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Good evening, friends!

We welcome you to this 80th. anniversary of Newcastle Horticultural Society.

The first actual minutes of the Newcastle Horticultural Society are in a book which you may see in the Memorial Library of this building. Since the first few pages of the book are missing our real records date from Jan 1920.

But, to assure you that the society existed in 1914, I shall read an item from The Canadian Horticulturist July 1915.

"The Newcastle Horticultural Society last year planted one hundred young trees in the spring on the streets. Trees and vines were planted on the High School, church grounds and power-house. Window boxes were placed on post-office windows. A children's public market was held every Saturday during the summer months. The Government supplied, and gave them the choice of flower or vegetable seeds, and the children raised the plants, which were sold on the market, and kept the money so earned. The society judged the display and gave them marks. At the final market day, prizes were awarded for vegetables, flowers, bouquets and designs."

I invite Nancy Bedard & Narda Hoogkamp to please come forward. Children to-day are still interested in horticulture and this year Nancy Bedard is our youth leader and Narda Hoogkamp is her assistant. Would Nancy & Narda please come forward. Thank Nancy for the lovely flowers

By the way, at the OHA Convention on June 11, Narda was presented with a youth leader plaque honouring her for many years of conscientious teaching of horticulture to children. She may later give me a hard time but will you please join with me in a hearty round of applause for Narda who has taught the beauty of plants, trees and living creatures to many pupils. Thank you.

It was also Narda who contacted Mr Don Tollett of Newcastle Public School to request the choir to sing for us this evening. Mr. Tollett graciously accepted and we invite them now to open our program with our national anthem O Canada

* We found in the January 12th, 1923 minutes written by Secretary Mrs J. E. Matchett that the meeting closed by the singing of God Save the King led by Mrs Branton. The minutes were signed by Thomas Moffatt but Dr. J. A. Butler was president. On February 3rd, 1922 the meeting opened with the chorus The Maple Leaf Forever. This proves that horticulturists have enjoyed singing and have been patriotic to King and Canada.

Kathleen Petrie District Director

While the Base Line Country Kids are getting ready to present their numbers, I would like you to think how you would have travelled here in 1914 - 80 years ago. On Sept 24th, 1921 the first sod was turned for this building - our Community Hall. So you might have been square dancing instead at Alexandra Hall, which was upstairs over the Newcastle Pizza & Subs and the By Design Hair Care on King St. West. You probably would have come by horse & buggy or democrat, stage coach, or private carriage. To tend to the needs of the horses & rigs were blacksmiths, wagonmakers and saddlers, here in the village —

Agonizing over what to say between numbers on this program, I went to see Pat Macdonnell at the Memorial Library Room next door where much of Newcastle's past can be found.

Then ten days ago we attended the OHA Convention at Brock University in St Catherines. The Saturday evening speaker Prof. Josephine Mieker suggested telling our own stories ~~to~~ about family and friends as she did.

So I shall tell some connected to our lives and horticulture. When we were first married we lived in rooms at the home of Chris and Dora Law whom Chris affectionately called Birdie. She told us she got that name because as a child she was always up in the trees.

In 1920 would you believe there were 269 Horticulture members and in 1921 there were 132, one of whom was Mrs Chris Law who came first in the flower show and won the cup. In the August 30 minutes that year we find that Secty Mrs. J. Matchett wrote "It was moved by Mr Philp, seconded by Mrs Coulson that the President and Secretary were to draft a letter for publication against cows running at large & damaging our flower beds.

Family connection

Now, ~~a quartet~~ this quintet, are children of Stan and Wilma Allin - Ailin McKenzie Heather, Allison & Erin Malcolm & Melanie Allin. They are quite familiar with the actions of cattle ~~and the cows that used to come~~ as accompanists to Rebecca Colston. We used to use our voices for calling the cattle ~~to bring them~~ home ~~every night~~ and ~~keep~~ the cows off the roadsides. ~~but not these~~ girls. They are beautiful singers as we shall now hear.

Since grandpa was a farmer

My summer job. They cleaned the ditches except for buttercups & thistles. but no one was paid ~~to~~ now ~~Allin~~ the ditches.

Before the Country Four arrive on stage, I want to tell more about village travel. Mrs Law used to tell about going down the board walk to the lake, and boarding the Garden City to sail to Toronto. Many people travelled to the city by train, as there were two stations here, the Grand Trunk and the C P R. From a book Rhetoric and Roses I found some information about the Canadian Pacific Railway Gardens. I quote "N. Stewart Dunlop of Montreal C P R sent out seeds from his home garden to various station agents. Beautifying station grounds was very important especially when the C P R wanted to sell off surplus land. Good gardens at the stations added some beauty where land was bleak. Vegetable & flower seeds were sent to various station agents and the products were used in the dining cars, and shown at fairs."

Men who did manual labour on the railroads were called section hands. The boss & his family lived in section houses and were transferred from one place to another.

This letter was reprinted in the Canadian Municipal Journal.

Just a few lines to tell you we have moved from one Section House to another. We came here in Nov. and there has never been any garden here, so we set to work to make one. We have named the baby Pansy Verbena. All my girls are named after flower so if you have anything you can send to help make this place pretty, I shall be thankful. I have now nine children living, and one dead, making ten in all, so you see I am kept busy,

but I love my garden and often when I feel tired and out of sorts, I go into my garden and work for a while, and it soon passes off. I do not do it all myself, I am teaching my boys and girls to help in the garden, too, as I think it is so nice to see children caring and taking an interest in flowers. end of quote

Many of us have heard the Country Four - Don Staples, Jack Allin, Glean Allin and Merril Brown. Some of their songs remind us of olden days. Let's welcome these gentlemen who have been singing together half of eighty years!

Kathleen Petrie
Mr John Leyton of CIBC

Thank you Bare Live Reds
Roland Bowman caller
Doreen Lowery pianist
James Lowery fiddler

Dip & Dive

We are very pleased to-night to have a segment of the Clarington Band play for us.

Newcastle Village had a brass band until 1976 when band leader William Pickard, who organized the band, passed away. His blacksmith shop was on the north-east corner of Beaver and King Streets where the garage now stands. When World War I broke out and the men enlisted to go, the band probably led the soldiers along King St. to the Drill Shed at the park.

from the Band Shell which was here

Vacant lot gardening was a form of welfare for the poor, and a patriotic duty during World War I. Over a thousand war gardens by C P R employees were devoted to potatoes and mixed vegetables.

To add my family story to war, brother Donald Powell, aged 22 years, was killed in World War II, on April 28, 1945. We had celebrated V E or Victory in Europe Day.

In May 1963 my mother and I boarded what we called the mail train at Newcastle C N R station (formerly the Grand Trunk). It was a delightfully long ride stopping at every station on the way to Montreal. Along with other pilgrims we flew K L M to visit war graves of loved ones. A band welcomed us to Holland. I well remember the tears streaming down my cheeks as they played O Canada. One of our bus trips took us to the Keukenhof gardens which filled my eyes with ~~beauty~~.

Getting back to Clarington, I said members who are with us to-night — Janet Cringle and Dave Clinenhage playing trombones Mark Plummer baritone Gail Rickard French horn

Barry Hodgins trumpet Al Curtis trumpet
Doug R playing tuba.

Al Hatfield
Acy Lawler
Fern Craig
Heady Isenwood
Amanda Wilson

Kathleen Petrie, District Director of Dist 17 is with us to-night and we invite her to the stage along with President Wylma Allin and Past President Vicki Lesnick.

Cups won by Mrs Bertha Fisher Mrs. James R. Fisher in 1921 22 & 23 are on display along with other for Domestic Science history may be seen on the table at the back.

Thank everyone for coming.

90th Anniversary.

Good evening friends.

My husband, Jack Crago, passed away on March 21st this year, about a month before his 89th birthday. He enjoyed fairly good health and I attribute that to his big garden which he tended even last year. Each April the peas were sown and the appearance of the pea plants eagerly anticipated.

So too our forebears planted the seed of this horticultural society. No doubt, the first two presidents, Dr J.A. Butler and Dr Robert McIntosh knew the healthy benefits of gardening as well as the social aspects of horticultural meetings. In those days 1914 to 1922, card parties, dances, suppers and get-togethers were the social times. There were no televisions or computers to make one sedentary. Whatever the reasons for the forming of the Newcastle Horticultural Society it has survived 90 years – the reason for our celebration tonight.

Just think of all the villagers who have contributed time, talent, funds and physical labour to keep this organization alive, beautifying not only their own Newcastle private properties but also community grounds with annuals perennial and trees, and competing in the floral design classes throughout the seasons. All who have served in any capacity feel the necessity and beauty of such an organization

We pay tribute to those forebears who envisioned the value of the Newcastle Horticultural Society & some of our members working tonight were ~~both seniors and juniors gardeners~~ here. We pray that our descendants will continue this worthwhile garden club.

To all the workers, past and present, who contributed in any capacity, we owe a debt of gratitude. I invite you to put your hands together and give them your heartiest applause.

Thank you!

In former years as MC, I have read some history of the society but tonight I am refraining from that for I hope that anyone who has not paid $5.00 for a membership, will do so. Then you will receive a yearbook which will give you some history.

Thanks again.

Kasia Kulyk will play the piano for the singing of our national anthem.

Mrs Carrie Biss will lead the children of St Francis of Assisi.

Mayor John Mutton will address the audience & bring greetings from the Municipality of Eldrington.

Tonight for our 90th we are presenting a musical program.

Martha Farrow and the Golden Rainbow Singers.

I've been wondering about the name Golden Rainbow. I guess Golden refers to seniors. But we do live in the Metal Age: silver in the hair, gold in the teeth, lead in the pants and iron in the veins.

About grad — The economy is terrible. At the beginning of the year the politicians promised things would improve by the last quarter. Hell, I'm down to my last quarter and they haven't improved.

Doreen Lowery and Fiddlers

In the Carter Family book I quote the lines about Fiddlin Billy Molly Bays Carter's grandfather.

He carried his fiddle everywhere and was best known as Fiddlin Billy or simply the Entertainer. It wasn't just his music that made Fiddlin Billy entertaining: he was born to perform and he meant to amaze. He favoured clothes that made a statement, such as long coats made of the finest and most colourful broadcloth, festooned with oversize buttons. Fiddlin' Billy's son said his father had a way of just appearing, almost out of thin air, then disappearing just as abruptly. And the Entertainer liked you to know that he might trust in God, but he didn't trust in banks or governments. He never had a nickel in a bank, but he never lacked for money. If there was something he wanted to buy, he'd disappear, and reappear hours later with a wad of greenbacks. It was said Fiddlin Billy had his money buried on some remote and thick-grown hillside, but he died without

revealing to his own sons the whereabouts of his stash. If his family knew little of his finances, the local state and federal tax authorities knew even less. He was so stubborn about paying his taxes that one frustrated county collector finally reached across and ripped off a handful of Billy's brass buttons as payment in kind.

To a button collector like me, that's a great story!

Bonnie Fowle and friends

Country Four quartet

Draws
Show Results

Darlene & I did draws.

Told the CIBC joke about fat daddy backing up.
Thanked everyone

Think About It

A lot of people are like wheelbarrows –
no good unless pushed.
Some are like trailers –
they have to be pulled.
Some are like kites –
if you don't keep a string on them they fly away.
Some are like balloons –
full of wind and ready to blow up.
Some are like footballs –
you can't tell which way they will bounce.
And then, some are like a good watch –
open-faced, pure gold, quietly busy and full
of good works.

Edna McCann.

On March 2nd 1922 a contest was held to guess the number of beans in a bottle.
The winners & prizes were 1st Mrs E.C. Fisher – a loaf of home-made bread.
2nd. Mrs Buckley ½ doz buns
Booby prize – Mrs John Rickard 2 eggs.

Sensational Seams & Pel Contracting sent us a beautiful calendar in 2003 Flowers & Gardens. Each month there was a beautiful quotation

1 Flowers & plants are silence presences: they nourish every sense but the ear. Mary Sarton

2 The early morning has gold in its mouth Ben Franklin

3 The Amen! of nature is always a flower Oliver Wendell Holmes

4 The garden is a love song, a duet between a human being and Mother Nature. Jeff Cox.

5 Happiness is a wayside flower growing up on the highways of usefulness. Anonymous.

6 What a desolate place a world without flowers! It would be a face without a smile, a feast without a welcome. Clara L. Balfour.

7 Almost any garden, if you see it at just the right moment can be confused with paradise. Henry Mitchell

8 "Just living is not enough", said the butterfly "One must have freedom, sunshine and a little flower" Hans Christian Anderson.

9 Flowers are our greatest silent friends. Jim & Brown

10 In my garden, after a rainfall, you can faintly yes, hear the breaking of new blooms. Truman Capote

11 The flowers take the tears of weeping night And give them to the sun for the day's delight. Joseph H Cotter Sr.