

YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

VOLUME 19

SPRING 2012



2002 ~ THE FIRST DECADE ~ 2012

www.tavistockhistory.ca • e-mail: info@tavistockhistory.ca

3,000+ visitors
to our museum and archives ...all ages,
from close to home and far away.

30 exhibits

and well-appointed museum displays
including four truly special shows ...
Here Comes The Bride wedding exhibit,
Quilts, Quilts and More Quilts, and
Honouring Our Veterans ... and the
crowd-favourite display Christmas At
The General Store.

900+ visitors

The Oxford Hotel Open House drew
900+ visitors in one day ... and we
weren't serving beer!

2,600 photos

Lemp Studio Collection pictures ...
2,600 printed and an equal number still
to do ... many pictures have been identi-
fied but there are many more that remain
a mystery ... maybe one of those beauti-
ful unnamed ladies in the exquisite dress
is your grandmother.

6,556 obituaries

Our obituary collection ... 6,556 on file
and growing by the week ... family
researchers often find valuable
information in obituaries.

530 veterans

Our veteran albums include 530 vets
from our community, the majority with
pictures and full biographies and all files
kept as up-to-date as possible. Plus
Remembering Our Veterans DVD ...
a pictorial look at the men and women
who did their duty for king and country.

2,000+ records

Registry Office records for Tavistock
properties ... you can check to see how
much great grandpa paid for his property
or who lived on your lot in the good old
days.





100 genealogies

Family histories ... over 100 available. FYI, the Brenneman family history has over 29,000 names.

2,500 items

Our museum and archives collections that currently stand at over 2,500 items - all detailed on our database.

98 years

Digitized and searchable Tavistock Gazettes from 1888 to 1986 ... 98 years of our favourite hometown paper.



6 speaker series

Speaker Series evenings were open to the community on subjects ranging from Mennonites On The Move to The Black Donnellys of Lucan and one storytelling night about life down on the farm.



11 oral histories

Oral History DVDs feature well-known local people and places.

6 publications

Yes, we've even found time to research and publish booklets about subjects of local interest

- Swastika Mine
- The Oxford: A Tavistock Landmark
- Tavistock Fire Department 1911 - 2011
- Fact & Fantasy
- Crossroads In Time
- Raising The Rafters



1849 deeds

The oldest items in the Museum/Archives collection would be property deeds dating back to 1849.

\$\$\$ donations

Many contributions - THANK YOU! The Tavistock & District Historical Society is a registered charity that provides tax receipts for memberships and contributions.



We're marking a milestone!

We're 10 years old!

So are others. Congratulations to the area clubs and service organizations that are also celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2012. Each has a rich history of people who saw a need: people who filled it; and people who continue to work to further the cause. Each group can rightly claim success in many areas.

The Men's Club started in 1937 when a group of local men organized themselves to deliver Christmas food hampers to needy families in the community. Seventy-five years later Men's Club is best known for the annual Sauerkraut Supper that feeds over 1,400 people. Proceeds from the Sauerkraut Supper support many local clubs and causes.

The Tavistock Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons was formed in 1922. For 90 years Lodge # 609 has met in the same building. The Masons have a longstanding history of quietly and privately doing good when and where it's needed. A known example of community good work is the Masonic Child Identification Program offered at the Tavistock Fall Fair.

Women's Institutes have always been a force to be reckoned with. The Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute celebrates 65 years in 2012 and has many achievements to their credit. The next time you are out for a country drive in East Zorra Township take note of the stop signs and the yellow lines on the paved country roads and the rumble strips at the corner of the 16th line and County Road 8 and thank the Princess Elizabeth Women's Institute who have lobbied for your safety.

And yet other groups have come and gone. Years and years ago Tavistock had a Tipperary Club and a Patriot Club and an Astrology Club. The Monday Club met - guess when - to discuss books the group had read. The Horticultural Society formed in 1923 was going gangbusters right up until 1947 when it just folded, almost overnight.

The Tavistock & District Historical Society proudly celebrates its first ten years. We've worked hard to become established. We've had good community support. We especially thank the Rotary Club of Tavistock for funding our first years and the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock for being exceptional landlords.

We hear from many sources that we provide a valuable service to the community. We hear that our local history is important and it needs to be preserved. Our latest projects ... putting names to the Tavistock 1947-48 movie; the new book "The Oxford: A Tavistock Landmark Since 1906"; and the even newer book detailing the history of the first hundred years of the Tavistock Fire Department ... have all drawn positive reviews.

And yet, like many organizations these days, we're at a crossroads. Visitors aren't showing up on Saturday mornings like they were years ago. Finding people interested in sitting on the Board or helping with a project is not as easy as it once was.



This wedding toast photo from the Lemp Studio Collection reminds us of celebrations of yesteryear.

In fact, it's downright difficult. Our membership is not as robust as it was in the beginning and, interestingly, almost half of our members now live out of town.

Technology has become a factor we cannot ignore. More and more people are looking for information and answers on a website. If we are to keep up with the times we need to be online and actively online. Yet, at the same time, we feel we need to be true to the people who got us started and kept us going.

Many of those people aren't glued to their computer screen because they don't have a computer screen. We need to maintain the "touch and feel" element of our existence.

At this time when we're being stretched in two directions we don't have enough willing hands to manage both. We're hanging on valiantly but we need help. We need people to work on ongoing projects; people to suggest new ideas and run with them; people with computer skills and people who are managing just fine, thank you very much, without the aid of technology. It doesn't need to be a big time commitment on anyone's part. It just needs to be a commitment.

What will the Tavistock & District Historical Society's second ten years look like? Good question. We'd like to hear your answer.

Tavistock & District Historical Society

37 Maria Street, P.O. Box 280,
Tavistock, Ontario, Canada
N0B 2R0

Executive:

Chairman - Brian Bennett
Secretary - Mary Nicklas
Treasurer - Bob Rudy

Directors: Paul Bartlett, Sherrill Calder,
Bill Gladding, Harry Lawry, Ed Pellow,
Shirley Wagler, Tim Whitlock, Charlene Zehr
Associate: Tim Mosher

MUSEUM HOURS:

*Saturdays 10am-12 noon
Other times by appointment.*

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE MUSEUM/ARCHIVES

Annual membership \$10.00 per annum
e-mail: info@tavistockhistory.ca