

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

March 2024 — Issue 346



History of the National Hockey League

D'Arcy Jenish is a playwright and writer of magazine features, newspaper commentary, speeches, corporate histories and corporate reports. He has authored three plays and ten books on topics ranging from the opening of the Canadian West to

The Making of the October Crisis to The NHL: 100 Years of On-ice Action and Boardroom Battles to Money to Burn: Trudeau, Mulroney and the Bankruptcy of Canada.

Born in a Montréal hotel room on November 26, 1917, the NHL has endured two world wars, the Great Depression, the failure of numerous franchises and the predations of the short-lived World Hockey Association. Today it is one of North America's Big Four professional sports leagues. Thousands of players and hundreds of coaches and general managers have come and gone over 107 seasons but only four presidents and one commissioner have guided the fortunes of this remarkable enterprise. Jenish will explore the history of the NHL through the lens of these five men: Frank Calder, Merv Dutton, Clarence Campbell John Ziegler and Gary Bettman.

Join us on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 for an informative presentation. Doors open at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Our new coffee maker is ready so bring a friend or two! Members free and guests are \$5.00.

Our Previous Meeting

Father Frances Patrick Duffy

Father Frances Patrick Duffy, born in Cobourg on May 2, 1871, was a Canadian/American soldier, Catholic Priest and military Chaplain. Duffy served as Chaplain for the US 69th Infantry Regiment in WWI. His exploits were of such renown that a very large statue of him, created by American sculptor Charles Keck, was erected in Father Duffy Square in New York City.



Father Duffy's story was told by Randy Barber and included a video produced by local reporter Pete Fisher. We learned that the statue of Duffy was dedicated by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia in May of 1937. Mayor LaGuardia later authorized renaming of the square to "Father Duffy Square" in 1939.



For those who want to learn more about Father Duffy, Randy mentioned several books including *Father Duffy's Story: Life and Death with the Fighting Sixty-Ninth – Irish American Soldiers in World War One* and *Duffy's War: Fr. Francis Duffy, Wild Bill Donovan, and the Irish Fighting 69th in World War I*. The first book is now in the public domain so you can read it, online without charge, by visiting <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/71091/pg71091-images.html>



The meeting was very well attended by CDHS members and almost 50 visitors. Among the visitors was Greg Duffy of Burlington, a relative of Father Duffy, pictured chatting with Cobourg Councillor Miriam Mutton.



Future Meetings of our 2023/2024 Programme

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Annual General Meeting followed by a Member Show & Tell

Members are invited to bring something of historical interest like special objects, jewelry, letters, family diaries, medals of family members, old tools and documents or any treasures to display for fellow members to see and admire. Tables will be set up around the room to display items brought.

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Social Event & Outing in Brighton, Ontario

Join us as we drive/carpool our way to Brighton, Ontario's community centre to hear Brighton resident and historian Dan Buchanan, The History Guy, present The History of the Murray Canal, which is now part of the Trent-Severn waterway. It is a story that is both complex and compelling. Presentation from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Following the presentation, we will meet for lunch at a local Brighton establishment before returning to Cobourg.

Ontario Training School for Girls

Most Cobourg residents are aware that Brookside (Strathmore House) was until recently a facility for young male criminals. Few recall that this once was exclusively for wayward females to learn skills that would allow them to become productive members of society.

There are many differences between what was standard practice in 1947 and today. For example, the girls all attended Anglican or United Church services and religious instruction was part of the core program. The idea of appropriate training for under 16-year-old females – sewing, laundry, ironing and cooking – might not be considered appropriate today. On the other hand, gardening and crafts were common both then and now. There were organized sports including badminton, volleyball, softball and basketball teams. In a study of the pond at Strathmore example beetles, turtles and fish were collected and named. The inmates were described as “children at heart with an abundant love for small creatures.”

Every girl received a complete medical and dental examination when she entered the facility. During 1947 there were 102 girls in residence who required a total of 13 tonsillectomies,



STRATHMORE – one of two fine residences acquired by the Department of Reform Institutions to serve as a Training School for Girls under the age of sixteen. These spacious dwellings with beautifully landscaped grounds are located in Cobourg, Ontario.

298 Wasserman tests (diagnosis of syphilis), 489 GC Smear Tests (diagnosis of gonorrhea), 93 tuberculosis tests, 337 dental fillings, 57 extractions and 5 partial dentures. Note that these treatments for prisoners were in the same year that the province of Saskatchewan, under Tommy Douglas, initiated the first provincial health care program which eventually led to the Canada Health Act. And still no dental care 75 years later except for convicts.



DOMESTIC EQUIPMENT is used at Cobourg for this is the type the girls will eventually use.



LAUNDRY WORK is also featured at Cobourg and there is lots of it to do.



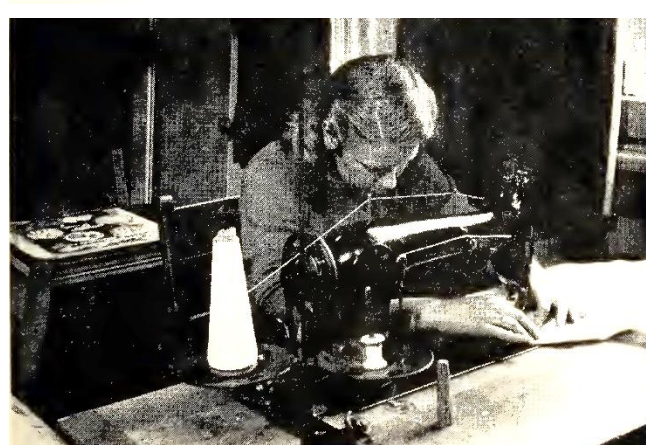
SEWING INSTRUCTION at Cobourg. A knowledge of sewing is valuable to any young lady.



THE KITCHEN, Strathmore House, Cobourg — the household type of equipment provides training for homemaking.



POOL AT STRATHMORE — not very large, but adding a touch of beauty to the grounds.



MACHINE OPERATING — may prove valuable as a means to make a living, or merely to help the clothing budget.

REPORT OF THE ONTARIO TRAINING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, COBOURG

1st April, 1947 - 31st March, 1948

The Ontario Training School for Girls continued to operate in McCook and Strathmore Houses, in Cobourg. Accommodation was over-crowded, and it is hoped that expansion will be achieved in 1948-49.

There were ninety-six committals in 1947-48, an increase of eight over the previous year.

It can be assumed that each child who enters a Training School has been mishandled environmentally. To eradicate the effect of this treatment is as important as equipping the child with the education and skills necessary to earn a living.

The programme consists of:

- Health Services, physical and mental.
- Religious and moral instruction.
- Counselling, so that the child may understand her problems.
- The development of responsibility by trust.
- Recognition of individual progress by awards.
- The constructive use of leisure time by games, hobbies, dramatics and music.
- The creation of an atmosphere of security, in which each child feels she is wanted, and has a particular place to fill.

In our work during the past year many organizations and individuals have contributed to the happiness and well being of the girls. To them our thanks is given. Amongst this group are:

Rotary Club of Toronto	Christmas Gifts
Rotary Club of Cobourg	Christmas Concert and Candy
Kiwanis Club of Cobourg	Magazines and candy
Catholic Youth Organization	Invitation to St. Patrick's Play
Anglican Young People's Association	Invitation to play
Kinsmen	Hallowe'en Treat
Shriners	Candy
Ontario Hospital, Cobourg	Use of Bowling Alleys
Salvation Army	Invitations to Band Concerts

ACADEMIC REPORT

The school programme was not changed from previous years, all capable of academic training were enrolled in classes.

The Senior School teacher reported a satisfactory year with nineteen girls writing grade nine exams in June, 1947, sixteen of whom passed. Five girls wrote grade ten exams in June, 1947, and all passed.

In the Spring of 1947, a study was made of the pond at Strathmore. Beetles, turtles and fish were assiduously collected and named. It was evident that although these teen-age students appeared sophisticated, at heart they were children with an abundant love for small creatures.

The inferiority of oral reports contrasted to written work was noted in the senior class, which would indicate the necessity for developing assurance by classes in public speaking and debates.

Recommendations were made for:

- (1) Aptitude tests.
- (2) Home economics as a class room subject.
- (3) Speakers on various occupations.

These suggestions will be implemented.

The Entrance class consisted of seventy pupils during the period of report, all except twenty-five were placed in the community prior to the final examinations. Of the twenty-five who wrote, twenty-four were successful.

Junior School consisted of twenty pupils during the period of report. Efforts were made to enable each child to progress independently, and the brighter girls were able to complete two years in one.

In June, 1947, the results were:

Passed from grade 5 to 6.....	1
Passed from grade 5 to 7.....	4
Passed from grade 6 to 8.....	4
Passed from grade 7 to 8.....	2

VOCATIONAL REPORT

Full time vocational classes were held in Cooking, Sewing and Laundry. Part time in Hairdressing and Commercial. All older girls in the school had the opportunity of participating part time in these courses.

Cooking:

This training was of a practical nature, girls assisting Dietitians in the preparation and serving of simple meals.

Other activities included the boiling down and canning of:

- 50 quarts of pickles, 25 pints of jelly, 30 pints of jam.
- 30 gallons of maple syrup, 50 quarts of chili sauce.

Visitors:

Many outside groups were entertained during the year, including:

- The Business and Professional Women's Club, Cobourg.
- The Wives of the Registrar's Convention.
- Members of the Local Council of Women, Toronto.
- The Rotary Club of Cobourg and their wives.

This enabled the girls to practise entertaining, and to make sandwiches and cakes for parties.

Prizes:

Exhibits were entered in the Roseneath Fair, winning:
7 first prizes, 4 second prizes, 1 third prize.

Exhibits were also entered in the Department's exhibit in Toronto Exhibition. These consisted of tea biscuits, bread, assorted muffins, cakes, pastries, cookies, canned fruit, jams and pickles.

Some fifty-five girls were in this class for periods of not less than three months.

Sewing:

Sewing classes were handicapped by obsolete machines. However, eight new machines have been requisitioned.

Activities included:

- 728 garments finished (pyjamas, dresses and shorts).
- 270 other garments finished (laundry bags, slip covers).
- 799 garments mended.
- 135 garments altered.

Complete wardrobe for doll for Christmas tree.

Costumes for cast of play, "The Tomboy Girl."

Samples of work, including dresses, were exhibited at the Canadian National Exhibition. These dresses were designed by the girls.

Since September, 1947, a voluntary Thursday evening class was held, during which the girls learned hemstitching, faggotting, embroidery, and made and embroidered mittens and socks from discarded sweaters.

Fifty-four girls attended the regular sewing class for periods of three months or more.

Laundry:

The laundry has been improved by the addition of a drying room, and plumbing facilities. New washing machines have been requisitioned. Although it is desirable to train girls on domestic machinery, which they will use in homes, the strain on this type is heavy.

Girls' clothes launder.....	18,776 pieces
Sheets, pillow slips, towels and tablecloths.....	29,100 "
Girls tunics.....	280 "
Blankets	364 "

Sixty girls attended laundry class for periods of three months or more.

Commercial:

A general commercial course was covered. Four girls were employed in offices in Cobourg during the year with satisfactory results. A local firm sent several thousand labels to be typed, for which the girls received pay.

Seventy-three girls attended classes, of whom a small proportion were educationally qualified to take office positions, however, a sense of accomplishment was attained by learning to type.

Hairdressing:

Excellent equipment was secured for this department, however, there

is no space for a proper beauty shop, and classes were limited. Seventy permanents were given during the year as well as fingerwaves, haircuts and shampoos. Fourteen girls received instruction.

AVOCATIONS

Music:

Forty-six girls took piano lessons during the year. Of these fourteen were examined by Mr. Frank G. Wharran in June, 1947, for the Royal Conservatory of Music piano examination. The results were gratifying.

Grade 1.....	1 honour	2.....	3 honours
3.....	2 honours	4.....	1 pass
	2 pass	7.....	1 pass

Singing instruction was given to all girls in the school, and choruses and individuals entered the Annual Northumberland Music Festival held at Campbellford. Two third prizes were won. Christmas carols were sung by the girls in the Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches.

Dramatics:

In November the school produced a musical play, "The Tomboy Girl" in the Town Hall. This play was sponsored by the Business and Professional Women's Club and netted approximately \$150.00 for their work.

Library:

There are 722 books in the library, fifty-nine of which are new acquisitions this year.

A library period for selection and discussion of books was held each week for each class.

Hobby Shop:

The Hobby Shop continued to produce a variety of articles using salvaged materials. Expansion of this department is planned, as its value in developing concentration in children is most evident. Felt work, flour and salt sculpture, cloth toys, dolls' furniture and leather work were the main projects.

The gift of ends of materials from local firms encouraged the making of children's clothes, which will be sent to an orphanage for children of Air Raid victims, in England. A float designed by the Hobby Shop was entered in the Calithumpian Parade in August.

Entries in the Roseneath Fair won the following prizes:

- 1st prize—Oven mitts.
Water colour figure sketch.
- 3rd prize—Pen and ink sketch.
Embroidered bedspread.
Painted cup and saucer.

The embroidered spread was donated to the Kinette Club of Cobourg, who raffled it raising \$85.00 for their work. Other embroidery was donated to the Brownie Pack, of Cobourg, who sold it at their bazaar, and sent food packages to England with the proceeds.

Exhibits of Hobby work were shown in the Department's exhibit, at the Canadian National Exhibition.

Physical Training and Sports:

Regular P. T. classes were held as part of the Academic and Vocational training programme. The gymnasium was used for badminton, volleyball, basketball. Basketball games were played with the Cobourg Collegiate in March, although no victories were won. Having two teams participate enable more girls to enjoy this outside contact. The softball team again won the Sentinel Star Trophy in the local league. A sports programme involving everyone, rather than concentration on teams, appears to be most useful in a school of this type. Many girls are under par physically, and participation in sports, even if skill is lacking, is desirable.

Gardening:

Greenhouse work throughout the winter offered small groups the opportunity of learning a most useful avocation. The therapeutic value of this work in seriously disturbed children is most evident. In the summer, classes under university students worked in the vegetable gardens and kept lawns and flower beds in order. The old horse "Dick" continued to provide motivation for the lawn mower, which was the most popular occupation for girls in the garden groups.

Church Attendance:

All girls have attended the United or Anglican Churches on Sunday mornings. The Ministerial Association have visited the school, each denomination in turn, on Wednesday mornings for short services. The Salvation Army, Pentecostal and Baptist churches, have invited girls of their denominations for evening services and home hospitality. Staff frequently take the girls to their own churches on Sunday evenings.

Medical Report:

Every girl, on admittance to the school is given a full medical and dental examination by the doctor and dentist. A registered nurse is in charge of the office and attends to minor ailments. During the year several girls are trained to help the nurse in her duties, performing the work of a nurse's aide. Some of these girls become extremely proficient and are very interested in this work. The dentist pays regular visits every week, and completes all dental work required.

The following is a report of the work for the year:

No. of patients examined by doctor.....	356
No. of Wasserman tests.....	198
No. of G.C. smears.....	489
No. of patients in hospital.....	17
No. of minor infections and abscesses.....	12
No. of X-rays.....	6
No. of Appendix cases.....	1
No. of Tonsillectomies.....	13
No. of pregnant cases.....	7
No. of V.D.G. treatments.....	2
No. of V.D.S. treatments.....	5
No. of T.B. tests.....	93
No. of chest X-rays.....	9
No. of vaccinations.....	23
No. of diphtheria toxoids.....	56
No. of scarlet fever toxoids.....	53
No. of girls fitted with glasses.....	24

DENTAL REPORT

No. of patients at clinic.....	321
No. of patients examined only.....	158
No. of fillings.....	337
No. of extractions.....	57
No. of X-rays.....	4
No. of special treatments.....	4
No. of partial dentures.....	5

PLACEMENT REPORT

Placement officers located in Toronto, Hamilton, London, Peterborough and Galt, supervised girls returned to the community. A large number of older girls who had made a satisfactory adjustment in the community were released during the year.

The following is a summary of activities of Placement officers:

No. of visits to girls.....	5,238
Homes and jobs investigated.....	653
Visits to clinics and other social agencies.....	280
Attendance at court.....	42
Psychological interviews.....	33
Lectures	35
Girls under supervision March 31st, 1948.....	204
Girls attending school.....	58
Girls employed as domestics.....	60
Girls employed as factory workers.....	35
Girls employed as office employees.....	16
Girls employed as waitresses.....	6
Girls employed as store clerks.....	14
Girls employed as laundry workers.....	1
Girls employed as farm workers.....	3
Girls employed as ward aides.....	11
No. of girls in boarding homes.....	45
No. of girls in free homes.....	15
No. of girls with parents.....	48
No. of girls convalescent.....	1
Whereabouts unknown.....	22

Institutions:

Committed to the Andrew Mercer Reformatory.....	8
Transferred to Ontario Hospital School, Orillia.....	2
Placed in Salvation Army Home.....	3
Placed in Victor Home.....	1
Placed in Humewood House.....	1
Mileage	62,076

(MISS) ISABEL J. MACNEILL,
Superintendent

The material in this article was extracted from “Annual Report of the Department of Reform Institutions of the Province of Ontario for the Year Ending 31st March 1948.” The entire report can be read at <https://archive.org/details/p2annualreportcorr1948/>

Member Matters

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest CDHS members:

- Sylvia Saunders
- Kim Ward

Announcements

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society and the CDHS are co-sponsoring an event with the Cobourg Library in the Rotary Room on Saturday, April 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The CDHS will have an information table and will be selling used books from their collection of historical items. Stop by and see what’s available for very reasonable prices!

At 1:30 pm Dr. Bob Pearce will present the history of the Rice Lake Trading Post with a genealogical twist. The Rice Lake Trading Post was established in 1796 at the mouth of the Otonabee River. This very informative presentation documents both the historical and genealogical aspects of the surrounding region in the 1800s while touching on many topics, including the American Revolution, War of 1812, Mackenzie Rebellion, North West Company and more.

Historical Belleville Newspapers

The Community Archives of Belleville and Hastings County has recently completed the scanning of over 5,000 **months** of numerous Belleville and area newspapers. The newspapers include copies from 1833 to 2006. All material is available for online searching and viewing without charge. Recent additions include copies of *The Intelligencer* and *The Hastings Times* from the 1830s. Vist https://archive.org/details/cabhc_newspapers to search and read.

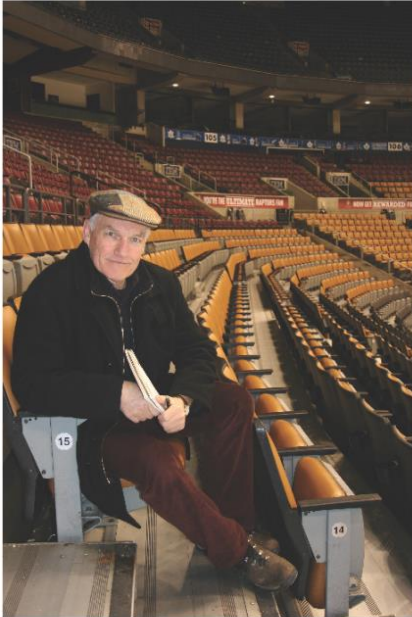
Hopefully Cobourg’s historical newspapers will be similarly available someday!

Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin

The Right Honourable Beverley McLachlin – former Supreme Court Justice and best-selling author – will be speaking at Victoria Hall on Friday, May 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 and are available in Cobourg at Acanthus Interiors, Let’s Talk Books and the Victoria Hall Box office (905-372-2210) or <https://experiencecobourg.ca/concert-hall-victoria-hall/> The event is hosted by Victoria Hall Volunteers and The House Lawyer: Carrie A. McArthur Low and Beebee and Associates.

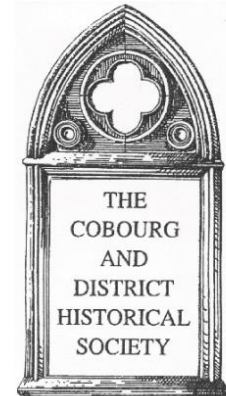
Join Us Tuesday, March 26, 2024

The NHL A Centennial History



**Presented By:
Author, D'Arcy Jenish**

**The NHL – now in its 107th
season, is one of North
America’s Big Four
professional sports leagues.**



Since the league's initial seasons in 1917-18, only four presidents and one commissioner have guided the fortunes of this remarkable enterprise.

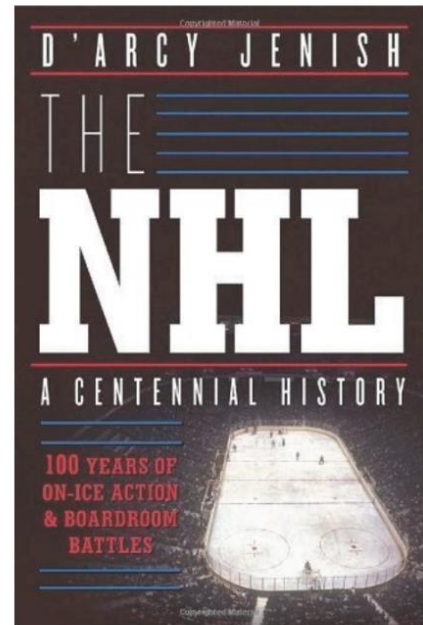
Author D'Arcy Jenish will explore the history of the NHL through the lens of these five men – Frank Calder, Merv Dutton, Clarence Campbell, John Ziegler and Gary Bettman.

Concert Hall in Victoria Hall

Members free, Guests \$5, ALL ARE WELCOME

🕒 Doors open at 7 PM 🕒 Meeting starts at 7:30 PM

For Member information, Brianincobourg@gmail.com



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