

Historically Speaking

The Newsletter of the Cobourg and
District Historical Society

September 2011 — Issue 245

Daggers and Mens' Smiles

The Cobourg and District Historical Society invites you to join us for a presentation by Jill Downy. Downy is the author of five historical novels and her short stories have appeared in *Chatelaine*. Her latest historical novel, *Daggers and Mens' Smiles*, is set during WWII on the Channel island of Guernsey. The Channel Islands were the only part of the British Isles occupied by Germany during the war. Copies of Jill's newest book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Join us in the Citizens' Forum, Victoria Hall, on Tuesday, September 27. Doors open at 7:30 and the presentation begins at 8:00.

All are welcome so bring a friend!

Our next two meetings:

October 25, 2011	Walter Lewis	Traveling on the Great Lakes
November 22, 2011	Sandy Pratt	Pratt's Mill

CDHS Membership

Our records show that several renewals for the current membership year are still outstanding. The renewal date was March 2011. If you are not sure whether your membership has lapsed, you can check at the membership table at the September meeting or contact Martha Watson at mwatson5@sympatico.ca or 905-372-2490. Please send cheques to Martha Watson, 381 Ontario Street, Cobourg, ON K9A 3B9 or pay at our next meeting.

Last year we waived the usual \$5.00 guest fee in an attempt to encourage attendance of potential new members. This year we will be resuming our past practice of charging non-members this nominal fee, although from time to time we will plan a special "bring a friend for free" meeting.

Submissions

The CDHS Newsletter welcomes submissions – short articles, announcements, book reviews, letters to the editor, etc. – that will be of interest to members in the Cobourg area. Articles should generally be limited to 300 words although exceptions can be made. Submissions should be sent to the editor at 24 Pebble Beach Drive, Cobourg, ON, K9A 2C5 or by email to ken.strauss@sympatico.ca.

Interpretive Plaque

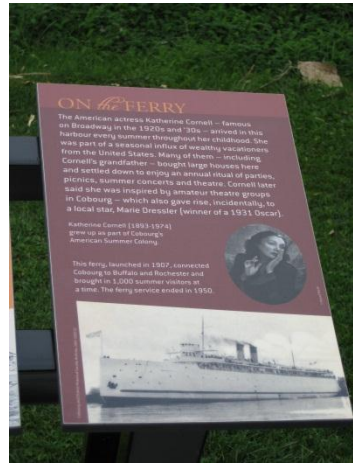
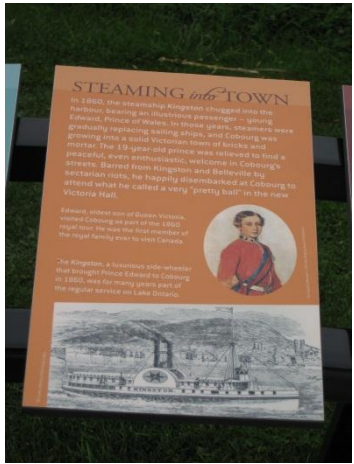
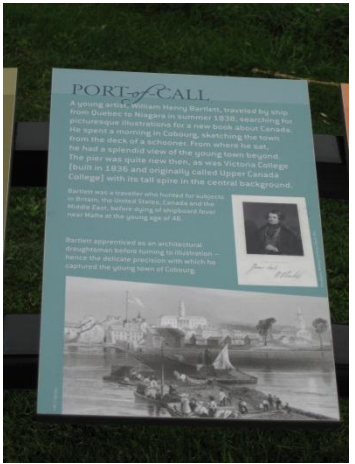
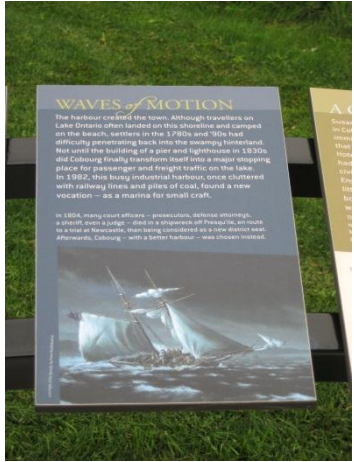
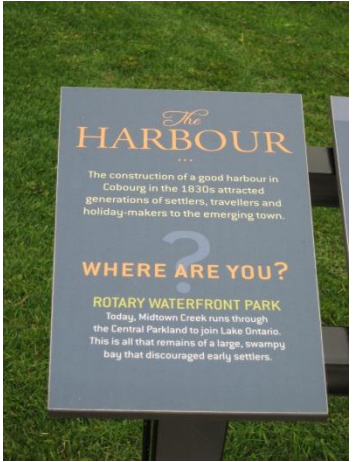
Paula Glaser

If you have been down to the harbour recently, you have perhaps noticed the interpretive plaque at the south end of the Rotary Park. The five panels, complete with words and pictures, give you a thumbnail sketch of the role the harbour has played in the development of Cobourg. The Cobourg Art in Public Spaces (C.A.P.S.) committee under the chairmanship of Dorette Carter gathered the information and selected the design of the plaque and it was installed by the town last Spring.

This is the first of five interpretive plaques to be set up in Cobourg. Watch for the second one on George Street next year!



New plaque at the south end of Rotary Park



Some details of the plaque

AAO Conference

Ciara Ward, Archivist at the CDHS Archives, recently traveled by plane, train and automobile to attend the 2011 Archives Association of Ontario (AAO) conference in Thunder Bay. Over three days dozens of speakers presented talks and participated in panel discussions on topics relating to managing archives. Topics were diverse but included “Artifacts in Aboriginal Cultural Centres”, the challenges and opportunities faced by archivists when attempting to engage students with archival material, the intersection of federal and provincial access laws with Canon archival law and many others.

Ciara did not merely have the opportunity to learn what others are doing. She was able to inform other AAO conference attendees of the initiatives underway in Cobourg. In a session shared with Rebecka Sheffield (University of Toronto) and Matt Szybalski (City of Thunder Bay Archives) Ciara provided details of her ambitious oral history project which captured the memories of veterans in Cobourg. She outlined the planning process as well as the successes (and failures) of the first



year of the project and discussed how the Archives has been able to bring the community together through capturing the history of Cobourg.

However, all was not work. Ciara was able to enjoy a performance by local Ojibway Woodland Drummers and sample “Perisians”. These are a non-fattening Thunder Bay speciality of an oval cinnamon-bun like pastry with a sweet pink icing made of raspberries and strawberries.

Ontario Heritage Conference

Martha Watson

The Ontario Heritage Conference drew a sell-out crowd from across Ontario, and was a resounding success. In addition to the conference sessions held in Victoria Hall, attendees also were treated to tours of local heritage highlights.

The conference theme was “Creating the Will”. This phrase refers essentially to overcoming obstacles to successful heritage preservation as a result of apathy, ignorance, and perceptions of wasteful spending. The need to educate and persuade decision-makers and the public at large of the value that heritage preservation adds to our communities was the message of the keynote address by Terry O’Reilly, a well-known speaker and authority in the advertising field. Panel discussions included such eminent authorities as Christopher Hume of the Toronto Star. The presentations showing achievements and disappointments experienced by various communities were stimulating and revealing.

Although this conference was focused on architectural heritage, the same approach can readily be applied to other aspects of historical heritage. Among the objectives of the CDHS, according to its constitution, are the following:

“...to arouse an interest in the past, and to encourage the preservation of the historical, archaeological and architectural heritage of Cobourg and district...”

Rather than deploring ignorance of or lack of interest in local history among neighbours, youth, newcomers, perhaps we could reflect on the message of the heritage conference. Individually or collectively what can we do to inspire interest and pride in local heritage in all its forms? And, if not us, then who?

Notes and Notices

Weston Village Heritage House Tour

There will be a tour of seven historic homes plus the Weston Masonic Hall (all located in Weston Village) on Sunday, Oct. 16. Tour participants will be able to visit each home between noon and 4:30 pm.

“People can go into homes in whatever order they want,” said Cherri Hurst of the Weston Historical Society. “There will be a volunteer at each stop providing information about the history and the architectural details of the house.”

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the tour. They may be purchased at the Weston Village Farmers’ Market (Weston Road and John Street) on Saturdays from 8 am to noon or at Squibb’s Stationer’s, 1974 Weston Rd. All proceeds go to the Weston Historical Society.

Afternoon tea will also be served at the Masonic Hall for \$5.

For more information, contact Cherri at bobbackland@ica.net or to be a tour volunteer, email mariafrancorussell@gmail.com

Book Reading

Cobourg author Linda Hutsell-Manning will read from her new novel *That Summer in Franklin* on Monday, September 26 at 7 pm in the Cobourg Library at 200 Ontario Street. Her novel is set in Cobourg in 1955 and conveys a flavour of working in a small town hotel of that era. Contact Jocelyn MacLean at jmaclean@cobourg.library.on.ca for additional information.

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/>

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

Trent University Archives:

<http://www.trentu.ca/admin/library/archives/exhibits.htm>

CDHS Executive for 2011 – 2012

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