



# Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and  
District Historical Society

November 2013 — Issue 261

## *Lest We Forget*

November is the month of Remembrance. On Tuesday November 26, Cobourg born Dave Kerr and his grandson Max Jenkins will join us at CDHS to share their story of how they observe Remembrance Day together every year. Dave's father, Fred Kerr, and several other Cobourg men, including the late Cy Winter, a long-time member of our historical society, served together in World War II. Their presentation will take us from WW II until the present. Max, at nine years old, is perhaps the youngest speaker ever at a CDHS meeting. Even more remarkable is the fact that he and his grandfather Dave have already observed seven Remembrance Days together!

The meeting will be in the usual location in Victoria Hall's Citizens' Forum. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Coffee and cookies will be available before the meeting. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Anyone who would like a ride to the meeting or is willing to drive others should contact Elaine Rosetter-Saunders at 905-372-5958.



# Our Previous Meeting

## *Re-enacting History*

Our October 22 meeting featured Chris Robins, a local teacher and avid history buff. In addition to his full time job as a teacher at Cobourg District Collegiate Institute West, Chris and his family participate in numerous historical re-enactments. Many consider that a historical re-enactment is simply a sophisticated game of cowboys and Indians for big boys. Chris explained that while dressing in period costumes is a fun aspect, re-enactments are actually much



more. Some participants extensively study clothing – colours, styles and materials – and produce exact replicas. Others become experts on the operation of weaponry including swords, rifles and cannons. Manuals of military drill, campsite organization and military strategy fascinate others. And, of course, the camaraderie

of living in a tent and facing death while re-fighting important battles attracts most.



## Our Next Meeting

As usual there will not be a meeting in December.

The January meeting will be our Second Annual Trivia Night on **Friday** January 24, 2014 at 7:30pm at the Legion Village Pub (111 Hibernia St., Cobourg). There will be prizes, free nibbles and cash bar. Tickets will be available to members for \$2 at the November meeting.

## Remembrance Day 2013



As is common, Remembrance Day was wet and sombre. Many of our members are the fortunate ones – too young to have been active combatants in WWII and too old to serve in Afghanistan. We are the first generation in a hundred years not to have been embroiled in a major conflict for King and country. Our parents fought in the Boer War, WWI, WWII and in Korea; thousands died.



## The Cath Oberholtzer History Award

After Cath's untimely death in 2012, the CDHS executive members felt that it was of paramount importance to honour her memory. Cath was passionate about The Cobourg and District Historical Society and unselfish about the time she devoted to it. So the Programme Committee came up with the idea of creating an award in her name to be given in 2013 to a graduating student from each of Cobourg's high schools: Cobourg and District Collegiate West, Cobourg and District Collegiate East and St. Mary Catholic High School.

The award was intended to honour Cath's memory, to recognize a student's interest in history, but not necessarily the one with the highest marks; and to encourage further studies in History.



The society accepted donations and carried out several fund-raising initiatives. Each student was given a copy of Cath's book, *Dream Catchers: Legend, Lore and Artifacts*, a cheque for \$100.00, a brief biography about Cath and an award certificate.



**Holly Hoffman Glover with History Department Head Christopher Robins**

Holly Hoffman Glover from CDCI West was the recipient of this award. Christopher Robins, History Department Head, had this to say about her: "Holly is an avid student of History. Throughout high school she excelled in every history course available. She participated in historical re-enactments. Holly showed herself to be an enthusiastic and adept debater and writer. Presently she is continuing her studies in History."



**Dina Tourlas with History Teacher Nicholas Storm**

Dina Tourlas, a student at CDCI East received the Cath award. Erin MacKenzie, Guidance Department Head, spoke highly of Dina: "Dina is one of our International Baccalaureate students and an excellent and passionate History student. She will be honoured to receive this award." Nicholas Storm, her Extended Essay Advisor for the IB program, commented that Dina's essay, externally marked, received one of the few "A"s that were given out. The graduation ceremony was held in Hagen Hall, named to commemorate a beloved principal, the late Charles [Charlie] Hagen, husband of our long-time member, Marion Hagen.

Kian Sabzevari, from St. Mary Catholic High School, won the award. Judy Cross, a member of the Programme Committee, presented the Cath Oberholtzer History Award to him. Gayle Severin, Secretary, commented that: "Kian is a hard-working and conscientious student who takes a great deal of pride in his work. He is a consummate player, more interested in group goals than in individual gain. Kian is very committed and interested in current events, social justice and thoroughly understands the importance of history and planning future societal goals." Kian is currently studying History at Ryerson University.



**Kian Sabzevari, St. Mary's Catholic High School**

The Cobourg and District Historical Society is honoured to have been instrumental in commemorating our dear friend and colleague, Cath Oberholtzer, by giving this award in her name to three exceptional students, Holly Hoffman Glover, Dina Tourlas and Kian Sabzevari.

## The Origin of Cobourg's Street Names

*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.

*To be continued as space permits.*

## Announcements

### ***Small Town Radio***

Small Town Radio is looking for programs created by local community personalities and groups, and the CDHS is very interested in participating.

What a great opportunity we have to present Northumberland’s history in a fun way. Contact Carla Jones at (289)252-1684 or email [cgrucelajones@gmail.com](mailto:cgrucelajones@gmail.com) if you would like to participate in bringing our history to the air.



### ***Port Hope and District Historical Society***

Monthly Meetings are held at the Ganaraska Conservation Authority Building (GRCA) - Hwy 28 north of Port Hope across from the Comfort Inn (Easton’s 28 Service Centre) on the third Wednesday of October, November, March, April and May from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, unless otherwise arranged.

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

Members’ Show and Tell on Thursday, November 14 from 6:30-9:00 PM, Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library. On Thursday, December 12, Stephanie Wright of Timelines Research Co., will show some of the work that they have undertaken. The December meeting will be in the Port Hope Public Library instead of the Cobourg Public Library.

## Membership Matters

### ***New Members***

We would like to welcome Marie Jones, her husband David Haldenby and their daughter Madison recently joined as a family.

### ***Newsletter Delivery***

Carla Jones would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to assist with delivering our newsletters. If you might be willing to help please contact Carla at [cgrucelajones@gmail.com](mailto:cgrucelajones@gmail.com) or (289) 252-1684 for details of what is required.

## CDHS Executive for 2013 – 2014

President	Ken Strauss	<a href="mailto:ken.strauss@sympatico.ca">ken.strauss@sympatico.ca</a> (905) 377-9854
Vice-President	Judith Goulin	<a href="mailto:jgoulin@hotmail.com">jgoulin@hotmail.com</a> (905) 372-7684
Secretary	Carla Jones	<a href="mailto:cgrucelajones@gmail.com">cgrucelajones@gmail.com</a> (289) 252-1684
Treasurer	Marilyn Harris	<a href="mailto:robertharris7456@gmail.com">robertharris7456@gmail.com</a> (905) 373-7024
Membership	Alma Draper	<a href="mailto:adraper8@cogeco.ca">adraper8@cogeco.ca</a> (905) 372-5839
Programme	Alison Torrie	<a href="mailto:alisontorrie@gmail.com">alisontorrie@gmail.com</a> (905) 269-8094
Member-at-Large	Leona Woods	<a href="mailto:leonawoods@sympatico.ca">leonawoods@sympatico.ca</a> (905) 372-7624
Newsletter Editor	Ken Strauss	<a href="mailto:ken.strauss@sympatico.ca">ken.strauss@sympatico.ca</a> (905) 377-9854
Past President	David Gregory	