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**By William A. Warnick**

**180 Rosslyn Ave. South**

**HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5**

**Phone 905 531-4350 E-mail [wwarnick@cogeco.ca](mailto:wwarnick@cogeco.ca)**

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**Just a bit of this and a bit of that!**

When I first began my monthly articles in April 2000, I had no idea where they would lead me, nor did I know if they would be well received. After all, I was following the well-known and respected history columnist, Lorne Sorge, who had already captured your imaginations and hearts. Worse yet, I could write about as well as a cow could lay an egg! I never imagined my writing would lead to my founding the Port Maitland Festival of History, or establishing the Port Maitland lock cleanup project.

It has now been four years and some forty-eight columns. I am pleased to tell you I often receive emails or letters thanking me for writing about this or that, and telling me you like my articles or better yet, I love it when you tell me you like my writing style!

Still some of you are asking 'when are you going to write about this or that'? I keep a list of all your suggestions. Some subjects are easy to write about, while others are very difficult. Most difficult are the people columns, especially if I knew the person, or their family is still active in the area. I do not write a reporters column. It might even be a stretch to say I write a history column! What . . . , *not a history column?* All my life I have been a sort of person who said what was on my mind and waited for the crap to fall from my utterances. When I began writing I wanted that to stop. I wanted to find humour, warmth, and fuzzes in people. I attempt to keep my writing warm and fuzzy, skipping over a lot of things a good journalist would include. I have not been perfect, but have attempted never to offend. In areas of controversy, I always ask at least one or two close family members, (provided I can find some) if I can write about this or that regarding their relative.

Enough, enough already! Now for this months article. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the Chronicle ran a photo and a story in the Sports section. The photo was of the Dunnville Secondary School cheerleaders formed in a pyramid. There was a combination of fellows and gals, and all their names were listed. Presumably correctly!

While growing up, I shared a room with my older brother Skip. On our wall was a small snapshot of the Dunnville High School's gymnastic team of 1955. It had been taken during an indoor performance. On the top, and centre of the pyramid was Skip. I was always so proud, it was my brother in that key position! I have misplaced the picture and have hunted all my boxes and photo albums to no avail. A couple years ago Pete Taylor, gave me a similar photo with the same fellows, outside on the track, and in much the same formation.

I do not know a lot about what happened to these fellows and will leave it to you to fill in the blanks, but here from left to right is a little of what I do know. In the bottom level are; Unknown, Bill Sawchuk - worked for John Deere when he died in a fire in his apartment on Good Friday 1967, Pete Taylor - your butcher extra ordinaire, Larry Dickhout - retired teacher who still lives in Dunnville, Unknown. In the middle level are Alex (Sandy) Kushnir - became a draughtsman and I understand presently lives in the Buffalo area, Howard (Howie) Roth - retired high school principal from St. Thomas, Ron (Red) Watson - Associate professor of Kinesiology at The University of Western Ontario and an expert on sport law, and Bob Bullock - of the former Bullock Funeral Home family. On top is my brother Maurice (Skip) Warnick - a welder and former business man, who lives in Surrey B. C.

In my research I have discovered Howard Glenney, David Marshall, John Fenveys, Ward Glenney, and Jack Newman were at one time members of the high school gym team. I am sure there were many more!

What is to come in future columns? Here are only a few of the stories I am working on. Hurricane Hazel; Clayton Smith's bomb shelter; bios on Steve Powell, Jim Hall the fisherman, - and the Corcoran family of "the Locks"; Livingstone Hotel at Stromness; Wonderland Ranch, Dolly Grey's Hotel, and the Elms at Port Maitland; plane crash at Highbanks; fish tugs caught in the ice; stories of various fish tugs; local boys who served during the two great wars; Scottsville - Slabtown; and much more.

If you have items, you wish to have written about or pictures you would be willing to lend me, 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@cogeco.ca](mailto:wwarnick@cogeco.ca) Phone 905 5531 -4350.



**Dunnville High School Gymnastic's Team - 1955**

**L. to R. Bottom level;** Unknown, Bill Sawchuk, Pete Taylor, Larry Dickhout, Unknown,  
**Middle level;** Alex (Sandy) Kushnir, Howard (Howie) Roth, Ron (Red) Watson, Bob Bullock,  
**On Top;** Maurice (Skip) Warnick