

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and District

Historical Society

September 2023 — Issue 341

John Turner: Canada's 17th Prime Minister

Steve Paikin, Toronto based journalist, author, and documentary producer, will be the presenter at our September meeting. Steve has 40 years in journalism and is the author of 8 books including, most recently *John Turner: An Intimate Biography of Canada's 17th Prime Minister*. Among his honours, Paikin is an Officer in the Order of Canada and is also a member of the Order of Ontario. Many will recognize him as the longtime anchor and senior editor of TVO's flagship current affairs program *The Agenda with Steve Paikin*.



Join us on **Wednesday**, September 27 (**note the change of date**) for an informative presentation. Doors open at 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Bring a friend or two! Members free - Guests \$5.00. Steve's latest book will be available for purchase if you would like an autographed copy.

Our Previous Meeting
Trivia 2023





Our 2023/2024 Programme

WEDNESDAY, September 27, 2023

Steve Paikin, journalist, author, and documentary producer has worked for TVOntario (TVO), Ontario's public broadcaster, and is anchor of TVO's flagship current affairs program The Agenda. Mr. Paikin will be speak to us about John Turner, Canada's 17th Prime Minister. His new book titled, *John Turner: An Intimate Biography of Canada's 17th Prime Minister* is a masterful and engaging biography and will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

History of the Cobourg and District Historical Society and The Northumberland County Archives. Using documents and photos, the history of the Cobourg and District Historical Society from its founding to COVID, will remind us of the significant people and events that are part of our past. The presentation by Carla Jones and George Kamphorst will be followed by Katie Kennedy's (curator of NCA) talk about the history of the Northumberland County Archives, including an update on the status of the new building.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

The Bowmanville POW camp, also known as Camp 30, was a Canadian-run POW camp for German soldiers during World War II and was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in September 2013. Speaker Marilyn Morawetz, Chairperson for the Jury Lands Foundation whose mission is to rejuvenate this Canadian historic and architectural significant site will present.

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Cobourg was first called Amherst and then Hard Scrabble and in the 1820s the name was changed to Cobourg. Peter Delanty, Mayor of Cobourg 2000 – 2010, will present the history of Cobourg as told by street names. Several streets were named for the early prominent citizens, for ancestral heritage and business people. Commencing in the latter 20th century, new streets would be named after Mayors.

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

The History of the Northumberland Players & Costume House (to be confirmed)

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

D'arcy Jennish is a journalist, historian and playwright. He has written ten books and will present the history of the National Hockey League -- born in a Montreal hotel room on November 26, 1917. Mr. Jennish wrote the book *The NHL: 100 Years of On-ice Action and Boardroom Battles*. It's certain to be an interesting story that both hockey and non-hockey fans will enjoy.

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 Annual

General Meeting followed by a Member Show & Tell

Members are invited to bring something of historical interest like special objects, jewelry, letters, family diaries, medals of family members, old tools and documents or any treasures to display for fellow members to see and admire. Tables will be set up around the room to display items brought.

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Social Event & Outing in Brighton, Ontario

Join us as we drive/carpool our way to Brighton, Ontario's community centre to hear Brighton resident and historian Dan Buchanan, The History Guy, present The History of the Murray Canal, which is now part of the Trent-Severn waterway. It is a story that is both complex and compelling.

Presentation from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Following the presentation, we will meet for lunch at a local Brighton establishment before returning to Cobourg.

Ontario Car Ferry Mural

Most CDHS members are familiar with the mural on the wall of the alleyway on the east side of Audrey's retail store. Over the years the mural has deteriorated but has received a new lease on life due to the efforts of the Cobourg and District Historical Society and Cobourg's Downtown Business Improvement Associations (DBIA).

The mural was created in 2001 by muralist John Mitchell on the side of the former Allen Hardware Building. Funding for the mural was provided by Bill Patchett and Dr. Thomas Hawke.

By 2018 the mural had badly deteriorated. In the summer of 2018, Leona Woods and Carla decided to research how they could get this mural restored. Leona found restoration artist Allan Bender. With help from Deputy Mayor Nicole Beatty, Carla obtained most of the funds from the Downton Business Improvement Association (DBIA). The remainder of funding was provided by the Cobourg and District Historical Society.

Visit <https://watershedmagazine.com/features/larger-than-life/> to learn more about the restoration artist.



Prior to the restoration the mural had a brass plaque that is badly weathered and very hard to read:

The Ontario Car Ferry Company was formed in 1905 in a joint arrangement between Grand Trunk Railway and the Buffalo, Rochester and Pennsylvania Railroad. The first ferry named the Ontario No. 1 was launched in April 1907 and made her first trip with Captain Forrest in command on Wednesday, November 20th from Charlotte, the port for Rochester, New York. A second ship was ordered in 1915, the Ontario No. 2.

As part of the restoration the original plaque has been supplemented with the following:

This mural celebrates the historic
Cobourg Rochester Ferry
that carried coal, cargo and passengers across Lake Ontario.

First painted in August 2001 by **John Mitchell** of Cobourg
Restored in July 2023 by **Allan Bender** of Belleville

Restoration funded by:
The Downtown Business Improvement Association
&
The Cobourg & District Historical Society
Special thanks to the residents of 19-21 King St. W.



The Ontario Car Ferry Company was formed in 1905 with a joint agreement between the Grand Trunk Railway and the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh Railroad, organized as a Canadian company.

It was the only car ferry company on the Great Lakes to be registered in Canada.



At the Farmer's Market



Several hard working members of the CDHS Executive once again gathered at the Cobourg Farmer's Market to sell donated books at fire-sale prices to benefit our organization. They sold quite a few of them and hope to do another session in September to sell the last few in stock. A number of buyers expressed an interest in joining our Society and coming out to our fantastic series of speakers for our 2023/24 programme.

Belleville's Third Museum Opens

by Donna Fano, SJW Teacher (retired) and Museum Director (volunteer)

A unique museum at the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf opened on May 10, 2023, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and invited guests. Sir James Whitney School, sporting 153 years of history, is located at 350 Dundas St. W., Belleville. The plans for the museum began in 2018 for the school's 150th anniversary in 2020, but were postponed for two years due to COVID. Finally, the five-year project was completed a day before May 10 this year.

Previously the school had archives in the Superintendent's house begun by David Bentley in the 1980s, and later it moved to the former Girls' Residence in 1995. In 1998, it moved to a larger room in the Vocational building where both the archives and museum were set up and remained until 2005 under the late Keith Dorschner and his wife, Christina. In 2010, the archives reopened in a new location in the Main School with fully equipped room and vault. However, there was no room for a museum.

In 2017, permission was given to use the alcove area in the dining room and two unused visiting team change rooms in the sports centre as space for a school museum. The change rooms had been used as storage for the school's artifacts and antique furniture. Fundraising began with bottle drives to collect money for the museum project. In early 2018, museum plans were drawn up and the cost of materials listed. Initially, the sum of \$5000 was required, but no money was available from the school for this project. An application for a grant through the Belleville Community Arts & Culture Fund (BCACF) run by the City of Belleville was made in May 2019. The fund included heritage projects for which our school qualified. Much to our relief, approval was granted in August.



Thanks to the government's policy over the years, no items or furniture were to be sold or given away. The school's possessions accumulated and were put in storage, thus preserving its artifacts and vintage furniture collection. They were sorted, researched, cleaned up and put out on display. From 2018 to 2023, my four volunteers, Danny Pigeau, '84, Jackie Flewell, '73, Jennifer Wainwright, '94, Deborah Snyder, '71, and I worked on setting up the exhibits. Jobs included construction, cleaning, drilling, painting, cutting the craft foam boards and applying velcro strips for hanging. I researched and wrote all the information panels, after which they were edited by Laurel Bishop, who is an editor together with me on the *Outlook*. Clifton Carbin, '66, a remote volunteer, assisted with research work for the museum, and Steve Bradshaw, '70, assisted by scanning all *The Canadian* issues, school's newspaper from 1892 to 1991 to go online at archive.org/details/cabhc. I also had help from Construction Technology, Green Industries classes under teacher Norbert Irion and from volunteer students earning community hours for their diplomas who came at lunchtime to help.

The alcove museum features exhibits in Main School history, Gibson Hospital, dining room, uniforms, education, fire safety, RCAF Takeover, historical milestones, superintendents and their legacies, postcard collection, assistive devices from 1900 to the present and changes in communication methods.

The museum in the two gym change rooms features the school's rich vocational history, Christmas Nativity displays from the plays that ran from 1938 to 1991, religion, a intendent's office, sports and residence history.

The informal opening of the gym rooms took place on the school's 152nd anniversary on October 20, 2022. We invited Nancy Saunders, director for Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch, to come. All the students and staff had an opportunity to view the rooms and celebrate with a cake afterwards. The alcove museum was not complete, so visitors could not view it at that time.

From November 2022 to May 2023, we worked feverishly to complete the alcove museum in time for the formal opening on May 10, 2023. We invited classes and staff, former superintendents, the current director, sponsors, previous principals and community organizations. They gave speeches and thanked the volunteers for their work and a ribbon cutting took place. The visitors toured all the rooms and had lunch. All the classes visited the museum rooms in the next few days and some even returned three times to see it.



We are grateful for the donations from the following sponsors who helped us in the completion of the museum: Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch (PDSB), Norm and Sue Clark (grandson of James Tate Jr and Muriel Allen who attended the school in the early 1900s), Belleville Association of the Deaf, Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch (PDSB) Interpreters, OSD-SJW Alumni Association of Deaf and

Student Lodging. Other donations came from people seeking genealogical information or just visiting the museum as we do not charge admission. We continue to accept donations to pursue the heritage projects in the archives and museum.

Much credit is given to staff at Glanmore National Historic Site for their helpful advice in setting up a museum and assisting us in identifying many unknown artifacts. Their suggestions for mounting the information on panels and making mannequins to display the costumes were very helpful.

The museum is open to visitors by appointment on weekdays during the school year from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is also open on weekdays in the summer from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To make an appointment, contact Donna Fano at osdsjwarchives@gmail.com at least two days in advance. SJW welcomes you to view the long, fascinating history of the school. Come for a visit!

Reproduced by permission of the author.

Display in Victoria Hall

The Cobourg and District Historical Society has prepared a display of vintage tools in the lobby of Victoria Hall. Many of the tools were supplied by Leona Woods and the display was arranged by Ann and Brian Murphy.



Member Matters

Please join me in welcoming Jennifer O'Rourke to the CDHS Executive. She has agreed to serve as our Secretary for 2023-2024.

Announcements

Gifts to the Prince of Wales

The Peterborough Museum and Archives has an exhibition of indigenous ancestral gifts to the Prince of Wales that were presented during his 1860 visit to Canada. For further details see: <https://kawarthanow.com/2023/04/17/indigenous-ancestral-gifts-to-prince-of-wales-in-1860-on-display-in-nogojiwanong-peterborough-until-november/>.

Cobourg Museum

The Cobourg Museum's website has been updated to include "Harbour Story" with two pages on the ferries. It includes a first-person story of a young boy's trip across the lake. Visit their website at https://www.communitystories.ca/v2/cobourg-harbour_port-de-cobourg.

The Cobourg Museum's YouTube channel now includes a short video showing one of the ferries docking in Cobourg. To view this and more than a dozen other Cobourg related videos visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdTovcVcpHN_Wgc-WMuDRBQ.

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

The LGS has scheduled a number of presentations. For more information visit <https://www.lakeshoregenealogicalsociety.ca/calendar>. All are at 7pm. Presentations include: ***Wednesday, October 11, 2023 Miscellaneous Collection at the Archives of Ontario***

Guest Speaker: Linda Corupe, U.E.L

This fascinating collection includes indentures of apprenticeships, militia commissions and discharges, copies of letters from pioneers, notices to settlers and emigrants, plans for new towns and lists of settlers. Linda will guide us how to access a chronological listing that is searchable electronically and she will share many interesting items from the collection.

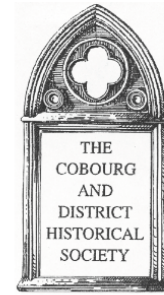
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 Sacrifice: Researching Canada's War Dead, 1914-1945

Guest Speaker: Glenn Wright

Canada's participation in the two World Wars came at a horrible cost in fatal casualties: about 65,000 between 1914 and 1919 and another 45,000 between 1939 and 1945. Our war dead are well documented and, in this presentation, Glenn will review the major resources – archival, published and online – for both world wars as well as many of lesser-known resources, where to find them and how to use them to research an ancestor who gave his or her life in the service of our country.

Pre-registration by email to LGSregister@gmail.com is required for all presentations.

SEP
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The Cobourg & District Historical Society proudly presents:

SPEAKER: STEVE PAIKIN

TOPIC: John Turner: Canada's 17th Prime Minister

Wednesday, September 27, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Concert Hall at Victoria Hall

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

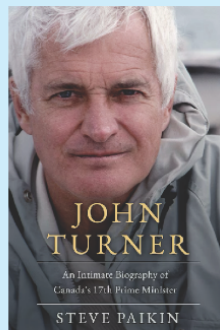
Members free, Guests \$5 at the door



**Steve Paikin is a journalist, author
and documentary producer
working for TVO**

Mr. Paikin's new book is titled: *John Turner: An Intimate Biography of Canada's 17th Prime Minister*

Mr. Paikin's new book will be available for purchase at the meeting.



Visit cdhs.ca, or the Cobourg & District Historical Society's Facebook group for newsletters and more information.

NOT A MEMBER? No problem, email brianincobourg@gmail.com for an invitation.

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