

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society

August 2020 — Issue 315

Dear Cobourg and District Historical Society members:

Welcome to the 2020/2021 season of the CDHS! We have a great lineup of speakers which we will be announcing shortly. We will be holding monthly “virtual” Zoom webinars this coming season in lieu of face to face meetings. We are doing this to ensure your health and safety during this Covid 19 pandemic.

Zoom webinars are a little different than virtual Zoom meetings. A webinar is a more controlled environment. Virtual webinars can accommodate many more attendees compared to a meeting. In a webinar, you will be able to **listen and view** the “Host” and “Speaker(s)” of the webinar but you will **not have access to the camera or microphone**. You will be able to type a question during the presentations. Like virtual meetings, you will be able to use your personal computer, tablet, or smart phone to join the webinar. You will also be able to join the webinar by telephone.

In order for members to become comfortable with attending Zoom webinars, we will be kicking off the season a little early with our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. If you are unable to attend, don't worry. We will be recording our webinars so that you can view or listen to them at a later date.

You will be receiving an email the week of August 3 inviting you to the Zoom webinar. After pre-registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar on August 25.

We can't wait for you to join this upcoming season of the Cobourg and District Historical Society!

Yours sincerely

Leona Woods. President, CDHS

Future Cobourg Historical Society Programs

The CDHS Programme Committee is planning a great selection of speakers for our 2020-2021 season. Full details of our programs will be available at our AGM on Tuesday, August 25.

Websites

Although we were forced to cancel much of our 2020 program due to the pandemic, there is an enormous amount of historical material online to enjoy. For hours of reading pleasure visit some of the following sites to enjoy fascinating, mostly Cobourg-related, historical material:

- The Hastings County Historical Society has their recent newsletters available online: <http://hastingshistory.ca/photos/custom/Outlook%20April%202020%20Final.pdf> and <http://hastingshistory.ca/photos/custom/May%20Outlook%202020%20Final.pdf>
You can also watch some of their past presentations on YouTube: <http://hastingshistory.ca/public-presentations-on-youtube.php>
- Details of the Juno Beach Centre with a special relevance to the CDHS Treasurer George Kamphorst: <https://www.junobeach.org/familystoryofolivia/>
- Story of a quarantine island in the middle of the Rideau River: <https://ottawarewind.com/2020/04/19/virus-bridge-a-forgotten-1800s-iron-bridge-that-carried-plagued-citizens-to-isolation-island/>
- The Archives of Ontario has a wealth of material. Their website was discussed at the recent online presentation of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx>
- Video about the restoration of Victoria Hall: <youtube.com/watch?v=a-OF2lpcXs8>
- Cobourg Museum Foundation: northumberlandheritage.ca
- Ontario cemetery records: ocfa.islandnet.com/
- Ontario Historical Plaques: www.ontarioplaques.com
- Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: acontario.ca

If you are interested in Cobourg's government, both current and historical Council minutes, bylaws and other material is searchable at: cobourg.civicweb.net/Portal/VirtualLibrary.aspx.

Don't forget that the Cobourg and District Historical Society website (cdhs.ca) has all CDHS newsletters since 2010, many issues of *Historical Review*, hundreds of vintage Cobourg related

postcards and dozens of recordings of interviews with veterans ranging from WWII vets to those who served in Afghanistan.



Take a drive north and follow the dreams of thousands who flooded to Eldorado to strike it rich. Historian and Author Orland French shares the story of Ontario's first gold rush.

[WATCH ROAD TRIPS IN HASTINGS COUNTY](#)

[PART III: ONTARIO'S FIRST GOLD MINE](#)

Member Matters

The Cobourg and District Historical Society customarily holds its Annual General Meeting as part of our usual April meeting. There we elect officers, report on CDHS finances and review the year's highlights. Due to COVID-19 the planned meeting was impossible. Therefore the current officers have agreed to serve until the rescheduled AGM.

All 2019-2020 memberships will be extended to compensate for cancelled meetings.

Unfortunately, we have no way to deliver Leona's cookies!

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest member Alison Blodgett. Before you ask, no, she is not related to Fern!

In Memoriam

Joy Margaret Ross Randall

June 10, 1943 - July 10, 2020



Joy Randall, whom many of you may know as Richard Randall's sister, passed away July 10, 2020. The Randall family has been part of Cobourg for generations and the stories that they can tell are part of our town's history. Although Joy was not a member of the Cobourg and District Historical Society, she did support Richard in his passion for the past by storing his collections, covering the walls of their home with pictures, crests, and memorabilia. She shared some of this in May 2018 when groups gathered to celebrate "The Way We Were" with displays in Victoria Hall's Concert Hall.

A graveside service was held at Union Cemetery for the family July 25, 2020 and part of the eulogy given by her niece, gives us a glimpse into Joy's

life and underlines the richness of the Randall family and the loss that those who knew them feel when another passes.

"Her professional and spiritual resumé is beyond impressive, being a Missionary for the Presbyterian Church and Director of Nursing at Changhua Christian Hospital while living in Taiwan for 35 years...what a full life of love, generosity and selflessness.

Immediately following the service, members of our family ran over to the Northumberland Hospital where there was a presentation where they were receiving a donation of PPE (400 N95's and 6000 surgical masks all made in Taiwan) from the Taiwanese-Canadian Association, all in honour of Aunt Joy. Another great example of how she was inevitably able to help others...so incredibly timely"

If desired donations may be made to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Women's Missionary Society or International Ministries of the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Kivas Tully Retrospective

Most with an interest in Cobourg history know that Kivas Tully designed both Victoria Hall and St. Peter's Anglican Church on King Street. Tully was born in 1820 and did not pass until 1905 at age 85 . Very early in his career, 1846, he designed the Bank of Montreal building at



the corner of Yonge and Front Streets in Toronto (demolished in 1886 and replaced by the current building that now serves as the Hockey Hall of Fame). He designed St. Peter's in 1850 and by age 40 he had completed both the Welland County Courthouse (left) and Victoria Hall. After these great commissions while a young man, what did he do later in life?

Following his successful completion of Victoria Hall, Tully designed other, somewhat less imposing, buildings. For example he designed the Trenton Courthouse in 1860 (below).



Tully joined the Ontario Department of Public Works in 1868 and was soon appointed the first Ontario Provincial Architect and Engineer. He was involved in supervising of the competition leading to the design of the Ontario Legislative Building at Queen's Park. As the provincial Department of Public Works Chief Architect, Tully supervised a number of district



courthouses built in northern Ontario. The Parry Sound courthouse designed in 1871 (left) still forms the core of the present courthouse complex.

Perhaps not surprisingly many of his largest projects involved the construction of asylums.



The London Lunatic Asylum, about 1875. The nucleus of what is now (1939) the Ontario Hospital, Dundas St. East. The Asylum was opened in 1870 under the superintendency of Dr. Henry Landor, who was succeeded by Dr. Richard Maurice Bucke in 1877. Dr. Bucke was a personal friend of the American poet, Walt Whitman.

Eastern Hospital Brockville Ont.



ASYLUM, ORILLIA, ONT., CANADA

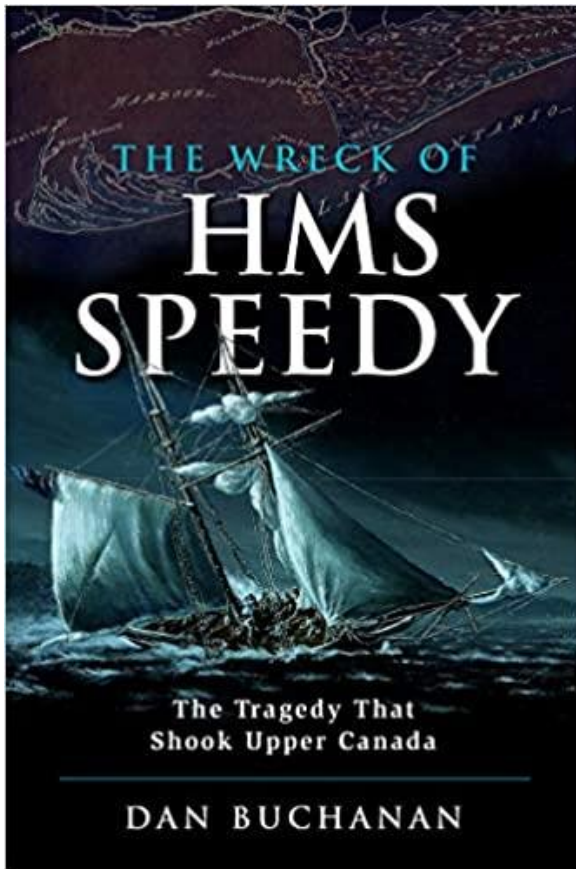




The Hamilton Asylum for the Insane (above) opened its doors on March 17th/1876, when ten men and twenty women were transferred from the Toronto Asylum. Originally the Hamilton Asylum was intended to be a hospital for the accommodation and treatment of alcoholics. The hospital sits on one hundred acres that was purchased for the Inebriate Asylum back.



The former Mimico Branch Insane Asylum (left) was built in 1889 and is now part of Humber College.



The sinking of HMS Speedy in 1804 off Presqu'île Point was more than a tragic event for the families of the twenty souls onboard the ship – it had shocking and far-reaching repercussions for the young colony of Upper Canada.

At the centre of it all is Ogetonicut, a Mississauga First Nations man charged with murdering John Sharp, a white trader. As Ogetonicut's trial drew near, the authorities in York moved it to Newcastle for fear of angering the indigenous community amidst growing tensions between the British and Americans. With the shipping season coming to a close, the HMS Speedy set sail with the accused and the legal elite of the young colony on board. But on the night of October 8, the Speedy was lost in a violent storm. There were no survivors and the ship could not be found.

The mystery surrounding the ill-fated ship has continued for more than two centuries, despite the efforts of commercial diver Ed Burttt who began a search for the Speedy in the early 1990s. Were the remains he located at the bottom of Lake Ontario from the lost ship? Were valuable copies of the Statutes of Upper Canada on board? What evidence lay in the untouched artifacts Burttt found?

Based on unparalleled access to archival documents and to all of Ed Burttt's unpublished research and records, this is a meticulously researched look at a fascinating episode in Canadian history – the story of the ship and those who sailed her; the modern-day search for the wreck; a First Nations protagonist and perspective; the legal personalities and colonial government of the time – and a unique social history of early Canada.

A video with additional information is available at <https://youtu.be/bA-b2PSKaEI>

This new book is expected to be available in late August and can be pre-ordered from Amazon Canada for \$23.71:

<https://www.amazon.ca/Wreck-HMS-Speedy-Tragedy-Canada/dp/1988344247/>

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