



WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2014

MEETINGS

Saturday, March 15 at 1:30

Doors open at 1

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Iona Hall

54 Queen Street North, Kitchener

K-W photographer / collector, Helmut Ostermann is the guest speaker. For many decades he has been both taking and collecting photos of the Twin Cities, and his presentation is a virtual snapshot of Kitchener-Waterloo from the 1940s through the 1990s. Part of the display will be in a "then and now" format and other photos will simply show "what once was." Helmut's considerable historical knowledge provides a backward glimpse and a heads-up on the value of preserving our past. A question-and-answer session follows. Helmut will have copies of his historical collection for sale at the meeting. Some meeting details weren't finalized in time for the newsletter, so there may be a few additions to the program. Information about the meeting from rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990

Parking is in the church's lot in non-designated spots; pay-to-park lot next door; metered spots on nearby streets and KPL's parking garage. **Enter only** through the church office door off the church parking lot or the ramped entrance on Queen Street.

Saturday, May 10 at 1:30

Annual Volume release – WHS Volume 101 - 2013

Meeting details will be in the next newsletter, on the web site and Facebook

Saturday, July 5 at 1:30

History Under the Trees

Doon Heritage Village, Waterloo Region Museum

The Peter McArthur House in the Village is our topic and the meeting will be held close to it.

About the newsletter: It is produced and mailed with help and input from many: Karen Ball-Pyatt, rychmills, Lesley Webb, Lynn Griggs, Mandy Macfie, Mary-Jean Page, Marilyn Sararus, John Glass, Sherwood Hagey, Marie Voisin, Marilyn Sararus, Ann Snyder and all who send events, requests, comments, submissions, ideas. Mailers are Pat Bailey, Lesley Webb and Mandy Macfie **Thank you!** The next issue will be April 2014.

~ Marion Roes, editor

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

By Karen Ball-Pyatt, local history librarian, Kitchener Public Library
archivist, Waterloo Historical Society
karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org and 519 743-0271 x252

As we dive into the New Year, I want to say thanks to everyone for their support of the Grace Schmidt Room over the past year. It hasn't been easy navigating around the construction at the Main Library when visiting us. This year, we will finally be in the new Grace Schmidt Room, reunited with all collections. Stay tuned to the KPL web site (www.kpl.org) for more details as we head toward the final move and reopening.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the KPL Genealogy Fair on 2 November 2013. We had another successful fair and look forward to hosting the next event in our new building. We are planning the next fair and look forward to sharing the details in the near future.

KPL's **Soldier Card digitization project** is underway! We have almost 90 volunteers helping to transcribe the cards and researching soldiers. Heartfelt thanks go out to WHS members Debbie Kroetsch and the Menard family for their generous donation and support for the project.

I've recently launched a **new blog called "Historically Speaking"** for the GSR. In it, I will be talking about recent donations, happenings, project updates and other tidbits. Your comments and input are always welcome! Please check it out at www.historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com.

Since my last report, the Society has received the following donations:

- 1 colour photograph of the WHS donation label on the Abraham Weber Conestoga wagon
- 1 copy of *A Century of Cooking: Kitchener Waterloo Record, 1878-1978*
- Elmira & District Horticultural Society minutes and treasurer's reports/records, dated 1999-2008
- Records relating to the 1940 Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital Nursing School graduation of Aileen Vera (nee Mick) Hiller
- Artist's rendition of proposed Berlin train stations
- Helga Hartman research notes, books, clippings and maps regarding Lexington and other local history topics
- Photographs of Grace Schmidt
- Miscellaneous collection of programs, church directories, souvenir
- 4 black and white photographs of Elmira, dated 1919-1921
- Materials related to Globe Stamping Company and Armbrust family history
- Collection of miscellaneous annual volume research notes and photographs relating to Kitchener
- Binder of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation minutes, dated 1973-1979
- Willow King (Oliver S. Sheifele) research materials - notes, printouts, newspaper clippings, photographs, etc.
- John Calston Smith Scrapbook Collection - Classical music in K-W and southern Ontario; "Bands" (Ontario and Canada) and the Kitchener Musical Society Band
- DVD of Kitchener Musical Society Band materials
- CD copy of WHS Map 049 Wellesley Town, adapted and enlarged by Nancy Maitland
- Copy of 1991 Maple Lane Dairy video
- The book *From a Horse-Drawn Hearse to Studebakers, Packards and Cadillacs: Dreisinger Funeral Vehicles* by Marion Roes

WHS / KPL Partnership

Waterloo Historical Society gratefully acknowledges that Kitchener Public Library has kept and cared for our collection and archives – now in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History – since the founding of WHS in 1912.

New Books

From a Horse-Drawn Hearse to Studebakers, Packards and Cadillacs: Dreisinger Funeral Vehicles by Marion Roes is for sale at WHS meetings, from the author at mlroes@sympatico.ca; the Waterloo Region Museum Gift Shop; Words Worth Book Store, Waterloo; Dreisinger Funeral Home, Elmira; and the Visitor Centre, King Street North, St. Jacobs. \$20. Reviews are in the Ontario Historical Society *Bulletin*, December 2013 and at Karen Ball-Pyatt's blog <http://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/2013/12/16/horses-hearses-and-taking-your-last-ride-in-style/>

The War Years of Wellesley, Woolwich and Elmira by Clayton Ash is 318 pages and includes every person from those three municipalities who enlisted in the First World War, the Second World War and Afghanistan. Information about each person ranges from a paragraph to several pages. Price is \$25 it and can be bought from Clayton at 519 669-1429 or clayev.ash@sympatico.ca or ask him for the sales location nearest you.

80 for 80: Celebrating 80 Years of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is in the Historical Happenings section

WHS Book Table / Book Sales

The new volume holders/slip cases, introduced last year, will ensure your volumes stand neatly, are readily accessible and are protected from bends and scratches. Cost for members is \$6.50 each or 3/\$18.50; and for non-members is \$7 or 3/\$20. Each slip case holds approximately ten of the recent-size volumes and 15 - 20 of the earlier ones. A set of 100 volumes fills six. These slip cases are available at all WHS meetings or contact rych mills at 519 742-4990 or rychmills@golden.net for pickup or possible delivery. Note that they are not for sale at the Grace Schmidt Room at Kitchener Public Library.

An updated list of books for sale as well as an updated price list of past annual volumes is on our web site at www.whs.ca. As well, you can buy the WHS Volume 100 - 2012, *Waterloo County: An Illustrated History* and *Waterloo Township through Two Centuries* at Words Worth Book Store, Waterloo.

If there are slip cases or books from the list that you would like to buy and you could pick them up at Heritage Showcase, Fairview Park Mall, February 15 (see Historical Happenings section) contact rych mills to arrange.

Kudos. Congratulations. Well Done. Thank You.

★ The New Dundee Union Cemetery on Queen Street was established in 1914 and has a new entrance marker celebrating its 100th anniversary. Its history is described in the *Ayr News*, November 6, 2013. Thanks to Sherwood Hagey for the clipping.

★ Marie Voisin and Ernie Ritz were featured in *Exchange Magazine*, October 2013, "Researchers tackle big job in a small town." They are researching and publishing two volumes documenting 310 historic buildings and 65 ghost structures of the original village of New Hamburg as well as the people who built New Hamburg. Publication of the first volume is expected mid 2015.

★ Carter Glass, Mannheim, used some of his student volunteer hours to update a few hundred WHS brochures.

★ 2014 marks the 20th anniversary since the Grand, Speed, Eramosa, Nith and Conestogo rivers were declared Canadian Heritage Rivers. www.grandriver.ca and www.chrs.ca For a brochure of Cambridge's River Walk along the Grand, see http://www.cambridge.ca/community_services/arts_culture_heritage/public_art

★ Dr. Douglas Letson has been named to the Order of Canada. He is the author of "Fostering Kids' Abilities: A Living History" in WHS Volume 100 - 2012, and his many accomplishments are given in the December 31, 2013 article: <http://metronews.ca/news/kitchener/896857/local-pair-named-to-order-of-canada/>

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Grants & Awards

519 575-4493 or wrhf@regionofwaterloo.ca

WHS director John Glass is the WHS representative on the WRHF board and is a member of its Allocations and Finance Committee which is responsible for reviewing grant applications and allocating funds. His WRHF report for the WHS Annual General Meeting is on page 19.

Thanks to an annual per-capita allocation from the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation is able to present grants to individuals or groups in the Region of Waterloo to assist with deserving heritage projects. The grants are used to help promote regional heritage and preserve historical structures. Grant applications are reviewed and monies are awarded to applicants who successfully meet the grant approval criteria and must be received prior to project completion. There are three broad categories – Project/Event, Building and Publication – and each one has its unique application form and rules which are on the Foundation's web site. If you have any questions about the grant application process, visit the WRHF web site or contact John Glass at jcglass@rogers.com.

Readers of this newsletter are encouraged to submit nominations for the WRHF awards. They are: Awards of Excellence, Sally Thorsen Award and the Dr. Jean Steckle Award. Details and forms are on the WRHF web site.

Fashion History Museum (FHM) is moving

www.fashionhistorymuseum.com and Facebook

This is a change to the information that was in the WHS September 2013 newsletter

From a December post on the FHM Facebook page:

Although we had originally intended to keep the FHM gallery at Southworks until at least next summer, we have decided now to close at the end of this month. We were about to launch a membership program, as well as school and lecture programs, when we recognized that we first needed to find a site that is better suited for a museum environment. Although we love the architecture of Southworks, it has many issues and is not a suitable space for us. While we look for a new location in the new year we will be working on "Street Style" an exhibition we are creating with the Waterloo Region Museum on the relationship between architecture and dress. This exhibition will be opening at the end of May 2014 at the Waterloo Region Museum. Stay tuned for more information about the Fashion History Museum in upcoming months!

Web Sites. Tours.

City of Kitchener Corporate Archives – “Helping to collect, preserve and share our city’s history for you!”
www.kitchener.ca and search for archives archives@kitchener.ca or 519 741-2200 x7769

Guelph Public Library Archives – “The role of the GPL Archives is to acquire and preserve historic Guelph resources in print and digitally and make them available to the community.” www.library.guelph.on.ca

St. Jacobs Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour includes a paragraph of information and a photo for almost every one of the 30+ sites. Take it for a walk or just read it. Either way, you’re sure to find treasure tidbits of history.
http://www.stjacobs.com/sites/default/files/SELFGUIDEDHISTORICWALKINGTOURWeb_000.pdf

The **Heritage Planning Advisory Committee** was established in 1994 to advise the Region on heritage policies, issues and strategies. Current initiatives are: Identifying regionally significant heritage resources; heritage bridge recognition and promotion; Scenic Road Corridor Resources Document; educational resources for schools and heritage property owners; cultural heritage landscapes; intensification and stable neighbourhoods; heritage tax incentives <http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/discoveringTheRegion/heritageplanningadvisorycommittee.asp>

New **Historic Driving Tours** will be on-line early in 2014. Watch for information from the Region of Waterloo and on the WHS Facebook page.

Greenfield Heritage Conservation District – North Dumfries Township

Thanks to Mary-Jean Page, member of North Dumfries Municipal Heritage Committee
and resident of Greenfield, for information about this project

Greenfield Village was one of the sites in Doors Open Waterloo Region last year. A walking tour booklet with in-depth history was written by Rachel Morgan Redshaw and given to everyone who was on the tours that day. It will be on the township’s web site as a printable PDF soon at www.northdumfries.ca Photos of the site, taken during Doors Open, are at <http://villagephotographer.wordpress.com/tag/ayr-ontario/>

It was a very successful venture and all four tours were full despite the rainy weather. Even the Goldie clan (founding family of the mill community) traveled from all over North America to participate in one of the tours, and built a Goldie family reunion around the event. The Greenfield Heritage Conservation District project is well underway. The consultants, Golder Associates, have completed the first phase – the Study Phase – of the project and are now moving into the second phase – the Plan Phase. If all goes well, the project should be completed by the end of March 2014, and should become a township by-law sometime this spring.

Condolences to... the families of WHS members who have died

- ✿ Terrence Dugan and his family for the death of his wife Thelma, who died September 21, 2013.
- ✿ Pat Bailey and Brad Moffett and their family for the death of Corinne Moffett, Pat’s sister and Brad’s mother. Corinne died December 8, 2013. Corinne was a member for 11 years.
- ✿ Norma Huber and her family for the death of her sister Doris Huber on December 28, 2013. Doris was a member for about 25 years.
- ✿ Although no longer mentioned here by name, we also offer condolences to the many WHS members who have had a death in their family.

Hilda Bowman Shelley 1894 - 1997

Thank you to Marilyn Sararus for suggesting this story by Ann Snyder about
Hilda Bowman Shelley, daughter of Reuben Bowman and Louisa Geiger Bowman

Ann wrote that the Women's Institute had a story contest. "You were to tell of an interesting person in your life. I chose my husband's aunt Hilda Shelley as I thought she had come through an interesting part of history with the introduction of so many advances that we take for granted today." This is the story. *Editor's note:* Hilda Shelley is also related to WHS members Elinor Shelley Rau and Lorrie Snider. Lorrie told Ann that Hilda donated items to the Waterloo Region Museum and one is the yellow pitcher in the Conestoga wagon exhibit.

Does it seem possible that someone in the 20th century actually talked to someone who was born in the 1700s? This was the case of Hilda Shelley. Hilda, who lived to the age of 102, was speaking to her grandpa, Jacob Shoemaker, who was born in 1799. He would have been an interesting man to talk to as his family trekked by covered wagon from Schwenksville, Pennsylvania to this area. He bought and cleared 250 acres bordering the present Stirling Avenue in Kitchener. He also died at age 102. Hilda was born in 1894, in the days before hospital deliveries. She came into the world in the downstairs bedroom at 30 Francis Street, Berlin, in a white brick home built by her father in 1889. She was the eighth child in this large family. The children's names followed the alphabet: Alan, Beatrice, Clayton, Dora, Edith, Frederick, Gordon, Hilda and Ivan.

Hilda lived through many changes and interesting happenings through the decades of her life. From getting around by horse and buggy, she lived to see space travel. Imagine her excitement when she saw one of the first motor cars in Berlin in 1908! It was also an exciting time in 1907 when the family purchased a cylinder gramophone and played it on the verandah to entertain neighbours. Winding it up to play did not require electricity. We take electricity for granted but Hilda lived her younger years by the light of coal oil lamps. In 1910 Berlin celebrated the coming of hydro, brought by the efforts of D. B. Detweiler, a great-uncle of her future son-in-law, Grant Huber. Not the fancy lighting of today. An electric bulb hung from a single wire hung in the centre of a room in her house. Present-day centrally-heated homes were also a welcome change from the unheated bedrooms of her childhood. Childhood pleasures were as simple as putting a piece of gum on the end of a stick and poking it through the wooden slats of Berlin's sidewalks to get lost pennies. Kids would follow the ice wagon to pick up pieces of ice to suck. Bread and milk wagons, also pulled by horses, gave kids a chance to pet the horses and feed them grass at each stop on their street. There were band concerts in Victoria Park every Thursday. In the evening, the children often went down to the lone street light, lit by the lamplighter, to watch the frogs picking off the bugs which were attracted to the light. Among her childhood friends were Norman and Fred Schneider (J. M. Schneider's Meats) and Walter Zeller (Zeller's store chain) who became household names. The children would listen for the factory whistles so they knew when it was time to get home for supper.

Hilda attended Waterloo Collegiate where she first met Percy Shelley who would become her husband. She went to Stratford Normal School and her first job was at Martin's Corners, a Mennonite community, two kilometres south of St. Jacobs. [This could be the East Heidelberg school that was located on what is now Lobsinger Line. *Ed.*] She bicycled there from Waterloo in good weather, but there is no record of what she did in the winter.

Canada declared war on Germany in 1914. In 1915 Hilda switched to a two-room country school in Bridgeport, using the electric trolley and sometimes snowshoes to get there. Percy had sailed to England on the troop ship *Empress of Britain* as a signaller with the 134th Highlanders. An engagement ring arrived by sea mail over the submarine-infested Atlantic. When the war ended Percy stayed with the army of occupation in Cologne. In 1919 he returned to Canada and they were married in August at Hilda's home on Francis Street. They had two daughters, Mary and Esther, and bought a house for \$3000, probably a lot of money in those days. After just five years together Percy succumbed to war wounds and Hilda was left to bring up the little girls. She rented rooms to seven tenants

and lived in the back two rooms. In 1925 she did proofreading for the *Kitchener Daily Record* and from 1926 to 1933 did supply teaching at Margaret Avenue, King Edward, Suddaby and Victoria schools.

In 1926 Hilda saw Lindbergh fly over Kitchener. In 1927 she heard a radio for the first time. She bought her own radio, a table-top De Forest Crosley model, in 1933 when she received a war widow's pension. Now she could hear shows like Amos n Andy, Cecil and Sally and Shandu the Magician. There were other firsts: first plane ride in a two-seater at the Lexington Airport on what is now Lexington Road, first refrigerator, first son-in-law Grant Huber, first nylon stockings, first grandchild, first black and white TV.

Once the girls were grown, Hilda started teaching kindergarten full-time at the following schools: Westmount, Sunnyside, Courtland and Waterloo Central. She finally retired in 1965. In 1976 Hilda received a Certificate of Honour for Outstanding Teacher. In her retirement she loved to travel and went to many countries. Her 90th and 100th birthdays were celebrated at Highland Baptist Church with many friends, relatives and people whose lives she had touched over the years.

This was a lady with a youthful spirit, physical stamina, a sense of humour, an amazing memory – an inspiring character and a century of living life to the full.

Requests to / from Readers

✓ **To promote the legacy of Mackenzie King and to assist Woodside National Historic Site**, Mackenzie King's boyhood home, several local residents interested in history have set up an informal committee: Ian Darling and Dave Pink, two journalists who once worked at *The Record*. The group is known as the Ad Hoc Committee to Promote the Legacy of Mackenzie King, and includes representatives from Woodside, Kitchener City Hall, the Kitchener Public Library, the Waterloo Region Museum, rych mills and Harold Russell. It is considering several local initiatives, such as a Mackenzie King walking tour and an annual Mackenzie King public lecture. Anyone who has suggestions to offer may contact Ian Darling at author@amazingairmen.com.

✓ Patrick Murphy would like to buy a copy of the **WHS 1944 volume**. He has all of the WHS reports / volumes except that one. If anyone has one for sale, please contact him at muffman@295.ca or 519 722-2626.

✓ **Volunteers needed at The Gaol and Governor's House Doors Open** site, September 20. Please contact Councillor Jean Haalboom at JHaalboom@regionofwaterloo.ca if you are interested in helping for a shift.

Wandering around, one sees...

✓ In the Bridgeport Community Centre, 20 Tyson Drive, Kitchener, is an historical quilt, commemorating Bridgeport's heritage with "squares" of St. Paul's Church, Reichert's Store, Bridgeport Casino, Shoemaker House, Distlefink, The Streetcar, Lancaster Hotel, Two Iron Bridges, Bridgeport School, Bridgeport Mill, Tagge's Store, The Free Church, Blacksmith Shop, Evangelical Church and Mill Water Tower. From *Bridgeport News*, Fall 2013/Winter 2014

✓ *Footprints* by Nicholas Rees is on the outside wall of the Downtown Community Centre, 35B Weber Street West, Kitchener. The cement relief was created using historic Kaufman footwear samples from the collection of Kitchener's Industrial Artifacts. www.kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/publicart.asp

Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus

To apply for either of these programs, and
to get a brochure about the lectures, workshops and demonstrations, call 519 742-7752

Edna Staebler Research Fellowship is awarded for a program of research judged to increase knowledge and expand understanding of the diverse cultures of the folk and founding peoples of Waterloo Region / County. **Marion Roes**, WHS past president, is the 2014 Fellow whose goal is to research the histories of Waterloo County funeral practices and funeral businesses, and the changes in them. She will submit a written report of her work in December 2014 and give a public presentation during Heritage Week, February 2015. This year's Fellowship lecture is by Susan Mavor and is listed in the Historical Happenings section.

Folk Artist-in-Residence

This program was designed to support local artists and artisans working in traditional crafts and trades. Past residencies have included WHS members Nancy-Lou Patterson, artist/writer; Mary-Eileen McClear, storyteller; and Philippe Elsworthy, cabinetmaker. Congratulations to the 2014 artist-in-residence, **Sue Firkser**, fibre artist!

Historical Happenings Calendar

Organizations and their events are listed alphabetically
Check their web sites for hours, fees, brochures and many more events

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO, NORTH WATERLOO REGION BRANCH (ACO, NWRB)

www.aco-nwr.ca

80 for 80: Celebrating 80 Years of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario documents 80 – of the hundreds – of heritage structures across Ontario that the ACO has helped save in its 80 years of education and advocacy work. All photographs are colour; six of the properties are in Waterloo Region including Kitchener's David Weber House and Waterloo's Eby-Hallman House. Soft cover; 176 pages; \$31.50, or \$27 for ACO members. Books – and memberships – can be ordered from Kae Elgie, president of ACO, NWRB at aco.nwr@gmail.com or 519 746-8538.

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARIES AND GALLERIES & IDEA/EXCHANGE, Queen's Square, 1 North Square

www.cambridgelibraries.ca, www.cambridgegalleries.ca & www.cambridgelibraries.ca/ie

Karen Murray-Hopf, cultural programs and special events planner 519 621-0460 x155

See the web site for Idea No. 500: "Your libraries and galleries transformed – at the 'new' post office."

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ARCHIVES & RECORDS CENTRE, Lynn Griggs, corporate archives records technician

Flr 2 - 46 Dickson Street 519 740-4680 x 4621 www.cambridge.ca/city_clerk/city_archives

We now have a quarter of a million archival records online! Summer projects included the inventory of the Hespeler Heritage Centre / The Company of Neighbours holdings so they too are searchable. Other highlights include the conversion of several Super 8 films of the 1974 Flood to DVD. The Archives & Records Centre helped to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Preston Scout Band with an exhibit in the Archives Gallery. The purchase of RapidScan equipment will enable the digitization of the *Galt Reporter* microfilm series. This too will be fully searchable along with the accompanying Obituary Index. The digitization of the Fire Hall and Museum Collection was started in the fall with completion set for the summer 2014.

CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM, Conestoga Mall www.waterloo.ca/museum 519 885-8828

Karen VandenBrink, manager, museum and archival collections

To January 31 Initial Success: 100 Years of V.O. Whisky about Waterloo's Seagram Distillery

February 12 - May 9 Arresting Images: Mug Shots from The OPP Museum features 100 early mug shots (1886 - 1908) and descriptions of the suspects. Arresting Images documents an unique historic encounter between the police and suspects and criminals of the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as insight into the practices of early policing in Ontario – and policing and criminal activity in early Waterloo.

DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen 519 747-5139

Karl Kessler and Jane Snyder, co-ordinators doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca

September 20, 10 - 5 at most sites *A free heritage and architecture tour!*

Think about hosting a display about your organization at one of the sites, or about providing programming: e.g., workshop or lecture, music, drama, crafts for children. Contact Karl to discuss ideas.

HERITAGE WILMOT 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden www.heritagewilmot.ca info@heritagewilmot.ca

February 22 Annual Wilmot Heritage Day, St. Agatha Community Centre, 1793 Erb's Road. Theme is "Music." Come and see – and hear – the Music of Wilmot Township. WHS plans to be there with a display and volunteers. The event wasn't confirmed in time for this newsletter. Please check the web site.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY, 1338B Maryhill Road, Maryhill N0B 2B0

www.maryhillroots.com info@maryhillroots.com for membership, research questions, etc.

Members receive a newsletter, and this year, a fascinating 2014 Heritage Calendar which includes "Saluting the Occupations of our Forefathers," descriptions of their occupations *and* the names of residents who held them. E.g., pathmaster, cooper, harness maker and saddler, butcher, bartender, miner.

HOMER WATSON HOUSE & GALLERY, 1754 Old Mill Road, Kitchener 519 748-4377 www.homerwatson.on.ca

February 7 - April 7 Winter Exhibition, Kitchener Waterloo Society of Artists – Annual Juried Exhibition

February 10 Opening Reception, 2 - 4

February 23 Artist Talk, 1 - 3

April 20 - June 23 Grand National Quilt Show

JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS MUSEUM AND GALLERY, NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

466 Queen Street South, Kitchener 519 742-7752 www.regionofwaterloo.ca/jsh

February 27, 7 pm - 2013 Edna Staebler Research Fellow (and WHS member), Susan Mavor will give a public presentation on her research titled "Rieder, Rubber and Romance: How Kitchener Became the Rubber Capital of Canada."

KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY www.kpl.org and *In Touch* magazine for events and programs

Ideas and Issues - Wednesdays at noon, Forest Heights branch, 251 Fisher-Hallman Road. Lecturers are Laurier and UWaterloo faculty.

KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB (KWCRPCC) meetings www.kwcrpcc.com

January 18, Doors open at 1 pm for buying and browsing at Faith Evangelical Missionary Church, 3849 King Street East, Kitchener. Presentation is by a panel debating "The Battle of Berlin" – post cards, that is. All are welcome.

March 5, Doors open at 7 pm for browsing and buying at Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener. Speaker is WHS director, KWCRPCC director, and Knute Rockne fan, John Glass. His topic? Notre Dame University. For information *and* a sample newsletter contact rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990

March 16 Postcard Memories Show and Sale of Antique and Modern Post Cards, hosted by KWCRPCC
9:30 - 4, Bingemans Embassy Room, 425 Bingemans Centre Drive, Kitchener. \$5 admission includes the
Ontario Model Train Show, 10 - 3, Marshall Room nearby. Information from Dave Moore 519 885-3499 or
Leigh Hogg at stamphogg@hotmail.com and at www.postcardshow.blogspot.com

LAURIER ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (LALL) www.wlu.ca/lall

Rebecca Kieswetter, co-ordinator 519 884-0170 x3902. Sign up for e-mail notifications about classes.
Winter classes start the week of February 3. Check if late registration is possible for:
Jim Weldon, Laurier - *Poetry Appreciation: Dante's Inferno and Selected Modern Literature*
Isaac Friesen, Laurier - *Life and Revolution in Modern Egypt*, or
Blaine Chiasson, Laurier - *The Pacific War*

MCDougall Cottage, 89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge 519 624-8250 www.regionofwaterloo.ca/mcd
February 17 open for Family Day. Regular season starts **March 14**

Mennonite Archives of Ontario (MAO), Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Road North,
Waterloo www.grebel.ca/mao Laureen Harder-Gissing, archivist/librarian 519 885-0220 x24238
Library and archives are open for visitors/researchers during construction. Appointments recommended.
Building updates at <http://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/next-chapter/important-building-project-updates>

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, WATERLOO REGION BRANCH www.waterlooogs.ca

Meets **monthly on the 2nd Thursday**, 7 pm, September to May, at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day
Saints, 10 Lorraine Avenue, Kitchener. All are welcome to hear the speakers and to bring questions about
genealogy research and using the internet.

February 14 - Speaker Karen Ball-Pyatt will talk about KPL's Soldier Card Digitization project

March TBA April 17 meet at the Hespeler Heritage Centre **May 8** Legacy Family Tree Program

REGION OF WATERLOO ARCHIVES, Flr 2 - 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener 519 575-4757 x3027 & Facebook
www.regionofwaterloo.ca/archives Charlotte Woodley, archivist. Ancestry Library Edition available to
use by appointment. The Archives is the official home of records of the County of Waterloo (1829-1972);
Region of Waterloo (1972-present); Township of Woolwich (1851-present); Town of Elmira (1886-1972).

March 3 - April 29 A Golden Tradition: Celebrating 50 Years of the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival exhibit
at the Elmira library branch, 65 Arthur Street S, Elmira

April 1 - April 30 History of Public Health in the Region exhibit in the lobby

April 7 - April 11 Archives Awareness Week in the archives office, Flr 2

THE COMPANY OF NEIGHBOURS / HESPELER HERITAGE CENTRE, 11 Tannery Street East 519 651-0032
"Preserving and Promoting Our Past" www.thecompanyofneighbours.com and Facebook
Open for visits, research, reading, reminiscing, and fresh coffee

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY – meeting details are on page 1. Visit WHS display and volunteers at Heritage
Showcase February 15 and Wilmot Heritage Day February 22.

WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM, DOON HERITAGE VILLAGE, HALL OF FAME & CURATORIAL CENTRE

10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 748-1914 www.waterlooregionmuseum.com

Tom Reitz, manager/curator

Family and individual memberships in Region of Waterloo Museums include Waterloo Region
Museum/Doon Heritage Village, McDougall Cottage and Joseph Schneider Haus. Call for information.

January 31 - April 30 SHIPWRECK! Pirates & Treasures – real shipwreck treasures and the technology used to recover them. More than 500 priceless artifacts recovered from famous shipwrecks including real gold and silver treasures. Interactive games and challenges. Great maritime stories!

Talk Series Mondays, 1:30 - 3:30, starts **February 10** with speaker Barbara Aggerholm, author of *Stowaway in the White Hurricane* and writer for the *Waterloo Region Record* and *Grand Magazine*. She is talking about the Great Lakes Storm of 1913. Call for advance tickets for the series and a brochure.

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1137 Henry Street, Wellesley
www.wellesleyhistory.org Nancy Maitland at 519 880-2712 or info@wellesleyhistory.org
The web site invites attendance at meetings and includes minutes of the society's meetings
The Historical Room is open from **10 - 3 monthly** on the **last Saturday** except December
February 17 open for Family Day

MORE EVENTS

JANUARY

6 - October 31

THE GRAND RIVER CONSERVATION AUTHORITY's second photo contest recognizes that 2014 is the 20th anniversary of the designation of the Grand River and its tributaries as Canadian Heritage Rivers. Categories: **Riverscapes, Recreation, Historic Photos**. All information is at www.grandriver.ca

FEBRUARY

- 1 VOC SILENT FILM HARMONIC - Night of the Living Dead**, 8 pm, Registry Theatre, 122 Frederick Street, Kitchener. "The VOC Silent Film Harmonic is a group of local musicians [including WHS member David Hunsberger] dedicated to performing live and original improvised soundtracks to silent films. One of the most interesting culture-related projects to have emerged in KW in recent years." According to the web site, the Living Dead ate the movie soundtrack. Tickets from www.registrytheatre.com or 519 578-1570
- 14 17th ANNUAL HERITAGE DAY WORKSHOP AND CELEBRATION**, 8:30 - 4, Six Nations Polytechnic, 2160 Fourth Line Road, Ohsweken. "Crossroads of Conflict, Pathways to Peace: Legacy of a Living Culture." Preregister by February 9. Forms at www.grandriver.ca Heritage Working Group of the Grand River Conservation Authority
- 15 HERITAGE SHOWCASE**, 9:30 - 5, hosted by the **Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation**
Fairview Park Mall, 2960 Kingsway Drive, Kitchener
Mark your calendars and come to see the historical/heritage/museum/collecting organizations and volunteers who are preserving the region's history! This is the once-a-year, largest gathering of Waterloo Region heritage organizations! We at **Waterloo Historical Society**, and most of the groups listed in this newsletter plus others from around the region, look forward to talking with you and answering questions about our and your own collections, archives, publications and the region's history. You can be a browser and/or buyer of books, postcards, note cards – and memberships. If you're thinking of joining a heritage-related group, this is an opportunity to talk to its volunteers.
- 25 WATERLOO REGION ARCHIVES INTEREST GROUP (WRAIG)** meets 7 - 8 pm, Region of Waterloo, Rm 217, Flr 2 - 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener. The purpose of the group is "To provide an opportunity for archivists in Waterloo Region to network and to discuss common issues." Anyone with an interest in archives is welcome. Information from Charlotte Woodley www.regionofwaterloo.ca/archives or 519 575-4757 x3027

APRIL 4/5 50TH ANNUAL ELMIRA MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVAL www.elmiramaplesyrup.com

WHS Annual General Meeting Reports

These reports were given at the AGM November 9, 2013

Ad Hoc Annual Volume On-Line Indexing Project

As noted in my 2012 report, progress on the WHS annual volume index was slowed by the serious car accident and prolonged recovery of our indexer. While it was anticipated that the draft index would be finished by early summer of 2013, we did not receive the draft index as promised. Regrettably, the indexer's injuries and rehabilitation were much more complex than originally believed. At this point, the Committee is seeking clarification as to her ability to complete the index and possible timelines for its completion.

Submitted respectfully,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, Archivist, Waterloo Historical Society

Ad Hoc Newspaper Storage Committee

The WHS Ad Hoc Newspaper Storage Committee, consisting of myself, Lesley Webb and rych mills, had its Terms of Reference approved by the WHS Board on 3 September 2013. The Committee's function is to review the status and future of the Society's newspaper collection and holdings. Its mandate is threefold:

1. To review the policy and practices of the Waterloo Historical Society with respect to its archival newspaper holdings.
2. To advise the WHS Board on technology and costs of newspaper digitization, preservation and conservation needs.
3. And to make recommendations to the WHS Board on the development of a newspaper strategy and policy for the archives of the WHS.

The Committee will hold its first meeting on 13 November 2013 and make regular reports to the Board on its progress.

Submitted respectfully,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, Chair, WHS Ad Hoc Newspaper Storage Committee

Archives

As the WHS enters its next, second century of operation, I am pleased to report that the archives of the Waterloo Historical Society continue to grow, albeit at a much slower pace, in the face of the ongoing construction at the Kitchener Public Library.

The Grace Schmidt Room completed its move into temporary quarters in late February and March of 2013. While we are a room without walls, we have managed to keep the bulk of the reading room materials intact, including the WHS photograph and map collections.

In terms of the collection, the Society was honoured to be the recipient of many wonderful donations, including:

- The Miriam Sokvitne Collection – comprised of photographs, documents, letters and books and clippings which document Miriam's life, activism and interests.
- The Willow King (Oliver Scheifele) Collection – consisting of research materials which document Scheifele's life and work in using willow trees to prevent shoreline erosion, including clippings, photographs and notes.

- The Helga Hartman Collection – comprised of notes and clippings which document Helga's local history interests, and
- The Zion United Church Collection, comprised of photographs, ledgers and books.

As we look forward to the new Grace Schmidt Room in 2014, I want to express my thanks to everyone who has continued to make use of our collections and services during this period of transition, construction and inconvenience. Your patience and support have been much appreciated.

Submitted respectfully,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, Archivist, Waterloo Historical Society

Book Table

2013 has been another busy year at the book table. Fueling the interest and sales has been the impressive 2012 volume, centennial supplement and, new this year, slip cases, to store the volumes. 2013 has seen members expanding their personal collections of annual volumes as well. Rych mills has done an inventory and produced a price list reflecting the availability of past volumes. We continue to have a wide variety of local interest books assembled by Rych from donations and his network. The book and display table has been set up at all public WHS meetings and other events: Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Heritage Showcase at Conestoga Mall, Heritage Wilmot Heritage Day at St. Agatha, Doors Open at Brubacher House, Waterloo and KPL's Genealogy Fair at Kitchener City Hall.

My gratitude to all the volunteers who set-up and manned the book table.

Sherwood Hagey

Communications Committee

Lesley Webb, Chair

This year, the WHS continued to receive publicity on its 100th anniversary with an article by Martin DeGroot in the May 11 edition of *The Record* titled, "Waterloo Historical Society celebrates the long history of the region." This article celebrated the launch of our 100th annual volume. The WHS was also featured in the community spotlight in the June edition of the *Kitchener Citizen* titled, "Waterloo Historical Society's 100th anniversary plaque to become part of online historical tour," by Carrie Debrone.

Our April meeting received the most attention in the news with the *Elmira Independent* and *Woolwich Observer* reporters interviewing our speaker Nancy Silcox on her research and publication that follows the fascinating life of Elsie Cressman.

Special thanks to the *Waterloo Chronicle*, *Elmira Independent* and *Kitchener Citizen* for consistently advertising our meetings.

The WHS facebook page currently has 228 "likes," up 86 since this time last year. Like us at www.facebook.com/waterloohs or follow the link on our website. The facebook page is public so you can view it even if you don't have a facebook account. It is a great way to keep track of what we are doing and to share local history resources and announcements.

Corporate Records

I am pleased to report that the annual call for inactive corporate records was made at the Waterloo Historical Society Board's first meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 following the 2012 Annual General Meeting. To date, I have received the records of the Past-President Marion Roes, several files related to 2012 Anniversary events and other miscellaneous documents. Work on processing these newly acquired inactive records, according to the Society's Corporate Records Policy, is ongoing.

Submitted respectfully,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, Archivist, Waterloo Historical Society

Membership

Marion Roes, Acting Chair

There were many changes to the membership tasks in 2013. I am grateful that Mandy Macfie has been working with me and Jeff Shank, WHS treasurer, and will take over as chair. In 2014, Mandy and I will continue to work together to make that transition.

What are the numbers? We had 260 members in 2013, down a bit from 2012, but that's not surprising. Some people joined for our anniversary year – or to see what we're about – and didn't renew. As of the date of this report (October 24), 2014 memberships are at 172 which is close to the number at the same time last year. The membership chair organizes delivering the volumes, and this year the centennial supplements too. Thank you to the MANY members who delivered almost all the volumes that went to addresses in the region: by car, bicycle, on foot, at meetings and in church mailboxes.

Mandy Macfie, Incoming Chair

My main focus for the next few months (and year) is to digitize our current manual membership system. Work has begun on an electronic membership spreadsheet that we hope will make the process of updating memberships, delivering annual volumes, printing mailing labels, and generally tracking or changing information, easier. Hopefully, it will also make the sharing of necessary information between certain board positions easier as well.

In a similar vein, we also created an on-line map of members to help us organize the delivery of the annual volume and centennial supplement. The map is private to the Membership Committee. Marion and I found it very useful and will most likely be using a similar system for the next volume delivery.

Newsletter

Marion Roes, Editor

This is the 22nd year for a WHS newsletter. Is it time to give it a name? Perhaps that's a task for 2014. Three issues were published and widely distributed among heritage organizations, WHS members of course, the media and public places for pickup. More members are choosing to receive theirs by e-mail as a PDF. Thanks to those members who fold, seal and stamp newsletters to be mailed and to those who deliver them by foot, bicycle, car, at meetings or in church mailboxes. Thanks also to contributors of regular columns, stories, event information, ideas and items or requests for information. There were more stories included this year and part of the reason is that I can be flexible in what is included. It is left up to me to decide and also to decide on the length. Often it's not a decision but it simply depends on how much material there is, and I appreciate that I have that flexibility. I also appreciate being given comments, suggestions and stories. In 2014, the plan is to go back to four issues per year.

Nominating Committee

Lesley Webb

Mandy Macfie has been working closely with Marion Roes, Acting Membership Chair, since June when she became Councilor. Mandy worked to distribute the annual volumes and centennial supplements to the membership by implementing a Google map to coordinate deliveries. She has also been working to set up an electronic membership system and will take over filling standing orders. At the annual general meeting Mandy became a director. The Nominating Committee would like to nominate Mandy Macfie as Membership Chair starting immediately. We thank Marion for acting as Membership Chair for the past term.

Debbie Kroetsch has notified the Nominating Committee that due to other commitments she would like to step down as Co-Chair of the Plaques Committee. Debbie wishes to remain as a member of the Plaques Committee. Councillor Harold Russell has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Plaques Committee. The Nominating Committee (Lesley Webb, John Arndt, Marion Roes) would like to nominate Harold Russell to the Plaques Committee.

Past President

Marion Roes

The role of the immediate past president is nebulous. The By-Law does not list duties or responsibilities which can mean she/he does nothing or can choose what to do. I think that it is important to help the new president when and if it is wanted – with questions, procedures, experiences. This year I filled in for Lesley as a judge at the Waterloo Region Heritage Fair because it is held during the day and she was working.

There are a few tasks I started as president and continued as past president. They are: working with the treasurer on our insurance policy; keeping track of years of service for board and council and other volunteers who are eligible, and applying for the annual Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration Volunteer Service Awards.

The By-Law states that the first vice-president “assist the President and shall also exercise the duties and powers of the President during the absence or inability of the President.” We do not have a first vice-president, so it is likely that the past president would fill in as president if need be. It has been good to step back from being president and to see that the office is ably filled.

Plaques Committee

Warren Stauch, Co-Chair

The Plaques Committee, consisting of Warren Stauch and Debbie Kroetsch, along with Ray Ruddy, met on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at the site of the former Idylwild Park along the banks of the Speed River in Hespeler. Harold Russell was unable to attend and sent his regrets. Ray has done considerable research on the former park and walked us to the site. We looked at possible locations for a plaque. The committee will investigate possible partners with regard to the plaque and its location. Ray will contact the Reuter Centre with regard to a bench or two. The local horticultural society will be contacted with regard to low maintenance plants. The committee will meet to discuss a possible story board for a plaque. The City of Cambridge Parks Department and the Grand River Conservation Authority will also have to be contacted re permission to place a plaque at the suggested site. The committee will also investigate a traditional plaque (Riverside Bronze) or a type of plaque that the Waterloo Region and City of Cambridge use at some of their sites. The format of the historic bridges plaques that the Region uses will be investigated regarding cost, production, etc. The committee will continue to develop a plan for the Idylwild Park plaque.

President Lesley Webb

I would like to thank the board and council for supporting me as I took on the role of chair at board and council meetings. Five meetings were held this year and proceedings can be reviewed in the agendas and minutes filed with corporate records. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers who help out at meeting and events. Over the past year, the WHS was represented at the Ontario Genealogical Society Region III meeting, KPL Genealogy Fair, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Heritage Showcase, Heritage Wilmot Heritage Day, Preston Days Summer Sidewalk Sale & Funfest, and Doors Open Waterloo Region. At these events volunteers promoted our meetings, newsletter, archives, publications, book table, and annual volume.

Early this year, the board recognized Susan Hoffman's retirement from 34 years on the board by donating an extra \$500 to the Susan J. Hoffman Local History Fund in her honour. We also donated \$1,000 to the 125th Anniversary Fund of the Ontario Historical Society for its work towards the digitization of its journal, *Ontario History*. The Board continued to sponsor the Waterloo Region Heritage Fair (which is similar to a science fair but for grade school heritage projects) by offering an award for the Best Use of Original Waterloo Region Records.

The directors did a wonderful job of summarizing activities in their reports. I want to emphasize a few. The Publication Committee truly outdid itself this year with the publication of the 100th annual volume and centennial supplement. The increase in membership fees is mainly to cover the cost of the annual volume which has grown substantially in size over the last decade, along with the inclusion of more colour images and perfect binding. I think the annual volume is a publication that makes this society stand out and a product the membership can be proud to support.

We continued to mark our 100th anniversary this year with the unveiling of a plaque at the Waterloo Region Museum. The Plaques Committee worked to compile a comprehensive list of all the WHS plaques. From this list I was inspired to create a Google map that can be used by the public to identify and visit the plaques located throughout the region. The map is linked to our new web site which the Web Site Committee worked hard to launch to you today. I encourage you to take a look at the site and use the new features such as the calendar to keep track of WHS activities.

Programming rych mills, Coordinator

As in previous years, WHS had five public meetings in 2013. As usual we rotated the meeting locations in an attempt to keep all areas of the Region of Waterloo included.

In March, Nancy Silcox of New Hamburg told attendees about the fascinating locally-born Mennonite midwife Elsie Cressman. In the old St. Jacobs schoolhouse, Nancy recounted a number of stories about Elsie from her recent biography. Several people, who had known Elsie and indeed had served overseas with her, attended and shared stories.

May's meeting is the traditional annual volume release and in 2013 it was held at the Bridgeport Community Centre "on the other side of the river." Dr. John Carter took us back to 1838 for a little known aspect of what we usually call the Rebellion of 1837. These were known as the "Incursions" and were, in effect, laughable American invasions of Upper and Lower Canada.

History Under the Trees in July at Waterloo Region Museum's Doon Heritage Village took the form of recalling some long-lost family members who would be fascinating to talk to in 2013. Those attending shared some stories of "black

sheep” and “hero” family members from their own pasts.

In September, a large crowd at Kitchener’s Victoria Park Pavilion, including many non-members, discovered that we never forget how to ride (or remember) our bicycles. John McKenty, the author of a history of CCM, recaptured the glory days of CCM bikes. There was also an additional presentation on local bicycle manufacturers Werlich, Racycle and Sunshine.

November’s AGM brings us back to Galt-Cambridge and the wonderful Fire Hall Museum and Education Centre spotlighting firefighting over the past century-plus. We thank Bob Toth and his gang for welcoming us to this historic facility.

Publication Committee

rych mills, Chair / Annual Volume Editor

The WHS Publication Committee consists of Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, Marjorie Kohli and Stephanie Walker along with rych mills as chair. In 2013 we had several responsibilities and with just a touch of bragging I would like to think that we succeeded in producing good results for WHS. My special kudos and thanks go out to those other three members of the publication committee.

Annual Volume #100: Dated 2012, it was released in May 2013 and reflected something new in binding and paper quality. It was also the largest annual volume ever produced for WHS. Its reception was positive.

Centennial Supplement: This was a special publication authorized two years earlier by the WHS Board to celebrate our society’s first century. It too was produced in the new “perfect binding” style and contained dozens of articles culled from issues one through 99 plus commentary and analysis. It was presented to all members free of charge as a centennial gift and symbolizes the tremendous contribution to local history preservation and publication that has been part of the WHS mandate since year one.

Slip cases: Another special project for 2013 was the design and preparation of an attractive slip case in which members can store their annual volumes in a tidy and handy manner. These are for sale at just a few cents above cost.

Annual Volume #101: No sooner were the above projects completed than work began on the preparation of annual volume #101. Over the summer a number of authors – both veterans and newcomers – have been working with the editor to bring their submitted articles up to WHS standards. These are now being read and checked by the Publication Committee and will go through several drafts and proofs before heading for the final printing in April.

Back issues: In recent years the Publication Committee has been really pushing the sale of our supply of past issues of the annual volume. These have been inventoried and priced and regularly advertised in our newsletter and at meetings. This has not only brought in money for WHS but helped to spread local history from our first 100 years.

Storage

rych mills, Coordinator

WHS has two storage units in an industrial building in Kitchener. The *temporary* unit stores a large part of our newspaper collection which has been displaced during the Kitchener Public Library’s renovation period. It contains tens of thousands of issues of county newspapers: bound and loose. The *main* storage unit contains a wide variety of WHS items. These include:

- 1) Our supply of past issues of the annual volumes. Thousands of extra copies are stored in chronological order in secure cabinetry.
- 2) A number of donated collections containing photos, documents, maps, letters, etc. They rest here until catalogued by the WHS archivist and inducted into the official WHS archive. The most recent of these is a collection of items from the just-sold Zion United Church in Kitchener.
- 3) Book table books. The WHS book table, over the past ten years or so, has helped to place hundreds of local history books onto members' shelves. Many of these are donated but we also stock new books on consignment from the authors and in a few cases we purchase books in local used book stores if we know there is a demand for them.
- 4) Two other organizations, Dumont Press and Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario, Waterloo Area Chapter, rent a small bit of space from WHS to store their documents and books.
- 5) WHS display items such as panels, banner, flyers, signs, etc.

As you can imagine, the storage unit is generally an unexciting place. Things just, well, sit there and wait. But this past summer the place was full of excitement. New rules in the city mandated that a fire sprinkler system be installed throughout the entire concrete building, including our rooms. Holes were drilled through walls, brackets installed, a web of piping bolted in place, all of which generally alarms anyone concerned with storing historical artifacts and documents. Consultation with the contractor however assured us that there would be minimal disruption and, most importantly, that there was NO chance of accidents with the water sprinkler system unless there was an actual fire in our room. Nevertheless, all our items remain in waterproof cabinets or on shelves protected by thick plastic.

Treasurer's Report

The financial statements have been prepared for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and they have been reviewed by BDO Canada.

1. WHS had approximately \$35,000 in revenues, which was an \$11,000 increase vs. the previous year. The increase came mainly from donations we received in the current year. We received grants totaling almost \$5,000 from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Culture.
2. Our largest single expense was approximately \$13,600 to produce the annual volume.
3. WHS incurred costs of approximately \$17,000 towards celebrating our 100th anniversary, which included producing the Centennial Supplement of annual volume articles; and purchasing slip cases for resale, to hold annual volumes.
4. We supported the Susan J. Hoffman Local History Fund at the Kitchener Public Library Foundation with a \$1,500 donation, to recognize Susan's long-time commitment to both WHS and the Library. We encourage our members to consider a donation to the Fund.

WHS had a loss in the year of \$8,123, which arose as a result of the 100th anniversary expenses. This compared to a loss of \$3,214 in the previous year, when we had approximately \$3,000 in 100th anniversary expenses. WHS ended the year with approximately \$80,000 in assets and \$75,000 in equity.

Thank you,
Jeff Shank, Treasurer

Web Site Committee

John Glass, Chair

After several years in the making, the new WHS web site went live yesterday (November 8, 2013) at about 5:00 PM. I would like to thank committee members Marion Roes and Lesley Webb for helping me to make this happen. PeaceWorks, a company in Waterloo, developed the site. We have also moved the site host from Execulink to PeaceWorks and will work with Execulink to close down the current account.

The site has all of the old content, but it is arranged differently in the modern-looking site. We have added several slide shows. The main banner slide show contains pictures from the region. I would like to update these pictures from time to time and I encourage all WHS members to provide photos or suggestions for photos. The best pictures will have a 3:1 aspect ration (length: height), but I can alter the image if needed.

We also encourage members to send their suggestions for new or updated content via the “Feedback” section on the home page. One of the new pages contains a map of the WHS plaques in the region. Thanks to Lesley Webb and Warren Stauch for pulling this together.

It is interesting to note that our old website has been preserved by the Internet Archive at http://web.archive.org/web/*/http://www.whs.ca. The site was captured and saved 50 times between August 4, 2003 and August 30, 2013. These captures can be retrieved by going to the address above.

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation (WRHF)

John Glass, WHS Representative

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation celebrated 40 years of incorporation as a non-profit organization. This milestone was celebrated at the Foundation’s Annual General Meeting on June 11, 2013 at the Sun Life building. Awards were also presented at this meeting.

The Foundation provides grants for heritage projects that can be broadly categorized as: Publication, Building and Project/Event. Regional government provides a budget that is levied on a per-capita basis. The Foundation has distributed over \$1 million since 1973. The Foundation grants the following awards:

- Awards of Excellence – Multiple awards to individuals, institutions or organizations recognized for outstanding contributions to regional heritage.
- Sally Thorsen Award – Presented to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to heritage concerns in their professional life over a period of ten or more years.
- Dr. Jean Steckle Award – Presented to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in heritage education.

As WHS holds an appointed position on the WRHF board, it is our responsibility to generate nominations for the above awards. We ask that all WHS members consider prospective nominees and visit the WRHF web site for information. Awards may be acknowledged posthumously and they may not be granted to any member who is currently serving on the WRHF. I am entering my sixth consecutive year as the representative. The maximum term is eight consecutive years. I am a member of the Allocations and Finance Committee. Our committee is responsible for reviewing grant applications and allocating funds.

The **Actions of the Board of Directors** will be in the April newsletter.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Webb president / web site committee / communications cte chair
lesley.webb@gmail.com

John Arndt secretary
519 578-7624 jarndt@sympatico.ca

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt
publication committee

Karen Ball-Pyatt archivist / chair ad hoc newspaper storage committee / on-line volume index committee
karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org
519 743-0271 x252

John Glass web site cte chair / rep Waterloo Regional Heritage Found.
jcglass@rogers.com

Sherwood Hagey book table
Debbie Kroetsch plaques committee

Mandy Macfie membership cte chair
msmacfie@gmail.com 519 572-7510

rych mills chair & editor publication committee / programs/ storage
rychmills@golden.net 519 742-4990

Marion Roes past president / newsletter editor / web site committee
mlroes@sympatico.ca 519 883-1448

Jeff Shank treasurer
jeff420shank@gmail.com

Warren Stauch
plaques committee chair
mmegeo@golden.net

COUNCILORS

KITCHENER

Harold Russell plaques committee

CAMBRIDGE **Ray Ruddy**

WATERLOO **Joleen Taylor**

NORTH DUMFRIES TOWNSHIP

Veronica Ross, Bob Green

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP **Nancy Maitland**

WILMOT TOWNSHIP

Rene Eby, Patty Clarke

WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP

Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler
Bertha Thompson

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014 ?

Memberships were due October 1. If your address label has **2013**, and you would like continue as a WHS member, please send your renewal asap Attn Membership Chair to the address below. \$30Cndn/\$35US Contact Mandy Macfie with questions about your membership at msmacfie@gmail.com or 519 572-7510

Thank you very much for supporting WHS with your memberships, general donations and volume patron donations!

CONTACT US

Mail membership and donations

c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

E-Mail www@whs.ca

Board Member's information on this page

Visit our new web site www.whs.ca for membership, publications info, etc.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/waterloohs to receive our posts of photos, events, news and occasional Shares from other organizations. Or use the link on the web site to have an occasional look.

Follow us on Twitter WaterlooHS for updates

INTRODUCING MANDY MACFIE, WHS MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Who am I? A large part of who I am can be described in my family's history. I'm from Dunchurch, Ontario, a village northeast of Parry Sound. In fact, I'm part of the fifth (or sixth, depending on how you count) generation of Macfies in Canada – my great-great-grandfather, F.N. Macfie, came to Canada to visit his homesteading uncle and never left. Family history is very important to both sides of my family, but especially to my great-uncle, John Macfie, who writes a local history column for the Parry Sound *North Star* and has written many books about life in the early days of colonization in the Parry Sound district. I'll be following in my uncle's footsteps, and will be the conservator of our family history materials – a daunting appointment as Macfies tend to keep everything – thanks to personal interest and a BA in History from Wilfrid Laurier University.

I've lived in Waterloo and Kitchener for over a decade and I love the cities and the surrounding area. I am always discovering things that I didn't know about the place I've chosen to call home. Working at the Milton Good Library at Conrad Grebel University College has been particularly helpful in developing my local knowledge. It's given me a better understanding of the history and demographics of Waterloo Region. I'm looking forward to learning even more about the region and its history as a member of WHS.

Helping and community are important parts of my life. Growing up in a village where you are related to everyone means that you pitch in whenever it's needed. I'm still involved in many events and organizations "up home," but I'm glad that I can be a part of something "down home," too. I'm excited to be a part of this great organization and to meet everyone!

~ Mandy



WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2014

MEETINGS

Saturday, May 10 at 1:30 Doors open at 1
North Dumfries Community Centre in the North Dumfries Community Complex,
2958 Greenfield Road, Ayr*

Thanks to the North Dumfries Historical Preservation Society for hosting this WHS meeting! Attendees will hear how this new society is planning to preserve and protect the heritage of North Dumfries Township and its villages.

WHS annual volume No. 101 will be distributed free to current members and available for sale to others (\$25.) Some of our authors will attend to receive their gift copies of the volume. Among topics that the articles cover this year are: Helen Waimel, the artist who created Kitchener's famous Bullas sculptures; the concluding part of Mary Tivy's exhaustive history of Doon Pioneer Village / Waterloo Region Museum; an Elmira grocery store of the 1940s; *fraktur* artist Anna Weber; Hespeler Boys' Band; harvesting bees around Dickie Settlement; the stunning murals at Castle Kilbride; and much more!

If you know a member or members who can't attend the meeting and you could deliver their volume(s), please ask for it when getting yours. Any that aren't picked up will be delivered or mailed later.

***Directions:** Through Roseville to Northumberland Street (Waterloo Road 58), go past Greenfield Road which goes right and turn **left** onto Greenfield Road past the gas bar and grain elevator. Take the first left onto Sangers Lane. The Community Centre Complex is on the left.

Membership / Volume

Members who are current – that is, paid for 2014 as shown on your mailing label – will receive their free annual volume. If you haven't renewed for 2014 (renewals were due October 1, 2013) and would like to continue as a WHS member, please send in your renewal asap to the address on the last page.

Contact membership chair Mandy Macfie if you have questions about your membership or volume delivery.

Saturday, July 5 at 1:30
History Under the Trees / Tent

Come to the WHS tent anytime after 1

Doon Heritage Village, Waterloo Region Museum
10 Huron Road, Kitchener

One of the earliest buildings placed when Doon Pioneer Village was new was the Peter McArthur cabin. For over 50 years this mid-19th century log cabin has been a mainstay of the village streetscape. In all probability only a small percentage of visitors over the years have had any idea who Peter McArthur was. Thus they enter the cabin and the costumed interpreter tries to describe the life of a man who at one time in the 19-teens and 1920s was perhaps Canada's most famous journalist! In addition to information from Doon Heritage Village staff, WHS has invited Professor Adam Crerar of Wilfrid Laurier University to help us discover McArthur's life and writings. Dr. Crerar's article, "Writing Across the Rural-Urban Divide: the Case of Peter McArthur 1909-1924" appeared in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, Volume 41, Number 2, Spring 2007.

Visit the WHS web site www.whs.ca and click on July 5 History Under the Trees for a selection from McArthur's many books and newspaper columns. Much of his poetry and prose is on the Internet, e.g., http://archive.org/strea/petermcarthur00macauoft/petermcarthur00macauoft_djvu.txt.

Admission: You will receive a reduced admission fee if you mention History Under the Trees. It includes admission to the museum and village, so come early to explore the displays, exhibits and buildings.

All WHS meetings include speakers, the book table, photo displays and refreshments. All are welcome! For more information, contact rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990.

Mark your calendars for future meetings

Tuesday, September 23 at 7:30 and the Annual General Meeting, Saturday, November 8 at 1:30

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room

We are finally moving into the new GSR space in the renovated Main Library! The Kitchener Public Library Main Branch has closed (as of March 24, 2014) for final renovations and the move of staff and collections. The closure is expected to last two months. Due to the work to be done in our new space, all collections of the Grace Schmidt Room are now inaccessible until after we re-open later this spring. I've been posting updates on Twitter and the Historically Speaking blog (<http://historicallyspeakingkitchener>). Do follow us so you can keep up-to-date on the progress! News about the re-opening will be posted on the library's web site (www.kpl.org).

As our collections will be returning in stages, please contact me by email after our re-opening, in case you are interested in seeing a collection that has been off-site. We'll have a lot of unpacking and arranging to do and advance notice of your request will help us ensure that you can see the item of interest.

Speaking of Twitter (www.twitter.com), the Grace Schmidt Room is now tweeting! Our account is @KPL_GSRHistory. Follow us for brief news and other interesting information related to heritage in the Region.

Since my last report, the society has received the following donations:

1. A copy of the book *Chrome: A Corporate History of Kuntz Electroplating Inc.* by Dr. Ulrich Frisse.
2. Barrie family Hall of Fame tri-fold table poster – produced by Waterloo Region Museum and Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation on the occasion of Jim Barrie's 90th birthday.
3. Two black and white photographs – one of Rockway Golf Club, ca. 1930s, and the other of J.D.C. Forsyth, ca. 1940s.
4. Bound volume of Waterloo County Chronicle 1898 (incomplete and fragile, covering 6 Jan 1898 to 29 Dec 1898)

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org 519-743-0271, ext. 252

WHS / KPL Partnership

Waterloo Historical Society gratefully acknowledges that Kitchener Public Library has kept and cared for our collection and archives – now in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History – since the founding of WHS in 1912.

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTS, PRESERVES AND PUBLISHES THE HISTORY OF CAMBRIDGE, KITCHENER, WATERLOO AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF NORTH DUMFRIES, WELLESLEY, WILMOT AND WOOLWICH

MEMBERSHIP: October 1 to September 30: \$30 (\$35 US addresses); Students: \$15;
It includes a copy of the annual volume (value \$25); the newsletter is mailed or e-mailed, and is also available on the WHS web site.

Contact Mandy Macfie with questions about your membership at msmacfie@gmail.com or 519 572-7510
Thank you very much for supporting WHS with your memberships and donations!

Annual General Meeting Reports were in the January newsletter, except for the Board of Directors Actions. Here is that report as promised.

Board of Director Actions 2013 – Waterloo Historical Society October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013

Archives

- Accepted archival donations to the WHS collection
- Continued to set aside funds for cataloguing the WHS collection
- Approved Ad Hoc Newspaper Storage Committee terms of reference
- Allocated funds donated in remembrance of Marcella Menard for the digitization of veterans' records in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History

Events

- Attended local history events with display, banner, books for sale, brochures and newsletters: Ontario Genealogical Society Region III meeting, KPL Genealogy Fair, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Heritage Showcase, Heritage Wilmot Heritage Day, Waterloo Region Heritage Fair, Summer Sidewalk Sale & Funfest, Doors Open Waterloo Region

Meetings

- Held five board and council meetings recorded with minutes and reports
- Held five public meetings featuring guest speakers on local history topics

Membership

- Sent welcome letters to new members
- Kept membership and mailing lists up to date
- Raised membership cost from \$25 to \$30 Canadian / \$35 USA
- Appointed Marion Roes as Acting Membership Chair on February 5, 2013

Donations

- Donated \$1,000 to the Susan J. Hoffman Local History Fund, plus an additional \$500 in honour of Susan's retirement and long-time service to the Waterloo Historical Society
- Donated \$1,000 to the 125th Anniversary Fund of the Ontario Historical Society for its work towards the digitization of its journal, *Ontario History*

Publications / Publicity

- Produced, published and delivered the annual volume and centennial supplement
- Increased the cost of the current annual volume from \$20 to \$25
- Continued working with the indexer on the on-line indexing of the annual volumes
- Purchased slipcases to sell for the storage of the annual volume
- Awarded Erin Schuurs the WHS Local History Award for her study of wartime Berlin, Ontario in the 2012 WHS annual volume

- Produced and distributed the newsletter in January, April and September
- Updated the web site, Facebook page and Twitter, and sent out press releases for meetings

Nominating Committee

- Approved Mandy Macfie as Kitchener councilor on June 4, 2013

Plaques

- Repaired and relocated the Captain Thomas Smith plaque to Priddle Park in Woolwich Township
- Erected a plaque at the Waterloo Region Museum marking the 100th anniversary of the WHS
- Prepared a list of WHS plaques and plotted them on a Google map (<http://goo.gl/maps/HPotM>)

CONTACT US

Mail membership and donations

c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North,
Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

E-Mail whs@whs.ca

Visit our new web site www.whs.ca for meeting, membership, publications etc. info

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/waterloohs to receive our posts of photos, events, news and occasional Shares from other organizations. Or use the link on the web site to have an occasional look.

Follow us on Twitter WaterlooHS for updates

WHS' and Ray Ruddy's Historical Preston photos will be at their usual place at Preston's Summer Sidewalk Sale & Funfest downtown Preston, Saturday July 12.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Webb president / web site committee /
communications committee chair lesley.webb@gmail.com

John Arndt secretary
519 578-7624 jarndt@sympatico.ca

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt
publication committee

Karen Ball-Pyatt archivist / chair ad hoc newspaper storage
committee / on-line volume index committee
karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org 519 743-0271 x252

John Glass web site committee chair / WHS representative
Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation jcglass@rogers.com

Sherwood Hagey book table

Debbie Kroetsch plaques committee

Mandy Macfie membership committee chair
msmacfie@gmail.com 519 572-7510

rych mills chair & editor publication committee / programs /
storage rychmills@golden.net 519 742-4990

Marion Roes past president / newsletter editor / web site
committee mlroes@sympatico.ca 519 883-1448

Jeff Shank treasurer jeff420shank@gmail.com

Warren Stauch

plaques committee chair mmegeo@golden.net

COUNCILORS

KITCHENER

Harold Russell plaques committee

CAMBRIDGE

Ray Ruddy plaques committee

WATERLOO

Joleen Taylor

NORTH DUMFRIES TOWNSHIP

Veronica Ross, Bob Green

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP

Nancy Maitland

WILMOT TOWNSHIP

Rene Eby, Patty Clarke

WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP

Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

This shortened version of the newsletter is a trial.
The newsletter is also available on the WHS web
site.

Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter



September 2014

Editor: Marion Roes 519 883-1448 & mlroes@sympatico.ca

Meetings

All are welcome at WHS meetings. There is no admission charge. Doors open 30 minutes before the meeting start time for you to see displays, browse the book table, meet other WHSrs and **renew your membership for 2015**. (Thank you!) Meeting information from rychmills@golden.net & 519 742-4990.

Tuesday, September 23 at 7:30

Region of Waterloo Public Health/Social Services

Room 508, Floor 5, 99 Regina Street South, Waterloo

"Getting Better All the Time: A Short History of Public Health in Waterloo Region"

Public health in the region covers many subjects but affects every single citizen. Dr. Liana Nolan, the Region of Waterloo's medical officer of health, and Charlotte Woodley, the Region of Waterloo's archivist, will trace several public health issues through the decades. Stories and anecdotes about smoking, birth control, epidemic outbreaks and immunization will make this an informative and entertaining evening.

Parking and entrance: Free parking is on some streets, at Waterloo Town Square and the City of Waterloo lot, accessed from Regina or William Streets. Use the building entrance on Regina Street, close to the corner of William Street.

Saturday, November 8 at 1:30

WHS Annual General Meeting

KPL Central Library Theatre

85 Queen Street North, Kitchener

Do you have an article for the annual volume?
Submissions to the upcoming issue must be sent to the editor by September 30. For further information, visit <http://whs.ca/authors/>

In 2014 KPL's newly renovated Central Library has fully reopened and patrons have been enjoying its ultra-modern refit. The century-plus partnership between Waterloo Historical Society and the Berlin / Kitchener Public Library is in the spotlight at the society's annual general meeting. Dan Carli, chair of the Kitchener Public Library board, will take a look at this long-lasting and mutually-beneficial affiliation that has culminated in one of the finest local history resources in the province – the Grace Schmidt Room.

WHS president, Lesley Webb, will conduct the society's annual general meeting following the presentation. The nominating committee – Lesley Webb, John Arndt and Marion Roes – is looking for potential board members, and also for councilors who will represent communities in Waterloo Region, especially Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge and the Townships of Wellesley and North Dumfries. The councilor job description is at <http://www.whs.ca/councillor-duties/>. Contact one of the nominating committee members if you would like to discuss joining the board or council. Contact information is on page 8.

Come early and spend some time investigating the "new" Central Library with its up-to-date conversion and state-of-the-art additions. Refreshments will be served in the Theatre lobby.

Parking: Metered parking is on nearby streets, underground and surface city lots.

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

Welcome back! We have missed you! While moving seems to be an interminable process, I am happy to say that the end is in sight! The Grace Schmidt Room was the last area to be finished and moved during the Central Library renovation project. It was a bit of a scramble to unpack our reading room collection before the re-opening, but we did it.

The archival collection has returned, but we are still ironing out some storage issues and light sensors that keep leaving us in the dark. If there is a collection that you would like to see, please contact me at karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org with a couple of days' advance notice and I can let you know if we can get our hands on the boxes requested. Please note that the newspapers have not yet returned. I'll have an update about them in the next newsletter.

Do check out the GSR blog, "Historically Speaking" (<http://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/>) and follow us on Twitter (http://twitter.com/KPL_GSRHistory) to keep up-to-date on happenings and local history news.

Since my last report, the Society has received the following **donations**:

- A copy of an Ontario Municipal Board hearing appointment with a map for City of Kitchener Restricted Area By-Law 4830, dated 15 Jan 1963, with notes; and a Rodman Hall Arts Centre program for Helen Waimel Robertson;
- A copy of the book *From Coal to Concrete: H. Boehmer & Co.: a Company History* by Walter Boehmer;
- Canadian Military History magazines and booklets; a copy of a Denton panoramic of the 1st Pepler Reunion at Conestogo, 27 Aug 1932, with some name identifications; funeral cards for Elizabeth Kutt and Frederick Henry Schmidt; 1 colour photograph of an unidentified wedding couple, Elmira, c. 1960s; 1 colour photo of the Elmira post office, c. 1960s; and 1 duo tang containing an article on Thomas Cope, grocer on Church Street West, Elmira, and a study of other owners and business operations on that street;
- 1 CD containing a WHS centennial slideshow and copies of images used;
- Assorted catalogues, photographs and programs related to Canadian Blower and Forge and Margaret and Jack Eaton, dated 1920 to 1983;
- A CD of Waterloo County railway stations drawings and diagrams and;
- 6 digital images related to the Meininger family.

Genealogy Fair – New Date!

New building, new date, new Genealogy Fair! Check out the fall edition of *In Touch* for details about Kitchener Public Library's upcoming Genealogy Fair to be held in April 2015!

Cheers,
Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist
karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org
519-743-0271, ext. 252

Waterloo Historical Society wants you to know that we...

- ❖ Gratefully acknowledge that the Kitchener Public Library continues to keep and care for our collection and archives in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History;
- ❖ Foster the recognition of our region's unique heritage and diligently encourage its preservation. And that WHS documents the history of Waterloo Region, including the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, along with the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.

Book Table

The book table is set up at all WHS meetings, offering a variety of new and used books for sale. Overseer Sherwood Hagey is always pleased to help people find the local history book they need. Did you know that WHS members receive 10% off all *used* books during meetings? A sample of books is part of WHS displays at other events too. Ordering from the book table is possible at other times via our web site: <http://www.whs.ca/booktable/>. Titles are listed under six categories to make searching easy. We are pleased to receive donations of books within those categories. Contact rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990.

Ray Ruddy, Newest Director

Ray was approved as a director at the WHS board/council meeting on June 3, 2014. The nominating committee's report included:

Ray has been a councilor for Cambridge since November 21, 2006. He regularly attends both the public and board meetings. Ray has been assisting the plaques committee for a few years and was made a permanent member of the committee at the April 1, 2014 board meeting. With this new role, the nominating committee feels it is appropriate for Ray to become a voting member of the board.

Ray submitted this story about his interest in collecting Preston history. He is the best kind of collector – one who shares what he has with the community. Ray was instrumental in locating the long-lost WHS plaque that had been placed on the Dover Flour Mill. [Ed.]

I have lived in Preston for about 43 years; six in Galt and two in Northern Ireland when I was fourteen and fifteen. I moved back to Preston in 1977 when things in the north were becoming too dangerous for our family. When I came back I traded with my friend Andy for a Maple Leaf Dairy milk bottle that he had found. That's the way we did things back then because neither one of us had any money. A few months later I found a Preston Dairy milk bottle in an antique store in Galt and bought it for \$30. Then I was hooked on milk bottles! One day when I was fishing in the summer of 1984, I found about 20 or so milk bottles behind the Knotty Pine Restaurant. Over the years, I managed to buy a few collections and now I have 100-plus milk bottles. About 1994 I branched out to collecting James Esson photos (*cartes des visite* and cabinet cards). A friend picked up a Victorian family photo album at a garage sale and traded it to me for an old chair. It was full of Esson's photos and I was instantly hooked. A month or so later I was at the Paris Antique Show and bought my first Preston postcard. When I found out there was such a thing as postcard shows I never missed one. One day a former neighbour asked me to help her take an old trunk from her attic. It was so heavy and we let it bounce off each step as we directed it down to the bottom of the staircase and then managed to drag it to the curb for garbage. We both were curious about what was inside so I broke open the lock – and there on top was the 1892-93-94-95-96 log book of the Preston fire department! I asked her if I could have it and of course she said yes. Things really took off after that. I was going to shows weekly and buying almost anything that had Preston written on it.

In 1999, I was asked to do history displays for the 100th anniversary of Preston becoming a town. I did at least a dozen displays that year: in a school, the Preston library, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation's Heritage Showcase, the Lutheran church which I belong to; also in Central Park, the Legion, the Senior Center, Saint Luke's Place in Hespeler, the Armenian Club, and a permanent display at Randy Jackson's coffee shop down town Preston. At the Preston library the display consisted of different milk bottles with the written histories of each dairy. Since then I have done a minimum of three displays each year. I would think my collection of Preston memorabilia is easily the biggest privately-held one and maybe on par with the Cambridge Archives, especially of photos.

My other hobby is collecting Victorian photography, in particular CDVs. I have discovered at least six new photographers from Waterloo county that are in my collection plus many more from Ontario that are not listed in Glen Phillips book: *The*

Ontario Photographers List, Volume 1, (1851-1900). This is considered the go-to book for photographers of Ontario for that time period.

Historical Preston is the name I use when I do my displays. This year I am planning a display for the Fairview Mennonite Home in Preston. I would like to treat the residents to a slide show of a hundred buildings that no longer exist in Preston, ones that were lost to progress in the 1960s and early 1970s. For a story in a future WHS annual volume, I have been researching one of the oldest dairies in Preston: the Kinzies from Blair. You'll have to wait until that volume is published to read the story and see the photos of horses, wagons, and milk bottles.

The Kitchen Table

By Doris (Gingrich) Gascho

This story – c. 1930s – is part of the history of my grandparents, Enoch and Rebecca Gingrich, who lived near the Waterloo Pioneers Memorial Tower at the edge of Cambridge. This house is part of the subdivision which surrounds it, and is being left to gradually deteriorate so that the developer can tear it down.

The light from the windows behind us gradually faded, the windows that overlooked the Grand River far beyond the pasture fields. Seated around the table with my aunts and uncles and cousins, I knew silence for preschoolers like me was mandatory. It meant hearing more stories, for if I said almost anything, we'd all be sent off somewhere else to play, away from the grownups and their laughter. It always billowed around the table with much knee slapping, and often someone would say, "Dumb stuff!" and everyone would laugh some more. Across from me was the green cupboard, where dishes were kept. A shallow ledge between the upper and lower cupboards held a cookie jar, but the ledge's narrowness prevented use for any counter space or preparation of food. That took place behind me, under the windows where vegetables were washed with a drain board next to it and the cook stove. The room gradually darkened, so dark you could no longer see who sat across from you, or beside you.

Then someone would light the lamp. I could never see who, it was too dark, but I suspect it was grandpa. The light from the lamp was the whitest you could imagine, and it spilled over the table and over the faces around the table making all of us visible, though the green cupboard stood in the shadows and the shadows surrounded the sink and stove right around us to the back door where one of my uncles would have just come in because the chores were finished. Hat slung on a hook just inside the door beside grandma's gardening bonnet, his hat and clothes smelling of the barn, he'd join us around the table and the light from the green lamp would reveal his face.

At the end of the kitchen and to my right, were two doors. One also led outdoors, with its side lights and window over the door. At a right angle to the door was the bedroom door, where grandma and grandpa slept, and just inside the door on the left was the pump organ. Self taught, only grandma played it, with all of us gathered behind her. Some adults stood with one arm leaning on the top of the organ while grandma pumped the pedals to make the sound, and we all sang hymns, one after another our voices blending in four or more parts. I knew, young as I was, that it was magic that would never last long enough or happen often enough. When grandma tired of pumping, someone else would kneel on the floor, and pump for her. On top of the organ a green gas lamp hissed softly as we sang, for there was no electricity there.

When we were all sung out, we'd troop back to the kitchen, around the table again, on the bench or the straight-backed chairs, or perhaps sneak a lap if chairs were scarce, to hear more stories, about great Uncle Dil, or great Uncle Norman, both living far away in the USA. Or about Joe, who walked the train tracks, until one day he didn't get off when the train came.

Perhaps the building of the pioneer tower was planned at that table; perhaps it was the next day's haying. All of life was told around that table, stories of great-granddad's stroke when he was behind the pulpit on a Sunday, or the neighbour's barn burning and someone throwing the dishes out the door of the house, fearful the house would be burned and wanting to save something. Of course they broke instead. And the house survived. And down the river a piece, at the end of the road, there used to be a bridge that forded the river, but the river changed its course and now there's no bridge. It didn't matter that it was often the same stories. It was the gathering and telling, the laughter and the silence that was important.

CONDOLENCES

We offer condolences on behalf of our members to:

- Norah Lockie for the death of her husband Albert on May 13, 2014. They have been members since 1971.
- The family of Shirley Hammar who died March 18. She had been a WHS member since 2006.

HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS CALENDAR

This is but a sample of the many events – and organizations – in Waterloo Region dedicated to preserving and sharing its history. Check web sites, subscribe to free newsletters (e.g., KPL's In Touch), read The Record's Events pages, pick up brochures, Visitor Guides (e.g., Catch the Culture in Wilmot and Wellesley Townships), walking and driving tours. Like them on Facebook, follow on Twitter and Instagram. Thank you to all who submit events.

BUILDING WATERLOO REGION www.buildingwaterlooregion.ca

This is an architectural festival extraordinaire – exploring and celebrating the past, present and future of progressive architecture and design through a myriad of events across Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo. Events and exhibits continue in September, October and to January.

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARIES AND GALLERIES & IDEA/EXCHANGE Queen's Square, 1 North Square

www.cambridgelibraries.ca, www.cambridgegalleries.ca, www.cambridgelibraries.ca/ie

September 18, 7-9 pm. One Book One Community Author Visit, Cambridge City Hall, 50 Dickson Street.

The Massey Murder by Charlotte Gray, the true story of Carrie Davies, the maid who shot and killed her employer, Bert Massey. The book will be available for purchase and the author for signing. Refreshments.

September 24, 7-8 pm. The Bootlegger's Wife, Clemens Mill, St. Benedict Secondary School, 50 Saginaw Parkway
Victoria Murdoch's one-woman show is based on true events about Bessie Starkman and Rocco "King of the Bootleggers" Perri who built Canada's largest rum-running empire. Tickets \$5.65 at Queen's Square, or call 519 621-0460 or at eventbrite.ca

CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM, Conestoga Mall, 550 King Street North www.waterloo.ca/museum Free admission Karen VandenBrink, manager, museum and archival collections 519 885-8828

October 8 – January 30, 2015. OVERTIME: Portraits of Perseverance at Work is a look at century-old trades, professions and cultural traditions still being done in Waterloo Region. Portraits and interviews by WHS member Karl Kessler, and Sunshine Chen. This exhibit is part of Building Waterloo Region.

DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION (DOWR) www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen 519 747-5139
Karl Kessler and Jane Snyder, coordinators doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca Facebook, Flickr & Twitter
September 20, 10-5 at most sites. A free heritage and architectural tour! Watch for the Map & Guide included with *The Record* on September 13 or pick up one at libraries and region buildings. *What will you see?*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY, 1338B Maryhill Road, Maryhill
www.maryhillroots.com info@maryhillroots.com for membership, research questions etc.
September 21. Heritage Day. Details will be on the web site.
November 23, 2 pm. **Annual General Meeting** is at Maryhill Heritage Community Centre, 58 Charles St. E., Maryhill. Speaker Carolyn Blackstock will talk about her blog and making recipes from the *New Galt Cookbook (1898)*. All are welcome. For information, contact president Marlene Bruckhardt at 519 648-2172.

JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS / FRIENDS OF THE JSH 466 Queen Street, Kitchener 519 742-7752
November 3 is the deadline for 2015 **Edna Staebler Research Fellowship** applications. A stipend of \$1,000 is paid. Research Fellows submit a report at the end of the term and deliver a public presentation during Heritage Week the following year. The 2014 Fellow is Marion Roes, WHS past president. Call for an application or see www.regionofwaterloo.ca/jsh Programs and Events.

KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POST CARD CLUB (KWCRPCC) www.kwcrpcc.com
September 18, Doors open at 6:30, presentation at 7:30. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener
Speaker Cameron Shelley will give a postcard look at the City of Guelph. <http://guelphpostcards.blogspot.ca>
All are welcome. Free admission. Come early to browse and/or buy. rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990

LAURIER ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (LALL) courses include *Early Cultural Groups in Waterloo County* with Joanna Rickert-Hall; *From World War to Cold War: International Relations in the Twentieth Century* with Len Friesen. The full list of courses and applications are at www.wlu.ca/lall

MCDUGALL COTTAGE, 89 Grand Ave., Cambridge/Galt www.regionofwaterloo.ca/mcd Admission by donation
October 17, 18 and 24, 7 pm. **Ghost Walks.** McDougall staffer, Joleen Taylor takes us on a scary nighttime adventure that looks at the history and hauntings of Galt. Pre-registration required. 519 624-8250

October 23, 7 pm. **Carl Ahrens in Galt.** Ahrens, a Waterloo County artist and Homer Watson contemporary, spent his final 15 years (1921-1936) in a home on the outskirts of Galt. Historian and Ahrens collector, rych mills, offers a visual and oral presentation about the artist who has been much neglected by the public and media. See www.carlahrens.com. Please call to register.

MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ONTARIO 140 Westmount Road North, Waterloo www.mhso.org
October 25, 2-4. Fall meeting: **Memories of Mennonite Migrations**, Conrad Grebel University College (140 Westmount Road North). All are welcome. Information from secretary@mhso.org

WATERLOO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 35 Albert Street, Waterloo **“What We Can Learn from the Veterans”**
November 16, 1:30 pm. Presentation by Ian Darling, author of *Amazing Airmen: Canadian Flyers in the Second World War*, about RCAF bomb-aimer, Wilf Renner’s ordeal, and the Resistance members who helped him. Renner will also be present. Copies of the book will be available for sale.

WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM 10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 744-1914 www.waterlooregionmuseum.com
To January 4. Street Style Exhibit is part of Building Waterloo Region. When you visit, allow time to see “Museum Mysteries” and, of course, Doon Heritage Village which is open until December 23.

WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING’S 140th Birthday at KPL’s Central Library Theatre, 85 Queen St. N., Kitchener
December 17, 7 pm. Dr. John English will give the inaugural Mackenzie King Annual Lecture. Displays by the Waterloo Historical Society. Light refreshments. Info Ian Darling 519 888-7276 or author@amazingairmen.com

Pictures, Words & Music

By Don Drews

Facebook followers of WHS have been enjoying Don Drews' video slideshows for about a year. Perhaps they are one of the reasons that the number of Likes has grown steadily. Don is a WHS member and agreed to write about his hobby for the newsletter. Below are links to find the slideshows. [Ed.]

A picture, it is said, is worth a thousand words. Add a sense of motion, contemplative music, and reflective quotations, and you have the essence of the video slideshows and images I have been creating and posting on the Internet since 2010 at YouTube, Dailymotion and Flickr. Cameras have been close to me since adolescence, so I have regularly photographed local subjects and travels. This slideshow collection, now approaching 300 videos, reflects my interest in our region's landscapes and natural history, with a growing number of local history subjects.

In each slideshow, many about five minutes in length, I try to tell a little story with a message in a sequence of about forty frames, bookended with some contextual information, a pair of quotations and instrumental music chosen to develop the mood. I think that beauty and meaning are intrinsically discoverable if we look closely at something. Details become as meaningful as the overall, so my slideshows alternate colour and monochrome landscapes and close-ups to narrate their little story. I create most shows, which take some hours to compose, as a creative weekend antidote to my commuter work.

It is my desire that today's viewers, currently averaging about a hundred daily, learn about our region in an entertaining form. Even more, it is my hope that this expanding collection becomes an historical vignette of this time and place – an animated period postcard, as it were. So perhaps on your weekend hikes or travels, you might see this green-capped fellow, camera in hand, either solo or with wife Michele. She photographs too, but on most shared outings she prefers to see with her eyes whereas I frame my vision through the viewfinder.

YouTube link: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Fotofan4life>

Dailymotion link: <http://www.dailymotion.com/Fotofan4life>

Flickr link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/24926605@N02/page1/>

slide show email: Fotofan4life@gmail.com

Annual Volume & Membership

Thank you to all of our 2014 members! My first year as membership chair has come and gone. It was definitely a learning experience. I have big shoes to fill, but hopefully I'm on my way to filling them.

Due to a very busy early summer in my professional and personal life, and a change or two behind the scenes, I was delayed in getting the annual volume out. Thank you for your patience! If you have not received your volume, please let me know. I would say a profound thank you to all of our delivery volunteers. You are all invaluable to me! Thank you especially to Marion Roes, David Gingrich, Elinor Rau, Joleen Taylor, rych mills, Lesley Webb, and to everyone who took volumes to friends who could not attend the May volume launch meeting. I appreciate your assistance!

Your 2015 membership form is included with this newsletter. Renewals are due October 1 and we thank you for your support and for sending your renewal promptly. Please let me know if you have any general membership questions or concerns.

Mandy Macfie msmacfie@gmail.com or 519 572-7510

Congratulations to Award Recipients

Ontario Heritage Trust awards were presented at the Region of Waterloo Council meeting, June 25. More details are in *Cambridge Times*, July 23; *Waterloo Chronicle*, March 25; *Elmira Independent*, July 17, and Region of Waterloo web site.

Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement – Kenneth McLaughlin. Exploring the region's history and the principles that formed it has been the lifetime work of McLaughlin, who is well known locally for producing histories of his native Cambridge, and Kitchener and Waterloo.

Ontario Heritage Trust Certificate of Lifetime Achievement Award – Marion Roes, a leading figure in the preservation of the history of Waterloo Region.

Ontario Heritage Trust Community Recognition Award, Small Group Project, Built Heritage – Friends of the Waterloo Region Museum. The Friends include WHS members Warren Stauch and Alison Jackson.

Ontario Heritage Trust Community Recognition Award, Small Group Project, Cultural Heritage – Waterloo Region Hall of Fame. This group also includes Warren Stauch and Alison Jackson.

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation awards were presented at its AGM in June. Descriptions and criteria are in the WRHF Annual Report. Consider nominating someone for an award using forms on the web site www.wrhf.org.

Awards of Excellence were given to:

The *New Hamburg Independent* for publishing the annual Heritage Edition in February for the past 20 years. This year's issue is titled "Tapped" about New Hamburg's brewing history. Additional topics include articles by Nancy Maitland and Ernie Ritz.

Philippe Elsworthy for raising awareness and understanding of the history of Waterloo Region. Some of the ways he does it are: as a member of the Municipal Heritage Committee, City of Waterloo; helping to create the MacGregor-Albert Heritage Conservation District, Waterloo's first; as the first Joseph Schneider Haus Folk Artist-in-Residence; restorative woodwork; photographing heritage buildings, landscapes and streetscapes in the region.

The **Dr. Jean Steckle Award for Heritage Education** was given to Karl Kessler and Jane Snyder who have been coordinators of Doors Open Waterloo Region for more than ten years; and for their extensive volunteer work in the heritage community.

WHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Webb, president: lesley.webb@gmail.com
John Arndt, secretary: jarndt@sympatico.ca
Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, publication committee
Karen Ball-Pyatt, archivist: karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org
John Glass, web site committee chair: jcglass@rogers.com
Sherwood Hagey, book table
Debbie Kroetsch, plaques committee
Mandy Macfie, membership committee chair: msmacfie@gmail.com
rych mills, chair/editor publication committee: rychmills@golden.net
Marion Roes, newsletter editor: mlroes@sympatico.ca
Ray Ruddy, plaques committee
Jeff Shank, treasurer: jeff420shank@gmail.com
Warren Stauch, plaques committee chair: mmegeo@golden.net

A Very Cool Project

By Nancy Silcox

Tag along with Nancy, Louis and their two Golden Retriever sidekicks as they pay visits to each of Waterloo Region's five National Historic Sites. They're a varied and eclectic lot offering a glimpse into Waterloo Region's rich heritage.

With the words: "I have an idea for a very cool project," Ontario history came alive for two retired 60-something teachers. My big idea was to pay visits to all the National Historic Sites in Ontario. With 275 sites already designated by Parks Canada as historically significant, we figured that we'd need at least seven years to complete the adventure. Thorough historical research of each site would precede our visits. We'd also be looking for the fascinating behind-the-scenes human stories that each site offers.

We'll start the tour at **Castle Kilbride**, James Livingston's "testament to excess." Rescued from abandonment and decay in the early 1990s, the Castle is the acknowledged sparkling jewel of Wilmot Township. And like all great houses, this one has stories to tell. It's said that Louise Livingston, wife of the second generation "lord of the castle" John Peter, was given to propriety—and public appearances. "My great aunt was a maid with the Livingstons in the 1930's," a long-time Baden resident recalls. "And if she didn't get the family's clothes washed and hung on the clothesline outdoors by 8:00 am (to ensure a full day of drying), she'd have to lug the heavy and wet clothes up three flights of stairs to the sunny belvedere where they'd dry."

Arson, mistresses, Henry Ford, and bootleg whiskey bring the history of Castle Kilbride to life as well.

Next stop: **Woodside**, the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's longest-serving prime minister. And while "Willie's" Kitchener years were few, they were memorable. You see, Willie was a bit of a scoundrel as a lad. He rode his pony King Billy across neighbours' lawns and was not above stealing apples and plums when his "hungries" hit. Ringing neighbours' doorbells and running away was another bit of King tomfoolery. Willie, it seems, was a cut-up at Kitchener Collegiate too. When questioned by his mathematics teacher as to why he sat at the bottom of the class in marks, Canada's future prime minister responded: "Well, somebody has to be there." Ah, Willie, you were a rapsallion.

Joseph Schneider Haus on Queen Street in Kitchener is our next stop. And while the Schneider story is a well-known one, some fascinating tidbits can still be discovered. Here are a few of them. Among the treasures that Joseph Schneider and his family brought with them on their grueling five-week trip by foot from Lancaster County were: a coffee pot, a treasured painting in the *fraktur* style and a pair of scissors. One of the outbuildings constructed by Joseph Schneider and his sons was a spring house. The structure was built over a running stream which offered refrigeration in the humid summer climate. Joseph Schneider's sawmill was Ebytown's first "industry." With more energy than Hercules, and more ambition than Donald Trump, Joseph and his sons began building a road after the family homestead was complete. The road, called Schneider's, is today's Queen Street.

Tune in to Part Two of the Silcox Magical History tour in the next newsletter. There are plenty of tales yet to tell.

WHS COUNCILORS

Cambridge: vacant
Kitchener: Harold Russell
Waterloo: Joleen Taylor
North Dumfries Township: Veronica Ross & Bob Green
Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland
Wilmot Township: Patty Clark & Rene Eby
Woolwich Township: Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

If you would like to consider being a WHS councilor, see the job description at <http://www.whs.ca/councillor-duties/>

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2015 MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Membership includes all family members. For a list of members' benefit see www.whs.ca.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province/State: _____ Postal/Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____ ☐ Please tick if **any** information is new or changed.

Would you like your newsletter e-mailed (PDF)? ☐ yes ☐ no

Student memberships are available for full time students Please contact whs@whs.ca for information

Membership October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

\$30 Canadian addresses / \$35 US addresses \$ _____

Annual volume patron donation \$100.00 \$ _____

Please indicate how you would like your name(s) to appear in the annual volume

General Donation \$ _____

TOTAL of membership and donation \$ _____

WHS gratefully accepts any general donation amount. **Thank you!**

Charitable tax receipts will be issued at the end of January.

Mail this form and your cheque payable to Waterloo Historical Society to:

Waterloo Historical Society, Membership Chair
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen St. N., Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

If you have questions about your membership, please contact
Mandy Macfie, membership chair, at msmacfie@gmail.com or 519 572-7510

The collection of personal information by the Waterloo Historical Society is necessary to administer individual and family memberships. The information will be used only by the WHS for postal and electronic mailings to members. Such mailings shall be restricted to information, events and notices of either specific WHS interest or more general historic interest. Group mailing addresses will be hidden. The WHS does not share its mailing list.

CONTACT US

Mail membership and donations to WHS
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North,
Kitchener ON N2H 2H1
whs@whs.ca www.whs.ca

Follow us on www.facebook.com/waterloohs and/or
WaterlooHS on Twitter. *Have you Liked us on FB?*