



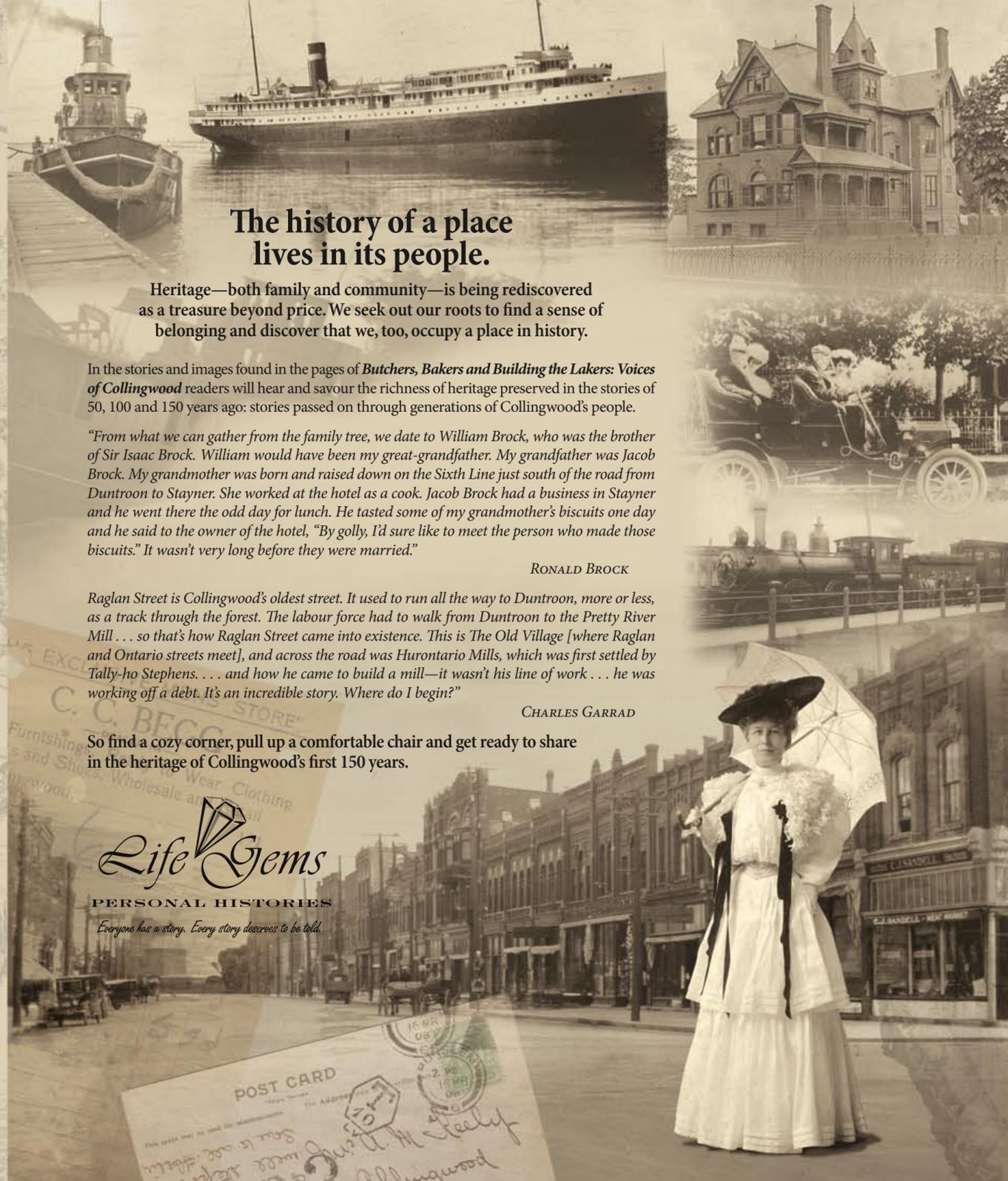
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christine Cowley began writing stories at an early age with her first published work appearing in a national magazine in 1980. Following the release of her first book, *Test of Faith*, published by Canadian Scholar's Press in 2000, Christine left her home in Toronto to live in her century-old cottage in the Georgian Triangle. Christine's passion for people's stories led to the founding of **LifeGems Personal Histories**, which specializes in writing, editing and publishing memoir and family and corporate histories. In her work as a personal historian, Christine uncovered a wealth of intriguing stories about the town of Collingwood:

"One afternoon while I was having tea with my friend Bessie Saunders, I shared with her some of the great stories of a Collingwood past. More and more stories are being lost," I lamented. "Someone should be writing them down." Bessie's matter-of-fact response came without hesitation, "Well, why don't you do it then!" Suddenly it became a possibility: to share the voices of Collingwood."

Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood shares intriguing facts and stories told by the many Collingwood residents whom Christine met and interviewed over a two-year period. Backed by the author's thorough historical research, it also incorporates personal accounts dating from the 1850s and includes hundreds of photographs from private collections, connecting readers in a uniquely warm and personal way with the author and storytellers past and present.

Christine lives in Collingwood with her husband Marcus. Information about LifeGems Personal Histories can be found at www.lifegemsbio.com.



The history of a place lives in its people.

Heritage—both family and community—is being rediscovered as a treasure beyond price. We seek out our roots to find a sense of belonging and discover that we, too, occupy a place in history.

In the stories and images found in the pages of *Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood* readers will hear and savour the richness of heritage preserved in the stories of 50, 100 and 150 years ago: stories passed on through generations of Collingwood's people.

"From what we can gather from the family tree, we date to William Brock, who was the brother of Sir Isaac Brock. William would have been my great-grandfather. My grandfather was Jacob Brock. My grandmother was born and raised down on the Sixth Line just south of the road from Duntroon to Stayner. She worked at the hotel as a cook. Jacob Brock had a business in Stayner and he went there the odd day for lunch. He tasted some of my grandmother's biscuits one day and he said to the owner of the hotel, "By golly, I'd sure like to meet the person who made those biscuits." It wasn't very long before they were married."

RONALD BROCK

Raglan Street is Collingwood's oldest street. It used to run all the way to Duntroon, more or less, as a track through the forest. The labour force had to walk from Duntroon to the Pretty River Mill . . . so that's how Raglan Street came into existence. This is The Old Village [where Raglan and Ontario streets meet], and across the road was Hurontario Mills, which was first settled by Tally-ho Stephens. . . . and how he came to build a mill—it wasn't his line of work . . . he was working off a debt. It's an incredible story. Where do I begin?"

CHARLES GARRAD

So find a cozy corner, pull up a comfortable chair and get ready to share in the heritage of Collingwood's first 150 years.



PERSONAL HISTORIES

Everyone has a story. Every story deserves to be told.



BUTCHERS, BAKERS AND BUILDING THE LAKERS • CHRISTINE E. COWLEY

BUTCHERS, BAKERS AND BUILDING THE LAKERS

VOICES OF COLLINGWOOD

CHRISTINE E. COWLEY

Where does the history of a place reside more keenly than in the voices of its people?

"When you really look back, this was the gateway to the West. There was no railway through northern Ontario. You had to come to Collingwood and take a boat to the head of the lakes."

RONALD BROCK

Ronald Brock is just one of the storytellers who brings Old Collingwood to life in *Butchers, Bakers and Building the Lakers: Voices of Collingwood*. Other voices belong to people whose ancestors were among the town's first shipbuilders, entrepreneurs and founding fathers:

"There's five generations of Trotts in Collingwood—I'm the fifth. There was Samuel and then Henry and Harry and Clare, my father, and myself. Samuel came up from Bradford in 1862 to work with his son Henry, who was the cabinet-maker. That's how they started in the furniture business, which was on the main street until 1986. It closed when the shipyards closed."

JIM TROTT

"I really came, you see, from a shipbuilding family because my grandfather, Robert Morrill, born in 1865, was a shipbuilder here in Collingwood in the late 1880s, early 1890s. And I started in the Collingwood shipyards when I was 14 years old. The last ship I worked on was the Sir Wilfrid Laurier; it was the last ship built in Collingwood."

ALBERT WALMSLEY

"My dad was Charles John Sandell but everyone knew him as Charlie. He had the Sandell's Butcher Shop on the main street at the corner of Second and Ontario. My dad was from England and I remember as a little child asking him, 'How did we choose to come to Collingwood?' 'Oh, he used to say, 'I always heard about Collingwood.'"

AUDREY (SANDELL) WESTLAKE

My great-grandfather, John Nettleton came to Collingwood in 1856. He was very active in local politics. . . . He was a tailor by trade and he had a tailor shop on the main street. . . . My grandfather, Frank Nettleton, started his jewellery and optical business in 1884. I believe he was the first tenant in the town hall and my father Frank, who followed in his father's footsteps, was the last.

FRANK NETTLETON

However faulty memory may be, however history may be revised under the weight of time and human frailty, it is in the recollections of conversations, events and characters that we learn about a people. And through its people, we come to know a place.

So find a cozy corner, pull up a comfortable chair and listen while these voices of Collingwood share 150 years of this town's proud heritage.