



STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

www.staynerheritagesociety.com

Incorporated, 1998.

Spring, 2016.

Dorothy-Anne Bewell Wheeler Millsap

Dorothy-Anne was born May 15, 1935 in Stayner, Ontario. To talk about Dorothy-Anne is to speak about a woman of many talents and many friends.

A private, pragmatic, resourceful person, who enjoyed new ways of thinking and places of leadership to the end of her very full life.

She completed her education at the University of Toronto and taught languages in Collingwood and Stayner. She changed her career to become the Resource Librarian at Centennial United Church - a position she filled until her retirement.

As one of the originators of the Stayner Heritage Society, this gave her an outlet for her natural story telling talents. She loved to listen, as well as learn, about how the past influences the present. She was a keeper of the keys of history and enjoyed remembering people and places that played a role in local life.

Dorothy-Anne found rich delight in a variety of simple things. The first birds of spring, a cardinal on the feeder, as well as a stunning flower poking through in first bloom. Her children and three grandchildren were her comfort and joy. Her passion was her wish to right the wrongs of the world's less fortunate; to give a voice to those the world wasn't hearing. She was instrumental in using her writing, vocal and organizational skills to make a difference where she could. The world of baseball, especially the Blue-Jays, was a sport she watched with relish. Gardening was her



hobby in which her reputation stretched before her. Her long term association with the Toronto Jazz Society will feel her absence.

Stayner was the centre of her universe. Her church brought her comfort and opportunities for growth. It was a natural place to use her benevolent leadership skills.

Dorothy-Anne gave as she received, with kindness and equality for all.

She died on Monday March 7, 2016 after a brief illness. Predeceased by her mother Dorothy Wheeler, father Goldie Wheeler, and husband Glenn Millsap. Sadly missed by her

sons Andrew Millsap (Jill Ruppert) and Peter Millsap (Diane Knebel), her three grandchildren Cameron, Eleri and Adam (Collingwood), her sister Barbara Elliott (Paul) (Courtenay, BC), her brother Ben Wheeler (Audrey) (Winnipeg), sister-in-law Shirly Millsap (Angus), plus nieces and nephews.

"The members of the Stayner Heritage Society very much appreciated Dorothy-Anne's passion for the heritage of Stayner. She will continue to be our lead as we move forward in her absence"

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Blazing Fiddles in April

SHS is thrilled to present the **second** “Blazing Fiddles” concert on April 29, 2016, 8:00 pm at the Clearview Community Church on Airport Rd. in Stayner. This high energy show features a range of music from Celtic to Canadian Fiddle and Southern Rock! Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Barb's Clothes Closet, Wheeler/Spriggs Insurance, and from any member of the Heritage Society - or call Myrna at (705)428-2540.

19th Annual Heritage/Canada Day

The Stayner Heritage Society along with the Stayner Chamber of Commerce will be holding the Canada Day/Heritage Day celebrations on July 1st. The usual activities for Heritage Day will occur at Station Park – beginning with the Scouts Pancake breakfast (9:00 - 11:00 am), parade at 11:30 am, display of antique vehicles, entertainment, food, and fun. We are planning another heritage “Tour of the Town” with Dalton Lowe and Robert Walker. Prizes and draws at 3:30 pm. The Chamber events will commence thereafter. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

SHS Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2016 at Centennial United Church. Details will be outlined in our local newspapers. Everyone is welcome!

Black History Event

This event actually took place on March 2, 2016. Janie Cooper-Wilson, our guest speaker, was the recipient of the 2015-2016 OMAH Award for her work in restoring and developing the Oro African Methodist Episcopal Church National Historic Site located in Edgar. Her talk was very informative and interesting and was enjoyed by all! The spiritual music by Saradale Hartshorn and Brian Rae complemented the theme and was “the icing on the cake.”

The Shingle Project

(art pieces made from the galvanized tin shingles from the Stayner Bell Tower)

We now have more items for your garden or home, including urns for your porch display, window boxes, planters and mobile birds and butterflies to sway in the summer breeze. New tree arrangements have also been added to our collection. These items range in price from \$11 to \$75 and will be available at -

- the Museum during the Music in the Park Farmer’s Market on Thursday evenings over the summer
- Heritage Day - July 1, 2016

If you would like to have any of these items before then, please call Ferne Allen at (705)428-2137

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 continues his role as Webmaster, bringing updates and his new ideas!

Remembrance Day Celebration

What a wonderful morning! Ken Parton entertained us with his bagpipes for the opening ceremony – well done, Ken! Don Doner played The Last Post. We enjoyed a continental breakfast and then settled in for an inspirational morning of music, DVD's and guest speaker. Thanks to June Flynn and George McNabb for providing music, popular in the war years. Our guest speaker, Ted Lee, was most informative and entertaining, sharing his experiences as a pilot. Tom & Mike Scholte provided us with their latest DVD on Canadians serving our country during the war – also presenting local “Stayner Heroes” in book form. We are looking forward to another event in November.

Health & Leisure Showcase – March 19, 2016

Good to be part of the Showcase as one of the organizations in Stayner. A small display case showed off the different Stayner businesses and memorabilia - from small china pieces to thermometers and pictures, even a tiny ring box from A.E. Swallow Jewellers! News clippings from 1984 caught the eye of passers-by. These showed the many different businesses that were part of Stayner at that time. Each sheet had a section from the archives as well. The beautiful Bell Tower history, that was done by Gabriella Nixon was also on display. This was complemented by art pieces made from the original Bell Tower shingles. This is a wonderful way to chat with Stayner and area folk about the history of our town.



In a continuing series, describing families settling in the Stayner and surrounding area, we are pleased to present the Wheeler Story. Respectfully submitted by Barbara Elliott nee Wheeler.

THE WHEELER STORY

This story begins with Thomas Wheeler who was born in 1820 west of Toronto in what now is called Etobicoke. He met and married Elizabeth McGill who had recently immigrated from Northumberland in the UK.

Thomas and Elizabeth raised five children the oldest of which was George born in 1844 in Weston Ontario (now Etobicoke).

George married Jessie Schell who was born in Glencairn. They settled in this small community and raised a very large family. Some records suggest fifteen children but we know of twelve for certain. George ran a public house and General Store in Glencairn. Some suggest they may have been of Mennonite persuasion but that isn't definite.

The family moved to Stayner after retirement about 1900. George died in 1926.

Their third born son, Benjamin, was born in 1876. He married Bertha Madill who was raised in rural Glencairn by her parents who has immigrated from Ireland in the mid century leaving behind the terrible potato famine. Ben died in 1935 after raising five natural children and one adopted son. The second son Harold sadly died at 8 months.

Ben was the first of the family to enter the insurance business in Stayner - He shared a brokerage with a partner. However the partnership didn't last and Ben took it on himself naming the business B. Wheeler and Sons. He passed the business to his children upon his passing in 1935.

Ben and Bertha's oldest son William moved to Collingwood and continued his career in insurance. Priscilla, Ben & Bertha's second born, and Goldwyn carried on the business in Stayner when Ben died. Younger adopted brother James joined them for a short while. Edna (known as Teddy) married Clarence (Parry) Parrington and lived in Toronto for the duration of her life. It is interesting to note that George, Jessie, Ben, Bertha and all the children, except Harold, are buried in the Stayner Cemetery.



Goldie Wheeler with wife Dorothy and daughters Dorothy-Anne and Barbara.

Goldwyn (Goldie as he was called by all who knew him) married Dorothy Bewell who moved to Stayner to teach languages at the local high school.

They raised three children before Dorothy's untimely death at the age of 46 from cancer.

Goldie continued on in the insurance business bringing in his son in law Glenn Millsap, husband of his oldest daughter Dorothy Anne, as well as his son Ben to assist in the growing business located on main street Stayner.



Three Wheeler children - (L to R) Dorothy-Anne, Barbara and Ben. Photo taken in May of 2015 at Barbara's house in B.C.

Dorothy Anne, following graduation from Victoria College, University of Toronto and Ontario College of Education, taught languages in Collingwood Collegiate and Stayner before changing careers to Resource Librarian at Stayner Centennial Church. Their two sons, Andrew and Peter, were very active in the Stayner Sports scene.

Ben subsequently left the business and moved north to Thunder Bay where he met and married Audrey Korkola finally settling in Winnipeg Manitoba. Their three children Carla, Jonathan, and Michael continue in successful enterprises across the country.

Their middle daughter Barbara, married Paul Elliott moving north to Thunder Bay to continue a career in Early Childhood Education until retirement and relocation to Courtenay BC. They raised two children Chris (Toronto) and Marny (Courtenay BC)

After Goldie's death in 1978, Glenn brought his son Andrew Millsap into the business. Glenn & Andrew continued until Glenn's death in 2003.

The industry was changing and as a result the business was sold to Spriggs Insurance in 2003.

Andrew continues in the family interests and Peter is assistant head of the Math Department in Collingwood Collegiate Institute.

As you can see, the Wheeler Family have played a close and active role in the continuing progress of Stayner for a very long time.

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

The following items make excellent gifts. Samples can be seen at the Heritage Centre in the former Co-Op Building during open hours.

Stayner Notes - \$10 + \$3 shipping we have 3 different sets. The latest 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 - including a drawing of the Co-Op Buildings by John Hindle, photo of Bell Tower, Gazebo, Fountain, etc., \$2.

Prints - 4x6 of various Stayner landmarks. suitable for framing. The Fountain Park, The Gazebo, and the Hindle drawing of the Co-Op building. The prints are \$3.

Christmas Ornaments - Hand-crafted, wooden, depicting Railroad Station, Bell Tower and Town Hall - \$5. Must be picked up as shipping cost is \$6!

DVD's

"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).
"Stayner Granite Club - A Celebration of 50 Years" - by Tom Scholte

***NEW* "The 18th Annual Heritage Day, July 1, 2015"** by Tom Scholte

"Fireside chat with Dr. Bill Ives and others, at Blue Mountain Manor, spring 2015", by Tom Scholte.

The second **"Fireside Chats"** series features Dalton Lowe and will be available in the near future.

If you wish to order one or more of these unique recordings of special events, send \$15 + \$2 for shipping.

Baseball caps - 4 colours (red, navy, green, black) \$15.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2015-2016

Chairperson - Jeff Parton
Vice-Chair - Dorothy-Anne Millsap
Past Chair - Kevin Jerry
Secretary - Myrna Johnson
Treasurer - Carol Marsden
Membership - Barb Stransky
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
Kinsmen Rep:
Eastern Star Rep - Richard Marsden
Masonic Order Rep - John Hindle
Legion Rep - Manfred Leimgardt
Stayner Garden Club Rep - Pam Townsend
Clearview Theatre Rep - Bill Ives
Stayner Collegiate Rep - Tom Aikens
Community Reps - J Cox, P Perry, ME Walker
M Menecola, T Sholte
Emeritus - Shirley Parton
History - Jim Paul
Nominating Committee - P Townsend, B Stransky
IT Rep - Mike Scholte
Auditor - Sandra Squire
Directors - R Marsden (2 yr) M Leimgardt (2 yr)
J Holroyd (1 yrs)

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Myrna Johnson
Barb Stransky
Peter Millsap