

# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District  
Historical Society

April 2019 — Issue 304

## ***Cobourg Sports Hall of Fame***

The history of Cobourg can be explored through many lenses and each one helps us focus on an important aspect of our past. At our April 23 meeting the history of Cobourg will be explored through sport. Ross Quiqley and Don Conway, two dedicated volunteers who have worked tirelessly with their committee to make the Cobourg Sports Hall of Fame a reality, will provide



Photo courtesy of *Northumberland News*

details of their work. Since March 2017 they have collected and catalogued hundreds of items of sports memorabilia and researched the history of sport, teams and athletes in this town. Eight display cases at the Cobourg Community Centre capture the accomplishments of Galloping Ghosts football team, the Cobourg Cougars home-town hockey team, and two accomplished softball teams, the Cobourg Angels and the Cold Springs Cats.

Learn about the history of the Sports Hall of Fame itself, about the history of sport in Cobourg and what this says about the development of our community. See some of the memorabilia that was treasured and tucked away in people's homes.

Doors open at 7:00 PM for coffee and cookies. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Guests are always welcome. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. All are welcome so bring a friend or two! See you on Tuesday April 23.

***Our Previous Meeting***

**Reuben Jackson and Martin Jex: Renowned Cobourg Builders**

Judith Goulin, a long time member of the Cobourg and District Historical Society, told the fascinating story of two prolific Cobourg builders – Reuben Jackson and Martin Jex – who built many Cobourg homes a century ago. Her very well researched talk included not only a history of the men but also pictures of their buildings and historical documents such as an accounts book used by Jackson. Relatives of both Jackson and Jex were in the audience to offer reminiscences of



the two builders.

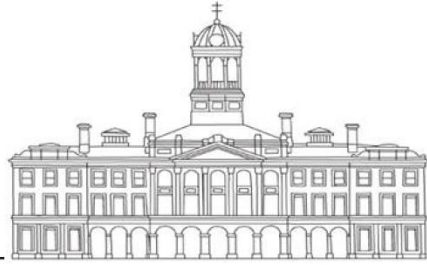


Interest in this meeting proved an embarrassment. Every one of the seats in the Citizens Forum was occupied and dozens of our members and guests had to be turned away. Judith has promised a repeat performance in a larger venue. The details her next presentation will be announced in a future edition of *Historically Speaking*.

Judith Goulin chats with local resident Gordon Jex.  
Martin Jex is his Great Grand-Uncle

***Future Meetings***

<p><b>Wednesday, May 15, 2019</b> Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p><b>Hugh Brewster, Moderator</b> A Panel to Debate: <i>The Secret Diaries of Susanna Moodie</i> Further details of our end-of-season social event are in the <i>Member Matters</i> section of this newsletter.</p>
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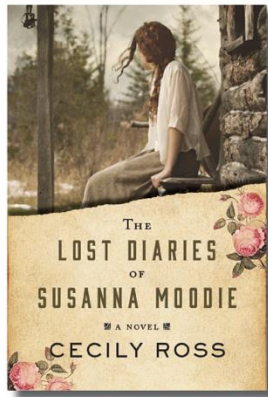


Victoria Hall Volunteers presents:

## **Susanna Moodie: Fact And Fiction**

A panel discussion with Cecily Ross,  
author, “The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie”  
and Michael Peterman, author, “A Life, Susanna Moodie”

A debate about the life of Canadian author and 1830s  
Hamilton Township pioneer, Susanna Moodie  
Moderated by Hugh Brewster

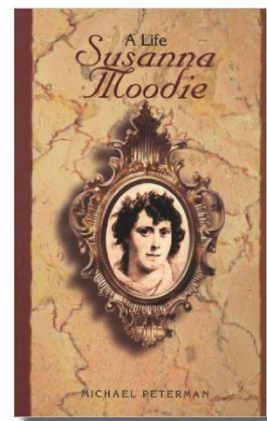


7 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2019  
The Concert Hall, Victoria Hall,  
55 King Street West, Cobourg

Tickets \$25, adults; \$15 students  
(plus HST and handling)  
The Concert Hall Box Office,  
Victoria Hall  
905 372 2210

Or from any  
Victoria Hall Volunteer member

Complimentary refreshments



If you wish to sit in the reserved seating section with other CDHS please email Leona at [leonawoods@sympatico.ca](mailto:leonawoods@sympatico.ca) or phone her at (905) 372-7624 to reserve you seat.

## Cobourg's Harbour, 1901

There has recently been considerable discussion of repairs to the East Pier. Pier maintenance has been a concern of Cobourg's Council since long before Confederation. The following text was extracted from *SESSIONAL PAPERS VOLUME 8 FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT DOMINION OF CANADA, SESSION 1901*.

Cobourg is an incorporated town of Ontario, in Northumberland county, situate on the north shore of Lake Ontario, on the Grand Trunk Railway, 92 miles west by south of Kingston, 69 miles north-east of Toronto, and is a port of entry. It has several mills, foundries, breweries, and a car factory, Population, 5,000.

Construction — The work of forming a harbour at Cobourg was commenced by a company organized under an Act of Parliament in 1829. In 1842 the works were assumed by the government and held until May 27, 1850, when they were sold to the town council of Coburg for the sum of \$16,000. Prior to the union of the provinces in 1841, the government had spent \$20,010.72 on this harbour ; and after the union the sum of \$41,999.98 was advanced as a perpetual loan at 6 per cent interest. At the time of confederation, the work consisted of two piers, the united length of which was 2,047 feet. They were 190 feet apart at the entrance of the harbour, the depth at the outer end of the eastern pier being 14. feet, decreasing from 7 to 8 feet in the centre of the basin.

In 1873, an agreement was entered into with the harbour commissioners for the construction of a pier 1,500 feet long, the commissioners to pay one-third of the cost and the government to pay two-thirds. Under this agreement the total expenditure was \$79,569.68, of which the harbour commissioners contributed \$25,507.49. In 1881-2 an arm 150 feet in length, in a south-easterly direction, was commenced, and an expenditure of \$8,291.20 was made. The total expenditure by the department since confederation up to 1882 was \$92,161.89.

In 1852-3, 1883-4 and 1884-5, the piers were further extended, especially the eastern pier, and some of the cribwork raised owing to a sinking in soft bottom. The expenditure during these three years was \$47,525.73. In 1885-6 and 1886-7 the sum of \$10,208.01 was expended in building a crib 100 feet in length at the outer end of the eastern pier, and the next 300 feet shorewards, which had settled on an average of 8½ feet, was built up to its proper height; repairs were also made to the western pier.

In 1887-8 a contract was entered into for rebuilding a portion of the western pier, which was completed in 1888-9 at a cost of \$9,871.53, out of which about \$2,000 were for repairs to the western pier of the original harbour. From 1889 up to June 30, 1897, the east and west piers were alternately repaired and some portion renewed, at expenditure for these years of \$13,525.59. Some extensive dredging was also done in the harbour, but the expenditure is not included in this report. In 1897-8 repairs were again made to the shore end of the western pier, and its approach, and the walings and planking on the eastern pier renewed. The expenditure was \$2,999.86. Some slight repairs were made during the year 1899 amounting to \$25.

The harbour as constituted consists of three main piers, the eastern central and western piers. The eastern and central piers form the old harbour proper. The eastern pier which is built of cribwork with some enlargements of pile work and gravel filling is 1,490 feet in length and is built from the shore in a southerly direction, with a return L 140 feet long in a south-west direction. The width, which is very irregular, is 30 feet at the outer end and 60 feet generally at the shore end. The front of this old harbour is lined with cribwork 800 feet long. About 380 feet from this front wall, and from the eastern pier, starts a small pier 305 feet long and from 18 to 35 feet wide, running in a westerly direction towards the central pier.

The area enclosed between this short spur, the shore portion of the eastern pier, the front wall and the central pier, is called the inner harbour. The depth of water there is from 6 to 13 feet at low water. The central jetty is in very bad repair. It is 1,160 feet long including the approach and the width is from 30 to 35 feet. The inner and outer ends are respectively 780 feet and 160 feet west of the eastern pier. The western pier, which was built by the Dominion Government, is located about 1,200 feet west of the eastern pier, has a total length of 1,660 feet, and a regular width of 30 feet. It runs from the shore in a southerly direction with a return L, towards the eastern pier, 150 feet in length. The depth of water in this enlarged harbour varies generally from 6 to 15 feet at low water. The top of the cribwork above low water level is from 6 to 8 feet. On the eastern pier there is a lighthouse and some store sheds. The total expenditure made by this department on this work is \$176,752.58, and may be subdivided as follows:

Construction	\$ 155,767.36
Repairs	\$ 20,985.42
Total	\$ 176,752.58

# From East to West to East to West

*Judith Goulin*

Did you know that the very first high school in Cobourg was in the east end of town? Here is how it all started. In the late 1820's a parochial school under the aegis of the Church was begun on King St. E. across from where St. Peter's Church now stands. It was known as the Newcastle Grammar School and later as the Cobourg Grammar School. It seems that early schools were lumped together in what we now know as elementary and high school.

Then in 1871 the government stepped in and decreed that all grammar schools were designated high schools. Next the government decided to build a new building on the site and grace it with the lofty name of Cobourg Collegiate Institute. Perhaps it lived up to its new name because it was required to offer Latin and Greek and hire teachers with superior qualifications. Imagine! The decision-makers of the day were clearly on to something because both the Grammar School and the Collegiate were housed in the same new building and the school's enrolment grew along with its curriculum. Unbelievably, besides Latin and Greek, the school offered French, German, Drawing, Painting, Bookkeeping and Calisthenics (today's Phys. Ed.). Typing was a new option in the 1890's but students had to pay a monthly fee of 50 cents to use the typewriters.

By the turn of the century the powers-that-be decided once again that a new school building was needed. So, education moved west! Would that we had all been there to witness the festivities beginning with the laying of the cornerstone by none other than the Grand Master of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Canada! A parade led by the Sons of England Band marched through the downtown. As if this wasn't enough, everyone made their way to the Balmoral Hotel to enjoy a celebratory banquet.



The new Cobourg Collegiate Institute, completed in 1902, is at the southeast corner of King and Durham Streets. Stand on the north side of King to view the original part, the west end, of the now much-enlarged school. This still-impressive red brick building was designed by the Kingston firm of Power and Son Architects and may have been built Martin Jex and Company. This collegiate is in

the then-fashionable Edwardian Classical style. It features a two and a half storey frontispiece with a solid porch supported by pillars and a plain cornice. The second storey features striking oversized Palladian windows. The west side still has its BOYS entrance. The building and its furnishings cost \$23,170 and the land on which it stands was purchased for \$2000.

In time the school expanded as the population grew. The additions to the east are clear, being in a much-later non-descript style. No doubt there is a GIRLS entrance on that side, but it is now hidden by a brick wall. When CDCI could no longer accommodate all of its students, school shifted east once again when the New Cobourg Collegiate was built much farther along on King Street East. To eliminate confusion the schools were then referred as CDCI West and East. After 114 years, the West closed its doors in 2015. Then there was another shift, to the west again, when the venerable West reopened its doors as a new institute of learning, Willliam Academy.

For now the cycle of downtown high schools is complete, from east to west to east to west. Where will Cobourg's public high school education go next, north or south? Maybe there will be a new high school to the north with a curriculum dedicated to studies in Artificial Intelligence Research and Technology and to the south a floating school whose subjects will be devoted to Aquatic Studies dedicated to making the Great lakes great again. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century after all!

## Member Matters

### ***CDHS Social before the Susanna Moodie Discussion***

Care to socialize and have a few bites? Join us at the Buttermilk Café on May 15 from 5 to 6:30pm. Have a drink or two, a munch and a chat before the Susanna Moodie presentation



begins across the street at 7pm.

- Chicken Goujonettes with Apricot-Ginger sauce
- Pulled Pork sliders on Buttermilk made rolls
- Bruschetta Crostini
- Veggie Tray with House made Aioli
- Fruit Kabobs

Cost is \$15 per person including tax. Gratuity and beverages are additional. Available space requires that attendance be limited to 30 people. Purchase tickets from Carla at the

membership desk or call (289) 252-1684 and reserve your spot. CDHS seating is reserved in the Concert Hall so there is no need to worry about getting there early.

### ***Fee Changes***

Membership fees have been unchanged for many years. An increase in membership fees is recommended by the CDHS executive to cover the rising cost of operations. It is proposed that a single membership will be \$30, a family membership will be \$50 and the guest fee remain unchanged at \$5. These proposed changes will be voted on at our April AGM.

## **Announcements**

### ***Heritage Cramahe Presents***

Heritage Cramahe is presenting a show titled: Old Cat Hollow to Lakeport: A Journey Through Time in the Colborne Art Gallery, until June 2. The gallery at 51 King Street East in Colborne is open Thursday through Sunday from 12-4pm. Admission is free.

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

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has scheduled several meetings of particular interest. LGS meetings are on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the HTM Building, 1185 Elgin St. West, Cobourg (**Note the change of venue!**):

- **May:** Wendy MacDonald from Trenton LDS Family History Centre: *Family Search Basics.*
- **June:** Peter Brotherhood: *The role of the Parish Church of St. Peter's in the development of Upper Canada*

### ***House Tour: Architectural Gems of East Northumberland***

The tour features tours of seven elegant houses and a church in Brighton, Colborne and Grafton from 10am to 4pm on Saturday June 8. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at 1812 Antiques, Old Danforth Rd., Grafton; Downey Pharmacy, 3 King St. E., Colborne; Lighthouse Books, 65 Main St., Brighton; Quinn's Blooms, 277 Division St., Cobourg; Holton Flowers, 62 Walton St., Port Hope; Acanthus Interiors, 46 John St., Port Hope or by calling Diane Chin at (289) 435-2015.



You are Invited to  
the

**COBOURG  
MUSEUM  
FOUNDATION'S**

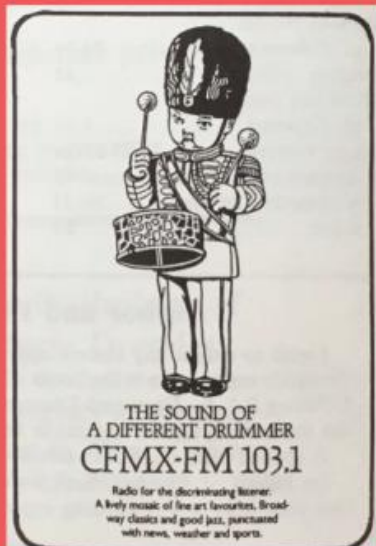
**Fundraising  
Dinner**

Celebrating  
**40 YEAR OF  
CFMX IN COBOURG**

*"beautiful music  
for a crazy world"*



**GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Mike Duncan CFMX**  
Cobourg boy  
Long time radio personality



**COBOURG BEST WESTERN**

Wednesday, May 29, 2019

**\$70 (\$20 tax receipt)**

For tickets contact Mary:

**cmftickets@yahoo.com**

or

**289-691-3845**



## CDHS Executive for 2018 – 2019

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