

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District  
Historical Society

April 2017 — Issue 288

## Special Programme for our April Meeting

It is our pleasure to welcome the Grade 7/8 students from Mrs. Ferguson's class at Notre Dame C.E.S. to our meeting. In honour of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary the students embarked on a year-long Local History Inquiry project. Each student's journey has been their own individual focus starting with a spark of curiosity about their town and leading them to seek out local newspaper articles, photos, maps, plans, books as well as online information. Their work has culminated in presentations shared with peers and adults in our community.

The students will deliver presentations on *Marie Dressler* (Asia Campbell), *Dr. Billy King* (Andrew Catherwood), *Globe File Company* (Andrew Catherwood), *The Rails* (Mackenzie Mamers), *James Calcutt* (Eddie Kearney), *Cobourg Peterborough Railway* (Connor Drysdale), *Father of Confederation* (Kyleigh Hamilton), *Millbrook* (Abbey Diminie), *Fire in Port Hope* (Brae Farrell), *Victoria College* (Juliana Walt), *Sidbrook Hospital* (Victoria Gomes) and *Early Homes* (Jia LeBlanc).

Join us on Tuesday, April 25, in Victoria Hall's Citizens' Forum for a unique opportunity to learn what local students are studying. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Coffee and cookies will be available before the meeting. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family. All are welcome so bring a friend!

# Our Previous Meeting

## Cultural Heritage of the Highway 407E Corridor

On March 28 Dr. Katie Hull presented *Heritage Lost and Found: Managing the Cultural Heritage of the Highway 407E Corridor*. The massive Highway 407E project – consisting of three linear corridors totaling 33 square kilometers –



presented a huge challenge for those involved in cultural heritage. The swath that the highway project cut through the Durham countryside impacted hundreds of above and



below-ground heritage resources. This resulted in the need for the identification, documentation, and/or excavation of a variety of extant structures, landscapes, and archaeological sites relating to the history of the Region. The identified resources range from early Archaic (circa 9,500 years before present) archaeological sites to



nineteenth-century Euro-Canadian farm complexes. This multi-year assessment involved dozens of workers and required more than 100 person-years of effort.

## Future Meetings

The May meeting will feature a presentation by our President, Alison Torrie Lapaire on *The Canadian Flag—What a History!*. Her presentation will be followed by entertainment and refreshments. Be sure to reserve Tuesday, May 30, 2017 for an exciting evening. This meeting is open to the public without charge so invite your friends and neighbours!

Further details will be in the May edition of *Historically Speaking*.

## Who Said Canadians Have No Sense of Humour?

*Judith Goulin*

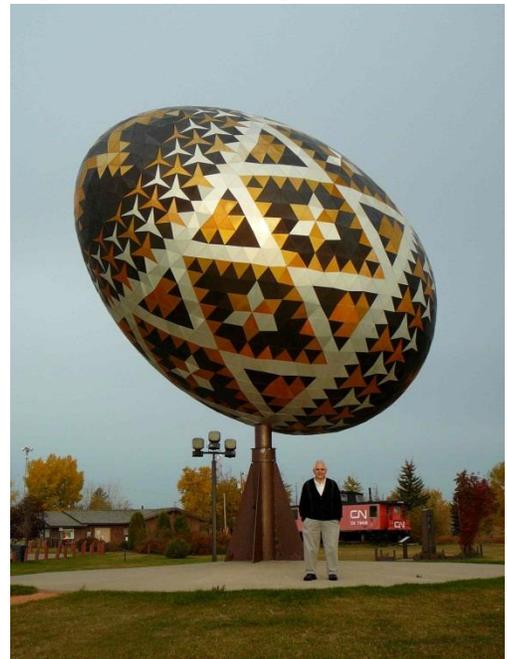
Maybe we Canadians are the funniest people in the world. Just consider the array of larger than life oddities across our vast country and in the Far North. Some might consider them funny, kitschy, even quirky. You decide.



British Columbia features two “World’s Largest” oddities: a hockey stick and a pair of cross-country skis. Also to be found in BC are a giant motorcycle, a lawnmower of epic proportions and the pièce de résistance: the Kamloops Trout Sculpture.

Alberta surely outdoes its neighbour to the west as it boasts the World’s Largest Easter Egg,

or Pysanka, decorated in the Ukrainian fashion, a giant perogy, plus a sculpture of a giant beaver in where else but Beaverlodge? Also, close to the Trans-Canada Highway is a noteworthy 20 storey teepee presumably the dwelling place of extremely tall First Nations people. Alberta’s “crowning glory” though, may well be its six metre high crown featuring over 3,000 purple lights. Not surprisingly



Coronation is the site of the not-to-be-missed crown. Let us not forget the world's largest dinosaur in Drumheller.

In Saskatchewan there is more wildlife with giant Mac the Moose, predictably in Moose Jaw, plus a life-sized "Bison Antiquus" elsewhere in the province. Manitoba boasts a giant beaver but also lays claim to the World's Largest Easel, holding a painting of sunflowers, giant ones, of course.



Perhaps you've seen our own province's ginormous contributions to what surely must be a theme: the Big Apple, the Big Nickel, the



Big Toonie, Jumbo and Maman, the frighteningly large spider outside of the National Gallery; and Huskie the Muskie, husky in size, as his name implies. Wawa brags of having the World's Largest Canada Goose. Elsewhere in the province there is a giant wooden rocking horse that is featured in *Guinness Book of World Records*, plus a Holstein cow large enough that you could sit underneath her udder for ease of milking! The latest addition to Ontario's big attractions is right here in Cobourg. If you haven't seen the giant pig on Highway 45 just north of 401, be sure to catch it after dark when its pink body gives off a lurid glow.



Quebec's contribution to our joie de vivre is in the form of a giant smiling snowman named Bonhomme. Other than the happy snowman, La Belle Province does not seem to feature a plethora of quirky roadside attractions like oversized moose, beavers, coins and the like.

Nova Scotia has bragging rights to the World's Largest Fiddle and a massive moose made of concrete. New Brunswick's claim to fame is an oversized sandpiper, possibly big enough to scare a giant away and



World's Largest Axe. Prince Edward Island has a red rural mailbox big enough to stand under, but disappointingly there is no colossal Anne of Green Gables to be found anywhere on the island. Newfoundland's giant squid sculpture commemorates a really big one that washed up on a beach one time.

In  
Canada's  
Far North



there does not appear to be many big quirky attractions, except for a mosquito, called the Giant Mosquito, in the Yukon. It could be that their mosquitoes really are enormous and it is so cold and dark half the year that few tourists go there anyway. Perhaps the most suitable

attraction for the Great White North would be a giant glowing yellow sun somewhat like a Happy Face, so that Great White Northerners could look at it while thinking very warm thoughts and look forward to the sun coming back in six months. During the dark phase, the sun would have a downturned mouth and in the light phase it would look like, you guessed it, a Happy Face! Maybe tourists would travel there to see it, especially during the dark period!

Pack your bags and your sense of humour and take a trip anywhere in our great country during this, our much-celebrated 150<sup>th</sup> year since Confederation. LAUGH OUT LOUD.

## Membership Matters

### ***Membership Renewal***

CDHS memberships are from April to April. It would be appreciated if you were to renew your membership early. If you have not renewed prior to our Annual General Meeting in April you will not be able to vote in the election of officers. We will be happy to accept your dues at the March meeting!

### ***A Life Well Lived***

A memorial service for Marion Annie Hagen (née McKechnie) will be held on April 22, 2017 at 3:00 pm at Calvary Baptist Church, 237 Ball Street, Cobourg. Marion was one of the Cobourg and District Historical Society's long-term members. She was the second president of the society and served as Archives Chair of the Cobourg Archives for many terms in the early years of its inception. She was one of the founding members of the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall and one of its most tireless workers.

## Announcements

### ***Richard Randall Canada 150 History Scholarship***

The Cobourg and District Historical Society is celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian Confederation and the 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Cobourg, by offering three high school students a chance to receive a \$1000 scholarship.

Are you passionate about history or will you study history or a related subject at a post secondary school? If so, you should submit an application form to be considered for a \$1000 scholarship. An application form and evaluation criteria is available at our website [www.cdhs.ca](http://www.cdhs.ca). An application can take **ANY** format. Examples could be an interesting history assignment, an essay, music, art, play or video. Submissions must be received before May 1, 2017 at our mailing address or electronically as follows:

Email: [scholarships@cdhs.ca](mailto:scholarships@cdhs.ca)

Mail: Cobourg and District Historical Society  
P.O. Box 911, Cobourg, ON, K9A 4W4

### ***Lakeshore Genealogical Society***

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has several meetings planned:

- **May 11:** Dan Buchannan- "Stagecoach King: The Story of William Weller"

- **June 8:** Suzanne Séguin- "Early Homes of Cobourg"

Meetings are from 6:30-9:00 pm in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library. Visitors are welcome.

### ***Cobourg Museum Foundation Event***

The Cobourg Museum Foundation will present a preview of their Canada 150 project: *Cobourg Harbour - A Story of Small Town Ontario*. This is an online retelling of the story of our harbour. Victoria Hall, Citizens' Forum on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 7:00pm.

### ***Brighton Digital Archives Open House***

The Brighton Digital Archives Open House is held on the third Tuesday of each month, in the afternoon from 2 to 4 pm and then again in the evening from 6 to 8 pm. Bring your family pictures or documents and discuss with the volunteers how to preserve them and make them available for public access online at <http://vitacollections.ca/brightonarchives/search> .

### ***Looking for Photos***

Cobourg Police Chief Kai Liu is looking for old photos of early Cobourg police officers. They are hoping to recreate some historic uniforms for 2017, and would appreciate any photos that our members may have and be willing to share. He can be contacted by email at [kai.liu@cobourgpolic.com](mailto:kai.liu@cobourgpolic.com)

### ***Book Sale***

The April 25 meeting of the Cobourg and District Historical Society will feature a book sale of both non-fiction history-related books and historical fiction. A number of books have been collected already, but we could use more. Please bring any books you no longer want and your bring your wallets to buy different ones! We ask a donation rather than a set price for books.

## CDHS Executive for 2016 – 2017

|                                   |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| Vice-President                    | Leona Woods                                                                                                                  | <a href="mailto:leonawoods@sympatico.ca">leonawoods@sympatico.ca</a><br>(905) 372-7624                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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