



# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and  
District Historical Society

May 2015 — Issue 274

## Annual Social Evening

Do you have a box of old love letters your great grandmother wrote? Or perhaps some wartime correspondence from an ancestor? Or a postcard of note from a great aunt? Or maybe you've been doing some research and have come across a letter that has a local historical connection? This event is a chance to share interesting letters and correspondence from your family's history! Bring along a letter or other correspondence that you would be willing to read aloud. Rob Franklin, in character as the Hon. James Cockburn, will be our guest for the evening. He will get us started by reading a brief excerpt of correspondence written by this Father of Confederation. The microphone will then be open to anyone with an interesting piece of correspondence to share with the group.

The event begins at 7pm on Tuesday, May 26, at 66 King Street in Cobourg. Please note the earlier than usual starting time!

Tickets may be purchased from Judith Goulin, (905) 372-7684, for \$10 per person.

# Our Previous Meeting

## *How Well Do You Think You Know Cobourg?*

The Cobourg and District Historical Society's Annual General Meeting was on Tuesday, April 28.

The business portion of the meeting included reports from the Executive and the election of officers for the coming year.



Following the business meeting Judith Goulin and Elaine Rostetter-Saunders showed photos of Cobourg and challenged the club members to identify the exact locations pictured. A sample of the challenge photos is included here. The complete collection of photos (With the answers!) is on the CDHS website at

<http://cdhs.ca/resources/do-you-know-cobourg>.

# Notes and Notices

## Ontario Movie Theatres

The Port Hope Archives is sponsoring an exhibit on “Ontario’s Movie Theatres”. This travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario features Port Hope’s Capitol Theatre. The exhibit opens at the Archives, 17 Mill Street North in Port Hope, on May 2 from 9am-1pm and can be viewed at the Archives from 1-5pm on Tuesday-Friday until May 29. Admission is free. For additional information contact the Port Hope Archives at (905) 885-1673.

## Doors Open Northumberland

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Doors Open Northumberland will be on June 6 and 7. You will be treated to behind the scenes tours of 19 private residences, churches, museums and archives. All events are free of charge. The Doors Open sites are identified by the green squares on the map. For additional details phone (905) 372-0677 or visit the website at

<http://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca>.



# Henley Arcade Revisited

*John Draper*

*In the September 2010 issue of Historically Speaking Judith Goulin provided a history of the Henley Arcade. If you would like to reread Judith's article it is available on the CDHS website at <http://cdhs.ca/images/newsletters/NewsletterSep10.pdf>.*



Last year, Council approved a project to improve Henley arcade with lighting, pigeon proofing and a mural on the wall of the Buttermilk café. At the committee of the whole meeting April 20, Council approved the selection of an artist to do this: Heather Cooper. She will be paid \$20,000 for her work but is a renowned artist and Cobourg is fortunate to have her win the contest. The mural will look like the doors and windows of the original store that occupied this location a shoe repair store owned by John Henley. Council also approved proceeding with the full project.

The store was originally J. S. Bowen's Variety Store and Barber Shop. Although John Henley operated it initially as a shoe repair business, he later expanded into bicycle repairs. In 1972 it was burned down and the council of the day converted it into today's arcade that connects the Covert Street parking lot with King Street. It is therefore fitting that the mural will show the arcade's heritage.

The finished mural will be life size about 8 feet high in two parts 24 feet long and 10 feet long. Another mural will be at the Covert street end. The painting will be done on marine plywood and protected by 5 coats of marine varnish. Council was assured that it would be possible to make full restoration after most possible damage such as spray painting or scratches.

Known for her painting of the Lion and the Lamb, Heather is committed to the imaginative expression of ideas and has a passion for things well done. Her paintings are lush and detailed, inspired by nature and symbolism. She has been commissioned by people as diverse as Pope John Paul II, the Stratford Festival Theatre and the Canadian Opera Company. She operates a studio in the summer months in Baltimore. More of her work can be seen on her website at [http://www.heathercooper.com/Heather Cooper Studio Gallery.html](http://www.heathercooper.com/Heather_Cooper_Studio_Gallery.html).

## Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre

On May 17 the Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre opened for their fourth season with a standing room only crowd. About eighty visitors listened intently as CDHS member George Parker presented



his theory of why the Rice Lake railroad crossing failed soon after it was completed. George's animated presentation, detailed models, maps, historical research and demonstrations using bird seed made a convincing case that the fault was not with the project engineers or contractor. Rather the failure probably resulted from a desperate attempt for an early completion while minimizing construction costs.

Since the Sifton-Cook Centre first opened three years ago, 6,500 visitors have learned about Cobourg area history from the facility.



## CDHS Executive for 2015 – 2016

|                                |  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| President                      | Judith Goulin  | <a href="mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com">jgoulin@hotmail.com</a><br>(905) 372-7684               |
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| Membership                     | Marie Jones  | <a href="mailto:mahughesjones@gmail.com">mahughesjones@gmail.com</a><br>(905) 885-2859       |
| Programme Chairperson          | Alison Torrie Lapaire  |  |
| Programme Committee<br>Members | Carla Jones<br>Marie Jones<br>Elaine Rostetter Saunders<br>Judith Goulin |  |
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