



# STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

[www.staynerheritagesociety.com](http://www.staynerheritagesociety.com)

Incorporated, 1998.

Fall, 2013.

## A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Following the disappointing cancellation of the 16th Heritage Day in July of 2012, the day, July 7, 2013, dawned sunny and perfect!

The event was one of the most successful yet! The Beinn Gorm Highlanders set the tone as usual and got everyone in the mood for a good day.



The popular band, “North of Fifty” pleased the large crowd while the local group, “String Theory” and the Lions Club Early Bird draw for \$1000, added to the interest.

The barbecue, (by Friends Pub of Stayner), the pies, (presented by the youth group, The Door), the popcorn (given by the Lions Club), and the candy floss and drink stand all ensured that everyone had a good lunch.

We thought the reader would be interested in those who won prizes at Heritage Day!

## PRIZE WINNERS:

**50-50 draw:** Shirley Parton

**Heritage Raffle:** *June Holroyd* - Station shelf; *Deanna Nelson* - Bell Tower; *Lynne Storey* - End Table

**Parade Winners from co-ordinator, Jayne Coutts:**

*Casey Singleton* - four years old on her bike with training wheels-so cute!!!! (dad came with her which was a good thing because she was a dangerous driver)

*Jason McNabb* - Grade four - Rode his bike which was decorated with a package of Canada Day napkins - one dollar from the Dollar Store... I would say most creative decorations.

*Joslin Clement* and her puppy Jackson

*Olivia Walker* - dressed up as a pioneer girl pushing her doll pram with puppy Dumpling Rose dressed up in the pram.



*Olivia Walker and Dumpling Rose*

## In This Issue

- 16th Annual Heritage Day
- The Bell Tower Shingle Project
- The Story of Bruce Parton

*Kole Walker* - really wasn't walking with us but he was on Somerville tractor and was dressed up like a western/country person.

*Hanna Weel* - with her puppy Cocoa - so sweet!!  
And of course my little grand baby - *Hailey Anne Coutts*.



*Hailey Anne Coutts*

**Lions Club Early Bird Draw:** David McKinnon  
**Colouring Contest:** Under 5 - *Marley, Sam Gennings*;  
5-9 years - *Jacob Miller, Emily Forster*; 10 and over -  
*Hayley Floyd, Hannah Gabriel*.

Ticket sales, donations at the entrances and the silent auction all helped to make the day a success.

Of course, Heritage Day could not happen were it not for the generous sponsors: Wheeler-Spriggs Insurance; Reinharts; Stayner Chamber of Commerce (Town Crier); Stayner Lions Lions (popcorn); Stayner Legion (Beinn Gorm Highlanders); Tim Weel and Dalt Lowe.

### **FINAL WORD ON THE VERY SUCCESSFUL RAFFLE**

There were THREE tickets drawn - the first drawn, June Holroyd, chose the clothes shelf, donated by member Shirley Fisher, and depicting Stayner Station with a train on the track.

The 2nd ticket drawn, Deana Nelson, chose the replica of the Bell Tower, made by Al Matchett from the Bell Tower shingle.

The third name drawn, Lynne Storey, got the end table with a shingle inlaid into the top, made by "Billy Hill Pine" of Stayner.

All winners were very pleased with their items.

### **AN EXCITING COMING EVENT!**

On Saturday, November 9th Stayner Heritage Society is holding a special Remembrance Day Event at Jubilee Pres. Church on Main St, Stayner, at 9:00 am.

A continental breakfast will welcome the guests.

Sgt. Ret'd Robert Thompson will tell his personal story of 37 years in the Military, and of his experiences as a war photographer.

We will also see the very moving DVD made of 2400 students who travelled to Normandy Beaches and Vimy Ridge. Taylor Jones will describe his adventure as a cadet.

The **\$5 tickets** will be sold in advance. Call Catherine Walker 705-428-2719, Myrna Johnson 705-428-2540 or purchase from a member of SHS.

### **THE SHINGLE PROJECT**

A committee, consisting of Barb Stransky and Ferne Allen has been researching the possibilities of using the saved aluminum shingles from the Bell Tower.

So far, they have several projects in the works including Bell tower replicas, window boxes and other creative items. Most of these items are available for sale. See list of merchandise later in the newsletter.

Thanks Barb & Ferne for seeing value in something which might have been considered useless!



### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

**Dorothy-Anne Millsap**

**Myrna Johnson**

**Peter Millsap**

*Here is another story concerning a Stayner person, Bruce Parton, whose story is very appropriate for this time of year! The story was written by Jeff Parton, with help from Shirley.*

## **BRUCE D. PARTON**

by Jeff Parton

Bruce Parton's military career was no doubt inspired by his own father Tom Parton who was in the famed 48th Highlander's Regiment out of Toronto. Tom was gassed in WWI by an exploding overhead shell, suffering blindness and compounded later on by dysentery. Tom joined the 48th over the age of 20, whereas, Bruce decided to give it a try in the Second World War starting at the age of 15. He stretched the truth enough to get in at age 16 with his 6'5" physique having, no doubt, a lot to do with it.

He trained in Canada at our famed Base Borden before being shipped overseas for further training in England, near Arundel Castle west of London with stints in Scotland. The 48th were assigned to Operation Husky, the Invasion of Italy through Sicily in 1943. On July 10th 1943 Bruce and the 48th stormed ashore with 250,000 other English and American troops at Pacino on the south-east shore of Sicily. They found little resistance there, unlike the assault on Normandie 11 months later, but the journey inland would not be the same.

Bruce was assigned the task of being the company's Bren gunner because of his size and strength. The machine gun was extremely heavy and firing 600 rounds a minute of .303 belted calibre shells. He also at times drove a Bren carrier, named not coincidentally, after the gun. The 48th drove inland towards Mt. Etna, Sicily's famed and active volcanic mountain. One day Bruce heard some Italian being spoken while forward scouting up a road only to find 55 of Benito Mussolini's soldiers in a culvert more than willing to surrender to the Canadian troops. Bruce marched them back to the main brigade without incident as they were just happy not to be fighting a war they really didn't believe in. On August 1st Bruce was on another forward scouting

duty with another soldier of "C" company near Regalbuto, on the south western slopes of Mt. Etna, when rifle fire broke out and he was shot in the right knee.



He said later it was probably a German 300 calibre (9.6mm) carbine bullet that tore through his knee sending him backwards 12 feet along with doing 2 somersaults in the air before landing on the ground under an olive tree. Bruce said later in life, a German soldier came over to him right after being wounded, who was as he said, the Wehrmacht soldier who shot him, but that soldaten chose not to quote "finish him off" leaving him bleeding in an olive orchard. Medics and with other "C" Company soldiers managed, after being there a long time, to roll him unto a church door used as a stretcher and extricate him out of there.

He was shipped to a rear area hospital tent near Tobruk where he started several surgeries to fix his destroyed knee. At one point Dr. Fraser Mustard, later of Toronto General fame, argued with another surgeon on whether they should amputate the leg or not. Mustard won the argument and Bruce's leg was left on 'per say' to have a life-long pronounced limp. He was shipped back to England and ultimately Canada to recuperate at the rehab hospital at Christy Street in Toronto.

Five or six years after the war he was set up on a blind date with Shirley E. Marsden of Crawford Street, Toronto. He married her in March of 1953. Bruce was drawn back to Stayner where, as a kid, he would spend summers at his grandfather Alf Jerry's farm which was across from the present day High School. In Stayner Shirley and he raised 4 boys, worked in the Post Office, was voted on Municipal Council, and ultimately became Mayor for 9 years in the 1980's. He retired in 1983 passing away at the early age of 74 in 1998.

## STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY WEBSITE

This website is a valuable tool for up-to-date information, historical facts and coming events. Check it out! Plans are in place to create a virtual museum where you can view some of the treasures we have been given waiting for a museum site in the future! The website is maintained by Bob Charlton and his brother, John, in Montreal. Thanks to both.

## SHS BURSARY

Each year, Stayner Heritage Society awards a \$1,000 bursary to a student from Stayner Collegiate who plans to go on to study a history-related subject. This year's winner is EMILY WALKER. Congratulations to her.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On May 30th, a good crowd met at Centennial United Church in Stayner to enjoy a talk by Noah Morrith on the folklore of our area. He mentioned certain phrases that are heard only around here. His special focus is the local cemeteries where he gleans much information about the community.

The business segment of the evening consisted of the presentation of the Slate of Officers for 2013 by Barb Stransky and some announcements.

For refreshments, June Holroyd again presented a great cake commemorating another successful year!

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

**\*NEW\*** The following items make excellent gifts.

### Bell Tower Souvenirs:

**Replica towers** (garden orn't) - \$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.

(we plan to have more finished window boxes)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING PRICES, 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** - including a drawing of the Co-op Buildings by John Hindle, Bell Tower, Gazebo, Fountain etc. \$2.

**Prints 4X6"**, suitable for framing of various Stayner landmarks; The Fountain Park, The Gazebo, and the Hindle drawing of the Co-Op building. \$3 each.

Limited # of **original drawings of Stayner downtown buildings** in 8X11" frames - \$15.

A few **Christmas Ornaments** left - Hand-crafted, wooden depicting Railroad Station, Bell Tower and Town Hall - \$10 + \$6 s&h.

**DVD's** (formerly in VCR format):

**"Memories of Our Town", "The 125th Anniversary of Stayner in 1997", "Stayner's Millennium Day, 2000"**.

If you wish to order any or all of the DVD's, please send \$15 for each +\$2 s&h.

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2013-2014

Chairperson - Jeff Parton

Vice-Chair - Bob Charlton

Past Chair - Kevin Jerry

Secretary - Myrna Johnson

Treasurer - Carol Marsden

Publicity - Dorothy-Anne Millsap

Membership - Barb Stransky

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

Clearview Council Rep - Robert Walker

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

Emeritus - Lorne Stewart, Pete Jerry

History - Jim Paul

Nominating Committee - P Townsend, B Stransky

Technical Advisor - Jack Craig

Auditor - Sandra Squire

Directors - June Holroyd (1 yr) Manfred Leimgardt

(1 yr) Bob Charlton (2 yrs) D. A. Millsap (2 yr)