



# Newcastle Village and District Historical Society Newsletter

Winter 2011 - Issue # 108

## *President's Message*

*Inside this issue:*

- We made our own fun ..... 2
- Pat Macdonnell Preservation Award ..... 4
- Victorian Christmas Traditions ..... 5

2011 in retrospect has been a very successful year for NV&DHS. Many people have been instrumental in this success.

Ron Locke, one of our most dedicated and valued members, is in the room Tuesday and Saturday mornings; opening and closing with the help of his wife Betty Lou and son Bill. They bring coffee and cookies and welcome all who come in with a cheery hello and a smile. Ron has spent hours in front of the computer identifying and labeling people in photos from years gone by. Thanks to his tireless efforts, many family memories have become a permanent part of our history. Thank you, Ron.

The Chin project – We Made Our Fun – was finished ; submitted and the final payment received. Thank you to the dedicated members of the CHIN committee: Project Manager Beverly Jeeves, without whom we would have thrown up our hands in despair many times over during this final chapter with all of the bureaucratic red tape and endless frustrations: Al Kirby: Myno Van Dyke: Greg Forget: and Marion Saunders; all valuable members of the group without whom we could not have gotten this project done.

Beverly Jeeves – I do not know where to start – hard working, dedicated, always willing to do what ever task is asked and always, always with a smile. This year Bev, aided by Shellie Jackson and myself hosted the cast and parents from the Chin video in a long awaited wrap party at Halloween – costumes, games, songs, prizes – the kids had a blast and the parents were pleased as well.

In her free time this summer Beverly also built the Access database so we that we are now able to scan and input the NV&DHS collection on line – a big step forward for the Newcastle Village and District Historical Society; one that has been a long time coming. Congratulations to Bev and many, many thanks.

*Cont'd. on Page 3*

## *Annual General Meeting*

This year's AGM will take place on Monday, February 13th at 7:00 in the NV&DHS Room. Everyone is invited for this always interesting evening of society business and show and tell. Bring your historic items to share.

We need a member to play the role of Nominating Chair. This individual will work with an Executive Member to prepare for the AGM. If you have to time to share and would like to help with this role, please contact Deborah Leslie at [deborah.leslie@rogers.com](mailto:deborah.leslie@rogers.com).

Please note that, as of Dec. 31, we start a new year. In order to vote at the AGM, you will need to have a 2012 membership. Visit the room or contact Ron



# "We Made Our Own Fun"

*Submitted by Beverly Jeeves, Secretary, NV&DHS,  
Project Manager CHIN Community Memories Program*

Over two years ago, NV&DHS filed a proposal with the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN) to create a film and pictures depicting the community of Newcastle. In May of 2010, the CHIN committee was set up and I gladly accepted the role of Project Manager. Myno Van Dyke, Deborah Leslie, Marion Saunders, Al Kirby, Bill St. Amand and Ron Locke joined the project creating 'the team'. By fall of 2010, we had our theme, storyboards, cast for the film, a script, place to shoot, and a plan.

The idea was to show the Carveth films in our collection, re-packaged to show the games and activities of youth in Newcastle from 1920s to 1960s. Karen Fisher and Fred Hillier generously encouraged us to use their historic home, Boate House, for the opening scenes and the gardens for outside shots.

Auditions were held and actors were selected; five girls and one adult from four different families. They managed to seamlessly blend as cousins visiting their grandmother's house.

In brief, the storyline tells how the children are visiting Grandma's house when the power goes out. The youth find themselves without electronics to keep them busy. Grandma gathers the children together to show an old photo album and begins to tell them stories of her own youth; the games and activities that she played as a child. As Grandma describes the various activities, the old 35mm film is playing in the background.

The film took a long day to complete and the actors were promised a cast party as soon as the movie was published to the CHIN site.

Editing the films was a larger job than we realized. Myno and Ron worked hours, weeks and months to produce the ten minute film. The challenge came in blending a highly sophisticated camera of 2010 with our SONY home camera, to the digitized copies of the Carveth 35 mm films of the footage. All of the blended film then had to fit on the CHIN software where, ultimately, CHIN would put it up on the internet for all Canadians to see.

The film was ready by the deadline. As the film was being published to the CHIN software, a huge misunderstanding came to light. While CHIN was pleased with the film, they also expected 100 images from NV&DHS.

After a careful review of the contract, Al, Ron and Myno quickly went to work looking for 100 images.

In June, we sent our exhibit of the film and 100 images to CHIN, published in CHIN's software. The exhibit ran on several computers with no problems. But even at that point, a final problem was revealed. The exhibit, as published, wouldn't run on CHIN's internet site in full. The 100 images are there, and the last six minutes of the film is also running – but the front half of the film will not run. As I write this, it is now November of 2011 and while there is an exhibit, CHIN and I are still editing the film properly on their site.

As a committee, we had one last commitment ... the cast party for five wonderful young actors. We put our heads together and thought; why not a Halloween party?

The party was held at my home, with Deborah Leslie, Shellie Jackson and I hosting on behalf of the society. The girls were told to dress up for the affair and, by coincidence, all ended up dressed as witches.



The girls were spooked, booed at, made pumpkin faced pizzas, painted their nails, decorated cupcakes as pumpkins, loaded up with trick or treats, sang a Halloween song with fiddle accompaniment and, most importantly, "thanked" for all their hard work and patience on the film.

The girls were each given a copy of the finished film.

A big thank you to our actors; Yelana and Scarlettte Hinton, Ele and Ayisha Hannigan, Eden Hillier, and Marg Fetherly (Grandma); the site location hosts; Fred Hillier and Karen Fisher for their beautiful home; and everyone who worked to film, edit and produce this delightful film.



*President's Report (cont'd. from Page 1)*

The General Meeting held in October marked the beginning of a new era, recognizing the donation from the family of Pat Macdonnell, with the renaming of the "Preservation Award" and the awarding in memory of the new "Pat Macdonnell Preservation Award". The first recipient was Ron Coffin of Ebor House, on hand was Pat's daughter Pam Love and her husband, Paul.

During the Meeting, we were also treated to a new project from the team of Locke and Van Dyke – the Jasco Box factory video filmed by Amos Langley and Doreen McNevin in the late 1980's. After identifying various people in the video, Myno and Ron interviewed several people and overlaid the interviews in the tape – a 30 minute treat for all to see. For those of you who did not get the opportunity to see this in September, Myno will be showing the movie again on Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup> at A Gift of Art at 2:00pm for the Free Speaker Series.

Speaking of Myno he did several walking tours this summer with 25-30 young people for A Gift of Art. They came to the Historical room and enjoyed the CHIN video "We Made Our Own Fun" and then wandered and discovered things in our collection.

Greg St. Amand has been busy doing many wood working projects for the society – he crafted the numbers for the cabinets in the Historical room to enable us to better keep track of where items are in the room. Greg is currently working on a donation box for the room to replace our treasured tin box (I am sure that it is someone's heirloom). For those of you who do not know, Greg has also been a regular in the room Tuesday and Saturday mornings for months now, transcribing the many handwritten ledgers in the room into digital form – a seemingly endless task I am sure. Thank you Greg for all of your hard work and dedication - you are appreciated.

Looking to the New Year we will again be taking part in the Winter Wonderlearn project in February. This year we have been offered a conference room at the Newcastle complex free of charge to display part of our collection. It will be on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 9:30-1:00. An on-site presence with the rest of the activities will ensure that we are visited this year. We will be looking for volunteers to help move and set up a display and people to be there on Saturday morning. More details will follow.

I wish to remind people that the **Annual General Meeting** is also just around the corner. It is, as always, the second Monday in February, this year Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the NV&DHS room.

In closing, I want to thank all who have been faithful in attending meetings and helping out in the room when we are open. We are a volunteer organization and as such are only as strong as those volunteers – we need you all. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Deborah Leslie  
*President,*  
*Newcastle Village and District Historical Society*

# Pat Macdonnell Preservation Award

Submitted by Myno Van Dyke

At the fall NV&DHS general meeting, the Society handed out its first

“Pat Macdonnell Preservation Award”, previously known as ‘the Preservation Award’.

The award recognizes people who have gone to extensive efforts to preserve and restore their heritage building in Newcastle and Bond Head.

Patricia Macdonnell passed away at her home in Bond Head on June 3, 2009. She was one of the founding members of the Newcastle Village and District Historical Society and was best known for her role as Curator for many years.



Farncomb LeGresley & Bert Vandenheuvel accept the award, presented by Pam Love (Pat Macdonnell's daughter), on behalf of Ron Coffin

Pat was the first Historical Society member to have been given a Lifetime Honorary Membership. She worked very hard to build NVDHS into the wonderful organization it is today.

After Pat passed away, donations were made in her name and the family graciously supported the idea of naming our Annual Preservation Award after Pat.

This year's winner was Ron Coffin, for his restoration of Ebor House located at 573 Mill Street South in Bond Head.

Ebor House was built in 1868-69 by Frederick and Jane Farncomb. The original drawings for the house were hand drawn by a Toronto architect in November 1867. Very few houses were built of this size at that time and it was recognized for its elegance and beautiful property.

The name “Ebor” is a Yorkshire name dating back to Roman times. There was an Ebor House in England where the orphaned Farncomb children were raised. Frederick Farncomb admired the name of his neighbour's home in England.

Frederick and Jane Farncomb had seven children, 6 boys and one girl. Their 14 yr. old son Charles drowned in 1879 at the Bond Head Harbour. The other children had very successful lives. William, John and Frederick became Anglican Ministers and Alfred and Thomas became physicians. Their only daugh-

ter, Dorothea, became an author of religious books and had a regular column in the Farmer's Advocate.

Newcastle Village & District Historical Society members, Farncomb and Balfour LeGresley were born in this house.

Over the past few years, Ron has gone to great lengths in restoring the interior of the home back to its original glory. Last year, Ron hosted NV&DHS Board Members for a tour through the home and it looks fantastic.

Unfortunately, Ron was away the night of the presentation and unable to receive the award in person, however, we made arrangements to present it personally at another time. At the general meeting, Ron's neighbours, Farncomb Legresley (who grew up in the home) and Bert Vandenheuvell accepted the award on his behalf.

#### Previous winners of the Preservation Award

- 2003 Daryl & Eleanor Cook -  
274 Mill St. S. , (beside St. George's church,  
Newcastle
- 2004 Carl Good/Joyce Kufta -  
Newcastle Funeral Home, 386 Mill St. S.  
Newcastle
- 2005 Gylatsen Family -  
Former JASCO & Massey Factory, King &  
Beaver Streets, Newcastle
- 2007 Dean Friedlander -  
136 Mill St. S., Newcastle
- 2009 Edmond & Sylvia Vanhaverbeke -  
Commercial Building, 101-109 King Ave. West,  
Newcastle
- 2010 Clark Family Chiropractic & Acupuncture -  
Commercial Building, 4 & 10 King Ave. East,  
Newcastle
- 2011 Ron Coffin -  
Ebor House, 573 Mill St. South, Bond Head.

## *Victorian Christmas Traditions*

Much of the traditions we celebrate today at Christmas are the product of the Victorian era.

A commercial Christmas industry was borne by Victorians in 1848 when a British confectioner, Tom Smith, invented a bold new way to sell sweets.

Inspired by a trip to Paris where he saw bon bons – sugared almonds wrapped in twists of paper – he came up with the idea of the Christmas cracker: a simple package filled with sweets that snapped when pulled apart. The sweets were replaced by small gifts and paper hats in the late Victorian period, and remain in this form as an essential part of a modern Christmas.

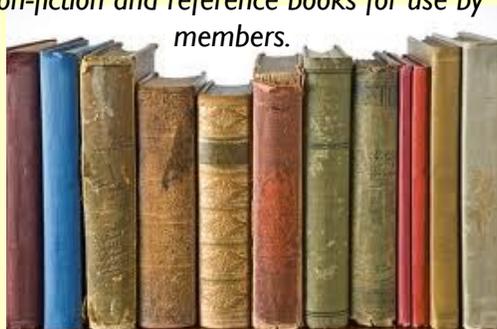
Gift giving had traditionally been at New Year but moved as Christmas became more important to the Victorians. Initially gifts were rather modest – fruit, nuts, sweets and small handmade trinkets. These were usually hung on the Christmas tree. However, as gift giving became more central to the festival, and the gifts became bigger and shop-bought, they moved under the tree.



*From [bbc.co.uk/victorianchristmas/history.shtml](http://bbc.co.uk/victorianchristmas/history.shtml)*

## *Merry Christmas*

*NV&DHS has an extensive library of biographies,  
non-fiction and reference books for use by  
members.*



## Annual Fees for Members -

### *Single Membership (one vote):*

Hard Copy delivered by mail or by hand ... Annual fees for calendar year \$15.  
Digital Copy delivered by e-mail (pdf) ... Annual fees for calendar year \$10

### *Family Membership (two votes):*

Hard Copy delivered by mail or by hand ... Annual fees for calendar year \$20.  
Digital Copy delivered by e-mail (pdf) ... Annual fees for calendar year \$15

### *Corporate membership (one vote):*

Up to 3 Hard Copies delivered by mail or by hand plus Digital Copy delivered by e-mail) (pdf)  
... Annual fees for calendar year \$25.

Sponsors will get recognition in the quarterly newsletter as well as a digital copy of the newsletter

*Membership Chairman Ron Locke [ronald.locke@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.locke@gmail.com)*

NV&DHS gratefully acknowledges the ongoing sponsorship of **Tim Horton's of Newcastle**, who generously supply the room with complementary coffee for visitors every Saturday morning.

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2012 Membership Fees are now Due.

NV&DHS is open in Newcastle's Community Hall every Tuesday & Saturday morning  
from 9:30 - 12:00.

You can reach NVDHS at [info@bellnet.ca](mailto:info@bellnet.ca)