

FREE

TENTH EDITION

The Heart of Barrie

PUBLISHED BY THE WATERVIEW SPACE



SPONSORED IN PART BY:
THE DOWNTOWN BARRIE BIA
SCHWARTZ & ASSOCIATES

Stories from the Downtown Community

The Family Business

Welcome to our 10th issue of The Heart of Barrie, our first family edition. We've taken this issue to highlight some Downtown Barrie's family-owned businesses and the people who run them.

Downtown is where our city began, its first homes and businesses built along the shores of Kempenfelt Bay. From there, Barrie has grown in all directions, with downtown remaining the heart of our community. Our city's been shaped by the families who have called it home: some with roots planted in our community generations ago, and others who transplanted their family trees here more recently.

Our families are our first and often strongest support system, so it's no wonder that so many family businesses in Barrie succeed. Some, including Sigrid's Bakery, have been passed down from generation to generation, along with the knowledge and skills needed to keep a business growing and thriving. Others such as Forgather Floral Co. and Lotus Natural Living were started by a younger generation, receiving a helping hand from their parents.

Many siblings grow up to be great friends and business partners - just ask Beverly and Michael Metzger, the goldsmiths and jewellers who run Metzger Studio.

And couples such as Goldie and Kay at Tiffins Curry in a Hurry, Jim and Eddie at Head-Quarters Hair Salon, and Chad and Sandra

at The Creative Space have found success in love and business with their partners.

Even in places where co-workers aren't bonded by blood or marriage, work families form naturally, after hours spent together, through good days and bad.

And in turn, in close-knit communities such as ours, neighbouring businesses become neighbourly friends - who you can turn to when you're running desperately low on change or receipt rolls, in the same way you might borrow a cup of sugar from your neighbour at home.

Putting this issue together was a happy reminder that, like people, businesses thrive when they connect with one another. As you read the stories inside, we hope that you feel the same connection.



Sarah Jensen,
Editor of The Heart of Barrie
email: theheartofbarrie@outlook.com
instagram: @findingmyselfinbarrie



The Heart of Barrie Team
From left: Mohamad Habach, Claudia Mandler-Mcknight with Bismarck the dog, Hannah Boyle, Sarah Jensen, Jacqui Derbecker, Craig Stevens, and Thomas Olhiser.

Photo by: Robin Luoma

Family

When I Googled *family*, the words *connected* and *related* popped up in several searches. Family, then, can be thought of as simply another term for relationships and a deeper form of bonding and connecting.

Though Barrie continues to grow quickly, our downtown retains the feel of a smaller community. It's a place that bonds and connects the people of Barrie, through shared geography and experiences. A city, after all, is a collection of families.

While working on this issue, discovering the family businesses in Downtown Barrie was fascinating: there are many, each with deep familial ties and profound origin stories.

The next time you are downtown, patronizing one of the shops, consider asking the proprietor about their business and how it began. When did they start their family business? *Why* did they start it? Listen and feel their excitement in response to your interest.



Jacqui Derbecker
Founder of
The Heart of Barrie
Intuitive Counseling
Author/Speaker
Meditation Teacher
jacquiconsults.com

147
DUNLOP ST. EAST
BARRIE, ON

One Forty Seven may be a new restaurant in Downtown Barrie this year, but the family behind it has longstanding ties to the community: the Fuda family has a 50-year history serving Simcoe County.

The Italian restaurant, named after its 147 Dunlop Street East address, opened its doors in January, just in time for Barrielicious - a big challenge for any new business, but one the Fudas were ready to tackle.

"[We opened] the first day of Barrielicious. It was sink or swim, and we swam. We had over 150 people coming in that night," says Amanda Del Duca, who oversees the restaurant's operations.

The idea behind One Forty Seven is to bring "real, authentic, rustic Italian food" to the

rest of the city.

"It looks really high end, tastes really high end, but it's at a reasonable price. We want people to be able to afford to go there once a week if they want to," says Amanda. "Roc-



co...wants to have the best cuts of meat, the best fish. Our veal is one of the most popular [dishes]. It's a veal tenderloin. The most tender steak you've ever had."

Rocco Fuda, who has run The Italian Bakery on Wellington Street with wife Rita Fuda for the past 11 years, owns One Forty Seven with his son, Vince Fuda.

Vince's involvement marks the fourth generation of Fudas to work in the food industry - starting with his great-grandfather in Calabria, Italy, to his grandparents opening the Fuda Foods grocery in Oro-Medonte in 1967, to his parents' operation at The Italian Bakery, and now One Forty Seven.

In the family's latest venture, Rocco sources and purchases the meats and seafood, and Rita "is a strong promoter for us, sending her devoted customers our way," says Amanda.

Vince's brother, Mike Fuda, and sister, Daniela Fuda, also help out when needed. "Daniela gets off the train and comes straight to the restaurant," says Amanda. "Mike, he'll come in and help on busy nights or fix things in the restaurant. Everyone helps out everywhere they can."

Amanda is Vince's long-time girlfriend, and

her sister, Bianca Del Duca, also works in the bar.

There are ups and downs to working with family, but the benefits outweigh the challenges, Amanda says.

"Vince and I went from never seeing each other with our own careers. Now we see each other all the time. The first few weeks we wanted to kill each other just being in each other's face that much," she says with a laugh. "Now that we're getting into the groove we're starting to have more fun with it."

One Forty Seven is embracing its downtown location at the corner of Dunlop and Mulcaster Streets and has found a community of supportive business owners.

"We're getting a lot of downtown regulars. It's a nice community," says Amanda.

Written by: Jenni Dunning

147 Dunlop Street East

www.147dunlop.com

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @147dunlopstreet



Like The Heart of Barrie on Facebook to learn what is going on in Downtown Barrie!

Forgather

FLORAL CO.

As spring slowly reveals itself, the rain turns frozen soil into muck and mire, making a rich bed for shoots and bulbs to grow into a wide assortment of stunning foliage.

Spring is also exciting for Tara-Joline Chapman, owner and head florist at Forgather Floral Co. Like her Papa (Grandpa) before her, Tara is an avid gardener with a deep appreciation and love of soil, planting and the glorious greenery that emerges from a little time and a lot of hard work. Her passion shines through in each bouquet, wreath, planter and terrarium she creates.

Bouquets and arrangements play a significant role in our lives, from birth to death. Besides her affinity for Southern Ontario's plentiful local verdure, Tara finds that her greatest pleasure in the flower business is two-fold: to "bring beauty into ordinary things" and to be a part of people's milestone events.

This season Tara is especially excited about weddings. She loves bringing nature into the home. Her palate and sensitivity in choosing the right blend of flowers, greens and more is uncommon and magnificent.

Forgather Floral Co. offers more than just bouquets and boutonnieres for weddings. "We do cer-

emony pieces, centrepieces, archways (my partner Cole is helping me build one this summer to rent out), flower crowns, thank-you favours - basically, I can work with the bride and create exactly what she's looking for."

She claims that her creative stock is owed to her Nana, who shares more than her name (Joline). "My Nana is a very creative person," says Tara. "She was always encouraging us [her grandkids] to be creative; she'd plan crafts for us and host monthly crafting parties."

Tara's grandparents weren't the only ones inspiring her: her parents have also been immensely



supportive. "My mom is essentially a partner for Forgather Floral Co.; she's super helpful and creative."

Tara offers a unique voice to her work - a delicate tenderness that will make you look twice, garner a new appreciation for flowers, and take your breath away.

Written By: Emily Bos



Forgather Floral Co.
705-309-7050
forgatherfloralco@gmail.com
Follow us on Instagram @forgatherfloralco



LOTUS

natural living

www.lotusnaturalliving.com



Walking into Lotus Natural Living's studio, across from Heritage Park, you'll want to take in a deep, long breath. It always smells incredible - warm notes of peppermint, clove, vanilla and others are lingering in the air. I instantly feel cheerful and relaxed.

Owner Denise Sutherland is busy on the phone, and amidst the chaos of shredded packing paper, wooden crates and hundreds of little bottles is Gail Harb, Denise's mom. She sighs and smiles, and tells me that Lo-

tus has a large corporate order due tomorrow. There are already dozens of perfectly wrapped and packaged gift baskets, nestled in boxes and ready for delivery.

Later I ask Denise if her mom is a paid employee. "Believe it or not, she volunteers her time. I've tried paying her," Denise says with a laugh. She tells me that Gail has been supporting her from the very beginning, when Denise first started researching natural body products after becoming a certified aromatherapist

in 2002. "It's great having someone that just gets me," she says, "and [work] can go a lot quicker when you have good company."

Denise recommends some natural, aromatic home products to encourage a well-balanced spring cleaning: Lotus's Energize Cleaning Spray has antibacterial, antifungal and antiseptic properties and is full of pure essential oils such as lemongrass, rosemary and geranium. Or keep things smelling fresh and clean with a Room and Linen Spray (Energize

or Lavender).

Lotus Natural Living Products can be found downtown at Nutrition Plus, Homestead Bakery, Thrive Therapeutics, and The Pack, as well as the Barrie Farmers' Market at City Hall from 8 a.m. to noon every Saturday.

Written by Emily Bos

Like us on Facebook & Instagram
@lotusnaturalliving



J'adore

J'adore Fine Cheese and Chocolate is all about keeping it in the family. Maybe it sounds cheesy, but they're all about that, too.

Jessi Fournier and her sister Bekki Martin opened J'adore in Downtown Barrie in November 2014. Jessi says that her love of cheese, and all foods, came from their mom and co-worker Maggy Edwards. "[My sister and I] definitely get our passion for food from our mom. Growing up with large family gatherings, my mom's cooking was a common occurrence. We all have different strengths when it comes to running a business, so that is very helpful.

"Running a business can be

tough, but knowing your family is behind you is a great feeling."

For eight years, Jessi worked for the City of Barrie, fundraising and planning special events, while



Bekki, in her own words, "worked in the food and beverage industry, helping companies open." Their passion for food, especially for fine cheese, gave them the confidence to open a shop of their own.

As for the chocolate side of things, their chocolatier,

Suse Ives, "just magically [came] into our lives," as Jessi explains.

Jessi loves how delicious and savoury cheese is, and how cheeses can be paired with a wide array of foods and beverages to enhance different flavours within the same cheese. She also loves the history of cheese. "Each cheese comes with its own story," Jessi says. "Some [are] from centuries ago, that families still make to keep the legacy going.

"We feature a very special cheese called Neufchâtel from Normandy, France. It was made into a heart shape during the Hundred Years War by French dairymaids, who gave them as gifts to the English soldiers when

they fell in love."

And just as Jessi fell in love with the heart of our city, with the rustic charm of its buildings and its great po-



tential, J'adore has become like a heart-shaped gift of Neufchâtel to Barrie.

Written by Emily Bos

J'adore Fine Cheese and Chocolate

123 Dunlop Street East
www.jadorefinecheese.com
Like us on Facebook! @Cheeseshopbarrie
Follow us on Instagram @jadorefinecheese

TIFFINS

Curry in a hurry!

Tiffins Curry in a Hurry is a warm and welcoming restaurant, located near Five Points and owned by husband and wife, Kay and Goldie Saini.

Chef Kay's passion for food was ignited at a young age, inspired by the delicious meals cooked at home by his mother and grandmother. Before moving to Canada, he at-

tended culinary school in India to learn his trade.

Kay and Goldie met through family friends while living in Brampton, their first date taking place in a Tim Hortons. The pair quickly bonded and became partners in marriage, with future plans to become partners in business; together they worked to save enough money to open a restaurant.

They discovered Barrie on a trip 11 years ago and decided to make it their home. The next year they welcomed their new daughter, Kathleen, followed by the opening of Tiffins Curry in a Hurry one year later, in 2008.

Chef Kay loves challenging himself and try-

ing new things: he learned to make Phaal curry at the request of a British customer. Popular in the UK, it's the hottest style of curry in the world!

Chef Kay is able to accommodate many different food allergies. Tiffins' menu includes numerous vegan and gluten-free options, including their house-made gluten-free naan bread.

Kay and Goldie make the perfect pair. "He loves cooking and I love serving, and together we love feeding souls," Goldie says. "We're grateful to the Barrie community for embracing us and supporting us."

Written by: Sarah Jensen



Tiffins Curry in a Hurry

7 Dunlop Street East
www.tiffinscurry.com
Like us on Facebook! @tiffinscurryinahurry

HeadQuarters Hair Salon

Jim Mota-Dalianis (left) and Eddie Mota-Dalianis run Head Quarters Hair Salon on Dunlop Street.

... since opening Head Quarters Hair Salon four years ago. ... thers of two and grandfathers of two, and their kids can be found helping out in the shop from time to time.

... they have their own 100% natural and locally made product line for men and women, including shampoo, conditioner, face wash, and beard oil and balms.

Le Petit Chapeau

Le Petit Chapeau milliners Meaghan Armstrong (left) and Sara Czech.

... and colleagues at Le Petit Chapeau. ... they create custom hats and do repairs, restorations and reproductions at the Lakeshore Mews shop near Heritage Park. ... they also host classes, offer vintage accessories and clothing, sell items by local artists and jewellers, and raise money for COPE Service Dogs.

The Local Gastropub

Scott Connor (pictured) runs The Local Gastropub with his wife, Hollis Connor.

For the past nine years, ... the Local Gastropub, where craft beer meets homemade pub food.

... the couple, chefs by trade, run the business at Dunlop Street and Maple Avenue like a family and still have their first employee on staff.

... the restaurant also offers board games and beer tastings.

Trek Bicycle

Jeremy and Tammy Simmons, with son Hudson, run Trek Bicycle Store in Downtown Barrie.

Jeremy and Tammy Simmons own and operate Trek Bicycle Store, employing expert salespeople and mechanics to help anyone choose the perfect bike. Test rides, free tune-ups for newly bought bikes, and cycling advice are offered to sweeten the deal.

Bill LeBoeuf Jewellers

Adam Le Boeuf in his downtown store, in front of a painting of the shop done by Joan Le Boeuf.

... and the same family running the Dunlop Street business.

Bills son Adam has worked at the store since age 14 and took over after Bills retirement in 2007. Adams sister Charlotte also works at the store, and their mom Joan helps out sometimes.

Kerry's Bookstore

Howard Kerry (pictured) co-owns Kerrys Book Store with brother Norm Kerry.

... rd Kerry opened Kerrys Book Store in Barrie in the fall of 1973. His brother Norm, helped him run the store until Norms nephews took over the business around 20 years ago.

... the bulk discount bookstore offers a variety of fiction and non-fiction genres, from Western and classic literature to true crime and the occult.

Metzgers

Beverly Metzger-Noble and Michael Metzger run Metzger Studio.

... Siblings Beverly Metzger-Noble and Michael Metzger are goldsmiths and jewellery designers who operate Metzger Studio on Dunlop Street.

... What sets their shop apart is that they make everything by hand or by 3D printing. Services include re-melting, casting and repairing gold.

... they also rent space and equipment to Georgian College students, and display and sell some graduates work.

Art in House

Marlisha and Jon Lewis run Art in House.

... education centre along Lakeshore Mews in Downtown Barrie. ... married couple host kids art classes, provide local artists a place to display their work, and help people celebrate art, creativity and community. Photo by: Art in House

HOMESTEAD
ARTISAN BAKERY + CAFE



Touches of family and generational history are everywhere at Homestead Artisan Bakery + Café - from the owners, to the garden out front, to the wooden floorboards and kitchen inside.

Cait Patrick and Lise Garden, best friends since age 14, opened the downtown bakery across from the Barrie Public Library in May 2016.

Cait and Lise have always

done big things together, from attending the same university, to creating a knitting company, to moving to Whistler, BC and then back to Barrie.

Though not related, Lise is "basically my sister," says Cait.

Homestead is their latest project. The shop serves up their famous sourdough bread and plenty of baked goods, sandwiches and locally sourced teas, coffee and specialty items. Homestead buys most ingredients locally and is expanding by selling items in stores around Barrie and Simcoe County, places such as Flying Monkeys Craft Brewery and Alliston Feed Service.

Since opening their doors after two years as vendors at the Barrie Farmers' Market - where they still set up shop every weekend - the feeling of family has only grown.

Cait's biological sister, Em Patrick, also works at Homestead, and Cait's two-year-old daughter is there every Saturday for a visit and to "pig out on treats and bread," says Cait, laughing.

"Both sets of parents are willing to come in at 6 a.m. and help us bake when needed. My mother-in-law's doing dishes and my mom's gardening in front," she says. "I don't think it's very often that you're lucky enough to have that support surrounding your work and your passion. You get to see everyone every day. It's surprising you don't get sick of them."

So far, it is "amazing" to work with family and close friends, Cait says.

The business does not stray far from Lise's upbringing, either.

"[Lise's] mom, Mary, is this extraordinarily talented



cook and baker," Cait says. "Lise grew up in that type of home with people producing all these amazing things, like extravagant meals, all the time, so she just naturally fell into it.

"Her mom used to make fresh bread all the time, and you couldn't even wait to get to their house because you knew there was fresh bread right out of the oven waiting for you. There was literally nothing better.

"Both of us like that social part of cooking food - that it brings people together. Breaking bread."

A benefit of Cait and Lise

owning their own business is that their sense of family extends to the community; they meet new people every day.

"You get to have cool conversations. People are so supportive," Cait says. "The downtown is thriving right now. You see all these amazing businesses pop up and you see them lasting. It's really exciting to see people finally being drawn to the downtown area. It has a lot to offer."

Written by: Jenni Dunning

Homestead Artisan Bakery + Cafe
43 Owen Street, Downtown Barrie
www.homesteadartisanbakery.com
Like us on Facebook! @reallygoodbread
Follow us on Instagram! @homesteadbread



BELLA'S BOHEMIA

Bohemia is many things to many different people. For some, it's a sanctuary, a place to hibernate with books for some quiet time. For others, it's a place to grab that perfect cup of espresso from a friendly face in the morning hours. And for others still, it is a meeting place to impress those out-of-town friends or in-laws, while enjoying house-baked goodies and hand-made food.

But for Bella Yachimec, it has become a second home.

Bella's mother, Jill Dyck, opened Bohemia in 2004, across the street from its current location. Almost immediately, Bella started working there, at first just hanging out, but by the time she was 16 she was pretty much a regular employee.

Sharing the space with a few other stores owned by other women, Bohemia's early community was one of strong, positive feminine energy, and that is where Bella found many great, supportive friends and role

models. "It was like having lots of aunts and sisters," says Bella about the these influential women. For Bella, Bohemia "was like the centre of [her] home," and that feeling hasn't gone away.

A traveler of sorts, Bella admits she could not quite appreciate both Bohemia and Barrie until she moved away. While living in Montreal, she found herself missing her hometown and the physical and emotional connection she shares with

it. "You go into a big city and nobody knows you there," says Bella. "But when I'm downtown, I don't even need to know where I'm going: my feet just take me there." For her, Downtown Barrie is beautiful: a safe haven.

Bella also missed Bohemia's food, the same food she grew up eating at home. She stresses that although Bohemia has a limited menu, it is real, quality food "with lots of butter in everything," she adds, only half-jokingly.

Bella will leave Bohemia again this spring, to plant trees in British Columbia. It's grueling, back-breaking work, but she loves it; this will be her fifth year. She enjoys the time in nature and the physical challenge of the job. "It really feels like you're using your body," she says. "You realize just how

strong you can be."

At the end of planting season, Bella will find Bohemia waiting - her second home, shared with co-workers, customers, friends and family, where she can sip a damn fine cup of coffee and plan her next adventure.

Written by: Hannah Boyle



125 Dunlop Street East
705-734-1683
Like us on Facebook & Instagram! @bohemiabarrie



The Creative Space
12 Dunlop Street East
www.thecreativespace.ca
Like us on Facebook! @creativespace
Follow us on Instagram! @the_creative_space



For some people, work and family are opposing forces, best kept separate. But for Chad and Sandra Ballantyne, they have always been interwoven. Since its inception, The Creative Space has been an integral part of the Ballantyne family.

In 2006, Chad started his design firm, Rhubarb Media, from home. Business meetings were balanced with breaking up sibling tussles, and projects were often interrupted by rowdy kids arriving home from school.

Two years later, realizing the importance of having a dedicated work space, Chad moved Rhubarb Media into its first office. Recognizing that many other creative freelancers and small businesses had the same need, the space was opened to others and became The Creative Space, Barrie's first co-working environment.

Within a year, The Creative Space had moved to a much larger location, in a beautiful old building at Five Points. A coworking space by day, the space turns

into a community centre by night; Chad and Sandra co-manage the community events, robotic workshops, and board game nights that take place throughout the week, alongside their duties as parents.

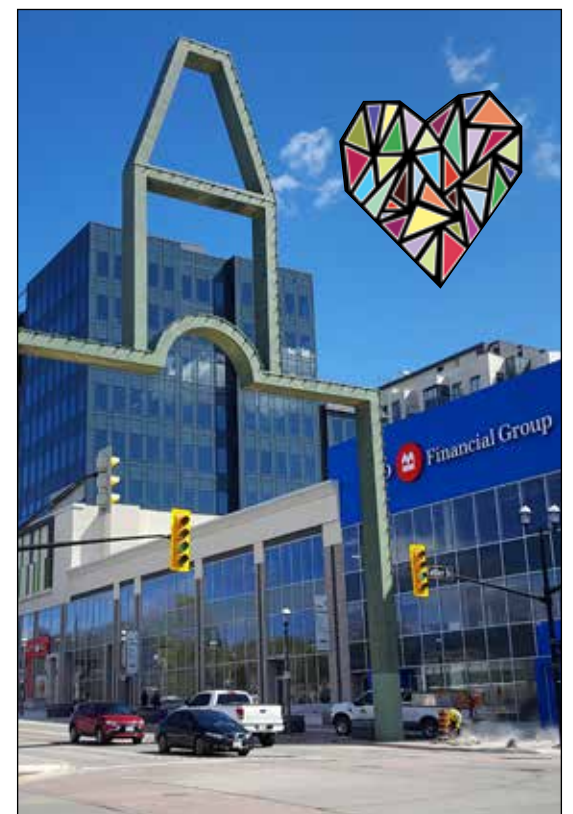
The Ballantyne kids - Connory, Caedda and Keelan - hold events at the Space, from concerts to fundraisers to recording sessions to improv shows...with a little help from their parents.

For Chad, nurturing and empowerment are key ele-

ments to creating a positive environment, both at work and at home. More than just a physical space to work, The Creative Space provides a support system for entrepreneurs. Collaboration and cooperation are encouraged, and everyone cheers each other on.

It feels a lot like family, minus the rowdiness, except of course on board games night.

Written by: Hannah Boyle



Want to be featured?
If you have a business in Downtown Barrie, we'd love to tell your story.
Contact us at: theheartofbarrie@outlook.com

Black Clouds Lifting

Written by Mohamad Habach
Translation by Alaa Alasaad



While growing up and living in Syria, many tragedies befell me, but I always took solace in my writing. It is no different here in Canada. When I need to clear my head of my current struggles, I am compelled to write. With three children at home, however, this is not always easy.

One night, I was trying to sort out my thoughts on paper, but my children were distracting me with commotion, like thou-

sands of people digging a coal mine in my head. The rich material I thought I had to write about was melting away; it was like a wind hit my

boat and took it in the opposite direction. Slowly, slowly, I found myself moving away from my poetry and any chance of writing.

I was like a massive fire that almost burned everything around me, so the only way to regain my composure w-

as to the leave the house.

I went out walking the streets of Barrie, my new home. I did not know where I was going or what to do. I was wandering so I could take the stress out of my chest and let serenity fill my heart again.

Before I came to Canada, I was in touch with one of my Canadian sponsors. She sent me pictures of Barrie with the lake and the trees. I said to myself,

someday, I will sit there and write something. I was dreaming of sitting close to the water and writing.

Now, I was walking like crazy. I did not know where I needed to go, but without telling me, my feet took me to that lake, slowly turning to crystal in the winter night.

It was as though Barrie was wearing her white dress that night, stunning me like a bride at her wedding. She, Barrie, was showing off her beautiful Lake Simcoe.

It was so nice to see the Canadian people there. They kept smiling and greeting me like I had known them for a long time. They made

me feel safe, unlike how I felt in Turkey, where I suffered for three years after leaving Syria.

There was a woman walking her dog. The dog was friendly and when I tried to put my hand on his head, he licked my hand. Then the woman started talking to me. I apologized to her because I could not understand what she was trying to say.

When I told her I was from Syria, she was surprised. Tears were almost running out of her eyes. She knew.

Then her husband came. They were speaking slowly, trying to help me understand, but still I struggled. He then pointed to the dog

and said it was his “very pampered” dog. I asked them how many children they had but they said they had none. Perhaps this was why they treated their dog so well - because they did not have their own children? It made me think fondly of my own.

After 15 minutes we said goodbye. Their conversation made me happy and relaxed. With a new sense of gratitude, I realized it was time to go home.

I started to feel better, comfortable in my mind, and calm after this conversation. I changed my mind 180 degrees and could go home in peace to attend to my children and, eventually, my writing too.

Pioneers Among Us: The Caldwell Family

History-wise, we Canadians are a varied bunch. Some of us have roots that reach back thousands of years, and some of us arrived as recently as today. And then there are those of us who descend from the Europeans known as *the pioneers*.

I remember studying the pioneers in school. They seemed to me to be those other people, those distant folks from another time, far removed from us and no more connected to our lives than storybook characters. In truth, there is no *us* and *them*: there is only *us*.

You might be a pioneer descendant, knowingly or otherwise. Not everyone, however, grabs hold of their family tree to shake the story of their ancestors from its branches, to learn how they came to be standing on this soil.

Fortunately, the story of the Caldwells fell from their tree and landed squarely in the laps of their descendants. Their story began like so many others, with bold steps taken onto a sailing ship docked at a British port, their worldly possessions stuffed into bags, their hearts beating wildly as their dreams and fears became very, very real.

George Caldwell (sometimes written as “Colewell”) and his wife, Hannah Demeline, had married in Snaith, in East Yorkshire, England and were listed as residents of Goole, Yorkshire when they departed for Canada with their three children in 1831.

Having survived the six-week journey across the Atlantic, George and Hannah, along with young Robert, George Jr. and Emma, would have almost certainly landed first at Grosse Ile, Quebec, the quarantine island in the middle of the St. Lawrence River. Next, they journeyed on to Scarborough, Ontario where they remained for a short time before moving on to

the wilds of Oro Township. There, George Sr. farmed and the family prospered, adding eight more children over the years.

The first of the Canada-born Caldwell children was William Demeline Caldwell, who at first farmed but then took up the blacksmith trade. He married Miss Jane Dunsmore, daughter of Scottish immigrants, in 1854.

Ten years on, William and Jane had five children, and William’s blacksmith business was doing so well that the family moved to the Town of Barrie and had a most impressive house built for them. Located at 149 Collier Street (then known as Charlotte Street), it was among the first five brick houses built in Barrie. Described at times as being fashioned in the Neo-classical style, it’s a wonderful local example of the Georgian architecture that had been so popular in England.

This particular style of home was built to remind the Caldwells of their Yorkshire roots. William’s great-granddaughter, Marilyn King, remembers that many students of architecture made a point of studying the Caldwell house because of the symmetry, proportion and simplicity that so typified a real Georgian house.

William made full use of his large lot. At one time, the grounds included a blacksmith shop, a saddlery, a wagon maker’s shop and a dairy! I imagine his plan was to set up each of his sons in a useful trade that might lead them to the kind of success that he had enjoyed.

Marilyn showed me the 1896 wedding photograph of a very handsome couple. Thomas Caldwell, son of William and Jane, had just married his sweetheart,

Theodosia Parkhouse, and they had sat for this lovely portrait at J. Frank Jackson’s studio at 32 Dunlop Street East.

The next photograph Marilyn showed me was taken more than 20 years later. It was a very different portrait! In the centre sat Thomas and Theodosia, a little gray around the temples, surrounded by 11 well-coiffed and -tailed young men and boys, and one small girl. These were Elder, Charles, Henry, Dalton, Grant, George, Lewis, Ivan, Rodger, Russell and Ezra, the sons, and tiny Amy Caldwell, an adopted daughter. Two other sons had passed away previously.

They grew to be a successful and amazingly close family, and sometime before 1920, they moved to Newmarket, Ontario. Marilyn tells me that her father, George Caldwell, born in 1907, attended East Ward School (where the Parkview Centre is now on Blake Street) but went to high school in Newmarket.

From 1930 to 1932, George went to the Ontario Pharmacy College and then returned to Barrie to apprentice with local druggist Harry A. Smith, who had a shop at Five Points. After becoming qualified as a pharmacist, George went into partnership with H.G. Robertson, who had a drug store on the corner of Owen and Dunlop Streets. When Robertson retired, George took over, and many Barrie folks well remember Caldwell’s Drug Store across from Memorial Square.

Also well known in Barrie was Marilyn’s cousin Bill Caldwell, the man behind the Moldex brand of toilet seats. The son of Lewis Caldwell, he had a quirky sense of humour and coined the often locally repeated slogan *Moldex: Born in Barrie. Raised everywhere.* He became the first Canadian manufacturer of toilet seats, opening up a factory on Brock Street in 1956,

relocating to a new modern factory on Bayview Drive in 1973, after tripling production.

Bill believed in giving back to the community that had been so good to his family. He was instrumental in opening Georgian College, convincing Education Minister Bill Davis to choose Barrie as a location. He went on to serve as Chairman and Acting President of the college. He also served as Chairman of the Royal Victoria Hospital Board of Directors, President of the Barrie Rotary Club, Chairman of the Barrie YMCA Building Committee, Director of the Barrie Chamber of Commerce and President of the Barrie Raceway.

Though Bill passed away in 2011, many of the other Caldwell descendants still live in this area, continuing the family’s legacy in our community. It would be safe to say that, 186 years ago, the couple from Yorkshire made a good decision. I believe the extended Caldwell family would agree.

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson



Mary Harris
Director of History & Research
Barrie Historical Archive

Barrie Historical Archive
www.barriearchive.ca
Like us on Facebook
barriehistoricalarchive
Follow us on Instagram/Twitter @barriearchive



George Caldwell in front of Robertson’s Drug Store.



Family home at 149 Collier Street 1944



Carly the dog across the street from 149 Collier Street, Bayview Grocery Store in the background.



The family of Thomas and Theodosia Caldwell at the St. Vincent Park pavilion circa 1940.



Sponsored in part by

www.downtownbarrie.ca



Published by



www.thewaterviewspace.com

Visit us at: www.theheartofbarrie.com

Founder: Jacqui Derbecker - jacquiconsults.com | Editor: Sarah Jensen - theheartofbarrie@outlook.com
Copy Editor: Thomas Olhiser - tolhiser@gmail.com | Design: Amy Woodcock - amben@hotmail.com