



Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

July 2010

General Meetings

Saturday, July 10 at 1:30 pm
Displays and book table ready at 1 pm

History (in the Garden) Under the Trees
Waterloo Region Museum / Doon Heritage Village
10 Huron Road, Kitchener

For 2010, WHS is changing the name of its July afternoon meeting to *History (in the Garden) Under the Trees*. It will be an afternoon full of seeds and roots, flowers and vegetables; weeds and stems. Horticulturalist Bob Wildfong from Doon Heritage Village, will be front-and-centre for an interactive session with WHS members and guests. Bob will begin with a short outdoor presentation on the role of gardens in Waterloo County/Region's history but he particularly wants historical gardening questions, comments, ideas, traditions, tips etc. Bring along any samples of family heirloom plants: culinary, decorative or medicinal, along with stories that go with them. Bob is interested in hearing how you gardened in decades gone by compared to today's methods. If you have photographs of gardens from your family's earlier history, bring them along. If you used to – or still do – head for the country to harvest leaves or flowers from wild plants and weeds, come tell those stories also.

*All are welcome
Bring a friend
Browse the book table*

Allow about ten minutes from the main entrance to reach our meeting site beside Doon Heritage Village's main street in the new Jubilee Park. It is actually the same place we have met in previous years. Admission is \$7 adults and \$5 seniors and students. WHS members and guests attending *History (in the Garden) Under the Trees* receive \$1 discount. Contact rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990 for further information.

Bob Wildfong is also conducting a morning session about heritage gardening. Pre-registration, information about lunch, cost etc is at 519 748-1914 ext 3266 and www.waterlooregionmuseum.ca >Doon Heritage Village >Events. Note that access to the museum, village and parking lot are the same as before construction. See you there !

Tuesday, September 28 at 7:30 pm
Doors open at 7

Conestoga College, Room 2A301
299 Doon Valley Drive, Kitchener

David's Grand Adventures ! We are moving the usual October gathering ahead to September. And to celebrate that move, we are welcoming back a speaker who is slightly ahead of *his* time in bringing back the past. David Menary is a Cambridge author who has just published *The River and the Railroad* about his growing up years exploring the fascinating landscape along the Grand River between Blair and Galt. People are beginning to recognize what a diverse and special piece of land exists on that part of the Grand's riverscape and how it has affected the history of the area. David will highlight some of those issues and he also invites people with experiences there to come and share their stories.

Directions: Homer Watson Boulevard to Conestoga College Boulevard, which becomes Doon Valley Drive. Look for **Parking Lot 6** and follow the WHS signs to **door 3** of the main building. Parking is free. Contact rych mills for information.

Requests to / from readers...

- ? A researcher is looking for information about the Albrecht/Albert Seip Boot and Harness Shop. The building is apparently at Westfield Heritage Village in Rockton and is believed to be from Waterloo County. See http://westfieldheritage.ca/buildings_1.htm . If you have leads or know about this building, please contact Karen Ball-Pyatt at karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org or 519 743-0271 x252.
- ? Waterloo Central Railway is looking for *anything* about the Heidelberg train station on the Grand Trunk Railway between Elmira and Waterloo, thought to be near where passengers get on and off at the St Jacobs Market. A 1925 newspaper describes a building to shelter passengers there. If anyone is from the Heidelberg / St Jacobs area and has details to share about the station/riding the GTR train, please contact Neal Moogk-Soulis at 519 886-8468 or neal_ca@rocketmail.com . See www.steam-train.org for schedules and events of the tourist train.
- ? Waterloo's Municipal Heritage Committee is seeking older photographs of the MacGregor/Albert heritage conservation district for the development of commemorative panels: photos with buildings/houses or people in front of houses. If you have any and would loan them to the project to be scanned for possible inclusion, please contact Karen VandenBrink at 519-885-8828 x12 or karen.vandenbrink@waterloo.ca .
- ? Jeffrey Beckner is seeking resource materials for a theatre project called Identities. It is a collage of vignettes based on stories and reflections from and about individuals, groups, institutions, etc in Waterloo Region. All time periods are of interest as are oral, print, photographs, audio, visual, etc. If you like sharing stories or know where they can be found, contact Jeffrey at 519 749-1901 or jf_beckner@yahoo.ca .

Historical events & information

There's nothing to do isn't in Waterloo Region's vocabulary !

All Summer

- ◆ **The City of Waterloo Museum**, Conestoga Mall **summer hours:** Wed - Sat, 9:30 - 4; Sunday 1 - 4. See the fascinating "The Noble Experiment: Temperance & Prohibition." Stories of fact and folk lore about those who championed temperance and those who fought it. **Starts July 10** www.waterloomuseum.ca 519 885-8828.
- **Castle Kilbride National Historic Site** 60 Snyder's Rd W., Baden 519 634-8444 or www.castlekilbride.ca "Timeless Toys" exhibit until December 30 features treasured and remembered toys from the late 1870s to 1990s. Programs for kids including Wonderful Wednesdays and Fairies and Frogs. Castle Summer Concert Series on the front lawn: June 22, July 15 and July 29, August 5, August 15. Bring your lawn chair. Enjoy!
- ▲ **The Victoria Park Gallery** will be open weekend and holiday afternoons, 1 - 4:30 until October. Contact rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990 or drive, walk, bike to The Gallery and see the historical displays of Berlin/Kitchener/Victoria Park ... people, books, artifacts, pictures, post cards.
- **Edward Halter House and Museum** is open Sundays, 1:30 - 4, through September. Genealogy research material, history books, the museum and the old walled cemetery across the street are four of many reasons to visit and learn from members of the **Historical Society of St Boniface and Maryhill Community**. Their Heritage Day is Sunday, **Sept 19**, mass at 10; tour of three wayside crosses, and lunch at the Commercial Tavern at 12 noon. Information from Diane Strickler 519 648-2432 or dstrickler@continuum.org .

- **Joseph Schneider Haus, National Historic Site**, 466 Queen Street South, Kitchener, near Victoria Park
Let your kids and grandkids take you to the haus to learn about this Pennsylvania-German family and their way of life. Open Wed - Sat, 10 - 5; Sunday, 1 - 5 519 742-7752 www.region.waterloo.on.ca/jsh
- **Homer Watson House & Gallery** 1754 Old Mill Rd, Kitchener www.homerwatson.on.ca 519 748-4377
20th Annual Watson Exhibition with Homer Watson, Robert Wanka, Peter Hastings until August 14. Gallery hours are Tues - Sun, 12 - 4:30. Contact the gallery for details of classes, workshops, outreach programs.
- ◆ **Woodside National Historic Site**, 528 Wellington St N., Kitchener ont-woodside@pc.gc.ca and 519 571-5684
Open daily 1 - 5 for Tea and Tours; summer teas; Canada Day; photography contest. A cornucopia of visitor experiences awaits you!
- * **Region of Waterloo Archives on-line exhibits** Elections Past and Present and Political Pioneers need some identifying. Can you help? Visit the archives at www.region.waterloo.ca/archives, go to the 2nd floor, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener or call Lesley Webb and Charlotte Woodley at 519 575-4757 x3027.
- ❖ **Waterloo Region Museum and Doon Heritage Village** www.region.waterloo.on.ca/doon or 519 748-1914
Open daily 10 - 4:30. It's worth the drive to tour the new museum – exhibits will be finished in 2011 – and refurbished village and to pick up an events brochure ! You might see a picture or document of an ancestor on the glass panels at the entrance. I did ! [Ed] Enjoy a leisurely visit any time and/or go for special days: Dominion Day Picnic, July 1; A Day in the Life... 1914 during July and August; History and Traditions of Gardens in Waterloo Region and Waterloo Historical Society History Under the Trees on July 10; Seed Saving Workshop, Seniors Day, Doors Open, Fall Fair, Storyteller Series – and more. Tickets on sale **September 7** for Doon by Lantern Light Tours and Starry Night in December.

July

- 10 Historical Preston** creator Ray Ruddy will have displays – including one from WHS – at Central Park, King and Argyle Streets in Cambridge (Preston) from 9 - 6. See Ray's amazing historical photos – some need to be identified. There are fun family events all day ! Visit Ray in the a.m. and History Under the Trees in the p.m.

August

- 6/7 If your name is Sherk, Shirk, Schürch, Sherrick, Scherck etc, contact Verne at vrnschurch856@gmail.com or 540 433-0885 about the Reunion of the Schürch Family Association of North America in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Laurier Association for Lifelong Learning tentative Fall courses include many history-related and one to be taught by Warren Stauch. Watch for the brochure in mid August at www.wlu.ca/coned/lall .

September

- 8 Kitchener Waterloo Cambridge Regional Post Card Club** meets at the Waterloo Region Museum; doors open 7 pm. Curator Tom Reitz takes the club on a tour of the early pioneer village via post cards. Come and enjoy another facet of history and collecting. Information from rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990.
- 11 KNIT camBRIDGE** official opening to cover the Main Street bridge in knitting, in a collaborative large scale piece of outdoor public art. Displayed **Sept 9 - 30**. To contribute knitting, see www.knitcambridge.com or contact Sue Sturdy, artist-in-residence, Cambridge Arts Centre at 519 740-4681 x4491 or sturdys@cambridge.ca

18 Doors Open Waterloo Region

www.region.waterloo.on.ca/doorsopen

Most sites open 10 - 5; free admission. Maps and guides are at libraries, museums and tourism offices starting in July, and in *The Record* on Saturday, September 11. The theme is “Made in Waterloo Region” – anything from buttons to beer to quantum computing. Visit **WHS display and volunteers at the Historic Kuntz House**, 171 King Street South, Waterloo; learn about the house history and see the art exhibit in the Community Gallery.

Partner with Doors Open Waterloo Region and help provide music, drama, performances, crafts for children, workshops/lectures or information displays. Promote your organization, sell memberships or tickets to upcoming events and more ! For more details, contact doorsopen@region.waterloo.on.ca or 519 747-5139.

- 26 Word on the Street** from 11 - 4 at Victoria Park, Kitchener. Browse the WHS book table, maybe renew your membership and enjoy the park on a sunny, Sunday afternoon. Family events. Free. Contact John Glass if there is a book you'd like to buy: jcglass@rogers.com or 519 743-3712; and rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990 about annual volume back issues you'd like.

These are a few sections of the Waterloo Historical Society's quarterly newsletter which is included with membership in the society.

If you would like to be a member and receive the full 10-12 page newsletter – by regular mail or by e-mail – send in a completed membership form with your payment of \$25/year.