



Stoney Creek Historical Society

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

NEWSLETTER

Remember the Corman House

March 2018

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Stoney Creek and it's 3 Basket Factories.



Bath Piott founded the basket company in 1896 to manufacture crates and berry boxes. At the time the only such factories in this area were located in Oakville and Thorold. Piott bought a large wooden shed near Nash Road (on King Street) and secured a wooden frame peeler for peeling veneer from the Wanzer Company of Hamilton.

Corner of Lake Ave. and King St. looking south west across Lake Ave. Note telephone pole behind upper left and part of a house visible through dilapidated old building. These would have been on King St.

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President's Corner March 2018

Our Stoney Creek Historical Society (SCHS) has an outstanding line up of guest speakers for this season. Please review that section of our Newsletter for details.

SCHS would not be able to offer its services, Newsletter, and monthly meetings without paid memberships, both individual and business. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. A special welcome to new members Ken Brill, Wayne Johnson, and the Erland Lee Museum.



On Saturday, February 24th, 2018, the Hamilton Wentworth Heritage Association (HWAHA) held the Hamilton Heritage Day Awards at a special ceremony at Hamilton City Hall Council Chambers. Judy Sowden, SCHS Treasurer, and Dan Lee, SCHS Membership Director, were both honoured as SCHS Volunteers of the Year 2017.

At the same event, Robin McKee, SCHS member, received the Reverend T. Melville Bailey lifetime achievement award. Robin's "The Stories in the Stones" Hamilton Cemetery free Public Tours begin in May. See Historical Perceptions www.hamiltonhistory.ca Our congratulations to Judy, Dan, and Robin.

Again this year, SCHS plans to participate in a Jane's Walk. We look forward to this activity and welcome your input on potential routes. Feedback from previous walks has been both positive and encouraging. The routes will be in the old town/village area.

Our Limited Edition Prints of Historic Homes and Buildings of Stoney Creek continue in popularity. My own framed copy is on display at Queenston Stationery.

Our Thanks to Mike Pearson of the Stoney Creek NEWS for his support of our Society. Whenever possible, Mike creates a separate article promoting our meetings and guest speakers. Mike's efforts for last month's Franklin Expedition, seeking the North West Passage, is an example.

Together, we are all in a period of dynamic change. The impact of a digital world is being experienced by everyone. Facebook, websites, online shopping, are just a few examples. However, our SCHS Reference Library and Archives continues to be a repository of information, photos, and documents for current and future generations.

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.

See you at the next SCHS meeting, Municipal Centre, 777 #8Hwy, Stoney Creek.

Greg Armstrong
President-SCHS

Upcoming Speakers at Stoney Creek Historical

Wednesday, March 7 th, at 7:00 pm **Speaker: Brad Ackles** (team member)
Topic: Stoney Creek Little League 1965
the year they became famous in
USA Little League Baseball.

Wednesday, April 4 th, at 7:00 pm **Speaker: Heather Ford**
A descendant of the Shaver family
Topic: The Shaver Family History in Ancaster

Wednesday, May 2 nd, at 7:00 pm **Speaker: Dr. Dustin Galer**
Topic: My Historian

From his first load of 400 crates, Piott received a profit of \$50. He branched out, making 6 and 8 quart baskets and covers.

Richard Millen, who owned a saw mill, became a partner around 1899. The firm became known as the *Millen and Piott Basket Company* until 1912.

The factory was moved from its original site to a building on Lake Avenue, just north of King Street. The new building had formerly been an apple evaporator. The building later burned and the operation was shifted to the corner of Elm and King in a large frame building which had formerly been a hotel (?).

The firm changed hands just prior to WW1, when it was purchased by a Mr Dalton, but Piott bought the business back in 1914, in conjunction with his son Joseph. The name was changed again at the time because Piott had erected a new saw mill in Parry Sound to provide suitable wood for the factory. The new name was *Parry Sound Basket and Veneer Company*. This name survived until the factory's closing.

(SC WI Tweedsmuir History (1946 edition p109)



Bath Piott



Joe Piott

The Basket Factory, owned by Joseph Piott at the time, caught on fire during a storm in February 1936. At that time as shown, the factory was on the south side of King St. on a site where the Toronto Dominion Bank was recently located. Described in the Stoney Creek W.I. Tweedsmuir history as being in a large frame building, possibly a former hotel, on the corner of Elm and King.



Fire Menaces Whole Village

While the storm howled across the peninsula a \$65,000 fire razed the Parry Sound Basket and Varnish company plant at Stoney Creek last night, threatening the entire village. The fire broke out shortly after six o'clock and quickly devoured the frame building. Showers of sparks shot up to be blown to the roofs of houses within a quarter-mile radius, while Stoney Creek fire brigade fought gallantly against great odds. The fire fighters managed to save not only surrounding property but a timber warehouse adjoining.

About \$40,000 worth of machinery was destroyed. About eight men were thrown out of work.



Another view of Basket Factory at corner of King and Elm Streets.

As stated previously this could have been an old hotel before being converted to the basket factory.



Sometime after the 1936 fire, Lottridge's built their coal office and of course later in my lifetime it was torn down and replaced by the Toronto Dominion Bank as shown below.



Employees of the basket factory taken in 1932. Do you know any of these gentlemen ?

Here at the *Cherrywood* apartments is where the last Basket Factory stood but unfortunately no pictures found. It burned down circa 1968. Note *Piott* Court is off to the left of the picture. *Thanks to Erland Lee Museum, Saltfleet Then and Now for assistance on information & pics.*



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sharon & Pat Kresak, Ken Brill, Wayne Johnson

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, Judy Green,
archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

Telephone: June Guzar
Membership: Dan Lee

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 dgreen136@cogeco.ca
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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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

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archives@stoneycreekhistorical.ca

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