

LIFESTYLE



Members of the Trottman family pose beside a street sign which is named after their family. The Trottmans recently held their family reunion in Brighton.

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Trottman family unites in Brighton

On Saturday, July 31, more than 55 people descended on Brighton at the Curling Club to celebrate their heritage.

This was the first reunion in 15 years and the first reunion to unite members of the Trottman family from Germany, the United States and Canada.

The Trottman family originally came from Schonaid, Bavaria (Germany) and Johann Trottman emigrated to Rochester, U.S., in 1881 on the SS Silesia, leaving behind his brothers and sisters. Johann married Anna Schroedl and started a

family.

John Trottman, Jr. was born and soon worked on the Ontario No. 1 ferry boat that crossed between Cobourg and Rochester, N.Y. He met Opal Vanwicklin, who lived in Cramahe Township and soon married and started a family on the family farm located on Trottman Road, Dundonald, Ontario.

Local family members in attendance at the reunion included Don and Helen Farrow, Glen and Laurie Potter, Thelma and Don Trottman, Alice Mae and Clarence Hadwen, as well as Dr. Gerhard Mueller, Dr.

Claudia Mueller and Georg Mueller from Tubingen, Germany and Johann Gleissner from Weisau (located near Schonaid), Germany (who were visiting Marg Trottman-Graham in Port Hope, Ontario.)

From the Rochester area were Sandy and Skip Horr, Ed and Carolann Hassett, Joe and Helen Mercier and Herb and Mary Gauch.

Organizer Marg Trottman-Graham said that the event was the result of several years of research and internet contact with family members in Tubingen, Germany and Rochester, N.Y.

Where's Castleton?

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"Drive east on County Road 21 from Centreton to reach Castleton. Just watch for the sign."

That would be the easy way to direct people to the delightful hamlet north of Colborne. Except for one thing, there is no sign. It was taken away to be repaired, refurbished or something and that is all very nice but, how long does it take? If it takes half as long as it took to get the County sign marking the borders of Cramahe erected it will be about a year before visitors will have the guide back in place.

Apparently the responsibility for township signage in Cramahe has been downloaded to the Cramahe Historical board. What was not downloaded apparently was the clout to get the job done. The actual work is done by the Works department. It's like 'Yes we could do with a nice sign there.'

'Oh, you think we should?'

'Oh yes, providing it is in keeping with the approved design including colour and lay-out and all the other necessary heritage acumen as determined by the committee.'

'Right then, let us order up the sign. Get a memo off to the proper department asking if they could do this.'

Meanwhile businesses in the Castleton area that promote to attract visitors, hopefully clients and customers, tend to get confused and annoyed traffic if indeed the visitors continue to search for them.

The General Store owner has noticed that tourism is down for the area. Maybe that is weather related but why add to the problem?

Cramahe Council is giving the appearance of drifting. What's happening? Where is the Township heading? Let's see some positive action before the snow flies. On anything, and the sign to Castleton would be a positive sign.

Toys "R" Us is hurting badly. Wal-Mart and other toy discounters have eaten deeply into their market. So badly that they are considering getting out of toys! That would leave the outfit with the rather naughty name 'R'us.

The only bright spot with the corporation currently is their other store chain Babies "R" Us. No they don't sell babies silly. They carry baby carriages, strollers and all that other stuff you need for the wee ones. The thing is Babies "R" Us hasn't opened any stores in Canada yet. They have 200 in the States and are viewing the Great North.

Now this is a great opportunity for someone. An idea I've had for some time but never found the time to pull this sure fire thing off. We're talking here about a new and used baby carriage lot. Can't wait to hear those commercials on CHUC....' Come on down to Big Baby Bob's this Saturday for our first annual blow out sale. All our new and lightly used carriages are marked down with deep, deep discounts. We got a two thousand and three hatch-back stroller, ideal for pushing the kid while shopping and it take's a load of groceries in the back. We've got an English pram that was pushed by a real princess. We've got strollers for running moms and strollers for biking dads. We've even have a buggy for twins. All carriages and strollers come with a safety inspection, road-side emergency service and a month supply of nappies. This is Big Baby Bob saying come on down this Saturday. And remember if ya want drive a baby buggy, why just tickle its feet.

CHANDLER'S CORNER



By George