

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

April 2013 — Issue 258

Annual General Meeting

The CDHS will hold our Annual General Meeting in Victoria Hall on Tuesday, April 23. The business meeting will include election of officers for the 2013-2014 year and reports by various members of the Executive.

The April meeting will feature long-time member John Jolie who has a penchant for researching local history. John will present his findings about Major Lachland T. Burwash, a little-known but adventurous Cobourg resident who explored the Arctic in the last century. In 1930 the *Montreal Gazette* reported that although Major Burwash “failed to discover the mystery of the Franklin Fate”, he returned with much information and valuable photographs. We can look forward to a very interesting evening.

The meeting will be in the usual location in Victoria Hall’s Citizens’ Forum. Doors open at 7:00pm and the meeting begins at 7:30pm. Please note that these times are 30 minutes earlier than last year. Coffee and cookies will be available before the meeting and all are welcome so bring a friend!

Our Previous Meeting

Plows, Cows and a Harvest of Farms

Local farmer Gaye Hoskin provided an informative and often hilarious glimpse at farming in the Cobourg area. The Hoskin family has farmed locally for almost two centuries. The farm is now run by a sixth generation of the family. Gaye has been actively involved in the local farming community since his graduation from the University of Guelph almost fifty years ago. His working life has been raising dairy cattle on his family farm. The Hoskin farm, near Grafton, has gone from a small operation powered by horses and oxen to a large business now using tractors with air conditioned cabs, GPS and elaborate computer controls. The Hoskins' cattle are raised with no hormones or steroids, and almost all of their feed is grown on the farm. The milking herd of 240 cows produces approximately 7,500 litres of milk daily. Recently the Hoskin family has expanded their business to include selling the beef raised on their farm from the farm gate and at the weekly Cobourg Farmers' Market.

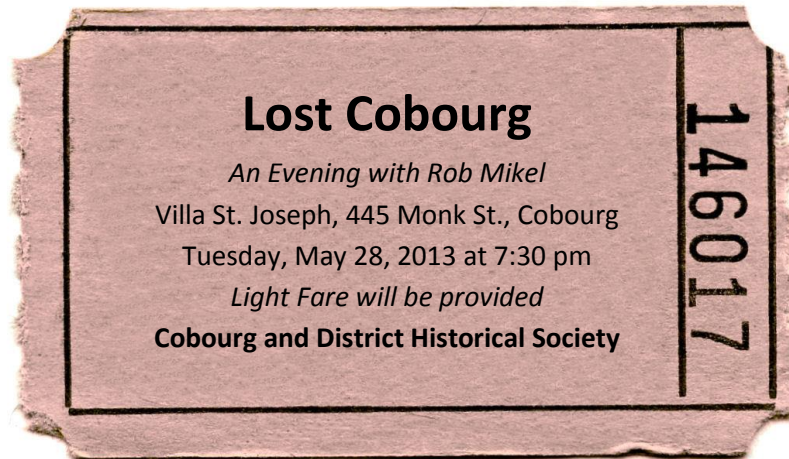


Gaye's talk was laced with colourful tales of his youth – Saturday night card games, Winter sleigh rides, efficiently dumping gravel on country roads, spreading manure, how Gully Road got its name and many more. These stories coupled with jokes and numerous photographs of bank barns, farmhouses long gone and farm animals delighted the attendees.

Our Next Meeting

An Evening with Rob Mikel

Noted local historian Rob Mikel will talk about *Lost Cobourg*, also known as the Summer Colony. In addition to an opportunity to hear from an excellent speaker, we will also have a chance to see inside the historic Villa St. Joseph. This famous building, currently operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph as a retreat, was once home to President Ulysses S. Grant's daughter Nellie Grant Sartoris Jones. Light fare will be provided. Tickets are \$18/person and can be purchased at our April 23 meeting. After the meeting any unsold tickets will be offered to non-CDHS members in the community who have an interest in hearing Rob. Don't miss this opportunity!



Burning Questions

Our older members recall the Cobourg of the past. In addition, many CDHS members have expert knowledge of various historical topics. To tap this wealth of expertise, our newsletter will periodically include a "Burning Questions" section and solicit everyone's answers to the questions posed. Later newsletters will include the best answers. If there is sufficient interest the topic will be discussed at a CDHS meeting.

Burning Question 2:

"I was recently given a copy of a photograph of a relative taken in Cobourg and I was wondering if anyone in your society would be able to tell me what uniform he is wearing (police?). The photo appears to me to have been taken around the end of the 19th century."

Burning Question 2 Answer:

Not yet!



Burning Question 3:

Is the cup pictured here from Cobourg's Arlington Hotel?

Burning Question 3 Answer:

CDHS member Richard Randall feels that the cup is almost certainly from the Arlington Hotel. Richard does not have a cup for comparison but was able to provide several examples of cutlery from the hotel and a vintage postcard showing a view of the hotel. The knife handle used a similar style of script but the butter knife and fork are adorned with only a single "A".



Memories Wanted!

Erin Walsh, Archivist, Port Hope Archives

The Port Hope Archives is expanding on our mandate of collecting and preserving the growth and development of Port Hope. Accordingly, this spring the Archives will embark on an oral history project highlighting the historical evolution of downtown Port Hope.

We at the Archives feel it is essential that memories of downtown Port Hope be recorded for researchers of the future to have a ready-made resource on the buildings, businesses, and events that challenged and inspired the area over time. Video testimonies are one of the most engaging ways of capturing memories and recollections. In an effort to form a visual record of Port Hope's downtown businesses and buildings, the Port Hope Archives invites citizens to document personal stories in an oral history project entitled "Our Memories: Downtown Port Hope."

Interested participants will be interviewed and recorded for inclusion in the project. Each interviewee will receive questions in advance so they can make notes of specific stories to tell. After interviews are conducted, each video will be broken down into shorter clips to post online. The end result will be a series of videos documenting various memories of Port Hope's downtown from both past and present perspectives. We are especially interested in hearing from long-time residents of both Ward One and Ward Two (formerly Hope Township), and owners and employees of Port Hope businesses, buildings, and industries.

There are several goals for the project: to gather first-hand accounts of historic Port Hope businesses in the downtown core; document individual memories of downtown events and buildings; create a visual document that highlights the vibrant past and present of Port Hope's downtown area; and show your memories to the world on the internet – and in the archives – for future generations.

Our community has changed tremendously over the years, and yet we are fortunate in that it has in many ways remained the same. We ask that when you walk down the streets of downtown Port Hope you think about what has changed, what has remained, and what you remember. If you have memories you would like to share please contact the Archives to get involved in the project. Thirty minutes of your time could help document the history of our downtown for future generations.

For more information on how to participate in "Our Memories: Downtown Port Hope" contact the Port Hope Archives.

The Port Hope Archives is located at 17 Mill Street North, Port Hope. Contact the archivist at (905) 885-1673 or archives@porthope.ca. You can also visit www.porthopearchives.com or <http://facebook.com/PHArchives> for more information.

Membership Matters

Time to Renew Your Membership

CDHS memberships expire in April. If you have not yet renewed, you can pay at our April meeting. Dues are unchanged from last year at \$10.00 for students, \$25.00 for individual memberships and \$30.00 for family memberships. A membership form is included at the centre of this newsletter for your convenience.

New members

I would like everyone to welcome Patricia Perry, Bette Foster and Sheila Hendry who have recently joined the CDHS.

Book Sale Continues

We will again offer books of historic interest for sale at our April meeting. The donors will be asked to reclaim any unsold books at the end of the evening, or alternatively, with the owners' permission, books can be offered to a local thrift store.

Proceeds from this book sale will be directed to high school history awards in memory of Cath Oberholtzer.

Meeting Changes

Meeting attendees will have noticed a number of changes. Most obviously, the meetings start 30 minutes earlier than previously – the doors open at 7:00pm and the meetings start at 7:30pm. To the delight of many there is decaffeinated coffee, muffins and cookies before the meeting. To help to get everyone acquainted there are name tags. Please leave your tag in the box as you leave the meeting.

Transportation to Meetings

We are trying to determine which members would appreciate a ride to our meetings. We have two volunteer drivers and I'm sure there are others who would be willing to drive. Anyone who would like a ride or is willing to drive others should call Judith Goulin at 905 372 7684. Judith is coordinating this transportation initiative.

Membership Cards

Everyone who paid their dues at the March meeting can get their new membership cards from Alma Draper at the April meeting.

Announcements

Archives Summer Hours

For the summer months of June, July and August, the Northumberland County Archives will be open to the public from Monday to Thursday and every other Friday from 1:00pm to 4:30pm.

Doors Open

Doors Open 2013 will be on June 1-2. Many historic facilities in Northumberland County will be open this year. For detailed information visit <http://www.northumberlandtourism.com> or use <http://tinyurl.com/cdwy3dt> for a direct link to the schedule.

Port Hope Archives Open House

The annual Spring Open House of the Port Hope Archives will be on May 11 from 12-4pm. Contact the archivist at (905) 885-1673 or archives@porthope.ca for further information.

Websites

There are many websites with great Cobourg-related historical material. Visit any of the following:

Cobourg Museum Foundation: northumberlandheritage.ca

Snippets of Cobourg history and current happenings: www.hardscrabble.ca

Cobourg History: www.cobourghistory.ca/

Ontario cemetery records: ocfa.islandnet.com/

History of Great Lakes travel: www.maritimehistoryofthegreatlakes.ca/

Cobourg and Peterborough Railway: www.harwoodmuseum.ca

Cobourg area heritage resources: <http://www.cobourg.ca/links1.html>

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: <http://www.arconserv.ca/>

CDHS Executive for 2012 – 2013

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