



Stoney Creek Historical Society

PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6

NEWSLETTER

Remember the Corman House

December 2018

Edition # 74

Circulation: 250 copies

McNeil's Bakery 51 King St. East before the fire.



Note spelling mistake on large sign should be McNeil's as in lettering on front window

The following information gleaned from a recorded interview made by John Pell with Bill McNeil in April of 1989 is a short recount of the conversation.

The McNeil's moved to Stoney Creek in 1908 from Oakville where they were burned out of business. At this time Bill was only 3 years old and his sister Mona 12. Bill's father had bought their house at 26 King St. West, **this store**, the bakery business and barns.

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The Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has continued its mission of preserving, recording, and capturing the History of Stoney Creek for current and future generations. It does so by having monthly meetings with historically minded guest speakers. We meet at the Municipal Centre, 777 #8 Highway, Stoney Creek. In addition, SCHS has a Reference Library and Archive at 605 #8 Highway, open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1-4 or by appointment. Details appear on our website at www.stoneycreekhistorical.ca I extend a special welcome to our newest Archives volunteer, Bev Gray, for her support and interest. Thank you Bev for your dedication. Our SCHS Volunteers, such as Bev, provide an invaluable service.

Once again, our thanks to Directors Denise Wachnuik and Ashley McConnell, for laying our SCHS wreath on November 11th to those local heroes who served Canada during times of conflict.

Our “Just a Kid from Stoney Creek” t-shirts have been very popular. They are available in all sizes from child to XXXL. Feedback has been tremendous on both the cost of \$20 as well as the high quality of the t-shirt itself. They are available via our website and at our Archives. Mario at Queenston Stationery has sizes small to XXL in stock. He regularly asks for more as they sell quickly. Check them out. Thank you Mario.

SCHS would not be able to offer its services, Newsletter, and monthly meetings without paid memberships, both individual and business. Our business sponsors are acknowledged in our Newsletters. Thank you for supporting us.

Our Landmarks of Stoney Creek limited edition (200) prints continue in popularity. They were created by renowned Peterborough artist George Elliott. The cost is \$50. Once they're gone, they're gone. With the Christmas season upon us, why not consider a t-shirt and a limited edition print. They are great gifts, instill pride in Stoney Creek, are very good value, and you'll be supporting SCHS.

Please know that we are most receptive to your comments, suggestions, and feedback. They are carefully considered and reviewed at our Board meetings.

My Thanks to all of you for your support, to our SCHS Volunteers for donating their time and energy, and to our Board of Directors for their interest and enthusiasm.

Allow me, on behalf of the Board of Directors of SCHS, to extend to all of you, our very Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas, and a Happy Healthy New Year 2019!

Greg Armstrong
President-SCHS

The Fire

McNeil's delivered bread by horse and wagon 3 days a week as far as Winona in the East, 2 days a week as far as Red Hill creek in the west and Stoney Creek delivery was also 3 days a week.

One night around 3 A.M. in 1922 a man came running to the house at 26 King West saying there was a fire in town. When Bill and his father arrived they realized the bake **store** was on fire along with McClung's butcher shop, the ice house, and the sheds to the west of the bakery store. The winds then shifted from the south to the north or the houses on Jones street would have caught fire. With the wind shift the barn for the Acacia House caught fire and was also completely destroyed.

Bill remembered 2 men carrying their 400 lb safe across the street, while Miss Slingerland who lived just east of the bakery would not let the men remove any of her furniture, she seemed to have a premonition that her place would not be lost and it was not. All the furniture was removed from the house of Case Springstead, which was situated another thirty feet east of Miss Slingerland. J.T. Chittick's grocery store was across the street and had all the windows broken from the fire when the wind changed from South to North.

Arrangements for the fire protection from Hamilton were never made. Therefore the Hamilton Fire Department did not get permission to respond to this fire for at least one hour, by that time every building in the way was lost.



Early delivery by horse & wagon. Man unidentified but could have been Bill's father.



King St. East looking west before the 1922 fire. The immediate foreground on the right (north side) is the bakery, then McClung's butcher shop and delivery truck, then large garage (barn) of the Acacia House. All 3 buildings burnt to the ground.



The picture on the left is my uncle Vern Fleming circa 1930. The building behind him is the rebuilt Welch's butcher shop, the building on the right behind the gas pump is Miss Slingerland's house and the space in between is the empty lot from the McNeil bakery store. In 1940 the brick apartment at 51 King St. East was built. The flanking buildings changed later as the butcher shop altered and expanded while Slingerland house was torn down and replaced by McLeod's showroom which was moved down from the corner of 20 Hwy and King.



Pictures of McNeil house on 26 King St. West and inside their bakery behind the house.

Now the location of Collingwood apartment.



Bill McNeil standing beside a delivery truck

Upcoming Speakers at Stoney Creek Historical 2019

- Wednesday, Jan 2** at 7:00 pm **Speaker: Julie Brown**
Topic: History of Brown's Funeral Home
in Stoney Creek
- Wednesday, Feb 6** at 7:00 pm **Speaker: Murray Puddicombe**
Topic: History of the local Puddicombe
family
- Wednesday, March 6** at 7:00 pm **Speaker: Lezlie at Niagara Bound Tours**
Topic: Black history in Niagara
- Wednesday, April 3** at 7:00 p **Speaker: Margaret Sault**
Topic: Mississauga of the New Credit First
Nation

The Stoney Creek Historical Society's Archives and Reference Library is located at 605 Highway 8. We are generally open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1pm - 4pm. Visitors and researchers are always welcome. Please come and join us.

Committee Chairs / Co-ordinators

Archives: Nancy Capstick, Bev Gray, Judy Green,
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Telephone: June Guzar
Membership:

Social: Bev Gray, Carolyn Briggs
Programming: Kathy Wakeman

Website: Jillian Harris
Newsletter: Doug Green

Please contact *Doug Green* by telephone at (905) (662-4065) or by email at newsletter@stoneycreekhistorical.ca or dougag1@hotmail.com
If you have questions or answers regarding our newsletter content or contributions or if you wish to receive your copy of the newsletter via e-mail. Help us reduce mailing & printing costs.

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Swiss Chalet # 1105	Zeb Ponte	735 Queenston Rd	(905) 561-1414
The Innsville	Bob Hemberger	1143 Hwy. 8	(905) 643-1244

STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORY OF STONEY CREEK

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ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

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THE STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY. RECEIPTS WILL BE ISSUED FOR DONATIONS OF \$25 OR MORE.

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE OUR NEWS LETTER BY EMAIL OR CANADA POST.

PLEASE SEND TO : STONEY CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY,P.O. BOX 66637,STONEY CREEK, ONTARIO, L8G 5E6

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND LOOK FORWARD TO YOU ATTEND
PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OUR NEWSLETTER FOR A \$35.00 DONATION

MEMBERSHIPS CAN ALSO BE RENEWED ONLINE USING PAYPAL.

Historical Society Research Queries

Please contact via email:
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

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