



NEWSLETTER

Spring Issue

May 2, 2022

ROCKWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE



Read the great story on pages 4 and 5 about the building of the Rockway Community Centre. This is one of the many historical short stories we have in our files at the Archives. The above picture is from April 1955.



Please join us in wishing Margaret Tufford Romagnoli a very happy 100th Birthday in April 2022. What a milestone for her and her family.

Do we have any other centurions out there?

Friends of Lincoln's History News

Explore Lincoln's Historic Gems



HERITAGE House Tour

Take a drive along Lincoln's scenic byways and explore a few of its hidden treasures! Tour 5 heritage homes and a swing beam barn, then pause for a complimentary glass of wine at a local winery along with way.

June 4, 2022
10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Brought to you by
Friends of
LINCOLN'S
HISTORY

Tour \$25

Proof of Vaccination
and Masks Required

*Food Truck Available
at the Winery*

Tickets can be purchased at:

Grimsby Museum
Heritage Gift Shop, Jordan Village
Action Print, Beamsville
or 905-562-4242, lincolnarchives@gmail.com
e-transfers available

Proof of Vaccination and Masks Required

Our Volunteers are collecting history for future generations to enjoy and learn.

Please visit our website where you can now view all our newsletters.

Website : www.lincolnarchives.ca

Email: lincolnarchives@gmail.com

Come and join us on Facebook at Lincoln's Archives

This newsletter is produced by Volunteer, Karen Hughes.

If you have any questions please email her at kharchives@cogeco.ca

Friends of Lincoln's History — Archives— 4890 Victoria Ave. N. , Box 4000—Vineland Station, ON

(905) 562-4242 Open Wednesday's 9-3

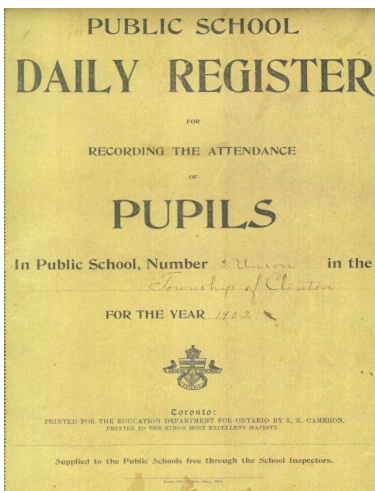
Heather Ann Troup

We have lost a dear friend, avid researcher and a lover of local history. On March 28, 2022, Heather Ann Troup, one of the six founders of our ARCHIVES, passed away after a 10-year battle with Parkinson's disease. Heather loved the history of the Jordan / Vineland area, which she began researching after her marriage to Doug Troup. She also had so many interests – collecting silver pieces, collecting dolls and their stories, pottery and porcelains, genealogy, going to yard sales where she often found pieces of local history. Heather willingly shared her knowledge with others, she said it was important that “many people know the facts, then they would never be forgotten”. She was a valued member of the Archives, her knowledge was much appreciated by researchers who came to visit, and by her friends at the ARCHIVES. We miss her sense of humour, her stories about historical incidents, her knowledge about this area.

Story by Ruth M. Smith



I found this picture in our files. It is one of the many Bill Rannie pictures we have in our collection. This one is from January 28, 1981. Celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day in front of the old town hall in Beamsville, where they are raising the Ukrainian flag.



Recently we received some Daily School Registers. Upon studying them we found some fascinating items.

Rockway School—April 1929 school closed for 3 weeks for a Small Pox epidemic. March 1930 the school closed for Scarlet Fever. May 1930 the school closed for one month for a measles epidemic.

Other reasons they listed for school closures that year:

Funeral in section / school

Stormy weather

Inclement weather

Rainy weather

Bad weather

Teacher sick

Visit of King VI & Queen

King George VI Birthday

Coronation of King George VI

Silver Jubilee King George V Coronation

JIM BEATTIE'S ANTIQUE STORE (ca. 1950's)

By: Tony Andrusovich

Mr. Beatties's home and store is located one-half of a mile West of Vineland on number eight highway. It is on the North side of highway #8, and just West of the Cemetery Plantings, West of Martin Road.

The land where the house is situated, was bought from the Crown Patent on February 10, 1797, by a John Clause. The lot consisted of two-hundred acres, and started from just below the escarpment and going as far North as Lake Ontario. When Mr. Clause died his son took over the farm. Mr. Phillip Clause legally took the farm over on January 15, 1824.

Mr. Bush, an easterner, married Count Chevalier's daughter. They came to Ontario and bought the lot from Mr. Phillip Clause on April 7, 1846. The lot that Mr. John Bush bought, consisted of two-hundred acres, and the house which was built in 1840 by Mr. Phillip Clause.

When John Bush died, he left the farm to his son, Alpheus Bush. Mr. Bush sold most of the farm in lots, and left a few acres for himself. On November 1899 Mr. Alpheus Bush traded his lot with his brother George Bush.

Mr. George Bush became the jailer in St. Catharines and his wife and sister stayed at their home in Vineland. The ladies made fancy clothes and lace. They would always go to the city in a carriage and were always admired by all the people.

One day when the two ladies were raking and burning leaves, Mr. Bush's sister went too close to the fire, her clothes caught fire and she burned to death before help could get to her.

During the Fenian Raid Mrs. Bush fed the Fenians, and one that was wounded died at her place, so she buried him in the backyard. She did this secretly as possible so that the neighbours wouldn't find out. Mrs. Bush also hid negro slaves who escaped from the United States, in a small cellar under the floor. The only way to get into this cellar was through a small hole in the floor, which was covered with floor boards. This cellar is still in existence and the entrance is not noticeable.

On December 6, 1924, Mr. George Bush died, and left everything to his wife Lucy Bush. Unable to keep the place in good condition, Mrs. Bush sold the land to Mrs. Duncan on February 22, 1925.

Mrs. Duncan began selling antiques and lunch. She sold mostly chicken dinners and most of her customers were American tourists. When she was short of chickens she had to go around to the neighbours looking for chickens, because she had no ice-box to store the chickens in.

One of Mrs. Duncan's customers, the Beatties, who lived in St. Catharines, liked the place very much and on July 28, 1943, the Beatties bought the home from Mrs. Duncan. It is still used as an antique store and residence for its owners the Beattie's.

Description of the House

The large room where the store is now was once used for a wood shed. Where the large window is in the front, there used to be two large doors. The owners would drive their wagons filled with wood into the room and go out the back, through two doors out into the backyard.

The back of the house has two large arches, which are now closed in and used for storing furniture and other articles. These arches were built because highway #8 was planned to go on the North side of the house but was changed to the South side.

The upstairs is used as a bedroom, a reading room and part of it is used for storage. The living quarters, downstairs, consist of a small kitchen, which used to be a bedroom. There is a fair sized living room and a large bedroom.

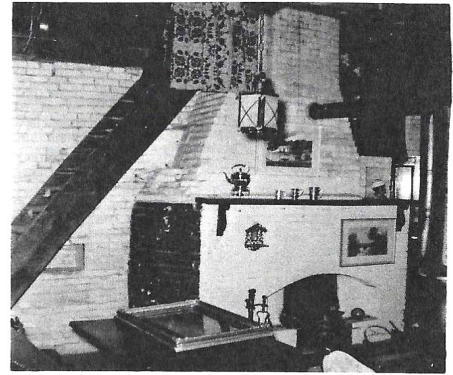
The house is built over a spring and all the drinking water is taken from this spring. There are two large cisterns to collect the rain water from the roof. There are three cellars, and a separate entrance to each one. One cellar, the largest of the three is used for storing fruit and contains the cisterns. The small cellar is about four feet deep and you can get into it by a trap door in the floor. The other cellar is used to store lumber and other articles which are seldom used. The house is heated by two Quebec heaters and two fireplaces, of which only one is used.

The beams are made of hard wood, and they are made by hand. The beams are held together by wooden pegs and are very well fitted.

In the room which separates the store from the living quarters, are four hooks hanging from the ceiling. These hooks were used to hold a large screen, on which owners would dry nuts and some varieties of fruit. The plaster in this room is in poor condition, but it is the original plaster.

The house is built of solid brick and plastered from the inside. The bricks used to build the house were made of clay, and were made in this area.

The picture above, is of the stairway to the attic, which is in the store section of the house. The stairs are original, which were made the same time the house was built. They are still sturdy and are handmade from hardwood. The fireplace is not used and just on the other side of the wall is another fireplace which is used.



Rockway Community Hall (How it came to be)

By: Bonnie & Joe Roland

2021 Regional Road #69, Lincoln, Ontario

"A meeting was called on April 23, 1948 to form a men's club in the Rockway district", a quote from the first minutes. Up until now there had been sporadic community get-togethers and this group of men felt the need for an organization to plan these events on a more regular basis. They chose an executive and an entertainment committee right that first night. Membership fees were set at two dollars, which has changed little over the years. The club was to be called Rockway Community Men's Club.

The entertainment committee over the next few years were a very busy group of men. Card parties, Crokinole nights and dances were held regularly in Law's school (currently the home of Ralph Roland). By 1949 crowds were getting bigger than the old school could hold, so they started having dances every other week at Jordan school in the new gymnasium and card parties in between at Law's school. There were also regular community picnics at Queenston Heights and later at Burgoyne Woods.

In 1950 the dream of owning their own building began to take form. At the February 9th meeting, Wilfred Yungblut moved that a used building be purchased. A committee was formed April 5th to look into how community halls in other districts were financed and organized. This same group later formed the building committee to look at some suitable buildings.

In 1951, the question of Liquor being served at community functions arose. The captain of the monthly entertainment committee wanted a case of beer at a stag party. The president threatened to resign if they did and the entertainment captain was going to quit if they didn't. At the next monthly meeting, they dealt with the resignation of the president.

They had offers of six different pieces of property on which to build the hall. Offers came from Everett Holder, William Pharaoh, Don Roland, Vince Smith, William Wessel and Clyde Roland. It was decided by a ballot vote to accept Clyde Roland's offer and in 1952 the site was surveyed at a cost of \$38.00. Sadly Clyde Roland passed away before the community centre became a reality. His wife, Hilda carried out his wishes and donated the land.

A building was purchased from the St. Catharines airport in 1954. It consisted of lumber and trusses enough for a building 36 ft. by 64 ft. That fall on a motion by John Gilmore it was decided to install a wooden floor at a cost of \$900.00 as opposed to a cement floor.

On the 19th of March 1955, a community auction was held at Hilda Roland's farm to raise funds for the hall. They sold everything from dishes to a dog and farm machinery raising \$1289.16. The total cost to build the building was \$2788.70. It was heated by a large wood burning furnace in the corner.

Many hours of volunteer labour went into the building starting in April. Some farmers, like Will Wessel, found it hard to get their own farm work done that spring. He was heard to tell he almost didn't get his apple trees pruned that year. He'd just get out in the orchard and start to work when he'd hear hammering over at the new hall and would have to climb down from his tree and go and check on what was happening.

They held dances from June of 1955 on to help pay for the cement etc. In October of 1955 it was decided by the committee to build a temporary wind break inside the hall before the October dance. By December the tar paper was in place, the siding went on and a propane stove was put in the kitchen. The opening dance drew a crowd of 300 people and two orchestras took turns keeping the dancers busy.

In 1956 a Saturday badminton league was started for the youth of the community and a new stage and kitchen were added onto the hall.

An oil furnace was purchased in March of 1959 at a cost of \$1790 including the price of the furnace room. That same year, the kitchen got cupboards and a telephone was added. A ladies auxiliary was discussed in 1959 but was dropped for lack of interest.

A cub pack was started in 1961 and a scout troop was begun in March of 1963. This troop (the 39th) continued until October 1975.

In May of 1963 a fence was installed behind the hall and a pressure pump and sinks were added to the kitchen.

It was decided in May 1967 to have monthly meeting of the club, but this did not occur until 1977. Previous to this time only executive meetings were held except for the annual general meeting in March.

The hall got a new roof of galvanized steel in 1969.

Continued on page.....5



A motion was passed in 1974 that ladies could be members. In 1977 a petition was signed by 13 women that they form an auxiliary and handle their own money. This was the beginning of the catering group. It was about this time that Don Short started holding auctions at the hall, which has continued to this day with our members volunteering to man the kitchen. The only change is that the auctioneer is now Don Plato. A minute from June of 1977. Moved by Sisler and Corman "A thank-you for use of camper to Holderney and umbrella from Stewart at Lloyd Dorsey auction." Another minute from May 1977. They were going to hold a work night to "move the hot water tank, nail the roof and move the toilet seat in the men's room". No other explanation was given.

It was about this time that Wintario became involved in the life of the Rockway Community Centre. The old hall needed some care and rejuvenation. The executive applied for a Wintario grant and received assurance it would be forthcoming. It took several years of waiting and a lot of documentation and estimates of work that need doing but by 1982, with an additional New Horizons Grant, the old building had new siding, a new ceiling and an expanded kitchen, and a new members room and cloak room.

With this new look came a renewed interest by the membership in having more activities and services for the members. During the 1980's carpet bowling became a favourite pastime every Tuesday for many members. A Wednesday morning league was added after to provide more competition bowling. These continue today to provide exercise on a multi-generational level.

About the same time the ladies began a Tuesday morning craft group bringing in people to teach crafts. Sometimes members would take courses themselves and then come back and teach these crafts to others. Another group of members wanted to learn to oil paint. They formed a group that met Wednesday afternoons and sometimes hired a teacher, sometimes they just taught each other to put their artistic thoughts together in the form of a beautiful painting. These two groups combined their talents once a year in the form of an annual arts and crafts show and sale. This function was a chance for the members to show what they have accomplished and also to make some money to finance the group for another year. Both these groups, unfortunately have quit their activities.

Another group at this time thought they would like to have a more energetic activity, so they started an aerobics class. After a year they decided they would enjoy exercising in the outdoors and so began our present walking and eating on Thursday's group. Over the years this group has walked from Niagara-On-The-Lake to Fort Erie to Dunnville, criss-crossing the Short Hills and most of the Bruce Trail from Queenston to Grimsby. They've also walked historic city trails and some trails that just happen to be there. They've also made a few trails of their own.

The 1990's arrived with renewed interest in our square dances with crowds that challenged the hall's ability to cope. The last few summers, our volunteers have spent many hours under the old hall replacing ageing beams and floor joists with new steel and wood, plus improving ventilation to preserve the floor so it can keep its reputation as one of the best dance floors in the area. The line dancing phenomenon hit Rockway in the '90's too. A Wednesday evening group started up and for several years challenged members' sense of rhythm and co-ordination. Unfortunately, both these activities have ceased.

With members getting old and looking for some gentle exercise to help keep limber, a Tai Chi class was started on Wednesday afternoons. A video is used for instruction and the people taking part are happy with the results. For over 65 years this club has been active in the community, 59 year's of it in this hall, a place of entertainment, a place of coming together. Sometimes sad occasions such as after funeral get-togethers, sometimes happy occasions such as weddings, anniversaries and showers, sometimes just getting together and sharing a meal and the latest news about each other; but it's always there keeping the old community feeling alive. There are community pot-lucks still held in March and November of each year. It's a tribute to the labour and dreams of a community over 65 years ago and to the community since and now that with love and volunteer spirit this club is still alive and well, although a little less active as it heads into its next 60 years of being the centre of the Rockway Community.

Written by: Bonnie and Joe Roland in approx. 2015.

Sadly, we just learned the Rockway Hall will permanently close and will be listed for sale.

April 2022