

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society


May 2020 — Issue 313

Based on the advice from the Town of Cobourg and the HKPR
District Health Unit, Cobourg and District Historical Society meetings



are cancelled until further notice. We will email updates as the
situation changes. Visit <https://www.cobourg.ca/en/covid-19> for
information from the Town of Cobourg.

Future Cobourg Historical Society Programs

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 26, 2020 	Randy Barber	Wine and Cheese social at the Loft Discussion of Churchill followed by screening of <i>The Darkest Hour</i>

Websites

Our remaining meetings for this season are cancelled but there is an enormous amount of historical material online to enjoy. For hours of reading pleasure visit some of the following sites to enjoy fascinating, Cobourg-related, historical material:

- Details of the Juno Beach Centre with a special relevance to the CDHS Treasurer George Kamphorst: <https://www.junobeach.org/familystoryofolivia/>
- Story of a quarantine island in the middle of the Rideau River: <https://ottawarewind.com/2020/04/19/virus-bridge-a-forgotten-1800s-iron-bridge-that-carried-plagued-citizens-to-isolation-island/>
- The Archives of Ontario has a wealth of material. Their website was discussed at the recent online presentation of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/index.aspx>
- Video about the restoration of Victoria Hall: <youtube.com/watch?v=a-OF2lpcXs8>
- Cobourg Museum Foundation: <northumberlandheritage.ca>
- Ontario cemetery records: <ocfa.islandnet.com/>
- Ontario Historical Plaques: <www.ontarioplaques.com>
- Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: <aontario.ca>

If you are interested in Cobourg's government, both current and historical Council minutes, bylaws and other material is searchable at: <cobourg.civicweb.net/Portal/VirtualLibrary.aspx>.

Don't forget that the Cobourg and District Historical Society website (<cdhs.ca>) has all CDHS newsletters since 2010, many issues of *Historical Review*, hundreds of vintage Cobourg related postcards and several dozen recordings of interviews with veterans ranging from WWII vets to those who served in Afghanistan.

The Origin of Cobourg's Street Names

With the current pandemic many of us are walking through Cobourg neighbourhoods for exercise or to relieve the boredom of staying at home. You may find it interesting to learn of the origins of the names of local streets. The following is extracted from *Cobourg 1798-1948* by Edwin C. Guillet.

It is always a matter of regret when the names of streets are altered, for a great deal of fascinating local history is usually bound up in them. While the origin of some names is controversial, an accurate reason has come down to us for the naming of most of Cobourg's streets. A few are self-explanatory. The reasons for the names Division, Station, First, Second, Third, Elm, Lake, Bay, and Water are apparent from their locale. Elm is now in part the property of the Canadian General Electric Company, which has added greatly to the town's industrial life.

Albert Street was named in honour of Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. Similarly Alice Street commemorates her daughter Princess Alice, and Queen and Victoria streets the sovereign herself. On Ann Street there lived in very early times Dr. Morton, who occupied the only house on the street; and the street was named Ann after his housekeeper.

Several streets were named in honour of governors, particularly in the eighteen forties. Sir Charles Bagot, Lord Elgin, Lord Sydenham, Lord Durham, and Lord Monck are those commemorated by Cobourg streets. Of a similar origin is Blake Street, named after Hume Blake, first Chancellor of Upper Canada and father of the Honourable Edward Blake.

Early residents, most of whom have now no descendants [*sic*] in Cobourg, will be remembered as long as the street names remain. Where the Baptist Church now stands was once the carpentry shop of Joseph Ball, and his name was given to the Street. Bond Street was similarly named after William Bond, father of George Bond whom many citizens will remember. Boulton Street was named after the Hon. George S. Boulton, Legislative Councillor and original owner of Northumberland Hall, subsequently the residence of Henry Fitzhugh. Buck Street took its name from Elijah Buck, who had a log hut on the creek as early as 1808. Buck once kept tavern where the old Commercial Hotel later stood, now the site of the Capitol Theatre. Similarly Burnham Street recalls the Hon. Asa Burnham, noted early settler near the old Court House, now the Counties' [*sic*] Home for the Aged; and Burk Street took its name from Thomas Burk, shoemaker and one-time governor of the Jail, whose grandsons Richard and William Burk were well-known about town when the writer was a boy.

Quite a character three-quarters of a century ago was “Dacent Billy” Buchanan, commonly called “the Dacent Man” from his own pronunciation of the word. He kept a hotel and saloon on the east side of Division Street just north of the present *Sentinel-Star* office, and Buchanan Street was named after him.

Caddy Street honours Edward C. Caddy, land surveyor from 1847 to the end of the century and an artist of considerable skill. The Caddy home was on the southeast corner of Walton and James streets and we reproduce in this book one of his best paintings obtained from his daughter who died a few years ago at an advanced age.

Charles Street is believed to commemorate Charles Perry, son of the Hon. Ebenezer Perry whose daughters died at the century mark a short time ago.

Cobourg Street needs no other explanation than that for the town, but the extra “o”, which is not in the German origin, was no doubt merely an error in spelling – a common occurrence in proper names in the period of pioneering.

Church Street was in honour of St. Peter’s, while Chapel Street recalls that the place of worship of Methodists could not in those days be dignified by the name “church” not, certainly, by the “best” people!

Proceeding more or less alphabetically, we find that Clyde, St. Andrew’s, Tay, Tweed and Forth streets relate to Scotland. Tay Street was recently closed and sold to the Canadian General Electric Company in 1947.

College Street commemorates Old Victoria at its north end, since 1902 the Ontario Hospital. University Avenue has the same origin, but it was long called Seminary Street from the fact that Victoria was a secondary school or seminary called Upper Canada Academy before it achieved college status in 1841-42.

Cottesmore Avenue was so named because of an early residence built there by William Weller, famous stage-coach proprietor. It was located about where the Rowe stables were much later built. The Weller home for many years was at the mouth of the Factory Creek, later the Sartoris residence where a daughter of an American president, General Grant, long lived.

Covert Street recalls Colonel John Covert, father of Henry Covert. The Covert farm was outside the town, just east of the Kingston Crossing, and the woods to the south of the

railway tracks was long a favourite haunt in the spring, for the trilliums and violets were particularly luxuriant.

D'Arcy Street commemorates Colonel D'Arcy Boulton, Mayor of Cobourg and prominent in military and railway affairs. His residence, later occupied by the Dumbles and Speers, was at the southwest corner of D'Arcy and King Streets, across from George S. Boulton's.

Fraser Street takes its name from Alexander Fraser, one-time member of the Legislative Assembly for West Northumberland; while Green Street recalls a noted bass soloist in St. Peter's choir. Heath Street is named after the mother-in-law of D'Arcy Boulton, a daughter of Brigadier-General Heath of the Indian Army. Havelock Street is in honour of Sir Henry Havelock, famous for the relief of Lucknow on September 25, 1857.

Furnace Street was so named because William McLennan once conducted a foundry there which the townspeople usually called "the furnace".

Hibernia Street, as any Irishman will tell you, is in honour of the poetical name of Ould Ireland. Perhaps the oldest building in Cobourg is the old Minaker home across from St. Peter's Church. There "Squire" Robert Henry, himself a noted fur-trader, and nephew of the great explorer and trader Alexander Henry, had a private bank in the eighteen-twenties. The "Squire" married a sister of Bishop Bethune, long incumbent of St. Peter's.

It might have been assumed that George Street was named in honour of the monarchs who preceded Queen Victoria, but actually the street seems to commemorate George Strong, who kept tavern on the site of the British Hotel. "George's Corner" and then George Street resulted. Similarly James Street recalls that James Brown was once the only resident upon it.

John Street was named after the Rev. John Beatty, prominent Methodist long connected with Victoria College. The Beatty home still stands immediately west of the old College, and his son, Dr. John Beatty, was long a prominent and public spirited citizen of the town. Dr. Beatty's mother lived a most remarkable life. She accompanied her first husband, Captain Kemp, through numerous battles of the War of 1812, and in 1815 was in Paris before and after the Battle of Waterloo. She outlived her second husband by 23 years, dying in 1887 at the remarkable age of 105.

King Street took its name from George IV, who was king in the eighteen twenties. In the first plan of Cobourg, made in 1825 "on the 5th of June in the 5th year of the reign of our

Sovereign Lord George IV", it is called Front Road or King's Street. A map of seven years later calls it King Street or "the York high road", and it has often been called Main Street. .

The founder of McGill University is recalled by McGill Street, for Peter McGill was engaged in the wholesale dry goods business and had a large trade in Cobourg.

Matthew Street commemorates Matthew Williams, a carpenter, the father of M. B. Williams of the old Dunham House; while Margaret Street recalls the Christian name of Mrs. H. J. Ruttan, whose husband was one-time publisher of the Sentinel Star.

On Nunn Street once lived a fisherman, James Nunn, and on Orr Street a carpenter of that name.

Mill Street, to the north of the town, connects Division and Ontario streets, but it has long been closed from the washing-out of the bridge. On the creek was located one of the earliest mills in the district, run by the Whites. The millpond, of which some of the banks may still be seen, was just west of Division Street. The mill started as a grist-mill, was then a distillery, then a grist-mill again, and ended its days as a sawmill.

Ontario Street led to the lake, while the Orange Lodge is believed to have had a meeting-place on Orange Street in very early times. But few now living would hazard a guess at the origin of Park Street, but the fact is that the site of the old Crossen Car Works, north of University Avenue near the railway, was once Victoria Square or Park. There in 1853 was turned the first sod of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway.

Perry Street recalls Senator Ebenezer Perry, whose home, among the oldest in Cobourg, is occupied by Dr. Lloyd. Robert Sinclair kept a saloon in early times, just north of the old Taunton House on Division Street south, and his name was given to Sinclair Street. Roe Street was named after Roe Buck, son of one of the earliest settlers.

Spencer Street recalls Sheriff Spencer of the old Newcastle District, which comprised Northumberland, Durham, Peterborough, and Victoria counties. He was a large landowner, especially east of Division Street, and his benefactions included the gift of the sites of Victoria College and the old Methodist Church, now Trinity United.

No citizen now living recalls the creek from a spring which gave the name to Spring Street. It extended from the neighbourhood of the old Scotch Kirk at William Street and University

Avenue to Covert Street at the rear of the King Street stores, but has been filled in for ninety years or more. When the old Cobourg and Peterborough Railway was opened in the fifties the name Railroad Street became an alternative.

All the remaining streets at the end of the alphabet commemorate early inhabitants. John Stuart was once a resident of that street. Joseph Swayne, a shoemaker, had his shop where the Gummow house was later built on Swayne Street. His son Robert was a very popular captain- in the Fire Brigade in both Cobourg and Peterborough, and died in the latter town early in 1855 at the age of 27. William Tremaine's name was given to the street because he once lived in its largest residence, the Weller or Sartoris house. Trevor Street took its name from Edward Trevor Boulton, son of George S. Boulton, and Walton Street was named after his second wife. White street was named for Charles White, mill-owner, while Nathan Williams, who once owned a good deal of property in the vicinity, gave his name to William Street.

Some old maps and directories give Cobourg street-names other than these, but in most cases they were short-lived or merely erroneous. Particularly in the map-picture of 1874 are there variations in names. East is given as the name of Henry, Colborne in place of Queen, Boulton for King, Boswell for Perry, and Fourth for Forth. There are also several unoccupied streets, among them William for the second street north of the tracks, between Division and George, and Wellington running north from Spencer in the rear of old Victoria College. Shown also is Jay Street, running west of Ontario near the lake, and Princess and Clare, west from George just below the tracks, largely occupied a few years later by foundries, etc., of the Crossen Car Works. Similarly, in a *Directory* of 1857-58, Hewet Street is mentioned, and as the Hewets lived near the corner of George and Covert. It may have been an alternative name for Covert Street, frequently called Tannery Lane because of Kennedy's Tannery. Court Street, also referred to, was probably a small street near the old Court House.

With such origins and old-time associations it is to be hoped that Cobourg's citizens will always resist any efforts to change or modernize street-names.

The Year of the Starling Invasion in CobourgJ

Judith Goulin

1952 is enshrined in Cobourg history as the Year of the Starling Invasion. During the summer of that year great numbers of European Starlings descended over the town like a black cloud.

Although starlings often dine in the country by day, at dusk they become sociable townies that return en masse to roost for the night. Cobourg's mature trees in the east end found great favour with these glossy black creatures. Cobourgites complained that their cars, their sidewalks and even their clothes were taking direct hits from above. Every day they scrubbed white splats off their cars and sidewalks. Unquestionably *Sturnus Vulgaris* lives up to his Latin name.

The rasping sound that one starling makes is just annoying, but the sound of thousands of starlings settling down for the night is like thousands of fingernails scraping on blackboards at the same time. Cobourg residents tried everything to scare the birds away. Morley Cane, who owned a loudspeaker truck, drove around town streets at night with speakers blaring.

In desperation, town council declared all-out war by passing a bylaw that made it legal for citizens to shoot the annoying birds. Sally McCaig, who has lived on College Street for many years, recalls watching her next-door neighbour, Carena Jex, shoot starlings with her pistol!

Of course the shootout was like trying to eradicate every mosquito in the land... not much chance of that happening. Imagine the August evening scene along College and Chapel Streets with a bunch of John Wayne types prowling the streets with guns in their hands, looking up at the trees and down at their feet to avoid stepping in starling droppings. It must have been quite a scene in conservative Cobourg of the Fifties!

After the starlings mourned their losses, they got on with the business of procreation the next year and as you will see they are prolific breeders. Prior to 1890 there were no starlings in Canada, or anywhere else in North America. Then a dreamer named Schieffelin, a great fan of Shakespeare, had the romantic dream of introducing every bird mentioned in the Bard's works into our continent. He imported 100 starlings from Europe and released them in New York's Central Park. Today, 130 years later, there are over 300 million European Starlings in North America! They are omnivorous eaters that devour our crops and fruit trees and are

able to adapt to almost any environment. A bird expert commented dryly that: “Starlings do nothing in moderation”.

Although you might not see starlings in vast numbers around Cobourg, they are definitely here. Stand under the portico of Victoria Hall on just about any evening of the year at dusk. Listen for the sounds above you. That is the cacophonous sound of hundreds of starlings settling in for the night.

Starlings have discovered what we have known for a long time: Cobourg is a great place to live.

This is an updated version of an Opinion Shaper column Judith wrote for the Cobourg News in 2003. Special thanks to the late John Jolie who provided the inspiration for this story when he was editor of the CDHS newsletter.

75th Anniversary of V.E. Day: The Liberation of Holland

Liberation of the Netherlands
Victory in Europe (V-E) Day

75
1945-2020

Libération des Pays-Bas
Le jour de la Victoire en Europe



VETERANS.GC.CA

Canada

On May 6, 2020 Cobourg was on the CTV National News. The feature captured a celebration of one of the few remaining veterans who helped liberate Holland 75 years ago at the end of WWII. Dave Ramsey is 98 and has participated in many parades in his time He was in Holland on the 60th anniversary of the liberation for the celebrations of thanksgiving that the Dutch people hold each year to honour the Canadians who brought them food and freedom.

He watched the parade this time as the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 133, a bag piper, citizens of Cobourg in decorated cars and trucks waved flags, honked horns and honoured Ramsey's service in WWII.

The number of men and women who volunteered to serve in WWII from the Cobourg area was impressive, and the lists of the Cobourg citizens who served are posted in the Foyer of Victoria Hall. The illuminations were done by A. J. Casson, one of the Group of Seven, and the work was restored by the Victoria Hall Volunteers so that the names will continue to be an important part of Cobourg's history.



This year the 75th anniversary V.E. Day celebration marking Victory in Europe on May 8, 1945 is somewhat subdued because of the world wide pandemic. But 75 years ago, the streets in London, England and towns and cities across Canada were teeming with people, jubilant at the news that the war was over.



Overseas, the soldiers' reactions were often more subdued. As Andy Anderson, (Toronto, First Canadian Parachute Battalion) reported: "We were in Wismar, Germany, when it was announced on the radio that the war was over. It was just another day for us. I remember talking to some guys that night... And they didn't want to get drunk or throw things around in the streets. They just seriously thought about family for the first time. "

In all, some 1.1 million **Canadians** served in the **Canadian Army**, Royal **Canadian Navy**, Royal

Canadian Air Force, and in forces across the Commonwealth. In all 42,042 men and women of Canada's armed forces died during the war: 22,917 in the Canadian Army, 17,101 in the RCAF and 2,024 in the RCN. In addition 54,414 were wounded and 8,995 were taken prisoner.

Cobourg's Burge brothers — Ves, Beaner, Bob and Fred — were more fortunate than many. They all survived. On the back of their photograph (right) is written: "This is a service record of the four Burge brothers during World War II. They served from July 1940 to September 1945. This means an accumulated 20 years of service. Four years for each brother means 16 years in total overseas action. We were anti-craft which



means that our service in Britain was also in action. After Britain we served almost two years in Italy, Holland, etc. To add to this Fred Burge Sr. served in World War I for 2 years and was wounded. Mr. Burge, Sr. also paid for a hernia operation himself so he could volunteer. To make this a family affair let us not forget three of our sisters' husbands who also served 10 to 12 years overseas" They served from July 1940 to September 1945 and returned home to raise their families and live with their memories of the war.

"At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."

Not many veterans talked about their wartime experiences, even with members of their own families, and today, many of the WWII veterans are in their 90s or older. The Memory Project was established to capture some of their stories for future generations. Go to <http://www.thememoryproject.com> and you can search for stories of Cobourg veterans. Also, you can listen to dozens of interviews with Cobourg veterans from WWII to Afghanistan at <https://cdhs.ca/resources/veteran-interviews>

Member Matters

The Cobourg and District Historical Society customarily holds its Annual General Meeting as part of our usual April meeting. There we elect officers, report on CDHS finances and review the year's highlights. Due to COVID-19 the planned meeting is impossible. Therefore the current officers have agreed to serve until we can again have meetings. If you have any concerns with this decision or want a financial report prior to our AGM, please contact our President, Leona Woods, or our Treasurer, George Kamphorst. Their contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.

All 2019-2020 memberships will be extended to compensate for cancelled meetings. Unfortunately, we have no way to deliver Leona's cookies!

Assuming no significant pandemic relief in the coming months we are investigating holding "virtual meetings". Please let you executive know if this possibility interests you.

Meet Me!

Doug Walton, one of our newest members suggested that a brief introduction from new members would be good. This seems a great way for us oldies to become acquainted with our newbies. Don't be bashful; submissions from new or old members would be great! The following is from Doug:

After the last newsletter and considering our new isolated Corona virus state, I wrote to Ken Strauss to suggest that it would be interesting to read autobiographies of all of our club members. I'm sure all of us have had interesting and challenging lives and careers with a few achievements along the way.

Well, open your mouth and you get in trouble. Ken asked me to start by submitting my own autobiography — so after taking a deep breath — here goes.

I am 71 years old, retired and living a very comfortable life. I was born in the small Northern Ontario town of Kapuskasing. An idyllic life for a kid growing up with freedom to roam and do mostly whatever we liked during the summer or after school. I thought minus 53°F was a normal winter happening. That temp occurred in 1953, so is an easy number to remember. For all you young people out there that converts to minus 47°C.

When we were kids we used to run down by a creek that was about the size of the Ganaraska River or sometimes we played at the rapids of a much bigger and dangerous River (the Kapuskasing River). Mom: "How did you get your boots and pants so wet?" Doug: "Oh, I must have slipped in a puddle." That kept me out of trouble. We were adventuresome and not without getting into some trouble from time to time ... putting the railway pumper car on the tracks and going for a great fun-filled ride was not a great idea!

My mother was hired to start the Children's Aid Society in Kapuskasing. She had excellent skills and twenty years later she had opened up Children's services almost as far as North Bay and as far north as the Indigenous communities along the shores of James Bay and Hudson's Bay. Over the years we had a house full of overnight kids moving on to new homes. That was a good lesson in life for me as a young child. I was always envious of my Mom's rides in a float plane back then...but have managed to have a few rides as an adult.

My father's grandparents have a significant historical background but he certainly lived up to his own challenges. He was born almost blind and became (as far as I know) the first registered blind person in Canada to get a university degree. He ran a very large cafeteria for the CNIB in the Kapuskasing Paper Mill and then added several other catering businesses of his own. Starting at 8 years old, I helped my Dad at the Arena Canteen and then worked hard

for him up to age 20 when I left 'Kap'. So these are the two people who got me started in this world and, I like to think, sent me in the right direction.

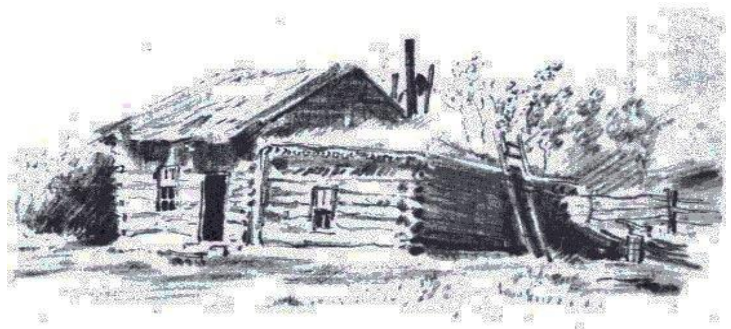
History: As I was growing up, there was always talk about the Weldon Family history in Saskatchewan. My great grandparents stopped in Bowmanville for a few years after emigrating from Ireland in 1870. George and Kate Weldon were looking for a better career when George got hired to help start the Dominion Telegraph Line in Saskatchewan. This would become Canada's first communication link between the East and West coast of our country. George was hired because Kate had learned Morse code and knew how to operate a telegraph key. Apparently no one advocated for Women's Rights in those days! Equality? Not!

George and Kate left Bowmanville (ironically I ended up teaching high school there for many years) and travelled by train through Windsor to Minneapolis/St. Paul which was the end of the rail line. A stage coach took them to Winnipeg and from there they arranged their own transportation further west.

A Red River cart pulled by oxen and led by two indigenous guides set out with Kate, George and their two year old daughter "Birdie". I have the compass that took them to coordinates on a map where they started what became Saskatchewan's first town. At that time Saskatchewan was known as the North West Territories and there were only a few government forts in the West such as Fort Carleton and Fort Edmonton.

This is the home they built— little more than a shack.

That 'oldest town in Saskatchewan' is the town of Humboldt. Tragically, every Canadian now knows about the bus crash that happened near there a couple of years ago.



George and Kate only lived in Humboldt for four or five years. Kate froze in that shack while relaying telegraph messages on to the next station. The signal would drop as the message travelled the line. The operator would listen to the message coming in and key it back out to send the message on. How primitive! This was the #1 leading new technology of that time. Kate froze her legs and feet often and later ended up in a wheelchair.

George wasn't lying around doing nothing. When he first arrived he cut and hauled poplar poles to where the telegraph line was to be installed. Unfortunately, there was nothing better

than poplar trees in Saskatchewan and these poles would regularly snap off in the winter cold. Buffalo also loved to rub against the poles causing more broken poles. George travelled miles from Humboldt and spent many a freezing cold night trying to stay warm under a buffalo hide and squeezed between the two horses that pulled his work wagon. (That must have smelled great, too!)

Sadly, after two years in Humboldt, George and Kate's young daughter became ill and died. No doubt her illness was something that could have easily been treated today. George and Kate were offered a job on the Canadian National Railway so they moved south and founded Saskatchewan's second oldest town called Grenfell. At that time the telegraph was moved to follow the new railroad. My grandfather Charles was the first child born in the town of Grenfell. Both Humboldt and Grenfell have very good local museums and they contain wonderful displays that celebrate the Weldons. I am very proud of all that.

So how could I not become a history teacher? Well, that part of my career took quite a while to manifest itself. Because I began working for my father in his catering business at such a young age and worked many hours during high school, my education took a back burner and I did not take school all that seriously. Maybe I just goofed off a bit, too! I did go off to university after Grade 13, but dropped out after a year. I worked in the paper mill in Kapuskasing, got married to Louise and went to Teachers' College in North Bay. Unfortunately there were very few teaching jobs available in 1973 so we moved to Ottawa where I worked for the government for a year but ended up back in Kap working as a welder and then a pipe fitter. I didn't like working in the mill, although the pay was excellent! We moved back to Ottawa where I finished university at the age of 29.

My mother asked me to take over the family catering business in Sundridge, Ontario, so I ran that business for 5 years. At age 35 I was hired as the Director of the Kapuskasing Association for Community Living, so I moved back to Kap with my wife and two children. I applied my degree in Social Work with my business experience and enjoyed a rewarding and challenging career there until 1988. My excellent staff and I were very proud to put together a program for Community Living that won an award for the best program in Ontario. The services provided in Kapuskasing are still excellent to this day. Guess they didn't need me!

Kapuskasing at 40-below in winter? There were greener fields to pursue and at age 40, I landed a teaching job at Thomas Gillbard Public School in Cobourg. From there I moved to teaching young offenders at Brookside and then on to Bowmanville High School for the last 16 years of my working career. While at Bowmanville, I worked in Special Education and then became a history teacher. That was the most fun and interesting part of any career I ever had! Although history was indeed the best, all teaching was a privilege. I loved the job and I think the kids loved my classes. We debated, watched movies, worked hard. We travelled to

Toronto, Ottawa, Washington and New York City. I firmly believe that kids these days are not a lot worse than kids used to be! You just have to get down and understand who and what these kids are and build on that. Hey — two of those “kids” were my own — and now three more of those “kids” are my grandkids!

I have always had an interest in reading, mostly non-fiction and mainly history and geology. Hey, does anyone want to know a story about a big rock? (Just kidding!) I travelled through Europe and the Middle East when I was 23. Masada in Israel and the Dead Sea are fascinating. Syrians in 1972 were the kindest, most caring people I have ever met. They did not deserve their fate. I’ve been to Machu Pichu in Peru. What a site to see! More recently my wife and I made a trip south to Texas and back and forth across the American Southwest. You will never see as many spectacular natural wonders as there are in those U.S. National Parks. Of course there is a geological explanation for the beauty of this area.

Life is Grand. Let’s get through the Corona Virus!

Thanks.
Doug Weldon

Announcements

Canceled!

All events that are normally listed here have been postponed or permanently cancelled. Some, however, are planned to be available as online sessions. Most organizations have websites so verify event status prior to making your plans!

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