

# *Historically Speaking*

Newsletter of the Collingwood and District Historical Society - January, 2008

*"A Window on the Past - To Enrich the Future"*

## **Happy New Year and Happy Birthday Collingwood**

The Town of Collingwood is celebrating its sesquicentennial anniversary in 2008.

A sesquicentennial committee has been formed and a timeline has been created. The festivities will run throughout 2008 with a combination of previously established and newly created events all promoted as sesquicentennial or 'sesquicentennial edition' events. In addition, ten dedicated celebration days are scheduled from Friday, June 27th to Sunday, July 6th, 2008.

We hope you share in the excitement of this upcoming celebration and trust that you too view it as a great opportunity to showcase the successes of Collingwood present, pay tribute to Collingwood's past, and impart a vision of Collingwood's future.

## **Collingwood & District Historical Society hold elections**

Election of officers for the year 2008 took place at the Annual General Meeting in January. Officers elected are:

President – Bruce Mackison Ph. 446-1820  
Past President – Jim Robson Ph. 446-0571  
Secretary/Membership – Joan Miller Ph. 445-1119  
Treasurer – Margaret Birnie Ph 445-5125  
Members at Large –  
Hugh Boycott, Ph 445-9440  
Glenn Copeland, Ph 445-4317  
Ted Cook, Ph 445-5892  
Marie Cruickshank, Ph 445-2888  
Eileen Crysler, Ph 445-3512  
John Lyons, Ph 428-0762  
Murray Thompson Ph 445-7090  
Audrey Westlake Ph 445-3664

Any thoughts, ideas or suggestions helpful to our society, please pass them on to an executive member.

## **Ontario Heritage Conference to be held in Collingwood.**

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Community Heritage Ontario will cosponsor the 2008 Ontario Heritage Conference which will be held in Collingwood the weekend of May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Several hundred members are expected to attend. While attending the conference members will be given the opportunity to include as one of their activities, the Collingwood and District Historical Society's "Tour of Historic Homes and Buildings" on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **Remembering the old Arlington Hotel; Recalling memories of Hurontario Street**

COLLINGWOOD THROUGH THE EYES OF A BOY - John Lyons, spoke at the January 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Collingwood and District Historical Society about Hurontario Street as he recalls it from his childhood. As a child John lived in the Arlington Hotel with his aunt and uncle. John relayed many interesting tales of his experiences growing up in downtown Collingwood. The Arlington was located at what is now 115 Hurontario St. In the late 1980s, it was ravaged by fire, but quickly rebuilt, with its attractive arched entrance. Today it is known as the Arlington Shoppes and Offices.



Looking Back

**Looking south on Hurontario St. at First Street, early 1960's**

## **2008 PROGRAMME of the C.D.H.S.**

*All meetings are held at the Leisure Time Club, 100 Minnesota St., Collingwood and begin at 7:00 p.m. on the dates noted.*

- **JANUARY 7: "Hurontario Street through the Eyes of a Small Boy"** Speaker John Lyons will take us on a walk along the Hurontario Street he knew as a young boy.

- **February 4: "The Story of the Blue Mountain Golf and Country Club"** Eileen Crysler and John Smith will tell the story of one of our town's most popular recreational facilities.

- **March 3: "The Nancy"** Rob Potter, President of the Friends of the Nancy", will recount the history of this ship from the War of 1812 and how it came to rest in the Nottawasaga River.

- **April 7: "The Mary Ward and the Moberly Connection"**. Suzanne Ferri, Curator of the Blue Mountains, Craigeith Heritage Depot will speak about the "Mary Ward" and its link to the

Moberly Family, one of Collingwood's prominent early families.

- **May 31: House and Building Tour** Visit six of Collingwood's historically and architecturally interesting buildings.
- **October 6: "The Story of the Blue Mountain Ski Club"**. George Weider, son of Jozo Weider, will speak about the development of this major feature of our community
- **November 3: "The Women of World War Two"**. Margaret Birnie, Elsie Cruickshank and Muriel Poste recount their experiences as members of our Armed Forces during World War II.

**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 on the radio. The executive members of the society will endeavour to reach each member by telephone to also confirm when such action has been necessary.

**BMFA - Reprint of Nick Hodson's book.**

The BMFA has re-printed Nick Hodson's beautiful and very popular book "A Collingwood Collection: Drawings by Nick Hodson". The second edition contains two new drawings - one of the first Anglican Church in Collingwood, and the other of Collingwood's first Agricultural Building. The book is an absolute treasure for those who live in or love Collingwood and area. It's a great price too at only \$24.95 plus \$1.50 GST.

Stop by the Arts Centre soon and get your copy.

## Former CDHS Member Honored Posthumously

The Order of Collingwood was presented to Ron Lougheed in posthumous recognition of the volunteer efforts of his wife Jopie, for her countless hours of genealogical research. She committed time and expertise to catalogue more than a thousand genealogical records in the library's collection. Her dedication and selfless commitment was recognized by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration in the past for 15 years of volunteer work. Her achievements included transcribing birth, marriage and death announcements from local newspapers to produce an alphabetical listing.

## November 2007 Historical Society Meeting – Fire Dept. History



A fire department history

Jack McAllister and Doug Skelding shown here with CDHS President Bruce Mackison, talked about Mr. Skelding's book "Ordeal by Fire" a History of the Collingwood Fire Dept. at the November meeting. The book is now printed in hardcover and available for purchase at the Museum, the Library or the local Fire Department for \$30.00

### Information Table

Be sure to check out the "Information Table" at our general meetings for literature and brochures on interesting goings on in our area.

## Nick Hodson – An Inspiration to everyone

Nick Hodson has received the prestigious Companion of the Order of Collingwood for his many years of volunteerism and commitment to the Town of Collingwood.

The ninety-plus-year-old Collingwood resident has been recognized for his volunteer efforts with All Saints' Anglican Church, the Masonic Lodge, the Collingwood Historical Society, Doors Open, and a number of other organizations.

"It is an honour to be recognized for something you enjoy doing... I have made so many friends and it does not take much effort to do what I have done," said Nick.

A gift of Mr. Hodson's book - which includes drawings of historical buildings in Collingwood - was well received by dignitaries in Japan during Mayor Carrier's recent trip to Collingwood's sister city, Katano.

"Nick is an inspiration to everyone in Collingwood", said mayor Carrier.

Question: What is the longest word in the English dictionary?

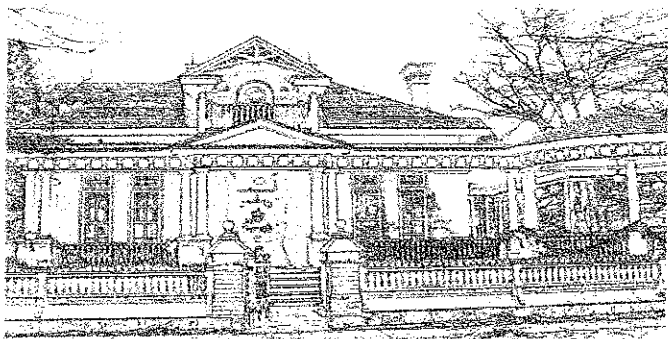
Answer: Smiles – there's a mile between the two S's.

## Did you know –

**150 Years Ago** – The first meeting of the Town of Collingwood Council was held Jan. 18, 1858. William Hamilton was voted as Collingwood's first mayor.

**1856** – The Collingwood Public Library was established. Its purpose was to provide members with lectures, classes, reading rooms and lending libraries.

**Tour of Historic Homes and Buildings in Collingwood, Saturday May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.**



The 2008 Historic Home and Building Tour will be of six historic or architecturally interesting buildings in Collingwood. One of the homes was built in 1888 in the Victorian design and includes such features as stained glass windows and solid oak wainscoting. This home has been lovingly restored by its present owners who have gone to great lengths to restore the home in the original design. Five other architecturally and historically interesting buildings are open for touring as well. Tickets for the tour will be \$15.00 each and will be available for purchase at a later date in locations throughout Collingwood and also through the Historical Society.

**Early residents of our area**

In the 1860's James Cooper operated a store in the village of Nottawa, just south of Collingwood. Mr. Cooper employed two clerks, Mr. F. T. Hodgson and Mr. Thomas Long; both men would become well known citizens of Collingwood in later years. It is recorded that their wages were \$12.00 a month plus board.

Mr. Hodgson became an accomplished architect and author of numerous books on building techniques. Many of these books are still in print today and available for purchase or can be found in many libraries. Mr. Hodgson designed many homes including the large brick Gothic style home at 375 Third Street and the 10,000 sq. ft. home at 200 Oak Street, which is today home to the National Ski Academy. Mr. Long became owner and operator of his own dry goods and clothing store on Hurontario Street and in 1903 donated the land at the corner of Maple and Seconds Streets for the building of a new Library.

**Genealogical Resources at the Collingwood Library**

Some of the resources that are readily available in the Genealogy Department include – Census information from 1861 – 1901. Directories in book or microfiche format, Land Record Indexes, Cemetery transcriptions, Birth, Marriage and Death indexes. Index cards for prominent citizens and Collingwood Merchants. Local History files, Family histories, International Genealogical Indexes and How to Guides. Carole Stuart will be happy to help you search into your past.

To become a member of the Collingwood and District Historical Society, please complete this membership 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  
P.O. Box 181  
Collingwood Ontario L9Y 3Z5