



President – Ken Thomson – (705) 698-2917 – hamlet@csolve.net

Editor – George Page – (705) 325-6676 – natimag@rogers.com

Please see our web site www.sparrowlake.ca for a complete list of executive and contacts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please mark your calendars for Sat. Sept. 29/12, 6:30 pm the date for our annual fall potluck supper meeting, where North Simcoe MP Bruce Stanton will be our guest speaker. Also please remember to bring your favourite dish.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It doesn't seem long since we were welcoming Spring , but here we are ,after a hot but wonderful summer, getting into Fall. We hope you all had an excellent time these last few months.

Our Summer outing to the Church of the Good Samaritan and the Musson Cottage was a huge success with over 30 members and friends attending. Many thanks to Jim Stanton for his church history, George Page for the outstanding visual presentation , and Karen McKenzie for hosting the Musson cottage tour. Thanks also to Tom and Phyllis Stanton for the use of tables and chairs. We had a great selection of tasty food thanks to our members.

Take a moment to check the date on your mailing address label to see the current status of your paid 'til date. If it is not 2012 or later we ask you to bring your membership up to date. We value your participation in the Society but if there has been a lapse of 2 or more years, your mailing of the newsletter will have to be cancelled.

We'll see you at the pot luck meeting.



EDITORS COMMENTS

The above photos of the August outing are courtesy of Jim Stanton.

I want to thank all those who were involved in the sorting and filing of the SLHS records from Dave Stanton's filing cabinet.

All of these are now boxed and catalogued and copies of the catalogue are available for those who want to do some research. We will retain the files locally for a period of time (up to one year) so that anyone interested can review them before we transfer them to the archives. This may also give us an opportunity to have some of the more interesting items digitized. Anyone wanting access to this material can contact me, or Ken Thomson.

Dave Stanton has stepped down as our Web Master and we thank him for all the work he has done with the Web Page. We need someone knowledgeable and interested in this area to take over this important work, so if you have this interest or know someone who might be suitable, please get in touch with either myself, or Ken Thomson.

I am always looking for stories from the past or present that will be of interest to the members, and I have received several very good ones from Jim Stanton, and I'm sure that many of you have similar stories. I have considerable material about the Page family, but I feel sometimes that I am monopolizing the space with these tales. One thing that I hope to do is reprint some of the material from the early news letters.

MORE GRANDFATHER STORIES

About his time (circa 1900) Patriarc (Patriarc was the contractor for the initial construction of the OWL power plant at

Hydro Glen) he brought a one cylinder marine gasoline engine to Severn. After spending two days trying to get it to run and blowing the head off of it, he turned it over to me (my Grandfather George Page) to try. I took it over to the machine shop at Michles and bolted the head on and between McLoad and I we got it to go and ran it to Ragged several times, but it was hard to get gasoline then and we were out of gas quite often, gas cost eight cents a gallon then. I think that this was the first gasoline marine engine the Severn River ever saw. I know it was the first I had seen It was a make and break ignition. Ed note: It is interesting to note that gas is now approximately \$4.75 a gallon, an increase of 5900% from circa 1900.

100 YEARS AGO

In 1912 my Grandfather George Page petitioned the Federal Government to establish a post office at Ragged Rapids. However there was already a post office with that name on the Musquash River near Bala. So the first alternate proposal was an Indian name "Nisagiwan" meaning "to the mouth of the river". But again this was deemed to be too difficult for most people to pronounce. In the end Hydro Glen was proposed and approved by M. P. W. H. Bennett, who at one time had been mayor of Orillia.

SOME INTERESTING NATURE OBSERVATION

Our cottage is at the Swift Rapids on the Muskoka side of the River and our property is adjacent to a very large undeveloped area. So we have known for some time that there is considerable wild life around. However we did not realize just how much there was, or how close it came to the cottage, until we mounted an automatic camera about 100 meters behind. Since mounting the camera

last summer we have recorded the following; coon, snowshoe hare, porcupine, deer, bear, moose and a coyote. Via other

observations we have seen otter, beaver, muskrat and of course lots of chipmunks and squirrels.

Sparrow Lake Historical Society Membership Application 2013

Name -----

Mailing Address -----

Postal/Zip Code -----

Single \$15.00 ----- **Family \$25.00** ----- **New** ----- **Renewal** -----

Please make cheque payable to – **Sparrow Lake Historical Society** – and mail to **Ken Thomson**, 1729 Peninsula Pt. Rd. RR #1, Severn Bridge, ON, P0E 1N0.