
Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter



January 2016

Marion Roes, Editor

Public Meetings – All are welcome!

Saturday, March 12 at 1:30

Doors open and refreshments at 1 pm

The Westhill Retirement Residence

25 Westhill Drive, Waterloo

Deb Stanson, WHS councilor and Westhill's Sales & Community Coordinator, will give a brief welcome and introduction to The Westhill.

Our guest speakers are Trevor Ford and Eliza Richardson, from the Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS <http://canadianmilitaryhistory.ca/>). Their topic is "To the lasting glory of the men of North Waterloo": Remembering Lt.-Col Lohead, the 118th and the Importance of the Colonel's Personal Papers," – a quote from a letter written to Lt.-Col. Lohead from the then President of the Waterloo Historical Society!

On December 22, 1915, Minister of Militia and Defence Sam Hughes authorized a battalion to be raised in North Waterloo County. Many prominent citizens of Berlin and neighbouring towns began to help in recruitment efforts. They believed that this was exactly what this heavily German-Canadian populated region needed in order to show Waterloo County's loyalty to King and Empire. What happened over the next twelve months remains to this day one of the most contentious times between the various ethnic groups that inhabited Berlin and Waterloo County. Trevor and Elizabeth plan to speak to this through Lt. Col William Lohead's personal papers, currently stored in the archives of the LCMSDS. They will include a brief history of the Centre and its commitment to the region's history, and an overview of the records and future projects.

Complementing the topic, Karen Ball-Pyatt will highlight Kitchener Public Library's Soldier Information Cards Project. See <http://www.kpl.org/localhistory/soldiercards>

Directions and parking: The building is accessible. Enter off Ira Needles Blvd. Westhill is the first street south of the roundabout at Ira Needles and Erb Street West. Turn left if coming from that roundabout. Parking and the entrance are at the front of the building facing Westhill Drive. Once inside, there will be directions to the rooms. Contact Marion Roes or Lesley Webb for information.

Saturday, May 14 at 1:30

Joleen Taylor, WHS councilor for Waterloo and historical interpreter at McDougall Cottage History Museum in Galt/Cambridge, will be our speaker. Location and other details will be in the April newsletter, on our web site and Facebook page. The annual volume will be distributed to current 2016 members.

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

We've been busy in the GSR with new displays, scanning directories and planning for upcoming events. Mark your calendars for the following:

In honour of Black History Month, local historian, **Joanna Rickert-Hall**, will be speaking on black history in Waterloo County at KPL's Country Hills community branch on **Thursday 25 February** at 7pm. Parking is free and no registration is required.

WHS' own **rych mills** will look at how Kitchener has changed by comparing early 20th century Kitchener postcards and their modern photographic counterparts at the Central Library on **Thursday 31 March** at 7 pm. Attendees are welcome to bring their Kitchener postcards for identification and evaluation. Registration is required. Contact InfoLink (519-743-7502) or go online (www.kpl.org) to register.

I'll be talking about the life and work of Kitchener photographer, **Ernest Denton**, on **Tuesday April 26** at 7 pm at the Central Library. Come join me as we explore panoramics, picnics and parades! Registration required. Contact InfoLink (519-743-7502) or go online (www.kpl.org) to register.

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

- 6 black and white reprints of original photographs documenting the Martin family and Evenholme and Purity Dairy in Elmira, ON
- 1948 Waterloo Music Festival medallion;
- 1 black and white photograph of Elmira telephone operators in the telephone office, ca 1940;
- 3 bound Trustees books, St. Jacob's, School Section 21, dated 1862-1895, 1895-1921, and 1922-1946;
- Articles related to the Mennonite West Reserve Post Road Memorial Trail in Manitoba and the work of Jacob Y. Shantz and William Hespeler in settling the area;
- 5 colour photographs of the New Dundee plaque unveiling
- 1 colour photograph of a back alley between Erb and King Streets, Waterloo and 5 black and white photographs of Hiller family members and home and one photocopy of a photo of Ernest and Ida Hiller, 1955;
- A collection of diaries belonging to Robert G. Trussler, dated 1915, 1926, 1948-1950, 1955, 1959-1960, 1969-1973, 1975, 1977 and 1980;
- 1 reprint of a panoramic photograph of Elmira High School students, 1930-1931, with identifications;
- Copies of images appearing in Marion Roes' books; and
- A copy of the book "New World Dutch Studies: Dutch Arts and Culture in Colonial America, 1609-1776" and "A Brief History of Transportation in Lancaster County."

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist

Email karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org

Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

GSR blog at <http://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/>

Twitter for happenings and local history news at <http://twitter.com/kplgsrhistory>

Web Sites, Kudos, News

- ❖ **Thank you to Bell Canada's Employee Giving program** for another grant of \$250 to WHS through retiree Marion Roes. It will be used for the upcoming cataloguing project in the Grace Schmidt Room.
- ❖ Have you been following *The Record's* "**Flash from the Past**" column in print, online or Facebook? Rych mills is following in Jon Fear's printsteps with histories of people and places of Waterloo Region. Rych uses mostly postcard images (of which he has a "few") from his collection.
- ❖ If you're not on **Facebook**, here are a few of the pages/groups you're missing: Food History in Waterloo Region, Waterloo Region Generations, Waterloo Historical Society (!), Doors Open Waterloo Region, Waterloo Region Archives – so much history to read about!
- ❖ **Karen Ball-Pyatt's blog "Historically Speaking"** has news, views, history and photos from Karen's vantage point as local history librarian in the Grace Schmidt Room. (Imagine having all that local history at your fingertips!) Subscribe to it at <https://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/author/gslibrarian/>
- ❖ "**If streets could talk**" is an interactive Google map with information and blogs about neighbourhoods in K-W at https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zjC57Ac4Z_f0.kwsGrXJsASHM
- ❖ **The Rooms Provincial Museum** in St. John's Newfoundland has extensive exhibits commemorating the First World War as noted in *Canada's History* latest issue. Anne Chafe, friend and former colleague of many in Waterloo Region's heritage community, is director of the museum. www.therooms.ca
- ❖ **Waterloo Region Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society** has converted to be an EBranch – the first one. It was created in 1972 as the Waterloo-Wellington Branch and for the last 15 years it has been the Waterloo Region Branch. A few of its many accomplishments are: holding monthly meetings with speakers and information sessions, producing publications, answering queries and promoting Waterloo Region genealogy. Its work will continue and you are invited to become a member. The new web site and Facebook page are www.waterloo.ogs.on.ca and www.facebook.com/groups/waterlooogs/ From *Our Waterloo Kin*, Volume 15, No. 4, 2015

Thank You from Lesley Webb, President

On behalf of the Board and Council of WHS I would like to thank all our members, Facebook followers and others for your support! From donors to our annual volume and other projects (this year there have been several) to those who "Share" our posts, we say "thank you"! We love sharing Waterloo Region history with you and getting your feedback. "Thank you" also goes to the Grace Schmidt Room at Kitchener Public Library for looking after the WHS archives.

In 2016 we are looking forward to hiring an indexer to create an online index of our annual volumes; celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Galt, and the completion of our written history up to 2012 through the Edna Staebler Research Fellowship. I hope that you will continue to follow the WHS as we attempt to foster the recognition of our region's unique heritage and diligently encourage its preservation.

From One Closet to Another...

Earlier this spring as Jennifer Winter was preparing a costume exhibit for the Players' Guild of Hamilton, she discovered a very special dress hiding away in their clothing storage area. This dress was a brightly coloured, hand-sewn, silk ribbon dress from the mid-1860s.

"I couldn't believe that this treasure was just hiding away up there! While it absolutely needed to be seen, it also needed to be in a space that could look to its future preservation. The Fashion History Museum in Hespeler was the first place I'd thought of."

Jennifer arranged to have the two organizations meet. The result was not only a donation of the 1860s gown, but another dress (a two-piece teal ensemble) dating to the 1880s, a number of white, ladies blouses from the 1890s-1910s, and a pair of very colourful and pompom-laden ladies slippers from the 1890s.

The Players' Guild of Hamilton is thrilled that these pieces, too delicate to have ever been worn on stage, will find a new home where they can be appreciated and cared for. As for the Fashion History Museum, both Jonathan Walford and Kenn Norman are excited to add to their collection of late 19th-century clothing and are now looking forward to finding mannequins with tiny enough waists to show them off!



Jennifer Winter

The Players' Guild of Hamilton has been involved in local community theatre for 140 years, making the Guild the oldest community theatre group in North America.

The Fashion History Museum's collection consists of nearly 10,000 garments and accessories dating from the 1660s to the present. In June 2015 it opened its new location in the old post office of the former town of Hespeler, now north Cambridge, at 74 Queen Street East, just minutes from highway 401. <http://www.fashionhistorymuseum.com/>

Jennifer Winter is the Cambridge councilor for the Waterloo Historical Society.

Edna Staebler Research Fellowship & WHS

Congratulations to Heather MacDonald, University of Waterloo graduate student, who was awarded the 2016 Edna Staebler Research Fellowship in partnership with the WHS and the Friends of the Joseph Schneider Haus Museum! Heather will look at the history of the WHS over the last half century and says, "This will be a story by the people who were on the ground, doing the heavy lifting of bringing Waterloo [Region] history to life."

Heather's proposal title is: A Balancing Act: The Dynamic History of The Waterloo Historical Society, 1960-2012. "I look forward to learning about the life of the Waterloo Historical Society, how it was born, how it grew, how it changed and interacted with the moving parts outside its control. I will use my experience as a history student to bring their story to life, to give it roots in the broader historical context, and to celebrate its accomplishment of balancing the histories of Waterloo Region."

WHS looks forward to working with you, Heather!

Welcome New Councilor Deb Stanson

Welcome to Deb Stanson, WHS' newest councilor for Waterloo, and a member of the newly-formed Programs Committee with Lesley Webb and Marion Roes. Since June 2015, Deb has been the Sales and Community Coordinator at The Westhill by Sifton. <http://sifton.com/retirement-living/the-westhill/contact.html> She lives in Elora and is President of the Board of Directors of the Elora Community Theatre – and a lifetime member. She is interested in local history and looks forward to learning more about the WHS while she helps to arrange meeting speakers and venues. You can meet Deb at WHS' first meeting of 2016 at The Westhill where she will be our host.

City of Kitchener Heritage Grant Program

Applications are due Thursday, March 31. Designated heritage property owners may be eligible to receive a grant for 50% of the cost of eligible projects up to a maximum of \$3,000. Eligible projects include: the repair of deteriorated original elements such as doors, windows or masonry; the replacement of original elements that are beyond repair using materials, sizes and details that match the original; and, reintroduction of original elements that have been lost based on documentation of the property. Administrative Procedures, Operating Guidelines and an application form are at <http://www.kitchener.ca/en/livinginkitchener/HeritageFunding.asp>. Questions can be directed to Sandra Parks, Heritage Planner, 519-741-2200 ext. 7839 or sandra.parks@kitchener.ca.

Region of Waterloo's HPAC Public Building Inventory

The Region of Waterloo's Heritage Planning Advisory Committee (HPAC) has undertaken a Public Building Inventory to identify and record the heritage value of purpose-built public buildings constructed pre-1951 in the Region. Public buildings were chosen to be inventoried due to the key role they have played in the growth and development of the Region's communities since the first settlers arrived in the early 1800s. The goal of the inventory is to illustrate the diversity of public buildings that exist in Waterloo Region, and to increase awareness of these structures to support future heritage conservation efforts. It is hoped that the inventory will be a useful tool for researchers, municipal staff, heritage committees, and interested individuals.

The inventory includes general information on over 220 structures located across the Region, and has been divided into two parts. The first inventories public buildings in the following categories: community meeting spaces; health, safety & security; public utilities; communications; transportation; and culture & recreation. The second focuses solely on educational buildings, including one-room school houses. Research has revealed a number of interesting structures with long forgotten histories, such as isolation hospitals converted to homes, and railway car barns turned into auto body shops. A history of public building construction in the Region, as well as an analysis of findings is also included in both parts of the inventory.

The Public Building Inventory will be made available for download on the Region's online Heritage Conservation Toolbox in January and will be formally launched at the Heritage Showcase event on Saturday, February 20. Hard copies will be distributed to libraries and municipal offices. For more information, contact Lindsay Benjamin, Cultural Heritage Planner, Region of Waterloo at LBenjamin@regionofwaterloo.ca or (519) 575-4757 ext. 3210.

Historical Happenings Calendar

19th ANNUAL GRCA HERITAGE DAY WORKSHOP AND CELEBRATION www.grandriver.ca

February 12, 2016 – Myers Church, 455 Myers Road, Cambridge

Sponsored by the Heritage Working Group of the Grand River Conservation Authority, the 2016 workshop theme is Roots and Shoots: Settlement of Block One, now called North Dumfries Township which is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2016. It is the 200th anniversary of the founding of Galt by William Dickson and Absalom Shade in 1816. To be included on the mailing list for the workshop location, registration form and program etc., e-mail Warren Stauch mmegeo@golden.net or check the web site.

CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM, Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay & Galaxy Cinema www.waterloo.ca/museum

Hours: Tuesday – Friday 9:30 – 4. Free Admission 519 885-8828

Also open fourth Thursday & Saturday (holidays excepted): Thursday 9:30 – 8 and Saturday 9:30 - 4

February 9 – April 1 - Voices from the Engraver: An interactive travelling exhibition produced and circulated by the Bank of Canada in partnership with the Canadian Museum of History. Aimed at youth, families and adults, this exhibition is rich with artifacts and hands-on interactives. Design your own currency or stamps, reproduce the beautifully elaborate patterns of classic bank notes and browse through a millennium's worth of engravers and engraving history. The City of Waterloo Museum has also assembled a number of engravers' plates from the collection of the former Seagram Distillery, used in the production of the brilliantly illustrated labels that once adorned many of its popular brands.

HERITAGE DAY IN WILMOT TOWNSHIP

Saturday, February 27, 10 – 2 at the St. Agatha Community Centre, 1791 Erb's Road

Theme and details TBA at <http://www.wilmot.ca/en/living-here/Heritage-Wilmot-News-and-Events.aspx>

Residents and businesses share their stories, artifacts and photos about living and working in Wilmot Township.

JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS MUSEUM 466 Queen St. S., Kitchener 519 742-7752 www.josephschneiderhaus.com

February 13 Family Day weekend and Season Opening

Use your WHS membership discount card to visit often

KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POSTCARD CLUB (KWCRPCC)

March 9, Doors open at 6:30, meeting at 7:30. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener

Speaker TBA. For information and to confirm meeting date, contact rychmills@golden.net All welcome.

LAURIER ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (LALL) 519.884.0710 x6036 wlu.ca/continuingstudies

Classes start the first week of February. Until classes start, registrations are accepted until classes are full.

Courses: "I Am Canadian: Multiculturalism in Canada," "The Viking Age" and "Objective History: Understanding Germany through Objects." Call or see the web site for enrollment and course information.

MCDougALL COTTAGE, 89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge 519 624-8250 <http://mcdougallcottage.com/tjoleen@regionofwaterloo.ca>

February 15 is a Special Opening for Family Day. **March 3** the Cottage reopens for the season.

MENNONITE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Rd. N., Waterloo
2016 Exhibit "Conchies Speak: Ontario Mennonites in Alternative Service, 1941-1946"
During the Second World War, 2,600 Ontario Mennonite men served in a national program of conscientious objector work camps as an alternative to participating in war. The Alternative Service program was the first of its kind in Canada. Through archival records, this exhibit recovers their voices and stories. More info: www.uwaterloo.ca/grebel/altservice

WATERLOO HISTORICAL SOCIETY www.whs.ca whs@whs.ca
February 20 at Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Heritage Showcase
February 27 at Heritage Wilmot Heritage Day (to be confirmed)
March 12 Public meeting with speaker, photo display and book sales. See p. 1
Ongoing – online Book Table sales

WATERLOO REGION MUSEUM 10 Huron Road, Kitchener 519 748-1914
Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often www.waterlooregionmuseum.com
February 5 – May 8 In The Dark...
Are you afraid of the dark? All ages can come to explore life that exists on our planet with little or no light. This new interactive exhibit immerses visitors in a world of darkness! It surrounds them with the sights, sounds, smells and sensations of dark ecosystems and offers a glimpse into worlds that you will never really see with your own eyes. Bring the whole family on Family Day and during March Break – or anytime.

WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION HERITAGE SHOWCASE www.wrhf.org
Saturday, February 20 Mall location will be on the WHS web site and Facebook page when known. Plan to visit the WHS tables and the many other local heritage groups. In one day and at one place you can learn more about our local history and the local heritage groups than any other place or time! It's a history enthusiast's dream come true. If you're not yet a history enthusiast, but are curious about us, February 20 is the day to check us out. WHS will have books for sale, photo displays and volunteers who can answer questions or direct you to someone who can.

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1137 Henry Street www.wellesleyhistory.org
Open the last Saturday monthly (except December), 10 – 3 Instagram - [wellesleyhistory](https://www.instagram.com/wellesleyhistory)

The WTHHS has several new exhibits. One showcases the photography of Charles Ottmann jr. and includes Ottmann family photos. Another exhibit deals with the life of Michael Peter Empey, a prominent citizen of Hawkesville from 1849 to about 1870. Before his move to Hawkesville, Empey was involved in the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 and was imprisoned for several months after that. He rose to become the Warden of the Home District from 1842 to 1847. Bankruptcy forced his move to Wellesley Township where he flourished as a merchant, postmaster, judge, adviser and conveyancer. Late in life, he moved to Harriston to become their tax assessor and member of the town's Health Board.

To mark the completion of the newspaper digitization project, there is a small display of interesting ads taken from the *Wellesley Maple Leaf* between 1900 and 1908.

Nancy Maitland has been appointed chairman of the historical society, a volunteer position which will not interfere with her paid work as curator of the Historical Room. She is taking over from Ron Hackett who resigned from the executive in October when he moved to Wingham.

Programs Coordinator for 13+ Years

Rych mills is *semi*-retiring after 13+ years of arranging WHS' public meetings! He will continue to organize History Under the Trees (HUT) – which he initiated in 2002 – and provide photo displays and help with the book table. In years gone by WHS had one meeting per year – the Annual General Meeting – and it was the responsibility of the president to organize it. The number of public meetings increased and when Herb Ratz was president, the board decided to take away what had become a time-consuming part of that office. Rych stepped up. And he continued during his terms as president from 2004-2008. If you'd like to refresh your memory about all the speakers and topics, have a look at "WHS in Review" in the annual volumes. You'll be amazed at the variety. **Thank you so much** rych, for broadening our historical horizons and serving the WHS so well. Our place and visibility in the community has been enhanced by our public meetings.

WHS Annual General Meeting Reports

These reports were presented at the Annual General Meeting, November 14, 2015. They describe the work of the Society and we are pleased to present them to all our members and readers of this newsletter.

Archives – Karen Ball-Pyatt, Archivist

I am happy to report that 2015 was another busy and productive year in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR). We were happy to see the return of the 1861 Tremaine map which now hangs once again in the GSR welcoming visitors.

As the Library's Soldier Information Card Project wound down for the World War One phase in early 2015, the focus of our work has been on rearrangement of the archival collections in our storage area. Library staff moved collections and created an inventory. The result of our work has been to create space efficiencies and to better organize the collections. We are starting the integration of WHS books into the Library's rare book collection to provide better access and visibility through the Library's online catalogue. Currently, I am preparing a draft plan for the GSR Cataloguing Project which will consist of the hiring of a contract archivist in the latter half of 2016 to describe archival collections according to current archival standards. This much needed work will facilitate better discovery and access to the collections.

Highlights of our donations this year are as follows:

- Dr. Thomas Wolton Collection
- Evenholme and Purity Dairy and Martin family photographs
- Trustees books (3 bound) for St. Jacob's School Section 21, dated 1862-1895, 1895-1921, and 1922-1946

The annual call for inactive corporate records was made at the Waterloo Historical Society board's first meeting on Tuesday, November 25, 2014 following the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Inactive records of board members and other miscellaneous documents have been processed and transferred to the Society's corporate archives.

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

The Committee, composed of myself, rych mills and President Lesley Webb, met on June 15, 2015 and August 19, 2015 to discuss findings regarding current newspaper archiving practices, possible collaborations and digital initiatives. We were sad to learn of the closure of the *Elmira Independent* on July 31, 2015. Currently, the WHS collects the following newspapers in paper form: *New Hamburg Independent*, *Woolwich Observer* and the *Ayr News*. We will continue to explore options for the storage of the WHS newspaper collection and examine the current archival collecting landscape to identify duplication of holdings and opportunities for collaborations.

President's Report – Lesley Webb, President

This year I began my second term as president, chairing five board and council meetings and one special meeting. The proceedings of these meetings can be reviewed by WHS members in the approved minutes held by the secretary through a request made to the president. Board and council members represented WHS at a number of annual local heritage events such as the Heritage Showcase, KPL Genealogy Fair and Doors Open. These events give us an opportunity to promote our meetings, newsletter, archives, publications, book table and annual volume.

In May, the board launched a new membership benefit. Members received a 25% off discount card to the Waterloo Region Museums with their annual volume. This card can be used multiple times throughout the year. A new card will be issued with the next annual volume. I would like to thank Tom Reitz, Sean Jasmins, Jamie Perham, and Keri Solomon of the Waterloo Region Museum for making this possible and I encourage you to take advantage of the discount to view the many exhibits the museums have to offer throughout the year.

On behalf of the board I wrote two letters of support. The first was for the Createscape Waterloo Region Prime Minister Statue Project to receive funding through the Canada 150 Fund. The second was for Marie Voisin to receive the Lieutenant-Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation. Marie has been a member of WHS since 1998 and a patron of our annual volume for over 10 years. Marie lectured at the May 2010 meeting providing us with a visual tour of New Hamburg's heritage buildings. She was also published in the 2010 annual volume. Outside of her involvement in WHS, Marie has worked on many projects that both conserve and document the heritage of Wilmot Township and is very deserving of this nomination. We hope both of these initiatives get the recognition they deserve.

The WHS board is excited to partner with The Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus on the 2016 Edna Staebler Research Fellowship. The 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. This year's topic was preselected as the history of WHS from approximately 1960 to 2012, the year of the Society's centennial. Thank you to Roberta Grosland from the Friends and rych mills from WHS for coming up with the idea. WHS is matching the traditional stipend to make the award \$2,000. The Fellow will be announced at the Award Ceremony at Joseph Schneider Haus on December 4, 2015. I look forward to reporting back to you on this initiative next year.

I would like to recognize the work that was done on our storage unit over the past year. Many WHS members came out in addition to board members to help build shelves and move records. We now have a much more suitable storage unit for our offsite records. I also want to encourage you to check out the work done by the online indexing committee. You can view the digitized annual volumes on our web site by navigating to Publications > Annual Volume > Volume Search. Until the index is complete you can use the table of contents

available on the same page to search for articles of interest. Please visit the online indexing table after the meeting and get any questions you have about the project answered. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to chairing the board through another busy year.

Online Indexing Committee, Annual Volumes Digitized – Lesley Webb

The board decided to digitize the annual volumes in conjunction with having them indexed. Quotes were obtained from three vendors for scanning and MES Hybrid Document Systems was hired to digitize all of the past annual volumes and the Centennial Supplement. We are pleased to announce that the first 27 volumes, 1913 to 1940 have been posted to the WHS web site as keyword searchable PDFs. As permission from past authors is obtained, more annual volumes will be made available on the web site. **If you are a past author and have not yet been contacted about providing permission, please speak to rych mills.** To help you look for an article or author, a list of all the past annual volume articles and authors (where known) accompanies the volumes on the web site. Please share this resource with anyone you think would benefit from it.

Online Indexing Committee, Indexing – Lesley Webb

The Online Indexing Committee reconvened in January to start from scratch. Committee members include Darryl Bonk, John Glass, rych mills, Marion Roes and Lesley Webb. The purpose of this project is to hire a professional indexer to create an online index for all 102 annual volumes so that local history researchers are quickly able to locate relevant articles and subject matter. The index will include all articles, photographs and frontispieces. It will identify subject terms beyond the phraseology of an article by coordinating subject groupings and terms that have changed over time to create a comprehensive research tool. The format of the online index will be a searchable, printable PDF available freely on the WHS web site. The PDF will take the physical look of a traditional back-of-the-book index. The format of the electronic file used to create the index also gives us the option of creating a simple database in the future with more advanced search functionality. The Online Index will help promote the use of the annual volumes and encourage research in the history of Waterloo Region.

The committee met with three professional indexers to obtain quotes and will be recommending engaging one in contract at the November 24, 2015 board meeting. The estimated cost is \$50,000. Subsequent annual indexing updates will be built into the cost of producing the annual volume.

To help raise funds for this project, the committee will be applying for a Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation project grant and a Good Foundation grant which we anticipate will cover approximately half the cost. As you may have noticed, we are also fundraising with a goal of raising the balance. The board has allocated \$9,000 in bequests and we have received donations with membership renewals.

Thank you to those who have already contributed! We hope that you will share our enthusiasm for this, our biggest publishing project since the 1990s, and provide your support. If possible, we would like to receive donations by the end of March. Donors will be recognized on the online index unless they wish to remain anonymous. I look forward to updating you on the progress of this project at the March meeting. [See page 16 for an update.]

Communications Committee – Lesley Webb, Chair

Our March public meeting received the most attention in the media this year. Greg Mercer, reporter for *The Record* interviewed our speaker, Joanna Rickert-Hall for a feature article on Christian Eby which included the details of the meeting. The article was called, “Charmer was Kitchener’s own Mennonite medicine man” and appeared on the front page of the March 21 edition and resulted in a packed house for the meeting. The board recognized an increase in local history articles in *The Record* this year and a letter of appreciation was sent to Lynn Haddrall, Editor-In-Chief of *The Record*. The WHS Facebook page currently has 433 “likes,” that is up 122 since this time last year. Much of the content is different than what’s in the newsletter or on the web site. Like us at www.facebook.com/waterloohs or follow the link on our web site and help us make the 500 “Likes” milestone.

Plaques Committee – Debbie Kroetsch for Warren Stauch, Chair

There has not been much activity from the committee in recent months. Ray Ruddy, Harold Russell and Warren met with Bob Burt prior to the September board meeting. Bob discussed the research he is doing on Nathaniel Dodge, an early squatter in Dumfries Township, Block One of the Indian lands. Bob is doing the research on Dodge in conjunction with rare, which is interested in having a plaque erected on the trail near where Dodge and his family lived which was near the confluence of the Grand and Speed Rivers. Warren made comments on the material that Bob had generated. It is the intention of the Plaques Committee to meet over the winter months on the story line and text of the Idlywild Park plaque. Ray has much of the research completed. Unofficial approvals have been received from the Grand River Conservation Authority and the City of Cambridge. At the present time, the site is not accessible to the public due to construction work on the 401 highway in that area.

The replacement of the John Erb mill plaque, which has been repatriated to the WHS, is also being delayed due to lack of approvals. The committee has determined an appropriate location for the plaque but this area may be the subject of work in the King and Fountain Streets area and the proposed work on the dam across the Speed River and the mill race. Ray has access to a stainless steel post on which the plaque could be mounted.

Publication Committee – rych mills, Chair/Editor

As 2015 began, the WHS publication committee was in the final stages of proofreading the 2014 annual volume. The committee at that time consisted of Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, Stephanie Walker, Marj Kohli and me. The final proofs were handed in to Cober’s, our printer, in April and the boxes of books were delivered to us one week before the May 23 meeting in Galt. At 240 pages it was our second-largest edition ever, a few pages shorter than 2012’s Volume 100. In addition to members’ copies which were distributed through Mandy Macfie and her crew, WHS also supplied many copies to secondary schools and colleges as well as area libraries. A few copies have been sold to non-members through the WHS Book Table, from web site requests, through the Grace Schmidt Room, at the Victoria Park Gallery and via Words Worth Books in Waterloo. Over the summer I worked with a number of authors who had submitted articles and refined them so that come September the publication committee, now augmented by the addition of Susan Mavor, was able to get directly into reading the final authors’ drafts. Right now, on November 14, about half the articles are at Cober’s going into their first proof stage while the remaining drafts are in their final committee-reading stages. When the year turns over into 2016, the cycle continues and we will be placing photos into the articles and adding some of the regular features such as WHS in Review, Donations & Acquisitions, etc. Unfortunately we had no submissions from either university for the WHS Local History Award.

Programming – rych mills, Coordinator

The five 2015 public meetings held by Waterloo Historical Society began March 21 at Kingsdale Community Center in Kitchener when Joanna Rickert-Hall took us deep into the life of Christian Eby best known as a folk “charmer” based in the Mennonite tradition. In part thanks to a large pre-meeting article in the *Waterloo Region Record*, a large crowd including many Eby descendants attended. Two months later, May 23, the annual volume was distributed at Knox’s Presbyterian Church in Cambridge-Galt. One of that city’s great storytellers, David Menary, revealed some of the details about the occasion when famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass lectured in Galt in the 1850s. History Under the Trees went into the Shuh Barn at Waterloo Region Museum and listened carefully as Karla Kale of the Doon Heritage Village staff, and Katie Anderson, a past staff member there, talked about farm animals of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries and their interactions with people on area farms.

Retired *Waterloo Region Record* writer Bill Bean was guest speaker at the September 22 meeting in Kitchener’s Victoria Park pavilion. Bill’s favorite stories and highlights from his reporting years made for a memorable evening for attendees. The final meeting of 2015 was at St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hespeler. One of the founders of the town’s historical society, The Company of Neighbours, Lary Turner, relived the days of World War Two when so many young women moved to Hespeler to work in the textile plants. Those five events wrap up my 15 or so years of arranging WHS programs. Beginning in 2016, a small committee of members will be organizing these public meetings ... keep an eye out for your next newsletter – it will have details of the March gathering.

Storage – rych mills, Coordinator

For over 30 years WHS had had a storage room in an indoor, industrial storage facility on Guelph Street. It was usually rather crowded with our back supply of annual volumes, collections awaiting cataloguing, Book Table items, display items etc. When the Kitchener Public Library renovations began about five years ago, we took on an additional storage unit to temporarily house a roomful of items (mainly old bound newspapers) while the construction work at KPL was going on. It became evident late last year that KPL would be unable to re-insert all of these items back into the new library structure. So, WHS had two rather chaotically-filled storage rooms and it appeared this might last for a while. In discussion with the owners of the storage facility, we were able to move to a room slightly larger than the two previous units combined with a much better layout and at a minimal price difference under \$10/month.

The WHS board also approved the expenditure of approximately \$2,900 to purchase proper shelving. During August and September a number of WHS member volunteers installed the shelving, moved some other shelves from the old units, and then in a concentrated day-long extravaganza, moved thousands and thousands of items from the two old rooms into one new unit. Subsequently, items are in the process of being re-organized for ease of accessing and using. I would like to especially thank WHS members Klaus Heller, Patrick Murphy, Jeff Shank, Ray Ruddy, Sherwood Hagey, John Glass, Todd Bowman and Lesley Webb for all the hours they put in to help upgrade our storage setup. Having this expanded and more organized facility with work space also means a bit of leeway at KPL for the WHS archivist who has less-jam-packed shelves and storage space there.

Treasurer’s Report – Jeff Shank, Treasurer

The financial statements have been prepared for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and they have been reviewed by BDO.

I would like to quickly review some of the major financial activities during the past year.

- WHS had a bit over \$25,000 in revenues, which was a small increase from the previous year. There was an increase in donations this year, offset by a decline in membership fees.
- We received grants totaling approximately \$5,000 from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Culture.
- Our largest single expense was approximately \$15,500, to produce the annual volume. This was an increase of approximately \$2,100 due to increased number of pages and more creative time by the printer.
- WHS had a couple of one-time projects this year. We reorganized our archive storage locker space, moving from two lockers to one locker, and we spent about \$2,900 on proper shelving to better hold the archive material in the new storage locker. WHS also spent about \$900 to scan the old annual volumes into a .pdf format so they can be placed on the internet.
- We supported the Susan J. Hoffman Local History Fund at the Kitchener Public Library with a \$2,000 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.
- The board of directors approved the closure of the Endowment Fund and the transfer of the fund balances to the General Fund. This will reduce some of the time spent on banking and accounting by the volunteer treasurer, as well as making funds available for some upcoming projects like online indexing.
- WHS had a loss in the year of \$4,619. This compared to a loss of \$1,614 in the previous year.
- WHS ended the year with approximately \$72,000 in assets and \$69,000 in equity.

Web Site – John Glass, Chair

WHS continues to work with PeaceWorks to manage the whs.ca web site. PeaceWorks is a Waterloo, Ontario based IT (Information Technology) company with a 20-year track record of working with Not-for-Profit and Charitable organizations. PeaceWorks provides the back-end technology to support our web site and the WHS web site committee provides the content and updates the site. Throughout the year, there have been no major technical issues with the site.

Between November 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015, the WHS web site has had:

- Almost 12,000 page views
- Over 5,000 visits from across the globe
- Almost 10% of our access through mobile phones

Our top 10 sites are: Home page, Archives, Newsletter, Book Table, Calendar, Publications, Membership, Board & Council, Susan J. Hoffman Fund and Annual Volume.

While the committee members have direct access to the web site, all members are open to contribute material – both written and pictorial. If you have any ideas for content, please speak with one of the committee members – Marion Roes, Lesley Webb and John Glass.

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation – John Glass, WHS Representative

The Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation (WRHF) has a mandate to promote and encourage interest in the heritage and culture of Waterloo Region. Incorporated in 1973, this non-profit organization is funded through an annual grant from the Region of Waterloo. The 18-member board consists of elected directors and eight appointee directors from local groups with similar mandates. WHS holds an appointee seat and it is held by John Glass. In addition to providing grants that support heritage projects and recognizing heritage advocates and educators with annual awards, WRHF organizes events such as Heritage Showcase, and participates in events such as Doors Open.

John Glass is the Chair of the Allocations and Finance Committee. The committee is responsible for reviewing property, project and publication grant applications and making funding recommendations to the board. Since the Foundation's inception, WHS has been the recipient of many project grants. WRHF appointees can serve on the board for a maximum of eight years. In June, 2016, John will finish his eight-year term and a new WHS director will be appointed to this role.

Book Table – Sherwood Hagey, Coordinator

The Waterloo Historical Society board and councilors are always trying to create interest in our activities for our members. Part of this is by holding the public meetings at different venues around the Region with amazing speakers. Another part is offering our annual volumes, publications, local consignments and gently-used books for sale at the book table at our meetings and events. A new event this year, with our participation, was the Genealogy Fair at the Kitchener Public Library, where we sold over \$500 in books. The money realized goes into the WHS general fund. Between public meetings and at any time titles can be searched at the WHS web site. The board has tried some new innovations at meetings related to the book table in 2015... namely a discount for members and a coupon draw for attendees. We are always accepting donations of books that are of local interest. My grateful acknowledgement to rych for his organizing skills and to those who helped make 2015 another successful year.

Newsletter – Marion Roes, Editor

I think the newsletter is enhanced by personal short stories and memories shared by members and yes, non members, too. If you have written one or know someone who has, please let me know. Approximately half of our members receive the newsletter via email. It is distributed to other organizations and various public places and on our web site. That, along with our public meetings, web site, Facebook page and Twitter, gives us a wider audience. My report last year indicated that all of the past issues would be on the web site and I apologize for not getting that done. Hopefully that will be finished soon. My thanks go to Pat Bailey who helps with mailing, and to Mandy Macfie for providing mailing labels and emailing lists. Thanks, also to Karen Ball-Pyatt who provides a regular column and to all who send events and requests. Comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Nominating Committee Report – Marion Roes

The nominating committee was comprised of Lesley Webb, John Arndt and Marion Roes

We are pleased and appreciative that the following have agreed to continue for an additional two-year term on the board: Marion Roes, John Glass, Debbie Kroetsch, Mandy Macfie, Ray Ruddy, and Sherwood Hagey. The

following are starting the second year of a two year term: Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, rych mills, Jeff Shank, Warren Stauch, and Lesley Webb. Karen Ball-Pyatt is a director appointed under the agreement with the Kitchener Public Library Board. Would the board members please stand and be recognized?

John Arndt is retiring from the WHS board and I would like to thank him on your behalf, on my behalf because I worked with him when I was president, and on Lesley's behalf. **Thank you John Arndt for so ably serving as board member since November 2001, communications chair from 2001-2010 and nominating committee member AND secretary since November 2010.**

The nominating committee would like to fill the position of vice-president immediately and as of June 2016, WHS representative on the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation.

Councillors: Our councillors have agreed to continue for an additional one-year term. Thank you to Rene Eby and Patty Clarke, Wilmot Township; Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler and Bertha Thompson, Woolwich Township; Harold Russell, Kitchener; Joleen Taylor, Waterloo; Nancy Maitland, Wellesley; Veronica Ross, North Dumfries; and Bob Green, North Dumfries. New councillors: Jennifer Winter, Cambridge; Jane Britton, Waterloo; and Deb Stanson, Waterloo. Deb has joined Lesley and me on the Programs Committee.

Membership – Mandy Macfie, Chair

WHS ended the 2015 year with a total of 226 members, 23 of whom were new to the society. Thank you to all of our returning and new members for being a part of WHS and for helping preserve our local history.

The annual volume was released at the May meeting and many of the volumes were picked up by members at that meeting, which makes the delivery process easier overall. The majority of the volumes were hand-delivered during May, June and July by our dedicated volunteers and board members. In all only 30 volumes were mailed to out-of-town members. Annual volumes were also delivered to the local school boards. I would like to say a big thank you to all of our delivery volunteers for their assistance in getting the annual volumes into the hands of our members.

Board of Director Actions – October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

Archives

- Accepted archival donations to the WHS collection and set aside funds for cataloguing
- Permitted the Wellesley Township Heritage & Historical Society to digitize two reels of microfilm containing 1900-1908 *Wellesley Maple Leaf Journal* for the purpose of making them searchable on their web site

Business

- Approved a procedure for accessing WHS board/council minutes
- Amended the annual volume Author Agreement & Permission Form to include consent for publication of past and future submissions
- Approved recommendations from the WHS Archives Storage and Collecting 2015-2016 Report
- Merged the Endowment Fund into the General Fund for more efficient accounting
- Consolidated our two storage units into one larger unit and purchased shelves

Events/Meetings

- Attended local history events with display and books for sale: German Pioneers' Day, KPL Genealogy Fair, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Heritage Showcase, Summer Sidewalk Sale & Funfest, Doors Open Waterloo Region
- Held five board and council meetings and one special meeting recorded with minutes and reports
- Held five public meetings featuring guest speakers on local history topics

Membership

- Sent welcome letters to new members and kept membership up to date in an electronic spreadsheet
- Launched 25% discount off admission at Waterloo Region Museums for WHS members

Donations/Support

- Donated \$2,000 to the Susan J. Hoffman Local History Fund to provide funding for the upcoming KPL/WHS archive cataloguing project; committed to topping off the money in the Fund for the project to \$20,000 in November 2015
- Donated \$250 to the Ontario Historical Society Cemetery Defense Fund
- Gave a 2013 annual volume to each speaker at the 4th Annual KPL Genealogy Fair
- Wrote a letter of support for Creatscape Waterloo Region to receive the federal government's Canada 150 Fund for the Prime Minister Statues Project
- Wrote a letter of support for Marie Voisin to receive the Lieutenant-Governor's Ontario Heritage Award

Publications/Publicity

- Produced, published and delivered the 102nd annual volume and quarterly newsletter
- Updated the web site, Facebook page, Twitter, and sent out press releases for meetings
- Partnered with the Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus to contribute \$1,000 towards the 2016 Edna Staebler Research Fellowship to write the modern history (1960-2012) of WHS to complete the story started by Mary Tivy
- Hired MES Hybrid Document Systems to scan all 102 annual volumes and centennial supplement; made volumes 1913-1940 available on the WHS web site

Nominating Committee

- Approved Jennifer Winter as councillor for Cambridge and Jane Britton as councillor for Waterloo effective September 9, 2015

Plaques Committee Continued working on plaques for Idylwild Park in Cambridge along the Speed River, T.H. Rieder and the Westmount neighbourhood.

Online Indexing Project Update

At the time of publishing the newsletter, the fundraising thermometer reached \$14,230 !

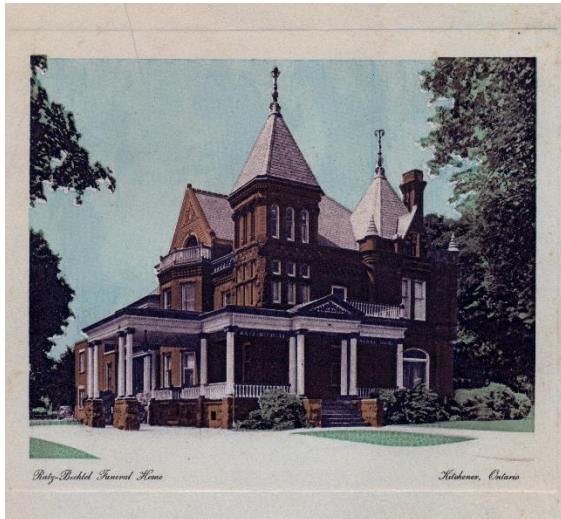
If possible, we would like to receive donations by the end of March. They may be mailed to the address on the last page, or brought to the meeting on March 12. Donors will be acknowledged with the Index – with permission.

Thank you for your support!

Ratz-Bechtel Funeral Home, 621 King Street West, Kitchener closed December 2015

When I heard that this business would be closing, I called and made an appointment to take pictures. A gracious and helpful funeral director patiently led me through all floors of the building. The photos, and information I've gathered about the building, will be placed in the WHS archives. These are a sample.

~Marion Roes



1957 Book of Remembrance cover – Steinman family collection



This 2nd floor office in the tower looks out onto the former Kaufman Rubber Co.



2nd & 3rd floor of the tower



I was told that this small 3rd floor tower room was a children's playroom. The doorway is narrow and low – definitely child-size.

WHO WE ARE AND HOW TO REACH US

CONTACT US

whs@whs.ca **www.whs.ca**

Mail memberships and donations to Waterloo Historical Society
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1
Facebook www.facebook.com/waterloohs and Twitter WaterlooHS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Webb, president: lesley.webb@gmail.com
Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, publication committee
Karen Ball-Pyatt, archivist: karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org
John Glass, secretary & web site committee chair: jcglass@rogers.com
Sherwood Hagey, book table: eshagey@bell.net
Debbie Kroetsch, plaques committee
Mandy Macfie, membership committee chair: msmacfie@gmail.com
519 572-7510 (evenings)
rych mills, chair / editor publication committee: rychmills@golden.net
519 742-4990
Marion Roes, newsletter editor: mlroes@sympatico.ca, 519 883-1448
Ray Ruddy, plaques committee
Jeff Shank, treasurer: jeff420shank@gmail.com
Warren Stauch, plaques committee chair: mmegeo@golden.net

COUNCILORS

Cambridge: Jennifer Winter
Kitchener: Harold Russell
Waterloo: Joleen Taylor, Jane Britton, and Deb Stanson
North Dumfries Township: Veronica Ross & Bob Green
Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland
Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke & Rene Eby
Woolwich Township: Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

Contact Karen Ball-Pyatt if you have questions about the WHS archives and donating items.

***Thank you for
help with this
newsletter to...***

*Karen Ball-Pyatt,
Lesley Webb,
Nancy Maitland,
Jennifer Winter,
Sandra Parks,
Lindsay
Benjamin,
all who sent
requests and
events; and to
Mandy Macfie
and Pat Bailey
for mailing.*

Waterloo Historical Society

- ❖ Gratefully acknowledges that the Kitchener Public Library continues to keep and care for our collection and archives in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History.
- ❖ Fosters the recognition of our region's unique heritage and diligently encourages its preservation by documenting the history of Waterloo Region, including the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, along with

the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.

WHS Book Table

Check out the Book Table at www.whs.ca. Great prices and great reading.

Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter



April 2016

Marion Roes, Editor

Public Meetings – All are welcome!

Saturday, May 14 at 1:30

Doors open and refreshments at 1 pm

St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School

50 Saginaw Pkwy, Cambridge

Joleen Taylor, WHS councilor for Waterloo and historical interpreter at McDougall Cottage Museum in Galt / Cambridge, will take a look at Galt's beginnings and some of the fond memories and interesting events that have occurred and shaped this part of Cambridge over the years. 2016 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of Galt. In July 1816, William Dickson came into sole possession of a 90,000-plus acres parcel of land and named it Dumfries after his home in Scotland. Dickson toured his lands with Absalom Shade, a carpenter from the United States, with a plan to found a village at a suitable and convenient point. Gristmills and sawmills would be erected there making it the centre of operations for populating and utilizing his lands. Working their way up the Grand River the men came upon the area where Mill Creek joins the Grand and chose it as a perfect spot to start the settlement. It was first called Shade's Mills and later Galt.

It's annual volume distribution time! Current 2016 members will receive their free volume No. 103. Thanks to members who pick up volumes for others they know aren't attending. Any not picked up will be delivered or mailed. Volumes will be for sale at the Book Table. rych mills will review the new volume and introduce authors.

Directions and parking: From Hespeler Rd/Hwy 24 South, turn left (east) onto Can-Amara Pkwy; go to Franklin Ave. and turn right. Almost immediately, turn left onto Saginaw Pkwy. Take the first entrance (left) to the school and continue on the school driveway around to the back, past the portables. There are two parking lots on the left and the entrance that we will use is about opposite the middle of the two parking lots – where there'll be a WHS sign. Enter and go down the hall to the right and you'll see us. The building is accessible but there are a few steps to the tiered seating. Contact Marion Roes for information. *See a history of St. Benedict inside the newsletter.*

Saturday, July 9 at 1:30

History Under the Trees

Book Table, displays and refreshments at 1 pm

Jubilee Park in the Village

Waterloo Region Museum

10 Huron Road, Kitchener

Come early and explore the museum and village and make your way to the tent in Jubilee Park. Admission charge is reduced for meeting attendees. Members, please use your WHS member's discount card.

Diaries and the lives they reflect is the topic. Janice Harper, who is part of a diaries-study program at the University of Guelph, is the speaker. She has been working with the diaries of Gordon Eby and will provide insights from them about life a century ago in Berlin / Kitchener. HUT often includes audience participation and you are invited to bring along a family diary or letters – rural or urban, business or personal – with interesting passages you'd like to read. For info contact rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990. See www.ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca

Thanks to the Waterloo Region Museum and staff for hosting WHS and History Under the Trees.

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

Save the date! **KPL's 5th Genealogy Fair** will be **on Saturday 5 November 2016** at the Central Library. Jen Baldwin of Find My Past genealogy will be our keynote speaker. This free day-long event will be filled with workshops, vendors and exhibitors.

The Library's **directory digitization project** is steaming along – we are hoping to have the KW directories uploaded this summer. Keep an eye on the GSR webpage for more details!

I'll be talking about the **life and work of Kitchener photographer, Ernest Denton**, on **Tuesday April 26 at 7 pm** at the Central Library. Come join me as we explore panoramas, picnics and parades! Registration required. Contact InfoLink 519-743-7502 or go online www.kpl.org to register.

If you would like to help with the cost of our **GSR Archival Description Project**, please consider donating to the Susan J. Hoffman Local History Fund. see <http://www.kpl.org/donate/current-campaigns>

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

- Approximately 130 digital images of the Ratz-Bechtel Funeral Home, 621 King St. W, Kitchener.
- Black and white photograph of an Elmira farm and hay wagon, ca. 1905, located on Church Street West.
- 4 colour images of WHS events 2009 and 3 colour images of the demolition of the Steddick Hotel on Arthur St., Elmira.
- A collection of workbooks, study materials and posters, used in Waterloo County schools, dated 1928-1978.
- 4 matted photographs - unidentified family studio portrait and gathering, Organized Men's Bible Class 1914 U.B. (United Brethren) Church, Alma St. and General Conference, U.B. (United Brethren) Church, Kitchener, May 8-17, inclusive, 1917.
- 1 copy of the book, *The Changing Scenes of Conestogo*, 2003.
- 3 black and white photographs, 1 colour photograph, 1 postcard, 7 wedding invitations, photocopies of funeral cards, and assorted magazines.
- 1 panoramic black and white photograph of General Springs Products Annual Picnic at Pine Hill Gardens, 24 June 1950, taken by Ernest Denton; Helena Feasby Women's Institute minutes, 1993-1996, 2004-2006; Highland United Church, Kitchener clippings, histories, photographs and negatives, dated 1948-1990; 1 photocopy of a drawing of Winterbourne School, 1921 and a Certificate of Merit for the Mansfield Shirt Co. of Kitchener, dated 1 Jan 1938.
- 1 black and white photograph of a group of workmen, ca. 1900-1910. Henry John Tucker identified, and
- 1 sewing needle kit from Purity Dairy, Elmira.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist

Email karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org

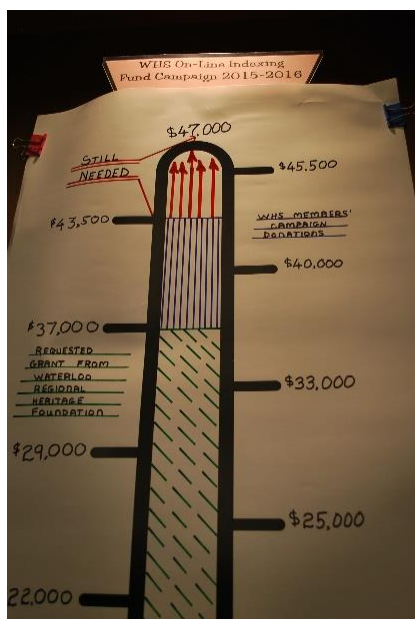
Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

GSR blog at <http://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/>

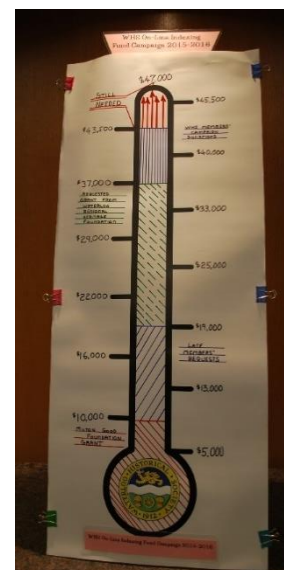
Twitter for happenings and local history news at <http://twitter.com/kplgsrhistory>

Waterloo Historical Society fosters the recognition of our region's unique heritage, and diligently encourages its preservation by documenting the history of Waterloo Region, including the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, along with the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.

Online Annual Volume Indexing Project Update



Indexers Anna-Marie Larsen and Carl Simpson have been hired and have started! Total cost of the Indexing Project will be \$47,000. At the time of publishing the newsletter, the fundraising thermometer reached \$43,500, a difference of \$3,500. Thank you to donors for your support and generous donations to help with the cost of the Project! WHS thanks the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation for its grant of \$18,277 and the Good Foundation for its grant of \$10,000. In addition, two bequests to WHS were used for this project. All donors who gave permission to do so will be recognized when the index is online.



Donations may still be made and applied to the Project. If you would like to contribute, please send your cheque to WHS. If you have questions about donating, please contact Jeff Shank, WHS treasurer or Lesley Webb, WHS president. Mailing and contact details are on the last page of the newsletter.

Web Sites, Kudos, News

- Dave Dunford's article in the March issue of the *Baden Outlook*, p. 17 is about the restoration of New Hamburg's 1872 Imperial Hotel. A third storey was added in 1902 and over the years the hotel changed from providing lodging to be Eddly's Tavern. When WHS member Marie Voisin began researching historical buildings in New Hamburg a few years ago, she was given a tour of Eddly's by the owner and says "I left in awe. This was the most exciting building I had ever seen. But something else hit me after that tour: if reborn, it would be perfect for seniors." And now, writes Dunford, the Imperial Hotel has "once again...become what it was always intended to be – a place of comfort, elegance and living in a beautiful country small town. All thanks to Marie Voisin." www.badenoutlook.com Marie Voisin was given the 2016 Heritage Wilmot Award for a Commercial Building for the restoration work.
- "Volunteers are the roots of strong communities." National Volunteer Week was April 10 – 16. WHS appreciates our volunteers *all* year and this week is an opportunity to show extra thanks for the hours and days they give to us and to so many other organizations that wouldn't exist without them.
- Five WHS volunteers received Ontario Volunteer Service Awards from the Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade: a total of 90 years of service! There is no way to fully measure or recognize that kind of contribution. Heartfelt thanks to:

Pat Bailey, newsletter mailing - 10 years
Debbie Kroetsch, board member - 30 years
Marion Roes, board member - 15 years

Karen Ball-Pyatt, archivist & board member - 10 years
Elinor Rau, councilor Woolwich Township - 25 years

- Thanks to Jeff Outhit and the *Waterloo Region Record* for the article "Before it was Kitchener, Berlin racked by violence, discord." It was exceptional publicity for our March 12 meeting topic and brought many people to hear the speakers! *There is more about the topic* at <http://www.waterlootwar.ca/>
- A Guide to Real Photo Postcards is at <http://www.metropostcard.com/guiderealphoto.html> Have a look if you have no idea what a photo postcard is *and* if you'd like to know more, including how to date them.
- Kudos to the Heritage Working Group and Local Arrangements Committee for organizing the Grand River Conservation Authority's 19th Annual Heritage Day Workshop and Celebration on February 12. They presented a diverse selection of topics and speakers about the Bicentennial of Dumfries Township – and gave another good learning experience about our local history.
- Congratulations to the Waterloo Area Chapter of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society of Ontario for celebrating its 60th anniversary this year! Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM and see "Reflections from the Past" on April 28 at the New Dundee Community Centre, 1028 Queen Street. Dinner at 6:30. Cost \$30. Anniversary newsletter and AGM information are at www.pgfsociety.com ~Newsletters ~Waterloo Area Chapter.
- Kudos to the *New Hamburg Independent* for its 2016 *Heritage Edition, Routes: Journeys to Wilmot*. It's full of old and new photos, stories about ancestors and neighbours and immigrants and surprise connections.

Condolences

On behalf of the members of Waterloo Historical Society, we offer sympathy to the families of members who have died.

- ◆ To Janet Brown and family for the death of her husband Ron. Ron died on March 6. He and Janet were WHS members for over 20 years.
- ◆ To Elizabeth Kerr and family for the death of her husband John. John died on March 28. He and Elizabeth have been WHS members as far back as our membership records go – to 1963!

Road Trips, Walking Tours, Trails, Water – by car, bicycle, motorcycle, small plane, canoe, feet

What's your favourite drive, walk or trail within and near Waterloo Region? There are likely online and/or printed tours for almost every road, trail, community and historic site. What do you like to see: rivers, bridges, cemeteries, country stores (that serve ice cream), tea rooms, buildings, plaques and monuments, wildlife, trees, meadows, parks? We have everything except mountains and an ocean! *Where will you go this summer?*

Online (use Google): St. Jacobs Self Guided Historic Walking Tour; Historic Walking Tour of Lower Doon; Tour of Kitchener, Ont. Featuring Sites of Aboriginal Historical Interest; Waterloo Historical Walking Tours: Mary-Allen Neighbourhood and Uptown Waterloo; Self Guided Tours at www.kitchener.ca; Hawkesville Walking Tour; Region of Waterloo Historic Countryside Driving Tours; Wellesley Walking Tour; Westmount Self-Guided Heritage Walking Tour at www.westmountneighbourhoodassociation.ca; City of Cambridge (Ontario!) Trails and Cycling; Kissing Bridge Trailway; Walter Bean Trail Map; Grand River Country Scenic Drives. And don't forget the Bus Tour books. Some are available at the WHS Book Table.

Historical Happenings Calendar

ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVANCY OF ONTARIO (ACO) CAMBRIDGE

Sunday, June 12, Tours at **1:30 and 3:30.** A Tea & Tour: *'Steeped in History,'* guided tour and afternoon tea at Langdon Hall Country House Hotel and Spa. The 45-minute conducted tour includes an oral history of the property, a ramble past architectural façades of interest, and a tour of the gardens. The outing concludes with a leisurely traditional afternoon tea in the new Firshade Room, overlooking the picturesque gardens.

The event is a fundraiser for ACO Cambridge. Tickets \$100 including tax and gratuity; partial tax receipt as a donation. Please contact 1-877-827-6086 for details and to pre-order tickets.

CITY OF KITCHENER ROTUNDA GALLERY AND BERLIN TOWER ARTSPACE(S) 200 King Street West

www.kitchener.ca/rotundagallery and www.kitchener.ca/berlintowerartspace

Exhibits change regularly. Visit and enjoy or contact to display your work.

CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM, Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay & Galaxy Cinema www.waterloo.ca/museum

Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4; 4th Thursday and Saturday: Thursday 9:30-8 & Saturday 9:30-4

July & August: Tuesday – Saturday 9:30-4 & Sunday: 11-5 ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE 519-885-8828

April 12 – September 30 THRU THE LENS, CAMERA OBSCURA TO SMARTPHONE: A RETROSPECTIVE

Ever since the camera was first patented, it has made a real impact on us, and this exhibit looks at the world's most popular hobby. A timeline of over 50 cameras will show how it has influenced society, from early cameras that would require a professional to operate, the rise of Kodak, and the advent of digital cameras. This show is packed full of cameras that will pique the interest of the hobbyist along with the collector. Locally, Waterloo was the home to a number of photography studios that captured everyday life, recording it for our memory. Images from some of these photographers will be presented and will include local sports teams, portraiture, scenes, and aerial photography of Waterloo.

A number of hands-on activities includes peering through a replica camera *obscura*, a Victorian stereoscope and a mid-century View-Master. Visitors will be able to explore vintage camera equipment and try their hand at drawing with a camera *lucida* (Latin for "light chamber").

Museum staff were assisted by the expertise of Wilhelm E. Nassau who founded the collection of historical photographic and technical media equipment at WLU now divided between the Canada Science and Technology Museum and collections of Ryerson University and Niagara College. The cameras in this exhibition draw from the Ryerson University collection, local collectors and Mr. Nassau's private collection.

On a separate note: Karen VandenBrink's article about the City of Waterloo is the feature article in John Carter's column "Museum News," published in the March, 2016 edition of the Ontario Historical Society Bulletin.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY <http://www.maryhillroots.com>

1338-B Maryhill Road, Maryhill NOB 1B0 info@maryhillroots.com

Check the web site for events and research how-to

Sundays **June 12 to September 4, 11 – 3.** Halter House Resource Centre is open for research. Other times, by appointment.

The Halter House - Our Resource Centre includes three floors of artifacts. On the main floor is a kitchen, parlour and chapel. Upstairs there is a turn-of-the-century bedroom and a resource room with an assortment of displays. The basement contains displays and artifacts from the past. Our library includes a large collection of family histories, census returns for Waterloo Township, and for St. Boniface Church, in addition to naturalization records, Tweedsmuir histories, land records, church histories and cemetery transcriptions.

July 1, 1-4. Canada Day Celebrations at the Halter House. All are welcome.

Sunday, June 12 - Tombstone dedication and unveiling ceremony of Frantz Joseph Brohmann, born 28 January 1807 in Rountzenheim, Alsace, France and died in 1872 in New Germany (Maryhill). The Blessing of the stone by Father Voisin will be during the 10 a.m. Mass with a meet-and-greet after the ceremony. Descendants and new acquaintances are all welcome at the Maryhill Historical Society for a light lunch and refreshments. Small cost. RSVP to Ron at rbrohman@aol.com or Irene at forbesirene606@gmail.com

JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS MUSEUM 466 Queen St. S., Kitchener 519 742-7752 www.josephschneiderhaus.com
Use your WHS membership discount card to visit often. Check the web site for many fun events, or just go and see what's going on.

KITCHENER WATERLOO ART GALLERY (K-WAG) 101 Queen St. N., Kitchener
<https://www.kwag.ca>

Thursday June 9, 7 pm - "Celebrating 60: The Golden Decade and the History of Kitchener-Waterloo in the 1950s" with speaker rych mills. He will present researched information, personal memories and vivid images. No admission charge. Contact Nicole Neufeld at 519 579-5860 x214 or NNeufeld@kwag.on.ca

The "Etcetera" section in Saturdays' *Waterloo Region Record* lists Waterloo Region Museums events, Hall of Famers, "Community Matters" and "Flash from the Past."

KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POSTCARD CLUB (KWCRPCC)

May 10 - Doors open at 6:30 for browsing and buying; meeting at 7:30. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener. The topic of speakers rych mills and John Glass is "Postcards Then and Photographs Now." They will use postcards and modern photos to look at Kitchener history. For information and to confirm meeting date, contact rychmills@golden.net Free admission. All are welcome.

LAURIER CENTRE FOR MILITARY STRATEGIC AND DISARMAMENT STUDIES Wilfrid Laurier University

May 6-7 - 27th Annual Canadian Military History Colloquium For all information, see

<http://canadianmilitaryhistory.ca/events/annual-colloquium/>

Panels will be held in the Paul Martin Centre, Senate & Board Chambers, and the Arts Wing. On Friday night there will be a banquet and roundtable featuring four of Canada's most prominent military historians.

MCDUGALL COTTAGE – one of the three Waterloo Region Museums www.mcdougallcottage.com

89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt 519 624-8250 mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca

Open Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 5, plus special events dates

Join McDougall staffer, Joleen Taylor, for talks and walking tours.

May 26, 7 pm

Talk: The Flood of 1974 - Where were you? You'll go back to the great Galt flood of 1974 with a look at the flood and resulting flood control measures that include the demolition of a number of houses and other buildings in the years following. Call to pre-register. \$5 plus HST

June 26, 2 to 4 pm

Walking Tour: McDougall's Neighbourhood and Downtown

Stroll along the Grand River from the neighbourhood to the downtown and back and enjoy historical residential, commercial and industrial architecture. Learn why Galt was once referred to as the "Manchester of Canada" and explore the flood control measures that protect areas on either side of the river. Light refreshments to follow. Call to pre-register. \$10 plus HST

July 14, 9 to 11 am

Walking Tour: Galt's East Hill

Put on your comfy walking shoes and for this historical walking tour to Galt's East Hill area. Stroll along streets lined with mature trees and explore a wide range of architectural styles, from cottages to grand Victorian homes. Find out which property was recognized as the last farm in downtown Galt. Light refreshments to follow. Call to pre-register. \$10 plus HST

MENNONITE ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO Conrad Grebel University College, 140 Westmount Rd. N., Waterloo

<https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/> and www.uwaterloo.ca/grebel/altservice

2016 Exhibit "Conchies Speak: Ontario Mennonites in Alternative Service, 1941-1946"

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO Library, Special Collections & Archives - Jessica Blackwell, archivist

New collections are now open for research.

More than 115 *Heimatbücher* (German for "home books") that document the stories and histories of the villages that were inhabited by the Danube Swabians (German: *Donauschwaben*) in Central Europe: Romania, Hungary and the former Yugoslavia. Many of these books contain genealogies, some dating back to the 18th century. The *Heimatbücher* are a unique and rich resource for anyone interested in the history and migration of the *Donauschwaben* people. The collection was donated in 2014 by Henry Fischer.

Bray Family fonds. Among the family papers that date from 1842 to 1950 are 18 diaries kept by Kitchener lawyer (George) Murray Bray from 1929-1949 as well as one trip diary kept by his mother Florence Murray Bray. The family lived at that time in the Westmount neighbourhood. Search by collection title at

<https://uwaterloo.ca/library/special-collections-archives/collections>

VICTORIA PARK GALLERY Schneider Avenue, Kitchener, by the pavilion rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990

It's that time of year again! The Gallery will be open weekend and holiday afternoons from May 23 to October. Visit, enjoy and learn about Berlin / Kitchener / Victoria Park history through artifacts, displays, books and conversation.

Monday May 23, 11 am. Victoria Day in Victoria Park, Jubilee Drive. Come for a brief ceremony at the Queen's monument. Speakers will give a short history of the park's connection with Queen Victoria, the story behind the monument, and other tales about the park. At **12 noon**, the Kitchener Musical Society Band performs on Roos Island. Stroll the park, then visit the Victoria Park Gallery. Everything is free. Bring a lawn chair. Info from [rychmills](mailto:rychmills@golden.net).

WATERLOO CONCERT BAND CONCERT "Bandberg & Beyond: Legends of Canadian Band Music"

Sunday, May 1, 2 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church, 50 Erb Street W., Waterloo. Donations welcome at the door. Featuring the premiere of a commissioned piece by Howard Cable that celebrates Waterloo's own music man, C.F. Thiele, and narrated by Reid Spencer, the event celebrates 158 years of the Waterloo Musical Society / Waterloo Concert Band. *For photos of Bandberg, see WHS Vol. 92 – 2004.*

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

Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often

Ongoing - Main Gallery Exhibit **"What Makes Us Who We Are"**

May 1 - The Village opens

To May 8 - Feature Gallery Exhibit: **In The Dark.** *What will the next exhibit be?!*

WATERLOO REGIONAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION (WRHF) www.wrhf.org

June 14, Annual General Meeting at the North Dumfries Community Centre, 2958 Greenfield Road, Ayr
WRHF awards will be presented. Check the web site closer to the date for more information.

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1137 Henry Street www.wellesleyhistory.org

Open the **last Saturday monthly** (except December), **10 – 3** Instagram – wellesleyhistory

See new displays and photos. A great road-trip destination.

WORLD CROKINOLE CHAMPIONSHIP www.worldcrokinole.com for all information

Saturday, June 4 Pre register to guarantee a spot. Early Bird registration by April 30.

The first Saturday in June is always a red letter day in Tavistock! Last year the oldest player was 87 and the youngest was six. There are always players from coast to coast in Canada and all over the United States. International visitors have come from Germany, Chile, Spain, England and Scotland, to name a few. Last year history was made with 100 games in play at one time. First timers and repeat players come just for fun or to try to win a share of the \$6,600 in prizes.

"Like" WHS on Facebook to see events, photos, news items and more that aren't in the newsletter. Or check the WHS page occasionally and see what's there, without having to join Facebook.

Requests / Questions to / from Readers

- ◆ The MacGregor Albert Community Association (MACA) would like to find the negatives of early Waterloo photos taken from the top of Central School. The group has asked the Waterloo Region District School Board and individuals, and thinks the negatives *might* be in a private collection. If you have any information and/or would like to see photo copies, please contact Sue Enns at bellenns@gmail.com. This is one of the photos.



- ◆ FYI: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/care-for-the-child-the-bridgeport-general#/> is a crowdfunding project to produce a video about Frank Groff, "The General" who lived in Bridgeport. There is also a web site <http://bridgeportgeneral.com/>
- ◆ Dr. John Carter is looking for information about George Seiler and his son Leslie Seiler, two Berlin / Kitchener photographers, and would appreciate hearing from relatives or folks interested in photographic history at drjohncarter@bell.net. Is there a photography society or a similar group that might have material on the Seilers?
- ◆ Doors Open Waterloo Region 2016 is Saturday, September 17. Heritage fans and organizations are invited to volunteer at sites and / or provide programming, e.g., music, drama performance, crafts for children, workshops, lectures etc. at one of the sites. Theme this year is Science and Innovation!
Please contact doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca if you are interested!
- ◆ The WHS publication committee invites anyone doing research on some aspect of Waterloo County / Region history to consider preparing an article for the next or a future issue of our volume – deadline September 30. Email the editor at rychmills@golden.net about your work and/or see submission details at <http://www.whs.ca/authors/>. Thank you for considering writing for our volume!

St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School

In September 1959, St. Joseph School in Preston hosted grade 9 and 10 classes as a trial run for a future high school. The program outgrew the location and construction on St. Benedict Junior High School was completed in September of 1962 to accommodate 157 students in grades 9 and 10. This was the first Catholic Secondary School in Cambridge and its name honours the monk who founded the Benedictine Order at Monte Cassino Abbey in Italy. Cost of building the eight-classroom school, equipment and furniture was about \$300,000.

St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School was built at its current location in 1997, and is part of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. It replaced a facility that had already undergone a couple of additions and, at the end, had 26 portables! Current school enrolment sits around 1400 students from grades 9 to 12. The school is informally referred to as the "Home of the Saints" and their motto, "A Celebration of People" signifies the school as a welcoming, inclusive community to many ethnicities, cultures and faiths.

A unique joint venture was undertaken with the City of Cambridge and the on-site library – the Clemens Mill Branch of the Idea Exchange Library – is shared with Cambridge residents and students. St. Benedict offers a wide variety of academic, athletic and technical programs.

Every morning they offer the Breakfast Club Program where students can enjoy a healthy breakfast. Also offered is the "brown bag" program where students can grab a paper bag in the atrium with an apple, a slice of cheese and a juice box inside for later consumption. The school has an amazing variety of extra-curricular activities that support a wide range of interests: Fall Fair, BBQ Fun Day and seasonal assemblies; Thursday mission collections dedicated to a different cause each week; the Cambridge Firemen Christmas Basket and Food Drives. During the Haiti crisis, over \$10 000 was raised and their last Relay for Life event raised over \$42 000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Many St. Benedict staff remain at the school for their entire teaching career. And several former students have returned to the school as teaching staff. After the bell, the school is used extensively by the community. From the beautiful foyer to the cafeteria, Lecture Hall and classrooms, this school warmly welcomes many groups each year – including Waterloo Historical Society on May 14!

Who We Are and How to Reach Us

CONTACT US

whs@whs.ca **www.whs.ca**

Mail memberships and donations to Waterloo Historical Society
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1
Facebook www.facebook.com/waterloohs and Twitter WaterlooHS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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519 572-7510 (evenings)

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Jeff Shank, treasurer: jeff420shank@gmail.com

Warren Stauch, plaques committee chair: mmegeo@golden.net

John Glass, secretary &

Thank you for help with this newsletter to all who sent requests and events and helped with mailing.

Comments, questions and submissions are welcome. Contact the editor, Marion Roes.

COUNCILORS

Cambridge: Jennifer Winter

Kitchener: Harold Russell

Waterloo: Joleen Taylor, Jane Britton, and Deb Stanson

North Dumfries Township: Veronica Ross

Wellesley Township: Nancy Maitland

Wilmet Township: Patty Clarke & Rene Eby

Woolwich Township: Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

Waterloo Historical Society gratefully acknowledges that the Kitchener Public Library continues to keep and care for our collection and archives in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History.

Contact Karen Ball-Pyatt if you have questions about the WHS archives and donating items.

Membership Renewal & Benefits

WHS membership renewal for 2016 was due October 1, 2015

On April 9, a reminder email was sent to members who hadn't renewed for 2016. For those members for whom we don't have an email address and who haven't yet renewed, a reminder notice is included with this newsletter. If you received that email or the reminder notice and would like to continue as a WHS member, please mail your renewal of \$30 to the address above. *If you didn't receive either, your membership is current and you will receive your annual volume when it is released. Thank you!*

Members' discount card for 25% off admission to the Waterloo Region Museums will be distributed with the annual volume and includes admission to the Waterloo Region Museum and Joseph Schneider Haus. Admission to McDougall Cottage is by donation. For a full list of membership benefits, visit <http://www.whs.ca/membership/> **Contact membership chair Mandy Macfie at msmacfie@gmail.com or 519-572-7510 (evenings only, please) if you have questions about your membership status, volume delivery or member benefits.**

Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

July 2016



Marion Roes, Editor

Public Meetings – All are welcome!

Tuesday, September 20 at 7:30

Doors open at 7 pm

“New Hamburg’s Imperial Hotel Restoration”

Waterloo Region Museum, Christie Theatre

10 Huron Road, Kitchener

Join Marie Voisin, avid historian and author, as she takes you on her two-year journey of restoring the 144-year-old Imperial Hotel in New Hamburg. She will share her discoveries of artifacts, – back to 1908 – building styles and materials as well as current building codes. What was only a large barroom in 2012 is now a bakery, brewery, restaurant, travel agency and 12 one-bedroom apartments for seniors. Those who heard Marie’s engaging WHS presentation a few years ago about William Scott, one of New Hamburg’s founders, will especially look forward to her stories and pictures.

“Only a historian with a passion for old buildings and no experience in building commercial space would attempt something crazy like this”! Marie admits.

Note that there is or may be construction and / or closures on Courtland Avenue and Manitou Drive. Close to the meeting date, Google “road closures and construction Waterloo Region” to plan your route, or email mlroes@sympatico.ca.

Saturday, November 12 at 1:30

Annual General Meeting

Conrad Grebel University College, Great Hall

140 University Avenue N, Waterloo

“The Neighbours Who Said No: Waterloo Region Mennonites and the Second World War”

During the Second World War, 1,158 young men in this region registered as conscientious objectors and volunteered their services for non-military volunteer work. Who were they, and why would they make this decision at a time of grave national crisis? How would government and society respond? How did Mennonite women and children experience the war? With records from the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, Laureen Harder-Gissing reconstructs the voices and experiences of local Mennonites and their neighbours.

Attendees may visit the exhibit in the library, “Conchies Speak: Ontario Mennonites in Alternative Service” before or after the WHS meeting, from 1 - 5. The exhibit is open until December 1. (Mon-Thurs 8:30 am-10pm; Fri, 8:30 – 6; Sat 1-5) Men whose stories are part of the exhibit and who readers might recognize are Wilson Hunsberger and Doug Millar. All names are listed at <https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/altservice>

The Book Table, displays, refreshments and networking are part of all WHS meetings – No admission fee

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

The Library's **Directory Digitization Project** is progressing and we hope to have the KW directories uploaded this summer! Watch for the GSR blog and web site for more details.

The **GSR Archival Description Project** is starting this summer. We look forward to welcoming the new Project Archivist and sharing the finding aids, via the KPL online catalogue, with researchers.

Mark your calendars for Saturday **November 5, 2016 for KPL's 5th Genealogy Fair** at the Central Library. Jen Baldwin of Find My Past genealogy will be our keynote speaker. This free day-long event will be filled with workshops, vendors and exhibitors. Check out the Library's Fall *In Touch* magazine for more details.

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

- A collection of ephemera, photographs, school textbooks and family history notes related to the family of WG Cleghorn;
- A framed photograph of a Roman Catholic priest, ca. 1970s; and
- Photographs, genealogical information and softcover family history booklets related to the Betzner, Bingeman, Hallman and Shantz families of Waterloo County.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS Archivist

Email karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org

Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

GSR blog at <http://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/>

Twitter for happenings and local history news at <http://twitter.com/kplgsrhistory>

Waterloo Historical Society gratefully acknowledges that the Kitchener Public Library continues to keep and care for our collection and archives in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History.

***Waterloo Historical Society** fosters the recognition of our region's unique heritage, and diligently encourages its preservation by documenting the history of Waterloo Region, including the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, along with the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.*

The Turning of the Page

Story and photos by Mandy MacFie

It must have been John's first trip in too but the fight was on then so it would be worse than when I was there, but if he has gone now it was because he didn't hang back any, and I know that you would sooner hear the "killed in action" than to ever hear that a Macfie hung back, so that makes it easier for me to write, as you will have counted the costs even though you let us go without complaining. And if we all get us up in this war you might think that we were called on to do more than our share as a family, but if we are fighting for honor and righteousness, who should pay the price but those that lay claim on such, so you will all have to try and keep up your courage as the ones at home have the worst of it tho, it's no child's game here...

*Arthur Macfie to his parents, Frank and Mary, May 21, 1917
Published in Letters Home by John A. Macfie (1990)*

Brothers Roy, Arthur and John, who served in the 1st Battalion CEF, are smiling and impossibly young in their uniforms in the triptych. Roy, my great-grandfather, joined up in August 1914 and spent five years overseas. Arthur and John followed him to France in 1916. Roy and Arthur would return home, but John was lost to a little-known battlefield in Fresnoy, France on May 3, 1917.

John McKenzie Macfie's name is written on the Vimy Memorial and in the First World War Book of Remembrance displayed in the Peace Tower at Parliament Hill. The books are designed in such a way that the names of the war dead are displayed at least once a year. The First World War book was the first created, in 1920, and a page is turned every day.

I had an opportunity to be in the Memorial Chamber, where the Books of Remembrance are displayed, during the Turning of the Page ceremony on June 22, when the page bearing the name of John McKenzie Macfie was displayed. The ceremony is respectful and simple: a member of the House of Commons Protective Services staff salutes the chamber, then proceeds to the First World War book, bows their head in a moment of silence, turns the page, and bows their head again before proceeding to the next book. After the ceremony, we were allowed to stay in the Memorial Chamber to view the books up close before the public was allowed in and before the protective glass case was closed.

We spent about 10 minutes in the room after the ceremony, looking at the books and talking about John McKenzie and his brothers. My great-aunt Catherine remarked afterwards how meaningful it was that three generations of Macfies were in the Memorial Chamber that day to honour a 19-year-old farm boy who we didn't have the pleasure of knowing. I think it is safe to say that we were all proud to be standing in that room at that moment, together.

Turning of the Page ceremony information is at
<http://www.parl.gc.ca/About/House/memorial/ceremony-e.htm>



The triptych of the soldier brothers is in a place of prominence on the main floor of our farmhouse. We honour their memory and service every day.



The carved floorboards, apparently a youthful misdeed performed over 100 years ago, were moved to a more noticeable spot at the top of the stairs.

103rd Annual Volume

From Membership Chair, Mandy Macfie

The annual volume was released at the May meeting for our current WHS members. Half of the volumes were either picked up by members or taken by those attending to be delivered to friends or family who were not able to attend. **Thank you** to all of the board and council members who also delivered volumes, but especially to rych mills and Warren Stauch who went above and beyond. **Many thanks** to David Gingrich who complains when I don't give him enough volumes to deliver around KW! I honestly could not get any of these volumes in your hands without their assistance. If you have not received your annual volume by the time you see this newsletter, please let me know and I'll look into it (msmacfie@gmail.com or 519-572-7510, evenings only please). Thank you!

From the report of Editor, rych mills at the May meeting

Today, I am thinking of the most recent addition to 103 years of knowledge base in the volumes and how, perhaps 40 or 75 years from now, some earnest and eager researcher will dig into its 240 pages and emerge understanding just a little bit better how things were in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Joleen Taylor offered a unique story, one looking at what Galt lost in the years *after* the flood of 1974, in order to prevent another such deluge. **Lynn Griggs** of the Cambridge Archives gave us a time-line history of Galt from its founding until its cityhood in 1915, touching on all the main events. Cambridge-Preston native **George Roth** is one of the most knowledgeable people when it comes to Waterloo County's railway history. His colourful album of Galt's six train stations will send some people out on a walkabout to see all the sites. Another Preston-ite, **Ray Ruddy** offers a perhaps controversial study about what Preston's original name actually was and how it is now the umbrella name for the amalgamated city. **David Menary's** lengthy feature on the just-closed (and just-sold) Dickson School is one of the highlights of this year's volume. David also provided the stunning cover photograph. I want to thank those five for helping us to honour Galt's 200th unofficial birthday. **Brian Krueger**, a familiar sight at all our meetings, signed up for Joanna Rickert-Hall's local history course at Conestoga College a couple of years ago and the result is his first published work, a study of his grandfather, John Bruegeman of Waterloo. **Nancy Maitland**, the archivist of the Wellesley Township Heritage and Historical Society, examines the life of Michael P. Empey of Hawkesville and you'll read of her clever tracking down of information about this one-time supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie. Nancy also assisted in **Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt's** biography of the scandalous and lucky Dr. Benjamin Hawke. Rosanne also wrote about her grandfather, "Pop" Koehler who owned a billiards parlour in downtown Kitchener and sponsored numerous sports clubs in the 1920s through '50s. **Rosanne's** third article covers the increasing flood of Mennonite families departing Waterloo Region and surrounding areas for Northern Ontario. I contributed another pair of biographies. The Hoffman brothers of Berlin and Waterloo have long fascinated me. In the final biographical study, **Susan Mavor** gives us a story that's never before been revealed. Canada's famous painter, AY Jackson, would likely not have become such an iconic artist without the influence and contact of his Berlin cousins, the Clements and Breithaupts. **Tim Forsyth** has contributed a captivating essay on the 1896 fire at the Hibner furniture factory in Berlin. **Diane Strickler**, long-time WHS councilor from Woolwich Township, has finally put paid to the question of how, why and when Maryhill adopted that name.

There are several other short articles plus our usual features: WHS in Review compiled by **John Glass**; and Donations and Acquisitions in which regional curators and archivists contribute short essays on what's been added to their collections over the past year. I particularly wish to thank people who have contributed original and modern photographs to the volume, especially old friend **Lorna Ferguson** who now lives in the Galt core just a

soccer-ball kick away from Dickson School. She arranged a tour of the school shortly after it closed in 2014 and has provided a number of photos of the ghost building.

The WHS publication committee does not serve as a vanity press editing corps ... all five members believe it is the committee's task to ensure that not only is each and every fact within a submitted article correct and backed up by reliable sources but that any article is also an opportunity for adding pertinent historical information and images. We submit articles to a comprehensive screening and work with the authors to upgrade any shortcomings the committee feels are in the work. Each author will tell you that what is here in print is an expanded and much different article than their initial submission, and thanks to the publication committee, a much better article. The five members have published ten books among them and scores of historical articles. So I believe we have a powerful publishing force to assist authors contributing to WHS. We also work hard to ensure the work falls within WHS style guidelines. In short, we attempt to maintain the authors' original voice and ideas while ensuring the published article provides today's readers and future researchers with confirmed information and well-written essays.

Currently the publication committee is made up of Marjorie Kohli, Stephanie Walker, Susan Mavor and Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt and me, rych mills as editor. Although we don't have a position such as executive assistant or associate editor, if we did I would plug Rosanne's name into it. I want to pay tribute here to her counsel, her experience, her stringent adherence to longstanding WHS style guidelines and her canny ability to distinguish between my silly ideas and my good ones.

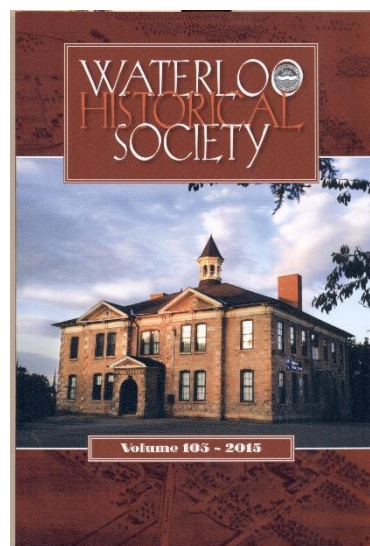
There's another group I wish to thank. Some 50-plus people who each has contributed \$100 to the production of this volume. Seven have done so for 20 straight years now! The costs of the annual volume are also partly covered by a significant grant from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, a long-time supporter. The assistance of the Kitchener Public Library through its maintenance of the WHS collection within the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History is forever appreciated. KPL's local history librarian and WHS' archivist **Karen Ball-Pyatt** is a regular source of support and suggestions.

Thanks to everyone to helped and we hope you enjoy this Big 103!

From an email received after the May meeting:

The only aspect lacking after rych's report was long and loud applause for him and his untiring work on behalf of WHS members and authors! I know that many of us, and our families, are engrossed this evening in reading and enjoying the results of his unstinting efforts!

The writer is right! rych didn't / wouldn't include his contribution to producing and publishing the annual volume, and indeed, we can only guess at the hours and effort that he spends each year. As a former member of the publication committee, I know the satisfaction of receiving and holding and looking through the finished book – even though the articles had been read at least three times! What was a bonus was to hear from readers how much they enjoyed and appreciated the volume. A belated **thank you so much**, rych! Ed.



Note: The annual volume is for sale at the Grace Schmidt Room at Central Library, the Victoria Park Gallery and Words Worth Books, Waterloo,

Kudos, Congratulations, Thank you!

- ◆ **Stephanie and Joe Mancinci**, Kitchener, received the **Order of Canada** for the social enterprise, the Working Centre, described as “a cherished gem in Waterloo Region” and “a model for community development.” See www.theworkingcentre.org and the article “Order of Canada recognizes Mancinis from The Working Centre” by Liz Monteiro, *Waterloo Region Record*, July 1, 2016.
- ◆ **Professor Jim Walker**, Waterloo, received the **Order of Canada**, recognition for his scholarship on Black Canadians. His work on racial justice has been recognized by other honours and awards and he has written a guide for teachers, “History of Blacks in Canada.” See *The Record* article.
- ◆ **John English** is promoted to an **Officer of the Order of Canada**. The former local Liberal MP, author and WHS member is the founding director of the Bill Graham Centre for Contemporary International History at Trinity College at the University of Toronto. See *The Record* article.
- **Chis Schedewitz and his father Mark** have made it their mission to preserve the history of the Waterloo Fire Department, and to share that history. They have collected over 1000 items, many of which are stored at the City of Waterloo Museum at Conestoga Mall. Anyone with material that could be of interest to the Schedewitzes can contact Waterloo Fire Rescue, 519 884-2121. See “Telling the stories of smoke eaters,” by James Jackson in the *Waterloo Chronicle*, July 7, 2016.
- An award has been created to honour **Diane Stickler**, one of the driving forces of the Historical Society of St. Boniface and Maryhill Community. **The Diane Strickler Heart of the Community Award** will be given annually to recognize a student’s community work. Diane, who is a WHS councilor for the Township of Woolwich, is retiring as secretary at Maryhill’s St. Boniface School and the title of the award says it all! See “School’s out...after 35 years” by Whitney Neilson, *The Observer*, June 30, 2016.
- **Allen D. Martin**, WHS past president and one-time Doon Pioneer Village board member, received an **Ontario Long-Term Care Association Lifetime Achievement Award**. His lifetime interests and achievements include, music, photography, All Ontario Scrabble competition, fishing, teaching woodworking, Floradale volunteer firefighter, “My side of the Dam” columnist for the *Woolwich Observer*, teacher in Linwood, Elora and Elmira! See “A day to be lauded for a lifetime of achievements” by Liz Bevan, *The Observer*, May 12, 2016.

Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation Awards (WRHF)

- **Susan Saunders Mavor**, WHS member and member of the publication committee, received an **Award of Excellence**. She is a past recipient of the WRHF Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence. “She is extremely generous in sharing her research with the public in a variety of ways.” Two of those are Susan’s very successful book, *Westmount: The Tie that Binds the Twin Cities* and her Edna Staebler Research Fellow lecture and paper, “Rieder, Rubber and Romance.”
- **Richard Woeller**, WHS member and former WHS secretary and treasurer, received an **Award of Excellence** because of his dedication to documenting local history. As a life-long member of St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kitchener, and archivist there for 20 years, he organized and set up an archive room at the church. He also microfilmed church records and placed them in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History at the Kitchener Public Library.

- **Gordon Nelson**, WHS member, received the **Jean Steckle Award for Heritage Education**. Over the course of his long academic and teaching career, he has taught and mentored hundreds of students imparting the importance of conserving our natural and cultural heritage. In 1987 he founded the Heritage Resources Centre at the University of Waterloo, serving as director until 2003. Gordon was the editor of *A Sense of Place* which focused on the history and geography of the Grand River watershed. His research of the watershed and its characteristics helped the Grand River and its tributaries be designated a Canadian Heritage River.
- **David Pyper** received an **Award of Excellence** for his leadership role with the North Dumfries Historical Preservation Society.
- **Jane Britton**, WHS member and councilor for Waterloo, received the **Sally Thorsen Award of Excellence**. See the University of Waterloo *Daily Bulletin*: The award, which is given annually by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, goes to a person who has demonstrated, in the course of at least ten years of their professional lives, an outstanding level of commitment to heritage concerns. Britton more than fits the bill in that regard. She worked as an archivist in the Library's Special Collections and Archives beginning in 1974, and retired as Head of Special Collections and Archives in February 2015. During her career at Waterloo, Britton developed a depth and breadth of specialized knowledge and expertise around preserving the history of both the University and the community that has won her the recognition of her colleagues and of organizations like the Archives Association of Ontario.

Beginning in the late 1970s, the Library's archives grew as a result of a robust acquisition program, resulting in hundreds of linear feet of original historical material in a variety of subject areas supporting the University's teaching and research programs, and it was Britton's responsibility to make these archives, which included correspondence, diaries, photographs, financial documents, ledgers, maps, and other artifacts, accessible. Britton would catalogue them and make those detailed catalogue descriptions available to researchers in ever-innovative ways as typewritten "finding aids" gave way to sophisticated electronic databases.

From transcribing the 60 years of diary entries made by Louis Jacob Breithaupt into a searchable database to captioning and listing the millions of photographic negatives found in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record Negative Collection, Britton was at the forefront in adapting new technologies to provide detailed access to individual resources. There is more at <https://uwaterloo.ca/daily-bulletin/2016-07-07>

Web Sites, Resources

- **Canadian Furniture World and The Undertaker** magazines from 1913 to 1922 are online at www.archive.org, although it's easier to use Google. Searchable and downloadable PDFs have many ads with photos, articles and news items (some are like a social and personal column!) about furniture manufacturers and retailers in Berlin / Kitchener, Waterloo, Elmira, Preston and other Ontario locations. In The Undertaker section are ads and news items about Waterloo County businesses and, for those interested in vehicles, ads for horse drawn and motor hearses. Both were being built in that time period.



- I am happy to share that ***Waterloo County to 1972: An annotated bibliography of regional history*** has been **digitized** and is at the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/waterloocountyto00bloo>.

I would like to thank Dr. Elizabeth Bloomfield for kindly agreeing to the digitization. I will be overseeing the development of a searchable online database in collaboration with Dr. Bloomfield, Jane Forgay and Graham Faulkner. In addition to Dr. Bloomfield, I would like to thank Gabe Juszel, the Internet Archive's Canadian Regional Scanning Manager, for his assistance making the text available. If you have made reference to the bibliography in any instructional material, I encourage you to consider directing people to the online version which is keyword searchable and can be downloaded in various formats.

Danielle Robichaud, Digital Archivist, Special Collections & Archives 519-888-4567 x30473

University of Waterloo Library, 200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, ON N2L 3G1

See also <https://uwaterloo.ca/library/special-collections-archives/news/new-archives-open-research>

- A Facebook page for the Samuel Bechtel Meeting House and burial Ground is at <https://m.facebook.com/Samuel-Bechtel-Meetinghouse-and-Burial-Ground-1041307832613312/>
- Google "Robin Oakes Iron Horse Trail Mural, Kitchener Canada" for a youtube video by Don Drews, published on Apr 24, 2016. Robin Oakes painted this wall mural for the 'Graffiti Busters' programme in 2006. Located beside the trail at Henry Sturm Creek, her 7 by 30 foot mural presents stylized local vignettes.

Victoria Day in Victoria Park

Harold Russell spoke at the annual event and brought along a treasured flag and photos. Thanks to Harold for sharing his script.

This Union Jack seems ordinary, but in fact it is about seventy years old, one that flew as a display of small flags at my home across the park on Schneider Avenue on the 24th of May. My childhood happened to be during the Second World War. Patriotism was in the air. We children attending Victoria School would gather across David Street in Victoria Park's baseball field for large military displays as part of Victory Bond rallies. The May 24th celebrations then were called Empire Day and school children gathered in the field here. Gleefully, we'd recite, "The 24th of May is the Queen's Birthday, if you don't give us a holiday, we'll all run away"!

I've been asked to reminisce about my family and our views of the monarchy over the last century. Great-Uncle Frank Schantz was a admirer of the British Empire; I recall him reminiscing in my youth about the great Royal Naval Fleet Reviews at Scapa Flow. My mother Dorothy, as a young adult in the 1920s, had a strong personal attraction to Elizabeth, the mother of our present Queen. Similarities reinforced this: they were both born in 1900; young Elizabeth was married on my mother's birthday, April 26, 1923, a year before Dorothy married. Birthday anniversaries reinforced those memories, at least on my mother's part.

On the occasion of the 1939 royal visit, my mother started a scrapbook of magazine clippings. Dorothy caught royal fever, making sure we all saw the King and Queen at the train station – and then she rented a taxi so she and friends could see them again in Hamilton! When they missed the train there, they drove on to see Their Majesties in Niagara Falls! How's that for a royal watcher? Of course the exemplary conduct of Their Majesties in the war years only reinforced the admiration.

In 1999, when Dorothy was at 99 years, on the 60th anniversary of the royal visit, CTV's Dailene Vernile interviewed her at home and she reminisced about the day – a tribute to a remarkable memory.

Twenty years ago this August, Mother got the moment of a lifetime when she was chosen to be Queen Victoria for a Day. It was the Victoria Park Centennial, perhaps the biggest party ever in the park. Costumed, driven in a carriage with the Lieutenant-Governor, at centre stage by the clock tower, she loved every minute of it. When she achieved her 100th birthday, she got the usual greeting from HM the Queen but remarkably she got to exchange greetings with her idol, the Queen Mother in a series of cards celebrating their mutual century!

What about Dorothy's son? He looks old enough to remember the young Queen Elizabeth coming to the throne in 1952. Actually much older! I was born four reigns ago! When I was one year old, it was the Year of the Three Kings: George V, Edward VIII and George VI! When they announced at the KCI assembly "The King is dead, long live the Queen," some giggled. I understood the ancient formula. I admit that at times, I was a bit jaded about the early royal visits but I was often a face in the crowd.

As the years passed I became more aware of the service and dedication of our Queen. After all, I have a parchment signed by Her Majesty when I received my army commission in the 1950s: "To our trusty and well beloved Second Lieutenant Harold Russell. Greeting."

For over 20 years I served in the Canadian Army Reserves. Now as our Queen has achieved her remarkable 90 years, the longest-serving monarch in our history, I can say, as we used to offer the loyal toast at the end of formal military dinners, "The Queen, God Bless Her"!

Historical Happenings Calendar

The "Etcetera" section in Saturdays' *Waterloo Region Record* lists events at the Waterloo Region Museum, Joseph Schneider Haus and McDougall Cottage. There are also Hall of Fame inductees, "Community Matters" and the "Flash from the Past" column.

CASTLE KILBRIDE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden www.castlekilbride.ca

Thursdays at 7 pm July and August. Bring a lawn chair to **Summer Music at the Castle** (weather permitting). Admission by donation.

To September 25 – Exhibit "**Wearing Whimsy.**" Discover the ruffles and lace of the 1850s to the classic style of the 1950s. View gowns, hats, handbags and jewellery that defined these decades. In addition, marvel at a century of fashion displayed throughout the 1877 historic home.

Lecture Series

7 pm, Tickets \$10. Pre-registration required at Castle.kilbride@wilmot.ca or 519 634-8444

September 29 – "**Imperial Hotel Restoration,**" Marie Voisin, Local Historian

October 27 – "**Charming Part 2,**" Joanna Rickert-Hall, Social Historian and Curator

November 24 – "**Cooking the Books at Christmas: Two Communities Two Cookbooks,**" Carolyn Blackstock, Educator and Teacher / Interpreter

CITY OF KITCHENER ROTUNDA GALLERY AND BERLIN TOWER ARTSPACE(S) 200 King Street West

www.kitchener.ca/rotundagallery and www.kitchener.ca/berlintowerartspace

Attention local artists! Rotunda Gallery call for 2017 exhibition proposals now open. Professional visual artists are invited to submit exhibition proposals. Deadline is September 1, 2016 at 4 pm.

CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM, Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay & Galaxy Cinema www.waterloo.ca/museum

Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4; 4th Thursday and Saturday: Thursday 9:30-8 & Saturday 9:30-4

July & August: Tuesday – Saturday 9:30-4 & Sunday: 11-5 ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE 519-885-8828

To September 30 – Exhibit THRU THE LENS, CAMERA OBSCURA TO SMARTPHONE: A RETROSPECTIVE

October 12 to January 6 – Exhibit COCKTAILS...BECAUSE NO GOOD STORY STARTS WITH A SALAD

DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION Free Most sites open 10-5

Saturday, September 17 – 2016 theme: Science & Technology! Discover the secret places of Waterloo Region! Children's activities, music, drama presentations, walking tours and other special events. *Check the website and pick up the 2016 Map & Guide at libraries, museums and tourism offices across Waterloo Region or in The Record on Saturday, September 10.* www.regionofwaterloo.ca/doorsopen 519-747-5139, doorsopen@regionofwaterloo.ca Twitter @DoorsOpenWR & Facebook. Post a photo on Flickr!

48 Ontario Street North, Kitchener – Friends of 48 Ontario will host Doors Open along with the current owners, the City of Kitchener. Take this rare opportunity to visit the “birthplace of the blues” in Kitchener. Built c.1914 for the Bell Telephone Company, the handsome red brick and sandstone heritage building is decorated with classical details. It housed Bell Telephone offices until 1941, was home to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 50 from 1946 to 2001, and in the mid-1980s hosted Glenn Smith's concert series featuring well-known blues musicians. Exhibits will give visitors insight into the building's past, and visitors can give feedback on its future. At **1 p.m.** Glenn Smith will give a brief talk and answer questions about his 1980s blues concerts.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY <http://www.maryhillroots.com>

1338-B Maryhill Road, Maryhill NOB 1B0 info@maryhillroots.com

Check the web site for events and research how-to

To September 4, Sundays, 11 – 3. Other days and times by appointment for research at the Halter House Resource Centre.

IDEA EXCHANGE www.ideaexchange.org or call 519 621-0460 for information about events and exhibits

Cambridge Third Age Learning at Trillium United Church, 450 King St., E., Cambridge

Second Thursday of the month, 10 – 12 noon; \$10 per lecture incl HST. Call 519 621-0460 to register.

August 11 – “Transforming a City” with David Prosser, Stratford Festival's Literary and Editorial Director, relates the inside story of the improbable adventure that transformed the city of Stratford – and the historic events that helped set the stage for that transformation almost half a century earlier.

September 8 – “Life Begins at the End of Your Comfort Zone” with Ian Evans who shares his adventures and lessons learned from his expeditions which include cycling across a continent, climbing some of the highest mountains on earth, and his recent 44-day trek from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole.

October 13 – “If These Walls Could Talk: Murder and mayhem, art and architecture high above Italy’s Amalfi Coast” with Cynthia Venebles.

November 10 – “Lost and Found: The art theft of some of Europe’s greatest masterpieces” with Cynthia Venebles. As an art and cultural historian, painter and photographer who travels widely, Cynthia has created and presented hundreds of art, cultural history and travel lectures at many universities and cruise lines.

“Fibreworks 2016” Free

September 9 – November 13, Idea Exchange Art + Design, Queen’s Square, 1 North Square, Cambridge
September 16, 7 pm – Friday Night ART Live. The exhibition honours the community’s rich textile manufacturing history, and the Gallery purchases new works for its permanent collection of contemporary Canadian fibre art. Fifteen artists have been selected by jurors Jaime Angelopoulos (artist) and Sarah Quinton (Senior Curator at the Textile Museum of Canada).

“My Story: In Remembrance” with Tess Bridgwater

Tuesday, November 8, 2 – 3, Idea Exchange, Preston, 435 King St., E., Cambridge. Free

Hear Tess Bridgwater tell her story of growing up in southern England during World War II in one of the most heavily bombed areas in Britain. Her book will be available for purchase at this event.

JOSEPH SCHNEIDER HAUS MUSEUM 466 Queen St. S., Kitchener 519 742-7752 www.josephschneiderhaus.com
Use your WHS membership discount card to visit often. Check the web site for many fun events, or just stop by and see what’s going on.

KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POSTCARD CLUB (KWCRPCC) www.kwcrpcc.com

September 14 - Doors open at 6:30 for browsing and buying; meeting at 7:30. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener. Speaker and topic to be confirmed. For information and to confirm meeting date, contact rychmills@golden.net Free admission. All are welcome.

LAURIER ASSOCIATION FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The fall course brochure with final details will be out at the end of July. To receive one, contact 519 884-0710 x6036 or continuingstudies@wlu.ca. Some of the courses tentatively arranged are: • TERRY COPP — Canada’s War, From the Somme to Vimy Ridge • JOANNA RICKERT-HALL — Law, Order and Social Welfare in Early Waterloo County • NICOLAS MUST — Conflict and Coexistence: Christianity and Islam in the Middle Ages • SALLY HEATH — Craft beer in Waterloo Region: An Introduction.

MCDUGALL COTTAGE MUSEUM www.mcdougallcottage.com

89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt 519 624-8250 mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca
Open Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 5, plus special events. Admission by donation.

To September 11 – Exhibit: “Faeries, Brownies and Changelings: Scottish Folklore and Legends”

July 27, 7 pm – “Tales of the Fair Folk: Fairies in Celtic Lore and Life” with Joanna Rickert-Hall
Call to pre-register. \$5 plus HST

VICTORIA PARK GALLERY 83 Schneider Avenue, Kitchener, by the pavilion

To October, weekend and holiday afternoons, 12 – 4. In this season 21 of the Gallery/museum, there are displays on the 100th anniversary of the Berlin / Kitchener name change; on the 118th Battalion; on aerial views of the park; on sports equipment from the park's early years; on decorated souvenir china featuring Berlin and Victoria Park scenes; and much more. rychmills@golden.net or 519 742-4990

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

Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often

Ongoing – Main Gallery Exhibit “What Makes Us Who We Are”

To December 31 – Exhibit: “City on Edge.” Learn how a city was pushed to the edge during the First World War – to the point of changing its name from Berlin to Kitchener through a controversial and high- tension referendum. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that name change.

*Plus... horse-drawn wagon rides, **Summer Music series, Music in the Freeport Church, and much more***

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WTHHS) 1137 Henry Street

www.wellesleyhistory.org Instagram wellesleyhistory and Facebook Wellesley Township History

Open the **last Saturday January to November, 10 – 3**

September 26 – Wellesley Apple Butter and Cheese Festival www.wellesleyabcfestival.ca

Antique and classic cars will be on the Wellesley Public Library grounds – the home of the WTHHS



History Under the Trees, July 9 in Doon Heritage Village, Waterloo Region Museum. Harold Russell (left) was one of several who brought a diary and read favourite passages. Janice Harper (middle) highlighted diarist Gordon Eby's 1916 activities – one hundred years ago. Music recorded from Eby's gramophone was an exceptional treat. Marion Roes and Lesley Webb photos

Requests / Questions to / from Readers

- ♦ *The Community Edition* newspaper is always looking for engaged and sharp writers and would like to include more historical pieces, along with more about communities of colour and immigrant communities. It is an editorially independent newspaper published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications. Contact editor Jesse Bauman, editor-in-chief at jesse.bauman@wlusp.com or 519 884-0710 x3564
- ♦ The WHS publication committee invites anyone doing research on some aspect of Waterloo County / Region history to consider preparing an article for the next or a future issue of our volume – deadline for the initial submission is September 30. Email the editor at rychmills@golden.net about your work and / or see submission details at <http://www.whs.ca/authors/>. Thank you for considering writing for our volume!



Marion Roes photo

- ♦ The Book Table at WHS meetings – and online – has proven to be popular and it helps the society fund such things as meeting costs and other various projects. If you have any excess publications please consider donating to the WHS Book Table. *We will pick them up if you are within the area.* Primarily we are interested in Waterloo Region-oriented publications but other local histories and some general Canadian histories are also welcome. And if you have back issues of the annual volume to donate, they would be added to our supply. Contact Sherwood Hagey eshagey@hallandales.com or rychmills rychmills@golden.net

Correction: In a previous newsletter, an item about the Programs Coordinator stated that in years gone by there was only one WHS public meeting a year, and that was the Annual General Meeting. Harold Russell told me that “For as long as I can remember WHS always had about four meetings a year including the AGM. Certainly when I was president, as you report, it was my responsibility to organize those meetings. We were more active than the story suggests. I recall attending meetings with my mother Dorothy and Great-Uncle Frank Schantz since the 1950s in the public library buildings, former & present! I became councillor and WHS rep on the Ontario Pioneer Community Foundation (Doon) circa 1978.” *Thanks for letting me know, Harold! I should have looked up the information and not assumed! Ed.*

“Like” WHS on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to get our many photos, news items and more. Most aren’t in the newsletter. You can see the WHS FB page without joining FB. It’s a public page. All WHS FB posts go to Twitter.

Passing the Torch – The New WHS Representative to the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation

From John Glass...

John Glass writes about his time as the WHS rep to the WRHF:

When I attended my first Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation board meeting back in June, 2008, little did I know that I would be the Waterloo Historical Society's representative for eight years! During my eight-year tenure, I participated on the communications committee and on the allocations and finance (A&F) committee. The communications committee is responsible for managing the Foundation's web site (www.wrhf.org) and organizing events such as Heritage Showcase and the Annual General Meeting. A&F is responsible for managing grant applications and presenting them to the board for consideration. Ultimately, I became chair of the A&F committee.

I was fortunate to work with a large number of dedicated individuals who were passionate about Waterloo Region's heritage. I always looked forward to our monthly meetings – not just because they gave us a free dinner – but because I was able to be part of an enthusiastic team and I was able to keep abreast of heritage happenings in the Region and in organizations to which the other board members belong.

The WRHF board is comprised of 18 directors, 10 elected and eight appointed. The appointed members consist of Regional government members, representatives from heritage organizations and from the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University.

Had WRHF not placed a limit of four consecutive two-year terms for boardmembers, I would continue to serve. For the time being, I'll take a year off and perhaps try to become an elected member in 2017. Serving on the board was a great experience. I would like to wish Nancy Maitland success and fun as the new WHS representative. Good luck Nancy!

Warren Stauch, chair of the WRHF, wrote about John Glass's time on the Foundation:

John was an outstanding and enthusiastic representative for the Waterloo Historical Society on the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation. He served his maximum eight years... with dedication and was an active participant sitting on the important allocations and finance committee. At every opportunity, he advocated for the WHS and monthly provided an update on WHS activities and programs. He declared a conflict of interest where necessary. John continued the role started by many past WHS members on the Foundation.

To Nancy Maitland...

The Report of the WHS Nominating Committee at the June 7, 2016 Board and Council meeting stated: The nominating committee would like to nominate Nancy Maitland to the position of Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation representative. Nancy has been a councillor representing Wellesley since 2013. With this new role, the nominating committee feels it is appropriate for Nancy to become a voting member of the board as a director.

Motion by Marion Roes to appoint Nancy Maitland as director for WHS effective June 7, 2016 and for her to be the WRHF rep effective June 28, 2016. Seconded by rych mills. Carried unanimously.

Thank you, John and Nancy! Welcome to the WHS board, Nancy!

MacGregor Albert Community Association Histories

This is one example of WHS member Sue Enns' research into the histories of houses and families in the MacGregor Albert Community Association (MACA) neighbourhood. Throughout the year Sue emails a photograph asking if people recognize the location and if they have information about it. A week or so later, she posts answers and information that she has found – and usually more photographs. It's an amazing compilation! Thanks, Sue!

If you would like to receive the emails, contact mlroes@sympatico.ca and ask to be on the MACA email list.

Photos are from past and current residents, Waterloo Public Library and the City of Waterloo Museum.



This was #49 and shows two teenagers in front of a store. They are standing next to an upside down Silverwood's Ice Cream sign.

Well... older generations can recall Silverwood's Ice Cream but this store? Some past residents knew this store as Urstadt's and others recalled it as Kempel's. Both would be correct for this store served the MACA neighbourhood for many years.

The Neighbourhood Store was at 30 Young Street West with its square front and billboard at the side and is just beyond the tree in the photo on the right, taken in the 1960s.

About 1975, with the help of designs made by Mr. Charles Voelker, who was a resident of the neighbourhood, the owners of the store converted it to a Colonial Revival-styled house (below). A little house with quite the history!



Sometime when you're walking by the house at 30 Young Street West, look at the steps and then imagine... not walking up to a peaked house but a very square-fronted building with front windows on either side of a central swinging, screened door. A favourite place to stop for an ice cream by baseball teams after their games in Waterloo Park!

Who We Are and How to Reach Us

CONTACT US

www.whs.ca

whs@whs.ca

Mail memberships and donations to Waterloo Historical Society
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

Facebook www.facebook.com/waterloohs and Twitter WaterlooHS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lesley Webb, president & communications committee chair: lesley.webb@gmail.com

Rosanne Atwater-Hallatt, publication committee

Karen Ball-Pyatt, archivist: karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org

John Glass, secretary & web site committee chair: jcglass@rogers.com

Sherwood Hagey, book table: eshagey@bell.net

Debbie Kroetsch, plaques committee

Mandy Macfie, membership committee chair: msmacfie@gmail.com, 519 572-7510 (evenings)

Nancy Maitland, Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation representative: wthhs.info@gmail.com

rych mills, chair / editor publication committee: rychmills@golden.net, 519 742-4990

Marion Roes, newsletter editor & programs com. chair: mlroes@sympatico.ca, 519 883-1448

Ray Ruddy, plaques committee

Jeff Shank, treasurer: jeff420shank@gmail.com

Warren Stauch, plaques committee chair: mmegeo@golden.net

COUNCILORS

Cambridge: vacant

Kitchener: Harold Russell

Waterloo: Joleen Taylor, Jane Britton, and Deb Stanson

North Dumfries Township: Veronica Ross

Wellesley Township: vacant

Wilmot Township: Patty Clarke & Rene Eby

Woolwich Township: Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

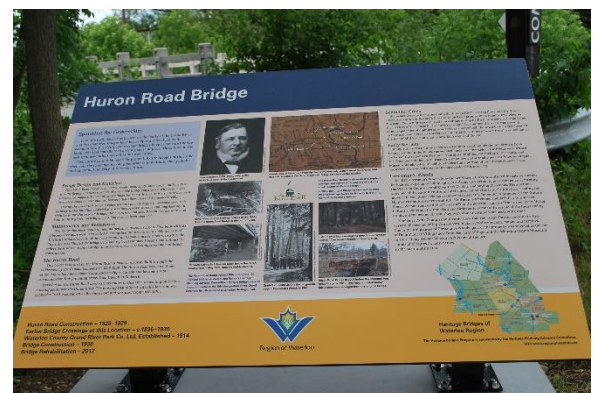
Contact Karen Ball-Pyatt if you have questions about the WHS archives and / or have items to donate.

Thank you to
Harold Russell,
Mandy Macfie,
Karen Ball-Pyatt,
rych mills, John
Glass, Sue Enns
and all who send
requests, stories,
events etc., and
to those who help
with mailing.

The next
newsletter will be
out in October.

Comments,
questions and
submissions are

Historic Huron Road Bridge plaque unveiling by the Region of Waterloo and the City of Kitchener near the Waterloo Region Museum, Saturday, July 9. Marion Roes photos



Waterloo Historical Society Newsletter

October 2016



Marion Roes, Editor

Public Meeting – All are welcome!

Saturday, November 12 at 1:30
Annual General Meeting

Conrad Grebel University College, Great Hall
140 Westmount Road N, Waterloo
Ample free parking

"The Neighbours Who Said No: Waterloo Region Mennonites and the Second World War"

During the Second World War, 1,158 young men in this region registered as conscientious objectors and volunteered their services for non-military volunteer work. Who were they, and why would they make this decision at a time of grave national crisis? How would government and society respond? How did Mennonite women and children experience the war? With records from the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, Laureen Harder-



Two local boys: two COs and two airmen. From left, Donald Millar, Gordon Eby, Bob Rahn, Doug Millar ca. 1942. Mennonite Archives of Ontario photo.

Gissing reconstructs the voices and experiences of local Mennonites and their neighbours. Laureen is archivist-librarian at Conrad Grebel University College and director, Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies.

Attendees may visit the exhibit in the library (open 1-5), "Conchies Speak: Ontario Mennonites in Alternative Service" before or after the WHS meeting or another time. The exhibit is open until December 1. (Mon-Thurs 8:30 am-10 pm; Fri 8:30-6; Sat 1-5). Wilson Hunsberger and Doug Millar are two whose stories are part of the exhibit.

All names are listed at <https://uwaterloo.ca/mennonite-archives-ontario/altservice>



*The WHS Book Table, displays, refreshments and networking are part of all WHS meetings. No admission fee
Please renew your membership at the meeting if you haven't already done so*

Mark your calendars for February 23 when WHS and the Friends of Joseph Schneider Haus present a lecture by Edna Staebler Research Fellow, Heather MacDonald. Details will be in the January newsletter, on Facebook and at www.whs.ca

Happenings in the Grace Schmidt Room (GSR)

KPL's 5th **Genealogy Fair** is almost here! Join us on **Saturday 5 November**, 9-3:30, at the Central Library for a day-long celebration of genealogy! Jen Baldwin of Find My Past will be our keynote speaker. It's a free event and no registration is required. See <http://www.kpl.org/genealogy-fair> for more details!

We are always looking for **seasonal** (Christmas, Easter, etc.) **cards and postcards** sent and received by local folks. If you have any, please give me a call.

Thanks to our enthusiastic **GSR volunteer, Mike**, our online photograph collection is growing once again. Have a look at <http://vitacollections.ca/kpl-gsr> to see what's new!

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

- Miscellaneous Woolwich Township land deeds, mortgages, agreements, newspaper clippings and photographs
- Emanuel Martin album and other related bridge photos
- *Canadische Volksblatt* newspapers – single editions, dating from 15 Dec 1886 -8 Mar 1905 and bound editions 1867-1908
- 3 Bloomingdale WI Tweedsmuir history books, dated 1805-1968, 1826-1968 and 1832-1968 (Rosendale)
- Baptismal and marriage certificates for the Reikow family, Berlin, dated 1884-1914
- 1 copy of a program for the Royal 2016 Royale 88th Annual Convention and Exhibition of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada
- Assorted colour photographs of WHS events in 2011
- Clippings, handbills, ribbons and other documents relating to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Elmira, coloured postcards of Kitchener scenes, 1 black and white photograph of St. James Church, Elmira, 1 colour photograph of Sulco Chemicals, 1 black and white photograph reprint, identified as Walter. A. Maier, and newspaper clippings about Elmira
- 1 black and white photograph reprint of Smiles 'n Chuckles female employees (Olive Schiefele identified) and 2 colour slides of the Kitchener Market.

Cheers,

Karen Ball-Pyatt, WHS archivist

Email karen.ball-pyatt@kpl.org

Tel: 519-743-0271, ext. 252

GSR blog <http://historicallyspeakingkitchener.wordpress.com/> Twitter <http://twitter.com/kplgsrhistory>

Waterloo Historical Society gratefully acknowledges that the Kitchener Public Library continues to keep and care for our collection and archives in the Grace Schmidt Room of Local History at the Central Library.

North Dumfries Historical Preservation Society

David Pyper, Chair



The North Dumfries Historical Preservation Society (NDHPS) has had another active year of discovering, promoting and organizing local community archival records in North Dumfries. As a mostly self-funded organization much of our activity has been focused on fundraising. The rest of our public face is geared towards encouraging residents to contribute records to our growing collection and to help local groups know their history better. To that end we recently conducted our third annual historical day and fundraising event on September 18 at Christ Anglican Church in Ayr.

This year is the 200th anniversary of the founding of Dumfries Township, the predecessor governing body before North Dumfries was formed by provincial edict in 1852. Our recent event focused on celebrating this anniversary with guest speakers. Paul General, ecologist, naturalist and historian from the Six Nations of the Grand, spoke about the early history of the Grand River Valley and the evolution of its political organization to the present day. Our second speaker was Dr. Ken McLaughlin, retired professor of history from the University of Waterloo. He focused on early settlement and on the importance of maintaining local history and local identity. Over 60 people attended, reviewed the displays of local history and enjoyed a wonderful glass of wine.

The NDHPS has printed and published its first North Dumfries historical calendar, for 2017, the 150th anniversary of the founding of Canada. The calendar, done in partnership with local businesses, presents 14 historic local photos and summaries. These photos are wonderful to see and really represent the changes in our North Dumfries communities over the past 150 years. Calendars are \$10 and can be obtained at 519-621-0446 or www.historicalsociety.com or at various retail locations in the township and the *Ayr News*.

This past summer the NDHPS partnered with the Township to hire a summer student to assist the Society in growing and refining its collection and organizational structures. The Township provides us with space for our collection, display space and meeting space as needed. We will be working with the Township next year to help coordinate efforts to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary as a nation.

With the support of the Cambridge and North Dumfries Community Fund grant program we have begun the process of digitizing our collection and making it available on line. Our website can be viewed at www.northdumfrieshistory.com. In addition we have purchased a professional-grade, flat-top scanner and computer which have helped us begin the digitization process.

Our collection is growing quickly as the word gets out locally that we are here to serve and protect the historical records of North Dumfries. We will be working with Charlotte Woodley at the Region of Waterloo Archives as she advises us on the best methods.

The North Dumfries Historical Preservation Society is alive and well and engaged in our community!

Condolences

- ❖ To the family of Anne Eby Millar who died September 10. The earliest membership records we have are from 1955 and Anne has been a WHS member since then.

Maddie (Madeline) Dale – New Councilor

The nominating committee was pleased to nominate Maddie Dale as a councilor for Kitchener at the September 6 board and council meeting. The motion to accept her was passed.

Maddie told the board and council about herself:

I went to Brock University and graduated with an honours history degree. After completing my undergrad I took a year off to travel and in that year I began to volunteer at the Waterloo Region Museum. While traveling and volunteering I found that I was very interested in museums and their collections.

When I was in the Museum and Gallery Studies program at Georgian College I had the opportunity to work with Stacy McLennan at the Waterloo Region Museum. My primary project was accessioning, cataloguing, numbering and photographing 300+ objects from Schneider's Meats. After completing my four-month internship I began working there as a heritage interpreter. While there I had the opportunity to take a three-month contract with the Waterloo Region Archives, working as an archives conservation technician. In the fall I will be starting my masters degree in history at Laurier in the Tri-University masters program. The topic of my major research paper will be food production, promotion and propaganda in World War I and I am hoping to focus on this area.

Requests / Questions to / from Readers

- ◆ *The Community Edition* newspaper is always looking for engaged and sharp writers and would like to include more historical pieces, along with more about communities of colour and immigrants. Published by Wilfrid Laurier University Student Publications. Contact editor Jesse Bauman, editor-in-chief at jesse.bauman@wlusp.com or 519 884-0710 x3564
- ◆ Book Table sales at WHS meetings – and online – help the Society fund such things as meeting costs. If you have any unwanted history-related publications and / or back issues of the WHS annual volume, please consider donating to the Book Table. Contact Sherwood Hagey eshagey@hallandales.com or rych mills rychmills@golden.net
- ◆ I am looking for any information and photos about the Abe Erb and Jacob Eby families in Waterloo. My primary goal is to discover more about the personal traits of Eby and Erb – ideally found in photos, diaries etc. Elizabeth Fritz at 519 616-5487 or ej1904@gmail.com

"Like" WHS on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to see our many photos, news items and more. Most aren't in the newsletter. It's a public page so you don't have to join FB to see it. Posts go to the WHS Twitter page.

Historical Happenings Calendar

Some locations close for all or part of the winter. Check web sites or call for dates.

CASTLE KILBRIDE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, 60 Snyder's Road West, Baden www.castlekilbride.ca

Lecture Series – Registration required. Call to register 519 634-8444 x 259 Admission \$10

October 27 – “Charming Part 2,” Joanna Rickert-Hall, Social Historian and Curator

November 24 – “Cooking the Books at Christmas: Two Communities, Two Cookbooks,” Carolyn Blackstock, Educator and Teacher / Interpreter

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ARCHIVES

October 29 – See p. 9 for the symposium “Tracks on the Grand: Interurban Railways of Cambridge.”

CITY OF WATERLOO MUSEUM, Conestoga Mall between Hudson's Bay & Galaxy

Cinema www.waterloo.ca/museum 519-885-8828

Hours: Tuesday – Friday: 9:30- 4

Every 4th Thursday and Saturday: Thurs 9:30-8 and Sat 9:30-4

ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE

October 12 to January 6. The exhibit “Cocktails...because no good story starts with a salad” will take the visitor on a stroll through the captivating ritual of the cocktail over the past century, illuminating the ritzy and the undeniably tacky barware from the City of Waterloo's signature Seagram Collection.



DOORS OPEN WATERLOO REGION would like to thank the many 2016 site hosts, volunteers and visitors who made Doors Open 2016 possible! Mark your calendars for Doors Open 2017 on Saturday, September 16!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ST. BONIFACE AND MARYHILL COMMUNITY

<http://www.maryhillroots.com> 1338-B Maryhill Road, Maryhill N0B 1B0 info@maryhillroots.com

October 16, 1 – 4, Fall Fun Fest. Come out and enjoy corn shelling, rope making, an antique display, cold and warm apple cider and cookies.

November 20, 2 – 4, Annual General Meeting, Maryhill Heritage Community Centre, 58 St. Charles Street East. Guest speaker, Karen Ball-Pyatt, will talk about the KPL Soldier Card Project. All welcome.

IDEA EXCHANGE www.ideaexchange.org or 519 621-0460 for information about events and exhibits

Cambridge Third Age Learning at Trillium United Church, 450 King St., E., Cambridge

Second Thursday of the month, 10 – 12 noon; \$10 per lecture incl HST. Call 519 621-0460 to register

“Fibreworks 2016” Free

To November 13, Idea Exchange Art + Design, Queen's Square, 1 North Square, Cambridge

The exhibition honours the community's rich textile manufacturing history.

Friday, November 11, 9:30 – 12:30, Idea Exchange, Queen's Square, 1 North Square Free

Drop in for music and refreshments before and after **Remembrance Day Services** held at the adjacent cenotaph. The service will be broadcast inside our location.

KITCHENER WATERLOO CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL POSTCARD CLUB (KWCRPCC) www.kwcrpcc.com

November 9 - Doors open at 6:30 for browsing, buying and asking questions; meeting at 7:30. Victoria Park Pavilion, 80 Schneider Ave., Kitchener. Karen Ball-Pyatt, Kitchener Public Library local history librarian and Waterloo Historical Society archivist, will show and tell about Kitchener's prolific photographer Ernest Denton. Free admission. All are welcome. rychmills@golden.net .

MCDUGALL COTTAGE MUSEUM www.mcdougallcottage.com

89 Grand Avenue South, Cambridge / Galt 519 624-8250 mcdougall@regionofwaterloo.ca

Open Wednesday to Sunday, noon to 5, plus special events. General admission by donation.

All events listed are at, or start at, McDougall Cottage. Call to register.

To December 11, 4th Annual Paint the Grand Exhibit and Silent Auction

On June 12, 23 talented artists set up their easels to capture a scene along our beautiful heritage river, The Grand. Their fine artistry is featured and final bids must be submitted by 5 pm, Sunday, December 11. All proceeds support the Friends of McDougall's annual Musician-in-Residence program.

October 22 & October 28, Ghost Walks 7 - 9 pm *Call to register*

Put on your comfy walking shoes, dress for the weather, bring a flashlight and join McDougall staffer, Joleen Taylor, as she takes us on a spooky nighttime adventure that looks at the history and hauntings of Galt. \$10 per person plus HST. Space is limited.

November 10, Digging Up the Past with John MacDonald, 7 pm *Call to register* \$5 plus HST

Join Archaeologist John MacDonald as he leads us through a talk on archaeology of the area with a focus on his studies at rare Charitable Reserve, a 900+ acres land reserve, in the Blair area of Cambridge. www.raresites.org

November 24, Concert: Where Have All The Flowers Gone? The Best Songs of Folkies Passed, 7 - 9 pm

Please join gifted musicians Allison Lupton, Brad Nelson and Bob MacLean for a special evening of fantastic music honouring the work of some brilliant songsmiths whose work now lives on in the traditional realm. Tickets are \$10 plus HST *Call to register*

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

Use your WHS membership discount card and visit often

To December 31, Exhibit: "City on Edge." Learn how a city was pushed to the edge during the First World War – to the point of changing its name from Berlin to Kitchener through a controversial and high- tension referendum. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that name change.

City on Edge Talks Regular admission fees

October 17, 2 pm, Ontario Mennonites and the First World War by Laureen Harder-Gissing

November 11, 2 pm, Berlin to Kitchener and the First World War by Geoff Hayes

WELLESLEY TOWNSHIP HERITAGE & HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WTHHS) 1137 Henry Street

www.wellesleyhistory.org Instagram: wellesleyhistory and Facebook: Wellesley Township History

Open the **last Saturday January to November, 10 – 3**

Finding Stanley Schreiter

Marion Roes and Dave Westfall

In the summer, while researching funeral businesses in Waterloo County, I discovered magazines online at www.archive.org with pertinent details about Berlin / Kitchener furniture manufacturers and retailers, and

FURNITURE MEN IN KHAKI
Armand Schreiter has taken over the management of the De Luxe Upholstering Co., at Berlin, Ont., until the return of his brother, Stanley, who has enlisted with the 43rd Battery in camp at Guelph. Four members of his company have enlisted for overseas service.

undertakers. This item on the left made me curious because Stanley wasn't a familiar Schreiter name to me. I looked him up on the Waterloo Generations web site and read that he died on August 1917 in France.

Canadian Furniture World and the Undertaker, April 1916, p. 37 (p. 234 of book)

Dave Westfall's grandparents are Armand and Margaret Schreiter and I emailed him with what I had found. His reply is printed here with his permission.

Dear Marion:

Thank you for this. Very much appreciated! My special interest in Stan goes back a long way. I visited Stan's grave in Summer of 1984 with my sister and brother-in-law (Sandy and Jamie Hill). We placed a rose; and



Maroeuil British Cemetery. Google image from Commonwealth War Graves cwgc.org

found ourselves surprisingly emotional as we commemorated the life and honoured the sacrifice of a man none of us had ever met. Maroeuil British Cemetery is set amidst some gently-rolling hills and is well back from the road, so not visible until you get quite far along the laneway leading to the entrance. It's a relatively small cemetery, and surrounded by a low stone wall.

As we were leaving, we noticed a small wooden compartment set into one of the stone gateposts ... much like the milk-boxes built into the walls of older homes ... and inside the wooden compartment we found a visitors' book. We all signed it. And then I paged back through the decades ... a relatively small cemetery, as I said, and nobody famous is buried there, so not all that many signatures ... and we found the signature of our Great-Grandfather, Alvin George Schreiter, who also made an earlier pilgrimage to his son's grave. (A.G. was born in Saxony, and did compulsory military service there, before immigrating to Canada.) Another poignant moment for us.

And now, Marion, permit me to unwind the reel of memory back to an even earlier time, to when Sandy and I were still teenagers. One summer, we visited Ottawa with our parents, and we met our local North Waterloo Member of Parliament, O.W. "Mike" Weichel, when we visited the Parliament Buildings. I don't know what year that was ... but I do know that we toured the Parliament Buildings on 14 July ... because in the Memorial Chapel in the Peace Tower, the World War I *Book of Remembrance* was open to page 322 ... the page which includes my Great-Uncle's name!

~Dave

What a wonderful story! And how serendipitous that I read and wondered about Stanley, sent the news item to Dave, and he was kind enough to share his family's story. Thank you, Dave!

The Future of Archives

Mennonite Historical Society Archives Committee Report
by Conrad Stoesz, Chair, January, 2016

From *Heritage Posting*: Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society, No. 83, March 2016, p. 4
I think that this applies to most archives. It is printed with permission from the author. *Ed.*

An archive is a foundational institution for any people group. Its mandate is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the documentary heritage of its community. For us in Mennonite Historical Society of Canada (MHSC), this is the Mennonite community.

We live in interesting times with at least three significant realities that challenge archives. First, the baby boomer generation is reaching an age where they are downsizing, moving to smaller homes, apartments, or seniors housing complexes. Many still have strong ties to rural life, to parents who remember hardships in this country and the old country. I have heard baby boomers lament that the next generation shows little interest in its heritage and looks to the archives to preserve its heritage. There will be a growing interest in depositing family records in our archives.

Second, our families and institutions are creating digital records at an amazing pace. Digital photographs, videos, spreadsheets, bulletins, minutes of meetings, databases, blogs, and Facebook formats and platforms are now common in most homes, businesses, and churches. Our archival institutions are not prepared to undertake the challenge of archiving digital records.

Third, these two large intake challenges facing us are compounded by the increasingly soft support for our Mennonite institutions of all kinds (schools, papers, missions, and archives) by the Mennonite community. Many denominational archival budgets are being trimmed. Some denominations are shipping their records to other archives for storage. Many archives have an aging volunteer pool, which is significant when the institution is run only by volunteers. Some denominations are cracking under the weight of new cultural paradigms, and a loss of financial support, while others see the archives as culturally irrelevant and a hindrance to their mission.

These factors – the aging baby boomers, digital records, and the weakening support for our Mennonite institutions – make the task of archiving much more challenging. How are we to respond?

It is critical that we find new ways of collaborating. I am pleased with the success of Mennonite Archival Image Database (MAID). It is one example of collaboration and shows that while the digital reality poses significant challenges, it also allows for opportunities. We need to do a better job of educating our communities about the value of archives, and the important role archivists play. Archives are poorly understood by society in general and therefore suffer. It is important that we find ways of advocating for the foundational role the archives play in our communities and societies.

Our personal and corporate identities are “anchored in a strong historical sense that comes from the ability to experience continuity. Surely if you have nothing to look backward to, and with pride, you have nothing to look forward to with hope,” states historian Barbara L. Craig. Our libraries, archives, study centres, and their staff are essential to providing continuity of memory.

This is why MHSC is vital to the archives and to each of our communities. MHSC provides a starting point for collaboration, learning, and encouraging.



Tracks on the Grand; Interurban Railways of Cambridge October 29, 2016



First car to use Niagara power, c1910
Preston & Berlin Railway car



Bombardier LRV that will be used with LRT

8:15 am – 9:00

**Registration, Cambridge City Hall Atrium
(Refreshments available)**

9:00 – 9:15

Welcome – Mayor Doug Craig

9:15 – 10:00

rych mills *Lines about Electric Lines*

10:00 – 10:45

Roger Chrysler *Canadian Pacific Electric Lines in the Cambridge Area*

10:45 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 11:45

Paula Sawicki, Region of Waterloo

The History of Rapid Transit and Stage 2 LRT from Kitchener to Cambridge

11:45 – 12:15

Prof. Gerald Bloomfield *Self-guided tour of Relics from the first electric railway age*

12:15

Closing Remarks

12:15 – 1:00

Lunch Available – Atrium

1:00 – 2:00

The Fire Museum and Education Centre and Cambridge Archives and Records Centre are open for visitors.

This symposium will be held in the Bowman Room of City Hall. There is no cost to attend, but anyone interested should register by October 21 with the City of Cambridge Archives as space is limited. email archives@cambridge.ca or phone 519-740-4680 ext. 4621 or 4633. The four speakers will consider the past and future of electric railways. A self-guided tour will be made available. Light lunch provided.

Waterloo Historical Society fosters the recognition of our region's unique heritage, and diligently encourages its preservation by documenting the history of Waterloo Region, including the cities of Kitchener, Waterloo and Cambridge, along with the townships of North Dumfries, Wellesley, Wilmot and Woolwich.

Who We Are and How to Reach Us

CONTACT US

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whs@whs.ca

Mail memberships and donations to Waterloo Historical Society
c/o Grace Schmidt Room, 85 Queen Street North, Kitchener ON N2H 2H1

Facebook www.facebook.com/waterloohs and Twitter WaterlooHS

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Woolwich Township: Elinor Rau, Diane Strickler, Bertha Thompson

ARCHIVES Contact Karen Ball-Pyatt if you have questions about the WHS archives and / or have items to donate

Thank you to
Mandy Macfie,
Karen Ball-Pyatt,
Dave Westfall,
Conrad Stoesz,
Lynn Griggs,
Laureen Harder-
Gissing, David
Pyper, Maddie
Dale and all who
send requests,
stories, events
etc., and to those
who help with
mailing.

The next
newsletter will be
out in January.

Comments,
questions and
submissions are
welcome and may
be sent to the
editor, Marion
Roes.

Membership renewals are due now (as of October 1) and you can use the enclosed form to mail your renewal. Patron and other donations may be given at the same time.

If you did not receive a membership form with your newsletter, your membership is up to date.
Thank you!

Please direct any questions about your membership to Mandy Macfie at msmacfie@gmail.com or 519-572-7510 (evenings only please).

Thank you very much for renewing promptly! Waterloo Historical Society appreciates your support!