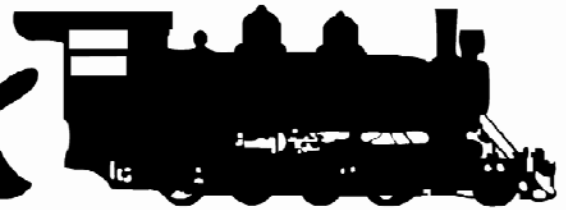


The Collingwood Museum

ON TRACK



Volume 5 Issue 5

September & October 2011

Twenty-five years and counting...



Collingwood's longtime residents can still picture a ship at the base of Hurontario Street, feel the rush of shipyard employees bicycling to work, and revel in the infectious pride of launch day. On September 12, 1986, Collingwood's shipbuilding reality became recollection with the closure of Collingwood Shipyards.

The looming threat of closure was frequently felt during the Shipyards' 103 years of operation; however, the personalized letters received by employees on August 22, 1986, confirmed what many feared. Numerous factors led to the closure, including a decrease in demand for new ships and an increase in competition from foreign builders.

Collingwood's geographical location posed a challenge in attracting new contracts as the main shipping routes were twelve sailing hours away. The lack of a large dry dock also inhibited Collingwood Shipyards' ability to repair large vessels.

General Manager Stewart Thoms estimated that keeping the yard open without orders would cost more than \$4 million a year, making closing the only viable business decision.

Model ships, shipyard artifacts, and live footage of a side launch begin to retell the story of Collingwood Shipyards at the Collingwood Museum. Whether you are new to Collingwood, or a seasoned resident, please stop by to witness the grandeur of Collingwood's shipbuilding past.

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Supervisor's Message

Fall is now upon us and the beautiful colours are out in full bloom at the Station. The Museum staff enjoyed a busy summer of children's programs, cataloguing artifacts and welcoming visitors from across the country to our site.

The Collingwood Museum is in the midst of a transitional period with respect to staffing and programs and although it may present a few challenges here and there, we're excited about the new opportunities these changes can bring. Plans for the new year include workshops, extended outreach programs, informative exhibits, and new adult programs. If you have any suggestions please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Melissa Shaw.

You will also note a re-launching of our member newsletter. The new format will be more concise and focused, and as such more cost-effective. Some items, including the event listing will be printed 'as requested' and published as an online calendar, reducing the number of pages in the newsletter—a significantly greener option.

Museum staff members are also currently working on job descriptions for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering call either myself or Melissa. Next time you are in the museum, be sure to ask for a volunteer application form. Many hands make light work!

I hope everyone has a great autumn and is enjoying the season has to offer.

Susan Warner, Museum Supervisor

Local Trivia Challenge...Clyde Aircraft

- At the beginning of World War II, Clyde Aircraft Manufacturing moved into the factory previously occupied by _____.
- Parts made in the factory were sent to Europe and most of these were made specifically for the _____.
- _____ was founder of Clyde Aircraft Manufacturing Co., Ltd.
- J. Allan Dixon was a machinist and superintendent of the Clyde Aircraft Company. He was credited with organizing the town's _____.
- By the end of the War, Clyde Aircraft had _____ employees, many of them women.
- Mr. Julian Harcourt Ferguson was also a Member of Parliament and _____ of Collingwood in 1959.
- Mr. Ferguson lived at 143 Oak Street, in the home known as _____.
- Clyde Aircraft was later run by _____. His name is still used today on one of Cranberry Resorts buildings, "The Bear Estate".
- When the war ended Clyde Aircraft closed and the building became _____ in 1945.
- The business and buildings became known as _____, which closed in 2005.



003.89.6 Janet and Edith Ross at Clyde Aircraft 1941.

- Imperial Wire and Steel
- Mosquito Bomber
- Julian Harcourt Ferguson
- Kiltie Band
- 500
- Mayor
- Dundurn Hall
- George Alfred Charles Bear
- Globe Plywood Limited
- Kaufman Furniture

Answers

Farewell to our Summer Staffers

Carly Sandell

The past three months I have spent at the Collingwood Museum have been filled with laughter, chaos, success, stress and above all, invaluable experiences. Looking back on my time here, I realize how much I have truly gained from this incredible position and for that, I am so thankful. To be able to provide local families with exceptional programming, both fun and educational, has been so rewarding. Proof could be seen on the children's faces and through the overwhelming amount of positive feedback, that we were successful in accommodating great children's programming. The guidance and support of all museum staff and volunteers is much appreciated and was critical in our success. I will be forever grateful for this amazing opportunity and will never forget the people with whom I shared this experience.

Tyler Cleary

As the summer begins to come to an end, so too is my summer occupation here at The Station. I have spent the past fourteen weeks with my hands clutched around artifacts, my nose buried in scrapbooks, journals, ledgers and the like. My head teeming with the cognition of all things Collingwood; in short my appreciation and understanding of this area has truly increased tenfold. I cannot express how much enjoyment this job has brought me, and in many ways it has reaffirmed my passion for history. I feel a debt of gratitude is owed to every patron I greeted, every volunteer who selflessly committed themselves to one task or another and the staff who provided me guidance and this wonderful opportunity.



From left to right: Brooke Steele, Carly Sandell, Nathan Vandermey, and Tyler Cleary

Nathan Vandermey

Working at the Collingwood Museum this summer was a great experience. As a collections management assistant I was able to gain invaluable hands on experience in the museum management field. I was lucky enough to be able to work with multiple World War I artefacts such as an Allied PH gas mask and multiple German helmets. I was also able to get a glimpse at some of Collingwood's past celebrations by working with many ribbons commemorating different events. Having only visited Collingwood a few times previously it was a joy to work here this summer and I want to thank the town for welcoming me with open arms. I also want to thank the town and museums' staff and volunteers for helping make the summer so memorable. This summer will be an experience I will never forget and one that will benefit me in my education and future profession for years to come.

Continued on page 4

Farewell to Summer Staff...

Brooke Steele

It's hard to believe that my time here at the museum is over. The past few months have flown by and as I reflect on my days spent here I am grateful for everything this position has given me. The Children's Summer Fun Programs were quite the success and I enjoyed every moment of it. The active participation we had this summer made the programs memorable and truly strengthened our community's unity. I feel that I have learned so much from the wonderful staff members, volunteers and patrons that made this summer one of the best. I would like to thank the Collingwood Museum for this opportunity to learn and grow, and I feel the experience I have gained will help me with my future endeavors.

The Station Gift Shop

With the holidays fast approaching, it's time to start thinking about gifts for the special people in your life. Again this year we have a wonderful array of presents. For children we have a wide range of "No Batteries Required" games and puzzles. "Create Your Own Puzzle" is available in two sizes, 10" x 14" and 15" x 21". Children create their own masterpieces and then use them as a jigsaw puzzle for years to come.

There are many new books available including Ontario's African-Canadian Heritage, featuring the collected writings of Canadian historian Fred Landon. The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833-1939, by Marjorie Kohli focuses on the immigrant stories of young men and women from the UK and Ireland to unknown lives in Canada from 1833 to 1939.

Create Your Own Puzzle: 10" x 14" \$4.95 non member; \$3.96 member

15" x 21" \$9.95 non member; \$7.96 member

Ontario's African-Canadian Heritage: \$28.99 non member; \$23.19 member

The Golden Bridge Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833-1939: \$34.95 non member; \$27.96 member

History Matters

The Collingwood Museum has entered a new and exciting partnership with the Collingwood Connection. Every month the Connection will feature an article written by Museum Staff, under the History Matters column. So far, the Museum has submitted two articles that were met with great enthusiasm. If you have any suggestions for future articles, please do not hesitate to contact Melissa Shaw, Museum Assistant, at mshaw@collingwood.ca or (705) 445-4811 Ext. 7222.

Happy Reading!!!

From the Collection...

Alfred Wallace Downer (1904-1994)



008.5.5 Alfred Wallace Downer

The Collingwood Museum has a wonderful collection of photographs of local residents. One resident in particular is **Alfred Wallace Downer** - Anglican minister, MPP, and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Wally”, as he was most commonly known, was born outside of Penetang in 1904. He attended high school in Cookstown, and graduated from Wyecliffe College in 1929. Shortly after completing college he was sent to his first parish in Ellesmere, then a small village. Ellesmere is now part of the Greater Toronto Area. He served as a vicar in the Anglican Church of Canada. Here he met his wife Phyllis, who was the parish organist. On March 5, 1934, they were married and moved to Duntroon shortly after to serve a three-point parish – Duntroon, Batteau, and Singhampton. In 1935, the Downers were the only Anglican family in Duntroon. They lived in the Anglican Rectory, a brick house across from the Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery. . Wally was first elected as a member of the legislature in 1937. He served as a member until 1975. While serving as a padre in the Queen’s York Rangers in Europe and North Africa during World War II, Downer was re-elected. He served as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 1955 to 1959. Locals joked that Wally resided in Duntroon so long that they were going to rename the town Downerville. His loyalty and care of people were considered his strongest attributes. Alfred Wallace Downer died in August, 1994.

The “Widow’s Penny”

In 1919 the British Government issued a memorial plaque and scroll to the next of kin of every soldier who was killed in World War I. A parchment scroll accompanied each plaque, stating the soldier’s name and unit. The plaque and scroll were accompanied by a letter from his Majesty the King. The copper medal was nicknamed the “widow’s penny”.

This copper medal was received by Alexander and Eve McBride of Collingwood. Their son, Alexander “Sandy” McBride, joined the 177th Overseas Battalion on April 11, 1916. McBride was killed during the defence of the Ypres Salient on November 6, 1917, . His name is recorded on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres, Belgium.



Memorial Plaque for Alexander McBride 002.34.68d

The Ghosts of Georgian Bay Story Competition



Are you an aspiring writer?
Here's a chance to show us your skills!

The Collingwood Museum invites you to write a bone-chilling tale about the Beild House, a haunted historic home in Collingwood's heritage district. One lucky writer from the primary, junior and senior divisions will receive a \$35.00 cash prize, as well as a membership to the Collingwood Museum.

Requirements:

- 👻 Participants must be 16 years of age or under
- 👻 Stories are limited to 250-500 words
- 👻 Name, school, grade and teacher's name must appear on title page

All entries **must** be received by Museum staff at 45 St. Paul Street by 4:00pm on Friday, November 18, 2011 to be eligible.

Thank you to our anonymous donor for monetary support

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving	11	12 Gallery Closed	13 Gallery Closed	14	15
16	17	18	19 Gallery Closed	20 Gallery Closed	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26 Gallery Closed	27 Gallery Closed	28	29

The Collingwood Museum

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Written & Created By:

Museum Staff

Edited By:

Susan Warner & Melissa Shaw



Membership News

Interested in receiving a green newsletter?
Send your email address to
museum@collingwood.ca and we will add you to
our e-newsletter database.

A special thank you from the staff at the Collingwood Museum to
our new and returning members. We are pleased to welcome:

Hours of Operation

9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.: Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.: Sunday
Closed—Wednesday and Thursday (from Thanksgiving to Victoria Day)

The Collingwood Museum

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L9Y 4B2

Take a Look Inside

