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BAYFIELD BREEZE
the village's own online news source

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Jan. 6, 2010 Week 2 Issue 27

BAYFIELD HISTORIC WALKING TOUR BOOKLET MAKES HISTORY COME TO LIFE

BY MELODY FALCONER-POUNDER

The Bayfield Historical Society and Bayfield Archives Room would like to invite everyone to leave their footprints in the snow about town. The Bayfield Historic Walking Tour booklet is now available to act as your guide.

AUSABLE BAYFIELD AND MAITLAND VALLEY WATERSHED PUBLIC MEETINGS

Bayfield is the location for the first in a series of public meetings related to the unveiling of draft proposed assessment reports for Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley watersheds.

There will be three public meetings in each watershed for public review of the documents and to ask questions and provide input between Jan. 5 and March 12.

The first of the six public meetings will be held at the Bayfield Town Hall on Jan. 21.

This open-house format public meeting is open for the public to drop in and talk to staff between 3-5 p.m. and between 6-8 p.m.

Public delegations are welcome at a public meeting in Blyth on Feb. 18 from 7-9 p.m. To reserve a time to present at this more formal public meeting call the

The cover of the newly published "Bayfield: Historic Walking Tour" booklet is an image of Edwards' Cash Store circa 1900. (Submitted photo)

If a winter's walk doesn't sound that appealing people are sure to enjoy taking this stroll come spring or summer. The booklet is based on notes of a Guided Walking Tour composed by Elaine Sturgeon, volunteer archivist from 2001-08. These notes were revised and expanded by Dianne Smith and produced by the Bayfield Historical Society, Ralph Laviolette, current volunteer archivist, and Dave Gillians, historical society president. Its production was funded by memberships, donations and a grant from the Huron Heritage Fund.

The booklet takes you on a journey back through time; it offers stops in front of many early structures that are still standing today and provides some insight into what life was like when the village was still in its infancy. The guide is also injected with anecdotes of the people who once lived, worked and played in and around these buildings, making history come to life.

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Take for example, the description of the Gairdner House at 10 Main St. N. Today this building is home to the business known as, Inspirations.

"James and Robert Gairdner built this house in 1855. It is Georgian in style and made from local brick. It served as a residence and store with post office for over 60 years from 1856 to 1917. The Great Northwestern Telegraph office was here from 1880-1892. The entrance portico on the south side of the building marks the upstairs residence, approached through the garden. There are six bedrooms, and a drawing room, and a kitchen, dining room and parlor. The servant's quarters were downstairs. The building remained in the Gairdner family for 122 years, until 1974.

"A story from the early 1900s tells of one of the Gairdner boys having an ongoing dispute with Tippett, a neighbor who raised chickens in a shed across the street. The chickens would run loose and get into the Gairdner's vegetable patch. So occasionally, the Gairdner boy would climb up to the roof and take potshots at the chickens, then hide behind the parapet. He was later found out when he bragged about it a little too loudly!"

Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Drinking Water Source Protection Project (see numbers below).

For more information on the Bayfield open house or the delegation-format public meeting in Blyth visit sourcewaterinfo.on.ca or phone 519-235-2610 or 1-888-286-2610.

TOWN HALL

It has been 20 years since a committee was formed to save the Bayfield Town Hall from demolition. Since that time a number of fundraising efforts have been held in an effort to preserve it and make it a vital part of the community social scene.

Now The Bayfield Town Hall Heritage Society is looking to improve the entrance to the building to make it more visibly appealing for weddings, festivals, concerts and business meetings.

The latest fundraiser will be the sale of commemorative bricks to be installed in the front walk, at the hall entrance and a new walk leading to the property's "great lawn".

The paving stones can be engraved to showcase a family name, honor loved ones or celebrate a special occasion such as a wedding or an anniversary. They could even make a unique family Christmas gift.

According to the fundraising brochure, "These stones will be placed along the walkway so that generations to come will enjoy this wonderful legacy left in honor of the revitalization of the town hall."

There are three stone styles to purchase: a large stone, 8X12, with two lines of engraving up to 12 characters per line, $250; a medium stone, 8X8, with one line of engraving up to 12 characters, $100; and a place holder, 4X8, no engraving, $50. Tax receipts will be provided. Cheques can be made payable to The Bayfield Town Hall and mailed to PO Box 2078, Bayfield ON, N0M 1G0. Further information can be obtained by contacting Margo Robeson at 519 565-2827.

Organizations, school classes, businesses and corporations are encouraged to be part of this worthwhile community project.

The society hopes to have the brickwork installed in the spring of 2010.

FITNESS FUN

The exercise classes held at the Bayfield Community Centre have begun for 2010.

The scheduled classes are: Dancefit and Toning, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m.; and Sit and Get Fit, Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

The Historic Walking Tour booklets are now available for $5 each at the Bayfield Archives Room on Main Street or by calling 519 565-2454. The booklet is in a 5.5 X 8 inch format and includes a map at its centre. The booklet was created to compliment the Bayfield Historical Society guided walking tours that depart from the Bayfield Archives Room every Saturday morning at 10 a.m. during July and August.

The Bayfield Historical Society also has a limited number of the “Huron Historical Notes – Village of Bayfield” book available. These are selling for $8.00 to cover production and printing costs.

TRINITY TO HOST REGISTRATION FOR TAKE TIME IN 2010 ON JAN. 11

January and February days often seem longer than they are short so once again the congregations of the village’s four local churches have joined together to offer an interesting series of programs designed to combat the winter blahs.

The “Take Time in 2010” programs will run from Jan. 18 to Feb. 15. They are a perfect opportunity for friends and neighbors to learn and share with one another.

The programs will be held on Mondays from 1:30-3 p.m. Each participating church will host one event.

A Registration Coffee will be held on Jan. 11 at Trinity Anglican Church, 10 Keith Cres., for one hour starting at 10 a.m. The cost will be $2 per session. Participants are strongly encouraged to register in advance as some speakers may wish to provide handouts and an accurate attendance number would prove helpful in doing so. Those who wish to participate can learn more about the four sessions at registration. It is not necessary to attend all of the programs. Anyone not able to attend the registration session will still be able to be present at any session they want by simply registering at the door or by calling the church coordinator of the session they wish to be a part of.

Want to attend but don’t have the transportation needed to get to the location of the presentation? Rides can be provided, just call the coordinator of that session.

Knox Presbyterian Church will kick off the Take Time in 2010 series on Jan. 18 with a program entitled, “Writing Your Story.”

Sheila Macgregor

This topic will be presented by Sheila Macgregor, of London. Macgregor has been listening to people’s life stories for over twenty-five years. Having trained with one of the pioneers in the Oral History field, her subjects have included everyone from family members, business people, teachers, missionaries, farmers and even a recipient of the prestigious Order of Canada Award.

“My talk is about why people should write their life story, hopefully encouraging others to try and write their own,” said MacGregor, in a recent email.

"My talk is about why people should write their life story, hopefully encouraging others to try and write their own.” - Sheila Macgregor

Barb Harkins is the coordinator for this session and interested people are welcome to contact her at 519 565-2098 for more information.

Badminton will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 12 at Huron Centennial School near Brucefield. Organizers state that it is basically backyard badminton, played inside and is great exercise and lots of fun. The games are played from 7-9 p.m.

For those looking for something to exercise the mind – Mah Jongg will begin again on Thursday, Jan. 14 at the Bayfield Lions’ Community Building from 1-3 p.m. If Mah Jongg isn’t your game bring one that is – Scrabble or Crib anyone?

BRIDGE CLUB

The Wednesday Evening Bridge Club will hold their first card games of 2010 on Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Bayfield Lions’ Community Building. All are welcome to join in the fun.

GIRL GUIDES

Welcome the New Year by hanging a limited edition calendar on your wall.

The Centenary Celebration Calendar 1910-2010, created by members of Bayfield and Clinton Guiding, and for sale in Mid-western Ontario, is still available. The calendars are selling for $10 each.

Locally, calendars are available for sale from members of Bayfield and Clinton Guiding as well as The Village Book Shop, Bayfield Village Inn, Interior Trends and Drs. Haney and Van Maanen’s Dental Office in Clinton.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Winter storms - as Canadians we may love to hate them but we live with them. Jan. 20 marks the 38th anniversary of the Great Snowstorm of 1971 but there have been other signifcant storms over the years. Subscribers are invited to share there memories of the storm of 1971 and others as well. Were you stranded, stuck or snowed in? Tell us your tales and send your pictures too. A selection will be featured in the Jan. 20 edition of the Bayfield Breeze.

A recent trip to the Bayfield Archives uncovered this gem of a photo taken during the winter of 1970 - subscribers are invited to check their photo albums and send the Bayfield Breeze scans of their own winter photo treasures to share.

The following week, Jan. 25, the Take Time in 2010 programs will take a break to encourage everyone to go to the Bayfield Historical Society Dinner meeting to be held at St. Andrew's United Church at noon. For more details and also for tickets people are invited to call Pat or Bud Langley at 519 565-2894.

The Church on the Way will host the Feb. 1 session at the Bluewater Community Centre. Maggie Brennan with the Alzheimer Society of Huron will offer "An Overview on Dementia". Pat Lewington will also be on hand to lighten the topic a bit with some Fitness Fun. Those wishing to learn more about this session should contact coordinator Mary Schultz at 519 565-2735.

Participants at the Feb. 8 session can learn more about "Travel within Canada" as guest Heather Moffat, of Ellison Travel, focuses on Newfoundland as a destination.
St. Andrew's United Church will play host to this session and Shirley McAllister is the person to get a hold of for more information. She can be reached at 519 565-5620.

The final session in the series will be held at Trinity Anglican Church on Feb. 15. Participants will learn about "Adventures in Southern Sudan and Beyond" with Janet Tufts. She is currently the Executive Director of The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and is also a very active volunteer. Last year, she traveled to the Sudan with a team representing Canadian Aid for Southern Sudan (CASS) and will share some of those experiences through this presentation. Elaine Scrimgeour is the coordinator of this session and she can be reached by calling 519 565-5544.

FEBRUARY 26, 1970:
Leslie Clemens, pastor of Bayfield Baptist Church, enjoys his own slide which he built in his front yard for the youngsters of the village. The slide, complete with a banked curve at the bottom, has been a big hit with local residents. (Photo by Audrey Bellchamber)

REMEMBER ME?

There are countless photographs of people in the Bayfield Historical Society's Archives collection, but sadly their names were never recorded. In this section we will showcase an image with the hopes that one of our subscribers might be able to identify the individual(s) in the photo. Please email your information to the Editor's attention at the address listed near the bottom of the page in "Submissions".

In Issue 26's "REMEMBER ME?" we showed a photo of two young ladies taken at what was referred to as 'the swimming hole' in Bayfield circa 1915. Anyone remember them?

This week, one of several postcards available for viewing at the Bayfield Archives Room is featured. Two ladies are shown standing in front of the entrance to what is believed to be Orlagh. This home, at 41 Main St. S, was built by Dr. Ninian Woods. Does anyone remember these women?

ISSUE 26

Does anyone remember these two young bathing beauties?

ISSUE 25

Does anyone remember Viola and Nettie?

SHEAR TALENT

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SHARE PHOTO STORY

LOOKING BACK ON THE BEGINNING: THE BEST OF THE BAYFIELD BREEZE 2009

PART II

OCT. 7 - ISSUE 14 - CELEBRATION OF FIRST NATIONS: A large crowd gathered in Clan Gregor Square on the afternoon of Oct. 4 to watch a performance by a drumming group and dancers from Saugeen First Nation and the White Pine Dancers from Six Nations of the Grand River.

SEPT. 28 - ISSUE 13 - VILLAGE ARCHIVES: Earlier this year, Ralph Laviolette became the fourth volunteer archivist for the Bayfield Archives Room since the position was created in 1977. Since accepting the position, he has set up a volunteer effort to scan photos in the collection and now has about 400 images that can be seen in a slide show.

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MELODY FALCONER-POUNDER

Just 27 short weeks ago, the first issue of the Bayfield Breeze was launched on the World Wide Web.

The committee and I were excited about this new direction in community news and we were determined to provide Bayfield with its own voice. As the first key strokes were formatted we could not have envisioned how well our online news source would be received both locally and abroad. The positive comments and story suggestions have both encouraged us and driven us to put our best efforts forward each week and we continue to welcome them hopefully for many, many issues to come.

We, Canadians, are a humble lot and we tend to brush off compliments, but as this is the start of a brand New Year perhaps our subscribers will induge us in a look back at the last seven months.

This week Part Two: Sept. 28 to Dec. 16; sprinkled throughout are some of the lovely comments sent in by our subscribers. Thanks to all those people who have taken the time to share their thoughts, they are greatly appreciated.

OCT. 14 - ISSUE 15 - THANKSGIVING WEEKEND: Three young men with fishing poles in hand, walked out to the end of the pier seemingly undaunted by the large waves being produced off the break wall. They returned to shore very shortly after this photo was taken.

OCT. 28 - ISSUE 17 - BAYFIELD GUIDING HOSTS ANNIVERSARY CAMPFIRE: The Sparks from Goderich were very enthusiastic when it came to singing their special song, "The Sparks are Here". Jumping up at the appropriate cue in the song were Abby Archambault, Rosanne Field, their Guider; Addison Black-McNee and Mariah Kerr.

NOV. 4 - ISSUE 18 - WATER TOWER HOISTED: Gord Blake (left) and Tom Saulnier, both with Landmark Structures, work far above the ground as the tank rises, soon they will be working from inside the tank as it is lifted above their heads.

What a great job you are doing! The Bayfield Breeze is truly a breath of fresh air.

H.L. - Goderich (Sept. 30)

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Hi Melody,
The Bayfied Breeze is awesome. I think you have captured the future of community news, and there are so many possibilities for stories and information sharing. Well done!

N.F. - Clinton
(Oct. 9)

OCT. 21 - ISSUE 16 - TROUT DERBY: Participants in the Bayfield Lions' Club's 31st Annual Rainbow Trout Derby stood bundled against the cold on the North Pier at the mouth of the Bayfield River waiting for the fish to bite. They probably are as cold as they look as Saturday's high temperatures only reached 8.7C.

Another great job Melody! Thanks for the wonderful efforts; great photos and lively reporting. Love it all.

NOV. 11 - ISSUE 19 - REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES: Ed Hoekstra acted as the Parade Marshall for the service with a large contingent of legion members from Clinton Branch #140 taking part. (Dennis Pal photo)

NOV. 18 - ISSUE 20 - CHRISTMAS IN BAYFIELD: Last but not least in the parade which bears his name – Santa Claus.

S.B. (Nov. 4)

DEC. 16 - ISSUE 24 - BAYFIELD OPTIMIST CLUB'S BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Emotions sometimes run high when it comes to an encounter with Santa. Ansley Durand was definitely not happy about the entire situation.

.... how much of a pleasure it is to read the Breeze each week. The content is timely and concise; the photography and the creative layout are magical! It has to be the best local news'paper' around!

P.C. - Goderich (Nov. 12)

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Just want to say what a great job you are doing. Please continue. Really enjoy your Breeze Issues - very informative with a flare of fun.

E.C. - Goderich (Nov. 13)

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Hi Melody: It is really great to get the local Bayfield news while we are away on Canada's west coast. Thanks.

L.M. and R.L. (Dec. 4)

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Hi folks -- Thanks for the continued great issues and I look forward to your mighty pen in two thousand ten!

NOV. 25 - ISSUE 21 - CRECHE IN CLAN GREGOR REJUVENATED: Kristyn Watterworth, of Kryart Studio on Main Street, gave new life to the figures depicting Mary and Joseph.

DEC 2 - ISSUE 22 - BAYFIELD OPTIMIST CLUB CELEBRATES 25 YEARS: A popular happening in the 1990s was the Optimist Club's Sleigh Ride and Carol Sing. The 1999 event was held by candlelight and the Bayfield Guides and Brownies joined in the adventure to celebrate the Christmas season.

A.R. - Toronto (Dec. 30)

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I just want to pass along how much we enjoy read the Breeze, from several perspectives. Not only does it help inform on upcoming events, but it also serves to capture and promote the sense of community and history that is uniquely Bayfield. Thanks and have a great holiday.

G.S. - Kitchener (Dec. 2)

DEC. 9 - ISSUE 23 - BAYFIELD LIONS' CLUB'S TURKEY BINGO: Brandy Gerger, of Bayfield, was the lucky winner of the first turkey of the night. She won the bird after an intense "Bingo-off" to break a tie.

Hello Melody,
Last week when we came to Bayfield, I was told about the Bayfield Breeze online. Having moved to Waterloo in 2005, we were not aware of this format to receive news of Bayfield. I just had to write and let you and the others involved know what an excellent publication you are providing amd how very much we appreciate being able to stay connected with the happenings of the Village that our family has loved for more than 70 years.

The photographs, the text, the stories told -- all are outstanding, and carry the spirit of the Village of Bayfield so well. Thank you all so very much -- we are having fun reading all of the back issues, and will look forward to the ones that are yet to come.

With appreciation,
M.P. & R.P. - Waterloo (Nov. 11)

THEY SAW THREE SHIPS

This photo was sent to the Bayfield Breeze by Carol and Russell Powadiuk who reside on Harbour Court. Here in Carol's own words, is how this wonderfully wintery image came to be:

"We have a good view of the lake and the Bayfield River. We enjoy watching the activity, sailing or boating, out of our lakeside windows and today we were particulary intrigued to watch the three commercial fishing boats return to harbor. I had heard the motors working very hard in the early hours of the morning and wondered if they were able to break through the ice and go fishing. My pondering was answered at about 4 p.m. today when we witnessed the first large vessel begin through the ice on return to harbor and then saw it go back to the open water. Russell and I wondered if it would have to go to Goderich where there may be an icebreaker. However, there were soon two other ships, and after some consultation we are assuming, headed through the heavy ice to port. Russell took the photo of the three ships today and we consider it remarkable that such hardy spirits captain those ships through such a difficult passage."

Three fishing boats battle through the ice to make it safely into Bayfield Harbour on Jan. 4. (Submitted photo)

The Bayfield Breeze sincerely thanks Carol and Russell Powadiuk for their submission.

SUBMISSIONS

Today, on many calendars, depending on your faith of choice, Epiphany is marked. It recognizes the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. It is also one of my favorite words; I love how it rolls off the tongue and I enjoy its connotation – the sudden comprehension of the essence or meaning of something usually initiated by a commonplace occurrence.

For my household, Epiphany also marks the taking down and packing away of the holiday decorations. Yes, I did finally get my Christmas tree up – in case any faithful readers were wondering.

Epiphany is a looking back on the year past and a looking ahead to days yet to be. It also begins the start of many winter vacations; the countdown has begun to our own. As one of the many hats I wear is Innkeeper, there isn't a lot of vacation to be had in the other three seasons of the year so our time off in January and February is richly savored.

Many of our subscribers will soon be making their own pilgrimages to sunnier climes. Wherever your travels take you over the winter months we invite you to visit us regularly here at the Bayfield Breeze – no epiphany required!

Ideas and contributions to the Bayfield Breeze are always welcome. Deadlines for submissions are Sundays at 4 p.m. Please email me at bayfield.breeze@villageofbayfield.com or call 519-565-2443. Hope to see you online soon at www.villageofbayfield.com - Melody

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