

Remember the Corman House

Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

June 2006 Edition #38 Circulation: 300 copies

Excerpts from the Community News: STONEY CREEK LAWN BOWLING CLUB: STONEY CREEK (1935)

Introduction:

The Stoney Creek Lawn Bowling Club was organized in 1934 as a recreational activity for the village of Stoney Creek. It had greens in what is today the parking lot behind the Tim Hortons (6 King Street E) and on the estate of John Alba Walker (modern day site of the Bob Kemp Hospice). The club ran intramural competitions and awarded several annual trophies. The Historical Society has the originals of their minute books in our archives. A transcription is also available through Erland Lee Museum.

July 25 1935

J. T. Chittick Elected President of Lawn Bowlers' Club,

Stoney Creek, - The Lawn Bowling association, organized this year, has met with great success and the greens are filled with members each evening. At a meeting last night the resignation of the president, John H. Jones, and Vice-, President William Simenton were regretfully accepted. J. T. Chittick and J. R. Fluhrer were elected in their places. F. E. Tobias and J.A. Walker received a vote of thanks from the members for their untiring efforts in promoting the game and their work on the greens.

Frank Lennard, of Dundas, president of the Canadian Legion In the district, was the chairman at a garden party held by the Legion last night on the lawn of James Smith.

A large number were in attendance to hear the excellent program provided for the occasion. The Kiltie band from Hamilton was an added attraction and drew numbers to the entertainment. The band music was much enjoyed.



JT Chittick

(photo courtesy of Wentworth Masonic Lodge)

William & Juanita Mitchell 2006
2 Elm Dr.
Stoney Creek, On. L8G 3B4

Continued on Page 3...

New Members
We are happy to welcome
Evelyn Jancowski

This Newsletter issue
is sponsored by
Jean and Barry Baine

President's Message

"Gone but not Forgotten"

(Ron Place 1934-2006)

The sudden passing of Ron Place on March 15 has been a sad loss for the Stoney Creek Historical Society and the Stoney Creek Community.

Ron joined the Society in the early nineties and was soon elected vice president. He served as president from 1995-2002. He was a diligent worker and enjoyed the many challenges, which occurred during that time. The big project was the newsletter, which just grew and grew. For this he did the research, editing, publishing, and delivery of these letters. This was his way of promoting our organization and providing very interesting historical information to our readers. The first editions were five pages and grew to ten with more illustrations. Ron was already in the process of preparing this letter when he died. He also contributed a great effort to ensure the success of our Christmas House Tours and was a staunch member of the Funding Committee of the Nash Jackson House. He was very anxious to see this project complete and was still pursuing this endeavour during the past year.

Ron was a faithful volunteer at Battlefield Park and we spent many pleasant hours together there looking after monument control, History in Action, and anywhere else we were needed. I enjoyed Ron's company whether volunteering, travelling to meetings, or working on committees. When I became president he gave me some very helpful advice and we often discussed ideas for meetings. If he thought an idea was not the best he would frankly say so. He had a pleasant sense of humour. I felt he was a true friend, and myself and all who knew him have lost a faithful and generous friend.

We loved him in life, let us not forget him in death.

I would personally like to thank the Stoney Creek Historical Executive for their help and cooperation during this difficult time. They have been collecting and reorganizing the vast amount of information left by Ron. A special thanks to Mary Place and family for their assistance with this

I wish all our readers a pleasant and happy summer.

- Bill O'Reilly

Society News

EDITOR WANTED

With the passing of Ron Place, the Society is currently looking for a new Executive Member. At the present time, the Newsletter editorship has been taken over by 2nd VP Michael Gemmell, but anyone interested in assuming the reins is asked to contact President Bill O'Reilly at 905-662-2248.

ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual picnic for the Society will be held on Friday June 9th, 2006, from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm at the home of members, Paul and Sheila Gallea: 933 Highway #8, Winona. The picnic is pot-luck, although some beverages and meat will be provided.

HISTORIC SITES OF STONEY CREEK

The brochure sponsored by the Stoney Creek Historical Society in conjunction with the Erland Lee Museum will be printed in June. The brochure will feature over 30 historic sites throughout the old Township of Saltfleet, including important family homes, National Historic Sites, and prominent historic buildings in Stoney Creek.

Memorial for Ron Place

The Society Executive is currently in discussions with the City of Hamilton about erecting a suitable memorial to Ron Place. Because Ron was a fixture in Stoney Creek, a site at the Olde Towne Square at the intersection of King Street and Jones Street has been selected. We are currently fundraising to install a memorial plaque or engraved stone at the park, near the statue and plaque of Augustus Jones that Ron helped dedicate in 2005.

If you are interested in contributing to the Ron Place memorial please send donations to:

Stoney Creek Historical Society
Ron Place Memorial Fund
PO Box 66637
Stoney Creek, ON
L8G 5E6

Stoney Creek Lawn Bowling Club continued from page 1...

BOWLING TROPHY WON BY S. NASH

Aug. 20.-1935

Stoney Creek. The finals in the bowling tournament that has been in course of progress for the last month were completed last night, Samuel Nash winning the Beaumont cup, defeating J. A. Walker.

Each contestant had won a game, necessitating the third being played last night, with the above result. In the semi-finals Mr. Nash won over Dr. M. S. J.Heddle, and J. A. Walker won from Dr. R. T. Graham. The club, just organized this year, has 22 men and nine lady members. A meeting is called for Friday evening in Jones Hall to arrange for the installation of a lighting system.

STONEY CREEK BOWLERS

Oct. 26. 1935

Stoney Creek, The annual meeting of the Lawn-Bowling club was held, here on Wednesday night. A large number of members being in attendance. The report of the first year's activities of club was most gratifying a small balance being left in the treasury after all accounts, including the lighting system had been paid. The officers elected were Rev.Dr.W.H. Graham, honorary president; J.T.Chittick, president; J.R.Fluhrer and J.A.Walker; vice-presidents; F.Tobias, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Stoney Creek Bowling club, a new organization in the vil lage this year with about 40 members is planning a strenuous programme for the rest of the season.

Lights are being installed on the rinks, which were donated by J.A. Walker. Last evening two rinks from the local club attended a tournament at Calvary United church greens and returned victorious.



Modern site of the Walker bowling greens (Bob Kemp Hospice, King Street)

On Labour Day a series of Scotch doubles will be played for possession of the handsome prize donated by C.C.Smye. S.Nash was declared the winner of the trophy donated by Mrs. J. Beaumont for the singles competition.

The recently elected officers of the new club are: honorary president, J. H. Carscallen; president J.Chittick; vice-president. Mrs. J.R.Fluhrer; secretary, F.E. Tobias



John H. Carscallen

BURLINGTON WON

Sept. 11 1935

In a return match played on the bowling greens here on Wednesday evening between ten players from Burlington and a like number from the local club, the visitors won four out. of ten-end games, amassing a total of 67 points for the village players. The skips were: From Burlington: A.B.Coleman, W. Mallett and W. Leckie. From Stoney Creek: J.A.Walker, Angus Jackson and Roland Wray.

STONEY CREEK BOWLING

Sept. 26 1935

Stoney Creek. An enjoyable friendly game of bowls was played here on the greens last night, when two rinks from Grimsby competed with two from the local club.

Two ten-end games were played by each rink, Stoney Creek winning three out of the four games played, the total scores being, Stoney Creek 39, Grimsby 31. The rinks were: Grimsby: William Fisher, R.Coward, R. Walker, A. McKenzie. skip; B. Snyder, I.Robbie, W.Schwab, A.Phipps skip; Stoney Creek- F.Tobias, Dr.M.S.Heddle, Angus Jackson, H.G.Parrott, substituting for Jackson in the second game, J.Walker, skip; H.Bertram, H.P.Weppler, J.R.Fluhrer, Samuel Nash skip.

A return match will be played next Wednesday at Grimsby.

HAMILTON, GRIMSBY, AND BEAMSVILLE ELECTRIC RAILWAY, 1894

"For benefit of the traveller the following table of passenger rates has been printed:

Book Rates and Conditions:

1000 miles, unlimited, for family \$10.00.

400 miles, unlimited, for family \$5.00.

500 miles, one person only \$5.00.

Single and return tickets are sold at stations or on the cars, and re- turn tickets at single fare are issued on Sundays and holidays. No reduced fare is sold under 10 cents.

The cars run right to Grimsby Camp Grounds gate and the fares are as follows: special commutation tickets, good for the camp season:

50 trip, unlimited, \$10.00 Good for the family.

50 trip, limited, \$9.00. Good for the family.

26 trip, limited \$5.00. Good for the family.

52 trip, limited, \$7.80. Good for the individual.

From Hamilton to Winona Park.

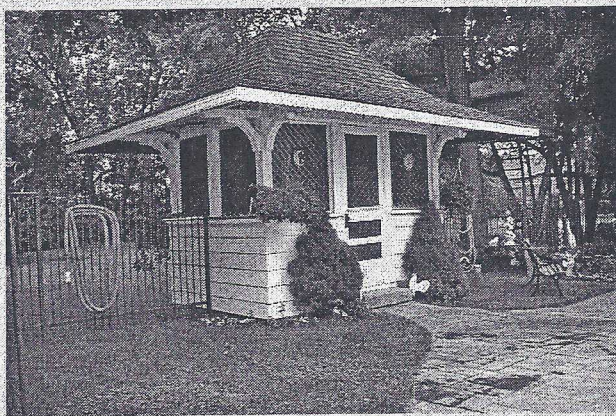
Family park season, 50 trip, limited \$6.00.

Family park season 26 trip, limited \$4.00.

One person only 52 trip, one month \$3.50.

One person only 26 trip, one month \$2.60.

Special rates are made for societies, church and Sunday School excursions, and special cars for private parties, moonlight excursions and trolley parties may be secured."



2004: Last piece of the Hamilton, Grimsby, and Beamsville radials- a passenger chalet, now a pool house in Grimsby

OBITUARY: LEVI NEIL

Hamilton Spectator, November 5, 1890

There died in Stony Creek last Saturday morning one of the oldest, best and most favourably known of the residents of the eastern part of the county of Wentworth. Levi Neil was born in Saltfleet 68 years ago last May and in the region surrounding his birthplace he spent his life. In whatever avocation he engaged, he possessed the esteem and confidence of those who knew him whether as a farmer or an auctioneer, in which latter occupation he was better known. He was universally respected.

For some months past Mr Neil had suffered with diabetes and finally it was announced by his physician that he must succumb to the disease. Death was not unexpected and it was met heroically. On Saturday morning Mr. Neil fell asleep. The respect in which the deceased was held by a very large circle of friends and acquaintances was amply testified by the very large concourse, which attended the funeral from the family residence Monday afternoon.

At the house an impressive service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Hocky after which the remains were escorted to the M.E. Church, the members of the Masonic fraternity of which the deceased was a charter member having charge of the obsequies. At the church the Rev. Mr. Hocky preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion after the conclusion of which the cortege resumed its way to the Stony Creek cemetery and there in a beautiful spot shaded by weeping willows and amid scenery which he had often pleasurably surveyed in life, the mortal remains of Levi Neil were deposited in their last resting place.

The Masonic turnout was the largest and most creditable ever seen in the county, and the Masonic emblems were numerous and tastefully arranged. The burial service of the craft was most imposing and beautifully conducted by W. Bro. F.M.Carpenter, assisted by Rt. W. Bro. Hugh Murray, grand master; W. Bros. R. Dewar and Combs, and other members. The pallbearers were W. Bros. George Millen, M. Pettit, J. Davey, Colin Carpenter. W.H. Woodhouse, and John Mullen. The funeral procession was the largest seen in Stony Creek for years and was under the supervision of W. Bros. Jesse Chapman.

The deceased gentleman leaves to mourn his loss , a widow, and six children; three Daughters, Mrs. Abram Dean, Winona; Mrs. C. Jamison, Tapleytown; Mrs. W. Hendershott, Elfrida; and three sons. Deniis of Detroit, Garnet of Beamsville, and Murray, proprietor of the Acacia house, Stony Creek.

**"TIMES HARD - TERMS CASH -
PROFITS SMALL"**

The Hamilton Census Returns of 1861

*By Hugh B. Willson in The Daily Spectator and
Journal of Commerce, 1 January 1861.*

The Daily Spectator, 18 August 1871

When the census was taken in January 1861, the City of Hamilton was beset with economic difficulties. Beginning in 1857, an international depression had brought an end to the optimism and growth that the city had enjoyed earlier in the 1850s. Workers found themselves without jobs, property values were going down, and municipal revenues were proving insufficient to meet the City's heavy burden of debt. Many residents had already left Hamilton in search of opportunities elsewhere. According to one observer, it was a situation "well calculated to dishearten the most hopeful and destroy their belief in the prestige of our city."

Looking through the Hamilton census returns for 1861, I wondered if the gloomy economic times might be reflected there. The last column on the form was titled, "Remarks", and almost everyone who filled out a census form left this column blank. But a few Hamiltonians did write something in "Remarks" and, in many cases, it pertained directly to their economic situation. Here is what some of them had to say:

Isaac Hallowell was a furniture manufacturer whose steam-powered factory was located behind the Elgin Block on John Street. He informed the enumerator that he "did not make enough to pay wages" and that no work has been done for three months"

"Last two Years dull, very dull, in our line of business," wrote Angus Sutherland, a mason.

John Knott, a pianoforte manufacturer, revealed that he and his family had arrived in Canada at the beginning of 1857 and that he had experienced "but little encouragement". He listed his annual production as "6 pianos."

Richard Russell, a "working jeweller," wrote that "I have not required any help for the last 3 years as Business has been very bad.

Previously I had 2 journeymen and 24 Apprentices. It is a little better this year."

Joseph Shearsmith, a potter, noted that he "did hardly any business last year."

George Pell had been a print seller and picture frame manufacturer. But, in September 1857, his business had fallen off to about ten per cent of what it had been previously. While he still continued to make "Picture Frames, Gilt Mouldings etc.," he had become a photographer as well.

John McIntyre was a merchant tailor who employed seven people. He wrote that he was "very heavily taxed" and that he "would leave if could arrange (sic) my affairs (sic) but cannot (sic)."

The note made by Enoch Tallman, a carriage manufacturer, was brief and to the point: "Time Hard -Terms Cash -Profits Small."

Of course the hard times did not last. When the next census was taken in 1871 the city's population stood at 26,716, an increase of over 7,500 people since 1861. New homes, shops and factories were under construction in every part of the city and industries were thriving. However, only four of the men whose comments are recorded here were still living in Hamilton.

Isaac Hallowell was now employed as a constable. Angus Sutherland had become a grocer and wine merchant. John Knott was still manufacturing pianos. In 1871 his factory was located at 89 James Street North at the corner of Vine. Two of his sons, John H. and Charles, had joined him in the business, which now also repaired, tuned and rented pianos. And Richard Russell was still manufacturing and repairing jewellery. He retired in about 1906 and died at age 85, on December 10, 1912. His obituary, which appeared in the Hamilton Daily Times, noted " that he was the oldest manufacturing jeweller in Hamilton.

Editor's notes: Hugh Willson was the son of the Honourable John Willson of Winona. A prominent Hamilton lawyer in the mid 19th century, Willson wrote for the newspapers as a side job. He was an advocate for American manifest destiny, an unpopular opinion in Loyalist Upper Canada.

Old Saltfleet Families:
(Excerpt from Annals of the Forty, Vol. 7)

POTTRUFF

John Pottruff, with his wife and family came from Pennsylvania to Upper Canada about 1807 and settled in Saltfleet township. The names of John and Peter Pottruff are on an early assessment roll of that township.

It is believed that John died before the War of 1812 and that his widow, Christine, married secondly Adam Cline, widower. The date of this marriage, 8 March, 1814. It is not known where John was buried but Christine, born 1760, died 1844, lies in The Fifty Burying ground.

Two known sons were 1. John and Simeon

1. **John**, born 1791. He served with the 5th Lincoln Regiment in the War of 1812. He married Jane Stewart of Saltfleet, died in 1833 and was buried in the Stoney Creek Burying Ground.

Children of John and Jane (Stewart) Pottruff-
order and dates uncertain:-

Allen, born 1815, died 1846, buried at Stoney Creek.

Levi, born 1817. He lived on Lots 32 -33, Conc. VIII, Saltfleet township.
Descendants-Anson, Amos, Levi Jr.

John, lived in Corinna, Michigan.

James, born 1824, died 1881. His wife's name was Sarah. They lived on Lot 7, Conc. V, Binbrook township.

Descendants-Thomas, Russell, James, Philip.

Peter, lived at Princeton, Onto

Nancy, born 1819, married Anson, son of Jacob and Hannah (Hagle) Smith.

George, lived at Paris, Ont.

2. **Simeon**, born 1794, married Elizabeth Stewart in 1817. She was born in 1799, a native of Ireland and came with her aunt, Mrs. Watson, to Grimsby, Ontario in 1807. Simeon and Elizabeth lived on a farm known as "Maple Ridge" near Mount Albion. Simeon took an active part in the Rebellion of 1837-38 and died one year later in 1839. He was buried in Stoney Creek. In 1844 Elizabeth married secondly John Whaley, died in 1893, age 94 years. She is also buried at Stoney Creek.

Children of Simeon and Elizabeth (Stewart) Pottruff:-

Jonathan, born about 1819, married Catherine Harris. It is said that he built the stone residence at lot 29 Conc. VII Descendants:- Horace, Robert, Albert.

Catherine, died young.

Mary Jane, died young.

Robert, born 1825, married Nancy, daughter of Alexander Stewart.

Sarah Ann, born about 1827, married William Spera. They lived on Lot 31, Conc. III, Saltfleet township. [Ed. -Red Hill House]

Nancy, born 1829, married John Pettit of Tapleystown.

Mary, married Elijah Nicholson of Saltfleet

Christine, married Nathaniel Jones of Jones Inlet.

Jane, married Russel Olmsted of Saltfleet.

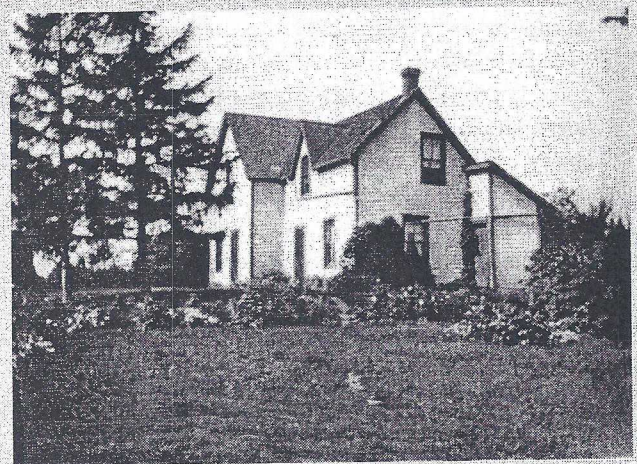
Esther, married a Mr. VanEvery.

Elizabeth, born 1838, married Joel Swayze. They lived on Lot 3, Conc.I, Binbrook township.

Simeon, born 1839, d. 1932. He married Eliza Jane Smith. They lived in Ancaster township.

The Pottruff history was collected by descendants of Simeon Pottruff, from the Brant County history and from inscriptions on monuments in various burying grounds.

Editor's Notes- The family is commemorated today by Pottruff Road in East Hamilton (the former west Saltfleet).



Nugent house, Pottruff Road, c.1960

1940: NEW POSTMASTER AT STONEY CREEK

Stoney Creek, April 13, - James R. Twaddle, an ex-service man has secured the position of postmaster for the village, notification to this effect being received by him from Ottawa yesterday. The office came vacant in September on the death of the former postmaster, J.T.Chittick.

Mr. Twaddle has conducted the general store here for a number of years. He was the successful applicant out of 12 who wrote their examinations in January. The appointment was made by the civil service commission. Miss Blanche Milmine, acting postmaster since the vacancy occurred, carried out the duties of the office most efficiently.

Hamilton Spectator April 29 1940

Westfield Heritage Village Events

June 18th - Steam and Machine Day: Celebrating the Jerseyville Train Station's anniversary

July and August: Sundays -
Bustles & Biscuits

July 7th - Murder Mystery

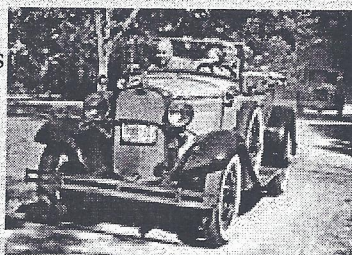
August 6-7th - Ice Cream
Festival

August 18 and 25th - Friday
Night Ghost Tours

September 17th -
Anne of Green Gables
Day

TEL: 519-621-
8851, 1-800-883-
0104

Website: <http://westfieldheritage.ca/>



Erland Lee Museum Report

This spring, the museum has been working extensively with Stoney Creek Canada Flag Day to promote the 37th edition of this community event. You can find out all about Flag Day's rich history and its 2006 activities at the museum's web site:
www.erlandlee.com

June 25: Strawberry Social

Enjoy afternoon tea and home-made iced cream at the Lee and join us in commemorating the legacy of the Women's Institutes. 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. 552 Ridge Rd. 905-662-2691. Our newly revamped "100+ Years of WI History" exhibit will reopen today.

July 8, 15, 29: Help Us Build Old Stoney Creek

The Erland Lee Museum will be hosting a series of workbees on Saturday afternoons in July and August. Children and adults alike are invited to assist with the construction of the museum's 1910 model of Stoney Creek. Younger children can assist with the painting of scenery and miniatures. Older children and adults can work to craft a 1:87 scale model of one of Stoney Creek's historical sites along King Street and Highway #8. Successfully completed works will become part of the museum's permanent model. Sessions start at 12:30 pm and run until 3:30 pm Saturday July 8, 15, 29. Materials are provided, but enthusiasts are welcome to bring their own painting supplies. Age range: 8 and up. \$2.00 per participant per session. Pre registration by 4:00 pm the Thursday before each session (July 6, 13, 27) is required.

August 12: Teddy-bear making

Back by popular demand, the museum is again offering a teddy-bear making Saturday morning. Come make and decorate your own eight-inch teddy bear. This hand-sewing workshop lasts 2 hours, from 10:00 am - noon. Materials provided. Ages 7 and up. \$8.00. Includes light refreshment. Pre-registration by 4:00 pm, Thursday August 10 is required. 905-662-2691.

Aug 19: Flea market fund raiser at Binbrook Fairgrounds

Call Judith for a table at 905-692-4604.

Members Business/Institution Directory:

Britannia Cleaners	Ed Strecker	17 King Street East	(905) 662-4971
Chamber of Commerce	Dave Cage	21 Mountain Avenue South	(905) 664-4000
Watercolours by Doug Mays	Doug & Angela Mays	3 MacDui Drive	(905) 643-4541
Erland Lee Museum	Michael Gemmell	552 Ridge Road	(905) 662-2691
Evans Flower Shop	Karen Evans	5 King Street West	(905) 664-3712
Forsyth Hagar Accounting	Anne Forsyth	42 King Street East, Unit #2	(905) 662-2848
Picture Palace	Joanne Wynhofen	19 King Street East	(905) 662-4014
Queenston Stationery	Salam Zoghaib	38 King Street East	(905) 664-3360
Royal Canadian Legion	Branch 622	12 King Street East	(905) 662-4171
Winona Garden Shoppe	Georgina & Jeff Beattie	1381 Highway #8	(905) 643-2161

Historical Society Query Policy:

Members may submit 2 free genealogical queries per year. Queries should be typed or printed clearly on separate pages 8 ½ " x 11", 50 word limit. Non-Members must remit a fee of \$3.00 per query, which will be dated when received and printed in the order received as time and space allow. Please include Name, Address, Postal Code and phone number. Send to: PO Box 66637, Stoney Creek, ON. L8G 5E6 or via email to erlandlee@interlynx.net

Visitors and New Members Welcome!

Meetings are held at Stoney Creek City Hall, Saltfleet Room
1st Wednesday of each month beginning at 7:30pm.
September to June

Coffee and Refreshments follow
Info: 905-662-2248

Would you prefer to help us save postage and have your newsletter delivered via email? Please send us your email address via erlandlee@interlynx.net and you will receive the newsletter as a PDF or Word file.