

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

April 2016 — Issue 281

1878 Northumberland in Google Earth

The 1878 Northumberland in Google Earth Project, Placing Historical Maps and Images in a Contemporary Context, will be presented by Tom Holden at our April meeting.

Tom has been a member of the CDHS for many years and has also taken on the role of webmaster, newsletter editor and President of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society. He will be demonstrating a wonderful resource that is available online through the Lakeshore Genealogical Society's website, where one can access digitized maps from the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Counties of Northumberland and Durham* from 1878 that have been overlaid on modern maps in Google Earth.

In addition to Tom's presentation this will be our Annual General Meeting and will include financial reports and the election of officers for the 2016-2017 term.

Join us on Tuesday, April 26, 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 \$5 for non-members. Membership is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Our Previous Meeting

The Ontario Car Ferry Company: Cobourg to Rochester

Ted Rafuse presented a fascinating and very well illustrated account of the Ontario Car Ferry Company to the rapt attention of a capacity crowd at our March meeting. Now retired, Ted was a teacher and Department Head of History at CDCI East in Cobourg. He and his department developed a course in local history which ignited his interest in the rail history of the area. He has researched and written numerous manuscripts on rail history that have been published in railway journals.



Most notable of his writings are two books about Cobourg area rail history. *Wooden Cars on Steel Rails* which outlines the history of the Crossen Car Companies, once Cobourg's largest employer. *Coal to Canada* chronicles the history of Ontario Car Ferry Company that operated two ships, Ontario No. 1 and Ontario No.2 between Cobourg and Rochester from 1907 to 1950.

Ted has addressed many groups interested in local rail history. His presentation to CDHS provided an insight to what was once a part of daily life in Cobourg, the ferry whistle announcing its arrival and departure from the harbour.



His talk prompted reminiscences from many in the audience. For example, Margaret Johns was at the meeting. She vividly recalled that her father, Dublin MacSporran, was an engineer on the Ontario Car Ferry. Another mentioned that he was conceived on the ferry!

A version of Ted Rafuse's ferry presentation is now on John Draper's history website at <http://www.cobourghistory.com/histories/cobourg-s-rail-car-ferry-history>.



Future Meetings

Tuesday May 24, 2016, Bus Trip, *Museum Secrets: Trenton and Belleville*

Tour Glanmore House in Belleville, a National Historic Site, and enjoy the architecture, furniture, china and costumes of the Victorian era. Tour the National Air Force Museum in Trenton and see artists' interpretations of SOAR, the social history of WWI and WWII in uniforms, letters and other memorabilia; the Cold War, the evolution of the RCAF, the story of the Halifax Bomber, and other planes that have figured in the history of our air force plus much more.

We will leave Cobourg at 8:30am. in a comfortable coach with a washroom, spend 1½ hours at Glanmore in Belleville, enjoy a delicious lunch at the Trenton Legion and spend 1½ hours at the Air Force Museum. We will return to Cobourg by 4:30pm.

Invite your friends to join us on this field trip through history. There are many pictures and a video of Glanmore at <http://glanmore.ca/>

Tickets will be on sale in at our meetings in April or by calling Leona at 905 372-7624. The cost of the outing is \$44 per person including bus fare, all admission fees, guided tour of Glanmore House, lunch and gratuities.

Local History Room

Judith Goulin

The Local History Room of the Cobourg Public Library is a great meeting place. The most common question you hear in there from one visitor to another is: "What are you in for?" but it's nothing like jail! You can stay as long as you want, but then you can walk out at the end of the day.

Very often, when people get talking in the history room they are find they are researching the same topic, or know someone else who is. People are so generous with sharing information, but those who are doing research are only one of many resources available there. Many visitors are researching their family's genealogy using the computers at the back of the room while others are using different databases to research newspaper articles or the library's large collection of photos. You will be amazed at the vast amount of very helpful reference books in the Local History Room. See for yourself.

Among the many books dealing with local history in there is the entire set of CDHS's annual publication, entitled *Historical Review*. There are very few current members in our society who have been members long enough to have the entire set. Since 1980 the reviews have been published and distributed to members every year. As you may know, we are no longer publishing the *Historical Review* because printing has become too expensive, but we are in the process of making it available on our website: cdhs.ca. Currently, you can read five volumes of the *Historical Review* on line, with more to come. As part of this project, an updated index is currently a work in progress. The Historical Reviews are a good reference tool, and make interesting reading.

Take a few hours to visit the Local History Room. Browse, read, research and talk to some of the other visitors in there. Then you too can ask others: "What are you in for?" Enjoy!

In Memoriam

Martha Jill Watson (née Morin) August 2, 1943 - February 10, 2016

Died peacefully on February 10th, at age 72, at St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital in Kingston, Ontario. Born in Lacolle, QC to Mildred (née Force) and Albert Morin, survived by her children, Leslie (James Snodgrass) of Victoria, BC and John of Kingston, ON and grandchildren, Sophie, Sam and Justin. Martha was a passionate gardener, rug



hooker, medical writer, traveller, proud grandmother and food lover until the very end. A multitasking woman who was widely appreciated and is greatly missed by those whose lives she touched in Montreal, Toronto, Cobourg and Kingston. A private burial has taken place at Cobourg Union Cemetery. In lieu of flowers and memorial donations, Martha has requested that her friends perform random acts of kindness in her memory.

Martha served the Cobourg and District Historical Society as Secretary, edited the *Historical Review* and worked in the archives.

Membership Matters

Help!

We are looking for speaker ideas for 2017. Since it will be Canada's 150 birthday, we want some speakers and topics related to Canada's, Ontario's or Cobourg's history that will really grab listeners. We know there are a lot of members with very good ideas and connections. Please let us hear from you. If you would like to be part of the Programme Committee, that would be a real asset. Contact Judith at jgoulin@hotmail.com or (905) 372-7684

Announcements

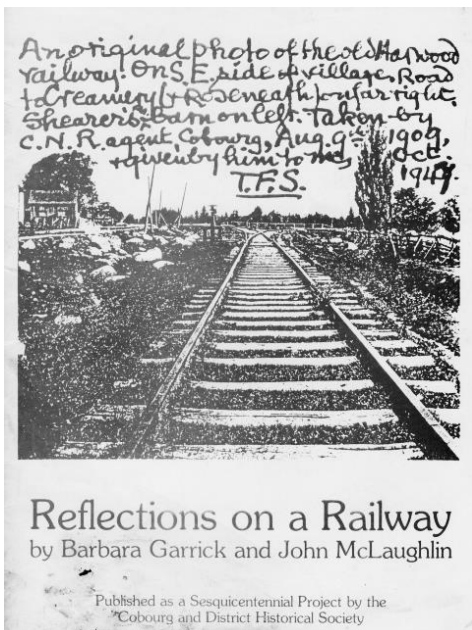
Ore Car Unveiling

The Cobourg Museum Foundation invites everyone to attend the unveiling of a full size replica of an 1867 Iron Ore Car originally built in Cobourg by James Crossen. The unveiling will be at the Cobourg Marina on May 21 at 2.00PM followed by a short walk led by Piper Mary Ito to the 2016 Official Opening of the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre on nearby Orr Street. Please RSVP to kwillcocks1@cogeco.ca.

Searching for Jex

Judith Goulin is researching the Jex family in Cobourg. Her particular interest is in Martin Jex and any other Jex men who were involved in the building trade around Cobourg in the early 1900's. Is it possible that there was a connection between the builder Jackson, who is renowned for his Jackson Houses in Cobourg and Martin Jex, who also built some houses. Please help if you any information. You can contact Judith at (905) 372-7684 or email to jgoulin@hotmail.com

Reflections on a Railway



George Parker is looking for an original copy of *Reflections on a Railway* for the reference library at the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre. This booklet was published by the CDHS in 1987. Perhaps one of our long-time members has a copy which they would be willing to donate. You can contact George at (905) 372-4675.

MIIKAANS

THE PERCY PORTAGE

OUR FIRST HIGHWAY



MARCH 26 - MAY 22

Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11-4

Opening Reception April 2, 7:30, Cash Bar

www.ahcentre.ca
info@ahcentre.ca

With generous assistance from



Ah. Arts & Heritage Centre Warkworth

ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTRE, 35 CHURCH ST. WARKWORTH

This display is extremely and creatively well-presented, featuring many original maps, canoes, live trees and quirky ways of displaying history. It serves its purpose most effectively in assisting the viewer to understand the *what where who why when* of the Percy Portage. Don't miss it!

CDHS Executive for 2015 – 2016

President	Judith Goulin	jgoulin@hotmail.com (905) 372-7684
Past President	Ken Strauss	ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca (905) 377-9854
Vice-President	Ken Willcocks	kenwillcocks@hotmail.com (905) 377-1309
Secretary	Carla Jones	cgrucelajones@gmail.com (289) 252-1684
Treasurer	Marilyn Harris	robertharris7456@gmail.com (905) 373-7024
Membership	Marie Jones	mahughesjones@gmail.com (905) 885-2859
Programme Chairperson	Alison Torrie Lapaire	
Programme Committee Members	Carla Jones, Marie Jones, Elaine Rostetter Saunders, Judith Goulin	
Member-at-Large	Leona Woods	leonawoods@sympatico.ca (905) 372-7624
Newsletter Editor	Ken Strauss	ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca (905) 377-9854