

Historically Speaking

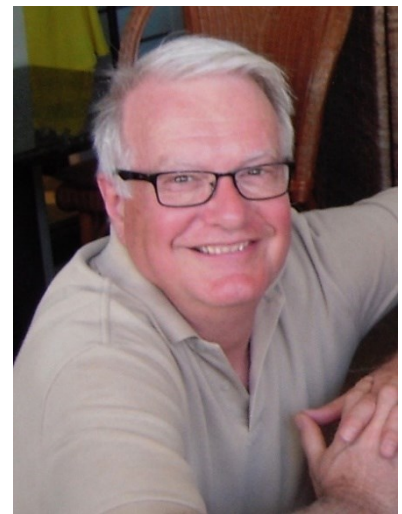
The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

October 2022 — Issue 334

If These Walls Could Talk

It started out as a straightforward architectural inventory of Hamilton Township's older buildings. The township had never catalogued its heritage and in 2016, Tom Cruickshank proposed that he was the guy to do it. Retired from a career in journalism, he has an abiding interest in local history and heritage architecture which is a subject that he has pursued in no less than five books. His works include *Old Ontario Houses*, *Old Toronto Houses* and *The Settler's Dream*. He also worked as editor of *Century Home* and later, *Harrowsmith Country Life*. Currently he freelances for *Watershed Magazine*.



Tom started to document all the farmhouses, bridges, churches and schoolhouses as a kind of archive of Hamilton's history. As he toured the backroads and villages along the way, the project quickly took on a life of its own. In addition to cataloguing the wonderful architecture of the township, he also dove into family histories, newspaper searches and genealogical accounts. Now and then, some peculiar facts and even some family secrets emerged. While Tom's talk will focus on the heritage architecture, it'll also veer into personal histories and news events from the 19th century. After all, what's more interesting: a slide show of pretty houses or a slide show of pretty houses that have stories to tell?

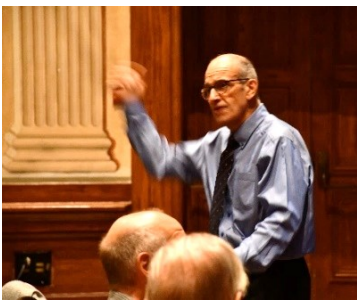
Join us for our second meeting of the 2022-2023 season on Tuesday, October 25 in Victoria Hall's Concert Hall. Doors open at 7:00 PM for coffee and cookies. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. Guests are always welcome. Admission, including refreshments, is free for members and \$5 for non-members. All are welcome so bring a friend or two. See you on Tuesday, October 25!

Our Previous Meeting

In the 20th century's greatest war, the North Atlantic battlefield held the key to victory or defeat. It took 2,074 days and nights to determine its outcome, but the Battle of the Atlantic proved the turning point of the Second World War.

For five and a half years, the German navy attempted to destroy Allied transatlantic convoys, mostly escorted by Royal Canadian Navy destroyers and corvettes, as well as aircraft of the Royal Canadian Air Force. In 1939, Canada's navy went to war with 13 warships and about 3,500 sailors. During the desperate Atlantic crossings, the RCN grew to 400 fighting ships and over 100,000 men and women in uniform. By V-E Day in 1945, it had become the 4th largest navy in the world.

Ted Barris, a noted author and expert on military history recounted some of the fascinating details of this epic battle in an animated presentation. If you missed the meeting, you will want to purchase a copy of his latest book: *The Battle of the Atlantic*. It is available from Let's Talk Books on King Street East in Cobourg or online.



CDHS 2022 – 2023 Program

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

If These Walls Could Talk

Speaker and author Tom Cruikshank presents his documentation of the 19th century architecture of Hamilton Township, also revealing some very interesting skeletons in a number of closets. Many of you will recognize Tom's name as the Editor who took the helm of the very popular *Harrowsmith Country Life* in 1996.

Tuesday, November 22, 2022

Tales of Life in Prince Edward County and Cobourg

Janet Kellough a playwright, novelist, journalist and more has dedicated the better part of two decades to chronicling, capturing and telling the tales of life set in Cobourg, Northumberland, Upper Canada and Prince Edward County in the 1800's. Her characters, settings, and dialogue create mysteries that transport you through history. How she weaves historical fact and fiction together so skillfully to create her work makes for a fascinating conversation.

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

The History of the Ontario Car Ferry

Speaker Peter Delanty is a former Cobourg Mayor, Principal, and recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award. His past and continuing commitment to many organizations and causes, include his position as Treasurer in 1980 at the newly minted Cobourg and District Historical Society.

As CDHS begins the exploration of restoring the Ontario Car Ferry mural on the brick wall located on the lane at 19 King St. W., it is appropriate we learn more about the Ferry glory days.

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Sir Winston Churchill-His Life and Accomplishments

A study of Churchill's ninety years of life show him to be a true Renaissance Man. He had a huge breadth of existence not only as a WWII leader but as an author, painter, bricklayer,

pilot, horseman and all with a notable wit! Learn the myths and truisms from the Chairman of the Canadian Society, Randy Barber

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

More than a Foote: Canadian Women You Should Know About

Celebrating International Women's Month, speaker Karin Wells' new book is aptly titled for this month's celebration of women. Karin highlights women from the area including Canada's first astrophysicist and a Dr. who discovered treatment for Hodgkins Lymphoma, as well as several others. Karin has included Mina Benson Hubbard whose story she presented last year as the first chapter and will share new source material with us. This is an opportunity to celebrate women who have made a difference.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

HMCS Cobourg

Our distinguished speaker, Roger Litwiller, is a Canadian author, historian and lecturer. He has written the books, *White Ensign Flying* and *Warships of the Bay of Quinte* as well as articles for magazines and newspapers. HMCS Cobourg was a modified Flower-class corvette that served with the Royal Canadian Navy during the Second World War. She fought primarily in the Battle of the Atlantic as a convoy escort. She was named for Cobourg, Ontario.

FRIDAY, May 26, 2023

Social and Trivia Night

Join us for our end of season get-together and since COVID, our first in-person Trivia Night and Social. Sit with members and friends at tables and enjoy trivia covering trivia in all categories from local to Canadian questions, while enjoying a drink and treats. Details will follow.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Brian Murphy

A National Day of Truth and Reconciliation event was held on September 30 at St. George's Chapel, in Gore's Landing. The event was hosted by Dorothy Lander and attended by members of Alderville First Nation, Mandy Martin (Mayor of the Township of Cramahe) and her mother Norma, Koren Smoke (visual artist), Brenda Manley (organist), residents of Gore's Landing and members of the Cobourg and District Historical Society. The day honoured the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.

The event was filled with hymns of praise to nature, and readings from Dorothy Lander's *Memoirs Rereading Catherine Parr Traill – Strangling the Familiar*. Everyone was given an opportunity to say what the day meant to them. At the end of the event, two children from Alderville, carrying orange and white flowers, led an Every-Child-Matters procession to the gravesite of Henry Strickland Atwood (Died January 5, 1864 at 3 years), the grandson of Catherine Parr Traill. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catharine_Parr_Traill)

The event was an amazing day of learning and engagement.





Hallowe'en in the Early 1900s

by Richard Hughes

For many years now, Hallowe'en has been characterized by youngsters in all sorts of bright and colourful costumes, armed with bags, baskets and occasional pillowcases, going door-to-door seeking to fill them with candy. They call out "trick or treat," but we all know there is only one acceptable answer. That was not the case a hundred years ago when treats were few and pranks all too common. In reviewing the newspapers from 1916 to 1918, there is no mention of candy—only the occasional apple or other such treat. Rather, it appears it was more a parade of youngsters in colourful costumes—witches, hobgoblins, bats and jack-o-lanterns—out in the streets with most just having fun while others pursued their mischief. The newspaper reported that the strange and fearsome creatures had the freedom of the city.

For many, Hallowe'en was celebrated at parties. At the Y.M.C.A. in 1917, about 40 younger boys gathered for games, including blindfold boxing, bottle balancing and ducking for apples, followed by a taffy and apple feast. In a separate event, the older boys brought their girlfriends for their evening of games. At Christ Church parish hall, 60 children paraded in their costumes and then held an evening of games and music. For the adults in 1917, there was a dance at the hall on Campbell Street, and for the high society of the City, the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire presented a very formal evening of dancing. Formal gowns, military officers in red mess uniforms and gentlemen in black evening suits made quite an elegant sight.

But, reports on Hallowe'en in the early years of the twentieth century focus mainly on the "tricks" rather than on the "treats." One report says, "An army of small pixies with blowpipes bombarded windows with tiny pellets making mysterious sounds on the outer panes." Another report pleads, "The boys who placed the buggy on the roof of the Methodist Church Hallowe'en night are requested to be more moderate in their future operations, as it takes time and patience to lower the vehicle of like dimensions to *terra firma*."

On a more serious note, in 1918, with the deadly Spanish Flu circulating everywhere, officials urged parents to keep their children home so as not to disturb people who had the sickness by making noises in the street. This would "occasion trouble or annoyance to those who have trouble enough on their hands already." The next day Chief of Police, John Newton, expressed his appreciation for the consideration shown to the sick. It was a quiet night, little property damage and only a few kids in the streets in costume. Also, he noted, the provision of sweets was prohibited by the Food Controller. Hopefully, a hundred years after pranks

were the dominant feature of Hallowe'en and, with the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, kids will be able to return to the fun times of chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate treats!

Reproduced from *Outlook*, a publication of the Hastings County Historical Society.

Cobourg's Hotels

Charles Dickens dropped into town in 1842. Where did he stay?

- **The British Hotel** (once the site of George Strong's Inn) George Street was named after him.
- **Plaza** (once called Horton House, New Royal, Balmoral)
- **The Ontario House** (Barnard Lilly's Hotel - a relative of actress Beatrice Lilly); there in 1931; photograph in *Pioneer Inns and Taverns*.
- **Paulwell's Hotel** where the CIBC is now located on King Street. On October 20, 1865, tightrope walker, John Denier, walked across Second Street from a window in the top floor of Victoria Hall to the top of the hotel - once with a wheelbarrow and once blindfolded.
- **Windsor Hotel** burned in 1878 (3 firemen killed, 3 injured) and replaced first by Dunham Hotel and then New Dunham on same site.
- **Albion Steamboat** (a stage coach stop). Stagecoach magnate William Weller bought the Steamboat in 1835 and renamed it the Albion in 1837.
- **Commercial Hotel/ Carpenter's Hotel** (burned in 1831). Apparently Thomas Fowler found the accommodation in 1832 comfortable and the company agreeable.
- **Buck's Tavern** burned down. Owner, Mr. Buck tried to rename our hamlet after himself, but his sign "BUCKVILLE" was torn down.
- **Cobourg Hotel** (later, the Queen's) had stables for horse exchange on the York-Kingston stage run.
- **Globe** was a five-story structure which ran from 1845 to 1864 when fire destroyed both it and a neighbouring building.
- **Columbian** (then the Chateau) Arlington 1874-1937. This hotel was the standard for all. Known as the "Barracks" because of its austere exterior, it was the best hotel between Toronto and Kingston. It sometimes had no vacancies for a year! The cream of society, Prime Ministers, a Governor General, and opera stars stayed there. Lord Dufferin and his wife, the Countess, stayed there during the week of September 5th – 12th in 1874.
- **King Edward Hotel** North American (later, Baltimore Hotel) on the northeast corner of Division and Charles Streets. Lakeview had an annex at the back.
- **Taunton Hotel** on the east side of Division Street between King and Queen Streets.

- **Buchanan Hotel** just north of the Windsor on Division Street.

So, where did Charles Dickens stay when he visited Cobourg on his North American tour of 1842? Charles Dickens did not sample our hotels, preferring to stay on the steamship. He did report, however, that Cobourg was “a cheerful thriving little town”.

The amazing list of Cobourg’s hotels was created by John Jolie, the Cobourg and District Historical Society’s newsletter editor for many years and originally published in *Historical Review* for 2002-2003.

Announcements

Lakeshore Genealogical Society



The Lakeshore Genealogical Society has several meetings that will be of interest to CDHS members:

Monday, October 17, 2022

Nancy Trimble will present **Exploring Ancestry DNA – the DNA Story**; Matches and the thru-Lines areas of the <https://www.ancestry.ca/> website, showing how to use hints from each to explore what your DNA is telling you. Doors open 6:30 pm Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library

Monday, November 21, 2022

Glenn Wright will present (via Zoom): **Proudly They Served: Researching Canadian Men and Women in the Second World War 1939 – 1945**; service records and how to retrieve and interpret them; researching unit war diaries for the Canadian Army and operations record books for the RCAF and more. Doors open 6:30 pm Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library

Member Matters

Our Website

CDHS member, John Draper, has maintained our website (<https://cdhs.ca/>) since it was first available in 2011. Thank you, John, for your many hours of work on the website!



CDHS Membership

Dear Members:

RENEW YOUR CDHS MEMBERSHIP for 2022/2023 Season

Thank you for your past membership with the Cobourg and District Historical Society (CDHS). Your membership is very important to us, and now it's time to renew your membership for the 2022–2023 season.

In addition to our face-to face meetings each month, we are still providing our informative *Historically Speaking* newsletter and continuing to keep our Facebook and CDHS.ca website updated.



We incur costs that include audio/visual equipment for the meetings; preparation and production of promotional materials (pamphlets, banner); honoraria to the speakers who will be preparing their talks and contributions to permanent historical features.

We have kept the membership fee the same as last season:

Individual Membership: \$30

Family Membership: \$50

Reminder to members who attended the Kingston Penitentiary social outing: The \$25 per person bus refund was applied to this year's membership dues. Any questions, contact cgrucelajones@gmail.com.

Payment can be made by either E-transfer or cheque. If you wish to use e-transfer, please send to the Membership Chair: brianincobourg@gmail.com

If paying by cheque, please make cheque payable to the "Cobourg and District Historical Society" and mail to:

CDHS Membership Chair

P.O. Box 911, Stn Main

Cobourg, ON

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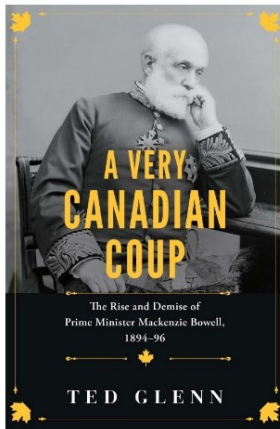
Thank you for your continued support of the Cobourg and District Historical Society.

Hastings County Historical Society

Invites You to a Public Presentation

A Very Canadian Coup - The Rise and Demise of Prime Minister Mackenzie Bowell, 1894–1896

With Guest Speaker Author Ted Glenn



When Mackenzie Bowell became Canada's fifth Prime Minister in December 1894, everyone — including Bowell — expected the job would involve nothing more than keeping the wheels on the Conservative wagon until a spring election.

Plans for a quiet caretaker-ship were dashed in January 1895 when the courts ruled that the Manitoba government had violated Roman Catholics' constitutional rights by abolishing the provincial separate school system back in 1890. Catholics in Quebec demanded that Bowell force Manitoba to restore the schools, while Ontario Protestants warned him to keep his hands off.

Backed into a corner, Bowell tried three times to negotiate a compromise with Manitoba over the course of 1895, but to no avail. By January 1896, seven of Bowell's cabinet ministers had had enough. Convinced Bowell had tarnished the Conservative brand, the caballers forced Bowell to resign and make way for a new leader who they believed could revive party fortunes in time for the coming election, the old Warhorse of Cumberland himself, Sir Charles Tupper.



Ted Glenn is a professor at Humber College and writes about Canadian government and history. He divides his time between Grey County and Toronto.



Date: Tuesday October 18, 2022
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Maranatha Church, 100 College Street West, Belleville

Enter by main front doors. The presentation is in the main auditorium, which allows for plenty of spacing between seats.

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