



Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

March 2023 — Issue 338

More than a Footnote: Canadian Women You Should Know About

Our presenter on March 28, Karin Wells, is best known as a CBC radio documentary maker and author. Her work has been heard on radio networks around the world and has been recognized by the United Nations and is a three-time recipient of the Canadian Association of Journalist documentary award. Wells worked – briefly – as a line worker in a pea factory, a school teacher and as an actress. She has a graduate degree in law and in 2011 was inducted into the University of Ottawa's Common Law Honour Society.



Wells will highlight women from the Cobourg area including Canada's first astrophysicist and a doctor who discovered a treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Celebrating Women's History Month, speaker Wells' new book is aptly titled for this month's celebration.

Karin will include new details of Mina Benson Hubbard whose story she presented last year as the first chapter and will share new source material with us. This is our opportunity to celebrate women who have made a difference.

Join us on Tuesday, March 28 for an informative presentation. Doors open at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Bring a friend or two! Members free - Guests \$5.00. Karin's latest book will be available for purchase if you would like an autographed copy.

Our Previous Meeting

Sir Winston Churchill -His Life and Accomplishments

A study of Churchill's ninety years of life show him to be a true Renaissance Man. He had a huge breadth of existence not only as a WWII leader but as an author, painter, bricklayer, pilot, horseman and all with a notable wit! We learned more about the myths and truisms from the Chairman of the Canadian Churchill Society, Randy Barber.

Randy is Vice President of the Cobourg and District Historical Society and a recently elected Councillor in Cobourg. He has been interested in Churchill for most of his years and deftly brought Churchill to life with anecdotes and a selection of items from his extensive collection of Churchill ephemera.



Barber noted that many of today's young people know nothing of Churchill and his many accomplishments. Quite the difference with an older crowd. Throughout the room one could



hear Sir Winston's famous phrases being completed by the audience and there were chuckles even before Randy delivered the punch line:

The price of greatness is responsibility.

I may be drunk but in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly.

My most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me.

Lady Astor to Churchill: "If I were married to you, I'd put poison in your coffee." Reply: "If I were married to you, I'd drink it."

Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.

We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall never surrender.

Historical Rail Cart Pulled from Port Hope's Harbour



©Northumberland News

Dredging of the Port Hope harbour, part of the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI) cleanup, recently uncovered another rare sunken find: a “historical rail cart.”

Shernette Muccuth Henry, manager of public communication for the historic waste program, on behalf of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL), noted that “we find a number of items of interest during the dredging process.” She explained that “The cars were part of the larger items found in the earlier phase of mechanical dredging. We now alternate between hydraulic and mechanical dredging using a clam shell bucket on an excavator to scoop sediment for processing.

“We typically find items as expected: large boulders, buoys and junk. Recently, though, we found a lock and the rail cart that we shared with the public for human interest,”

“No archeological significance was identified for these items,” noted Ms. Henry.

See <https://www.northumberlandnews.com/news-story/10862735--historical-rail-cart-pieces-pulled-from-port-hope-harbour-amid-cleanup-efforts/> for further details on the find.

Remaining Events of the CDHS 2023 Program

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

HMCS Cobourg

Our distinguished speaker, Roger Litwiller, is a Canadian author, historian and lecturer. He has written the books, *White Ensign Flying* and *Warships of the Bay of Quinte* as well as numerous articles for magazines and newspapers. HMCS Cobourg was a modified Flower-class corvette that served with the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War. She fought primarily in the Battle of the Atlantic as a convoy escort. She was named for Cobourg, Ontario.

FRIDAY, May 26, 2023

Social and Trivia Night

Mark you calendar to join us for our end of season get-together and first post-COVID in-person Trivia Night and Social. Sit with members and friends and enjoy trivia covering all categories from local to world questions while enjoying a drink and treats. Join us on **Friday, May 26, 2023 at the Legion Village Pub**, 11 Hibernia Street, Cobourg. Come early for the best selection of used books. Doors open at 6:30pm with questions, answers, cash bar and nibbles from 7pm to 10pm. Ticket details to follow.

Member Matters

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest CDHS members:

Mary Heron (individual membership)

Tanya Middlebro/Mark Bisset (family membership)

Sylvia Godfrey (individual membership)

Prince of Hearts

(Continued from the February 2023 issue of *Historically Speaking*)

It seems to have affected Bertie very little. At a ball in London, Canada West, a few days later he danced with such enthusiasm that it enlivened the entire proceedings. A memento of that evening is a particularly beautiful blue-silk taffeta and tulle ballgown that was worn by Susan Paul, the daughter of a St. Thomas mill owner. Miss Paul was not on the prince's dance card but when the young lady selected for the 'Nachtwandler' waltz tarried with her previous partner, the prince swept Miss Paul onto the floor instead. It is said that the young woman who missed her dance with the prince never spoke to the Paul family again. The blue gown is today in the collection of the Elgin County Museum.

No tour of Upper Canada would be complete without a visit to Niagara Falls where the tour headed next for a few days of sightseeing and relaxation. A highlight was a tightrope-walking performance across the Niagara gorge by the celebrated daredevil Charles Blondin. The prince urged Blondin not to take any special risks but the Frenchman responded by taking a man across the gorge on his back and then returning on stilts, an escapade the prince described as "nerve-wracking."

The next week Bertie once again danced till three a.m. at a ball in Hamilton's Royal Hotel and was then up the next morning to open an agricultural exhibition at the city's Crystal Palace. He took lunch with Sir Allan MacNab, the former premier of the united province of Canada, at Dundurn Castle, which to Bertie likely resembled an English country house more than a castle. After lunch he boarded a train for Windsor and then Detroit for the start of his five-week American tour. The U.S. visit was intended to be unofficial but huge crowds greeted him everywhere —30,000 in Detroit, 50,000 in Chicago and 500,000 for a procession down Broadway in New York. So many people turned up for a ball at New York's Academy of Music that the floor collapsed and had to be repaired. This caused no injuries but delayed the dancing till midnight. At a White House levee hosted by President Buchanan, the East Room was so mobbed that people stood on chairs and ladies clambered onto the shoulders of men to catch a glimpse of the prince. The tour ended on October 22nd in Portland, Maine, where crowds in the harbour cheered and waved handkerchiefs as the prince was ferried out to the *Hero* for the trip home.

By any measure the visit had been a success. The American newspapers rang with praise for the young prince, who, with his charm, good humour and spirited dancing, had shown a new face of royalty to the New World. In Canada, seven years before Confederation, the tour, in the words of John A. Macdonald, had “called to the attention of the civilized world....the position and prospects of our magnificent country.” It had also been the making of Bertie. Queen Victoria wrote to her daughter Vicky that he had been “immensely popular everywhere” and “deserves the highest praise “ before adding perceptively “all the more as he was never spared any reproof.”

This thawing in her feelings toward her eldest son was not to last and during the 41 years that remained before he became king, Victoria refused to allow him access to state papers. She disapproved of his reputation as ‘the playboy prince,’ a sobriquet earned by his succession of mistresses. Bertie indeed had a “susceptible nature” as noted at his first ball in Newfoundland. But were there any dalliances on his 1860 tour? In Cobourg, there was a longstanding rumour that a man in town who bore a resemblance to King George V was Bertie’s lovechild. Some even claimed he received regular cheques from Buckingham Palace. Similar stories circulated in other Canadian towns but they are almost certainly urban legends since General Bruce would never have allowed his young charge any opportunity to slake the twinges in his midriff during the tour.

There is evidence, however, that the prince who became King Edward VII in 1901, may have fathered some illegitimate children in England. One of these may have been a daughter of Bertie’s last mistress, Alice Keppel, who was married to a grandson of Sir Allan MacNab, the man who had hosted a lunch for Bertie in Hamilton. In a further twist, Alice Keppel’s great-great-granddaughter, Camilla Shand, would become the mistress and then wife of the present Prince of Wales. On November 4, 2009, Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited Dundurn Castle and she became the royal patron of this historic Hamilton landmark.

Canada’s Royal Tours

The 1860 visit by the Prince of Wales set the style for dozens of later royal tours of Canada. A few of the most memorable royal tours:

1901: Prince George and Princess Mary

Prince George (later King George V) and his wife Princess Mary arrived in Quebec City on

September 16, 1901, and toured right across to Vancouver and back again. Like his father 41 years before, the prince rode a timber slide in Ottawa and was presented with a Newfoundland dog in St. John's.

1919: Edward, Prince of Wales

The informal style of the 25-year-old heir to the throne made for less ceremony and more meetings with the public during his cross-Canada tour in August, 1919. It included a 3-day canoe trip on the Nipigon River with Ojibwa guides. The prince later acquired a ranch in Alberta which he visited on subsequent tours and even after his abdication from the throne in 1936.

1939: King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

With war clouds looming, this tour was designed to encourage Dominion solidarity. It also included a strategic four-day trip to Washington and a state dinner at the White House. The royal couple visited every province and inaugurated the National War Memorial in Ottawa and the Queen Elizabeth Way in Toronto. Queen Elizabeth would later tell Prime Minister Mackenzie King, "that tour made us."

1951: Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip

Visiting in place of her ailing father, Princess Elizabeth and her husband were greeted by enthusiastic crowds all across Canada. In Toronto they attended a hockey game and in Ottawa, a square dance at Rideau Hall.

1959: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip

This remains the longest royal tour in Canadian history. The Queen and Prince Philip visited all ten provinces and two territories, covering 15,000 miles in 45 days, making 400 appearances and shaking well over 7,000 hands. She inaugurated the St. Lawrence Seaway with President Eisenhower and also visited Washington and Chicago, where she made it clear in her speeches that she was there as Queen of Canada.

1982: Queen Elizabeth Signs The Constitution Act

Full Canadian sovereignty came into effect with the signing on Parliament Hill of the Constitution Act of 1982 by Her Majesty, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Justice Minister, Jean Chrétien.

1983, '86, '91: Prince Charles and Princess Diana

The royal couple's first visit to Canada after their wedding was to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland in 1983. In 1986 they visited Vancouver to open Expo '86 and toured in B.C. The most famous moment during a '91 visit to Ontario came when Diana greeted her two young sons, William and Harry, with a joyous hug after they ran up the gangway of the royal yacht *Britannia* to meet her.

2002: Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Tour

A 12-day tour by the Queen and Prince Philip celebrating her 50 years as Queen of Canada was highlighted by the first royal visit to Nunavut and the first time Her Majesty had dropped the puck to open a hockey game. This took place at General Motors Place in Vancouver on October 6, '02 with Wayne Gretzky in attendance.

2011: Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge

Two months after their wedding, the newlyweds were greeted with great enthusiasm as they visited all of Canada's regions between June 30th and July 8th. At his final speech in Calgary, Prince William echoed his great-grandmother's comment after the 1939 tour, by saying "Canada made us."



This article was written by Hugh Brewster, originally appeared in Zoomer Magazine and is reproduced here by permission.

Announcements

Cobourg Museum

The Cobourg Museum’s website has been updated to include “Harbour Story” with two pages on the ferries. It includes a first-person story of a young boy’s trip across the lake. Visit their website at https://www.communitystories.ca/v2/cobourg-harbour_port-de-cobourg.

The Cobourg Museum’s YouTube channel now includes a short video showing one of the ferries docking in Cobourg. To view this and more than a dozen other Cobourg related videos visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdTovcVcpHN_Wgc-WMuDRBQ.

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

Saturday, April 15, 2023

Researching Families Using Community Resources

Learn what’s available; participants will include: Cobourg Library, Port Hope Library, Lakeshore Genealogical Society, Northumberland County Archives, Cobourg and District Historical Society, Cramahe Township History and Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre/Cobourg Museum.

Cobourg Public Library - Rotary Room 11am – 4pm

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

The Architectural Heritage of Hamilton Township

Tom Cruikshank will talk about the diversity of the buildings in the rural area around Cobourg including information on early families. Tom promises a few Surprises! Join us in person and by Zoom
Cobourg Public Library - Rotary Room – 7pm for Zoom access email LGSregister@gmail.com

HASTINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1957

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

By journalist and author

GORDON PITTS

Iron and Rust – The Mixed Legacy of Madoc’s Uriah Seymour

When Yankee ironmaker Uriah Seymour arrived in Hastings County in the mid-1830s, a little settlement already existed on Deer Creek, north of Moira Lake. His mine and furnace would be the catalysts for the growth spurt that laid the foundation for the modern village of Madoc. But the story has an ambivalent theme: a brave innovator ends up as a historic might-have-been.

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 7:30 p.m.

Maranatha Church Auditorium
100 College Street West, Belleville
Enter by main front doors

VICTORIA HALL VOLUNTEERS
PRESENT

A HALL SO GRAND

A CELEBRATION OF 160 YEARS OF VICTORIA HALL
IN WORDS, IMAGES, AND SONG

SATURDAY, MAY 13th, 2023 at 7:30pm



CREATED BY HUGH BREWSTER
WITH BRIGITTE ROBINSON, THE ORIANA SINGERS,
AND GUEST SOLOISTS, ACCOMPANIED BY JAMES BOURNE

TICKETS \$50
light refreshments

call 905-372-2210
www.concerthallatvictoriahall.com
A service charge will apply



FRIDAY 26 MAY
COBOURG &
DISTRICT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY MAY 26, 2023

LEGION VILLAGE PUB

111 HIBERNIA STREET

7 P.M TO 10 P.M.

DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.

DETAILS & TICKET INFO - COMING SOON

CDHS Executive for 2022 – 2023

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| President | Carla Jones | cgrucelajones@gmail.com (289) 252-1684 |
| Past President | Leona Woods | leonawoods@sympatico.ca (905) 372-7624 |
| Vice-President | Randy Barber | randy.barber1947@gmail.com (905) 377-9421 |
| Secretary | Open | |
| Treasurer | George Kamphorst | gfkamphorst@gmail.com (905) 375-8563 |
| Membership | Brian Murphy | brianincobourg@gmail.com (289) 634 2727 |
| Programme Co-Chairs | Carla Jones Randy Barber | cgrucelajones@gmail.com randy.barber1947@gmail.com |
| Programme Committee Members | Gerry Brown Diane Chin George Kamphorst Leona Woods | blackcat111343@gmail.com dianemchin@gmail.com gfkamphorst@gmail.com leonawoods@sympatico.ca |
| Members-at-Large | Gerry Brown Hannah LeBlanc Diane Chin | blackcat111343@gmail.com (905) 372-3984 h18leblanc@gmail.com (905) 376-4937 dianemchin@gmail.com (289) 435-2015 |
| Newsletter Editor | Ken Strauss | ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca (905) 377-9854 |