

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

September 2015 — Issue 275

The Real Canuck

The 2015-2016 season at CDHS is guaranteed to start with a bang as we welcome Alison Scanlan who will speak on The Real Canuck — Coeey Rifles in Cobourg.

Do you know who or what The Real Canuck is? Alison will tell us about the Real Canuck and many more details about the H.W. Coeey Machine and Arms Company. Founded by her grandfather and great uncle, Coeey was an important part of Cobourg's industrial past. Her presentation will be illustrated by a variety of Coeey artifacts now owned by Alison and other Coeey descendants.

Be sure to attend to meet Alison and other members of her extended family. This evening promises to be very interesting.

The meeting begins at 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 22. Everyone is encouraged to arrive early to enjoy coffee, tea and cookies. Take this opportunity to reconnect with members you haven't seen since the spring, catch up with friends, and introduce yourself to a new member. This is a meeting not to be missed. Visitors are welcome.

Our Previous Meeting

A Social Event at Meet at 66

Our annual social event was held at Meet at 66 on King Street East. After enjoying a selection of edible treats the Hon. James Cockburn (Rob Franklin) read a brief excerpt of correspondence written by this Father of Confederation. This was followed by club members reading from a selection of

letters and newspaper articles of historical interest.



Future Meetings

Make plans to attend our Fourth Annual Trivia Night on Friday Nov 27 at Legion Village Pub from 7pm to 10pm. There will be the usual cash bar, 50/50 draw **PLUS** during break we will be featuring personal stories from “War Brides” living in Cobourg. If you know any war brides please have them contact Carla Jones at (289) 252-1684.

<p>Tuesday October 27, 2015, Linda Nicol <i>The Story Told in a Box of Letters from a Navigator in WWII to His Young Love</i></p>	<p>Friday November 27, 2015 <i>4th Annual Historical Trivia Night!</i></p>
<p>Tuesday January 26, 2016, George Parker <i>From Forest to Farmland: Surveying Hamilton Township</i></p>	<p>Tuesday February 23, 2016, Allan Kirby <i>Historical Folk Songs from Eastern Ontario</i></p>
<p>Tuesday March 22, 2016, Ted Rafuse <i>The Ontario Car Ferry Company: Cobourg to Rochester</i></p>	<p>Tuesday April 26, 2016, Tom Holden <i>The 1878 Northumberland Atlas in Google Earth Annual General Meeting</i></p>
<p>Tuesday May 24, 2016, Bus Trip, <i>Museum Secrets: Trenton and Belleville</i> Details to be Announced</p>	

Membership Matters

Speaker Introductions

The Programme Committee requires volunteers to introduce and thank our speakers at our regular meetings. We provide the biographical information from the speakers as well as tips on crafting a great introduction and thank you! If you are willing to take on this important task at an upcoming meeting, please contact any member of the Programme Committee.



Very Rewarding Work

Our Programme Committee has been hard at work brainstorming ideas for an exciting season of speakers and events! If you have suggestions for future guests or wish to join the Programme Committee, please feel free to approach any of the members.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Leaone Averil Willcocks on June 19, 2015. Leaone was the wife of our Vice President Ken Willcocks

Born in Toronto, Leaone was raised and educated in Bancroft. Later she attended Normal School in Peterborough. Leaone was a Primary School teacher at St. George's School in Belleville where she met her life partner Ken from England. They married on 10th December 1955. Because Ken was in the Militia, Leaone made time to be Regent of the I.O.D.E. and a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority in Belleville. With 3 children in 1968 they moved their young family to Bancroft where they bought the Sword Motel owned by Leaone's Parents. Following her mother, Leaone joined the Eastern Star in Bancroft. In addition to the challenges of school age children, the rest of the day was spent running the motel and restaurant. For 38 years Leaone assisted at many functions as a Hostess for formal functions in the Lieutenant Governor's Suite at Queen's Park in Toronto. She was inducted as a Dame in the Order of St. Lazarus by Chancellor Frank McEachren in Halifax. Leaone was always helping Ken at Hotel and Motel Association functions. She was his navigator when driving to Best Western Conventions



and other meetings guiding him to Phoenix or Las Vegas and many other points across this continent. Leaone and Ken travelled to England for many years to visit Ken's parents and relatives and to attend London functions of the Cordwainer's Guild. Leaone had the honour of being a Freewoman of the City of London, England. She and Ken climbed the Great Wall of China, toured France, Italy, Greece and Hawaii, cruised the Mediterranean and Caribbean islands and wondered at the multitudes of animals on an African Safari. Perhaps her family highlight was the two occasions when we took all the kids and grandkids to Disney World in Florida.

Having sold the Sword in Bancroft she went through the upheaval of moving to a new house in Cobourg designed by Ken to accommodate her reduced mobility. Everyone quickly learned to dodge her scooter when she sounded her chipmunk horn.

Announcements



Cobourg Museum Foundation Fundraising Dinner

The 4th annual fundraising dinner for the the Cobourg Museum Foundation will be on Friday October 16th, 2015 at the Best Western Cobourg. The guest speaker will be Jeremiah Brown who is a Cobourg Olympian and Silver Medalist in the London 2012 Rowing competition. Tickets are \$60 (\$20 tax receipt). You

can purchase tickets at The Victoria Hall Box Office (service charge applies), The Sifton-Cook Heritage Centre (141 Orr Street) or by phoning Mary at (289) 252-0280.

Trent Port Historical Society Fundraiser

Featuring the music of Dave Charron, the Trent Port Historical Society's annual fundraiser will be on Thursday, October 8th, 5 pm to 9 pm and the Oddfellow Hall, 39 Elgin



Trenton. Supper and music is \$10 per person (\$5 per child) including salad, spaghetti, meat Sauce, bread, dessert and drink. The fun will include a Silent Auction, Door Prizes and Raffles. For tickets contact Laura at (613) 394-1333 or trentport@hotmail.com

Lakeshore Genealogical Society Meetings

On October 8 Dr. Janet Few, visiting speaker from Devon, England and author of Fish, Farm, Family and Faith will discuss the role of Bible Christians in Migration from North Devon to Canada on October 8.

On November 12, Bob Dawes will discuss Scotland from Abroad. This presentation will cover on-line resources for doing genealogy research in Scotland using both free and pay sites. It will demonstrate how you can use the free sites to improve the quality of your pay-per-view searches and results.

All meetings are from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Cobourg Library, Rotary room. Visitors are welcome. For further information email info@lakeshoregenealogicalsociety.ca or visit www.LakeshoreGenealogicalSociety.ca

Crossen Ore Car display

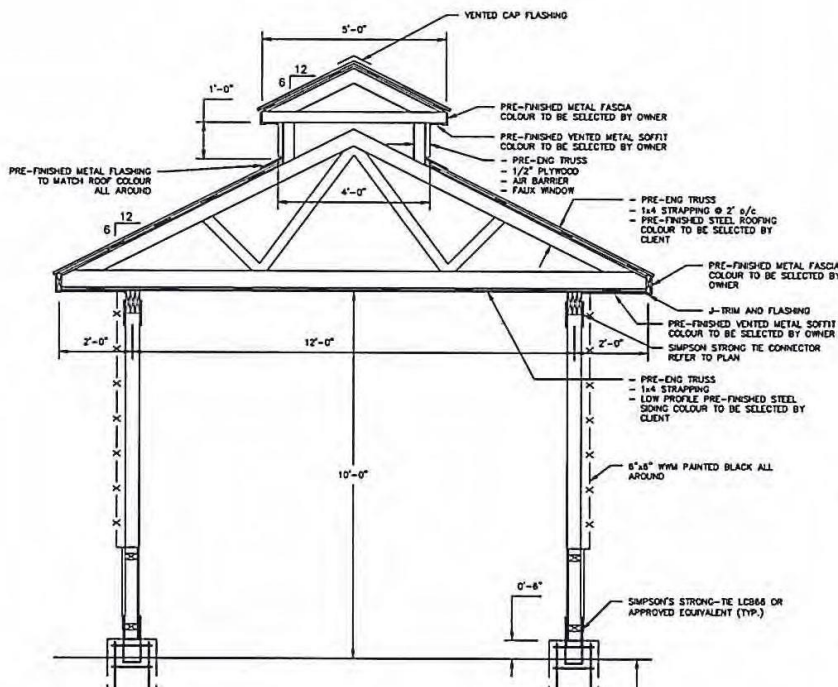
John Draper

In 1881, 5 or 6 railway cars used to transport iron ore from Marmora to Cobourg's Harbour were lost in the Trent River. Local author Ted Rafuse mentioned this in his book *Wooden cars on Steel tracks* and two members of the Cobourg Museum Foundation, Ken Willcocks and George Parker, decided to look for them. Not only did they find them but with the help of an enthusiastic crew of railway buffs, they are close to completing the building of a replica. When completed it is planned to put it on display on Cobourg's waterfront.

They found that Parks Canada had pulled four of them out of the river in 1979 and had them in storage in Cornwall. They eventually managed to get some key components and George proceeded to make a model which was on display recently at the Sifton-Cooke Museum. Meanwhile Ken Willcocks led a multi-talented team in building a full size replica. He obtained a suitable rent-free space in the old Kraft building and convinced many suppliers to provide their services at no charge. This project has so far not used any taxpayer's money.

The team consists of Henry Heideman, Peter Dullard, Paul Chandler, Dean Tapscott, Ron Rose as well as Ken Willcocks. They contribute experience on railways, machinery, cabinet-making and more.

But when finished, the project needs to be displayed to the public and what better location than right on the waterfront close to where similar cars unloaded ore into ships taking their cargo across the lake to eventually end up in steel mills in Pittsburgh?



At the Council meeting on August 10, 2015, Ken asked council for permission to build a gazebo to house the replica – this would provide security, child-proofing and protect it from the weather – plus he asked for a waiving of building permit fees. The request was referred to staff for a report and at the next COW meeting on September 8, staff will recommend that permission be granted and that “the building permit fee

be reduced from \$450 to \$225." The town would then own the car replica and gazebo and would have to maintain it although they are asking for Museum Foundation volunteers to help. The local Carpenter's Union will join the large number of local donors since they have offered to build the structure.

The gazebo would have open sides with access limited by an open screen - see drawing below - so kids can't hurt themselves but everyone can see it close up.

Tidbits from the *Cobourg Star*

While researching railway topics George Parker noted many interesting items in the microfilmed copies of the *Cobourg Star* that are available in the Cobourg Library.

Transient Young Men

Cobourg Star, July 4, 1855

"Girls - beware of transient young men; never suffer the addresses of a stranger; recollect that one good steady farmer-boy or mechanic is worth all the floating trash in the world. The allurements of a dandy jack with a gold chain about his neck, a walking stick in the paw, some honest tailor's coat on his back, and a brainless skull, can never make up the loss of a kind father's house, a good mother's counsel and the society of brothers and sisters; their affections last, while that of such a young man is lost in the wane of the honeymoon. Tis true."

Fugitive Slave

Cobourg Star, April 9, 1856

"A fugitive slave, after a narrow escape from his pursuers, arrived in Montreal a few days ago. It appears that he left servitude in Baltimore on the 14th of January, and that he made his way towards Canada as far as St. Albans, where he found employment. On Friday last his former master and a United States Marshall arrived at the latter place. On making enquiries for the object of their pursuit, they were kindly informed that they would be more successful in securing their property at Waterbury, Vermont, than at St Albans. Meantime the friends of the "coloured brother" transported him a few miles further north in a sleigh, and placed him on a freight train. In a few hours he was beyond reach of United States Marshals, safe on British grounds."

Bread and Water

Cobourg Star, February 4, 1857

"Tenders will be received until the 14th of February for the supply of bread for the present year, for the use of prisoners confined in jail; weight and quality to be specified, and the delivery to be made at the jail in such quantities and at the time required by the jailer; payments to be made quarterly."

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