



# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District  
Historical Society

May 2017 — Issue 289

## Celebrate the Maple Leaf



**MAY 30th, 2017**

**6:15 p.m. at Victoria Hall**

(55 King St. W., Cobourg)

The Town Crier calls us into the Concert Hall at 7 PM  
to sing O Canada and begin the show



**GREET A MOUNTIE**  
and let's take a photograph!

Enjoy entertainment by Cobourg's

**ST. MARY'S CHOIR** and the **TREBLEMAKERS**



**THE COLOURFUL HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN FLAG**

presented by Alison Torrie Lapaire,  
President of The Cobourg & District Historical Society

**SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS** - all with a Canadian theme!

**CANADIAN FLAGS AND STICKERS** for all (even the adults!)

**FREE ADMISSION** for the **WHOLE FAMILY**



## **Our Previous Meeting Special Programme at our April Meeting**

In honour of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary the students of Mrs. Ferguson's class at Notre Dame C.E.S. embarked on a year-long Local History Inquiry project. Each student's journey has been their own individual focus starting with a spark



of curiosity about their town and leading them to seek out local newspaper articles, photos, maps, plans and books as well as online information. Their work has culminated in presentations shared with peers and adults in our community.





Mrs. Ferguson operated the visual aids while the students delivered presentations on *Marie Dressler* (Asia Campbell), *Dr. Billy King* (Andrew Catherwood), *Globe File Company* (Andrew Catherwood), *The Rails* (Mackenzie Mammers), *James Calcutt* (Eddie Kearney), *Cobourg Peterborough Railway* (Connor Drysdale), *Father of Confederation* (Kyleigh Hamilton), *Millbrook* (Abbey Diminie), *Fire in Port Hope* (Brae Farrell), *Victoria College* (Juliana Walt), *Sidbrook Hospital* (Victoria Gomes) and *Early Homes* (Jia LeBlanc).

## **Announcements**

### ***Lakeshore Genealogical Society***

Suzanne Séguin will speak on “Early Homes of Cobourg” at the June 8 meeting of The Lakeshore Genealogical Society. Meetings are from 6:30-9:00 pm in the Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library. Visitors are welcome.

### ***Brighton Digital Archives Open House***

The Brighton Digital Archives Open House is held on the third Tuesday of each month, in the afternoon from 2 to 4 pm and then again in the evening from 6 to 8 pm. Bring your family pictures or documents and discuss with the volunteers how to preserve them and make them available for public access online at <http://vitacollections.ca/brightonarchives/search> .

## Membership Matters

### ***Membership Renewal***

CDHS memberships are from April to April. It would be appreciated if you were to renew your membership early. If you have not renewed prior to our Annual General Meeting in April you will not be able to vote in the election of officers. We will be happy to accept your dues at the March meeting!

### ***In memoriam***

#### ***Isabel Pankhurst (née Vigna)***

*June 10, 1927 - April 18, 2017*

Peacefully on April 18, 2017. She is survived by her daughter Denise (Mark) of Elphin, Ontario, her sister Eileen Monteleone (Joe) of Niagara Falls, and many nieces, nephews and extended family. Isabel was extremely proud of her contribution to the town of Cobourg. She was a successful merchant, business woman and community volunteer. In the early seventies, along with a group of forward thinking business owners, she was instrumental in establishing the Cobourg Downtown Business Improvement Association. She was a founding member of the Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall, and was still attending meetings! For many years, she was an active member of Probus, the Northumberland Hills Hospital Volunteers and the Cobourg Yacht Club. Thank you to Isabel's many friends and acquaintances who were there for her over the decades. Isabel was fiercely independent to the end. She was a strong, determined woman who lived life on her own terms. In accordance with her wishes there will be no public service or memorial. Donations to the Victoria Hall Volunteers will be appreciated. Condolences received at [www.MacCoubrey.com](http://www.MacCoubrey.com).



## Canada 150 Celebrating Our History

### Bushels of Heritage

Can an apple be history? The answer is yes, when the apple is connected with a guy named McIntosh. In the early 1800s John McIntosh left his native Scotland for the New World, then settled near Morrisburg, Ontario. These were early times in our history, so John faced the daunting task of clearing his land. While doing this back-breaking work, he came upon some young apple seedlings that he transplanted next to his house. One of the trees bore apples that he thought looked promising and they were. Good intuition, John.

The apple that would eventually be named McIntosh, was known to be in existence 55 years before Confederation. Amazingly, the tiny apple tree that John McIntosh cultivated lived for 100 years. John's son, Allen McIntosh, picked up a skill that shaped history when he learned to graft. He successfully grafted shoots from his father's original tree onto other rootstocks, resulting in new trees that were genetically identical to the parent McIntosh tree.

By 1900, many orchards in Canada were growing Macintosh apples. At the same time, the apple of choice being cultivated in New England was the Baldwin. In the Thirties, New England experienced a disastrous cold snap in February. When the thermometer dipped to -40C the sap-filled Baldwin trees literally exploded. The American's loss was our gain because, following this catastrophe, most American orchardists replaced their wimpy Baldwins with our cold-hardy reliable McIntoshes. The Macs are just like us - cold-hardy Canadians! Poor American Baldwin, usurped by a Canadian called Mac!

McIntosh is a household word today. Is there a Canadian who hasn't crunched into a McIntosh apple? Not only is the Mac the oldest Canadian apple still being cultivated, but it also is one that is still widely-grown on Canadian soil. In Ontario alone, our apple growers produce more than 65 million pounds of apples per year.

Happy 205<sup>th</sup> Birthday McIntosh. Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Canada. Celebrate. Be a good Canadian and eat a McIntosh apple today!

*Judith Goulin*

#### **Sources:**

*Garden Making* magazine *McIntosh Apple*, volume No. 29

Wikipedia

## CDHS Executive for 2016 – 2017

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