



Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District
Historical Society

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Stories of the Rum Runners to Rochester during the Crazy Days of Prohibition

Noted Belleville author, C.W. (Bill) Hunt will present a slide show and talk about the colourful characters who ran booze from ports along the north shore of Lake Ontario to Rochester and other ports on the American side, during the crazy years of American Prohibition.

He will tell tall but true tales about characters such as Will Bill Sheldon *aka* Wild Bill Sheridan *aka* John Woover — none of which were his real name. He will also talk about the King of the Lake Ontario Rum Runners – Ben Kerr. Both Bill and Ben died under mysterious circumstances on Lake Ontario. And then there was King Cole who ruled Main Duck Island which was a jumping-off place for the rum runners. And the Friendly Fisherman, Bruce Lowery, from Prince Edward County who outwitted and outlasted them all. The mystery of his cash-stuffed briefcase, years after the end of Prohibition, still confounds us.

Hunt's career does not include rum running but does include almost everything else. He is the author of seven books, was a history teacher in Kingston, Peterborough and Belleville, owned bars in Bancroft and Orillia and worked for some years in the financial industry.

Join us on Tuesday, October 25, 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. Unfortunately a rum tasting is not included. Admission including refreshments is \$5 for non-members. Membership is \$25 for individuals and \$30 for a family. All are welcome, so bring a friend!

Our Previous Meeting

The Good, the Bad and the Weird

Chris Robins presented an account of typical medical care for local residents in the 1800s. He came equipped with the tools for bloodletting, amputation and even a trepan for brain surgery. More important for the typical patient were the herbal teas and natural remedies for such maladies as corns, chilblains, rheumatism and even syphilis. A few recipes were made up by Chris but few attendees were brave enough to try them. Unfortunately none of the common remedies of the times which often included alcohol or laudanum (tincture of opium) were provided.



Surgical instruments: Bone saw and trepan for penetrating the skull to relieve pressure from swelling.

Chris has been a History teacher in Cobourg for over 30 years and his family has lived in the area for almost 200 years. His interest in early medical practices stems from being a participant in War of 1812 re-enactments for over 10 years.



Future Meetings

<p>Tuesday, October 25, 2016, Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>C. W. Hunt <i>Stories of the Rum Runners to Rochester During the Crazy Days of Prohibition</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, November 22, 2016 Art Gallery of Northumberland, Third Floor of Victoria Hall, 7 :00pm</p>	<p>Tour of gallery show <i>Northumberland Went to War: 1914–1918</i> and Dan Buchanan <i>Northumberland at War.</i> Refreshments will be served.</p>
<p>Tuesday, January 24, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Stewart Richardson <i>Champlain's Route to Lake Ontario</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, February 28, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Todd Denault <i>The Greatest Game: The Career of Jimmy Roberts, Gentleman</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Katie Hull <i>Heritage Lost and Found: Managing the Cultural Heritage of the 407E Corridor</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, April 25, 2017 Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, 7:30pm</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting of the Cobourg and District Historical Society followed by Richard Randall <i>Historic Cobourg Postcards</i></p>
<p>Tuesday, May 30, 2017 Ballroom, Victoria Hall 7:00pm <i>This meeting is open to the public without charge.</i></p>	<p>Alison Torrie Lapaire <i>The Canadian Flag—What a History!</i> Presentation will be followed by entertainment and refreshments.</p>

Membership Matters

Historical Review

The 32nd edition of the Cobourg and District Historical Society's *Historical Review* is now available from our website at <http://cdhs.ca/resources/historical-reviews>. If you prefer a hardcopy version, bound copies are available for \$12.50 each. Please contact Leona Woods at leonawoods@sympatico.ca or (905)372-7824 to order your printed copy.

New Member

Please join me in welcoming our newest member Tony Crosgrey

Cobourg, 1867

Ken Willcocks

The group who rebuilt the Crossen iron ore car now has a new project. They are building a scale model of Cobourg as it appeared in 1867. The group is presently building the base for the model out of two 4 foot X 8 foot sandwich panels which can be separated for display at different locations. It will be ready for the 1st of July 2017 which is Canada's 150th birthday.

The model will be based on a scale best suited for our panels and is about 1mm = 10 feet or 1:3000. Our activity will first be to lay down the roads as recorded by Sanford Fleming. We already have a standard house and it will be followed by larger buildings. We suspect that many will be surprised to learn how small our commercial core on King Street was in 1867.



Peter Dullard and Henry Heideman, Project Leader, prepare the base for the model.



Ken Willcocks examines shaped wooden strips made by George Parker. The strips will be cut into short lengths to form tiny houses for the model town.

In addition to the model itself we are hoping that others would be willing to find the purpose of especially commercial buildings and those who owned and/or lived in them. Many local families have relatives who will have written or verbal information.

Our group works every Wednesday from 9:00 until 11:00 am at 280 Tay Street which is close to where Ontario Street meets Lake Ontario. You are welcome to drop in and watch our progress and hopefully offer information about those who lived and worked in Cobourg in 1867. We have to learn who was Mayor and where he lived! Everyone knows the Crossen house on George Street – or do you?

As with the previous Ore Car Project we are not requesting taxpayer assistance. However, we welcome the generosity of individuals.

Announcements

Cobourg Museum Foundation Annual Dinner

The 2016 Annual Dinner of the Cobourg Museum Foundation is on Wednesday, October 19 at the Cobourg Lions Centre. Roderick Benns, an award winning journalist steeped in Canadian history and particularly its leadership. Benns is the founder of Fireside Publishing House and author of the first two books in the *Leaders and Legacies Series* on Canada's Prime Ministers as teens, will address the dinner.

Tickets at \$60 are now available at the Heritage Centre, 141 Orr Street, Cobourg, (905)3737222 or from any member of the Museum Foundation Board. They can also be ordered by email to cmfdinner@gmail.com. Purchase prior to September 23 or in a group of 8 or more for a \$5

discount. For additional information contact Stanley Isherwood at (905)372-0698 or by email to info@cobourgmuseum.ca.

Friends of Hilton Hall Heritage Centre

The Hilton Hall Heritage Centre, 50 Chatten Rd. (east off CR- 30 and north of Hwy401, near Brighton) has two events scheduled:

Remembrance at Hilton Hall “The History Guy”, Dan Buchanan, will present two different stories of war service.

“**Dancing In The Sky**”, the story of the Royal Flying Corp in Canada as described in C. W. Hunt’s book of the same name. Thousands of young Canadians risked their lives training in flimsy Great War aircraft under the direction of the Royal Air Force. Many would die in Ontario’s fields and forests as technology was immature and safety an afterthought. Yet many trained Canadian airmen went overseas and contributed significantly to the war effort. How did they do it? Come to Hilton Hall and see for yourself!

“**They Went Together**”, the story by John Stephens of Brighton about Keith Roblin and Bill Nesbitt who enlisted together in October 1914 and served in the trenches of The Great War. They each had their adventures and finally their war wounds which sent them back to the safety of Brighton. Follow the boys and the War through a gruesome and anxious time in Canadian history.

Both presentations are on Sunday, November 6, 2016, 2 pm; Admission is \$5.00

Christmas Carol Sing Join a joyous celebration of the Christmas season as other Friends of Hilton Hall sing along to all the old favourites led by the talented local band *RandR*. This fun event is now in its third year. Sunday, December 11, 2016, 2 pm; Admission: \$5.00. Further information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Hilton-Hall-Heritage-Centre-494493324009654/>

Brighton Digital Archive Open House

Held the third Tuesday of each month, from 2 pm to 4 pm and then from 6 pm to 8 pm. Bring your family pictures and documents for the Brighton Digital Archive volunteers to review for digitizing and possible publication on the BDA web site at <http://vitacollections.ca/brightonarchives/search> Next Dates: October 18 and November 15.

Brighton History Open House

Please keep in mind Brighton History Open House 2017 which will be held at the Brighton Community Centre on February 18 and 19, 2017. Displays and the Heritage Tea are open to

all on Saturday 10 am to 4 pm and then the show will be presented Saturday evening at 7 pm and again on Sunday at 2 pm.

The theme for History Open House 2017 will be *Brighton One Five OH!*, based on Canada 150, the 150th Birthday

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