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By William A. Warnick

180 Rosslyn Ave. South

HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5

Phone 905 549-6086 E-mail wwarnick@interlynx.net

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Photo waw649 Violet Crumb nee Ross, Carroll Kenney and Joe Warnick (in background) at Port Maitland History Display August 17, 2002 - Photo by Cheryle Johnson for Wm Warnick

In the early 1970s, while my favourite anchorman Walter Chronkite, was still on the air and Watergate was fresh in people's minds, a survey of *Who do you trust most* was conducted. Walter came out on top. Used car salesmen, reporters and particularly politicians were relegated to the bottom of the heap. I mention this, because I promised in July that I would get back in September to church histories for the townships of Dunn and Sherbrooke. I will not be keeping my word! Instead, I have chosen to put on the hat of a reporter rather than a columnist and tell you how the Port Maitland History Display at Stromness went. You can't even trust a history columnist!

The weather God's were phenomenal with but one tiny complaint, and I hope the God's don't hear me! It was a bit too hot in the sun where I setup. My guess would be that about two hundred people visited, however many did not sign the guest book. A good beginning has been made towards forming a Sherbrooke School(s) reunion. I was very pleased to see the two remaining longest living members of S. S. # 3. They are Violet Crumb, formerly Violet Ross, daughter of Allan (Pum) Ross, - *the former operator of the cable ferry at Port Maitland*, and Alice Bromley, and Carroll Kenney, son of Thomas J. Kenney - *the former TH&B station agent at Port Maitland*, and Mary Agnes Winder. Vi, is ninety-one years of age, while Carroll is ninety-three. I guess when you reach the fine age of nineties, everyone tells your secret!

Unfortunately, I was too busy to keep as good an eye on the other participants as I would have liked. The Dunnville District Heritage Association had a wonderful display with many school photos, many with the names of the students and others awaiting input to fill in the blanks. Mike Walker spent some time with us, however being the busy marina operator he is, he was limited to the amount of time he could give us. He set up his display and stayed with it as much as possible, but then left it for us to view on our own. Jim Schuit brought along his fabulous Grand River postcard collection containing a card which I also have. The card has picture which was taken from my Grandparent's cottage on the hill at Beckley Beach. In the photo is a rather small looking fish tug that I have never been able to identify. Art Case, a former student at Stromness gave us the first clue when he told us he thought it was a boat belonging to John Fletcher and his son Orval. Art was not sure of the name. A few hours later Wayne Siddall found a photo in my fish tug collection of the same boat. I had misnamed it. He corrected me and told me it was the *Robert F.* I have since talked with Orval and found out considerably more about this tug; but that will be for another article.

The Ontario Genealogical Society - Haldimand County Branch, provided local genealogical information for some of the local residents. This is a group that anyone who is interested in finding out about their roots should contact. A number of years ago the Ontario Genealogical Society in Ontario mandated that

all their branches record all readable tombstones in their area and index them. From this momentous undertaking there was developed cemetery records for most, if not all known cemeteries in the province. These (Haldimand cemeteries) are available from your local branch.

R. C. A. F. # 6 Association Dunnville Inc., brought along with them many memories. I noted throughout the day that they had gathered around their display, both men and women of all ages, some reminiscing of days past, while others were hungry to grasp an understanding of a war seemingly far removed from them.

I always find that Des Rasch has one of the more intriguing displays, yet I get to see so little of it as I am usually too busy to properly take it in. Des, found a shady tree and set up under it. This seemed a bit out of the way and I am not sure that all the visitors realized he was there. For those that did go over, Des was able to show them many old maps of the various townships in Haldimand and had a story to go with just about each map. His surveying equipment from the past was of particular interest to most.

The Lowbanks station of the Dunnville Fire Department who are celebrating their fiftieth year of service sent along their old pumper with a number of their volunteers who sold tickets and gave a tour of the old pumper. I am sure that we had a number of drive by customers as result of them seeing the pumper sitting in the school yard.

A late entry was Mary Crown nee Zipay who attended Inman Road School in Moulton. She has collected a number of class photos from that former place of learning and was attempting to put names to many of the faces.

If you have items, you wish written about or pictures you would be willing to lend, please drop me a note. Let me know how you feel about these articles. William (Bill) Arthur Warnick 180 Rosslyn Ave. South HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5 e-mail wwarnick@interlynx.net Phone 905 549-6086. As of September 13th, I will have a new e-mail address and will provide you with it in my October column.



Violet Crumb nee Ross, Carroll Kenney and Joe Warnick (in background) at Port Maitland History Display August 17, 2002 - Photo by Cheryle Johnson for Wm Warnick

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CHRONICLE\2002\17 It was a good day at Stromness.wpd