said "I wish every kid in town had a dump to play in. You know polio is a clean person's disease".

Ken wonders how this would play out today - a teenager with a gun on the handlebars parked on Main Street.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The following items make excellent gifts.

NEW

Bell Tower Souvenirs:

- Replica towers (garden ornament) \$75
- Window Boxes (unfinished)
- Replica plaques (wooden backing) - 3 sizes
- Replica plaques (no backing) - 3 sizes
- Free-standing Bell Towers - 3 sizes
- Small Bell Tower bookmarks - \$15
- smaller figures (birds, trees, etc.) standing on pieces of polished fossilized shale - prices vary.

CALL BARB STRANSKY 705-445-4468

Stayner Notes - \$10 + \$3 s&h

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 - \$2 and **4 x 6 Prints** - \$3, of various Stayner landmarks, suitable for framing:

- The Fountain Park
- The Gazebo
- Co-Op building (Hindle drawing).

Limited # of **original drawings** of Stayner downtown buildings in 8" x 11" frames - \$15

A few **Christmas Ornaments** left - Hand-crafted, wooden depicting Railroad Station, Bell Tower and Town Hall - \$10 inc. shipping.

DVD's

****NEW**** "HERITAGE DAY, 2014" - Tom Scholte "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

new - The first in the series "Fireside Chats" featuring Bill Ives, Harry Maters and Bruce Kneeshaw recorded at Blue Mountain Manor by Tom Scholte

If you wish to order any or all of the DVD's, please send \$15 for each (+ \$2 s&h). Please stipulate which ones you prefer.

Baseball Caps sporting the SHS logo - 4 colours (red, navy, green, black) \$15

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2014-2015

Chairperson - Jeff Parton

Vice-Chair - Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Past Chair - Kevin Jerry

Secretary - Myrna Johnson

Treasurer - Carol Marsden

Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Membership - Barb Stransky & Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Program - C Walker, F Allen, J Holroyd, S Brockwell

Clearview Council Rep - Bob Charlton

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 - S Parton, J Cox, P Perry,

M Menecola

Emeritus - Pete Jerry

History - Jim Paul

Nominating Committee - P Townsend, B Stransky

Technical Advisor - Jack Craig

Auditor - Sandra Squire

Website - Mike Scholte

Directors - R Marsden (1 yr) M Leimgardt (2 yr)

J Holroyd (2 yrs) D. A. Millsap (1 yr)