

Opinion

MUSKOKA MOSAIC

Introducing Irvin Payne

BY PAULA BOON

Irvin Payne's roots in this area run deep, and he wants to make sure they are not forgotten. That's why he puts so much time and energy into the Williamsport Cemetery.

Born on a cold January day in 1934 in a log house his grandfather, Wesley White, had built in Williamsport, Payne attended SS#9 Chaffey until it closed in 1947.

Payne's family was no stranger to sorrow: his three-month-old brother died in 1936, followed by his mother when Payne was 13.

"She went for an operation and never came out," Payne explains. "It was quite a shock."

Both of them were buried in the Williamsport Cemetery with Payne's grandmother and great-grandparents on his mother's side. The funeral for his mother was the last one before the church adjoining the cemetery closed.

When he left school, Payne worked with his family cutting pulpwood to sell. Later, he held a variety of jobs in the bush, including some with bigger companies like Muskoka Wood and Weldwood (now Tembec).

"I loved working in the bush," he says. "I enjoyed that more than any job I ever had. It was hard work, wet work, cold work, but I loved it."



IRVIN PAYNE

In 1953 Payne met his wife Phyllis.

"I saw her walking up the street, and I said to my chum Don Irving, 'See that girl there? There's my girl,'" he recalls. "What's her name?" his friend asked.

"I don't know, but I'm going to find out," he replied.

Irvin and Phyllis were married June 18, 1955 and had four children, two boys and two girls.

Payne spent his last 20 working years in various jobs with the Ministry of Transportation.

"We started with nothing and still don't have a lot, but what I've got I own," he says.

When Payne's youngest brother died at 19 in a car accident, Payne returned to the Williamsport Cemetery for the first time in years.

"A lot of old families had died or moved out and no one was looking after the cemetery," Payne says. "There were big trees growing up. We worked for a day or more before my brother could be buried there. It was a mess."

For the next few decades, Payne was busy providing for his family out on Hwy 60; he didn't often go to the cemetery.

However, about three years ago Payne, now retired, became involved again when his younger brother Ivan died of cancer.

Ivan was cremated and there was no funeral at his request, but Payne created a monument in his brother's memory. He bought a 20" by 12" plaque and set it into cement, then placed it in the

family plot.

Payne also began working alongside his brother Wilbert to clean up the rest of the cemetery, cutting down trees that had encroached on the space and creating temporary markers for unmarked plots whose inhabitants are known.

He and Wilbert began mowing the cemetery regularly, and Phyllis planted some flowers and revived others that had been planted long before.

The space became so welcoming that before Payne's sister-in-law died last May, she chose to be buried there as well.

Then, at the beginning of the summer, Payne decided the cemetery needed a proper sign. He worked on it for months, finding the materials, preparing them and then hand-carving it. The sign went up in early October.

Payne thinks it's important to keep the memory of the original settlers alive.

"I would like to see someone else take more of an interest in the place," he says, adding that the cemetery could really use a new fence.

"My granddad White and great-granddad Payne were forefathers who helped open up this country," he says. "They need to be remembered. People put up things for war vets, why not settlers?"

Payne says he hopes someone will take over and look after the cemetery when he can't anymore. It would be a shame for the history to be lost. "This graveyard's got stories in it that you wouldn't believe," he says.

Poppy funds support initiatives for veterans

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 232 would like to remind you that the 2007 poppy campaign is about to begin in Huntsville.

This is the only national appeal for funds that the legion makes to support our veterans and their families. This money is held in trust to support veterans and their families in need. The legion helps by supplying bursaries for needy students, providing medical equipment and appliances for veteran care in hospitals,

providing emergency funds to assist veterans, and providing literature and advertising so the sacrifices veterans and fallen comrades made will never be forgotten.

At this time of year the legion makes available to the local businesses and the general public wreaths of various sizes, from eight inches to 24 inches in diameter, which through a donation to the poppy campaign will be placed at the cenotaph on Nov. 11 in their name. There is no

set price on these wreaths, but donations to this worthy cause are appreciated.

In addition to the act of remembrance, contribution to the poppy fund is a tangible expression of thanks to the men and women who made the supreme sacrifice for freedom, and to those who have been disabled by war or those who have passed on since.

You may send your donation to: RCL Poppy Fund, 21 Veterans Way, Huntsville, ON

PIH 1P3.

For information leave a message for Bernice Greenfield at the legion at 789-4641.

Please be at the legion by 10:15 a.m. on Nov. 11 to attend the cenotaph service and place your wreath at the cenotaph. A member of the legion can place the wreath for you if you choose.

Thank you to everyone who makes a contribution to support the veterans and to the memory of the fallen comrades.

Protect yourself from the flu

SIMCOE MUSKOKA MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH COLUMN BY DR. COLIN LEE

As the cooler weather sets in, our attention begins to turn to more seasonal matters like putting the garden to bed, pulling out the winter boots and installing snow tires. It's also the time of year when health care providers start offering the flu shot in anticipation of the flu season, which usually runs from November to April.

Influenza, known as the flu, is a common respiratory illness that circulates through our communities every year. The virus is easily spread — directly by sneezing or coughing and indirectly through virus-contaminated surfaces. Symptoms include headache, chills and cough, a fever, loss of appetite, muscle aches and fatigue.

The flu can be severe, even in healthy adults, and can be especially debilitating and even deadly for those more vulnerable.

People at greater risk for a longer period of illness and complications include young children or those over the age of 65. Also at risk are those with a medical condition such as chronic respiratory disease, heart problems, kidney disease or diabetes, and individuals undergoing treatment for cancer or HIV and people traveling to places where the influenza virus is circulating.

The best way to protect yourself against the flu is to be vaccinated each year in the fall. You need an annual flu shot because the virus changes every year, which means that last year's flu shot will not protect you from this year's flu.

The flu shot is recommended for everyone who wants to stay healthy, including people who can pass the virus to those at higher risk. These include:

- healthcare providers such as physicians, nurses and emergency response workers;
- healthcare service providers and family who have contact with residents of con-

tinuing care facilities;

- those who provide home care for persons in a high risk group; and
- household contacts of people at high risk of complications, including contacts of children less than six months of age, and of children six to 23 months (whether or not they have been immunized).

There are some people who should not receive the flu shot. These include people who are allergic to eggs and/or any other component of the vaccine, and people who are under six months of age.

Regular handwashing with soap and water for at least 15 seconds is another good way to help minimize your risk. By washing your hands often you stop the spread of germs, which will reduce your chance of becoming infected. As well as washing your hands, cover up when you cough or sneeze, clean and disinfect shared surfaces and stay at home if you are sick.

LETTERS

State of the Union article opened eyes

Regarding the articles on Mayor Claude Doughty's State of the Union, the saying goes, "The test of a man is how he handles power."

I found the mayor's thoughts to be a real eye-opener. I sincerely hope the town of Huntsville can survive the mayor's tenure in office.

Marilyn Laycock
Huntsville

'Cheery' Fairvern impresses visitors

While visiting an aunt in Fairvern Nursing Home, I must say what a bright, cheery and well-run place it is. We were shown around by Debbie Earl and given an account of the things that go on there to make life better for the residents. My son was born in that hospital 49 years ago and I was born and raised in Huntsville. I worked in a seniors' home for 20 years and I was impressed with Fairvern. Keep up the good work.

Kay Mark
Welland

Photographic Memory



REUNION CHANGE-UP: Photographed at Deerpark Inn, 25 years ago, from left to right, back row, are entertainers: Mandy Desgenais, John Minnis, Althea DiGregorio, Brian Smith, Sonya McGirr, Frank Vog'l, Hilda Melbourne, Annette Casullo, Howard Melbourne, Fausta Monaco, George Guerrette, Nicky Preston; front row: George Labukas, Lynn Gaudet, Ron Gostlin, Karen Guerrette, Tim Cottrill, Suzanne Houle, Gary Ubaldini.

This weekend, Deerpark show alumni will gather at a reunion at Deerpark Resort.

Of course we are wondering what changes of time will show on these alumni and look forward to seeing them around town. We wonder if we will recognize them, and also, if they will recognize Deerpark, and the Town of Huntsville after a quarter of a century.

We look forward to casting some memories and capturing some sweet rhythms.



MUSEUM • VILLAGE • TRAIN
88 Brunel Road • Huntsville • 705-789-7576
www.muskokaheritageplace.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

E-mail: letters@huntsvilleforester.com

When sending letters to the editor be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Unsigned letters cannot be used.



HEALTHCARE HEROES

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Foundation
100 Frank Miller Drive
Huntsville, ON P1H 1H7
Tel: (705) 789-4756

Kearney Lions Club

Jeff & Elton from the Kearney Lions Club dropped by to donate the proceeds from the annual Kearney Lobster Festival to Debi Davis, Executive Director. This year the club raised over \$2,095 and will be helping buy equipment to be used by Dr. Cripps for eye surgery.

The Kearney Lions have given over \$12,000 to Huntsville District Memorial Hospital since 2000. The Kearney Community is lucky to have such a hard working group of volunteers who support many projects.

If you or your organization is interested in hosting an event to raise money for your hospital, please give the Foundation a call.

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Foundation continues to support:

- Huntsville District Memorial Hospital
- Fairvern Nursing Home
- Burk's Falls & District Health Centre
- Muskoka-East Parry Sound CCAC



Live well with

PHARMASAVE

Historic Downtown Huntsville
789-7300

