

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and  
District Historical Society

April 2015 — Issue 273

## How Well Do You Think You Know Cobourg?

The Cobourg and District Historical Society's Annual General Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 28. The business portion of the meeting will include reports from the Executive and will be followed by an election of officers for the coming year.

Following the business meeting you will be able to find out how well you know Cobourg. The Programme Committee has been busy taking photos around the town for a fun quiz. It's a good time to take a sightseeing walk to study up. Here's a hint: look up, look down, look all around the town. There will be prizes for those who can identify the most sights and sites of Cobourg.

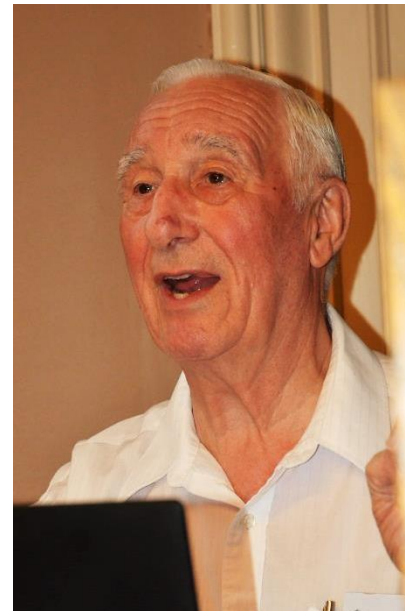
The meeting begins at 7:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to enjoy coffee, tea and cookies. Take this opportunity to reconnect with members you haven't seen recently, catch up with friends, and introduce yourself to a new member. This is a meeting not to be missed. Visitors are welcome but only members can vote in the election.

# Our Previous Meeting

## *Restoration of an Ore Car*

Ken Willcocks, Vice-President of the CDHS, was the guest speaker at our March meeting.

The Crossen Car Company of Cobourg manufactured railway cars to move iron ore from the Blairton Mine near Marmora to the port of Cobourg. An accident in 1881 sank several cars in the Trent Narrows just west of the present bridge on Highway 30. The cars remained in the river until they were recovered in 1980 and then stored by Parks Canada near Cornwall. Recently a car was brought to Cobourg for restoration. A dedicated team including Henry Heideman, Dean Tapscott, Paul Chandler, Peter Dullard, Ron Rose and George Parker have been working to restore the car. Workshop space in the old Kraft plant has been donated to the project. Replacement oak beams were



prepared by the Hope Sawmill and students at CCI are fabricating missing metal pieces. Ken hopes to eventually exhibit the restored ore car in a public location near the Cobourg waterfront.

## Annual Social Evening

Do you have a box of old love letters your great grandmother wrote? Or perhaps some wartime correspondence from an ancestor? Or a postcard of note from a great aunt? Or maybe you've been doing some research and have come across a letter that has a local historical connection? This event is a chance to share interesting letters and correspondence from your family's history! Bring along a letter or other correspondence that you would be willing to read aloud. Rob Franklin, in character as the Hon. James Cockburn, will be our guest for the evening. He will get us started by reading a brief excerpt of correspondence written by this Father of Confederation. The microphone will then be open to anyone with an interesting piece of correspondence to share with the group.

Tickets are \$10 and include regular coffee, tea and delicious petit-fours. Wine, beer and specialty coffees will be available for purchase, but are not included in the ticket price. Only sixty tickets are available for this exciting end-of-the-year social event, so don't miss out! Tickets will be available for purchase at the CDHS meeting on Tuesday April 28th. Tickets may also be purchased from CDHS President Judith Goulin no later than Friday May 15th.

This event will be at 66 King Street East in Cobourg starting at 7pm. Save the date and start looking for those letters to share!

## Membership Matters

### ***New Members***

We would like to welcome Pat and Jim Weller, Sheridan Van Blaricom, Bev Archer, Rob Franklin, Amanda Warren and Susan Vivian who have recently joined CDHS.

### ***Our Youngest Member***

Radiant CDHS Programme Chairperson Alison Torrie-Lapaire accompanied our youngest member, Nicolas Ralph Lapaire, to our March meeting. The bouquet was presented to Alison at the meeting. Nicolas is resting in his carrier.

### ***Look Through Your Bookshelves***

This season we will once again feature our popular sale of history-related books. Please look through your bookshelves for any books you no longer want and make room for others you may want to buy! Your generous donations will assist with our historical society's operating costs.



### **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. A membership form can be downloaded from our website at [http://cdhs.ca/images/CDHS\\_Membership\\_Form\\_2015.pdf](http://cdhs.ca/images/CDHS_Membership_Form_2015.pdf).

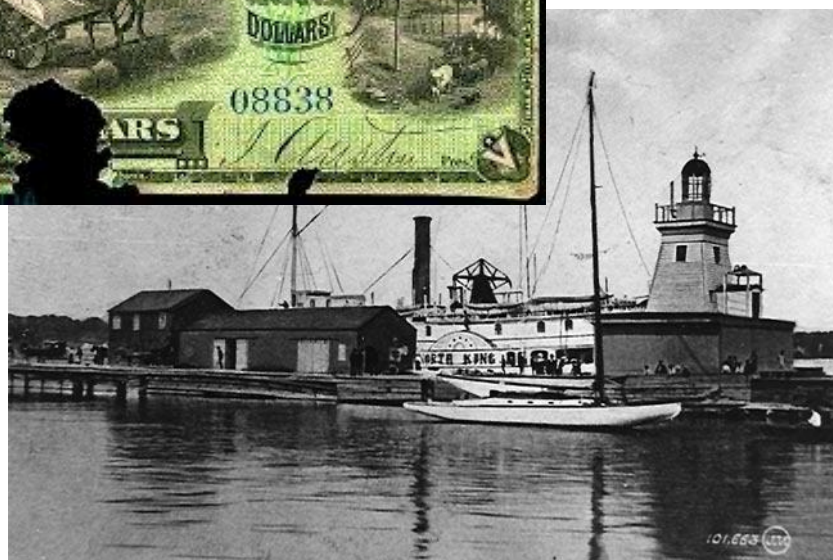
### **CDHS Nominating Committee**

The CDHS Nominating Committee, chaired by Ken Strauss, has found members who are willing to fill most positions. The committee's recommended slate will be presented at our Annual General Meeting on April 28 and an election will be held at that time. If you would like to more actively participate in your Historical Society please contact Ken Strauss at (905)377-9854 to discuss the opportunities.

## **Cobourg on the Money?**

Unlike today, early Canadian banks printed their own "bank notes". As a form of advertising the notes often featured images related to the locations of their important branches. The note below appears to feature the Cobourg Harbour. For comparison the postcard shows a view of the east quay of Cobourg harbour taken early in the 1900s.

For details of the rise and fall of Toronto banks and many more bank note images see <http://torontothentandnow.blogspot.ca/2014/03/45-old-banks-of-toronto-then-and-now.html>



### **Warrior Hockeyists**

In the early years of World War I stories of athletes going to war were prominently featured in Canadian newspapers. A TSN reporter, Rick Westhead, is researching a Cobourg story with a view to writing an article using this newspaper clipping as a starting point. If you have any information about this, or know descendants of the men mentioned in the article, please e-mail Rick at [rick.westhead@bellmedia.ca](mailto:rick.westhead@bellmedia.ca)

### **Bible Christians Wanted!**

The Bible Christian Church was a Methodist denomination founded by William O'Bryan around 1815. Do you have any ancestors who were Bible Christians? Dr. Janet Few, an expert in the history of Bible Christians, would like to know so that she can incorporate your ancestors into her talk later this year sponsored by the Lakeshore Genealogical Society in Cobourg.

Please contact Judith at [jgoulin@hotmail.com](mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com) or (905) 372-7684 so that she can forward the names.

### **Lakeshore Genealogical Society Meetings**

On Thursday, May 14, Peter Johnson will speak on "The War of 1812 Veterans Graveside Project:

Honouring Heroes". LGS meetings are from 6:30-9:00pm in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library and visitors are welcome.

### **Ontario Movie Theatres**

The Port Hope Archives is sponsoring an exhibit on "Ontario's Movie Theatres". This travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario features Port Hope's Capitol Theatre. The exhibit opens at the Archives, 17 Mill Street North in Port Hope, on May 2 from 9am-1pm and can be viewed at the Archives from 1-5pm on Tuesday-Friday until May 29. Admission is free. For additional information contact the Port Hope Archives at (905)885-1673.

### **Port Hope Historical Society**

The Port Hope Historical Society will hold their Heritage Fair on Sunday, May 3, from 10am to 4pm at the Lions Centre, Thomas Street, Port Hope.

**TORONTO DAILY**

## **COBOURG HOCKEYISTS SEND MEN TO FRONT**

**O.H.A. Rink to Be Used for  
Mobilizing of Troops  
This Winter.**

Many O.H.A. towns have sent men to the front with the Canadian contingents to fight the great cause of the Empire, but no single place in Canada has contributed more hockey players than Cobourg. Dick Turpin and others went with the first contingent, and on the second contingent, which left last Friday, out of 47 men, ten, including Manager John Burnet, were playing members of the Cobourg Hockey Club. They included Don Crozier, Joe Hand, Fred Hinman, Asa Lapp, Peter McCallum, Frank Mulhall, Vincent Peachey, Russell Penwarden, and Stewart Waldon.

Cobourg rink will likely be used for the purpose of mobilizing 1,500 troops this winter, but if the rink is not utilized Cobourg will have a junior team in the O.H.A.

## Doors Open Northumberland

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Doors Open Northumberland will be on June 6 & 7. You will be treated to behind the scenes tours of 19 private residences, churches, museums and archives. All events are free of charge. The Doors Open sites are identified by the green squares on the map.

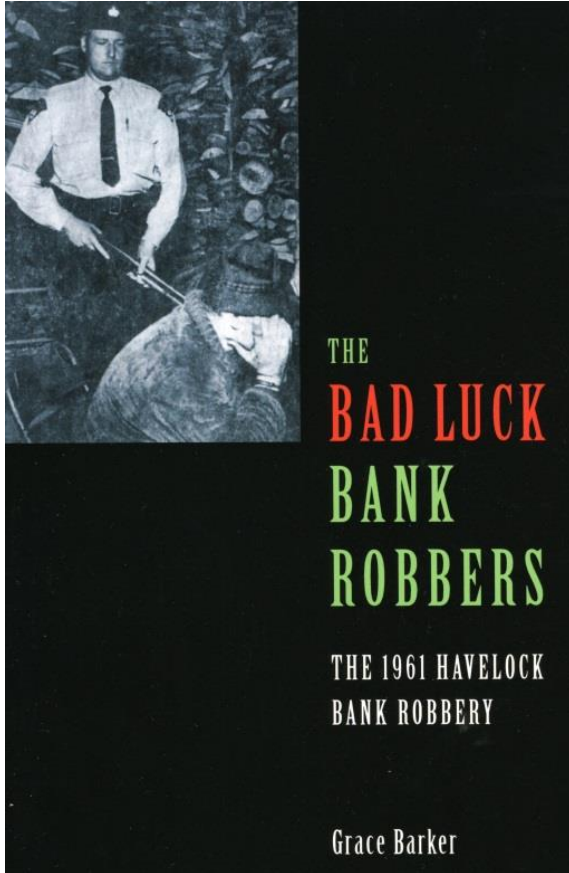
For additional details visit <http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca> or phone (905)372-0677



Trinity College School in Port Hope is participating in Doors Open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This is an opportunity for the community and general public to visit the School and explore 150 years of history! The focus is on providing visitors a chance to walk the grounds, view some of the architectural highlights up close and generally get a sense of TCS both past and present. The headmaster, as well as many students, faculty members and staff will be on hand to welcome visitors, provide information and answer questions. Visitors will also have an opportunity to view the first ever TEDx Talks conference and watch the CAIS rugby tournament. If you have ever wondered what was behind those wrought iron gates, now is the opportunity to find out! Drop in for 20 minutes or stay for the afternoon!

For additional information on the TCS event please email Viola Lyons at [velyons@tcs.on.ca](mailto:velyons@tcs.on.ca) or visit the TCS website at [http://www.tcs.on.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5820](http://www.tcs.on.ca/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5820).

## Bad Luck Bank Robbers come to Fourth Line



Grace Barker is a writer of interesting history. You may remember when Grace spoke at one of our historical society meetings a few years ago about the Boyd lumber family. Later she accompanied us on an excursion to Bobcaygeon where we learned more about the Boyds' accomplishments.

Among Grace's published works are *Timber Empire*, *the Exploits of the Entrepreneurial Boyds* and *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers*.

This summer Fourth Line Theatre is producing its interpretation of *The Bad Luck Bank Robbers*. The play tells the story of a bunch of professional crooks from Montreal who thought they had planned the perfect heist at a bank in quiet town of Havelock and how they got away with a quarter of a million dollars, but never got to spend it because a passel of bad luck intervened along their carefully laid out getaway route.

This summer you can enjoy this outdoor play on a warm evening. But before you do that:

- Read Grace's book
- Tie a bandana around your face, robber-style
- Drive the getaway route from Havelock to Apsley
- Look for the stolen money in the woods along the way
- Laugh a lot and have a picnic

The play runs from June 30 to August 1. For more details see <http://4thlinetheatre.on.ca/> and Grace's website at <http://badluckbankrobbers.ca/> or the theatre box office at (800)814-0055.

## CDHS Executive for 2014 – 2015

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| President                      | Judith Goulin  | <a href="mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com">jgoulin@hotmail.com</a><br>(905) 372-7684               |
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| Vice-President                 | Ken Willcocks  | <a href="mailto:kenwillcocks@hotmail.com">kenwillcocks@hotmail.com</a><br>(905) 377-1309     |
| Secretary                      | Carla Jones  | <a href="mailto:cgrucelajones@gmail.com">cgrucelajones@gmail.com</a><br>(289) 252-1684       |
| Treasurer                      | Marilyn Harris   | <a href="mailto:robertharris7456@gmail.com">robertharris7456@gmail.com</a><br>(905) 373-7024 |
| Membership                     | Alma Draper  | <a href="mailto:adraper8@cogeco.ca">adraper8@cogeco.ca</a><br>(905) 372-5839                 |
| Programme Chairperson          | Alison Torrie Lapaire  |  |
| Programme Committee<br>Members | Carla Jones<br>Marie Jones<br>Elaine Rostetter Saunders<br>Judith Goulin |  |
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