

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

September 2022 — Issue 333

Battle of the Atlantic: Gauntlet to Victory

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 will present the fascinating details of this epic battle. Ted is an expert on military history and has published 20 non-fiction books with many of them winning awards.

Join us for our first meeting of the 2022-2023 season on Tuesday, September 27 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, September 27!

CDHS Social Event

Carla Jones

On May 25, 2022, on a beautiful summer morning, twenty CDHS members and guests carpooled their way to Kingston for the **Kingston Penitentiary Tour** and lunch at a local Legion on Bath Road. The facility and tour is an eye opening experience and as one of our members said, “thanks goodness we live when we do”.



From the Kingston Penitentiary we crossed the street to

the Penitentiary Museum, which is housed in what was once the Warden’s house. The eight display rooms contained much memorabilia, some of which a few of us considered “grisly”.

Next we were off to the Legion for an

enjoyable lunch hosted by Bill, a former employee with 30+ years experience in various Ontario locations, who recounted several personal stories. Thanks to Randy Barber for organizing this side trip.

If you haven't experienced the Kingston Penitentiary Tour, I highly recommend that you take the short (1.5 hour) drive and see one of Canada’s National Historic Sites.



Penitentiary Trivia and Tidbits:

Who was the First Inmate Sentenced in Canada:

The first person to have actually been sentenced by the courts in Canada to serve a “penitentiary term” was Joseph Bouchette. He was sentenced in the Newcastle District (now the Northumberland County, Ontario area) to serve 5 years for “grand larceny” on January 14, 1835.

More on the history of the penitentiary here:

<https://www.penitentiarymuseum.ca/history/interesting-facts/>)

Heritage Value

Kingston Penitentiary once occupied an 80-hectare (200-acre) site that included a 4-hectare (10-acre) prison compound, a series of stone quarries and a farm, which allowed the prison to be self-sustaining. Although some of the associated property has been alienated over the years and the structures within the prison walls have been altered, essential components of the penitentiary's original design remain legible.

More info on the original site here:

https://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/dfhd/page_nhs_eng.aspx?id=4

Penitentiary Museum History

The former Warden's home was “...constructed by convict labour between 1870 and 1873. The house was built from local limestone which was quarried by prisoners in the nearby quarries and cut in the prison stone-cutting sheds.”

More information on the Warden's home here:

<http://www.stoneskingston.ca/penitentiary-city/cedarhedge-wardens-residence>



CDHS 2022 – 2023 Program

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Battle of the Atlantic: Gauntlet to Victory

Noted Canadian author Ted Barris will present the fascinating details of the epic Battle of the Atlantic.

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's 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 Churchill 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 Cobourg area including Canada's first astrophysicist and a Dr. who discovered a 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.

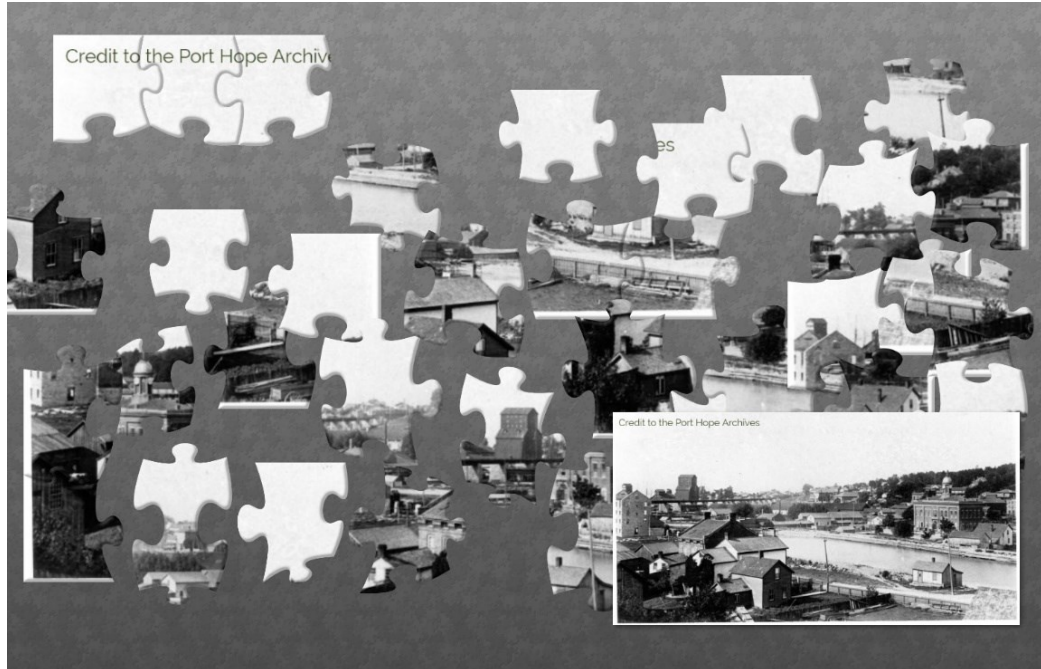
FRIDAY, May 26, 2023

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.

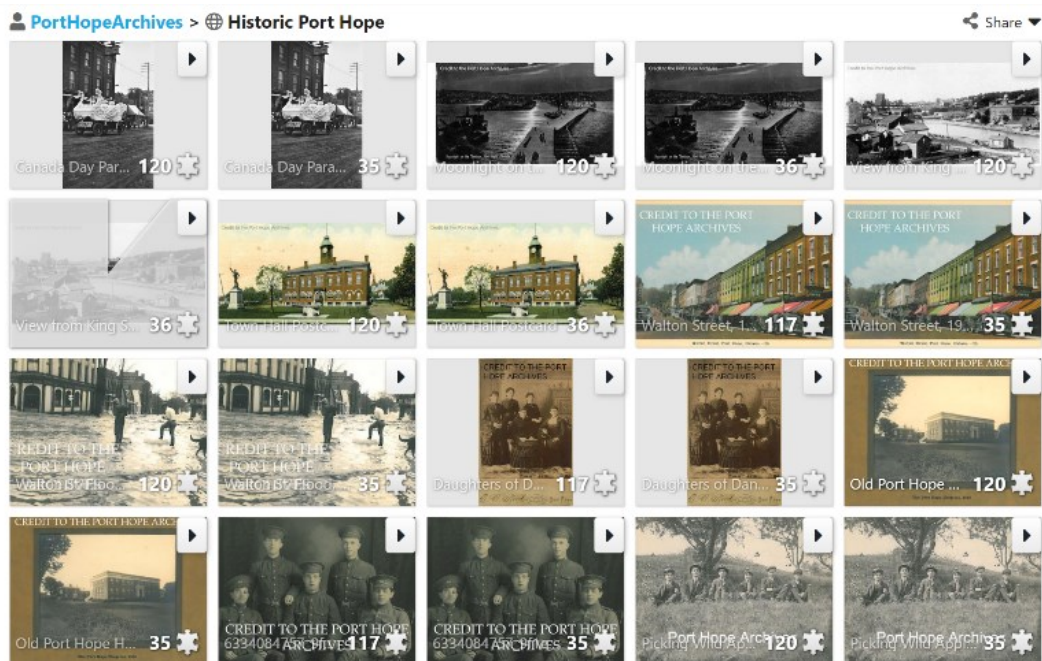
History is a Puzzle

Do you enjoy jigsaw puzzles? If so, the Port Hope Archives has a treat for you! They have



converted many of their historic photographs to online jigsaw puzzles. If you prefer easy puzzles, you can generate a simple puzzle with only 28 pieces. You can then move the pieces on your screen to complete the picture.

If you are too skilled to be challenged by these easy puzzles you can automatically generate puzzles with as many as 300 pieces and you can choose between three dozen historical images to form the puzzle. To add competition, the program times your efforts.



Visit <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/PortHopeArchives/historic-port-hope> to choose your puzzle.

SUNDAY LAWS

In Force in the Province of Ontario

PROHIBIT

1. **LABOR.** With certain exceptions this includes:
 - (a) **THE WORK OF LABORERS, MECHANICS and MANUFACTURERS.**
 - (b) **ALL FARM WORK**, such as **SEEDING, HARVESTING, FENCING, DITCHING.**
 - (c) **WORK ON RAILWAYS**, such as **BUILDING and CONSTRUCTION**, and also **REPAIR WORK**, except in emergencies, and **TRAFFIC**, excepting the forwarding of **PASSENGER AND CERTAIN FREIGHT TRAINS.**
 - (d) **ALL BUILDING, TEAMING, DRIVING FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES, THE WORK OF BAKERS AND BARBERS, Etc.**
 - (e) **THE WORK OF MUSICIANS AND PAID PERFORMERS OF ANY KIND.** Works of necessity and mercy excepted.
2. **BUSINESS.** It is unlawful to **MAKE CONTRACTS** or to **BUY, SELL or DELIVER ANYTHING** on Sunday, including **LIQUORS, CIGARS, NEWSPAPERS, Etc.** Generally speaking the only exceptions are **DELIVERING PASSENGERS' BAGGAGE, MILK** for domestic use, and **SUPPLYING MEALS AND MEDICINES.**
3. **ALL GAMES, RACES OR OTHER SPORTS FOR MONEY OR PRIZES**, or which are noisy, or at which a fee is charged, and the business of **AMUSEMENT or ENTERTAINMENT.**
4. **ALL EXCURSIONS** for hire and with the object of pleasure, by **TRAIN, STEAMER or OTHER CONVEYANCE.**
5. **ADVERTISING** in Canada, unlawful things to take place on Sunday, either in Canada or across the line.
6. **IMPORTING, SELLING or DISTRIBUTING FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS** on Sunday.
7. **ALL GAMBLING, TIPPLING, USING PROFANE LANGUAGE**, and all other acts which disturb the public quiet.
8. **ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS**, except in Churches.
9. **HUNTING, SHOOTING, FISHING; also BATHING** in any public place or in sight of a place of public worship, or private residence.

THE PENALTY IS FROM \$1.00 TO \$500.00

THE GAME LAW

Of the Province makes Sunday a **CLOSE SEASON** for all **GAME** and **HUNTING** and **SHOOTING UNLAWFUL** on that day.

THE PENALTY IS FROM \$5.00 TO \$25.00.



The Lord's Day Alliance of Canada,
an CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION
TORONTO

What About Sunday Sports Now?

Recent legislation by the Federal Parliament repealing the pre-Confederation Sunday laws has roused questioning among the citizens of Ontario, and probably Canada, and much confusion as to the present status of Canadian Sunday laws. By this recent repeal of old legislation, Ontario is now placed in the same position as the other provinces of Canada, except Quebec, in its dependence upon the provisions of The Lord's Day Act of Canada for its Sunday regulations and restrictions. **THAT LAW REMAINS UNCHANGED IN ITS REQUIREMENTS.**

Quebec Commercial Movies and Sports

When the Lord's Day Act of Canada came into force in 1907, the Province of Quebec had specific provincial legislation in use recognizing the legality of professional and commercial entertainment and sport on Sunday. Section 15 of the Lord's Day Act of Canada says:

"Nothing herein shall be construed to repeal or in any way affect any provisions of any Act or law relating in any way to the observance of the Lord's Day in force in any province of Canada when this Act comes into force."

Hence the legalized differences in Sunday observance within the Province of Quebec.

Ontario's Sunday Laws

All the vital restrictions of Ontario pre-Confederation Sunday laws, with the exception of the ban upon certain games as "noisy games" are included in The Lord's Day Act of Canada, and in terms better adapted to present day language and conditions. The so called "Blue laws", which have been the subject of much mirth and ridicule, are now removed from that category. The following principles determine the illegality, or otherwise, of Sunday activities:

1. The Lord's Day Act of Canada restricts Sunday sports and entertainment on the basis of commercialization, or their promotion on a business basis.

Section 6 of that Act declares it to be illegal on Sunday for any person to engage in "any public game or contest for gain, or for any prize or reward". It declares also that it is illegal to charge an admission fee, directly or indirectly, for any Sunday performance or meeting.

Voluntary recreation, whether engaged in by individuals or groups, on a non-commercial basis is not forbidden. Organized sports, where elements of professionalism and commercialism are a feature, definitely come under the restrictions of the Lord's Day Act. It is a recognized principle that the physical and moral benefits to be derived from sports accrue to those who personally participate, rather than to spectators. Six days in any week surely are sufficient for the spectator type of sport, with its usual financial objectives.

2. The Lord's Day Act of Canada is the one Canadian statute that safeguards the freedom of the citizens of Canada in the enjoyment of their freedom from unnecessary business and toil on Sundays. It is the Magna Charta of the one day's rest in seven for Canadians, and should be protected from the selfishness and greed of all who would make inroads upon the rest day freedom.
3. The weekly day of rest provides the opportunity for Christian worship, service and culture. Its higher use promotes the building of worthy moral and spiritual ideals in individual and community life. It was never more needed than now to correct current trends in delinquency—for all ages.

THE LORD'S DAY ALLIANCE OF CANADA

542 Confederation Life Building

- Toronto 1, Canada

Early Closing.

On Monday evening a petition signed by a large number of business houses in town was presented to the Town Council, asking that a by-law be passed closing all stores at six o'clock every evening except Saturdays and the day before holidays. A counter petition was also presented from most of the fruit dealers in town opposing the early closing, as August and September were their best months, and that they could not afford to close early during these months. There seemed to be some bad blood between the contending sides, and it looked at the time that there would be a resort to something weightier than words. The petition should have had three-quarters of the names of the parties in one line or class of business, and it looked as though this was not the case as far as the grocers were concerned, and they appeared to be principally concerned. The petitions should have been referred to the By-Law Committee, but were dealt with by the Council, who took no action in the matter. The wordy contest before the Council did not end there, and although night with its soothing sleep and dreams should calm the nerves, and quiet the passions that rage in the human breast, it did not do so in this case. Tuesday morning two of the contending sides met on King Street, and words were followed by blows, and the blows by a slight disfigurement of both parties. It is unfortunate that matters of this kind cannot be discussed without letting passion enter and spoil a matter which might otherwise be calmly tided over. We trust that some compromise will be come to whereby both sides will be satisfied, although not getting all they wish.

What is this Building?

There are plans to re-develop the property across from the post office and near the corner Queen and McGill Streets in Cobourg. Many have wondered about the history of the low white building that has been closed for years. John Jolie provides the definitive answer in *Historical Review #18* (<https://cdhs.ca/images/reviews/Historical-Review18-2000-2001.pdf>):



The functional structure, across from the post office, is not on any architectural tour. What was the original use of the building which now houses the Lakeshore Auto Electric?

Originally built to be a curling rink, E.C. Guillet's book *Cobourg 1798-1948* offers some enlightenment on the local curling activities. He mentions a newspaper announcing a club being re-established in 1859. Guillet notes seven different rink locations:

- Two rinks on Factory Creek;
- A rink south east of the market (Was Midtown Creek dammed to make the surface?);
- James Street just west of the public school (a covered rink which burned in the 1880s);
- Lightburne's, south of the jail;
- Another on University Avenue near the Midtown Creek;
- King Street West, which later became a garage, housing Moon's Garage;
- The Lakeshore Auto Electric building on Queen Street, described in 1948 as being across from the old Gas Works and behind the Cobourg Club, a place to hone one's billiard skills.

Member Matters

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

K9A W4W

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

New Members

Please join me in welcoming our newest CDHS members:

Wendy Bannon

Vanessa Gardiner

Janet and Bert Sedgwick

Donald and Anne Macintosh

Don Cooper and Sharron Skidmore

Mavis Speares

Announcements

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

Exploring Ancestry DNA – the DNA Story; Matches and the Thru-Lines areas of the Ancestry.ca website, showing how to use hints from each to explore what your DNA is telling you. Monday, 17 October, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, Zoom & Rotary Room, Cobourg Public Library, 200 Ontario St, Cobourg, ON K9A 5P4, Canada. The speaker will be Nancy Trimble, PLCGS, Durham Branch OGS. To register or make inquiries: LGSregister@gmail.com



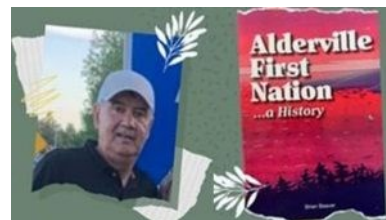
Sifton Cook Heritage Centre

The Sifton Cook Centre has several events scheduled:

The Alderville Story

September 25 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

We are very happy to be welcoming author Brian Beaver to share with us some of the stories which make up his recently released “Alderville First Nation - A History This book is, in

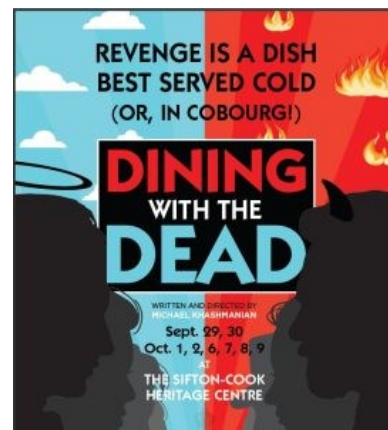


many ways like a canoe, a creation of above and below and all that lies between but traversing and connecting both. The future awaits. Happy paddling! Autographed copies of the book will be available for purchase. [**Find out more »**](#)

DINNER THEATRE – “DINING WITH THE DEAD”

September 29 @ 6:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Bringing back to life characters from Cobourg’s past, this original play is being combined with a delicious dinner served in the Legion Hall dining room next door to the Heritage Centre. Half history, half comedy and with a touch of wisdom, this unique production will bring you face to face with some of the most heinous, heroic and high flying personages you might ever want to meet, or not! Written and directed by Michael Kashmanian. Other performances: September 30, October 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9.



Admission is by ticket:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/372077492797>

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