

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

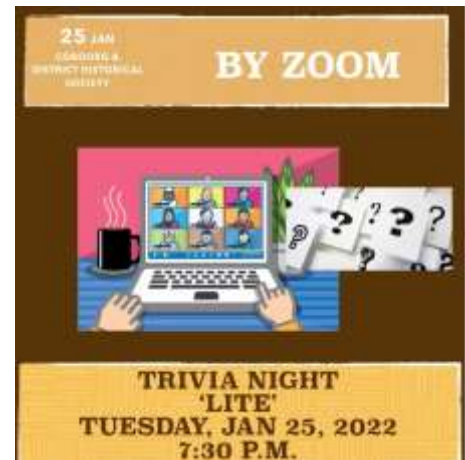
Historical Society

January 2022 — Issue 328

Trivia Night “LITE” via Zoom

Having been forced to cancel another “live” meeting and coming into what many refer to as the January blahs, you are invited to join us for Trivia Night “LITE” online via Zoom. This will be a Zoom Meeting (as opposed to our usual Webinars) so you will have access to your camera and microphone.

Topic: Trivia Night “LITE”
Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 pm Eastern Time



Please note that the date is changed back to the 4th Tuesday of the month, January 25, 2022. Everyone playing will be on the honour system — no cheating using search engines — and sorry no prizes either. However, those with high scores will be given celebrity status in our February newsletter!

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEscE-grTlvGdJq0Ng7NEngZI3CgAYA7KD>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the trivia quiz.

Our Previous Meeting

To commemorate the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, CDHS hosted a presentation by Dr. Tim Cook on Canada's C Force. The almost 2,000 soldiers and two nurses who formed C-Force were sent to defend the British colony of Hong Kong, arriving in early November 1941, only a month before the Japanese attacked on 7/8 December 1941. On this 80th anniversary of the battle, Dr. Cook explained the costly fighting and the horrendous prisoner of war experience faced by the survivors. He finished by exploring the long campaign by veterans and their families to ensure the memory of the C-Force was not forgotten by Canadians.

Dr. Cook is the Director of Research at the Canadian War Museum. He has curated over a dozen exhibitions and is the author or editor of 13 books. Some of his books include the two-volume Great War history: *At the Sharp End* (2007) and *Shock Troops* (2008); and his three-volume history of Canada and the Second World War: *The Necessary War* (2014), *Fight to the Finish* (2015), and *The Fight for History* (2020). His many books are national best-sellers and have won prestigious prizes including the C.P. Stacey Award for best book in Canadian military history (twice), the J.W. Dafoe Award (twice), the Ottawa Book Award (three times), and the RBC Taylor Award. For his contributions to Canadian history, Dr. Cook is a recipient of the Governor General's History Award and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and the Order of Canada.



If you missed our meeting you can enjoy the recorded version on YouTube. No special sign-in is required and you can view the video at any time on computers, tablets, smartPhones and smartTVs. To view the recording go to <https://youtu.be/ceUhZbssXR8>

The presentation was very well received by our audience which included visitors from across Canada. After the meeting we received numerous emails; the following are typical:

Hello, Brian,

I want to thank you and the Society for doing such a good job in dealing with Tim Cook's presentation. The idea of having a Panel afterwards was also a refreshing idea.

The presentation itself was an exemplary one. Tim Cook covered all the bases in a concise and straightforward manner. The only negative I've heard about was that Tim, in several instances, referred to the Canadians as "surrendering". As the veterans themselves have told us, they were forced to lay down their arms even though they had been prepared to fight to the last man.

I have had occasion, as a former Regional Director for the Ontario Region, HKVCA, to speak to men of both the Winnipeg Grenadiers (my father was Lieut. Leonard Corrigan with the WG's) and the Royal Rifles to hear them say exactly the same thing. I may well raise the point with Tim Cook in some future conversation.

Nevertheless, I was very impressed with Tim Cook's presentation, and certainly applaud the Cobourg and District Historical Society for making the presentation available to Canadians at large - and particularly for providing HKVCA members with the opportunity to become even more familiar with the details of the Hong Kong story.

Very best wishes of the Holiday Season to you, and the members of your Society.

Let's hope we have many positive events like this one in the coming year.

Cheers! Pat Turcotte

And:

As a daughter and niece of a Winnipeg Grenadier Hong Kong Vets, I am very happy to hear more info and interest on a very dark piece of Canadian history.

Thank you, Mary Game, nee McCulley

And:

Thanks Brian,

I really enjoyed the 3 wars of CForce. I know I learned a lot that I sure didn't know and found the Zoom very interesting.
please keep me in for the up and coming calls in the future.

Thanks again Larry Freeman

And:

Hello Brian

Yes indeed I did enjoy the webinar and of course Tim Cook is a passionate speaker on military topics. Please keep me on your list for future events.
The very best to you and yours for 2022.

Gerry in Duncan BC.

And:

I really enjoyed the presentation. Thank you for making it public. As a daughter of a Hong Kong Veteran I continue to learn more.

Dawn Kidder

And:

I thought you might find it interesting to see the list of C Force personnel who come from Cobourg and region. Based on what I could find in wikipedia and Google Maps, here's the list of towns that I think are part of your district, with the list of RRC who fought.

Gail Angle

Regt #	Rank	Last Name	First Name	Second Names	Company	Platoon	Military District	Original Town	Province
C65411	Rifleman	ARCHIBALD	James				MD 3	Port Hope	ON
C65245	Rifleman	BEVAN	Clarence	Frederick			MD 3	Cobourg	ON
C40614	Rifleman	GAGNE	William	Harvey			MD 3	Brighton	ON
C34054	Rifleman	GALLAWAY	William	Edward	D	18R Pt	MD 3	Cumberland	ON
C40531	Rifleman	GLENN	John	Eric			MD 3	Trenton	ON
C65439	Rifleman	JIGGINS	Frank				MD 3	Port Hope	ON
C5841	Rifleman	LALONDE	Gordon	Joseph			MD 3	Marlinton	ON
C6368	Rifleman	LINN	James	William			MD 3	Marmora	ON
C57533	Rifleman	MACPHERSON	Clayton	Keith			MD 3	Finch	ON
C57531	Rifleman	MAJOR	Kenneth	John	B		MD 3	Williamstown	ON
C5865	Rifleman	MAYNES	Harold	Everett			MD 3	Point Anne	ON
C65164	Rifleman	MEDHURST	George				MD 3	Cobourg	ON
C65270	Rifleman	POMEROY	George	Robert			MD 3	Castleton	ON
C57528	Rifleman	POTTS	William	George			MD 3	Port Hope	ON
C85117	Rifleman	SCHOFIELD	Reginald	James			MD 3	Wilberforce	ON
C41390	Rifleman	SCOBIE	Garnet				MD 3	Haley's Station	ON
C63078	Rifleman	SMITH	Norman	Alfred			MD 3	Clayton	ON
C57527	Rifleman	SNELL	Felix	Maxwell			MD 3	Port Hope	ON
C65460	Rifleman	THOMPSON	Clarence	Walton			MD 3	Port Hope	ON
C5868	Rifleman	VANCLIEF	Donald	John			MD 3	Consecon	ON
C5898	Rifleman	WELLMAN	David		A		MD 3	Bonarlee	ON
C65002	Rifleman	WHALEN	Joseph	Michael			MD 3	Kirkfield	ON

2022 Cobourg and District Historical Society Programme

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month except as noted below.

January 25, 2022 (via Zoom)

Trivia Night "Light": Registration information is on the first page of this newsletter.

February 22, 2022 (Expected to be via Zoom)

The Cobourg Conspiracy: Mackenzie's Rebellion of 1837 was quickly quashed and the involvement of soldiers from Cobourg was chiefly in the mopping-up operation which followed. But unrest continued for some time and the next year Cobourg had its own bit of excitement with what has become known as "The Cobourg Conspiracy". The meeting will include a 15-minute video followed by a panel discussion. With thanks to the Cobourg Museum Foundation, www.cobourgmuseum.ca, for this presentation and their participation on this evening.

March 22, 2022 (Expected to be an "in person" event)

Maureen Jennings - The Murdoch Mysteries Award Winning Author: Ms. Jennings will speak about her inspiration for the Murdoch mystery stories, her attention to historic detail and accuracy, and her role as creative consultant on the series. She would like to share her love of history and her 'treasures' which she hopes will enthrall others as well.

April 26, 2022 (Expected to be an "in person" event)

Rum Runners - The story of Ben Kerr and Prohibition: An exciting story of the roaring twenties in Ontario where rum runners challenged the storms of Lake Ontario to smuggle booze to the American side. Dan Buchanan will present the story of Ben Kerr, the most notorious of the bunch, who ran his last load of booze out of Presqu'île and ended up crushed by February ice near Colborne.

May 24, 2022 (TBA)

An *"in-person" social* accompanied with an outing or special presentation is planned. Details will be published in a future issue of *Historically Speaking*.

Commemorative Coins Sent to CDHS

Thank you to Ruth Humpheries, the executor for Mary Monk, who passed away in 2021. Mary, either a member with the Historical Society or the Victoria Hall Volunteers, had kept a number of commemorative coins and asked that they be given to history groups and/or individuals in Cobourg. Mary Monk moved to the Guelph area many years ago.

This coin was minted in 1980 to celebrate the 120th anniversary of Victoria Hall. On the obverse of the coin is an image of the Cobourg crest with the inscription, "CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG". On the reverse is an image of the Victoria Hall with the inscription, "VICTORIA HALL 1860. VALUE \$1.00 IN COBOURG. EXPIRES SEPT, 10, 1980". It was reported that 10,000 of these 32mm diameter, 11.6g, nickel-brass alloy commemorative coins were struck.



Each coin was presented wrapped in a plastic jacket with a paper description that is reproduced on the next page.

Many thanks to Ruth and family member Vera Monk for sending these on to us.

**HISTORIC — VICTORIA HALL, COBOURG, ONTARIO, CANADA
DOUBLE-DIAMOND JUBILEE: 1860-1980**

Designed by Kivas Tully in the Palladian style, opened by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) on September 7, 1860, named for his mother, Queen Victoria, this noble heritage edifice graces the Town Centre as it rises, fronted by four Corinthian pillars, over 80 feet from street level to the peak of the weathervane on the four-faced clocktower surmounted by the crown.

The heart of this building is the grand ballroom, 81 x 46 x 24 feet, the greatest between Toronto and Montreal, now in the process of restoration in the third and final phase of the project. From its inception this beautiful hall has been the centre for the performing Arts.

Today Victoria Hall houses the Town Council Chambers and various municipal departments, the Art Gallery of Cobourg, the Provincial Court in the famous sunken courtroom (a replica of the Old Bailey of London, England), the Chamber of commerce and the Provincial Family Court. Over the years it has provided accommodation for, among others, the Sons of Temperance, the Masonic Lodge, the YMCA, the Horticultural Society and the office of the Hon. James Cockburn, a father of Confederation. It has been a true civic-community centre.

Local and national donations, municipal, provincial and federal grants, have provided funds for restoration and will continue to do so. Your purchase of this souvenir token will also help in bringing this magnificent national project to completion.

A community project sponsored by
The Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall

Member Matters

If you missed it

If you missed our December meeting you can enjoy the recorded version on YouTube. No special sign-in is required and you can view the video at any time on computers, tablets, smartPhones and smartTVs <https://youtu.be/ceUhZbssXR8>

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest members: Nicole Corbeil, Barry Olshen and Robin Tully.

Santa Claus Parade

Once again members of the CDHS Executive participated in Cobourg's Santa Claus Parade. Since the parade was after dark our resourceful members added battery operated LED lights to make our banner more visible.



We Need Your Help!

Prior to the advent of the internet and electronic access, The Cobourg and District Historical Society published an annual *Historical Review* that detailed our monthly programs, Spring bus trips, the executive and volunteers for that year. A typical Table of Contents is below.

These reviews are 40 to 50 double-sided pages and make for excellent reading. There are several almost-complete sets — one at the Cobourg Library, one to be given to the Sifton Cook Museum as well as many in private collections.

We want to make these unbelievably important publications available to all and so we are in the process of scanning these *Historical Reviews*. When the issues are scanned, you will be able to do a “keyword” or “phrase” search and then view the relevant issues online at <https://cdhs.ca/resources/historical-reviews>

It takes approximately 2 hours per review to scan on a typical combination printer/scanner that you might have at home. If you have one of these and could scan a few for us, please contact us at cgrucelajones@gmail.com or (282) 252-1684. We will drop off a review (or two) at your doorstep.

HISTORICAL REVIEW 1980-1982 (#1) COBOURG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Foreward: President Peter Greathead

**Dedicated to Lenah Field Fisher 1900-1980 - A founding member of CDHS, Town Council and Deputy Reeve, Contribution for Restoration of Victoria Hall, Member Order of Canada
Sketches by Judy Rhodes from old prints, postcards and other sources
No page numbers indicate no printed copy in this review**

PRESENTATION TOPIC	MONTH	SPEAKER	PAGE
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Local Breweries and Distilleries	April	Laura Irvine	15
The Poolars Project	Sept	Rob Mikel	

Life for the Homeless in Belleville 2022 vs 1913

by Richard Hughes

There has been a lot of discussion these days about the plight of those who face homelessness—how to provide them with food, warm lodgings, mental and physical help. There are no easy answers; indeed, caring for homeless people has been a challenge far back into history. Today the guiding principles seem to be compassion, understanding and assistance in many forms. That was certainly not the case some years ago. A story in the *Weekly Ontario* newspaper on August 7, 1913, illustrates the treatment accorded the homeless at that time—a stark contrast to the twenty-first century.

Albert Smith, a stranger in town, caused considerable commotion at the Schuster wharf yesterday afternoon about four o'clock. The officer who investigated heard a story that Smith had been scaring some little girls. He was locked up for drunkenness and was fined \$10 or 15 days.

Thomas Jones and Edward Brown came up here from Kingston four days ago. They say they had a job ready but could not find boarding houses. Two nights they camped out under the midnight stars at Thurlow and got meals at farmhouses. Last night saw them lying in the grass on Meyers Street. They had been at one house asking for board. They were arrested by Constable Thompson for vagrancy.

In court this morning they were found guilty. The magistrate told them he thought a sentence for six months at the Central Prison would provide them with steady employment and cure them of the idea of sleeping out in the open. As they said they had worked in Kingston and Colborne, they were remanded one week for references.

Alexander Green, convicted of vagrancy a week ago pleaded for a chance to provide his wife with funds. He had not secured references and was given six months in the Central. William McDuff, his companion, was a soldier and draws a pension every quarter, although a young man. The magistrate said if the emigrant class would not look after itself, it

would have to be taken care of by the authorities instead of being allowed to overrun the country.

Henry Bull will pay \$10 and costs or rest for 30 days in the county gaol. His conduct was disorderly and tended to cause a commotion on McAnnany. Some of his remarks were not parliamentary. He was not very drunk. The magistrate told Bull that the term in jail would give him opportunity to consider his past life and make a resolution to lead a better one.

William Fish was ordered off the streets and did not obey the order of the police. In consequence he was fined \$3 or 10 days for being drunk.

Every freight comes into Belleville, carries besides food, machinery, material, a generous quantity of avoirdupois, known as the genus tramp or vagrant. From the east and west they come. Many drop off in this city and ply their trade which is begging, drinking if they can find the fluid intoxicating, walking up and down, lying in parks, talking of looking for work. If they are questioned on that score, and with hard luck stories which would make Baron Munchausen or Benvenuto Cellini sick with artistic envy, so carefully are they manufactured on the slight fabric of truth beneath.

Not one tramp walks from place to place these warm days. Boots are too hard to get. They must step up to their train as the ordinary man, only their unbought tickets are never called for unless by a railway constable or in the police station.

The preceding article was first published in the January 2022 issue of the newsletter of the Hastings County Historical Society and is reproduced here with permission.

Cobourg City Dairy

Randy Barber

My dad, E.G. (Tom) Barber bought the Coldwater Dairy and Dairy Bar in 1949 and owned it until 1955 so my earliest memories centre around his milk, cream, butter, ice cream, Birdseye Frozen Foods and a meat locker for the annual deer hunt on Manitoulin Island each Autumn. Coldwater Dairy glass milk bottles are now extremely rare and expensive but I have collected two over the years.

The Cobourg Dairy was in operation by 1911. In 1915 the owners, Harold J. Staples and Nathaniel Hare moved the business to an unimposing building at 360 Ontario Street North, just south of Seminary (now University Avenue) on the west side of Cobourg. In that year the dairy produced 600 quarts of milk a day for 80 customers. By 1918, it was producing 147,700



pounds of butter as well as milk. That growth necessitated an extension to the creamery to house additional pasteurizing equipment. The extension was built by the well-known Cobourg contractor Charles Jex. Staples continued to expand the business and by 1948, he offered cream, butter, homogenized milk, chocolate milk, buttermilk and cottage cheese.

In 1953, the dairy was sold to Dr. Renn Robertson. Up until this time the dairy's production had been delivered by horse and wagon. Maud, the city dairy horse was a grand dame around town and the last "working horse" in Cobourg. She was retired to the pastures at Robertson's Rennwood Farm after 25 years of duty with the City Dairy.

Harold Staples, one of the owners of the Cobourg Dairy, was the grandson of James Staples. James was the first of his family to come to this area, arriving in 1817. James and siblings had immigrated from Ireland five years earlier to settle in Cavan Township. His



mother, Jane, accompanied them on the journey to Canada but fell ill and died just before land was sighted. To avoid a forced burial at sea, the Staples hid her body until landing by secreting it in one of the family's wooden chests and then buried her once they debarked. James Staples, a carpenter, met his future wife Elizabeth Eplett while working for Cobourg's Covert family. Elizabeth was the Covert family's governess and also a Quaker. When they married, James converted and later became known as "Quaker James".

Harold Staples's first wife, Sarah, was a daughter of Richard Hare, a member of the large and flourishing farming family. Many Hares lived between Cobourg and Grafton and Hare is considered the founder of Grafton. Through the Hares, Harold was related to the Mallory, Boggs and Burnhams of local note. His second wife was May McGuire.

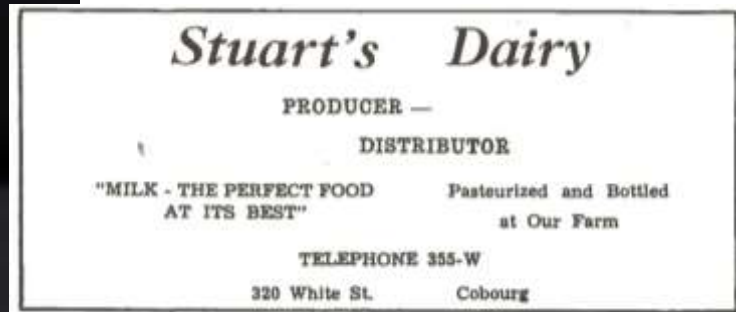
On June 1, 1956 the Cobourg City Dairy was sold to Lakeview Dairy Cobourg Ltd and was no more.





As with my father's dairy when it went out of business in the late 1950s, all the glass bottles, the cream tops and silk screened not in private hands, were just loaded into a pickup truck and shoveled off into the local dump where they lay to this day.

Since moving to Cobourg in March of 2018, I have purchased the three Cobourg City Dairy bottles illustrated in this article. Since the writing of this article, I have obtained another local glass silk-screened milk bottle from Stuart's Dairy of Cobourg.



Advertisement from 1951

Does anyone have further information on this Cobourg dairy?

Announcements

Hastings County Historical Society

At a recent Hastings County Historical Society meeting archaeologist Bill Fox presented a chronological review of archaeological evidence for the millennia of Indigenous occupation across the landscape of what is now known as Hastings County. This was followed by a reconsideration of archaeological and historical documentation concerning Indigenous - European relations during the 17th century. You can watch the recording of this interesting presentation at https://youtu.be/jm_ZUrbWDY

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