

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society

January 2017 — Issue 285

Champlain's Route to Lake Ontario

In 1615 Samuel De Champlain and a small group of French soldiers were led by a large force of Algonquin and Huron allies south through our region. The destination of their journey was roughly where Syracuse, New York is today and their purpose was to engage the Iroquois Nations in what would be his third and final battle.

At our January meeting CDHS member Stewart Richardson will speak on *Champlain's Route to Lake Ontario*. Drawing from a chapter that was included in his 2015 book *Finding Champlain's Dream* (published by Trent Valley Archives) Stewart will present the alternative routes this force might have taken south after entering Rice Lake. Stewart's presentation will feature many illustrations and maps. Most of the maps are very old and are seldom seen by the public.

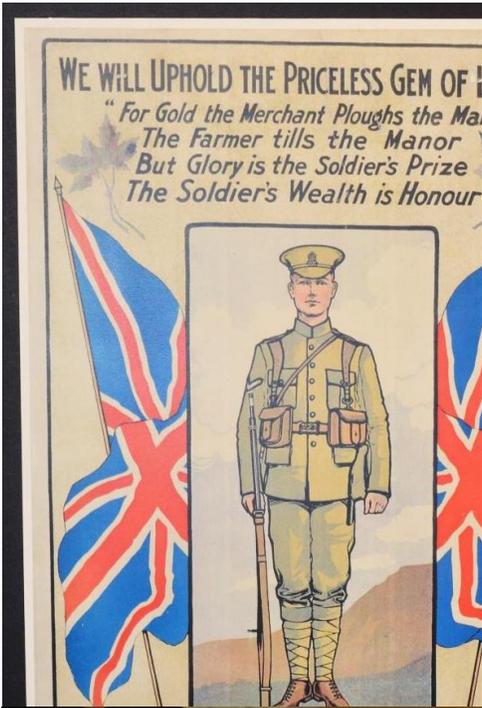
Join us on Tuesday, January 24, in Victoria Hall's Citizens' Forum. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Coffee and cookies will be available before the meeting. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. Annual membership is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Our Previous Meeting

Remembering

Our November meeting was a combination of examining WWI memorabilia in the Art Gallery of Northumberland, a brief presentation by Dan Buchanan entitled *They Went Together*, followed by member reminiscences of times past, wine and cheese together with animated conversations enjoyed by all.





Future Meetings

<p>Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Stewart Richardson <i>Champlain's Route to Lake Ontario</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Todd Denault <i>The Greatest Game: The Career of Jimmy Roberts, Gentleman</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Katie Hull <i>Heritage Lost and Found: Managing the Cultural Heritage of the 407E Corridor</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, April 25, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting of the Cobourg and District Historical Society followed by Richard Randall <i>Historic Cobourg Postcards</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, May 30, 2017 Ballroom, Victoria Hall 7:00pm <i>This meeting is open to the public without charge.</i></p>	<p>Alison Torrie Lapaire <i>The Canadian Flag — What a History!</i> Presentation will be followed by entertainment and refreshments.</p>

In Memoriam

by Judith Goulin

We are profoundly sad to announce the passing of an esteemed long-time member of our historical society, Godfray De Lisle. We will remember him fondly as a man who enjoyed life and lived it to the fullest. Godfray was charming, interesting and very sociable. He was both funny and fun to be with, a raconteur who loved regaling his friends with stories from his past.

In addition to travel, another one of Godfray's passions was collecting antique glass. In recent years, he donated his entire collection to the Royal Ontario Museum.

When he was not traveling, he enjoyed fine wine and good food, fishing, lawn bowling, playing Bridge, and attending Probus Club, among other things.

Godfray was very generous with his time and talents in the Cobourg community, having served on the boards of CDHS, Barnum House, Cobourg Public Library and the Art Gallery of Northumberland. He volunteered with Neighbour Link, Meals on Wheels and drove parishioners to services at St. Peter's Anglican Church.

Godfray De Lisle, this gentle man, a true gentleman, has left us with a great sadness in our hearts.



The Bijou Dream

There has been considerable recent interest in Cobourg's Park Theatre on King Street which opened in 1948. However, the Park was not the first theatre in Cobourg. That honour goes to The Bijou Dream which opened in 1908 at 9 King Street East. The building, later the location of the Victoria Restaurant, is currently occupied by the Dutch Oven restaurant.

Local newspapers enthused about the exciting new entertainment:

Messrs. Kerr and Raymond wil open a high-class moving picture theatre in the store now occupied by Mr. Willis, one door east of the Post Office. They intend putting the place in proper shape and will give a clean entertainment at cheap prices. Watch for the date of opening.

Sentinel-Star, January 31, 1908

Bijou Dream, Cobourg's new moving picture theatre, was opened on Saturday afternoon and drew quite a crowd ... The moving pictures were good and distinct and Mr. Dandeno, Guelph, who sings the illustrated songs, is a good artist. All present were well satisfied and when people 'catch on' that for five cents they can see as good a show as they ordinarily pay 25¢ and 35¢ in the Opera House, the present building will be filled to the doors at each performance. ... Pictures today: *Where Is My Man?*, *Laughing Gas* and the illustrated song *Honey Time*'.

The great big show for 5 cents. Open at 4 and 7. Watch for the big headliner tomorrow. Catering to ladies and children.

Sentinel-Star, March 20, 1908

Matinee today (Good Friday) at 2 and 7 p.m., when the classic drama *Ben Herr* [sic] will be presented. Song, *Old Jim's Christmas Hymn*, one of the sweetest songs ever composed.

Sentinel-Star, April 17, 1908

The house of hits. Two big laugh producers are billed for tonight, and the popular Saturday program entitled *The Veiled Beauty* and *Making Love to a Coal Man's Wife*. These are two of the best comedy films yet produced.

Sentinel-Star, April 24, 1908

Membership Matters

Last Call: Historical Review

The 32nd edition of the Cobourg and District Historical Society's *Historical Review* is now available from our website at <http://cdhs.ca/resources/historical-reviews>. If you prefer a hardcopy version, bound copies are available for \$12.50 each. Please contact Leona Woods at leonawoods@sympatico.ca or (905)372-7824 to order your printed copy.

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest members Johan Maclean, Murray McCollough and Len Taylor.

Announcements

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

Brighton Digital Archive Open House

Held the third Tuesday of each month, from 2 pm to 4 pm and then from 6 pm to 8 pm. Bring your family pictures and documents for the Brighton Digital Archive volunteers to review for digitizing and possible publication on the BDA web site at <http://vitacollections.ca/brightonarchives/search> The next date is February 21, 2017.

Brighton History Open House

Please keep in mind Brighton History Open House 2017 which will be held at the Brighton Community Centre on February 18 and 19, 2017. Displays and the Heritage Tea are open to all on Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and then the show will be presented Saturday evening at 7 pm and again on Sunday at 2 pm.

The theme for History Open House 2017 will be *Brighton One Five OH!*, based on Canada 150, the 150th Birthday

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