



Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

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The Renaissance of Canada's Naval Service

The Cobourg and District Historical Society invites you to join us for an entertaining presentation by Commander Antony Pitts and Lieutenant Commander Ken Scott at Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall on Tuesday, October 26. Doors open at 7:30 and the presentation begins at 8:00. All are welcome so bring a friend!

Our next two meetings:

Nov 23, 2010	Jean Murray Cole	Sandford Fleming – Beginnings: Getting Established in Canada
January 25, 2011	Rob Washburn	Hot Off the Presses: The Role of Cobourg Newspapers in Creating a Community

CDHS Archives Begins Oral History Project

Cobourg's Veterans: An Oral History is a project launched by the CDHS Archives with the assistance of an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant. This project is intended to record the memories and wartime experiences of local veterans. It will involve local high school students who will interview veterans and record their oral histories covering conflicts from the Great Wars up to the current mission in Afghanistan. The results of the project will become a permanent record of the war experiences of local men and women who were an important part of the war effort. These stories are often overlooked.

Our project has several aims: bringing the young and old together in a community project, showing community appreciation for our veterans, promoting both local and Canadian history. By including interviews with veterans returning from Afghanistan we will be raising awareness that you do not have to be "old" to be a veteran.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in participating in this project by sharing his or her experiences, then please contact the archivist. Visit the CDHS Archives, located in the C. Gordon King Centre or phone 905-377-0413 or email to: archivist.cobourg@bellnet.ca

Addendum to Henley Arcade: the Rest of the Story

by Judith Goulin

It turns out that there is even more to "the rest of the story" originally published in the September, 2010, CDHS newsletter.

One of our CDHS members and a native of Cobourg, Don Houston, added some forgotten details that occurred in the aftermath of the Henley fire. Don recalls that Herbie Lewis, a boarder who lived in an apartment above John Henley Shoe Repair, died in the fire.

Don also told us that after the property was destroyed, some local businessmen— Stewart Stanley and possibly Gary Sharpe and Harley Hoselton—acquired the premises and “leaned on the town politicians to add it to the parking plans.”

CDHS Archives Volunteers Needed

Not many people are aware of the treasures and resources The CDHS Archives holds. The mandate of the Archives is to collect material pertaining to persons, organizations, businesses or institutions of Northumberland County excluding Port Hope.

This immense collection is overseen by the Archivist and volunteers. As the collection grows and moves into the digital age, new volunteers are very much needed. It takes a special type of person to be an archives volunteer. Volunteers need attention to detail, patience, perseverance, and a sense of humour!



The current project requiring volunteers is data inputting. By updating our database you will be helping our patrons and staff increase accessibility to the collection! To join us as a volunteer please contact the Archivist at: 905-377-0413 or archivist.cobourg@bellnet.ca

Canadian Cookbooks: An Unexpected Source of Family History

by Judith Goulin

Dorothy Duncan recently spoke in Fenelon Falls on the intriguing topic of cookbooks as an unexpected source of Canadian family history. Dorothy, retired Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society, is also a museum adviser and author. You may recall Dorothy's interesting food column, *Food Fare*, in the popular magazine *Century Home*.

Dorothy told her audience that the first Canadian cookbook, *The Cook Not Mad*, published in 1830, gives the reader insight into what ingredients were available to settlers at that time, what means they had at their disposal to cook and preserve their food, what their food preferences were and what they could afford to serve their families.

For example, a recipe called *Nice Cookies That Will Keep Real Good Three Months* informs us that rural women of the 1830's had few ingredients on hand. Dorothy baked these cookies and stored them for three months. When she served them to her audience, everyone was in agreement that not only were they "nice" but also that they had indeed kept "real good"! It was hard to believe these cookies only contained five ingredients: flour, butter, some form of sugar, water and caraway seed. White, or refined sugar, as we know it, was available but at \$100 a barrel, it was well beyond affordable. Raw, unrefined sugar cost \$10 a barrel.

"Spirits" were popular in cooking. Even those women who had taken the pledge would suffer no pangs of conscience when they added liquor to their puddings and fruitcakes!

Old cookbooks often describe the cook and tell whose recipe it is. Sometimes a cookbook is a commemorative document assembled by a group, such as a church, ethnic group, or an individual. *Manitoba's Heritage Cookery* is full of family history, while *Aunt Maud's Recipe Book* pays tribute to a beloved relative, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and features Lucy's favourite recipes.

Dorothy identified some turning points in Canadian culinary history. The First Nations influenced the cookery of the earliest settlers. It is interesting to note that bannock made by First Nations and the early Scottish settlers is the same except one uses ground corn and the other uses oats, but both claim it as their national dish. Immigrants carried their familiar recipes with them to the new land. War brides came across the ocean with their Canadian husbands to begin marital homes in Canada and brought their mothers' recipes with them. When Newfoundland and Labrador entered into Confederation in 1949 another collection of recipes soon became part of the body of Canadian cookery.

You may recall that Dorothy Duncan was CDHS's guest speaker in September 2004 when she spoke about heritage food. [See Historical Review 2004 - 2005] Remember the delicious samples of food that we enjoyed using recipes from her book, *Nothing More Comforting: Canada's Heritage Food?*

Duncan's latest and soon to be published book is *Feasting and Fasting: Canada's Heritage Celebrations*.

A Mystery at Victoria Hall

by David Gregory

On Tuesday Sept. 28 at about 7:30 a crowd started to gather in front of Victoria Hall. The people were locked out! Some passers by wondered what was going on. As it began to get darker some in the group not only peered into the building but went around it to see if entry was possible. The building was totally dark. No entry was possible. One person knowing that the mayor was having supper with a group of seniors at the Woodlawn Inn went to see him and alert him of the problem. The mayor immediately came to the Hall and let the people in. After some slight confusion the people were directed to the Old Bailey Courtroom. Why were they directed there? Had they done something wrong? The Acting President of The Cobourg and District Historical Society entered the prisoner's box.

The people were welcomed to the first meeting of the new season, in a new location. Marion Hagen was introduced and gave the group a brief but very informative look

at the beginning of the Historical Society and the Archives. She was instrumental in the formation of both groups. Thanks Marion! It was great to have this information on the 30th Anniversary of our formation,

Dr. Donald B. Smith, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Calgary, was then introduced and gave a passionate, interesting and very informative speech on Lord Bury – known as the “affaire Bury” and the connection to Cobourg. He received a standing ovation for his excellent presentation. Dr. Smith was delighted to have the opportunity to speak in Victoria Hall and particularly in the Court Room.

CDHS Executive for 2010 – 2011

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Past President	Libby Seekings	

In Memoriam

Bernice Read

We mourn the passing of long-time CDHS supporter Bernice Read. Bea, who had a long and full life, was a woman who was loved by all who knew her. Bea was a loyal support to her husband, Angus Vaughan Read, in his interests in the historical society. Angus, we offer you our sincere sympathy in the loss of Bea.

Notes and Notices

Websites

There are many websites with great Cobourg-related historical material.

The CDHS website: www.cdhsarchives.org,

Snippets of Cobourg history and current happenings: www.hardscrabble.ca

Cobourg History: <http://www.cobourghistory.ca/>

West High School History Page: <http://www.eagle.ca/westhistory/index.htm>

Canadian County Atlas Digital Project:
<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/Countyatlas/SearchMapframes.php>

Genealogical material: <http://www.nhb.com/hunter/>

Ontario Veteran Archive: <http://www.ontarioveteranarchive.ca/>

Gravestones across Canada: <http://canadianheadstones.com/>

East Durham Historical Society: <http://www.porthopehistorical.ca>

Lakeshore Genealogical Society

The November meeting of the Lakeshore Genealogical Society will be in the C. Gordon King Centre at 200 Ontario Street at 6:30 p.m. on November 11.

Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., 2216 County Rd. 28, Port Hope
Ken Andrus, Port Hope - Chief Building Official, will speak on
Historic Restoration and Designation of Heritage Homes

Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., 2216 County Rd. 28, Port Hope
Major Brenda Tucker, C.F.B. Trenton will speak on *History of the Military*

British Home Child Event

Come and celebrate Canada's 2010 Year of the British Home Child with us!

The Brantford County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will be holding an open house on Saturday, October 23rd from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, October 24th from 1 to 8 p.m. at Smokey Hollow Estates, 114-118 Powerline Road, Brantford, ON, Canada. For details phone 519-753-4140 or email brantogs@bellnet.ca.