



"A window on the past –
to enrich the future"

Historically Speaking

Newsletter of the Collingwood and District Historical Society – January 2012

Website – www.historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

Email – collingwoodhistorical@rogers.com

From the President's Desk....

As December draws to a close, it brings to an end one of the most eventful and successful years that the Collingwood and District Historical Society has experienced in some time. This year the Society held nine general meetings which attracted a record number of members and guests and in doing so raised the average attendance at these meetings to sixty-seven interested and attentive individuals.

At the Annual General Meeting in March, the Society installed Eileen Crysler, well known and highly respected historian and photographer, and a long time supporter of this Society, as its fifth Honorary Member. In April of this year the Collingwood and District Historical Society celebrated its thirty-fifth Anniversary with an excellent programme developed by Glenn Copeland and Joan Miller. The programme was presented before a record audience of almost one hundred people that included a number of former members and former Executive Members. That these two events happened, and much more as well, is due, without question, to the dedicated commitment and hard work of the members of the Executive Committee and to the enthusiastic support of the Society's membership and to those whose interest in its history and heritage can be seen at work in so many ways in our community.

The month of December also brings to an end the Society's: Membership Year". I am pleased to report that a number of members, both long time and new, took the opportunity at the December General Meeting to renew their memberships for 2012. The Executive Committee that has worked many hours to develop the Programme of Meetings and Activities for 2012 is most appreciative of this demonstration of confidence and support. Memberships for the year 2012 may be renewed or taken at the January 9, 2012 General Meeting, or by completing the form on page four of this newsletter and forwarding it to the Society at the address noted.

I urge you to renew your membership at this time and to encourage those you know who are or might be interested to become members. You can do this by talking about the organization and discussing our meetings and activities with others. Invite a family member, a friend or neighbour to one of the General Meetings in the coming months, share your copy of the Society's newsletter with them and encourage them to investigate our website. You are a vital part of this organization; your interest and support have brought the Society to the place, at which it stands now, and I invite you to go forward as the Collingwood and District Historical Society continues to develop and grow.

Bruce Mackison, President, CDHS

First Meeting of 2012

Monday, January 9th 2012 - David Brunelle, Project Director of the South Georgian Bay, War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee will present the Who, What, Why, When, Where, of How the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812-14 and the 200 Years of Peace between Canada and the United States will be celebrated.

Meeting begins at 7 pm at the Leisure Time Club, Minnesota Street, Collingwood

Welcome to new members of the Collingwood and District Historical Society – Marguerite Burk, Peter Coates, Robert & Ilene Crosson and Trevor Metcalfe. They are some of the 26 new members who joined the Collingwood and District Historical Society for the first time in 2011. We hope they all enjoy our meetings and newsletters and learn interesting and informative historical facts about our town and district.

2011 A Year of Historical Firsts

2011 was the year for many firsts in Collingwood and also with the Collingwood and District Historical Society. In 2011 Collingwood's first female mayor, Sandra Cooper, presided over the council that was made up of eight male council members.

The Collingwood and District Historical Society celebrated many firsts during 2011, some of which are; in April of 2011 the CDHS celebrated 35 years of operation with a special Anniversary Meeting which drew a record attendance. Many former executive members were on hand to help us celebrate this special occasion.

In 2011 we held 9 general meetings, a record that had not been achieved before and the attendance at our general meetings reached a total of over 600 persons.

Our membership also reached a record high with 95 members for the year 2011, many of these members joined our society for the first time and many of these people are newcomers to the Collingwood area and are interested in learning the history of our great town and district.

Highlights from some of our General Meetings in 2011



At the November CDHS meeting everyone received a gold and red pin named the "Canada Remembers" pin. This pin with 2 red poppies and a gold maple leaf represents Canadians who have served their country in war and peace. The pins were made available to our society from the Veterans Affairs Department of Canada.

Eileen Crysler who has served on the Executive Committee of the Collingwood and District Historical Society for the past 34 years was honoured at the 35th Anniversary meeting with a Life Membership in the CDHS. Eileen is shown here with President Bruce Mackison receiving her Membership Certificate and a souvenir picture.



Large attendance at meetings in 2011 enjoyed the many interesting subjects covered through the year which included – The Collingwood Shipyard, The Tremont Hotel, The Collingwood Elevators, Surveying and laying out of roads in the Collingwood area, "Collingwood, The Way we Were", and other informative presentations.

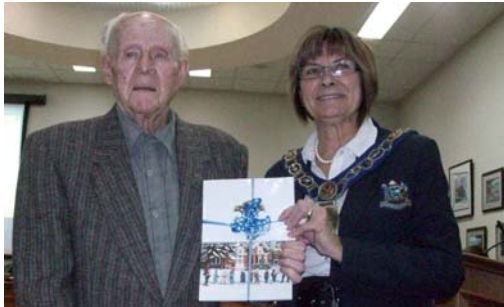
The Collingwood Shipyard is still very much alive in the minds and hearts of people in Collingwood; this was evident at the December 2011 meeting when local author George Czerny gave an enlightening presentation on the "Shipyards and Side Launches". George had personal experience in riding in on a launch and told many tales of the excitement of Launch Day in Collingwood.



Did You Know That - by Marie Cruickshank

- the stumps on Hurontario Street had not been removed by 1858 – but by 1856 the community had 15 taverns and saloons, 2 distilleries, a brewery and every store could sell spirits?
 - by 1857 a Temperance League and a jail were deemed necessary by concerned citizens?
 - by the late 1800's Collingwood had telephone service, electricity and water but had to wait until 1907 for sewers to be installed?
 - those who lived outside the area bounded by Hume, Fifth, Birch, First and St. Paul Streets had to wait longer?
 - on April 22, 1923 Collingwood was covered with 7 inches of snow?
 - in 1856, the Mechanics Institute, a subscription library was founded?
 - in 1857, Simcoe County opened Grammar Schools in Bradford and Collingwood?
 - in 1860, the first newspaper "The Enterprise" was printed?
 - in 1877, the editor of the Enterprise, Fred T. Hodgson, had authored 45 technical books on carpentry?
 - in 1890, the second East Ward School, later named Connaught, was built?
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Local Artist, Nick Hodson, receives honour from Mayor Cooper



In December 2011, Collingwood's Mayor Sandra Cooper, put out a request for submissions from local artists for an original painting that could be used as the Town of Collingwood's 2011 Christmas card. Thirty-six entries were received at the Town Hall and the picture that was chosen was painted by Collingwood's well known artist and CDHS member, Nick Hodson. Nick's picture portrays a group of children from a local Day Care Centre out for a winter's walk with their "teacher" in the lead. Each of the children are dressed in their colourful winter snowsuits and are holding onto the "Yellow Rope" as they pass by a well known historic home in Collingwood at the corner of Hurontario Street and George Street. At the December 19th council meeting, Mayor Cooper presented Nick with a package of the Christmas cards that had been made using his painting. Congratulations Nick, we think the town made an excellent choice.

Origin of the Names of Post Offices in Simcoe County

Collingwood – This office is believed to have been originally named after Lord Collingwood, Lord Nelson's chief officer at the Battle of Trafalgar, Oct. 21, 1805. This is true in a sense, but in reality the name was taken from the neighboring township, in the County of Grey. This township, which was first named Alta, Alba or Atlas, as it appeared on a map printed in 1836, was afterwards re-named Collingwood upon the setting apart of several hundred acres for soldiers of the Peninsular War. According to tradition the Indians who inhabited the section of country in and about the present town of Collingwood before and for many years after the arrival of the white man in the early part of the seventeenth century, knew the shore of Iroquois Bay, now Nottawasaga Bay, as "Qua-sing-wissin", the place of eating. This is said to be accounted for owing to the quantities of fish, no doubt bass, which were known by the Indians to flourish along the shore inside of the islands. Another story regarding the Indians' knowledge of the shore, which appears more authentic, and which has been verified by two of the most intelligent Indians of the Rama Band of Ojibwas, is that the Indians knew the shore as "Qua-sah-qua-ning," in English, "ice-driven shore and piled upon the shore in a heap." In the Ojibwa language the meaning is even more extensive, "qua-sah," "getting in with great difficulty through the water to the land, just getting to the shore," "qua-ning," "getting into the land over a heap from the water," doubtless alluding to the pulling of the canoe up out of the water over heaps of ice.

Over 150 years elapsed after the Huron tribes were driven out of this section by the implacable Iroquois before settlers arrived to hew homes out of the forest which covered the site of the present town of Collingwood and the surrounding country. At first they came very slowly, and it was not until the opening years of the last century that there was any great movement to the northern part of the present county of Simcoe.

- to be continued in the next newsletter.

Executive of the Collingwood and District Historical Society

President – Bruce Mackison 705-446-1820
Past President – Jim Robson 705-446-0571
Vice President – Glenn Copeland 705-445-4317
Secretary/Membership – Joan Miller 705-445-1119
Treasurer – Selby Boyd – 705-446-0273
Members at Large –
Margaret Birnie 705-445-5125
Marie Cruickshank – 705-445-2888
Eileen Crysler – 705-445-3512
John Lyons – 705-293-1577
Eileen Smith – 705-445-1844

Social Time

Coffee and cookies are provided at our meetings. We invite members and guests to stay at the completion of our meetings and enjoy a social time.

Meeting Cancellation Policy

If one of our meetings has to be cancelled due to inclement weather or conditions beyond our control, notice of cancellation will be sent to the local radio station where they will post such item on their website and also announce it on the radio. The executive members of the society will endeavour to reach each member by telephone also to confirm when such action has been necessary.

Transportation If you are in need of transportation to attend a CDHS meeting, please phone 446-1820 or 445-1119 and a ride will be arranged for you.

Newsletters

Anyone with an article for a future CDHS newsletter, please forward the item to Newsletter Editor, Joan Miller, at email millerjoan@rogers.com.

Upcoming Meetings of the CDHS

Jan. 9, 2012 -

1812-14 The War - David Brunelle – Project Director of the South Georgian Bay War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee will present the Who, What, Why, When, Where, of How the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812-14 and the 200 Years of Peace between Canada and the United States will be celebrated.

Feb. 6, 2012 -

“British Home Children” with local author **Gloria Philips**. Gloria will tell of the experiences of British Home Children who were sent to Canada from England in the late 1800s and up to the mid 1900’s. Some of these children grew up in Collingwood and still reside here.

Meetings begin at 7 pm. At the Leisure Time Club, Minnesota St., Collingwood.

All upcoming meetings are listed on our website Historicallyspeakingcdhs.ca

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Memberships are due in January each year – If you have not already sent in your renewal for 2012, won’t you please do so now. Thank you.

To become a member of the Collingwood and District Historical Society, or renew your membership, please complete this application.

Name:

Address:.....

Postal Code:..... Tel #:..... Email:

Membership: Single (\$15.00)... Couples & Corporate (\$25.00)

I would be interested in working with the Society in areas pertaining to:

Programs Special Events Publicity Membership Other

Please mail with cheque or money order to: Collingwood & District Historical Society, Box 181 Collingwood, ON. L9Y 3Z5