

STAYNER HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
INCORPORATED, 1998 **SPRING, 2001**

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the Spring, 2001 SHS Newsletter!

As we have emphasized in past newsletters, when you become a member of Stayner Heritage Society, you will have a voice in all of the great happenings and changes taking place in our community.

That \$20.00 MEMBERSHIP FEE might be the most important expenditure of your year.

There has been much activity throughout the past year, and there are many exciting plans being made right now, both for this summer and for the future.

Read on in this newsletter to learn of the recent activities of your society.

ACTIVITIES SINCE FALL

Since we last wrote to you, there have been several events on our calendar.

When SHS decided to enter a float in the Santa Claus, Glenn Millsap and John Craig immediately went to work to build a "Bell Tower" (built to scale in the appropriate silver colour, and with a bell that rings) to complement the Station created last year! Several evenings spent in the freezing cold by a few stalwarts, and a beautiful float was created to add to the success of the Parade. We thank Pete Jerry for allowing us to store these replicas until their permanent home is found!

The sale of the wooden Christmas tree ornaments, showing the Stayner Station, was very successful at Pumpkinfest, even though the weather was brutal! Again, the brave-at-hearts set up a table in the alley between what used to be Brown's Butcher Shop and Blackburn's and also sold Stayner Notes, and Videos. This scenario was repeated at the Santa Claus Parade.

PLEASE NOTE: If we succeed in selling the rest of the Christmas Ornaments (depicting the Railway Station) on July 7th during "Music in the Park", we plan to order a second series containing a second picture of a heritage building - possibly the Wilcox Inn. Eventually, this will prove to be a unique set.

As the winter has progressed, under the capable leadership of Chairperson Lorne, several sub committee meetings and monthly executive committee meetings have kept the plans for the Annual Meeting and "Music in the Park" (July 7th, this year) on schedule. There will be more details about these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

FOR SALE

Videos - \$20. +\$ 5. S&H
Stayner Notes - 5. + 2.
Wooden Christmas Ornaments - 10 + 4

TWO NEW ITEMS OF MERCHANDISE

The **Millennium-Stayner** Video was first available on Santa Claus Parade Day. At **\$20.00**, it is proving to be another hit! It is about an hour long and tells the story of the momentous day on July 8th. Two expert videographers, Maryanne Buie and Grenville Bray, covered the activities. They captured the wonderful Irish Dancers, the Simcoe Cloggers, the parade, the bands, the Craft Fair, and the excitement of the crowd. Along with appropriate music and commentary by Dorothy-Anne, it is a wonderful keepsake, both for those who were there and for those who couldn't make it.

This is the third video produced by SHS!

Also, newly available are the **clothing items** sporting the lovely **Stayner Station/Heritage Society Crest**, and created by Lasting Impressions of Stayner.

Shoppers can choose the colour of the sweat shirt, t-shirt or vest, and the type, size, and colour of the crest.

When you make a purchase, SHS receives a percentage of the sale! Thanks, Lasting Impressions.

pic of heritage quilt

ARBOUR DAY

Saturday, May 5th

8am-1pm

Station Park

Stayner Heritage Society

& Nottawasaga Valley Conservation

are sponsoring a

TREE SALE

**several varieties of trees
reasonable prices**

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UPDATE ON STATION PROJECT

Stayner Heritage Society is still endeavouring to get access to the land where the former Railway Station stood. Because this land is now privately owned, permission is slow in coming. We assure the readers that we have not lost sight of this very important goal. If the Theatre project becomes a reality, this will provide us with possible site for fundraising for the Station

UPDATE ON THEATRE PROJECT

Kudos Productions, the company owned by Bobby Venton, of Stayner, is currently in negotiations with Ron McDermid to purchase the former Watson Motors building. Plans are being made to transform the building into a beautiful, strategically located "Clearview Arts Centre".

Stayner Heritage Society is co-operating with Mr. Venton as much as is legally possible as we know that this centre will be of great benefit to Stayner and Clearview. Mr. Venton has many connections in the world of the arts and will be in production with the very successful Drayton Theatre Company. Demographics show that Stayner, located on the busy Highway 26, is an ideal site, year-round, to attract theatre and music enthusiasts.

If the plans materialize, SHS will be able to have a permanent location for our publicity and fundraising.

HAVE YOU NOTICED AROUND TOWN?

As a result of the Millennium "Beautify Main Street" grant the SHS received in 2000, we have purchased 4 comely new signs at the 4 entrances to town. Thanks to Sherry Hunter and Pete Millsap for the SHS logo - seen on the newsletters and all articles in the Stayner Sun etc. as well as on the new signs.

We also were able to help the Kinsmen to refurbish the Centennial Fountain and Garden near Oak St., and to purchase park benches and trash disposal units there and elsewhere.

pic of Watsons

TWO SHS MEMBERS ATTEND HERITAGE DAY
AT SIMCOE COUNTY MUSEUM, FEB. 19/01

Myrna Johnson and Dorothy-Anne Millsap attended the Ontario Historical Society's **Heritage Day** at the Simcoe County Museum on February 19th.

Dorothy Duncan and Doug Hamilton, veteran founders of the OHS, presented an excellent program focussing on the steps necessary for the formation of a successful historical society.

Each Historical group has the mandate of preservation of the history of the community. Trustworthiness and accountability are the major qualities that Societies must exhibit to that community and especially to its members.

A successful Society must be active and demonstrate their resolve to work for some goal at all times.

We learned that, so far, we have proceeded acceptably! We were fortunate to acquire our charitable tax exemption status after following the government requirements. Our projects have been well supported and we have involved many people in our events. Slowly, but surely, the public is realizing that Stayner Heritage Society is a positive force in the Community of Stayner.

ANNUAL MEETING
May 30, 2001; 7:30 pm
Centennial United Church
Special Program - **Video of Millennium-Stayner**
(1st Public Viewing)
Everyone welcome.

WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE MOVING!

With each edition of the newsletter, several copies are returned to us as you, the recipient, have moved and we didn't know about it!

Please inform us of any change in your address, if you wish to continue to receive the SHS semi-annual newsletter.

YOUR FAMILY'S STORY TOLD?

Thanks to all who have donated articles, photos, information. If you wish to have the story of your family included in a future newsletter, please send it to Box 290 or call Dorothy-Anne at 428-2917.

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[The following story is another in an ongoing series featuring former Staynerites, gone but not forgotten!

Jim Paul, who has amassed an impressive amount of information about his own families and others in the Stayner area has supplied much information.]

THE WATSON FAMILY, continued!

In the Fall Newsletter, you will remember that we told you about **Joseph Watson** who had 16 children with his first wife. We concentrated upon William because so many of his descendants still have connections with Stayner.

However, we have learned that at least FIVE of Joseph's other children have offspring still living in this community! We couldn't resist another installment.

1. Richard, the eldest, born in Whitchurch Township (1841-1925) later moved to Sunnidale, where a string of Watson farms extended along Sunnidale Road. He married Catherine McTaggart (1840-1930). Of their 4 children, we look at **Malcolm** (or Mike) who married Mary Shaw.

Their daughter, **Mary** married Tasker Grant, champion sheep breeder. Daughter, **Marie**, and husband, Allen, still live in Stayner. Sons Chris and Brian have carried on in Grandfather Tasker's footsteps having over 500 purebred sheep at present.

Malcolm's daughter, **Velma**, married R.O. Dickey, local feed mill operator and trucker. Of this family, Oscar and Shirley are still in the area. Eric, Mary and Marjorie are deceased.

Another daughter of Malcolm's, **Florence**, married Clyde Newton, lived on William Street and had daughter, Audrey.

Malcolm's son, **Ken**, married Dorothy Robertson of Stayner, and they had a daughter, Marilyn.

2. We next arrive at **John** (1844-1933) whose wife was Mary Ann Scott (1836-1903). Two of their 6 children still have connections in Stayner.

Daughter, **Carrie** married Robert Allen, a well-known housepainter. Their son, **Ken** (recently deceased) and wife, Maureen, long-time residents on Main Street, had family - Robert, Richard, Catherine and Peter.

John's son, druggist/grocer **Thomas John (TJ)** married Ada Clark (3 in their family - Clark, Floreen, Thomas) They died tragically in 1922. Their son, **Tom** (also TJ) married Dorothy McCandlish of Stayner (family Mary Jane, Martha and Rick). He was a champion golfer, and presently resides at Creedan Valley Nursing Home in Creemore.

As was often the case in large families, two sisters would marry two brothers. **Hannah** Watson (1856-1929) married George

Hughes (1848-1890). Sister, **Sarah Ann** (1843-1928) married Thomas Hughes (1847-1932).

3. In Sunnidale Township, **Hannah** and George raised 9 children. Two of them, John Henry and Archie, fit into our Stayner story. George tragically drowned in the Nottawasaga River at age 42.

Their son, **John Henry** (1880-1944) married Levina Hollingshead. John was the builder of many of Stayner's fine homes. Their family was Gladys, Dorothy, and Glenn. Daughter, **Gladys** Cameron, and her daughter, **Brenda** Giffen, still live here. Brenda and Gerald have a son, Derek.

Archie Hughes (1884-1920) married Minnie Grainger. Their son, **Walter**, was a lifelong resident of Stayner, as was daughter, **Ida**. Both resided on Sunnidale Street. Walter remained a bachelor. Most of **Ida** (1911-1971), and husband, John Paul's four children remained in town - **J.D** (married to Phyllis Knox - family Jim, Judy and Marjorie), **Ruth** married Johnnie Miller (8 of her 11 children still here: Bob, Pat, Terry, Jack, David, Glen, Carol Ann, and Nancy) **Dorothy** (married Ken Barker - family Audrey, Shirley, Tom and Paul), and **Lois**, deceased.

4. Sarah Ann and Thomas Hughes farmed in Sunnidale and had 7 children. Daughter **Louisa** is of interest to us because her granddaughter is Betty Patterson! Several of Betty and Bill's family still live in the area - Dave, Donna, Ron, Ted, Martha, and Mike.

5. The final member of Joseph Watson's family that we wish to introduce to you is **Ephemia** (1850-1916). She married Ira Spicher (1841-1918). Of their family of 7 children, we are interested in son, **Joseph**, who married Isabella Shaw. Their daughter, **Ottylene**, married Alex Culham (family David, Marilyn and Judith).

Joseph Spicher, as a young man, travelled into Northern Ontario in winter to sharpen saws used in the lumber industry - he learned this trade from his Spicher grandfather! En route, he would visit Watson grandparents (Joseph Watson and his second wife, Jannet were living in Michigan State near Sault Ste Marie by this time).

Ottylene and Adeline (Verner) have given us an anecdote which illustrates life in Stayner over half a century ago. It seems that as teenagers, Adeline and Ottylene were living with Grandma and Grandpa Watson on Weir Street during the winter while they attended Continuation School. Ottylene's after school task was to milk the cow (as part of the agreement to stay there). After Grandma supervised the separating of the cream, Otty's job was to take a pail of milk to each of the three aunts' houses on Weir Street - all Watson aunts and all living side-by-side.

When you consider the connections that occurred through the marriages mentioned above and in the previous newsletter, you realize the huge impact that Joseph Watson had on this community - think of all the families connected - the Culhams,

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the Pauls, the Spichers, the Pattersons, and many more. No wonder, people say that everyone is related!

Auditors - Carol Marsden, Harold Platts

**MUSIC IN THE PARK,
SATURDAY, JULY 7,
12 NOON - 4 PM
CENTENNIAL PARK, STAYNER**

master of Ceremonies, **Bobbie Venton**

**featuring the "Georgian Sound" Band
pre-concert by Catherine Walker and
"The Georgian Ladies Double Trio"**

celebrating
International Year of Volunteers

Lots of other activities in the Park

**If anyone wishes to have a booth
either for "telling" or "selling"**

Please contact Myrna Johnson, 428-2540.
Fee for booth: \$20.00

pics - marie grant, ottylene culham

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Dorothy-Anne Millsap, Myrna Johnson, Peter Millsap

SLATE OF OFFICERS, 2000-2001

Chairperson - Lorne Stewart
Vice Chair - Jim Paul
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
TechnicalAdvisors - Glenn Millsap, Jack Craig
Lions Club Rep - Pete Jerry
Kinsmen Club Rep - Dave Bowes
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

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