

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society

May 2019 — Issue 305

CDHS Social

Care to socialize and have a few bites? Join us at the Buttermilk Café on May 15 from 5 to 6:30pm. Have a drink or two, a munch and a chat before the Susanna Moodie presentation begins across the street at 7pm.

- Chicken Goujonettes with Apricot-Ginger sauce
- Pulled Pork sliders on Buttermilk made rolls
- Bruschetta Crostini
- Veggie Tray with House made Aioli
- Fruit Kabobs



Cost is \$15 per person including tax.

Gratuity and beverages are additional. Available space requires that attendance be limited to 30 people. Purchase tickets from Carla at (289) 252-1684 to reserve your spot. CDHS seating is reserved in the Concert Hall so there is no need to worry about getting there early.

Have a great Summer!

Our Previous Meeting

Cobourg Sports Hall of Fame

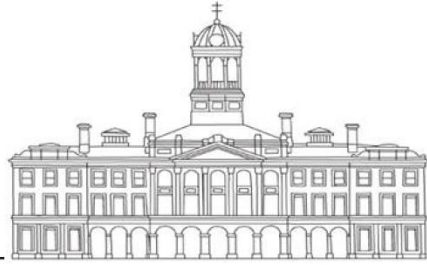
The history of Cobourg can be explored through many lenses and each one helps us focus on an important aspect of our past. At our April 23 meeting Ross Quigley explored the history of Cobourg through sport.

Ross and Don Conway, two dedicated volunteers, have worked tirelessly with their committee to make the Cobourg Sports Hall of Fame a reality. They have collected numerous items of sports memorabilia and have used their material to prepare almost a hundred stories relating to sports in Cobourg. The stories have the expected emphasis on hockey but include many other sports and document details largely forgotten by current residents.



Pigeon racing was once popular in Cobourg. Teams transported their birds to North Bay and carefully timed their flight back home. Donegan Park has been the centre for many activities. Greyhound races were once held there. The park also had a half-mile track for horse races. From about 1928 to 1957 Cobourg held an annual Labour Day event which included the usual track and field competitions together with a half-mile swimming race in the harbour.

The eight display cases at the Cobourg Community Centre capture the accomplishments of Galloping Ghosts football team, the Cobourg Cougars home-town hockey team, and two accomplished softball teams, the Cobourg Angels and the Cold Springs Cats. And pigeon racing!

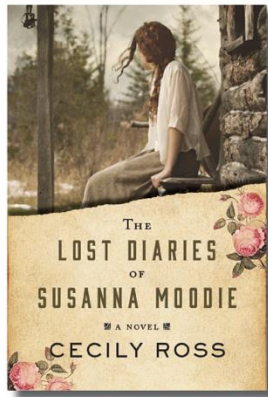


Victoria Hall Volunteers presents:

Susanna Moodie: Fact And Fiction

A panel discussion with Cecily Ross,
author, “The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie”
and Michael Peterman, author, “A Life, Susanna Moodie”

A debate about the life of Canadian author and 1830s
Hamilton Township pioneer, Susanna Moodie
Moderated by Hugh Brewster

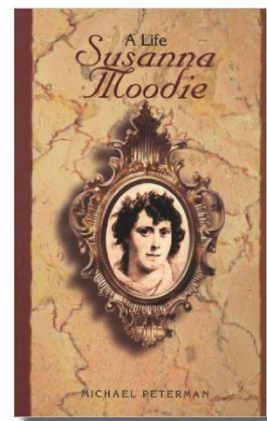


7 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, 2019
The Concert Hall, Victoria Hall,
55 King Street West, Cobourg

Tickets \$25, adults; \$15 students
(plus HST and handling)
The Concert Hall Box Office,
Victoria Hall
905 372 2210

Or from any
Victoria Hall Volunteer member

Complimentary refreshments



If you wish to sit in the reserved seating section with other CDHS members please email
Leona at leonawoods@sympatico.ca or phone her at (905) 372-7624 to reserve your seat.

A Day to Remember: 80 Years Ago

I recently examined some newspaper clippings on the “free-to-a-good-home” discard cart at the Cobourg Public Library and noticed the story of the royal visit in 1939.



Eighty years ago, May 23, 1939 must have been an exciting day for many in Toronto. The royal landau conveyed Queen Elizabeth and King George VI to Woodbine Race Track for the last pre-WWII running of the King’s Plate. The royal couple was accompanied by Toronto’s elite in their finery and police in dress uniforms replete with medals. The event was a significant change from its beginnings. The race prize of fifty Guineas from the “Royal Pantry” household account was first offered by Queen Victoria in 1860 to encourage improvements to the horse-breeding stock among the farmers in Upper Canada. The first

running of the Queen's Plate, under Queen Victoria, was at Carleton Race Track in Toronto



—(Telegram photos. Copyright, 1939.)
Forty thousand witnessed the arrival of the King and Queen at the Woodbine yesterday for the 80th running of the King's Plate. They are shown here in the open carriage arriving at the track, and in the lower photograph, Mr. A. E. Dymont, president of the Ontario Jockey Club, and Mrs. Dymont, accompany their Majesties to the Royal Box.

on June 27, 1860. In subsequent years the race took place at various tracks around the province until Queen Victoria approved Toronto as the permanent location in 1883. By 1890 winning the Plate was the domain of thoroughbreds owned by wealthy businessmen rather than mere farmer's horses.

There is a Cobourg connection to the King's Plate. The 56th running in 1915 was won by Tartarean from the 400-acre Pontiac Stud Farms just east of Cobourg.

The winner of the 1939 Plate, Archworth, was a thoroughbred racehorse purchased as a yearling in the middle of the

depression by *The Globe and Mail* publisher George McCullagh for \$500. Archworth also won the 1939 Prince of Wales Plate, and Breeders' Stakes. In 1959 these races were designated as the Canadian Triple Crown. Initially early winners were not recognized as Triple Crown winners. However, in 2014, the early winners of the three races were retroactively acknowledged. Archworth then became known as "Canada's second Triple Crown winner". Archworth was retired to stud where he had an undistinguished career with 45 foals of whom 39 became runners with 24 winning at least one race. His most successful offspring was Victory Arch who won the Prince of Wales Plate in 1949.

To get a better flavour of the royal visit you can listen to the radio commentary from 1939 at <https://www.cbc.ca/archives/entry/the-1939-kings-plate-is-granted-a-royal-audience>. If you want to learn more about the Cobourg connection you will enjoy the *Watershed Magazine* article at <https://watershedmagazine.com/index.php/queen-mary-of-cobourg>

New Street Name Approved

Cobourg has never named a street, a park or anything else in honour of the renowned house builder Reuben Jackson.

As a winter project, former CDHS President Judith Goulin decided that Cobourg needed a street named after Jackson and began to investigate the municipal street naming process. Following the advice of Heritage Planner, Dave Johnson, an official letter was drafted on CDHS stationery and all of the local heritage groups were pleased to add their signatures to it: CDHS, ACO, Heritage Cobourg, and Sifton-Cook as well as Carol Fisher, Reuben Jackson's granddaughter.

Then the matter went before Cobourg's Council for a decision. It is a pleasure to report that Council approved that a future roadway will be named Reuben Jackson Street to celebrate the memory and the contributions of this esteemed citizen of Cobourg!



**The Corporation of the
Town of Cobourg**

Resolution

Moved By

Nicole Beatty

Last Name Printed

Beatty

Resolution No.:

077-19

Seconded By

adam Bureau

Last Name Printed

Adam Bureau

Council Date:

March 18, 2019

WHEREAS the Committee of the Whole considered a report from the Secretary of the Cobourg Heritage Advisory Committee to amend the Municipal Naming Policy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council support the recommendation from the Cobourg Heritage Advisory Committee to support the request from the Cobourg District Historical Society to have 'Jackson' added to the Municipal Naming Policy as a potential street name within the Town of Cobourg.

Member Matters

Fee Changes

Membership fees have been unchanged for many years. An increase in membership fees was approved at the CDHS Annual General Meeting. A single membership is now \$30, a family membership is \$50 and the guest fee remain unchanged at \$5.

Programme Committee

Diane Chin and the Programme Committee will be meeting over the summer to establish the programme for next year. If you would like to join this committee, please contact Diane at dianemchin@gmail.com or (289) 435-2015. If you would like to send some ideas, the committee would be delighted to receive them.

Announcements

Heritage Cramahe Presents

Heritage Cramahe is presenting a show titled: Old Cat Hollow to Lakeport: A Journey Through Time in the Colborne Art Gallery, until June 2. The gallery at 51 King Street East in Colborne is open Thursday through Sunday from 12-4pm. Admission is free.

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has scheduled several meetings of particular interest. LGS meetings are on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 9:00pm in the HTM Building, 1185 Elgin St. West, Cobourg (**Note the change of venue!**):

- **May:** Wendy MacDonald from Trenton LDS Family History Centre: *Family Search Basics*.
- **June:** Peter Brotherhood: *The role of the Parish Church of St. Peter's in the development of Upper Canada*

Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre

The Sifton Cook Heritage Centre will reopen on May 18, 2019. During May, June, September and October the Centre is open: Saturdays and holidays from 10am – 5pm. For July and August the Centre is open Wednesday to Saturday and on holidays from 10am – 5pm. From May to October they are open on Sundays from 1pm – 5pm. Visit their website at <https://www.cobourgmuseum.ca/> or phone (905)-373-7222 for further information.

House Tour: Architectural Gems of East Northumberland

The tour features tours of seven elegant houses and a church in Brighton, Colborne and Grafton from 10am to 4pm on Saturday June 8. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at 1812 Antiques, Old Danforth Rd., Grafton; Downey Pharmacy, 3 King St. E., Colborne; Lighthouse Books, 65 Main St., Brighton; Quinn's Blooms, 277 Division St., Cobourg; Holton Flowers, 62 Walton St., Port Hope; Acanthus Interiors, 46 John St., Port Hope or by calling Diane Chin at (289) 435-2015.



You are invited to the

**COBOURG
MUSEUM
FOUNDATION'S**

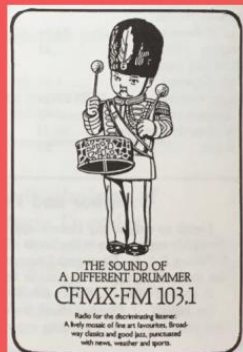
**Fundraising
Dinner**

Celebrating
**40 YEAR OF
CFMX IN COBOURG**

*"beautiful music
for a crazy world"*



GUEST SPEAKER
Mike Duncan CFMX
Cobourg boy
Long time radio personality



COBOURG BEST WESTERN
Wednesday, May 29, 2019

\$70 (\$20 tax receipt)

For tickets contact Mary:
cmftickets@yahoo.com
or
289-691-3845



First Report of Cobourg's Harbour

The first known, documented, visit to Cobourg's harbour was in Walter Butler's *Journal of an Expedition Along the North Shore of Lake Ontario* which describes his explorations of 1779.

Butler's estimates of distances do not appear to be very accurate and many of his landmarks are difficult to identify. His sentences leave much to be desired! The following transcription of his *Journal* was originally published in *The Canadian Historical Review* for 1920.

Have two Villages and where the Canadians in Winter send Traders— Express in Winter pass this¹ Lake on their way to Canada—Set off at one o'Clk, the wind of shore, row'd till two, sail'd till night, put into a deep Bay, found a Creek but could not get in, the Stream running very rapid, row'd further in the Bay and Encamp'd on the Beach, secured the Boat, from the fat fire Creek to this About 30 miles, the shore & particularly in the Bays Level and good Beaches for Boats to land—and the Points Bluff—the Lake Shoal near the Shore.

15th March—Put off as soon as day appeared and row'd till ten, Passed a long Point¹ which forms two Deep Bays, one on either side, of Ten miles to the Bottom—in the Bay to the West falls one of the Creeks before mentioned, Coming from near the small Lake Inhabited by the Messes-saugoes, in those two Bays Vessels might lay secure from Storms on the Lake in the West Bay sheltered from the South, E and NE winds, in the East from the West and N.W winds, the Point runs direct into the Lake for five Miles at least, you can't see the bottom of the East Bay in Passing Across from the End of the Point to the Main, this Bay has a fine River falling into it to the East, which forms a Basin And a Narrow Entrance into it, occasioned by a narrow neck or Sandy Beach between the Lake & River. At 11 o'Clock hoisted sail, the wind of shore, 1 o'Clock passed two Islands, the one called St. Nicholas,² the other never knew a name for,³ nor did know there was one off St. Nicholas's—St. Nicholas's is About $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in circumference, the other about half that size—St. Nicholas's is About 1 Mile from shore, the other much smaller & about 2 miles beyond it, directly off into the Lake—either of which would be a safe Retreat for Vessels in a Storm, those Islands about twelve Miles East of the forementioned Point forming the two Bays. When the wind is high the Boats go within two miles of the bottom of these Bays and drag the Boats over a Point of Land about 200 yards wide. The Distance from our Encampment to the point about 12 miles, from the Point to St. Nicholas's Island ten miles. Continued sailing till night, put in shore and Encamped on a low point where we found a fine Creek and good Harbour—in a Pond, for our Boat saw this morning a great number of Wild Fowl, from the Island to this 25 miles. the shore much the same as yesterday only the Points not so Bluff—

March 16th—Put of our Boat very early, much Ice which had form'd last night, the wind ahead and partly from the shore, which drove the Ice in the Lake—row'd till nine o'Clock, came up to the two Duck Islands & saw the two Islands called the false Ducks, about South from the Real

¹ Presqu' Isle.

² Or Nicholson Island.

³ Egg Island.

CDHS Executive for 2019 – 2020

President	Leona Woods	leonawoods@sympatico.ca (905) 372-7624
Past President	Alison Torrie Lapaire	alisontorrie@gmail.com (905) 269-8094
Vice-President	Carla Jones	cgrucelajones@gmail.com (289) 252-1684
Secretary	Carla Jones	cgrucelajones@gmail.com (289) 252-1684
Treasurer	George Kamphorst	gfkamphorst@gmail.com
Membership	Brian Murphy	brianincobourg@gmail.com (289) 634 2727
Programme Chairperson	Diane Chin	dianemchin@gmail.com (289) 435-2015
Programme Committee Members	Leona Woods Judith Goulin Randy Barber Gerry Brown Alison Torrie Lapaire	leonawoods@sympatico.ca jgoulin@hotmail.com randy.barber@bell.blackberry.net blackcat111343@gmail.com alisontorrie@gmail.com
Members-at- Large	Gerry Brown Randy Barber	blackcat21@sympatico.ca (905) 372-3984 randy.barber@bell.blackberry.net (905) 377-9421
Newsletter Editor	Ken Strauss	ken.strauss@pebblebeach.ca (905) 377-9854