



Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

February 2014 — Issue 263

Pot Bellied Stoves, Slates and the One Room School House

We have a fun evening planned for our meeting on Tuesday, February 25. It will begin as you listen for the school 'hand' bell to ring, asking you to take your seats as lessons are ready to start! Our teachers for the evening will be Phil Boyco from SS #10 Osaca, Doris Goheen from SS #7 Pine Grove South and Forrest Rowden from SS #14 Silent Valley. These are all one room schools in Hope Township. Doris and Phil are both retired school teachers and Forrest is on Cobourg Council.

Phil, Doris and Forrest will take us through the history of the small rural schools, where a single teacher taught the academic basics to several grade levels of students. The One Room School also served as a meeting place for community activities, the local church chapel and was always ready for events such as Christmas concerts.

Listen and learn as our speakers talk about books they have written and school houses that have been restored to ensure that these beloved one room schools and their stories will be remembered. As the evening closes I am certain we will hear some tales of school days past.

The meeting will be in the usual location 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. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Anyone who would like a ride to the meeting or is willing to drive others should contact Elaine Rosetter-Saunders at 905-372-5958.

Our Previous Meeting

Second Annual Trivia Quiz

Dozens of history buffs braved a very snowy and blustery January 24th evening to compete in our Second Annual Trivia Quiz. The popular event was held in the wheelchair accessible pub at Legion Village. Teams seated at more than a dozen tables vied with the other teams for the best answers to questions such as: "Who or what is Cramahe Township's namesake?" "What building is now on the site of the old Post Office?" "The first YMCA in North America was opened in 1851 in what Canadian city?" "What famous artist lived in Cobourg during the 1830s?" "What type of business did the Hanley Arcade's namesake run?"



We owe a debt to the excellent questions posed by our quiz mistress Alison Torie-Lapaire and Carla Jones who did much of the behind-the-scenes organization.





Our Next Meeting

Our March meeting will showcase a unique part of Cobourg's history. From Certo to Kraft, the local food industry has played a significant role in the life of the town and has employed many local residents. As we will learn, blind taste testing was undertaken literally, and blind individuals were employed to skillfully test their products. Join us on Tuesday, March 25th, at 7:30pm in Victoria Hall's Citizens' Forum to learn more about the interesting local history of this company and its employees.

Announcements

Brighton History Open House

This event will be held at the King Edward Park Community Centre, 75 Elizabeth Street, Brighton, Ontario from 1 to 5 pm on February 23 and 24. The best of Brighton's historical collections, historians, genealogy buffs, storytellers and heritage organizations will come together in one massive celebration of Brighton's past. Visitors can browse through displays, unique artifacts and, for a small charge, partake of delicious snacks at the Heritage Tea. Storytelling events include a presentation by Dan Buchanan on the Latimer photo collection at 2 pm on Saturday. At 2 pm on Sunday the Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse Preservation Society will present their plans for refurbishment of the lighthouse. All are welcome! Bring your children and grandchildren to learn about our shared past. For more information contact Dorothy Connolly at dot_e_ca@hotmail.com

Small Town Radio

Small Town Radio is looking for programs created by local community personalities and groups, and the CDHS is very interested in participating. This is a great opportunity we have to present Northumberland's history in a fun way. Contact Carla Jones at (289)252-1684 or email cgrucelajones@gmail.com if you would like to participate in bringing our history to the air.



Lakeshore Genealogical Society

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society will meet on Thursday, March 13, in the HTM Room of the Cobourg Community Centre, 750 D'Arcy St, Cobourg at 6:30 pm. In his presentation on "Techno-genealogy – What's current?" Tom Holden will describe and demonstrate some current technologies for genealogical and family history research and documentation. Visitors are welcome.

Cobourg Museum Foundation AGM

The Cobourg Museum Foundation will hold their Annual General Meeting on March 12th at the Royal Canadian Legion on Orr Street. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the business part of the meeting will be from 7:00 to 7:30.

In keeping with this summer's focus by the Heritage Centre on the military history of the area Chris Robins will describe the concept of the citizen-soldier and the development of the early militia up until 1837. Legion member Ben Burd will then pick up the story by describing the development of local military units and their engagements through to the formation of the Royal Canadian Legion in the 1920s.

All are welcome but only paid-up members will be able to vote during the business session. For more information contact Keith Oliver at 905-377-0107.

Port Hope Heritage Fair

The Port Hope and District Historical Society will hold a Heritage Fair on Sunday, May 4 at the Port Hope Lion's Recreation Centre on Thomas Street, Port Hope. Complete details will be available closer to the time of the event.

Membership Matters

Membership Renewal

Please mail your membership renewal form (included in the last newsletter) to Alma Draper, 10 Madison Street, Cobourg or pay Alma at the February meeting.

Newsletter Delivery

Carla Jones would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to assist with delivering our newsletters. If you might be willing to help please contact Carla at cgrucelajones@gmail.com or (289) 252-1684 for details of what is required.

New Members

I would like to welcome Alberta MacMillan, Heather Hebert and Bob Knox who have recently joined CDHS

The Origin of Cobourg's Street Names

Extracted from Cobourg 1798-1948 by Edwin C. Guillet and continued from the November 2013 issue of Historically Speaking

Cottesmore Avenue was so named because of an early residence built there by William Weller, famous stage-coach proprietor. It was located about where the Rowe stables were much later built. The Weller home for many years was at the mouth of the Factory Creek, later the Sartoris residence where a daughter of an American president, General Grant, long lived.

Covert Street recalls Colonel John Covert, father of Henry Covert. The Covert farm was outside the town, just east of the Kingston Crossing, and the woods to the south of the railway tracks was long a favourite haunt in the spring, for the trilliums and violets were particularly luxuriant.

D'Arcy Street commemorates Colonel D'Arcy Boulton, Mayor of Cobourg and prominent in military and railway affairs. His residence, later occupied by the Dumbles and Speers, was at the southwest corner of D'Arcy and King Streets, across from George S. Boulton's.

Fraser Street takes its name from Alexander Fraser, one-time member of the Legislative Assembly for West Northumberland; while Green Street recalls a noted bass soloist in St. Peter's choir. Heath Street is named after the mother-in-law of D'Arcy Boulton, a daughter of Brigadier-General Heath of the Indian Army. Havelock Street is in honour of Sir Henry Havelock, famous for the relief of Lucknow on September 25, 1857.

Furnace Street was so named because William McLennan once conducted a foundry there which the townspeople usually called "the furnace".

Hibernia Street, as any Irishman will tell you, is in honour of the poetical name of Ould Ireland. Perhaps the oldest building in Cobourg is the old Minaker home across from St. Peter's Church. There "Squire" Robert Henry, himself a noted fur-trader, and nephew of the great explorer and trader Alexander Henry, had a private bank in the eighteen-twenties. The "Squire" married a sister of Bishop Bethune, long incumbent of St. Peter's.

It might have been assumed that George Street was named in honour of the monarchs who preceded Queen Victoria, but actually the street seems to commemorate George Strong, who kept tavern on the site of the British Hotel. "George's Corner" and then George Street resulted. Similarly James Street recalls that James Brown was once the only resident upon it.

John Street was named after the Rev. John Beatty, prominent Methodist long connected with Victoria College. The Beatty home still stands immediately west of the old College, and his son, Dr. John Beatty, was long a prominent and public spirited citizen of the town. Dr. Beatty's mother lived a most remarkable life. She accompanied her first husband, Captain Kemp, through numerous battles of the War of 1812, and in 1815 was in Paris before and after the Battle of Waterloo. She outlived her second husband by 23 years, dying in 1887 at the remarkable age of 105.

King Street took its name from George IV, who was king in the eighteen twenties. In the first plan of Cobourg, made in 1825 "on the 5th of June in the 5th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George IV", it is called Front Road or King's Street. A map of seven years later calls it King Street or "the York high road", and it has often been called Main Street. .

The founder of McGill University is recalled by McGill Street, for Peter McGill was engaged in the wholesale dry goods business and had a large trade in Cobourg.

Matthew Street commemorates Matthew Williams, a carpenter, the father of M. B. Williams of the old Dunham House; while Margaret Street recalls the Christian name of Mrs. H. J. Ruttan, whose husband was one-time publisher of the Sentinel Star.

On Nunn Street once lived a fisherman, James Nunn, and on Orr Street a carpenter of that name.

Mill Street, to the north of the town, connects Division and Ontario streets, but it has long been closed from the washing-out of the bridge. On the creek was located one of the earliest mills in the district, run by the Whites. The millpond, of which some of the banks may still be seen, was just west of Division Street. The mill started as a grist-mill, was then a distillery, then a grist-mill again, and ended its days as a sawmill.

Ontario Street led to the lake, while the Orange Lodge is believed to have had a meeting-place on Orange Street in very early times. But few now living would hazard a guess at the origin of Park Street, but the fact is that the site of the old Crossen Car Works, north of University Avenue near the railway, was once Victoria Square or Park. There in 1853 was turned the first sod of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway.

Perry Street recalls Senator Ebenezer Perry, whose home, among the oldest in Cobourg, is occupied by Dr. Lloyd. Robert Sinclair kept a saloon in early times, just north of the old Taunton House on Division Street south, and his name was given to Sinclair Street. Roe Street was named after Roe Buck, son of one of the earliest settlers.

Spencer Street recalls Sheriff Spencer of the old Newcastle District, which comprised Northumberland, Durham, Peterborough, and Victoria counties. He was a large landowner, especially east of Division Street, and his benefactions included the gift of the sites of Victoria College and the old Methodist Church, now Trinity United.

No citizen now living recalls the creek from a spring which gave the name to Spring Street. It extended from the neighbourhood of the old Scotch Kirk at William Street and University Avenue to Covert Street at the rear of the King Street stores, but has been filled in for ninety years or more. When the old Cobourg and Peterborough Railway was opened in the fifties the name Railroad Street became an alternative.

All the remaining streets at the end of the alphabet commemorate early inhabitants. John Stuart was once a resident of that street. Joseph Swayne, a shoemaker, had his shop where the Gummow house was later built on Swayne Street. His son Robert was a very popular captain- in the Fire Brigade in both Cobourg and Peterborough, and died in the latter town early in 1855 at the age of 27. William Tremaine's name was given to the street because he once lived in its largest residence, the Weller or Sartoris house. Trevor Street took its name from Edward Trevor Boulton, son of George S. Boulton, and Walton Street was named after his second wife. White street was named for Charles White, mill-owner, while Nathan Williams, who once owned a good deal of property in the vicinity, gave his name to William Street.

To be continued as space permits.

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