

The Southern Yarn

February/March 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOWN UNDER CLUB OF WINNIPEG INC.

downundercalendar

MARCH

A Cozy Chat ...

Saturday, March 20, 2:00 pm

A Zoom social chat. Settle down at home with a cuppa, some biscuits, or a beer, for a social chat. Contact Judy Powell (204-275-7083) or Jenny Gates (info@downunderclub.mb.ca) to be added to the Zoom invitation.

APRIL

ANZAC Day, April 25

The DUCW Board next meets on March 10 (Wednesday) to plan what may be possible for a commemoration this year. Details to come in the April/May issue of the Yarn.



Australia Day and Waitangi Day

On Saturday January 30, twenty members and guests of the DUCW – including Ed Powell and Catherine and Ian Bowering, all the way from Australia! – Zoomed in to celebrate our national days.

appearance and ingenuity of decoration – a critical element given the online format for the event – earned the top prize of a jar of Vegemite for Peter and Margaret Munn. Other favourites, which earned tea towels,

oven mitts, apron and potholder – all courtesy of Catherine Bowering – went to Nancy deLong, Charlie Powell, Leon Badali, and Chris Brasher. Unfortu-



Photos:

1. Chris and Tara Brasher – a Tim Hortons chocolate chip muffin, cut in a butterfly shape with added icing and blue sprinkles; 2. Charlie Powell – pineapple and carrot cupcakes; 3. Ian and Catherine Bowering – coconut, passionfruit and lamington cupcakes with white chocolate icing, complete with tea service; 4. Leon Badali – apple cinnamon muffins with white icing and hand-cut apples from peel; 5. Nancy DeLong – pineapple, banana and coconut cupcakes iced in our national flags, with ANZAC bikkies on the side; 6. Peter and Margaret Munn – chocolate cupcakes with handmade chocolate koalas and eucalyptus trees.

After a warm welcome from Peter Munn, we sang the national anthems, led by Jenny Gates. The singing of the anthems proved that enthusiasm and camaraderie can overcome even the most challenging of delays between Zooming friends.

Members shared stories about what Australia Day and Waitangi Day means to them, and then we thanked Brad Robertson, new DUCW member and Chief of Protocol, Province of Manitoba, for letting us know about our national flags flying in Memorial Park (see page 2).

Next up was the bake-off, featuring muffins and cupcakes. This year's event was held in remembrance of Debbie Griffiths who passed away on January 18 (see page 4). Her love of baking, and the many delicious cakes she made for the Club over the years, have certainly been an inspiration to us all.

Our favourite cupcake, based on overall

nately, the Bowerings were booted offline by a power failure right before the bake-off, or they would have given all of us a run for our money!

Next up was the quiz and the scavenger hunt, both organised by Judy and Charlie Powell, and then Charlie ran a game of two-up that was won by Nancy deLong.

The rest of the evening was spent chatting and catching up, with the event ending a few minutes before 9:00 pm.

Thanks to Judy Powell for most of the planning, and everyone for participating. It was an excellent night, and in the words of Catherine Bowering, "A good time was had by all."

online

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editorially yours

Charlie Powell



A common theme to much of our content for this issue is “nostalgia” – not by design, it just turned out that way. You will especially find some of that if you follow the links provided in the OZ and NZ News to the respective Film and Sound Archives – thank you to Ed in Adelaide for those. Maybe during the pandemic lockdown(s), you watched a Bond movie, or two. A run of them was offered by a TV channel here in the ‘Peg. “Getting to Know ..” on p. 7, explains the inspiration for the 007 super spy. Do you remember Chips Rafferty? Did you know he was born in Broken Hill? When we lived in Laidley, Queensland, a special treat was to cool off with a Weis Bar – a uniquely molded ice cream made with real fruit. Sadly, they’re no longer being made up the range in Toowoomba (p. 5). And I’m showing my age, but I used to enjoy listening to “Dad and Dave” on the ABC. Dave and his girlfriend, Mabel, are featured in this month’s Bush Yarn (p. 6). There is much more to reminisce over if you keep reading.

Thank to Ed, Jenny, Judy, Peter, Brian, Lucia’s sister in NZ, and our sponsors.

Charlie Powell



president's ramblings

Peter Munn



Hi all,
I am looking out the window today at brilliant sunshine, however for the past few days it has been getting close to -20°C, standard for this part of the year, but colder than we have been accustomed to. Where we live, in beautiful downtown old St. Vital, it is just a hop, step and a jump from two rivers, and we have taken to walking on the Seine River for enjoyment and exercise. It is a well-trodden path, as we meet many others out for an hour or so,

checking for wildlife, elusive owls, and multiple bird species. It is far enough from St. Mary's Rd and Fermor Ave that there is a muted dull roar of traffic only under certain conditions. Along Egerton Rd, backing down to the river, you see the backs of the many architect-designed homes that have been built recently, as people buy older homes for the attractive lot, tear down the original house, and spend fortunes on building large homes. With a river at the end of the backyard, a bucolic setting, and five minutes from downtown, it is an attractive proposition. Take care, and stay safe,

Peter

Honouring Our National Days

On Australia Day January 26 and Waitangi Day February 6, respectively, the national flags of Australia and New Zealand flew high and proud in Memorial Park across from the Manitoba Legislature. Orchestrated by new DUCW member **Brad Robertson** in his capacity as Chief of Protocol for the Province of Manitoba, and spurred in part by a request from the DUCW, seeing our national flags standing tall over pristine white snow was beautiful to behold. Brad posted photos on his Twitter page @fairdinkumbrad and noted that this recognizes the small but vibrant Australian and New Zealand communities in Manitoba, as well as the long history of friendship and cooperation between our three countries. Brad also invites all of us to visit the Legislature grounds at night where the MB150 lights will be up all winter.

Photos: (below left) Aus flag by Jenny Gates; (above right) NZ flag by Penny Hechter



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A Published Author in our Midst

Congratulations to DUCW member Jude McCudden who has launched her anthology *The Stroke of a Foot*.

According to the book and author blurb at FriesenPress Bookstore:

"We only get one chance on this planet. Stepping out of our comfort zones, taking risks, and making a new life where one is a stranger, are sometimes the best choices we can make.

"*The Stroke of a Foot* is a poetry collection of great beauty, containing vastly different and unfamiliar landscapes. It examines relationships and the decision to leave one's homeland to make a fresh start.

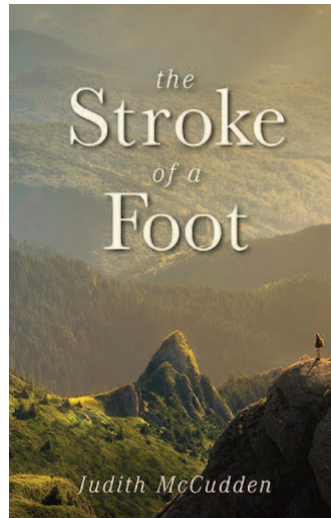
"White, middle-aged, English-speaking women are generally not recognized as going through archetypal immigrant issues: isolation, loneliness, financial hardship, and dealing with government red tape. Charting the wildernesses of Australia and Canada via four themes — Water, Navigation, Journey, Landscape — these poems reveal insights about the physical and psychological journey. As the author navigates a new place, she also has to examine her beliefs and values.

"This book evokes the feeling that love really does conquer all, that we need to trust our hearts, that silence and reflection are survival keys, and that we never stop learning."

Jude has been writing poetry for more than 25 years, and her work has appeared in Australian anthologies and chapbooks. She was also actively involved in the Australian Poetry Centre and has performed at literary festivals throughout Australia. A performing arts teacher for 30 years, Jude currently works as a librarian and writes a weekly article for a West Interlake newspaper under the byline "Girl from OZ".

The Stroke of a Foot is Jude's first book, and she is already working on a second.

You can purchase Jude's book at FriesenPress (books.friesenpress.com) – or [Link] – and through Amazon and Google.



Way to go, Jude. You've inspired me, for sure!
– Jenny Gates



Did you know? ...

The National Army Museum remembers and honours our war animals each year on the 24 February with **Purple Poppy Day**.

Most people are unaware that – as well as the traditional commemorative red poppy – there are also white and purple. The purple poppy symbolises all animals who have died during conflict.

It is estimated that more than 8 million animals sacrificed their lives in World War I alone.

As a way to commemorate the animals that have served and those that continue to do so, you can wear a purple poppy. Let us remember these brave animals, their deeds, and their sacrifices.

To love unconditionally, to serve unquestionably... They were the animals.

Thanks, Brian!

It's not easy to take a mishmash of miscellaneous text and photos and figure out how to best format it all, but that's exactly what Brian Hydesmith does for each issue of the *Yarn*. As our newsletter designer for 23 years, it's Brian who makes all the editorial content and contributors' submissions look good. So thanks, Brian. We really do appreciate it.

– Charlie Powell (current editor)
and Jenny Gates (past editor) and all
the readers of *The Southern Yarn*

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Looking west on Winnipeg's Main Street.
Photo: Penny Hechter and the **On This Spot** app.

On This Spot

I want to let you know about an amazing app I've been using.

The "On This Spot" app provides historical information about various cities, including Winnipeg and Stonewall here in Manitoba. You can take yourself on a walking tour, stop at a site, and then use the app to superimpose an image of what that site looked like 100 or so years ago over the image you see today. It's very cool!

Suggested walking routes are provided, as well as write-ups on the history of each location. The app is free, and can be downloaded onto your device from <https://onthisspot.ca>.

Keep in mind that you can take more photos using this app if your fingers aren't frozen – something I learned by experience! So be sure to keep your hands warm while you're out and about this winter, especially if you're taking photos.

– Penny Hechter

Aussie Fare

Miss Browns – Since we can't do our annual brunch at this excellent downtown restaurant, we wanted to share an update from owners Jenny and Steve.

"Severe structural damage of our William St location means we've had to close for safety concerns. While repairs are being made, our Hargrave location is now open with take-away and Skip the Dishes, and we hope to return to some capacity of dine-in soon." www.missbrownswinnipeg.com

The Ruby West – Before lockdown the Club was planning a visit to this fairly new restaurant in Wolesey, owned in part by Erin Degen and Peter Keating from one of our

favourite Aussie dining establishments, The Billabong. In lieu of a DUCW event, you can order from them for take-out or through Skip the Dishes. ruby-west.com

staytuned!

entertainment from back home

Watched something on the giggle box or online with a down under flavour recently? PLEASE let us know about it so we can share it with others in the DUCW. Thanks to Penny Hechter, Lucia Barron, Peter Munn and Brian Hydesmith for these.

Kai Safari – APTN – An exploration that celebrates Māori connections with our own people, our kai, in our own way. It's about living off the land, whether on the beach or in forest surrounds, sharing great experiences gathering food, fond memories and delicious eating – <https://www.aptn.ca/kaisafari/>

Rake – Netflix – Cleaver Greene, a Sydney-based defence lawyer, has self-destructive tendencies and takes up the trickiest and the most unsettling cases in Sydney.

Offspring – Netflix – Nina Proudman, an obstetrician who lives in the Melbourne suburb of Fitzroy, struggles to deal with her work, eccentric family and her search for a soul mate. A seven-season-long journey through relationships.

Upright – CBC Gem – An incident brings together a muso (Tim Minchin) and a runaway kid (Milly Alcock) on an eventful road trip across the outback. Eight gritty episodes for you to binge.



Farewell, Friends

It is with great sadness that we let you know about the passing of several people associated with the DUCW.

LIONEL SABOURIN

passed away on January 4 this year. The husband of Pam Sabourin, Lionel was born in Morris, Manitoba, and grew up in St. Jean Baptiste, Manitoba. He went on to live in Winnipeg and St. Adolphe for most of his life. Lionel worked at Bristol Aerospace for more than 42 years. After his retirement, he enjoyed travelling, fishing and spending time with family. While Lionel didn't get to our meetings as often as Pam did, the Sabourins were good friends of many of us, including Gordon Keatch. We are grateful to Pam for keeping us up on Lionel after he moved into Golden Links Lodge a few years back following a stroke. Our condolences to Pam and their family.



DEBBIE GRIFFITHS

passed away on January 18 this year. You will remember Debbie's wonderful cakes and other baking that she made for many of our events over the years. Her love of baking, and the joy that was evident in all her creations, is fondly remembered, and has definitely inspired the master baker in all of us. The recent bake-off as part of our Australia Day and Waitangi Day celebrations was in remembrance of Debbie. Her quiet presence in our group endeared her to all who knew her, and she had a ready smile for everyone she met. Our sympathies to her husband Norm and their family.



ALBERT LUSSIER

passed away unexpectedly on January 28. A resident of the Baldur Personal Care Home in Manitoba, Albert is the father and father-in-law of past members Helene DeKezel and her husband Lou Savisky of Beausejour. While most of us may not have known Albert, we have fond memories of trips to the Beausejour Dairy Bar that Helene and Lou owned. Our sincere sympathies to Albert's extended family.





End of an era - Weis Bar factory in Toowoomba closes ...

[Source: ABC, Lucy Robinson, 29 Jan 2021]
The last Weis ice-cream bars have rolled off the production line at the brand's original factory in Toowoomba, in what's being called a sad day by the city's mayor. Multinational company Unilever announced plans in 2019 to move production to its Western Sydney factory, two years after buying the facility from the founding Weis family.

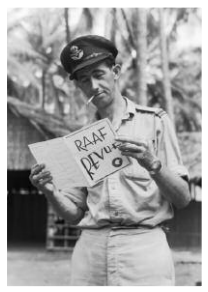
Around 60 staff remained for the final day of production on Friday, which brought six decades of history to an end.

"It's a day that will go down in history – not as a very positive one at all," Mayor Paul Antonio said.

Made from fruit and cream, the desserts were originally known as Fruito Bars, a name still used by locals. Founder Leis Weis sold the first bar in 1957 at Pop's Milk Bar in Toowoomba, and they soon caught on interstate and overseas. He told the ABC in 2017 the sale to Unilever was agreed to on the basis the ice-creams would continue to be made locally. Unilever cited costs, competition and distribution channels in its decision to manufacture the ice-cream interstate. [Link]

Chips Rafferty, archetypal Aussie

[Source: Australian War Memorial] John William Goffage, MBE (Born: Broken Hill, 1909; died, Sydney, 1971)



John Goffage had done a variety of jobs ranging from deck-hand, drover and shearer to operating an ice-cream parlour. However, he also had an interest in the arts, including poetry, painting, and acting. He entered show business as a magician's assistant and also worked as a film extra. Eventually he became an actor, famous by his screen-name,

"Chips Rafferty", and was widely regarded as the "archetypal Aussie" of his day.

A role in the 1940 film *Dad Rudd MP*, brought Rafferty to public attention. From there he was cast in a leading role in Charles Chauvel's Australian light horse classic, *Forty Thousand Horsemen*. The following year, aged 32, he enlisted in the RAAF and eventually saw service in Australia, New Guinea, and the Netherlands East Indies, including Milne Bay and Morotai.

In April 1943 Rafferty was commissioned in the RAAF Administrative and Special Duties Branch, and performed a variety of welfare and entertainment duties. The wartime need for entertainment, and for propaganda, meant he was in demand. He was released to act in films for the Department of Information and had a leading role in Chauvel's *The Rats of Tobruk* (1944).

Tall, friendly, with an irreverent sense of humour, Rafferty grew in popularity after the war. He became a solid supporter of the local film industry. He was acclaimed for his work in *The Overlanders* (1946) and went on to roles in British and American productions made in Australia. He also took work overseas and appeared in *The Desert Rats* (1953), *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1962), and even worked with Elvis Presley in *Double trouble* (1967).

Rafferty's film career largely began with comedy, but he later identified himself with outback characters and came to symbolise essential Australian qualities. Some of his characters may have been uncomplicated or crude, but he was a much loved actor when he died in 1971. [Link]



Be entertained by the NFSA

There is a wealth of historical and contemporary footage available for your viewing and listening enjoyment at the National Film and Sound Archive website. Examples include, Cathy Freeman's gold medal win at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, a 21-second newsreel clip featuring the last known images of the extinct thylacine, the only known colour footage of Sir Donald Bradman playing cricket, shot at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday 26 February 1949, and much more, including capital city Time Capsule content. [Link]



The Departure of the Second New Zealand Contingent for the Boer War (1900), the earliest surviving New Zealand film.]

Be entertained by Ngā Taonga

As above, New Zealand also has an audio visual archive - Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision is a charitable trust. We care for an ever-growing collection of films, radio, television, sound recordings, props and documents spanning 120 years of Aotearoa New Zealand's sound and moving image history. We are committed to the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi. We actively develop relationships with whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations to ensure appropriate long-term care of and access to sound and moving image taonga.



A Canadian-Kiwi crew films a scene at Whangaroa jetty with actor Rachelle Lefevre for the TV series *The Sounds*.

TV Series: The Sounds...

[Source: NZH, Peter de Graaf] Whangaroa Harbour's spectacular scenery is one of the stars in an international mini-series showing on TV screens in Canada on CBC Gem. While locals will recognise their home patch in the eight-part psychological thriller *The Sounds*, they shouldn't expect a massive influx of Canadian visitors any time soon – and that's not just because of Covid-19 border closures. In the TV series, the Whangaroa Harbour is a stand-in for the Marlborough Sounds, where the tale is set, and Whangaroa township is rebranded as the fictional fishing village of Pelorus. Rick Waite, location manager for the Kiwi-Canadian co-production, said the producers' budget

wouldn't stretch to sending an entire crew to the South Island, so he was tasked with finding an alternative closer to Auckland.



Seaweed biologist Dr Marie Magnusson is leading the algal biotechnology research project. Photo: George Novak, NZHerald

Seaweed ...

[Source: The Fish Site, 19 Nov 2020] A brand-new aquaculture facility has been opened in the New Zealand port of Tauranga as part of a \$13 million algal biotechnology research project. Funded by the Tertiary Education Commission's Entrepreneurial Universities programme and the University of Waikato, the 1,000m2 facility is the first in New Zealand to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for seaweed cultivation – from nursery stages to grow-out – and aims to deliver closed life-cycle aquaculture production of seaweed.

Leading the algal biotechnology research project is seaweed biologist Dr Marie Magnusson, alongside seaweed chemist and husband Dr Christopher Glasson, ecologist Rebecca Lawton and a world-class team of research fellows, technical officers and postgraduate students. [Link: Seaweed biotech facility opens in New Zealand | The Fish Site]

Dr Magnusson said Tauranga's harbour is subject to recurring blooms of green seaweed (sea lettuce) and while the blooms are deemed a pest, this species of seaweed may hold the key to a lucrative industry in the Bay of Plenty.

"We're exploring ways of using sea lettuce to develop food and agricultural products," she said.

Dr Magnusson said macroalgae represent a largely untapped resource for materials and bioproducts that will enable sustainable diversification of New Zealand's aquaculture industry.

"We're researching commercial applications of seaweed and potential ways to use macroalgae and their extracts for agricultural, human and animal health, and materials science applications," she added.

Seaweed is a huge multi-billion dollar

industry in Asia, particularly red and brown seaweed, but the potential of green seaweed is yet to be fully explored and maximised.



Is sheep farming on the way to joining whaling in the future?

Wool, here's a sobering thought!

[Source: NZHerald, 4Feb2021: Pete Fitz-Herbert] Or more specifically, is the back of the sheep that carried and developed New Zealand about to become extinct?

Wool – the dual purpose component of the sheep and the former jewel of the export industry – may be about to disappear.

Not that I wish to dig a hole and get side-tracked discussing farting and burping ruminants that every vegan and climate change bandwagon jumper would love to ban ahead of the market signals. But here I was on holiday, in the small window of opportunity between lamb drafts, after school finished, and before I had to start shearing.

Someone has since pointed out that this was actually what most people call a long weekend not a holiday.

Being off the farm gives me perspective, and left me wondering why I was rushing back to remove a product – wool – that is lacking the value that it should demand.

But what are the other options?

We have spent 8,000 years of human history breeding woolly sheep. Is it going to be 30 years without intervention until they are only meat producers?

I have had conversations about changing to genetics that eventually result in sheep without wool – but I don't think I can do it just yet.

Why? Good question.

In the first instance, I am risk averse to chasing a trend and there is nothing trendier than Wiltshire ewe lambs that shed their fleece right now – like A2 milk shares last year.

Now I know I started with whaling as my example, but imagine if we were whalers that had the support of our government, like Japan continues to support their industry.

Not a super-palatable thought for most people.

Most think of whales as creatures being

described by David Attenborough, but up close they look more like a large lump of playdough that can hold its breath.

Ok, maybe not worth arguing along those lines – but the example I have been using is champagne. It's not just bubbly grape juice.

It's a story, its product produced to the exact rules defined in its appellation (Google that word – I just discovered it), it's protected by countries, treaties and world trade rules.

Every time the subject of moving away from wool on a sheep's back comes up, I ask people this:

If a vineyard in the region of Champagne was about to rip out the vines because of any number of economic challenges, would people, or the government, step in?

In the same way these small islands in the South Pacific are the best growers of wool in the world.

A product that has everything going for it in a world of mega trends that it can fit into.

Here, I will say it, the mighty Manawatu should be known as the Champagne of the strong wool world.

But instead, our premium carbon harvesting facilities, or woolsheds, are being transformed into novelty wedding venues and derelict structures – similar to the old whaling station along the coast. [Pete Fitz-Herbert is a Manawatu farmer and former finalist in the FMG Young Farmer of the year contest]. Read more: [Link]

BushYarn

Dave was caught holding a rabbit by the neck as he recited: 'Seven by seven, ten by ten, twelve by ten.'

Mabel was looking on curiously. 'What ya doing that for, Dave?'

Dave stopped and put the rabbit down. 'Arrh, Mabel, I just wanted to see if it was true that rabbits multiply rapidly, but they don't.'

[Source: Classic Bush Yarns, by Warren Fahey, 2001]



William Stephenson (1897–1989)

[Source: Winnipeg Free Press, Dwight MacAulay, 14 Nov 2020] With the recent death of actor Sean Connery, millions of fans worldwide stopped for a moment to quietly mourn the loss of the man who introduced the world to the greatest spy who ever lived. “Bond... James Bond.”

Ever since Ian Fleming began to create this character and put pen to paper in 1952, the world has been fascinated with agent 007. Let's face it – every man has secretly wanted to be him and every woman wanted to meet him.

People often had two questions on their minds when reading James Bond novels or sitting on the edge of their seat in a movie theatre: How was Bond going to avoid annihilation at the hands of some conniving, evil, n'er-do-well villain and who, exactly, was James Bond? Was he purely fictional or was he actually based on a real-life individual?

Let me answer that with a question:

What individual left school in Grade 6, was recognized as a hero in both World Wars, was knighted by King George VI, received the Order of Canada, the U.S. Presidential Medal of Merit (the first non-American to be awarded this honour) and has a statue in his honour in downtown Winnipeg? This same person received numerous military honours from several countries and has had numerous books written about him along with movies and several television shows documenting his life, focusing primarily on his role as a spy (for our side thankfully) in the Second World War.

Additionally, he received honorary degrees from both the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg, has a library, a school and a street named in his honour, and was also honoured by Canada Post with the issue of a stamp. Oh, and he also invented a machine that could send wireless photos across the Atlantic. In essence, he created one of the key building blocks of what would later become better known as the fax machine.

The answer is Winnipeg's own Sir William Stephenson. The man called “Intrepid.”

There has been, and will always be, much more to this man than we will know.

Stephenson was a hero of both world



wars – although his contribution in each global conflict was vastly different.

As an underage teenager in Winnipeg, he signed up with the army in the First World War with the regimental number 700758 on his attestation papers (note the second to fourth digits). After being gassed by the Germans, his lungs were damaged, so he joined the Royal Flying Corps. It was during his time as a pilot that he was credited with shooting down at least a dozen German planes. For that, he was awarded the Military Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and also several honours from France.

Stephenson was also shot down and taken as a prisoner of war. As rumour or myth has it, it was during his time as a prisoner of war that Stephenson developed his passion for intrigue.

After the First World War, and before the Second World War, he became a businessman and entrepreneur achieving the status of a millionaire before he was 30. His business acumen was not without its setbacks, but he did go on to be recognized as a media mogul who also ventured into business interests such as oil refining, aircraft manufacturing, coal mining and steel fabrication.

It was during his business trips prior to the Second World War that Stephenson collected evidence of German rearmament and provided it to Winston Churchill.

However, his service in the Second World War was, simply put, espionage. Almost as soon as the war broke out, Stephenson formally became involved in covert activities.

When Churchill became British Prime Minister in 1940, he appointed Stephenson to head up an arm of the British Secret Intelligence Service, MI-6, overseeing British espionage for the Americas, known as the British Security Co-ordination (BSC).

Although based in New York, Stephenson's BSC had agents in every major port in the Americas as well as North Africa. It was during this time that Stephenson became one of the single most important, pivotal and

influential figures in bringing about an end to the Second World War.

It was also during the war when Stephenson helped create the Office of Strategic Services with his friend Bill Donovan. This office became the frontrunner to what would evolve into the Central Intelligence Agency.

With true spy-like intrigue, there are many stories, myths and undocumented accounts related to Stephenson's role in helping to win the war. However, one point which has never been challenged is that he did play a

major role in the Allied victory over the Germans, a role that can easily be credited with saving thousands of lives (on both sides) by bringing about an end to the conflict.

After the war, Stephenson and Bond author Ian Fleming became lifelong friends. In fact, they also became neighbours in Jamaica. However, to this day there remains much more mystery and intrigue about Stephenson than Fleming could have ever put into a book. And, just for the record, both gentlemen did enjoy martinis.

But let's get back to the question of who was the real-life inspiration for James Bond?

Many believe the quiet, relatively small, portly man born into poverty in Point Douglas and given up for adoption because his family could not afford to keep him, was, in fact, the inspiration for the world's most famous spy.

My take on it goes like this. Ian Fleming and Cary Grant (yes, that Cary Grant, the movie star) were both spies, and both worked for Stephenson. However, Stephenson did not look like Sean Connery, Roger Moore or Daniel Craig, so Fleming gave James Bond the adventures of Stephenson and the good looks of Cary Grant.

Truthfully, the only one who could honestly answer the question about whether or not James Bond is based on a real person was, obviously, the author himself, Ian Fleming.

Fleming once wrote, “James Bond is a highly romanticized version of a true spy. The real thing is... William Stephenson.” So, there you have it! Stephenson died in 1989 at the age of 92. He and his wife Mary French (Simmons) are both buried in Bermuda.

Dwight MacAulay is a council member of the Manitoba Historical Society and president of the only “Intrepid Society” in the world, dedicated to preserving and acknowledging the achievements of Sir William Stephenson – “The Man Called Intrepid.” For more information or to become a member of the MHS, visit mhs.mb.ca. [Link] & [Link]

Once I saw a sora ...

... and didn't have a clue what it was. It was 2016 and it was in the Southwood Lands, just a short walk from home. It was before I owned a camera with a decent zoom, so this photo is from Wikipedia.

When I searched for birds with green legs, I learned that there is a bird called "sora". Quail-sized, they are also known as sora rail and sora crake. They are found in marshes across much of North America and are predominantly seed-eaters. Like others in the family, sora are not often seen, preferring to stay hidden amongst the denser marsh growth.

Since about 2010, a wide variety of wildlife has taken advantage of the significant change in human activity across Southwood Land's 120 acres of bush, open grassland and marshes. According to the University of Manitoba website: The Southwood Lands began as a riding club near the end of the 19th century, and would later transform into the Winnipeg Hunt Club (1908). A seven-hole golf course was added to the Winnipeg Hunt Club in 1918, with an expansion to nine-holes in 1923. In 1919, additional land was acquired from



By Elaine R. Wilson, www.naturespicsonline.com

the Agricultural College, and the Norwood Golf Club (est.1894) joined the Winnipeg Hunt Club to form the Southwood Golf Club. The University (former Ag College) took possession in 2011 and plans are finally in place to see the area "transformed to feature retail options, a grocery store, a bank, a doctor's office and multiple active transportation trails, as well as residential high rises, condos and townhouses. About 700 metres of waterfront space at the site could also play home to a promenade, among multiple other green spaces". [Source: Joyanne Pursaga, Winnipeg Free Press, 25Jan2021].

Progress, and necessity, I suppose, but I don't expect I'll see a sora there again ...

In Australia, the bush-hen and the white-breasted waterhen are similar members of the rail and crake family. New Zealand's version is the banded rail.

250yearsAgo...

history of note

[Source: Medium.com, Daniel G. Jennings 23 Aug 2020] Canada is an independent nation and not part of the United States today because of smallpox.

Smallpox kept Canada in the British Empire by destroying an American Army early in the Revolutionary War. To elaborate, it was a destructive disease caused by the variola virus that defeated the first American invasion of Canada in 1775 and 1776.

In 1775, they invaded Canada, and captured Montreal, the center of the lucrative fur trade. The Army of the North moved onto Quebec City, then Canada's capitol.

In 1759, British General James Wolfe destroyed France's North American Empire by capturing Quebec City, and US Army commander General Richard Montgomery hoped to emulate that victory.

Montgomery's forces lacked heavy artillery to demolish the city's walls, so they settled in for a siege. That's when smallpox attacked the cramped American camp on the Plains of Abraham outside the city. By early Jan-

How Smallpox defeated an American Army and saved Canada ...

uary 1776, smallpox was spreading through the American camp, and by February, the epidemic was out of control. By May 1776, 900 of the 1,900 American soldiers in the American army were sick.

Meanwhile, the British were still in control of Quebec City. When a British fleet arrived with reinforcements on May 6, 1776, the Americans fled.

Had smallpox not weakened their army, the Americans could have taken Quebec City and Canada. Instead, smallpox forced the Americans to abandon Montreal and Canada.

The US lost its best chance to conquer Canada because of smallpox. Thus, Canada stayed a British colony, and eventually became a British Dominion and an interdependent country because of a virus.

The US could never invade Canada again, in either the Revolution or the War of 1812. In fact, Canada became an important base from which the British and their Native American allies attacked the US.



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