Memories of the Station Hotel

By DENNIS MARTEL

Georgetown Homecoming Committee

When Homecoming 2013 guests arrive on July 26th, they may pay a visit to another symbol of their past...the Station House. With a storied past and an uncertain future, this hotel is sure to arouse feelings of nostalgia.

In the early days horses could be teth-

ered to the veranda while meals for 200 people at 25 cents each were served inside. The first owner was John Higgins whose wife Harriet was George Kennedy's daughter but Harry Wright took over in

1913. In a peculiar Georgetown tradition 50 years later, the hotel would still be referred to as Wright's although it was also known as the Station House.

It opened in 1855, two years after the railway first arrived in town, and 12 years before Confederation. It was conveniently located so that each of the Grand Trunk's 18 daily trains discharged their passengers within a hundred yards its front doors.

In a rite of passage, many a "Boomer" surreptitiously enjoyed their first beer there served by Glen Hillock, the impossibly agile bartender, waiter and (when necessary) bouncer. He could single-handedly take orders, pour draft and serve both sides of a crowded house simultaneously.

Often students who had left for university would return during holidays to renew old friendships and share new experiences. But, it was also at the round table in the men's room where some of us never let our schooling interfere with

> our education. But the hotel's stock-in-trade was the working man who often made it his first stop after a tough shift at the mill.

It wasn't fancy, although Diane Hillock did a wonderful

job sprucing it up in the 1960s. The well-stocked, if somewhat rickety, bar continued to slake the thirst of locals until 2003. It was where many would meet their future spouses, listening to Station House— naturally.

It is now still, but not empty. Sometimes at night the murmur of laughter and the tinkle of glasses still echo out onto the veranda. Clearly, the ghosts of the past dance there still.

Registration for Homecoming is online at haltonhills.ca/theatre or in person at JV Clothing in the mall.

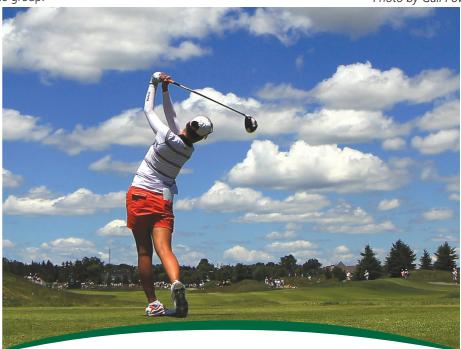


Optimists give aid to 676 Lorne Scots army cadets

Optimist Club of Halton Hills president Norm Paget, presents \$1,000 to Capt. Anita McConkey, Commanding Officer of the 676 Lorne Scots in support of the Royal Canadian Army Cadets.The army cadets program is geared toward teens, aged 12-18 to provide an opportunity to test their limits in challenging and exciting outdoor adventure activities. Based out of The Colonel John Roaf Barber, ED. CD. Armoury on Todd Rd., the 676 meets every Wednesday, 6:45-9:30 p.m. from September to June. Over 100 participants enrolled in the program this year— a record number for the group.



Photo by Gail Powell



It's what drives us.

Inspiration Manulife Financial is proud to once again showcase the world's greatest women golfers and shine a global spotlight on the Waterloo Region community at the 2013 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic.

Volunteerism

Over 1,200 volunteers – including 500 Manulife employees – will share their enthusiasm, skills and energy in a variety of ways throughout the tournament.

Commitment With St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation as the tournament's official charity partner, a portion of the proceeds will help enhance many programs at the hospital.

At Manulife we are driven by the same uncompromising principles that make the Manulife Financial LPGA Classic a world class event. Every day we earn the trust of millions of clients around the world by delivering on the promises we make. Being trustworthy is not only a good business practice, it's what drives us to better serve our clients.

Inspiration, volunteerism, commitment ... it's what drives us to bring this world-class event to you.

Join us as we welcome the world July 10-14, 2013 at Grey Silo Golf Course.

Visit manulifeclassic.ca or manulife.ca







For your future